

OUR LADY OF DOLOURS Chatswood Catholic Parish



CHRISTMAS, The HOLY FAMILY
& The EPIPHANY of the LORD

25, 27 December & 3 January



Christmas will be very different this year. Our Christmas Masses will be smaller and more subdued due to Covid, and some people won't be able to come at all. We'll have less people gather for Christmas meals, and some of us will be far away from family and friends. International holidays were already cancelled, and now interstate holidays are too. But the good news which Christmas celebrates is undiminished: God has come into our world, to share our humanity, so that through him, Jesus Christ, we can share in divinity. This is true, and always is true, pandemic or not. And perhaps this year holds out a new possibility for us. Every year we bemoan the busyness of Christmas and the commercialisation of Christmas. But this year, perhaps, we have an opportunity to have a quieter Christmas. Time to stop, rest, be still, pray and reflect on the mystery that is the incarnation of Christ coming into our world. This is a gift, and it may be our best Christmas, the most real Christmas we've ever had. Franciscan friar Casey Cole (whose Youtube channel I highly recommend) puts it beautifully in this Christmas message <https://youtu.be/goymNhA-dyI>. So, however you celebrate Christmas this year, may God bless you with the irrepressible joy that can well up from the quiet place in your soul when you take the time to listen. – Fr Jim McKeon

Christmas Collections: on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day we will take up only one collection during Mass, and this will be divided 50/50 into the two funds for which we usually take up two collections. These are the "Pastoral Revenue" which is a fund for the clergy of the diocese, including those from our parish, and the "Church Account", which belongs to our own parish. As has become our tradition we will donate the portion given to the Church Account to one of our charities whom we partner with. This year it will be Streetwork, whose amazing work with young people at risk you heard about in October. See www.streetwork.org.au for more details.

New Year's Eve Mass at Our Lady of Dolours Church, Chatswood – 31st December 2020. Come and give thanks for blessings received in 2020 and pray the new year in as we participate in the Mass at 7pm on New Year's Eve followed by adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 9pm.

Please also join us in honouring Our Blessed Mother on New Year's Day, Friday 1st January, at 9am Mass as we celebrate the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. When Catholics celebrate the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God we are not only honouring Mary, who was chosen among all women throughout history to bear God incarnate, but we are also honouring our Lord, who is fully God and fully human. Calling Mary "Mother of God" is the highest honour we can give Mary.



OUR MASSES: Monday to Friday –

Monday 12.15pm, Tuesday 9am, Wednesday 9am & 12.15pm, Thursday 9am & Friday 9am

Saturday - 9am and 5.30pm (Vigil)

Sunday - 7.30am, 9am, 10.30am & 5.30pm

Filipino Mass (in English) 12noon; 1st Sun of month

Indonesian Mass; 7pm; 3rd Sun of month

Family Mass - 9am each Sunday

Within the Parish

FAREWELL FROM FR JIM: My last Masses at our parish will be on Sunday Jan 3rd. I'll physically move out on Monday 4th to give Fr David Ranson a couple of days to move in, so he can be in place to begin his ministry as your Parish Priest on Friday Jan 8th. If all goes well with restrictions on gatherings eased after Christmas, then I'll be around to say goodbye at each Mass in person and afterwards at morning teas or BBQs after each Mass on the weekend of Jan 3rd. If it turns out that Masses are cancelled then I will do a farewell by Zoom on Sunday 3rd at 4pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83838974921?pwd=VnNXaWEyMzJZdVdGV01vZFdpVnNMQT09>

I'll also post a farewell message on the parish Youtube channel

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOuWB-xkzimV6TdjNbTbSnw>

PARISH OFFICE HOLIDAY HOURS

The Parish Office will be closed from Christmas Day until Monday 4th January 2021. If your matter is urgent, please call 0473 046 906. Alternatively, you can leave a message on the parish office 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.bbcatholic.org.au/chatswood for details.

Please remember, there is no need to book in for weekday masses, but you do still need to book via the website on trybooking for weekend masses. January mass bookings will open on 4 January 2021 for the entire month.

