



OUR LADY OF DOLOURS
Chatswood Catholic Parish



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
20 December 2020 – Year B/1

WITH OUR LADY OF DOLOURS WE PRAY FOR:

Recently Deceased: Agnes Press, Teresa Fiorenza

Deceased Anniversaries:

Ivan Bosnic, Theo Cowell, Sheila Mary Prior AM, BEM, DLJ, Bill Freeman, Marjorie Ladd, Thomas Cullen, Marija Vlatko Rulo

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 0473046906
www.bbcatholic.org.au/chatswood
chatswoodoffice@bbcatholic.org.au

Parish Office hours:
Mon-Fri 9.30am-4.30pm
Closed for lunch 1pm – 1.30pm

Fr Jim McKeon (Parish Priest)
jim.mckeon@bbcatholic.org.au
Fr Joey Frez (Assist. Priest)
joey.frez@bbcatholic.org.au
Deacon Kevin Hale (Deacon)
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Deacon Aldrin Valdehueza (Deacon)
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Nicole Gorman (Parish Secretary)
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Amelia Lee (Bookkeeper)
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Pressy Braganza
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(Pastoral Care Worker)
Bernadette Ho
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(New Parishioner Engagement Co-Ordinator)

Weekdays: There will be no 9am Mass on Dec 24th, as there is a 5.30am Mass, and 6 vigil Masses that night. All other weekday Masses will continue as usual over the Christmas – New Year week.

School references: At the final Parent Connect Gathering last weekend many parents seeking references for school enrolments in January took part. These references have now been sent to the respective schools. No more references will be given before the end of the year, and with Fr Jim leaving and Fr David starting in January, reference requests will not be attended to until after January 18th

Parish Committees: Fr Jim wishes to thank the members of the Parish Finance Committee, the Parish Pastoral Council and the Parish Liturgy Committee who have served the parish so well this year. Usually at the end of the year we call for nominations for new members of each committee to replace those who are stepping down at the end of their two or three year terms. However, all committees are reconvened by a new Parish Priest, and so Fr David has asked that the ongoing members of each committee meet with him early in the new year to discern how they will discern new members and work together in the coming year.

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.

Youtube: Our parish now has its own youtube account <https://youtu.be/grswaCtM2oQ> or search “Our Lady of Dolours Chatswood” which has messages to the parish, including Fr Jim explaining why clergy are moving, and will soon have a message from Fr David Ranson. Fr Jim has a separate account with his homilies, <https://youtu.be/BQJkQjZUzNw> or search “Fr Jim McKeon”, on which he will continue to post homilies, even after he moves parish, although these will no longer be posted on the parish facebook page.

Star of the Sea Prayer Cards

Bishop Anthony has produced new prayer cards, featuring an icon of our Patroness of the Diocese of Broken Bay, Mary Star of the Sea. The cards contain a prayer which Bishop Anthony has written, and there is room on the prayer card to write your own intentions. Please take one for yourself or to give away.

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 (BOOKED OUT), 5.30pm (BOOKED OUT), 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 has now been delivered and is available at all Church doors. 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 at which Fr Jim and Fr Joey will offer the sacrament of Reconciliation in the week before Christmas: 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).

MESSAGE FROM FR DAVID RANSON

Dear friends,

I am very honoured to have been asked by Bishop Anthony to join you early in the new year. In receiving this new appointment, I wish firstly to pay tribute to Fr Jim. He has brought tremendous energy and pastoral experience to the parish community and I know he will be greatly missed by you. As he accepts Bishop Anthony's invitation to assume the leadership of the Parish of Epping-Carlingford, we support him with our prayer and our warmest wishes, conscious that he leaves the parish community of Chatswood with so many wonderful initiatives in place, with such vitality, and with good management practices established. Already, he has been so helpful to me personally as I prepare to join you, and I pray that I may be able to continue and to extend all that Fr Jim has provided in his time with you. I pay tribute, too, to the great team of people that Fr Jim has encouraged, and I am looking forward to being there for them.

I am excited to come to you. The Parish of Chatswood is the only truly city parish in our local Church of Broken Bay. Situated as you are in the middle of such a vibrant, bustling urban centre, Our Lady of Dolours welcomes people from all over Sydney with openness and inclusivity. You are enriched by various cultural communities who bring their deep experience of faith and devotional practice. A most extraordinary educational precinct surrounds you. I am looking forward to learning about you, to listening to you, to growing with you. There will be much for us to consider as we reflect together on even more opportunities of how to be Church in such a civic setting and how to develop our parish site accordingly.

Please pray for me as I prepare to join you on this exciting journey unfolding as it has been for many years. As I walk with you, may the Lord be with us at each step of the way.

