

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



**17
DEC
2023**
YEAR B

Under the Pastoral Care of the Augustinians

Catholic Diocese of Broken Bay

Want to receive the bulletin via e-mail? Email parishoffice@northharbourcatholic.org.au



3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

“I baptize with water;
but there is one among you
whom you do not recognize,
the one who is coming after
me, whose sandal strap I
am not worthy to untie.”
- Jn 1:26-27

FIRST READING Isaiah 61:1-2. 10-11 *Isaiah proclaims the goodness of the Lord.* | **RESPONSORIAL PSALM** Lk 1:46-50. 53-54. R. Is 61:10 *My soul rejoices in my God.* | **SECOND READING** 1 Thessalonians 5:16-2 *Rejoice and pray always.* | **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** Isaiah 61:1 (Lk 4:18) *Alleluia, alleluia! The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor. Alleluia!* | **GOSPEL READING** John 1:6-8. 19-28 *The priests and Levites question John's identity.*

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

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, 6pm

*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



WWW.BBCATHOLIC.ORG.AU/NORTH HARBOUR
2 KING STREET, MANLY VALE 2093 NSW

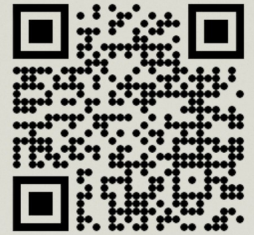


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Scan me!



WHY DO WE DO THAT? Catholic Life Explained

Question:

Are Catholics obligated to attend Mass each Sunday, or receive Communion each Sunday?

Answer:

The questions about Mass attendance and the reception of Holy Communion are clearly outlined in what are traditionally called the "Precepts" of the Church. These specific teachings are intended to stand alongside the Ten Commandments as fundamental practices for Catholics and are outlined in the *Code of Canon Law*. The obligations related to Mass attendance and receiving Communion are outlined in the first and third precepts, which we find quoted in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (no. 2042):

The first precept ("You shall attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation and rest from servile labour") requires the faithful to sanctify the day commemorating the Resurrection of the Lord as well as the principal liturgical feasts honouring the mysteries of the Lord, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and the saints; in the first place, by participating in the Eucharistic celebration, in which the Christian community is gathered, and by resting from those works and activities which could impede such a sanctification of these days.

The third precept ("You shall receive the sacrament of the Eucharist at least during the Easter season") guarantees as a minimum the reception of the Lord's Body and Blood in connection with the Paschal feasts, the origin and center of the Christian liturgy. Rather than seeing these as obligations that are simply to be fulfilled out of a sense of duty, Pope Saint John Paul II reminds us of the grace that is made available to us when we gather for Sunday celebrations of the Eucharist: "Sunday is the day which is at the very heart of the Christian life... Time given to Christ is never time lost, but is rather time gained, so that our relationships and indeed our whole life may become more profoundly human" (*Dies Domini*, no. 7). ©LPI

BRINGING HOME THE GOSPEL

In John's Gospel John the Baptist goes on to tell us what happens to those who believe in Jesus, the Light of the World. John the Baptist tells us, "... to all who received him [Jesus], who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh... but of God" (John 1:12-13). These words capture for me one of Jesus' most important messages.

If we are open to God's grace, Jesus becomes our brother not just on his mother's side, sharing our humanity, but also on his Father's side, sharing his divinity. When we were baptized we were gifted with the Holy Spirit, and the same divinity that was full parcel of a totally human Jesus is also full parcel in us.

I used to pray to be open to that Spirit. Asking the Spirit to come and help me find the right words or the right solution to a problem. Later in life I realized that the Spirit is already in me. The Holy Spirit was a gift at my baptism. Today, I pray to be open to the Spirit, but open so that the Spirit already in me can come out and be set free to lead me and empower me.

With that Spirit in us we can accomplish so much. By allowing the Spirit to shine in the darkest parts of our being, we can be healed of our deepest hurts. We can ask the Spirit within us to change those things (anger, selfishness, etc.) about ourselves we want to change but are unable to let go of.

