

# OUR LADY OF DOLOURS Chatswood Catholic Parish



CHRISTMAS, The HOLY FAMILY  
The EPIPHANY & The BAPTISM  
of the LORD

25, 29 December & 5, 12 January



**This Christmas edition** of the parish bulletin tells the story of your parish in 2019, and is your invitation to be involved in the parish in 2020. We celebrate what God has done among us as a Christian community this year – we have many new people in the parish, more hospitality on Sundays, we've started Community Dinners and a Teen Youth Group. We've done the Ignatian Spiritual Exercises, read "Where the Hell is God?" and been led through Luke's Gospel by Bishop David. We've welcomed Bernadette Ho to our parish team and farewelled Adrian Brannan and Fr Andrew Kim.



I am excited at the possibilities of the new year ahead when we will offer the Alpha program, start a new playgroup, and partner with The Sydney Alliance to engage with the wider Chatswood community. (see details inside).



Thank you to each and every person who has served the parish in some way - there are too many of you to name here. Thanks especially to everyone who has served in a ministry for these Christmas Masses.



As we conclude our year together, we give thanks to God for the love he has shown us by coming to earth in the form of a baby – Jesus! God still comes to us in many ways; through Creation, the Bible, the Eucharist and the gathered community, and God still invites us to open our hearts so that like the shepherds, the angels and the wise men that first Christmas, we may come to worship Him! - Fr Jim McKeon, Pastor, on behalf of all the Parish Team



**New Year's Eve Mass:** Come and give thanks for 2019 and pray the new year in as we celebrate Mass at 7pm on New Year's Eve with adoration of the Blessed Sacrament following until 9pm.



**Christmas Day Collection:** Every Sunday two collections are taken up, with the first collection supporting all the clergy of Broken Bay Diocese, and the second collection supporting all the other works of the parish including all ministries, maintenance, staffing and improvements.

To make things simpler on Christmas Day we will take up only one collection and then distribute 50% of loose cash to the clergy fund and 50% to the parish fund. Any "Christmas Dues" envelopes go directly to the clergy fund.

The parish will be donating its part to our sister parishes of Bourke and Brewarrina in drought stricken western NSW as part of our social justice partnership, and it is our privilege to support them in this way.



**OUR MASSES: Monday to Friday –**  
Monday 12.15pm, Tuesday & Wednesday 9am,  
Thursday 9am & 12.15pm, Friday 9am  
**Saturday** - 9am and 5.30pm (Vigil)  
**Sunday** - 7.30am, 9am, 10.30am & 5.30pm  
**Filipino Mass (in English)** 12noon; 1<sup>st</sup> Sun of month  
**Indonesian Mass;** 7pm; 3<sup>rd</sup> Sun of month  
**Family Mass** - 9am each Sunday

## Within the Parish

### PARISH OFFICE HOLIDAY HOURS

The Parish Office will be closed from Christmas Day until Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2020. If your matter is urgent, please call 0473 046 906. Alternatively, you can leave a message on the answering machine (9410 9000) as it will be checked regularly.



### DAILY MASS

Weekday Masses, Adoration and Reconciliation times will continue unchanged during the Christmas holidays. See the front of the bulletin or [www.chatswoodparish.org.au](http://www.chatswoodparish.org.au) for details.

### TOILET FACILITIES AROUND THE CHURCH

Our toilets are located outside the Church, through the glass doors on the left hand side of the altar; across the carpark towards O.L.D. Primary School.



**We wish all the children, parents and teachers at all Schools a very safe and relaxing holiday break. We look forward to welcoming you all back in 2020.**

### SCHOOL REFERENCES

Throughout the year people contact the parish office seeking a parish priest's reference for enrolment into a Catholic School. In 2020, Fr Jim invites parents seeking a reference to attend a Parent Connect Gathering which will develop the partnership of parish, family and school in the project of teaching Catholic faith to children in both primary school and high school. We will host several gatherings throughout the year with the first one being held on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2020, 10-11am in the Magnificat Room (Cnr Kirk and Archer Streets). To RSVP, please book online through the parish website [bbcatholic.org.au/chatswood](http://bbcatholic.org.au/chatswood) under the schools tab. For more information, please contact Bernadette on 9410 9031 or email [bernadette.ho@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:bernadette.ho@bbcatholic.org.au)

During this Christmas Season let us be reminded that the spiritual lives of children are of unsurpassable value (CESA).

### CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM DEACON KEVIN HALE



How time flies. It is hard to believe that we have reached the end of another year, my third at Chatswood. This year has been a year of building community but also of moving out into the community.

The increased number of people who assist with the welcoming at each Sunday Mass and now the Community Dinners is proof of our growth. This is what Christ wanted when he was on this earth that we would look on each other as brothers and sisters.

We have a great parish here at Chatswood and I hope that we can continue our growth into the loving and caring community he envisaged. It is great that we now have a new Bishop and I hope he will continue to help us all grow in our faith.

It is my wish, and prayer, that the Lord will bless each and every one of you at this time when we remember, and celebrate, the great mystery of God becoming man to live amongst us.

May all have a very Happy and Blessed Christmas and if you are going away please come back safely.

Thank you for the support and prayers you have all given me. **Deacon Kevin**

### MOBILE PHONES

You might have your mobile phone in your pocket or purse right now. Don't forget to turn it to silent so you can enjoy the mass.

### FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY (Sunday Dec 29<sup>th</sup>):

How do we make our families holy? How can we strengthen our marriages? Pope Francis in his wonderful book *Amoris Laetitia* (*The Joy of Love*) writes of the power of accompanying people before marriage, during their engagement and all the way through their married life. Copies of this are available for \$10 from our piety store in the foyer or online: <https://amoris.ie/amoris-laetitia/>

Two excellent accompaniment and marriage enrichment programs are Marriage Encounter [www.wvme.org.au](http://www.wvme.org.au) which are a weekend encounter for couples, and the online resources of Smart Loving <https://smartloving.org/>. These are both for couples whose marriage is going well and want to deepen and sustain their love. There is also a 3 hour online course for marriages under stress: <https://smartloving.org/breakthrough-live/> - this is timely, as so many couples feel that stress more acutely in the holiday season.

YOU MATTER TO

God

YOU MATTER TO us



If you are our guests over the Christmas season, we are grateful that you have chosen to spend Christmas with us. Whether you have come following the invitation of a friend, have come back after a long time away, or just wandered in, we are thankful for you. We are glad that you are here and we hope that you feel our welcome in everything we do. We also want you to know that you are always welcome back here to worship with us.

### **WE'RE SO HAPPY YOU ARE HERE WITH US**

Our dream is to be a welcoming and joyful spiritual home where people encounter Jesus, choose to follow God, and become fully alive. We really hope that you feel at home here in our parish community. We are missionary disciples helping all people to know, love and serve Christ and God's Kingdom. Our mission is to make disciples of all nations, starting here, starting now.

### **A PLACE TO CALL HOME**

Visiting a new church can be a bit overwhelming. Here in our parish family we have intentionally built a culture that is casual and friendly, where you can truly be yourself. You'll find that our doors are wide open to people from all backgrounds, regardless of where they are on their spiritual journey.

If you're looking for a place where you can grow in a healthy, spiritual environment then we'd love to have you worship with us. Home was God's idea right from the start. And today, home is still a priority in God's kingdom; a place to gather, to love, to belong. We hope you will feel the message of hope, love, acceptance and peace with us.

### **WE ARE WELCOMING, COME AS YOU ARE!**

Casual or dressed up - it's up to you! Even if you've never been to Mass before or have not been in a long time, there is always a place for you here in our parish family. It's amazing how far some people travel to be part of our parish community. So what attracts them? What makes us distinctive? First of all we have a clear sense of purpose. We are striving to become a joyful, invitational community where people of all ages can encounter and entrust themselves to Jesus Christ; grow through formation and the Holy Spirit; and be encouraged to find practical ways of witnessing to God's love in the world.

