

Advent Greetings:

We've begun the year of Mark's Gospel and I thought a few thoughts on Mark, the briefest of the Gospels, might be appropriate.

Unlike Matthew and Luke, which together with Mark make up the synoptic (like-eyed i.e. Christ's life portrayed from a similar point of view) gospels, Mark does not have a section on the infancy of Jesus. Mark jumps straight into Jesus' Galilean ministry and his visit to some pagan districts nearby. This is followed by the journey to Jerusalem and thirdly, his passion and resurrection. Mark is more concerned with Jesus' actions than with his discourses. He is quite frank in pointing out the weaknesses of the apostles, more so than Luke and Matthew.

Authorship: Papias, writing around 130AD quotes an "elder" as saying that Mark was the interpreter (secretary) of St Peter. Clement of Alexandria (died 150) relying on the authority of the "elder presbyters from the beginning" (i.e. not simply one source) states that as Peter had preached in Rome, many who heard him requested that Mark, who had been a follower of Peter for a long time, write an account of Peter's preaching about Jesus for the Christians of Rome. Eusebius who wrote a history of the Church (late second early third century) also reported a tradition that Peter had authorized the Gospel. Hence the Gospel is considered to have Apostolic authority.

Mark's gospel records many things about Jesus' ministry in detail strongly suggesting that the source was that of an eye witness: some examples - that Jesus gave the nick-name *boanerges* (sons of thunder) to the sons of Zebedee is reported only in Mark's Gospel; Jesus took Peter's mother in law 'by the hand' and raised her up; how, in "anger", Jesus looked around at his critics; how the blind man at Jericho was the son of Timaeus; that it was one Simon from Cyrene who was the father of Alexander and Rufus who was forced to assist Jesus on the way to Calvary; how he was crucified at the third hour, and how the women came to the tomb very early... So many of these details are missing from the other Synoptics. Mark's Gospel records more fully the threefold denial of Peter, yet it is the only Gospel to omit the primacy of leadership given to Peter. (See Mt 16:18-19; Lk 22:32; Jn 21:15-17). (An interesting omission – you might like to join the Bible Study in 2012 to see what they have to say about such an omission.)

Language: Mark writes in everyday Greek, which was spoken by traders and slaves throughout the Empire. Greek was also spoken by the upper class. Scholars suggest that Mark was a foreigner well acquainted with colloquial Greek but 'a comparative stranger to the literary use of the language.' It is quite certain that the Gospel was written at Rome, with most ancient authors stating it was written prior to Peter's death in 64 AD – certainly it is before 70AD as there is no allusion to the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem which was predicted in Mk 13:2.

It was written for Roman Christians who did not know the Old Testament, the customs of the Jews nor the country of Israel, and hence needed some help. As for its purpose, perhaps it is simplest to say that it was written to put into permanent form the discourses of Peter for the Church of Rome; that "Jesus IS the Almighty Son of God" as the opening lines attests, shown by his power over nature in its entirety, and confirmed by the Centurion's verdict at the Cross. (Source *New Catholic Encyclopedia*) Peter Hearn MSC



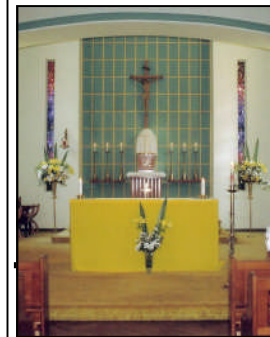
The Parish and National Shrine of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, Randwick St. Margaret Mary's Parish Randwick North

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SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR B.

4th December, 2011

First Reading: Isaiah 40 1-5, 9-11

Second Reading: Peter 3:8-14

Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

Entrance Antiphon. People of Zion, the Lord will come to save all nations, and your hearts will exult to hear his majestic voice.

Responsorial Psalm: Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

Gospel Acclamation : Alleluia, alleluia! Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight his paths; all people shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: Rise up Jerusalem , stand on the heights and see the joy that is coming to you from God.

MASS TIMES:

OLSH - Sat: 12noon, Vigil 6pm.

Sun : 8am, 10am, 12noon, 6pm, & Last
Call Eucharist 10.30pm

Week days

Mon-Sat 12noon, Tues & Wed 6.30am,
Thurs & Fri 5.40pm.

Reconciliation: Sat 11am—12 noon & 5—6pm

Anointing Mass: 2nd Friday at 12noon

Marian Novena & Rosary: following 6pm Vigil
Mass.

ST. MARGARET MARY'S:

Saturday Vigil - 5.30pm. Sunday 9.30am

Weekdays - Tues, Wed, Fri, 8.15am
Thurs (School Term) 9.05am

Reconciliation: Sat. 5.15- 5.25pm.

Baptisms: 1:30pm on 2nd, 3rd & 4th Sundays.

Preparation required—contact Parish Office.

