



# The Catholic Parish of Pittwater

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

*Pope Francis'  
Prayer to Mary  
during the  
coronavirus pandemic*

O Mary, you always shine  
on our path as a sign of  
salvation and of hope.  
We entrust ourselves to  
you, Health of the Sick,  
who at the cross took part  
in Jesus' pain,  
keeping your faith firm.  
You, Salvation of all People,  
know what we need, and  
we are sure you will  
provide so that,  
as in Cana of Galilee,  
we may return to joy and  
to feasting after this  
time of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine  
Love, to conform  
to the will of the Father  
and to do as we are told  
by Jesus, who has taken  
upon himself our sufferings  
and carried our sorrows  
to lead us, through the  
cross, to the joy  
of the resurrection.

Amen.



## Thoughts of Fr Francis Jordan

We must diligently and wisely use all ways and means which  
the love of Christ inspires to glorify God.



Dear Parishioners of Pittwater Parish,

As you know, our Bishop of Broken Bay, Bishop Anthony Randazzo, has suspended all public Masses until further notice. (*His full letter to the people of the Diocese is included in this bulletin*). Although all Masses are suspended, I want to make sure that you are aware of all the things our parish can still offer you during this time.

This year our parish is focusing on prayer. We have already been speaking about how important prayer is in our Christian life. At this time when we are impacted by the effects of COVID-19, I particularly want to encourage you to make time to pray. In our liturgical season of Lent, we have been asked to pray, give alms and fast. I invite you as individuals and families to get together and to strengthen our domestic Church by praying together as a household, to be open to the needs of our neighbours, be willing to help as much as possible and to make some sacrifices and offer them to God for the intentions of others.

*continued next page...*

Our churches, Maria Regina Church, Avalon and Sacred Heart Church, Mona Vale will be opened for private prayer and personal devotion. As Bishop Anthony has suggested, you may wish to pray the Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary, asking for the grace that we need in our Church and in our world at this time. You may choose to read the Bible or meditate on the Way of the Cross. There are also the Sundays readings and reflection included in the bulletin each week. We will continue to offer Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Thursdays, between 9am and 11am at Maria Regina Church, Avalon and between 7pm and 9pm at Sacred Heart Church, Mona Vale. Please adhere to the government regulations, gather only in small groups and maintain a safe distance from each other.

Although public Masses in our Diocese of Broken Bay are suspended for the time being, Fr Richard and myself will continue to celebrate the Holy Mass privately and are still ready and willing to serve you. Any scheduled Mass intentions will be fulfilled in this way. Therefore, if you would like to offer a Mass intention, such as for someone who is sick, recently deceased, deceased anniversary or any other special intention, you can organise these through our parish office. We will of course, keep you, our valued parishioners, in our prayers constantly and as the parish priest, I will continue to fulfil my obligation to celebrate one Mass on the weekend for you, the parishioners entrusted in my pastoral care.

We would like to be able to contact you in order to update you on new regulations and any changes, with ways that the Parish can support you during this difficult time and to provide you with resources as they become available. If you would like to stay informed, please ensure that our parish office has your name, email address and telephone number. You can email these details to our parish at [office@pittwaterparish.org](mailto:office@pittwaterparish.org) or call 91570999.

For those that would like to participate in Mass, daily Mass on demand can be streamed online at <https://www.youtube.com/user/cathnews>

We are working on ways that you can join us in spiritual communion from your own homes and include you in our parish celebrations and we hope to share these with you soon.

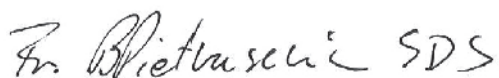
In cases of emergency, Fr Richard and myself are available for anointing of the sick and individual confession. Please do not hesitate to contact our parish office to organise the visit.

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. As we are unable to donate via our second collection at present, our parish will not receive the funds which are truly needed to cover our relentless stream of expenses. 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. The "Tap and Go Devices" are also available at the back of our Mona Vale Church to support our parish. If you would prefer not to give by credit card, please contact the parish office for other ways that you can contribute.

