

KU-RING-GAI CHASE CATHOLIC PARISH

'Seek God, Find God, Embrace God in Jesus'

Diocese of Broken Bay ~ 22nd December 2019 ~ Fourth Sunday of Advent, Yr A

Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

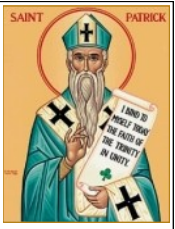
Is 7:10-14 Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24

Our Mission Statement

'Help others to recognise, through their experiences, that Jesus who died and is risen is the truth that lights up their lives'

Our Vision Statement

'That the parishioners of Ku-ring-gai Chase Catholic Parish grow as missionary disciples and live as community in Christ inviting all people into our Parish, welcoming them to our Parish life and embracing the rich diversity of our community'



Just Man Dreaming © Fr Michael Tate

I recall watching an episode of 'The Bill', an English police drama. The episode centred round an 'honour killing'. A woman had deserted her abusive, alcoholic husband. According to the customs of her Indian clan, she was the one in the wrong so she was murdered. She had dis-honoured the family of the husband by deserting him. She was killed for bringing shame on her husband and his family. Mary was also in a shame-full situation, so far as Nazareth was concerned. She had fallen pregnant before she was taken by Joseph as his wife in the fullest sense. Under Jewish law, she could be stoned to death. This is where the extraordinary character of Joseph comes through. We have to get the sequence in our heads. Before Joseph had a clue about divine intervention in Mary's pregnancy, he decided upon a merciful and compassionate course of action: to break the marriage contract quietly and discreetly and to allow Mary to get on with her life as best she could. Joseph did not ignore the situation, but he had an exceptional large-heartedness, so that he preserved a future for Mary even though she had apparently wronged him. Joseph did that, and then something extraordinary happened. What happened? Joseph slept that night in a way which allowed God to reach into his dreaming state. If he had gone to sleep that night in the turmoil of a vengeful frame of mind, such that Mary would get 'her just desserts', that 'the punishment would fit the crime' against his honour, he would not have been ready to have the deepest levels of his consciousness stirred in the way God wanted. We all know that in our waking hours we are so focussed, so blinkered, so frenetic that our minds are rarely receptive to God's prompting. The windows of perception are opened when the eyes are closed in sleep. In the deep sleep of a just and good man, Joseph was enlightened as to the divine dimension of Mary's pregnancy. Of course, there are many aspects to that dimension, but the one which this Gospel passage helps us focus on is that God was breaking through the patriarchal structures of that society and had acted as creatively as on the first day of creation. The old cycle of human history, literally generation after generation was being broken. Something utterly new had happened. Joseph received that intuition in his deep sleep. You and I are just as likely to receive an intuition as to God's plan for us in the depths of sleep: who we really are, who we are destined to be, where we 'fit in' to God's plan for transforming the whole of creation. We have to prepare ourselves by not going to sleep with vengeful hearts, especially not to defend an artificial sense of our own honour. Then we have a chance of receiving those divinely inspired insights. When we get them, these instructive moments in our sleep, what can we do when we wake up? We can dismiss them as the fantasy of slumber. Or we can do what Joseph did: get up and do what is needed to fulfil the message. [In his case, to take care of Mary as his wife and to make sure the baby was called 'Jesus'.] So, Mary had great cause to thank Joseph for being such a large-hearted man. We have cause to thank Joseph for showing what dreams can be made of. Tonight might be the night!



Prayers for Lighting the Advent Candles - 4th Sunday of Advent

Celebrant: As the day of the Lord approaches very near, we light the 4th candle. We pray that, like Mary, our hearts may be open to receive the Son of God, so that we may bring joy and peace to our world.

Reader: O Emmanuel, Lord of might, come and spread your kingdom of justice and peace.

Response:

Come, Lord, and do not delay.

Reader: O Radiant Dawn, desire of nations, come and bring your peace to all nations.

Response:

Come, Lord, and do not delay.

Reader: O Root of Jesse and Key of David, rescue your people from selfishness and sin.

