

# THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF NORTH HARBOUR

Worshipping Communities of Allambie Heights, Balgowlah, Balgowlah Heights, Brookvale, Clontarf, Manly Vale, North Balgowlah, Seaforth and parts of Beacon Hill and North Manly



**22  
DEC  
2024**  
YEAR C

Under the Pastoral Care of the Augustinians

Catholic Diocese of Broken Bay

Want to receive the bulletin via e-mail? Email [office@nhcatholic.org.au](mailto:office@nhcatholic.org.au)



## 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

“Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled.” - Lk 1:45

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. ©LPI

### 1<sup>ST</sup> READING

Micah 5:1-4

*The Lord foretells the coming of the Messiah from Bethlehem.*

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 79:2-3. 15-16. 18-19. R. v.4

*Lord, make us turn to you;  
let us see your face and we shall be saved.*

### 2<sup>ND</sup> READING

Hebrews 10:5-10

*Paul reveals Jesus as the new sacrificial offering.*

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Luke 1:38

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*I am the servant of the Lord:  
may his will for me be done. Alleluia!*

### GOSPEL

Luke 1:39-45

*Mary visits Elizabeth.*

## MASS & LITURGY TIMES

### CHURCH OF ST. CECILIA

Wanganella St and White St, Balgowlah 2093

#### MASS:

Wednesday, 9am

Sunday, 9am

#### BAPTISM:

Sunday, 10.30am

1st Sundays of the month (within the 9am Mass)

*Baptism Preparation is required for first baptisms.  
Contact Parish Office for more details. Thank you.*

#### RECONCILIATION:

Saturday, 5.00 to 5.45pm

Church of St. Kieran

#### YOUTH MASS:

2nd Sundays of the month  
during the school term.

#### WEDDING:

Require six months notice and  
include Pre-Marriage Course as  
part of the preparation.

### CHURCH OF ST. KIERAN

2 King Street, Manly Vale 2093

#### MASS:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday\*, Saturday,  
8.30am

Saturday (Vigil), 5.30pm

Sunday, 7.30am, 9.30am, 5pm

*\* Adoration to the Blessed Sacrament after Mass  
on Fridays.*

#### BAPTISM:

Sunday, 11.30am

1st Sundays of the month (within the 9.30am Mass)

*Baptism Preparation is required for first baptisms.  
Contact Parish Office for more details. Thank you.*

In the spirit of reconciliation the Catholic Community of North Harbour acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of these lands on which we gather.  
We recognise their continuing connection to the lands and waterways and pay our respect to their elders past and present  
and extend that respect to all First Nations people in our community.





# WELCOME TO NORTH HARBOUR

- YOU ARE INVITED
- JOIN US IN OUR VARIED CELEBRATIONS & ACTIVITIES
- CONSIDER SHARING YOUR GIFTS TO US

## GET IN TOUCH



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2 KING STREET, MANLY VALE 2093 NSW

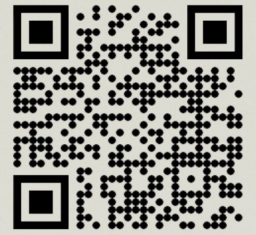


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## WHY DO WE DO THAT? Catholic Life Explained

### Question:

Why do we give gifts at Christmas?

### Answer:

Great events in and of themselves are not tangible. They occur in life but leave no mark behind, nothing that someone could come across and know that something significant occurred. So we mark the event with monuments, holidays, gold watches or plaques, making a meaningful event tangible and memorable.

Gifts at Christmas do the same thing. They mark the occasion of the birth of Jesus, communicating a bit of the joy of the day by allowing us to be both giver and receiver. Gift-giving sets aside the day as special and different. The special foods, customs, decorations, and gifts all help focus our attention on the importance and meaning of the day and at the same time allow us to share personally in its joy and happiness.

