

OUR LADY STAR OF THE SEA , TERRIGAL



*“ May we Love one Another,
so that all experience a Sense of Belonging*

21st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Year B



First Reading: Joshua 24:1-2,15-18

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel together at Shechem; then he called the elders, leaders, judges and scribes of Israel, and they presented themselves before God. Then Joshua said to all the people: 'If you will not serve the Lord, choose today whom you wish to serve, whether the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are now living. As for me and my House, we will serve the Lord.'

The people answered, 'We have no intention of deserting the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors out of the land of Egypt, the house of slavery, who worked those great wonders before our eyes and preserved us all along the way we travelled and among all the peoples through whom we journeyed. We too will serve the Lord, for he is our God.'

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 33:2-3, 16-23 R. Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

Second Reading : Ephesians 5:21-32 Give way to one another in obedience to Christ. Wives should regard their husbands as they regard the Lord, since as Christ is head of the Church and saves the whole body, so is a husband the head of his wife; and as the Church submits to Christ, so should wives submit to their husbands, in everything. Husbands should love their wives just as Christ loved the Church and sacrificed himself for her to make her holy. He made her clean by washing her in water with a form of words, so that when he took her to himself she would be glorious, with no speck or wrinkle or anything like that, but holy and faultless. In the same way, husbands must love their wives as they love their own bodies; for a man to love his wife is for him to love himself. A man never hates his own body, but he feeds it and looks after it; and that is the way Christ treats the Church, because it is his body - and we are its living parts. For this reason, a man must leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one body. This mystery has many implications; but I am saying it applies to Christ and the Church. **The Word of the Lord.**

Gospel: John 6:60-69

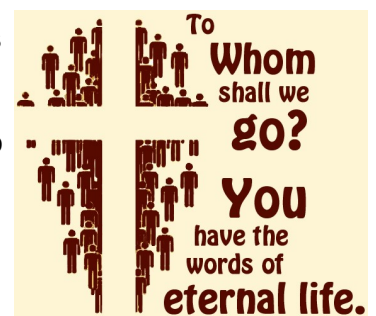
After hearing his doctrine many of the followers of Jesus said, 'This is intolerable language. How could anyone accept it?' Jesus was aware that his followers were complaining about it and said, 'Does this upset you? What if you should see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before?

'It is the spirit that gives life, the flesh has nothing to offer. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life.'

'But there are some of you who do not believe.' For Jesus knew from the outset those who did not believe, and who it was that would betray him. He went on, 'This is why I told you that no one could come to me unless the Father allows him.' After this, many of his disciples left him and stopped going with him.

Then Jesus said to the Twelve, 'What about you, do you want to go away too?' Simon Peter answered, 'Lord, who shall we go to? You have the message of eternal life, and we believe; we know that you are the Holy One of God.'

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**



(To pray together or even write your own prayers to pray as a family).

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

LEADER: Dear friends, putting our faith like Peter in the words of Jesus, let us turn to God and ask for all our needs.

READER:

We pray for Pope Francis. May he be a true successor of Peter and keep leading the church faithfully to Jesus, the Holy One of God. Lord, hear us.

Response: Lord hear our prayer.

We pray for all who have lost faith and no longer walk with Jesus. May they rediscover the joy of the Gospel. Lord, hear us.

Response: Lord hear our prayer.

We pray for every leader in government, commerce and industry. May they heed the warnings of the world's scientists and act now to deal with the climate crisis.

Lord, hear us. Response: Lord hear our prayer.

We pray for health workers in poorer countries struggling to cope with the COVID pandemic. May they be given a just share in the resources they need. Lord, hear us.

Response: Lord hear our prayer.

We pray for the people of Afghanistan and every nation in distress. May they not lose hope in the promise of peace and justice. Lord, hear us.

Response: Lord hear our prayer.

We pray for local churches preparing for the Plenary Council. May their openness to God's Spirit bear fruit for all. Lord, hear us. Response: Lord hear our prayer.

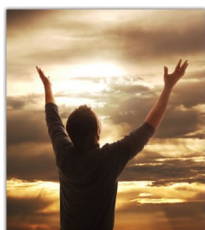
We pray for the recently deceased, especially Anne Cuthbert and Ben Donaldson and for those whose anniversary of death occurs around this time. May their faith in Jesus lead them to everlasting life. Lord, hear us.

