

THE BULLETIN

22 DECEMBER 2024
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



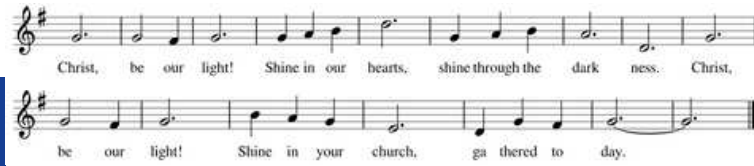
The Visitation by Jen Norton

**Why should it happen that I am honoured with a visit
from the mother of my Lord?**

This Sunday's Gospel - Luke 1:39-44

GLAD YOU'RE HERE

Welcome



HOPE FOR THOSE WHO ARE WOUNDED

Priest: Advent is a time to bind up the broken hearted.

All: Come, Lord, and make all things new.

Priest: For past wrongs that prevent us from moving forward:

All: Come, Lord, and make all things new.

Priest: For any bitterness that scratches our soul:

All: Come, Lord, and make all things new.

Priest: For relationships left in decay and neglect:

All: Come, Lord, and make all things new.

Priest: For any action that has wounded us or by which we have wounded others:

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: This morning we light four candles. The **first candle** is the light of hope for those in times of waiting. The **second candle** is the light of hope for those who are wearied by the circumstances of life. The **third candle** is the light of hope for those eagerly watching for God's promised glory. The **fourth candle** is the light of hope for those who carry the wounds of life. Today we acknowledge our pain and the pain we have caused others. As the light shines, we turn to the Savior who came to rescue the lost, to help the hurting, and to bind up the broken.

Closing Prayer

All: Merciful God, Advent reminds us that you left heaven's majesty to walk among wounded people in a broken world.

We thank you that your love knows no boundaries or limitations.

No wound of this earth is greater than the wounds you came to heal.

For all who suffer this day, light the way, O Lord, towards the promise of healing and wholeness made known in you.

Amen.





Fr David Ranson
PP VG
Parish Priest

THIS WEEKEND

- Carols at the Concourse was wonderful! A great number of people came to support, and we are so grateful for everyone who helped make it such a success.
- We raised just over \$4000 for Catholic Mission!
- Join us at Mass this weekend at 9:00 AM, for a special visit from Santa!
- Did you see our giant HOPE sign? The Year of Hope is just around the corner. Let this sign remind you to celebrate and reflect on the hope we find in God and our faith.
- Please note: The parish office will be closed from December 25th to January 1st.
- Congratulations to FCCP for a wonderful celebration of the Dawn Novena Masses in the lead-up to Christmas!

Dear friends,

With a heavy, yet hope-filled, heart I share with you that Bishop Anthony has announced a number of clergy moves in our Diocese, to take effect at the end of January 2025. Amongst these, are the appointment of **Fr Joey Frez as Director of Vocations for the Diocese of Broken Bay, and the appointment of Deacon Richard Houwing to the Parish of The Lakes.**

Fr Joey has been with us as our Assistant Priest at Chatswood for the past four years since December 2020. He has been a gentle and effective presence in our parish community, with a great flair for community events, organisation of volunteers, school ministry, and spiritual formation. His love for our community has been unmistakable and special. We are going to miss him enormously. For me, personally, he has been a tremendous brother and a sheer delight with whom to live. I am so grateful for the unfailing support he has given. Through these years Fr Joey has developed a great skill in vocational discernment, recognised by Bishop Anthony, He now calls him into service for the greater good of the Diocese. As full-time Director of Vocations Broken Bay, Fr Joey will work from the Vocations Office in the Chancery at Pennant Hills and reside in the parish of Epping-Carlingford.

Deacon Richard has been with us for just over the year. However, during this time he has impressed everyone with his graciousness and his wisdom. We are grateful for his service to us on Sundays as a Deacon and preacher. To continue his formation as a Deacon, he will now assume a similar ministry in a new parish, The Lakes.

Fr Joey and Deacon Richard's final weekend with us will be that of the 25/26 January 2025. **Please keep the evening of Wednesday 29 January in our diaries as a possible special farewell to them.**

In place of Fr Joey, **Bishop Anthony has appointed Fr Hien Vu, currently Assistant Priest at Hornsby Cathedral Parish.** Fr Hien, originally from Vietnam, was ordained last August. He is a bright, intelligent, committed young priest and will bring all the energy of a newly ordained priest to our parish family. Fr Hien's first weekend with us will be in early February. Please join with me over these coming weeks to express our heartfelt gratitude both to Fr Joey and to Deacon Richard for their remarkable service to us.

An enormous **thank you to the great team of people who made our Carols on the Concourse last Saturday evening, 14 December such a success** – especially to Olivia Lee for her management of the event together with Chloe Aylward, Marty and Cheryl Thomas, Yuliana Lee, Sally Macarenas, Peter Nguyen, Bryce Gonlin, and the wonderful team of volunteers; Titus Grenyer our Director of Music; Hamish Lavery who spent many, many hours on the sound system; our fantastic photographer Dani Montallana; and the magnificent choir of over 120 people accompanied by Sunny on the piano. It truly was a memorable event and one now that we hope will become an annual fixture on the calendar. We are confident that the event was greatly appreciated by the people who were able to enjoy – over 800 we estimate.