In giving gifts, though, we can share in the meaning of Christmas in a significant way. We imitate God in sharing with others. We give a bit of ourselves to others in the gifts we give, just as God gives us the gift of his Son. No wonder we often say that the best gifts are those that come from the heart. Given in love, these presents are wrapped in the best covering of all. ©LPi

## BRINGING HOME THE GOSPEL

Mary was newly pregnant and not married when she left for Judah. She probably spent much of the journey wondering how her cousin would receive her. Imagine her relief when she saw Elizabeth's face and heard her greeting: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb."

Sometimes we forget that Mary was just a young girl, probably about fourteen, when she agreed to become the mother of Jesus. There is no questioning her courage and colossal faith, but she was probably still confused and scared after the angel left.

Mary came to help her cousin, but (as is often the case) she ended up being ministered to also. How affirming it must have been to hear Elizabeth, an older woman, praise her for her faith and trust in the Lord. Like all of us, Mary needed to know that she was not alone. Her courage and faith needed to be bolstered. Elizabeth gave Mary the reinforcement she needed.

Like Mary, we are also asked to have faith and to believe in the promises of a God we cannot see. We are asked to believe in God's unconditional love for us, and to say "yes" to that love so that like Mary we too can bring Jesus into the world. Amidst all our confusion and fear, God asks us to have the courage to share our faith, bolster the faith of those closest to us and make the presence of Jesus real in our households.

### FAMILY RESPONSE:

Ask family members to talk about the last time someone bolstered their courage. Who are the people in your lives who remind you of Jesus? In what way?

### PERSONAL RESPONSE:

Who are the people who remind you of Jesus? In what ways?

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## WEEKLY SOCIAL JUSTICE CHALLENGES

Christmas falls on Saturday of this week. Sometimes in the midst of gifts and parties we forget the real purpose of this celebration—the Second Person of the Trinity incarnating and becoming one of us. Jesus came as a poor person to stand in total solidarity with those who have little. This week's challenge is to reflect on all the things you have, including the gifts you will be receiving this week, and what you will do with them in light of so many of your brothers and sisters across the world having so little. What are you willing to share?



## PASTORAL CARE FOR THE HOMEBOUND

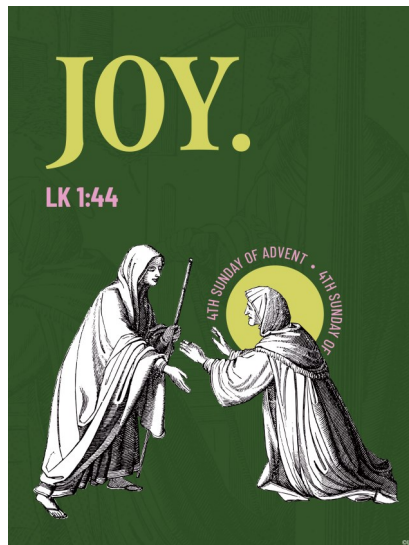
Our clergy and pastoral care ministers bring the sacraments of Eucharist, reconciliation, and anointing of the sick to parishioners who are unable to participate because of illness or aging. For more information and to arrange receiving the sacraments, contact Parish Office.

## CARE FOR CREATION TIPS

*"And this shall be a sign for you; you shall find a child wrapped in swaddling clothes, and lying in a manger." —Luke 2:12*

Our sacred scripture story tells us that the newborn Jesus was wrapped in swaddling clothes (the only thing Mary and Joseph had on hand), not a perfect blanket sewn with love. One of our Christmas traditions is to offer beautifully wrapped presents to friends and family. Unfortunately, this tradition involves cutting down tens of thousands of trees to make wrapping paper, most of which can't be recycled and gets discarded soon afterwards. This year, why not find alternatives for wrapping our presents, such as newspaper, old posters, or other reused paper? Some people use cloth napkins, which can be reused; others prefer using gift bags which can also be conveniently reused later on. When wrapping your gifts this year, be creative to prevent depleting our forests.

