The Catholic Parish of Pittwater

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

A Family Prayer

Praise be to God who made us a family. Praise be to God for the love that we share. Praise be to God for sending us Jesus. Praise be to God for teaching us to care.

Help us, Lord Jesus fill our lives with your Spirit. Help us, Lord Jesus teach us how to forgive. Help us, Lord Jesus grant us wisdom and patience. Help us, Lord Jesus in your grace may we live.

Come, Holy Spirit fill our lives with your gifts. Come, Holy Spirit help us serve other's needs. Come, Holy Spirit teach us faith, hope, and love. Come, Holy Spirit guide our thoughts and our deeds.

Be with us, God we ask Mary to help us. Be with us, God we look to Joseph for aid. Be with us, God may we respect one another. Be with us, God may our hope never fade.

Hear us, Lord Jesus watch over our family. Hear us, Lord Jesus help our faith to grow strong. Hear us, Lord Jesus come and dwell in our hearts. Hear us, Lord Jesus to you we belong.

Spirit, we praise you you invite us to know you. Spirit, we praise you may we walk in your light. Spirit, we praise you may we find you in all things. Spirit, we praise you all day and all night.



Thoughts of Fr Francis Jordan

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



Dear Parishioners

As we celebrate the joyful and festive season of Christmas, we ask God's blessing to be upon you, your families and friends. May the Birth of Christ, Our Saviour, bring you true peace, love, and hope and fill your hearts with His joyful presence. We wish to thank you for your Christmas gifts, cards and best wishes.

May the Child Jesus bless you all.

Fr Bronek SDS & Fr Richard SDS

PARISH DIRECTORY

Pittwater Parish 1 Keenan Street Mona Vale NSW 2103 Tel 9157 0999 www.pittwaterparish.org

> Parish Priest Fr Bronek Pietrusewicz SDS Tel 9157 0999 ext 0 pp@pittwaterparish.org

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> Parish Office Hours Monday to Thursday 9.00am to 4.00pm Friday 9am to 12 noon

Sacred Heart Church 1 Keenan Street Mona Vale

Maria Regina Church 7 Central Road Avalon

Mona Vale Sacred Heart School Tel 9999 3264 Principal: Mrs Suellen Garey

Avalon Maria Regina School Tel 9918 2608 Principal: Mrs Kathy Gee

Warriewood Mater Maria Catholic College Tel 9997 7044 Principal: Mr Marc Reicher

We acknowledge the lifelong trauma of abuse victims, survivors and their families, the failures of the Catholic Church to protect, believe and respond justly to children and vulnerable adults, and the consequent breach of community trust.



Annamaria & Antonio Lentini Grace Prato Michele Mete Giuseppe Cervonaro Alfonso & Elia Muoio Maria Monteleone Sam Maletta Bruno Romeo Joe Romeo Barbara Cincotta Keith Cincotta Pam and Ray Halls Vera and Edward Ragen

May and Roy Tully Margaret and Sinon Gleeson Ron Fisher

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.

Watch the daily Mass on Demand from Broken Bay's Cathedral at <u>https://www.youtube.com</u> <u>/channel/UCNenwlfI7i14</u> <u>XB9TsVBrLvO</u>

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

PLANNED GIVING

The money contributed to our parish via our second collection helps us to meet the running costs which our Parish incurs, including wages, electricity, telephones, insurances, rates, building and equipment repairs and maintenance, to name but a few. Whilst you are unable to attend Mass, if you are able to make your regular donation by way of automatic direct debit from your credit card, please complete the form included in this bulletin. Or donations can be made on our website: www.pittwaterparish.org through the donations and giving tile. If you would prefer not to give by credit card, please contact the parish office, 9157 0999 for other ways that you can contribute.





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



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

BOOK REVIEW

A Woman Clothed with the Sun Edited by John J. Delaney



We have heard of some of the apparitions of Our Lady over the last 200 years and this volume explains each one as it happened. A great read.



from Our Schools



Under the new 2021 fee schedule, no family will pay more than they would have under the 2020 fee schedule.

