

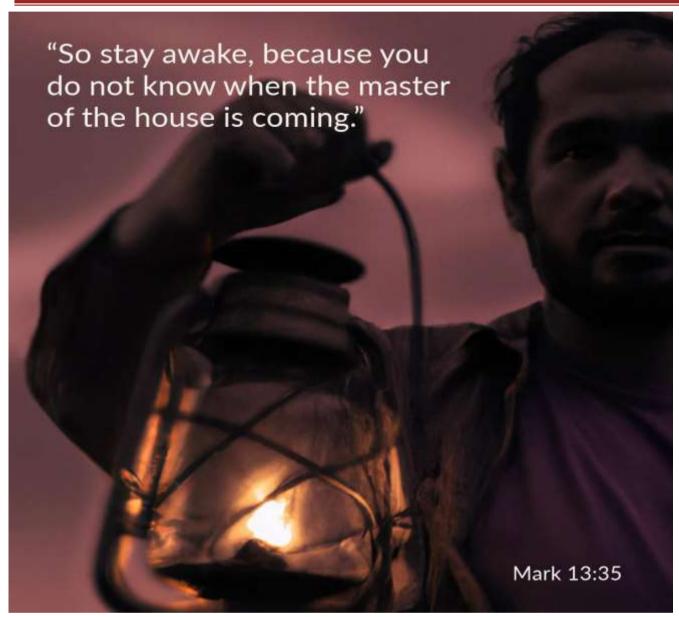
## **PYMBLE CATHOLIC PARISH**

## **SACRED HEART & OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL SUCCOUR**

Building a Christ-centred community of Love and Mercy

Pymble Parish is under the Pastoral care of the Salvatorian Fathers



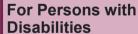


God of Love,
Your son, Jesus, is Your
greatest gift to us.
He is a sign of Your love.
Help us walk in that love
during the weeks of Advent,
as we wait and prepare
for His coming.
We pray in the name of
Jesus, our Saviour.
Amen.





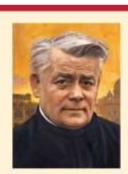
## POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION FOR DECEMBER



We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the centre of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.

A warm welcome to all our Parishioners who are celebrating the Eucharist with us this weekend.





## Prayer for the Intercession of Blessed Francis Jordan

Lord Jesus Christ, Saviour of the world, you called Francis Mary of the Cross Jordan to be your apostle, to make God known and loved by all people everywhere, using all the means your love inspires. You filled him with universal apostolic zeal, with a deep trust in God's loving providence, with a profound spirit of prayer, with a sincere devotion to Mary, Mother of the Saviour, and with the courage to follow you, even into the mystery of the Cross.

Grant also to me the grace to proclaim the Gospel in this spirit, and make me an effective apostle in today's world.

Through the intercession of Blessed Francis Jordan, I pray to you for my special needs (include your personal intention). I make this prayer through you, my Saviour, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, forever and ever. Amen.

www.sds.org.au

## **Parish Team**

## Pastoral care

#### Salvatorian Fathers

Parish Priest: Fr. Ireneusz Czech SDS

Email: fr.irek@pymblecatholicparish.org.au

Youtube: youtube.com/@IreneuszCzech
Podbean: https://pawelc8.podbean.com/
Assistant Parish Priest: Fr. Paul Tran SDS
Email: fr.paul@pymblecatholicparish.org.au

## Parish Staff

Parish Secretary: Daniela Foote

Email: daniela@pymblecatholicparish.org.au

Assistant Secretary: Claudia Chen

Email: claudia@pymblecatholicparish.org.au
Sacramental Coordinator: Melanie Benbow
Email: melanie@pymblecatholicparish.org.au

CCD Coordinator: Michele Brack

Email: michele@pymblecatholicparish.org.au

## **Parish Mass Times**

## Sacred Heart

2 Richard Porter Way, Pymble NSW 2073

### Weekdays:

Tuesday to Friday 9:00am

Rosary: Tuesday to Friday after morning Mass

**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:** Friday after morning Mass

## Weekend:

Saturday (Vigil Mass): 5:30pm Sunday: 7:45am, 9:30am and 6:00pm

Reconciliation: Friday 8:45am, Saturday 5:00pm

Sunday 5:30pm

Our Lady of Perpetual Succour 64 Kendall St, West Pymble, NSW, 2073

## Weekdays:

Tuesday: 12pm

During School Term as advertised in the Parish weekly calendar section

## Weekend:

Saturday (Vigil Mass): 9:00am and 5:00pm

Sunday: 9:00am

Reconciliation: Saturday 9:30am

## **Contact details**

Address: 2 Richard Porter Way, Pymble, NSW 2073

Postal address: PO BOX 231 Turramurra NSW 2074

**Telephone:** (02) 9144 2702

Email: office@pymblecatholicparish.org.au Website: www.pymblecatholicparish.org.au

Office hours: Monday to Thursday 8:30am to 4pm &

Friday 8:30am to 1pm

For information about Baptisms and Weddings please contact Daniela in the Parish Office.

