



The Catholic Parish of Pittwater

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

The Ascension of the Lord Prayer

Dear Lord Jesus Christ,
Right before your Ascension into heaven, you told your apostles to be His witnesses to the ends of the earth upon receiving the Holy Spirit. May I be similarly inspired to spread your gospel message in work and deed.
Amen.

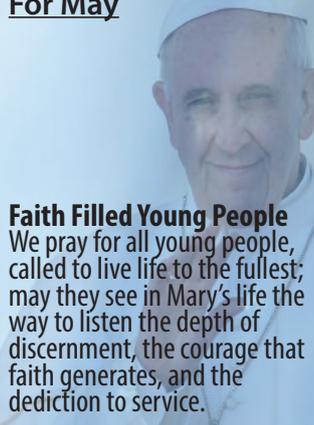


Thoughts of Fr Francis Jordan

God became a human being for us to redeem us, to rescue our souls. Therefore, let us seek only the honour of God and the salvation of souls.



Pope Francis' Prayer Intentions For May



Faith Filled Young People
We pray for all young people, called to live life to the fullest; may they see in Mary's life the way to listen the depth of discernment, the courage that faith generates, and the dedication to service.

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

Recently Deceased Warwick Chipman

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 Carrodus
Pat Regan
Garry Gleeson
Annette Davis
Andrew Hood
Jeff Langley
Erin Ocampo
Mark Lindfiels
Vicky Kalingasan
Bill Eyre
Brian Gregan
Mrian Poe
Marcia Bailey
Bec Burroughs
Susan Hickey
Sophia Burfitt
Margaret De Landre
Maeve Robinson
Jenny Carroll
Matt Ukishima
Pietrina Maiorana
Susan Makabenta
Dominic Ursino

Denise Wagner
Ron
Leonie Ariemetto
Margaret Kolasik

BOOK REVIEW

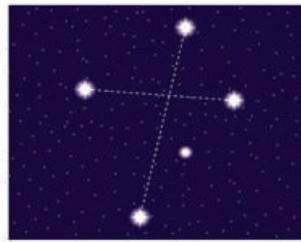
FatimaThe Great Sign

by Francis Johnston



The Great Sign at Fatima is just the beginning of the miracles which followed including the survival of eight men living near Hiroshima in 1945 (when everyone is killed) due to their devotion to Fatima.

**Week of Prayer
for Christian
Unity:
29 May – 5 June 2022**



*"We saw the star in the East,
and we came to worship
(cf Matthew 2:2)*

The week between the Ascension and Pentecost Sunday is dedicated each year to praying for Christian Unity. The theme for this year was chosen by the Middle East Council of Churches "We saw the star in the East, and we came to worship" (cf Matthew 2:2).

Resources for this occasion can be found here: <https://www.nc-ca.org.au/faith-and-unity-resources>

For further support, please contact Pina Bernard on 0432 682 239 or pina.bernard@bb-catholic.org.au

Liturgy for the Week

- 30/05 **Monday 7th Wk of Easter**
Acts 19:1-8; Jn 16:29-33
- 31/05 **Tuesday 7th Wk of Easter**
Zeph 3:14-18; Lk 24:46-53
- 01/06 **Wednesday 7th Wk of Easter**
Acts 20:28-38; Jn 17:11-19
- 02/06 **Thursday 7th Wk of Easter**
Acts 22:30, 23:6-11; Jn 17:20-26
- 03/06 **Friday 7th Wk of Easter**
Acts 25:13-21; Jn 21:15-19
- 04/06 **Saturday 7th Wk of Easter**
Acts 28:16-20; Jn 21:20-25

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GIVING

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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/ or call: 1800 024 413 toll free to provide much needed support.

 **Caritas**
AUSTRALIA



Why the Ascension of the Lord Matters



The feast of the Ascension of the Lord, which the church celebrates at the end of the Easter season, is, I admit, hard to explain to a lot of contemporary people. Jesus passed, in bodily form, from this world to heaven? Wouldn't his body still be in some identifiable place within the solar system or the galaxy? I'm sure that the traditional formulation of the doctrine strikes many today as hopelessly pre-scientific and mythological. And even if we were to admit the possibility as such a transition happening in regard to Jesus, how would this in any way affect us spiritually?