Response: Lord hear our prayer.

LEADER: God of all goodness, you call us to follow Jesus in spirit and truth. Keep us true to his name.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen



**THE CHURCH WILL REMAIN CLOSED
UNTIL THE END OF COVID Restrictions.**

Stay strong!

GOD IS WITH US

For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind."

2 Timothy 1:7:"

ITS NOT TOO LATE !

SACRAMENTAL ENROLMENT

Catch-up Program at Terrigal Parish

**Enrolling Year 4 and over for the
Sacrament of Reconciliation
(or Confession) has begun.**

A COVID SAFE PROGRAM

This Catch-up Program has been organised for primary school (Year 4 and over), high school students and adults who have missed out on making any of the sacraments.

Reconciliation Program

1st STEP : Enrol NOW

The Enrolment form is included in the bulletin, or download it from parish website.

2nd STEP : Email Form

Scan completed enrolment form to parish email address—starsea@bigpond.net.au—or arrange to drop it into the Parish Office.

3rd STEP : Collect Activity Book

The Parish will contact you to arrange collection of the book and welcome you or your child into the program.

Any enquiries to Janette 0421416555

Formation will be through the resource book and personal or group communication via phone or zoom. **We will work together !**

The Sacrament (First Confession) will be celebrated once the COVID restrictions have lifted. We pray that will be soon!

Tips for Prayer from Youth Ministry Broken Bay

No one minds a little extra assistance, right?

Here are some great apps designed to help you in prayer!

- [Laudate](#) (Free): gives you access to Scripture readings, meditations, Saints of the day, Divine Mercy Chaplet, Rosary and Holy Spirit Chaplet, and other set prayers. Perfect if you're keen to learn something new!
- [Universalis](#) (one time payment of \$15.00): gives you the daily readings at Mass and the Liturgy of the Hours. Great for Scripture lovers (and great if you're not sure where to start, too)!
- [Hallow](#) (monthly cost of \$7.00): offers much in common, plus more. With a selection of prayerful music, homilies, ex-ams, Scripture passages read out loud by various Catholic Speakers (with a bedtime stories edition to help you fall asleep), daily reminders and spaces for journaling, this is a top place for guided prayer!

Listen.
When Country Music and Christian Music go hand in hand... Thank you [Chris Tomlin & Friends](#), for this album.



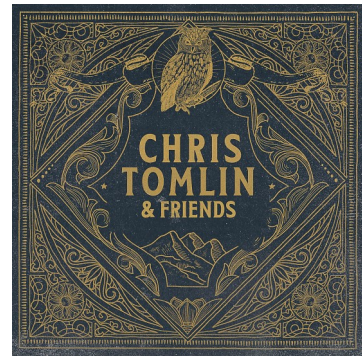
SILENT ADORATION
Daily-8.45am to 8.45pm
Starting: 1st August

On Divine Healing & Retreat Centre Sydney, Australia, YOUTUBE CHANNEL
You are free to send prayer request during adoration

DAILY Holy Mass: 8.am
Guided adoration: 9.00pm-9.30pm

DIVINE RETREAT CENTRE
160 Hensons Road, Somersby, SYDNEY-NSW 2250.
Tel: 02 4372 1598, 04 6848 6782, email drcsydney@gmail.com
• www.divineretreatcentre.org • www.facebook.com/divineretreatcentersomersby

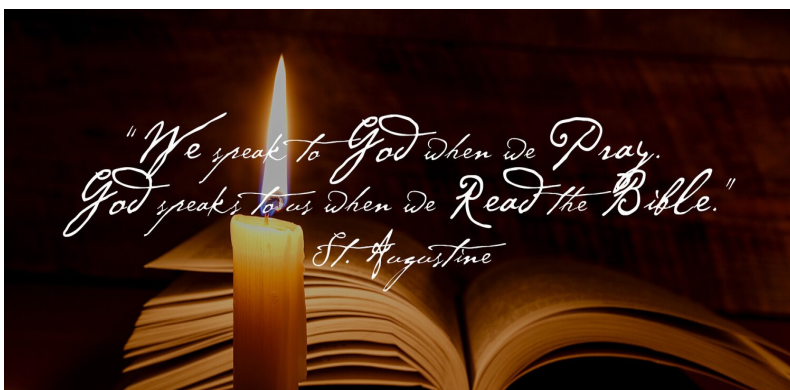
The Divine Retreat Centre Somersby strives to promote the safety and protection of children and other vulnerable persons in its care.



