



The Catholic Parish of Pittwater

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

A Prayer for Advent

Lord, thank You for a fresh reminder that Advent, the period of waiting, not only defines who we are waiting for, but also defines us... the people who wait.

We experience this season by preparing our hearts and hopes for the arrival of your Son.

Oh Lord, will You give me wonder and imagination so I may once again enter the story of Your first coming? To see and experience anew the stories of Joseph and Mary, Elizabeth and Zechariah, the shepherds and Jesus' birth.

To make myself ready for the advent of when You return again. To fill my heart with wonder of Isaiah's proclamation.
"For unto us a child is born and a son is given...His name is Emmanuel...God with us."

I want to be involved in the story this year. I want to experience it in a new and fresh way, and by Your grace, learn the joy and wonder of waiting for You.

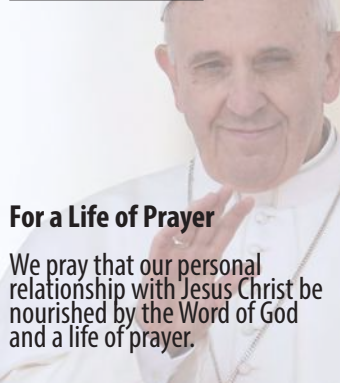


Thoughts of Fr Francis Jordan

Do everything as if you really saw God before you. This is a sure way to make great progress in virtue.



Pope Francis' Prayer Intentions For December



For a Life of Prayer

We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer.

If you have used this bulletin, please take it home with you.

Love your neighbour

Please wear a

MASK
for **MASS**

thank you

A warm welcome to all our parishioners and visitors who are celebrating the Eucharist with us at Pittwater Parish - Sacred Heart Church, Mona Vale and Maria Regina Church, Avalon

trybooking

To ensure that we fulfil the requirements of the 80 (Mona Vale) and 100 (Avalon) people limit, we would like you to use the Trybooking website to book for our **weekend Masses**.

There is no need to book for the weekday Masses.

The bookings are now open. Further weekend Masses will be added each week, taking into consideration any changes in government restrictions.

Here are some pointers that might help:

1. Once you have selected the Mass you would like to book for, you will need to enter the quantity of tickets at the bottom of the page. Then click NEXT.
2. Once you have read and agreed to the "Additional Information" you will need to select "YES" from the dropdown box that says "I Agree to the Terms Above"
3. You will then need to enter the First Name and the Last Name of each of the Attendees. Then click NEXT.
4. In the Checkout, you will need to complete all the fields, First Name, Last Name, Phone Number, Address, Suburb, Postcode and Email Address. Then click PURCHASE.
5. If you have completed the transaction successfully, you will see "Transaction Successful" on the following page and you will receive an email with the "ticket" to the Mass you have selected.
6. If you do not see "Transaction Successful" and you do not receive an email (please remember to check your junk email) then the items may still be in your cart and you may need to re-complete one of the steps.
7. You do not need to print the ticket. We will have your name on the "Ticket Holder List" for each Mass.

To book for our Masses at Sacred Heart Church, Mona Vale, please visit <https://www.trybooking.com/BJPSE>
To book for our Masses at Maria Regina Church, Avalon, please visit <https://www.trybooking.com/BJPSP>

Please do not hesitate to contact the Parish office 9157 0999 if you need any assistance.

Watch the daily Mass on Demand from Broken Bay's Cathedral at

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNenwlf7i14XB9TsVBrLvQ>

We hope that this will help the faithful to celebrate the Holy Mass online wherever you are

The Catholic Parish of Pittwater

We Pray for Recently Deceased

John (Kevin) Hayward
Edward Krawczyk

**Eternal Rest Grant Unto Them
O Lord, And Let Perpetual Light
Shine Upon Them.**

**May they Rest in Peace. Amen.
May Their Souls And The Souls
Of The Faithful Departed,
Through The Mercy Of God,
Rest In Peace. Amen.**

Deceased Anniversary

Maria Muon
Victor Cabanov
Paul Vlatko
Dr John Reynolds
Josip Juricev
Shirley Kelly
Trevor Newman

If you would like the names of your relatives or friends and offerings included, please drop the envelope in to the Parish Office by Midday on Wednesdays. Thank You.