After a difficult year for families in 2020, with many impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, Broken Bay Bishop Anthony Randazzo emphasised that Catholic Schools Broken Bay remains firm in its commitment that no family will be denied a Catholic education because of financial difficulties.

"To further assist our families, not only are we holding fees, we are also increasing the discounts we apply to siblings and continue to offer generous COVID fee relief support to all families in 2021," Bishop Randazzo said.

The discounts include maintaining the COVID Fee Relief program up until the end of Term 1 for those on JobKeeper and until the end of Term 3 for those on JobSeeker and increasing the education fee sibling discount rate.

A more streamlined method of invoicing will be introduced in 2021, providing a more "user friendly" invoice to families.

Director of Schools, Mr Danny Casey, said: "Our new format invoice reflects a single education fee merging the previously separated fees of tuition, building levy, school resource fee and other locally determined fees. Our sibling discount is applied to the new Education Fee, previously, the sibling discounts only applied to the Tuition fee, providing a further benefit to our families

We would like to take this opportunity to wish all our students, families and the wider Mater Maria community a happy and safe Christmas and New Year.

Prayers for the Sick Bill Eyre Manny Zarb Philip Maddrel Gall Reiher Imelda Vince Eric Domagas Vicky Villaluz Ben Castillo Moira Howie Carol Brennan Jomar Christine Hills Donald McRae Sara Zofrea Beryl Peo-Duncan John Andrew Graham John Charles Graham Michael Carrodus

Pat Regan Robyn Sheather Lynette Buhat Candida Hernandez Chin Quang Le Gill Page Tony Quatroville

Tony Quatroville Garry Gleeson Elizabeth Kral

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

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The Feast of the Holy Family





Joseph listened to the angel's warning because he trusted in God. Write down some of the names of those who you trust.

ECODETHEPROPHECY

Use the code below to decipher the prophet's message



Pope Francis proclaims "Year of St Joseph"

With the Apostolic Letter "Patris corde" ("With a Father's Heart"), Pope Francis recalls the 150th anniversary of the declaration of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. To mark the occasion, the Holy Father has proclaimed a "Year of Saint Joseph" from 8 December 2020, to 8 December 2021.



In a new Apostolic Letter entitled Patris corde ("With a Father's Heart"), Pope Francis describes Saint Joseph as a beloved father, a tender and loving father, an obedient father, an accepting father; a father who is creatively courageous, a working father, a father in the shadows. The Letter marks the 150th anniversary of Blessed Pope Pius IX's declaration of St Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. To celebrate the anniversary, Pope Francis has proclaimed a special "Year of St Joseph," beginning on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception 2020 and extending to the same feast in 2021.

The Holy Father wrote Patris corde against the backdrop of the Covid-19 pandemic, which, he says, has helped us see more clearly the importance of "ordinary" people who, though far from the limelight, exercise patience and offer hope every day. In this, they resemble Saint Joseph, "the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence," who nonetheless played "an incomparable role in the history of salvation."

A beloved, tender, obedient father

Saint Joseph, in fact, "concretely expressed his fatherhood" by making an offering of himself in love "a love placed at the service of the Messiah who was growing to maturity in his home," writes Pope Francis, quoting his predecessor St Paul VI.

And because of his role at "the crossroads between the Old and New Testament," St Joseph "has always been venerated as a father by the Christian people" (PC, 1). In him, "Jesus saw the tender love of God," the one that helps us accept our weakness, because "it is through" and despite "our fears, our frailties, and our weakness" that most divine designs are realised. "Only tender love will save us from the snares of the accuser," emphasises the Pontiff, and it is by encountering God's mercy especially in the Sacrament of Reconciliation that we "experience His truth and tenderness," - because "we know that God's truth does not condemn us, but instead welcomes, embraces, sustains and forgives us" (2). Joseph is also a father in obedience to God: with his 'fiat' he protects Mary and Jesus and teaches his Son to "do the will of the Father." Called by God to serve the mission of Jesus, he "cooperated... in the great mystery of Redemption," as St John Paul II said, "and is truly a minister of salvation" (3).