After the Honeymoon

The Parish and Marriage Resource Centre has launched a program for newlywed couples to accompany them during the first year of marriage.

Dispatched every two weeks for a year, **SmartLoving Newlywed Date Nites** is brimming with inspiration, tips and practical tools. Couples can subscribe FREE at www.smartloving.org/newlywed



The Domestic Church

We cannot gather for Mass in the church, but we can pray at home, either alone or with others in the house. When we eventually get back to Mass and Holy Communion let's make sure that we have grown in our prayer life and our relationship with the Lord. We could go back to some of the prayers we used to know well or learn some new ways of praying traditional prayers. Here are a few ideas. *Fr Vince*

Traditional Prayers

Many of us grew up learning prayers by heart. These are a safe place to go to when we do not know what else to say when we want to pray. Sometimes, after many years of not praying them we may have forgotten the whole prayer. There are many catholic websites which have these prayers written out for us. [Click here](#) to go to one site or explore some others. Re-learn a prayer you have forgotten.

Stations

Many of us are familiar with the **Stations of the Cross**, traditionally prayed during Lent and in Holy Week. They may also be appropriate for this time of pandemic. [Click here](#) for more.



There are also **Scriptural Stations of the Cross** which are an alternative to the traditional stations and a way to reflect more deeply on the scriptural accounts of Christ's passion. These became a more popular prayer after they were celebrated by Pope John Paul II on Good Friday 1991. [Click here](#) for a prayerful way to pray these stations.

Stations of the Resurrection are a less known devotion promoted by John Paul II and which focus on the Easter events. The stations are:

- Jesus Rises from the Dead
- The Disciples Discover the Empty Tomb
- The Risen Lord Appears to Mary Magdalen, Apostle to the Apostles
- The Risen Lord Appears on the Road to Emmaus
- The Risen Lord is Recognized in the Breaking of the Bread
- The Risen Lord Appears to the Community of Disciples
- The Risen Lord Breathes Peace and Gives the Power to Forgive
- The Risen Lord Strengthens the Faith of Thomas
- The Risen Lord Eats with the Disciples on the Shore of Tiberias
- The Risen Lord Forgives Peter and Entrusts Him to Feed His Sheep
- The Risen Lord Sends the Disciples into the World
- The Risen Lord Ascends into Heaven
- Mary and the Disciples Keep Vigil in the Upper Room for the Spirit's Advent
- The Risen Lord Sends the Holy Spirit



[Click here](#) for more details.

Domestic Church continued-

From the last few weeks: click and read

The [Daily Examen](#) was the most important of all prayers for St Ignatius of Loyola.

The [Field Hospital](#) has some fifty prayers to try based on the First Spiritual Exercises of St Ignatius Loyola.

The [Angelus](#) is prayed at 6am, midday and 6pm to sanctify the day.

To pray the Liturgy of the Hours go to [Univer-salils.com](#).

Pray the [Rosary](#), including the five luminous mysteries.

Create your own [sacred space](#).

Learn more about the [Domestic Church](#).



SUPPORTING PARISHIONERS ACROSS OUR DIOCESE

CatholicCare supports available now

As we enter another week of lockdown you may need some extra support. We are here to help and offer many services for people in need including emergency relief financial supports, homelessness and housing assistance, domestic violence support, counselling including financial counselling, disability and seniors supports and more. We have recently produced a [flyer specifically for parishes here](#)

Feel free to call 1800 324 924 or visit www.catholiccaredbb.org.au for more information



Thank Juan and Sonia for sharing your beautiful Sacred Space in your domestic church..

We are printing a copy of all the photos to place in the church, a symbol to show we are praying together, even though apart.

PLEASE EMAIL YOUR PHOTO NO MATTER HOW SIMPLE .

I will eventually send a photo of all the home shrines and sacred spaces in one big collage.

I told my wife she should embrace her mistakes... She hugged me.