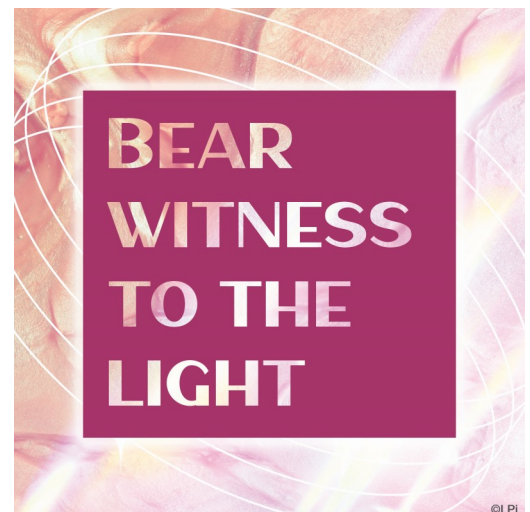
Remind your children that Jesus is not just their friend, but also their brother. Remind them that they carry Jesus' light inside themselves. And like the song says, they have to let it shine.

FAMILY RESPONSE:

Talk about what it would be like to have Jesus for a brother. Would having Jesus in the family change the way you acted?

PERSONAL RESPONSE:

You too carry Christ's light inside yourself. How brightly is that light shining right now? How can you help it to shine brighter?



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WEEKLY SOCIAL JUSTICE CHALLENGES

December 18 is International Migrants Day. Migrant workers are often denied basic human rights—the right to a just wage or to safe working conditions or to benefits. They often have no voice in the decisions which affect their lives. Your challenge this week is to learn more about the work of the Catholic Church of Australia with Migrants and Refugees. Go online at <https://acmro.catholic.org.au/>. Read some of the information provided by the Bishops' Conference about the issue of migrants and refugees and how it connects to our Catholic faith. Then think on how to help them which you as a family would like to do. Perhaps you want to read a statement by our Catholic Bishops or do advocacy on behalf of migrants and refugees. You may want to volunteer or get your parish mobilised to help. It doesn't matter what you choose to do; stand in solidarity with your brothers and sisters who move from farm to farm, from place to place, to find work just so they can feed their families and live in hope.



PASTORAL CARE FOR THE HOMEBOUND

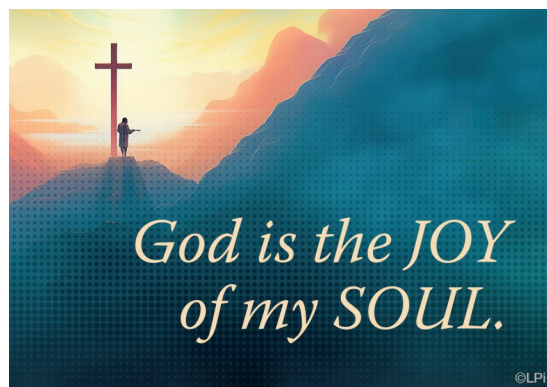
Our clergy and pastoral care ministers bring the sacraments of Eucharist, reconciliation, and anointing of the sick to parishioners who are unable to participate because of illness or aging. For more information and to arrange receiving the sacraments, contact Parish Office.

CARE FOR CREATION TIPS

"For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations."

—Isaiah 61:11

The natural world gives praise to God: the trees that remain green even at this time of year, the birds that sing. How can you see God in the natural world around you? Take a walk or go outside this week and be aware of all the beautiful sights and sounds.



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SICK CALLS

AND OTHER URGENT MATTERS

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

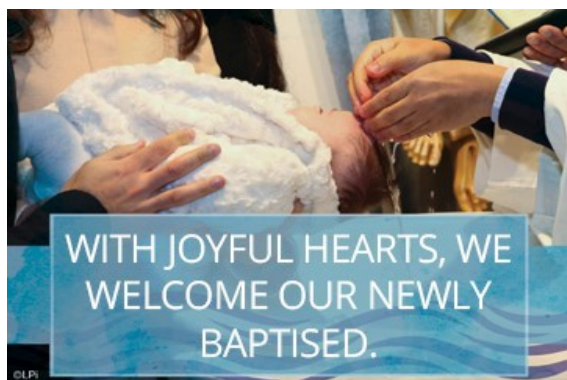
BUSINESS HOURS:

