

Christmas Prayer

Sweet Child of Bethlehem, grant that we may share with all our hearts in this profound mystery of Christmas. Pour into the hearts of all the peace which they sometimes seek so desperately, and which you alone can give them. Help them to know one another better and to live as brothers and sisters, children of the same father. Awaken in their hearts love and gratitude for your infinite goodness; join them together in your love; and give us all your heavenly peace.



Pope St John XXIII

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Message from the Regional Couple

Dear friends in Teams,

We wish you joy and peace as we celebrate the anniversary of the birth of Jesus – Our Savior.

We have all had a really challenging 2020 year in dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic, and in particular staying connected with our immediate family, extended family, our Team companions, and close friends.

However, during the periods of lockdown we have found that making greater use of communication technologies such as Zoom, Skype, Facebook, Phone, and other media has enabled us to stay connected via ‘Spiritual Masses’, monthly Team meetings and keeping in touch with family and friends. It was great to see how you cared for and supported each other over these difficult months. However, with the resumption of face-to-face Team meetings, we have all realized how much we have missed the ‘kisses and hugs’!

Over the year some of our members have left us to meet their Creator – Keith McLaughlin (C14), Kevin Connor (C5), Marie-Claire Perrine (S4) and Peter Needham (C6). We ask all Team members to remember them and their spouses in your daily prayers. Prayers are also asked for Teams members who are ill.

Have a wonderful and joyous Christmas and New Year – we pray that your love and compassion continues to grow over the coming year. Love and Peace.....

Genevieve & Tim

Oceania Gathering 2021

Many of you are probably wondering what became of the Oceania Gathering), which was scheduled for Canberra last September but had to be postponed, like so many events, due to COVID-19.

It has been decided that the Gathering (Teams supporting Couples; Connect, Communicate, Commit), will be held on 18 September 2021. It will run for one day and it will be streamed to Regional locations. More information will be forthcoming as planning firms up details in the new year.

Vale Peter Needham

With great sadness Team C6 farewelled Peter Needham on 29th November after a protracted and very brave battle with illness.

Peter and Mercia Needham have been dedicated, and much loved members of the Teams Movement for more than thirty years. Over that time they have been great participants and contributors. They served as members of the Sector Team, participated in annual Crossroads Meetings, in many retreats and in the annual Charter Mass.

Peter and Mercia's journey with Teams commenced when they responded to an invitation to join issued by St John's Kippax priest Fr Chris Murphy MSC. Their commitment to Teams is reflected by the importance they attributed to Christian marriage. This was also seen in their strong outreach to young couples through their extensive work in Archdiocesan marriage preparation programs.

Peter and Mercia found the monthly Teams meetings provided them with valuable opportunities to review and renew their marriage vocation. Even when they felt tired and pre-occupied, they usually attended and came away refreshed. Taking their spiritual lives in small 'monthly bites' kept them going.

They loved the sacred space of the monthly Teams meetings and the opportunity to share authentically with trusted friends. They give much of the credit for their happy, loving and fulfilling marriage, even through the bad days, to their membership of the Teams.



Through their faithful and good humoured commitment, through generously sharing their experiences of life and faith and through the loving support they always offered to their fellow team members, Peter and Mercia have contributed magnificently to the Team to which they belonged for 35 years.

Mercia will draw on the richness of the marriage and faith that she and Peter shared as she continues this journey with her fellow team members.

Peter will be sorely missed by all of us, but always lovingly held in our memories. Vale Peter.

Vale Marie Claire Etienne

Born in Mauritius on 29 October 1946, Marie Claire Etienne was educated in the catholic schools system. She gained admission with the Mauritian School of Nursing, where she graduated as a registered nurse. As such, she served with much dedication in several government hospitals.



She and Alphonse were married on 1st March 1976. Very soon, they became members of the Teams of Our Lady and remained committed until they moved to Australia. Marie Claire was involved in a number of her parish activities, mainly as leader of the choir.

In 1987, they migrated to Australia where she undertook requisite university courses to meet the Australian Medical/Nursing standards and qualify for the care of the sick. Several years later, the couple, upon an invitation by Jocelyne and Maxime Juste, joined the Teams for a second time. The Team, officially registered as Sydney 4, was a French-speaking Team near Bankstown. Alphonse is thankful for their fruitful experience of a strong living faith and the joy and the love of God as the rock of their marriage.

As a retiree, Marie Claire was generous with her time as a Catechist for years 3 and 4 of the Wattle Grove government school. She had to give up her service when it became clear that she was affected by serious memory loss. In spite of her health condition, she was happy when she made it to the Team's meetings. In a little more than a year her state of health deteriorated. She passed away on 6 September 2020.

Alphonse comments : "I must say that we were blessed by our Good Lord firstly for our life together in love and respect for 44 years, secondly, the upbringing of Francine our unique daughter who is married to Michael, and thirdly a sweet grand-daughter, Yukiko" We thank you all for your prayers and your support.

Commissioning of New Sector Couple for Sydney

On 28 October, Roula and John Tannous were commissioned as the Responsible Couple for the Sydney Sector, replacing Denise and Michel El-Samra, following the completion of their 3-year term in the position. Many thanks to Denise and Michel, Ghayath and Sawsan, Joceline and Maxime and Roula and John for their service over the last three years.



