



## *The Nativity of the Lord 2019*

# Holy Name Catholic Parish

DIOCESE OF BROKEN BAY

35 Billyard Avenue Wahroonga 2076

Web | [www.holynamewahroonga.com.au](http://www.holynamewahroonga.com.au)



## Welcome!

A very warm welcome to anyone visiting our parish. It is good to have you with us. If you have any questions or would like to know more about our community at Holy Name please visit our parish website at [www.holynamewahroonga.com.au](http://www.holynamewahroonga.com.au).

**My dear friends,**

**on behalf of Fr. Anselm and myself a very Happy Christmas!**

May I first of all thank you all for your kindness on the recent death of my father last week. Your messages and the Book of Condolence presented to me on my return were deeply appreciated. As sad as the loss of a parent is, I am comforted by knowing that my parents are now reunited and celebrating Christmas together! It will be quite the feast!

Christmas is a time of gratitude . . . Gratitude for the gift of life, of family, and of friends, for the many blessings that are ours. This Christmas I want to thank in particular Fr Anselm for his unfailing support of both the parish and myself over this last year, especially whilst we were waiting for the appointment of our new Shepherd, Bishop Randazzo and whilst I exercised the role of Diocesan Administrator. I cannot speak highly enough of the gift that Fr Anselm is to us all: his gentle pastoral presence and availability, his flexibility and care is simply remarkable. Along with him, there are so many by whose sheer goodness and generosity our community comes alive. There are too many people to thank personally in such a short space. However, I take this opportunity to pay tribute to all those who, most often in very hidden ways, give life to our community: our parish office and pastoral staff and volunteers, all those associated with maintaining the beauty and order of our church through cleaning, flower display, banners; those who so diligently keep our grounds looking so attractive; our many gifted musicians and singers and ministers who lead us so faithfully and beautifully in our liturgies; those who exercise a ministry of welcome and hospitality and service to those who join us at the Eucharist; those who welcome our children at Eucharist and those who prepare our children and families for the sacraments in different ways; all those who coordinate and undertake our various parish ministries, particularly in outreach to our children at our government schools, to those who are sick in the hospitals and nursing homes in our parish, and to those less advantaged than ourselves; the leaders and members of our parish committees, especially our Parish Pastoral Council, our Parish Finance Committee, our Parish Fundraising Committee. And then, there is the army of those who have enabled us to celebrate such memorable liturgies this Christmas time. They have given of their time and expertise so generously in such diverse ways. Christmas is a time to be grateful for the gift of others in our lives. The most important gifts come wrapped, not in paper, but in persons, and this Christmas I am truly grateful for the gift that each of you is in our community of faith.

Each year the generosity of people towards us is quite remarkable and very touching. Thank you for your many gifts and good wishes this Christmas. It is a little overwhelming, and not possible to thank everyone personally for your kindness. However, know that your generosity and affection is deeply appreciated.

My own little gift in return this year is the publication of my Advent Homilies in a little publication, "The Blessings of Christmas" available through the church. May the blessings of hope, faith, joy, peace and love be yours in abundance.

Let us be particularly mindful this year of those who have been affected so much by bushfire—those who have lost their homes and of all those who have so generously given of themselves in defence of life and property, our remarkable volunteer fire fighters. They remind us of the heart of Christmas; that we become most truly ourselves when we give of ourselves to others.

**Fr David Ranson PP VG**

## Parish Masses This Week

Monday	24 December	No Mass	Monday of the 4th week of Advent
Tuesday	25 December	9.15am Mass	The NATIVITY of the LORD (Christmas)
Wednesday	26 December	9.15am Mass	St Stephen, the first martyr
Thursday	27 December	9.15am Mass	St John, apostle, evangelist
Friday	28 December	9.15am Mass	The Holy Innocents, martyrs
Saturday	29 December	5.00pm Mass	Vigil of the HOLY FAMILY of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
Sunday	30 December	9.15am and 5.30pm	The HOLY FAMILY of Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

## Please Remember in your Prayers

### RECENTLY DECEASED:

Geoffrey Ranson (Fr David's father, died 15 December aged 88 years), Helen McKeon (Fr Jim McKeon's mother), died 10 December, aged 86), Colin Randazzo, the father of Bishop Anthony died Saturday 7 December, Brian O'Brien (husband of Denese and father of Marianne, Paul, and Jenny, died 16 November), Mark Wilkinson (cousin of Pam Gallagher, died aged 55 years), Eileen "Lyle" Stollery (Gabrielle Flood's sister, aunt of Gemma Couch and Martin Flood, died 20th October.

