

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

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Email: tomycfic@yahoo.co.in

Assistant Priest

Fr. Baby Thomas CFIC

Phone: 0400 568 491

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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

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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

DEDICATION OF THE LATERAN BASILICA YEAR C

9th November, 2025



The Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica is celebrated annually on November 9th and commemorates the dedication of the St. John Lateran Basilica in Rome, which is the official cathedral of the Pope and the "mother church" of the Catholic world. This feast honours the historic church's role as a symbol of the Catholic Church's universal unity, its origins, and its history of persecution and eventual freedom to worship.

It celebrates the dedication of the St. John Lateran Basilica, the oldest and highest-ranking of Rome's four major basilicas. It is considered the "mother church" because it is the cathedral of the Bishop of Rome (the Pope) and the official church of the popes. The feast day encourages Catholics to remember their historical roots and their connection to the universal Church. It symbolizes the freedom of worship that early Christians gained after being persecuted and emphasizes the importance of unity and tradition. Lateran Basilica's symbolism is extended to the Church as a whole, with the idea that all believers are living temples of God, built on the foundation of Jesus Christ.

Today in gospel we have the narration of the cleansing of Jerusalem temple. The cleansing of the Jerusalem Temple was important for asserting that the Temple should be a "house of prayer for all nations," free from commercialization and corruption. It was a prophetic act of protest, highlighting the need for spiritual purity and genuine worship over exploitative practices. The event is also significant as a declaration of Jesus's authority as the Messiah and a foreshadowing of the Temple's eventual destruction and the new form of worship that would emerge. Jesus's action was a demand for the sacred space to be a place of holiness and genuine devotion. The money changers and merchants exploited religious practices for personal gain, which was an offense to both the spiritual and national identity of Israel. The cleansing confronted this corruption and the hypocrisy of the religious leadership. By cleansing the Temple, Jesus asserted his authority over the Temple itself, a central symbol of Jewish life. The event foreshadowed the end of the sacrificial system tied to the physical Temple. It pointed towards a shift in worship to a spiritual one, focusing on a genuine relationship with God "in spirit and in truth," as Jesus later taught. The cleansing is seen as a symbolic gesture pointing to Jesus as the ultimate High Priest who offers a new, perfect sacrifice, establishing a new covenant that superseded the Old Testament sacrificial system.

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

St Mary's Church Toukley

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

St Brendan's Church Lake Munmorah

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

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES

St Mary's Church Toukley

Monday	9:00 am
Tuesday	9:00 am
Wednesday	9:00 am
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 Dedication of the Lateran Basilica, Year C**. We welcome you to our Church and are very pleased to see you here.

Parish Calendar of Upcoming events - Save the Date:

Sun 9th Nov: Catechist Recruitment Weekend & St Mary's Morning Tea

Sun 9th Nov: Family Mass at St Mary's 6pm with cricket at 4.30pm

Fri 14th Nov: Year 2 Parish Mass St Mary's 9.15am

Sat 15th Nov: Family Mass at St Brendan's 5pm

Wed 19th Nov: No morning Parish Mass. To be held 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



Morning Tea is this Sunday at St Mary's after 9am Mass. Please stay and join us.

The 2nd annual Diocesan Mass Count is on every weekend during the month of November and will continue until the end of the month.

St Mary's Family Mass & Cricket Sunday 9th Nov from 4.30pm: Our Parish Family Mass and cricket match is happening again! Please join us from 4.30pm for a game of cricket followed by Mass at 6pm on Sun 9th Nov.



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.

Parish Survey 2025 – Have Your Say! We'd love to hear from you! It will take approx. 5 mins to complete the survey online using the **QR code**.



Thank you to all the parishioners for your prayers, generosity and support of the St Brigid's students who spent last weekend fundraising for the Australian Catholic Youth Festival. The students raised over half the amount that each family had to pay for their child to attend. **This Sunday 9th Nov, the raffle will be drawn after 6pm Mass** at St Mary's. Thank you to Toukley Golf Club, Just Cuts, and the donations of prizes from parishioners for this raffle.