Our Parish office continues to be open and the staff will be happy to assist. The parish bulletin will continue to be produced each week to keep you informed and will be available on our website [www.pittwaterparish.org](http://www.pittwaterparish.org) and at the back of our Churches.

Although the Mass is at the heart of our lives as Catholics and to be deprived of the Mass is a great sacrifice, I pray that this temporary lack of the Eucharist will deepen our need for Jesus, the Bread of Life. Let us put our trust in God during these challenging times and let us keep praying for each other and especially for those who are selflessly putting themselves at the service of our community. In praying, we strengthen the recognition of the presence of God, which draws us closer to Him.

Thank you in anticipation of your understanding and continued support.



**Fr Bronek Pietruszewicz SDS**  
Parish Priest





**Vinnies**  
changes  
lives  
everyday.

Show your support and  
give to our annual appeal



#### "TINNIES FOR VINNIES"

Thank you to our generous parishioners for their past donations to 'Tinnies for Vinnies'. By your generosity, our stockpile is overflowing. As such, we will not be needing anything for the month of March. You make a difference in the lives of our clients.

Sue Bowra

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

Did you know that if you are new to  
our parish you can register your  
details through our website or if  
your contact details have changed  
you can update them.

Simply go to  
[www.pittwaterparish.org](http://www.pittwaterparish.org), click on  
the "Welcome" menu item and  
select "Parishioner Registration"  
from the dropdown menu.  
If you have any problems, please  
contact the parish office on  
9157 0999.

## BOOK REVIEW

### Praying with Therese of Lisieux

by Joseph F. Schmidt, FSC

Therese knew that God led  
her, with all her inadequacies,  
to holiness. She assures us  
that God can do the same for  
us. So, pray with her.



## We Pray for

### Recently Deceased

Defina De Luca  
Laura De Santis

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.

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

Jack Favaloro

### Prayers for the Sick

Tayla Riddle  
Giovanni Returra  
Bill Eyre  
Manny Zarb  
Philip Maddrell  
Gail Reiher  
Imelda Vince  
Eric Domagas  
Vicky Villaluz  
Ben Castillo  
Moirra Howie  
Carol Brennan  
Jomar  
Christine Hills  
Ross Perkins  
Donald McRae  
Mary O'Connor  
Sara Zofrea  
Beryl Peo-Duncan

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

### LIBRARY

The books which are reviewed here each  
week are from our Parish Library situated  
at Maria Regina Church, Avalon.  
The Library is opened at Maria Regina  
Church, Avalon before and after the  
weekend Masses, Saturday 6 pm and  
Sunday 9 am, and on week day Masses,  
except Tuesdays, at 9.15 am. You can  
browse our full collection of books and  
DVDs on the Parish website. Go to  
Resources > Library > Our books. If these  
hours don't suit you and you would like  
to borrow or have an inquiry you may  
phone me on 99183973 (Home)  
0401613643 (mobile).

Trish Newman



If you are experiencing  
Domestic Violence.

Ring 1800 RESPECT  
1800 737 732

### DATES for your DIARY



### STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Every Friday in Lent

### LENTEN PROGRAM

During Lent The Thursday  
Morning Spirituality Group  
will be studying the Lenten  
program, "Lenten Listening  
2020." We commence at  
10.30 am, with a cuppa,  
finishing at 12.30 pm, in the  
Maria Regina Church hall.  
All are welcome.



Mater Maria  
Catholic College

Last Tuesday we held our Annual  
Swimming Carnival at the Manly  
Andrew 'Boy' Charlton Aquatic  
Centre where students were able to  
show off their school spirit and  
sporting abilities. Everyone had lots  
of fun supporting their Houses and  
we received a lot of great feedback  
saying this was one of the best  
Swimming Carnivals we have had  
yet!

We are now enrolling students in  
Year 5 for Year 7, 2022.

Please visit the College website  
[www.matermaria.nsw.edu.au/enrolments](http://www.matermaria.nsw.edu.au/enrolments)  
for a prospectus,  
Application for Enrolment or to  
register for a College tour.  
Applications for Year 7, 2022 close on  
April 3, 2020.