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 2021.

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM DEACON KEVIN HALE

How times flies.



It is hard to believe that we have reached the end of another year, especially a year like this one.

It has certainly been a year unlike any we have ever experienced in the past.

At the beginning of this year who would have ever imagined we would find ourselves in a place where the churches were closed and we could not attend Mass.

The first Sunday of the lockdown was the strangest I have ever experienced.

For the first time in my life, I could not go to Church. A very weird feeling indeed. One which I know many of you experienced.

We have a great parish here at Chatswood and it was great to see how you all handled the difficulties and as restrictions were lifted you started coming back to Mass.

It has been a slow process but we are gradually getting there. Though I feel we may still have difficulties in 2021 until a vaccine is approved and a significant number of people are vaccinated.

It was sad to see Fr John leave and go to Manly Parish but we can be assured that he learnt how to be a priest here at Chatswood. I know he was keen to use those skills elsewhere.

We welcomed Fr Joey to our parish.

It was also sad to learn that Fr Jim is moving to a new parish and I know many of you will miss him and his energy, but I am sure Fr David Ranson will fit in very well and will be a great leader also.

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.

BISHOP ANTHONY'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Please click on this link:

<https://youtu.be/Y9M2KkUY8t4>



PARISH TEEN GROUP

Over the last 4 months the Teen Group planned and actioned their idea to give out care packages to the Homeless. This concept to give back to the Chatswood area has been

developed as part of the group's mission for the last year.



The idea was first introduced by Emanuela Leung in 2019, when she wanted to help the homeless people she saw on her way to school. Since then, the group rallied to raise money through busking, plan and pack the backpacks and was finally able to hand out the care packages last weekend.

Additionally, they undertook a series of Bible studies run by Deacon Aldrin to understand the meaning of their project and how it relates to Jesus' teachings.

Overall, the Homeless project was a spectacular success, with each member of the group taking away valuable lessons for the future. We look forward to seeing how the group can continue to grow in their 'faith through action' in the coming years.

If you are in years 7-12 and would like to join the Teen Group, please email Ashleigh and Sean at oldchatswood.teengroup@gmail.com

Thank you! Ashleigh

CREATIVE SOUL RETREAT with Elizabeth Lee. Held in the Parish meeting rooms 11-15 January 2021. For further information or to book, contact: Elizabeth.lee@visionandaction.com.au or visionandaction.com.au



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.

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM FR JOEY

I would like to take this opportunity to greet you all a Merry Christmas and a happy, prosperous, healthy, safe and blessed New Year!



2020 was a weird and difficult year for all of us but it was also a time for us to re-evaluate our life and priorities. We can also say that it was an opportunity for us to grow in our faith and our total trust in God in the midst of danger and uncertainty.

This Christmas gives us a renewed hope for a better tomorrow in the coming new year since God is giving us the true source of our optimism, His only begotten Son. With Jesus, who is the incarnation of God's love for us, we can be sure that we can conquer everything because Christ our Saviour has conquered death with His resurrection.

Let us then leave our fears and worries behind as we leave behind 2020. Let us start 2021 anew with the confidence that God make all things new!

COMMUNION RECEPTION

Ordinarily the Church allows people to receive the Body of Christ in their hands or on their tongue, however, during Covid it is sensible that we only receive on the hand. If that is not our preference then doing so is an act of love for others to ensure that we don't unwittingly spread a virus. For the same reason, the chalice is not offered due to Covid-19 restrictions.



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

Coming in 2021



Women & the New Testament

To celebrate International Women's Day which falls on 8 March in 2021, Dr Michele Connolly rsj will come to our parish to offer a presentation on Women and the New Testament which will also include space for conversation and questions.

SATURDAY 6 MARCH
2.30 TO 5.00PM
MAGNIFICAT ROOM

The focus is on women, but this is for everyone - women and men! Two facilitated opportunities for conversation before 6 March will be offered, dates & times TBC.