### ANNIVERSARIES:

Margaret Couch (Paul's mother) 2nd anniversary on 25 December, Mario Severino (14th anniversary, 26 December), Joseph Sydney McElhenny (1st anniversary 3 January), Elisha Foti - 7th anniversary on 4 January, Emile Nassar (9th anniversary on 6 January), Ricki Hayes, (friend of Cecilia Kean, 2nd anniversary on 7 January), Tim O'Brien (son of Paul and Jenny, 4th anniversary on 8 January), Bettina Luca 8th anniversary on 7 January and Amedeo (Laurie) Luca 23rd anniversary on 8 January and (parents of Greg Luca and Daniela McGrath), Charlie Deguara (husband of Sue and father to Brendan, Ben, Sam and Jared, 1st anniversary 20 December), Doreen Mary Fox, mother of Julie McElhenny (4th anniversary on 20 December), Joe DeGuara, (father of Damian, 2nd anniversary on 19 December), Hilda May Cutler (Grandmother of Jennifer Gregory, 50th anniversary on 24 December), George Thornton (2nd anniversary on 15 December, Tony Coutinho (husband of Lucinda, 6th anniversary on 16 December), Terry Goldrick (Chris' father, 5th anniversary on 7 December), Paul Limbers (father of parishioners Jane Watson, Julia Burfitt, Peter and John Limbers), 1st anniversary on 30 November), Marie Shortis (2nd anniversary on 27 November), Frances Sim (2nd anniversary on 30 November), Samir Nader (brother in law of John Kassis, 14th anniversary on 29 November), Brian Priestley (Candy Cosgriff's father, 1st anniversary 10 November), Arie van der Plaat (Sandi Candotti's Dad, 4th anniversary on 13 November), Swarna Perera (Lucian Wijetunga's sister, 2nd anniversary on 14 November), Toufic Kassis (father of John Kassis, 52nd anniversary on 16 November), Ron Young (father of Monica Dinnar, 3rd anniversary 5 November).

### FOR THE SICK:

Davin and Sharon Ho, David Waldron (son of Jo and Frank), Mike Tighe, Cyril Littrich, Chris Le Gras, Judith Hodson, Isla Bishop (Grand-daughter of Irene Bishop), James Madden (son of Julie and Chris), Dennis Morgan, Matthew Murney (son in law of Burt Schaafsma), Molly Sheppard, Susie Dunning (sister of Leila McCreton), Gloria Boswell, Mel Vince (Cecilia Kean's Mum), Baby Thomas Joseph Elley, Jacinta Limbers, Peter Reidy, John McGarry, Freya Carney, Peter Brassil (great friend of Helen and Bill Tysoe), Mary Peachy (Brigid Wright's sister), Fr Michael Fallon msc (friend of Patrick Kirkwood), Fran Cuddy (St James Turrumurra, KCEA), Steve Ralph, Margaret Woodlands, Helen McGrath (friend of Jo and Frank Waldron), Hildegard McLaughlin, Barbara Dunning, Joan Dell, David Coombes, Liz Rodgers (friend of the Waldrons in Melbourne), Doris Buzinskas, Christopher Anderson, Jim Clayton (Fran's father-in-law), Madeleine Ryan, Gabrielle Flood, Mary Greco (friend of Eleanor Cooray), Grant Jepson, Noeline Mannix, Madeleine Reicher (granddaughter of Patricia Cox), Philip Stanley, Thomas Nash, Donna Lucas, Ross Truda, Frances Hall, Anne Sutcliffe (Walter's wife), Helen Gait (wife of Tom), Lillian Whitty, Mary Gibbs, Chad Walkaden, Noelene Burke, Eunice Spangaro, Maureen Ritchard, Martin McCreton (brother and brother in law of Conor and Leila McCreton), Margaret Hayes, baby Kendal, Reginald Broderick, Denise Waudby (Patrice Buzinskas' sister), Michael Walsh, Caoimhe Browne, Murray Howe, George Dunne.



