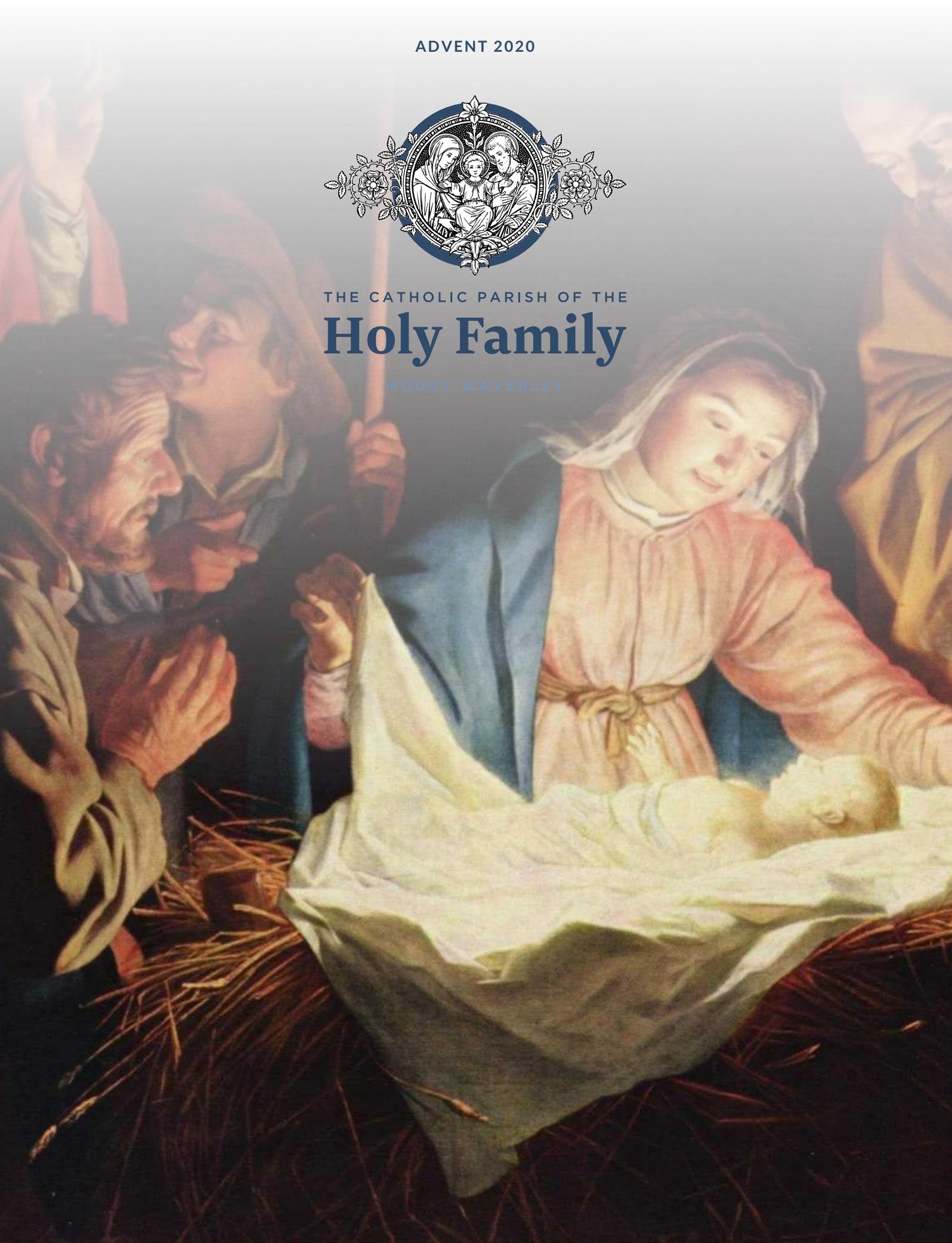


ADVENT 2020



THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF THE
Holy Family

MOUNT WAVERLEY



Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I give thee my heart and soul.

Welcome To Holy Family

After patiently enduring the long winter of isolation we can now begin to hope and to imagine what life might be like "COVID-normal". Our Church is open once again for prayer and worship. Families are beginning to reunite and celebrate after many months of separation. Workplaces are slowly coming back to life.