Contact Gail

gail.gill@bbcatholic.org.au OR 9410 9021



Sr Michele Connolly rsj is a Sister of St Joseph of Lochinvar in the Hunter Valley. She taught in Catholic Secondary Schools of the Maitland Diocese, including a stint as an R.E. Co-ordinator, for about ten years. She studied theology at YTU Melbourne, and in the USA, graduating in 2008 with a PhD from GTU, Berkeley, CA. Michele's principal area of interest is the Gospel of Mark. In 2018 her doctoral thesis was published by T&T Clark, under the title, *Disorderly Women and the Order of God: An Australian Feminist Reading of the Gospel of Mark*. Michele has taught in Sydney since the 1990s at CTU, Hunter's Hill and since 2001 at Catholic Institute of Sydney, Strathfield. Michele speaks regularly at seminars and conferences on the role of Scripture in our lives.



Living Laudato Si in 2021

Laudato Si' is part of the body of Catholic Social Teachings which inspire conversion of hearts and minds to Jesus' mission and lead to working for justice in our world. Pope Francis calls us to live out our encounter with Jesus Christ in the world around us. During this year, parishioners read *Laudato Si'* in small groups and some have come together to plan for ways that we can all live *Laudato Si'* in our every day lives. In 2021 look out for:

- ♣ Lenten Carbon Fasting
- ♣ Table Talks on Refugees & Asylum Seekers with Jesuit Refugee Services
- ♣ Supporting our Parish Social Justice Projects: StreetWork; Sister Parishes of Bourke & Brewarrina and Maubara Orphanage in Timor Leste
- ♣ Celebrating the Season of Creation in September with prayer, reflection and action
- ♣ Together, finding ways to live more simply in our parish and homes

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BEING PART OF
PLANNING FOR LIVING LAUDATO SI' ?
CONTACT GAIL: gail.gill@bbcatholic.org.au
9410 9021

*An authentic faith – which is never comfortable or completely personal – always involves a deep desire to change the world, to transmit values, to leave this earth somehow better than we found it. We love this magnificent planet on which God has put us, and we love the human family which dwells here, with all its tragedies and struggles, its hopes and aspirations, its strengths and weaknesses. The earth is our common home and all of us are brothers and sisters. Pope Francis **The Joy of the Gospel** 183*

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 are 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 2021.

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 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.

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 or phone 9410 9031.

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

God bless you. 

Catechist Ministry

As the year 2020 draws to an end, let us all reflect on what this different year brought to our lives in the ministry of special religious education. I would prefer to be concentrating on the things we should be grateful for.

ZOOM MEETINGS: When Catechists could not gather for term meetings, we made it possible through zoom meetings. All face-to-face trainings were cancelled however, completion of mandatory training was prepared by the CCD team through zoom training. Surprisingly, it worked well where more were able to attend with convenience.

LESSONS MADE EASY: PowerPoint presentations for our lessons were made readily available by the CCD Team making the delivery of each lesson much easier and very handy.

SERVICE AWARDS: The CCD annual mass in the Cathedral needed to be cancelled due to restrictions. The presentation of awards as one of its highlights was done in the local parish.



It was a great opportunity for the parishioners to witness these wonderful and dedicated Catechists

receiving their service awards. For the record, we had a Catechist who received a 30 Year Service Award.

ONE FOR ALL, ALL FOR ONE: Vulnerable people needed to hold off but alas, we managed to keep delivering SRE in each class in our state schools. Catechists have been very helpful in mentoring new recruits and taking additional classes when needed. New helpers/assistants stepped up to take their own classes.

Those who held off managed to make some dish cloths to be given as a gift from Catechists to their classroom teachers.



From the Catechist Ministry, wishing you a very Merry Christmas. Let us all continue to pray for all the Catechists and their families.

If you think you would like to get involved and be part of this very rewarding ministry or you would simply like more information, please contact **Maricel** on 9410 9029, or maricel.malapira@bbcatholic.org.au.