For information about the sacraments of Confirmation, Reconciliation and First Eucharist, please contact Melanie at melanie@pymblecatholicparish.org.au

## Youtube QR code:



Podbean QR code:



## PARISH PRIMARY SCHOOLS

## SACRED HEART

**Principal:** Mary Hor **Telephone:** (02) 7256 2142 www.shpdbb.catholic.edu.au

## OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL SUCCOUR

**Principal:** Jodi Jefferson **Telephone:** (02) 7256 2101

Sisters of Saint Joseph

# THE 2024 JOSEPHITE CALENDAR

#### **Available Now**

To contemplate, reflect and enjoy with inspiration for daily life from St Mary MacKillop and Fr Julian Tenison Woods. Illustrated with attractive photographs by the Sisters and Companions.

- A4 page size suitable for homes, offices, classrooms, waiting rooms
- Ideal gift for family and friends, employees, neighbours, parishioners, benefactors
- Cost \$10 plus contribution to postage



The 2024 Calendar includes:

**Key events** in the life of Mary MacKillop and Julian Tenison Woods

Significant dates in Josephite history Liturgical Calendar and Feasts of the

Catholic Church

Public Holidays School term dates

Phases of the Moon

Pull out Yearly Planner Space for personal notes

Orders may be placed online at the link

below.

tinyurl.com/2ap4m6vs

Contact 02 8741 2333 Sisters of Saint Joseph Burwood NSW

## A GIFT IN YOUR WILL YOUR LEGACY



After providing for family members in your Will,

have you ever considered leaving a Gift directly to your local Parish? This is called a Legacy, Bequest of Gift in Will.

Over the years, many people who have left a special connection to their Faith have left part of their estate to the Parish. Like a gift to a charity, a gift in your Will to the Church ensures other members of our community receive the spiritual care and guidance that has been so important to you and your family.

## YOUR PARISH

Many parishes are in need of funding to restore buildings, improve facilities and expand on services for the community. The pastoral outreach that has been important to you will continue for our children, our grandchildren and future generations to of Catholics.

If you would like more information on Gifts in Wills, please contact Fr. Ireneusz. Email: Fr.ireneusz@pymblecatholicparish.org.au

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## WHAT'S ON IN OUR PARISH THIS WEEK

## Sunday, 3 December First Sunday of Advent

7:45am Mass at Sacred Heart 9:00am Mass at OLPS 9:30am Mass at Sacred Heart 6:00pm Mass at Sacred Heart

#### Tuesday, 5 December

9:00am Mass at Sacred Heart7:30pm Charismatic Prayer Group

## Wednesday, 6 December

9:00am Mass at Sacred Heart

## Thursday, 7 December St Ambrose, bishop, doctor (Memorial)

9:00am Mass at Sacred Heart

## Friday, 8 December

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Solemnity)

9:00am Mass at Sacred Heart with Adoration and Litany to the

Sacred Heart of Jesus
10:00am Lectio: Jesus Calls (via ZOOM)

#### Saturday, 9 December

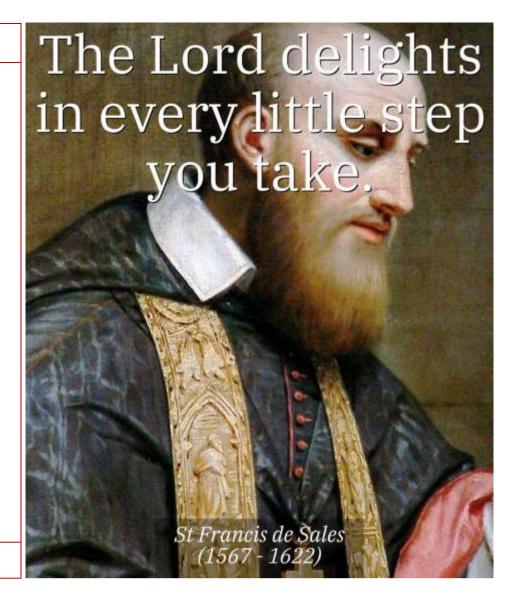
St Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin, hermit (Optional)

9:00am Mass at OLPS 5:00pm Mass at OLPS 5:30pm Mass at Sacred Heart

## Sunday, 10 December Second Sunday of Advent

7:45am Mass at Sacred Heart 9:00am Mass at OLPS 9:30am Mass at Sacred Heart 6:00pm Mass at Sacred Heart

The Rosary is recited after all weekday Masses



## **Parish Prayer Zone**

Praying for others gets our focus off ourselves and onto the needs of those around us. As we "carry each other's burdens," we "will fulfil the law of Christ" (Galatians 6:2). Praying for each other makes us stronger and helps us to grow our faith and Christian love.