### SAFEGUARDING

We the people of the Catholic Diocese  
of Broken Bay and the Catholic Parish  
of Pittwater are committed to fostering  
communities of safety and care for all  
people, especially for children and  
others in the community who are  
vulnerable. Our commitment is  
underscored by our faith in Jesus Christ.

## The Sacrament of First Reconciliation

Following the guidelines  
given from the Diocese of  
Broken Bay, we have  
made the decision to  
suspend the preparation  
for the Sacrament of First  
Reconciliation for the  
time being, with a plan to  
reschedule the remainder  
of the preparation and  
the celebration of the  
Sacrament of First  
Reconciliation once the  
Government and Diocese  
advise us that we can do  
so.

Please keep your  
Reconciliation workbook  
and your Sacramental  
Passports  
in a safe place.

Praying that you and your  
families remain safe and  
healthy  
during this time of  
uncertainty.

For more information please  
contact the parish office

9157 0999 |

[sacraments@pittwaterparish.org](mailto:sacraments@pittwaterparish.org) |

[www.pittwaterparish.org](http://www.pittwaterparish.org)



Easter Cards are now available for  
purchase from **Aid to the Church in  
Need**. Each packet contains 12 Easter  
cards and envelopes. Cost: First packet  
\$23 (includes postage). Extra packets  
\$15 each.

The Easter cards feature the religious  
paintings of Swiss artist, Bradi Barth  
and include a bible verse inside.  
Proceeds raised go toward ACN  
projects that support the Church  
where she is unable to support  
herself. Order over the phone: 1800  
101 201 or online:  
[www.aidtochurch.org](http://www.aidtochurch.org)



18 March 2020

To the People of God in the Diocese of Broken Bay

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

The historic and momentous times in which we live have impelled the Australian Government to issue today new preventative measures to limit the transmission of the COVID-19 coronavirus as a matter of public health emergency.

A public health emergency of the kind that we are experiencing is a rare event. Today the Prime Minister reminded us that an event such as the COVID-19 outbreak has not been seen for 100 years. Given the directions provided by the Government and after a most careful consideration of the circumstances of our own Diocese and its various parish communities, it is with great regret and a heaviness of heart, that I share with you the following:  
Effective from Friday 20 March, in the Diocese of Broken Bay:

1. **All public Masses are hereby suspended until further notice.** Accordingly, this includes a dispensation for all the Faithful in the Diocese from the obligation to participate at Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation (cc.87 §1; 1247).  
It will be possible to celebrate the weekday Mass for Thursday 19 March, The Solemnity of St Joseph provided that the congregation does not exceed 100.
2. **The celebration of Holy Mass by the priest privately is to continue** and may include, if possible, the assistance of an adult minister. Previously scheduled intentions, including the Sunday Mass *pro-populo* may be fulfilled in this manner.
3. The Faithful are encouraged to keep the Lord's Day holy and celebrate Sunday as a domestic church by taking time to pray together as a household (c. 1248 §2).
4. **The Sacrament of Baptism:** Baptisms are still to be celebrated provided that the number attending does not exceed 100. It is important that thought be given to providing families the option of postponing the Baptism of their child. Those families who wish to proceed with the celebration should be advised to limit the number of family and guests attending (preferably immediate family and godparents only). Baptisms must be staggered so that only one child is baptised in the one event, with the water refreshed for each ceremony.

5. **The Sacrament of Confirmation:** The Government's announcement today will impact on the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation and the schedule for the same. I will consider how to attend to this in the coming weeks. All programmes of preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation should be suspended until the schedule can be reviewed.
6. **Funerals** in a church remain possible provided that the number in the congregation does not exceed 100. In accepting bookings for funerals, it will be important that Parishes work with the Funeral Director to so ensure this. The advice is that those attending should be limited to immediate family. Some Funeral Directors are already making arrangements for live-streaming of the funeral so that the number of people in the church is kept to a minimum.
7. **Weddings:** It may be that weddings be postponed. However, should a wedding proceed it will be limited to the same provisions of no more than 100 in the church.
8. **Sacrament of Reconciliation:** Our churches are to remain open for the availability of the First Form of the Rite of Confession in the usual way. The Second Form of the Rite of Confession should be suspended during this time.

