FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR C



Parish of Gosford The Shrine of St John Paul II

The Communities of St Patrick's East Gosford, Mangrove

Mountain Community, & Holy Trinity Spencer Neighbourhoods of Grace, entrusted to the care of the Salvatorians.



Gosford Parish

Year of

JOY

LETTER

FROM GREG

Dear parishioners,

Advent is a season of waiting, hope, and preparation. It invites us to pause amid the hustle of daily life and reflect on the profound mystery of God becoming man. As we journey toward Christmas, Advent reminds us that this preparation is not just external decorations, gifts, or festive meals—but internal, as we ready our hearts to welcome Christ.

St. John Paul II once said, "God made us for joy." This profound truth offers a guiding light for our Year of Joy but also Advent reflection. Joy is not mere happiness tied to circumstances but a deep, abiding sense of peace that flows from our union with God. As we anticipate the birth of Christ, we are called to rediscover this joy that is rooted in His presence and promises.

To prepare well for Christmas, we must embrace three key dimensions of Advent: prayer, repentance, and generosity.

First, prayer connects us to the heart of God. Amid the busyness of the season, setting aside time for silence and reflection allows us to focus on the true meaning of Christmas. Meditating on Scripture, especially the prophecies of the Messiah and the Nativity narratives, helps us enter into the spirit of Advent. St. John Paul II emphasized the importance of encountering Christ in prayer, noting that it is in this encounter that we discover our ultimate jov.

Second, repentance clears the way for Christ to enter our lives. John the Baptist's call to "prepare the way of the Lord" (Isaiah 40:3) echoes through the Advent season. This is a time to examine our hearts and remove anything that hinders our relationship with God. The sacrament of reconciliation is a powerful way to experience God's mercy and begin anew, freed from the burdens of sin.

Finally, generosity mirrors the love and self-giving of God, who gave us His Son. Advent invites us to look beyond ourselves and share with others, especially those in need. Whether through acts of kindness, charitable giving, or simply offering our time to someone who is lonely, such gestures embody the joy and hope

St. John Paul II's insight reminds us that joy is both a gift and a calling. God desires us to live in the fullness of joy, and Advent is a season to rediscover this gift. Joy flows naturally from gratitude. As we prepare for Christmas, and begin today Year of Joy in our parish let us take time to thank God for His blessings, especially the gift of Jesus Christ. Gratitude opens our hearts to joy, transforming even the most ordinary moments into occasions of grace.



In the final days of Advent, as the celebration of Christ's birth draws near, let us resolve to prepare well-not just through external preparations but by cultivating hearts filled with faith, hope, and love. By anchoring ourselves in prayer, seeking reconciliation, and extending generosity to others, we can truly experience the joy for which God created us.

May this Advent season lead us to the manger, where we will find the source of everlasting joy: Jesus Christ, Emmanuel—God with us.

Yours in Christ

Fr Greg Skulski SDS

Parish Priest.





Pope Francis' Prayer Intention

DECEMBER

For Pilgrims Of Hope

Let us pray that the coming Church Jubilee Year 2025 strengthens us in our faith; helping us to recognize the Risen Christ in the midst of our lives, transforming us into pilgrims of Christian hope.



FR. Francis Jordan

Trust in the Lord with your whole heart and do not depend on your own prudence. "Think of Him in all your ways; let Him guide your steps."

SD II/78





PATRICK'S PARISH GOSFORD

U١	NDER	THE	PAS	TORA	L C	CARE	OF	SALVATORIANS

Society of the Divine Saviour

http:/	'/ww	w.sd:	s.org	.au
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PARISH PRIEST	Fr Grzegorz (Greg) Skulski SDS			
	greg@sds.org	<u>.au</u>		
ASSISTANT DDIEST	Fr Bronislaw	(Bronek)	Pietrusewicz	

bronek@sdsau.com

PARISH OFFICE

YOUTH MINISTRY

Mon - Thu:	9:30am - 3:30pm
Friday:	9:30am - 2:30pm
Phoné:	(02) 4325 1042

PARISH SECRETARY	Colleen Kirk
EMAIL:	patsgos@acs.net.au

ST POPE JOHN PAUL II PASTORAL CENTRE

EMAIL:	JPII.Centre@bbcatholic.org.au

COORDINATOR	Sebastian Eager
ELAAU	

EMAIL:	seb.eager05@gmail.com
PHONE:	0491 765 431

YOUNG ADULTS	Liam Aqualina - 0497 253 461 liamaq2@gmail.com

MEDIA	John French
EMAIL:	john.french@bbcatholic.org.au

EMAIL:	
CATECHIST	
COORDINATOR.	
PASTORAL CENTRE	
& FORMATION	

EMAIL:

