

KU-RING-GAI CHASE CATHOLIC PARISH

Diocese of Broken Bay

CHRISTMAS DAY 25 DECEMBER 2024 ~ THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

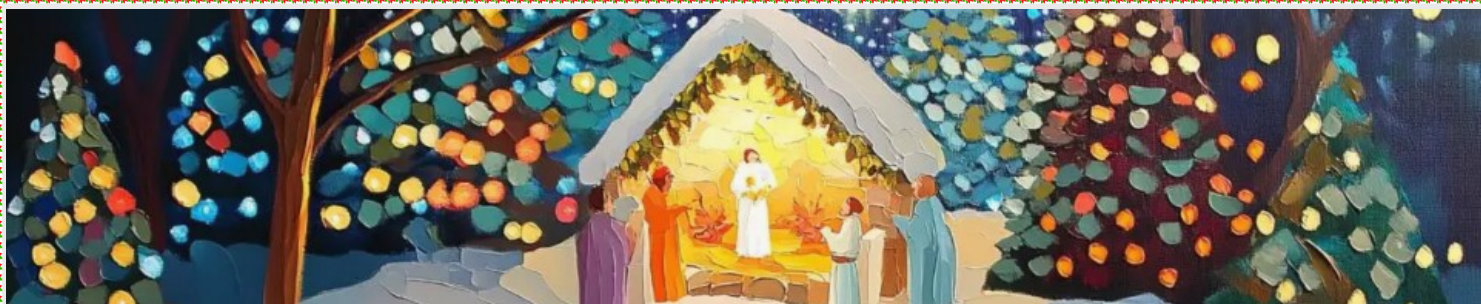
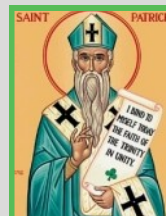
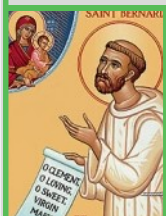
For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord— Vigil Mass

Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord—Midnight Mass

All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God—Day Masses

*May every single moment of your Christmas,
Shine with Pure Love, Sweet Joy
and Divine Favour from God.*

Happy Christmas



The Tradition of Christmas Lights

During Advent and the Christmas season, Christmas lights brighten up many homes, streets, and churches. This tradition brings joy and excitement to all. These lights make the season feel warm and festive, helping everyone remember that this is a special time of year.

For Christians, Christmas lights have a deeper meaning. They remind us of Jesus Christ, who called Himself the "Light of the World" (John 8:12). Just as light pushes away darkness, Christ brings hope to a world that needs Him. The lights we see everywhere reflect this hope, pointing us to Christ, whose birth we celebrate.

Christmas light displays come in many forms. Some are simple, like strings of lights along a house's roof. Others are grand, like large displays in city parks or around churches. Nativity scenes lit up with soft, glowing lights are also common. These displays tell the story of Jesus' birth in Bethlehem, helping us remember why we celebrate Christmas.

As we admire Christmas lights, we see both beauty and meaning. They are more than decorations. They are signs of our faith, our hope, and our joy in Christ's birth. Christmas lights help us focus on what matters most during this holy season.

Christmas Lights: A Symbol of Christ's Light

In the Bible, light is an important symbol. Jesus says, "I am the Light of the World" (John 8:12). This means He brings light to our darkness. He brings truth, hope, and salvation to a world that is often lost and confused. Just as light helps us see clearly, Jesus helps us understand God's love and His plan for us.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church reminds us that "'Full of grace and truth,' he came as the 'light of the world,'" (CCC 2466). This means that Jesus is the light that guides all people to truth and life. His coming at Christmas is a victory of light over darkness, a sign of good defeating evil.

Light also stands for hope. It shows us that Christ's love is stronger than sin and death. It brings warmth and comfort to our hearts. This is why Christmas lights are so special. They remind us that Jesus, the true Light, came to bring peace and joy. The lights we see everywhere are a sign of His promise to be with us always.

As we look at Christmas lights this season, let us remember their purpose. They are not just pretty decorations. They are a symbol of Christ's guiding presence in our lives. They call us to follow Him, the Light of the World, in faith and in hope. © 2024 [Young Catholics](#). All rights reserved

Let peace prevail – Happy Christmas & God Bless you all, from Fr Biju and Fr Joy.

