

Our Lady of Perpetual Succour

Catholic Parish Toukley / Lake Munmorah

St Mary's Church 458 Main Rd Noraville

St Brendan's Mass Centre 29 Carters Rd Lake Munmorah



Vision

To be A Vibrant Eucharistic Community

Pastoral Team

Parish Priest

Fr. Tomy Kuruvelil Ouseph CFIC

Phone: 4396 4455

Email: tomycfic@yahoo.co.in

Assistant Priest

Fr. Baby Thomas CFIC

Phone: 0400 568 491

Email: baby.thomas@bbcatholic.org.au

Augustinian Sisters of Our Lady of Consolation - Convent

11 Pandora Pde Noraville 4396 9128

Sr. Josefa Mabini OSA

Sr. Jennifer Canillas OSA

Parish Office Hours

9am to 2pm Mon To Fri

Ph 8379 1730

458 Main Rd Noraville NSW 2263

Mail PO Box 1 Toukley NSW 2263

Email toukleyparish@bbcatholic.org.au

Website www.bbcatholic.org.au/toukley

Facebook: Toukley-Lake Munmorah Parish

Parish Secretary: Sarah-Jane Rosen

Office Assistant: Bramer Ramasamy

Catechist Coordinator

Sr. Josefa Mabini PH: 0402 480 933

Sacramental Coordinator

Sr. Jennifer Canillas PH: 0427 227 637

Sunday Parish Bus Service

Mrs Joan Haslam 4392 6892

Parish Schools

St Mary's

Principal Ms Emma Sellars 7256 2143

St Brendan's

Principal Ms Charlene Reid 7256 2127

St Brigid's College

Principal Mr Adam Murdoch 7256 2122

THIRTY THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIMEYEAR C

16th November, 2025



By your endurance you will gain your lives.

Prophet Malachi gives a vivid description about the end of the world. Malachi severely warns the arrogant and those who disobey the Lord God. He gives a message of comfort and consolation to those who fear the Lord God and live upright lives. Hence for evil doers, it will be a day of judgement. But for the upright, it will be a day of salvation.

Today's Gospel also gives the clear description of the end of the world. Jesus speaks of the destruction of the city of Jerusalem and predicts disaster for the rest of the world. He gives us some warning and timelines about the events to come like wars and fighting, earthquakes, plagues and famines in various places and finally His followers will face many persecutions for their faith in Him. But Jesus assures us that we His followers need not worry because, "Not a hair of your head will perish. By your endurance you will gain your lives." We are invited to take these warnings of the Lord seriously in our lives so that we can face the end of the world when it happens.

We know that Jesus lived His life fully, celebrating each moment, each encounter, and each relationship with joy. He embraced human experience, drank deeply of human emotions, was nourished and comforted by human love. But He was always looking into the eyes of His Father. He was always conscious of the circle of His human existence, leading Him from God back to God.

Jesus never lost His sense of direction and purpose - and in that sense He was prepared for whatever came. His love of the Father was integrated into all that He said and did and all that He became. There was no event, no person, and no circumstance that ever separated Him from His Father.

This is how we are supposed to live our lives. Through all the trials and sufferings, we experience in our broken world, we are called to celebrate life with joy. We are to bear faithful witness to the Gospel by our lives of hope and unselfish love. We are pilgrims on a journey, and we are not always perfect. But we are filled with hope by our faith in the Jesus who lives and breathes among us.

"Anyone who truly loves God travels securely." - St. Teresa of Avila

Fr. Baby

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

St Mary's Church Toukley

Saturday: Vigil 6:00pm	Fr Tomy
Sunday: 7:30am	Fr Tomy
9:00am	Fr Tomy
6:00pm	Fr Baby

St Brendan's Church Lake Munmorah

Saturday: Vigil 5:00pm	Fr Baby
Sunday: 8:00am	Fr Baby

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES

St Mary's Church Toukley

Monday	9:00 am	
Tuesday	9:00 am	
Wednesday	6:00 pm	
Thursday	9:00am	
Friday	9:15am	(Except 1st Friday of Month)

