

Let us remember in our prayers ...

Recently deceased: Dr Colin Redmond, Marie Roche, Deborah Sciesinski, Esta Sermon, Frances Wilshire

Anniversaries: Paul Torre, Sevathiammah Sinnathamby

Sick: Chris Lee, Rob Ferreira, Graham Bessell-Browne, Con Schneider

PARISH OFFICE

The Office is closed for the Christmas and New Year break. Normal office functions will resume on Tuesday 9 January.

FROM CRUX by John Allen

A pope is also the Bishop of Rome, and every once in a while, Romans expect to hear something special from their shepherd. On Sunday Pope Francis delivered, offering a New Year’s Eve homily expressing gratitude for his own Roman flock - although in terms, however, which will have resonance well beyond the Eternal City.

In effect, this was Pope Francis’s version of the famous 1969 ‘silent majority’ speech by US President Richard Nixon, suggesting that the concerns of ordinary people aren’t necessarily reflected in the rattle and hum of media coverage. While Nixon meant the phrase as an assertion of support for his own conservative politics, Francis appeared to set up the silent majority in Rome as an alternative to politics of all sorts - meaning “people”, the pope said, “who serve their communities not through noisy words, but quiet deeds.”

The pope spoke during a vespers service in St. Peter’s Basilica intended to offer thanks for the year coming to a close. Over the past twelve months, Francis said, he’s felt “sympathy and gratitude for all those persons who, every day, contribute with small but precious gestures to the common good, who seek to do their duty as well as possible.”

“As the Bishop of Rome, I feel gratitude in my soul, thinking about the people who live with open hearts in the city,” Francis said. As examples of that spirit, the pope began with a for-instance that will echo the frustrations of many a Roman resident - “those people,” he said, “who move in traffic with good sense and prudence.” By consensus, the poor state of maintenance on Rome’s roads, the lack of accessible public parking, and the city’s paralysing traffic, are among the top complaints from locals. For the last couple of decades, Rome has finished atop the list of European cities for both the highest number of auto accidents and fatalities. According to government estimates, the average Roman spends 227 hours every year in traffic jams, the equivalent of more than a week and a half, wasting a total of 135 million hours at a cost of almost \$2 billion.

The pope then went on to cite other examples of heroism from the silent majority. He praised “those who respect public places, and report things that aren’t right; those who are attentive to the elderly, and people in difficulty; and so on,” Francis said.

(Continued next page)

DIGITAL DISPLAY: ILLUMINATING THE WORLD OF THE ROTHSCHILD PRAYER BOOK

The Nook at the State Theatre of Western Australia

9am-5pm, 24 January – 25 February 2018

Discover the secrets of the Rothschild Prayer Book, one of the world’s most important medieval illuminated manuscripts. The illuminations are presented page by page using the most detailed digital reproduction techniques. Accompanying the interactive digital display will be a showcase of handmade books and printed publications, with several very early printed bibles from the State Library’s collection. Proudly presented in partnership with the Kerry Stokes Collection. Free exhibition.

For more information visit: www.slwa.wa.gov.au.

MASS TIMES	
Monday	5.30pm
Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday	9am
Friday	7am
Saturday Reconciliation	5.15 - 5.45pm
Saturday Vigil	6pm
Sunday	8am, 10am, 6pm

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JANUARY WEEKDAY MASSES

8-14 January

Mon 8	5.30pm	Baptism of the Lord, <i>Feast</i>
Tues 9	9am	Ordinary time resumes
Wed 10	9am	Communion Service
Thurs 11	9am	
Fri 12	7am	

15-21 January

Mon 15	5.30pm	
Tues 16	9am	
Wed 17	9am	St Anthony, Abbot, <i>Memorial</i>
Thurs 18	9am	
Fri 19	7am	

FROM CRUX by John Allen (Continued from previous page)

“These and a thousand other behaviours express concretely love for the city,” the pope said, adding that they come “without giving speeches, without publicity, but with a style of practical civic education for daily life. In this way, they cooperate silently for the common good,” the pope said.