PARISH OFFICE—9949 4455

AFTER HOURS:

(Evenings & Weekends)

0490 898 464



Jordan Thomas & Maxwell Oliver
children of Drew & Claire

PRAY FOR THOSE IN OUR COMMUNITY:

SICK:

Paul Pearson, Yvonne Taylor, Fred Jackson, Greg Hyde, Greg Keogh

RECENTLY DECEASED:

Margaret Burrige, Serafin Bermudez, Margaret Previtera,
Neville Seery, Tony Murphy (Mackey), Dr John Connolly

ANNIVERSARIES:

Fr Pat Fahey OSA, Aileen Treston, John Smyth

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 parishoffice@northharbourcatholic.org.au

Christmas Mass Times @ North Harbour

Join us and let us celebrate Christmas together

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

(Saturday, 23 December)

ST. KIERAN'S CHURCH, Manly Vale

Reconciliation: 5pm | Vigil Mass: 5.30pm

(Sunday, 24 December)

ST. KIERAN'S CHURCH, Manly Vale

7.30am 9.30am

ST. CECILIA'S CHURCH, Balgowlah

9am

CHRISTMAS EVE

(Sunday 24 December)

ST. KIERAN'S CHURCH, Manly Vale

5.30pm 8pm

ST. CECILIA'S CHURCH, Balgowlah

5pm 7.30pm

CHRISTMAS DAY

(Monday 25 December)

ST. KIERAN'S CHURCH, Manly Vale

7.30am 9.30am

ST. CECILIA'S CHURCH, Balgowlah

9am

PASTORAL NOTE: The Sunday obligation requires attending mass on a Sunday or Saturday evening (Vigil), while the Christmas obligation requires attending mass on Christmas Day or on a Sunday afternoon, or later. Attending one mass on Christmas Day will not fulfill both obligations. If someone attends a mass to fulfill the Christmas obligation, they would have to attend mass again on Sunday to fulfill the Sunday obligation. Thank you.



FRESH FLOWER DONATIONS NEEDED

We are asking for donations of fresh flowers to be displayed in St Kieran's Church during the Christmas season.

Your donation will help us create a beautiful and festive atmosphere in the church, and will be greatly appreciated by all who attend our Christmas services.

If you would like to make a donation, **please bring your fresh flowers to the church on Friday afternoon, 22 December at the Parish Office.**

RECOMMENDED FLOWERS: Christmas Bush, agapanthus or anything in season that will last for a few days. Thank you.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are looking for volunteers to help us in both churches for our Christmas Masses. If interested, sign-up sheets are available in the foyer. We are in need of the following:

- Readers
- Communion Ministers
- Powerpoint Ministers
- Welcomers & Collectors
- Angels and shepherds for the Christmas Eve (24 December) Nativity Play (5pm St Cecilia's and 5.30pm St Kieran's)



GAZA CRISIS APPEAL

Help provide urgent humanitarian assistance to the people affected by the conflict.



DONATE NOW
www.caritas.org.au/gaza
1800 024 413



Date of office closure

Our office will be closed from 25th December to 5th January

Emergency contacts

In case of emergency, please call 0490 898 464

Returning to work

We will re-open on Monday 8th January at 9am

Happy Holidays

Wishing you all a joyful and safe holiday season!

Office closed for Christmas Holidays



Vinnies Christmas Appeal

The hampers were distributed on Saturday morning.

A big thank you to Parishioners and Children, Parents and Teachers from St Kierans.

Those who received hampers have asked us to pass on their thanks to you.

A particular thank you to Julio Donati and his family for arranging the whole process over the last few months.

St Cecilia's Christmas Eve Service



For unto us
a child is born!



We are looking for children to be shepherds, angels and read Prayer of the Faithful. And for a baby Jesus!

Please scan the QR code for further information and to sign up.

**Angels, shepherds,
readers and
baby Jesus wanted**
5.00pm Sunday
24 December
St Cecilia's Church
Balgowlah

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
COLLECTORS AT MASS
POWERPOINT MINISTER



TRAINING WILL BE PROVIDED.

