

# The Catholic Community of North Harbour



IN THE CARE OF THE AUGUSTINIANS



Cnr White & Wanganella Sts

2 King Street

Parish Priest: Fr Dave Austin OSA

Parish Office: 9949 4455

parishoffice@northharbourcatholic.org.au

<https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/northharbour>



First Sunday of  
ADVENT

Year A - 27 Nov 2022

## PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE – Simply Advent! - 'Stay Awake...'



**Dear Friends,**

This Season of Advent invites each of us into a time of thoughtfulness as we prepare to celebrate the *'sudden coming of the Son of Man.'* Through his birth at Christmas, Jesus enters into the intimate and ordinary events of our lives and we are invited to a deeper mindfulness as we seek to understand the meaning of our experience, conscious that it takes, in the words of writer Andre Dubus, *'only a very small jolt, at the right time, to knock us off balance for the rest of our lives.'*

Our lives are usually defined by the calendar year and these final weeks are often intensely busy as businesses and schools wind up and families plan holidays and reunions before another year begins. Advent offers us a *'prophetic word'* in our lives that will hopefully prompt us to pause a little more often as the surprise of Jesus' birth heralds an even more intimate presence of the divine in our daily lives.

The familiar Advent message to *'stay awake'* invites us to live humanly to the best of our ability, continuing to do the necessary mundane things but always with a genuine care for the other – the neighbour in need. Call it the **Sacrament of the Neighbour** if you will. Just as Jesus is the **Sacrament of our Encounter with God**, so must we be *'sacraments'* for each other. Our understanding of the later teaching of Jesus illuminates the meaning of this Advent experience.

Pope Francis counsels us against a purely horizontal existence where we so readily miss the deeper meaning of our life and existence and forget to notice God, a fear that St Augustine too was very aware of – *'I fear that Jesus will pass by me unnoticed.'* Advent is both a time of *'God's closeness and our watchfulness'*.

A simple way to retain some focus during Advent is to pray the traditional Advent prayer: **'Come, Lord Jesus.'** This simple mantra connects us with Jesus no matter where we are or what we are doing – working, studying, traveling, shopping, walking, relaxing. Prayer allows God to be close to us and this comforting greeting evokes a response from the Lord himself as he draws us into a conversation that deepens our appreciation of our identity as Christians.

Loving God is our daily task that requires engagement on our part so that our lives do not become mediocre. Faith is the opposite of mediocrity as we nurture our desire for God and our courage to love. Desire, as we know, is the heart of our spiritual life – both our desire for God and God's desire for us.

Such is the *'search'* of which St Augustine speaks, the inner restlessness which we all experience, our need to recognise in God the true searcher. Irish Scripture scholar Kieran O'Mahony OSA describes how **Lent invites us to conversion, Easter promotes joy in believing, and Advent encourages us and takes us back to our original longing which brought us to God in the first place.**

Our faith journey is reflected in the progressive lighting of the 4 candles on the Advent wreath which gradually weaves the thread of light that helps us prepare for the splash of brilliant light that bathes us in our celebration of Christ at Christmas.

*Welcome to Advent, Season of enlightenment and surprise!*

This weekend's Homily will be by **Fr ABEL** and available to view via the following link  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/Uct8Dxm0ehFt-5r1ie9xOjLw>

Link on Parish Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/NorthHarbourCatholic>



### **VINNIE'S CHRISTMAS APPEAL** Christmas Appeal

**Donations** can be via an envelope this or subsequent weekends. Envelopes in Church foyer & side entrance.

**Christmas Hamper cards** are on the rear wall of St Kieran's. In the event that you are able, take a card and a flat carton, record your name & mobile number & return the hamper with the reference number by **Sunday December 11<sup>th</sup>**. They can be left in the parish office or at the back of the Church. Hampers will be distributed by a number of wonderful St Kieran's School parents and their children with the members of the Manly Vale Conference on the morning of Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> December.

### **CALLING ALL WILLING AND CREATIVE HANDS** \*\*CHRISTMAS BANNERS

in the Church sanctuary on Fri 23 or Sat 24 Dec. You will be shown how it's done and no climbing required.

\*\* Two or three people (a great opportunity for a family) to set up the **CHRISTMAS CRIB** and **CHRISTMAS TREE** in the Church on Fri 16 or Sat 17 Dec. Guiding hands to help show where everything is and to be set up.