Raelene O'Connor

PHONE:	0499	995	292
110112	0.55		

EMAIL: saintpatsccd@acs.net.au

CHILDREN'S Elvira Bennett: 0410 098 757 LITURGY COORD

Barb: 4322 0250 SENIORS MINISTRY: Eunice: 0438 272 141

ST PATRICKS Dionne Soares	

dionne.soares1@dbb.catholic.edu.au

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

CHAIRPERSON	Scott Beattie
PARISH OPERATIONS	Eunice Dal Busco
EVANGELISATION	Amanda Eades
COMMUNITY	Diane Dankwah
DISCIPLESHIP	Maisie Tenev
LITURGY Jon Kealy	
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EX OFFICIO PARISH P	ASTORAL COUNCIL MEMBERS
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SCHOOL PRINCIPALS	St Joseph's - Carolina Murdoch
	St Edwards - Mark Bonnici

Maria Andrzejewska

FINANCE COMMITTEE





Hilary Pope hilary.p1@optusnet.com.au If you see any activities involving children or vulnerable adults that concerns you, please email Hilary Pope, our Safeguarding Officer.

CHURCH OPEN DAILY 8:30AM - 4:30PM.

STANDARD WEEKDAY MASSES

 GOSFORD, 76 YORK STREET EAST GOSFORD

 Mon:
 9:00am
 Wed:
 11:30am

 Fue:
 9:00am
 Thu:
 9:00am
 Fri: 12:00pm Sat: 9:00am Devotion to St JPII after Mass Mon: Tue:

Adoration and Confession 30 minutes before each weekday Mass

WEEKEND MASSES INCL. CONFESSION 30 MIN BEFORE

GOSFORD, 76 YORK STREET EAST GOSFORD

BEFORE THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

	Sat Vigil: 5:00pm	Sun: 7:3	30am, 9:30am & 6:00pm
	Filipino Mass:	2nd Sunday of eac	h month: 12:00pm
	Mangrove Mountain	Sat Vigil 5:00pm	St Dionysius Church
Mangrove Mountain		21 Nurses Road, Cer	ntral Mangrove

SPENCER, 4200 WISEMANS FERRY RD 4:00pm 2nd Sat of Month

DEFORE THE BEEGGED OF CHARLETT			
Mon 8:30 - 9:00am	Wed 11:00 - 11:30am	Fri 12:30 - 3:00pm	
Tue 8:30 - 9:00am	Thu 8:30 - 9:00am	Sat 8:30 - 9:00am	

	K O O / K K I		
Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu Rosary Begins 1 Hour Before Mass			
Fridays	11:35 am to 11:55 pm (30 Mins Before Mass)		
Saturday	8:05am until 8:25am:	1st Priests & Religious 2nd Mothers & Babies 3rd Persecuted Christians	
Sunday	7:05 am to 7:25 am		