Response:

Come, Lord, and do not delay.



CHRISTMAS CLOSURES

Please see inside for details of closures to the Parish Office over Christmas/New Year.



Your 'Tap' Helps our Parish 'Go' on.

We deeply appreciate the financial support of the parishioners and visitors to Ku-ring-gai Chase Catholic Parish.

No Cash? No problem! ~ Each of our machines are set to \$5 per tap. ~ One tap = \$5 ~ Two taps = \$10 etc.

Thank you for your generosity.

Donations made through these devices help to cover the ongoing maintenance costs of both our churches.

PASTORAL CENTRE

1-19 Woodcourt Road, Berowra Heights 2082
P.O. Box 335, Berowra Heights 2082
Phone: (02) 9456 2450
Email: parishkccp@bbcatholic.org.au
Website: www.bbcatholic.org.au/kccp

Centre Hours: 9am – 3.30pm.

Parish Priest Fr Shaju John, OSH
Assistant Priest Fr Joy Thomas, OSH
Parish Secretary Margaret Cooper
Bookkeeper Karen Price
Youth Ministry Co-ord. Michelle Chahine
School/Parish Liturgy L. Patricia Smith
Sacramental Team: kccpsacraments@gmail.com



WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday	5pm	St Bernard's
	6pm	St Patrick's
Sunday	8am	St Patrick's
	9am	St Bernard's
	10am	St Patrick's
	6pm	St Patrick's

WEEKDAY MASSES

St Bernard's	8am	Mon, Tues and Thurs.
	9am	Wednesday and Friday
St Patrick's	8am	Wednesday and Friday
	9am	Mon, Tues, Thurs and Sat.
First Friday –	St Bernard's	
	10.30am	Adoration
	11.00am	Reconciliation
	11.30am	Healing Mass
First Friday –	St Patrick's	
	Night Vigil	7.30pm
	RECONCILIATION	
Every Saturday	9.30 am	at St Patrick's
Every Friday	After 9am	Mass at St Bernard's, (except First Friday—see above)

This Week's: Readings & Prayers

**4th week of Advent/ Christmas Time
Monday 23/12**
Weekday, Mass of 23 December
Preface of Advent II
Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24; Lk 1:57-66

Tuesday 24/12
Weekday, Mass of 24 December
Preface of Advent II
Evening Mass of Christmas
2 Sam 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16; Lk 1:67-79

**Wednesday 25/12
Christmas Time**
The Nativity of the Lord
Solemnity with octave, Gloria, Creed
Preface of Nativity of the Lord I-III
Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25;
Mt 1:1-25
Night: Is 9:1-7; Titus 2:11-14;
Lk 2:1-14
Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Titus 3:4-7;
Lk 2:15-20
Day: Is 52:7-10; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18

Thursday 26/12
St Stephen, the first martyr
Mass of the Feast, Gloria
Preface of the Nativity of the Lord I-III
Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59; Mt 10:17-22

Friday 27/12
St John, apostle, evangelist
Mass of the Feast, Gloria
Preface of the Nativity of the Lord I-III
1 Jn 1:4; Jn 20:2-8

Saturday 28/12
The Holy Innocents, martyrs
Mass of the Feast, Gloria
Preface of the Nativity of the Lord I-III
1 Jn 1:5-2:2; Mt 2:13-18

Ku-ring-gai Chase Parish
Remembers and Prays for ...

RECENTLY DECEASED:
Geoffrey Ranson (Father of Fr David Ranson), Grace Walker, Elisabeth (May) Bailey, Gabrielle Anne King (nee Cox), Colin Randazzo, Helen McKeon, Antonietta (Ann), Fr Barry Nobbs, Noel & Martin Corrigan, James Kennelly

ANNIVERSARIES:
Eulalie Hailstone, Neil Mickelson, Alison Hinton, Mary Treacy, Assunta Fraietta, Maria Lombardo, Deacon David Huntley, Ronald Bond, Jack Van Pierce

