



HOLY FAMILY

Doveton

CHRISTMAS - 2019

Parish Priest:
Fr. Michael Payyapilly VC

School Principal
Mr Steve Twomey

Parish Manager:
Mr. D. McCormick

Catechist
Mrs Maureen Marvin

Secretary
Mrs Maureen Goonewardena

Child Protection Officer
Mrs. Vina Fernandes

Telephones
Presbytery.....97924317
School.....97911853

Sunday Masses
Saturday Vigil.... 6.30pm
Sunday..... 9.30am
.....11.00am
Healing Mass.....7.00pm

Spanish Mass
4.30pm Saturday.

Weekday Masses
Monday..... 9.15am
Tuesday..... 9.15am
Wednesday..... 7.00pm
Thursday..... 9.15am
Friday..... 9.15am
Saturday..... 9.15am

Reconciliation:
Saturday 9.45-10.15am
.....6.00- 6.25pm
Tuesday 9.45- 10.15am

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:
Every Tuesday after Mass
Every Thursday at 8.00am
Every First Friday all day
Novena to Our Lady
Wednesday.....7.00pm
Prayer Meeting:
Tuesday.....7.30pm

Baptisms, Marriages:
Speak with Fr. Michael.
Church weddings only.
No Parks or reception centres.
In other Catholic churches
For practising parishioners only

Funerals
We do our best to fit in with your wishes. We prefer not to have viewings in the church.

Hall may be available for hire on Sunday afternoons. For cost, and availability ring parish office.

Parish-website
holyfamilydoveton.org.au

A time of Hope...

A message from Most Rev Peter A Comensoli
Archbishop of Melbourne
Christmas 2019

Hello friends,

I love Christmas. It is such a beautiful time of hope. Behind the tinsel, the advertising, the stress and frantic energy of the season, we encounter a profound simplicity in the story of God's arrival.

We just need to think about Mary and Joseph. They weren't welcomed into any warm hotel or inn; they weren't able to put themselves down by the fireplace in someone's home. They had come from far away and arrived in a place they did not know.

They could be like us after a long journey when nobody welcomes or acknowledges you. You can become quite despondent: no family around you; far from home; and in Mary and Joseph's case, a child on the way. It can seem like a story of isolation.

And yet, in the midst of a simple stable, a home for working animals, this most precious gift is given to us—a little boy, who against all the odds and in a place of somewhat hopelessness, becomes not merely a symbol of hope but who is hope itself. A hope for us.

He is a real baby, flesh and blood, with all the tears and the smiles of any little baby, and yet he is also the Son of God. *Emmanuel*. God among us.

In the distance, the angels were singing their hymns of hope, and shepherds were learning something about how this hope was coming into their lives. These shepherds—traditionally considered the 'lowly' in society—gifted with Hope itself. So, when we look upon this child, we can sense the stirrings of hope within ourselves—hope for new life, new beginnings, and the promise of peace.

He has brought unimaginable joy—joy into his own family who loved him, but also a joy that the whole world needs.

This is not just a story that we might tell each year at Christmas time. It is not just something of the past. Jesus lives now. Jesus lives in us, and Jesus lives for us today. In today's world of change and uncertainty, we long for God to step gently into our lives, lovingly and tenderly reaching out to each one of us. So, as we busily prepare our homes for the arrival perhaps of family and friends at Christmas time, I invite you to take the time to prepare your hearts to welcome Him who offers himself to us.

May I wish you a beautiful, joyful and hope-filled Christmas.

HOLY FAMILY PARISH

Celebrating and Sharing Peace by Fr Michael Payyapilly VC

NOTICES

Healing Mass:

Every Sunday evening at 7.00pm.

Catechism Classes

For State school children on Thursdays at 4.00pm in the Small Hall.

Legion of Mary:

Every Tuesday at 10:45am
Venue: Small hall

Youth Group

Fridays 7.00pm in the small hall.

Parish Prayer Group

Meets every Tuesday at 7.00pm -8.30pm in the Big Hall. New parishioners are always welcome.

New Year Services:

31st Dec. Thanksgiving

Adoration 11PM

01st Jan. New Year Mass

12AM

01st Jan New Year Mass 10AM

Spanish Services:

31st Dec. New Years Mass

4:30PM

New office:

The office has been moved to the room between the presbytery and the main hall. This room was previously used as the men's room.

Christmas break:

The Parish office will be closed from the 24th of December to the 2nd January. Kindly note that the emails will still be accessed in case you need to get in touch.

Email: doveton@cam.org.au

Saturday Mass:

There will not be Saturday morning Mass on the following dates:

Dec 28th & Jan 4th

Healing Masses:

There will not be Sunday 7pm healing Masses from **Jan 5th to Feb 9th, 2020**. There will be a special Mass and healing service held on **Jan 19th at 7pm**.

I was in Poland recently on a retreat mission and was visiting some of the beautiful Churches there. My friend and me walked into a church as the Mass was going on and so as not to disturb anyone we went and sat right behind the church. The Eucharist was at the point where the priest offers the sign of peace of Christ. And everyone turned to their left and right and offered peace to those around them. I did the same to a couple right next to me who were tourists themselves and were, like me, there to 'see' the beauty and grandeur of the church. They were immediately taken aback when the sign of peace was offered, as they were not there to be a part of the Eucharist. They immediately told me "No" and waved their hands to indicate that they were not a 'part' of this. It was obvious that they were not Catholics or that they were not practicing Christians and felt alien to what was going on. They were there to behold the external beauty of the church. But their reaction made me bring into context how the world celebrates the season of Christmas. Obviously everyone, irrespective of faith and culture, like celebrating the joy and excitement of this season. The world has commercialized this season and is now celebrating its 'beauty' rather than its reason.

The Angels cried out "Glory to God in the highest and peace to His people on earth" (Lk 2:14). Peace is for those who have not known peace and are anxiously looking for the path of peace that seems to be non-existent in their lives. And with the coming of the Saviour, that search for that path of peace is not over. For all those who have found the Saviour and permitted His birth in their lives, peace is now a reality. It is this Peace which has been found that is being celebrated shared at Christmas. It is this Peace that we as Christians need to share with the communities we live in. Like the couple in the church who were there only to see the 'beauty' of the Church, the society we live in, might be excited about the beauty and glamour of Christmas without understanding that what is being celebrated is the peace that Christ has brought into our lives. Having experienced this peace in Him as parts of His body we joyfully celebrate it. "And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which you were indeed called in the one body" (Col 3:15). And once we celebrate that Peace, it is only but natural to share that peace among those the Lord has put us. "And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace" (James 3:18) It becomes paramount to let the world know that we are not celebrating the glamour and grandeur of Christmas but the essence of it – Christ, the Prince of Peace.



Wishing you a Merry Christmas and the Lord's blessings for the New Year. May 2020 be filled with answered prayers

We would love to have you as a part of our little family here at Holy Family. If you do not have a parish, we would be blessed if you are a part of us.

Please contact : doveton@cam.org.au or call us: 97924317