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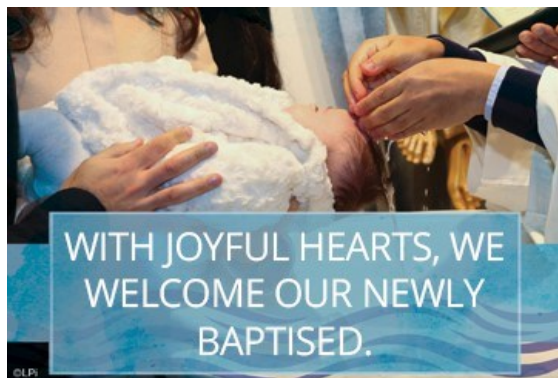


## SICK CALLS AND OTHER URGENT MATTERS

If you need a priest urgently, please call the appropriate number:

**BUSINESS HOURS:**  
PARISH OFFICE—9949 4455

**AFTER HOURS:**  
(Evenings & Weekends)  
0490 898 464



Freddie Fenn  
Son of Paul & Kahli  
Carlie Shiplee  
Daughter of Peter & Ashleigh  
Amira Dimos  
Daughter of Ryan & Madonna

## PRAY FOR THOSE IN OUR COMMUNITY:

### SICK:

Colin Patmore, Joyce Arnold, Cecilia Yeung, Geoff Richardson, Yvonne Taylor, Erroll Abbott, Pat Cooper, Greg Hyde

### RECENTLY DECEASED:

Primo Ganino, Judith Gasacao, Benjie Santiago, Peter John Hilson, Don Gaffney, Mavis Agnew, Maria Jakusic, Antonio Coniglio, Peggy Gallagher

### ANNIVERSARIES:

Henry Gawecki, Jean Coates,  
Ricki Hayes, Marion Hayes, Jeremy Hession,  
Mary Robb, Eric McKinnon

Our community would love to pray for you.  
If you have an intention you would like to be included in this bulletin please e-mail  
office@nhcatholic.org.au



*Christmas* MASS TIMES  
@ North Harbour

**CHRISTMAS EVE**  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24  
St Kieran's Manly Vale  
5:00PM | 7:30PM  
St Cecilia's Balgowlah  
5:00PM | 7:30PM

**CHRISTMAS DAY**  
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25  
St Kieran's Manly Vale  
7:30AM | 9:30AM  
St Cecilia's Balgowlah  
9:00AM

Join us for a special

*Farewell Mass for Fr Tu*

Sunday, December 29, 9:30AM  
St Kieran's Church

Fr Tu will be assigned to Vietnam commencing January 2025.

**Parish Christmas Closure Dates**

The office will close at 4:30PM on Friday, December 20. It will reopen at 9AM on Tuesday, January 7, 2025.

**BOONAH ART STUDIO**  
Artwork that makes a difference



Located in West Pymble, Boonah Art Studio and Gallery is operated by CatholicCare and supports artists with a disability. Scan the QR code to view the artworks available for purchase.

Artwork displayed: "Meerkat Family at Taronga Zoo" by Angli Bulkin



**OPENING OF THE HOLY DOOR OF ST PETER'S BASILICA**  
24 DECEMBER 2024



Watch as Pope Francis begins the Jubilee Year..  
Scan the QR code to register!



**JOIN US**

# Christmas Eve Family Mass

24 DECEMBER, 5:00PM  
ST KIERAN'S | CECILIA'S

Kids can dress as an angel or a shepherd!

Amazing Christmas music!

# You're invited To CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH

St Mary's Catholic Church  
Enter from Denison St, School Entrance  
11am - 1pm

This year we will be providing a Take Away Picnic Lunch and gift.

There will be some tables set up under the big tree if you wish to enjoy your Picnic with some other guests.

## PARISH ROSARY PRAYER

**JOYFUL MYSTERIES**  
Monday and Saturday

**SORROWFUL MYSTERIES**  
Tuesday and Friday

**GLORIOUS MYSTERIES**  
Wednesday and Sunday

**LUMINOUS MYSTERIES**  
Thursday



You are invited to pray the Rosary with your family for the renewal of our parish. Prayer booklets and rosaries are available in our churches. You can pray with others using this meditation after Mass on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays.

It's been a tough year for many, so no matter what your circumstance, you are always welcome to come along!!