I am aware that a number of our Parishes have suspended their programmes of preparation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. This has been effected in accord with the principles applied to school gatherings. Some of our Parishes, however, have already completed their programmes of preparation and are ready to celebrate the Sacrament. In this event, the following advice is offered:

  - a. It would be unfortunate, having completed the programme, that the momentum for the celebration of the Sacrament be interrupted.
  - b. A gathering of people for the Sacrament - in the Second Form of the Rite - should be suspended as it is most likely families will express significant concern about this.
  - c. As an alternative, children, supported by their parents, might be invited to individual Confession in the church over a period of some hours on a scheduled day, so that the number of people in the confined space of the church is kept to a minimum.
  - d. If this is not possible due to local circumstances, then the liturgical celebration should be suspended to a later time in the year.
9. **Sacrament of Anointing.** In the celebration of the Sacrament, priests are given permission to lay on hands by holding them above rather than upon the head. Anointing the forehead is sufficient
10. **In respect to the forthcoming Holy Week and Easter Liturgies** I am currently considering how best these may be celebrated in the current circumstances and will advise in the coming weeks. I will discuss this with the Council of Priests which is to meet next Tuesday 24 March.
11. **As the community of the Church in Broken Bay,** I urge you to pray. It has always been our tradition to turn to God in prayer when difficulties arise, especially when a health emergency of this kind affects so many people. I commend to you in a particular way the Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Rosary, which is a Marian prayer, has Christ at its centre. When we pray the Rosary, we meditate upon the life, death, and resurrection of the Lord, through the intercession of the Virgin Mary. In the words of Saint John Paul II, "With the Rosary, the Christian people sits at the school of Mary and is led to contemplate the beauty of the face of Christ and to experience the depths of his love. Through the Rosary the faithful receive abundant grace, as though from the very hands of the Mother of the Redeemer." (Rosarium Virginis Mariae I)

As you pray the Rosary, I encourage you to ask for the grace that we need in our Church and in our world at this time. Be confident in your prayers and trust that the Mother of Our Lord will accompany you and lead you to her son, Jesus. Recall the words from the Memorare prayer, and be inspired not to lose hope: *"Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection, implored your help, or sought your intercession, was left unaided."*

The Rosary is a marvelous prayer that can be prayed alone, in families, or in small groups. Through this marvelous prayer, may Mary's motherly compassion keep our whole family safe from every danger. Through her intercession may all the people of Australia be sheltered from harm. And may people everywhere profit by the voice of Catholics united in prayer.

My brothers and sisters, we are living in uncharted times with implications about which we are uncertain. It is essential that our communities of Faith remain beacons of hope during this difficult and challenging time.

**It is important that our churches do not close** and that they remain open for prayer and personal devotion. There are many ways by which a small number of people in our parishioners may still wish to gather, remaining compliant with the law - for small group Rosary, for Exposition and Benediction, for the Way of the Cross. Indeed, I encourage small groups to use our churches for prayer, especially on a Sunday when the Blessed Sacrament may be exposed for Adoration, according to the norms governing such a practice.

Our diocesan Office for Evangelisation is currently preparing pastoral resources for use in the face of the limitations for gathering.

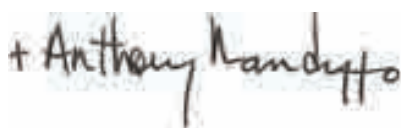
It is also important that our Parish offices remain open and be available for our parishioners. It is critical that all our parishes consider the most creative ways by which to retain communication with their people.

In naming this emergency, it is essential that each member of the community takes responsibility for maintaining good personal hygiene. It is also very important that those members of our community who require assistance: the young; the elderly; people with disabilities; the poor and the sick; the homeless; are cared for and not abandoned.

