

*Diocese of Broken Bay Under the Pastoral Care of the Discalced Carmelites since 2008*

**8 December 2024, Second Sunday of Advent**

**Parish Mass Times:**

Monday to Friday: 9am  
Saturday: 9am, 6pm (vigil)  
Sunday: 8am, 10am, 5pm  
Public Holidays: 9am  
Rock Mass: Once a term

**Baptism:** Third Sunday of each month by appointment

**Wedding:** Contact Parish Office at least 6 months prior notice  
**Morning Prayer:** Monday - Friday: 8:30am  
**Anointing of Sick:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month at 9am or by request  
**Eucharistic Adoration:** Saturday 9:30 – 10am concluding with Benediction  
**Reconciliation:** Saturday 9:30am  
**Rosary:** Immediately after weekday Mass and Saturday (8:35am)



**Every Monday**  
(during term time)  
Divine Will Prayer Group  
10-11:30am

**First Friday of Every Month**  
Exposition/Adoration at 7pm  
followed by Mass at 7:30pm

**Every Sunday at 10am Mass**  
Children's Liturgy

**Every Friday**  
(during term time)  
Lectio Divina; Zoom 10am

**Second Thursday**  
**of Every Month**  
Anointing of the Sick – 9am

**Wednesday 11th December**  
Christmas Choir rehearsal 7pm in  
the Church

**Sunday 15th December**  
10am Hamper Mass followed by a  
thank you BBQ for all  
parishioners and Ministries.



**John went throughout the  
Whole region of the Jordan,  
proclaiming a baptism  
of repentance for  
the forgiveness of sins.  
(Gospel)**

Dear Parishioners and visitors to the Parish,

The awesome, austere and somewhat formidable figure of John the Baptist appears in our readings today, exhorting us to make straight the path for the Lord. In reflecting upon our own lives, we may often find that the paths which we have travelled (and are still travelling) are very far from straight, but complex, circuitous and indirect. This is an almost inescapable reality in our contemporary world.

And listening to the Baptist's words, it is opportune to ask ourselves, "*How could I make the path of my own life a little straighter? What are the unnecessary complexities which I could easily let go of?*" Simplicity is in itself a beautiful and desirable thing. Paradoxically, it is both very difficult to achieve, and yet ready at hand as soon as we desire it. A good first step in drawing near to it is to meditate upon the supreme simplicity of God.

May God bless you,  
Fr Greg Chee, OCD

**CONTACT DETAILS**

263 Mona Vale Road, St Ives  
Phone: 9144 6998  
Email: office@corpuschristi.com.au  
In an emergency call 9144 6998  
Web: www.bbcatholic.org.au/stives

**PARISH OFFICE TEAM**

Fr Greg Chee, OCD, Parish Priest  
Ed Wales, Parish Finance  
Michelle Miles, Office Manager  
Jennifer Perrott, Faith Facilitator  
Gerri Hadwen, Sacramental Co-Ordinator  
Christina Surjan, Administrative Assistant

**HALL BOOKINGS**

Michelle Miles / Christina Surjan  
9144 6998

Corpus Christi Parish School  
Phone: 7256 2114

17 Link Road, St Ives NSW 2075  
Web: www.ccsidbb.catholic.edu.au

Principal: Mrs Jayne Wheen  
Email: ccsi@dbb.catholic.edu.au

**You can now find us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/CorpusChristiChurchStIves](http://www.facebook.com/CorpusChristiChurchStIves) and  
Instagram [www.instagram.com/CorpusChristiStIves](http://www.instagram.com/CorpusChristiStIves)**

Mark your calendars for **Sunday, December 15th**, as we come together for a special Mass to celebrate our 37th annual Christmas Hamper Appeal. This year we are honoured to have Fr Nguyen Van Cao SJ, Parish Priest of Holy Family, Mt Druitt, co-celebrating this momentous occasion with us. For nearly four decades, our parish has embraced the true spirit of Christmas by reaching out to those in need. This cherished tradition has not only brought smiles to countless faces but has also strengthened the bonds within our community.

