



# 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



**21  
DEC  
2025**  
YEAR A

Under the Pastoral Care of the Augustinians

Catholic Diocese of Broken Bay

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



## 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home. - Mt 1:24

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

### FIRST READING

Isaiah 7:10-14

*Prediction of Immanuel, born of a virgin.*

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 23:1-6. R. see vv 7. 10

*Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.*

### SECOND READING

Romans 1:1-7

*Paul spreads the news of the Son of God.*

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Matthew 1:23

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*A virgin will give birth to a son;  
his name will be Emmanuel: God is with us.  
Alleluia!*

### GOSPEL

Matthew 1:18-24

*An angel visits Joseph, who takes Mary as  
his wife.*

## 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

✉ [OFFICE@NHCATHOLIC.ORG.AU](mailto:OFFICE@NHCATHOLIC.ORG.AU)  
📍 2 KING STREET, MANLY VALE 2093 NSW  
🌐 [WWW.BBCATHOLIC.ORG.AU/NORTHHARBOUR](http://WWW.BBCATHOLIC.ORG.AU/NORTHHARBOUR)  
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WEBSITE



FACEBOOK PAGE

## WHY DO WE DO THAT?

### Catholic Life Explained

#### Question:

What is the difference between tithing and stewardship?

#### Answer:

Both tithing and stewardship are part of a spiritual way of life that calls us to use all of our resources for the service of the Gospel. Everything we are and everything we have comes from God. Offering back to God what He has given us is part of how we worship and give thanks to God.

Tithing is the practice of giving back 10 percent of what we earn. It comes from the Old English word for "ten." The first Scriptural example of tithing came from Abraham who gave a tenth of his possessions to the priest Melchizedek. He did so as an act of thanksgiving to God.

Stewardship as a way of life calls us to use well all that we have and all that we are, placing all things in service of others and God. Stewardship helps us see the good we can accomplish by making God and our spiritual life the most important values in our life. Whatever we accumulate in this life stays here. We can't take it with us! Both tithing and stewardship help us remember that nothing is mine or even ours ... all belongs to God. ©LPi

## BRINGING HOME THE GOSPEL

An infant is born, helpless and vulnerable. Mary and Joseph take turns holding this tiny swaddled mystery from God. He has captured their hearts. He is special and marvelous, and they would have known this even if an angel hadn't told them so because every child born is special and marvelous. But there must have come a point in all that joy and happiness when Mary and Joseph realized what an incredible responsibility they had been given.

Sometimes I get so wrapped up with Mary and Joseph's holiness that I forget they were ordinary people. They couldn't see the future, and while the baby was certainly a wonder to the new parents, not in their wildest dreams could they have imagined how this precious child would change the world.

It was only decades later, after he had died, that his followers realized how well the name Emmanuel fit Jesus. As Jews, they were familiar with the covenant between God and Abraham. Later they would understand that Jesus had come to make a new covenant with us. God was not just with us; God was in us: "On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me and I in you" (John 14:20).

Like Mary and Joseph, we have held our own swaddled infants. They, too, captured our hearts, and we marveled at how special they were. Like Jesus' parents, we were probably scared of the overwhelming responsibility we had been handed. It's good to remember the gift of the new covenant: God is with us and in us, and nothing can overcome or overpower us. They understood that God was a God of action; a God who was always with them. After they had a chance to look back on their walks and talks with Jesus, they realized that he himself was "God with us," Emmanuel.

#### FAMILY RESPONSE:

Find an early baby picture of your child.  
Talk about the day your child was born.

#### PERSONAL RESPONSE:

What do you want more than anything for your child? How can you help him or her obtain it? What do you want most for yourself? How can you get it?

