

We Remember those in God's Care



- ❖ Joan Hawting, *and all who have died recently;*
- ❖ *and all whose anniversaries occur now.*

We Pray for

- ❖ Pat Ryan, Joan Meehan, Margaret Nance, Leo Caffery, Tim O'Neill, *and all our sick.*



OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL PARISH in the care of the Carmelites since 1937

4th Sunday of Advent

20 December 2009

Silent Night, Holy Night – a single violin was playing the melody line of the world's most famous Christmas carol. Slowly it penetrated my consciousness as I sat deep in thought over a cup of coffee. Ever so gently, I was being returned to the immediacy of my surroundings: Saturday morning at the Greenslopes shopping mall, the St. Andrews Anglican Orchestra playing Christmas songs in the background. Fully aware by now, I watched scores of shoppers intent on doing their Christmas shopping. A few, a very few of them, had stopped to listen... *'round yon Virgin, mother and child...*

How many of these Saturday morning shoppers, I wondered, know that this German Christmas carol stopped World War I on Christmas Eve in 1914? A basic outline of those events follows:-

On Christmas Eve of the first year of the War, the hearts and minds of most soldiers had begun to turn from the insanity of the trenches to thoughts of home, of the Christmas peace and joy experienced with family in pre-war days. It was in this context that German troops began to sing the beautiful carol "Stille Nacht" (Silent Night). The significance and the poignancy of the situation were not lost on the British troops in the opposing trenches. When the Germans finished singing, into the lull that followed a lone English voice began to sing, "When Shepherds watched their flocks by night". Other soldiers from his unit joined in, singing lyrics which told of Jesus' birth and of God's plan of peace and salvation for all.

To and fro it continued, back and forth across No Man's Land as first the 'enemy' Germans and then the British sang for each other and for themselves until eventually someone was game enough to climb out of the trenches and walk unarmed towards the enemy. Prompted by the Christmas spirit (now palpable), other brave souls joined him in this previously unthinkable behaviour.

(cont...pg 3)

St. Vincent de Paul Society Report.

On behalf of our parish our SVDP conference has responded to 291 calls for aid from about 150 people during the last year. Aid included: food \$16437, rent \$4180, electricity, telephone and other expenses \$2632, in total \$23249; as well as clothing, furniture and a lawn mower. This expenditure is a 50% increase on last year's costs. All of this material assistance came from you, and without your participation in this work the conference could not function. Thank you for your support. Again we seek your partnership in our work with your prayers and your financial assistance in our Christmas collection and throughout the year.

Duncan Stuart, Secretary.

PARISH PRIEST : Laurie Timms O.Carm
ASSOCIATE PASTORS: Jerome Watt O.Carm
PARISH SECRETARY: Emanuela Heaton
FINANCE: Maureen Hassett
PRIOR OF CARMELITE COMMUNITY: Frank Shortis O.Carm

PARISH OFFICE:
312 Cavendish Road, Coorparoo
[entry via Norfolk St],
Phone: 07 3397 1587 Fax: 07 3847 9198
Email: mtcarmel@bne.catholic.net.au
Website: www.mtcarmelcoorparoo.org.au
Office Hours: 8.30am - 4.30pm, Mondays-Thursdays

**YOUR GENEROSITY
can live on!**

**THINKING OF MAKING
OR RENEWING
YOUR WILL?**



Please think of us.

For more information
please contact
Mt Carmel Parish Office
3397 1587

PARISH MASS TIMES

Weekends:

Saturday Vigil – 6 pm;
Sunday - 7.30 am, 9.30 am & 5.30 pm

Weekdays *this week*:

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday,
Thursday, Friday & Saturday - 9 am

RECONCILIATION

Saturdays 9.30 am – 10 am

BAPTISMS & WEDDINGS

by appointment

This week at Mt Carmel

Today is 20 December
4th Sunday of Advent

Micah 5:1-4 Hebrews 10:5-10
Luke 1:39-44

St Vincent de Paul speaking about the
Christmas Appeal at all Masses

Monday 21 December

Rosary after 9 am Mass

Advent Programme in Carmel
Community Room, 9.45 am

St Vincent de Paul meeting in Carmel
Community Room, 7.30 pm

Wednesday 23 December

Readers Preparation for Christmas
Masses in sacristy, 7.30 pm



Christmas Mass Times

OUR LADY OF MT CARMEL

Thursday 24 December:

7 pm Vigil Mass (Carols 6.45 pm)
10 pm Night Mass (Carols 9.45 pm)

Friday 25 December:

7.30 am Mass (Carols 7.15 am)
9.30 am Mass (Carols 9.15 am)

ST JAMES

Thurs 24 December

7 pm (Family Mass)
Midnight
(Carols at 11.45 pm)

Friday 25 December

7 am & 9 am

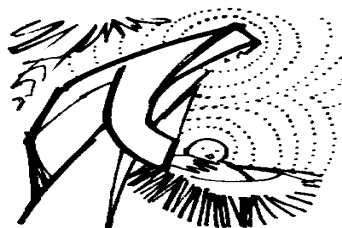
REGINA CAELI

Thurs 24 December

6.30 pm Vigil Mass
(Carols 6 pm)

Friday 25 December

6.30 am & 8.30 am



Reflection (...cont)

Soon hundreds of men were mingling with the enemy. It was quite a sight: scores of Prussian style helmets in amongst the uniformed working class lads from the East End of London. Ordinary men - husbands, fathers, sons - were showing enemy troops cherished photos of wives and children, exchanging small gifts, sharing their common humanity and the Christmas customs and beliefs of all European cultures of the time. Spontaneous football matches followed.

Although the High Commands of both sides ordered their troops to resume hostilities or be shot for desertion, that extraordinary Christmas of 1914 is remembered to this day.

So what can we learn from these events when the spiritual power of "Silent Night" triumphed over the madness of the Western front? I'll begin with a couple of suggestions, but I'm sure you can think of more...

1. The need to give voice to our Christian beliefs and to live from them.
2. The need to humanize the 'enemy'/the other by meeting and experiencing them as our fellow human beings, as God's children too.
3. With help from the Holy Spirit, the need to build bridges between people and between cultures...

Emmanuel, God with us, Peace and goodwill to all.

COME LORD JESUS, CHRISTMAS 2009.

Heather Stabler Parishioner

What's Happening?

There has been a bit of news in the papers this week about Blessed Mary MacKillop. Will she or won't she?

Kevin Rudd is obviously keeping his eye on the subject!

As you might know, the Pope has declared her as the Patron of the Archdiocese of Brisbane. Consequently, the Archdiocese has commissioned an artist to do a portrait of her and made 150 copies of it to be given as gifts to parishes and other institutions in the Diocese. We have been given copy No.22.

Next week we will officially receive the portrait after which it will hang in a new place of honour in the church. The existing picture of her on the back wall will relocate to the sacristy.

Laurie