CORPUS CHRISTI PARISH, ST IVES

# CHRISTMAS

## Hamper

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN AND WE  
ARE ASKING FOR DONATIONS FOR  
HAMPER TO DISTRIBUTE TO THE FAMILIES  
IN THE THE MT DRUITT PARISH

### SUGGESTED HAMPER CONTENTS

- Canned Food (eg soups/seafood)  
Canned Fruits
- Christmas Pudding / Cake /  
Biscuits
- Long life custard / Jelly
- Packets of Rice / Pasta / Nuts /  
Dried Fruit
- Peanut Butter / Honey / Jam /  
Vegemite
- Mixed Lollies or Chocolates
- Chips / Pretzels / Popcorn
- Non-alcoholic Sparkling  
WineCordial / Soft drink / Juice
- Packets of Tea / Instant Coffee
- Packets of Sugar / Long Life Milk
- Sauces, Oil or Vinegar
- Tissues / Paper Towel
- Christmas Decorations / Colouring  
Pencils
- Shampoo and Conditioner

Plus any other non-perishable goods you may wish to provide! Some families write personal notes or Christmas cards and place that in the Hamper.

**Please place in a sturdy clothes basket, a strong box, recyclable grocery bags—wrapped in cellophane or Christmas paper.**

**TO DONATE  
CASH**

**PLEASE REFERENCE HAMPER MASS**

Account Name: St Ives Catholic  
Parish BSB: 062 784  
Account No: 100001798

**We will also be  
accepting cash  
donations for those  
who can't get a  
hamper together.  
Unfortunately, we  
won't be able to  
accept gift cards  
this year**



**The Voice of Holy Family Parish who  
receive our Christmas Hampers**

**Interview with Georg Eberl, Holy Family  
Parish Vinnies President and Ray  
Donaldson, Parish Site Manager**



**How do you select which families are to receive hampers?**

Georg: *“We focus on the most vulnerable families. With care and respect, we call those receiving hampers our patrons. These are families truly struggling to make ends meet. Holy Family is a very large Parish, and most people don’t know that we actually cover over 13 individual suburbs.”*

**How do you identify those in real need?**

Georg: *“Our community is our eyes and ears. It might be particular families whose children attend our primary school, it could be parishioners that we know who are truly struggling, it might be our Vinnies team through providing home visits identifies those in true need. In addition, there are many programs and agencies where volunteers are active within the parish and our community who let us know of families in need as well as those we see through our Vinnies assistance line.”*

**Tell me about the people who receive the hampers?**

Ray: *“We have a range of families that we support. These families run from individuals through to families with 2 parents and 10 children - so that there is a lot of kids to be looked after. The average family is two adults and three kids with most living in Housing Commission accommodation though some pay rent to private landlords.”*

Georg: *“These families often have little or no income, making Christmas a time of stress. They work hard to provide for their children but are stretched to the limit. Hampers bring them hope and joy. With little cash the cost of food can push them into debt. We often hear quote from our patrons “I didn't know that the help was here for me”.”*

Ray: *“In many instances there are grandparents trying to look after their grandkids. We have many large families who are patrons – Pacific Islanders and over 15% of those who receive hampers are First Nations people. Our goal is to make sure that there is adequate food for the family so they can enjoy the Christmas spirit. For our patrons, hampers mean more than food—they lift spirits.”*

## What happens after the truck loaded with hampers leaves Corpus Christi?

Ray: "When the truck arrives at Holy Family parish all of your hampers are placed on tables around our Parish Hall, we have prepared a vetted list of those families in need. This list continues to grow each year as employment insecurity, housing insecurity and food insecurity mount. "Our volunteer team then starts the matching process so that we can plan to allocate the hampers."

## How are the hampers distributed?

Ray: "In the days immediately leading up to Christmas we make available times in the morning and afternoon for patrons to pick up their hampers from the Parish Hall and for those where it's not possible to come and collect we then have special distribution runs across all of the suburbs in the parish to individual households."

## What is your message to the parishioners of Corpus Christi?

Ray: "Over many years your parish has been especially generous to those who are in real need in our parish. You're well wrapped presents and the personal notes that are written to our patrons, especially your kids preparing cards for our kids, bring a strong personal touch to those that receive them. It is very much appreciated."

Georg: "Your hampers and the cash donations last year provided 150 hamper equivalents to Holy Family parish patrons. With an average of five family members this means over 750 individuals have benefited from the generosity of your parish. Your hampers are an act of God's providence. When you prepare and give these hampers, you embody the Vinnies logo: the hand of Christ blessing, the hand of love offering, and the hand of need receiving. Thank you for being the hands of Christ in our community."

"From all of us at Holy Family Parish, thank you and God bless."

