



The Catholic Parish of Pittwater

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

The Meaning of Christmas

far away in Bethlehem,
a Baby Boy was born;
Born with neither riches
nor with fame.

Yet Wise men came from all around
to bring Him their gifts.
And peace was felt by all who heard
His name.

Angels watched Him as He slept,
and gently rocked His bed;
Their voices singing softly in His ear;

His Mother and His Father
both gave thanks to God for the
greatest gift of all, their Son,
so dear.

They knew His life upon this earth
would not be filled with wealth.

They also knew He would
encounter strife;
But most of all they knew that He
would be a loving Child, and teach
the love of God throughout His life.

At Christmas, as we celebrate this
Birth of Jesus Christ.

Let's keep in mind the truth of
Christmas Day:

For it's not Christmas wrappings
nor the gifts that lay within, but
our gift of love in every way.

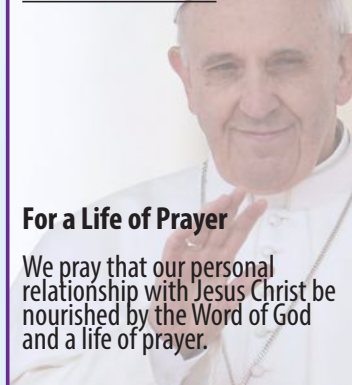


Thoughts of Fr Francis Jordan

O Lord, help me, show me the way! Without you, I can do nothing.
I hope all things from You. In you, O Lord, I have hoped, I will not be
confounded for ever.



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

We encourage you to 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

Marian McDuff

**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

**Leticia Buhat
Marté Spadina
Lujka Spadina
Rosina Butera
Mara Vlatko
Peta Vlatko
Francesco & Maria Romeo
Annamaria & Antonio Lentini
Grace Prato
Michele Mete
Giuseppe Cervonaro
Alfonso & Elia Muoio
Maria Monteleone
Sam Maletta
Bruno Romeo
Joe Romeo
Neville Pikulich**

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
Moirá 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

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.



Share the News

*Our Churches-
Sacred Heart and
Maria Regina are open.*

Come for Mass.

Come and pray.

Come and light a candle.

Come sit and find peace.

Mary Star of the Sea Prayer Cards

The Prayer Cards, featuring a prayer written by Bishop Anthony, feature our Patroness of the Diocese of Broken Bay, Mary Star of the Sea. There is room on the prayer card to write your intentions. They can be used in the parish for the community to pray together or individually.



LIBRARY

Now that the restrictions have been lifted concerning the opening of churches, although at present only 100 people, we can access the Library. You are very welcome to browse the vast assortment of books and DVDs in the Parish Library at Maria Regina after the daily and weekend Masses. Books and DVDs will still be reviewed in the Bulletin. If you have an inquiry you may phone me on 99183973 (Home) 0401613643 (mobile).

Trish Newman

Vinnies

**Vinnies
changes
lives
everyday.**

Show your support and
give to our annual appeal



**Christmas Cards \$6 for a pack of 10
and Columbian 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.**

BOOK REVIEW

**Miracles do Happen:
a priest called Smith
by Ernie Smith**



Ernie was heavily involved with the Sacred Heart Mission of West St. Kilda. The Mission provided meals for the needy and later became known as "Open House". Ernie recalls events that gave him great insight – so miracles do happen. Very interesting reading.



The Catholic Parish of Pittwater

Sacred Heart Church & Maria Regina Church. Entrusted to the care of the Salvatorians

Dear Parishioners,

Given the recent concerning COVID19 outbreak in the Northern Beaches area and the directions provided by the NSW Government for people living in the Northern Beaches Local Government Area to avoid visiting places of worship from Friday 18 December to Sunday 20 December 2020, the Bishop has asked that all our churches in the Parishes of Pittwater, The Lakes, Warringah, North Harbour, and Manly-Freshwater be closed for this weekend.

The Bishop has also lifted the obligation for the faithful to participate in Sunday Mass (can.1247) for the people of the Northern Beaches for this weekend.

We will livestream our Masses from our parish this weekend, on Saturday 19 December 2020 at 5pm and Sunday 20 December 2020 at 10am. To watch the livestream of these Masses, please visit <https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/pittwater/news-events/parish-news>

The situation will be reviewed early next week and we will advise as soon as possible any changes to the plans for our Christmas Masses in our parish Churches at Avalon and Mona Vale.

