

Merry Christmas

# 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



25  
DEC  
2023  
YEAR B

Under the Pastoral Care of the Augustinians

Catholic Diocese of Broken Bay

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## THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

"For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord." Lk 2:11

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

### CHRISTMAS EVE READINGS

**FIRST READING** Isaiah 9:1-7

*Isaiah foretells the coming of the Prince of Peace.*

**RESP'L PSALM** Ps 95:1-3. 11-13 R. Lk 2:11

*Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.*

**SECOND READING** Titus 2:11-14

*The grace of God has been revealed to all people.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** Luke 2:10-11

*Alleluia, alleluia! Good News and great joy to all the world: today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord. Alleluia!*

**GOSPEL READING** Luke 2:1-14

*The birth of Jesus.*

### CHRISTMAS DAY READINGS

**FIRST READING** Isaiah 52:7-10

*The Lord redeems the entire earth.*

**RESP'L PSALM** Ps 97:1-6. R. v.3

*All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.*

**SECOND READING** Hebrews 1:1-6

*God has spoken through his Son.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** Luke 2:10-11

*Alleluia, alleluia! A holy day has dawned upon us. Come you nations and adore the Lord. Today a great light has come upon the earth. Alleluia!*

**GOSPEL READING** John 1:1-18

*The beginning of John's Gospel.*

## 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



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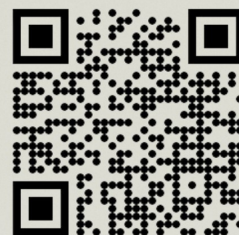


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## WHY DO WE DO THAT? Catholic Life Explained

### Question:

Why do we give gifts at Christmas?

### Answer:

Great events in and of themselves are not tangible. They occur in life but leave no mark behind, nothing that someone could come across and know that something significant occurred. So we mark the event with monuments, holidays, gold watches or plaques, making a meaningful event tangible and memorable.

Gifts at Christmas do the same thing. They mark the occasion of the birth of Jesus, communicating a bit of the joy of the day by allowing us to be both giver and receiver. Gift-giving sets aside the day as special and different. The special foods, customs, decorations, and gifts all help focus our attention on the importance and meaning of the day and at the same time allow us to share personally in its joy and happiness.

In giving gifts, though, we can share in the meaning of Christmas in a significant way. We imitate God in sharing with others. We give a bit of ourselves to others in the gifts we give, just as God gives us the gift of his Son. No wonder we often say that the best gifts are those that come from the heart. Given in love, these presents are wrapped in the best covering of all.

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## BRINGING HOME THE GOSPEL

On the first Christmas, a child was born who would change the world forever. He brought strength to the weak, courage to the fearful, consolation to the sad, and hope to the abandoned. The child was Jesus. He brought light into the darkness.

All through the New Testament, and especially in John's Gospel, we hear Jesus referred to as "the light." We can understand this metaphor when we contrast the gift of light to darkness. Nothing else changes when the lights go out, but in the dark we may feel disoriented and vulnerable, sometimes even afraid. Turn on the lights, and we regain our sense of place and position. This is precisely why Jesus came.

When the world was created, it was good. There was harmony in the universe and a sense of peace in that harmony. When people were created, they were created good. Scripture tells us that humans were created in the image and likeness of God. With their Creator they shared the ability to love and to create good out of love. Somewhere along the way this was forgotten, evil moved in, and the lights went out. Disorientation, vulnerability and fear followed. Love became tarnished, and what humans designed was not always good.

Then came the first Christmas, and a new light came into the world. As John tells us in his Gospel, those who accepted the light were given the power to become the children of God. They regained their sense of place and position. The darkness had no power over them. They knew who they were and whose they were. Christmas celebrates this light, this life born in Bethlehem, with us still today and yet to come in glory.

### FAMILY RESPONSE:

Share the Christmas traditions you remember from when you were growing up. Ask family members to talk about their favourite family Christmas traditions.

### PERSONAL RESPONSE:

What are the positive things you want to remember about the family you grew up with?



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## GOSPEL GAB

Dear Parishioners,

The pop singer Andy Williams introduced a new Christmas song on his first Christmas Album (1963) called It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year and, in spite of everything, indeed it is.