A touch of humour

Making a difference in Covid times for Mary Macs at Woy Woy. On Wednesday we took the collection of food from our parishioners to meet Gabriel from Mary Mac's at George's Fruit Barn. Maria and the staff from Georges generously donated some much needed fruit and vegetables. In the car park we also met Ari from Somersby Orange Orchard who gave us a freshly picked box of oranges.

In these days when the news is not always good—THIS IS GOOD NEWS !



**While churches are still closed
Live streaming and TV Masses
are available.**

With the NSW Government extending the Sydney lockdown, our churches in Broken Bay remain closed. Some parishes are live streaming Mass. Please [click here](#) for all the details.

“Mass for you at Home” is broadcast on Channel 10 at 6.00am Sunday, and is available to watch on [YouTube](#).



**National Day of Prayer in this
Time of Pandemic – Sunday
22 August**

An ecumenical national day of prayer has been organised on Sunday 22 August, calling Australia to come together in prayer in light of the current COVID-19 crisis.

It is an initiative of a broad range of Christian communities and includes the involvement of the National Council of Churches, Australia. The theme is *Lord have mercy*; and it calls on us to be especially united in prayer, both individually and - where we are able - in our liturgies. There will also be an online gathering with church leaders, offering prayers and reflections at various times during the day.

The Prayer Call from 9:00am – 9:00pm on Zoom will feature Church leaders and Indigenous Christian Leaders. Participants can join for as long as they wish.

For more information and to register, visit <http://www.nationaldayofprayer.org.au/LordHaveMercy/>

Mass For You At Home

This Sunday 22 August, Broken Bay clergy and staff again will appear on the broadcast of *Mass For You At Home* on Channel 10 at 6.00am. Fr Chima Ofor from Lower North Shore Parish will celebrate the 21st Sunday of Ordinary Time, with Kelly Paget and PJ Almendras reading.

The Mass is also available on YouTube from 7.00am on Sunday https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC56U6_XgoR3bJBqClxLLp4Q



**Lay People and Synodality Webinar
19 August, 7:00pm**

French Xavierian Sister Nathalie Becquart, recently appointed by Pope Francis as under-secretary to the Vatican Synod of Bishops, will present on the topic of “Lay People and Synodality” at a webinar hosted by the Australian Cardijn Institute.

This is a timely and relevant topic as the next Synod of Bishops, in October 2023, will take as its subject “For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission.” The theme of “synodality” also features prominently in the agenda for the Australian Plenary Council.

[Register here](#)

At this time, due to COVID-19, we are not able to have our usual August appeal for Pastoral Works Broken Bay. However, we sincerely appreciate any support that might be afforded – no matter how big or how small. The ministries the fund supports continue to operate and provide vital services. Donations can be made:

through the “donate now” button on our new parish website

at www.bbcatholic.org.au/pastoralworks

directly to the Terrigal Parish Account BSB: 062784 A/C: 10001661

or leave an envelope in the slot in the door of the Parish Office

THANK YOU

New collection envelopes for Masses will be available when parishes reopen.



Vinnies Community Sleepout is going virtual!

The human reality of homelessness is told through the many people the St Vincent de Paul Society assists each day.

In 2019, the NSW Government Department of Communities and Justice Engagement Week Program identified the statistics surrounding homelessness:

- Of those sleeping rough on our streets, 57% in Woy Woy and 71% in Gosford identified with a high vulnerability score and needed ongoing assistance with housing and support services.
- 70 years of age was the oldest respondent sleeping rough and 24 years of age was the youngest, with an average age of 49 years.
- The program identified that the average duration of time spent sleeping on the street was 5.16 years.

It is critical that we support those experiencing or ,at risk of homelessness , in rebuilding their lives and reconnecting with the community. We also strive to address the causes of homelessness and disadvantage.

On the NSW Central Coast, the St Vincent de Paul Society provides assistance through three Vinnies Support Centres in Wyong, Gosford and Woy Woy.

These Support Centres not only connect those in need with Vinnies provided services, but also facilitate other agencies in the fields of homelessness and poverty, to provide comprehensive support to those most vulnerable within our community.

How you can help

All funds generated from this event will go to supporting our three local Vinnies Support Centres, allowing us to continue providing essential services to the community with respect, justice, hope and joy.

Register or sponsor a participant to help us change lives and help shape a more just and compassionate society.