Prayers for the Sick

Bill Eyre
Manny Zarb
Philip Maddrell
Gail Reiher
Imelda Vince
Eric Domagas
Vicky Villaluz
Ben Castillo
Moiria Howie
Carol Brennan
Jomar
Christine Hills
Donald McRae
Sara Zofrea
Beryl Peo-Duncan
John Andrew Graham
John Charles Graham
Michael Carrodus
Pat Regan
Robyn Sheather
Lynette Buhat
Candida Hernandez
Chin Quang Le
Gill Page
Tony Quatroville
Garry Gleeson
Elizabeth Kral

The names on this list will be removed after four weeks unless otherwise requested or advised. Thank you



Adoration & Benediction

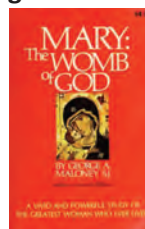


**MARIA REGINA CHURCH -
every Thursday
9am Exposition of the Blessed
Sacrament, Adoration and
Benediction at 9.45am.
Mass at 10am**

**SACRED HEART CHURCH -
every Thursday
Mass at 7pm followed by
Exposition of the Blessed
Sacrament, Adoration and
Benediction at 9pm.**

BOOK REVIEW

**Mary: The Womb
of God
George A. Maloney, S.J.**



This is a vivid and powerful study of the greatest woman who ever lived. Mary intercedes for the sinful and ignorant who live in darkness and absence of her Son, as only a mother can.

PLANNED GIVING

The money contributed to our parish via our second collection helps us to meet the running costs which our Parish incurs, including wages, electricity, telephones, insurances, rates, building and equipment repairs and maintenance, to name but a few. Whilst you are unable to attend Mass, if you are able to make your regular donation by way of automatic direct debit from your credit card, please complete the form included in this bulletin. Or donations can be made on our website: www.pittwaterparish.org through the donations and giving tile. If you would prefer not to give by credit card, please contact the parish office, 9157 0999 for other ways that you can contribute.



from Our Schools



**Mater Maria
Catholic College**

During this final week of term, we held our Presentation of Awards and End of Year Liturgy for students. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, parents were unfortunately unable to attend, students had to be seated apart and each year group had to be presented with their awards separately. Despite these restrictions, our Year 10 students produced a first-class video of the College events that had taken place for all the students to see. Our musical students played some amazing tunes and sung some beautiful carols and all students and teachers celebrated what has been a challenging year for so many of our Mater Maria community. We congratulate all the students who received an award for their efforts during the 2020 College year and look forward to welcoming them back in 2021.

Now that the New South Wales Government has announced an easing of COVID-19 restrictions, we have provided our Mater Maria community with the dates and details of all the Masses that will be taking place at our local parishes over the Christmas period.

As this was our final week of term for students, this is our last editorial in the Parish Bulletin for 2020. We would like to take this opportunity to wish all our students, families and the wider Mater Maria community a happy and safe Christmas and New Year.



Vinnies



Christmas Cards \$6 for a pack of 10 and Columban Calendars 2021 \$9 each.

All transactions are cash only, as we do not have EFTPOS facilities. Any queries, please call the Parish Office on 9157 0999.

