

Parish Office: 94 Archer St, Chatswood NSW 2067 (02) 9410 9000 | Emergency: 0473 046 906 | PO Box 1446 Chatswood, NSW 2057

THE BULLETIN

8 DECEMBER 2024
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT





GLAD YOU'RE HERE | Jefcome



HOPE FOR THOSE WHO ARE WEARY

Priest: The Light shines in the darkness, **All: but the darkness has not overcome it.**

Priest: For those waiting for answered prayer:

All: Grant your steadfast patience.

Priest: During Advent our weary souls seek God's daily strength.

All: The Lord gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.

Priest: We grow weary when fear overshadows faith.

All: The Lord gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.

Priest: We grow weary when destructive actions erupt in the world around us.

All: The Lord gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.

Priest: For all of us feeling weary this Advent season:

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: Today we light two candles. The first candle illuminates patience in the areas of our lives where God has called us to wait. The second candle extends the promise of strength to all who feel weary and weak in the shadows of this world. As we continue our Advent journey, may our hope be kindled as the light grows brighter.

Closing Prayer

All: God of mercy and compassion, scripture says that if we draw near to you, you will draw near to us. In a shadowy world where human weakness and weariness reside, we ask for you to draw near and dispel the darkness around us. May the light of this season illuminate our hope, strength, and steadfast endurance as we await the coming Savior. We pray this in the name of Christ, our Lord. Amen.



Dear friends



We **welcome back Fr Joey** from his great time of leave in the USA. It is great to have him home safely with us. In so doing, we also express our **gratitude to Fr Sam French** who helped us in Fr Joey's absence. Fr Sam writes to us.

Dear Parishioners of OLOD Chatswood,

Over the past two weeks, it has been my privilege to serve in the parish while Father Joey was on holiday. I would like to thank you all for the warm hospitality and kindness you have shown me during my time here. Your welcome and genuine comments and conversations are a testament to the Holy Spirit being alive and active in this place.

As I head off to other duties, I ask for your prayers, and can assure you of mine. May God continue to bless each of you this Advent as we await the coming of our Saviour.

In Christ, Fr Sam

As we journey into our Season of Advent, renewing our hearts in anticipation of Christmas, we become more conscious of those not as fortunate as ourselves. Our **St Vincent de Paul Society** is a wonderful way through which we can reach out in a very practical way to those needing our help.

- This weekend, we have our annual Christmas Appeal Weekend. Your donation will go directly to helping the local households in need. Your generosity is much appreciated.
- Helping with the delivery of Christmas Hampers and gifts. Over 70 local households (greater than 100 people) have been helped by Chatswood Vinnies in the last year. Many of these households were new to Vinnies and some were seen several times throughout the year in order to meet their varied and sometimes complex needs. The work for the local Vinnies has grown to unprecedented levels. In December we hope to provide Christmas hampers and gifts to the people in these households including 36 children. This can only happen with the support we receive from our schools and local community.
- Helping with a Christmas BBQ on Tuesday 17th December, in collaboration with St George Housing, we will host a Christmas BBQ at a large social housing complex in Artarmon. We know many people living here feel socially isolated, have expressed feelings of loneliness, and some suffer from severe mental illness. We hope the event will bring some hope and joy to the residents.

Chatswood Vinnies are also looking for more volunteers for the following activities:

- One-off volunteering: Christmas hampers delivery to local people in need (must have own motor vehicle and physical capacity to carry filled shopping bags)
- Long term volunteering: Various activities of community outreach (would suit those who have some daytime availability during the week).

Interested? Contact El on email el.herlianto@vinnies.org.au or John on 0439 783 956

This coming week we have a number of special occasions which are part of our **Advent** commemoration

- On Monday 9 December, the Church celebrates the **Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception**. We will have Masses celebrated both at 12.30pm and 7.00pm
- On Thursday 12 December, we celebrate the Feast day of **Our Lady of Guadalupe** at which we remember all those pregnant with new life. We will have a special Mass for the feastday at 7pm, replacing our usual Holy Hour on that evening
- On Friday 13 December, Bishop Anthony joins us for the launch of our annual Simbang Gabi celebration, our Filipino community's cultural way of marking the final journey to Christmas. From Monday 16 December, we will celebrate Mass at 5.30am each morning in our church until 24 December. Many people join us for these dawn Masses with breakfast on the Forecourt following. What a beautiful way to prepare for Christmas!
- And then on Saturday 14 December, join us on the Chatswood Concourse at 7.30pm for an hour of Carols and Prayer with our choir of over 100 people – a whole new initiative in which we will be joined by many of our fellow Christian Churches in Willoughby.