Recently we heard the sad news of the **death of Robert Losurdo**, the owner of the new supermarket of the same name at Chatswood Chase. Please keep the family very much in your prayer.

We have received the following note of gratitude from Catholic Missions:

Thank you for holding this year's Catholic Mission Parish Appeal. On behalf of Catholic Mission, I would appreciate you thanking all your parishioners for their generosity which is going towards supporting the Church in Mongolia and House of Mercy. Thanks to their kindness, people like Chuluunbaatar will have access to the support they need to help them get back on their feet. Thank you also for welcoming Dorothy Makasa to speak at the parish over the weekend. **Total amount raised: \$4010.**

Thanks to everyone for their generosity with this recent appeal.

This year Christmas Day and the Jewish Festival of Chanukah fall on the same day. It is a significant time for both Christian and Jewish communities when we are reminded that hope is our guiding light. We give thanks for the gift of our own friendship with the congregation of North Shore Temple Emmanuel. And last Thursday Bishop Anthony and Julian Leeser, Federal Member for Berowra, came together at Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral, Waitara for a special event of unity. We are reminded that in all ways antisemitism must be confronted and challenged.

We come now to the great celebration of Christmas! Thank you to all those who have been working in the background to prepare for the Feast. Our Masses at Christmas are:

- 5.30pm Children's Christmas Mass
- 8.00pm Christmas Vigil Mass
- 12 midnight Christmas Midnight Mass *with Carols at 11:30pm*
- 7.30am Christmas Morning Mass
- 9.00am Christmas Mass
- 10.30am Christmas Mass

Please note there is no evening Mass on Christmas Day.

On Boxing Day, 26 December, we will have the one Mass in the church at 10.00am.

At Christmas I will publish a special Pastoral Letter inviting us all to enter the Year of Jubilee and outlining the many ways by which our Parish will celebrate this great event. The Letter will be available in our church from Christmas Day.

And then, on Friday 27 December I will begin my period of annual leave from 2024, returning on Friday 23 January. Fr Joey and Fr Anselam will be on hand during my time away. Please keep me in your prayer and I look forward to coming home safely and celebrating the Year of Jubilee!

Warmest Christmas greetings to everyone!

IN OUR PRAYERS WE REMEMBER:

Our loved ones who have **recently passed away:**

Robert Losurdo; Michele (Mick) Saraceno.

Our loved ones who are **sick:**

Mila Fidel; Onni Wong; Victor Chun Kau Ng (husband of Dilia Ng); Eileen Swinsburg; Su de Sousa; Xu He Ooi; Carmel Villanueva; 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; Linda Yip; Lonnie Chu; Minnie Walshe; Maria Taylor; Ban Le Llamas; Sally Luxton; Sr Marie Dayton; Giselle Clark; Judith Ryan; Thomas West; Lucy Rodriguez; Gillian Hawkins; Donna Fernandez; Allison Roberts; Zac Vlastic; 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:**

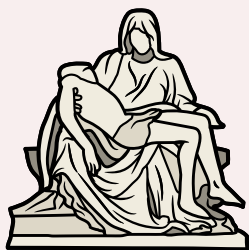
Wibowo Haryanto (father of Yuliana); Mollie Curtin (mother of David Curtin); Christopher Dignam (son of Maureen & Michael Dignam); Theo Cowell; David Davies (husband of Lourdes); Inocenta Bohol Castillo (mother of Lourdes); Ruben Gabila (Husband of Letty).

Our loved ones **celebrating their birthdays!:**

Marie-Anne Van Roie; Albie Mylott; Sunny Chandra; Mary Manlangit; Catherine Chan!

- We remember deceased members of the Curtin, Rolfe, Hughes and Egan families, may they rest in God's loving arms. *David C*
- I would like to pray for everyone who is lonely during this Season of joy. I pray that they remember they are loved and I pray that we remember to love and visit those who might be amongst the lonely. *Sue K*

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 of the Crucified,
pray for us.*

*Sorrowful Mother,
pray for us.*

*Mournful Mother,
pray for us.*

Sighing Mother, pray for us.

Afflicted Mother, pray for us.

Desolate Mother, pray for us.

Mother most sad, pray for us.

*Mother set around with
anguish, pray for us.*

GOSPEL REFLECTION: GOD ON THE MOVE

Nothing more humbly reminds you to get a gym membership and make a lifestyle change for next year than realising our Blessed Mother ran, pregnant, traveling a long distance over all types of terrain to support her cousin, whilst you just struggled walking down your flat drive way, unpregnant. New years resolutions here I come!

This Sunday's Gospel is about the Visitation, often understood as Mary's journey to Elizabeth; but I've come to realise it is also the first journey of Jesus—hidden, humble, and full of purpose. Though He remains in our Blessed Mother's womb, He is already on His mission to bring the presence of true hope into the world.