Welcoming the will of God

At the same time, Joseph is "an accepting Father," because he "accepted Mary unconditionally" - an important gesture even today, says Pope Francis, "in our world where psychological, verbal and physical violence towards women is so evident." But the Bridegroom of Mary is also the one who, trusting in the Lord, accepts in his life even the events that he does not understand, "setting aside his own ideas" and reconciling himself with his own history.

Joseph's spiritual path "is not one that explains, but accepts" - which does not mean that he is "resigned." Instead, he is "courageously and firmly proactive," because with "Holy Spirit's gift of fortitude," and full of hope, he is able "to accept life as it is, with all its contradictions, frustrations and disappointments." In practice, through St. Joseph, it is as if God were to repeat to us: "Do not be afraid!" because "faith gives meaning to every event, however happy or sad," and makes us aware that "God can make flowers spring up from stony ground." Joseph "did not look for shortcuts but confronted reality with open eyes and accepted personal responsibility for it." For this reason, "he encourages us to accept and welcome others as they are, without exception, and to show special concern for the weak" (4).

A creatively courageous father, example of love

Patris corde highlights "the creative courage" of St. Joseph, which "emerges especially in the way we deal with difficulties.""The carpenter of Nazareth," explains the Pope, was able to turn a problem into a possibility by trusting in divine providence." He had to deal with "the concrete problems" his Family faced, problems faced by other families in the world, and especially those of migrants.

In this sense, St. Joseph is "the special patron of all those forced to leave their native lands because of war, hatred, persecution and poverty." As the guardian of Jesus and Mary, Joseph cannot "be other than the guardian of the Church," of her motherhood, and of the Body of Christ. "Consequently, every poor, needy, suffering or dying person, every stranger, every prisoner, every infirm person is 'the child' whom Joseph continues to protect." From St Joseph, writes Pope Francis, "we must learn... to love the Church and the poor" (5).

A father who teaches the value, dignity and joy of work

"A carpenter who earned an honest living to provide for his family," St Joseph also teaches us "the value, the dignity and the joy of what it means to eat bread that is the fruit of one's own labour." This aspect of Joseph's character provides Pope Francis the opportunity to launch an appeal in favour of work, which has become "a burning social issue" even in countries with a certain level of well-being. "there is a renewed need to appreciate the importance of dignified work, of which Saint Joseph is an exemplary patron," the Pope writes.

Work, he says, "is a means of participating in the work of salvation, an opportunity to hasten the coming of the Kingdom, to develop our talents and abilities, and to put them at the service of society and fraternal communion." Those who work, he explains, "are cooperating with God himself, and in some way become creators of the world around us." Pope Francis encourages everyone "to rediscover the value, the importance and the necessity of work for bringing about a new 'normal' from which no one is excluded." Especially in light of rising unemployment due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Pope calls everyone to "review our priorities" and to express our firm conviction that no young person, no person at all, no family should be without work!" (6).

A father "in the shadows," centred on Mary and Jesus

Taking a cue from The Shadow of the Father - a book by Polish writer Jan Dobraczyński -Pope Francis describes Joseph's fatherhood of Jesus as "the earthly shadow of the heavenly Father." "Fathers are not born, but made," says Pope Francis. "A man does not become a father simply by bringing a child into the world, but by taking up the responsibility to care for that child." Unfortunately, in today's society, children "often seem orphans, lacking fathers" who are able to introduce them "to life and reality." Children, the Pope says, need fathers who will not try to

dominate them, but instead raise them to be "capable of deciding for themselves, enjoying freedom and exploring new possibilities." This is the sense in which St Joseph is described as a "most chaste" father, which is the opposite of domineering possessiveness. Joseph, says Pope Francis, "knew how to love with extraordinary freedom. He never made himself the centre of things. He did not think of himself, but focused instead on the lives of Mary and Jesus." Happiness for Joseph involved a true gift of self: "In him, we never see frustration, but only trust," writes Pope Francis. "His patient silence was the prelude to concrete expressions of trust." Joseph stands out, therefore, as an exemplary figure for our time, in a world that "needs fathers," and not "tyrants"; a society that "rejects those who confuse authority with authoritarianism, service with servility, discussion with oppression, charity with a welfare mentality, power with destruction."