### **WE ARE JOYFUL - LAUGH AND GROW STRONG**

We are a family where you can discover and experience the joy and love of Jesus and develop authentic relationships with others. We hope you noticed a lot of love, a lot of smiles, and a lot of joy when you visited us. And we hope that you noticed that some of that love, that joy, and those smiles were directed at you. We have tea, coffee and family-friendly games available every Sunday after the 9am Family Mass for you to enjoy as you get to know us.

### **WE ARE SPIRITUAL**

We are a community committed to knowing, loving and serving Christ and God's Kingdom. Our desire is that you may encounter Jesus and choose to follow Him. We want you to experience the love of Christ. It is transforming. It is forgiving. It is life-changing.

We have found that a fun way of encountering Jesus for the first time is through our Alpha course. Our next Alpha experience starts in February 2020.

### **WE ARE A HOME - THE MORE THE MERRIER!**

Bring your parents, your siblings, your children, your friends. Nothing makes us happier than a church full of families.

### **WE'D LOVE TO CONNECT WITH YOU!**

Perhaps you have questions and would like to find out more about who we are and what's on? Maybe you're considering joining our parish family and making our church your spiritual home? We'd love to connect with you so please come and say hello! We have an Information Hub on the forecourt after the 9am Family Mass where you can meet some of our friendly parishioners and ask questions. We also have friendly welcomers who love to greet guests before Mass, please ask them for a welcome pack. Alternatively, you can download a new parishioner welcome pack on our website [bbcatholic.org.au/chatswood](http://bbcatholic.org.au/chatswood).

### **NEXT STEPS?**

We invite you to fill out a connect card so we can get in touch with you. Bernadette Ho, our New Parishioner Engagement Coordinator, would be delighted to reach out and get to know you and help connect you into the life of our parish family. Bernadette can be reached on [bernadette.ho@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:bernadette.ho@bbcatholic.org.au) or phone 9410 9031.

We're so glad you're here with us.

*God bless you.* 

## CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM FR JOHN

Christmas is not a time or season, but a state of mind.

To have the real spirit of Christmas is to love, share and be at peace with God and others. When we open our hearts to the lonely and the frustrated and extend a helping hand to the sick, we will have the spirit of Christmas and experience the words of the angels who sang, "Peace to all of goodwill." So, be alive in Jesus Christ and celebrate your life. *Fr John Puliparambil*



## COMMUNITY DINNERS

Our Community Dinners are for everyone, Catholic and non-Catholic alike who want to share a meal in good company. It is a family friendly, smoke and alcohol free event at which everyone is welcome. We meet on Saturday nights in the hall across the school playground, also accessible from Ferguson Lane, 6.30pm – 7.30pm. Dinner will be on this coming Saturday Dec 28<sup>th</sup>, then we will take a two week break and return on January 18<sup>th</sup>.

## TEEN YOUTH GROUP

Our teen youth group is for young people in Year 7-10 in 2020, including Year 6 graduates of 2019. We have a gathering once a month on Sunday mornings during school term, and day trips during school holidays. Our summer holiday outing will be ice skating on Wed Jan 22<sup>nd</sup>, led by our young adult (university student) leaders and Fr Jim. A permission form is on the website [www.chatswoodparish.org.au](http://www.chatswoodparish.org.au) or contact [chatswoodparish@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:chatswoodparish@bbcatholic.org.au)

**PLEASE LIKE OUR FACEBOOK PAGE: Our Lady of Dolours!** We really want to create an online friendly forum, so if there's any news or information relevant to the Parish community - or even something like a nice prayer you'd like to share with the page: put it on the page or message the pages admin for them to then share with us all. Go to <https://www.facebook.com/OLDChatswood/> and like our page to get things happening now!



What is the Catholic Church doing to ensure children are kept safe? All clergy, staff and volunteers who work with children now do annual safeguarding training as well as having a current Working With Children Check. To find out more see [www.bbcatholic.org.au/chatswood/our-parish/safeguarding](http://www.bbcatholic.org.au/chatswood/our-parish/safeguarding)



We are excited to announce that we will be starting a new playgroup for 0-5-year olds and their carers in Term One of 2020. This will be held on **Monday mornings from 9 - 10.45am during school term**, in Harrington Hall above the kindergarten classrooms in Our Lady of Dolours School.