The key to understanding both the meaning and significance of this feast is a recovery of the Jewish sense of 'heaven' and 'earth,' most of us are, whether we know it or not, Greek in our thought patterns. By this I meant that we tend to set up- in the manner of the ancient Greek philosophers- a rather sharp dichotomy between the material and the spiritual, between the realm of true reality, between the fleeting earth and the permanent heaven. And if we're spiritually minded, we tend to think of salvation as an escape from this world- this vale of tears- to a disembodied state called 'heaven.' The problem is that these convictions have far more to do with Plato than with the Bible.

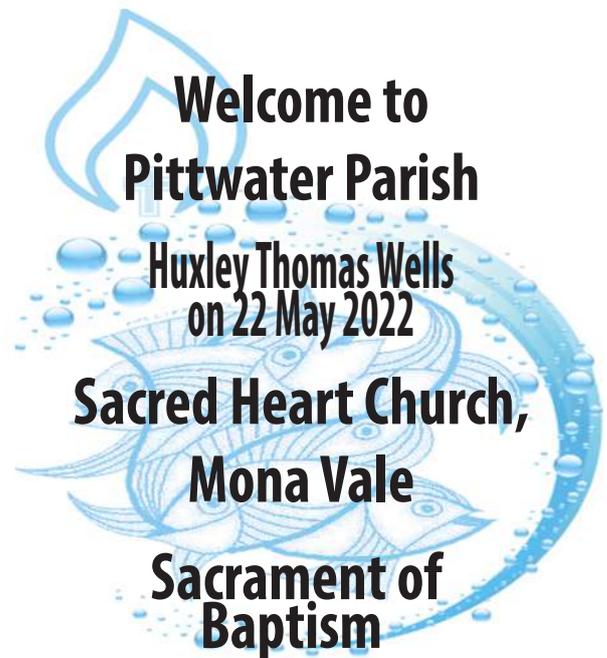
Biblical cosmology is not fundamentally dualistic. It speaks indeed of 'heaven' and 'earth,' but it sees these two realms as interacting and interpenetrating fields of force. Heaven, the arena of God and the angels, touches upon and call out to earth, the arena of humans, animals, plants and planets. On the biblical reading, salvation, therefore, is a matter of the meeting of heaven and earth, so that God might reign as thoroughly here below as he does on high. Jesus' great prayer, which is constantly on the lips of Christians, is distinctively Jewish in inspiration: "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." Notice please that his is decidedly not a prayer that we might come together. The Lord's prayer recapitulates and raises to a new level precisely what the prophet Isaiah anticipated: "the knowledge of the Lord will fill the earth, as the water covers the sea."

The first Christians saw the resurrection of Jesus from the dead as the commencement of the process by which earth and heaven were being reconciled. They appreciated the risen Christ as the heavenly ruler of the nations, the one who would bring the justice of heaven to this world. And this is precisely why people like Peter, Paul, Thomas, Andrew and John went to the ends of the earth to proclaim just this new state of affairs: "Jesus is Lord!" What began in the Lord's resurrection is now ready to burst forth and flood the world through the work of the disciples. Accordingly, just before ascending to heaven, Jesus said, "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." It is fascinating to note how the Ascension and Pentecost are linked: in the Ascension, something of earth moves into the heavenly sphere, and at Pentecost, something of heaven- the Holy Spirit- invades the earth. The two events constitute, in short, a foretaste of the great reconciliation for which the entire Jewish religion had for centuries yearned.

The Church, guided by the Holy Spirit down through the ages, is meant to be the privileged place where this coming together happens. In good preaching, in great Christian art, in the architecture of our churches and cathedrals, in the corporal and spiritual works of mercy, in the lives of saints and perhaps especially in the liturgy, earth and heaven meet. Think of the moment at Mass, just before the singing of the Sanctus, when the priest invokes the angels (the realm of heaven) and encourages us: "may our voices be one with theirs in their triumphant hymn of praise." What he is suggesting is the earth might, with Christ, ascend to heaven and that heaven, in the person of the Holy Spirit, might descend to earth- and that the two dimensions might sing together in harmony.