THIS WEEKEND

This weekend we support our wonderful Vinnies team with their Christmas appeal.

This Saturday at 4 PM, our public rosary returns to the church forecourt. Join us in prayer for the world.

On Sunday evening at 8 PM, celebrate the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary with us by praying the rosary online via Zoom.
Join here:
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8034195601
Meeting ID: 803 419 5601 (no password required).

This Sunday morning, the PEW Giftshop will be set up outside, offering a beautiful selection of Christmas gifts.

Right next to them,
Carla from ATLAS will
be selling delicious
Christmas fruit cakes
to support their vital
work in Timor-Leste.
Stop by, shop for
meaningful gifts, and
help make a
difference this
Christmas!

May the joy and hope of this season fill our hearts!

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@bbcatholic.org.au by Wednesday.



Mother bereaved of thy Son, pray for us.

IN OUR PRAYERS WE REMEMBER:

Our loved ones who have recently passed away:

Saroja Chellamma; Ramon Calimbahin Sr (grandfather of Monty and Boppy Calimbahin).

Our loved ones who are sick:

Su de Sousa; Xu He Ooi; Carmel Villanueva; Coral Coughlin (wife of Tom); 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; Dilia Ng; 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 Vlasic; The mother of Fr Greg Skulski; 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:

Mary Ladd (sister of Patricia Biddell); Ivan (Ive) Bacic; Bacic Mate.

GOSPEL REFLECTION: HOPE IN THE WILDERNESS

I'm a bit overwhelmed with this Sunday's Gospel about preparing the way for the Lord - I can't event prepare my house for visitors, or prepare my hair for the day - and John the Baptist and the Prophet Isaiah want me to go and make my entire LIFE ready for God? Can't we start small with just making the bed? Funnily enough, I think I can start with a small act of preparation... but only if it leads me out of the crazy busyness of my life, and into the wilderness.

This Sunday's Gospel (Luke 3:1-6) introduces John the Baptist to us with detail about the rulers of the time. Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate, Herod, and others dominate the political and religious landscape. These figures represent power and control, and the Gospel grounds us in a real point in history; but it also makes a striking comparison: that amidst the noise and clamour of empires, with incredible rulers and powerful people alive in the world, the Word of God doesn't come to any of them — it comes to the crazy and humble saint John, in the wilderness.

God's voice finds John not in the courts of kings, bustling cities, or grand temples, but in a space of stillness and solitude.

The wilderness, so often viewed as desolate and unproductive, becomes the cradle of divine revelation. Why? Because silence creates the room to hear.

In our own lives, the "rulers" of busyness, distraction, and constant noise can crowd out the gentle voice of God. We chase productivity, fill our schedules, and pack our minds with endless thoughts, leaving little space for grace to enter. But the wilderness teaches us that God doesn't shout over the noise; He waits for us in the quiet.

Once John encountered God, he left the wilderness with urgency and purpose, preaching to crowds, baptizing, and pointing people to Christ. The wilderness didn't diminish his mission; it prepared him for it.

What is your wilderness right now? Maybe it's a challenging relationship, a season of waiting, or a sense of being stuck. What if that's the place where God is preparing you to bring His love and hope to others? Whatever it is, remember that silence is not emptiness. The wilderness is not absence. God is there, leveling the valleys, straightening the paths, and preparing you to receive His Word. The wilderness—those moments in our lives that feel empty, barren, or uncertain—isn't a place to remain forever. It's a place of preparation. In the quiet of the wilderness, God speaks, strengthens, and equips us for something greater. Just like John, when we encounter God's Word, it doesn't just comfort us—it sends us.