Francis also said he wanted to thank “parents, teachers and all educators who, with the same style, seek to form children and teenagers in a civic sense, with an ethics of responsibility, educating them to feel part [of the city] to take care of it, and to be interested in the reality that surrounds them.”

Francis offered thanks to all those who pursue those outcomes without fanfare. “These people, even if they don’t make news, are the majority of the people who live in Rome,” he said. “Among them are many who find themselves in economic difficulty,” he said, “but they don’t cry on each other, nor do they harbor resentments and grudges, but they try every day to do their part to make things a little better.”

Francis said that in offering thanks to God for the past year, he’s especially grateful for these “artisans of the common good, who love their city not with words but with deeds.”

In the opening to his homily for the vespers service, Francis said that New Year’s Eve breathes the “fullness of time, not simply because a calendar year is closing, but because the faith makes us contemplate and hear that Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh, has given us the fullness of time of the world and of human history.”

Looking back to 2017, Francis said God gave humanity the year “whole and healthy, but that once again, human beings used it up and wounded it, including through lies and injustices.”

“Wars are the most flagrant sign of this persistent and absurd pride,” he said. “But so are the small and large offenses against life, against truth, against fraternity, that cause so many forms of human, social and environmental degradation,” the pope said.

PUBLIC LECTURE: ILLUMINATING THE WORLD OF THE ROTHSCHILD PRAYER BOOK

Tuesday 23 January, 6pm

Presenter: Professor Michelle P Brown

State Library of WA Theatre

Professor Michelle P. Brown, Professor Emerita of Medieval Manuscript Studies at the University of London, presents the world of medieval illuminated manuscripts, their makers and readers, in the context of the famous Rothschild Prayer Book. This beautiful 16th century Renaissance masterpiece is a jewel in the Kerry Stokes Collection in Perth. This is a free event, but bookings are required.

To book, go to slwa.eventbrite.com.

MASTERCLASS: READING MEDIEVAL MANUSCRIPTS

Wednesday 24 January, 9.30am – 4pm

Presenter: Professor Michelle P. Brown

State Library of Western Australia

Professor Michelle P. Brown will share her expertise in a Masterclass for the collecting sector, students, scholars and lovers of the medieval world. The Masterclass will examine manufacturing techniques and contexts for the commissioning and making of illuminated manuscripts from late antiquity to the early 16th century. Professor Brown will relate the principles established in the making of illuminated manuscripts to the early printed book and into the electronic age. Cost: \$50 (includes refreshments).

To book, go to slwa.eventbrite.com

PARISH DIARY

Sunday 7 January	8am, 10am, 6pm	Epiphany, Solemnity Mass
Monday 8	5.30pm	Baptism of the Lord, Feast Mass
Tuesday 9	9am 9.30am 6pm	Tuesday, Week 1 in Ordinary Time Mass Parish Office reopens Upper Room: <i>St Vincent de Paul Meeting</i>
Wednesday 10	9am 5pm	Wednesday, Week 1 in Ordinary Time Communion Service Wedding Rehearsal: <i>Camille Coral & Marco Ricciardi</i> <i>Fr Joseph Tran</i>
Thursday 11	9am	Thursday, Week 1 in Ordinary Time Mass
Friday 12	7am 4.30pm	Friday, Week 1 in Ordinary Time Mass Wedding Rehearsal: <i>Shannon Klasztorny & Rhett Della</i> <i>Fr Leon Russell</i>
Saturday 13	1pm 3pm 6pm	Saturday, Week 1 in Ordinary Time Nuptial Mass: <i>Camille Coral & Marco Ricciardi</i> <i>Fr Joseph Tran</i> Wedding Service: <i>Shannon Klasztorny & Rhett Della</i> <i>Fr Leon Russell</i> Vigil Mass