

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

**25
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



THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people." - Lk 2:10

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

DECEMBER 24: CHRISTMAS NIGHT

1ST READING Isaiah 9:1-7

Isaiah foretells the coming of the Prince of Peace.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 95:1-3. 11-13 R. Lk 2:11

Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

2ND READING Titus 2:11-14

The grace of God has been revealed to all people.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Luke 2:10-11

Alleluia, alleluia! Good News and great joy to all the world: today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord. Alleluia!

GOSPEL Luke 2:1-14

The birth of Jesus.

DECEMBER 25: CHRISTMAS DAY

1ST READING Isaiah 52:7-10

The Lord redeems the entire earth.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 97:1-6. R. v.3

All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.

2ND READING Hebrews 1:1-6

God has spoken through his Son.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! A holy day has dawned upon us. Come you nations and adore the Lord. Today a great light has come upon the earth. Alleluia!

GOSPEL John 1:1-18

The beginning of John's Gospel.

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



OFFICE@NHCATHOLIC.ORG.AU

2 KING STREET, MANLY VALE 2093 NSW

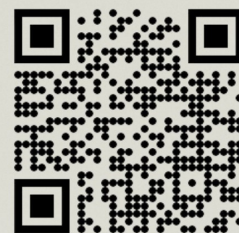


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Scan me!



(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC—RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

The Heroic Moment

I once asked a wise mother how she raised her children, now all faithful adults, to value their Catholic faith.

A big part of it, she explained, was helping them get out of bed.

"We called it 'the heroic moment,'" she told me, referring to that time in the early morning when you have to decide if you're going to get up and face the day, or pull the covers over your head and hide.

In those hazy, half-asleep moments, most of us don't want to make the right decision. I know I don't. I'm not ready for the day. I'm not ready for the light. I'm not ready for the things I'm going to need to do, the person I'm going to need to be. It's easy to hide under the covers, in the darkness and the quiet.

"Do not be afraid," the angels tell the shepherds. Why is that the first thing they say? Because the night is dark, and the shepherds have grown used to the darkness. Maybe they have even been asleep. This sudden apparition, this announcement, does not just come as a surprise. It comes as a shock. Light can be painful if we've spent too long in the darkness.

The angels brought news of great joy. But don't trust the thesaurus because joy is not the same as pleasure. It's not even the same as happiness. It's so much more. It's so much better. But you have to choose it. As Christians, we are called to choose joy. We are called to let in the light, to cast off the yoke, to stand up out of the darkness. We are called to face the heroic moments.

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BRINGING HOME THE GOSPEL

On the first Christmas, a child was born who would change the world forever. He brought strength to the weak, courage to the fearful, consolation to the sad, and hope to the abandoned. The child was Jesus. He brought light into the darkness.

All through the New Testament, and especially in John's Gospel, we hear Jesus referred to as "the light." We can understand this metaphor when we contrast the gift of light to darkness. Nothing else changes when the lights go out, but in the dark we may feel disoriented and vulnerable, sometimes even afraid. Turn on the lights, and we regain our sense of place and position. This is precisely why Jesus came.

When the world was created, it was good. There was harmony in the universe and a sense of peace in that harmony. When people were created, they were created good. Scripture tells us that humans were created in the image and likeness of God. With their Creator they shared the ability to love and to create good out of love. Somewhere along the way this was forgotten, evil moved in, and the lights went out. Disorientation, vulnerability and fear followed. Love became tarnished, and what humans designed was not always good.

Then came the first Christmas, and a new light came into the world. As John tells us in his Gospel, those who accepted the light were given the power to become the children of God. They regained their sense of place and position. The darkness had no power over them. They knew who they were and whose they were. Christmas celebrates this light, this life born in Bethlehem, with us still today and yet to come in glory.

FAMILY RESPONSE:

Share the Christmas traditions you remember from when you were growing up. Ask family members to talk about their favourite family Christmas traditions.

PERSONAL RESPONSE:

What are the positive things you want to remember about the family you grew up with?