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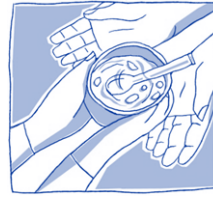






## WEEKLY SOCIAL JUSTICE CHALLENGES

We celebrate the Incarnation on Thursday—God taking on human flesh and becoming one of us. This is the ultimate act of solidarity. Jesus embraced humanity in all of its joy and in all of its suffering. He truly became “one of us.” We are called to be one with each other as Jesus is one with us. Your challenge during this final (short) week of Advent is to ask yourself which part of God’s community you are disconnected from. With whom does God *want* you to stand in solidarity—locally or globally? Say a prayer every night this week for this person or group of persons.



## 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

As you wrap Christmas presents this week, see if you can wrap everything (or at least more than last year) with alternatives to wrapping paper. You can use newspaper (the comic page for kids’ presents), old posters, cloth napkins, handkerchiefs, bandanas, or even re-use gift bags or grocery store bags. In this way, you won’t contribute to a market that requires cutting down tens of thousands of trees to make wrapping paper, some of which can’t be recycled and gets thrown out soon afterward. Another benefit is that you’ll raise other people’s awareness of this environmental issue.

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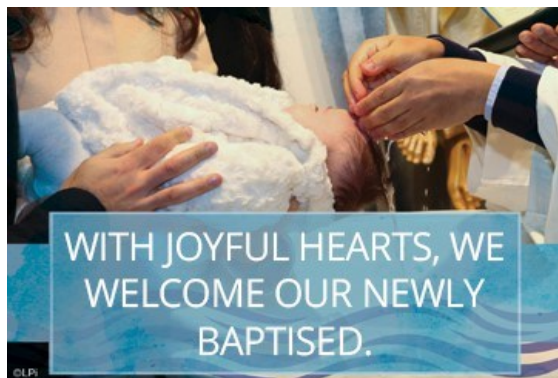


## SICK CALLS AND OTHER URGENT MATTERS

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

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

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



**Orla Mae Ryan**  
daughter of Vincent & Eleanor

**Archer John Brooks-Garrett**  
son of Myles & Ashley

## PRAY FOR THOSE IN OUR COMMUNITY:

### SICK:

Fr David Taylor, Keiren Marquillero, and all those injured in the Bondi massacre, Nigel Manchee, Remo Dellagiacoma, Odette James, Joyce Arnold, Peter & Jan Van de Velde, Cecilia Yeung, Gemma Mangelsdorf, Rodney Arnold

### RECENTLY DECEASED:

Regino Agapito, Ivan Simic, Shin Dongsoo, Noel Woo, Armando Ianni, Yvonne Di Mauro

### ANNIVERSARIES:

Aileen Treston, 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](mailto:office@nhcatholic.org.au)







## We are taking a break!

Office will be closed:  
**24 December 2025**

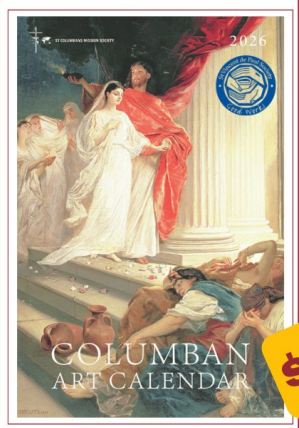
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Reopening:  
**6 January 2026**

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For enquiries  
[pp@nhcatholic.org.au](mailto:pp@nhcatholic.org.au)


### COLUMBAN ART CALENDAR



Available in the  
**St Kieran's Church Foyer.**

Please place money in the  
**Vinnies Donation Box.**

**\$10.**

Thank you for your support 




You're invited to the

## Mass for the Closing of the Jubilee Year of Hope

The Relics from our three Shrines of Hope will journey to the Cathedral to be present for this Mass.


**Sunday 28 December 2025 | 9.30am**  
**Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral, Waitara**




## PARISH SOCIAL JUSTICE GROUP


*"Faith in action - living the Gospel through justice and love"*

### ACTIONS FOR DECEMBER

 **Support St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal - providing a hand up to those in need in our community. Envelopes are available in churches.**

 Invitation to parishioners to support St Augustine's College "Day For Girls" project. Preparing and distributing sustainable menstrual health solutions to shatter stigma and limitations for women and girls. Contact Bette Larkin on 0410 177 704 for more details and to register.