<https://my.fundraise.vinniesnsw.org.au/vinnies-community-sleepout-central-coast-region-2021/>

Sleep out at home in your car, backyard or couch and join us online to help change lives in our community.

Event details

Date: Fri, 27 Aug 2021 6:00pm

Venue: At home in your car, backyard or couch

Event Coordinator: Janice Stokes | janice.stokes@vinnies.org.au

Bring: We invite you to bring your warm clothes, a sleeping bag/swag and join us to raise much needed funds and awareness of homelessness

Pope Francis urges people to get vaccinated

The Pope has launched a powerful appeal urging people to get vaccinated against COVID-19, calling it "an act of hope" and "an act of love for oneself, love for our families and friends, and love for all peoples".

[Click here](#) to see the Pope's video.

Why Priesthood?

This week's Vox Populi comes from Seminarian Tan Nguyen.

Originally from Vietnam, Tan is studying to become a priest for the Diocese of Broken Bay

[Read message from Tan Nguyen](#)



We pray for :

Recently Deceased

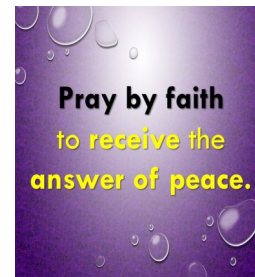
Anne Cuthbert Donald Holmes Ben (Martin) Donaldson
Marcia Harris Christopher Richards Karen Scali
Yvonne Vane John Casey Margaret Sunners K atherine
(Katey) Brincat Ivan Kopecky Frank Sprakel Grace
O'Flynn Maria Emmi Helen Fletcher Grace O'Leary

Anniversaries & Remembrance

Richard Bell

Sick

Anthony Wallace Noel Nacua Sue Southwell
Noleen Sherwood Daphne Beasley Jenny Imbruglia
Sandra Tagliabue John Schipp



6 WEEK ONLINE COURSE

The Feminine Mystery

7:30-9:30pm
Wednesday 15th Sep - 20th Oct

Presented by:
Madeleine Carrington
via Zoom

Registration: \$149
office@fireupministries.com
Registration ends 11th Sep

Fire Up Ministries have got you covered with online courses. 'The Feminine Mystery' by Madeleine Carrington is now available for registration and commences in mid September. Calling all women! Get to know yourself more, with some designated 'you-time.'

When: Wednesdays from 7:30pm-9:30pm, 15th September - 20th October (6 weeks)

Where: Via Zoom **RSVP:** office@fireupministries.com



Think of your Heart as a Sunflower.

As you go about your daily business, think of your heart as a sunflower that radiates light to everyone

and everything you meet. Feel that you have a miniature sun in your chest. While your head and your mouth are busy with conversation, let the light from your heart touch and warm the heart of the other.

Let your sunflower touch the sunflowers of everyone you meet. No matter who they are or what their personality is like, their heart is a sunflower just like yours, yearning for divine light . *Robert Frager in Heart, Self, and Soul*

May we think often of the Divine Gardner of our Heart.

Remember to help with weeding out anything that prevents the good seeds of love , peace and kindness from growing strong.

•••••
• **COVID-19 Updates on the Intranet** •

• The latest COVID-19 updates on
• restrictions and the Diocese of
• Broken Bay's response can now be
• found at:
• [https://intranet.bbcatholic.org.au/
resources/covid-19-update-for-
parishes](https://intranet.bbcatholic.org.au/resources/covid-19-update-for-parishes)

Parish Finances

Thank you to the many parishioners who have been contributing online to the parish account during the lockdown.

Please note the NEW NUMBER

Terrigal Parish

BSB: 062784

A/C: 10001661

Add *Donation* and *Your Name* as a reference.

You can also have an amount debited from your credit or debit card each month. Please contact the parish office on 4367 4610 to make the necessary arrangements.

This is a good opportunity to swap the Planned Giving Envelopes for the credit or debit card monthly system. Payments are taken out on the 3rd week of the month. You keep the same planned Giving number, but they are not recorded, as they are not tax deductible.

If you need a tax receipt for your business or privately you may want to choose making a monthly credit card donation to Pastoral Works Broken Bay (previously known as CWF). This still helps your parish as it comes off our quota.

