The Catholic Parish of Pittwater

Sacred Heart & Maria Regina. Neighbourhoods of Grace, entrusted to the care of the Salvatorians.

Prayer to be Disciples

Loving Father, open our hearts to hidden realities: Your love for all people, Your presence in the community, Your call to justice and peace. Christ Jesus, help us imitate Your example: healing the sick, welcoming the stranger, assisting the poor and vulnerable. Holy Spirit, make visible to our eyes what is invisible: Your call to Your people, Your summons to live our faith daily as witnesses of justice and peace. May the Eucharist move us to engage on love-inspired action that transforms us and the world. Amen.



Thoughts of Blessed Francis Jordan

Cast all your cares to the Lord and soon you will discover that the Lord directs all things to the best outcome!



POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION FOR August For World Youth Day We Pray that the World Youth Day in Lisbon will help young people to live and witness the Gospel in their own lives. A warm welcome to all our parishioners and visitors who are celebrating the Eucharist with us at Pittwater Parish Sacred Heart Church and Maria Regina Church

Continue to practise good hygiene. *Please use the hand sanitisers provided in both of our Churches.*

MASS TIMES

SACRED HEART CHURCH 1 Keenan Street, Mona Vale

WEEKDAY MASSES Tuesday 8.30am Exposition of the **Blessed Sacrament**, Adoration, Reconciliation and Benediction from 8:30 am. followed by Mass at 9.30am Wednesday 9.30am Thursday 7pm Exposition of the **Blessed Sacrament**, Adoration, Reconciliation and Benediction from 7.30pm to 9pm Friday 9.30am First Friday of the Month, **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament**, Adoration, Reconciliation and Benediction from 9.30am, followed by Mass with Anointing of the Sick at 10.30am

WEEKEND MASSES Saturday Vigil 5.00pm Sunday 8.00am • 10.00am • 6.00pm (SOUL)

RECONCILIATION 4.00pm to 4.30pm Saturday

> Baptism 4th Sunday - 11.30am

MARIA REGINA CHURCH 7 Central Road, Avalon

WEEKDAY MASSES Monday 8am Wednesday 8am Thursday 10am 9am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Adoration and Benediction at 9.45am Friday 8am

Mass with Anointing of the Sick - First Friday of the Month at 8am

WEEKEND MASSES Saturday Vigil 6.00pm Sunday 9.00am

RECONCILIATION Before Vigil Mass on Saturday BAPTISM 3rd Sunday - 11.00am



🕞 Vinnies

New stock is now available at the Vinnies Sacred Heart Piety Store for the First Holy Eucharist. All proceeds of the Piety Store go to St Vincent de Paul. All transactions are CASH only, as we do not have EFTPOS facilities. Any queries, please contact the Parish Office on 9157 0999.

BOOK REVIEW

Jesus the Gift of Love by: Jean Vanier



Jean Vanier writes with a go-to-theheart simplicity that makes the man Jesus come alive in all his humanity, revealing his immense goodness and his bountiful love for everyone he met. This book is the story of Jesus.

Liturgy for the Week

28/08 Monday, St Augustine 1 Thess 1:1-5, 8-10; Mt 23:13-22

29/08 Tuesday, The Passion of St John the Baptist Jer 1:17-19; Mk 6:17-29

- 30/08 Wednesday, Ordinary Time 21 1 Thess 2:9-13; Mt 23:27-32
- 31/08 Thursday, Ordinary Time 21 1 Thess 3:7-13; Mt 24:42-51
- 01/09 Friday, Ordinary Time 21 1 Thess 4:1-8; Mt 25:1-13
- 02/09 Saturday, Ordinary Time 21 1 Thess 4:9-11; Mt 25:14-30



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Use this App to support our Clergy through the first collection and our Parish through the second collection. Donations can be made weekly, fortnightly,monthly or one-off.

Thank you for your continued contributions and support. Your financial contributions and your generous donations throughout the year are greatly appreciated.







The College was very busy this week with compassion, a love of learning and dedication exhibited by our student body. Many students involved with Zonta support women in remote regions of the developing world. This week they assembled birthing kits for the Birthing Kit Foundation Australia. These kits, accompanied by crucial educational resources, are destined to support these women. By promoting hygienic birthing practices, we empower these mothers to welcome their newborns into the world safely.

