

## THE BULLETIN

15 DECEMBER 2024  
**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

*Mary and St John the Baptist contemplate the Christ as he sleeps*  
- artist unknown.



### HOPE FOR THOSE WHO ARE WATCHING

Priest: Advent is a time to awaken our spiritual senses.  
**All: We stand in awe of your deeds, O Lord, repeat them in our day!**

Priest: Grant us vision to behold your glory.  
**All: We stand in awe of your deeds, O Lord, repeat them in our day!**

Priest: Quiet us so we may hear your still, soft voice.  
**All: We stand in awe of your deeds, O Lord, repeat them in our day!**

Priest: Make us vessels of your mercy, compassion, and grace.  
**All: We stand in awe of your deeds, O Lord, repeat them in our day!**

Priest: For all of us eagerly watching for your glory in our midst:  
**All: Grant that we might have the peace of Christ as we wait, the love of Christ as we act, and the grace of Christ as we speak.**

### CANDLE LIGHTING

Priest: This morning we light three candles. The **first** candle reminds us of those who find themselves in a season of waiting, resting in hopeful anticipation for God to act. The **second** candle is for anyone feeling weakened and wearied by the circumstances of life. We echo the cry of scripture to renew their strength and increase their power. The **third** candle awakens our spiritual senses, challenging us to embrace the glory of God, as we await our Saviour's promised coming.

### CLOSING PRAYER

**All: God of eternity, you called faithful people throughout the ages to behold your glory. We acknowledge you call us to the same awareness today. We confess at times our spiritual senses are stifled. Rekindle a new awareness of your everlasting glory. We stand in awe of your deeds and ask you to repeat them in our day. In Jesus's name we pray. Amen.**



**What, then, must we do?**

This Sunday's Gospel - Luke 3:10-18



**Fr David Ranson**  
PP VG  
Parish Priest

**THIS WEEKEND**

- Simbang Gabi celebrations launch today (Friday) and the 5:30 AM dawn Masses start on Monday. Feel like challenging yourself? Join us at the dawn Masses as we count down towards the birth of our Saviour.
- Carols at the Concourse: Happening this Saturday at 7:30 PM. Bring your chairs and your singing voices!
- Youth Ministry Officer: Applications close Wednesday, 18th December. Don't miss this opportunity to make a difference in our parish especially with next year's Jubilee year!
- Parish Office Closure: The office will be closed from 25th December to 1st January. Thank you to everyone for your support of the parish throughout the year – your contributions, in any form, mean so much!

Dear friends,

We have come to the **Third Sunday of Advent** – the Sunday known as Gaudete Sunday – the Sunday of Joy for which the colour is rose. Now, our waiting and watching for the Lord becomes filtered with joyful expectation. It is an invitation for us to remember that even in our sadness we can be joyful. This is because Christian joy is not a feeling: it is the knowledge that even in the midst of our struggles, and in the midst of the darkness, we are held by a Love which assures us that we are always more than what we are currently experiencing, and that there is always a new beginning.

In this third week of Advent, we will conduct the **Second Rite of Reconciliation on Thursday 19 December from 7pm**. Together, as a community, we will acknowledge our need for a renewed birthing of the Lord in our lives, and Confessions will be available through this time, too. Everyone is welcome to join us.

It has been a very active second week of Advent with our preparation for our **Carols on the Concourse this Saturday 14 December at 7.30pm**. We have been joined in this endeavour by many of our Christian Churches in Willoughby. A very special thank you to Olivia Lee for her marvellous management of this event, and to Titus our wonderful Director of Music for the occasion, bringing together over 120 singers. A very special word of gratitude to Marlisa Punzalan who is with us as a soloist.

Thank you, too, to Dom Tagle and his team who have our church looking so beautiful of an evening with the many coloured lights. It is quite special to see so many people who stop by to look, and even to come into the church attracted as they are by the nativity scene both outside on the forecourt and before the altar, clearly visible now all through the night through our new glass doors.

The continuous **enhancement of our church** occurs step by step. In January we would like to remove the “organ” in the choir loft. This is not an instrument but the façade of a storage room. Our choir has now grown that it is not good for them to be huddled in a corner of the loft. With the removal of the storage room, we will have much greater room. It will also assist enormously with ventilation for during the summer months the air becomes stifling in the loft.

We also continue to be on the lookout for a **hospitality cart**. The procurement of this is one of the action items that has emerged from our Parish-in-Council sessions. We are looking for a cart in which can house a coffee machine, fridge and other services. We hope to ‘store’ it in the PEW café area for use there, but then be able to wheel it to the forecourt for various occasions. We have a few leads in regard to this, but we are wondering if anyone else may have familiarity with such equipment and know how it can be sourced.

Next year, for the **Jubilee Year of 2025**, we have the opportunity to form a **pilgrimage group to Rome and Assisi**. Already, a number of our community have expressed and registered their interest to be a part of the adventure. We leave on 3 November 2025 and have five nights in Rome and three in Assisi, with an optional extension to Medjugorje for five nights. If you would like more information do contact [harvestjourneys.com/pv2588](http://harvestjourneys.com/pv2588). What a wonderful way for us to celebrate the Year of Jubilee as a Parish. For those who can come, we will certainly be carrying the intentions of all our parish community.

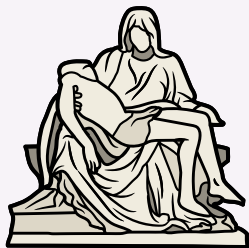


*"This Jubilee Year is an opportunity to reaffirm the Church's call to be the source of hope and healing for the world, offering a message of mercy, peace, and solidarity to all."*

**Archbishop Rino Fisichella**

## IN OUR PRAYERS WE REMEMBER:

Our community would love to pray for you. If you have an intention you would like to be included in this bulletin, e-mail [Olivia.Lee@bbccatholic.org.au](mailto:Olivia.Lee@bbccatholic.org.au) by Wednesday.



