The Catholic Parish of Pittwater

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

May the hope of this sacred season settle in your soul.

May it be a foundation of courage for you when times of distress occupy your inner land.

May the wonder and awe that fills the eyes of children be awakened within you.

May it lead you to renewed awareness and appreciation of whatever you too easily take for granted.

May the bonds of love for one another be strengthened as you gather with your family and friends around the table of festivity and nourishment.

May the coming year be one of good health for you. May you have energy and vitality.

May you care for your body, mind and spirit. May you daily open the gift of your life and be grateful for the hidden treasures it contains.

May you go often to the Bethlehem of your heart and visit the One who offers you peace.

May you bring this peace and joy into our world.

Joyce Rudd



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.

Christmas 2020

The Catholic Parish of Pittwater

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 and Anthony SDS (Seminarian)

PARISH DIRECTORY

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



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



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

https://www.youtube.com /channel/UCNenwlfI7i14 XB9TsVBrLvQ

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

The Jewess Mary Mother of Jesus by Henry Skrzynski

This book is an attempt to reconstruct the everyday life of Mary in the Jewish society 2000 years ago, her family duties and social position as a Jewish maiden, wife, mother and lastly as a widow.



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 Gail 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 Garry Gleeson Elizabeth Kral

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



Dear Parishioners,

This year 2020, has been a challenging year for us, even more so this week with the recent Avalon cluster Covid-19 outbreak. Even though we were looking forward to coming together to celebrate the joy of Christmas, given the latest NSW Government directions for people living in the Northern Beaches Local Government Area, places of worship must remain closed and not be open to members of the public.

For this reason, we will livestream our Christmas Masses. Our Family Mass will be on Thursday 24 December (Christmas Eve) at 5pm and our Christmas Day Mass will be on Friday 25 December at 10am. These Masses will be also recorded and be available on our website over Christmas for you to be able to celebrate with us, even if it is in a more limited way than we had previously anticipated.

We will also continue to livestream our Masses over the coming weekends, on Saturdays at 5pm and on Sundays at 10am, until the restriction ease and our Churches can be open once again.

We apologise for the sound issues that occurred last weekend with our livestreaming, but assure you that these issues have been corrected for the livestreaming of our future Masses.

To watch the livestream of our Masses, please visit https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/pittwater/news-events/parish-news

The importance of family is highlighted this week with Christmas closely followed by the Feast of the Holy Family on Sunday, 27 December. We pray for each of our families at this time, but especially those who mourn loved ones, those who are physically distanced from each other and for those whose Christmas hopes and plans have been changed by the most recent outbreaks of Covid-19 here in our Northern Beaches area.

Even when we are physically apart from each other, one way that we can be united with our loved ones is to light our Parish Christmas Candle. We have some candles in our parish office available for \$15.00 if you would like to come in to buy one and have on your Christmas table as a sign of unity with those that are unable to join you at this time. You may also like to light one of your own candles.

Our Christmas bulletin is now available to be downloaded from our Parish website https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/ pittwater/news-events/bulletins. Printed copies are available to collect from outside our Maria Regina Church, Avalon or the front of the parish office, Mona Vale.

Bishop Anthony Randazzo, Bishop of Broken bay, has asked us to reassure you of his thoughts and prayers. His Christmas message is available on our parish website https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/pittwater/ news-events/ vox-episcopi-and -vox-populi-the-voice-of-the-bishop-and-the-people/a-christmas-message-from-bishop-anthony

Even though we may be disappointed, we as Christians remember that the heart of Christmas is Emmanuel. God with us. That is the heart of Christmas. No matter what, our God is with us and that is the source of our joy. So, at this time, let us be grateful for the many blessings we have encountered amidst the difficulties we have faced and in our year of prayer, let us continue to take comfort with our prayers and the deeper relationship with Jesus that we have.

I pray that this Christmas is filled with many blessings for you and your families and the coming year 2021, is filled with happiness and peace.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Brietluschic SDS

Fr Bronek Pietrusewicz SDS Parish Priest

Praying With Mary by Chris Sullivan



The very essence of prayer is recognising that God is with us. That is the meaning of one of the Lord's names, one that we hear over and again in Advent, Emmanuel. The Lord is with Mary. The Lord is with us. What does it take for us to pause amidst the busyness of this season of preparation—between the shopping and decorating, the family gatherings and holiday parties? Mary's life is dramatically interrupted by the visitation of an angel and a miraculous conception. How do I hear the angelic messenger, that still, small voice of God (1 Kings 19:12) in my days? What does God wish to conceive in me? How does God want to use my flesh to incarnate the living Christ?

As we journey through this Advent and Christmas season, we can seek Mary's intercession, looking to her example of how to welcome the overshadowing Spirit of God. As Mary said yes to the Spirit, I can trust in her to lead me to my own yes.

Here are some possible ways to practice praying with Mary this month.

Luke 1:26–56 chronicles Mary's encounter with the angel, her visitation to her cousin Elizabeth, and her song, which we call the Magnificat. Read this passage slowly. It's long, so you may want to read just a few verses each day or each week. As you read, notice whether there is a word or a phrase that speaks to you. Ponder it in your heart as you go about your day. Invite the Lord to speak to you through his Word.

