



OUR LADY OF DOLOURS
Chatswood Catholic Parish



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
13 December 2020 – Year B/1

WITH OUR LADY OF
DOLOURS WE PRAY FOR:

**All our deceased and
sick at this time.**

Church - Cnr Kirk & Archer Sts,
Chatswood
Parish Office - 94 Archer Street,
Chatswood, 2067
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-4.30pm
Closed for lunch 1pm – 1.30pm

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(New Parishioner Engagement Co-
Ordinator)

Message from Fr Jim: Last week Bishop Anthony announced a large number of interlocking clergy moves around the diocese, which involve me moving to be pastor of Epping & Carlingford Parish, and Fr David Ranson coming here as our new pastor. Many people have asked why this is happening. The reasons are twofold. There is a major building project due to take place in Epping in 2022-2026, already six years in the planning, which require a new parish priest to be in place in 2021 to see this through. Our own situation here is that we are moving to very significant questions about the development of our parish and school site. This will involve a great deal of partnership between our parish, Catholic Schools Broken Bay, and the Chancery of the Diocese. In his continuing role as Vicar General, Fr David will be well placed to assist this coordination for the benefit of our parish community.

While I am sorry to be leaving you, the good people of Chatswood Parish, I am confident that I am leaving you in good hands with Fr David, indeed, better hands than my own. Fr David is a gifted teacher, preacher and writer (he taught me in seminary) who has a great deal of expertise in administration and will be more able to address the development potential of our parish site than I am.

Some people have expressed their anger at the bishop for moving me before the end of my six year term. I acknowledge this feeling, and indeed it is always felt in parishes when a priest moves on. Please do not blame Bishop Anthony though, for while he requested this, I accepted it. Four years ago, when Bishop Peter Comensoli asked me to move from Kincumber (which I also loved) to come here, I prayed, and asked God to show me where God wanted me to be. In prayer, God showed me the interior of Our Lady of Dolours Church, and this was accompanied by a feeling of rightness about accepting this challenge. Last month when Bishop Anthony asked me to move to Epping Carlingford I quietly went to pray in both churches in the parish, and there, I experienced the same 'rightness' which had accompanied the discernment which brought me here three years ago. Therefore, I believe that this what God is asking of me, and I expressed this to the bishop.

I am glad that I will have the opportunity to celebrate Christmas and New Year with you. My last weekend will be January 2nd & 3rd, and Fr David's first weekend here will be January 9th & 10th. Covid restrictions mean that we cannot have any large, whole-parish gatherings at which I can farewell you. Instead, I hope that we will have several morning teas or BBQs after Masses on Dec 26th & 27th and January 2nd & 3rd at which we can say our goodbyes.

Christmas decorations: Our church is now decorated with Advent and Christmas art from the students of Our Lady of Dolours School. Thank you to each of the children and their teachers for enhancing this joyful season!

Badges: Last year we gave away hundreds of parish name badges. If you have one, please do wear it, so that we can rebuild our sense of parish community by calling each other by name. It will also help our new clergy to learn peoples' names.

WITHIN OUR PARISH



CHRISTMAS MASS BOOKINGS have opened. Numbers are limited so please do not leave it until the last minute to book. Our mass times this year are as follows: **Christmas Eve: 4pm, 5.30pm, 7pm, 8.30pm, 10pm & Midnight mass. Christmas Day: 7.30am, 9am & 10.30am. There is no Christmas Day evening mass.** At this time, we are limited to 300 people per mass.

Please log on to our website, <https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/chatswood> then click on the Christmas Mass Times & Bookings tile half way down the page on the left. (as above). This will take you through to the booking page.



The December issue of Broken Bay News is now being printed and will be delivered in the next week. Featured in the December Christmas edition is Bishop Anthony's Pastoral Letter, Celebrating Vocations with three diaconate ordinations, A new look for Catholic Schools Broken Bay and much more!

Here is the digital edition link:
https://issuu.com/bbcatholic/docs/broken_bay_news_december_2020_issue_208

RECONCILIATION TIMES

In addition to Thursdays at 7pm and Saturdays at 9.30am, there will be some additional times which Fr Jim and Fr Joey will offer the sacrament of Reconciliation in the week before Christmas: after 9am Mass on Fri 18th, after the vigil Mass on Sat 19th after the evening Mass on Sun 20th, after 9am Mass on Tues 22nd, after 9am Mass on Wed 23rd. Note that Reconciliation will not be available on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day (but it will be on Boxing Day, a regular Saturday). There will also be no 9am Mass on Christmas Eve (as there will be 6 Masses that evening).

