

The Catholic Community of North Harbour

IN THE CARE OF THE AUGUSTINIANS



Cnr White & Wanganella Sts

Parish Priest: Fr Dave Austin OSA

Parish Office: 9949 4455

CHRISTMAS DAY 25 December

New Years Day 1 January



2 King Street

parishoffice@northharbourcatholic.org.au

www.northharbourcatholic.org.au

PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE – Christmas – 'Incarnation and Redemption!'



Dear Friends,

In this final letter to you, I am at a loss for words – not my usual situation! Your good wishes, both written and spoken, have moved me deeply and I thank you for your affirmation of our Parish ministry these past 4 years. What we have been able to achieve has been due to the collaboration of our Parish Team, the Augustinian Community, and all of you who participate in Parish Life in so many different ways – particularly, as the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy describes it, in faithfulness to our **'full, conscious and active participation' (n 14)** around the Table of the Eucharist. **'The Sacred Liturgy is the source and the summit of all life in the Church' (n 10)**. Each of you shares in this affirmation.

As we move from Advent into Christmas, we carry the weekly Advent invitation to embrace the urgent reality of the themes named each time we lit a new candle in our Advent Wreath – **Hope, Peace, Joy Love** – energizing gifts for our lives in family and community life but by no means easy gifts as we contemplate the many challenges of our living and the sadness and many conflicts across our world.

I often find the biggest impact on our understanding of the Christmas event comes from the simplest of sources – such as the Saviour named last Sunday in Isaiah 7:14 as **'God-with-us'** and quoted in the Gospel passage from Matthew 1:23, describing the angel of the Lord's message to Joseph. The name **'God-with-us'** gives us an anchor even today as it sums up the profound mystery of God's engagement with us at every moment of our lives.

Spiritual writer Fr Richard Rohr OFM inspired the title of today's reflection with a favourite Franciscan statement about the coming of Christ - **'Incarnation is already Redemption!'** – and explains its impact this way:

*'Henceforth humanity has the right to know that it is **good to be human, good to live on this earth, good to have a body**, because God in Jesus chose and said "yes" to our humanity' (Preparing for Christmas p 92).*

St Augustine brought his wise, faith response to the celebration of Christmas in Sermon 184, preached sixteen centuries ago in northern Africa:

May God, who desired to share in our humanity, bring us to perfection.

May God, who out of love became the Child of Mary, bring us to perfect union with God.

Rejoice, you who are just; it is the birthday of the One who makes you just.

Rejoice, you who face trials; it is the birthday of the One who saves you.

Rejoice, you who are weighed down; it is the birthday of the One who redeems you.

Rejoice, you who are free; it is the birthday of the One who gives you freedom.

Rejoice, all Christians. It is the birthday of Christ.

How does each of us describe the magnitude of this extraordinary event that defines our beauty and human dignity? Simply trust the wisdom of our personal faith as others have done. We conclude with a Christmas Greeting from Saint Mary Mackillop (December 1899):

*'With all my heart,
I wish you a very happy Christmas
And a bright and happy New Year!'*

Fr Dave

As we celebrate Christmas, may we all be blessed by the Lord, and may we know the love of God, his generosity of heart, and his unbounded grace in every dimension of our lives.



MASS TIMES ON NEW YEARS DAY, SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD, WILL BE AS PER USUAL SUNDAY MASSES



PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE

The Parish Office is closed over the Christmas period and will reopen on **Wednesday 4 January 2023**.

PARISH YOUTH MASS – Sunday 12 February 2023 – 6.00pm

The first **Parish Youth Mass** for 2023 will be on Sunday 12 February at 6pm at St Kieran's Church, Manly Vale. All are welcome, especially families and youth. This is an important opportunity for all young people and their families to deepen their spiritual connection and strengthen their relationship with God. There will be refreshments afterwards. This **Youth event** is held twice a term. Please mark the date in your diary.

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 in the direction of the other person, a hand on our heart and slight bow, or similar action.

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



Working Bee at St Cecilia's
before the Christmas rush.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP?

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.



Readings for next week: Numbers 6:22-27 Galatians 4:4-7 Luke 2:16-21

NEXT WEEK'S READERS (Roster week 1):

SK—5.30pm: Val, Cecilia **7.30am** Jenny, Andrew **9.30am** Brian C, Kate **6pm** Louise, Catherine

SC—9.00am: Michael H, Michael C, Pauline Res: Julien

**Thank
You!**

Christmas is a time to say **Thank You!** During 2022, our Parish and its ministries began to rebuild after the rigorous limitations we experienced during the COVID pandemic. Great care was and is still required but our community is beginning to function more normally again. Thank you for your perseverance – especially our PPC and Finance Committee, school leaders Anna Marsella and Louise O'Brien, staff, and families, our liturgical ministers, musicians, hospitality, coordinators and all involved in faith formation - Sacramental Program, Alpha, RCIA, Children's Liturgy, Youth Mass, Catechist Ministry, and other groups - pastoral care of the housebound and those in care facilities, outreach to the needy through Vinnies and GIFT, and our Augustinian groups – AFA, Friends and AVA.

