

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



**24
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



4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

“Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God.” - Lk 1:35

FIRST 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.* | **SECOND 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 READING** Luke 1:26-38 *The angel Gabriel visits Mary, who responds willingly to God.*

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/NORTHHARBOUR

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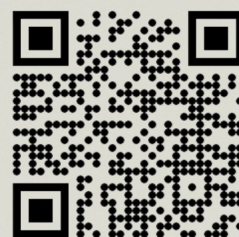


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WHY DO WE DO THAT? Catholic Life Explained

Question:

Why do Catholics light candles in church?

Answer:

Candles have been part of the Church's worship from the earliest times. In the days before electricity, candles and oil lamps were the ways that people lighted buildings. Even today, we often still depend on candles during power outages, relying on their flickering flames to bring light into the dark.

Like our ancestors, we also light candles on special occasions. Think about a festive family meal or a romantic dinner for two — there will often be candles on the table, special objects for a special event. We light candles on birthday cakes and carry them in processions. We also place candles at makeshift memorials that appear when there has been an accident or act of violence. In these moments, their light casts aside a different kind of darkness — the darkness of grief, fear, and death. The custom of the early Christians lighting candles and lamps at the tombs of the martyrs gave way to the practice of having candles at Mass, honoring the sacredness of the celebration.

As Christians decorated their worship spaces with statues and icons, they would burn candles in front of sacred images and the relics of the saints, basically "shining a light" on what they held to be sacred. When pilgrims would visit these shrines, they would often bring candles to light before the image or relic. These candles came to be a symbol of the person, and their prayer and the burning these candles came to be understood as an extension and continuation of the prayer that was offered. What began as a practical way to provide light has come to be a symbol of the hopes, desires, loves, losses, fears, and faith of everyday Christians offering their prayers to God and his saints. ©LPi

BRINGING HOME THE GOSPEL

Our children are growing up in a world filled with fear and uncertainty. They need the virtues of faith, hope and love more than ever. They need faith in a God who will always be there for them, and they need to trust that whatever they require will be provided. If we hope to help them grow in this faith we have to make sure they feel anchored in our love, and God's love.

Mary, Jesus' mother, is the perfect model for every parent. Imagine how strong Mary's faith must have been to say yes to God's request. She was a young girl, probably in her early teens. She was unmarried and knew the harsh consequences of being unwed and pregnant. But still she said yes, trusting that whatever she needed would be provided.

Mary was open to God's Spirit and allowed the Spirit to work in her and through her. She said yes, and taught her son to say yes. All through her life she modeled for her son the virtues of faith, hope and love. She taught him his prayers, and told him the stories of their faith. She anchored him in her love, and encouraged him in his mission.

Like Mary, we too are invited to model for our children the faith, hope and love the Spirit is eager to share with us. When Mary said yes and allowed the Spirit to work within her, the world changed forever. We too are invited to live in God's spirit and teach our children to say yes to the Spirit's gifts so that, like Mary, we can be Christ-bearers to the world around us.

FAMILY RESPONSE:

As a family, write three short prayers, one each on faith, hope and love. Say these prayers every night together this week.

PERSONAL RESPONSE:

Record the prayers your family wrote below. Add your own words to each prayer.



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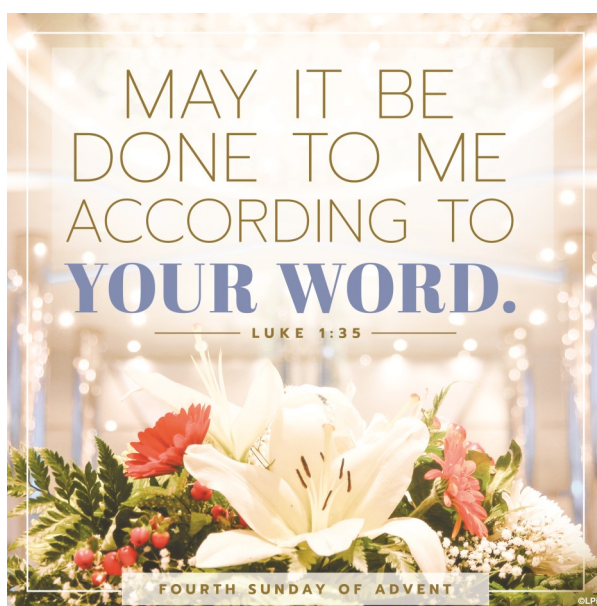
WEEKLY SOCIAL JUSTICE CHALLENGES