It is also vital that we remain good and responsible citizens. Please do not panic or fret unnecessarily. By remaining calm and adhering to Government Health recommendations, we play an important role in the community, as together we are vigilant in our attempt to keep all people safe and healthy.

Over the coming weeks, the personnel of our Diocese will continue in their contact with you and ensure that you are fully apprised of any developments which we are constantly monitoring.

Sincerely yours in Christ.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "+ Anthony Randazzo". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Most Rev Anthony Randazzo DD, JCL  
Bishop of Broken Bay



**Parish Pastoral Council**  
**Matthew Hyland**  
 matthyland100@yahoo.com.au

#### Pittwater Parish Ministries

**Catechists**  
 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

**Pastoral Care and  
 Communion to the Sick Ministry**  
 Co-Directors  
 Denise Bottero - 9997 6904  
 Marie Bockman -  
 mbockman@hotmail.com

**Parish Library**  
 Trish Newman - Director  
 9918 3973

**Sacramental Program Ministry**  
 Suzy Caruso  
 9157 0999 ext 0  
 sacraments@pittwaterparish.org

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

**Youth Ministry**  
 Katrina Pratt (Yr 5-8)  
 soul@pittwaterparish.org or  
 katrina.pratt.youth@gmail.com.  
 Josh Willard (Soul Youth)  
 music@pittwaterparish.org

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

**PROJECT  
 COMPASSION**  
 GO FURTHER TOGETHER



Thirty-two-year-old Sakun lives in a village in central east India. She developed polio as a child and has difficulty walking. Until now Sakun, an indigenous Gond woman, has been isolated in her community, unable to earn a livelihood and without knowledge of government schemes that could help her. After joining a Caritas Australia-funded program, Sakun has learned new skills and gained important mobility. Through their strategic guidance and support, Sakun now earns her own income and makes a small profit which goes towards her family's basic needs. She is more resilient, more confident and more independent.

**Please donate to Project Compassion 2020 to help uplift vulnerable communities and support the rights of indigenous peoples around the world. Let's Go Further, Together. You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, by visiting [www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion](http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion) or phoning 1800 024 413.**



#### **ADULT FAITH EDUCATION TALKS**

**Dear Fellow Parishioners,**

**Due to the COVID-19, a decision has been made to postpone the second talk until further notice.**

**Please watch this space for updates.**

Regards,  
**The Adult Faith Education Team.**

**Watch the daily Mass on  
 Demand at  
[https://www.youtube.com  
 /user/cathnews](https://www.youtube.com/user/cathnews)**

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



A beautiful message from Holy Father Pope Francis: he says, "Rivers do not drink their own water; trees do not eat their own fruit; the sun does not shine on itself and flowers do not spread their fragrance for themselves. Living for others is a rule of nature. We are all born to help each other. No matter how difficult it is... Life is good when you are happy; but much better when others are happy because of you." Let us all remember then that every changing colour of a leaf is beautiful and every changing situation of life is meaningful, both need very clear vision. So do not grumble or complain, let us instead remember that Pain is a sign that we are alive, Problems are a sign that we are strong and Prayer is a sign we are not alone!! If we can acknowledge these truths and condition our hearts and minds, our lives will be more meaningful, different and worthwhile!!



Playing outside is natural for most children. Maintaining a safe outdoor environment is key to keeping children healthy. Child injuries do occur, and while on the Church premises, we ask that the parents be aware, supervise and are responsible to keep their child safe.



**Tap to support our  
 Parish**

**Donations via our Tap and Go Devices  
 at Sacred Heart Church will go towards  
 the second collection at this time.**

## Pope Francis' twin prayers for an "end to the pandemic"



*Pope Francis left the Vatican on Sunday to visit two important pilgrimage sites in Rome to pray for the city and the world, in the midst of the Covid-19 coronavirus outbreak.*

By Vatican News

Two intense moments of prayer: one before the ancient icon of Maria Salus Populi Romani at the Basilica of St. Mary Major, and the other at the foot of a wooden crucifix that protected Rome from a great plague.