First Friday of Month Anointing of Sick

11:00am

Saturday 9:00 am

St Brendan's Church Lake Munmorah

Wednesday 9:00am

First Wednesday of Month Anointing of Sick

Thursday 9:00am

EXPOSITION BLESSED SACRAMENT

St Mary's Church Toukley

Every Saturday – after Morning Mass

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

St Mary's Toukley

Saturday 9.30am – 10am (by appointment other times)

St Brendan's Lake Munmorah

Saturday 4:30 - 5:00pm

MORNING PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

St Mary's Toukley

8:20 am Monday to Thursday & Saturday

8:45 am Friday

First Friday Night Vigil

Exposition after 7pm Mass until 12.30am

Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLOW)

1st & 3rd Sundays 9am at St Mary's

1st Saturday 5pm at St Brendan's

EXCEPT IN SCHOOL HOLIDAYS



Welcome to our Parish. Today we celebrate **The Thirty Third Sunday, Year C**. We welcome you to our Church and are very pleased to see you here.

Parish Calendar of Upcoming events - Save the Date:

Wed 19th Nov: No morning Parish Mass at St Mary's. Mass it at 6pm.

Wed 19th Nov: St Mary's Kinder 2026 Liturgy 9.30am in church

Thurs 20th Nov: Year 2 Parish Mass at St Brendan's 9am

Fri 21st Nov: Year 1 parish Mass St Mary's 9.15am

Tues 25th Nov: Catechist Thanksgiving Mass & Dinner St Mary's 4pm

Thurs 27th Nov: Kinder Mass at St Brendan's 9am

Sun 30th Nov: St Mary's Yr 5 & Kinder 2026 Mass St Mary's 9am

Sat 13th dec: 24 hours Adoration for the Lord St Mary's

The 2nd annual Diocesan Mass Count is on every weekend during the month of November.

PLEASE NOTE THE PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON FRI 21ST, TUES 25TH & WED 26TH NOV.



Bequests: Remembering your faith community in your Will

After providing for family members in your Will, have you ever considered leaving a bequest directly to your local parish. This is called a legacy or bequest. Over the years, many people who have felt a special connection with their local parish and church have left part of their Estate to their Parish. Like a gift to a charity, a bequest of any amount to the Church is a way of saying "thank you" for the spiritual **nurturing provided to you and your family over the years**. See the Diocese website for more information.

Catholic woman's league (cwl) The Catholic Women's League will hold the end of year meeting in the Parish Centre on **Monday 24th November at 10am**. Ladies of the Parish are invited to come along for a cuppa and some Christmas nibbles.



Congratulations to Olivia c. who is being BAPTISED AT ST MARY'S ON SUN 16TH NOV. MAY GOD'S BLESSINGS ALWAYS BE WITH YOU.

December Parish Morning Tea at St Mary's
Volunteers Required For our December Parish
Morning tea and all morning teas in 2026 we need volunteers! For this lovely occasion to continue we need your help. If you can spare a few hours once a month on the first Sunday to assist with the preparation of morning tea at our Parish this lovely tradition can continue. Unfortunately if we don't have any volunteers there will be no morning teas in the future.



23rd November Solemnity of Christ the King of the Universe - The Solemnity concludes the liturgical Calendar Year C and begins the Season of Advent, Year A. **There will be a procession after 9am Mass with the Eucharist** going out to the Grotto followed by a blessing.

Dear Parishioners: We resume Communion under both species (bread and wine) from next weekend on the Feast of Christ the King. Guidelines for the worthy reception of communion are attached to news bulletin. Please go through the instructions. Blessing and commissioning of Extra Ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion will take place during next weekend Masses.



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Formation for the Ministry of God's Word (Readers) - Inviting ALL existing Readers of all Masses and those who are interested to join the ministry to a formation day on Sat 29th Nov at the Parish Centre. Starting with 9am Mass, followed by morning tea & formation until 12pm. **Please RSVP as we are serving morning tea. You are also welcome to bring a plate to share.**



Pastoral Works November Appeal

- This month our Parish will hold the November Appeal for Pastoral Works Broken Bay (PWBB) on **15th/16th November**. The focus for this appeal will be the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD) which shares the Gospel to thousands of children in the public school system and Hospital Chaplaincy and Pastoral Care Practitioners. Our quota to raise is **\$34,284**. Thanks for your support and donations over \$2 are tax deductible and you may use the envelopes in the church, visit the parish website or scan the QR code.