Imagine the closeness of their journey. Mary carries Jesus within her, His heartbeat syncing with hers, His tiny body sheltered by her warmth. Every step she takes, He takes with her. This isn't just Mary's journey; it is their journey. Together, they climb hills, cross valleys, and experience the world as one. In this quiet, intimate movement, we see the deep unity between God and humanity.

What also strikes me is that Mary, having just learned from the angel Gabriel that her baby is God, doesn't pause to reflect on the magnitude of her calling. Instead, she immediately sets off to visit her Elizabeth, who, like her, is experiencing an extraordinary miracle after years of barrenness.

Even in the midst of such a life-changing moment, Mary chooses to reach out to someone else. Her holiness and joy isn't about personal recognition; it's about being attuned to the needs of others. How often, in the midst of our own blessings, do we turn inward rather than reaching out?

Mary's decision also speaks to her humility. Even as the Mother of God, she doesn't see herself as above the need to support someone else. She shows us that true holiness doesn't isolate us; it calls us to care for others.

As Mary walks, she isn't just carrying Jesus—she's allowing Him to sanctify the path beneath her feet. The hills of Judea, long part of God's covenant history, now become the setting for the arrival of the New Covenant Himself, carried by His mother.

Mary's and Jesus' journey mirrors Jesus' later mission to meet people where they are, bringing grace and hope to towns, villages, and deserts. The Visitation offers us a preview of this ongoing movement—Jesus constantly going toward others, bringing joy and healing, even before the world fully understands who He is.

This journey also reveals God's gentleness. Jesus does not wait for people to come to Him; He goes to them. Quietly, He comes, hidden in His mother's womb, but His presence is already felt. At the sound of Mary's voice, John the Baptist leaps in Elizabeth's womb, and Elizabeth is filled with the Holy Spirit. Even before He is revealed in the fullness of His ministry, Jesus is at work, touching hearts and spreading grace.

Olivia Lee

NURTURING RELATIONSHIPS: COMMUNITY & FAMILY

BABYSITTER WANTED

Are you great with babies and free for 1 or 2 days a week (9am-5pm) starting February 2025?

One of our lovely parishioners is looking to hire a babysitter, to take care of her (very cute) 6-month-old daughter while she works from home. They are based in North Sydney, and parking is available on site.

If you are interested and would like to know more, please reach out to Chloe in the Parish Office
chloe.aylward@bbcatholic.org.au



CHINESE CATHOLIC ASSOCIATION

FAMOUS CHINESE BIBLE QUOTE

在女人中你是蒙祝福的，你的胎兒也是蒙祝福的。
路加福音1:42

Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.

Luke 1:42



Take a photo with our Hope sign and share what gives you hope! Send it to chatswoodoffice@bbcatholic.org.au or message us on Facebook.

CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS



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!

Saturday

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.

Thursday

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.

Tuesday

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.

Wednesday



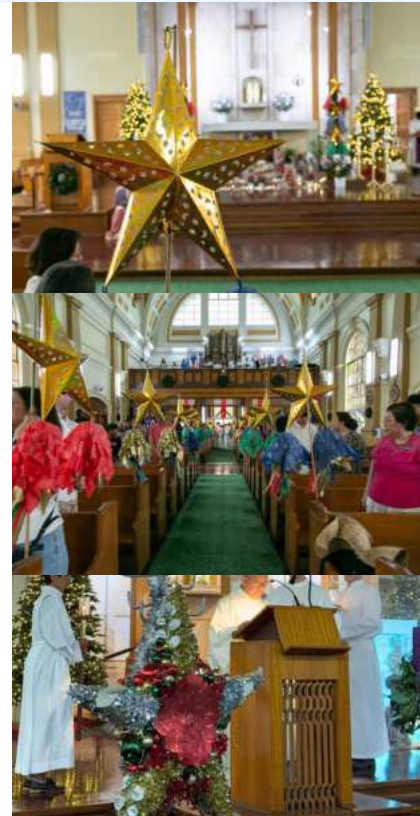
FILIPINO CATHOLIC CHATSWOOD PARISH (FCCP)

THE PAROL: SHINING THE LIGHT OF FAITH

This past week, parishioners may have noticed the huge parol or Christmas lantern beside the Advent Wreath at the front of the church (see pictures on the right). This parol, blessed by Bishop Anthony Randazzo during the launch of Simbang Gabi (nine-day Christmas Novena Masses), carries a message of profound meaning. During the blessing, the Bishop reminded us that the parol not only illuminates our homes and churches, but also stands as a powerful symbol of Christ's light in the world. He encouraged us, as we journey deeper into Advent, to be beacons of light for others, in both big and small ways, so that the light of Christ shines in us and through us.

Rooted in the Filipino tradition of Simbang Gabi, the parol represents the Star of Bethlehem which guided the Magi to Christ. Its radiant glow serves as a reminder of hope, faith and the promise of God's abiding love. As it lights the way to church during the early morning or evening Masses, it also calls us to reflect on our own spiritual journey toward the celebration of Christ's birth.

In our parish, the parol is more than just a cultural icon – it is a powerful symbol of hope and unity. It transcends traditions, bringing people together in a shared celebration of the enduring light of Christ. In a world longing of peace and joy, the parol reminds us that only His light can truly dispel the darkness.



