

ST JOSEPH'S PARISH

Fr Paul Mercovich

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SUNDAY (C)

January 1st 2017

THE YEAR OF MERCY
New Year's Day

BULLETIN NOTICES

Please forward any notices for the bulletin to Kim Collins (Laffin)

By **THURSDAY 5pm**

Phone: 54912441 or 0410402027

kimlaff@bigpond.com

NEXT WEEKS MASS TIMES

2nd SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

**SATURDAY, 7.30P.M –
CHARLTON**

**SUNDAY, 8.30AM –
WEDDERBURN***

**SUNDAY, 8.30 A.M. –
ST. ARNAUD**

**SUNDAY, 8.30 A.M. –
DONALD**

**Lay led liturgy*

NEXT WEEKENDS MASS ROSTER

SPECIAL MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST: Margaret Fradd*√

Francie Lanyon *√ Marg McGrath *

READERS: Michael Bourke

PRAYERS OF FAITHFUL: Brian Fitzpatrick

GIFTS : Kim Thompson family

ALTAR SERVERS: Jackson and Ned Zagame

FLOWERS: Anne Calnin

HOME VISITING: Jo Russell

COUNTERS: This week: Leo and Kath Noonan

Next week: Frank and Val Bourke

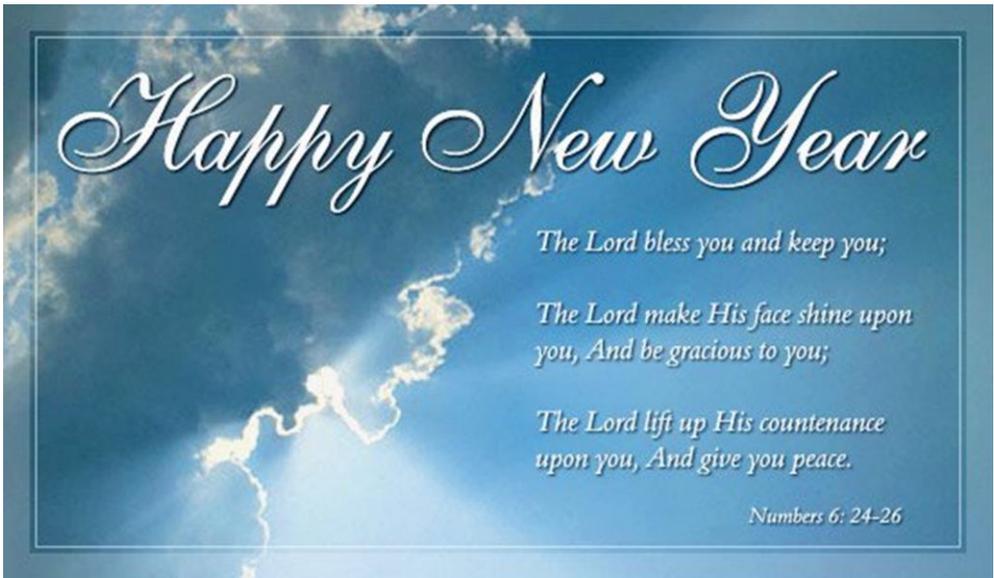
CHURCH CLEANING: M Fradd, D Mulquiny, T Sait

OUR THOUGHTS & PRAYERS:

RECENT DEATHS:

ANNIVERSARIES:

- GERARD KELLY
- KATH BURTON
- MOLLIE FITZPATRICK
- LOTTIE O'CONNOR
- ERNEST VOLICH
- JOHANNAH TUTTLE



Happy New Year

The Lord bless you and keep you;

*The Lord make His face shine upon
you, And be gracious to you;*

*The Lord lift up His countenance
upon you, And give you peace.*

Numbers 6: 24-26

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

- Bailey Delaney
- Vin Sait
- Fr John Keane

Planned Giving

Quarterly Givers – a reminder that the 3rd quarter begins today 1st January.

