

ST PAUL'S

ST CLARE'S

Bulletin Highlights



The Baptism of the Lord

13th January 2019

The Oaks and Oakdale ~Update

The declining number of priests has been slowly having an effect in our diocese. Long-established parishes like Fairy Meadow, Gwynneville, Helensburgh, Port Kembla, and Mittagong have long since been without a resident parish priest. A more recent example is West Wollongong. It's not altogether surprising, therefore, that The Oaks is now in the same situation.

Fortunately, the large majority of parishioners tend to be very resourceful at such times. And it is anticipated that The Oaks and Oakdale will continue to operate without too many substantial changes in the short term. There will invariably be meetings with parishioners and clergy in coming weeks and months to discern the best way of moving forward. It's all a bit hard to say exactly how everything will unfold. Who knows? Initially, there

simply needs to be a familiarisation process with open hearts and minds. More reports according to developments.



Sister Mary Gregory SGS

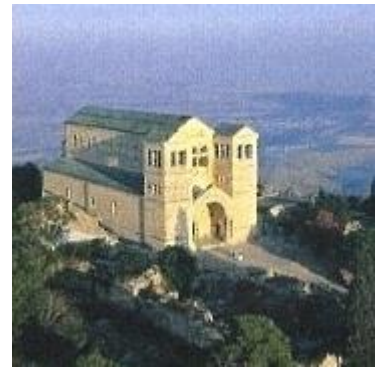


Many of our parishioners would be aware that Sr. Mary exchanged time for eternity on 3 January 2019. A Vigil Service will be offered for Sister Mary on Sunday 13 January at 7.00pm and a Funeral Mass will be celebrated on Monday 14 January at 11.00am, both to be held at St Scholastica Chapel, 2 Arcadia Road, Glebe. The Vigil takes the form of Evening prayer when all her relatives attend as well as the Good Sams and friends. Her coffin is in the chapel. Supper is provided in the Function room after the liturgy and attendees tell stories of how they knew Mary.

Sister Mary came from an era when convent life was demanding and difficult, and without too many of life's creature comforts. During her time at Mater Dei she often attended the 9:30 AM Sunday Mass at St Clare's at Smeaton Grange. It seemed so very apparent to all who knew her that she carried within her heart a spirit of joyfulness and trust. From among our many parishioners, she will certainly be remembered as a wonderful servant of the Lord, and a lady of refinement and grace. *Requiescat in Pace*

Holy Land Pilgrimage

Brochures containing much more detail are available from the various magazine tables around the church and in the chapel and from this link [Brochure](#). It may seem a little costly but travel to the Holy Land in high quality accommodation will never be inexpensive. The airfare is expected to be an added \$2,400 return with the flight leaving on Monday 14th. This is a compact tour but quite sufficient with all the highlights covered. And as an added difference, the tour organisers are **206 TOURS** who are a very large travel company from the US specialising in pilgrimages. Why not look up their web site? <https://www.206tours.com/>



The month of January tends to be a little quieter than most other months of the year with many of our parishioners taking a well-deserved annual holiday. With Lent, Easter, and Advent, as well as the administering of large sacramental programmes, there is a noticeably seasonality to our church year. The parish will be back in full stride in just a few more weeks.