HOLY LAND COMMISSARITA wishes to thank all those parishioners who donated so generously. The total amount donated by Chatswood parishioners is \$3,281.05.

WELCOME FROM FR JOEY FREZ

"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven." (Ecclesiastes 3:1)

How timely it is that I come to Our Lady of Dolours Parish on a week where we celebrate three feasts of our Lady: Immaculate Conception (Dec 8 -the big one!), our Lady of Loreto (Dec 10), and Our Lady of Guadalupe (Dec 12).

I would like to take this opportunity just to introduce myself to you so that at least you have an idea about me.

I am originally from the Philippines and worked and lived in the US for almost 20 years. I celebrate my 10 years as a priest this year as I was ordained in 2010, the year of the priest.

My first formation was with the Capuchin Franciscans in Denver for two and a half years. Then I entered as a seminarian for the diocese of Salt Lake (Utah) at Mount Angel Seminary in Oregon.

Three years ago, I decided to come to Australia to be with my family, especially with my mom who is now 87 years old. I was assigned first in Epping-Carlingford, then to Lower North Shore, then to Wahroonga, and now here in Chatswood. I have been coming here a lot because I usually do the Filipino Mass every first Sunday of the month.

I am very excited for my new assignment here in our Lady of Dolours and I hope I will come to know you more as I will meet you, especially after the weekend Masses.

With our Lady's protection and guidance, I know that I will enjoy and grow in my priestly ministry here! God Bless!

In Christ, Fr. Joey Frez

Advent Week Three



Solomon
1 Kings 3:3-14



Jonah
Jonah 1-4



Elijah
2 Kings 2:11-18



Elizabeth & Zechariah
Luke 1:5-23



Isaiah
Isaiah 6:1-8



John the Baptist
Matthew 3:1-11



Daniel
Daniel 6:10-23

Jesse Tree

Dear friends,

It is with mixed emotions that I write to inform you that I am stepping down from my role as New Parishioner Engagement Coordinator.

I have absolutely loved working in the parish, especially getting to know you and serving alongside each one of you. It has felt like a wonderful dream and aligned with my passion for connecting, building and strengthening relationships. I have thoroughly enjoyed the creative aspect of my role, meeting families, and helping to enliven the friendly and welcoming culture that our parish community is known for. Mostly, I am grateful for the joy that this role has awakened in me, it has truly been life-giving.

After prayerful discernment, I have decided it is time to embark on a new career adventure. Whilst I do not have a new job to go to presently, I feel called to move into the mission integration space, combining my passion for evangelisation and sharing the love of Jesus. I hope to utilise my community engagement, pastoral ministry and previous OT skills and enjoy some further Theology studies too. I am putting my trust in the Holy Spirit to guide me towards my next assignment.

Our Lady of Dolours will always be my spiritual home and I am not leaving the parish, just my part-time employment here. Thank you for your friendship, love, and support over the past couple of years. I would also like to extend my thanks to Fr Jim and the parish team. We are blessed to have a role specific to welcoming new parishioners and I thank Fr Jim for developing this position, as well as the many wonderful initiatives he inspired and envisioned in our parish.

What a blessing it is to belong to a dynamic and loving parish family such as ours! Let us continue to extend loving hospitality to all those we meet. I pray this in Jesus' holy name, Amen.

God bless you. Keep smiling!



With love, Bernadette 

WE CAN SING!

The NSW Govt guidelines at <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/what-you-can-and-cant-do-under-rules>, which continually evolve, now allow congregations to sing indoors if they wear a mask. So please, bring a mask to Mass so you can sing the hymns. This will make all Masses, and especially Christmas so much more joyful! The guidelines also allow for choirs of 50 people to sing (without masks) as long as they are 1.5m away from each other and facing the same direction, which I think will allow smaller congregations on weekdays and at devotions to sing.

NOVENA OF DAWN MASSES DURING ADVENT

Advent is a time of expectation and anticipation, a time of celebration, and a time for prayer. The annual Novena of dawn masses is a spiritual preparation for the birth of Jesus Christ. It is an expression of our faith and thanksgiving for our blessings.