Christian hope offers the possibility of a new life. In these days we find ourselves more grateful for the simpler things: for family, friendship, visiting the local park or walking trail. Over these last few months we have seen more clearly what is important and sacred. This recent time of deprivation has created a yearning in us for the Sacraments, especially The Eucharist. It has also reminded us of the importance of this community of faith which strengthens and encourages every faithful Christian.

'Advent is the season of hope par excellence', because Christmas celebrates the gift of God coming into our lives again. As we joyfully prepare for the coming of Christ, we do so with great expectation. Advent reminds us that God promises new gifts and graces for each one of us, if only we are patient and hold fast to our faith. Let us prepare well for Christmas by setting aside time for prayer at home, attending mass and encountering Christ through the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

The virtue of Christian hope can strengthen us to embrace change. As we say goodbye and farewell to Father Pearce after five years as Pastor at Holy Family Parish, we give thanks to God for his zeal and enthusiasm, his encouragement of young people and his special care for parishioners in their time of need. Fr Pearce begins his new appointment at St Michael's, North Melbourne with care for the Catholic students at Melbourne University and responsibility for Chaplaincy at Universities across the Archdiocese. We pray that Fr Pearce's many gifts will continue to bear fruit in this new role.

Hope also allows us to look forward to the future with trust and confidence. Last week I learned that I will be moving down the bay to Mount Eliza as the Administrator of St Thomas More Parish from January next year. My last day at Holy Family Mount Waverley will be Sunday, 27th of December. During the short time I've been at Holy Family, I have been encouraged by the spirit of faith, devotion and generosity of so many parishioners. As we emerged from lockdown and restrictions, you have made me feel warmly welcomed and a part of the community here, which I am very grateful for. We now warmly welcome Fr Justel Callos who will be the Administrator of Holy Family Parish beginning from early 2021. Fr Callos is currently the Assistant Priest at Sacred Heart, St Albans. We wish him all the best in this exciting new venture as he brings his many gifts and talents to build up the community of faith here at Mount Waverley.

In the meantime, I will continue to keep you all in my prayers as each of us embrace God's will and trust in his providence for us. Wishing you all a blessed Advent and a Merry Christmas, Fr Patrick Bradford



"The one who has hope lives differently; the one who hopes has been granted the gift of a new life".

These words of encouragement offered by Pope emeritus Benedict take on a new significance for each of us as we emerge from these 112 days of strict lockdown.



Sundays This Month

6 DECEMBER

2nd Sunday of Advent

"The Beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ" is not just the beginning of a story from long ago. The Good News of Jesus Christ is a current as it ever was. It promises a new beginning for those longing to hear someone "speak to the heart". Comfort will come; undying meaning will spring out of the earth - out of our very humanity. "Repentance" means turning away from all that is contrary to our own good and embracing the infinity worthy One who gives us a share in his Spirit.

READINGS

Isaiah 40:1-5,9-11
2 Peter 3:8-14

GOSPEL:

Mark 1:1-8

PSALM

R. Lord, let us see
your kindness, and
grant us your
salvation.

13 DECEMBER

3rd Sunday of Advent

"I exult for joy in the Lord," for as miserable as life can seem at times, the reality is that God has clothed us with "garments of salvation" that heal all our poverty, broken hearts and bondage. "His mercy is from age to age on those who fear him," that is, those who look to him with awe and love. Therefore, "be kept safe and blameless for the coming of our Lord." Even though in the troubles of life you may not recognise him, "God has called you and he will not fail you."

READINGS

Isaiah 61:1-2,10-11
1 Thessalonians
5:16-24

GOSPEL:

John 1:6-8,19-28

PSALM

R. My soul rejoices
in my God.

20 DECEMBER

4th Sunday of Advent

When "the revelation of a mystery kept secret for endless ages" is manifested to Mary, she believes it because she has perfect faith, completely unclouded by sin. Since Mary was betrothed to Joseph, who was "of the house of David", she knew that what God had long ago promised King David would come true through her Yes - "I will preserve the offspring of your body after you." we, too, believe God will continue to be with us wherever we go, as Jesus remains present to us in the Church.