## **Recently Deceased:**

Sarinder Tamana, Frieda Nassar, Bruce Fisher, Desmond Buckley, Seema Shrestha Thapa, Vivienne Fernandes, Colleen Hussin, Charlotte Dos Remedios, David Tarrant, Anthony Dixon, Anne Seeto, Concetta Giaquinto, Michael Ludemann, Albert Chan

## **Death Anniversaries:**

Bambi Hontanosas, Antonio Canete, Nora LeguinPeter Goh, Kwong Tsui Tso, Jason Dias, Silvya Albert, Charles & Joan Bernie, erlinda Guyot & Elena Yu, Vicente Tan Snr & Rosario Tan, Veronica Schreuder, Les Cashman, Lydia Tan, Manuel Tan, Simeon Lagura, Catalina Lagura, Paula Freeman, M. V. Francis, Judith English, Ric Cashman, Desmond Buckley, Mina De Mello, Mary Costa Silva

## Prayers for the sick:

Margaret Browne, Paul Lum, Danny Ung, Ryan Kim, David Gardener

## Weekly prayer intention:

This week we pray that in the busyness of the Christmas season we remember the perfect gift of Christ's peace through moments of prayer and reflection. Amen.

If you would like the names of your relatives to be included in the prayer list (anniversary of deaths, recently deceased, illnesses, wedding celebration or anniversaries, birthdays, etc.) please contact the Parish Office by midday each Wednesday. Remember that due to privacy policy, names of the sick can only be put on the bulletin with permission of the immediate family. This list will be updated every month and we would appreciate if we are advised of any updates. Thank you.

## Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

As you know we have our Divine Mercy Chapel on the right side of our church at Sacred Heart. We would like to invite those in our Parish who wish to come to adore our Lord Jesus present in the Blessed Sacrament.

We are setting up a roster for private adoration **every Friday from 8am to 9pm.** Thank you to those who have placed their names down. If you wish to be part of this, please place your name and contact details for an hour each Friday on the form that is placed outside the Crying Room. We can have up to four people at any time. Please contact the Parish Office if you need further information.

## Friday Roster for the Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

8am - 8 <b>.</b> 45am	Peter	4pm - 5pm	Paulette
10am - 11am	Lynette, Kate	5pm - 6pm	Cindy, Marie
11am - 12pm		6pm - 7pm	Eric
12pm - 1pm		7pm - 8pm	Elzbieta
1pm - 2pm	Gerry & Carmen	8pm - 9pm	Paul, Rod

**2pm** - **3pm 3pm** - **4pm Jo** 





"Frequent visits to the Blessed Sacrament will turn ordinary men into Saints."





Do you have 30 minutes a week to teach children about the Word of God and how much He loves

We need catechists to support children in our five public schools with their faith formation.

us?

Training, teacher manuals, colourful student workbooks and other resources are provided: **no experience required**.

If you are retired, at university, have flexible working arrangements or just seeking a way to give back to the community: please join us.

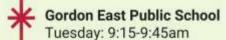
Our mission is for one catechist for one-year group.

Please consider joining this wonderful Ministry.

Contact **Michele** at 0409 651 637 or michele@pymblecatholicparish.org.au

Pymble Catholic Parish | 02 9144 2702

# Schools with catechist assignments across one or more year groups:



Gordon West Public School Tuesday: 12:30-1:00pm

Turramurra Public School Wednesday: 9:15-9:45am Wednesday: 9:55-10:25am

West Pymble Public School Wednesday: 1:15-1:50pm

Pymble Public School Wednesday: 1:40-2:10pm Wednesday: 2:15-2:45pm

## LECTIO: JESUS CALLS

Catholics can impact the world for Jesus Christ With Dr Mary Healy



## INVITATION

You are invited to join our 10 part **Jesus Calls** series based on the Lectio program by Dr Mary Healy.

## TOPICS

The series topics include:

- · Why Study Acts?
- Clothed with Power
- Proclaiming the Kerygma (proclamation)
- Signs and Wonders
- How Jesus Makes an Evangelist
- · Sacraments and the Spirit
- Leadership in the Church
- Charisms of the SpiritJoy in Persecution
- The Belly of the Beast

FOR INFORMATION AND RSVP



(02) 9144 2702

### CONTEXT

Practical advice showing how modern Catholics can effectively impact their world. Explore topics such as the call of Jesus, the power of the Sacraments, the role of charisms, techniques from St Paul for reaching a secular culture ....

### **JOIN IN**

Please join in with this opportunity to learn, share your thoughts and to get to know others in our Parish community.

Friday, 13 October 2023 From 10am-11:30am Via Zoom And following weekly

### DR MARY HEALY

Dr Mary Healy is professor of Scripture at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit and an author and international speaker. She is a general editor of the Catholic Commentary on Sacred Scripture.