In this Sunday's Gospel, we hear the angel inviting Mary to become the mother of the Messiah. Mary worried about doing this without breaking her promises to God. The angel replies with the story of Elizabeth being with child even though she was beyond the age of child-bearing. The angel states, "...for nothing will be impossible for God." Your challenge this week is to bring the Good News of Jesus and his message of possibilities to someone who has been weighed down by darkness or despair—due to illness, financial stress, relationship problems, or whatever. As a family, choose one person—or one family—who needs you to remind them that with God, nothing is impossible. How can you help "liberate" this person or family from whatever is keeping them from living a free and full life?



CARE FOR CREATION TIPS

Advent is a time of darkness, a time of waiting. We are waiting for the birth of Jesus, the light of the world. Spend some time this week thinking about your use of light. Take some evenings this week to turn off your lights after dinner. Spend some time in candlelight or even enjoying the light of the moon. Consider making a "night by candle light" (or even fully electricity-free) a part of your weekly schedule.



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PASTORAL CARE FOR THE HOMEBOUND

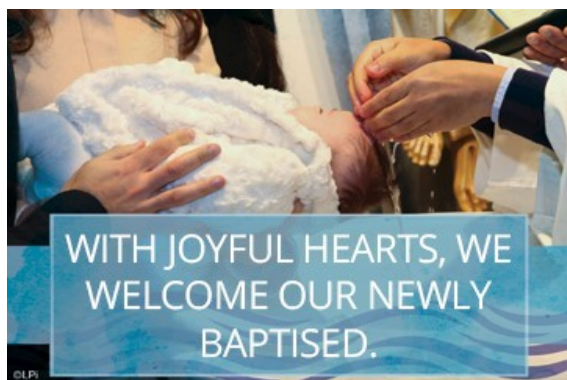
Our clergy and pastoral care ministers bring the sacraments of Eucharist, reconciliation, and anointing of the sick to parishioners who are unable to participate because of illness or aging. For more information and to arrange receiving the sacraments, contact Parish Office.

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



Poppy Olivia Ware
daughter of Ben & Cara

Jack Christopher Mallet
son of Christopher & Claire

PRAY FOR THOSE IN OUR COMMUNITY:

SICK:

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

RECENTLY DECEASED:

Therese Schalkwyk, Margaret BurrIDGE, Neville Peter, Margaret Previtera, Serafin Bermudez, Neville Seery, Tony Murphy (Mackey), Dr John Connolly, Marion Hayes

ANNIVERSARIES:

Eric McKinnon, Ricki Hayes, Maria Polito

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.

THANK YOU FOR 2023!

Many thanks to all who have listened to me live or through your streaming services in 2023.

Hearing your lovely comments on my music has been a great source of encouragement and will certainly take me through into 2024. Especially over the last few months, I have enjoyed your singing at St Kieran's and St Cecilia's where you've really lifted to make us sound like one voice, and given a songwriter the joy of hearing their songs being sung.

Although most of you know it through myself, my mum Ivy, or my late father John, take a moment to read part of my story in this month's BBN edition which includes a lovely photo of my group, Harvest. What was missed in the article is that the lovely Carol Murphy organised my

first guitar teacher - a long way from my first two chords.

Be sure to have a listen to my latest single *The Lord Gave Them Bread* which will be released to your streaming services on Christmas Day.

The Lord Gave Them Bread
Kevin Mascarenhas

✉ Kevin Mascarenhas
(Parishioner)

Office closed for Christmas Holidays

Date of office closure

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

Emergency contacts

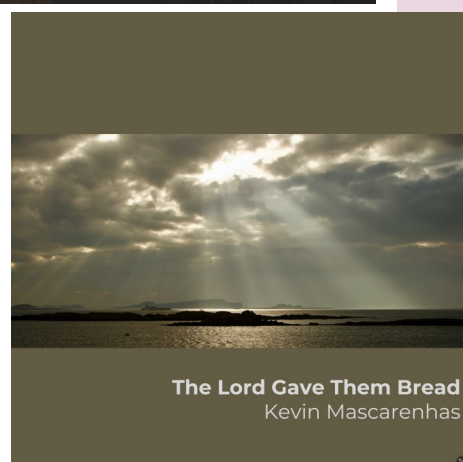
In case of emergency, please call 0490 898 464

Returning to work

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

Happy Holidays

Wishing you all a joyful and safe holiday season!