True fathers, instead, "refuse to live the lives of

their children for them," and instead respect their freedom. In this sense, says Pope Francis, a father realises that "he is most a father and an educator at the point when he becomes 'useless,' when he sees that his child has become independent and can walk the paths of life unaccompanied." Being a father, the Pope emphasises, "has nothing to do with possession, but is rather a 'sign' pointing to a greater fatherhood": that of the "heavenly Father" (7).

A daily prayer to St Joseph... and a challenge

In his letter, Pope Francis notes how, "Every day, for over forty years, following Lauds [Morning Prayer]" he has "recited a prayer to Saint Joseph taken from a nineteenth-century French prayer book of the Congregation of the Sisters of Jesus and Mary." This prayer, he says, expresses devotion and trust, and even poses a certain challenge to Saint Joseph," on account of its closing words: "My beloved father, all my trust is

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in you. Let it not be said that I invoked you in vain, and since you can do everything with Jesus and Mary, show me that your goodness is as great as your power."

At the conclusion of his Letter, he adds another prayer to St Joseph, which he encourages all of us to pray together:

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. To you God entrusted his only Son; in you Mary placed her trust; with you Christ became man. Blessed Joseph, to us too, show yourself a father and guide us in the path of life. Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage, and defend us from every evil. Amen.

Marriage Tribunal – Diocese of Broken Bay

The Marriage Tribunal in the Diocese of Broken Bay is a service of the Diocese to assist with the pastoral care of:

- divorced persons seeking to remarry in the Catholic Church;
- divorced and remarried persons seeking to have their marriage recognised in the Catholic Church;
- divorced persons seeking clarification of their standing in the Catholic Church for peace of conscience or for reassurance in developing relationships in the future.

Marriage Tribunal Contact Details

alvatoria

Diocesan Director: Fr Julian Wellspring JV Administrative Assistant: Mrs Alda Mendezona Phone: 9307 8309 • Email: tribunal@bbcatholic.org.au Postal address: Level 7 Polding Centre

133 Liverpool Street Sydney NSW 2000

The Marriage Tribunal will reopen on Monday, 4 January 2021.

Dear parishioners, Each year the Australian Region of Salvatorians are humbled by the overwhelming support from all the Salvatorian parishes across Australia.

Our community is sincerely grateful for the generous donations received throughout this year to support the formation of our seminarians and missionary projects.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry and safe Christmas with a joyous New Year.

May God continue to bless you abundantly.

Fr George Kolodziej SDS Regional Superior. highest rank in the liturgical calendar of the Roman Rite, celebrating a mystery of faith such as the Trinity, an event in the life of Jesus, his mother Mary, or another important saint. Friday 1 January 2021 Mary, the Holy Mother of God Mass at 10am (livestreamed www.pittwaterparish.org)

A solemnity is a feast day of the



To read the messages from Bishop Anthony and from the people Vox Populi please go to www.pittwaterparish.org. News and events tile and Messages from Bishop Anthony on the drop down menu.



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

The Living Word

Entrance Antiphon

Lk 2:16

The shepherds went in haste, and found Mary and Joseph and the Infant lying in a manger.

First Reading Gen 15:1-6. 21:1-3 **A reading from the book of Genesis** *Your own son shall be your heir.*

The word of the Lord was spoken to Abram in a vision, 'Have no fear, Abram, I am your shield; your reward will be very great'.

Yery great². 'My Lord', Abram replied, 'what do you intend to give me? I go childless...' Then Abram said, 'See, you have given me no descendants; some man of my household will be my heir.' And then this word of the Lord was spoken to him, 'He shall not be your heir; your heir shall be one of your own flesh and blood.' Then taking him outside he said, 'Look up to heaven and count the stars if you can. Such will be your descendants,' he told him. Abram put his faith in the Lord, who counted this as making him justified. The Lord dealt kindly with Sarah as he had said, and did what he had promised her. So Sarah conceived and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the time God had promised. Abraham named the son born to him Isaac, the son to whom Sarah had given birth.

The word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 104:1-6. 8-9. R.vv.7.8

(R.) The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.