*Mother of the Crucified, pray for us.*

*Sorrowful Mother, pray for us.*

*Mournful Mother, pray for us.*

### Our loved ones who have **recently passed away**:

Michele (Mick) Saraceno.

### Our loved ones who are **sick**:

Victor Chun Kau Ng (husband of Dilia Ng); Eileen Swinsburg; Su de Sousa; Xu He Ooi; Carmel Villanueva; Marianne (Binnie) Tan; Mr Gurung (father of Om Gurung); Colleen Baker (sister of Margaret Day); Delfin Mendoza; Karen Forbes; Irene Margaret; Ying Leong Fong; Laila Haddad; Linda Yip; Lonnie Chu; Minnie Walshe; Maria Taylor; Ban Le Llamas; Sally Luxton; Sr Marie Dayton; Giselle Clark; Judith Ryan; Jim & Ann Avery; Thomas West; Lucy Rodriguez; Gillian Hawkins; Donna Fernandez; Allison Roberts; Zac Vlastic; Helen Coutts-Trotter (sister of Terry Meagher); Teddy Malapira; Kristen O'Loan; Mitch East; Victor Villanueva Herriquez; Johnson Siu; Joseph Bonnici; Bill Piper; Frank Hallissy; John O'Brien; Gerard De Leon; Carlos De Leon; Mary Kin-Soon Ng; Bonnie Leung; John Tiorg and family; Esther Grant and family.

### Our loved ones, **at rest with God, whose anniversaries fall at this time**:

Agnes Press (mother of Greg Press); Marija Vlatko.

### Our loved ones celebrating their **wedding anniversaries**:

Geoff & Maria Byrne - 35th wedding anniversary!

### Our loved ones celebrating their **birthdays**:

Albie Mylott!

## GOSPEL REFLECTION



**Deacon  
Kevin Hale**

John the Baptist may have lived in a world that was just as muddled as ours, but he was far less muddled than most of the people around him. If he were here today, he would tell us the same thing that he told the people of ancient Judea: We all need to look at how we integrate the gospel into our daily lives. And today's Gospel reading gives us a number of examples of John's teachings. Asked about the right way to live, he avoided lengthy theological discourses. Rather, he focused immediately on people's behavior. "Whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do likewise". He told tax collectors to stop cheating people. He told soldiers to be honest and just and to stop bullying those weaker than they were. It seems that everything John said and did could be reduced to one command: Treat one another with the same love that God has for you! When the people heard how they should act, it must have felt like a dead end to some of them. They wanted to follow his preaching, but they knew it would be hard to change their behaviors—and in some instances, their jobs—in order to live out the justice he had proclaimed. But it seems clear from John's teaching that he was drawing a connection between reforming our lives and our ability to receive the Holy Spirit.

John knew that these types of personal reforms would open up their hearts to receive the one who was coming to baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire — Jesus, our Redeemer. John helped the people to see the reality of what was ahead by telling them that the Messiah was indeed coming—and that John, as great a prophet as he was, wasn't even fit to loosen the thong of his sandals. And clearly, no one had a hard time trying to figure out where John stood.

In fact, it was his blunt, no-nonsense approach to holiness that got him in trouble with King Herod and eventually cost him his life. When we look at the Sermon on the Mount, we find Jesus also telling us how we should live. He told us that anger, hatred, and resentment are just as serious as murder. He told us that lusting after someone is just as bad as committing adultery. He said that the "least" are those who disobey God's commands, while the "greatest" are those who keep them. So how are you living? Can your friends and neighbors see a change in you as Christmas approaches? Do they see more joy, more generosity, and more love?

If they do, then you also can count yourself among those who have heard the Baptist's call to repentance.

The family of the soldier who reformed his life after hearing John would surely have gone out to see this preacher who caused such a change in their son. Let us pray that our lives too will inspire others to seek and find this Jesus, who has so powerfully worked in us. As Christmas approaches, take John's advice and repent. Make sure to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation so that you can cleanse your soul of your sins and be ready to welcome Jesus with a heart as clean as John's.

Turn to the Lord, and let him answer the question: What then should I do?

# CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS



14  
Dec

## 7:30PM CAROLS AT THE CONCOURSE

*Join us on the steps of the Chatswood Concourse for a joyful night of carols with churches from across Willoughby City!*

Saturday

19  
Dec

## 7PM ADORATION AND RECONCILIATION

*Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament together with the Second Rite of Reconciliation. A chance to clear your heart and spend time with Jesus.*

Thursday

22  
Dec

## 9AM SANTA JOINING US AT MASS

*Santa is paying us a special visit where he will join us for Mass and stay around a little bit afterwards to say hello!*



Sunday

24  
Dec

## NATIVITY OF THE LORD - CHRISTMAS EVE MASS

*Celebrate the birth of Our Lord by joining us at Mass at 5:30pm Children's Mass, 8pm, or 12am Midnight Mass.*

Tuesday

25  
Dec

## NATIVITY OF THE LORD - CHRISTMAS DAY MASS

*Celebrate the birth of Our Lord by joining us at Mass at 7:30am, 9am, 10:30am.*

Wednesday



**OUR LADY OF DOLOURS CATHOLIC CHURCH**

94 Archer St, Chatswood

[chatswoodoffice@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:chatswoodoffice@bbcatholic.org.au)

## OUR WEEK IN PICS



Congrats to MenAlive on a wonderful year of faith development and fellowship! Here they are celebrating Mass and dinner together.



Ditas and Henry were lucky enough to witness the promotion to the dignity of Cardinal, of our newest (and the youngest ever) cardinal, Mykola Cardinal Bychok!



Calm before the storm - Marty, Cheryl, Hamish, Chloe, and Yuliana are the co-leaders for Saturday's Carols at the Concourse and are excited to celebrate with you!