Divine Renovation Australasia Webinar: Jesus Christ & Missionary Discipleship: 25 August, 6:30pm

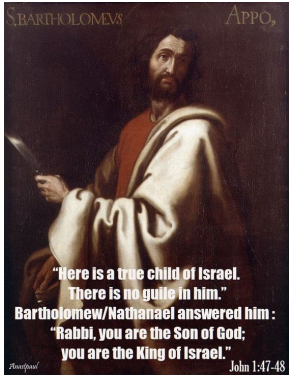
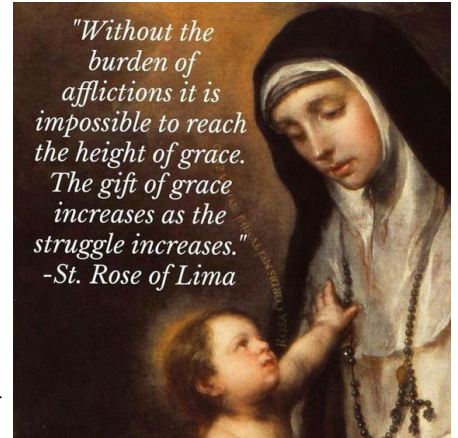
Go ... and make disciples of all nations” (Mt 28:19). This was the Great Commission Jesus gave His disciples, and it is the same mission He entrusts to each of us. Yet, what does it really mean to be a disciple of Christ? Join us for this online event as Dr. Christine Wood and Kevin Bailey take us through what it means to be a missionary disciple and how we can carry out the mission of Christ in our world today.

Dr. Christine Wood is the Director of the Office of Evangelisation and Catechesis in the Archdiocese of Hobart and teaches Biblical and Systematic Theology at Catholic Distance University in the USA.

Register at: <https://www.divinerenovation.org/events>

Spiritual Corner: Feasts and saints of the week: **(Our extended family in Heaven).**

Monday 23 St Rose of Lima Rose of Lima was a member of the Third Order of Saint Dominic in Lima, Peru, who became known for both her life of cultivation of beauty and her care of the poverty stricken of the city through her own private efforts.



Tuesday 24 St Bartholomew apostle Bartholomew was one of the twelve apostles of Jesus according to the New Testament. He is said to have been martyred for having converted Polymius, King of Armenia, to Christianity. Due to the nature of his martyrdom, (flayed) *Bartholomew* is the *patron saint* of tanners, plasterers, tailors, leatherworkers, bookbinders, farmers, housepainters and butchers.

Wednesday 25 St Louis IX King of France Pope Boniface VIII proclaimed the canonisation of Louis IX in 1297; he is the only French king to be declared a saint. Louis IX is often considered the model of the ideal Christian monarch.



Thursday 26 Our Lady of Czestochowa (The Black Madonna) Saint Luke the Evangelist, according to tradition, is believed to be the original artist of this painting in which Mary is depicted holding the Christ Child. In 1656, a year after the failed invasion, King Kazimierz of Poland declared Our Lady of Czestochowa to be “Queen of Poland” and made **the city the spiritual capital of the nation**. Thus, she became a symbol of protection and created a specific national identity that impacted on the entire population of Poland.

Friday 27 St Monica known as The Mother's Saint, is also the patron of alcoholics, conversion and wives. Monica prayed for her son St. Augustine for **17 years** before his conversion.

Saturday 28 St Augustine of Hippo (son of St Monica) 13 November 354 – 430, was a theologian, philosopher, and the Bishop of Hippo Regius in Numidia, Roman North Africa. His writings influenced the development of Western philosophy and Western Christianity, and he is viewed as one of the most important Church



“BECAUSE GOD HAS MADE US FOR HIMSELF, OUR HEARTS ARE RESTLESS UNTIL THEY REST IN HIM.”

SAINT AUGUSTINE OF HIPPO

Fathers of the Latin Church in the Patristic Period. His many important works include *The City of God*, *On Christian Doctrine*, and *Confessions*.

We learn so much from the saints. Why not google and find out more about the saints mentioned—something extra to do for our faith building in our “isolation”!

KNOW SOMEONE WHO NEEDS A HAND UP



St Vincent de Paul - help available

Vinnies Support Centres are still available to assist with food vouchers and other items. Although some Support Centres may have their doors closed at the moment, they are still taking calls and arranging for food vouchers or food items to be delivered to those in need.