Georg and Ray



Source: <https://www.shoalhavenbusinesschamber.com.au/sbc-news-april-newsletter/vinnies-logo/>



## Prayer Zone



### Please pray for the ill:

Michelle Fisher; Fr Sergio Chauira; Jessie Chang; Amy O'Connell; James Frederick Riley; Tom Brewer; Sylvia Fishburn; Nicolette Harris; Marshall O'Brien; Helen McCarthy; Quentin Stewart; Rob Sanders; Anne Jardane; Naomi Upton; Vanessa Park; Rebecca Davies; Grace Cheah; Elizabeth Walsh; Maria Garcia; Jose Mestres; Meacheal; Estelle Sok; Thi Nguyen; Carmel Hadley; Fergus O'Brien; Michelle Soumier; Gracie Spencer; Brendan Stone

***If you know of anyone who can no longer attend mass due to illness; or if you have noticed one of our parishioners is no longer attending mass, could you please let Michelle or Christina know.***

### Liturgy of the Word with Children



## Children's liturgy of the Word

During Sunday 10am Mass, children are invited to go to the school to participate in Children's Liturgy of the Word. There, they read the Gospel for the week and do activities related to that Sunday's gospel.

Morning tea is served after Mass for everyone. We look forward to welcoming you!



Pray and Play is for families with children aged 0 -12years.

It is an opportunity for the families to spend time together once a month after Sunday

10am Mass for some simple games for the children while parents mingle and chat.

Our next gathering will be held after mass this **Sunday 8 December 2024**. We welcome you all.

### FEAST DAYS - DECEMBER

Sunday 8th, Second Sunday of Advent

**Monday 9th, The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

Friday 13th, St Lucy, virgin, martyr

Saturday 14th, St John of the Cross, priest, doctor.

Mon 25th, The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

Tues 26th, St Stephen, the first martyr

Wed 27th, St John, apostle, evangelist

Thurs 28th, The Holy Innocents, martyrs

Sun 31st, The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

## Christmas Flowers

We invite all those with a love for creativity and beauty to volunteer as floral arrangers for our Christmas celebrations. You can help transform our church into a radiant and welcoming space that reflects the joy of Christ's birth. Whether you are experienced or simply eager to help, your contribution will add a special touch to our services and bring the spirit of the season to life. Please let Christina or Michelle in the Parish office know if you could help out. We'd love to have you be part of this joyful tradition

## PRESBYTERY UPDATE

Dear Parishioners,

Thank you very much for your generous donations. This has enabled us to complete the presbytery. While there are still a few things to finish, such as window coverings, our priests have moved out of their rented accommodation into the new presbytery.

Apart from a few PC items our fund raising drive will now be put on hold until the plans for the new office are finalised. While we do have a plan for the new office it is still under discussion and we do not yet have sufficient funds to contemplate building a new office.

Over the next few months we will be in discussion with the office staff and with parishioners as to the best way to achieve our objective of having a functional office. The office staff have moved into the temporary accommodation at the back of the hall.

Once again we thank you for your financial and moral support.

**Fr Greg and the Finance Committee**



## Morning Tea Ministry On Break

Our Morning Tea Ministry will be taking a well deserved break over the Christmas / New Year Period.

***Morning tea will not be served from Sunday 22 December to 26th of January 2025.***

The 2025 morning tea service will commence on Sunday 2 February 2025.

We would like to thank the morning tea ministry for providing such delicious treats and warm hospitality during the year.

## PC ITEMS

We would like to thank those generous parishioners who have already made donation contributions towards the purchase of the PC items.

To date approximately \$24,700 has been either paid or pledged to this appeal, which will reduce the total amount of the building contract.

There is still opportunity to contribute to this appeal. The items that are still available for a "cash in kind" donation are shown in the attached table.

PC ITEMS	Approximate cost \$
Supply & install kitchen, laundry & pantry	20,000
Carpet	8,000
Ceramic tiles (to be selected)	3,000
Alarm system (to be selected)	2,000
WC suites (3) (Mondella Signature)	1,500
Shower roses (3) (Methven Satinet)	600
Floor wastes (7) (Kinetic 100mm Chrome)	210

## Parish Choir Rehearsals for Christmas



We are very close to Christmas now and you are all invited to come to the parish choir rehearsals in the church so that we will be ready to sing for the 9 pm Christmas Eve mass on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December. Even if you are not a regular attender of the choir we would love you to come along.