This week's bulletin, for the Fourth Sunday of Advent is now available for download from our Parish website <https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/pittwater/news-events/bulletins>

As our parish, is entrusted to the care of the Salvatorians, we pray to the founder of the Salvatorians, Fr Francis Mary of the Cross Jordan, and also to St Mary of the Cross Mackillop, our first Australian Saint, to intercede for our parish community at this time.

Yours in Christ,

Fr Bronek Pietrusewicz SDS
Parish Priest

Light of Hope

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As we lit our little Advent wreath at home each night this week during our family prayer time, we all wondered if that first candle is big enough to last until Christmas. A little debate ensued, with everyone pitching in suggestions... one person said we should only light it on Sundays, then it would definitely last. Another suggested we turn on a different purple candle each night, so we give that one little candle a break.

I didn't like either of those solutions. For those not familiar with Advent wreaths, they have four candles, each representing one of the four weeks of Advent. The four candles traditionally represent hope, faith, joy, and peace. Each Sunday of Advent, one more candle is lit. The light gets brighter and brighter as we approach the birth of Jesus, who is the Light of the world.

So, the way I see it, the first candle of Advent, the one that symbolises hope, needs to be lit every night, and it needs to last all the way until Christmas. I "suggested" (Mom's suggestions carry a lot of weight around here) that we should try lighting it only for the last part of the prayer, when we are sharing our intentions and prayer requests. Maybe we can make it last by lighting it up for a shorter time each night. I am not sure how that will work out; we'll have to wait to find out.

I find it interesting that the candle that is in danger of extinction is the Light of Hope. As I was pondering about this, the lyrics from one of my favorite Advent hymns, Night of Silence, by Daniel Kantor came to mind:

*Cold are the people, Winter of life,
We tremble in shadows this cold endless night,
Frozen in the snow lie roses sleeping,
Flowers that will echo the sunrise,
Fire of hope is our only warmth,
Weary, its flame will be dying soon.*

*Voice in the distance, Call in the night,
On wind you enfold us you speak of the light,
Gentle on the ear you whisper softly,
Rumors of a dawn so embracing,
Breathless love awaits darkened souls,
Soon will we know of the morning.*

*Spirit among us, Shine like the star,
Your light that guides shepherds and kings from afar,
Shimmer in the sky so empty, lonely,
Rising in the warmth of your Son's love,
Star unknowing of night and day,
Spirit we wait for your loving Son.*

- Daniel Kantor

This song has always tugged at the strings of my heart. There is a great truth here. When I look at the world, with all the chaos, confusion, all the sin and darkness, I see hearts weary, running out of hope. Hope... isn't that what everyone needs? Isn't that what we have to ensure we don't run out of?

The first night we lit the Advent candle, it burned faster than the second night. The difference was that the second night we turned the ceiling fan off. We noticed that when the flame was still and calm, it burned slower and lasted longer.

Hearts weary with the storms of life need to be tended to gently. We must provide shelter from the wind, and then share a little hope. A simple word of encouragement, a smile, a kind gesture... these are concrete things we can do for each other always, but especially during Advent, a time of year when many do struggle with loneliness, when many begin to lose hope. "Whom shall I send?" (Isaiah 6:8). "Here is my servant whom I uphold, my chosen one with whom I am pleased... a dimly burning wick he will not quench" (42:1,3).

But how can we do this if our own flame is weary? We must first kindle the fire of love in our own hearts. "Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of us Your faithful and kindle in us the fire of Your love. Send forth Your Spirit and we shall be created. And You shall renew the face of the earth." We need grace. We need the Sacraments. We need the Eucharist. We need prayer. We need to avail ourselves of every single opportunity to flame that fire. Much is at stake... the world needs our hope.

With each new candle of Advent, we pray for an increase in hope, faith, joy, and peace. These gifts we are given, as grace, are not just for us. They are meant to build us up, to strengthen us, so we can encourage one another, so we can build each other up.