READINGS

2 Samuel 7:1-5,8-
12,14,16
Romans 16:25-27

GOSPEL:

Luke 1:26-38

PSALM

R. For ever I will sing
the goodness of the
Lord.

27 DECEMBER

The Holy Family

"The family is the privileged setting where every person learns to give and receive love... it is an intermediate institution between individuals and society - nothing can take its place. The family is a necessary good for peoples, an indispensable foundation for society, a great and lifelong treasure for couples. It is a unique good for children, who are meant to be the fruit of the love." (Pope Benedict XVI).

READINGS

Genesis 15:1-
6,21:1-3
Colossians 3:12-21

GOSPEL:

Luke 2:22-40

PSALM

R. Happy are those
who fear the Lord
and walk in his ways.



Fr Justel Callos

Dear Parishioners,

You are aware by now that I have been recently appointed as the next Parish Administrator of Holy Family Church, Mt Waverley.

Firstly, my sincere thanks goes to Archbishop Comensoli for placing his trust on me with this new ministry.

Secondly, I pay tribute to Fr Nicholas Pearce, your former Parish Priest, for his leadership and care for you in the past five years. I am humbled to have been asked to follow such a great pastor. We wish him well as he takes up his new appointment as Parish Priest of St Michael's in North Melbourne and as Senior Chaplain to the Archdiocese.

Lastly, my heartfelt gratitude also goes to Fr Patrick Bradford, my classmate in the seminary, for holding the fort throughout this period of transition. No doubt he has made a good impression on you in the short time he was there. God's blessings be upon Fr Patrick as he begins his appointment as Parish Administrator at St Thomas More Parish, Mt Eliza.

As some of you may know, this is my first appointment as Parish Administrator since my Ordination to the Priesthood in 2015. I have been an Assistant Priest in the parishes of St Fidelis in Moreland, St Mary of the Cross Parish in Mordialloc and Aspendale, and until recently at Sacred Heart/Emmaus Parish in St Albans/Sydenham.

There is much I have to learn in this new role as Parish Administrator, but I am confident that with your support, our parish will bear much fruit.

I am aware that I am coming to the parish in strange and difficult times, but as we move towards COVID normal, let

us together as a community rebuild our parish and find new ways of celebrating our faith.

Apologies for the brevity of this letter, but I do intend to properly introduce myself to you in person in due time. In the meantime, I pray that you have a blessed Advent and a holy Christmas!

See you in the new year and I look forward to meeting you all.

Warm Regards,

Fr Justel Callos

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

24TH DECEMBER
CHRISTMAS EVE

6:00pm Mass

(Carols at 5:30pm)

10:00pm Mass

12:00am Midnight Mass

(Carols at 11:30pm)

25TH DECEMBER
CHRISTMAS DAY

9:30am Mass





Who Were The Magi

Written by: Christian Bergmann

We refer to them traditionally as the *three wise men*, or the *three kings of the orient*. The Scriptures actually use the word *magoi* to identify them: *magi* from the *east*. The presence of these figures in Matthew's Gospel – with their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh – is one of the most intriguing aspects of the Nativity account. The truth is that we know so little about them because Matthew *tells us* so little about them. For example: we typically depict three of them, but Matthew doesn't tell us how many there were. We typically think of them as riding camels, but again, that is not specified. Neither are their names, although we seem to think they were called Balthazar, Melchior and Caspar. And when it comes to the star, the reference is obscure: "We saw his star at its rising", they told Herod (Matthew 2:2). Not exactly the magical star that moves in the sky.

Our childhood pageantry also obscures the essential drama of the story. These magi become tied up in a politically motivated attempt to murder a young child. King Herod, upon meeting the magi, assures them that he wants to do Jesus homage, commanding them to "search diligently for the child" (2:8). But, obviously, when the magi did not tell him where the child Jesus was being hidden, Herod orchestrated a massacre of all boys under two years old. It is the most singularly brutal event in the New Testament, apart from the Crucifixion.

The truth is that we may never know the full truth about who the magi were or where they came from or how many there were. But there are some important details of the story that can help us enter more deeply into the mystery of the Incarnation. These are some details that Pope Benedict XVI outlined in his 2011 homily on the Feast of the Epiphany.