\*\* Parent Helpers for **CHILDREN'S NATIVITY PLAY** at 5.30pm for Christmas Eve Mass (No rehearsal needed) **PLEASE LET THE OFFICE KNOW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.**

**THANK YOU FROM AFA** Many thanks to everyone who attended the AFA Christmas Dinner last Saturday, 19 November. It was a fun night which was well attended by 110 people and raised \$5,682.50 for our Augustinian seminarians which is fantastic. We would also like to thank all those who weren't able to attend but gave a donation or purchased a ticket for an Augustinian. Many thanks to everyone who donated raffle prizes which was greatly appreciated. To our sponsors Wilson Family Funerals, Cunninghams Real Estate & C Miller Designs – Interiors and Bespoke Soft Furnishings we thank you too for your support and generosity. Congratulations to Trish Gibbons, who won the first prize of \$1,000, and to all the other people who won raffle and lucky door prizes on the night. Well done also to Laurel Jones who was the winner of the "Scratchie Tree" draw. We thank Fr Jepsen and his wonderful choir on the night for their beautiful carols singing which made the evening very special.

AFA would like to thank you all very much for your support throughout this year and we wish all our AFA members, friends and the parishioners of North Harbour Parish a very Holy Christmas and a Peaceful & Joyful 2023. *God Bless from Adriana Bowyer & the AFA Committee Members*



### **WHAT'S ON in OUR PARISH**

- Nov 27**– SC 9am Mass - Welcome Kindy 2023
- Nov 30**—The story of Jesus' birth—Fr John 7.30pm parish ctr
- Dec 4** : Farewell Morning Tea - Frs Dave, John, Jepsen
- Dec 7**: Anointing mass 10am @ SK followed by Morning Tea
- Dec 15** 7.30pm COMMUNAL RECONCILIATION @ SK

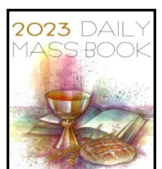
### **New Daily Mass Book**

**Starts this Sunday**

**27th November**

**Available at the  
Parish Office**






**\$25 each EFTPOS available**




**Readings for this week:** **Isaiah 2: 1-5**      **Romans 13: 11-14**      **Matthew 24: 37-44**  
**Response:** *Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord*  
**Readings for next week:** **Isaiah 11:1-10**      **Romans 15:4-9**      **Matthew 3:1-12**  
**NEXT WEEK'S READERS**  
**SK 5.30pm** Bob, John H, Cecilia    **7.30am** Jenny, Andrew    **9.30am** Brian C, Kate    **6pm** Louise, Catherine  
**SC 9.00am** Louise, Ailis, Julien

**PASTORAL WORKS** Broken Bay  
**NOVEMBER APPEAL - THIS WEEKEND**

Donations to Pastoral Works Broken Bay are distributed to five charities that directly support the people in our Diocese. The charities receive the funds as needed. For example, the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD) does not receive government funding or payments from families that use the service, so the CCD receives a higher proportion of funds than the other charities.

				
<b>Hospital Chaplaincy &amp; Pastoral Care Practitioners</b> Helping those who are vulnerable, experiencing loneliness or sick in hospital.	<b>Confraternity of Christian Doctrine</b> Catechists taking the gospel to State school students. <b>All donations over \$2 are tax deductible</b>	<b>St Lucy's School</b> Serving year K-12 students with disability.	<b>St Edmund's College</b> Serving year 7-12 students with disability.	<b>Ephpheta Centre</b> Pastoral care, sacraments, and advocacy for the deaf community.

**Every gift makes a difference to someone in hospital, school, a parish or the wider community.**



### THE STORY OF JESUS' BIRTH THROUGH THE EYES OF JOSEPH

FR. JOHN WILL LEAD A READING OF MATTHEW'S INFANCY NARRATIVE THIS WEDNESDAY 30<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER AT 7.30pm IN THE PARISH CENTRE.

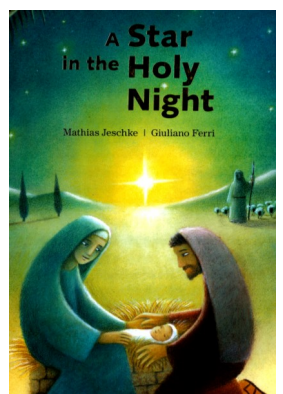
BRING YOUR BIBLE. (Supplied if you don't have one.) *ALL WELCOME.*

**70<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY PRAYER CARD**      Please collect one!  
Copies of the special Anniversary Prayer Card, containing an adapted version of our Parish Prayer, photos of the original and new churches and the Parish Vision Statement are still available. Please collect a card from our churches or the Parish Centre.

**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL THANKS** - The North Harbour Parish Pastoral Council held its final meeting for 2022 last Monday and farewelled outgoing members who have either completed their terms or resigned - Geraldine Clarke, Jo Matthews, Leonie Cornell, Derville Peach, Tim Wunder, and Augustinians Fr Dave Austin, Fr Jepser Bermudez and Fr John Sullivan. We thank all PPC members for their enthusiasm and generous service of the Parish in recent years and wish outgoing members well. At both October and November meetings, the PPC welcomed as observers new members who will join the PPC in February 2023 - Kevin Mascarenhas, Ed Coney, Elizabeth-Anne Banfield, Leanne Nicol, Linda Williamson, Kevin Peters, Maria Dunn and Tory Suttie. At this stage, there is no nominee from the Balgowlah area – please contact Fr Dave asap if you are interested or wish to nominate someone.