Beautiful moments from our 5:30am Novena Christmas Masses. Join us each morning until Christmas Eve!



JUST A FEW SNAPS FROM CAROLS AT THE CONCOURSE!

OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

FOURTh sUNDAY OF aDVENT / C

22 deCEMBER 2024

BLESSED IS SHE WHO BELIEVED. From Bethlehem, the least of the clans of Judah, and from a peasant girl, Mary, one of the least of the Jewish people, God prepared a body for Jesus, the saviour of the world. As we rejoice in the saviour who has come to visit us, we also join Elizabeth in praising Mary for her faith, her love and her obedience.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON cf. Isa 45:8

Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

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 Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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.

R. Amen.

The Gloria is not said during Advent

COLLECT

P. Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord, your grace into our hearts, that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son was made known by the message of an Angel, may by his Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of his Resurrection. 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 Mic 5:1-4

A reading from the prophet Micah.
Out of you will be born the one who is to rule over Israel.

The Lord says this:

You, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
the least of the clans of Judah, out
of you will be born for me the one
who is to rule over Israel;
his origin goes back to the distant past,
to the days of old.

The Lord is therefore going to abandon
them
till the time when she who is to give birth
gives birth.

Then the remnant of his brothers will
come back
to the sons of Israel.

He will stand and feed his flock
with the power of the Lord,
with the majesty of the name of his God.
They will live secure, for from then on he
will extend his power to the ends of the
land.

He himself will be peace.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

RESP PSALM Ps 79:2-3, 15-16, 18-19. R. v. 4

**R. Lord, make us turn to you;
let us see your face and we shall be saved.**

1. O shepherd of Israel, hear us, / shine
forth from your cherubim throne. / O Lord,
rouse up your might, / O Lord, come to our
help. **R.**

2. God of hosts, turn again, we implore, /
look down from heaven and see. / Visit this
vine and protect it, / the vine your right
hand has planted. **R.**

3. May your hand be on the man you have
chosen, / the man you have given your
strength. / And we shall never forsake you
again: / give us life that we may call upon
your name. **R.**

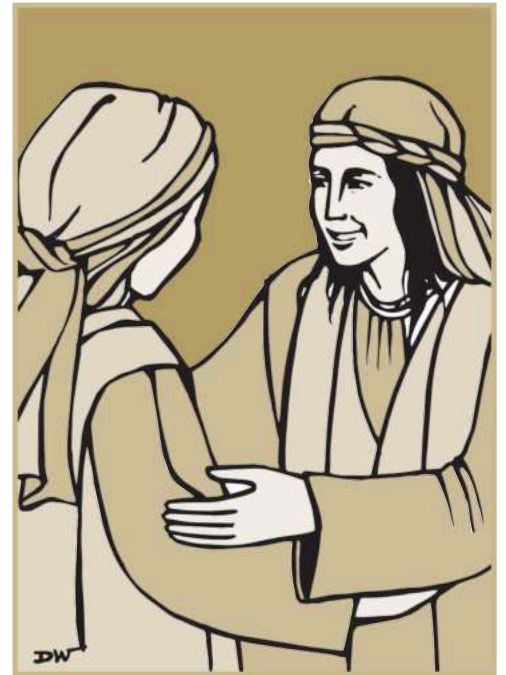
SECOND READING Heb 10:5-10

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.
I am coming to do your will.

This is what Christ said, on coming into the
world:

You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation,
prepared a body for me.

You took no pleasure in holocausts or
sacrifices for sin;
then I said,



just as I was commanded in the scroll of
the book,
'God, here I am! I am coming to obey your
will.'

Notice that he says first: You did not want
what the Law lays down as the things to be
offered, that is: the sacrifices, the oblations,
the holocausts and the sacrifices for sin, and
you took no pleasure in them; and then he
says: Here I am! I am coming to obey your
will. He is abolishing the first sort to replace
it with the second. And this will was for us
to be made holy by the offering of his body
made once and for all by Jesus Christ.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Lk 1:38

**Alleluia, alleluia! I am the servant of
the Lord: may his will for me be done.
Alleluia!**

GOSPEL Lk 1:39-44

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.

*Why should it happen that I am honoured with
a visit from the mother of my Lord?*

Mary set out and went as quickly as she
could to a town in the hill country of Judah.
She went into Zechariah's house and greeted
Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard
Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb
and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.

She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'

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. May the Holy Spirit, O Lord, sanctify these gifts laid upon your altar, just as he filled with his power the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary. 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 II 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

Isa 7:14

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P. Having received this pledge of eternal redemption, we pray, almighty God, that, as the feast day of our salvation draws ever nearer, so we may press forward all the more eagerly to the worthy celebration of the mystery of your Son's Nativity. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

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 Spirit.

R. Amen.

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

R. Thanks be to God.

BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

FRUITFULNESS AND BLESSEDNESS

With Christmas only days away, this final Advent Sunday Gospel turns its attention to the pregnant Mary, soon to give birth. She goes to visit her cousin, Elizabeth, also pregnant. While the Gospel's Greco-Roman audience is familiar with family structures and lines of patriarchal authority, our Gospel centres on these two women within the patriarchal setting of the house of Elizabeth's husband, Zechariah.