Parishes have always supported Vinnies in the past, and Vinnies would like to support people in your Parishes now. We just desperately need to have the message sent out, that people can simply call our **Support Centres** for help.

Gosford, 273 -275 Mann St. Ph: 4322 5861

Woy Woy, 41 – 413 The Boulevard. Ph: 4341 7535

Wyong, 47 Howarth St. Ph: 4353 5614

Open Monday to Friday, 9.30am to 4.30pm



We remember fondly this weekend the soul of Anne Cuthbert who with her husband Alan answered the cry of the poor together many times in their St Vincent de Paul role at Terrigal.

**May you rest in peace dear Anne.
Your good works now go with you.**

Oceania Pastoral Ministry Webinar: Being Alive in the Spirit 24 August, 10:00am – 11:30am

This webinar will explore and share practical ways of listening and acting in the Spirit, and how to live as missionary disciples. It will also discuss how the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults supports whole-of-parish renewal and evangelisation.

Hosted by the Pastoral Mission Network; Mission Planners Network of Oceania; and the Christian Initiation Australia Network; it will feature guest speaker Leisa Anslinger, Director Centre for Pastoral Vitality at the Archdiocese of Cincinnati.

[Register here](#)

Are you struggling to pay the bills?

CatholicCare can help with Coles or Woolworths vouchers.

Times are tough. You might have lost work due to the lockdown, or you might be finding it hard to put food on the table. Please call CatholicCare on (02) 9481 2600 or email them at info@catholiccareddb.org.au.

They are here to help our parish families.

Please note this support is able to be offered due to Government funding so they will require ID and some documentation to access assistance but they can walk you through the requirements.

Scalabrinian Community Outreach

The Scalabrinian Community is again offering support for migrants (International students and Temporary Visa holders) who may have lost work in the latest lockdown and are not eligible for government support. They are distributing \$60.00 Coles Grocery Vouchers for those who are in need. The voucher is directly delivered to their address via post mail.

To register just fill in the form at <https://www.scalabrinian.org/helpme>

The only required document is proof of unemployment.



BE A LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

Don't let Covid make you feel negative and helpless.

You can still give back by caring and praying for others. Ask yourself—What can I do to help and make some difference ?

From our Baptism we are given the light of Christ, the light of faith, hope and love . We are Baptised to be that light for others. We may feel at times we have the flame of a small match, but in total darkness that light makes a difference. Shine your light this week, no matter if it's match size or the flame of a bonfire .

Safeguarding Message

Our Diocesan Commitment to Safeguarding is underscored by our faith in Jesus Christ who teaches the fundamental sanctity of each human person, and by our dedication to sustained education, practice and conversation about moral, legal and spiritual obligation to safeguard all those within our community.



Plenary Council 2021

The Plenary Council is about reform. It is about adapting the church to the new challenges of the 21st-century. Pope Francis is strongly committed to church reform and for that reason has called the World Synod of Bishops in Rome in 2023.

As an Argentinian he has seen the changes sweeping society. In his own country, despite strong opposition from the church, abortion was legalised in 2020 – the first in any major country in South America.

In 2004 89% of Argentinian's nominated as Catholics but this dropped in 2019 to 63% - a free fall of 26% in only 15 years. Less than 20% of Catholics attend Mass or engage in church activities. As in Brazil evangelical Protestantism has grown rapidly in recent years. So has the number of people claiming "no religion."

At 85 the Pope would be only too aware he has limited time. He has moved cautiously but determinedly.

More than his predecessors he realises such a large and widespread institution as the Catholic Church can no longer simply be governed from above. That is why more than anything else he has emphasised the principle of Synodality – local people making local decisions. He has also emphasised and continues to emphasise that every person baptised in the catholic faith is part of the People of God. It is the views of the people of God that he seeks to listen to at the World Synod.

The Pope does not claim to have all the solutions. He wants to hear the solutions proposed not just by bishops but by all the people of God.

Each diocese including our own has been instructed to start a listening process from 17 October 2021. Our parish awaits advice from the diocese how this is to be done. Possibly this will be even more significant in the long run than the Australian Plenary Council. This is because the agenda will not be set by the bishops locally but on instruction from Rome.