Contact Angela: [angela.hague@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:angela.hague@bbcatholic.org.au) for further details (after 20<sup>th</sup> January 2020)

## The Children's Atrium



Where children come to be with God



*Of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd - Is such a place.*

The program is run in three age groups and each room is prepared for them based on their stage of development and their religious needs and capacities at each stage.

The age groups and times available for children to come to the Atrium at Chatswood are;

- 3-6 year olds: Mondays 10am-11.30am  
Mondays 3.45-5.30pm  
Tuesdays 3.45-5.30pm  
Fridays 10am-11.30am
- 6-9 year olds: Mondays 3.45-5.30pm and  
Tuesdays 3.45-5.30pm
- 9-12 year olds: Mondays 3.45-5.30pm and  
Tuesdays 3.45-5.30pm

If you would like to know more about this wonderful ministry for your child, please contact Angela Hague at the parish office or email: [old.childrens.atrium@gmail.com](mailto:old.childrens.atrium@gmail.com)

## 9am Family Mass



is a family and child-friendly liturgy oriented to families with young children. This Mass is central to our mission of empowering parents in their role of bringing their children into relationship with God through their connection to the parish community.

***There are many ways you and your child can get involved in this Mass.***

- Join the Children's Liturgy of the Word
- Sing in the Children's Choir
- Children from Year 3 and up can join the Prayer Reading Roster

***But the best way to begin is to just turn up,  
see how everything unfolds  
and encourage your children to get involved.  
See you there!***



If you are in Year 2 to 6 in primary school and you love to sing, we would love you to come and join our **Kid's Choir!**

We sing at the **9am Mass** on the **third Sunday of each month** and would love to have you come and join us. The songs we sing are kid friendly and this is a great way to come and share your gift and love of singing with our parish community.

**January 19 2020 – is our next Mass!**

It's school holidays, but if you are around, just come and join us at the front right of the altar to help make our Mass music wonderful!

During the school holidays;

- Children's Liturgy,
- Childrens Readers
- And morning Tea

at the 9.00am Mass will take a break. We will resume activities again from Sunday 2 February 2020.

***We hope you all have a wonderful holiday and come back refreshed for 2020***

**happy holidays!**

## First Reconciliation 2020

Enrolments for preparation and reception of First Reconciliation will open via the parish website on Monday 27 January 2020.



In our parish, children are eligible to enrol for Reconciliation once they have been Baptised and Confirmed and have reached 7 years of age or older.

### To enrol your child

Go the parish website:

<https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/chatswood>

From the home page:

- Click on **Sacraments**
- Click on **Children's Sacramental Program**
- Click on **Enrolments**
- Click on **Reconciliation Enrolment Instructions**

Please print and/or read this file to gather all the information you will need to enrol.

When you are ready to enrol,

- Click on **Enrol in Reconciliation 2020**
- Enter all the details requested and as explained on the 'Instructions' file.

**Enrolments close on Monday 10 Feb 2019**



Twice a year, we run a preparation program for 6-12 year old children who would like to be baptised. This program includes the parents and

child attending preparation sessions together in a small group with other children and families.

Our next Kids' Baptism Program will begin on **Sunday 1 March 2020**. If you would like to know more about this program, or would like your child to join, you can download the information and enrolment forms from our parish website. <https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/chatswood>

- Click on **Sacraments**
- Click on **Baptism** and then **Kids' Baptism**.

If you would like to discuss baptism for your child at any age, please contact **Angela at the Parish Office**.

**A**t the heart of Christian faith is the reality that God who is love and mercy has become one with all of humankind in Jesus of Nazareth. As we celebrate this beautiful mystery of Christmas, it can also be a time to ponder Jesus' invitation to each of us to live the liberating message of God's love and mercy, as a sign that all of humanity is embraced by God in the incarnation of Jesus.

In this liturgical year, we listen to the Gospel of Matthew. Next Sunday, on the feast of the Holy Family, we will hear a part of the Christmas story that is far removed from Luke's account of angels singing and shepherds coming to worship Jesus. Matthew describes Joseph and Mary, after the birth of Jesus, having to hastily flee Bethlehem with him at night, to save Jesus from being killed by Herod. In other words, they were forced to leave a life-threatening situation to seek refuge in another country. We can see from the Gospel that they remained in Egypt for a few years. They could never return to Bethlehem because after Herod's death, his son was just as threatening. They eventually settled further north in Nazareth.