Mon to Thu:		8:00am to 5:00pm
	Fri:	9:00am to 3:30pm

rri:	9:00am to 5:50pm	
ACTIVE GRO	ups in our community of st patrick's	
Cancer Prayer Group	After 9:00am Mass, 4th Tuesday of the Month, in the Jordan room.	
Craft Group	9:00am to 12:00pm Every Friday in the Jordan Room	
Grief & Loss Support	Please contact Margaret on 0439257817	
Women's Faith Circle	2nd and 4th Friday of the Month in the Primary Learning And Resource Centre 6:00 pm to 7:45 am	
Men of the Sacred Heart	$3^{\mbox{\tiny CM}}$ Saturday of the month. 5:00pm Mass followed by meeting in the Jordan room.	
Seniors Ministry Activities 1st Tuesday of the month. Enquiries: Barb: 4322 (Eunice: 0438 272 141		
	Prayer Group DVDs 1st Monday of the Month	
Monday Morning Prayer Groups 9:30 am after Mass	Prayer & Bible Discussion 2nd, 4th and 5th Monday of the Month	
	Prayers for Christian Unity 3rd Monday of the Month	
Bible Study - Monday night	7:00pm to 9:00pm Monday, in the Jordan Room, all are welcome!	
Divine Will Prayer Group	6:00pm to 7:15pm every Wednesday in the Jordan Room.	
Salvatorian Collaborators	3:00pm, 4th Saturday of the month, in the Jordan room.	
Paddies - Youth	Years 3 & 4 students, meet every Friday during school terms in the Hall 3:00 to 4:30 pm.	
Arise - Youth Group	Years 5 & 6 students, meet every Friday during school terms, in the school Library 6:00pm.	
Ascend - Youth Group	Years 7 to 12 meet every Sunday night during school terms, after 6:00 pm Youth Mass	
Awake - Young Adults	18 to 35 year olds meet the last Saturday of each month 7:00 pm in	
Group	the Jordan Room	

Every Sunday during the 9:30am Mass except during school holidays and during Sacramental program formation. All Children's Liturgy Leaders are cleared with Working with Children Checks.

SAFEGUARDING IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY

NATIONAL CATHOLIC LEADERSHIP STANDARDS Committed leadership, governance & culture

Key Elements of Standard 1:

- Ŷ A Commitment to Safeguarding
- Ŷ Promoting a Safeguarding Culture
- Ŷ Safequarding Policies
- 4 Code of Conduct

Children's Liturgy



YEAR OF JOY

As we commence our Year of Joy this weekend, the 1st Sunday of Advent, we would like to thank Patti Beattie for her work designing the banners, slides and prayer cards. Also it should be noted that Fr Greg wrote the prayer!



bilgrims on this journey of life, carrying both our burdens and our dreams. Fill our hearts with the joy that only You can give, a joy that endures through trials and doubts, a joy that springs from trust in Your unchanging love.

Make us radiant witnesses of hope, not by mere words but by lives that reflect Your light.
Grant us courage to share our joy with others, to be sources of comfort, peace, and laughter, bringing hope to those who feel weary or lost.

Guide us with the spirit of true joy, not rooted in fleeting things but anchored in You, so that we may journey faithfully and reach our eternal home with hearts uplifted.

In all things, may our lives proclaim: we are joyful pilgrims of hope, loved and led by You.

Amen.

LETTER FROM FR GREG

REGARDING PARISH EMPLOYMENT

Dear Friends,

I would like to share with you all that as I have invited Mrs Suzy Caruso, our current bookkeeper and former parish secretary at Pittwater Parish, Mrs Nicole Murphy, a member of our Parish Finance Committee and Finance Manager at St Joseph's College, and Mrs Colleen Kirk our current parish secretary as she brings to the table a wealth of understanding and experience of our parish and its office to sit with me on the interview panel. All panelists have a good understanding of both parish and/or finance administration and know the needs of this parish.

Last Tuesday I have met with the members of interview panel to shortlist the candidates with a view to inviting only four applicants with the correct qualifications and who fulfil the criteria that we're seeking to be interviewed on December 2. Please keep me and the members of the interview panel in your prayers as we make these important decisions for the future of our parish administration.

Kind regards,

Fr Greg Skulski, Parish Priest

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY

3 DECEMBER 2024

The day is held annually on the 3rd of December all over the world. It celebrates and raises awareness of people with disability. The goal is to achieve inclusion of people with disability in all aspects of community life. What Does Catholic Social Teaching say about Disability? - It is not so much the impairment but the ignorance, intolerance, injustice, and exclusion that undermines the dignity and humanity of disabled people.

People with a disability are not just the object of care but the agents of their own life. They need to be heard. - We must recognise the vast diversity of the disabled experience. Inclusion requires that people with disability have an equal opportunity to be recognised, accepted and make their own contribution to the common good.