November is the Time To Remember The Dear Ones: We remember our departed brothers & sisters during the month of November. The best gift we can offer for their souls is to pray & offer masses for them. I encourage families & friends to offer masses during this special month of remembrance. **We conclude this event on Fri 28th Nov with 5pm Mass at St Brendan's & 6pm Mass at St Mary's.**

Attention Wardens: As we had agreed during our seminar for Wardens and welcomers, after the homily, we keep a minute of pause, before we do the first collection to start from the front seeing the face of people and not from the back of the church. Also collections should accompany the offertory procession.

Parish Lectio Divina: We invite you to join us as we Break Open the Word of the Sunday's Gospel. Together we pray, meditate, and share the inspirations from the Scriptures in transforming our lives. All are welcome to join us **every Thursday at 5PM at Parish Centre**. Bring your family and friends.

St Brigid's High School: Thank you for your support in our fundraising efforts in the lead-up to the Australian Catholic Youth Festival. The fundraising raffle run by our students was a success with the winners as follows: 1st Prize - Voucher for Toukley Golf Club BP Lake Munmorah - Red ticket B52. 2nd Prize - \$50 Gift Voucher Jo, ticket C44 3rd Prize - \$50 Just Cuts Voucher Ann, Yellow ticket A30 4th Prize - \$50 Just Cuts Voucher Mary Webster Yellow ticket D02

CCD Annual Mass - Catechists, their family and friends, and Parishioners are invited to attend the CCD Annual Mass to celebrate our wonderful ministry and acknowledge the many years of service of our dedicated SRE catechists. Join us for Mass at Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral, Waitara on **Sat 22nd Nov at 11.30am**. **Please RSVP to ccdadmin@bbcatholic.org.au**



Pope Leo XIV's November Intention

During November, Pope Leo invites us to pray that all parents who mourn the loss of a son or daughter might find consolation in their community, and may receive peace of heart from the Spirit of Consolation.



Please pray for the following:

Recently Deceased: Gloria Cutcliffe, Patrick Sheehy, James McCloughlin, Robert Ridgewell & Brendon Ridgewell

Anniversaries: Wayne Puckeridge, Trooper Joshua Porter, James Grimes, David O'Connell, Patrick Post, Harry Linder, Zachary Nathan Canillas, Winnie Moon, Francis Lim, Vicky Debono & Censa Debono

Remembrances: Ronald Pingo Roach, Diane, Smith, Greg Irvine, Irvine, Humphreys, Blacker & O'Shanassy families, Wade, Mitchell, Dennis & Ross families, John King, Mario Azzopardi, Vincenza & Saviour Debono, Gavino Rias, Stephens Cappa, Richard & Margie Hamer, Marie O'Keefe, Valami Joseph & Stark Family & Wendy Woodhouse

Please Pray for the Sick: Sonya, Bernice Judge, Ross Horsburgh, Jim Ralston, George Tohme, Paul McKay, Faye Germann, Glen Brown, Lea Gray, Mary Swift, Doris Micallef, Branko Babic, Irma L Baez, Maria McEwen, Amelia Harrison-Ford, Ron Hughes, Claudette Radford, Alexander Wade, Louise Bugden, Edward Boyle, Bobby Raymond, Andrew Teo, Gerauld Correia, Leane Dadd, John Knight, Anne Govers, Eva Cusick, Zara Cusick, Willem, Max Jurd, Claire Ray Doris, Clare Johnstone, Chris Wilson, Miklos Beothy, Novita Elizabeth Taha Lamharan, Joy Stokes, Dale Bentick, Avis Sullivan, Ken Jenkins, Lawrie & Libby Boshell, Ruben Fernandez Velasco, Ivy Teo, Brian Brame, Irene Tognito, John Muir, John Hamilton Jr, Kel Outlaw, Kevin Roy, Kathy Casey, Elaine Horton, Jane, Allen, Helen Sewell, Lacey, Chelsea Brame, Nicholas Sheehy, Hunter, Peter De Lacy Peek, Patrick Hobson, Jessica & Lee Abbott, Baby Nora, Lucky Bowen, Sergio, Maxwell, Nacua Sedicol, Sue Reardon, Sandra Turl, Mia & Johanna Harries, Ana das Gracas, Zona Kable, Jose Adelino, Barry Egan, Suzanne Webb, Patricia, Warren Pope, John Stuart, Stefano & Paolo Macchi, Stephen Jeffrie, Paul Mizzi, George, Sylvia Hudson, Bill O'Keefe, Michele Maroon, & Robbie Depares



Wedding Anniversary

Congratulations to Ray & Islay Mahony on their 54th Wedding Anniversary on 27th Nov. May God bless you always!