Our next rehearsal is on **Wednesday 11th December at 7 pm and then every Wednesday at 7 pm until Christmas Eve.**

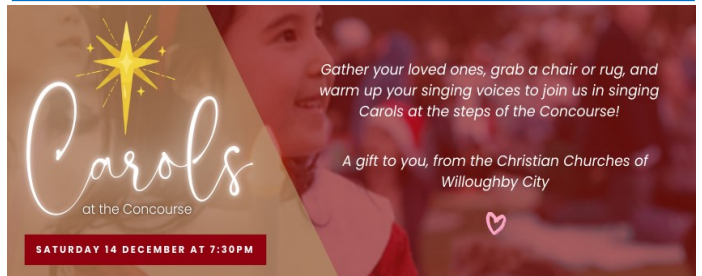
**Christmas Eve rehearsal will be at 7pm, followed by Carols at 8.30pm then Christmas Mass at 9pm.**

Even if you cannot come to all the rehearsals you would be most welcome to attend when you can.



On the feast of the Immaculate Conception, **Monday 9th December**, prayers will be offered for the Hour of Grace from **12—1 pm.**

There will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction.



## Readers for Christmas

We warmly invite all parishioners to share in the joy and spirit of the season by volunteering as readers for our upcoming Christmas services. This is a wonderful opportunity to proclaim the Word of God and bring the Christmas story to life for our community. Whether you are an experienced reader or new to this ministry, your voice can help make these celebrations truly meaningful. Please consider offering your time and talents as we come together to celebrate the birth of Christ. To volunteer, simply sign up in the foyer after Mass or contact the parish office. We look forward to celebrating with you!

## Children's Nativity Mass

Would your child like to be part of the 6pm Nativity Play at Christmas Eve Mass this year?

### Practice Dates:

- Sat 14 Dec 3:30pm
  - Sat 21 Dec 3:30pm
  - Tue 24 Dec 4:30pm
- Mass at 6:00pm

**Everyone is welcome!**

Parent helpers encouraged to stay during practice times.



Please attend the Saturday practices for main role allocation. If you can't come for the Saturdays, please still come to the Hall before Mass on Christmas Eve to join.

All are welcome to join in.

Contact:  
Rebecca 0407 277 689  
(via text msg)



263 Mona Vale Road, St Ives



# Thank You



Corpus Christi Ministry Thank You  
& Hamper Mass

## INVITATION

Following 10am Mass on  
Sunday, 15 December 2024

*To all volunteers who either directly or indirectly supported the ministries in the church and those who have supported others in need in the wider community.*

*Following the 10am Mass on 15 December we will be hosting a BBQ as a thank you to everyone. Come along and enjoy a sausage sizzle along with a cuppa and cake as we send off our hampers.*

EVERYONE WELCOME

MORNING TEA /  
SAUSAGE SIZZLE

SUNDAY, 15 DECEMBER  
2024 AFTER THE  
10AM MASS

GLORY TO THE NEWBORN KING



For the  
Kids!

LOLLY BAGS / TATTOO'S

HAMPERS

Please bring your hamper to  
the 10am Mass ready for  
collection after.

Cuppa and Cake!







**Front door**



**Entry**



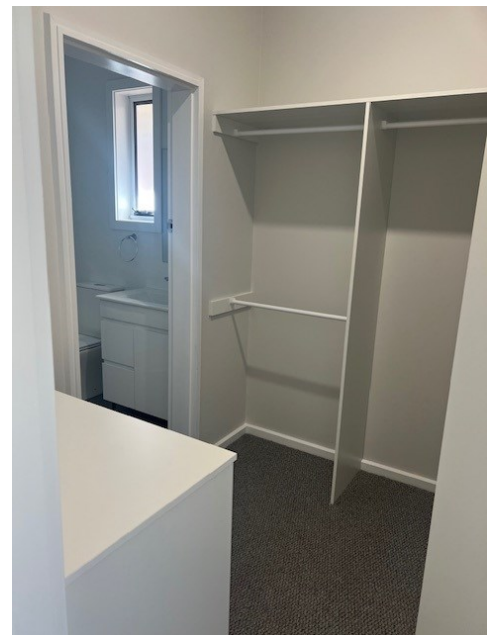
**Consultation Room**

**GOD BLESS  
OUR NEW HOME**

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the fundraising appeal to convert the old parish office into the presbytery. We are pleased to share these photos with you so you can see how the office was converted to make a very comfortable home for us.



**Bedroom**



**Walk in robe & Ensuite**



**Kitchen**



**Laundry**



**Bedroom**

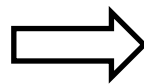


**Living/Dining**

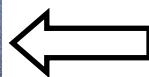
The house has new windows, new carpet, and has been freshly repainted. All of the bedrooms have an ensuite .



**Chapel**



**Bedroom**





## POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION FOR DECEMBER

### For Pilgrims of Hope

Let us pray that this Jubilee strengthen us in our faith, helping us to recognize the Risen Christ in the midst of our lives, transforming us into pilgrims of Christian hope.