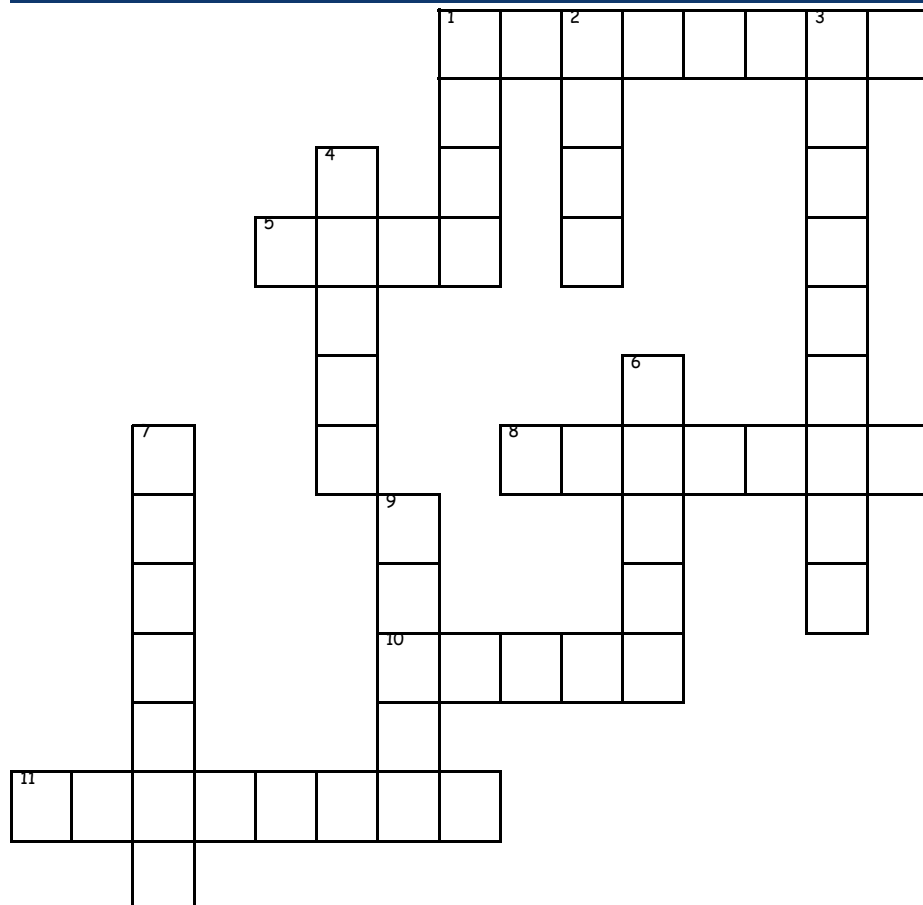
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- ✓ Friendly Community

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## ROSTER FOR THE CHRISTMAS MASSES (24-25 DECEMBER)

24 DEC, 5PM ST CECILIA'S	24 DEC, 5.30PM ST KIERAN'S	24 DEC, 7.30PM ST CECILIA'S	24 DEC 7.30pm ST KIERAN'S	25 DEC, 7.30AM ST KIERAN'S	25 DEC, 9AM ST CECILIA'S	25 DEC, 9.30AM ST KIERAN'S
<b>Senior Server</b> n/a	<b>Senior Server</b> Edelvine	<b>Senior Server</b> Ian	<b>Senior Server</b> Louise	<b>Senior Server</b> Anna	<b>Senior Server</b> Antoinette	<b>Senior Server</b> Michael
<b>Readers</b> Emma Nicky	<b>Readers</b> Bob Kate	<b>Readers</b> Louise Ailis	<b>Readers</b> Brian C Margaret	<b>Readers</b> Judith Jenny	<b>Readers</b> TBA	<b>Readers</b> Dale Cathie
<b>Music</b> Caroline N	<b>Music</b> Ben, Vicky & co	<b>Music</b> Tim & Pete	<b>Music</b> Parish Choir	<b>Music</b> Anushka	<b>Music</b> PPT audio	<b>Music</b> Anushka
<b>Communion Min</b> Sandra M	<b>Communion Min</b> Carmel Bill Carol Linda	<b>Communion Min</b> Philippa Gai	<b>Communion Min</b> Val M	<b>Communion Min</b> Madeleine	<b>Communion Min</b> Volunteer needed	<b>Communion Min</b> Edelvine Kate Adriana
<b>Powerpoint</b> School parent	<b>Powerpoint</b> Maryanne	<b>Powerpoint</b> Volunteer needed	<b>Powerpoint</b> Volunteer needed	<b>Powerpoint</b> Lea	<b>Powerpoint</b> Volunteer needed	<b>Powerpoint</b> Volunteer needed
<b>Welcomers</b> School children	<b>Welcomers</b> Caroline, Honorine, Sol	<b>Welcomers</b> Playoust Family	<b>Welcomers</b> Caroline, Celestine, Jenica, Fatima, Sol	<b>Welcomers</b> Volunteers needed	<b>Welcomers</b> Pauline	<b>Welcomers</b> Sol



## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

*The Lord will keep his promise.*

### ACROSS

- 1: to have accepted the truth
- 5: the mother of Jesus
- 8: to have been given a blessing
- 10: shifted
- 11: saying "Hello" or "Hi"

### DOWN

- 1: an infant
- 2: noisy
- 3: the cousin of Jesus' mother
- 4: glad
- 6: to have listened
- 7: rushed
- 9: an older female human

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## Sharing the Gospel

When Mary visited Elizabeth, they were both waiting for their babies to be born. Elizabeth's baby would grow up to be John the Baptist. Mary's baby would grow up to be Jesus our saviour. Mary and Elizabeth were excited to see each other, not only because they loved each other, but also because they both loved God very much. It makes God happy when we love our relatives and friends, just like Mary and Elizabeth did.

## Prayer

Dear God, help me to love you. Take care of my family, my cousins, and all my relatives at Christmastime and always. Amen.

## Mission

If your relatives come to visit you, welcome them with a cheerful greeting. If you go to visit them during the Christmas season tell them how much God loves them. ©LPi

Promoting a safer *Church*

The care and protection of children, young people and adults involved in Church activities is the responsibility of everyone who participates in the LIFE of the Church.

**SAFEGUARDING**  
is everyone's responsibility



# COLOR

Read the Gospel of the week and color the image.







*You come, O Christ, humble in appearance! Filled with Your love, your followers preached in praise of Your humility throughout the world of the nations.*

Commentary on Psalm 53, 4

- St. Augustine of Hippo

## NEXT WEEKEND (29 DECEMBER): THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH - YEAR C

### 1<sup>ST</sup> READING

1 Samuel 1:20-22. 24-28  
*Hannah gives thanks for the birth of Samuel.*

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 83:2-3. 5-6. 9-10. R. v.5  
*How happy they who dwell in your house, O Lord.*

### 2<sup>ND</sup> READING

1 John 3:1-2, 21-24  
*We are children of God.*

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Acts 16:14  
*Alleluia, alleluia!*  
*Open our heart, O Lord, to listen to the words of your Son.*  
*Alleluia!*