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK:
Felicity Fone, Graeme Kachel, Michelle Chahine, Anna Nicholson, Antonio, Doug Hawkins, Pat Bowden, Peter Brooks, Brian Treacy, Erick Enriquez, Charles Abela, Elaine Estrellado, Maureen Sharpe, Paul Sarks, Eve Davis (baby), Penny Rigor, Rodney Porter, Irena Fellmann, Jwona Nowak, Elaine Longmuir, Paula McGauley, Michael Quinn, June Eileen, Patricia Smith (Carlton), Ramona Estrellado, Cathy Gleeson, Rosalinda de Ramos, Jaz Pitts, Georgia Meyers, Angela Smith, Matthew Franklin, Jeanette Bakker, Ewa Rakoz, Jean Cook, Greg Cooper, Betty Borg, Morrie Ramsden, Brian Neary, Edwina Subramany, Aiko Concepcion, John Buckley, Ellen Asistente, Sam Calacoci, Barbara Jones, Arlene Josen, Alfredo De Ramos, Kath Lock, Cadia Maestri, Marcelina De Ramos, Matthew Conlon, Patrick Dorahy, John Macy, Narelle Cartwright, Tom Dawson, Mary Fernandes, Patricia Sanders, Monique Leyden, Frederick Novak, Barbara & Maciej Maciejewski, Alfredo De Ramos Sr.

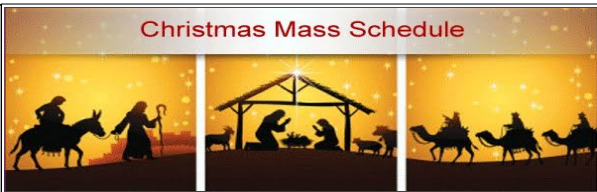
*Preparing our Churches
for the arrival
of a Very Special Baby*

**CHRISTMAS CLEANING BEE-
Monday 23 December
From 9.30am
(general cleaners & maintenance)
at both St Bernard's and St Patrick's.**

Extra help is always needed and appreciated at this time and this year an extra clean needs to be done on the Monday to ensure all is tidy after the regular weekend Masses.

**We need people to come along
with cleaning equipment for a
SUPER CLEAN
and to ensure the windows
are at their sparkling best.**

Please bring your own cleaning paraphernalia.



Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve - Tuesday 24 December

5pm St Bernard's Vigil Mass for Children,
(Mass held outdoors if weather permits)
Carols & BBQ - bring a chair or rug

6pm St Patrick's Vigil Mass for Children

9pm St Patrick's Youth Vigil Mass

12mn St Patrick's 'Midnight' Mass

Christmas Day - Wednesday 25 December

8am St Patrick's Mass

9am St Bernard's Mass

10am St Patrick's Mass

**NO evening Mass Christmas Day
NO Mass on Boxing Day**



Christmas Offering Envelopes
Are available at the back of both our churches.
Donations help to support the priests of our Diocese,
retired and active.

Thank you.

**Pint-sized actors
needed for the
(Outdoor)
Christmas Eve
[Children's] Vigil
Mass 5pm**

**Actors
Needed**

Christmas Eve Children's Mass 6pm
ST PATRICK'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

We are inviting children to take an active part in the celebration and are looking for children who like to sing, read and/or act (Shepherds, Wise-Men, Sheep, Angels) for the 6pm Christmas Eve Kid's Mass. Children can be in the choir, short

ST BERNARD'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

To all children who would like to be involved in the Nativity play on Christmas Eve, please contact Elaine to let her know you will be part of the Mass.

Rehearsals
will be held in the Church
Monday 23/12, 3pm-4pm
Costumes provided. Parent helpers welcome. To register your interest/ask questions please contact Elaine: 0422 093 594 or emd1979@hotmail.com.

Gospel play or both.

Rehearsals at St Patrick's Church
Singers/ choir only: Mon 23 Dec. 9.45-11.45am
Gospel play actors only: Mon 23 Dec 10.45-11.45am
Both choir and Gospel play: Mon 23 Dec 9.45-11.45 am.

