



# The Catholic Parish of Pittwater

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

## Prayer for Peace and Justice in Ukraine

God of peace and justice, who change the hardened heart and break the power of violence, we entrust the people of Ukraine to you.

Protect them in this time of mortal peril; let them know not death but life, not slavery but freedom. You are Father of all; we are brothers and sisters.

Give us the strength to live that truth in love, choosing peace not war.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen

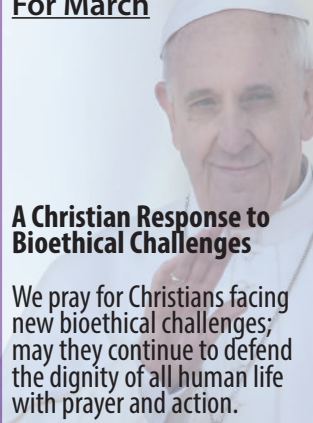


### Thoughts of Bl Francis Jordan

Love everyone! Everyone has failings, more or less. But you should exclude no one from your love.



### Pope Francis' Prayer Intentions For March



#### **A Christian Response to Bioethical Challenges**

We pray for Christians facing new bioethical challenges; may they continue to defend the dignity of all human life with prayer and action.

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

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

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

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.



## 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 8am, 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**

We Pray for  
the Souls of

Souls in Purgatory

Recently Deceased

Margaret Baker

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

Beryl Peo-Duncan  
Michael Carroodus  
Pat Regan  
Garry Gleeson  
Annette Davis  
Andrew Hood  
Jeff Langley  
Warwick Chipman  
Erin Ocampo  
Mark Lindfield  
Vicky Kalingasan  
Bill Eyre  
Brian Gregan  
Marian Poe  
Marcia Bailey  
Bec Burroughs  
Susan Hickey  
Sophia Burfitt  
Margaret De Landre  
Maeva Robinson  
Jenny Carroll  
Matt Ukishima  
Pietrina Maiorana  
Susan Makabenta  
Dominic Ursino  
George Carpenter  
Diane Williams  
Denise Wagner  
Ron  
Susan Makabenta  
Sarah Wright

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

DATES for your DIARY



STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Every Friday in Lent after morning mass.

from Our Schools



Mater Maria  
Catholic College

Year 7 Parent and Teacher evenings were held this week. With the current increase in COVID-19 cases in our local area, we decided to do these via a Zoom meeting rather than on site.

Our Parent Engagement Evenings for Years 8, 9 and 10 were also held this week via Zoom. We focused on growth for all students and staff, how to engage with student learning, methods of communication, the importance of attendance and the ways that that we are supporting student wellbeing through pastoral care.

Our Year 12 Students attended a presentation from the UAC in the Benedict Learning Centre to help answer all their questions regarding university applications and key dates.

On Friday we held our first College Mass. Open Day is on Thursday 31 March between 4pm to 7pm. We welcome all interested families to attend this event. There is no need to register.

Please visit the College website [www.matermaria.nsw.edu.au/enrolments](http://www.matermaria.nsw.edu.au/enrolments) for a prospectus, Enrolment Application form or for more information. Enrolments for Year 7, 2024 will close on Friday 8 April. Applications for Year 7, 2025 will open in Term 2. There is currently a waiting list for Year 7, 2023.

To read the messages from Bishop Anthony and from the people Vox Populi please go to [www.pittwaterparish.org](http://www.pittwaterparish.org). News and events tile and Messages from Bishop Anthony on the drop down menu.

Liturgy for the Week

- 28/03 **Monday 4th Week of Lent**  
Is 65:17-21; Jn 4:43-54
- 29/03 **Tuesday 4th Week of Lent**  
Ezek 47:1-9; Jn 5: 1-3, 5-16
- 30/03 **Wednesday 4th Week of Lent**  
Is 49:8-15; Jn 5:17-30
- 31/03 **Thursday 4th Week of Lent**  
Ex 32:7-14; Jn 5:31-47
- 1/04 **Friday 4th Week of Lent**  
Wis 2:1, 12-22; Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30
- 2/04 **Saturday 4th Week of Lent**  
Jer 11:18-20; Jn 7:40-52

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**GIVING**

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

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READINGS  
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**Caritas Ukraine urgently needs your support**

Caritas Australia is currently raising funds to support communities impacted by the conflict in Ukraine. Visit: [caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/ukraine/](http://caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/ukraine/) or call: 1800 024 413 toll free to provide much needed support.

