

ST PAUL'S

ST CLARE'S

Bulletin Highlights

Thirty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time ~ Year A

19th November 2017

Handel's Messiah ~ in our own parish on Sunday Evening 17 December 2017



Messiah by Handel is a greatly acclaimed English language oratorio composed in 1741 by George Frideric Handel, with a scriptural text compiled by Charles Jennens from the King James Bible. It was first performed in Dublin on 13 April 1742 and received its London premiere nearly a year later.

After an initially modest public reception, the oratorio gained in popularity, eventually becoming one of the best-known and most frequently performed choral works in Western music.

Handel's reputation in England, where he had lived since 1712, had been established through his compositions of Italian opera. He turned to English oratorio in the 1730s in response to changes in public taste; Messiah was his sixth work in this genre. Although its structure resembles that of opera, it is not in dramatic form; there are no impersonations of characters and no direct speech.

Instead, Jennens's text is an extended reflection on Jesus as the Messiah called Christ. The text begins in Part I with prophecies by Isaiah and others, and moves to the annunciation to the shepherds. In Part II, Handel concentrates on the Passion and ends with the "Hallelujah" chorus. In Part III he covers the resurrection of the dead and Christ's glorification in heaven.

Handel wrote Messiah for modest vocal and instrumental forces, with optional settings for many of the individual numbers. In the years after his death, the work was adapted for performance on a much larger scale, with giant orchestras and choirs.

In other efforts to update it, its orchestration was revised and amplified by (among others) Mozart. In the late 20th and early 21st centuries the trend has been towards reproducing a greater fidelity to Handel's original intentions, although "big Messiah" productions continue to be mounted

The evening will begin at 7:00 PM, just one hour after the normal Sunday 5:00 PM Mass. It will begin with a few formalities and include some beautiful short musical selections from our own wonderfully talented parishioners. At 7:45 PM, there will be a brief intermission to allow the sanctuary to be fitted with chairs for the musicians and choristers. The performance of Handel's Messiah will begin at 8:00 PM

Tickets will cost just \$15 to offset minor expenses, and the cost to a family is just \$40. There will be many visitors from outside our own parish and, indeed, from outside the Macarthur. So demand for tickets is expected to be quite strong. Please contact Elizabeth from this Tuesday to book your tickets. Early payment is necessary. More news next week.



FHC Masses Next Weekend: Parents are asked to be mindful of the following:

Photography: Families should definitely ensure that cameras are available for photography before and after Mass. However, photography is not permitted during Mass because it becomes extremely distracting. Parents are asked to advise relatives and friends accordingly.

Reverence: Our Masses are sacred ceremonies. Silence and prayerfulness are important. So often at First Holy Communions, distant family members may come together after a long absence. Naturally enough, people like to converse. But parents are asked to advise their family and friends that casual conversation is much better suited to outside of the church.

Punctuality: Masses always start on time. Families should arrive in church at least 10 minutes early to allow their children to settle and compose.



SUNDAY NIGHT MASS ~ 26 NOV. 17

Our parishioners are advised that because of FHC, the normal 5:00 PM Mass will be celebrated at 4:00 PM next Sunday as a “one-off”. The earlier finishing time allows the families and guests of the first communicants to have a little reception afterwards without finishing too late. Our usual parishioners are asked to be supportive with their presence, especially since there are only 16 First Communicants at this Mass. Mass will be barely 10 minutes longer than usual. With thanks.



CATHOLIC ENRICHMENT PROGRAMME

In a rather quiet way, a programme has been administered to assist adults prepare for full initiation into the Catholic Church. This programme for 2017 come to completion this Friday evening during a special Mass in which men and women will receive some of sacraments for the very first time. Our prayers are with those who will be



Sacrament of Penance Programme

Parents who have children who have been baptised and are in Year 2 at school or higher are welcome to register and collect information forms for the Sacrament of Penance Programme. The first part begins on the First Sunday of Advent (from the Vigil 2nd December) and continues until the Third Sunday of Advent. Understandably, with many families away over January, the programme is suspended until after the summer holidays. The second part of the programme recommences early February.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

The final meeting for the year has been schedule for this coming Wednesday at 7:00 PM. It's not expected to be a lengthy meeting. The major areas of discussion will be outstanding matters from previous meetings.



ADVENT EVENT: SATURDAY EVENING 2ND DECEMBER

It's only two weeks away. Our parishioners are invited to come along and enjoy fraternity, good conversation and a good quality meal. To have the full experience of the Advent Event, come to the 5:00 PM Vigil, and then meet in the Heritage Hall for a pre-dinner drink.

A buffet meal is served at 6:30 PM with complimentary beverages included. People are welcome to register together with others if wanting to be seated at the same table. Alternatively, our parishioners can simply register and be assigned to a table with other parishioners. Either way it's all good.

There will be a few interesting conversation topics assigned for those who are present. The evening tends to draw to a close by about 8:00 PM although some like to stay a little longer. It's a good night and a good feed. All for just \$15/person. Please ring the parish office from Tuesday next week.