PRAYER FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

God our Father, who created all people in your image:

give persons with physical, cognitive, or emotional disabilities opportunities to do all that they are able to, and strengthen them to overcome challenges. Jesus, who showed great compassion for those who suffer: comfort all who feel like their gifts are not used

or that their value is not understood, so that they might take courage in your affection. Holy Spirit, who fills believers with all good gifts: help me to reach out to persons with disabilities through friendship, care, and working to be sure that our church includes them in everything that we do and to break down barriers to inclusion in society. We ask this in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR CHRISTMAS RAFFLE WINNERS!

Whilst we thank enormously everyone for their generous support of our Christmas Raffle, and those who generously donated prizes, we would also like to congratulate the following winners:

Barbara Mills: Hamper. P Scott: Hamper. Carla: Christmas Cake. Denise Begg: Prosecco & Glasses. Margaret Dibben: Rug. Karen Boubeta: Knee Rug. Gavin Donnelly: Christmas Lights. Donna Hobday: Crock Pot. Angela Chehade: Bag.

We offer our sincere appreciation to Eunice, the chief organiser of the raffle, and the Fund Raising Committee members for selling the tickets.

CHRISTMAS MARKETS

Last weekend we held a very successful Christmas Markets under the leadership of Eunice, Cecilia & Margaret, and we are so appreciative of the effort to coordinate and staff the event, thanks also to members of the Fund Raising Committee for this. To those who donated items to the Markets, we thank you also as they contributed greatly to its success.

1ST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH

Mass with anointing of the sick at 12pm followed by lunch in Jordan Room.

THE GOSFORD PARISH CALENDAR IS NOW AVAILABLE!

The parish calendar for the year 2025 is now available! We published the calendar to recognise the 60th anniversary of the church and the 65th anniversary of the school. The calendar includes all very important dates and events for our parish and school. You can get your copy at the Piety Shop now!

MASS INTENTION REQUESTS

As we are drawing near the conclusion of November, the month of Remembrance, it is perhaps the time to touch on a couple of factors. Firstly, if a specific date is required by the person submitting the intention it is strongly advisable to submit the request at least three weeks before that date.

ADVENT PROGRAM | A JOURNEY OF HOPE

Please note that Advent booklets prepared by the diocese of Broken Bay are now available in the foyer to be collected.

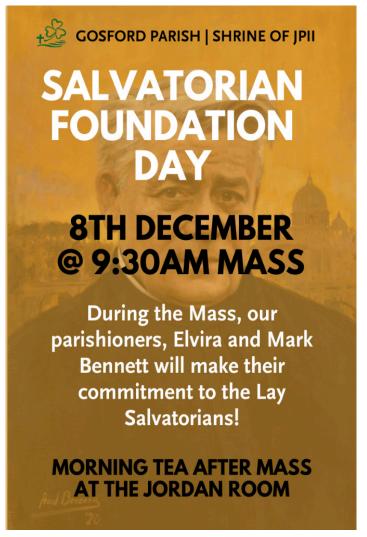
SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS APPEAL

Our Appeal will be introduced by video towards the end of mass. Appeal envelopes will be on the seats for this and the following weekend and then be avallable in the foyer. If you would like to assist, just place them on the collection plate. The Poor Boxes will be avallable as usual. Food and Clothing may be placed neatly in boxes in the foyer. Help is available for those in need at 43 22 53 61. I you would like to volunteer for Conference work, please contact Margaret Gunnelson (Conference President) 0419 589 540. Thank you.









SAVE THE DATE: ANNUAL VOLUNTEERS' THANKSGIVING MASS & SUPPER

6PM TUESDAY, 10[™] DECEMBER

If you are on a roster or actively volunteer for the parish in any capacity you will want to place this date on your calendar! We look forward to celebrating your stewardship with Mass and Supper. See you there!





'Confession is an act of honesty and courage - an act of entrusting ourselves, beyond sin, to the mercy of a loving and forgiving God' St John Paul II

ADVENT MERCY NIGHT

2ND RITE OF RECONCILIATION
SEVERAL PRIESTS AVAILABLE FOR CONFESSION!

ADORATION | CONFESSION | PRAYER | PRAISE & WORSHIP

18th December @ 7pm







"YOUR REDEMPTION IS NEAR AT HAND."