It is a challenging story which might be tempting to put aside in this time of Christmas, when we want to focus on joy, peace and the comforting familiarity of the Christmas story. It is difficult to imagine Jesus, Mary and Joseph as refugees, yet that was clearly what they were. God came to us at the first Christmas as a vulnerable refugee baby seeking welcome and safety.

## CHRISTMAS - THE CALL TO SEE GOD EVERYWHERE

*God came to us at the first Christmas as a vulnerable refugee baby seeking welcome and safety.*

### A DELEGATION OF CATHOLIC LEADERS TO PAPUA NEW GUINEA

At a public forum on 4 December, three members of a Catholic delegation to Papua New Guinea, Bishop Vincent Long, Diocese of Parramatta, Fr Peter Smith, Promoter of Justice & Peace, Archdiocese of Sydney and Carolina Gottardo, Director of Jesuit Refugee Services shared their experiences. They had travelled there to see first-hand the situation of people seeking asylum/refugee status and to understand their experiences. The forum happened to coincide with the announcement of the repeal of our government's MedeVac bill. Behrouz Boochani, who had escaped Manus Island in November was skyped into the forum from New Zealand.

Bishop Vincent said, ***“What we witnessed and heard confirms an alarming destruction of the physical and mental health of people already harmed by the offshore detention system. It is the result of systematic cruelty. Detainees are malnourished and not getting basic food, medical treatment and other support. Some have been in detention for up to seven years.”***

Behrouz Boochani expressed his deep concern for the fate of the men who are waiting in the Bomana detention centre in Port Moresby for the result of voting on the MedeVac bill. Carolina Gottardo is also concerned about what the future holds for these men who are denied visitors, phones and access to a lawyer.

Fr Peter reminded everyone that ***“We have power as a Church. We represent the Gospel...we can make a difference in this world. We can make a better Australia. We can make ourselves a better people by living the Gospel message that every human person on this planet is important: that was what Jesus said and lived – and that’s we need to echo.”***



To stay informed about this go to the **Catholic Alliance for People Seeking Asylum**  
[www.capsa.org.au](http://www.capsa.org.au)

### OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE WORLD

In 2020 our parish focus will be focus *Our Relationship with the World*. Our parish will partner with Sydney Alliance, whom we worked with last July to provide the Table Talk on *Changing the Conversation about People Seeking Asylum*.

If you are interested in the next step of this conversation, you are invited to be part of introductory training in **Catholic Social Teaching and Community Organising** led by David Barrow, Lead Organiser of Sydney Alliance.

**Tuesday 31 January  
3-5pm**

**or 6.30 - 9pm begins with a BBQ**  
Contact Gail for further information

9410 9021 or

[gail.gill@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:gail.gill@bbcatholic.org.au)

Sydney Alliance website

[www.sydneyalliance.org.au](http://www.sydneyalliance.org.au)

# Jesus was born 2000 years ago. So what?

Every year we celebrate the birth of Jesus at Christmas. But why? What makes Jesus so special that we remember him year after year. Come and explore this question, and the other big questions about life, faith, God and meaning as we do Alpha together in 2020.



Alpha is an introduction to Christian faith which assumes nothing. If you've never read the bible, never prayed, never been to church before, then Alpha is for you.

But it's also for you if you've been coming to church for a long time, maybe your whole life, but you've still got big questions.

In each Alpha session we have a meal together, watch a video, and have a conversation about what we've watched. We ask our questions and together work out the answers.

We'll be offering Alpha during Term 1 of 2020, once a week on Mondays, both at 1pm (for lunch) and 7pm (for dinner) so you'll find an Alpha to suit you. We're starting on Monday February 17<sup>th</sup>.

