

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>



Fourth Sunday of
ADVENT

Year A - 18 Dec 2022

PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE – Lovingly Advent – ‘Waiting for the Child!’



Dear Friends,

Since the Augustinian appointments for 2023-26 were announced, several people have asked us how we are feeling about moving to another appointment. Some mentioned that we have to go where the Provincial sends us. While that is true, these days appointments are only made after a process of extensive consultation and discernment. *Obedience* remains one of our Solemn Vows, along with *poverty* and *chastity*. I recall a time when there was no consultation and Augustinians, including the men from Ireland, were given an envelope containing their appointment and that was it.

We can feel threatened by the idea of ‘*obedience*’, especially in a time so preoccupied with ‘*freedom*’. Of course, to obey out of love makes the world of difference in our faith and family life and relationships, not to mention other areas of our lives. This need not be subservience but a mature response to what we believe in our hearts. This was the obedience of John the Baptist and of Mary and Joseph too, the obedience that enabled God’s promise of a Saviour to be fulfilled, the faith that accepted the hopeful Scriptural messages: ‘**Do not be afraid**’ and ‘**God is with us.**’

The Gospel reminds us of the obedience of Mary to God’s call but we easily forget the obedience of Joseph who faced a massive social challenge, taking home a pregnant fiancée carrying a child that was not his! Joseph was confused and uncertain about what he should do and it was difficult for him to discern what his next step should be. Though Mary carried Jesus in her womb quietly and unacknowledged by most, she found in Joseph a partner who believed in the treasure that she bore.

This child Jesus would ultimately become the model of obedience to God’s will. One way of understanding obedience is ‘**going-with**’ the Lord – as Mary and Joseph did, as great saints like Augustine did – coming to the realisation that the Lord lives in our hearts and is our wise guide always. Obedience is not blind or mindless, acting without thought, but it is an openness to what the Lord wants. Even when we might not get it right, the Lord still copes and seeks what is best for us. Could I be bold enough to suggest that, had Mary or Joseph said No, the Lord would have still found a way!

Faith involves obedience to the teaching of the Gospel, personified in the life and ministry of Jesus. That does not mean that all life issues and decisions are simple and straightforward; some offer massive challenges to us personally and socially. Ideally, obedience emerges from our loving relationship with the Lord and his with us, and from the loving relationships we enjoy within our family life and marriage and friendships too.

Obedience without love is boring and sterile and difficult to sustain, and hardly conducive to personal growth. Thankfully, the promise ‘*to obey*’ has been removed from the marriage vows but the fact is that, in marriage and family life, we do a lot of ‘*obeying*’ anyway as we accommodate each other and build up a loving community.

As we prepare to celebrate the great Feasts of Christmas and the Holy Family, let us be more attentive to those closest to us and recognise ‘**God with us**’ in one another and open to seeing the hand of God in all that happens to us.

This weekend's Homily will be by **Fr Dave** 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>



Thanks to those who helped put colour and light into our Christmas preparations with banners, wreath, crib and tree.

WORLD YOUTH DAY 2023 – FINAL CALL!

The Augustinians in Australia invite young adults (aged 18 to 35) to join their pilgrimage group to World Youth Day in Lisbon, Portugal in mid-2023. The group will visit significant Augustinian sites in Italy and then join the Augustinian Youth Encounter in Lisbon, followed by World Youth Day. Dates are 19 July to 7 August. Printed information is available in the foyer of each church. Registration deadline is in December. Please contact Fr Dave this week if you are interested.



FLOWERS FOR CHRISTMAS

If you have some Agapanthus —Christmas Bush—

Hydrangeas and would be happy to have them decorate our Church Altar over Christmas— they would be very much appreciated. Please leave at SK Church after 8.30am Mass on Saturday 24/12, or in the Sacristy - *Thankyou.*



We are looking for volunteers to help run Children's Liturgy in 2023. It will be running monthly at St Kieran's and St Cecilia's, during school term. We need two leaders for each session, and would love it if you were available a couple of times a year. Training and resources will be provided. If you are interested, please contact Kate on 0430524316 or Janette at the parish office on 02 99494455.



BROKEN BAY NEWS

The December edition of Broken Bay News is now available in the church foyers. Included in the news, is an item about the Parish of North Harbour, and our recent celebration of the 70th Anniversary proclamation of St Kieran's Parish, Manly Vale in 1952.



COVID SAFETY - GREETING OF PEACE

All are aware that the COVID virus is still around. While no specific directions affecting Parish gatherings have been received, we need to take appropriate precautions. Some parishioners are reluctant to shake hands at the Greeting of Peace and so we suggest alternative options - a verbal greeting with a respectful, hand gesture or wave in the direction of the other person, a hand on our heart and slight bow, or similar action.

The Australian Catholic Youth Festival is coming back! And we are counting down to this event which will be held in Melbourne in 2024! An event that provides the opportunity for thousands of young people to gather and share their love for Jesus, together!