Give thanks to the Lord, tell his name, make known his deeds among the peoples. O sing to him, sing his praise; tell all his wonderful works! **(R)**

Be proud of his holy name, let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice. Consider the Lord and his strength; constantly seek his face. **(R)**

Remember the wonders he has done, his miracles, the judgements he spoke. O children of Abraham, his servant, O sons of the Jacob he chose. **(R)**

He remembers his covenant for ever, his promise for a thousand generations, the covenant he made with Abraham, the oath he swore to Isaac. **(R)**

Second Reading Heb 11:8. 11-12. 17-19 A reading from the letter to the Hebrews The faith of Abraham, Sarah, and Isaac.

It was by faith that Abraham obeyed the call to set out for a country that was the inheritance given to him and his descendants, and that he set out without knowing where he was going. It was equally by faith that Sarah, in spite of being past the age, was made able to conceive, because she believed that he who had made the promise would be faithful to it. Because of this, there came from one man, and one who was already as good as dead himself, more descendants than could be counted, as many as the stars of heaven or the grains of sand on the seashore. It was by faith that Abraham, when put to the test, offered up Isaac. He offered to sacrifice his only son even though the promises had been made to him and he had been told: It is through Isaac that your name will be carried on. He was confident that God had the power even to raise the dead; and so, figuratively speaking, he was given back Isaac from the dead.

The word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! In the past God spoke to our fathers through the prophets; now he speaks to us though his Son. Alleluia!

Gospel Lk 2:22-40 A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Heb 1:1-2

The child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom.

When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord – observing what stands written in the Law of the Lord: Every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord – and also to offer in sacrifice, in accordance with what is said in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons. Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was an upright and devout man; he looked forward to Israel's comforting and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord. Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required, he took him into his arms and blessed God; and he said: 'Now, Master,

Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace, just as you promised; because my eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared for all the nations to see, a light to enlighten the pagans

a light to enlighten the pagans and the glory of your people Israel.' As the child's father and mother stood there wondering at the things that were being said about him, Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, 'You see this child: he is destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected – and a sword will pierce your own soul too – so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare.'

There was a prophetess also, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well on in years. Her days of girlhood over, she had been married for seven years before becoming a widow. She was now eighty-four years old and never left the Temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayer. She came by just at that moment and began to praise God; and she spoke

of the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem. When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with him.

The Gospel of the Lord

Communion Antiphon Bar 3:38 Our God has appeared on the earth, and lived among us.

REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSS

The readings focus our attention on true family values. God promises an heir to a couple that cannot produce a child, and when the promise is fulfilled and the child is born, God asks for the life of that child. The hopes that were kindled by the promise and that blazed brilliantly with the child's birth now lie like ashes on a heap. Is God reneging on the promise of a descendant? Is God playing with people's dreams and aspirations? Or might God be preparing them for yet another marvel?

The couple had placed their trust in God's initial promise of new life, and it was fulfilled. Now Abraham, as the representative of the entire family, is asked to hope against hope, to relinquish the child in whom all of the hopes of the future rests. Trust does not really depend upon the promises made, but upon the one making the promises. God is a God of surprises, of the paradoxical, of the preposterous. This is a God who opens closed wombs, rescinds death sentences, takes an obscure child and makes him the light to the nations. Trust in such a God requires that we sacrifice our own presuppositions. Then, expecting nothing from God, we can be open to everything. In the face of such mystery, the human heart can only sing with gratitude. We live in the presence of God, and this sustains us through whatever seems impossible. Thanksgiving opens us to receive God's promise and God's gifts.

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Fr Richard celebrates his birthday on January 3rd.

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LOCAL PEOPLE CARING FOR LOCAL FAMILIES

Our team live, work and play on the Beaches. We understand the local community and are here for you when you need us most. Whether it's to plan an immediate funeral for a loved one or plan ahead for your own with a prepaid funeral, we're here to help.

ANN WILSON FUNERALS

Contact us to find out more.

844 Pittwater Road, Dee Why Cnr E 9971 4224

Cnr Barrenjoey Road & Darley Street, Mona Vale 9979 5978

annwilsonfunerals.com.au