*Congratulations*  
**to the Fraser and Vaquerizo Families**  
**Dylan and Sofia**  
**will be baptised on Sunday, 29th December at 11:00am**



### A Christmas Prayer for Children

Gentle Jesus born today In a manger filled with hay. We your Christmas children be. Help us now your love to see. Gentle Jesus, come today Be our shepherd, Lord we pray. Gentle Jesus, come this hour Fill us with your love and power. You fell asleep in Mary's arm God kept you safe from all alarm. Gentle Jesus come today Be our shepherd now we pray. Amen



### Parish Notes

**The Parish Office will be closed from  
26th December 2018 to  
13th January 2019.**



Jackie will be on leave until Monday, 13th January. The answering machine will be checked regularly should you wish to leave a message.

Our wonderful flower ladies wish to thank all those who donated agapanthus for our beautiful Christmas floral arrangements. This was greatly appreciated and all the flowers were used.

Trish Maiolo wishes to thank her wonderful team of 'flower fairies' for all their wonderful arrangements over the year.



### Christmas Reflection from Pope Francis

The enchanting image of the Christmas crèche, so dear to the Christian people, never ceases to arouse amazement and wonder. The depiction of Jesus' birth is itself a simple and joyful proclamation of the mystery of the Incarnation of the Son of God. The nativity scene is like a living Gospel rising up from the pages of sacred Scripture. As we contemplate the Christmas story, we are invited to set out on a spiritual journey, drawn by the humility of the God who became man in order to encounter every man and woman. We come to realize that so great is his love for us that he became one of us, so that we in turn might become one with him.

. . . Why does the Christmas crèche arouse such wonder and move us so deeply? First, because it shows God's tender love: the Creator of the universe lowered himself to take up our littleness. The gift of life, in all its mystery, becomes all the more wondrous as we realize that the Son of Mary is the source and sustenance of all life. In Jesus, the Father has given us a brother who comes to seek us out whenever we are confused or lost, a loyal friend ever at our side. He gave us his Son who forgives us and frees us from our sins.

Setting up the Christmas crèche in our homes helps us to relive the history of what took place in Bethlehem. Naturally, the Gospels remain our source for understanding and reflecting on that event. At the same time, its portrayal in the crèche helps us to imagine the scene. It touches our hearts and makes us enter into salvation history as contemporaries of an event that is living and real in a broad gamut of historical and cultural contexts.

In a particular way, from the time of its Franciscan origins, the nativity scene has invited us to "feel" and "touch" the poverty that God's Son took upon himself in the Incarnation. Implicitly, it summons us to follow him along the path of humility, poverty and self-denial that leads from the manger of Bethlehem to the cross. It asks us to meet him and serve him by showing mercy to those of our brothers and sisters in greatest need (cf. Mt 25:31-46).

. . . When, at Christmas, we place the statue of the Infant Jesus in the manger, the nativity scene suddenly comes alive. God appears as a child, for us to take into our arms. Beneath weakness and frailty, he conceals his power that creates and transforms all things. It seems impossible, yet it is true: in Jesus, God was a child, and in this way he wished to reveal the greatness of his love: by smiling and opening his arms to all. The birth of a child awakens joy and wonder; it sets before us the great mystery of life. Seeing the bright eyes of a young couple gazing at their newborn child, we can understand the feelings of Mary and Joseph who, as they looked at the Infant Jesus, sensed God's presence in their lives. "Life was made manifest" (1 Jn 1:2). In these words, the Apostle John sums up the mystery of the Incarnation. The crèche allows us to see and touch this unique and unparalleled event that changed the course of history, so that time would thereafter be reckoned either before or after the birth of Christ.