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Keep "Christ" in Christmas!





FROM THE PARISH PRIEST

Dear Parishioners,

As we gather to celebrate the joyous season of Christmas, I extend my warmest wishes to you and your loved ones. This time of year fills our hearts with hope, peace, and the everlasting joy brought by the birth of Christ. It is a moment to reflect on the blessings we have received and to express our gratitude for the love and grace that surround us.

In 2024, we have faced both challenges and triumphs as a parish community. Through it all, your unwavering faith, dedication, and support have been a beacon of light. I am deeply grateful for the unity, strength, and compassion you have shown to one another and to those in need.

Let us embrace the spirit of Christmas by sharing kindness and compassion with everyone we encounter. May our homes be filled with the warmth of family and friends, and may we carry the light of Christ into the world, spreading love and hope to all.

Thank you for being an integral part of our parish family. Your contributions, whether through prayer, service, or support, have made a significant impact, and I look forward to continuing our journey together in faith.

Wishing you and your loved ones a blessed and joyful Christmas and a prosperous New Year. May God's blessings be with you always.

With blessings,

Fr Michael



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.

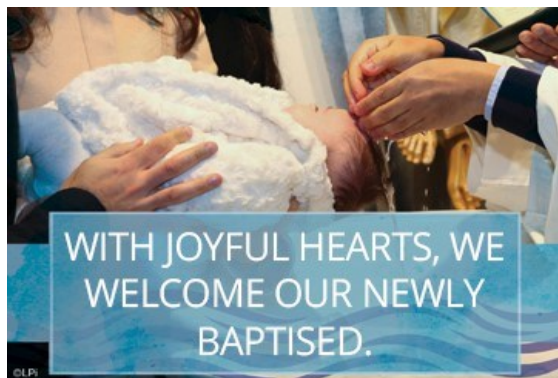


SICK CALLS AND OTHER URGENT MATTERS

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

BUSINESS HOURS:
PARISH OFFICE—9949 4455

AFTER HOURS:
(Evenings & Weekends)
0490 898 464



BAPTISM PREPARATION COURSE
1ST SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH

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

A JOYFUL *Christmas*

AND NEW YEAR
TO YOU AND YOUR
FAMILY

THANK YOU FOR
YOUR GENEROSITY,
PRESENCE AND
FRIENDSHIP
THROUGHOUT THIS
YEAR.

EVERY BLESSING
FROM FR MICHAEL
FR JUMBIM
FR JOHN
AND FR TU



MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM OUR PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

As we gather to celebrate and rejoice in the gift of Emmanuel—God with us—who entered our world as a humble child to bring light and love to all, we extend our heartfelt Christmas blessings to you.

To all our wonderful parishioners, to everyone who visits our parish churches from near and far, to our dedicated clergy, our amazing parish staff, and all who generously volunteer in our ministries and parish programs ... with much gratitude, we thank you for being an integral part of our parish family and our local communities. Your faith, service, and generosity inspire us all.

May each and every one be truly graced with blessings of profound joy, hope, love, peace and gratitude this holy season and throughout 2025. May these blessings fill our hearts, drawing us closer to one another in faith and fellowship, and enabling us to be nourishers of hope in our families, our parish, and our wider community.

In Christ's love,

Linda (co-chair), on behalf of our Parish Pastoral Council
(PS. Keep an eye out in February, for our 2024 Annual Parish Report)



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 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.

Liturgical Ministries

We are looking for volunteers who would like to be involved in the following Ministries:

MUSIC MINISTRY

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER

WELCOMER AT MASS

SENIOR SERVER

READER AT MASS

ALTAR LINEN CARE

POWERPOINT MINISTER



TRAINING WILL BE PROVIDED.

Sign-up forms are available in the foyer. Place the completed forms in the box provided. Thank you.

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 Angi Bulkin

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.

