

St Francis of Assisi Church

tel: 422-2431 e-mail: stfrancis04@gmail.com



SUNDAY MASSES: Saturday 5pm, Sunday 8 & 10.30am.

(Confessions are available after each Sunday Mass)

WEEKDAYS: Monday no Mass, Tuesday to Friday 7am, Saturday 8am

Thursday 6-7pm - Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

NEWSLETTER

Christmas 2017



*Wishing you all a most wonderful
and blessed Christmas*

**This Sunday, 4th Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve,
Bishop Jason is coming to St Francis Parish to bid us farewell
before he leaves for Trinidad to be installed as
Archbishop on Wednesday, December 27.**

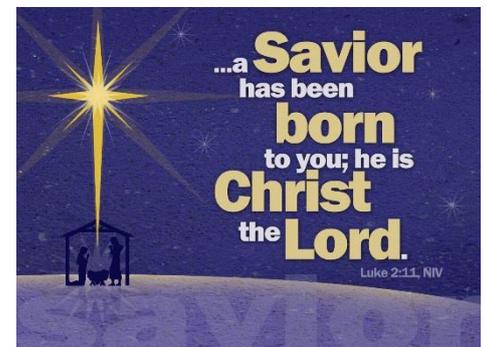
Bishop Jason will be saying the 8 o'clock Mass for us this Sunday.

Jesus or Emmanuel. What's in a name?

"And his name shall be called Emmanuel." But it wasn't! He was called Jesus. In his gospel St Matthew quotes the prophecy of Isaiah about the name Emmanuel within a few lines of saying that he would be called Jesus. Both names are very important.

In the Bible it is the meaning of a name that is usually very significant. The name Emmanuel (sometimes spelt Immanuel in English) means "God is with us" and so is a most wonderful description of the coming of Christ. With the birth of Christ, God is living in the world as a human being. God has become one with us. But the word *with* means much more than just being physically in the world as a human being. When someone is suffering, whether it is physical illness or bereavement, what they need most is not help or advice but compassion and that is shown by someone being with them in the pain. "God is with us", manifested in the person of Jesus, is a wonderful expression of God's feeling for us, God's compassion for us.

The expression Emmanuel (God with us) clearly applies to God made man. But more than that: the gospel said he would be called Jesus because he would be saving people from their sins. Jesus was not coming simply to tell people to stop sinning and live better lives. He came to help us by his power to recover from evil which so easily insinuates itself into our lives and we find it hard to get rid of it. When Jesus put into words who he was and why he had come, it was always for healing, physical healing and healing the broken-hearted.



That is why Christmas is such a wonderful time full of joy – yes, joy, even in the middle of pain.

THANK YOU

On behalf of some very needy families, the St Vincent de Paul Society would like to thank you for your generosity in helping these families over Christmas and beyond.

Two little girls of our parish went carol singing with their friends to raise more than \$300. To them and to you all a very big THANK YOU

Please would you also pray for these people who are ill : We pray especially for little Sebastian Peichl, Richard Roach, Shenicia Hurley, Stanislaus Alexander, Jacqueline Coles-Austin, Dorothy de Gale, Norma Laura Herrera, Basil Cozier, Paddy Melville, Kathy Winterhall, Kenneth Miller, Carlos Phillips, Phillip Alleyne, Lucille Alleyne, Joan Mahon, Mervin Mahon, Carolina Restrepo, Marie Edmund, Carlyle Glean, Taylor Pluna, Peter-Xavier Iweze, Lourdes Rouco, John Griffith, Shimisha Butcher, David Gittens, Annie Bromham, Alison Howard, Noel Shirley, Natari Edwards, Carol Rowe, Marie Cornibert, Aurelija Vasilev, Anna Teelan and Joyce Blennman

All services held in St Francis Church may be viewed on the Internet: <http://iwcpinc.com/portfolio-view/church-st-francis/>
A shortened form of Fr Michael's homily can be found in the Advocate on Sunday
and after the Sunday on: *Michael A J BarrowYoutube*

Christmas Schedule

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT **December 23/24**

Saturday 5pm Mass

Sunday Morning
Masses at 8 & 10.30
(Bishop Jason's farewell
at 8am Mass)

6pm
Christmas Mass
for young families

CHRISTMAS EVE

11.30pm Carol Service
12 Midnight Mass

CHRISTMAS DAY

8 and 10.30am Mass

BOXING DAY

(Tuesday)
9.30 am Mass

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday:
Mass at 7am

Saturday
no morning Mass

SUNDAY DECEMBER 31

Feast of the
Holy Family
Saturday 5pm Mass

Sunday Morning
Masses at 8 & 10.30

NEW YEAR'S EVE

(Sunday)

10.30pm Mass

followed by refreshments in the
garden to greet the New Year and
watch the fireworks over the sea

NEW YEAR'S DAY:

Feast of Mary
the Mother of God
Mass at 9.30 am