This is a most wonderful time of the year as we allow our thoughts to turn towards the bountiful graces that the Lord has bestowed upon us throughout our lives. This is the most wonderful time of the year as we renew within us the commitment to living our faith, and to setting the desire to make a difference in the lives of others.

As we celebrate this Christmas may each of us be open to the love of God pouring into our hearts and his desire to be among us – born as a humble child in the harsh circumstances of the manger – and to bring to us the Good News of salvation.

Let us be men and women infused with hope – enlivened with the spirit – and constant in faith knowing that Emmanuel has come – God is truly with us!

Together with Frs Paul, Jojo, John and the rest of the Augustinians at North Harbour, I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a grace-filled New Year!

Yours in Christ,

*Fr Myk, osa*



## 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



### BAPTISM PREPARATION COURSES 2024

**11AM—12.30PM**  
**ST KIERAN'S CHURCH**

FEBRUARY 4  
APRIL 7  
MAY 5  
JUNE 2  
JULY 7  
AUGUST 4  
OCTOBER 6  
NOVEMBER 3

*To book a baptism, please contact the Parish Office. Thank you.*

## 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  
Diana Gilmore

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





## 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.

## Little Kieran's Playgroup

**1st Monday of the Month**

**9-10am**



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



## Office closed for Christmas Holidays

### Date of office closure

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

### Emergency contacts

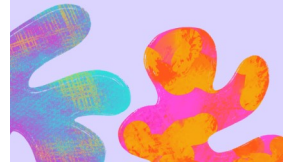
In case of emergency, please call 0490 898 464

### Returning to work

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

### Happy Holidays

Wishing you all a joyful and safe holiday season!



**Join us for prayer and worship.**

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



## Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

Come and spend time with the Lord in the quiet of His presence. All are welcome to participate in this time of adoration and contemplation.

## explore together

Alpha

think  
chat  
eat  
laugh  
connect  
explore  
question



### Join us at ALPHA!

ALPHA is a series of interactive sessions exploring the basics of the Christian faith.

**from 1st March (10 weeks) every Friday 7pm-9pm**  
**St Kieran's Parish Centre, 2 King St., Manly Vale**

**ALL WELCOME!**



## AN INVITATION TO BECOME A CATECHIST

"Jesus said  
As I was sent into the world, I now send you..."

As Catechists, we are both teacher and witness for our students. Like the tiny mustard seed, we plant the seed of faith in our students and hope that, with God's grace, each individual child will grow in their faith and add life and vibrancy to our church!

*If you feel this is something you would like to get involved in or would simply like more information please contact our*

*Catechist Co-Ordinator,  
Ursula Hallaway, on 0423 595 204 or email  
catechist@northharbourcatholic.org.au*

## CHILDREN'S SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

In the Diocese of Broken Bay, the order of the Sacraments is Confirmation received in Year 3, First Reconciliation and First Communion (Eucharist) received in Year 4.

The program at North Harbour Parish is parish-based, family-centred, and school-supported and commences for children eight years of age and older (from Year 3) with the Sacrament of Confirmation in May each year.

The dates for 2024 program will be available when the date for Confirmation has been advised by the Bishop's Office.

## 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.

## 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.



THE NEXT ISSUE  
OF OUR PARISH BULLETIN  
WILL BE ON SUNDAY  
14 JANUARY 2024.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

# Youth MASS

every 2nd Sunday, 6pm

St Kieran's Catholic Church  
2 King St., Manly Vale 2093 NSW

All welcome!