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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.**

Become a Catechist – Share the Gift of Faith!

Our parish of Toukley–Lake Munmorah is seeking enthusiastic and caring volunteers to join our team of catechists and helpers who share the Good News with children in our local public schools. You don't need to be a teacher—just someone with a love for God and a willingness to share your faith. Full training, resources, and support are provided by the parish and the CCD office. If you've ever felt called to help children grow in their relationship with Jesus, this is a beautiful way to serve! For more information please contact the Parish Office or speak with one of our catechists after Mass. Jesus said: "Go and make disciples of all nations." Matthew 28:19



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. Envelopes are available or by visiting bbcatholic.org.au/pastoralworks. Our quota to raise is **\$34,284**. Thanks for your support and donations over \$2 are tax deductible.



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.**

WEBMASTER NEEDED FOR THE PARISH WEBSITE!

If you have a few hours to spare each month and have knowledge of updating websites we'd love to hear from you! This is a volunteer role that will help keep our Parish website current and modern. **Teenagers and adults are welcome. Call the Parish Office.**

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. Thank you.



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 & Anthony Ayoub

Anniversaries: James Grimes, David O'Connell, Patrick Post, Harry Linder, Zachary Nathan Canillas, Winnie Moon, Francis Lim, Vicky Debono, Censa Debono, Salvina Caruana, Don Metcalfe & Francis Lim

Remembrances: 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, Geraild 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 Benticke, 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 Abott, 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

A first year anniversary Memorial Mass will be held for the late **Joseph Bridgett (Joe) at 9:15am on Fri 14th November.** All are invited to attend and remember Joe with his family on this day.

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

In Association with Mackay Family Crematorium
A.B.N. 79 085 423 589

Head Office: 249 Pacific Highway West, Ourimbah 2258

PO Box 89 Ourimbah NSW 2258.

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



Volunteer Visitors Scheme Male & Female

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

Please call Tania 4396 1555

First Reading Ezekiel 47:1-2, 8-9, 12

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

I see water flowing from the temple and all who were touched by it were saved.

The angel brought me to the entrance of the Temple, where a stream came out from under the Temple threshold and flowed eastwards, since the Temple faced east. The water flowed from under the right side of the Temple, south of the altar. He took me out by the north gate and led me right round outside as far as the outer east gate where the water flowed out on the right-hand side. He said, 'This water flows east down to the Arabah and to the sea; and flowing into the sea it makes its waters wholesome. Wherever the river flows, all living creatures teeming in it will live. Fish will be very plentiful, for wherever the water goes it brings health, and life teems wherever the river flows. Along the river, on either bank, will grow every kind of fruit tree with leaves that never wither and fruit that never fails; they will bear new fruit every month, because this water comes from the sanctuary. And their fruit will be good to eat and the leaves medicinal.'

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God**Responsorial Psalm** Ps 45:2-3, 5-6, 8-9**R. The waters of the river gladden the city of God.**

God is for us a refuge and strength,
a helper close at hand, in time of distress:
so we shall not fear though the earth should rock,
though the mountains fall into the depths of the sea. **R.**

The waters of a river give joy to God's city,
the holy place where the Most High dwells.
God is within, it cannot be shaken;
God will help it at the dawning of the day. **R.**

The Lord of hosts is with us:
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.
Come, consider the works of the Lord,
the redoubtable deeds he has done on the earth. **R.**

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 3:9-11, 16-17

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

You are the temple of God

You are God's building. By the grace God gave me, I succeeded as an architect and laid the foundations, on which someone else is doing the building. Everyone

doing the building must work carefully. For the foundation, nobody can lay any other than the one which has already been laid, that is Jesus Christ.

Didn't you realise that you were God's temple and that the Spirit of God was living among you? If anybody should destroy the temple of God, God will destroy him, because the temple of God is sacred; and you are that temple.