This Advent, instead of fearing the stillness, lean into it. Let the wilderness of your life be the place where God speaks. Sometimes, the greatest transformations come from the smallest acts of preparation. Like John in the wilderness, we don't have to have everything figured out to begin. It starts with a willingness to turn to God, even in our chaos. Maybe it's in those small daily moments that we prepare the way for something greater.

The wilderness reminds us that God often bypasses the loud and the mighty, choosing instead to meet us in still, unexpected places. Are you ready to listen? "The Word of God came to John in the wilderness" Will it find you there too?



FLYERS FOR CAROLS AT THE CONCOURSE

At the tables near the Archer Street entrance of our church, you'll find stacks of A5 flyers for our Carols at the Concourse event. We'd love your help in spreading the word!

Take a few flyers and pop them in mailboxes on your street, share them with neighbors, or give them to loved ones—anyone who might enjoy a joyful night of singing and celebration.

If you need more flyers, please don't hesitate to contact the parish office, and we'll gladly print additional copies for you to distribute. Thank you for helping us bring a little extra joy to our community this Christmas!

Congratulations to the Journey of Truth participants who concluded the course and came together to celebrate this milestone!

SAINT JOHN OF THE CROSS MEMORIAL 14 DECEMBER

- Born as Juan de Yepes Álvarez in 1542, he adopted the name "John of the Cross" after joining the Carmelites and dedicating his life to reform and mystical prayer.
- Together, John and Teresa of Ávila worked to reform the Carmelite order, promoting a return to its original spirit of simplicity, humility, and contemplation. This led to the founding of the Discalced Carmelites.
- Due to resistance to his reform efforts, John was imprisoned by members of his own Carmelite order. During his imprisonment in a tiny cell, he wrote some of his most profound spiritual poetry, including parts of The Spiritual Canticle.

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! Continuo

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. Fhursday

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. Tuesdo

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.

Nednesd



OUR LADY OF DOLOURS CATHOLIC CHURCH

94 Archer St, Chatswood chatswoodoffice@bbcatholic.org.au

carlagageler@ Thank you for

your support!



CARING FOR OUR WORLD

OLOD Parish Tertiary Education Scholarship for Timor Leste is partnering with ATLAS a volunteerrun charity that aims to lift the people of Timor-Leste out of poverty supporting education training to raise funds for our Timor Leste projects. Fifty percent of profits on cakes we sell will go to our own Tertiary Scholarship and remaining profits to other ATLAS projects including Maubara Orphanage, micro business grants and support for an aged care facility in a remote

Cakes will be available for sale this Sunday, December 8th at after 7.30am, 9am, 10.30am and 5.30pm Masses.

Those who have pre-ordered will be able to pick up their cakes after these Masses as well.

Support this initiative and make a difference for the people of Timor-Leste!

Price: \$30 each

For any order questions call Carla at 0402 373 728 or email carlagageler@outlook.com

ATLAS II



Super Mums! At Mum's ministry, Nash showed us how to make these beautiful Advent wreaths!



Our Ministers of the Word gathered for their Christmas and End of Year celebration! Thank you to Ditas for organising this wonderful event, and thank you to Sally for all your help!



Join us for our last Playgroup gathering of the year next week! We're planning a special Christmas celebration with teachers and students coming to distribute Christmas cards to the parents.

We'd love for parents and children to join us in celebrating Christmas at playgroup. All are welcome!





Was there no room in the Inn for Fr Sam??



Merry Christmas from the Seniors and Grandparents Morning Tea group! At our last gathering for the year, Fr David thanked and acknowledged the great generosity of Gregory and Carr and their support; and we were so lucky to have Rebecca and Jacki from OLOD Primary bring over students to visit, sing carols, and give us the beautiful Christmas Cards they made!

Happy Birthday also to Pauline and Bev - and thank you to the wonderful Jan for joining us bringing her beautiful handmade cookies and chocolates!

See you on February 6th, 2025!