There is something subtly subversive here.

Important is the relationship between these two women and the fruitful imagery that permeates the story. The pregnancies

of the two mothers anticipate the births of the two central figures in the Gospel's opening chapters. We have already seen one of them, John the Baptist, in the Gospels of the previous Sundays. It is the other, Jesus, whose birth we are soon to celebrate in a few days' time.

Elizabeth attests to the blessedness of Mary and the child to whom she will give birth. It is an affirmation which even Elizabeth's child witnesses to while still in the womb. Elizabeth and the child she carries anticipate the holiness of the one whom Mary will, at the angel's earlier invitation, name 'Jesus'. For the mother to name the child, as Elizabeth will do later in naming 'John' before the speechless Zechariah, is culturally unusual. But there is nothing usual about these births. We are caught up in this story, about fruitfulness and blessedness. Perhaps these are God's much-needed words to us as we seek to be with these two female figures preparing for the birth amongst us of the one from God.

Fr Michael Trainor

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OUR LADY OF DOLOURS • CHATSWOOD CATHOLIC PARISH

11
DAYS

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.



Accompanied by
Fr David Ranson

DEPARTS MONDAY 03 NOVEMBER 2025 • 11 DAYS / 8 NIGHTS

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

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journeys

SRE CATECHISTS

CATECHIST CATCH UP

Term 4 was an exciting time in our classrooms! We discussed the real meaning of Christmas with students including how to use time during Advent to prepare for the birth of Jesus. We had opportunities to honour Our Lady and we encouraged students to pray to God through the intercession of Mary. We encouraged kindness, forgiveness and relationship building opportunities as an area for focus during preparation for Christmas.

A number of state schools held Combined Christian assemblies during the final week of lessons, attended by students and Catechists followed by thank you morning teas.

Highlights in term 4:

- **Catechist service awards** were presented at the CCD annual mass on November 16, for significant awards of service (15 years and beyond). Congratulations to Pauline Larkins who received a papal blessing for 20 years of service as a Catechist. A big thank you to Pauline for your wonderful commitment and dedication all these years!
- Service and training awards for completing three levels of CCD training and formation have been received and will be presented to Chatswood Catechists on Sunday February 9 at the 9am Mass.
- A fun **Advent reflection and craft day** took place with Catechists across the Diocese in the Magnificat on December 6, followed by an enjoyable end-of-year gathering of Chatswood Catechists for afternoon tea.



Chatswood High School

Throughout 2024 high school Catechists enjoyed conducting Catholic education seminars at Chatswood high school.

The seminars ran for a full day, twice per term with each year group. It was terrific to see students from years 7 – 11 happily participating in discussions and activities regarding preparing for Christmas.

Father David kindly joined us for part of the day during the Advent seminar in mid-term 4.

Picture right: High school Catechists Gillian, Karen, Roberto & Tony at Chatswood high school during the Christmas seminar day on December 18.

A heartfelt thank you to our dedicated Catechists who have guided students in learning about God's love for them throughout the year. We are grateful to parents, caregivers and state schools for their continued commitment to children's attendance at special religious education lessons.

Wishing you a merry Christmas and a safe and relaxing New Year!

For information regarding the Catechist Ministry or if you would like to join the team in 2025, please contact the parish office or Karen Forbes on: Karen.forbes@bbcatholic.org.au ph: 9410 9029.



The term 'Jubilee' speaks of joy; not just an inner joy, but a jubilation which is manifested outwardly. The Jubilee is a celebration of the mystery of the Incarnation and Redemption. It recalls the gift of grace by which God reconciles man to Himself and enables him to live a new life in the communion of the Holy Spirit. The primary objective of the Jubilee is the strengthening of faith and of witness in the Christian community. Its fruits will depend on the interior disposition of each person and on the intensity of the preparation which takes place. It is a time to turn to God, to renew communion with Him and with one another, and to embrace charity and justice, especially for the poor and marginalized, as a sign of the Kingdom of God which is already present in the world but is yet to come in its fullness.

Pope John Paul II about a Jubilee Year from his Apostolic Letter Tertio Millennio Adveniente (1994)

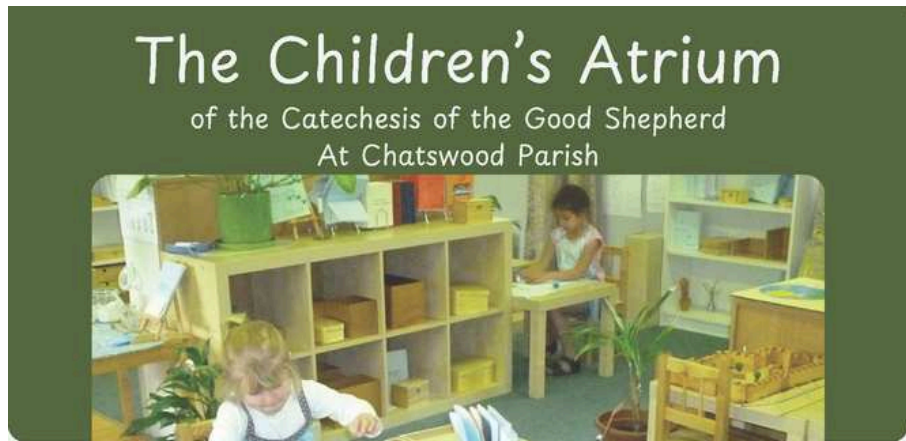
CHILDREN'S ATRIUM (CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD)