POWH Chapel - Mass 3pm - 1st & 3rd & 5th

Shrine website: www.sacredheart.org.au/national/shrineolsh

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Hospital Chaplaincy 9382 2222 and ask to page
the Catholic Chaplain on duty.

Brigidine House Hostel Chaplain

Fr Patrick Sharpe msc

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for young adults group.

Into your loving care, Lord,
we commend:

RECENTLY DECEASED:

Beatrice Marshall, Gloria Burdon.
Virginia Granich. Helen Giugni, Tony Hyek,
James Ocampo. Mervyn Coutinho.

ANNIVERSARIES & INTENTIONS:

Tom Bonic, David Scahill, Mary Guilfoyle,
Mother De Pazzi Tully,csb, Pat Ricketts,
Wally Ward, Rebecca & Francis Larkin,
Christopher Edward Marskall, Len Jarman(Birthday
Remembrance) Pat Golsich.



We welcome into our Catholic family:
Xavier Santos, Alexander Georgoulas.



CHILDRENS' VIGIL MASS: Watch
the Bulletin for news about the
practices which will be a
combination of OLSH schools and
Family Mass groups.

NEW PARISHIONERS: Please fill in and hand to
a Priest at Mass.

NAME

Email

ADDRESS:
.....

PHONE NO.

Date Submitted:

Knitting Group (knitting squares to make
rugs for charity) at Ventnor the 2nd and
4th Monday of the month at 10am. All
welcome. If you CANT knit but can SEW
YOU WOULD BE MOST WELCOME.
93985002

GUIDED MEDITATION:

Sessions have now concluded
for 2011 but recommences on
Wednesday, 8th February.
Everyone is welcome—11am at
Ventnor. The meditators wish
everyone a peaceful Christmas
and many blessings for 2012.

**VENTNOR: a wheelchair
accessible ramp is to be built
for the back doors.**

**125 YEARS NEW OFFICES &
CLOISTER:**
The necessary documentation seeking
approval will be presented to the
Bishops' Conference at their
December 7th meeting.
PHMSC

INVITATION
to share Christmas Dinner with some
MSCs
CHRISTMAS DAY
Following the Midday Mass
at Ventnor
RSVP 93996775 by Monday 19th
December

*We need volunteers to help organise
the day. If you would contact the
Parish Office if you are able to help
it would be much appreciated.*
FR. PETER HEARN, MSC.

Coming Up:

- 7 Dec Wed. 9.30-10.30 Govt.
Schools Xmas Liturgy.
- 8 Dec Thurs. SMM School
Thanks Mass.
- 10/11 Sat Sun Masses ST. V de
P Xmas Appeal.
- 13 Dec Tues: 2nd Rite Rec.
10.30am
- 14th Dec Wed: 2nd Rite Rec at
7.30pm.
- 14th Dec Wed: 9.30amOLSH
Graduation Yr. 6. Mass.

PIETY STALL:

FR. MAC'S PUDDINGS, \$15
COLUMBAN CALENDARS \$7
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CARDS-
\$6 PER PACKET.



**RECONCILIATIONS FOR
ADVENT:**

Second Rite:10.30am Tuesday 13th
Dec. and 7.10pm-Wed.14th Dec.
First Rite: PRIOR TO EACH MASS
FOR 20 MINS.

Advent is the traditional time together
with Lent for us to get to Reconciliation.
How long is it since you have been?
Its interesting to note that all the 12 Step
Programs –Like AA and Al Anon etc -
have a “step” where they come to ac-
knowledge to themselves, to God and
one other person, the exact nature of their
moral wrongs...I do find it a little
difficult to do that, but it is graced filled
and healthy. Its that time of year to free
up for the great feast of the Incarnation.
Let's get in the mood and prepare the
inner room of our hearts and minds as
well as we can.

The New Order of the Mass book on sale at the
back of the Church for \$2.50.

MSC LAY ASSOCIATES: Meeting Sunday 4th
December at 2.30pm. at Ventnor Mass followed
by party. Please bring something to share.
Interested visitors welcome.

CHRISTMAS PRESENT: we still have
some copies of the beautiful book: *Mary,
A Window to the Light* (pictorial presen-
tation of our Main Window) prepared by
our Barbara Bowring and Sr Marie Farrell.
It makes a beautiful present and is
available for \$10. (Foyer of Church or
office).

**ST VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY CHRISTMAS
APPEAL 10/11
DECEMBER 2011.**

Your local Conference will be conducting their
Christmas appeal next weekend.
The need to raise funds through our Appeals
continues as we endeavour to meet our ongoing com-
mitments to the needy of our local area and also the
calls for assistance from the Prince of Wales Hospi-
tals complex, particularly the
Children's Hospital for families away from their
homes and incurring additional living costs
supporting sick children.
Your generosity in supporting this work is greatly
appreciated.

Thanks to everyone who participated and help set
up for the Bereavements Meetings held during the
week.