Memorial Mass For the beloved Vicky Debono at St Brendan's Church on Sun 30th Nov at 5pm

November Birthdays

Kenneth Meisel (Nov)
Eric Grimes (6th Nov)
Amanda Paton (8th Nov)
Steven Ng (8th Nov)
Nova Jayanthi (9th Nov)
Nash Small (9th Nov)
Cecilia McClusky (13th Nov)
Lucy Jurd (13th Nov)
Bill Mulvany (13th Nov)
Evelyn Maceda (22nd Nov)
Eli Fiedler (25th Nov)
Kathleen Cheetham (28th Nov)



Mackay Family Funerals

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Head Office: 249 Pacific Highway West, Ourimbah 2258

PO Box 89 Ourimbah NSW 2258.

Phone: (02) 4362 2733 Fax: (02) 4362 2899



Toukley
Neighbourhood
Centre

Aged Care Volunteer Visitors

Do you have a caring heart and time to become a friend to a lonely person in an Aged Care Facility?

Please Call

43961555

to find out more

First Reading Malachi 3:19-20

A reading from the prophet Malachi

The sun of righteousness will shine on you.

The day is coming now, burning like a furnace; and all the arrogant and the evil-doers will be like stubble. The day that is coming is going to burn them up, says the Lord of hosts, leaving them neither root nor stalk. But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness will shine out with healing in its rays.

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm Ps 97:5-9

R. The Lord comes to rule the earth with justice.

Sing psalms to the Lord with the harp
with the sound of music.

With trumpets and the sound of the horn
acclaim the King, the Lord. **R.**

Let the sea and all within it, thunder;
the world, and all its peoples.

Let the rivers clap their hands
and the hills ring out their joy
at the presence of the Lord. **R.**

For the Lord comes,
he comes to rule the earth.
He will rule the world with justice
and the people with fairness. **R.**

Second Reading 2 Thessalonians 3:7-12

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

Do not give anyone food who refuses to work.

You know how you are supposed to imitate us: now we were not idle when we were with you, nor did we ever have our meals at anyone's table without paying for them; no, we worked night and day, slaving and straining, so as not to be a burden on any of you. This was not because we had no right to be, but in order to make ourselves an example for you to follow.

We gave you a rule when we were with you; not to let anyone have any food if he refused to do any work. Now we hear that there are some of you who are living in idleness, doing no work themselves but interfering with everyone else's. In the Lord Jesus Christ, we order and call on people of this kind to go on quietly working and earning the food that they eat.

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation Luke 21:28

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lift up your heads and see;
your redemption is near at hand.
Alleluia!

Gospel Luke 21:5-19

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Your endurance will win you your life.

When some were talking about the Temple, remarking how it was adorned with fine stonework and votive offerings, Jesus said, 'All these things you are staring at now - the time will come when not a single stone will be left on another: everything will be destroyed.' And they put to him this question: 'Master,' they said 'when will this happen, then, and what sign will there be that this is about to take place?'

'Take care not to be deceived,' he said 'because many will come using my name and saying, "I am he" and, "The time is near at hand." Refuse to join them. And when you hear of wars and revolutions, do not be frightened, for this is something that must happen but the end is not so soon.' Then he said to them, 'Nation will fight against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be great earthquakes and plagues and famines here and there; there will be fearful sights and great signs from heaven.

'But before all this happens, men will seize you and persecute you; they will hand you over to the synagogues and to imprisonment, and bring you before kings and governors because of my name - and that will be your opportunity to bear witness. Keep this carefully in mind: you are not to prepare your defence, because I myself shall give you an eloquence and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to resist or contradict. You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, relations and friends; and some of you will be put to death. You will be hated by all men on account of my name, but not a hair of your head will be lost. Your endurance will win you your lives.'