Pope Francis spent his afternoon on the Third Sunday of Lent seeking to underline his closeness to those who suffer by imploring the special protection of Our Lady.

### Mary before the Cross

The Director of the Holy See Press Office, Matteo Bruni, announced the Pope's visits in a communique on Sunday.

"This afternoon, just after 4 PM, Pope Francis left the Vatican and made a private visit to the Basilica of St. Mary Major, to offer a prayer to the Virgin Mary, Salus Populi Romani, where her icon is kept and venerated. Then, after taking a walk along the Via del Corso – as if making a pilgrimage – he visited the church of San Marcello on the Corso, where a miraculous crucifix is housed. In 1522 it was carried in procession throughout the neighbourhoods of the city so that the "Great Plague" might cease in Rome. With his prayer, the Holy Father pleaded for an end to the pandemic that has struck Italy and the world. He also implored the healing of the many sick people, remembered the numerous victims of these past days, and asked that their families and friends might find consolation and comfort. His prayer intention was also extended to healthcare workers, doctors, nurses, and all those working in these days to guarantee the smooth functioning of society. The Holy Father returned to the Vatican around 5:30 PM."



### Devotion to the Marian icon

Pope Francis' special devotion to Our Lady Salus Populi Romani is well-known. He visits her icon on major Marian feast days, and makes a point to stop in for a prayer both before and after his international Apostolic Journeys.

In 593 Pope St. Gregory the Great carried the icon in procession to stop a plague. And in 1837 Pope Gregory XVI invoked her to put an end to a cholera epidemic.



### Miraculous crucifix

The Pope's second stop on Sunday was also significant, considering the critical moment the world is going through.

The church of San Marcello on the Corso houses a venerated wooden crucifix from the 15th century, which scholars hold is the most realistic in Rome. It even survived a fire, and saved the city from a plague. Pope St. John Paul II embraced that same crucifix to mark the culmination of the Day of Forgiveness during the Jubilee Year of 2000.

### From the ashes

The numerous traditions of miracles attributed to the "Most Holy Crucifix" began on 23 May 1519.

On that night a large fire completely destroyed the church that bears Pope Marcel's name. The entire building was found in ruins the next morning. But from the ashes emerged the crucifix of the main altar, untouched. A small oil lamp still burned at the Crucified's feet.

The scene greatly touched the faithful of Rome, and several began to meet every Friday evening to pray. Pope Leo X ordered the rebuilding of the church in 1519.



### To stop Rome's great plague

Three years after the fire, Rome was hit by the "Great Plague".

The faithful carried the crucifix in procession – despite the bans understandably put in place by the authorities to halt the spread of the contagion. The crucifix was carried through the streets of Rome toward St. Peter's Basilica. The procession lasted 16 days: from 4 to 20 August 1522. As it progressed, the plague showed signs of retreating, and every neighbourhood sought to keep the crucifix as long as possible.

Finally, as the crucifix reentered the church, the plague ceased altogether. Since 1600, the procession from the church of San Marcello to St. Peter's Basilica became a tradition repeated during Holy Years. The names of the Popes who called each Jubilee are inscribed on the back of the crucifix, along with the year.





# The Catholic Parish of Pittwater

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

## Planned Giving Direct Debit Agreement Form for Contributions Via Credit Card

☐ I am an existing Planned Giving contributor

☐ I am new to Planned Giving

Full Name			
Address:			
Telephone:		Email:	

### Payment Agreement

<input type="checkbox"/> Weekly	<input type="checkbox"/> Fortnightly	<input type="checkbox"/> Monthly
Debit Amount:	\$	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Until Further Notice

### Debit from Credit Card

Card Number:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Card Holder Name:					<input type="checkbox"/> Visa				<input type="checkbox"/> Mastercard						
Expiry Date:					/				CCV:				<input type="text"/>		

This authorisation is to remain in force until notice is received in writing for it to be changed.