God's ways are astonishing, for it seems impossible that he should forsake his glory to become a man like us. To our astonishment, we see God acting exactly as we do: he sleeps, takes milk from his mother, cries and plays like every other child! As always, God baffles us. He is unpredictable, constantly doing what we least expect. The nativity scene shows God as he came into our world, but it also makes us reflect on how our life is part of God's own life. It invites us to become his disciples if we want to attain ultimate meaning in life. (From *Admirabile Signum*, On the Meaning and Importance of the Nativity Scene, 1 Dec 2019)

## Parish Contact Information and Mass Times

Parish Priest	Fr David Ranson VG	david.ranson@bbcatholic.org.au <b>Twitter: @FrDavidRanson</b> <b>Blogsite: davidranson.com.au</b> (homilies posted)
Assistant Priest	Fr Anselam Lakra	anselam.lakra@bbcatholic.org.au
Parish Secretary	Mrs Jackie Thornton	secretary@holynamewahroonga.com.au
Sacramental Coordinator	Mrs Sally Oong	sacrament@holynamewahroonga.com.au
Office Hours	Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday	8.30am—5pm
Phone	(02) 9489 3221	
Postal Address	P O Box 385 Wahroonga NSW 2076	
Prouille School	5 Water Street Wahroonga NSW 2076	
School Principal	Mrs Susan Bevan	
Phone	(02) 9489 3233	
School Website	www.prouilledbb.catholic.edu.au	
Sacristan and Co-ordinator Altar Society	Mrs. Rosalie Talty	
CCD Coordinator	Mrs. Cecilia Kean	
Eucharist Ministry to the Sick Coordinators	Mr. John Boswell; Mr. Chris Madden; Mr. Paul Sutherland (Housebound)	

### Weekend Masses:

Saturday 5.00pm

Sunday 9.15am and 5.30pm.

**Mass on Tuesday to Friday:** 9.15am

Rosary after Mass on Tuesday

Morning Tea after Mass on Wednesday

Special Intercessions/intentions remembered at Friday Mass.

**Friday evening:** Holy Hour from 7.00pm (not in January)

### Mass is also celebrated:

Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral, Waitara: Monday 9.30am

St Leo's College: Friday 12.55pm during school terms

### Eucharistic Adoration is available in the Aquinas Chapel:

### Baptism:

Every second and fourth Sunday of the month at 11.00am.  
Please make an appointment through the Parish Office

### Marriage:

By appointment, at least six months in advance.

### Sick Calls:

Any time day or night.

Please call 0408 350 885 out of office hours

### Confessions:

Saturday 11.30am or by appointment

### Sacrament of Anointing:

Last Thursday of the month following the 9.15am Mass

### Parish Pastoral and Missionary Council for 2020

Gemma McDermott, Chrissie Goldrick, Tess Denham-Fabry, Tom Waugh,  
Giovanna Flores-Clarke, Ian Edmunds, Samantha Vieira, Sally Oong, Ed Scully, Roger Bohlsen, along with Sue Bevan (Prouille) and  
Vanessa Dillon (St Lucy's) and Terry O'Keefe (St Edmunds)

### Parish Finance Committee

Marinela Mendes, Tony Monardo, Robyn Elizondo, Tim Quilty

### Parish Fundraising Committee

Noel Kean (Chair), Meredith Baume, Anthony Weaver, Lyn Saul, James Toomey

**Thank you for your financial contribution to the support of our Parish Community and its priests—it is very much appreciated.**

- The 1st Collection taken up at Mass goes to the Clergy Remuneration Fund for the financial support of the priests.
- The 2nd Collection taken up at Mass is for the upkeep of the Parish.

We invite you to help our Parish by committing to a Planned Giving scheme. Please see the parish office for the way you can participate in this. Another way to assist our parish is to consider a gift in your will. Your gift of any size will help our parish continue our good works & outreach. Please contact the parish office for a confidential discussion or more information.

(Alternatively see the "giving" pages at [www.dbb.org.au](http://www.dbb.org.au)) **EFTPOS Available in Parish Office**

EFT: Wahroonga Catholic Parish Account BSB: 062-784 Account No: 1389 8001 CBA- 48 Martin Place, Sydney

**Our Parish has Tap n Go Facilities at the entrance to our church. The money donated at these terminals contributes to our Parish Planned Giving—All monies are for the support of our Parish**

*We seek to grow as a Welcoming & Inclusive Community,  
supporting Life's Journey, through God's Grace and Mercy*