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God**Gospel Acclamation** 2 Chronicles 7:16

Alleluia, alleluia!

I have chosen and sanctified this house, says the Lord,
that my name may remain in it for all time.
Alleluia!

Gospel John 2:13-22

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

He spoke about the temple of his own body.

Just before the Jewish Passover Jesus went up to Jerusalem, and in the Temple he found people selling cattle and sheep and pigeons, and the money changers sitting at their counters there. Making a whip out of some cord, he drove them all out of the Temple, cattle and sheep as well, scattered the money changers' coins, knocked their tables over and said to the pigeon-sellers, 'Take all this out of here and stop turning my Father's house into a market'. Then his disciples remembered the words of scripture: Zeal for your house will devour me. The Jews intervened and said, 'What sign can you show us to justify what you have done?' Jesus answered, 'Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up'. The Jews replied, 'It has taken forty-six years to build this sanctuary: are you going to raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking of the sanctuary that was his body, and when Jesus rose from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the scripture and the words he had said.

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**Next Sunday: Thirty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**

First Reading: Malachi 3:19-20

Second Reading: 2 Thessalonians 3:7-12

Gospel: Luke 21:5-19



COMBINED FAMILY MASS

Please join us for St Brigid's and St Mary's
Combined Family Mass at St Mary's church with
games starting at 4:30pm followed by Mass at 6pm



Sunday

9 NOVEMBER 2025



Starts at

4:30PM



RSVP via the link above





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





DIOCESE OF BROKEN BAY
Our Lady of Perpetual Succour
Catholic Parish Toukley/Lake Munmorah



Parish Survey 2025

If possible, **please use the QR code** to complete this survey online.

Thank you for helping us get to know our parish community better! Your feedback will guide our planning to support faith and parish life.



The survey will take approximately **5 minutes** to complete. This survey is only for those **aged 18+**. If you are under 18 please ask a parent to fill this out on behalf of your family.

1. Which of the following have you/your family attended in the parish?

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| ☐ St Josephs Men's BBQ | ☐ Lectio Divina | ☐ Sacramental programs |
| ☐ Sister Sister Women's Group | ☐ Rosary Group | ☐ Other: _____ |
| ☐ Catholic Women's League | ☐ Alliance of Two Hearts | ☐ None |
| ☐ St Vincent de Paul | ☐ Children's liturgy | |

2. What prevents you/your family from attending more parish events?

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| ☐ Time | ☐ Nothing suited to me | ☐ Comfortable with current involvement |
| ☐ Work/Family commitments | ☐ Not aware of what's on | ☐ Other: _____ |
| ☐ Transport/distance | | |

3. In which ways do you/your family volunteer in the parish?

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☐ Preparation for mass (e.g. Cleaner, flowers, bus driver) | ☐ Catechist/Sacramental Preparation |
| ☐ Hospitality (e.g. welcomer, warden, morning tea prep) | ☐ Group leadership |
| ☐ Liturgical roles (e.g. altar server, reader, collector, counter, musician) | ☐ Ministry to the sick/homebound |
| | ☐ Other: _____ |
| | ☐ None |

4. What prevents you/your family from volunteering more with the parish?

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ Time | ☐ Not aware of what's needed |
| ☐ Work/Family commitments | ☐ Comfortable with current involvement |
| ☐ Transport/distance | ☐ Other: _____ |
| ☐ Nothing suited to my gifts | |

5. What would help you or your family to grow in faith over the next 12 months?

- ☐ Bible study/small group
- ☐ Adult formation/talks
- ☐ Reconciliation
- ☐ Eucharistic Adoration
- ☐ Family friendly events
- ☐ Youth/young adult ministry
- ☐ Alpha
- ☐ Retreats
- ☐ Spiritual direction
- ☐ Outreach/service opportunities
- ☐ Other: _____