On Sunday we held our first welcome lunch for the new RCIA candidates and it was wonderful! Thank you so much for Hannah, Amelia, Sharon and everyone else in the Chinese Catholic Associaton who organised this wonderful act of hospitality. Wishing all our RCIA candidates the very best and lots of love and prayers for this part of your journey!



On Sunday our Music Ministry had their Christmas lunch and celebrated an incredible year! Thank you to all who serve God through this ministry, and a big thank you to Celine and Dani for their wonderful organisation!



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.

DEPARTS MONDAY 03 NOVEMBER 2025 • 11 DAYS / 8 NIGHTS

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



Accompanied by

Fr David Ranson



DUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT / C

8 DECEMBER 2024

PREPARE A WAY FOR THE LORD. The season of Advent is a time in which we prepare for the Lord's coming. We prepare for the feast of Christmas which commemorates his first coming as a child in Bethlehem. And we prepare also for his final coming in glory. We do this by heeding John the Baptist's call to repentance, and by striving for 'peace through integrity, and honour through devotedness'.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON cf. Isa 30: 19, 30 O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in

GREETING

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

R. Amen.

P. Grace to you and peace from God our

and the Lord Jesus Christ.

the joy of your heart.

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. You were sent to heal the contrite of heart: Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

P. You came to call sinners: Christ, have mercy.

R. Christ, have mercy.

You are seated at the right hand of the Father to intercede for us: Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

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

The Gloria is not said during Advent

COLLECT

P. Almighty and merciful God, may no earthly undertaking hinder those who set out in haste to meet your Son, but may our learning of heavenly wisdom gain us admittance to his company. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

Bar 5:1-9

A reading from the prophet Baruch. Jerusalem - God will show you splendour. Jerusalem, take off your dress of sorrow and distress,

put on the beauty of the glory of God for ever, wrap the cloak of the integrity of God around you,

put the diadem of the glory of the Eternal on your head:

since God means to show your splendour to every nation under heaven,

since the name God gives you for ever will be, 'Peace through integrity, and honour through devotedness.'

Arise, Jerusalem, stand on the heights and turn your eyes to the east: see your sons reassembled from west and east at the command of the Holy One, jubilant that God has remembered them.

Though they left you on foot, with enemies for an escort, now God brings them back to you like royal princes carried back in glory. For God has decreed the flattening of each high mountain, of the everlasting hills, the filling of the valleys to make the ground

so that Israel can walk in safety under the glory of God.

And the forests and every fragrant tree will provide shade

for Israel at the command of God; for God will guide Israel in joy by the light of his glory

with his mercy and integrity for escort. The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 125, R, v, 3

R. The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

- 1. When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage, / it seemed like a dream. / Then was our mouth filled with laughter, / on our lips there were songs. R.
- 2. The heathens themselves said: 'What marvels / the Lord worked for them!' / What marvels the Lord worked for us! / Indeed we were glad. R.
- 3. Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage / as streams in dry land. / Those who are sowing in tears / will sing when they reap. R.
- 4. They go out, they go out, full of tears / carrying seed for the sowing: / they come back, they come back, full of song, / carrying their sheaves. R.



SECOND READING

Phil 1:3-6, 8-11

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

Show yourselves sinless and without blame in the day of Christ.

Every time I pray for all of you, I pray with joy, remembering how you have helped to spread the Good News from the day you first heard it right up to the present. I am quite certain that the One who began this good work in you will see that it is finished when the Day of Christ Jesus comes. God knows how much I miss you all, loving you as Christ Jesus loves you. My prayer is that your love for each other may increase more and more and never stop improving your knowledge and deepening your perception so that you can always recognise what is best. This will help you to become pure and blameless, and prepare you for the Day of Christ, when you will reach the perfect goodness which Jesus Christ produces in us for the glory and praise of God.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lk 3:4, 6

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Lk 3:1-6

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.

All people shall see the salvation of God.

In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar's reign, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judaea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of the lands of Ituraea and Trachonitis, Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the pontificate of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. He went through the whole Jordan district proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the sayings of the prophet Isaiah:

A voice cries in the wilderness:
Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight.
Every valley will be filled in,
every mountain and hill be laid low,
winding ways will be straightened
and rough roads made smooth.
And all mankind shall see the salvation
of God.