Our Year 11 Preliminary and HSC Legal Studies students embarked on a transformative learning experience at the Justice and Police Museum on Tuesday. They were exposed to a captivating mock trial that offered an intricate view of the NSW Legal System. The event allowed our senior students to engage with legal professionals and foster a deeper understanding of this field. As part of our Pathways Program, our Child Studies students participated in an Early Childhood Education Open Day on Wednesday in Cremorne. This engagement was part of our unique Traineeship Development Program, an invaluable opportunity for our students to interact with industry experts and expand their horizons in early childhood education.

education. The artistic prowess of our Year 11 Drama students took centre stage on Wednesday and Friday evenings, captivating the College community with a lively rendition of the "Complete Works of Shakespeare (Abridged)" in our Byrne Theatre. This condensed yet vibrant portrayal of Shakespeare's masterpieces enthralled the audience, offering a testament to our students' creative brilliance.

Friday was marked by our Year 9 Commerce students' entrepreneurial spirit, as they organised a Commerce

Parish Bulletin - Term 3, Week 5

Market Day within our Marana Complex. Showcasing a diverse array of 30 student-run businesses, this event exemplified their innovation and business acumen.

Demonstrating our commitment to charitable causes, we held a cupcake fundraiser on Friday in memory of a beloved student, aimed at raising funds for Kids Cancer. This outpouring of empathy and generosity stands as a testament to the character of our Mater Maria community.

The week also saw our Year 11 students presenting their leadership aspirations to our executive staff, their peers and teachers. Their speeches underpinned their commitment to servant leadership, inspired by the teachings of Jesus. We congratulate the exceptional individuals who have been selected as the 2024 College Prefects, Captains & Vice Captains embodying our core values. Throughout the term, our students have continued to demonstrate their sportsmanship and school spirit at various sporting events, including the Peninsula Cup Boys Rugby Union, Girls Soccer games, CSBB Golfing Championships and MWBA Basketball competitions. Their participation reflects the essence of teamwork and dedication here at Mater Maria. For those seeking to join our enriching educational journey, applications for

educational journey, applications for Year 7, 2026 and beyond are now open. While Year 7, 2024 and Year 7, 2025 have waiting lists in place, we encourage prospective students and parents to learn more about our offerings by visiting https://matermaria.nsw.edu.au. Our College values at Mater Maria Catholic College - Community – Hospitality – Justice – Spirituality – Stewardship – are touchstones for us in our journey of bringing our follow Jesus.



Parish Directory

Pittwater Parish 1 Keenan Street Mona Vale NSW 2103 Tel 9157 0999

Parish Priest

Fr Richard Sadowski SDS Tel 9157 0999 ext 10 pp@pittwaterparish.org

Assistant Priest

Fr Zygmunt Smigowski SDS Tel 9157 0999 ext 12 ap@pittwaterparish.org

Parish Secretary

Belinda Cimino Tel 9157 0999 ext 30 office@pittwaterparish.org

Director of Music

Josh Willard Tel 9157 0999 ext 17 music@pittwaterparish.org

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Sonia Samartin Tel 9157 0999 ext 13 sacraments@pittwaterparish.org

CCD Catechist Coordinators

Maureen Wooldridge Mobile 0421 907 469 Veronica Thomas Mobile 0417 061 534

Parish Office Hours Monday to Thursday 9.00 am to 4.00 pm Friday

9.00 am to 12.00 pm

Sacred Heart Church 1 Keenan Street Mona Vale Maria Regina Church 7 Central Road Avalon

MONA VALE

Sacred Heart School el 8197 6900 Principal: Mr Jamie Wahab

AVALON

Maria Regina School Tel 9918 2608 Principal: Miss Kirsty Thorpe

WARRIEWOOD

Mater Maria Catholic College Tel 9997 7044 Principal: Mr Marc Reicher

To be a Rock of Faith, We Must let our Thinking be Changed



Among the various Gospel readings that we have Sunday after Sunday, I think this particular lesson is one that every one of us probably feels we can easily be drawn into that situation, put ourselves there with the disciples as Jesus says,

drawn into that situation, put ourselves there with the disciples as Jesus says, "Who do people say I am?" And I think it's easy to imagine how they must have kind of chatted with one another, "Well, what have you heard? What have I heard?" And they come up then with these answers: "Some say you're John the Baptist." That would be John risen from the dead because he had been put to death by Herod, and Herod was very frightened of that possibility.