Those who wish to be angels please bring white outfit to Monday's rehearsal. Those playing sheep please wear all white to Monday's rehearsal.

NB: We have shepherds and wise men outfits. We are also looking for Musicians to play instruments (we have a keyboard player). Come and take part in the Celebration of Christmas! To register your interest of if you have any questions please contact Mrs Lisa P. 0414 414 567

*Come and take part in the Celebration of Christmas.
The more the merrier!*



**Christmas Message: Most Rev Anthony Randazzo, Bishop of Broken Bay,
December 2019:** In a long lyric poem that describes the coming and birth of Christ into our world, the 16th century Carmelite mystic, Saint John of the Cross writes (with God the Father speaking to the Son): **My Son, I wish to give you a bride who will love you. Because of you she will deserve to share our company, and eat bread at our table the same bread I eat.**

There is no distance between God and God's creation in this vision of things. The Christian celebration of the birth of Jesus reminds us that we are not alone or separated from God, but rather we share in the communion of God's love made visible in the birth of our Saviour.

In the child Jesus, the humility and vulnerability of God is visible. It almost seems like a contradiction that the almighty is vulnerable. However, we must resist the temptation to equate vulnerability with weakness. This image is the origin of Saint Paul's declaration to the church at Corinth: **"when I am weak, then I am strong"**. (2Cor 12:10)

God comes without force or fear, because he does not wish to compel us into friendship by imposing upon us. Rather, in the person of Jesus, God takes on our human flesh so as to transform and enlighten us from within.

If anything can conquer the darkness and doubt of human frailty, it is the vulnerability of the child. God assumed this vulnerability in order to heal us from human sin and division and to lead us to our home with God in paradise.

Christmas celebrated in the true Christian spirit will lead us more deeply into the mystery of faith. However, it is not just for the next life – the celebration is also for this life.

At Christmas time, I am always aware that there can be both joys and struggles. There is joy in feasting and celebrating with family, friends and the community of the Church.

There can also be struggles for those who are alone, separated from family or the community, and for those who have lost loved ones.

Wherever we find ourselves, my hope is that each and every one will know the truth that God is not distant and that Jesus Christ is born for our good and the salvation of the whole world.

May every blessing of the Christ child come upon you and your families this Christmas and may the love and the joy and the peace of Christ be with you always. **Amen.** (to watch on Youtube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7T_aUHFURP4)



Singers and musicians still welcome to join in the fun at Christmas Masses at St Patrick's: practice before 6pm Mass on Christmas Eve at 5pm, before midnight Mass at 11pm, and before 10am Mass on Christmas Day at 9.30am. All welcome! Children's Choir@St Patrick's and Cherubs Choir now in recess over the school holidays. See you in February! Enquiries: Patricia Smith 9482 7935



Our Ecumenical **'Carols under the Star'** event last Thursday evening was a resounding success and when we say resounding we mean all the voices raised in song and praise could be heard for quite a distance across the ridge and valley. There was a great turnout of families and friends and everyone had a great time. We thank God for the blessing of bringing together all people in our community of Christian Faiths to celebrate the true **'Reason for the Season'** and for **'Keeping Christ in Christmas'**.



The photo opposite (left) is of **The Three Wise Kings**, who are really Richard Fleming (Uniting), Ian Millican (Anglican) and Fr Shaju John (Catholic), the leaders of the Christian churches in the Berowra community. Our St Bernard's School Choir also represented our faith admirably under the expert leadership of Madeleine Cottrell, *well done kids!*

Some of our older parishioners may recall a song called: "Silver threads among the Gold", well on December 27th we have two very special occasions to give thanks for ... one Silver and one Gold ... so without further ado the Parish of Ku-ring-gai Chase give thanks for and asks God's Blessings upon...

**25 Years of Ordination
"A Silver Celebration"**

Fr Shaju and Fr Joy were ordained 25 years ago, together at Christ the King Cathedral, Kottayam, Kerala, India on 27th December 1994.