Firstly, the narrative of the magi begins with their entry into

Jerusalem. We might brush over this tiny detail, but in one sense – *of course they went to Jerusalem*. Of course that was the place they assumed would be the right place to go, especially since they were looking for a king. It was the cultural, religious and political centre of that world. It was the centre of power. If you're looking for a king, *that's where you go*. But, they are unexpectedly redirected to Bethlehem: a much poorer town. The contrast between Bethlehem and Jerusalem is stark, and it accentuates for us the mysterious nature of Christ's kingship: that he doesn't exercise it in the way the world does. He wasn't born to a place of power, amidst privilege and wealth and honour and luxury. He was born on the outskirts. In poverty. In Bethlehem, a name which means 'house of bread'. He came not to *be fed*, like the other kings of privilege, but to *be food for his people*. This is a reality that should strike home for us who love the Eucharist: this is how Jesus reigns, by feeding us, his people.

Finally, Pope Benedict asks a startling question: "Is there perhaps something of Herod also in us?" Herod saw Jesus as a threat; he was a threat to his world, his empire, his privilege. Do we treat God as a rival? Do we refuse to humble ourselves before him out of fear that he will put undue limits on our lives? Or, can we accept the truth, that it is only in Jesus that we find true freedom in life. The extent to which we treat Jesus like a rival is the extent to which we exercise our spiritual lives as if we were Herod. We need to be more like the magi and be willing to leave our places of comfort, following the call of our restless hearts to ultimately live our life in homage to the true king: Jesus of Nazareth.



We Are Open!

Holy Family Parish is now able to host up to 260 parishioners for Mass, Sacraments and prayer. Parishioners are most welcome to attend Mass, Adoration or Confession at Holy Family by registering your attendance on our website or by calling the Parish Office during business hours. Doors will open thirty minutes before each Mass. For the moment, entry is only available through the Narthex where our volunteers will register your entry to the Church. For weekday Masses, you will be issued a white token. We ask you attach this token to the pew in front of your seat and leave it in the Church so our volunteers can sanitise this area. For weekend Masses, you are welcome to sit in any available alternating pew, as clearly signed around the Church. After Mass, you are invited to leave either through the doors near the memorial garden or the Confessional. Masks are no longer required, as long as you remain at least 1.5 metres from the next household.

The Church is during the following times: (Doors open 30 minutes prior)

Sunday

6:00pm Saturday Vigil Mass

10:00 am Mass

5:00 pm Mass

Tuesdays

7:00pm Mass

Wednesdays - Fridays

9:15 am Mass

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Confession

Tuesdays 7:30 pm - 8:30pm

Saturday 10:00 am - 11:00 am

Your contact information is required by law, which will be stored according to the Parishes Privacy Policy and thus bookings are strongly encouraged. If you have not booked there may be some delay entering the Church, and if we've reached our legal capacity you will not be able to enter.

Bookings can be made online at holyfamily.melbourne or by calling the Parish Office between 9:30am and 2:30pm Monday to Friday. Also, bookings can be made after each Sunday Mass by approaching one of our volunteers at the back of the Church.



AVAILABLE
NOW

Adore

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS
DAILY REFLECTIONS 2020



Farewell Holy Family

2020 has already been a year of surprises, change, and disruption, and I am acutely aware that on top of all that has been going on, our inability to gather together in person has been a cause of great pain for many of you.

I now need to inform you of one more change before the year is out. The Archbishop invited me to take up a new Parish appointment as Parish Priest of St Michael's Parish in North Melbourne. This small Parish on the city's outskirts has until recently been looked after by the Blessed Sacrament Fathers, but in the last few months has returned to the Archdiocese's care. The Archbishop would like to use this opportunity to reinvigorate the Parish, which is in a growing area of the inner city, and more closely unite it with the University of Melbourne, whose chaplaincy I took up earlier in the year.

Sadly this will see me leaving Holy Family on Sunday, 15th November. Over the past five years, Holy Family has been my family, and I will be sad to be leaving, especially in the challenging times in which we live. As a Parish, we have achieved much during this time and can be proud of many things. A special mention must be made of the many young families who fill our Parish with such vibrancy. It has been wonderful to see so many families involved in our Parish's life and have seen so many youth and young adults call Holy Family home over the past five years. My new appointment sees me working closely with the Archbishop and his team to support Young People and University Students across our Archdiocese. A crucial work for our Church's future and one that I entrust to your continued prayer.