## St Vincent de Paul Annual Christmas and Hamper Appeal

Thank you to all parishioners who generously took cards to provide hampers for our client families.

Please remember when choosing your gift or hamper contents, please do not include alcohol or chocolate (as it will melt).

Also please identify each of the boxes by the hamper number/gift number and the Hamper card attached to each box. If your hamper comprises of more than one box, be sure to mark boxes with a marking pen, with "1 of 2" and "2 of 2" etc so that they are not separated.

Please return the hampers to:

- **For OLPS,** please leave at the back of the Church <u>before 11am on</u> <u>3 December</u> for dispatch to Glebe
- **For Sacred Heart,** please leave in the Crying Room <u>before 7pm on</u> <u>3 December</u> for dispatch to Wyong and our local clients

If you are unable to assist with a hamper or gift, then you are invited to make a cash donation. Envelopes for this purpose are on the table at the back of the church. If your details are on the envelope, you will receive a tax deductible receipt.

Christmas cards in support of St Vincent de Paul are also available at the back of the churches. \$10 for a pack of 10. Please leave the money in the poor box.

As in previous years, your generosity is greatly appreciated by Vinnies clients and members.

### **Christmas Hamper Content Suggestions**

- Christmas Stocking
- Christmas Pudding
- Dried Fruit
- Rice
- Canned Ham
- Peanut butter
- Cans of Salad Vegetables
- Cordial
- Christmas Cake
- Tea/Coffee
- Mince Pies
- Cake Mix
- Jelly
- Jam

- Noodles
- Pasta
- Pasta Sauce (jar)
- Large Cans of Tuna
- Long Life Custard
- Rice crackers
- Vegemite
- Shortbread
- Large Cans of Fruit
- Baked Beans
- Long Life Milk
- Sultanas
- Breakfast Cereal
- Toiletries (soap, shampoo, etc)

### **Important:**

A reminder again please do not include alcohol, and no chocolate please (as it will melt).

**Remember:** A wrapped hamper looks good and brings the spirit of Christmas to the recipients. But please use strong paper so that it does not tear easily in transit.

Thank you for your Support!

PYMBLE CATHOLIC PARISH 2 RICHARD PORTER WAY PYMBLE



## "Blessed are the peacemakers"

We pray for peace: Let us not forget to persevere in prayer for all who suffer the tragedy of war and especially for the people of Ukraine, Israel and Palestine.

Everyone has the right to live in peace.

Let us pray that difficulties are resolved in dialogue and negotiation and not with war.

We are encouraged by the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network to take part in a novena for peace. The "Peacemakers" novena seeks to unite Christians in praying for "peace in the world".

We pray for a way of life that will always be that of peace.

The "Peacemakers" novena booklet is available at the link below.

tinyurl.com/ypzbpnb2



Pymble Catholic Parish



# An Introduction

Members of the Catenian Association will attend Masses over the weekend of 2-3 December 2023 to meet with parishioners and and introduce their Association

The Catenian Association is an international association of Catholic laymen committed to their faith, their families and to supporting each other

At Catenian monthly dinner meetings, members and visitors enjoy good company, often followed by interesting dinner speakers - every third month is Ladies' Night, one of which is an annual Christmas Dinner in December

The social calendar includes a number of other popular and well attended events throughout the year:

- For golfers, there is an annual October golf day between the Ku-Ring-Gai Circle and Pittwater at Palm Beach
- There are outings such as cinema nights, theatre and music nights and Hawkesbury River cruises

New members are welcome - if you would like to know more, please make contact as below or via the Parish office

Ku-Ring-Gai Circle
The Catenian Association
kuringgai.circle@thecatenians.org.au
www.thecatenians.org.au

# GLASSWARE SALE

Bargain!!! Second hand, good quality glasses!



6 glasses. \$15 12 glasses. \$25 24 glasses. \$40 36 glasses. \$60

Champagne flutes, wine glasses, and highball glasses!

**OLPS 9 & 10 DEC after each Mass** 



## **Volunteer Accountant/Finance Officer**

Are you a retired Accountant looking to contribute your financial skills to a Catholic Charity?

<u>Palms Australia</u> facilitates our response, as church, to global communities who seek mentors to build the capacity of their organisations and individuals and so reduce poverty. Securing a part-time volunteer Accountant will allow Palms to use more of their donations to recruit, prepare, send, and support the qualified and experienced Catholics who volunteer for our mission abroad.

Kevin Wilson will be delighted to discuss the possibilities. Ph 9560 5333 OR E-mail kevin@palms.org.au



## **Baptisms at Pymble Parish**

For enquiries please contact the Parish office on 9144 2702 or via email on office@pymblecatholicparish.org.au

Our upcoming Baptism Formation Class will be held on:

Monday, 4 December 2023 7:30pm Sacred Heart Church

Bookings are essential.



We welcome to Pymble Parish the newest members of our community

Danny & Bryan

who will baptised this weekend at our Parish.