Collections

	<u>Planned Giving</u>	<u>Presbytery</u>
04.12.16	\$159.00	\$269.95
11.12.16	\$68.00	\$166.60
18.12.16	\$1,357.00	\$259.10
25.12.16	\$66.00	\$386.45

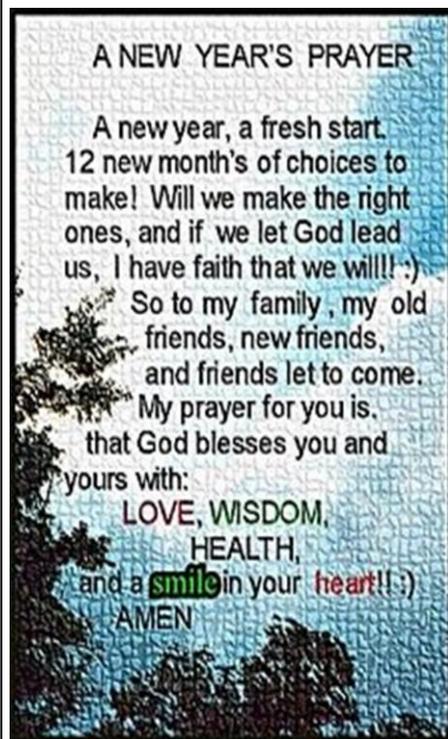
\$90.15 Bishop's Collection

Columba calendars are now on sale at \$9.00. Please see Val Bourke.

PARISH APPOINTMENTS:

Fr Peter Sherman will move from Wendouree Parish to become the Parish Priest of St. Alipius Parish Ballarat East.

Fr. James Kerr will move from the Cathedral Parish Ballarat to be associate Pastor of Sacred Heart Parish, Mildura



New Year's Eve: An Hour of Watching For centuries the beginning of a new year has been the source of many customs and ceremonies in every land. We find the Druids with their boughs of mistletoe, the wassail bowl, the rauchnacht or incense night in Austria, the search for the elbetrich, the Roman celebrations in honor of the two-faced Janus, the etrennes of the Jour de l'An. When the Roman emperors were Christianized, they did not prohibit all the customs which came from pagan times, but an attempt was made to "baptize" them, or at least to avoid any superstitious practices among Christians.

The Church celebrates the octave of the Nativity and the Solemnity of the Mother of God on the first day of the year. As a loving mother, she recognizes that the first day of the civil year is a holiday in every land, and as a consequence has made this day a holyday of obligation, desiring that we bring our first thanksgiving and homage to God. May the New Year cause all men to remember that the precious gift of time which God has given us is to be used according to His divine providence in the attainment of eternity.

New Year's Eve, along with its innocent gaiety, is really a day for serious reflection. It is true that for the Christian the real beginning of the year takes place with the First Sunday in Advent, and the children should be taught to make their annual day of recollection before that Sunday, which celebrates the New Year of grace. However, on the eve of the civil New Year as well the children may join their parents in a holy hour, in prayer and thanksgiving for the gifts and benefits which God has given them in the past year, and pray for necessary graces in the forthcoming civil year.

Hospitality is a hallmark of the evening. Christmas spirit should embrace the aged, the stranger, the poor and the lonely. None should be excluded from the family festivities on New Year's Eve. The Chinese, who are particularly devoted to elderly members of the family, could be imitated in their respect and deference to the aged. Family spirit during this season shows love and kindness to the patriarchs and matriarchs of the family.

A serious note is added to the evening by an "Hour of Watching." The prayer hour should be carefully timed so that it reaches a climax at midnight. There is no better way to conclude the closing of the civil year and the opening of the New Year than by family prayer followed by midnight Mass. There should be contrition and thanksgiving for the past, and a prayer of peace and holiness during the oncoming year. The New Year hour of prayer should contain practically the same themes, concluding with the ringing of the bells and assistance at midnight Mass.

Many parishes offer a midnight Mass and sometimes serve a champagne breakfast afterwards. If no local parish offers an organized holy hour or midnight Mass, the family could assemble a half-hour or hour before midnight and pray together, perhaps a rosary, some meditations read out loud, and conclusion with the Act of Consecration of the Human Race. We are praying for peace and unity in our world, and for our church and civil authorities, and trying to make reparation for all the sins that are especially committed on this night of revelry.

End the Holy Hour and begin the new phase of our life by renewing the act of consecration of the human race to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. This was first made by the great Pope Leo the XIII in 1899 and was intended to be a new "Covenant of Love" between the Heart of the Redeemer and the hearts of men. Let us offer it especially that there may be indeed "One flock and one Shepherd."

Adapted from *True Christmas Spirit* by Rev. Edward J. Sutfin, ©1955 and *Twenty Holy Hours* by Fr. Mateo Crawley-Boevey, SS.CC., © 1978.