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

CF PSALM 24:1-3

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God.

In you, I have trusted; let me not be put authority of the Lord Jesus. to shame.

Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

FIRST READING

JEREMIAH 33:14-16

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I am going to fulfil the promise I made to the House of Israel and the House of Judah:

'In those days and at that time, I will make a virtuous Branch grow for David, who shall practise honesty and integrity in the land.

In those days Judah shall be saved and Israel shall dwell in confidence.

And this is the name the city will be called: The Lord-our-integrity.'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 24:4-5. 8-9. 10. 14. R. v.1 (R.) To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

1. Lord, make me know your ways.

Lord, teach me your paths.

Make me walk in your truth, and teach me: for you are God my saviour.

(R.) To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

2. The Lord is good and upright.

He shows the path to those who stray, he guides the humble in the right path; he teaches his way to the poor.

(R.) To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

3. His ways are faithfulness and love for those who keep his covenant and will.

The Lord's friendship is for those who revere him; to them he reveals his covenant.

(R.) To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

SECOND READING

1 THESSALONIANS 3:12 - 4:2

A reading from first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

May the Lord be generous in increasing your love and make you love one another and the whole human race as much as we love you. And may he so confirm your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless in the sight of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus Christ comes with all his saints.

Finally, brothers, we urge you and appeal to you in the Lord Jesus to make more and more progress in the kind of life that you

are meant to live: the life that God wants, as you learnt from us, and as you are already living it. You have not forgotten the instructions we gave you on the authority of the Lord Jesus.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

PSALM 84:8

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

LUKE 21:25-28. 34-36

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Jesus said to his disciples: 'There will be signs in the sun and moon and stars; on earth nations in agony, bewildered by the clamour of the ocean and its waves; men dying of fear as they await what menaces the world, for the powers of heaven will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand erect, hold your heads high, because your liberation is near at hand.

'Watch yourselves, or your hearts will be coarsened with debauchery and drunkenness and the cares of life, and that day will be sprung on you suddenly, like a trap. For it will come down on every living man on the face of the earth. Stay awake, praying at all times for the strength to survive all that is going to happen, and to stand with confidence before the Son of Man'

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

PSALM 84:13

The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.



SAFEGUARDING

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR PERSONS WITH DISABilities

This key safeguarding date is a United Nations international day that aims to promote community awareness, understanding and acceptance of people with a disability.

The event is held on December 3rd, with this year's theme being Amplifying the leadership of persons with disabilities for an inclusive and sustainable future. The theme promotes people with disabilities in leadership roles and the importance of this to make the world a fairer place for everyone.

Within Australia this event is a joint effort between government, schools, organisations, community groups, businesses and individuals. It is an opportunity to be part of creating an inclusive and diverse community for the 5.5 million people with a disability in Australia.



BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS FOR DIRECT DEPOSIT

Account Name:

Gosford Parish Church Account

BSB: 062 784

Account No: 100001599

Please remember to always include a reference if a deposit is for a specific purpose, e.g. PWBB. If a deposit is a donation that doesn't require a receipt, the word 'donation' would suffice.

Thank you so much for your generosity!