## PARISH RECONCILIATION NIGHT

## Sacred Heart Church Tuesday, 19 December 2023 7-8pm

Everyone is encouraged to join us for this special celebration in preparation for Christmas. Reconciliation will take place on **Tuesday**, **20th December 2022** between **7 and 8pm at Sacred Heart Church**. A number of priests will be available on the evening.

"To celebrate the sacrament of reconciliation means to be wrapped in a warm embrace" Pope Francis



# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO LEAD AND ASSIST

## Please consider helping to share the Gospel

We are looking for additional leaders to assist with Children's Liturgy at Sacred Heart Church. We offer Children's Liturgy at the Sunday 9:30am Mass at Sacred Heart on the first and third Sundays of each month during school terms. Commitment to lead or assist would be once or twice a term.

If you have any questions or would like to join our team, please contact the Parish Office on 9144 2702.



## Join the Nativity Play - Spread the Joy of Christmas!

As the cutoff for volunteer participation has passed, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to all those who have generously offered their time and enthusiasm to be part of the Nativity Play at Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Church, West Pymble (OLPS), and Sacred Heart Church, Pymble, your dedication is invaluable, and we express our sincere appreciation for your commitment to spreading the joy of Christmas.

The performance schedule is as follows:

## **OLPS Nativity Play:**

Date: Sunday, 24th December 2023

Time: 5:00 PM (Mass at OLPS - Play participation only)

### **Sacred Heart Nativity Play and Choir:**

Date: Sunday, 24th December 2023

Time: 5:00 PM (Mass at Sacred Heart - Play or Choir participation)

For further details or inquiries, please reach out to:

Louise Johnston at <a href="mailto:louise.johnston@dbb.catholic.edu.au">louise.johnston@dbb.catholic.edu.au</a> for the OLPS

performance, or

Liz Tamana at <u>elizabethetamana@gmail.com</u> for the Sacred Heart performance.

As we move forward with the finalised schedule, the upcoming Nativity Play rehearsals at Sacred Heart details are as follows:

## **Nativity Play Rehearsals:**

December 8th: 3:15 PM - 4:30 PMDecember 13th: 3:15 PM - 4:30 PM

• December 22nd: 9:30 AM

### **Choir & Music Rehearsals:**

December 22nd: 9:30 AM

December 24th: 3:30 PM (before the 5:00 PM Mass)

Let's come together to celebrate the spirit of Christmas and create beautiful memories. Your participation and dedication will make this Nativity Play truly special. We look forward to sharing this magical experience with you!

## **Children's Liturgy at Pymble Parish**

Children are welcome to join us at our Children's liturgies at both of our Churches. Children's Liturgy is a great way to engage and nourish the children of our Parish with the God's Word. The dates for Term 4 are as follows:

Sacred Heart	OLPS	
Sunday 9:30am Mass	Sunday 9am Mass	
3 December	Every Sunday during School term	







Music is an important part of our liturgies and we strive to have music in various forms at all of our Masses. Our Mass and Liturgy is enriched by the talent and time shared by the accomplished musicians of our Parish.

## We are looking for:

- Musicians/Singers at both Churches
- o Projectionists at both Churches
- o A music co-ordinator

Please contact the Parish Office if you are able to assist in any way.

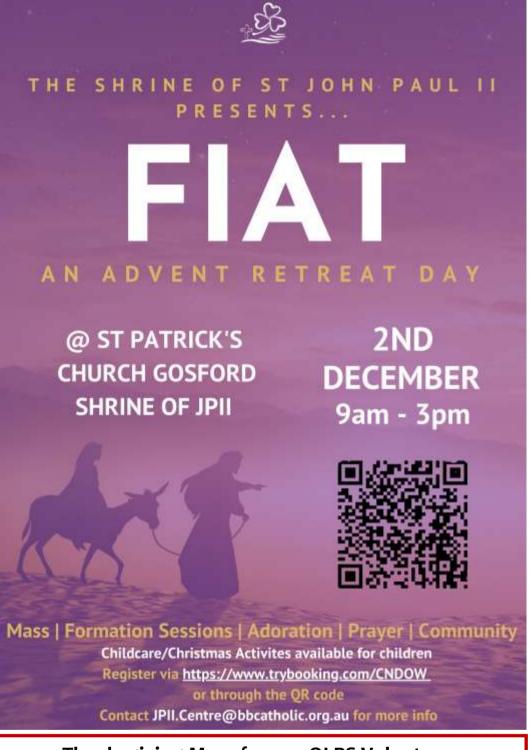
## Arrupe House, Pymble Nursing Appointment

Arrupe House, located at Pymble is a small community of retired Jesuits, Priests and Brothers.

Expressions of interest are invited for an experienced Registered Nurse to work with a small team of nurses. This position is casual part-time, with morning duties from 7am to 11.30am, 2 days per week.

Position to commence January 2024.