The festival is held over a few days, providing young Catholics from across the country an opportunity for encounter, formation, discussion, connection and evangelisation. Further details will be provided as information is released early next year!



Readings for this week:
Response:

Isaiah 7:10-14

Romans 1:1-7

Matthew 1:18-24

Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory

CHRISTMAS READINGS AND ROSTERS APPLY FOR NEXT WEEKEND



CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Mass and Reconciliation times for Christmas are printed below. Please note that there will be no Evening Mass on Christmas Day.

Reconciliation (First Rite) – Saturday 24 December

* St Kieran's – 4-5 pm - St Cecilia's – 4-5 pm

Christmas Mass Times – Saturday 24 December

* St Kieran's – 6.00pm (Family Mass) - 8.00pm – Midnight

* St Cecilia's – 5.30pm - 7.30pm

Christmas Mass Times – Sunday 25 December

* St Kieran's – 7.30am - 9.30am - No 6.00pm Mass

* St Cecilia's – 9.00am



PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE

The Parish Office will close on Friday 23 December and reopen on Tuesday 3 January.



From St Augustine

Lord, within the bulwark of Your love and mercy, protect me.

Commentary on Psalm 16, 8

THANK YOU TO THE HOSPITALITY TEAM

A big Thank You to all the Hospitality Volunteers who helped with getting the parish community back together with the morning teas after the 9.30am mass at St Kieran's Church. Your help and time are greatly appreciated.

If you would like to volunteer for this wonderful ministry for 2023, I will be putting together the Roster for 2023 and would welcome more people to join the existing team. It is entirely up to you regarding how many times a year you would like to volunteer. You can commit to 2-3 times per year, once a term or more if you like.

The parish would be responsible for providing the morning tea and the volunteers are simply required to set up, serve and pack away.

So, if you feel like this is something you can help with in 2023, and you would like to become a part of the hospitality team or would simply like more information please email or give me a call.

Best wishes to all for a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful & Joyful 2023.

Adriana Bowyer 0402 099 746 albowyer@bigpond.com



angels and shepherds needed!
NO REHEARSALS REQUIRED
Christmas Eve Nativity Play

5:30pm St Cecilia's & 6:00pm St Kieran's
no rehearsals required



If you'd like to be involved in any way at **Christmas Eve St Kieran's 6.00pm Mass**, please contact Janette on 0408 866 521

Children's Christmas Vigil Mass @ St Cecilia's

- St Cecilia's Church
- Saturday 24 December 2022 at 5:30pm
- Angels and shepherds: no rehearsal required!
- Singers for choir: rehearsal 24 December at 9:30am in the church

Please nominate your child via Signup Genius:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0949AAAE2CA6F94-christmas>

Any queries, please contact Christine Boys: caboy01@gmail.com





Rest in Peace



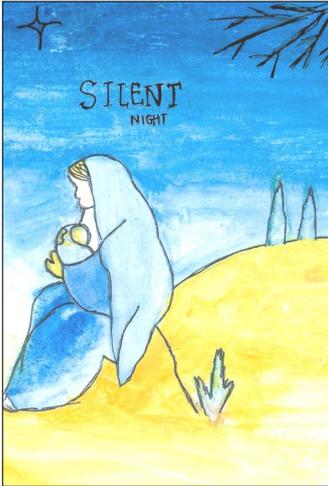
ANNIVERSARIES

Elizabeth Kelly	James Smyth
Fr Pat Fahey OSA	Fr Pat Bourke OSA
Fr John Barry OSA	Fr Ben O'Donnell OSA
RECENTLY DECEASED	
Jack Dellagiacomma	Cecile Hakvoort
Irene Martin	Rosa Filocamo

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	Mary Hulme	Pat Keogh

CHRISTMAS WISHES FROM CSO



We wish each of our families every blessing for the Christmas season and a wonderful New Year ahead. On behalf of the staff at Catholic Schools Broken Bay, we thank you for your support throughout this extraordinary year and we will see you back in 2023.

For more about our schools visit <https://csbb.catholic.edu.au/schools/why-choose-a-catholic-school/>



Pope Francis' prayer intention for December

VOLUNTEER NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

We pray that volunteer non-profit organizations committed to human development find people dedicated to the common good and ceaselessly seek out new paths to international cooperation.

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

REGULAR PARISH MASS TIMES

St Cecilia's, Balgowlah

SUNDAY 9.00AM

WEDNESDAY 9.00AM

St Kieran's, Manly Vale

SATURDAY VIGIL 5.30pm

SUNDAY 7.30am, 9.30am & 6.00pm

Weekdays 8.30am except Wednesdays

St Augustine's Chapel, Brookvale

Wednesdays 8.10am during term time

RECONCILIATION

St Kieran 5 – 5.45pm Saturday or by appointment.



BAPTISMS

St Cecilia 10.30am Sun. by appointment
 9.00am Mass on 1st Sundays of the month
St Kieran 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

MARRIAGES

Require 6 months notice and include Pre-marriage Course as part of the preparation

- 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.