The construction of the second second

There are many various commentaries about this Gospel lesson that then speak about this rock upon which Jesus builds the church, and the most ancient commentary understood that Peter was a type of every disciple, of every one of us. So if we can say, "You are the Christ, the son of the living God," Jesus is saying to us, "This is a gift of faith. God has helped you to know this." And so as a disciple, each one of us can also say, "Yes, Jesus is the Christ."

So it's the whole church, every disciple, who responds to this question by saying to Jesus, "You are the Christ." That's the rock of which the church is built, the rock of the faith of all of us. It's not just Peter and his faith that is the rock on which the church is built. This is reinforced just a couple of chapters later in Matthew's Gospel, where Matthew has Jesus saying to all of the disciples, "I say to you, whatever you bind on earth, heaven will keep bound. Whatever you unbind on earth, heaven will keep unbound.

And so we, who are the church, are the rock foundation. Our faith is a rock foundation of the community of disciples of Jesus. And of course, that's for each of us a blessing, a grace that God has enabled us to have this faith. It's a gift to be able to say about Jesus, who was fully human, "You are the Christ, the son of the living God." But when we do make

that pronunciation of faith and claim then our discipleship, we are part of this church of community of disciples throughout the whole world on who the church depends as the rock. The church is built on us as the rock, and of course, I know we all are blessed because of this, but also it presents to us a very real challenge as disciples of Jesus to follow him, to accept his teachings, to live according to his way. It's very strange, almost, that Peter, the one who is the first to proclaim his faith in Jesus, in a very short time shows his inadequacy ... Shortly after this happened, Matthew tells us, "From that day, Jesus began to make it clear to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem. "He would be handed over to his enemies, suffer many things from the Jewish authorities, that he would be killed, and be raised on the third day." And when Jesus said this to the disciples, Peter immediately objects. Peter took Jesus aside and began to reproach him: "Never, no! This must not happen to you." See, I think Jesus is trying to show Peter the way that Jesus wanted his disciples to follow him so that when he's handed over to his enemies, he doesn't take up the sword to fight back. He allows himself to be tortured, executed, be put to death.

And when Peter objected, Jesus says to Peter, "Get behind me, you Satan! You're a stumbling block! You are an obstacle. You are not thinking as God does, but as people do." Even though Peter is the first disciple among all the disciples and is the beginning of this rock on which the whole church is built, he finds it difficult to accept the way of Jesus. See, this is the time, it's toward the end of the public life of Jesus, and there are huge followings, and some of the disciples have begun to think that Jesus is going to be a warrior king like David. He will lead an army to overthrow the Roman occupiers, and that's what Jesus is rejecting -- any kind of violence, any kind of war that would try to correct kind of war that would try to correct injustice or violence by more violence, and that's what Peter couldn't accept. Jesus then goes on to say, "If you want to be my disciple, deny your very self and follow me. Follow me, my way of love, rejecting all violence." And just as that was very hard for Peter to accept -- and probably the other disciples, too, although Peter was the one who spoke out -- it's very hard for us to who spoke out -- it's very hard for us to accept. But if we're really going to be that rock of faith that is the foundation of the whole church, we must try to let ourselves be changed in our thinking. Pope Francis spoke at a homily: "How many conflicts, how many wars have marked our history? Even today, we raise our hand against our brothers and sisters. We have perfected our weapons, but our conscience has fallen asleep, and we have sharpened our ideas to justify ourselves as if it were normal. We continue to sew destruction, pain, death. Violence and war lead only to death. That's the message that Jesus proclaims in the Gospel today when he accepts the faith of Peter, but then challenges Peter to "follow me; reject violence and killing." Bring about the transformation of our world into the reign of God only through the transforming power of love.