### GOSPEL

Luke 2:41-52  
*Jesus is found in the Temple.*

**28 DEC, 5.30PM**  
**ST KIERAN'S**

**Senior Server**  
Louise

**Readers**  
Bob

**Music**  
Parish Choir

**Communion Min**  
Volunteer needed

**Powerpoint**  
Volunteer needed

**Welcomers**  
Volunteers needed

**29 DEC, 7.30AM**  
**ST KIERAN'S**

**Senior Server**  
Michael

**Readers**  
Tim  
Lea

**Music**  
none

**Communion Min**  
Volunteer needed

**Powerpoint**  
Volunteer needed

**Welcomers**  
Volunteers needed

**29 DEC, 9AM**  
**ST CECILIA'S**

**Senior Server**  
Antoinette or Ilde

**Readers**  
Philippa  
Gabrielle

**Music**  
TBA

**Communion Min**  
Volunteer needed

**Powerpoint**  
Volunteer needed

**Welcomers**  
Volunteers needed

**29 DEC, 9.30AM**  
**ST KIERAN'S**

**Senior Server**  
Michael

**Readers**  
Terry K  
Brian C

**Music**  
PPT Audio

**Communion Min**  
Volunteer needed

**Powerpoint**  
Volunteer needed

**Welcomers**  
Volunteers needed

**29 DEC, 5PM**  
**ST KIERAN'S**

**Senior Server**  
Kevin

**Readers**  
Celestine

**Music**  
PPT Audio

**Communion Min**  
Volunteer needed

**Powerpoint**  
Volunteer needed

**Welcomers**  
Volunteers needed

## OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF 22 DECEMBER

**Mon 23 Dec:** Monday of the 4th Week of Advent  
**Tue 24 Dec:** Tuesday of the 4th Week of Advent  
**Wed 25 Dec:** The Nativity of the Lord  
**Thu 26 Dec:** St Stephen, the first martyr  
**Fri 27 Dec:** St John, apostle and evangelist  
**Sat 28 Dec:** The Holy Innocents, martyrs

## The Catholic Community of North Harbour

Under the Pastoral Care of the Augustinians

Catholic Diocese of Broken Bay [www.bbcatholic.org.au](http://www.bbcatholic.org.au)



**Parish Office** 2 King Street, MANLY VALE 2093 NSW AUSTRALIA  
P 02 9949 4455 E [office@nhcatholic.org.au](mailto:office@nhcatholic.org.au) W [www.bbcatholic.org.au/northharbour](http://www.bbcatholic.org.au/northharbour)

**Office Hours** 9.00am to 4pm (Tuesday to Friday)

**Churches**  
**Church of St Cecilia** Wanganella St and White St, Balgowlah 2093 NSW  
**Church of St Kieran** 2 King St, Manly Vale 2093 NSW

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**Parish Priest:** Fr Michael Belonio, OSA E [pp@nhcatholic.org.au](mailto:pp@nhcatholic.org.au)  
**Asst Priest:** Fr Jumbim Torres, OSA E [jt Torres@nhcatholic.org.au](mailto:jt Torres@nhcatholic.org.au)  
**Asst Priest:** Fr John Zhang E [jzhang@nhcatholic.org.au](mailto:jzhang@nhcatholic.org.au)  
**Asst Priest:** Fr Van Tu Nguyen, OSA E [tnguyen@nhcatholic.org.au](mailto:tnguyen@nhcatholic.org.au)  
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**Parish Secretary:** Jane Filacuridi E [office@nhcatholic.org.au](mailto:office@nhcatholic.org.au) (Tue, Wed)  
**Parish Secretary:** Anne Ross E [office@nhcatholic.org.au](mailto:office@nhcatholic.org.au) (Thu, Fri)  
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**Media & Communications:** Sophie Taylor E [comms@nhcatholic.org.au](mailto:comms@nhcatholic.org.au)  
**Music Ministry:** Marianne Kaw-Deveza E [music@nhcatholic.org.au](mailto:music@nhcatholic.org.au)  
**Youth & Children's Choir:** Victoria Merillo E [choir@nhcatholic.org.au](mailto:choir@nhcatholic.org.au)

**Resident Priests**  
Fr Minh-Tan Hoang, OSA E [minhtanhoang@yahoo.com.au](mailto:minhtanhoang@yahoo.com.au)  
Fr Peter Jones, OSA E [peter.jones@osa.org.au](mailto:peter.jones@osa.org.au) (Prior Provincial)  
Fr Paul Maloney, OSA E [paulmal@bigpond.com](mailto:paulmal@bigpond.com) (Retired)  
Fr Abel van der Veer, OSA E [vabelvanderveer@gmail.com](mailto:vabelvanderveer@gmail.com) (Retired)  
Fr Senan Ward, OSA E [senanward@bigpond.com](mailto:senanward@bigpond.com) (Chaplain, St. Augustine's College, Brookvale)



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Manly Vale 13 Jan - 17 Jan  
St Thomas Church St Kieran's Church

Musical Ages 6-13 Schedule 9am-3pm

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Principal: Ms Louise O'Brien

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For St Paul's Catholic College, Manly

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