F O M A P W Q Q B L B E U W E
L F F J V I N N R U M D W G A
P N X V V N J W S H E E P E P
N K D M A N G E R Y D L E U D
D T P C N A Z A R E T H E S K
H A H P W J O S E P H Q C V I
W J J A B T P X Z Y U W U A P
D L W F V T T R T B B O U N Q
A F U V T R A V E L E D Z G A
Y H Y S T T I A P J L U J E W
E L E Z Z N X X H E O N C L Q
I N C H R I S T I S Z A B S D
K U L E H A P P Y U P E A C E
L Y B K W V Z Y D S H F M U V
P R X E N G A G E D H Z W M N

WORD SEARCH

Joy to the world! The Saviour is born.

TRY TO FIND THESE WORDS

Christ
Jesus
Joseph
Nazareth
angels
engaged
happy
inn
manger
peace
sheep
traveled

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Sharing the Gospel

Imagine how the Christmas story may have happened today: Joseph drove Mary in their ute through the bush to the city of his birth to be counted. No motels had rooms. A homeless shelter attendant said, "We have no beds, but you can sleep in the broom closet." Jesus was born the next day in a sleeping bag in a closet with three mice, a couple of cats and a dog. God and his angels were happy.

Prayer

Lord, thank you for my bed. Give others a place to sleep.

Mission

I will give canned food, sheets, blankets, or money to help a homeless shelter.

©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.





Let us devoutly celebrate this day. For just as the first ones to share our faith adored Christ lying in the manger, let us adore Him reigning in heaven.

Sermon 203, 3
- St. Augustine of Hippo



Feast of the Holy Family and Opening of the 2025 Holy Jubilee

SUNDAY, 29 DECEMBER
9:30AM

OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY
CATHEDRAL, WAITARA

O Come, Let Us Adore Him



The Catholic Community of North Harbour

Under the Pastoral Care of the Augustinians

Catholic Diocese of Broken Bay www.bbcatholic.org.au

Parish Office 2 King Street, MANLY VALE 2093 NSW AUSTRALIA
P 02 9949 4455 E office@nhcatholic.org.au W 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

Parish Staff
Parish Priest: Fr Michael Belonio, OSA E pp@nhcatholic.org.au
Asst Priest: Fr Jumbim Torres, OSA E jtorres@nhcatholic.org.au
Asst Priest: Fr John Zhang E jzhang@nhcatholic.org.au
Asst Priest: Fr Van Tu Nguyen, OSA E tnguyen@nhcatholic.org.au
Parish Manager: Jacky Worthington E manager@nhcatholic.org.au (Mon, Wed, Thu)
Parish Secretary: Jane Filacuridi E office@nhcatholic.org.au (Tue, Wed)
Parish Secretary: Anne Ross E office@nhcatholic.org.au (Thu, Fri)
Catechists, Family & Sacramental Ministries: Ursula Hallaway M 0450 101 767 E families@nhcatholic.org.au
Media & Communications: Sophie Taylor E comms@nhcatholic.org.au
Music Ministry: Marianne Kaw-Deveza E music@nhcatholic.org.au
Youth & Children's Choir: Victoria Merillo E choir@nhcatholic.org.au

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

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If you wish to advertise your business with us, please contact the Parish Manager at manager@nhcatholic.org.au

THE WIZARD of Oz

Willoughby 6 Jan - 10 Jan
Manly Vale 13 Jan - 17 Jan
St Thomas Church St Kieran's Church

Musical Ages 6-13 Schedule 9am-3pm

CREATIVE STARZ HOLIDAY PROGRAM
(Free Extended Hours 8am-5.30pm)
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Principal: Ms Louise O'Brien

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Thank you!

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North Harbour PARISH

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You can now donate for North Harbour Parish Clergy and Parish Funds AND to support Pastoral Works Broken Bay (PWBB) Appeals, using the Parish Giving Broken Bay App. Thank you for your generosity.

To support our Parish and our Diocese, please scan the QR code, download the Parish Giving Broken Bay App, sign in and become a regular donor. Alternatively, visit: brokenbay.goodgiving.com.au/home/brokenbay