**LAUDATO SI**  
Unpacking Laudato Si parish toolkit and finding ways to implement.  
<https://www.caritas.org.au/media/jxmndsd/caritas-australian-guide-to-laudato-si-action-planning.pdf>



**SCAN ME!**

**JOIN US**  
2 February 2026  
Monday | 7:00pm  
St Kieran's Parish Centre  
2 King Street, Manly Vale

*"May the light of Christ's birth fill our hearts with peace, hope, and a renewed commitment to justice for all. Wishing you a blessed Christmas and a New Year rich in compassion and joy."*



## JOIN US! CHRISTMAS EVE Family Mass

24 December | 5:00PM  
**St Kieran's & St Cecilia's**

-  **Nativity Play acted out by the children of the parish**
-  **Come dressed as angels, shepherds or barn animals**
-  **Older children can help the younger children**
-  **Lively Music with lots of Christmas Carols**



# NO POLITICS - IGNORANT AND VIOLENT ANTISEMITISM MUST END



Message from Bishop  
Anthony Randazzo  
following the Bondi  
terrorist attack



To view  
the full  
message,  
scan the  
QR code



CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF NORTH HARBOUR

*Celebrate Christmas with us!*

## CHRISTMAS 2025 Masses

**ST KIERAN'S CHURCH**

2 King Street, Manly Vale NSW

**ST CECILIA'S CHURCH**

Wanganella St & White St Balgowlah NSW

### WED 24 DECEMBER

ST KIERAN'S CHURCH

5:00PM FAMILY MASS

7:30PM

ST CECILIA'S CHURCH

5:00PM FAMILY MASS

7:30PM

### THU 25 DECEMBER

ST KIERAN'S CHURCH

7:30AM

9:30AM

ST CECILIA'S CHURCH

9:00AM

GRAB A COPY OF THE CARDS WITH MASS TIMES  
AT THE CHURCH ENTRANCES

Thank you for your  
generosity in giving to  
our **Christmas Appeal**.

The hampers have  
been packed with love.  
You can still donate  
by using the **envelopes**  
**in the churches** or  
using the **QR code**.

These funds  
will support our  
neighbours in need.  
If you require a hand  
up this Christmas, call  
**13 18 12**



St Vincent de Paul Society

*good works*

*Giving a hand up where needed*



THANK YOU FOR GIVING  
THE GIFT OF HOPE  
THIS CHRISTMAS.



**Lifeline**  
NORTHERN BEACHES,  
MOSMAN TO KIRIBILLI

## Suicide Bereavement Support Group

A safe space for healing, connection, and hope.

Losing someone to suicide can feel overwhelming and isolating. You don't have to navigate this alone. Our Suicide Bereavement Support Group offers a warm, compassionate space to connect with others who understand.

### DETAILS:

Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month

6:30 PM – 7:30 PM

Pioneer Clubhouse,  
Lot 2 Quirk Rd, Balgowlah  
**FREE to attend**



Booking are essential  
before attending the  
group  
**TO BOOK:** Scan the QR  
code, email or phone.

### WHAT THE GROUP OFFERS:

- ✓ A safe, non-judgemental place to share
- ✓ Support from a clinical counsellor and a peer with lived experience
- ✓ Understanding of grief, trauma, guilt & other difficult emotions
- ✓ Coping tools for anniversaries, triggers & everyday challenges
- ✓ Self-care tools to support your healing journey
- ✓ Information and referrals for additional support

[counselling@lifelinenb.org.au](mailto:counselling@lifelinenb.org.au) | 02 9949 5522

We must not count on ourselves, because even  
if we know what kind of person we are today,  
we do not know what we will be tomorrow.