Signatory of Nominated Account:		Date:	/	/
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**Thank you for supporting our planned giving programme.**

Please return the completed form to the parish office or email to [office@pittwaterparish.org](mailto:office@pittwaterparish.org)

### Terms and Conditions

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# The *Living* Word

**First Reading** 1 Sm 16:1, 6-7, 10-13  
**A reading from the first book of Samuel**  
*In the presence of the Lord God, they anointed David king of Israel.*

The Lord said to Samuel, 'Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen myself a king among his sons.' When Samuel arrived, he caught sight of Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed one stands there before him,' but the Lord said to Samuel, 'Take no notice of his appearance or his height for I have rejected him; God does not see as man sees; man looks at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart.' Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen these.' He then asked Jesse, 'Are these all the sons you have?' He answered, 'There is still one left, the youngest; he is out looking after the sheep.' Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he comes.' Jesse had him sent for, a boy of fresh complexion, with fine eyes and pleasant bearing. The Lord said, 'Come, anoint him, for this is the one.' At this, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him where he stood with his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord seized on David and stayed with him from that day on.

## The word of the Lord

**Responsorial Psalm** Ps 22 R. v.1

**(R.) The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**

The Lord is my shepherd;  
 there is nothing I shall want.  
 Fresh and green are the pastures  
 where he gives me repose.  
 Near restful waters he leads me,  
 to revive my drooping spirit. **(R)**

He guides me along the right path;  
 he is true to his name.  
 If I should walk in the valley of darkness  
 no evil would I fear.  
 You are there with your crook and your staff;  
 with these you give me comfort. **(R)**

You have prepared a banquet for me  
 in the sight of my foes.  
 My head you have anointed with oil;  
 my cup is overflowing. **(R)**

Surely goodness and kindness shall  
 follow me  
 all the days of my life.  
 In the Lord's own house shall I dwell  
 for ever and ever. **(R)**

**Second Reading** Eph 5:8-14  
**A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians**  
*Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.*

You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and

truth. Try to discover what the Lord wants of you, having nothing to do with the futile works of darkness but exposing them by contrast. The things which are done in secret are things that people are ashamed even to speak of; but anything exposed by the light will be illuminated and anything illuminated turns into light. That is why it is said:  
 Wake up from your sleep,  
 rise from the dead,  
 and Christ will shine on you.

## The word of the Lord

**Gospel Acclamation** Jn 8:12

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!  
 I am the light of the world, says the Lord;  
 whoever follows me will have the light of life.  
 Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

**Gospel** Jn 9:1-41  
**A reading from the holy Gospel according to John**  
*The blind man went off and washed himself and came away with his sight restored.*

As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. His disciples asked him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, for him to have been born blind?' 'Neither he nor his parents sinned,' Jesus answered, 'he was born blind so that the works of God might be displayed in him.'

'As long as the day lasts  
 I must carry out the work of the one who sent me;  
 the night will soon be here when no one can work.'

As long as I am in the world  
 I am the light of the world.'

Having said this, he spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man and said to him, 'Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam' (a name that means 'sent'). So the blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored. His neighbours and people who earlier had seen him begging said, 'Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'Yes, it is the same one.' Others said, 'No, he only looks like him.' The man himself said, 'I am the man.' So they said to him, 'Then how do your eyes come to be open?' 'The man called Jesus' he answered 'made a paste, daubed my eyes with it and said to me, "Go and wash at Siloam"; so I went, and when I washed I could see.' They asked, 'Where is he?' 'I don't know' he answered. They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It had been a sabbath day when Jesus made the paste and opened the man's eyes, so when the Pharisees asked him how he had come to see, he said, 'He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see.' Then some of the Pharisees said, 'This man cannot be from God: he does not keep the sabbath.' Others said, 'How could a sinner produce signs like this?' And there

was disagreement among them. So they spoke to the blind man again, 'What have you to say about him yourself, now that he has opened your eyes?' 'He is a prophet' replied the man.