Our plenary council program has been amended yet again. Instead of meeting in Adelaide from 3 October the bishops have now decided that the October session will be entirely online. Members will now be participating from their homes/office; there will be no opportunity for comprehensive live streaming as there will be no general assembly. The bishops state: "Just as there was disappointment in needing to postpone the assembly and then move to regional hubs the likelihood that most members will now join the assembly from their home is not what we had planned and hoped for." Some parts will be live streamed but how this will be accomplished is not clear. Nor is it clear how effective a conference of 280 people on some form of Zoom can operate at all. The Bishops state: "we are receiving exceptional support from technical experts within and beyond the church to ensure that we can make the virtual assembly... "

Such a process does not advance the cause of Synodality as it will be extremely difficult for the lay participants to have an effective voice, or indeed any voice at all. For those interested a zoom convocation organised by Australian Coalition of Concerned Catholics on the Future of Catholicism in Australia will be held on 26 August at 7:30 pm. The link for the (free) zoom meeting is <https://garrattpublishing.com.au/blog/post/convocation-2-august-26/>

Palliative Care

With Euthanasia laws being passed in various states and soon to be discussed in NSW, Brisbane Catholic Education Office has produced a timely resource derived from a video-link panel discussion conducted by journalist Madonna King in October last year. The video answers from the experts debunk myths and misunderstandings about the official Catholic view on end-of-life care. The material also gives a clear definition and understanding of what palliative care is and why it must be offered as an alternative to euthanasia.

[Click here](#) to go to the webpage.

Mary, Undoer of Knots, pray for me

Virgin Mary, Mother of fair love, Mother who never refuses to come to the aid of a child in need,

Mother whose hands never cease to serve your beloved children because they are moved by the divine love and immense mercy that exists in your heart, cast your compassionate eyes upon me and see the snarl of knots that exist in my life. You know very well how desperate I am, my pain, and how I am bound by these knots. Mary, Mother to whom God entrusted the undoing of the knots in the lives of his children, I entrust into your hands the ribbon of my life. No one, not even the evil one himself, can take it away from your precious care.

In your hands, there is no knot that cannot be undone. Powerful Mother, by your grace and intercessory power with your Son and my Liberator, Jesus, take into your hands today this knot.

Mention your petition here...

I beg you to undo it for the glory of God, once for all. You are my hope. O my Lady, you are the only consolation God gives me, the fortification of my feeble strength, the enrichment of my destitution, and, with Christ, the freedom from my chains. Hear my plea. Keep me, guide me, protect me, o safe refuge!



A favorite prayer of Pope Francis



CRY OF THE POOR

Lord, when we listen with your ears we hear:
the bush grown more silent,
the birdsong less vibrant,
the stream's sluggish ripple.
Have mercy and open our ears.
Lord, when we look with your eyes we see:
the soil depleted,
the sky smudged,
the oceans rubbished and the great currents slowed.
Have mercy and help us to see.

Lord, when we look with your eyes we see:
the workers who struggle to get by,
the women subjected to violence,
the people who are excluded.
Have mercy and help us to see.

Lord, when we listen with your ears we hear:
the sound of hungry children,
the distress of the mentally ill,
the silent pain of homeless women and men.
Have mercy and open our ears.
Send your Spirit upon us Lord to renew our sight,
to restore our hearing,
and to reclaim your reign of justice for all people
and peace for creation. Amen

Pray, for the people in Afghanistan

"I join in the unanimous concern for the situation in Afghanistan. I ask all of you to pray with me to the God of peace, so that the clamour of weapons might cease and solutions can be found at the table of dialogue," Pope Francis on 15 August during his Angelus address.

Social Justice Corner. The Bishops' Social Justice Statement 2021/22: Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor, states that God's care for creation is timeless, boundless and continuous, referring to Pope Francis' Laudato Si' para 67 that some previous readings of humans having 'dominion' over creatures (Gen 1:26-31) appear deficient in the contemporary context where creation is now endangered by this form of mastery. The Bishops' Statement goes on to say that 'Now we can better appreciate that we are creatures within creation, in relationship with the whole earth, plants, birds, beasts, fish, soil and garden. We are called to be caretakers (Gen 2:15) rather than exploiters.' Read the whole Social Justice Statement on socialjustice.catholic.org.au

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