People from all over the world make it a point *to try* and come together and spend time with family and friends at Christmas.

This year, *just like last year*, this is *still hard* to do, and so we *again* adapt.

We become creative and we open ourselves up to new ways to celebrate the birth of Our Saviour.

You, the parishioners of KCCP, are again this year our extended family. Fr Joy and myself pray that the Infant Christ, will shower you with His blessings during this Season of Christmas. We also wish each of you great joy, safe travels and good health in 2025.

Hello to all visitors to our parish –

Ku-ring-gai Chase Catholic Parish, warmly welcomes all visitors and extended family members to our churches.

It is wonderful to have you among us again and to join with us as we celebrate Christmas and experience the Joy of Our Saviour's Birth. Together we pray that Peace abides in our hearts, homes and homelands, now and throughout 2025.

May God bless you all and keep you safe and healthy during your visit with us.

Food for thought of a different kind ...

A friend of mine named Paul received a new car from his brother as a pre-Christmas present. On Christmas Eve, when Paul came out of his office, a street urchin was walking around the shiny new car, admiring it. "Is this your car, mister?" he asked. Paul nodded. "My brother gave it to me for Christmas." The boy looked astounded. "You mean your brother gave it to you, and it didn't cost you anything? Gosh, I wish....."

He hesitated, and Paul knew what he was going to wish. He was going to wish he had a brother like that. But what the lad said jarred Paul all the way down to his heels. "I wish," the boy went on, "that I could be a brother like that." Paul looked at the boy in astonishment, then impulsively added, "Would you like a ride in my new car?" "Oh, yes, I'd love that!"

After a short ride the urchin turned, and with his eyes aglow said, "Mister, would you mind driving in front of my house?" Paul smiled a little. He thought he knew what the lad wanted. He wanted to show his neighbours that he could ride home in a big automobile. But Paul was wrong again.

"Will you stop right where those steps are?" the boy asked. He ran up the steps. Then in a little while, Paul heard him coming back, but he was not coming fast. He was carrying his little polio-crippled brother. He sat down on the bottom step, then sort of squeezed up right against him and pointed to the car.

"There she is, Buddy, just like I told you upstairs. His brother gave it to him for Christmas and it didn't cost him a cent, and someday I'm gonna give you one just like it; then you can see for yourself all the pretty things in the Christmas windows that I've been trying to tell you about."

Paul got out and lifted the little lad into the front seat of his car. The shining-eyed older brother climbed in beside him and the three of them began a memorable holiday ride. That Christmas Eve, Paul learned what Jesus meant when He said,

"It is more blessed to give...."

Anniversary of Ordination Congratulations, Fr Joy & Fr Biju

Dear Fathers, our thoughts and prayers are with you always but especially on your Anniversaries of Ordination to the Priesthood.

May the Eternal Priest, give you both more wisdom and strength to carry out His mission towards the people entrusted to your Pastoral Care.

*'You are a priest forever,
according to the order of Melchizedek'*



Fr Joy Thomas Kunnasserry
~ 30th Anniversary of Ordination
(1994)



(Rev Dr) Fr Biju Jose
~ 26th Anniversary of Ordination
(1998)

Our New Year Wish List ~ Recently, the Holy Father proclaimed the upcoming Jubilee Year 2025 and all members of the Catholic Church will celebrate this milestone. Therefore, I would like parishioners to consider supporting the purchase of the following items:

- ✦ 6 x Altar Candlesticks at a cost of \$1,150 (+GST) per candlestick
- ✦ 1 x Altar Crucifix at a cost of \$1,600 (+GST)



I thank you for considering this appeal to purchase items for our parish and ask that you contact the parish office to assist.



Fr Biju, Parish Priest.

NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR OUR PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Dear Parishioners,
As per announcements at last weekend's masses, (see or take a copy of the announcement from back of church) we are seeking to fill **two** positions on the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC).

