



The Catholic Parish of Pittwater

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*Dear Parishioners,
As we rejoice in the blessings of the Christmas season, may the light of our Saviour's birth bring peace, hope and love into your hearts. We celebrate with joy the miracle of Christ's coming among us.*

During this sacred time of prayer, song and gladness, we give thanks to the Lord for the many wonders He has graciously bestowed upon us.

Fr Richard and Fr Zygmunt
Merry Christmas & God Bless



Christmas Message from Bishop Anthony

My dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

Across many lands there is a venerable and beautiful custom: at the Christmas table, a place is set but left empty.

It is a quiet sign of welcome for the unexpected guest, perhaps a stranger, perhaps someone in need.

Such a simple gesture, yet it speaks profoundly of the goodness of an open heart and a willingness to receive and to share.

In the busyness that so often accompanies Christmas, we can lose sight of these small but powerful symbols.

The empty chair itself draws us back to the very first Christmas, when Mary and Joseph found no room at the inn.

Into that humble setting, God chose to enter our world as a tiny child, carried by a young mother who dared to say “yes,” and protected by Joseph, who trusted the message of an angel. The place prepared for the Christ Child was nothing more than a manger, an open box where animals were fed, yet it became the cradle of our salvation.

His birth in such unassuming surroundings was not only the fulfilment of ancient prophecy; it was the dawn of a hope that shines in every darkness, a mercy that heals the wounded heart, and a love that endures beyond all telling.

Often at this time of year, countless people feel overwhelmed by financial strain, social pressures, or the uncertainties of our times.

Year after year, we find ourselves speaking of conflict, fear, and suffering, now felt with heartbreaking clarity in recent days when the brutal Bondi massacre devastated families and shattered communities.

And yet, Christmas proclaims a hope that cannot be silenced.

This Holy Year of Hope was never intended to distract us from the world’s sorrows, but rather to teach us that no darkness, however deep, has the final word.

So, this Christmas, as we give thanks for God’s greatest gift to the whole of humanity, may our parishes, families, and communities become living Bethlehems, places where the tenderness, humility, and peace of Jesus Christ are encountered anew.

And may we always keep a place at our tables, and in our hearts, for those in need.

I pray that the graces poured out upon us in this Jubilee of Hope will lead us into the coming year with renewed confidence in our Saviour, who draws near to us always.

May you and your loved ones enjoy a holy and blessed Christmas Season.

The *Living* Word *Mass of the Night*

Entrance Antiphon

Psalm 2:7

The Lord said to me: You are my Son.
It is I who have begotten you this day.

First Reading

Isaiah 9:1-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

A son is given to us.

The people that walked in darkness
has seen a great light;
on those who live in a land of deep
shadow a light has shone.
You have made their gladness greater,
you have made their joy increase;
they rejoice in your presence
as men rejoice at harvest time,
as men are happy when they are dividing
the spoils.
For the yoke that was weighing on him,
the bar across his shoulders,
the rod of his oppressor,
these you break as on the day of Midian.
For all the footgear of battle,
every cloak rolled in blood,
is burnt and consumed by fire.
For there is a child born for us,
a son given to us and dominion is laid on
his shoulders;
and this is the name they give him:
Wonder-Counsellor, Mighty-God,
Eternal-Father, Prince-of-Peace.
Wide is his dominion
in a peace that has no end,
for the throne of David
and for his royal power,
which he establishes and makes secure
in justice and integrity.
From this time onwards and for ever,
the jealous love of the Lord of hosts will
do this.

The word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 95:1-3. 11-13 R. Lk 2:11

(R.) Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

O sing a new song to the Lord,
sing to the Lord all the earth.
O sing to the Lord, bless his name. (R.)

Proclaim his help day by day,
tell among the nations his glory
and his wonders among all the peoples.
(R.)

Let the heavens rejoice and earth be
glad,
let the sea and all within it thunder
praise, let the land and all it bears
rejoice, all the trees of the wood shout
for joy at the presence of the Lord for he
comes, he comes to rule the earth. (R.)