JANUARY FORMATION FOR ADULTS

In late January we will be running a formation retreat for adults. Although this course is aimed at adults interested in learning this wonderful way to support children in their faith formation, it is also suitable for anyone interested in nurturing their relationship with God in a retreat like, contemplative environment.

We would love to have more catechists involved in supporting children at the Atrium here in Chatswood, so if you know of anyone who might be interested in attending, please pass this on to them. Or if you are interested in finding out more about the formation course, please feel free to contact Angela at the above email or at the parish email address: angela.hague@bbcatholic.org.au

Or go to the following link to access the course brochure: <https://tinyurl.com/2ae5kzuh>



Since August 2007, we have been welcoming children to this wonderful place called the Atrium, so that they can spend time with God to nurture their relationship with him. The CGS Atrium is based on Scripture and Liturgy and framed by Montessori principles of Education.

The Atrium is offered in three stages or age groups and there is a separate room for each age group.

The sessions times are:



3-6 year olds

Mondays 10am-11:30am
Mondays 3:45-5:45pm
Tuesdays 3:45-5:45pm
Thursdays 10am-11:30am



6-9 & 9-12 year olds

Mondays 3:45-5:45pm
Tuesdays 3:45-5:45pm

Enrolments for 2025 are now open and we would love to welcome your child to the atrium.

To find out more about the Atrium watch this video



To speak with someone or to enrol your child, contact Angela or Rose at: old.childrens.atrium@gmail.com



Feastmas Catering
ROLLD.COM.AU



SCAN FOR CATERING OPTIONS

GET YOUR CHRISTMAS OFFER* BY CONTACTING ROLLD CHATSWOOD

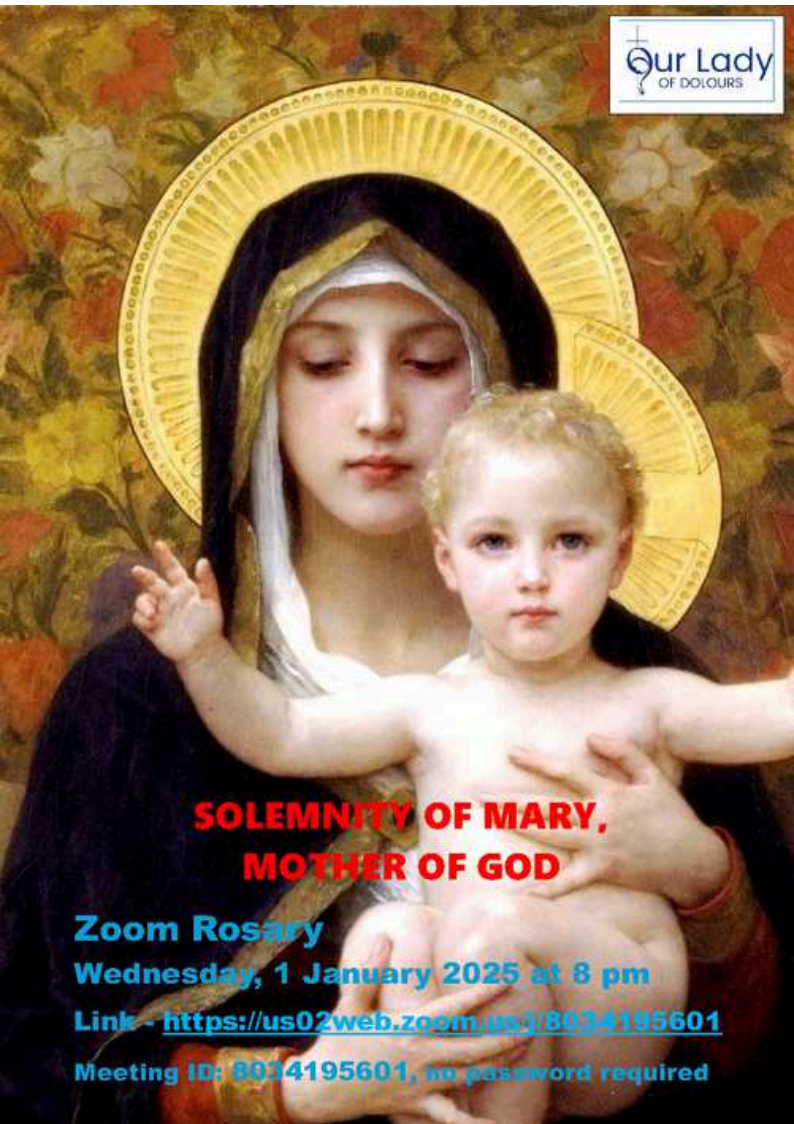


Email: linh.bui@rolld.com.au

Phone: 0404 898 704 - Tina

Thank you for supporting the services that support our community!