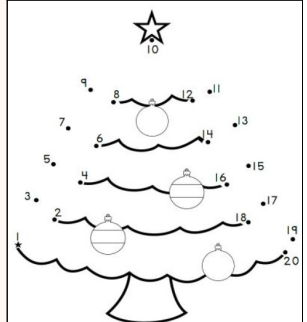
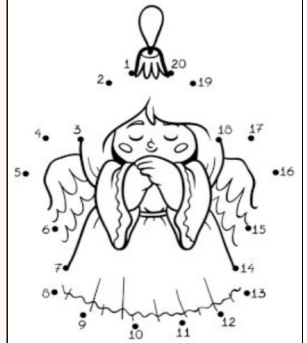
We urge you to consider nominating for one of the two positions.

Nominations close January 31st 2025.

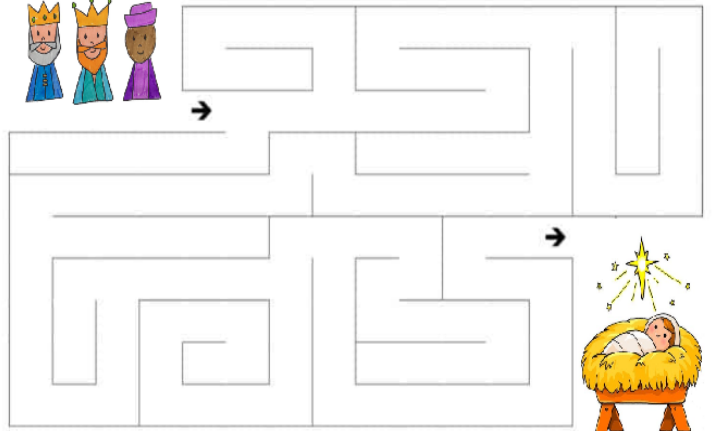
Nomination forms are available at the back of the church, and you can place your nomination form in the box provided. All nominees will be contacted to confirm nomination.

Please contact the Parish Office on 9456 2450 or Michael Halliday on 0414 095 373 if you have any questions about this process.

Thank you : Michael Halliday (PPC Chair)



Help the wise men find their way to Jesus.



CHRISTMAS CLOSURES

The Parish Office will be CLOSED from 20 December 2024 and re-opens 20 January 2025

If you need assistance during this period please email the office on: parishkccp@bbcatholic.org.au (this will be monitored regularly for urgent matters only) or phone 9456 2450 and leave a message.

Please note, messages will be CHECKED ONCE PER WEEK.

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



WEEKEND COLLECTIONS ~

Please consider carefully how the funds you place on the plate are administered. The **1st Collection: LEAVES** the parish and goes to a common fund **outside the Parish** to support priests. The **2nd Collection: STAYS** in the parish paying for costs such as insurance, wages, maintenance, church/office needs, Priests' cars & petrol etc and is **ESSENTIAL** for our **PARISH to FUNCTION** financially.

PARISH OFFICE:

Hours: 9am - 4pm.

Parish Priest

Parish Secretary ~ Margaret Cooper;

Vol. Office Assistant ~ Jan Favaloro;

RECONCILIATION:

WEEKEND MASSES:

WEEKDAY MASSES:

1-19 Woodcourt Road, Berowra Heights 2082; P.O. Box 335, Berowra Heights

P: (02) 9456 2450; E: parishkccp@bbcatholic.org.au; W: www.bbcatholic.org.au/kccp

Rev Dr Biju Jose, OSH;

Assistant Priest ~ Fr Joy Thomas, OSH

Office Admin. Assistant ~ Catherine Hutchison;

Bookkeeper ~ Karen Price;

Sacramental Team ~ Peta & Phill - kccpsacraments@gmail.com

Fridays: 9.45am at St Bernard's Berowra ; Saturdays: 9.30 am at St Patrick's, Asquith

St Bernard's, Berowra Heights: Saturday Vigil 5pm and Sunday 9am

St Patrick's, Asquith: Saturday Vigil 6pm and Sunday 8am, 10am, 6pm

St Bernard's, Berowra Heights: 9.15am Wednesday & Friday; 8am Thursday

St Patrick's, Asquith: 9am Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday; 8am Wednesday & Friday



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CATHOLIC PARISH
Diocese of Parramatta