While there has not been a decision made yet about my replacement, we are incredibly lucky to have Fr Patrick Bradford, who has recently joined us. Fr Bradford will hold

the fort and will be with you over these next few months as we come out of lockdown and navigate the ever-changing environment that is COVID Normal. My departure is made much easier by knowing that I am leaving the Parish in such capable hands and that a fine priest like Fr Bradford will be with you during this time of transition.

The opportunities at this time for traditional farewells will be limited. Still, I look forward to finding creative ways to say goodbye to as many as possible over the next few weeks.

May Jesus, Mary, and Joseph continue to inspire and intercede for each one of your families, and may God Bless you.

Fr Nicholas Pearce
Parish Priest

Fr Pearce's video message can be viewed via this article on our website.



Auf Wiedersehen

Farewell Speech to Fr Pearce

Written by: **Bernard Mulholland**

My name is Bernard Mulholland and as the Chair of the Holy Family Parish Pastoral Advisory Board, it falls to me to say a few words on behalf of parishioners to farewell Father Nicholas Pearce our Parish Priest as he leaves Holy Family Mount Waverley.

You might recall that I have also farewelled Fr Laurence Cortez, Fr Michael Kelly, Deacon Malcolm Lock and Sister Kim Thrin. There seems to be a common factor at play in all of this but I haven't quite worked out what it is. Needless to say that the new Parish Priest (whoever that might be), will not be looking forward to meeting me.

Father, when we heard the news that you were leaving, there was much sadness and disappointment amongst the parishioners. Sadness because we have had relatively such a short time together since you first came to us as our Administrator and later, our Parish Priest. As Howard Keel once sang, we've been sobbin buckets of tears.

Fr Pearce arrived at Holy Family in 2015 following the departure of Fr Cortez and was appointed into the role of Parish Administrator, which he took on with great zeal and determination.

One of the penultimate actions of former Archbishop Denis Hart was to appoint Fr Pearce as Parish Priest for Holy Family Mount Waverley in 2017. This is usually a 6-year appointment however as you have heard, circumstances at St Michael's in North Melbourne were such that Archbishop Comensoli asked Fr Pearce to consider a move. You will appreciate that a request when you have taken a vow of obedience to your Archbishop doesn't leave you much wiggle room. What is interesting is that we have now lost our past two Parish Priests to St Michaels, albeit different locations. An interesting coincidence.

As the Chair of the PPAB, I have had the pleasure of working directly with Fr Pearce over the past 5 years. He has always been generous with his time despite working for the Vocations office as well as running the Parish, coupled with the demands of studying and chaplaincy to the Melbourne University. Your energy and enthusiasm are well known to us all. This no doubt stems from your rather youthful age however, we at Holy Family have been the fortunate recipients of your outstanding organisational abilities whether it be our Christmas celebrations and Easter Ceremonies or the two monster fetes that were conducted during your tenure.

Spiritually, you have been very active with the regular scheduling of the Mass, sacraments and adoration of the Cross. You arranged the visitation of the Pilgrim statue of Our Lady of Fatima and for the Parish Mission to be held in early 2018 with Fr Antoine Thomas from New Zealand. You launched and continued the rollout of the Alpha program which aids in Christian development for new and not so new parishioners and despite the lock down of the State in the fight against Covid 19 which closed our Church for many months, you continued to engage directly with us through the electronic media and the wonderful series of Zoom presentations held on Sunday mornings on the Eucharist, the Holy Land and currently, the series on the Blessed Virgin Mary. In a time when we the parishioners have been separated from the Church, you found ways to keep us connected and growing in our spirituality. You encouraged our continuing support of the Korean Catholics of Melbourne availing them the use of our facilities for their home. Their presence at Holy Family continues to inspire us.

Although you have only been with us for 5 years, there have been a number of structural improvements at the Parish which you have been instrumental in achieving such as bringing the Parish into compliance with new Child Safety Act and Regulations with the implementation of policies and procedures to address these requirements for all our Parish activities and which also saw the reconfiguration of the Confessional and Altar Servers room. There was the creation of the new Parish Library and meeting room, which has been put to extreme good use by a multitude of parish groups. The Columbarium development, which further extended the existing peace garden and created a place of lasting connection between our forebears and current parishioners also formalised the opportunity for parishioners to be later interred in the grounds of their own Church. The kitchen and presbytery renovations have made the Parish house far more useable and comfortable for Priests and staff alike. Sorry Father, you can't take the new kitchen with you to North Melbourne but we will send you Parish Raffle tickets.