(Yes, the actual anniversary has been a long time coming, but that's the Indian way, they celebrate for the entire year of the milestone, not just on the actual day like we Aussie's do ... you have to admire their style and STAMINA !).

Congratulations Fr Shaju & Fr Joy.



50 Years of Marriage "A Golden Celebration"

on 27 December 1969 at Holy Name Priory, Wahroonga Fr McComb OP married Christopher Edward Newnham and Susan Helen Perrin.

At the 8am Mass next Friday 27 December 2019, Chris and Sue will receive a special blessing in the presence of their faith and faith family to mark this wonderful occasion.

"What God has joined, no-one may divide" Matthew 19:6



THANK YOU FROM VINNIES: The Asquith Conference of the St Vincent de Paul Society sincerely thanks Parishioners for your generous donations to the recent Christmas Appeal. Funds raised will go towards assisting our clients suffering hardship for various reasons. **For those Parishioners who donated at St Patrick's Asquith and requested receipts, could you please collect them from the box at the back of the Church.** If you missed our Appeal and would like to make a donation, there are envelopes at the back of the Church. Also a big thank you to our regular donors through the poor boxes throughout the year. Les Fogden - Treasurer



CHRISTMAS CLOSURES

The Pastoral Centre will be CLOSED from December 24 2019 until mid January 2020.

If you need assistance outside these hours please phone the office on 9456 2450 and leave a message.

NB: The phone will be CHECKED only INTERMITTENTLY. USUAL OFFICE HOURS will resume on Monday 20 January 2020 (9am to 3.30pm).

REMEMBER: If in urgent need of a priest, the emergency number is: 0468 341 841.

CatholicCare Seniors MEMORY INNOVATIONS CENTRE

OPENING 27 JANUARY 2020 IN WAITARA

Professionally run courses designed for seniors to enhance memory and wellbeing. Courses available in cooking, exercise, brain function, art and dance! Have fun, connect with others and use emerging technologies. Carers welcome! Limited places. Please call Jessica on 9481 2659 or visit <https://www.catholiccareddb.org.au/aged-care/>



Pope's intention for December: The Very Young That every country resolutely commits to taking the necessary measures to make the future of the very young, especially those who suffer, a priority.

PLEASE CONSIDER SUPPORTING MARY MAC'S PLACE AT CHRISTMAS TIME:



Mary Mac's Place in Woy Woy is managed by CatholicCare, the social care agency of our Diocese. Supporting anyone who is homeless, lonely or needing a helping hand, it costs over \$150,000 per year to run.

Mary Mac's provides over 24,000 meals a year at a cost of \$6 per meal.

They also provide a place to shower and to wash clothes, and access to outreach services such as Homeless Connector and Legal Aid. Most importantly they offer companionship and a friendly face to the vulnerable in our community.

CatholicCare's Shout a Mate a Plate fundraiser went live in August and thanks to generous supporters they have been able to cover the cost of almost 2,200 meals to date.

Their goal is to raise enough funds to provide 5,000 meals. Can you spare \$6 per month? Or a one-off donation to help the less fortunate at Christmas time?

Every plate helps and all donations are tax deductible. Mary Mac's Place relies 100% on the efforts of volunteers and donors – they do not receive any government funding. Please help! www.shoutamateaplate.org.au

ROSTERS & READINGS FOR WEEKEND 28th/29th Dec—The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph-Yr A

IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND FOR YOUR ROSTERED DATE PLEASE ARRANGE A SUBSTITUTE

Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14; Col 3:12-21; Mt 2:13-15, 19-23