For all of you are children of the light and children of the day. We are not of the night or of darkness. Therefore, let us not sleep as the rest do, but let us stay alert and sober... But since we are of the day, let us be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love and the helmet that is hope for salvation... Therefore, encourage one another and build one another up, as indeed you do. (1 Thessalonians 5:5-6,8,11)

The Candle of Hope in the Advent wreath needs to last only until Christmas. After that day we don't need it anymore, for we will have the fulfillment of what we are hoping for, the birth of Our Saviour, Emmanuel... God with us. The light of Hope in each of our hearts needs to last until He returns. "I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing!" (Luke 12:49).

So I am still wondering, will the candle on our wreath last until Christmas? ... One can only hope.

Parish Pastoral Council
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 matthyland100@yahoo.com.au

Pittwater Parish Ministries

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 Co-Directors
 Maureen Wooldridge - 9997 4694
 Veronica Thomas -
 veronicathomas2009@gmail.com

Evangelisation Ministry
 Erich Ott (Coordinator RCIA)
 0409 124 840
 Sr Margaret Collis - 9974 4116
 Sue Berg - 0419 991 781
 (Coordinators Adult Faith Education/
 Formation)

Legion of Mary
 Connie Robinson - Director
 0458 007 706

Little Hearts Playgroup
 Co-Directors-Marie Bockman -
 mbockman@hotmail.com
 Maureen Wooldridge - 9997 4694

Media & Communication Ministry
 Laura Ee - Director
 media@pittwaterparish.org

Music Ministry
 Josh Willard - Director
 9157 0999 ext 17

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 Communion to the Sick Ministry**
 Co-Directors
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 Marie Bockman -
 mbockman@hotmail.com

Parish Library
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 9918 3973

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 sacraments@pittwaterparish.org

Social Justice Ministry
 Tamara Harding - Director
 0403 226 699
 www.facebook.com/pages/Pittwa-
 ter-Friends-Of-Soibada/162612300466694

Youth Ministry
 soul@pittwaterparish.org or
 Josh Willard (Soul Youth)
 music@pittwaterparish.org

*All our Ministries comply with Working With
 Children Check requirements*

*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.*

**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.**

**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.**

For all Christmas Outdoor Masses

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

**alternatively, you can sign in using
 the QR code on the day.**

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

**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>**



**Broken Bay News and
 Catholic Weekly are
 available at the back of
 both Churches.**



**The Parish Office will
 be closed for Christmas
 from 12pm on Thursday
 24 December 2020
 the office will reopen on
 Monday 11 January 2020**



**From Monday
 11 January to Wednesday
 27 January 2020,
 the office will be open:
 Monday to Friday
 from 9am to 12noon.**

Help needed to set up for Christmas Eve Outdoor Mass

**If you are able to volunteer your time on Thursday
 24 December from 9am to set up and prepare the
 venue for our Christmas Eve Masses, please call the
 Parish Office on 9157 0999**

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES 2020



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



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

Cf. Is 45:8

Drop down dew from above, you heavens,
and let the clouds rain down the Just One;
let the earth be opened and bring forth a
Saviour.

First Reading

2 Sm 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16

A reading from the second book of Samuel
*The kingdom of David will be established for
ever in the sight of the Lord.*

Once David had settled into his house and the Lord had given him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent'. Nathan said to the king, 'Go and do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you.' But that very night the word of the Lord came to Nathan:

'Go and tell my servant David, "Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader of my people Israel; I have been with you on all your expeditions; I have cut off all your enemies before you. I will give you fame as great as the fame of the greatest on earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel; I will plant them there and they shall dwell in that place and never be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked continue to oppress them as they did, in the days when I appointed judges over my people Israel; I will give them rest from all their enemies. The Lord will make you great; the Lord will make you a House. And when your days are ended and you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make his sovereignty secure. I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever."' "

The word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 88:2-5, 27, 29, R. see v.2

**(R.) For ever I will sing the goodness of
the Lord.**

I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord;
through all ages my mouth will proclaim your
truth.
Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever,
that your truth is firmly established as the
heavens **(R.)**

'I have made a covenant with my chosen one;
I have sworn to David my servant:
I will establish your dynasty for ever
and set up your throne through all ages.' **(R.)**

He will say to me: 'You are my father,
my God, the rock who saves me.'
I will keep my love for him always;
for him my covenant shall endure. **(R)**

Second Reading

Rom 16:25-27

**A reading from the letter of St Paul to the
Romans**

*The mystery kept secret for endless ages is
now revealed.*

Glory to him who is able to give you the
strength to live according to the Good News I
preach, and in which I proclaim Jesus Christ,

the revelation of a mystery kept secret for
endless ages, but now so clear that it must be
broadcast to pagans everywhere to bring them
to the obedience of faith. This is only what
scripture has predicted, and it is all part of the
way the eternal God wants things to be. He
alone is wisdom; give glory therefore to him
through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Lk 1:38

Alleluia, alleluia!
I am the servant of the Lord:
may his will for me be done.
Alleluia.

