

CHRISTMAS AT HOLY REDEEMER

Thursday 17th December Advent Reconciliation Service

7.30 p.m.

22nd, 23rd, 24th Confessions after 8.30 a.m. Mass

Thursday 24th December

5.15.p.m. Children's Nativity Play (Each family is encouraged to bring a wrapped gift for a less fortunate child, with a tag indicating whether it is for a boy or a girl)

6.00 p.m. Family Mass

10.45 p.m. Church Opens

11.15 p.m. Carol Service

Midnight Holy Mass

Friday 25th December Christmas Masses

7.00 a.m.

9.00 a.m.

11.00 a.m.

No Evening Mass

Saturday 26th December

Mass at 8.30 a.m.

First Mass of Sunday at 6.00 p.m.

Sunday 27th December Feast of the Holy Family

Masses at usual times: 7 a.m. 9 a.m. 11 a.m. 6 p.m.

Monday 28th December till Tuesday 12th January There will be no 6.15 a.m. Mass on weekdays.

Thursday 31st December Mass at 8.30 a.m. and 6.00 p.m.

Friday 1st January Mass at 8.30 a.m. only

HOLY REDEEMER CATHOLIC CHURCH

Bergvliet

Christmas 2015



THE NATIVITY

CHRISTMAS 2015

Dear parishioners and visitors to Holy Redeemer Church,

A few weeks ago I made reference in my homily to the famous words written by Charles Dickens in his novel about the French Revolution, *A Tale of Two Cities*. The opening paragraph of the book is rightly loved and treasured:

‘It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us.’

The power of these words for me is the fact that they could have been written of any age in the long history of humanity. They are an expression of the human condition, and of the complexity of every human life.

They express something of the truth of our own times. This past year has been one of great violence and terror and war in many parts of the world. It has been a time when the poor continue to be unjustly victimised. It has been a year of anguish and despair for the countless people who are forced to leave their homes and countries in order to flee religious or political persecution. It is all too easy to think that we are living in a season of Darkness, and to be tempted to give up all hope for the future.

What we celebrate at Christmas, however, is that whatever darkness seems to affect our personal and family life, or of the world as a whole, there is for us who believe in Christ the knowledge that we are forever living in a season of Light. The fact that God the Father sent his Son to share our human condition means that everything can be redeemed. God sent His Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but to lead all of us into the Light of Christ.

As we have now begun the great Jubilee Year of Mercy, may our hearts be filled with joy this Christmas, in the knowledge that in the birth of a child, God’s mercy and love and hope has come into the world and into the heart of each of us.

Christmas is a time of both giving and receiving gifts. The gift we celebrate above all is the gift of the child Jesus, who is the mercy of God, and Our Most Holy Redeemer. But, this Christmas and throughout the year ahead, let us offer each other the gift of mercy in all that we do or say, in all that we think and that we pray.

The Christmas gift of Jesus does not happen on one particular day of the year. The gift of Jesus, the gift of Light, is offered to all of us at every moment. May this be what fills our hearts with joy and may this be what we share with one another each and every day.

I take this opportunity, on behalf of the Redemptorist Community that serves you, to wish you joy, hope and love, this Christmas and in the year that lies before us.

Fr Gerard McCabe, C.Ss.R.
Parish Priest

Enclosed is an envelope for your Christmas Offering – your gift to the Redemptorist Community at the service of the parish. Kindly return the envelope at any of the Christmas Masses.

If you prefer to make an EFT then be advised that the parish banks with Standard Bank, Constantia.

Branch code: 025-309

Account number: 071805427

Account name: Holy Redeemer parish

Please use ref: Your Surname + COF (e.g. Smithcof)

Thank you for your generosity.