— St. Gregory the Great

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

## WORD SEARCH

*His name will be Immanuel:*

*God is with us*

## TRY TO FIND THESE WORDS:

angel  
 baby  
 dream  
 embarrass  
 Emmanuel  
 engaged  
 Joseph  
 Mary  
 promise  
 quietly  
 true  
 young

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## Sharing the Gospel

An angel told Joseph to marry Mary because her baby was through the Holy Spirit of God. They would name the baby Jesus because he would save his people from their sins. God called you by name, too. Before you were born, he could tell you how many hairs would be on your head. He knew how long your feet would be. He knew all the good things you would do for his people.

## Prayer

I am proud that I am your child, Father God.

## Mission

I will thank my parents for having me and taking good care of me.

©LPi



# COLOR

Read the Gospel of the week and color the image.







Lord, You are my helper and the helper of everyone who reaches out to You.  
Indeed, You are my Redeemer for the very purpose  
of enabling me to reach out to You.  
Commentary on Psalm 18, 15  
- St. Augustine of Hippo

## NEXT WEEKEND (28 DECEMBER 2025): THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH, YEAR A

|  |   |  |  |  |   |
|--|---|--|--|--|---|
| <p><b>FIRST READING</b><br/>Sirach 3:2-6. 12-14<br/><i>Kindness and respect for parents is urged.</i></p> <p><b>RESPONSORIAL PSALM</b><br/>Ps 127:1-5. R. see v.1<br/><i>Happy are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.</i></p> <p><b>SECOND READING</b><br/>Colossians 3:12-21<br/><i>What is expected of the chosen of God.</i></p> <p><b>GOSPEL ACCLAMATION</b><br/>Colossians 3:15. 16<br/><i>Alleluia, alleluia!</i><br/><i>May the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, and the fullness of his message live within you.</i><br/><i>Alleluia!</i></p> <p><b>GOSPEL</b><br/>Matthew 2:13-15. 19-23<br/><i>An angel tells Joseph to take Mary and the baby and flee to Egypt.</i></p> | <p><b>27 DEC, 5.30PM</b><br/><b>ST KIERAN'S</b></p> <p><b>Senior Server</b><br/>Louise</p> <p><b>Readers</b><br/>Ronda<br/>Leonie<br/>Val (R)</p> <p><b>Music</b><br/>Parish Choir</p> <p><b>Communion Min</b><br/>Elizabeth-Anne<br/>+ 1 x Volunteer</p> <p><b>Powerpoint</b><br/>Volunteer needed</p> <p><b>Welcomers</b><br/>Volunteers needed</p>   | <p><b>28 DEC, 7.30AM</b><br/><b>ST KIERAN'S</b></p> <p><b>Senior Server</b><br/>Anna</p> <p><b>Readers</b><br/>Elsie<br/>Lea<br/>Tim (R)</p> <p><b>Music</b><br/>none</p> <p><b>Communion Min</b><br/>Volunteer x 2</p> <p><b>Powerpoint</b><br/>Olivier</p> <p><b>Welcomers</b><br/>Volunteers needed</p> | <p><b>28 DEC, 9AM</b><br/><b>ST CECILIA'S</b></p> <p><b>Senior Server</b><br/>Antoinette</p> <p><b>Readers</b><br/>Sacha/Amy<br/>Cathy (R)</p> <p><b>Music</b><br/>PPT/audio</p> <p><b>Communion Min</b><br/>Volunteer x 2</p> <p><b>Powerpoint</b><br/>Volunteer needed</p> <p><b>Welcomers</b><br/>Volunteers needed</p> | <p><b>28 DEC, 9.30AM</b><br/><b>ST KIERAN'S</b></p> <p><b>Senior Server</b><br/>Joseph</p> <p><b>Readers</b><br/>Kaye<br/>Anne</p> <p><b>Music</b><br/>PPT/audio</p> <p><b>Communion Min</b><br/>Titus<br/>+ 1 x Volunteer</p> <p><b>Powerpoint</b><br/>Volunteer needed</p> <p><b>Welcomers</b><br/>Volunteers needed</p> | <p><b>28 DEC, 5PM</b><br/><b>ST KIERAN'S</b></p> <p><b>Senior Server</b><br/>Michael</p> <p><b>Readers</b><br/>Geraldine<br/>Leanne<br/>Christine (R)</p> <p><b>Music</b><br/>PPT/audio</p> <p><b>Communion Min</b><br/>Carol<br/>+ 1 x Volunteer</p> <p><b>Powerpoint</b><br/>Volunteer needed</p> <p><b>Welcomers</b><br/>Volunteers needed</p> |
|  | <p><b>OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF 21 DECEMBER</b></p> <p><b>Mon 22 Dec:</b> Monday of the 4th Week of Advent</p> <p><b>Tue 23 Dec:</b> Tuesday of the 4th Week of Advent</p> <p><b>Wed 24 Dec:</b> Wednesday of the 4th Week of Advent</p> <p><b>Thu 25 Dec:</b> The Nativity of the Lord</p> <p><b>Fri 26 Dec:</b> St Stephen, the first martyr</p> <p><b>Sat 27 Dec:</b> St John, apostle, evangelist</p> |  |  |  |   |
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## The Catholic Community of North Harbour