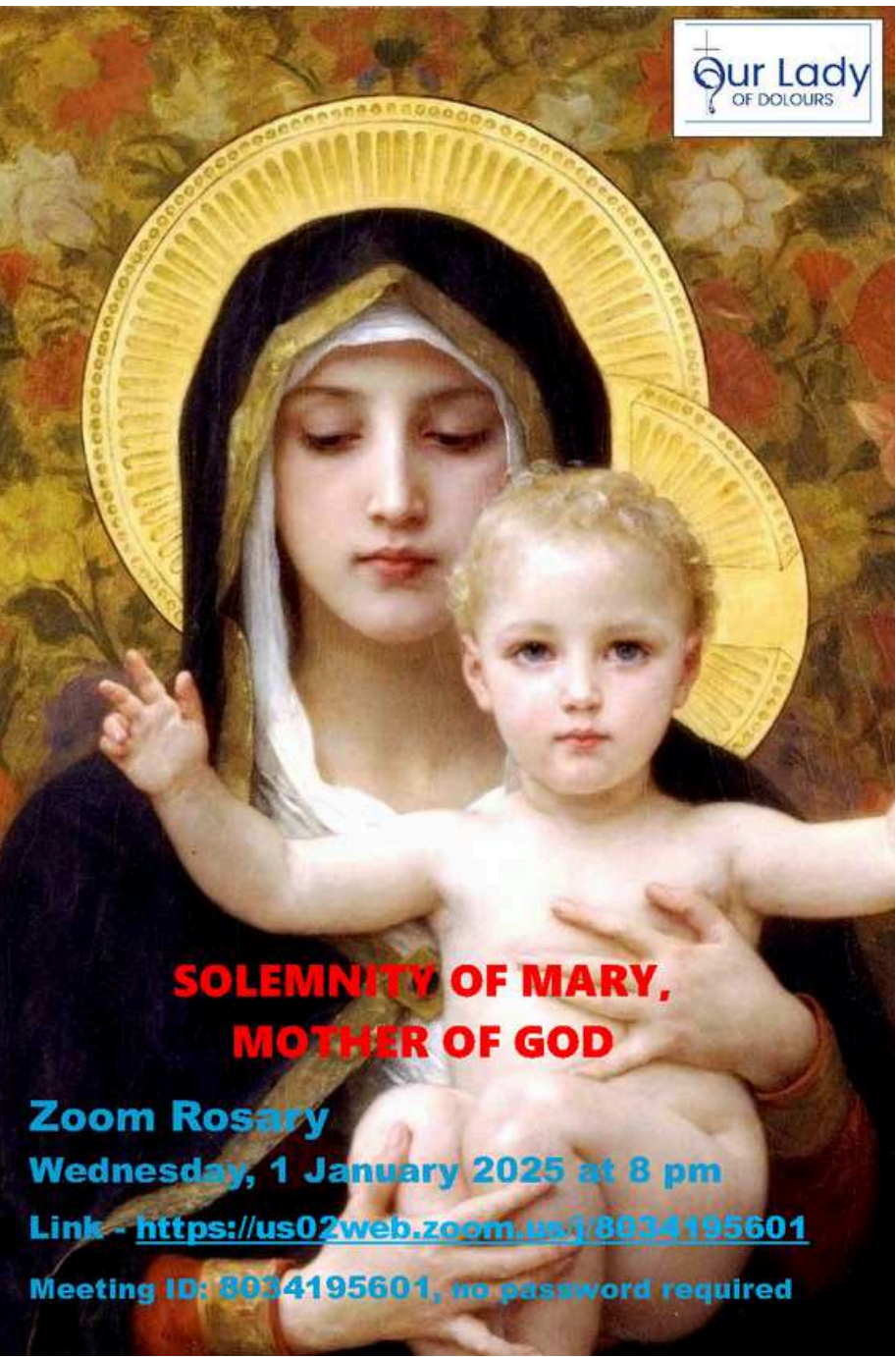
Thank you to everyone who supported the PEW giftshop sale, and ATLAS Christmas Cake drive!



Photos from the Graduation Christmas Party for participants completing the Journey into Truth Course. Certificates were awarded to 32 participants by the course writer Fr John Flader and Fr David. Course participants were unanimous in how much they had benefited from the Course that covered the entire Catechism of the Catholic Church in 24 weeks. Participants ranged in age from young adults to seniors and included catechists, recent RCIA graduates and mature Catholics. All were appreciative of how well the course was organised and run and highly recommended that the course be more widely available in the future. - Margaret W.



Thank you to Lei and Elaine for organising such a wonderful end-of-year Christmas party for both the First Saturday Rosary group and the Zoom Rosary groups. This was the first year for the First Saturday Rosary group, and we look forward to this beautiful initiative returning next year!



**SOLEMNITY OF MARY,  
MOTHER OF GOD**

**Zoom Rosary  
Wednesday, 1 January 2025 at 8 pm  
Link - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8034195601>  
Meeting ID: 8034195601, no password required**



Thank you to everyone who joined last Sunday's ZOOM Rosary in honour of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

OUR LADY OF DOLOURS • CHATSWOOD CATHOLIC PARISH

11  
DAYS

# Jubilee Year Pilgrimage to Rome & Assisi

Every 25 years, the Church proclaims a Holy Year, a special gift of grace and mercy for all God's people. Not only is Italy a land of unforgettable charm and beauty, but it is also a land made rich in grace by its colourful history of holy men and women. In this dedicated Jubilee year, be inspired to encounter the pathways of some of the Church's greatest saints, from St Francis and St Clare in Assisi, to Sts Peter and Paul in Rome, the Eternal City, where we cross the threshold of the Holy Door in St Peter's Basilica and receive the Jubilee blessing.