What I hope has become clear in the course of this discussion is that the Ascension of Jesus has nothing to do with a literal journey into the stratosphere, for that would involve simply a transfer to another position within "the world." The Ascension is Jesus' journey, not to another place, but to another dimension. But this dimension to which he has gone is not alien to us. It is instead a source of inspiration, power and direction. And this is why the angels (denizens of heaven) who appear to the disciples just after Jesus' departure say, "Men of Galilee, why are you standing there looking at the sky?" What they are hinting at, none too subtly, is this: under the influence of Jesus' spirit, get to work! Do all that you can to foster the marriage of heaven and earth! Get on with the mission of the church!

by: Bishop Robert Barron



Congratulations to
Fr Richard Sadowski SDS
(23 Years)
and
Fr Zygmunt Smigowski SDS
(19 Years)
for their Ordination Anniversaries to
Priesthood.
Thank you for your years of service
to God and His people.



Vinnies

Vinnies NSW calls for donations in support of emergency flood appeal

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

"Families have had their lives upended and homes have been destroyed as a result of this crisis," said Jack de Groot, Vinnies NSW CEO.

"These floods, on top of the bushfires and COVID, are the latest punch to the stomach for communities who have done it so tough in recent years.



"For 140 years, St Vincent de Paul Society volunteers have been there to support people in times of need when times get tough.

"We are asking those who can to donate so that we can supply those hardest hit with the assistance they need to rebuild their lives.

"Making a financial donation today to the Vinnies NSW Flood Appeal is the most effective way to support people right now.

"All donations will go towards assisting people and communities impacted by the floods," Mr de Groot said.

The Northern Rivers community of Lismore has been one of the hardest hit areas by the floods with homes and businesses, including the local Vinnies Shop, overflowing with water.

"Vinnies has volunteers located in communities across the state who are ready and willing to offer practical financial and material assistance, as well as emotional support, to people in need during this challenging period," said Paul Burton, Vinnies NSW State Council President.

"We need the help of the community to support people now and over the longer-term.

"We know that the need for assistance does not disappear when the floodwaters subside.

"As with other natural disasters, our members will be in the affected communities helping for the long haul and they are taking proactive steps now to ensure this," Mr Burton said.

Donations to the Vinnies Flood Appeal can be made at 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.



MATER MARIA CATHOLIC COLLEGE

Parish Bulletin – Term 2, Week 5

Last week our senior students experienced a wonderful spirituality retreat at Benedict XVI Retreat Centre in peaceful Grose Vale. Our young adults had a wonderful experience reflecting on their faith, being inspired by some outstanding role models and committing to make a positive difference in the world. They were also given a little space to relax with friends. Many students report that this experience is one of their greatest highlights of school.

Our Year 8 students took part in Japanese cultural activities at St Leo's Catholic College in Wahroonga, such as taiko, yakisoba/onigiri and the Ganbaru Cup Competition (our Language Enrichment Program), in order to enrich their understanding that language use reflects cultural ideas, values and beliefs.

We celebrated Mater Feast Day, the Feast of Our Lady Help of Christians. Students and teachers came together to celebrate with two lovely masses led by our local Fathers, together with our Year 12 prefects in the Marana Complex. The Masses were complimented with beautiful music by our Years 7, 8, 11 and 12 musicians. We were hoping for students to enjoy our normal vast range of activities that take place on Mater Feast days but unfortunately the wet weather delayed these events until later in the year when the outdoors can be enjoyed.

Some students from Years 11 and 12 attended the Venio Retreat at St Joseph's Retreat and Education Centre and throughout the weekend to deepen their personal relationship with Christ. Several students from the Broken Bay Diocesan Secondary Schools attended the retreat which also included a visit from Bishop Anthony Randazzo on Friday night.