**EVERY SATURDAY
ST KIERAN'S CHURCH
5.00 TO 5.30PM**

RECONCILIATION

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.



CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF NORTH HARBOUR

ALTAR SERVER TRAINING

Open to parishioners of North Harbour in Year 4 through high school and have made their First Holy Communion.

FOR MORE INFO OR TO SIGN-UP,
CONTACT PARISH OFFICE
(02) 9949 4455
PARISHOFFICE@NORTHHARBOURCATHOLIC.ORG.AU



Join the *NEW* NORTH HARBOUR CHILDREN'S CHOIR

We are looking for CHILDREN in YEARS 3-8 to join our choir!
JOIN US FOR MUSIC AND FUN!
More details will be available in February 2024.



If interested, contact the Parish Office or scan the QR code.

JOIN THE SOCIAL JUSTICE GROUP OF NORTH HARBOUR PARISH

SERVING THE COMMUNITY

We work to promote social justice in our society. We provide opportunities for parishioners to be involved in making a difference to our society.

If interested, contact the Parish Office:

parishoffice@northharbourcatholic.org.au



Join us for prayer and worship.

EVERY FRIDAY
AFTER THE
8.30AM MASS
@ ST KIERAN'S CHURCH



Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

Spend time in the presence of Jesus Christ and experience His love and peace.

Little Kieran's Playgroup

**1st Monday of the Month
9-10am**



St Kieran's Parish Centre
2 King St., Manly Vale NSW



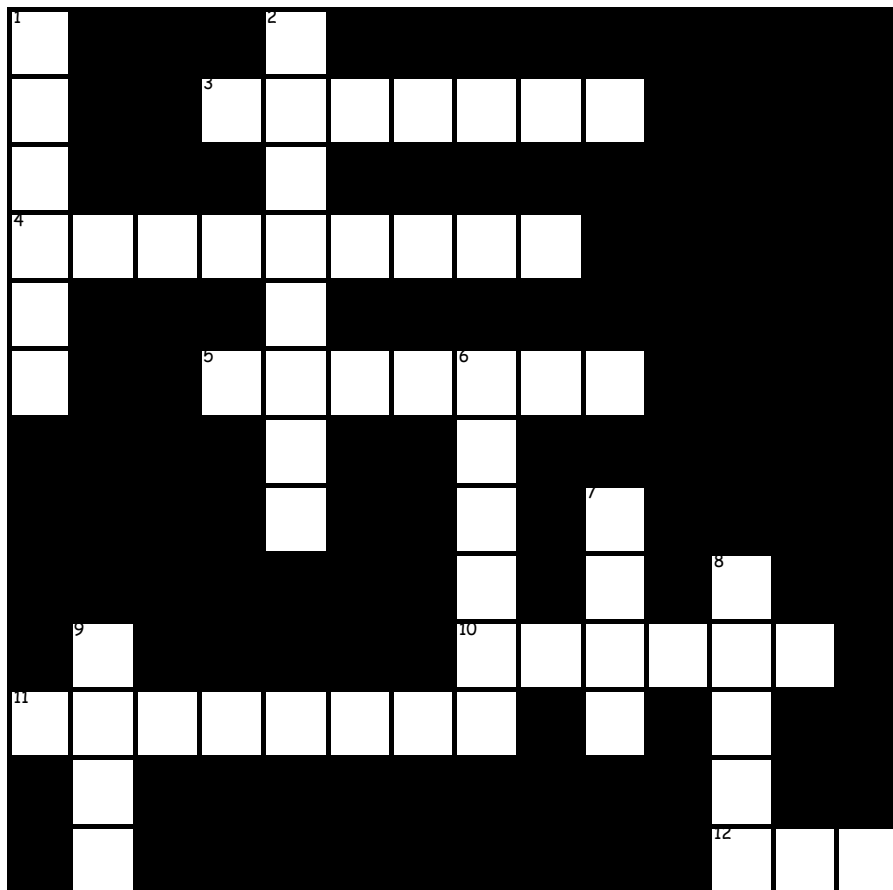
ANOINTING

2024 ANOINTING OF THE SICK MASS SCHEDULE

6 March	5 June
4 September	4 December

10am, St Kieran's Church
Morning Tea is served after Mass.