Please email your CV to <u>arrupehouse@sjasl.org.au</u>.



## Thanksgiving Mass for our OLPS Volunteers Sunday 3 December 2023 at 9:00 am



Thank you and blessings to our Parishioners who have assisted throughout this year and in past years during our rich 63 year history.

Altar Servers
Acolytes
Readers
Musicians
Eucharistic ministers
Collection Counters
Altar Society (floral arrangements)
And the care and laundering of the Mass cloths

Your contribution to OLPS Parish life is so necessary and

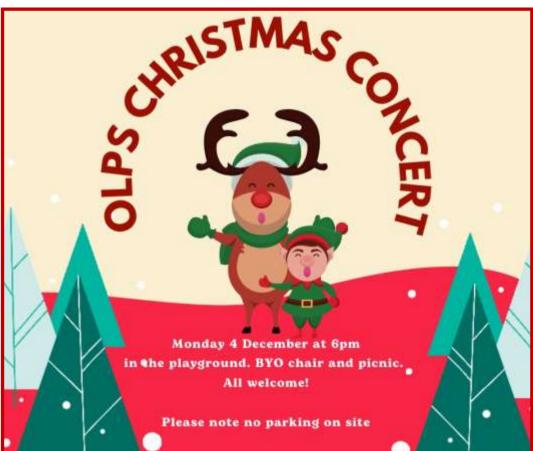
appreciated and we thank you most sincerely.

Please join us for morning tea after Mass.



OLPS afternoon tea on 9 December after the 5pm mass. Please join us for a hot drink, cake and fellowship





## Join the Christmas Eve Choir Celebration at the 9pm Mass!



Raise your voice in joyous harmony as we come together to sing at the **9pm Christmas Eve** Mass. The choir will kick off with some festive carols at 8:45pm. For those interested, there will be a rehearsal on **Wednesday**, **13 December at 7pm**. Your participation is greatly appreciated!

For inquiries or to express your interest in joining the choir, please contact Annette Leahy at <a href="mailto:annette.leahy1@dbb.catholic.edu.au">annette.leahy1@dbb.catholic.edu.au</a>

Let the spirit of Christmas resound through our voices as we celebrate this special occasion together!

## **Volunteers Thank You**

Despite the rain, we had a most joyous gathering on Saturday with all the helpers and volunteers of our Parish at Sacred Heart Church. We had about 60 people in total attend our High Tea celebration which itself was incredible! There was lovely conversation and fellowship, celebrated with delicious food and champagne flowing.











Fr Irek, Fr Paul and Fr Piotr joined the celebrations, thanking all our parishioners for what was a wonderful and rewarding year for Pymble Parish.

A huge thank you to Marie D'Alessandri and Jo McNamara for helping organise and host the event for Pymble Parish. We are most grateful to our volunteers for sharing your talents and time with us, and look forward to a fabulous 2024!



## Invitation

Broken Bay Vocations is seeking your help to nurture a local culture of vocations. As a **Parish Vocations Volunteer**, you could play a vital role in promoting vocation awareness, encouraging prayer, and supporting local events in your parish.

If you feel called to this rewarding service, your involvement would be greatly valued. For further information and to express interest, please use the link below to submit your response.

"An exciting initiative to foster a culture of vocations"

Fr Sam French Vocations Director Broken Bay

tinyurl.com/yzcnc3tu







Pastoral Works Broken Bay is the pastoral charity of the Catholic community in Broken Bay.

Every gift makes a difference to someone in hospital, school, a parish or the wider community.

## Thank you for your generosity

Confraternity of Christian Doctrine

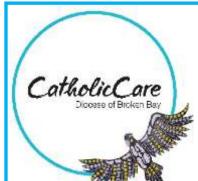
St Lucy's School and St Edmund's College Students with disabilities Hospital Chaplaincy & Pastoral Care Practitioners

Ephpheta Centre Deaf community

All donations over \$2 are tax deductible, ABN 87 849 944 998.

To donate, complete and return an envelope available in our churches. Or online by scanning the QR code or visiting: www.tinyurl.com/2f2bbuyv





ARE SPOTS AVAILABLE FOR OUR MEMORY INNOVATIONS CENTRE PROGRAMS

Are you noticing changes in your memory? Or are you feeling unsteady on your feet? You might like to join our Senior Living CatholicCare programs.

## LET'S GET MOVING

A group exercise class catering to all fitness and mobility levels. The exercises are designed to improve your cardiovascular fitness, strength and balance in a relaxed and fun atmosphere.