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

**Next Sunday: Feast of Christ the King**

First Reading: 2 Samuel 5:1-3

Second Reading: Colossians 1:12-20

Gospel: Luke 23:35-43



Guidelines for Reverent Reception of the Holy Communion



The Ordinary Minister of Holy Communion is the Bishop, Priest or Deacon. Those who assist the Ordained are called “Extraordinary” Ministers of Holy Communion (EMHC).

Immensae Caritatis provides clear criteria for the selection of Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (EMHC). This includes: Persons whose good qualities of Christian life, faith, and morals recommend them. Persons who foster their own devotion to the Eucharist and show an example to the rest of the faithful by their own devotion and reverence toward the most Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. No one is to be chosen whose appointment the faithful might find disquieting. Selection Criteria. In addition to this in the Diocese of Broken Bay it would be important to clarify that they are: A fully Initiated Catholic (Baptism, Confirmation and First Eucharist), A regular Communicant, and; At least 16 years of age.

Practical Instructions: The EMHC should arrive at church at least 15 minutes prior to Mass commencing so they may check themselves in for their ministry. The EMHC should consider how they present themselves for this ministry of service, and the representation of the parish. This includes ensuring that hands have been thoroughly cleaned prior to arrival and clothing has been appropriately considered. The EMHC should not approach the Altar until after the Priest has received Holy Communion. In line with local practice, it may be appropriate for the EMHC to discretely approach the Sanctuary during the Lamb of God.

It is strongly recommended that ALL Ministers of Holy Communion sanitise their hands at this time, ensuring the sanitiser has been fully rubbed in and is dry on their hands. The Ordained Minister, as the Ordinary Minister of Holy Communion, will distribute Holy Communion to the EMHCs. It is then the role of the Ordinary Minister to pass on the vessel containing the Eucharist to the EMHC - It should never be taken from the Altar by the EMHC. The Ministers of Holy Communion reverently and respectfully move to their place of distribution, ensuring they have a steady grip on the Ciborium or Chalice. The vessel should not be elevated by the Minister when walking to their place. Once in place, the Minister is encouraged to steady their stance by taking a breath before commencing distribution.

The Body of Christ If distributing the Body of Christ, as the Communicant comes forward and gently bows, the EMHC holds up the host to eye level and says the words, “The Body of Christ” , allowing the Communicant to reply “Amen. ” This is a dialogue of faith, and a space of encounter that should not be rushed. No other words should be added to the dialogue, even if the EMHC happens to know the individual (i.e. “Lucy, the Body of Christ” or “The Body of Christ, John” should never be said). It is the Communicant’s choice to receive on the hand or on the tongue, standing or kneeling. If receiving on the tongue, the EMHC gently places the host,

avoiding personal contact with the Communicant's tongue. The EMHC should remain present to the Communicant until they consume the host. This will allow for gentle instruction if the Communicant appears to be walking away with the host.

Blood of Christ the EMHC should ensure the purificator is opened up fully prior to beginning distribution. As the Communicant comes forward and gently bows, the EMHC holds the chalice up slightly to eye level and addresses them with the words "The Blood of Christ" and allowing for them to reply "Amen" prior to gently handing the chalice over to them. The EMHC then brings their hands back towards their body, so the Communicant is aware that they have control over the chalice in this moment. The Communicant raises the chalice to their mouth themselves. (GIRM #286) Importantly, the Communicant must remain standing. Holy Communion is always received from a Minister. It is never taken by the Communicant. For this reason, it is not permitted for a Communicant to dip the host into the chalice and to serve themselves by intinction. (GIRM #286-287) The EMHC, when gently receiving the chalice back, wipes the inside and outside of the rim of the chalice with the purificator, on the area that the Communicant just received from. Practically, the EMHC should grip the purificator between their thumb and index finger, rotating the chalice as they wipe. It is suggested that while the next Communicant is receiving from the chalice, the EMHC rotates the purificator.