Accompanied by  
**Fr David Ranson**

**DEPARTS MONDAY 03 NOVEMBER 2025 • 11 DAYS / 8 NIGHTS**

Rome - Jubilee (5 nights) • Assisi (3) • Optional Medjugorje extension (5 nights)

**DOWNLOAD THE  
INFO PACK FROM**  
<https://tinyurl.com/2kn3m9tm>

**OR SCAN THE QR CODE**



*the genuine pilgrim experience*

**harvest**  
journeys

# OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

Third Sunday OF advenT / c

15 decemBer 2024

REJOICE IN THE LORD! A theme of joy always runs through the liturgy of the Third Sunday of Advent. The joy of this day springs from our anticipation and excitement that the Lord's coming is very near. We ask the Lord to remove any sadness from our hearts that may hinder us from embracing the peace and hope which his presence will bestow on us this Christmas.

## INTRODUCTORY RITES

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON** Phil 4: 4-5

**Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice.**

**Indeed, the Lord is near.**

## GREETING

P. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**R. Amen.**

P. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**R. And with your spirit.**

## PENITENTIAL ACT

P. Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

P. Have mercy on us, O Lord.

**R. For we have sinned against you.**

P. Show us, O Lord, your mercy.

**R. And grant us your salvation.**

P. May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

**R. Amen.**

V. Lord, have mercy.

**R. Lord, have mercy.**

V. Christ, have mercy.

**R. Christ, have mercy.**

V. Lord, have mercy.

**R. Lord, have mercy.**

*The Gloria is not said during Advent.*

## COLLECT

P. O God, who see how your people faithfully await the feast of the Lord's Nativity, enable us, we pray, to attain the joys of so great a salvation and to celebrate them always with solemn worship and glad rejoicing. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, for ever and ever

**R. Amen.**

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

**FIRST READING** Zeph 3:14-18

**A reading from the prophet Zephaniah.**  
*With gladness the Lord will rejoice over you.*

Shout for joy, daughter of Zion, Israel, shout aloud!

Rejoice, exult with all your heart, daughter of Jerusalem!

The Lord has repealed your sentence; he has driven your enemies away.

The Lord, the king of Israel, is in your midst; you have no more evil to fear.

When that day comes, word will come to

Jerusalem:

Zion, have no fear, do not let your hands fall limp.

The Lord your God is in your midst, a victorious warrior.

He will exult with joy over you,

he will renew you by his love;

he will dance with shouts of joy for you as on a day of festival.

**The word of the Lord.**

**R. Thanks be to God.**

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** Isa 12:2-6. R. v. 6

**R. Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.**

1. Truly, God is my salvation, / I trust, I shall not fear. / For the Lord is my strength, my song, / he became my saviour. / With joy you will draw water / from the wells of salvation. **R.**

2. Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his name! / Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples! / Declare the greatness of his name. **R.**

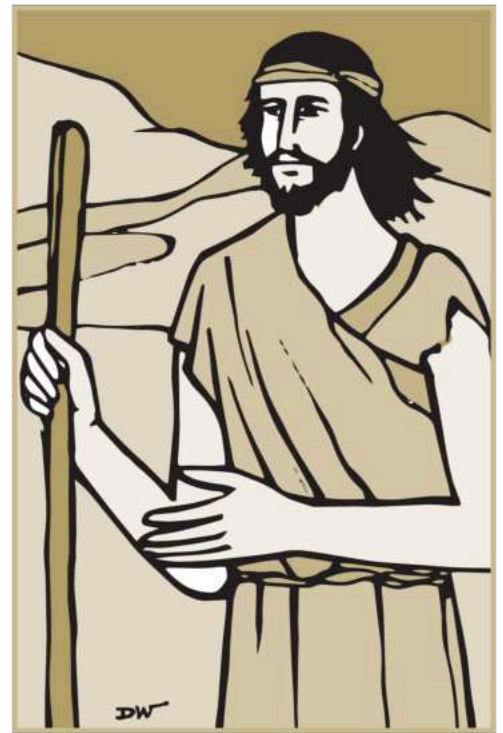
3. Sing a psalm to the Lord / for he has done glorious deeds, / make them known to all the earth! / People of Zion, sing and shout for joy / for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. **R.**

**SECOND READING** Phil 4:4-7

**A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians.**

*The Lord is near.*

I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord; I repeat, what I want is your happiness.



Let your tolerance be evident to everyone: the Lord is very near. There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus.

**The word of the Lord.**

**R. Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** Isa 61:1; Lk 4:18

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**The spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.**

**Alleluia!**

**GOSPEL** Lk 3:10-18

P. The Lord be with you.

**R. And with your spirit P. A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.**

**R. Glory to you, O Lord.**

*What, then, must we do?*

When all the people asked John, 'What must we do?' he answered, 'If anyone has two tunics he must share with the man who has none, and the one with something to eat must do the same.' There were tax collectors too who came for baptism, and these said to him, 'Master, what must we do?' He said to them, 'Exact no more than your rate.' Some soldiers asked him in their turn, 'What must



we do?’ He said to them, ‘No intimidation! No extortion! Be content with your pay!’

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, ‘I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.’ As well as this, there were many other things he said to exhort the people and to announce the Good News to them.

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

**R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

## HOMILY

### PROFESSION OF FAITH APOSTLES' CREED

*Or the Nicene Creed may be said.*

**I believe in God, / the Father almighty, / Creator of heaven and earth, / and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, / who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, / born of the Virgin Mary, / suffered under Pontius Pilate, / was crucified, died and was buried; / he descended into hell; / on the third day he rose again from the dead; / he ascended into heaven, / and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; / from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. / I believe in the Holy Spirit, / the holy catholic Church, / the communion of saints, / the forgiveness of sins, / the resurrection of the body, / and life everlasting. Amen.**

### PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

## LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

*After the priest raises the paten with the bread and prays, and then the chalice, we respond to each prayer:*

**R. Blessed be God for ever.**

P. Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters), that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

**R. May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.**

### PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

May the sacrifice of our worship, Lord, we pray, be offered to you unceasingly, to complete what was begun in sacred mystery and powerfully accomplish for us your saving work.