With justice he will rule the world,
he will judge the peoples with his truth.
(R.)



Second Reading

Titus 2:11-14

A reading from the letter of St Paul to Titus

God's grace has been revealed to all people.

God's grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own and would have no ambition except to do good.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Luke 2:10-11

Alleluia, alleluia!

Good News and great joy to all the world:
today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

Alleluia!

Gospel

John 1:1-5. 9-14

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Today a saviour has been born for you.

Caesar Augustus issued a decree for a census of the whole world to be taken. This census – the first – took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria, and everyone went to his own town to be registered. So Joseph set out from the town of Nazareth in Galilee and travelled up to Judaea, to the town of David called Bethlehem, since he was of David's House and line, in order to be registered together with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to a son, her first-born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn. In the countryside close by there were shepherds who lived in the fields and took it in turns to watch their flocks during the night. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone round them. They were terrified, but the angel said, 'Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ

the Lord. And here is a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.' And suddenly with the angel there was a great throng of the heavenly host, praising God and singing: 'Glory to God in the highest heaven and peace to men who enjoy his favour.'

The Gospel of the Lord

Communion Antiphon

John 1:14

The Word became flesh, and we have seen his glory.

REFLECTION

by Dianne Bergant CSA

The Gospel situates the birth of Jesus within Roman rule of the first century. Through the Incarnation, the ordinary becomes transparent and reveals the extraordinary; the divine is known in the child. Only those of humble heart experience this wonder. They behold it and they come to embrace it. In fact, it is the nature of this child, born in history, to reverse the orders of power. God is portrayed as a valiant liberator who champions the cause of justice and who brings a liberation that reverses history and the ways of war, power and oppression. This reversal is made more shocking by the fact that the one who is the mighty warrior and conqueror of the nations is a child. This child is the weak and voiceless one, the one who has neither power nor legal rights. God's reversal of the long-standing realities of this world is accomplished through the apparently insignificant, through the gift of this child who is given to us in the middle of the night. Something new has happened: the age of God's fulfilment has arrived. The age of grace and fresh hope, made available to all people of good will, is an era of redemptive presence. Now all people can walk in the newness of life and grace. Yet, while this new age has begun, it is not yet fully realised. We live believing in its presence and awaiting its fulfilment. Although we are celebrating Christmas, we still await the final coming of the Lord.

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The *Living* Word *Mass of the Day*

Entrance Antiphon

Isaiah 9:5

A child is born for us, and a son is given to us; his sceptre of power rests upon his shoulder, and his name will be called Messenger of great counsel.

First Reading

Isaiah 52:7-10

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

All the ends of the earth shall see the saving power of our God.

How beautiful on the mountains, are the feet of one who brings good news, who heralds peace, brings happiness, proclaims salvation, and tells Zion, 'Your God is king!' Listen! Your watchmen raise their voices, they shout for joy together, for they see the Lord face to face, as he returns to Zion. Break into shouts of joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord is consoling his people, redeeming Jerusalem. The Lord bares his holy arm in the sight of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

The word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 97:1-6. R. v.3

(R.) All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.

Sing a new song to the Lord for he has worked wonders. His right hand and his holy arm have brought salvation. (R.)

The Lord has made known his salvation; has shown his justice to the nations. He has remembered his truth and love for the house of Israel. (R.)

Il the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God Shout to the Lord all the earth, ring out your joy. (R.)

Sing psalms to the Lord with the harp, with the sound of music. With trumpets and the sound of the horn acclaim the King, the Lord. (R.)

Second Reading

Hebrews 1:1-6

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

In our own time, God speaks to us through his Son.

At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son, the Son that he has appointed to inherit everything and through whom he made everything there is. He is the radiant light

of God's glory and the perfect copy of his nature, sustaining the universe by his powerful command; and now that he has destroyed the defilement of sin, he has gone to take his place in heaven at the right hand of divine Majesty. So he is now as far above the angels as the title which he has inherited is higher than their own name.