When the EMHC has completed their task of distributing Holy Communion, they should return to the Sanctuary. Vessels with the Body of Christ should be returned to the Altar and placed on top of the corporal. The empty chalice may be returned to the credence table in the Sanctuary area, once again on top of the corporal. Any remaining Precious Blood should be discretely consumed in the Sanctuary area by an Ordained Minister. (GIRM #163/284) The Ordained Minister can delegate this to another Minister. EMHC should return to their seat according to the local custom, without disrupting the reverence of the post communion reflection.

Prayer over people not receiving A person may come forward in the Communion procession with arms folded across their chest to indicate their desire for a blessing, rather than receiving Holy Communion. This is particularly common for children in the Communion procession with their family. While not recognised as part of the Communion Rite, this has become common practice. In Broken Bay it is suggested that a Minister of Holy Communion, either Ordinary OR Extraordinary could extend their hand over the head of the person, and say one of the following or similar;

"May God be with you. "

"May God be in your heart. "

"May God protect you. "

"May Jesus be in your heart and keep you in God's love. "

Please Note: Holy Communion under both species is during Weekend Masses

Those who take Holy Communion to the Sick or House bound may collect communion at the end of Mass



CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS EVE MASS

ALL WELCOME!

Please join us for Mass and
Children's Nativity at either St
Brendan's Lake Munmorah or St
Mary's, Toukley.

Wednesday 24th December,
2025.

There are lots of roles for
the children to take part

in, including:

Children's Nativity

Liturgical Dance

Reading

Altar Service

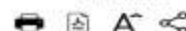
Choir

Register here to
be involved at
St Brendan's
5pm Mass



Register here to
be involved at
St Mary's
6pm Mass





MESSAGE OF THE HOLY FATHER FOR THE 9th WORLD DAY OF THE POOR

33rd Sunday of Ordinary Time
16 November 2025

AR - DE - EN - ES - FR - HR - IT - PL - PT

You are my hope (cf. Ps 71:5)

1. "You, O Lord, are my hope" (Ps 71:5). These words well up from a heart burdened by grave hardship: "You have made me see many troubles and calamities" (v. 20), the Psalmist exclaims. At the same time, his heart remains open and confident; steadfast in faith, he acknowledges the support of God, whom he calls "a rock of refuge, a strong fortress" (v. 3). Hence, his abiding trust that hope in God never disappoints: "In you, Lord, I take refuge; I shall never be put to shame" (v. 1).

Amid life's trials, our hope is inspired by the firm and reassuring certainty of God's love, poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit. That hope does not disappoint (cf. Rom 5:5). Thus Saint Paul could write to Timothy: "To this end we toil and struggle, because we have our hope set on the living God" (1 Tim 4:10). The living God is in fact "the God of hope" (Rom 15:13), and Christ, by his death and resurrection, has himself become "our hope" (1 Tim 1:1). We must never forget that we were saved in this hope, and need to remain firmly rooted therein.

2. The poor can be witnesses to a strong and steadfast hope, precisely because they embody it in the midst of uncertainty, poverty, instability and marginalization. They cannot rely on the security of power and possessions; on the contrary, they are at their mercy and often victims of them. Their hope must necessarily be sought elsewhere. By recognizing that God is our first and only hope, we too pass from fleeting hopes to a lasting hope. Once we desire that God accompany us on the journey of life, material wealth becomes relativized, for we discover the real treasure that we need. The words that the Lord Jesus spoke to his disciples remain forceful and clear: "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consume and where thieves do not break in and steal" (Mt 6:19-20).

3. The gravest form of poverty is not to know God. As Pope Francis wrote in *Evangelii Gaudium*: "The worst discrimination which the poor suffer is the lack of spiritual care. The great majority of the poor have a special openness to the faith; they need God and we must not fail to offer them his friendship, his blessing, his word, the celebration of the sacraments and a journey of growth and maturity in the faith" (No. 2000). Here we see a basic and essential awareness of how we can find our treasure in God. As the Apostle John insists: "If anyone says, 'I love God,' but hates his brother, he is a liar; for whoever does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen" (1 Jn 4:20).

This is a rule of faith and the secret of hope: all this earth's goods, material realities, worldly pleasures, economic prosperity, however important, cannot bring happiness to our hearts. Wealth often disappoints and can lead to tragic situations of poverty — above all the poverty born of the failure to recognize our need for God and of the attempt to live without him. A saying of Saint Augustine comes to mind: "Let all your hope be in God: feel your need for him, and let him fill that need. Without him, whatever you possess will only make you all the more empty" (*Enarr. in Ps.*, 85:3).