It is currently enrolment time for students who would be starting high school in 2024. The first round of offers have been made and over the next month parents and students on the waiting list have been offered a meeting with our Principal, Marc Reicher. Early next term all those who have been offered will meet in small groups with the Principal to gain some valuable insights into Mater Maria and have any questions answered

Applications for Year 7, 2025 are now open. There are waiting lists for Year 7, 2023 and Year 7, 2024. For more information about enrolling at our Mater Maria Catholic College please visit <https://matermaria.nsw.edu.au/enrolments/>.



The People of God are invited to participate in a prayer pilgrimage that began on Easter Sunday, and continues until the second assembly of the Plenary Council in July. The pilgrimage is entitled Walking in the Spirit, and follows the "Fan the Flame" campaign last year.



10th World Meeting of Families
FAMILY LOVE: A VOCATION AND A PATH TO HOLINESS

26 June 2pm - SAVE THE DATE!!!

All families are invited to join Mass with Bishop Anthony Randazzo on Sunday 26 June 2022 at Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral Waitara at 2pm in celebrating the 10th World Meeting of Families. This will be followed by food, formation, and fun games for kids. More details to come!"

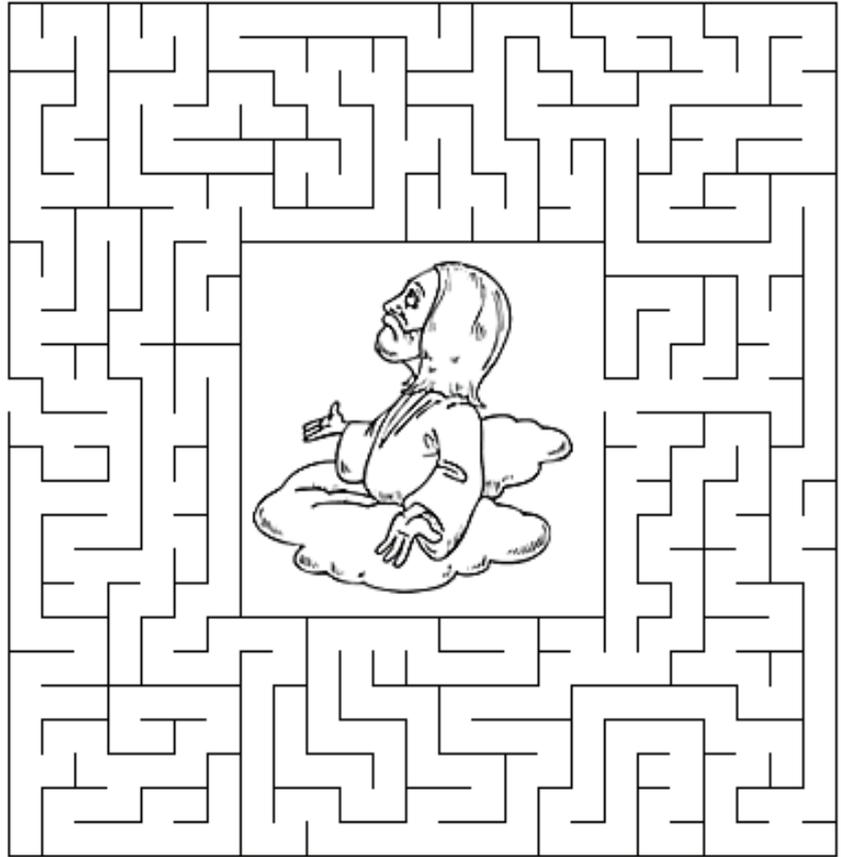
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Ascension Maze

Start Here



The Ascension of Jesus

While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up to heaven. Luke 24:51 (NIV)

Based on Luke 24:44-53



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| SUFFER | PSALMS | OPENED | FORGIVE |
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| WORSHIPED | BLESSING | UNDERSTAND | MINDS |

The *Living* Word

First Reading

Acts 1:1-11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles
Why are you standing here looking into the sky? Jesus has been taken into heaven.

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at the table with them. He had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is' he had said 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom of Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know the times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men of Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

The word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 46:2-3, 6-7, 8-9. R. v.6

(R.) God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

or

(R) Alleluia!