Under the Pastoral Care of the Augustinians

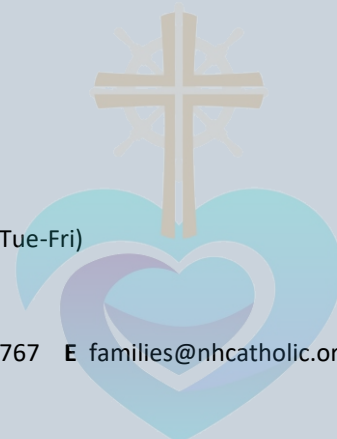
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P 02 9949 4455 E [office@nhcatholic.org.au](mailto:office@nhcatholic.org.au) W [www.bbcatholic.org.au/northharbour](http://www.bbcatholic.org.au/northharbour)

**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

**Parish Staff**  
**Parish Priest:** Fr Michael Belonio, OSA E [pp@nhcatholic.org.au](mailto:pp@nhcatholic.org.au)  
**Asst Priest:** Fr Jumbim Torres, OSA E [jtorres@nhcatholic.org.au](mailto:jtorres@nhcatholic.org.au)  
**Asst Priest:** Fr John Zhang E [jzhang@nhcatholic.org.au](mailto:jzhang@nhcatholic.org.au)  
**Administration Officer:** Charlene Mendoza E [admin@nhcatholic.org.au](mailto:admin@nhcatholic.org.au) (Tue-Fri)  
**Bookkeeper:** Valerie Buono E [accounts@nhcatholic.org.au](mailto:accounts@nhcatholic.org.au) (Thu)  
**Secretary:** Anne Ross E [office@nhcatholic.org.au](mailto:office@nhcatholic.org.au) (Thu, Fri)  
**Catechists, Family & Sacramental Ministries:** Ursula Hallaway M 0450 101 767 E [families@nhcatholic.org.au](mailto:families@nhcatholic.org.au)  
**Media & Communications:** Caroline Ng 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)



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**St Kieran's Catholic  
Primary School**



Principal:  
Ms Margaret Holles



**Now  
Enrolling!**

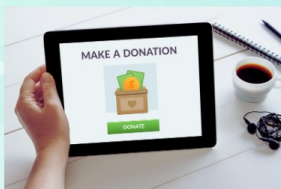
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02 7256 2131

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**CATHOLIC SCHOOLS BROKEN BAY**  
Co-educational pathways K - 12

## PLEASE CONSIDER ONLINE GIVING

Our parish is grateful for your  
continued support.  
Thank You!



THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF  
**NORTH HARBOUR**



CATHOLIC  
DIOCESE OF  
BROKEN BAY



**AUGUSTINIAN  
CLERGY**  
(First Collection)



**PARISH  
GIVING**  
(Second Collection)



**PASTORAL WORKS  
BROKEN BAY**  
(Diocesan Ministries)

Donations over \$2 to PWBB are tax deductible.  
PWBB and Augustinian Appeal envelopes are also available at the  
church entrances

SCAN ME



**to  
DONATE**