KU-RING-GAI CHASE
CATHOLIC PARISH
Diocese of Broken Bay, Australia

St Bernard's Church

St Patrick's Church

	Saturday 5pm	Sunday 9am	Saturday 6pm	Sunday 8am	Sunday 10am	Sunday 6pm
	Fr Joy	Fr Shaju	Fr Shaju	Fr Joy	Fr Joy	Fr Shaju
Acolyte/Snr Server	Paul Dryden	Alex Jarominek	Sandra Sparkes	Malcolm Cross	John Messina	Keith Fone
Server	Preston Nguyen Ella Noble Adam Waite	Annalise Cottrell Verity Hartman Poppy Williams	More Altar Servers required, for many Masses — please contact Parish office	Abbey McAdam		Reliable, committed Altar Servers required, for many Masses — please contact Parish office
Reader	Mary Dorahy Anne Maree Hurchins	Denise Harant Cristina Hopwood	Les Fogden Brian Walsh	Rosemary Pendlebury Michael Halliday	Simone Noel Cora Cuasay	Don Low Ethleen Low
Children's Liturgy	In recess for the holidays		In recess for the holidays			
Communion to Sick	Kerrin Enright		Penny Loughland, Janette O'Brien			
Sacristy Care/Church Cleaning/Flowers	Paul Waite, Marlene Moloney(f), Sarah Jane Sibelja, Tina Manti(s)		Scott Smith, Maria Hon(F), Winston Rodrigues, Paul Mathew, Antony Davis MORE PEOPLE NEEDED for ALTAR SOCIETY 5 weekly ROSTER, please volunteer			
Maintenance	Both teams A & B		December: David Hartmann, Matthew Tancred, Gerry Duffy more VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!			
Counters	Barbara McMullen, Ann Hard, David Funk		Chris Newnham, Jan Bennett, Susan Clarke, Christine Rodrigues			

Working in a child-related ministry in the Catholic Diocese of Broken Bay: Paid and volunteer workers who have direct face to face contact with children (under 18 years) are required by law to obtain a Working with Children Check number. Please note though, exemptions may apply in some cases. The Parish is the employer of the paid or volunteer worker and therefore is required by law to verify the Working with Children Check number. All paid or volunteer workers engaged in a child-related role must have a clear Working with Children Check to work in a child-related ministry. This disclosure references the legislation, *Child Protection (Working with Children) Act 2012*.

LITURGICAL SERVICES & PASTORAL CARE

Rosary	After weekday Masses both Churches
Visit to Housebound	Fr Shaju John & Fr Joy Thomas 9456 2450
Emergency sick calls	0468 341 841 (After hours)
Nursing Home Visits	By request
Clergy Days Off	Fr Shaju John — Monday Fr Joy Thomas — Tuesday
Home Visits	For Masses, House Blessings & Pastoral Requests call the Office on 9456 2450
HOSPITAL ADMISSION:	If you are admitted to hospital, please write down your religion as Catholic to receive Catholic Services. <i>Be sure to notify the Pastoral Centre if hospitalised and you would like our own priests to attend.</i>



We the people of the **Catholic Diocese of Broken Bay and in Ku-ring-gai Chase Catholic Parish**, are committed to fostering communities of safety and care for all people, especially for children and others in the community who are vulnerable. Our commitment is underscored by our faith in Jesus Christ.

Position Vacant:

Director of the Sacramental Ministry and Catechist Co-Coordinator (Community of Avalon) Catholic Parish of Pittwater.
This role is a part-time position working 18 hours per week and is based in Mona Vale and Avalon. Applications should include a Cover Letter (including how your skills and experience align with the selection criteria—contact Pittwater Parish for details), current CV and Parish Priest Reference and be sent to: Fr Broniek Pietruszewicz SDS, Parish Priest, The Catholic Parish of Pittwater, 1 Keenan Street, MONA VALE NSW 2103, or email: office@pittwaterparish.org - Applications close on Friday 10 January 2020. The successful applicant will also be required to undergo pre-employment screening including WWCC verification

CCR NSW 2020 Retreat 18-19 January 2020
St Agatha's, Pennant Hills
International Speaker: Michelle Moran.
See noticeboard for more details.

The 250 Club! *Week 3: 9/12/19 ~ Winning Number: 158 ~ Mary Stokes ~\$25; Week 4: 16/12/19 ~ Winning Number: 807 ~ Madeleine Cottrell ~\$25*

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Francesca Parrino

Your Berowra / Berowra Heights Specialist

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McGrath