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



The Sacrament of Reconciliation
is on at St Kieran's
EVERY SATURDAY
from 5-5.30PM

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

BLESSING OF THE CHRIST CHILD

December 16 & 17

Bring the infant Jesus figurine from your home nativity set to be blessed at the conclusion of each Mass next weekend.



CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF
NORTH HARBOUR

The Blessing of the Baby Jesus (*Bambinelli*) is a tradition which began in Rome. Each year on the Third Sunday of Advent (*Gaudete Sunday*), the Holy Father invites children to bring the Baby Jesus (*Bambinelli*) from their family Nativity scene to Mass for a blessing. This wonderful tradition has also been observed by some parishes all over the world.

We also encourage parents and grandparents to join with their grandchildren in this simple but beautiful tradition. Don't forget to bring the *Bambinelli* this weekend!

After the blessing the children are invited to wrap up their baby Jesus and to place him under their Christmas Tree. On Christmas morning the *Bambinelli* is the first Christmas gift to be unwrapped and placed in the family crib.

Blessings to you all for *Bambinelli Sunday*!

**PRAY WITH US FOR MORNING
PRAYER ON EACH OF THE
THURSDAYS IN ADVENT AT
8.15AM FOLLOWED
BY MASS AT 8.30AM**

Awaken your soul
and start your day
with prayer



PREPARE FOR CHRISTMAS BY PRAYING WITH US THE ADVENT OFFICE.

The psalms, hymns and readings will be available as an overhead, and the pattern of prayers will be led by members of the Augustinian Community in a manner that can be easily followed.



MARY, THE HOLY
MOTHER OF GOD

1 JAN 2024
8.30am Mass
@ St Kieran's

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

WORD SEARCH

Prepare for the Lord Jesus

TRY TO FIND THESE WORDS:

answer
desert
Elijah
first
good
Jerusalem
leaders
Pharisees
ready
River
temple
water

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Sharing the Gospel

John the Baptist prepared the way for the Messiah, Jesus Christ. He shouted in the desert, "Get your soul ready. The Lord is coming." Today John still warns you to get your soul ready for Jesus. Ask God to forgive you. Then forgive yourself and others. Shout to the world. Be a witness by your actions. Show that you believe in God. Then you will be ready when Jesus comes to take you to heaven with him.

Prayer

Lord, forgive me for all of my sins.

Mission

I will forgive others and ask them to forgive me when I hurt 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.





O Word before all time, by Whom time was made, born in time although You are eternal life, You call us who are bound by time and make us eternal.

Commentary on Psalm 101 (2), 10

- St. Augustine of Hippo

NEXT WEEKEND (24 DECEMBER): 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR B

1st Reading

2 Samuel 7:1-5. 8-12. 14. 16
The Lord speaks to Nathan.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 88:2-5. 27. 29. R. see v.2
For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

2nd Reading

Romans 16:25-27
God strengthens the Gentiles in their understanding of the Gospel.

Gospel Acclamation

Luke 1:38
Alleluia, alleluia!
I am the servant of the Lord: may his will for me be done.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 1:26-38
The angel Gabriel visits Mary, who responds willingly to God.

23 DEC, 5.30PM
ST KIERAN'S

Senior Server
Louise

Reader 1
Ronda

Reader 2
Maria

Music
Parish Choir

Powerpoint
Volunteer needed

Welcomers
Volunteers needed

24 DEC, 7.30AM
ST KIERAN'S

Senior Server
Jo

Reader 1
Lea

Reader 2
Tim

Music
None

Powerpoint
Volunteer needed

Welcomers
Volunteers needed

24 DEC, 9AM
ST CECILIA'S

Senior Server
Antonette

Reader 1
Sacha

Reader 2
Amy

Music
None

Powerpoint
Volunteer needed

Welcomers
Christine

24 DEC, 9.30AM
ST KIERAN'S

Senior Server
Stephen

Reader 1
Kaye

Reader 2
Anne

Music
Branch of Jesse

Powerpoint
Volunteer needed

Welcomers
Volunteers needed

**PLEASE SEE
SEPARATE
ROSTERS FOR
CHRISTMAS
EVE AND
CHRISTMAS
DAY MASSES**

OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF 17 DECEMBER

Mon 18 Dec: Monday of the 3rd Week of Advent

Tue 19 Dec: Tuesday of the 3rd Week of Advent

Wed 20 Dec: Wednesday of the 3rd Week of Advent

Thu 21 Dec: Thursday of the 3rd Week of Advent

Fri 22 Dec: Friday of the 3rd week of Advent

Sat 23 Dec: Saturday of the 3rd Week of Advent

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 parishoffice@northharbourcatholic.org.au W www.bbcatholic.org.au/northharbour