**Caritas**  
AUSTRALIA



**OPEN DAY**  
Thurs 31st March 9am  
Enrolling now for 2023



# What the parable of the prodigal son can teach us about freedom, duty and love



Today's Gospel reading contains one of the most beloved passages in the New Testament. The parable traditionally known as the story of the prodigal son appears only in Luke's Gospel. Although Luke may have been working with traditional material, this narrative reveals his brilliance as a writer. In this parable, Luke presents a complex study of the interplay of freedom, duty and love. The younger son embodies freedom. He leaves when he chooses and returns again as he chooses. The elder son, by contrast, embodies duty. He serves his father without complaint and asks for nothing in return. Both sons, however, lack an essential characteristic. Only the father embodies love, and it is in this that freedom and duty achieve their real purpose.

It is easy to identify the younger son as the

villain. His request for an early inheritance reveals a breathtaking insolence. He is, in effect, saying that his father is worth more to him dead than alive. His disrespect comes through again as he squanders his family's wealth. His choice to return to his father is also morally threadbare. Although he prepares a fine statement calling himself out as a sinner, one cannot deny that his return has as much to do with food as it does with atonement. He recognizes that he himself has suffered through his actions, but he reveals little understanding of the pain he has caused others. His freedom isolates him, causes him suffering and makes him a source of suffering to others.

The elder son, by contrast, is isolated by his sense of duty. He may have never complained,

but he silently feels resentment. His obedience is not a token of his love but rather a manifestation of his own ego. He does what is right not in pursuit of some higher ideal, like righteousness or love, but rather as a way of gaining and holding on to his father's approval. The reappearance of his younger brother reveals the futility of this project when he sees his brother receive on the easiest of terms the validation that he was struggling to achieve. In a way parallel to the younger, the elder's sense of duty isolates him and causes suffering.

Both sons are lost. Both have developed habits that cut them off from others. Only in the father have freedom and duty achieved their final purpose as symbols of love. The father reveals his freedom from attachments and accedes to the younger son's demand. This act of love comes at great material and emotional cost, but he does it without hesitation. When the younger son returns, the father's freedom then allows him to forgive everything and receive the son back.

Likewise, the father's sense of duty is clear when he leaves the celebration to speak with the elder son. Although he no doubt would prefer to stay with the recently returned younger son, he recognizes that the elder needs his love more in that moment. In his promise, "All I have is yours," he acknowledges his debt to the elder, and he offers it all to him as a sign of his love.

*Excerpt from America The Jesuit Review*

YOU'RE INVITED TO

# YOUTH NIGHT

SUN 3 APRIL - 6PM  
SACRED HEART CHURCH

JOIN US FOR MASS AND DINNER

**We welcome  
to Pittwater Parish**

**Huxley Thomas Kenyon Wells  
Mira Mercia Hickey  
Sai Deo Hickey  
Louie Franco Teghini  
Abigail Jean Clarke  
Jackson Julien Marais  
Erin Lorraine Driver**

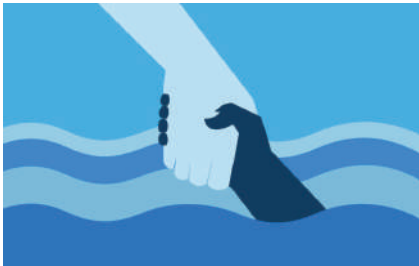
**on 27 March 2022**

**Sacred Heart Church,  
Mona Vale  
for the  
Sacrament of  
Baptism**



# Vinnies

## Vinnies NSW calls for donations in support of emergency flood appeal



In response to the devastating floods impacting across NSW the St Vincent de Paul Society has launched an emergency flood appeal to assist residents with their immediate needs as well as longer-term recovery.