4. The word of God tells us that Christian hope is certainty at every step of life's journey, since it does not depend not on our human strength but upon the promise of God, who is always faithful. For this reason, from the beginning, Christians have identified hope with the symbol of the anchor, which provides stability and security. Christian hope is like an anchor that grounds our hearts in the promise of the Lord Jesus, who saved us by his death and resurrection and will come again among us. This hope continues to point us toward the "new heavens" and the "new earth" (2 Pet 3:13) as the true horizon of our existence, where every life will find its authentic meaning, for our real homeland is in heaven (cf. Phil 3:20).

The city of God, therefore, impels us to improve the cities of men and women. Our own cities must begin to resemble his. Hope, sustained by God's love poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit (cf. Rom 5:5), turns human hearts into fertile soil where charity for the life of the world can blossom. The Church's tradition has constantly insisted on the circular relationship between the three theological virtues of faith, hope and charity. Hope is born of faith, which nourishes and sustains it on the foundation of charity, the mother of all virtues. All of us need charity, here and now. Charity is not just a promise; it is a present reality to be embraced with joy and responsibility. Charity engages us and guides our decisions towards the common good. Conversely, those who lack charity not only lack faith and hope; they also rob their neighbors of hope.

5. The biblical summons to hope thus entails the duty to shoulder our responsibilities in history, without hesitation. Charity, in fact, "is the greatest social commandment" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, No. 1889). Poverty has structural causes that must be addressed and eliminated. In the meantime, each of us is called to offer new signs of hope that will bear witness to Christian charity, just as many saints have done over the centuries. Hospitals and schools, for instance, were institutions established to reach out to the most vulnerable and marginalized. These institutions should be a part of every country's public policy, yet wars and inequalities often prevent this from happening. Today, signs of hope are increasingly found in care homes, communities for minors, centers for listening and acceptance, soup kitchens, homeless shelters and low-income schools. How many of these quiet signs of hope often go unnoticed and yet are so important for setting aside our indifference and inspiring others to become involved in various forms of volunteer work!

The poor are not a distraction for the Church, but our beloved brothers and sisters, for by their lives, their words and their wisdom, they put us in contact with the truth of the Gospel. The celebration of the World Day of the Poor is meant to remind our communities that the poor are at the heart of all our pastoral activity. This is true not only of the Church's charitable work, but also of the message that she celebrates and proclaims. God took on their poverty in order to enrich us through their voices, their stories and their faces. Every form of poverty, without exception, calls us to experience the Gospel concretely and to offer effective signs of hope.

6. This, then, is the invitation extended to us by this Jubilee celebration. It is no coincidence that the World Day of the Poor is celebrated towards the end of this year of grace. Once the Holy Door is closed, we are to cherish and share with others the divine gifts granted us throughout this entire year of prayer, conversion and witness. The poor are not recipients of our pastoral care, but creative subjects who challenge us to find novel ways of living out the Gospel today. In the face of new forms of impoverishment, we can risk becoming hardened and resigned. Each day we encounter poor or impoverished people. We too may have less than before and are losing what once seemed secure: a home, sufficient food for each day, access to healthcare and a good education, information, religious freedom and freedom of expression.

In this promotion of the common good, our social responsibility is grounded in God's creative act, which gives everyone a share in the goods of the earth. Like those goods, the fruits of human labor should be equally accessible to all. Helping the poor is a matter of justice before a question of charity. As Saint Augustine observed: "You give bread to a hungry person; but it would be better if none were hungry, so that you would have no need to give it away. You clothe the naked, but would that all were clothed and that there be no need for supply this lack" (*In I Ioan.*, 8:5).

It is my hope, then, that this Jubilee Year will encourage the development of policies aimed at combatting forms of poverty both old and new, as well as implementing new initiatives to support and assist the poorest of the poor. Labor, education, housing and health are the foundations of a security that will never be attained by the use of arms. I express my appreciation for those initiatives that already exist, and for the efforts demonstrated daily on the international level by great numbers of men and women of good will.