Through Christ our Lord.

**R. Amen.**

## THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P. The Lord be with you.

**R. And with your spirit.**

P. Lift up your hearts.

**R. We lift them up to the Lord.**

P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**R. It is right and just.**

## PREFACE I OR II OF ADVENT

*After the Preface, we sing or say:*

**All: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

## THE MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

P. The mystery of faith.

**All: Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.**

## COMMUNION RITE

P. At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

**All: Our Father, who art in heaven . . .**

P. Deliver us, Lord, we pray . . .

**All: For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and for ever.**

P. Lord Jesus Christ, who said . . .

**R. Amen.**

P. The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**R. And with your spirit.**

P. Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

*All exchange a sign of peace*

## LAMB OF GOD

**All: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P. Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

**R. Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.**

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

cf. Isa 35:4

**Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear.**

**Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We implore your mercy, Lord, that this divine sustenance may cleanse us of our faults

and prepare us for the coming feasts.

Through Christ our Lord.

**R. Amen.**

## THE CONCLUDING RITES

P. The Lord be with you.

**R. And with your spirit.**

P. May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit.

**R. Amen.**

P. Go forth, the Mass is ended.

**R. Thanks be to God.**

## BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

### SHARING THE EARTH'S GOODS

This Sunday's Gospel continues with John Baptist. His voice now becomes more demanding, urging his audience to live in ways typified by generosity, kindness and justice, themes which will appear throughout the Gospel. Those whom John addresses reflect the audience of Luke's Gospel, including tax agents and soldiers, with a focus on wealth. This will be a major theme in the Gospel.

Luke intends to speak to those who have rank and influence, to bring about change and status reversal, themes that begin here in today's Gospel. John responds to his enquirers coming for baptism about how they are to live. He encourages them to share their clothing with those who have nothing and food with those who are hungry. This presumes that his audience (and Luke's Gospel audience) have possessions and food to share. They are not impoverished. When similarly asked by tax collectors—agents of Rome's imperial household—they are told not to extract taxes beyond what is due. In other words, they are not to become wealthy at the expense of others. Soldiers (again members of Luke's community) are told to act without violence and extortion, content with their pay.

All these that John addresses are invited on to a path of economic restraint and generosity. This will allow them to be ready for the coming of the one whom John prepares his audience for, and the focus of the second half of the Gospel. Today's Gospel offers us an Advent moment to reflect on our own use of Earth's goods and possessions and how we share them.

Fr m

iChael Trainor

### A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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**JOB ADVERTISEMENT: YOUTH MINISTRY OFFICER (YMO)**

Location: Our Lady of Dolours Catholic Parish, Chatswood  
Hours: 30 hours per week (including Sunday evenings, 4:30 pm–9:30 pm)  
Remuneration: \$30.00 per hour (excluding superannuation)  
Contract: Fixed-term, concluding 31 December 2025 (potential for renewal)  
Start Date: Tuesday, 28 January 2025



Scan for more info



*Are you passionate about youth ministry and looking for an opportunity to make a difference? Our Lady of Dolours Catholic Parish, Chatswood, is seeking a dynamic and enthusiastic Youth Ministry Officer (YMO) to lead and coordinate ministry programs for young people and young adults. This pivotal role offers the chance to inspire and engage youth while helping to deliver significant initiatives during the Jubilee Year of 2025, with our church designated as one of three diocesan Shrines of Hope.*

**Learn more about the role by going to <https://tinyurl.com/apdxzz4d> or scan the QR code. APPLICATIONS CLOSE NEXT WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 18**



**CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS EVE NATIVITY PLAY**

All children who would like to be involved in the Nativity play at the 5:30pm Christmas Eve Mass, please come to the Blue Room, where we hold Children's Liturgy after the 9:00am Family Mass on Sunday 15th December.

We will allocate roles and have a quick first practise at this meeting. There will be two further practises as follows:

- Sunday 22nd December in the Blue Room after 9:00am Mass
- Monday 23rd December Rehearsal in the Church at 2:00pm

**SINGING AT CHRISTMAS MASS**

Any children and/parents who would like to be involved in the Choir for Christmas Eve, please contact Angela at the contact details below. We will arrange to send you the music and songs for the Mass to practise at home. We will also come together with the Nativity Play children for the rehearsal in the church at 2:30pm Monday 23rd December.

Any enquiries about the Children's Christmas Mass please contact Angela in the parish office on 9410 9033 or [angela.hague@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:angela.hague@bbcatholic.org.au)

**ATRIUM NEWS**

Last Monday Fr David celebrated Mass with the children in the Atrium for the first time since Covid. The week before, during their atrium session, the children really enjoyed planning the Mass.

The 3-6 year olds prepared the cruets for Fr. David to use during the Mass, they also brought the candles, arranged flowers and brought their Good Shepherd Statue to decorate the altar area. The 6-9 year olds, wrote prayers that they read out for the prayers of the faithful, and the 9-12 year olds chose and proclaimed the readings and chose all the songs for the Mass, based on the readings on the theme of Advent that all the children have been reflecting on during Term 4.

**Enrolments for 2025**

Our 2025 Atrium sessions will recommence on Monday 10 February and we are now taking enrolments. Our sessions times are:

For 3-6 year olds:

- Mondays 10am – 11:30am & 3:45pm-5:45pm
- Tuesdays 3:45pm-5:45pm
- Thursdays 10am – 11:30am

For 6-9 & 9-12 year olds:

- Mondays & Tuesdays 3:45pm-5:45pm

To find out more about the atrium or to enrol your child, please contact Angela or Rose at [old.childrens atrium@gmail.com](mailto:old.childrens atrium@gmail.com)



**JANUARY FORMATION FOR ADULTS**

In late January we will be running a formation retreat for adults. Although this course is aimed at adults interested in learning this wonderful way to support children in their faith formation, it is also suitable for anyone interested in nurturing their relationship with God in a retreat like, contemplative environment.