The 'Basin and the Towel' Commissioning Service was used, which involved Father Dany taking the basin and towel and washing the hands of Denise and Michel, representing all previous Sector Couples. Denise and Michel then washed the hands of Roula and John, as a sign of transfer of responsibilities in the service of the Teams Movement. Roula and John then committed

themselves to the Sector Couple role by saying :

“We accept our calling in the presence of our God and all those gathered here this evening to represent and serve all Team members in our Sector. We commit ourselves in love and service. We rejoice in the opportunity to reach out to others across the NSW/ACT region. Lord, we ask that you walk with us and guide us over the coming years. And may we feel your presence throughout this new journey upon which we are about to embark. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.”

Roula and John then washed the hands of all those present as an act of service to the Teams Movement.

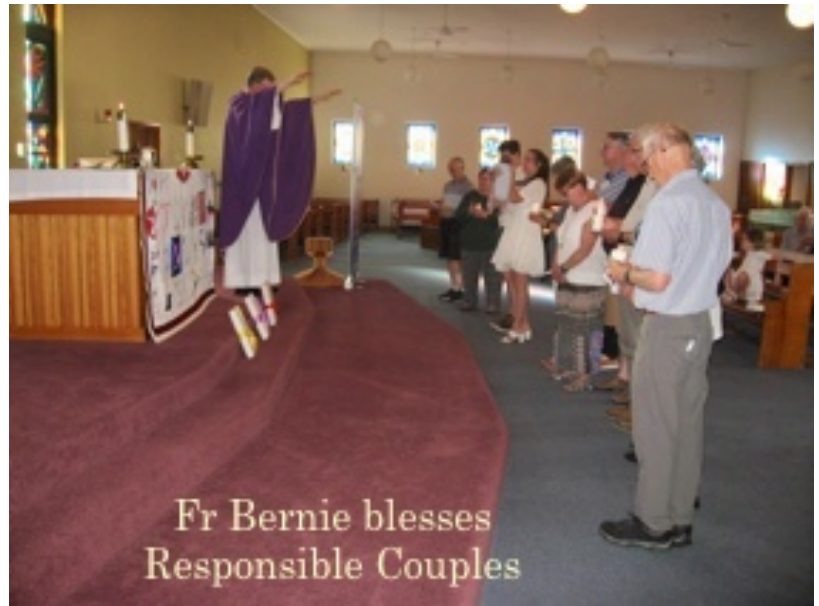
Members of the new Sydney Sector Team are – Father Dany Nough (Spiritual Counsellor), John and Roula Tannous (Responsible Couple), Ghadi and Lara Taouk, Dada and George Chaaya.



It is expected that the Commissioning Mass for incoming Team Responsible Couples in the Sydney Sector will be held on 7 February 2021. You are encouraged to attend the Mass and Picnic at the Shrine of Our Lady of Mercy at Penrose Park on 17 January 2021 where members from both Sydney and Canberra will come together.

Canberra Charter Mass 4 December 2020

The Canberra Sector has a strong tradition of celebrating, at a special Mass, the establishment of Teams of Our Lady on 8 December 1947. This Mass is known as our Charter Mass and is held each year in Canberra on a date close to 8 December (Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin). The Charter Mass is an opportunity to commemorate the beginning of Teams as well as:



1. Thanking Team Responsible Couples for their service over the last 12 months and commissioning new Responsible Couples for the next 12 months.
2. Remembering all Team members who helped build Teams in Canberra, with many of them now at peace with our Creator (their names are recorded in our Book of Remembrance); and
3. Remembering the wedding anniversaries of Team members and ordination anniversaries of spiritual counsellors (recorded in our Book of Anniversaries) to recognize the extent to which Teams has been an important part of our spiritual lives.



The Teams Charter, and the Books of Remembrance and Anniversaries were placed in front of the alter and Father Bernie Patterson and Bishop Pat Power led the Charter Mass 2020.

Following Mass we all enjoyed a shared evening dinner on the lawns outside the Church.

Please join us for a *Teams Picnic*

Sunday January 17th. 2021
Start with 11am Mass
Followed by Picnic on Church grounds

Shrine of our Lady of Mercy at Penrose Park
120 Hanging Rock Road, Sutton Forest NSW 2577

RSVP By 10 January 2021

Sydney

Canberra

Roula 0410 298 402

Sarah 0466 151 096

John 0405 218 886

Mark 0432 511 367

BYO Food and drink



Message of thanks from Sister Rose

You may remember that back in October the Canberra Sector joined the Sydney Sector initiative to raise funds in support of the work of Sister Rose Tannous in Beirut, Lebanon.

Sister Rose has very much appreciated the financial assistance we have provided, which enable her to continue to support the needy in Beirut – spiritually and mentally, and with everyday basics such as food, clothes, shelter and medications. She has sent the following message

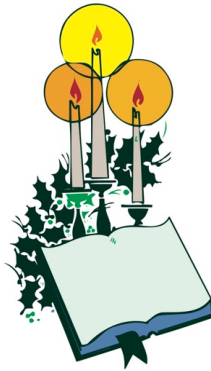


*Beloved Members of Teams of
Our Lady, Canberra,
As our Lord Jesus has
experienced, during his life,
poverty, hunger, rejection and
unspeakable suffering . . .
most of our Lebanese People
are having the same*

experiences, especially with the explosion of Beirut

Port.

With your support and donations - (\$US1,390 on 2 Dec 20) - you are bringing good news to the poor by giving them food, shelter, medications, white goods and many other needs. You are visiting and proclaiming liberty for captives . . . as you are saving lives by paying the operation fees. . . (Luke 4:18)



The editors of Magnificat
Wish you and yours
A blessed, peaceful and joy-filled Christmas