ONLINE ROSARY



**SOLEMNITY OF MARY,
MOTHER OF GOD**

Zoom Rosary

Wednesday, 1 January 2025 at 8 pm

Link - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8034195601>

Meeting ID: 8034195601, no password required

MARIAN CATHOLIC ACTION GROUP

BOOKLET FOR SALE

The booklet of Our Mother of Perpetual Help is available in the Piety Stall at \$3 per copy. Also available is a book "Fig Leaves Are Not Enough: Open Letters On Modesty In Dress" at \$12 (Amazon selling at \$20).

Cecilia O.



COMMUNITY ACTION GROUP

OUR CHRISTMAS PARTY AT COMMUNITY HOUSING

On Tuesday 17th, our hottest day this summer, our Vinnies team joined with the St George Housing staff to provide an unforgettable Christmas Party for residents in the Community Housing estate in Artarmon. We had to abandon our plans for a BBQ because of the heat and instead we provided delicious barbecued chicken, salads and dessert. At the end of the party, each of the 60 people who came received a Christmas hamper and their children were given toys kindly donated by students at Mercy College. It was a most heart-warming experience to be with the residents, to see the way they cared for each other and joined in the spirit of the day and their appreciation of our efforts, with tears and hugs and exclamations of God Bless You, was very moving. We came away with many stories but just one will sum up the experience for us all.

This was a gentleman who when we rang to invite him to the party replied very brusquely, that he didn't want a hamper, and that 'it was too little too late'. We discovered later that this man suffers from severe depression and that his partner is diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder. They find it difficult to get out of their unit, are socially isolated and living a nightmare. Against all odds, he came to the party. He couldn't stay long, but long enough to have a drink and a heartfelt conversation. He smiled, we shook hands and he thanked us for the hamper and a gift for him and his partner. He wished us a Merry Christmas.

Jo K.



Our choir celebrated some recent birthdays! Happy birthday to Alobie, Sunny, Mary, and Catherine!



A few more great snaps from Carols!



NEXT WEEK: CHURCH EVENTS, PRAYER, AND LITURGY

Monday
23 December

- **5:30am Simbang Gabi Dawn Novena Mass.**
- 10am Organ practice SC.
- 11:30am Chaplet of Divine Mercy, Rosary (Cenacle, MMP).
- **12:30pm Mass**
- 1pm Rosary.
- 2pm Kids Christmas Eve Rehearsal.
- 4:30pm Organ Lesson BO.

Tuesday
24 December

- **5:30am Simbang Gabi Dawn Novena Mass.**
- 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.
- 3pm Organ practice TL.
- 4:30pm Christmas Eve choir prac.
- **5:30pm Christmas Eve Mass.**
- **8pm Christmas Eve Mass.**
- **12am Christmas Mass with Carols at 11:30pm.**

Wednesday
25 December

- Solemnity: Nativity of the Lord**
- **7:30am Christmas Mass.**
 - **9am Christmas Mass.**
 - **10:30pm Christmas Mass.**

Thursday
26 December

- Feast: St Stephen**
- **10am Mass**
 - 2pm Organ practise.

Friday
27 December

- Feast: St John**
- 8:45am Morning Prayer.
 - **9am Mass.**
 - 9:30am Rosary and Chaplet of Divine Mercy.
 - **12:30pm Mass.**
 - 4:45pm Organ practice BO.

Saturday
28 December

- Feast: The Holy Innocents**
- 8:45am Morning Prayer.
 - **9am Mass**
 - **9:30am Eucharistic Exposition & Adoration,** Reconciliation, Rosary.
 - 10:00am Novena – Our Lady of Perpetual Help.
 - 11am Choir practice.
 - 12:30pm Organ practice SC.
 - 4:30pm Vigil Singers.
 - **5:30pm Vigil Mass.**

Sunday Mass
29 December

Feast: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

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



ST JOHN FEAST 27 DECEMBER

- St John is often referred to as "the disciple whom Jesus loved." He had a special closeness to Jesus and was present at key moments, including the crucifixion.
- Tradition holds that John was the youngest of the apostles, possibly in his late teens or early twenties when he began following Jesus.
- John's Gospel is often represented by an eagle because of its "soaring" theological insights into the divinity of Christ.
- Unlike the synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke), John's Gospel focuses more on the divinity of Jesus and includes unique accounts like the wedding at Cana and the raising of Lazarus.
- Tradition tells us that St John once drank poisoned wine, but the poison had no effect on him. This is why he is often depicted holding a chalice with a serpent in religious art.
- John was exiled to the island of Patmos, where he received the visions that he recorded in the Book of Revelation.
- John is believed to have been the only apostle to die of natural causes, living into old age, possibly into his 90s, while the others were martyred.
- John is considered the patron saint of love, loyalty, friendships, and authors. His writings emphasize love as a central Christian virtue.
- His feast day is celebrated on December 27, and wine is traditionally blessed on this day in some cultures, recalling the poisoned wine incident.
- John is traditionally believed to be buried in Ephesus (modern-day Turkey), where he spent much of his later life spreading the Gospel and caring for Mary.