We would love to have more catechists involved in supporting children at the Atrium here in Chatswood, so if you know of anyone who might be interested in attending, please pass this on to them. Or if you are interested in finding out more about the formation course, please feel free to contact Angela at the above email or at the parish email address: [angela.hague@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:angela.hague@bbcatholic.org.au)

Or go to the following link to access the course brochure: <https://tinyurl.com/2ae5kzuh>



**LAST PLAYGROUP OF THE YEAR!**

We had a fantastic time at our last playgroup session for 2024!

The teachers and children from Our Lady of Dolours Primary School joined us, distributed Christmas cards, and had fun playing together while parents chatted with the teachers.

A big thank you to all the parents and children who participated in our playgroup this year. We're looking forward to the new year—our first session for 2025 is on January 9th.

Merry Christmas & a happy new year.  
See you all in January!

*Mona*



Left: Thank you so much to the students at Our Lady of Dolours Primary School for the beautiful cards they made for our parish, with messages of love and hope! Right: Our catechists celebrating the end of a wonderful year!

## OUR WEEK IN PICS



Celebrating November's wonderful Parish in Council, by thanking those that gave their time as scribes, and facilitators.

## PRAYER FOR BABIES IN THEIR MOTHER'S WOMB

O God of all creation,  
Nurture and protect tiny children and keep them safe in the sanctuary of their mother's womb.  
As You so wondrously form their hearts and minds and lungs and souls,  
so strengthen our will to lovingly nurture and protect them.  
Give us the eyes to see them as our brothers and sisters, the minds to welcome them as our own, and the faith to defend them as Your children.  
We ask this through the intercession of Mary, our Blessed Mother, and the mother of all the little ones, through Christ, Your Son, our Lord.  
Amen.

## ST PETER CANISIUS OPTIONAL MEMORIAL 21 DECEMBER



- St Peter Canisius played a significant role in re-evangelizing Germany during

the Reformation, earning him the nickname "the Second Apostle of Germany" after St Boniface.

- He wrote over 8,000 pages of letters, books, and catechisms in his lifetime. His catechisms were so influential that they were translated into multiple languages and used for centuries in Catholic education.
- Peter Canisius wrote a catechism that explained Catholic doctrine in a clear and accessible way, making it one of the most widely used teaching tools during the Counter-Reformation.
- Peter Canisius traveled over 20,000 miles on foot or horseback during his missionary journeys, tirelessly preaching, teaching, and ministering to people in Switzerland, Austria, and Germany.
- Despite being a staunch defender of Catholicism, he was known for his kind and respectful approach toward Protestants, choosing to focus on clear explanations of the faith rather than harsh criticisms.
- Among his many students were members of European royalty, including Emperor Ferdinand I's children, for whom he served as a spiritual advisor and educator.
- Although he was widely venerated after his death in 1597, Peter Canisius was not canonized until 1925 by Pope Pius XI, who also declared him a Doctor of the Church. Known as the "Doctor of Catechetical Studies," St. Peter Canisius is celebrated for making Catholic teachings accessible and understandable to all, even children.

## FAREWELL MASS AND GIFT FOR FATHER JOSE

**DATE** 22 December 09:30am

**LOCATION** St. Thomas Church, Willoughby

Join us in bidding farewell to Fr. Jose as he prepares for his new appointment in India. A special farewell Mass will be held on 22 Dec at 9:30 AM at St. Thomas.

We also invite parishioners to contribute should they wish, to a farewell collection as a token of our gratitude for his dedicated service and love for our parish. Let's come together to offer him our blessings and support for this new chapter.



 CATHOLIC PARISH OF LOWER NORTH SHORE

## INDONESIAN LEGION OF MARY

The Indonesian Legion of Mary will begin on Tuesday, 7 January, and will continue to meet every Tuesday at 7:00 pm in the St. Peter Room. This is a wonderful opportunity to deepen your faith and join others in prayer and service. If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Caroline at [caroline.lim26@yahoo.com](mailto:caroline.lim26@yahoo.com).

BROKEN BAY FILIPINO  
CHAPLAINCY INVITES YOU TO

# Simbang Gabi

(CHRISTMAS NOVENA  
MASSES)



## Hornsby

OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY  
CATHEDRAL  
27 Yardley Ave, Waitara  
15-17 Dec | 7:00 PM  
18 Dec | 6:30 PM  
19-22 Dec | 7:00 PM  
23 Dec | 7:30 PM  
Vilma Tolosa 0411250593  
Cynthia Alipalo 0416188835

## Chatswood

OUR LADY OF DOLOURS  
94 Archer St, Chatswood  
16-24 Dec | 5:30 AM  
Thea De Joya  
0413904009

## Dee Why

ST. KEVIN'S CHURCH  
50 Oaks, Dee Why  
15-23 Dec | 7:00 PM  
Marlon Cabilao  
430249450

## Wyong

ST. CECILIA'S CHURCH  
Triduum Mass  
23 Byron St, Wyong  
21, 22 & 23 Dec | 7:00 PM  
Mona Santos  
0406998422

BROKEN BAY FILIPINO CHAPLAINCY  
bbfc.hornsby@gmail.com



Feastmas  
Catering  
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SCAN FOR  
CATERING  
OPTIONS

GET YOUR CHRISTMAS  
OFFER\* BY CONTACTING  
ROLLD CHATSWOOD



Email: [linh.bui@rolld.com.au](mailto:linh.bui@rolld.com.au)

Phone: 0404 898 704 - Tina

Thank you for supporting the services  
that support our community!