This is what Jesus did as he died on the cross. He reaches out in love to those putting him to death. And that's the spirit we must begin to develop within our own hearts, our own spirit, if we are going to be that rock, that faith upon which our church throughout the world is built, and will endure to bring about God's peace in its fullness at some point. By: Thomas Gumbleton

National Catholic Reporter

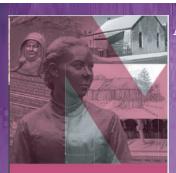


Australia's Catholic bishops have called on the nation to seek "a new engagement" with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in their annual Social Justice Statement for 2023-24.

Since the 1940s, the bishops have published annual statements that urge the Catholic community to reflect and act on social, economic and ecological issues. The statements are published as a focal point for Social Justice Sunday, which will be marked on August 27 this year.

This year's statement, Listen, Learn, Love: A New Engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, was launched in western Sydney on August 17 by Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv, chair of the Bishops Commission for Social Justice, Mission and Service. "One of the objectives of this statement is that we want Catholics to understand that Catholic social teaching and Catholic social action are not simply theoretical and academic exercises," he said. "We hear what God is saying to us about justice by being with our sisters and brothers on the peripheries of society." For information please go to this website: socialjustice.catholic.org.au

Welcome to Pittwater Parish Reggie Thomas Kroon at Maria Regina Church Avalon on the 20th of August 2023 for the Sacrament of Baptism



IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF MARY MACKILLOP An Australian pilgrimage led by a Sister of Saint Joseph & the inaugural Director of the Mary Mackillop Heritage Centre Melbourne 17 October- 28 October 2023

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Check out our new **RCIA Banner**

" COME BACK TO ME WITH ALL YOUR HEART '

... a gentle invitation from Jesus Christ for us to enter into a deep relationship with him.

Please join us in our new RCIA program starting in September.

More information on our new website : www.pittwaterparish.org

Call us for more detail at : 02 9157 0999

There are "Pre-loved" and "Never been Worn" **First Communion Dresses** available in the Piety Store. All proceeds of the Piety Store go to St Vincent de Paul. All transactions are CASH only, as we do not have **EFTPOS** facilities. Any queries, please contact the Parish Office on 9157 0999.

Vinnies Piety Store



Our faithful parishioner

John Graham

A devout member of our Maria Regina community **Memorial Mass** Friday, 1st of September 2023 3 pm, Maria Regina Church



First Holy Eucharist Update

Children preparing to receive the First Eucharist are finalising their 4-week group preparation sessions. Next week, the rehearsals for the First Holy Eucharist are taking place as follows:

Tuesday, 29 August @ 4 pm Maria Regina, Avalon

Thursday, 31 August @ 3:30 pm or 4:30 pm Sacred Heart Church, Mona Vale Each session will run for 45 mins-1 hour

Children should attend the rehearsal at the same church they are booked in to receive their First Eucharist. A parent is to attend the rehearsal session with their child.

RCIA- New Programme to Start in September 2023

For many years we have been conducting RCIA in our Parish, but this year we have modernised and simplified the programme to make it easier for interested parties to follow the sessions in their busy life schedule. **RCIA stands for Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults** and is designed for people of any denomination who are interested to learn about our Catholic tradition; Catholics who simply want to be updated on their knowledge of faith and spirituality would also be most welcome to join. Those who are not baptised, as well as Christians of other denominations, will be invited to become full members of our Catholic Community at the end, at Easter 2024, when they receive the Sacraments of Initiation:

BAPTISM, CONFIRMATION AND HOLY EUCHARIST

If you head over to www.bbcatholic.org.au/pittwater There is a short video giving an introduction and touches on questions, potential candidates may have on their minds.

All are most welcome to join our informal group sessions.

Simply register your interest at the Parish Office, 9157 0999 or by email at office@pittwatterparish.org by Thursday, 31st August 2023.

The *Living* Word

Entrance Antiphon

Cf Psalm 85:1-3 Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me; save the servant who trusts in you, my God.

Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.