Office Hours 9.00am to 4pm (Monday to Friday)

Parish 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 parishpriest@northharbourcatholic.org.au
Asst Priest: Fr Paul Maloney, OSA E paul.maloney@osa.org.au
Asst Priest: Fr Jumbim Torres, OSA E jumbim.torres@osa.org.au
Asst Priest: Fr John Zhang E john.zhang@northharbourcatholic.org.au
Parish Manager: Jacky Worthington E parishmanager@northharbourcatholic.org.au (Mon, Wed, Thu)
Parish Secretary: Jane Filacuridi E parishoffice@northharbourcatholic.org.au (Mon, Tue, Wed)
Parish Secretary: Anne Ross E parishoffice@northharbourcatholic.org.au (Thu, Fri)
Sacramental Coordinator: Janette Davidson M 0450 101 767 E sacraments@northharbourcatholic.org.au
Catechists (CCD) Coordinator: Ursula Halloway E catechist@northharbourcatholic.org.au
Music Ministry Coordinator: Marianne Kaw-Deveza E musicministry@northharbourcatholic.org.au
Augustinian Brother: Van Tu Nguyen, OSA E tunguyen@osa.org.au

Resident Priests Fr Hoang-Minh Tan, OSA E minhtanhoang@yahoo.com.au
Fr Peter Jones, OSA E peter.jones@osa.org.au (Prior Provincial)
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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WATERMARX X GRAPHICS

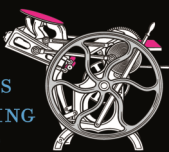
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Michelle Gibson

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important moments

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St Cecilia's Catholic
Primary School



Principal: Ms Louise O'Brien

59 Seaview St, Balgowlah
02 7256 2136

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St Kieran's Catholic
Primary School



Principal: Ms Anna Marsella

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02 7256 2131

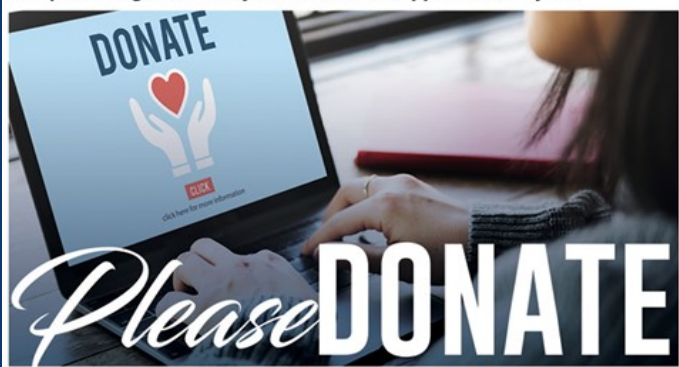
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CATHOLIC SCHOOLS BROKEN BAY
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For St Paul's Catholic College, Manly

PLEASE CONSIDER ONLINE GIVING

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



Support the Parish by signing up to contribute online.
Setting up a one-time or recurring donation is quick and easy.

Visit: www.bbcatholic.org.au/north-harbour/giving
or thru bank transfer:

FIRST COLLECTION: For the Augustinian Clergy (Priory)

Account Name: St. Kieran's Priory
Bank: CBA BSB: 062 784 Account Number: 100 005 010

SECOND COLLECITON: For the Parish

Account Name: Catholic Community of North Harbour
Bank: CBA BSB: 062 784 Account Number: 100 007 957

If you like to contribute by credit card, please email Jacky,
parishmanager@northharbourcatholic.org.au.
Thank you so much for your support!