God has never said to any angel: You are my Son, today I have become your father, or: I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Again, when he brings the First-born into the world, he says: Let all the angels of God worship him.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Luke 1:38

Alleluia, alleluia!

A holy day has dawned upon us.

Come you nations and adore the Lord.

Today a great light has come upon the earth.

Alleluia!

Gospel

John 1:1-18

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us, and we saw his glory.

In the beginning was the Word: the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things came to be, not one thing had its being but through him.

All that came to be had life in him and that life was the light of men, a light that shines in the dark, a light that darkness could not overpower.

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.

The Word was the true light

that enlightens all men;

and he was coming into the world.

He was in the world

that had its being through him,

and the world did not know him.

He came to his own domain

and his own people did not accept him.

But to all who did accept him

he gave power to become children of God,

to all who believe in the name of him

who was born not out of human stock

or urge of the flesh

or will of man

but of God himself.

The Word was made flesh,

he lived among us,

and we saw his glory,

the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father,

full of grace and truth.

John appears as his witness, He

proclaims:

'This is the one of whom I said:

He who comes after me

ranks before me

because he existed before me.'

Indeed, from his fullness we have, all of

us, received –

yes, grace in return for grace,

since, though the Law was given through

Moses,

grace and truth have come through Jesus

Christ.

No one has ever seen God;

it is the only Son, who is nearest to the

Father's heart,

who has made him known.

The Gospel of the Lord

Communion Antiphon

Psalm 97:3

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

REFLECTION

by Dianne Bergant CSA

Today the Christmas celebration gains a new depth of theological meaning. At midnight, the birth in history was proclaimed. At dawn, the initiative of God's gift was declared and the community's joyful gratitude was announced. In this third celebration, the identity of Christ and the new way of life that he brings is announced.

If our eyes are open and alert, we can see that God has won a victory for us, one that is tangible and realised in our midst. It is an overwhelming victory, one that permanently conquers the enemy.

This victory has a profound impact on every place, every time and every people.

The birth of the infant, the king in David's line, promises salvation to all who long for it. This salvation is a new vision of wisdom, one that has been realised in Christ, God's agent of grace in the world. It is a new world, one of inclusivity and of righteous honour. It is a new age, one that is ushered in by the child who is leading a victory procession.

Ultimately, only eyes of faith allow us to see the fullness of God's revelation. The glory of the infant king is the very presence of God made flesh. Jesus is the eternal incarnate Word who has pitched his tent among us. Ours is not a distant God; the incarnate wisdom of God is among us, and we are called to a change of heart that will allow us to see this wonder.

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**CLOSED FOR
HOLIDAYS**

The Parish Office will be closed
at **CHRISTMAS** and will
RE - OPEN on the
12th of January 2026
The phones and emails are
monitored regularly.
So please don't hesitate to
contact us and leave a message.

*Merry Christmas and
a Blessed
New Year!*

**UPDATE FROM THE
SACRAMENTAL COORDINATOR**
Sacrament of
First Reconciliation 2026

**Maria Regina Church,
Avalon**

Tuesday, 24 March 2026

**Sacred Heart Church,
Mona Vale**

Thursday, 26 March 2026

Children in year 4 and above
are eligible to receive this
sacrament if they have been
Confirmed.

For further information about
the First Reconciliation program
and to be able to enrol your
child, you **MUST** attend **ONE** of
the following

“Parent Information &
Commitment”
sessions, both at 7pm:

**Sacred Heart Church,
Mona Vale**

Wednesday, 4 February 2026

**Maria Regina Church,
Avalon**

Thursday, 5 February 2026



**WISHING YOU
A SAFE AND
HAPPY HOLIDAY**



**NEW YEAR
MASS TIMES**

Thursday, 1st January

Maria Regina Church, Avalon

at 10.00 am

&

Sacred Heart Church, Mona Vale

at 7.00 pm



SOCIETY OF DIVINE SAVIOUR

THANK YOU FROM SALVATORIAN FATHERS

Dear parishioners,
each year the Australian Region of
Salvatorians is humbled by the generous support
shown by all our parishes across Australia. We
remain sincerely grateful for every donation offered
throughout this year to assist the formation of our
seminarians and the growth of our missionary works.
As Christmas approaches, I warmly wish you and
your families a very peaceful, safe,
and joy-filled celebration, along with a blessed and
hope-filled new year.