First Reading

Isaiah 22:19-23

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

I place the key of the House of David upon his shoulder. Thus says the Lord of hosts to Shebna, the master of the palace: I dismiss you from your office, I remove you from your post, and the same day I call on my servant Eliakim son of Hilkiah. I invest him with your robe, gird him with your sash, entrust him with your authority; and he shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and to the House of Judah. I place the key of the House of David on his shoulder; should he open, no one shall close, should he close, no one shall open. I drive him like a peg into a firm place; he will become a throne of glory for his father's house.

The word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm Ps 137:1-3. 6. 8. R. v.8

(R.) Lord, your love is eternal; do not forsake the work of your hands.

I thank you, Lord, with all my heart, you have heard the words of my mouth. Before the angels I will bless you. I will adore before your holy temple.. **(R)**

I thank you for your faithfulness and love which excel all we ever knew of you.On the day I called, you answered; you increased the strength of my soul.(R.)

The Lord is high yet he looks on the lowly and the haughty he knows from afar. Your love, O Lord, is eternal, discard not the work of your hands.(R.)

Second Reading Romans 11:33-36 A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

From him, through him, and in him are all things.

How rich are the depths of God – how deep his wisdom and knowledge – and how impossible to penetrate his motives or understand his methods! Who could ever know the mind of the Lord? Who could ever be his counsellor? Who could ever give him anything or lend him anything? All that exists comes from him; all is by him and for him. To him be glory for ever! Amen.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 16:18

Alleluia, alleluia! You are Peter, the rock on which I will build my Church; the gates of hell will not hold out against it. Alleluia!

Gospel Matthew 16:13-20 A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

You are Peter, to you I will give the keys of the kingdom of heaven. When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he said 'who do you say I am?' Then Simon Peter spoke up, 'You are the Christ,' he said, 'the Son of the living God.' Jesus replied, 'Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.' Then he gave the disciples strict orders not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.

The Gospel of the Lord

Communion Antiphon Cf Psalm 103:13-15

The earth is replete with the fruits of your work, O Lord; you bring forth bread from the earth and wine to cheer the heart.

REFLECTION

by Dianne Bergant CSA The readings highlight two different but related themes: the character of our understanding of Christ, and our understanding of discipleship that flows from it. Christological reflections reach a climax in the question posed to the disciples: Who do you say I am? In this *liturgical context, the same question is* posed to us. Who is this one who multiplies loaves of bread, who walks on turbulent waters, who breaks the boundaries that separate insider from outsider? It is none other than the messiah.

When Peter testified to Jesus' identity, it was a relevant religious and political statement, for messianic expectation was a burning question at that time. But what does it mean for the average Christian today? Many believers consider messianic expectation a theological theme that belongs to the past. They feel that it is difficult to get excited about the

coming of someone who we believe has already come and gone. If Jesus were to pose this question today, how would we answer?

Like Peter, we too may have good intentions, but when they are put to the test we realise that that was all that they were – good intentions. Still, we should not be discouraged by our weaknesses, for just as Peter's failure did not deter God from entrusting him with power and authority, so our failures need not be obstacles to God's grace in our lives. We watch God entrust the church to individuals who are weak and undependable, and we realise that judgments are inscrutable and God's ways unsearchable.

© Dianne Bergant CSA



SYDNEY **Broken Bay Cathedral Centre** Waitara 28 September - 1 October

The Most Reverend Bishop Anthony Randazzo "I am delighted the Diocese of Broken Bay will be hosting the Ignite Conference this year. Ignite is a dynamic event for students, young adults and their families. It provides wonderful opportunities for faith formation in a creative and fun environment while encountering the living Christ. Let's all pray the 2023 Ignite Conference brings new hope and life to the community of the Church."

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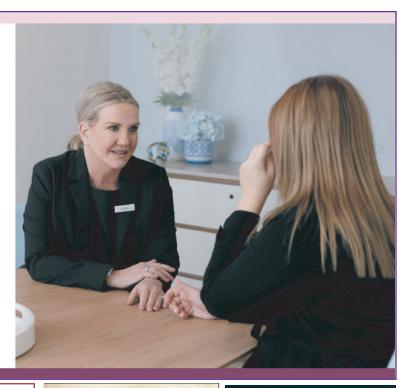
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