### FAMOUS CHINESE BIBLE QUOTE

這樣，天主那超乎各種意想的平安，必要在基督耶穌內固守你們的心思念慮。  
斐理伯書4:7

Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.  
Philippians 4:7

- Chatswood Chinese Catholic Association

## NEXT WEEK: CHURCH EVENTS, PRAYER, AND LITURGY

Monday  
16 December

- **5:30am Simbang Gabi Dawn Novena Mass.**
- 11:30am Chaplet of Divine Mercy, Rosary (Cenacle, MMP).
- **12:30pm Mass**
- 1pm Rosary.
- 1:30pm Organ practice SC.
- 4:30pm Organ Lesson BO.

Tuesday  
17 December

- **5:30am Simbang Gabi Dawn Novena Mass.**
- 8:45am Morning Prayer.
- **9am Mass.**
- 9:30am Rosary and Chaplet of Divine Mercy.
- 10:30am Organ practice SC.
- **12:30pm Mass.**
- 1pm Rosary.
- 2pm OLOD Primary rehearsal.

Wednesday  
18 December

- **5:30am Simbang Gabi Dawn Novena Mass.**
- 8:45am Morning Prayer.
- **9am Mass.**
- 9:30am Rosary and Chaplet of Divine Mercy.
- 11am OLOD End of year liturgy.
- **12:30pm Mass.**
- 1pm Rosary.
- **6:30pm Evening Mass of Hope.**

Thursday  
19 December

- **5:30am Simbang Gabi Dawn Novena Mass.**
- 8:45am Morning Prayer.
- **9am Mass.**
- **9:30am Eucharistic Exposition and Adoration**, Rosary, Chaplet of Divine Mercy.
- **12:30pm Mass.**
- 1pm Rosary.
- 2pm Organ practice OC.
- 3pm Organ lesson SC.
- 4pm Organ lesson TL.
- **7:00pm Holy Hour Eucharistic Exposition and Adoration with Reconciliation also available.**

Friday  
20 December

- **5:30am Simbang Gabi Dawn Novena Mass.**
- 8:45am Morning Prayer.
- **9am Mass.**
- 9:30am Rosary and Chaplet of Divine Mercy.
- **12:30pm Mass.**
- 3pm Organ lesson BJ.
- 4pm Organ lesson AH.
- 4:45pm Organ practice BO.

Saturday  
21 December

- **5:30am Simbang Gabi Dawn Novena Mass.**
- 8:45am Morning Prayer.
- **9am Mass**
- **9:30am Eucharistic Exposition & Adoration**, Reconciliation, Rosary.
- 10:00am Novena - Our Lady of Perpetual Help.
- 11am Choir practice.
- 12:30pm Organ practice SC.
- 4:30pm Vigil Singers.
- **5:30pm Vigil Mass.**

Sunday Mass  
22 December

4th Sunday of  
Advent

- **5:30am Simbang Gabi Dawn Novena Mass.**
- **7:30am Mass.**
- **9:00am Mass with Santa joining!**
- **10:30am Mass.**
- 1:30pm Organ practice SC.
- 2:30pm Organ practice AH.
- **5:30pm Mass.**



### ST JOHN OF KANTY OPTIONAL MEMORIAL 23 DECEMBER

- John of Kanty is the patron saint of teachers, students, and academics, reflecting his lifelong dedication to education as a professor of theology at the University of Kraków.
- Despite his prestigious academic career, John was known for his humility. He famously walked everywhere, even on long journeys to Rome, refusing the comfort of a horse or carriage.
- Known for his incredible charity, John gave away nearly all his possessions to the poor. He lived a simple and frugal life.
- Though humble, John of Kanty was known for miracles during his lifetime, including healing the sick and multiplying food for the hungry.
- John faced a false accusation early in his academic career and was removed from his position. Instead of becoming bitter, he humbly accepted a lesser role and worked his way back, showing resilience and trust in God's plan.
- John of Kanty had a special devotion to the Nativity and was known to preach beautifully about the humility and love of Christ's birth.
- Though highly intellectual, John was just as known for his warmth and care for others, embodying the idea that true wisdom is found in love and service.

## NEXT WEEK IN THE MEETING ROOMS

Tuesday 17 December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10am Bible Study (St Paul).</li> <li>• 6:30pm LIFE Christmas (Magnificat).</li> <li>• 7pm Indo. Legion of Mary (St Peter).</li> <li>• 7pm Filipino Choir (Harrington Hall).</li> </ul>
Wednesday 18 December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9:30am English Lifestyle Conversations (Magnificat).</li> <li>• 6:30pm Indonesian Instruments (Harrington Hall).</li> <li>• 6:30pm SEEK (St Paul).</li> <li>• 7pm Exploring the Faith (St Peter).</li> </ul>
Thursday 19 December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6pm Altos choir practice (St Paul).</li> <li>• 6:30pm Christmas Choir (Harrington).</li> </ul>
Friday 20 December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10am Meditation and Sharing (St Peter) set up 9:30am.</li> <li>• 6pm Indonesian prep. (Magnificat).</li> <li>• 7pm Online Zoom Meditation and Sharing.</li> </ul>
Saturday 21 December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10am Music Lessons (St Paul).</li> <li>• 10:30am Legion of Mary Praesidium (St Peter) set up 10am.</li> <li>• 12pm Indonesian Christmas gathering (Magnificat, St Paul) set up in Mag at 10am.</li> <li>• 7pm Korean Bible reading &amp; discussion (St Paul).</li> </ul>
Sunday Mass 22 December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7:45am Filipino Choir (St Paul).</li> <li>• 9am Choir (St Paul).</li> <li>• 6:30pm Youth group (Magnificat, St Paul, St Peter) set up 4:30pm.</li> </ul>

## ST STEPHEN FEAST 26 DECEMBER



- Stephen is honoured as the first Christian martyr (protomartyr), having been stoned to death for boldly proclaiming his faith in Jesus Christ.
- The Feast of St Stephen is referenced in the carol Good King Wenceslas, where the king goes out to help the poor "on the feast of Stephen." This song captures the spirit of charity associated with the day.
- In many countries, the Feast of St Stephen is a day to focus on charity. In some places, it's known as Boxing Day, traditionally a time to give gifts or donations to the less fortunate.
- Stephen was one of the first seven deacons of the Church, chosen to assist the apostles in caring for the poor and distributing alms.
- Stephen is the patron saint of bricklayers and stonemasons, likely because of the method of his martyrdom (stoning). He is also the patron saint of deacons and those who serve the poor.
- The Church places St Stephen's feast immediately after Christmas to emphasize the connection between Christ's birth and the sacrifices made by His followers.
- Stephen forgave his persecutors as he was being stoned, echoing Jesus' words on the cross: "Lord, do not hold this sin against them" (Acts 7:60).