Fr David Ranson

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.



Baptisms This Weekend:

Zachary Cabingan, Vance Russell



Thank You!

FROM JESUIT REFUGEE SERVICES

Through your generous response to Tap & Go for JRS last weekend, \$560.00 was raised.

Thank you for the wonderful support you have shown to people seeking asylum, refugees, and migrants in vulnerable situations. It is so kind that after a tough year for all, Chatswood parish has raised funds for others in need.

Please be assured that the refugees, people seeking asylum, and migrants in vulnerable situations with whom we work, will be immensely grateful for your support, which signals your care and friendship. This makes a great difference to their lives.

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).

THE CATHOLIC WEEKLY

Remember to pick up *The Catholic Weekly* as it has your local and international news, views, and opinion. There is a top line-up of columnists' and contributors such as Dr Philippa Martyr, Anna Krohn, George Weigel, Monica Doumit and Fr John Flader – to name just a few! The Catholic Weekly really is more relevant than ever, and keeps you informed and in touch with the Catholic world.... pick up your copy each week from the church foyer for just \$2!

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.

Advent Week Four



Anne & Joachim



Shepherds
Luke 2:8-20



Mary
of Nazareth
Luke 1:26-38



Angel
Luke 2:8-14



Joseph
of Nazareth
Matthew 1:18-25



Jesus
Luke 2:1-20



Star
of Bethlehem
Matthew 2:1-2

Jesse Tree



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 9 pm.

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.

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.

CELEBRATING ALPHA 2020 – WHAT A JOY!



An Alpha group was hosted in the Parish for eight wonderful weeks, finishing up with a spirit-filled retreat day recently. The Holy Spirit was with us as we connected with one another, formed friendships and each took a step on our journey of faith. The Holy Spirit's presence never failed to amaze us each week as we discussed questions about the meaning of life and our purpose. Each week we met for fun and friendship over a chat and tasty food, watched a video and then shared openly with one another in small groups. Our friendship and trust grew each week. We would like to thank our beautiful 18 guests who inspired us each week. We shared many laughs together and experienced the love and joy of the Holy Spirit in a powerful way during the prayer ministry component of our retreat.

With joy in our hearts, we share this good news. We are delighted to be continuing with multiple Alpha groups throughout 2021. Details for our next Alpha will be announced in January!

Bernadette & Brendan

HERE'S SOME GOOD NEWS TO SHARE!

Bernadette Ho applied for the Sisters of the Good Samaritan Study and Mentoring Leadership Program and we are delighted to share that she was chosen as the successful recipient of the grant. The program offers financial and personal support to a mature-aged catholic woman as they undertake undergraduate or postgraduate theological / spiritual study at a recognised theological institution. The Good Samaritan Sisters recognise the need for women's leadership within the Church. Not only have the Sisters educated women, they have companioned them as mentors, counsellors, spiritual directors and simply friends.

For women within our parish community and beyond, it is important to share that opportunities such as these exist. The Church thrives and is able to fulfill God's mission when women contribute their experiences, wisdom and gifts. We congratulate Bernadette on being the successful recipient of this grant.

A MESSAGE FROM BISHOP ANTHONY

In March this year as Covid restrictions began for churches, Bishop Anthony formally released Catholics in our diocese from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass. This week, with so much of life returning closer to normal, Bishop Anthony has now rescinded that decree, saying "I call upon and encourage the Faithful to resume their obligations as part of the living Body of Christ. Under Canon 1247, the Faithful are now once more obliged to attend Mass on Sundays and the Holy Days of Christmas and Assumption". He goes on to say, however that "those who are age or have health conditions or are otherwise anxious about the risk of Covid 19 are free to remain at home, honouring the Lord's Day through the best way open to them". Let's take this as an encouragement, for all of us who are able, to once again make Sunday worship at Mass the cornerstone of our weekends. The full text of Bishop Anthony's letter is on the noticeboard in the foyer and will be on the diocesan website.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS APPEAL

Thank you to everyone who gave generously to the St Vincent de Paul Society over the last 2 weekends. If you have brought an envelope back this week it can be placed in either collection basket.

Deacon Aldrin's first baptism celebrated in the parish.



Baby Giacomina Vumbaca

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

Pray

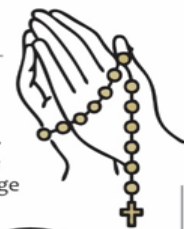
Together we pray as an entire parish that we will strive to be truly intentional about hosting our Christmas guests, that we will be warm and hospitable and welcome guests with love. For those who will be walking through our doors at Christmastime, we pray that they will hear the first and most important 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