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

P. Be pleased, O Lord, with our humble prayers and offerings, and, since we have no merits to plead our cause, come, we pray, to our rescue with the protection of your mercy. 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 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: When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.

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 Bar 5: 5; 4: 36

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P. Replenished by the food of spiritual nourishment, we humbly beseech you, O Lord, that, through our partaking in this mystery, you may teach us to judge wisely the things of earth and hold firm to the things of heaven. 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

R. Amen.

P. Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.

R. Thanks be to God.

BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

PREPARE A WAY FOR THE LORD

Today's Gospel places us squarely within history and competing political leadership. Luke introduces us to the ascetic and enigmatic figure of John the Baptiser. There are four elements to Luke's presentation of John. He comes into Luke's Gospel within the context of imperial power, local politics and religious leadership; he proclaims a baptism 'of repentance'; his ministry reflects the liberating words of the ancient prophet, Isaiah, to prepare for the coming of the Messiah. Significantly, God's word comes to John in the wilderness. This is the symbolic place of nothingness and struggle. It's a marginal and liminal space and links to Israel's encounter with God in their forty years' wanderings.

These four aspects about John speak to us: We seek to live our contemporary discipleship with authenticity and fidelity within a world of power politics and church struggles; we, too, find ourselves at times in life's 'wilderness'—that symbol of struggle and nothingness; at the same time, we seek to honour our baptismal commitment as we desire to orient our lives towards God; we prepare ourselves, in the spirit of Isaiah, for the coming of our Messiah, Jesus.

This Sunday might become a time to invite John the Baptist to be our companion in preparing our hearts for the birth of Jesus. In the words of Isaiah, we are invited this Sunday to 'Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight'. We ready our hearts for God's coming to us in the anticipated birth of Jesus.

FR MICHAEL 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.



CARING FOR OUR WORLD



We've received 80 requests for help since our Winter Appeal-more than double the usual number-and used over \$21,500 to meet urgent needs like housing, homelessness, and domestic violence support.

Your generosity allows us to continue helping those in crisis.

All donations are tax deductible.

Can you offer your time to help those in need? Because of this increase in demand for our help, our little group is in need of more helpers.

Contact:

- · El: El.Herlianto@vinnies.org.au
- John: 0439 783 956

Thank you for your support this







THE POPE'S MONTHLY PRAYER **INTENTION FOR DECEMBER 2024**

For pilgrims of hope

We pray that this Jubilee Year strengthen our faith, helping us to recognize the Risen Christ in our daily lives, and that it may transform us into pilgrims of Christian hope.

VINNIES CHATSWOOD NOVEMBER REPORT

Chatswood Parish St Vincent de Paul Society received 13 calls for help in November.

Two of these did not require use of material resources, four involved DV or other stressful circumstances,.

The remainder involved moving into new accommodation (one from homelessness), help with coping with financial problems, bills, school uniforms and lack of food..Some \$2500 was expended on essential assistance.









LAUNCH OF CHRISTMAS NOVENA MASSES

Filipino Chaplaincy Broken Bay invites you to the Launch join Simbang Gabi (Night/Dawn Mass) on Friday, 13th of December at 7:00pm to be held at Our Lady of Dolours Parish Church. Our Bishop Anthony Randazzo will be the main Presider at this Mass.

The practice (9)celebrating Novena Masses is a Christmas tradition that started in the Philippines and is now embraced in many Catholic communities in Australia. It is a call to mission to prepare for the coming birth of Jesus and an opportunity to pray in joyful anticipation of the true meaning Christmas. **PAROLS** or Christmas Lanterns will adorn the church to symbolise the Light Christ for all to see. The Novena is celebrated over 9 consecutive dawn or evening masses 15th-24th December.

In our Diocese of Broken Bay, the novena will be held at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Rosary in Waitara, Our Lady of Dolours in Chatswood, St Kevin's Church in Dee Why and Triduum Mass at St. Cecilia's Church in Wyong. Dates and times are indicated in the flyer.

In keeping with Filipino tradition, food and fellowship will follow at the end of Mass.