All the peoples, clap your hands,
cry to God with shouts of joy!
For the Lord, the Most High,
we must fear,
great king over all the earth. **(R)**

God goes up with shouts;
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.
Sing praise for God, sing praise,
sing praise to our king, sing praise. **(R)**

God is king of all the earth.
Sing praise with all your skill.
God is king over the nations;
God reigns on his holy throne. **(R)**

Second Reading

Col 3:1-4

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians
He made Jesus to sit at his right hand in heaven.

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of

wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

The word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Mt 28:19,20

Alleluia, alleluia!

Go and teach all people my gospel.
I am with you always, until the end of the world.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Lk 24:46-53

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke
While blessing them, he was taken to heaven.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You see how it is written that the Christ would suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that, in his name, repentance for the forgiveness of sins would be preached to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses to this.'

'And now I am sending you down to you what the Father has promised. Stay in the city then, until you are clothed with the power from on high.' Then he took them out as far as the outskirts of Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. Now as he blessed them, he withdrew from them and was carried up to heaven. They worshipped him and then went back to Jerusalem full of joy; and they were continually in the Temple praising God.

The Gospel of the Lord

REFLECTION

by Dianne Bergant CSS

The Feast of the Ascension is really a kind of liminal moment in the Easter season. It is a time between times; a moment when we have left one place, but have not yet arrived at a second. While the narratives that describe the Ascension fit well into the unfolding story of redemption. The feast celebrates the exaltation of Jesus. The readings allow us to focus on the theological point while we commemorate a turning point in the life of the church. We do this by considering the enthronement of Christ in the heavens and the new body of Christ on earth. Many of the Easter accounts have

directed our attention to the appearances of Jesus which was intended to strengthen the Christians' belief in his bodily resurrection.

Today we stand awestruck, watching Jesus ascend into the clouds of heaven, there to be enthroned at the right hand of God. Today is a day to be overwhelmed by the reality of the divinity of the one whom we have known in his humanity. Christ who ascended into heaven in his body carries on what he began on earth through his new body, the community of believers. He teaches through the apostles and evangelists. He ministers through prophets and pastors. We have not been left alone; we have his power; the same power with which he performed marvels when he walked the earth. We have not been left alone; we have each other. Together we make up the new body of Christ

© Dianne Bergant CSS

Sacrament of Confirmation

2022

The weekly preparation groups have already started. Thank you to all the Facilitators who volunteered to lead this program.

If you need more information, please email **Sonia** on sacraments@pittwaterparish.org

Sacrament of Confirmation is on Saturday, 18 June 2022

Maria Regina Church, Avalon at 10:30 am

Sacred Heart Church, Mona Vale at 1 pm and 2:30 pm

Share the News

Our Churches- Sacred Heart and Maria Regina are open.

Come for Mass.

Come and pray.

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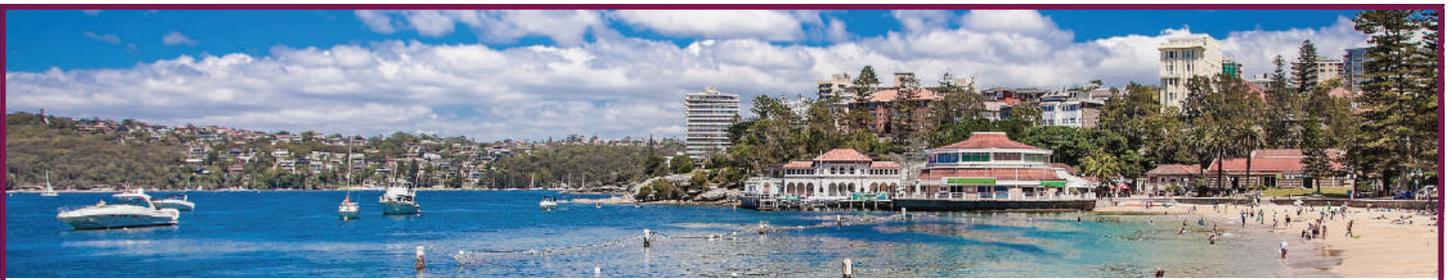


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