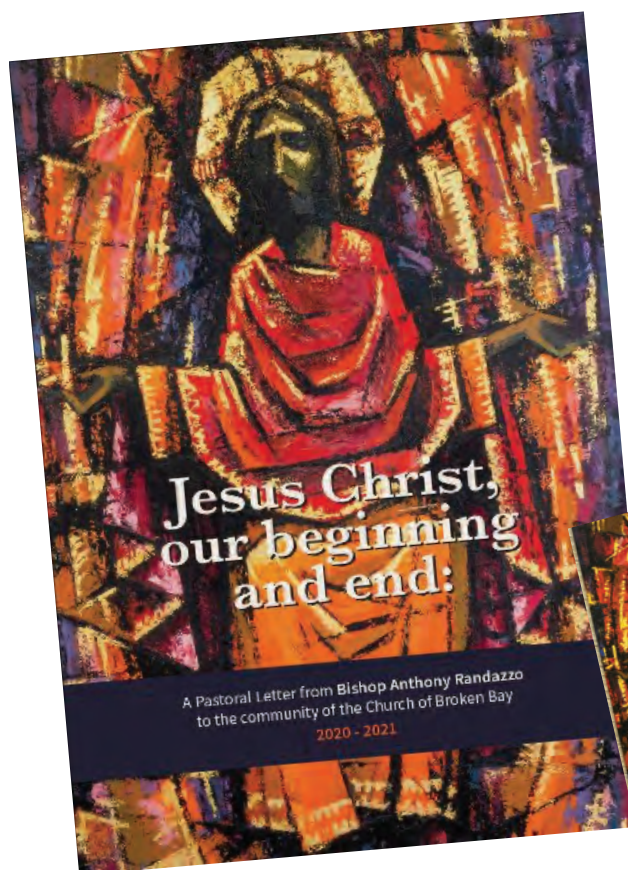
For the needy, help is available by contacting the Brookvale Centre 9905 0424 during business hours.



During this season of Advent, a season of hope, we are confident that God is merciful. We have this confidence because in every age, God has shown His justice and His mercy. To show mercy is to treat someone like they are one of the family. God, our loving Father most certainly treats us as His own children. Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, tells us that "God always waits for us, even when we have left Him behind! He is never far from us, and if we return to Him, He is ready to embrace us." During Advent, we hear the Prophets calling us to return to God and experience His mercy. We hear John the Baptist call us to repent and experience God's mercy. We anticipate the celebration of God's greatest act of mercy, the sending of His only Son, Jesus, to be with us. We encounter God's great mercy in the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation.

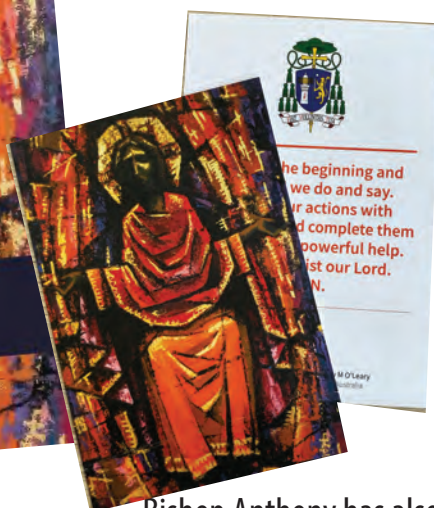
Advent is a wonderful time to celebrate the reconciling love and the healing graces our Lord offers us.

There will be the Sacrament of Reconciliation on 17 December 2020 at 7.30pm, Sacred Heart Church, Mona Vale
There will be Mass at 7pm, followed by Adoration, Reconciliation and Benediction.



**Jesus Christ, our beginning and end:
 A Pastoral Letter from Bishop Anthony Randazzo
 to the community of the Church of Broken Bay
 2020 – 2021**

Hard copies of the Pastoral Letter book and an accompanying prayer card are available at the back of Church.



Bishop Anthony has also composed a prayer and a Mass Intention card also available at the back of Church.

Prepare for the Lord Jesus

3rd Sunday of Advent, Year B



Who is John the Baptist?

Indicate whether each answer is either true or false



The cousin of Jesus



True



False



A pharisee



True



False



Elijah



True



False



The son of Elizabeth



True



False



A preacher



True



False



The Messiah



True



False

Decipher the message that John the Baptist gave to the priests and temple helpers



use



2



The third Sunday in Advent is called Gaudete Sunday; the Sunday of Joy! How can we share our joy for the arrival of Jesus at Christmas?