The Novena of dawn masses at Our Lady of Dolours Parish in Chatswood will be held DAILY from 16-24 December 2020 at 5:30am. It is a wonderful way to start the day with an early morning Mass. Everyone is invited to come and join the parish community in continuing this beautiful tradition which originated from the Philippines and is now celebrated in many Australian parishes. PS. Please go online to book in via the parish website (on front page of bulletin).

FLOWERS FOR CHRISTMAS

Last year we had a lovely display of flowers at Christmas through the generosity of parishioners who donated flowers to the church. We invite people once again to bring flowers and Christmas bush which can be used to adorn the church for Christmas. Please drop them off in the Church or the Parish Office on Wednesday 23 December. Thank you.



10 GOOD REASONS TO JOIN THE LEGION OF MARY:

<http://www.legionofmarytidewater.com/extension/reasons.htm>

Interested to be part of Mary's army? Email your preferred day and time for new weekly meeting to: lomchatswood@yandex.com. Members commit to 1.5 hr meeting plus 2 hr active work per week in the parish.

PARISH MEETING ROOM BOOKINGS FOR 2021

Please email me your request for the use of the parish meeting rooms for your Ministry in 2021.

Please put your request in writing and email it to Nicole.gorman@bbcatholic.org.au by Monday 14 December. **Your current booking will not automatically be rolled over to 2021.**

GETTING READY FOR COMPANY

Seasonal hospitality



It is amazing how often people, including non-Catholics, tell us that the reason they come to our parish is because of the welcome they receive here. Sometimes we underestimate just how important it is to reach out to others and to make them feel welcome and valued. It is something we should never take for granted. In the Gospels, Our Lord tells us that whenever we welcome a stranger we welcome Him.

We want to be a welcoming community every week of the year, however we expect many more guests during the Christmas season and we want to be ready to welcome them. Christmas is a huge opportunity to reach the lost and we have already begun by creating a space for belonging here in our parish family.

Everyone knows that many people who do not normally go to church, show up at parishes at Christmas - a time when many people, even those who aren't religious, feel a tug on their hearts calling them back to church.

Some might have grown up practicing their faith but now go to church only a couple of times a year. Others are visiting family from out of town and may or may not attend church at home. Still others have never really had a strong connection to the church and yet may be joining us for the first time or the first time in a long time. If you are reading this and you are one of those guests, we would like to say: Welcome!

NOTHING BEATS THE PERSONAL INVITATION

We dream of being the kind of church that has an outward focus, an "Invitational Church". This includes two main dynamics:

1. We go out and invite, and
2. We welcome guests with love.

If there's someone in your life (friends, family members, coworkers, neighbours) who might be interested in joining us for Christmas, invite them - and come along! Stepping back

into church after a time away can be intimidating, so accompanying your friends will make them feel much more welcome - and there's a good chance you'll have lots of fun and learn something too! God is doing great things here in our parish and we want others to share those blessings. Prayerfully consider who you will be inviting to our parish this Christmas and start inviting!

LOOKING FOR ENTHUSIASTIC CHRISTMAS WELCOMERS

- A great way to serve!

Many of our regular parishioners will be away at Christmas which in some ways gives us a great opportunity to ask for more volunteers to help with hospitality at the doors of the church and greet our guests as they arrive at Mass.

Can you help this Christmas? Please think about which Mass(es) you will be attending and contact Bernadette. We would love to see you welcoming this Christmas!

TO SUM IT ALL UP, HERE'S WHAT WE NEED TO DO TO PREPARE:

Pray

Together we pray as an entire parish that we will strive to be truly intentional about hosting our Christmas guests, that we will be warm and hospitable and welcome guests with love. For those who will be walking through our doors at Christmastime, we pray that they will hear the first and most important message that God loves them and so do we! May the Holy Spirit encourage us to connect with unconnected people in our community, show them love and hospitality and build a bridge to our parish.

Invite

Let's be a parish that reaches out and invites others to join us as we celebrate Jesus' birth.

Welcome

Please do consider the call to help be a Christmas Welcomer and greet our guests as they arrive for Christmas Masses.



For more information about our Christmas hospitality, please contact Bernadette on 9410 9031 or email bernadette.ho@bbcatholic.org.au