Let us entrust ourselves to Mary Most Holy, Comforter of the Afflicted and, with her, let us raise a song of hope as we make our own the words of the *Te Deum*: "In you, O Lord, is our hope, and we shall never hope in vain."

From the Vatican, 13 June 2025, Memorial of Saint Anthony of Padua, Patron Saint of the Poor

LEO PP. XIV



Social Media and Online Safety for Children & Vulnerable Persons

Social Media Changes Are Coming – 1 Month to Go

Safeguarding today also means helping children, young people, and vulnerable adults stay safe in the digital world. From 10 December 2025, new Australian laws will restrict social-media platforms from allowing children under 16 to create or maintain an account. These reforms follow the Online Safety Amendment (Social Media Minimum Age) Bill 2024 and are overseen by the eSafety Commissioner, Australia's independent regulator for online safety.



Major platforms such as Instagram, Facebook, TikTok, Snapchat, X (Twitter), YouTube, and Reddit are expected to be included. Apps designed specifically for children or communication, such as Messenger Kids, WhatsApp, and YouTube Kids, are not currently affected. Social-media companies could face fines of up to \$50 million if they fail to take reasonable steps to prevent under-age use.

The eSafety Commissioner will assess and authorise platforms that comply with the new legal standards, ensuring that online environments for children and families are safer, more transparent, and more responsible.

Things to Try

- Share eSafety Commissioner updates through your parish bulletin or social channels, reminding families that the new laws take effect in December 2025.
- Encourage parents and carers to join a free eSafety webinar and download the latest information flyers.
- Talk with children and teens about digital wellbeing, privacy, and respectful behaviour online.
- Review parish social-media and communication practices to ensure they reflect diocesan safeguarding principles.
- Direct parishioners to the eSafety Kids and eSafety Young People pages for age-appropriate learning.

"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest."

Matthew 11:28



November 2025

7th Nov (1st Friday)

Healing Prayer Service, 6:30pm-8:30pm

at Our Lady of Dolours Catholic Church, **CHATSWOOD**

INNER HEALING RETREAT, 14th-16th Nov

Guided by Fr Sam Samuel VC & Fr Jubby Varghese VC

Starts on Friday 5.30pm & ends on Sunday 4.00pm

For bookings: 02 43721598 or email: drcretreatreg@gmail.com

17th Nov (3rd Monday)

Healing Prayer Service, 7:00pm-9:00pm

at St Patrick's Church, 11 Macquarie street, **WALLSEND**

21st Nov (3rd Friday)

Holy Mass & Adoration, 6:00pm-9:00pm

at Our Lady Help of Christians Church, 31 Oxford St, **EPPING**

30th Nov, 9:00am - 4:00pm

ONE DAY PILGRIMAGE (Last Sunday)

- Praise and Worship • Preaching the Word
- Eucharistic Adoration • Divine Mercy Chaplet • Holy Mass

ALL ARE WELCOME, NO BOOKING REQUIRED, BYO LUNCH



DIVINE RETREAT CENTRE

160 Hensons Road, SOMERSBY, SYDNEY-NSW 2250,

Tel: 02 4372 1598, email drcsydney@gmail.com

• www.divineretreatcentre.org • Find us on facebook

The Divine Retreat Centre promotes the safety and protection of children and other vulnerable persons in its care.

ADVENT 2025 with The Catholic Guy Bruce Downes

Jesus is Coming - Time to Get Ready

Experience the life-changing love of Christ and be strengthened in your faith journey this Advent alongside many people from around the world with The Catholic Guy, Bruce Downes.

- * Inspiring and transforming talks
- * Opportunities to pray and reflect
- * Practical strategies for impactful living
- * Life-changing encounter with Christ

To help you go deeper in your prayer life and spiritual journey, you are invited to attend the Advent Mission Event Retreat online available from 29 November with unlimited streaming until the end of Advent. To find out more and register, go to: <https://TheCatholicGuy.com/missionevent>
Register now on the website or for more information, email: info@brucedownes.org

Sandra Purcell | Events and Outreach

United States

E Sandra.Purcell@TheCatholicGuy.com

W TheCatholicGuy.com

M Bruce Downes Ministries Inc.

PO Box 55750

Orlando FL 32817