Tuesdays 11.00am - 12.00pm <u>or</u> 1.30pm - 2.30pm Thursday 11.00am - 12.00pm <u>or</u> 1.30pm - 2.30pm

#### BRAIN GAMES

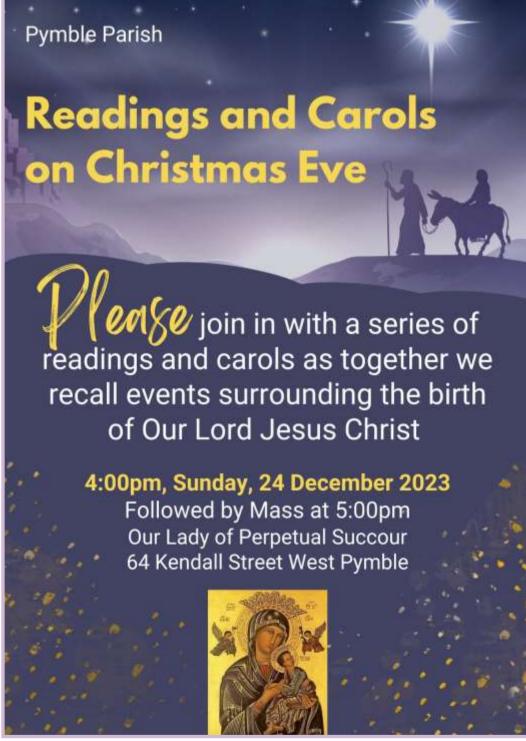
Practical activities and games designed to stimulate the brain and encourage participants to engage in new and fun learning experiences. The sessions will involve problem solving, riddles, quizzes and app-based learning.

Tuesdays 12.15pm – 1.15pm

Thursday 12.15pm – 1.15pm

Classes will be held at our Waitara Family Centre, 29 Yardley Avenue. Fees start from \$10.00 per session. You can join anytime and one free trial lesson is available for all parishioners. To book in for a trial session or to receive more information, call CatholicCare on (02) 9481 2659, email <a href="mailto:seniors@catholiccaredbb.org.au">seniors@catholiccaredbb.org.au</a> or

visit www.catholiccaredbb.org.au/mic.



## **Entrance Antiphon**

Psalm 24: 1-3

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame.

Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

### **First Reading**

Isaiah 63: 16-17, 64: 1, 3-8

## A reading from the prophet Isaiah

You, Lord, yourself are our Father, Our Redeemer is your ancient name. Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways and harden our hearts against fearing you? Return, for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your inheritance.

Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down—

At your Presence the mountains would melt. No ear has heard, no eye has seen any god but you act like this for those who trust him.

You guide those who act with integrity

and keep your ways in mind. You were angry when we were sinners; we had long been rebels against you. We were all like men unclean, all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing. We have all withered like leaves and our sins blew us away like the wind. No one invoked your name or roused himself to catch hold of you. For you hid your face from us and gave us up to the power of our sins. And yet, Lord, you are our Father; we the clay, you the potter, we are all work of your hand.

### Responsorial Psalm 79: 2-3, 15-16, 18-19 R.v.4

## (R.) Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.

- O shepherd of Israel, hear us, shine forth from your cherubim throne. O Lord, rouse up your might, O Lord, come to our help. (R.)
- 2. God of hosts, turn again, we implore, look down from heaven and see. Visit this vine and protect it, the vine your right hand has planted. (R.)
- May your hand be on the man you have chosen, the man you have given your strength, And we shall never forsake you again: give us life that we may call upon your name. (R.)

## Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1: 3-9

#### A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace.

I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed been strong among you so that you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

## **Gospel Acclamation**

Psalm 84:8

Alleluia, alleluia! Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation. Alleluia!

## Gospel

Mark 13: 33-37

#### A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'

## Gospel Reflection

## Parable of the watchful servants waiting for the master's return

Wealthy landowners often left their estates in the hands of their trustworthy servants and stewards. This gave them freedom to travel, trade, and expand their business ventures. They expected loyalty and hard work from their servants and rewarded them accordingly. Dutiful servants would eagerly anticipate their master's return by keeping the house and estate in good order. Jesus doesn't tell us in his parable whether the servants were ready to receive the unexpected return of their master. Were these servants excited or anxious about their master's return? The watchful servants, no doubt, looked forward to the future because they knew their master would be pleased and would reward them for their vigilance and hard work. Disaster and reprisal, however, awaited those who were unprepared because of carelessness or laziness.

## Watching with hopeful expectation and vigilance for Christ's return

When we expect some very important event to happen, we often wait for it with excited anticipation. The Lord Jesus expects us to watch in great anticipation for the most important event of all - his return in glory at the end of this present age! The Old Testament prophets foretold the coming of the Lord when he shall judge between the nations and decide for many peoples (Isaiah 2:5).

The Advent season reminds us that we are living in the end times. The end times begin with the first coming of Christ (when the Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us -John 1:14) and it culminates in Christ's second coming on the Day of Judgment and vindication for his people. Jesus spoke of his return in glory at the close of the ages as an indisputable fact and predetermined act which he will perform as the Judge and Ruler of all peoples, nations, and individuals who ever lived on the earth.