Donations to the Vinnies Flood Appeal can be made at [www.vinnies.org.au/nswfloodappeal](http://www.vinnies.org.au/nswfloodappeal), by calling 13 18 12, or at any Vinnies Shop.

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

## Adoration & Benediction

**SACRED HEART CHURCH, Mona Vale - every Tuesday from 8.30am**  
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Adoration, Reconciliation followed by Benediction and Mass at 9.30am.

**MARIA REGINA CHURCH, Avalon - every Thursday from 9am**  
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Adoration, Reconciliation followed by Benediction and Mass at 10am.

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

## Housebound Parishioners

If you'd like a priest for home visit, reconciliation, anointing of the sick and communion, please contact the Parish Office at 91570999.

## THURSDAY MORNING SPIRITUALITY GROUP

We have recommenced our study this year with a new book "The God Who Won't Let Go" by Peter van Breeman SJ. Inspired by his retreats in Bingen, Germany celebrating St Hildegard, van Breeman reminds us that in an age where everything seems temporary and continually changing, the love of God is permanent.

We meet after 10am mass (around 10:30) for morning tea, followed by study and contemplation until 12 noon. We read through the book in a very relaxed manner gaining new insights from each other. All are invited.

Contact Margaret Abrahams via the office on 9157 0999.

## Rite for Reconciliation of Several Penitents with Individual Confession and Absolution with Candidates for Full Communion with the Catholic Church



The liturgical season of Lent for those undergoing the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is a period of 'Purification and Enlightenment.'

This year Bishop Anthony has decided to hold Penitential Services in each of the Deaneries of the Diocese to allow us to gather as a local Catholic community and seek the mercy of God in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, while also supporting the newest members of the Church as they receive the beautiful gift of absolution for the first time. During the Rite there will be communal prayers, Scripture readings, music, and personal Confession. All are invited to join Bishop Anthony and the priests of the Deaneries for these Penitential Services.

### NORTHERN BEACHES DEANERY

Date: Thursday 31 March

Time: 7pm - St Mary's Church, Manly or

Our Parish, Rite of Reconciliation will be on Thursday 7 April 2022 at Sacred Heart Church Mona Vale. Mass at 7pm followed by Exposition, Adoration, Reconciliation and Benediction.



**Daylight saving will end at 3am on Easter Sunday, 3 April 2022 when clocks go back one hour.**



Rosalie 44, is an ex-combatant who lives with her husband and seven children in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Forced to join the army when she was just 15-years-old, Rosalie experienced significant trauma and hardship during her years in the military. After she was demobilised from the army, Rosalie, like other ex-combatants, was left to fend for herself in the community. With your generous support and through our local partners, Rosalie was able to connect with other members of her community and participate in business skills training to help her to reintegrate into society.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2022 and help women like Rosalie to succeed in the future, providing hope For All Future Generations.

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your Parish, by visiting [lent.caritas.org.au](http://lent.caritas.org.au), or by calling 1800 024 413.



## BOOK REVIEW

**JESUS OF NAZARETH**  
a DVD starring Robert Powell

This movie is portrayed in "real" time, not like a narrative being read from the Scriptures. It is a powerful epic and you feel you are there observing the way of life in those long ago times. The journey to Bethlehem, Jesus' birth and the life that follows are deeply moving.



# I was lost but now I am found



4th Sunday of Lent, Year C



Lent is a time to focus on the act of forgiveness. We ask God to forgive us for the wrong things that we do. In the story of the prodigal son....

What wrong things did the younger son do? \_\_\_\_\_

What did he do to show he was sorry? \_\_\_\_\_

When I do things against my friends, I can show them that I am sorry by...

Four horizontal lines for writing.

