

**OUR LADY OF THE WAYSIDE
MARYVALE**

Priest: Fr Simon Donnelly

9 St Mary's Road, Maryvale
PO Box 51432, Raedene, 2124

Tel 011 – 640-3154

Fax 011 – 640-3428

Parish Website: Go to
[http:// maryvale.co.za](http://maryvale.co.za) **for updates!**

Holy Mass

Monday to Friday: 6am and 6pm
Saturday morning: 8am

Sunday Masses

Saturday evening vigil Mass 6pm
Sunday: 8am, 10.30am, 6pm

Benediction

Every Friday 5.45pm

Eucharistic Adoration

Every day from 6am to 6pm: swipe
card access to chapel

Confessions

Monday to Thurs 5.30pm–5.50pm
Friday 5pm–5.45pm
Saturday 10.30am–12pm
Saturday 4.30pm–5.30pm

Requirements:

Baptism - Notice of 3
months

Marriage - Notice of 6
months

Banking Details for Maryvale:

Bank: Standard Bank
Account: Maryvale Catholic Church
Branch Code: 004105
Acc. Number: 001832670

Acc. Number: 001832670

**MASS INTENTIONS: HAPPY CHRISTMAS
Saturday 24 December TOALL
PARISHIONERS!!**

18h00 - In Thanksgiving – Joe & Leonie Chemaly on

their 57th Wedding Anniversary.

Midnight Mass: Nevio Arrigoni RIP

Sunday 25 December : Christmas Day

08h00 - Living & deceased members of the Duarte &

Mendonca families.

10h30 - *Missa Pro Populo* – For the People.

Monday 26 December - St. Stephen

09h00 - Dominic Gordon-Grant.

Tuesday 27 December – St. John

09h00 - Francesca Sonagherie RIP.

Wednesday 28 December – Holy Innocents

06h00 - Adele Cicalese, Vittorio & Luisa Dal Maso.

18h00 - Dick Descroizilles RIP.

Thursday 29 December

06h00 - Giovanni Bertagnin RIP.

18h00 - Carl Hermsen RIP.

Friday 30 December – Holy Family

06h00 - In thanksgiving to St. Rita.

08h00 - In thanksgiving to the Little Infant of Prague.

18h00 - Grace Nwozor RIP.

Saturday 31 December

08h00 - In thanksgiving;

PRAY FOR THE CHRONICALLY ILL:

George Nizetich, Gaetano Carleo, Barbara McLaren,
Terry Stavrinis, Dougie Khoury, Mrs McLennan, Sheila
Hartin, Giacomo Cusano, Jose Adelino Mendonca, Tony
Duarte, Itumeleng Mkalipi, Arnaldo Ansermino, Rob
van Schalkwyk, Tony Schamotta, Delia Torrente,
Antonietta Merolla, Marcelle Page, Cameron Campbell,
Albert Rahme.

For the attention of adults who wish Baptism and/or

Confirmation: Registration for **R.C.I.A. classes** for
2012 is on Wednesday 11 January at 18h15 in the parish
centre. All are welcome. Phone Ivor on 082-497-5776.

Also, Catholic Adults wishing to update their
understanding of Catechism & Sacred Scripture are
invited to attend the 2012 **Adult Enquiry Group**.
Registration is with Ivor, exactly as above.

Fr Simon, his mother and his brother, give heartfelt
thanks for your prayers and kind words at the death of

WEEKLY PROGRAMME

The Meditation, Bible Discussion, Charismatic and
Adult Enquiry Groups will recommence in the
second week of 2012.

The *second collection* after all Christmas
Masses is for **Nazareth House**, who take care
of so many elderly and sick, both priests and
lay people. Let us support the sisters in their
wonderful work for our people.

Christmas reflection

For four weeks, the holy People of God have
been preparing for the birth of the Child. It
has been a journey into life, the Light of the
world who is the Light of men. Our ancestors
saw Him, and they knew Him to be the One,
the Son of the Most High – as the Angel
messenger foretold, the One who all the
prophets from the Chosen People foretold, the
One we waited for, the One we expected for
so long. He is now born! A Son has been
given to us, a Child has been born for us. God
is now with us as He never was before.

There are only two times in the history
of the world: the *time before*, and the *time
after*. The *time before* ('BC' – 'before Christ')
began with the start of the world, with Adam
& Eve, and the crushing disappointment of
their failure. In the generations that followed,
there was a certain very distant hope, but
mankind was also drenched in anxiety, and a
certain hopelessness; we were appalled at our
ability to sin, and wondered who could rescue
us from our sin. Would it in fact every come
to pass as the Jewish prophets had foretold?
The people walked in darkness; they still had
not received the Messiah's light in their
midst. We were tired, we were worn out; the
Chosen People were being crushed again by
an evil earthly power; still they had not given
up hope. And they were not the only ones.
Learned men from the south and the from the
east were also watching, waiting, hoping. All
creation longed for a new birth. Long
generations sought the face of God, waited
for His voice. All creation waited, in silence.

Then, in the fullness of time, a tiny
Child is born. The *time after* has now begun.

All time turns on His birth: BC becomes AD –
anno Domini 'in the year of the Lord'. That
little human life, perfectly fused to the divine
life had been placed in the Blessed Mother's
womb by the overshadowing action of the life-
giving Holy Spirit, the One Who is our Comfort
and our Advocate. He is our hope, our prince of
peace, our counsellor, Almighty God Himself,
and He knocks once again this Christmas gently
at the door of our heart. *Will you let me in?* asks
Jesus. *Will you invite me into the treasury of
your heart, that My Heart may beat within your
heart? When your heart fails, let My Sacred
Heart beat in its place.*

It is an outrageous truth: God stoops to
become a weak human being? Will He allow
His only Son to be subject to our needs, our
suffering? Would the 'Eternal Principle' / the
'Absolute Power' / the 'Ineffable Being' / the
'Supreme Being' – as others may call *God-
Who-is-Love* subject Himself to human laws,
and to natural physical laws? What an appalling
idea! Many others have mocked this God. 'He
calls Himself God, but let us see if He *really* is.
Let Him protect Himself from suffering, from
temptation, from frailty, from sickness, and then
one day even from death. Let Him save Himself
from the Cross! That will be proof that Jesus
was God.' *You have not understood*, says the
Father. *I send my Son to you so that you may
have Life. I send Him to share in your life that
knows sickness and sadness and betrayal and
fear and then even death itself. I allow my Son
to take all this on, that He may fully enter your
created state. Then He will redeem that human
state. From then on, your sickness, your
suffering, your weakness, your fear, even your
death will have meaning. Because Jesus goes
ahead of you in death to life. He is the way, the
truth, the Life!* All this seems to make no sense
to us. Yet God is the *magis* of Saint Ignatius: He
is *more* than we can ever imagine: greater, more
beautiful, more loving, more gentle, more just,
more righteous, more holy. That One – Holy-
God, Holy-Mighty-Immortal-God – is born to
us in Bethlehem tonight, to Blessed Mary and to
Joseph, and to the whole world.

Praised be Jesus Christ, praised for
ever!