Gospel

Lk 1:26-38

**A reading from the holy Gospel according
to Luke**

You will conceive and bear a son.

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town
in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin
 betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the
House of David; and the virgin's name was
Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, so
highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She
was deeply disturbed by these words and
asked herself what this greeting could mean,
but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be
afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen!
You are to conceive and bear a son, and you
must name him Jesus. He will be great and
will be called Son of the Most High. The
Lord God will give him the throne of his
ancestor David; he will rule over the House
of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no
end.' Mary said to the angel, 'But how can
this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The
Holy Spirit will come upon you' the angel
answered 'and the power of the Most High
will cover you with its shadow. And so the
child will be holy and will be called Son of
God. Know this too: your kinswoman
Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself
conceived a son, and she whom people called
barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing
is impossible to God.' 'I am the handmaid of
the Lord,' said Mary 'let what you have said
be done to me.' And the angel left her.

The Gospel of the Lord

Communion Antiphon

Is 7:14

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a
son;
and his name will be called Emmanuel.

REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

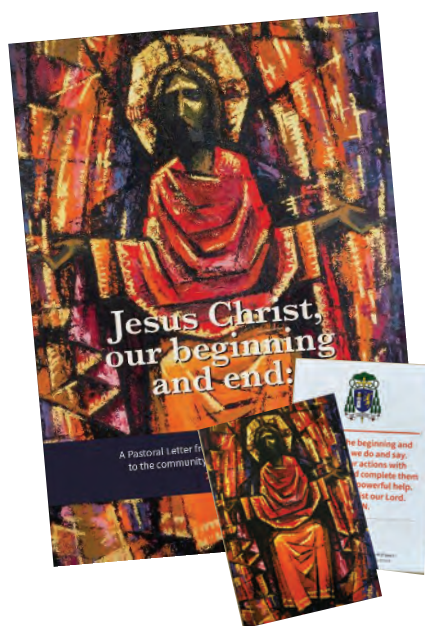
*The world in which we live and the events of which we
are a part are the stage upon which the drama of
salvation is enacted. God works through real flesh and
blood people, those like David, who occupy the seats
of power and influence as well as those like Mary and
us, who are unseen and unknown. All can be agents of
salvation. God's future is in our hands. Human history
is really the history of salvation. Each turn of God's
revealing causes us to wonder at what might come
next. In this tension, mystery is revealed. What was*

*hidden is now made known. Jesus establishes a people
of covenant promise. Still, the mystery is unknown, for
it continues to come to us from the future, revealing
more and more of itself in the junctures of history.
The waiting of Advent is over. In the face of the
impossible, God works the possible. During Advent,
we have been waiting for the realisation of the promise
made to David. We have been waiting for Mary's yes.
With this yes, hope is enlivened, and history is
changed. There is an unimaginable future for all
people, a future that comes from God. Salvation is
created among us, and the fate of history is altered by
a godly presence. This salvation resides in the hearts
of those who believe in the gift, and who stay awake
eagerly to know its coming. With David we await it,
with the nations we long for it, with Mary we behold it.*

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.)

**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, or download on
www.bbcatholic.org.au



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Liturgy for the Week

21/12 Monday 4th Week of Advent
Song 2:8-14 or Zeph 3:14-18; Lk 1:39-45

22/12 Tuesday 4th Week of Advent
1 Sam 1:24-28; Lk 1:46-56

23/12 Wednesday 4th Week of Advent
Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24; Lk 1:57-66

24/12 Thursday 4th Week of Advent
Gen 49:2, 8-10; Mt 1:1-17

25/12 Friday The Nativity of the Lord
Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25;
Mt 1:1-25
Night: Is 9:1-7; Titus 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14;
Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Titus 3:4-7;
Lk 2:15-20;
Day: Is 52:7-10; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18

26/12 Saturday St Stephen, the first martyr
Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59; Mt 10:17-22

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