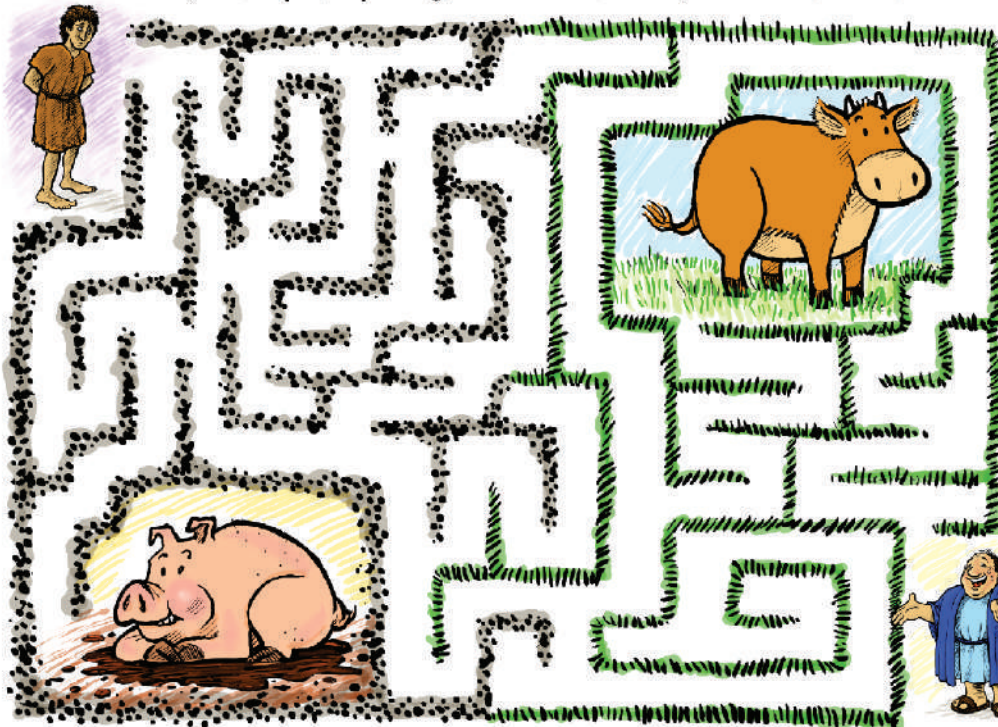
When I do things against my family, I can show them that I am sorry by...

Four horizontal lines for writing.

When I do things against God, I can show him that I am sorry by...

Four horizontal lines for writing.

Can you help the prodigal son find his way back to his father?



## A Little Prayer

Dear God, help me when I turn away from you. You always call me back, help me listen to your voice. Give me the strength to forgive as you forgive. Amen.

# The *Living* Word

## Entrance Antiphon

Cf. Is 66:10-11

Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

## First Reading

Jos 5:9-12

### A reading from the book of Joshua

*The people of God went to the promised land and there kept the passover.*

The Lord said to Joshua, ‘Today I have taken the shame of Egypt away from you.’

The Israelites pitched their camp at Gilgal and kept the Passover there on the fourteenth day of the month, at evening in the plain of Jericho. On the morrow of the Passover they tasted the produce of that country, unleavened bread and roasted ears of corn, that same day. From that time, from their first eating of the produce of that country, the manna stopped falling. And having manna no longer, the Israelites fed from that year onwards on what the land of Canaan yielded.

## The word of the Lord

## Responsorial Psalm

Ps 33:2-7. R. v.9

### (R.) Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

I will bless the Lord at all times, his praise always on my lips; in the Lord my soul shall make its boast. The humble shall hear and be glad. (R)

Glorify the Lord with me. Together let us praise his name. I sought the Lord and he answered me; from all my terrors he set me free. (R)

Look towards him and be radiant; let your faces not be abashed. This poor man called; the Lord heard him and rescued him from all his distress(R)

The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy. For as the heavens are high above the earth so strong is his love for those who fear him. ( R)

## Second Reading

2 Cor 5:17-21

### A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

*God reconciled us to himself through Christ.*

For anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation; the old creation has gone, and now the new one is here. It is all God’s work. It was God who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the work of handing on his reconciliation. In other words, God in Christ was reconciling the world to himself, not holding men’s faults against them, and he has entrusted to us the news that they are reconciled. So we are ambassadors for Christ; it is as though God were appealing through us, and the appeal that we make in Christ’s name is: be reconciled to God. For our sake God made the sinless one into sin, so that in

him we might become the goodness of God.