We are blessed to be part of a community for whom giving is a way of life, in generous, financial support of the Parish, as willing volunteers who are ready to help our community grow through sharing their talents in hospitality, home and nursing home visiting and Communion ministry, pastoral outreach to fellow parishioners and the needy, many working quietly behind the scenes. Thank you for your witness to Jesus' practical love.

We thank our Parish Staff and Team - Parish Manager Jacky Worthington, Parish Secretaries Jane Filacuridi and Anne Ross, Sacramental Coordinator Janette Davidson, Catechist Coordinator Ursula Halloway, and Music Ministry Coordinator Marianne Deveza. We thank the Augustinians for their liturgical leadership and pastoral concern – Associate Pastors Frs Paul Maloney, Jepsy Bermudez and John Sullivan, members of the Augustinian Community who are always ready to assist in pastoral ministry, Frs Senan Ward, Abel van der Veer, Peter Jones and recent arrival Jumbim Torres.

We thank you for your generous financial support and we hope that we will be an even stronger community in 2023. We pray too for the welfare and good health of all in our community and across our world, *Come Lord Jesus! Maranatha!*

Fr Dave

**CHRISTMAS EDITION OF THE
AUGUSTINIAN MAGAZINE IS IN THE
CHURCH FOYERS—KEEP UP WITH THE
NEWS AND TAKE ONE HOME
WITH YOU TODAY.**

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.

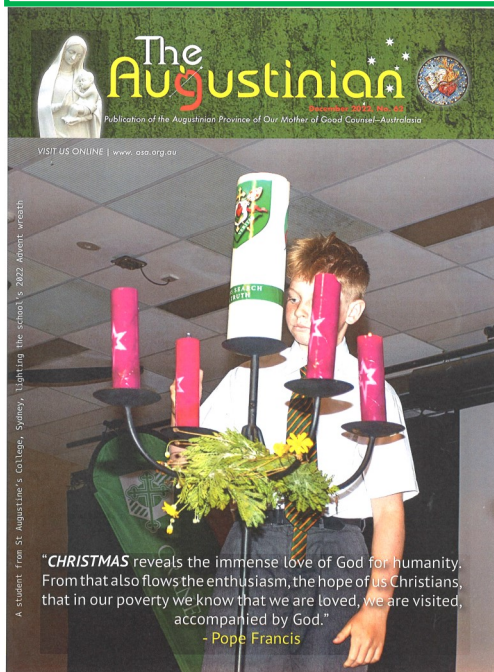
So, if you feel like this is something you can help with in 2023, and you would like to become a part of the hospitality team or would simply like more information please email or give me a call.

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

Adriana Bowyer 0402 099 746 albowyer@bigpond.com

Make A Difference

Volunteer



The Augustinian
Publication of the Augustinian Province of Our Mother of Good Council-Australasia
VISIT US ONLINE | www.aoa.org.au

"CHRISTMAS reveals the immense love of God for humanity. From that also flows the enthusiasm, the hope of us Christians, that in our poverty we know that we are loved, we are visited, accompanied by God."
- Pope Francis

A student from St. Augustine's College, Sydney, lighting the school's 2022 Advent wreath.

Rest in Peace



ANNIVERSARIES

| | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| Bill Austin | Eric McKinnon |
| Fr Jim Bolton osa | Fr John Barry osa |
| Pacifico Nolan Snr | Tom Barry |
| RECENTLY DECEASED | |
| Jack Dellagiacoma | 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 |

From St Augustine

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*



Merry
Christmas
AND
HAPPY NEW YEAR

from the North Harbour Parish team

Visiting sick at home -

If you, or if you know of anyone who is unable
to attend Mass because they are unwell and
would like a home visit
please contact the parish office to organise
for Communion or Anointing.

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 Jepsen 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

Marianne Deveza

Ursula Halloway

Janette Davidson

Anne Ross

Jane Filacuridi

Parish Manager

Music Co-ordinator

Catechist Coordinator

Sacramental Coordinator

Parish Secretary

Parish Secretary

9949 4455

9949 4455

9949 4455

0408 866 521

9949 4455

9949 4455

*We acknowledge the Gayamagal and Canalgal people, the traditional custodians of this land
and pay our respects to the elders past and present.*