NEXT WEEK IN THE MEETING ROOMS

Monday 23 December	<ul style="list-style-type: none">6:30pm Indonesian Legion of Mary (Magnificat).
Tuesday 24 December	<ul style="list-style-type: none">10am Bible Study (St Paul).7pm Indo. Legion of Mary (St Peter).7pm Filipino Choir (Harrington Hall).
Wednesday 25 December	<ul style="list-style-type: none">6:30pm Indonesian Instruments (Harrington Hall).7pm Exploring the Faith (St Peter).
Friday 27 December	<ul style="list-style-type: none">10am Meditation and Sharing (St Peter) set up 9:30am.7pm Online Zoom Meditation and Sharing.
Saturday 28 December	<ul style="list-style-type: none">10am Music Lessons (St Paul).10:30am Legion of Mary Praesidium (St Peter) set up 10am.12pm Christmas party for young people with disabilities (Magnificat).
Sunday Mass 29 December	<ul style="list-style-type: none">9am Choir (St Paul).



HOLY INNOCENTS FEAST 28 DECEMBER

- The Holy Innocents are considered the first Christian martyrs, as they gave their lives because of Jesus, even though they were too young to understand.
- Their deaths fulfilled the prophecy of Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children..." (Matthew 2:18; Jeremiah 31:15).
- In medieval England, the Feast of the Holy Innocents was known as "Childermas" and was observed with solemnity, as it reminded people of the fragility of life.
- In Christian art, the Holy Innocents are often depicted wearing white robes and holding palm branches, symbols of their martyrdom and innocence.
- They are considered patrons of babies, children, and those who have died before baptism.

SAINT SYLVESTER I OPTIONAL MEMORIAL 31 DECEMBER

- Saint Sylvester I was pope from 314 to 335 AD, during the reign of Emperor Constantine. This was a pivotal time in Church history, as Constantine legalized Christianity with the Edict of Milan in 313, ending the persecution of Christians

- While not directly involved in Emperor Constantine's conversion, Saint Sylvester I was pope during Constantine's reign and worked closely with him. Constantine is credited with making Christianity the official religion of the Roman Empire, and Pope Sylvester played a crucial role in supporting this change.
- Saint Sylvester is known for his efforts to strengthen the papacy and the Christian community in Rome. Under his leadership, the Church saw a growth in the number of Christians, and Christian worship was officially recognised and protected.

REFLECTING ON THE GOSPEL:

- Mary traveled in haste to visit Elizabeth. Are there times when I feel called to reach out to others quickly? How can I respond generously to such promptings?
- Mary and Elizabeth shared a moment of mutual support and joy in their unique callings. Who are the people in my life that I can journey with in faith? How can I nurture those relationships?
- Mary traveled a significant distance to be with Elizabeth, despite the challenges. What sacrifices can I make to support someone in need of encouragement or assistance?
- The Visitation demonstrates the power of presence and connection. How can I be more intentional in visiting or spending time with those who might need companionship?

- Saint Sylvester I is considered the patron saint of builders, likely due to his role in overseeing the construction of several churches in Rome, including the Basilica of St. Peter.
- Saint Sylvester's feast day is celebrated on December 31, the same day as New Year's Eve in many countries. In some traditions, the day is marked with celebrations, and in Germany and Austria, it is sometimes referred to as "Sylvester" or "Silvester" in honor of him.
- There are some legends surrounding Pope Sylvester I, including one that suggests he performed a miracle by curing Emperor Constantine of leprosy, although this story is more myth than fact.

INFO AT A GLANCE

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)

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Richard.Houwing@bbcatholic.org.au

Manager of Parish Operations: Olivia Lee (Mon - Fri)

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Project Officer: Chloe Aylward (Mon - Wed)

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Pastoral Support Worker: Mona Saouma

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Youth Minister: Bettina Ignacio (Mon, Tue, Sun)

Bettina.Ignacio@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.
Wednesday	Mass 9:00am, 12:30pm & 6:30pm.
Thursday	Mass 9:00am & 12:30pm. Reconciliation: 7:00pm.
Friday	Mass 9:00am & 12:30pm.
Saturday	Mass: 9:00am Reconciliation: 9:30am. Vigil Mass: 5:30pm
Sunday	Mass <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 7:30am• 9:00am• 10:30am• 5:30pm

You're invited To CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH

St Mary's Catholic Church
Enter from Denison St, School Entrance
11am - 1pm

This year we will be providing a
Take Away Picnic Lunch and gift.

There will be some tables set up under
the big tree if you wish to enjoy your
Picnic with some other guests.

It's been a tough year for many, so no matter what your
circumstance, you are always welcome to come along!!

- ✓ COVID-19 Safe
- ✓ Free
- ✓ Special Gift Bag for all guests
- ✓ Family friendly
- ✓ Non-alcoholic
- ✓ Friendly Community

Hosted by
Manly Freshwater Parish
Tel: 9977 5822



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.