May God continue to guide, protect, and
always abundantly bless you all.

FR GREG SKULSKI SDS,

**Superior of the Salvatorians
Australian Regions**

In Loving Memory of Peter Joseph

We remember Peter Joseph,
who was to celebrate his 89th birthday on
Christmas Eve.

Sadly, he passed away on 20th of December.
Peter was a man of faith who found comfort and
strength in his trust in God.

As we prepare our hearts to celebrate the
birth of Christ, we ask the parish community to
please keep Peter in your prayers.
May the Lord, whom he served with faith and hope,
grant him eternal rest, and may perpetual light
shine upon him.

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let
perpetual light shine upon him.
May he rest in peace. Amen.

THANK YOU to the parents, students, and staff of Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School, Maria Regina Catholic Primary School, and Mater Maria Catholic College; to our Senior Servers, Lectors, Musicians and Singers, Eucharistic Ministers, Collectors, Welcomers, Counters, Computer Specialists and to all who volunteered in any way to make Christmas so special this year. Your generosity of time, talent and faith has truly enriched our celebrations of the Lord's birth.

God bless you all abundantly.

Fr Richard



We wish you all a blessed Christmas. May the joy and peace of this season remain with us now, in the New Year, and in the years to come.
PARISH TEAM

Unto us
a child
is born,
unto us
a son
is given.

We Pray for the
Souls of

Francesco & Maria Romeo
Annamria & Antonio Lentini
Grace Prato
Giuseppe & Mella Cervonaro
Alfonzio & Elia Muoio
Michael Mete
Maria Monteleone
Bruno Romeo
Joe Romeo
Ida Gigliotti

Loving Father,
in the light of Christ's birth,
we commend to Your mercy all who have died.
As Your Son entered our world to bring us hope and salvation,
welcome our departed brothers and sisters into the joy of
Your heavenly kingdom.
May they rest in Your peace,
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The star
WHICH THEY SAW
IN THE EAST,
WENT BEFORE THEM,
TILL IT CAME AND STOOD
OVER WHERE
the young child was.

MATTHEW 2:9



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Jesus

In Him was life, &
the life was the
Light of men.

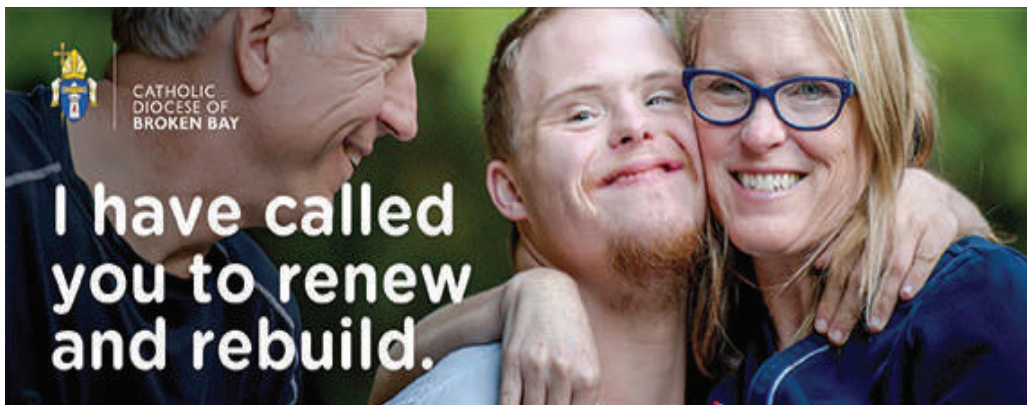
- John 1:4

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"The angel said, 'Don't
 be afraid, Mary. God is
 honoring you. Look! You
 will conceive and give
 birth to a son, and you
 will name him Jesus.'"

LUKE 1:30-31



womans day