In 2018, while Parish Priest, we celebrated our 60th anniversary as a Parish. A ball was held at the Riversdale Golf Club and in spite of numbers being capped at 130, we still crammed in 150 new and old parishioners into the venue. Again, your organisational ability was on display and it was a great night with lots of dancing and reminiscing and a fitting celebration of our 60 years as a Parish.

You were instrumental in creating the opportunity for the Frassati Fraternity to take up residency in Mount Waverley. While creating the mechanism for a number of young men to live together and practice their Christian faith, their presence and involvement at Holy Family Parish has brought many advantages and blessings. You have also encouraged the development of youth and young adult groups, and conducted 2 Camino de Santiago walks during your time with us. You also showed a keen interest in the spiritual growth of our primary school children. Parishioners may have noticed the little spoon farm in the school garden near the exit from the Carpark and the rather large spoon no doubt depicting Fr Pearce.

This is reflective of the care and connection you made with our Primary school. I am sure that the school is going to miss the coffee stall that you provided at the start of each year. Equally, I believe that the Café shops of Mount Waverley will now go into serious decline.

“ Your care and attention to us, your parish family, your visitation of our sick and elderly, the provision of the Mass and sacraments, your energy, enthusiasm, skill and organisational ability, these are **so very much** appreciated by your parishioners. We can't thank you enough and we wish you every success at St Michael's and in your vocation to the Priesthood. Together, we have achieved a lot under your strong and energetic leadership.

We at Holy Family have, of course, been extremely fortunate to have Father Patrick Bradford recently appointed to the Parish which will somewhat smooth the transition between Parish Priests. A very warm welcome to you Father Bradford. We commit our support to you.

Father Pearce, you leave us today knowing that your job is done. You can be proud of what you have achieved as Administrator and Parish Priest at Holy Family. You take with you our heartfelt **thanks, love and prayers**. No doubt you will look up at the congregation at St Michael's from time to time and see some of us visiting. From all **your family** here at Holy Family, so long, farewell, auf wiedersehen, adieu.

Contact Us

OFFICE HOURS

9:30am - 2:30pm (Mon - Fri)

ADDRESS

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Mount Waverley, Victoria
3149

PHONE

03 8539 2778 (temporary
number)

EMAIL

mountwaverley@cam.org.au

WEBSITE

holymfamily.melbourne

PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM

Fr Patrick Bradford
Assistant Priest

Mariana Hladik
Parish Administration

Joe Melhem
Youth Ministry

Lauren Considine
Religious Education Leader (Holy
Family School)

Leighton Hughes
Parish DesignOps

PARISH STAFF

Julie David
Principal - Holy Family School

Janet Cullinan
Parish Secretary

Christian Bergmann
Hall Coordinator

Fr David Kim OFM Conv.
Chaplain to the Korean
Community

HALL BOOKINGS

Small and Large Halls are
available for family and
group bookings.

Parishioners' rates available.
Please contact the Parish Office
for more information.

COLUMBARIUM AND MEMORIAL GARDEN

Plots are now available for
reservation for Parishioners
and Families.

Please contact the Parish Office
for more information.

Regular Mass Times *

TUESDAY

7:00pm

WEDNESDAY

9:15am

THURSDAY

9:15am

FRIDAY

9:15am

SATURDAY

6:00pm

SUNDAY

10:00am

5:00pm

* Weekly Mass Schedule may
change from time to time. Please
check the Parish website for the
most up-to-date information.

Holy Hour & Confession

TUESDAY

7:30pm - 8:30pm

SATURDAY

10:00am - 11:00am

Confession Times

TUESDAY

7:30pm - 8:30pm

SATURDAY

10:00am - 11:00am

Baptisms

Sundays following 10:30am Mass.
Please ring the Parish Office for
preparation and scheduling of
Baptism.

Weddings

By appointment with the Parish
Priest.

CGB | architect

 0468 632 148 - Christian

Active Cleaning

 0418 382 505 - Simon



 9886 5318

Stitch 'n' Time

 0424 095 800 - Elsie



 0433 661 738 - Jeffrey Kang



 9807 3007

Choi Painting

 0402 354 246 - Alberto