



ST PAUL'S

ST CLARE'S

*Bulletin Highlights*

*Mary, the Mother of God ~ Year A*

*01 Jan 2017*

*Christmas Celebrations ~ Blessings for our Families and our Parish*

The five Masses for Christmas were again very well attended, with the aggregate number estimated at well over three thousand people. There was a very noticeable reverence at all Masses, as well as a strong measure of congregational participation.

Gratitude is extended to the many people who were involved in the organisation, and who assisted in special ways. The sacred music was noticeably outstanding and most certainly added to the beauty of the ceremonies. And the arrival of Santa was very popular among the kids.

The new features of video and audio into the chapel have proven to be a good investment, allowing about another 100 people unable to fit into the church to feel part of the celebrations.

There were also external speakers for audio outside of the chapel; these were especially useful for the early 5:00 PM Vigil. By your presence, thanks to the large number of people for making Christmas in our parish so very holy and beautiful. May all our families and our parish be blessed by these celebrations!



*With Gratitude*

With the passing of one year and the beginning of another year this weekend, a most timely opportunity becomes available to extend gratitude to all our parishioners for the multitude of ways in which contributions are made to the life of the parish.

From time to time some of our parishioners have remarked that the two great loves of their lives are their family and their parish. Ultimately, the extent to which a parish is deeply life-giving, is determined according to the dedication of its parishioners. And in our own parish we are rather blessed with many seriously committed people spanning all age groups. Collectively, we pray with gratitude to God for the many blessings upon our parish in 2016, and look to the coming 12 months with a wonderful sense of anticipation.



*January ~ Quiet Time*

There's a kind of seasonality to our church year in terms of weekend attendances. Owing to the large number of people on holidays, January is typically rather quiet. And our Masses are not so congested. Normal business resume from the beginning of February.