Please RSVP by Sunday 8th December using the QR code in the flyer for catering purposes. Everyone welcome!



Lunar New Year 2025 Raffle Prizes

Raffle drawn on 2 February 2025 around 12:00 noon at the forecourt of Our Lady of Dolours Church Chatswood

1st Prize: \$500 Coles Gift Card

2nd Prize: A night for 2 at Fairmont Resort Blue Mountain

3rd Prize: 1 Day Spiritual Retreat for 2 at JISA Pymble

4th Prize: \$300 Myers Gift Card

5th Prize: Whale Watch for 2 in Sydney

6th Prize: \$200 Uniqlo Gift Card

7th Prize: \$150 Voucher Mr Fat Duck Restaurant Chatswood

8th Prize: 1.5 hour Spiritual Retreat for 2 at JISA Pymble

Trybooking QR code for buying raffle available now



or head to
https://www.trybooking
.com/CWZKE



RAFFLE PRICES

\$10.00 FOR 1 | \$15.00 FOR 2 | \$20.00 FOR 4 VIA CASH AT PARISH OFFICE AVAILABLE NOW AT CHURCH FOYER BEFORE AND AFTER WEEKEND MASS FROM 16 NOV 2024

Contact: amelia.lee@bbcatholic.org.au or 9410 9032

SAINT LUCY MEMORIAL 13 DECEMBER

 The name Lucy comes from the Latin word lux, meaning light. She is often associated with brightness and hope, especially in the dark days of winter, and is a patron saint of the blind and those with eye issues.



FAMOUS CHINESE BIBLE QUOTE

天主要在喜樂中,以自己本有的仁慈和 正義,在自己榮耀的光輝下,親自領回 以色列。**巴路克5:9**

For God is leading Israel in joy by the light of his glory, with the mercy and justice that are his. **Baruch 5:9**

Chatswood Chinese Catholic Association

RayWhite.

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- Saint Lucy's feast day, December 13, originally coincided with the Winter Solstice in the old Julian calendar. It symbolised the return of light as the days began to lengthen.
- Lucy was martyred during the Diocletian persecution around 304 AD. According to tradition, she refused to marry a wealthy pagan and vowed her life to Christ, giving her dowry to the poor.
- One story says that Lucy had her eyes gouged out as part of her torture, but God miraculously restored her sight. She is often depicted in art holding a platter with her eyes on it, symbolizing her role as the patron saint of eyesight.
- In Scandinavian countries, Saint Lucy's Day is celebrated with processions featuring girls dressed in white robes with red sashes (symbolizing martyrdom) and a wreath of candles on their heads. This festival is called Luciadagen and marks the triumph of light over darkness.
- Lucy's relics can be found in Venice, Italy, in the Church of Santa Lucia. Parts of her relics are also said to be in Sweden, Germany, and other places.

SEEKING VOLUNTEERS

to participate in

This wonderful
initiative is part
of the work of our
young
parishioner
Carissa!

Befriending with Genie program



Are you or someone you know



65 years and above AND living with diagnosed dementia or having problems with their memory or thinking?

____ OR



providing care to a family member/friend who is living with dementia?

____ AND .



Are you interested in expanding your social support network to reduce loneliness?

We are looking for participants from

- Chinese & Hindi speaking backgrounds
- Living at home (not in residential aged care facilities)
- Living in Sydney

If so, join our 8-week Befriending with Genie program which aims to reduce loneliness, and increase social support for people living with dementia, and caregivers from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

The project is being conducted by researchers at Edith Cowan University in Perth, National Ageing Research Institute in Melbourne, and The University of Sydney in Sydney.

Want to learn more?

- Watch the project video
- http://www.youtube.com /@BwG-Information-Consent
- Scan the QR code
- Available in Hindi
 http://www.youtube.com
 /@BwG-Information-Consent
- Please discuss the information with a family member or close friend



Contact the research team.



Fill in this online form

- https://redcap.link/bwgen-eoi
- Scan QR code



OR

 \searrow

Email: bwgen@ecu.edu.au

A researcher will contact you to chat about the project.