**PARISH PIETY SHOP**

**Keeping Jesus in Christmas ! Christmas Cards \$ 5 (pack 8)**





Rest in Peace

ANNIVERSARIES	
Bill Lovell	Libby Walsh
Franz Hakvoort	John Mangraviti
RECENTLY DECEASED	
Liz Rush	Todd Walsh
Bob McEwan	

For those with ILLNESS			
Zara Sapounas	Michael Lennon	Daniella Takchi	Mark Moscrop
Yvonne Taylor	Jenny B	Muireann Casey	Vince Jewell
Ed Burchard	Joan Killick	Simone Young	Yvonne Richardson
Christopher Newman	Maria Kogovsek	Yvonne Hickey	Henryk Gawecki
Richard Paul Reynolds	Margaret Appleby	Joan Kelly	Peter Van de Velde
Chloe Zarb	Andrew Scotland	Bridie Lennon	Jan Van de Velde
Shirley Barker	Angie Olic		

**UPCOMING FUNERALS**



**Bob McEwan**  
**Thursday 1st Dec 10.30am**  
**St Kieran's Church**

**From St Augustine**  
*Lord, while I move and bear this body, I pray that I may be pure, generous, just, and prudent. May I be a perfect lover and knower of Your Wisdom. Finally, may I be worthy of Your Dwelling Place and live in Your most blessed Kingdom. Soliloquies 1, 1*

**SPECIAL FAREWELL MASS and MORNING TEA**

All are warmly invited to join in a Farewell Mass and Morning Tea for Fr Dave, Fr John and Fr Jepser on **SUNDAY** December 4 at St Kieran's 9.30am Mass. If you could kindly bring along a "sweet plate" and leave in the kitchen before Mass *Thank you*



*It would be wonderful if we could have a few volunteers to help serve & tidy up after !!*

**SICK CALLS AND OTHER URGENT MATTERS**  
**IF YOU NEED A PRIEST URGENTLY, PLEASE CALL THE APPROPRIATE NUMBER:**  
 Business hours – Parish Office – 9949 4455 After hours (Evenings and weekends) – 0490 898 464

**CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF NORTH HARBOUR**

<p><b>REGULAR PARISH MASS TIMES</b>  <b>St Cecilia's, Balgowlah</b>  <b>SUNDAY</b> 9.00AM  <b>WEDNESDAY</b> 9.00AM  <b>St Kieran's, Manly Vale</b>  <b>SATURDAY VIGIL</b> 5.30pm  <b>SUNDAY</b> 7.30am, 9.30am &amp; 6.00pm  <b>Weekdays</b> 8.30am except Wednesdays  <b>St Augustine's Chapel, Brookvale</b>                  Wednesdays 8.10am during term time  <b>RECONCILIATION</b>  <b>St Kieran</b> 5 – 5.45pm Saturday or by appointment.</p>		<p><b>BAPTISMS</b>  <b>St Cecilia</b> 10.30am Sun. by appointment                  9.00am Mass on 1st Sundays of the month  <b>St Kieran</b> 11.30am Sun. by appointment                  9.30am Mass on 1st Sundays of the month                  Baptism preparation is required for 1st baptisms.                  Contact parish office 9949 4455</p> <p><b>MARRIAGES</b>                  Require 6 months notice and include Pre-marriage Course as part of the preparation</p>
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Fr David Austin OSA Parish Priest 0419 265 317  
 Fr Paul Maloney OSA Assistant Priest and Prior 0439 595 723  
 Fr John Sullivan OSA Assistant Priest and Prior 0423 634 029  
 Fr Jepser Bermudez Assistant Priest 0410 203 601  
 Fr Senan Ward OSA Chaplain – St Augustine's College  
 Fr Abel van der Veer OSA Retired 0409 368 449  
 Fr Peter Jones OSA Provincial—In Residence

Jacky Worthington Parish Manager 9949 4455  
 Marianne Deveza Music Co-ordinator 9949 4455  
 Ursula Halloway Catechist Coordinator 9949 4455  
 Janette Davidson Sacramental Coordinator 0408 866 521  
 Anne Ross Parish Secretary 9949 4455  
 Jane Filacuridi Parish Secretary 9949 4455

*We acknowledge the Gayamagal and Canalgal people, the traditional custodians of this land and pay our respects to the elders past, present and emerging.*