PARISH DIRECTORY

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Bishop Bernard O'Grady op
Tel 9918 0372

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Music Director
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Sacramental Program
Suzy Caruso
Tel 9157 0999 ext 13
sacraments@pittwaterparish.org

Parish Office Hours
Monday to Thursday
9.00am to 4.00pm
Friday 9am to 12 noon

Sacred Heart Church
1 Keenan Street Mona Vale

Maria Regina Church
7 Central Road Avalon

Mona Vale
Sacred Heart School
Tel 9999 3264
Principal: Mrs Suellen Garey

Avalon
Maria Regina School
Tel 9918 2608
Principal: Mrs Kathy Gee

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

We acknowledge the lifelong trauma of abuse victims, survivors and their families, the failures of the Catholic Church to protect, believe and respond justly to children and vulnerable adults, and the consequent breach of community trust.

Even though the restrictions in NSW have eased and Churches can now have up to 300 people attending, the one person per two-square metre rule still applies. This means that the capacity of our Churches remains at 160 for Sacred Heart Church, Mona Vale and 200 for Maria Regina Church, Avalon.

It is our responsibility to protect others and ourselves and stop the spread of COVID-19 in Australia.

We will continue to record names and contact details of those present at services along with the date and time they attend, as required by NSW health.

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

As we move towards living COVIDSafe, it is important that you **stay at home if you feel unwell**. If you have cold or flu like symptoms, such as a fever, cough, sore throat, runny nose or shortness of breath, you should seek medical advice and get tested for COVID-19. You should get tested even if your symptoms are mild, and **do not come to Church.**

To read the messages from Bishop Anthony and from the people Vox Populi please go to www.pittwaterparish.org. News and events tile and Messages from Bishop Anthony on the drop down menu.

Everyone must also stay 1.5 metres away from other people whenever possible. Please sit only in the marked seats.

If you have a coughing episode in Church, we advise you to step out to the courtyard, or the parish centre, away from others for the moment.

MASK for MASS
The use of face masks is encouraged to keep our communities safe during this time.

If you have been overseas or interstate in the last 14 days, or have been in contact with a confirmed case of Covid 19 in the last 14 days, have been a hotspot vicinity, or awaiting a Covid - 19 test result, as much as we would like you to be with us here in Church, we appreciate your prayers more than your presence in this situation. For the up to date information on the Covid 19 hotspots visit: [www.https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/latest-news-and-updates](https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/latest-news-and-updates)



Vinnies

Vinnies Christmas Appeal

Dear Parishioners,

The Avalon and Mona Vale St Vincent De Paul conferences are again seeking your generosity in supporting this year's Christmas Appeal. Our basic commitment is, as always, visiting the poor and disadvantaged in our parish, and rendering appropriate assistance and care. We are also called upon to support special works of the Society including support for the homeless (Matthew Talbot Hostel), refugees and our "Youth Reach" centre at Brookvale. Our conferences also assist other conferences in our Broken Bay diocese who are overrun with families experiencing extreme difficulties including family separation, unemployment, children at risk and domestic violence. Our conferences are also "twinned" with conferences in India in districts where poverty and homelessness are extreme and we are committed to a small annual contribution, on your behalf to help ease their burden. Your tax deductible donation in the envelopes provided, may be placed in the piety stall – tax receipts will be issued if requested. Donations can also be made at the Vinnies website – vinnies.org.au. Thank you for your generosity.

For the needy, help is available by contacting the Brookvale Centre 9905 0424 during business hours.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES 2020

Thursday
24

CHRISTMAS EVE

Maria Regina Church
4.00pm & 6.00pm
Family Masses

9.00pm
Mass of the Night

Sacred Heart School Grounds
5.00pm
Family Mass
9.00pm
Youth Mass

Sacred Heart Church
Midnight Mass

Friday
25

CHRISTMAS DAY

Maria Regina Church
8.00am & 10.00am

Sacred Heart School Grounds
8.00am and 10.00am

To book for our Masses at Sacred Heart Church, Mona Vale, please visit <https://www.trybooking.com/BJPSE>

To book for our Masses at Maria Regina Church, Avalon, please visit <https://www.trybooking.com/BJPSP>

Please do not hesitate to contact the Parish office 9157 0999 if you need assistance.