## The word of the Lord

## Gospel Acclamation

Lk 15:18

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

I will rise and go to my Father and tell him:

Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

## Gospel

Lk 13:1-9

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

*Your brother here was dead and has come to life.*

The tax collectors and the sinners were all seeking the company of Jesus to hear what he had to say, and the Pharisees and the scribes complained. ‘This man’ they said ‘welcomes sinners and eats with them.’ So he spoke this parable to them: ‘A man had two sons. The younger said to his father, “Father, let me have the share of the estate that would come to me.” So the father divided the property between them. A few days later, the younger son got together everything he had and left for a distant country where he squandered his money on a life of debauchery.

‘When he had spent it all, that country experienced a severe famine, and now he began to feel the pinch, so he hired himself out to one of the local inhabitants who put him on his farm to feed the pigs. And he would willingly have filled his belly with the husks the pigs were eating but no one offered him anything. Then he came to his senses and said, “How many of my father’s paid servants have more food than they want, and here am I dying of hunger! I will leave this place and go to my father and say: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as one of your paid servants.” So he left the place and went back to his father.

‘While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity. He ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms and kissed him tenderly. Then his son said, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son.” But the father said to his servants, “Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the calf we have been fattening, and kill it; we are going to have a feast, a celebration, because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and is found.” And they began to celebrate.

‘Now the elder son was out in the fields, and on his way back, as he drew near the house, he could hear music and dancing. Calling one of the servants he asked what it was all about. “Your brother has come” replied the servant “and your father has killed the calf we had fattened because he has got him back safe and sound.” He was angry then and refused to go in, and his father came out to plead

with him; but he answered his father, “Look, all these years I have slaved for you and never once disobeyed your orders, yet you never offered me so much as a kid for me to celebrate with my friends. But for this son of yours, when he comes back after swallowing up your property – he and his women – you kill the calf we had been fattening.” ‘The father said, “My son, you are with me always and all I have is yours. But it is only right we should celebrate and rejoice, because your brother here was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found.”’

## The Gospel of the Lord

## Communion Antiphon

Lk 15: 32

You must rejoice, my son, for your brother was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found.

## Reflection

*In the midst of Lent we are given a moment for rejoicing, Laetare Sunday. All of the readings provide us with reasons for rejoicing. The overarching theme is the prodigal goodness of God. The responsorial psalm sets the context for the reflections. The other readings show how needy people were showered with divine favour. Even in the midst of this rejoicing, we find a challenge. We must undergo a change of heart if we are to rejoice in God.*

*The goodness of God is strikingly portrayed in the radically new image of father. This is a God who allows us to follow our own dreams, who is partial to no one, who faithfully and patiently waits for us to return, who gently corrects our misperceptions. God longs to be reconciled with us even more than we long to be reconciled with God.*

*The challenges placed before us set out some of the conditions required if we are to be a new creation. We are called to a profound and total reconciliation, first with God and then with each other.*

*Christ was identified with sin so that we might be identified with God’s righteousness. Reconciliation requires that we be open to giving and receiving forgiveness. It requires that we both remember and forget. We must always remember the causes of alienation, so that we not succumb to them again.*

*However, we must forget the resentment that we felt so that we not allow it to influence our lives. could happen that God is not pleased with us. We must not take God’s goodness for granted.*

*These readings close on a note of caution. Take care! We might be able to rest secure in the knowledge of the love and mercy of God, but these readings tell us that we should not dare to rest passively or complacently.*

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