followed by a sausage sizzle  
& light refreshments

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

## RECONCILIATION

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



## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

*Joy to the world! The Saviour is born.*

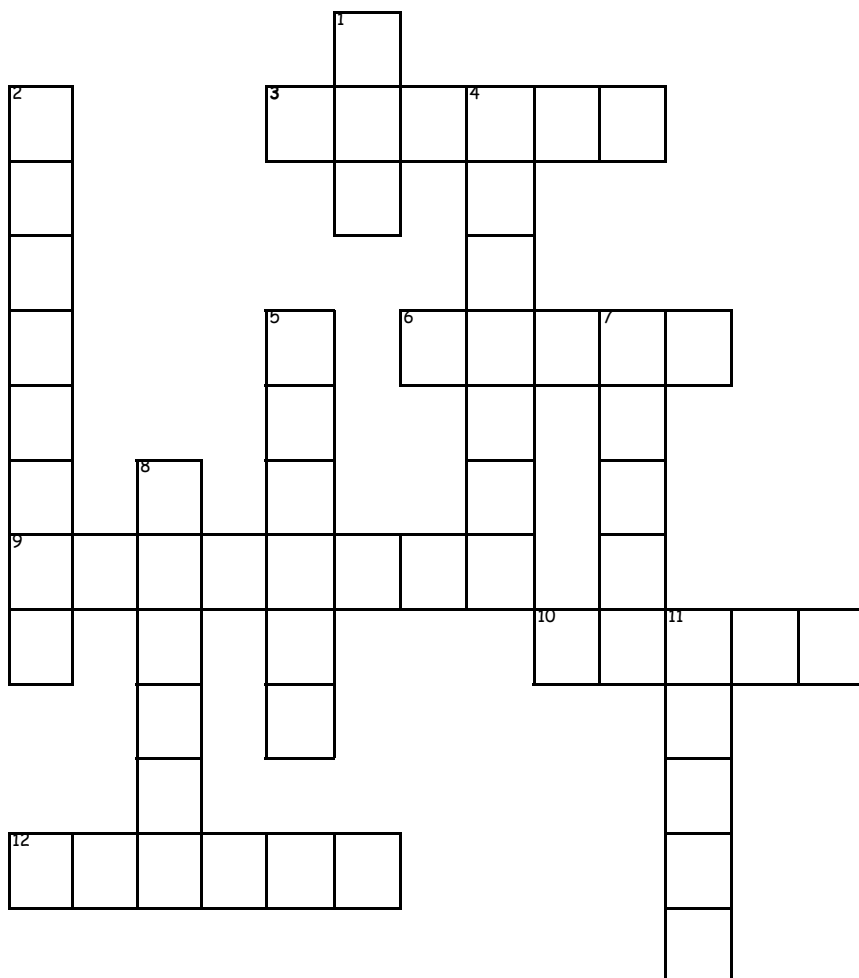
### ACROSS:

- 3: they sang in the heavens
- 6: glad
- 9: to have gone from one town to another
- 10: He was born today
- 12: Messiah

### DOWN:

- 1: a place where people stay overnight
- 2: Joseph and Mary left this town to travel to Bethlehem
- 4: soon to be married
- 5: Mary's husband
- 7: the angels sang, "\_\_\_\_\_ on earth"
- 8: Jesus slept in one of these
- 11: the shepherds watched these by night

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## Sharing the Gospel

The shepherds in the hills around Bethlehem were the first to find out about the birth of Jesus. They were the first to visit the new baby and his family in the stable. The shepherds of the Lord in your life are people who love God and you very much. They praise God and say wonderful things about God. They tell you how good you are. They protect you from evil and harm.

## Prayer

Father, thank you for the shepherds you sent to love and care for me.

## Mission

I will be a good shepherd and protect my brother and sister from harm.

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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.







*Awake, mankind! For your sake God has become man. Awake, you who sleep, rise up from the dead, and Christ will enlighten you. I tell you again: for your sake, God became man.*

- St. Augustine of Hippo

## READINGS FOR 31 DEC '23 (HOLY FAMILY) & 7 JAN '24 (EPIPHANY OF THE LORD)



### 31 DECEMBER THE HOLY FAMILY

The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him. - Lk 2:40

**FIRST READING** Sirach 3:2-6. 12-14

*Kindness and respect for parents is urged.*

**RESP'L PSALM** Ps 104:1-6. 8-9. R.vv.7.8

*The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.*

**SECOND 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 READING** Luke 2:22-40

*Jesus is presented at the Temple by Mary and Joseph.*



### 7 JANUARY

#### THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. - Mt 2:10

**FIRST READING** Isaiah 60:1-6

*Jerusalem is exalted.*

**RESP'L PSALM** Ps 71:1-2. 7-8. 10-13, R. see v.11

*Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.*

**SECOND READING** Ephesians 3:2-3. 5-6

*Paul declares the Gentiles co-heirs to the Kingdom.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** Matthew 2:2

*Alleluia, alleluia! We have seen his star in the East; and have come to adore the Lord. Alleluia!*