Mass	Vigil 5:00 pm	7:30 am	9:30 am	6:00 pm	Mangrove Mt Vigil 5:00 pm
Date	07.12.24	08.12.24	08.12.24	08.12.24	07.11.24
Audio Visual	Ron Begg	Peter McLean	Tom Croll	Jackie Wilks	
	Johnson Fernandes	Sheila Evans	Peter Julius	Patrick Nicholls	
Acolytes	Jon Kealy	Alan Pont	Tim Dasan	Mark Bennett	
Commentator	Maisie Tenev	John Konopka	Chris Paget	Barbara McCarthy	Alyce Chin
Lectors	Val Dibben	Susan Lindaya	Carol Bailey	Sam O'Connor	Mark Bigeni
Lectors	Thea Dowsett	Gerard Price	Regina Fong	Anna Llige	Sonia Cummings
Extraordinary	Anita Fernandes	Neryl Tyrrell	Frances Mathey	Nora Koleszar	
Ministers of					
The Eucharist					
Altar Servers	Dominic Chehade Christopher Chehade Amin Chehade Alvita Fernandes Annette Fernandes	Veronica Chechelska Sabina Chechelska	Theodore Huang Hugo Huang Samson Paget Serah Jubin Jeremy Jubin	Reagan Gomez Evana Jose Gabriel Guirguis Diesel Parletta Victoria Bennett	Jessica Xuereb
COUNTERS /12/2024 unice Dal Busco avid Slingsby on Begg /12/2024 unice Dal Busco ana Addis arie Cradock	ALTAR LINEN P/Up 02/12/24 Sheila Evans Ret'n by 06/12/24 COFFEE SHOP 07/12/24 Jenny Appleby Anita Venn Michael Tabone	ALTAR SOCIETY Sat 07/12/24 Fran Thompson Audrey Morris Thea Dowsett Barbara Mills Regina Fong CHILDREN'S LITURGY Sun 08/12/24 Danielle Camilleri Viola Kim	PARISH BUS 08/12/24 Driver Sherree Sullivan Helper Frances Hickey	FRIDAY HOSPITAL 06/12/24 Co: Patricia McCaskie Colleen Drummond Bigi Kongola Denise Nicholson Sandrea Petith Joan Vella-Critien Gary Wills	SUNDAY HOSPITAL 08/12/24 Sheila Evans Michael Lynch

PRAY FOR THE SERIOUSLY ILL MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY:

Christine Dornauer, Philomena Pannell, Trish Sedger, Judy Wennerbom, Graham Knott, Robyn Nevin, Josephine & Des Freeman, Mary Brown, Moira O'Neill, Caterina Erbeni, Jessica Anslow, Soon Hock, Paul Jones, Claire Hastings, Joshua Herbert, Mery-Anne Bonnici, Jadwiga Skulska, Joshua McCarroll, Gloria Emara.

RECENTLY DECEASED:

Aaron Burke, Marie Allman, Margaret Dalgleish, Marilyn Wall, Glenn Mathieson, Bernie Higgins, Mavis McCarthy.

ANNIVERSARIES:

Clare Murphy, Stanislaw Tremtiaczy, Pat KinsellaRosa Pirrottina, Antonio Monachino, Mary Dimech, Grace & Lorenza Bajada.

REMEMBRANCES

Tina Luci, Angela Vitale, Helen & Charlie Clements, Francis Ng Yat Kong, Frank, Carmel & Maria Attard, Peter-Paul Camilleri, Antonio Monteleone.

CONDOLENCES

We offer our sincere condolences to anyone in our parish who have recently experienced the loss of loved ones. May God welcome them into His heavenly home and grant them eternal rest.

MASS INTENTIONS

Date	Mass	Intention
Sat 30/11	9:00am Gosford	JPII INTENTIONS
Sat 30/11	5:00pm Gosford	FOR PEACE
Sat 30/11	5:00pm Central Mangrove	NOVEMBER MASS
Sun 01/12	7:30am Gosford	9TH Anniversary CLARE MURPHY
Sun 01/12	9:30am Gosford	6th Anniversary STANISLAW TREMTIACZY
Sun 01/12	6:00pm Gosford	PARISH INTENTIONS
Mon 02/12	9:00am Gosford	PRIVATE INTENTIONS OF MARGARET PENFOLD
Tue 03/12	9:00am Gosford	RETURN TO HEALTH MARGARET DENMAN

Date	Mass	Intention
Wed 04/12	11:30am Gosford	PRIVATE INTENTION (FG)
Thu 05/12	9:00am Gosford	1ST Anniversary PAT KINSELLA
Fri 06/12	12:00pm Gosford	THANKSGIVING TO THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS
Sat 07/12	9:00am Gosford	JPII INTENTIONS
Sat 07/12	5:00pm Gosford	ALL HOLY SOULS
Sat 07/12	5:00pm Ct Mangrove	3rd Anniversary Ludy Del Carman Velez Velez
Sun 08/12	7:30am Gosford	PARISH INTENTIONS
Sun 08/12	9:30am Gosford	INTENTION AVAILABLE
Sun 08/12	6:00pm Gosford	INTENTION AVAILABLE

RELAX





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