### REFLECTING ON THE GOSPEL:

John instructs tax collectors to collect only what is fair and soldiers to avoid extortion.

- How do I approach honesty and integrity in my work, school, or family responsibilities?
- Are there areas where I might be taking more than I need or acting unfairly?

John calls for repentance and living lives that bear good fruit.

- What are the areas in my life where I feel called to change or grow?
- How can I ensure my actions reflect my faith and love for God?

• Who might need my help or encouragement this week, and how can I reach out to them?

• What specific step can I take today to "prepare the way of the Lord" in my heart or home?

**CATHOLIC VOCATIONS**  
BROKEN BAY

**CALLING ALL YOUNG ADULTS\***  
*You are invited to our*  
**CHRISTMAS HOLY HOUR**  
&  
**DINNER PARTY**  
*Friday evening, December 20*  
*Holy Hour at 6:00pm*  
*Dinner at 7:00pm*

**ST AGATHA'S PARISH**  
**TREBOR ROAD, PENNANT HILLS 2120**

RSVP'S ESSENTIAL TO 0418 522 449 OR  
VOCATIONS.MINISTRY@BBCATHOLIC.ORG.AU

## INFO AT A GLANCE

### Parish Support Team:

**Parish Priest: Very Rev Dr David Ranson VG PP**

(Day off on Monday)

David.Ranson@bbcatholic.org.au

Personal blog: davidranson.com.au

X (formerly Twitter): @FrDavidRanson

**Assistant Priest: Rev Fr Joey Frez** (Day off on Monday)

Joey.Frez@bbcatholic.org.au

**Assistant Priest: Rev Fr Anselam Lakra**

(Day off on Friday)

Anselam.Lakra@bbcatholic.org.au

**Deacon: Rev Richard Houwing** (Sun)

Richard.Houwing@bbcatholic.org.au

**Manager of Parish Operations: Olivia Lee** (Mon - Fri)

Olivia.Lee@bbcatholic.org.au

**Receptionist: Diana Tinambun**

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**Project Officer: Chloe Aylward** (Mon - Wed)

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**Director of Music: Titus Grenyer**

Titus.Grenyer@bbcatholic.org.au

**Children's Ministry Coordinator: Angela Hague**

Angela.Hague@bbcatholic.org.au | (02) 9410 9033

**Pastoral Support Worker: Mona Saouma**

Mona.Saouma@bbcatholic.org.au

**Youth Minister: Bettina Ignacio** (Mon, Tue, Sun)

Bettina.Ignacio@bbcatholic.org.au

**Catechist Coordinator: Karen Forbes**

Karen.Forbes@bbcatholic.org.au

**Book-keeper: Amelia Lee** (Mon, Tue, Thur)

Amelia.Lee@bbcatholic.org.au | (02)9410 9032

**Parent Engagement Co-Ordinator  
for Our Lady of Dolours Primary School:  
Rebecca Molinaro**

Rebecca.Molinaro@dbb.catholic.edu.au

Thursdays 8:00am - 4:00pm

**Parent Engagement Co-Ordinator  
for Mercy Catholic Collegel:**

Annette Leahy

annette.leahy1@dbb.catholic.edu.au

Wednesdays 8:00am - 4:00pm

 facebook.com/OLDChatswood

 bbcatholic.org.au/chatswood

Want to receive the bulletin via e-mail?

Contact Olivia at [Olivia.Lee@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:Olivia.Lee@bbcatholic.org.au)

### Regular Mass Times:

Monday	Mass 12:30pm.
Tuesday	Mass 9:00am & 12:30pm.
Wednesday	Mass 9:00am, 12:30pm & 6:30pm.
Thursday	Mass 9:00am & 12:30pm. Reconciliation: 7:00pm.
Friday	Mass 9:00am & 12:30pm.
Saturday	Mass: 9:00am Reconciliation: 9:30am. Vigil Mass: 5:30pm
Sunday	Mass <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 7:30am</li><li>• 9:00am</li><li>• 10:30am</li><li>• 5:30pm</li></ul>



The poster features a background image of a young girl in a white and red dress, possibly a choir member, with a large yellow starburst graphic. The word 'Carols' is written in a large, white, cursive font across the middle. Below it, 'at the Concourse' is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. The date and time '7:30PM Saturday 14 December, 2024' are prominently displayed in white, bold, sans-serif font. Below that, the location 'Chatswood Concourse 409 Victoria Ave, Chatswood NSW' is listed. At the bottom, there is a quote: 'Gather your loved ones, grab a chair or rug, and warm up your singing voices to join us in singing Carols at the steps of the Concourse!' and a small red heart icon.

**Carols**  
at the Concourse

**7:30PM Saturday  
14 December, 2024**

**Chatswood Concourse**  
409 Victoria Ave, Chatswood NSW

*Gather your loved ones, grab a chair or rug, and warm up your singing voices to join us in singing Carols at the steps of the Concourse!*

*A gift to you, from the Christian Churches of Willoughby City* 

**Our Lady of Dolours Parish is dedicated to ensuring a safe and caring environment for all, especially children and vulnerable adults.**

**For safety concerns, contact the parish office at 02 9410 9000 or the Office of Safeguarding at 02 8379 1605. Thank you for helping us keep our church welcoming and safe.**