## "May your kingdom come!"

While the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ is for certain, the time of his appearance is not yet disclosed. The Lord's day of visitation and judgment will come swiftly and unexpectedly. Jesus warns his listeners to not be caught off guard when that day arrives. It will surely come in God's good time! The Lord invites us to pray for the coming of his kingdom into our present lives and future as well. Jesus taught his disciples to pray - "may your kingdom come and your will be done on earth as it is in heaven" (Matthew 6:10). Do you earnestly pray for the coming of God's kingdom - both now and at the end of the world?

## How do we watch and wait for the Lord's coming?

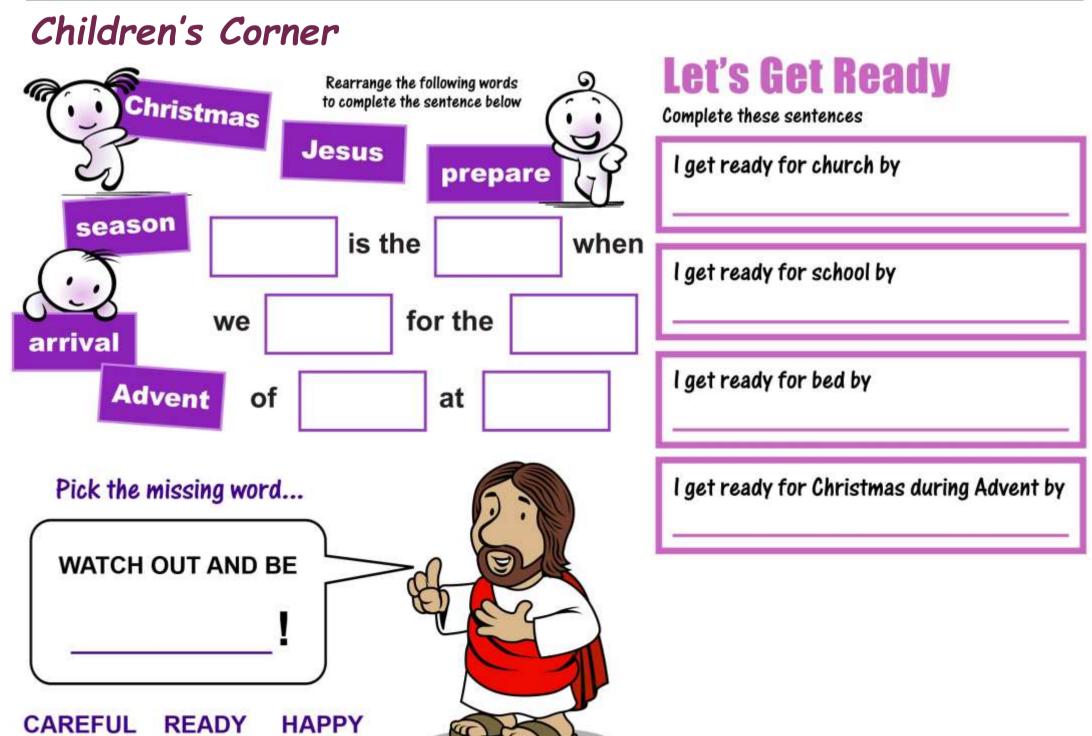
How does the Lord want us to be watchful and vigilant for his return? The kind of watching the Lord has in mind is not a passive "wait and see what happens" approach to life. The Lord urges us to vigilance and to active prayer that his "kingdom may come" and his "will be done on earth as it is in heaven". We are not only to watch for Christ, but to watch with Christ. The Lord wants us to have our hearts and minds fixed on him and his word. He wants us to be ready for his action and work of grace in our lives and in our world. Those who "wait" for the Lord will not be disappointed. He will surely come with his grace and saving help. Do you watch for the Lord's action in your life with expectant faith and with joyful hope?

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Scan the QR Code to watch Father Irek's 🛂 homily

Pymble Parish Roster 9/10 December 2023							
Sacred Heart (Pymble)	Saturday 5.30pm	Sunday 7.45am	Sunday 9.30am	Sunday 6.oopm			
Acolytes	C Parbury	J Walton	C Wawrzyniak	P Adams			
Altar Servers	A & W Rusak	H & A Liceralde	L & W Ng	Ralen Samson			
Music	P Bizannes M Drylie	Quiet Mass	M A Bannister	T Sato			
Projector	J Witcombe	C Greedy	M Tse	G Jose			
Readers	L Menzies	C Kipps	R Pazniewski	Youth			
Altar Society	9 December: Jo / Carmel						
Counters	10 December: J Challita / M Tang / P Ward						
OLPS (West Pymble)	Saturday 5.00pm		Sunday 9.00am				
Acolytes	J Pease		I Chisholm				
Altar Servers	A Pease		E & M Rothemund				
Readers	E & Z Victor		R Millane				
Music and Projector	E & A Chan						
Altar Cloth	9 December: A Glover						





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