THANK YOU! You are Our Lady of Dolours Parish, and you have made great things happen this year, even through the ups and downs of lockdowns and physical distancing.

We've worshipped together and online, shared meals together, read, prayed, and studied together. We've taught hundreds of children in our state schools, and the St Vincent de Paul Society has brought material and spiritual help to many more. Children have been baptised, received confirmation, reconciliation and communion, and their parents prepared alongside them. We've taken communion to people who are housebound and prayed for those who have died. We've farewelled old parishioners and welcomed new ones. Thank you indeed for your love, your presence, your skills, and your financial generosity which has made all of this happen and more. We are indeed the parish, with the power of the Holy Spirit working through us. For whatever you have done for your parish this year, big or small, upfront or behind the scenes, accoladed or unnoticed - thank you. All that you have done for God's glory and the good of one another is of such great value and is much appreciated. Thank you to each and every one of you for your ministry in the parish -
Fr Jim McKeon and all the Parish Team.

9am Family Mass



is our family and child-friendly Mass. 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 and Reading Roster

To get involved, contact Angela at angela.hague@bbcatholic.org.au or just come along and join us.

We look forward to welcoming you!



Do you love to sing?

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 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.



Playgroup which has been in recess will resume on Tuesdays in 2021!

Our first session will be Tuesday 2 February

Where: Magnificat Meeting Room

When: Tuesdays 9.30-11.30am

Contact Angela in the parish office for more details.



Twice a year, we run a preparation program for 6-12 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 7 March 2021**. 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**.



Do you love to read?

Join our Kid's Reading Roster

Children from year 3 up can join our weekly prayer roster at the **9am Mass**. On the **third Sunday of each month**, children from year 5 can also join the roster to proclaim the readings at our Children's Mass.

This is a great way to come and re your gift and love of singing with our parish community.



Confirmation 2021

In our diocese, Confirmation is the next sacrament of initiation after Baptism. Children who are 8 years of age

or older are eligible to join this program if they have been baptised.

Enrolments for preparation and reception of Confirmation will open **Monday 10 May 2021** via our parish website.

If you would like to discuss Baptism, Confirmation or other sacraments for your child at any age, please contact **Angela at the Parish Office**. (9410 9033/angela.hague@bbcatholic.org.au)



The Children's Atrium

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

This 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. 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 4.00-5.30pm
Tuesdays 4.00-5.30pm
Fridays 9.45am-11.15am
- 6-9 year olds: Mondays 4.00-5.30pm and
Tuesdays 4.00-5.30pm
- 9-12 year olds: Mondays 4.00 -5.30pm and
Tuesdays 4.00-5.30pm

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



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.

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM DEACON ALDRIN

In this challenging time, Christmas is a time to renew our faith in God, to reclaim the real significance of the season, and that is Christ Jesus himself. Christmas without faith will be emptied of its meaning. May you have a wonderful Christmas celebration with your family and friends.

Deacon Aldrin is on annual leave Dec 28th – Jan 3rd.

PLEASE LIKE OUR FACEBOOK PAGE: Our Lady of Dolours! Go to https://www.facebook.com/OLDC_hatswood/ and like our page to get things happening now!



BAPTISMS during this time in the Parish:
Axel Ombo Narabima and
Caitlyn Mendigoran



*Unto Us
a Child is Born*



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
chatswoodoffice@bbcatholic.org.au

Parish Office hours:
Mon-Fri 9.30am-1pm
(school holidays)

Fr Jim McKeon (Parish Priest)
jim.mckeon@bbcatholic.org.au
Fr David Ranson (Parish Priest from 8 Jan 2021)
David.ranson@bbcatholic.org.au
Fr Joey Frez (Assistant Priest)
joey.frez@bbcatholic.org.au
Deacon Kevin Hale (Deacon)
kevin.hale@bbcatholic.org.au
Deacon Aldrin Valdehueva (Deacon)
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Nicole Gorman (Parish Secretary)
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Gail Gill (Faith Formation & Social Justice)
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