The *Living* Word

Entrance Antiphon

Phil 4:4-5

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice.
Indeed, the Lord is near.

First Reading

Is 61:1-2, 10-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

I exult for joy in the Lord.

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me,
for the Lord has anointed me.
He has sent me to bring good news to the poor,
to bind up hearts that are broken;
to proclaim liberty to captives,
freedom to those in prison;
to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord.
'I exult for joy in the Lord,
my soul rejoices in my God,
for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation,
he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity,
like a bridegroom wearing his wreath,
like a bride adorned in her jewels.
'For as the earth makes fresh things grow,
as a garden makes seeds spring up,
so will the Lord make both integrity and praise
spring up in the sight of the nations.'

The word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

Lk 1:46-50, 53-54. R. Is 61:10

(R.) My soul rejoices in my God.

My soul glorifies the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.
He looks on his servant in her nothingness;
henceforth all ages will call me blessed. (R.)

The Almighty works marvels for me.
Holy his name!
His mercy is from age to age,
on those who fear him. (R.)

He fills the starving with good things,
sends the rich away empty.
He protects Israel, his servant,
remembering his mercy. (R)

Second Reading

1 Thes 5:16-24

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

May you all be kept blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus. Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything – hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil. May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you.

The word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Is 61:1 (Lk 4:18)

Alleluia, alleluia!
The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.
Alleluia.

Gospel

Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

There stands among you, unknown to you, the one who is coming after me.

A man came, sent by God.
His name was John.
He came as a witness,
as a witness to speak for the light,
so that everyone might believe through him.
He was not the light,
only a witness to speak for the light.
This is how John appeared as a witness.
When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then,' they asked, 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not,' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied:

a voice that cries in the wilderness:
'Make a straight way for the Lord.'
Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

The Gospel of the Lord

Communion Antiphon

Cf. Is 35:4

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear.
Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

Traditionally, the third Sunday of Advent is called Gaudete Sunday, the Sunday of Joy. The joy of this Sunday comes both from the message of the readings and from the anticipation that Christmas is nearing. As described in the Isaian passage, the Messiah is the one imbued with the spirit and with the power of the prophet, the one who will fulfill the promises of God. It becomes obvious in the Gospel that the Messiah is the one proclaimed by the Baptist. John cleared a path for the coming of the anointed one, and from that time on the lives of believers have been the pathway through which the Messiah has entered the world.

Pray
without
ceasing.
1 Thessalonians 5:17

Parish Christmas Candle 2020



Handmade candles. These candles will be a good way in which we can connect with those family and friends that we are unable to celebrate in person with this year due to Covid. They also make great Christmas gifts.

Please support our parish finances. Available for sale after Masses or from the Parish Office from 12 December for **\$15 each**.

CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES – NATIVITY PLAY



Sam Browne is looking for children to volunteer to take part in the Christmas Eve Masses this year at Maria Regina Church at 4.00pm and 6.00pm. She would like to invite any students who would like to be involved in the Nativity Play.

As there are two Christmas Eve Masses this year it is important that you nominate which Mass you would like to attend and don't forget to book your family in via Trybooking.

Please contact Sam for more details or if you would like your child/children to be involved.

**Email: sammeebrowne@hotmail.com
Mobile: 0401 343 569**



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Liturgy for the Week

14/12 Monday St John of the Cross,
priest, doctor
Num 24:2-7, 15-17; Mt 21:23-27
(Alt. 1 Cor 2:1-10; Lk 14:25-33)

15/12 Tuesday 3rd Week of Advent
Zeph 3:1-2, 9-13; Mt 21:28-32

16/12 Wednesday 3rd Week of Advent
Is 45:6-8, 18, 21-26; Lk 7:19-23

17/12 Thursday 3rd Week of Advent
Gen 49:2, 8-10; Mt 1:1-17

18/12 Friday 3rd Week of Advent
Jer 23:5-8; Mt 1:18-24

19/12 Saturday 3rd Week of Advent
Judges 13:2-7, 24-25; Lk 1:5-25

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