NEXT WEEK: CHURCH EVENTS, PRAYER, AND LITURGY

Monday 9 December

Solemnity:
The Immaculate
Conception of the
Blessed Virgin
Mary

- 11:30am Chaplet of Divine Mercy, Rosary (Cenacle, MMP).
- 12:30pm Mass
- 1pm Rosary.
- 1:30pm Organ practice SC.
- 3pm Organ practice SL.
- 4:30pm Organ Lesson BO.
- 7pm Mass

Tuesday 10 December

- 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 Organ practice OC.

Wednesday 11 December

- 8:45am Morning Prayer.
- 9am Mass.
- 9:30am Rosary and Chaplet of Divine Mercy.
- 12:30pm Mass.
- 1pm Rosary.
- 3:30pm Organ practice BJ.
- 6:30pm Evening Mass of Hope.

Thursday 12 December

- 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 Mass Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Friday 13 December

> Memorial: Saint Lucy

- 8:45am Morning Prayer.
- 9am Mass.
- 9:30am Rosary and Chaplet of Divine Mercy.
- 10:30am Organ pracitoded SC.
- 12:30pm Mass.
- 3pm Organ lesson BJ.
- 4pm Organ lesson AH.
- 4:45pm Organ practice BO.
- 7pm Launch of Novena Masses.

Saturday 14 December

Memorial: Saint John of the Cross

- 8:45am Morning Prayer.
- 9am Mass
- 9:30am Eucharistic Exposition & Adoration, Reconciliation, Rosary.
- 10:00am Novena Our Lady of Perpetual Help.
- 10:30am Carols Rehearsal.
- 1:30pm Wedding.

- 4:30pm Vigil Singers.
- 5:30pm Vigil Mass.

Sunday Mass

3rd Sunday of

Advent

15 December

- 7:30am Mass.
- 9:00am Mass.
- 10:30am Mass.
- 1:30pm Organ practice SC.
- 2:30pm Organ practice AH.
- 5:30pm Mass.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

SOLEMNITY 8 DECEMBER

- Many people mistakenly believe
 the Immaculate Conception
 refers to Jesus' conception, but it actually refers to the
 conception of the Virgin Mary in the womb of her
 mother, Saint Anne, free from original sin.
- Although belief in Mary's sinless conception has existed since the early Church, it was officially defined as dogma by Pope Pius IX in his apostolic constitution Ineffabilis Deus on December 8, 1854.
- While the term "Immaculate Conception" doesn't appear in the Bible, it is derived from passages like Luke 1:28, where the angel Gabriel calls Mary "full of grace," implying her purity and special role.
- Mary, under the title of the Immaculate Conception, was declared the patroness of the United States in 1846, even before the dogma was proclaimed.
- In 1858, just four years after the dogma was declared, Mary appeared to St. Bernadette Soubirous in Lourdes, France, identifying herself as "the Immaculate Conception." This confirmed the Church's proclamation in the eyes of many believers.
- The word "immaculate" comes from the Latin immaculatus, meaning "unstained" or "without spot," emphasising Mary's preservation from original sin, not her own conception by a miraculous means.
- Mary's parents, St. Anne and St. Joachim, are central
 to the story of her Immaculate Conception. They are
 often depicted in art, especially in scenes of the
 "Golden Legend," which narrates their longing for a
 child.
- The Immaculate Conception has inspired countless works of art, particularly during the Baroque period.
 Mary is often portrayed standing on a crescent moon, surrounded by stars, crushing a serpent under her feet.
- The doctrine doesn't imply that Mary's conception was scientifically different from any other. Instead, it teaches that God applied the merits of Christ's redemption to her at the moment of her conception.

NEXT WEEK IN THE MEETING ROOMS

Monday 9 December

- 10am Atrium for 3-6 year olds (Atrium).
- 11:30am Atrium Christmas (St Paul).
- 3:45pm Atrium for 3-6, 6-9 & 9-12 year olds (Atrium).
- 5:30pm Atrium Christmas (St Paul).