6. What would you most like our parish to focus on in the next 12 months to help our community grow in faith?

7. Age ☐ 18–29 ☐ 30–44 ☐ 45–59 ☐ 60–74 ☐ 75+

8. Gender ☐ Male ☐ Female

9. Marital status

☐ Single ☐ Married ☐ Widowed ☐ Divorced/Separated ☐ Clergy/Religious

10. Do you have children living at home?

☐ Yes ☐ No

11. If yes, what are their ages?

☐ 0–5 ☐ 6–12 ☐ 13–17 ☐ 18+

12. How many years have you been a part of this parish?

☐ <1 ☐ 1–5 ☐ 6–15 ☐ 16+

13. How did you initially join this parish?

- ☐ Born and raised Catholic in the area
- ☐ Practicing Catholic moved to area
- ☐ Converted to Catholicism
- ☐ Child started at parish school
- ☐ Other: _____

14. How often do you attend mass?

☐ More than once a week ☐ Weekly ☐ Monthly ☐ Less often

15. Which church do you mainly attend? ☐ St Mary's ☐ St Brendan's

To stay in touch with news and events, please provide your email address.

Your email will not be linked to your responses or used in analysis, however you can also leave this blank and contact the parish office directly for more information and to sign up to our emails.

Thank you for helping us support and strengthen our parish family!

Catholic Vocations Broken Bay
Young Adult Event

ENCOUNTER

Holy Hour, Dinner & Fun!

Please join us for our end of year gathering on
Friday 14th November, 7pm
at
St Agatha's Church
Trebor Road, Pennant Hills



CATHOLIC
VOCATIONS
BROKEN BAY

RSVP: 10th November to
vocations@bbcatholic.org.au
or 0448 741 392

Dear Friends of SIP,

It will be appreciated if you could inform parishioners about the next meeting of Spirituality in the Pub on **WEDNESDAY 12th November**. This SIP meeting was originally planned for Tuesday 11th November but unavailability of the venue has caused the change of date to the **WEDNESDAY 12th November**.

SIP Notice for Church Bulletin

The next meeting of **Spirituality in the Pub** is 7.30-9.00pm on **Wednesday 12th November** (NOT Tuesday 11th November) at the Grange Hotel, Wyoming. Special guest speaker is **Dr. John Irvine**, a respected child psychologist with 60 years experience. Dr. John believes that we need to address kids' emotional needs by getting kids to understand what they're feeling and why, and seeking out proactive ways to resolve it. Hotel bistro opens at 5.30pm. SIP enquiries: 0415 129250 or 0439 678608.

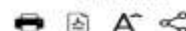
OR (there is additional information if space permits)

Spirituality in the Pub (SIP) Meeting 7.30-9.00pm **Wednesday 12th November** at the Grange Hotel, Wyoming (cnr. Renwick St & Pacific Hwy). Changed from Tuesday 11th November due to unavailability of venue, the special guest speaker is Dr John Irvine.

Dr John Irvine: Dr John has been one of Australia's most heard, seen and read child psychologists. Specialising in child development he has been working with children and families for 60 years. Dr John discovered the 'worrywoos' and he has dedicated much of his retirement years to promoting their worth in "Developing Children's Emotional Intelligence". He then wrote two booklets for parents around the worrywoos, and developed the Australian guidelines for using the worrywoos in schools and early childhood centres. After a long and illustrious career Dr John is now dedicating his professional life to paying tribute via podcasts and books to the many kids, parents, grandparents and celebrities who have inspired him over the years.

Tell anyone else who may be interested. Bistro opens at 5.30pm. SIP enquiries: 0415 129250 or 0439 678608.

Many thanks in anticipation,
Tony



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.

CHRISTMAS MARKET

Mary MacKillop Spirituality Centre,
8 Humphreys Rd, Kincumber South.

2251

FRIDAY 28
NOVEMBER FROM
5.30PM



Book a stall for \$50 by scanning the
QR code, ringing us on 4368 2805 or
emailing
reception.sjr@sosjspirit.org.au

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CHRISTMAS MARKET

"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



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