## Thinking of Selling or Renting your Home or Investment Property?

Call now for your **FREE** complimentary Market Appraisal. Also for Corpus Christi parishioners and friends we offer:

**FREE** partial styling when you Exclusively list your property we our office plus 10% donation to Corpus Christi from the commission from your sale.

Contact: Noelene Johnson - 0410 588 833

Contact: Matthew Johnson - 0418 767 150 or 9488 8200

The above offer is based on an Exclusive Agency for your property.



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## The Catenians

*Strengthening family life through  
friendship and faith*

Catenians meet every month to pray together, to enjoy each others' company and to support their Clergy and Parishes.

For further information phone  
President - Harry Hull 0411 818 132  
Secretary - David Conoulty 0412 267 538

## The Word

### Sunday 8 December 2024: Second Sunday of Advent

#### Collect

Almighty and merciful God,  
may no earthly undertaking hinder those  
who set out in haste to meet your Son,  
but may our learning of heavenly wisdom  
gain us admittance to his company.  
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the  
Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever.

#### First Reading

A reading from the prophet Baruch Bar 5:1-9

*Jerusalem – God will show you splendour.*  
Jerusalem, take off your dress of sorrow and  
distress,  
put on the beauty of the glory of God for ever,  
wrap the cloak of the integrity of God around you,  
put the diadem of the glory of the Eternal on your  
head: since God means to show your splendour to  
every nation under heaven, since the name God  
gives you for ever will be, 'Peace through integrity,  
and honour through devotedness'.  
Arise, Jerusalem, stand on the heights  
and turn your eyes to the east:  
see your sons reassembled from west and east  
at the command of the Holy One, jubilant that God  
has remembered them.  
Though they left you on foot, with enemies for an  
escort, now God brings them back to you  
like royal princes carried back in glory.  
For God has decreed the flattening  
of each high mountain, of the everlasting hills,  
the filling of the valleys to make the ground level  
so that Israel can walk in safety under the glory of  
God. And the forests and every fragrant tree will  
provide shade for Israel at the command of God;  
for God will guide Israel in joy by the light of his  
glory  
with his mercy and integrity for escort.

The Word of the Lord.

#### Responsorial Psalm Ps 125. R. v3

*(R.) The Lord has done great things for us; we are  
filled with joy.*

1. When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage, it  
seemed like a dream. Then was our mouth  
filled with laughter, on our lips there were  
songs. *(R.)*
2. The heathens themselves said: 'What marvels  
the Lord worked for them!' What marvels the  
Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad. *(R.)*
3. Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage as streams  
in dry land. Those who are sowing in tears will  
sing when they reap. *(R.)*

4. They go out, they go out, full of tears, carrying seed  
for the sowing: they come back, they come back,  
full of song, carrying their sheaves. *(R.)*

#### Second Reading

From the first letter of St Paul to the Philippians Phil  
1:3-6. 8-11

*Show yourselves sinless and without blame in the day  
of Christ.*

Every time I pray for all of you, I pray with joy,  
remembering how you have helped to spread the  
Good News from the day you first heard it right up to  
the present. I am quite certain that the One who  
began this good work in you will see that it is finished  
when the Day of Christ Jesus comes. God knows how  
much I miss you all, loving you as Christ Jesus loves  
you. My prayer is that your love for each other may  
increase more and more and never stop improving  
your knowledge and deepening your perception so  
that you can always recognise what is best. This will  
help you to become pure and blameless, and prepare  
you for the Day of Christ, when you will reach the  
perfect goodness which Jesus Christ produces in us  
for the glory and praise of God.

The Word of the Lord.

#### Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:  
all people shall see the salvation of God.  
Alleluia!

#### Gospel

From the holy Gospel according to Luke Lk 3:1-6

*All people shall see the salvation of God.*

In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar's reign, when  
Pontius Pilate was governor of Judaea, Herod tetrarch  
of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of the lands of  
Ituraea and Trachonitis, Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene,  
during the pontificate of Annas and Caiaphas, the  
word of God came to John son of Zechariah, in the  
wilderness. He went through the whole Jordan district  
proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the  
forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the  
sayings of the prophet Isaiah:

A voice cries in the wilderness;

Prepare a way for the Lord,  
make his paths straight.

Every valley will be filled in,  
every mountain and hill be laid low,  
winding ways will be straightened  
and rough roads made smooth.

And all mankind shall see the salvation of God.

The Gospel of the Lord.