**GOSPEL READING** Matthew 2:1-12

*The Wise Men journey to the infant Jesus.*

## The Catholic Community of North Harbour

Under the Pastoral Care of the Augustinians

Catholic Diocese of Broken Bay [www.bbcatholic.org.au](http://www.bbcatholic.org.au)

**Parish Office** 2 King Street, MANLY VALE 2093 NSW AUSTRALIA

**P** 02 9949 4455 **E** [parishoffice@northharbourcatholic.org.au](mailto:parishoffice@northharbourcatholic.org.au) **W** [www.bbcatholic.org.au/northharbour](http://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](mailto:parishpriest@northharbourcatholic.org.au)

**Asst Priest:** Fr Paul Maloney, OSA **E** [paul.maloney@osa.org.au](mailto:paul.maloney@osa.org.au)

**Asst Priest:** Fr Jumbim Torres, OSA **E** [jumbim.torres@osa.org.au](mailto:jumbim.torres@osa.org.au)

**Asst Priest:** Fr John Zhang **E** [john.zhang@northharbourcatholic.org.au](mailto:john.zhang@northharbourcatholic.org.au)

**Parish Manager:** Jacky Worthington **E** [parishmanager@northharbourcatholic.org.au](mailto:parishmanager@northharbourcatholic.org.au) (Mon, Wed, Thu)

**Parish Secretary:** Jane Filacuridi **E** [parishoffice@northharbourcatholic.org.au](mailto:parishoffice@northharbourcatholic.org.au) (Mon, Tue, Wed)

**Parish Secretary:** Anne Ross **E** [parishoffice@northharbourcatholic.org.au](mailto:parishoffice@northharbourcatholic.org.au) (Thu, Fri)

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**Catechists (CCD) Coordinator:** Ursula Halloway **E** [catechist@northharbourcatholic.org.au](mailto:catechist@northharbourcatholic.org.au)

**Music Ministry Coordinator:** Marianne Kaw-Deveza **E** [musicministry@northharbourcatholic.org.au](mailto:musicministry@northharbourcatholic.org.au)

**Augustinian Brother:** Van Tu Nguyen, OSA **E** [tunguyen@osa.org.au](mailto:tunguyen@osa.org.au)

**Resident Priests** Fr Hoang-Minh Tan, OSA **E** [minhtanhoang@yahoo.com.au](mailto:minhtanhoang@yahoo.com.au)

Fr Peter Jones, OSA **E** [peter.jones@osa.org.au](mailto:peter.jones@osa.org.au) (Prior Provincial)

Fr Abel van der Veer, OSA **E** [vabelvanderveer@gmail.com](mailto:vabelvanderveer@gmail.com) (Retired)

Fr Senan Ward, OSA **E** [senanward@bigpond.com](mailto:senanward@bigpond.com) (Chaplain, St. Augustine's College, Brookvale)



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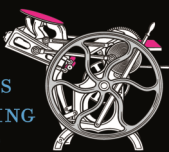
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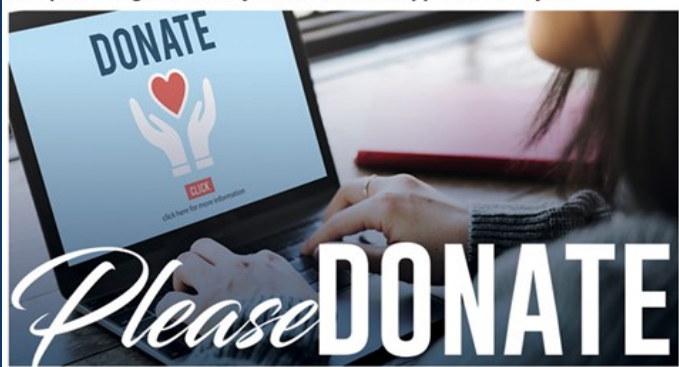
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Setting up a one-time or recurring donation is quick and easy.

Visit: [www.bbcatholic.org.au/north-harbour/giving](http://www.bbcatholic.org.au/north-harbour/giving)  
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[parishmanager@northharbourcatholic.org.au](mailto:parishmanager@northharbourcatholic.org.au).  
Thank you so much for your support!