We'd love you to come! And bring a friend who needs to know Jesus!  
To preview the videos, go to [australia.alpha.org](http://australia.alpha.org)

To tell us that you're coming or find out more from the hosts  
Gillian Hawkins, Ditas Naguit and Fr Jim McKeon  
contact [chatswoodalpha@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:chatswoodalpha@bbcatholic.org.au)

Let's explore life, faith and meaning together in 2020!



**WITH OUR LADY OF DOLOURS WE PRAY FOR:**

All those who are sick, deceased, having anniversaries at this time or recently deceased. Please keep them and their families, in your prayers.

**COMMUNION RECEPTION**

Those going to Communion need to receive the host either on the hand or the tongue. The chalice is also offered at many of our masses and given to be sipped and then handed back to the Minister. "Self Intinction" (dipping the host into the chalice) is forbidden as only a priest is able to receive Communion in this manner.



**BULLETIN CHANGES FOR 2020**

Next year we will be changing the way we do our weekly bulletins. We will be printing a large bulletin (8 pages) once a month which will be used for 2 weekends and we will print a small bulletin (4 pages) fortnightly which will do for 2 weekends as well. We will also no longer be printing the roster and readings on the back page of the bulletin because you can find this information elsewhere. If you wish to have the readings during mass, please purchase a Missal or God's Word which are available in the Piety Stall.

The next bulletin will be printed on the weekend of 18/19 January. Please have any bulletin notices to the Parish Office via [chatswoodoffice@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:chatswoodoffice@bbcatholic.org.au) no later than Tuesday 13 January 2020.

**Church - Cnr Kirk & Archer Sts, Chatswood**  
**Parish Office - 94 Archer Street, Chatswood**  
**PO Box 1446, Chatswood, 2057**

**Phone: 9410 9000 or for an after hours' emergency call: 0473 046 906**  
[www.bbcatholic.org.au/chatswood](http://www.bbcatholic.org.au/chatswood)  
[chatswoodoffice@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:chatswoodoffice@bbcatholic.org.au)

**Parish Office hours:**  
**Mon-Fri 9.30am-1.30pm**  
**(school holidays)**

- Fr Jim McKeon (Parish Priest)*  
[jim.mckeon@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:jim.mckeon@bbcatholic.org.au)
- Fr John Puliparambil (Assist. Priest)*  
[john.puliparambil@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:john.puliparambil@bbcatholic.org.au)
- Deacon Kevin Hale (Deacon)*  
[kevin.hale@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:kevin.hale@bbcatholic.org.au)
- Nicole Gorman (Parish Secretary)*  
[nicole.gorman@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:nicole.gorman@bbcatholic.org.au)
- Gail Gill (Adult Faith Formation & Mission)*  
[gail.gill@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:gail.gill@bbcatholic.org.au)
- Angela Hague (Pastoral Assoc. for Children's Ministry)*  
[angela.hague@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:angela.hague@bbcatholic.org.au)
- Michael Mercer (Facilities & Finance Officer)*  
[michael.mercer@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:michael.mercer@bbcatholic.org.au)
- Amelia Lee (Bookkeeper)*  
[amelia.lee@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:amelia.lee@bbcatholic.org.au)
- Maricel Malapira (Catechist Coordinator)*  
[maricel.malapira@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:maricel.malapira@bbcatholic.org.au)
- Pressy Braganza (Admin Assistant for Children's Ministry)*  
[pressy.braganza@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:pressy.braganza@bbcatholic.org.au)
- Bernadette Ho (New Parishioner Engagement Co-Ordinator)*  
[Bernadette.ho@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:Bernadette.ho@bbcatholic.org.au)

**HOME ROSARY SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY:**

- 3 Jan @ 8/123 Burns Bay Rd, Lane Cove
- 10 Jan @ 45 Park Road, Naremburn
- 17 Jan @ 1/19 Clanwilliam St, Willoughby

**CATHOLIC MISSION APPEAL:** On Jan 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> you'll have the opportunity to contribute to the work of the church in developing nations, including supporting seminarians, priests, catechists and religious. Look out for the tax deductible envelopes.

# 100 YEARS

In April 2020 we celebrate 100 years of Our Lady of Dolours Church. We will have more details early next year as to how we will celebrate this great event. Keep an eye out for this information.