CROSSWORD PUZZLE

His name will be Jesus

ACROSS:

- 3: the angel sent by God to deliver a message
- 4: Mary's cousin who was also going to have a son
- 5: Mary said, 'I am the Lord's _____! Let it happen as you have said.'
- 10: the angel told Mary that Jesus would forever rule the people of which land?
- 11: unable to understand, mixed up
- 12: the opposite of daughter

DOWN

- 1: Mary was engaged to this man
- 2: the town where Mary lived
- 6: scared, frightened
- 7: the angel had a message for this person
- 8: Mary was told to give her child this name
- 9: the angel said, 'your child will be called the _____ Son of God'

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Sharing the Gospel

With God's helping hands, you can do unbelievable things. You can write books. You can be the Prime Minister. You can clean up your bedroom. You can climb monkey bars. You can give food and drink to the hungry. When you are feeling weak, sit down and pray. Ask God to help you. Nothing is impossible for him. Just like Mary, you have to believe that you can do anything with God's help.

Prayer

Lord, give me wisdom to ask you for your help.

Mission

I will not give up on difficult jobs. I will pray and try again.

©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.





What human being could know all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge hidden in Christ and concealed under the poverty of His humanity? For, being rich, he became poor for our sake that by his poverty we might become rich.

Sermon 194 - St. Augustine of Hippo

NEXT WEEKEND (31 DECEMBER): THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH, YEAR B

1st Reading

Sirach 3:2-6. 12-14

Kindness and respect for parents is urged.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 104:1-6. 8-9. R.vv.7.8

The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.

2nd Reading

Colossians 3:12-21

What is expected of the chosen of God.

Gospel Acclamation

Colossians 3:15. 16

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, and the fullness of his message live within you.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 2:22-40

Jesus is presented at the Temple by Mary and Joseph.

30 DEC, 5.30PM
ST KIERAN'S

Senior Server
Louise

Reader 1
Bob

Reader 2
Caterina

Music
Parish Choir

Powerpoint
Volunteer needed

Welcomers
Volunteers needed

31 DEC, 7.30AM
ST KIERAN'S

Senior Server
Michael

Reader 1
Tim

Reader 2
Lea

Music
None

Powerpoint
Volunteer needed

Welcomers
Volunteers needed

31 DEC, 9AM
ST CECILIA'S

Senior Server
Antoinette

Reader 1
TBA

Reader 2
TBA

Music
Conmen

Powerpoint
Volunteer needed

Welcomers
Julien

31 DEC, 9.30AM
ST KIERAN'S

Senior Server
Catherine

Reader 1
Terry K

Reader 2
Brian C

Music
Branch of Jesse

Powerpoint
Volunteer needed

Welcomers
Volunteers needed

31 DEC, 6PM
ST KIERAN'S

Senior Server
Steve

Reader 1
Cecilia

Reader 2
Celestine

Music

Powerpoint
Volunteer needed

Welcomers
Volunteers needed

OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF 24 DECEMBER

Mon 25 Dec: The Nativity of the Lord

Tue 26 Dec: St Stephen, the first martyr

Wed 27 Dec: St John, apostle & evangelist

Thu 28 Dec: The Holy Innocents, martyrs

Fri 29 Dec: 5th Day of the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

Sat 30 Dec: 6th Day of the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

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

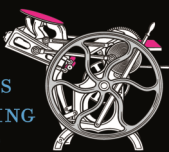
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Principal: Ms Louise O'Brien

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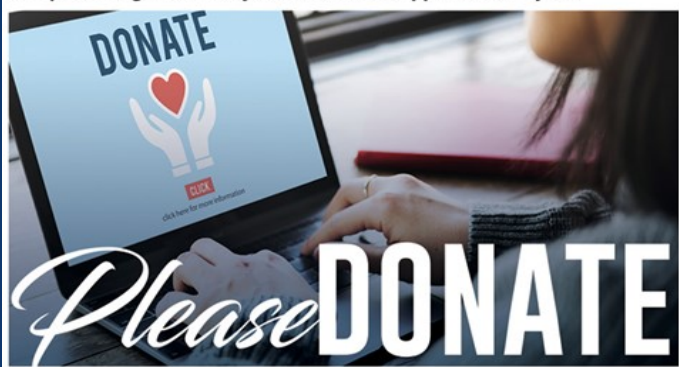
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Setting up a one-time or recurring donation is quick and easy.

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!