However, the Jews would not believe that the man had been blind and had gained his sight, without first sending for his parents and asking them, 'Is this man really your son who you say was born blind? If so, how is it that he is now able to see?' His parents answered, 'We know he is our son and we know he was born blind, but we don't know how it is that he can see now, or who opened his eyes. He is old enough: let him speak for himself.' His parents spoke like this out of fear of the Jews, who had already agreed to expel from the synagogue anyone who should acknowledge Jesus as the Christ. This was why his parents said, 'He is old enough; ask him.'

So the Jews again sent for the man and said to him, 'Give glory to God! For our part, we know that this man is a sinner.' The man answered, 'I don't know if he is a sinner; I only know that I was blind and now I can see.' They said to him, 'What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?' He replied, 'I have told you once and you wouldn't listen. Why do you want to hear it all again? Do you want to become his disciples too?' At this they hurled abuse at him: 'You can be his disciple,' they said 'we are disciples of Moses: we know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this man, we don't know where he comes from.' The man replied, 'Now here is an astonishing thing! He has opened my eyes, and you don't know where he comes from! We know that God doesn't listen to sinners, but God does listen to men who are devout and do his will. Ever since the world began it is unheard of for anyone to open the eyes of a man who was born blind; if this man were not from God, he couldn't do a thing.' 'Are you trying to teach us,' they replied 'and you a sinner through and through, since you were born!' And they drove him away. Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him he said to him, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' 'Sir,' the man replied 'tell me who he is so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said, 'You are looking at him; he is speaking to you.' The man said, 'Lord, I believe', and worshipped him.

Jesus said:  
 'It is for judgement  
 that I have come into this world,  
 so that those without sight may see  
 and those with sight turn blind.'

Hearing this, some Pharisees who were present said to him, 'We are not blind, surely?' Jesus replied:  
 'Blind? If you were, you would not be guilty,  
 but since you say, "We see",  
 your guilt remains.'

## The Gospel of the Lord

**Reflection on this weeks reading - next page**



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## REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

*Humans see and judge by appearances, but God looks into the heart, and there finds the real person. God's standards are not superficial, as are so many of the standards of the world. It is not age, beauty or physical strength that is important; it is not social position or religious role that is preferred. God chooses whom God chooses. God saw in David, the insignificant shepherd, the potential for being the chief shepherd of his people. The man who was born blind became the one through whom others would see the mighty works of God. Yet, neither young David nor the man in the gospel made the initial step; each simply responded with openness to God's choice of him.*

*By what criteria do we judge others? Do we consider some people too insignificant for greatness? Are we overly concerned with status? Do we categorise people according to the disease or physical limitation that they must endure? Do we sometimes blame them for their disability? Do our eyes perceive life in accord with the standards of a materialistic, body-orientated, pleasure-seeking society? Or do we look into the other's heart, as God does? As with the other scrutiny Sundays, catechumens and long-standing members alike are exhorted to make a choice. Jesus is the one who gives sight to blind eyes and religious insight to those open to receive it. However, there is a price to pay. Will it be the standards of the world, or the power of God in Jesus Christ?*

### Liturgy for the Week

**23/03 Monday Fourth Week of Lent**  
Is 65:17-21; Jn 4:43-54

**24/03 Tuesday Fourth Week of Lent**  
Ezek 47:1-9, 12; Jn 5:1-3, 5-16

**25/03 Wednesday The Annunciation of the Lord**  
Is 7:10-14, 8:10; Heb 10:4-10; Lk 1:26-38

**26/03 Thursday Fourth Week of Lent**  
Ex 32:7-14; Jn 5:31-47

**27/03 Friday Fourth Week of Lent**  
Wis 2:1, 12-22; Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

**28/03 Saturday Fourth Week of Lent**  
Jer 11:18-20; Jn 7:40-52

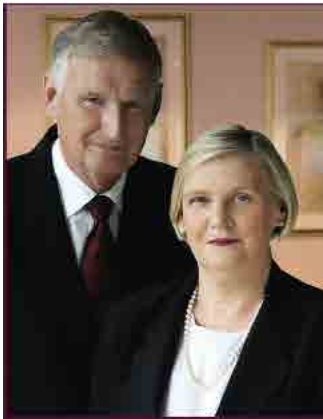
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