Tuesday 10 December

- 10am Bible Study (St Paul).
- 3:45pm Atrium for 3-6, 6-9 & 9-12 year olds (Atrium).
- 5:30pm Atrium Christmas (St Paul).
- 7pm Indo. Legion of Mary (St Peter).
- 7pm Filipino Choir (Harrington Hall).

Wednesday 11 December

- 9:30am English Lifestyle Conversations (Magnificat).
- 6:30pm Indonesian Instruments (Harrington Hall).
- 7pm Exploring the Faith (St Peter).

Thursday 12 December

- 10am Atrium for 3-6 year olds (Atrium).
- 1pm Playgroup (Magnificat) set up 12pm.
- 6pm Altos choir practice (St Paul).
- 6:30pm Christmas Choir (Harrington).

Friday 13 December

- 10am Meditation and Sharing (St Peter) set up 9:30am.
- 6pm Gathering Launch Simbang Gabi (Magnificat).
- 7pm Online Zoom Meditation and Sharing.

Saturday 14 December

- 10am Music Lessons (St Paul).
- 10:30am Legion of Mary Praesidium (St Peter) set up 10am.
- 10:45am MCAG (Magnificat).
- 12pm Catechist Christmas lunch (Magnificat).

Sunday Mass 15 December

- 9am Choir (St Paul).
- 11am RCIA (St Peter).
- 2pm Focolare Community Christmas Carols (Harrington Hall).
- 6:30pm Capstone Young Adults (Magnificat, St Paul, St Peter) set up 4:30pm.

REFLECTING ON THE GOSPEL:

- The Word of God came to John in the wilderness. Where is the "wilderness" in your life—a quiet place or even a challenging situation—where you can hear God more clearly?
- John's mission was to point others toward Christ. In what ways can you share God's love and hope with the people around you?
- How do you feel God is working in your life to make paths straight and obstacles manageable?



Join in our online silent auction supporting the Pymble parish

Scan or click the QR code below to review auction items and bid

Christmas Online Auction

Start 1am
Sunday
8 December



End 11:45pm Sunday 15 December

tinyurl.com/4hz8tsmt

Items may be collected from the Parish office during office hours

www.pymblecatholicparish.org.au | 02 9144 2702

Pymble Mission "Jubilee 2025" "Year of Prayer"

Parish Mission

Building upon the "Year of Prayer" and the coming Jubilee year

With Fr Zachary Lewis OSPPE Marian Valley Our Lady Help of Christians Shrine Gold Coast hinterland Queensland

Saturday, Sunday, 7-8 December Introduction at all Masses Reconciliation before all Masses

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 9-11 December

Adoration and Reconciliation after Mass

9:00am Mass at Sacred Heart
Mission homily and talk after Mass

7:00pm Mission Talk at Sacred Heart
Adoration and Reconciliation follows

Pymble Catholic Parish www.pymblecatholicparish.org.au

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

chatswoodoffice@bbcatholic.org.au | (02) 9410 9000

Project Officer: Chloe Aylward (Mon - Wed)

Chloe.Aylward@bbcatholic.org.au

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.lgnacio@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 **Regular Mass Times:**

Monday Mass 12:30pm.

Tuesday Mass 9:00am & 12:30pm.

Mass 9:00am, 12:30pm & 6:30pm. Wednesday

Thursday Mass 9:00am & 12:30pm.

Reconciliation: 7:00pm.

Mass 9:00am & 12:30pm. Friday

Saturday Mass: 9:00am

> Reconciliation: 9:30am. Vigil Mass: 5:30pm

Sunday

Mass

• 7:30am

• 9:00am

• 10:30am

5:30pm

GRO



Chatswood Catholic Parish 94 Archer St Chatswood 2067

All babies, toddlers, infants, parents & carers are welcome to join our Playgroup in the Magnificat Meeting Room every Thursday from 1pm -2:30pm.

An opportunity for the children to socialise and play, while the parents can come together in fellowship. To register, please email



Child friendly weekday Mass every Thursday 12:30pm

Attending Mass can often be stressful for a parent, particularly while juggling the needs of your child. This Mass is an opportunity to gather with other parents, without judgement, with the support of the Priest and parishioners.



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.