If the Rosary is not already part of your life, consider

incorporating it once a week, or maybe try praying a decade a day. As the Joyful Mysteries recall the events surrounding the birth of Jesus, they are perfect for praying through the seasons of Advent and Christmas. As you meditate on each mystery, invite the Spirit to use the experiences of Mary and Joseph and Jesus to shine light on how the Spirit is moving in your life here and now.

The Angelus is a traditional prayer by which we can connect and reconnect with our ever-present God throughout the day. The Angelus is a brief reflection on the incarnation, recalling Mary's yes to God's invitation to bring Christ into the world. Prayed at 6:00 a.m., noon (often accompanied by a prayer for peace), and 6:00 p.m., the Angelus is a pause in the rhythm of our days in which we can recall Emmanuel, God with us.

How has praying with Mary enhanced your experience of Advent and Christmas?

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Chris Sullivan

Chris Sullivan is a writer, speaker, and spiritual director -in-training. Chris works within her own Roman Catholic faith community as well as in interdenominational Christian ministry in the areas of faith formation, training, and emotional and spiritual healing work.

Finding God under the Christmas Tree by Julianne B. McCullagh

Christmas should be an easy time to find God in all things, as St. Ignatius of Loyola calls us to do. But often it does not seem so simple. With all the distractions at home, school, and work, it is easy to lose sight of what is really important.

'Tis the Season



Sitting cross-legged under the Christmas tree, Kate looks up and squints her eyes. All the lights in the room are out, except for those on the Christmas tree. She can hear the wind blow outside, and she finds it easy to imagine that she is travelling on a donkey alongside Mary and Joseph toward Bethlehem down a long, winding road with a village in the distance, just like on one of the Christmas cards displayed on the piano.

Mum is busy with little Joey, so Kate has a few minutes alone just to sit here in her favourite spot. In front of her is the Nativity scene—a thin wooden manger with bits of straw glued to the top, and on the back wall a painting of a cow, sheep, and donkey looking into the space where the figurines have been carefully placed. There is Joseph, leaning on his walking staff, head bent in wonder. Mary is in a sitting kneel, hands apart in awe at the sight before her. Shepherds crowd the doorway, and a few kings in colourful robes and their resplendent camels are lined up to enter this special place. They all face the little plaster child, who is dressed only in a tiny thin sheet where a diaper should be. This baby, this Saviour, with a halo behind his curls, has his arms outstretched in benediction toward his audience; toward me, too, Kate thinks.

"Kate, do you have your sweater, hat, and mittens? It's beginning to snow," Mum calls as she coaxes Joey into his snowsuit. "Oh, there is just so much to do these days before Christmas." Kate hears Mum talk to Joey in an exasperated and tired voice while she wrestles his kicking feet into the snowsuit.



And a Child Shall Lead Them

Kate is prepared for the cold night. Warm clothes are on the big chair near the front door, ready to be put on when she goes to the school concert her big brother is playing in. Dad and the older boys are already at school; she and Mum and her little brother will walk the three blocks to join them. Kate helps Mum open the stroller for Joey. He squirms and squeals delightedly as his mother and sister fuss over him, tucking him in with a soft blanket to keep him warm in the night air. As she tucks the blanket under her little brother's back, Kate impulsively kisses this little child she loves so much, touching his soft, warm cheek.

Kate holds the front bar of the stroller while Mum holds the handle, and together they maneuver the stroller down the front steps. The wind is picking up, and tiny bits of snow land on Kate's cheek.

"Ready, Kate?"

"Uh, I forgot something. I'll be right back."



She runs up the four steps and into the house. Kneeling once again in front of the manger, Kate takes one of her soft blue knit mittens from her pocket and tucks it around the smiling baby in the manger.

"Ready, Mom," she announces as she shuts the front door behind her.

Prayer for Christmas Dinner

God Our Father we thank you for the many ways you have cared for us in the past year. We are grateful for each person gathered around this table. Bless us, our food and our company today. Bless those we love who are not with us. Be close to our brothers and sisters who are poor and hungry today. We invite Jesus. Mary and Joseph into our hearts and we join with the Angels in their Christmas song: 'Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to people of good will'. Amen.

The Living Word Vigil

First Reading

Is 62:1-5 A reading from the prophet Isaiah The Lord takes delight in you.

About Zion I will not be silent, about Jerusalem I will not grow weary, until her integrity shines out like the dawn

and her salvation flames like a torch. The nations then will see your integrity, all the kings your glory, and you will be called by a new name,

one which the mouth of the Lord will confer

You are to be a crown of splendour in the hand of the Lord,

a princely diadem in the hand of your God.

no longer are you to be named 'Forsaken'

nor your land 'Abandoned' but you shall be called 'My Delight' and your land 'The Wedded'; for the Lord takes delight in you and your land will have its wedding. Like a young man marrying a virgin, so will the one who built you wed you, and as the bridegroom rejoices in his bride

so will your God rejoice in you.

The word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 88:4-5. 16-17. 27. 29 R. see v.2

(R.) For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

'I have made a covenant with my chosen one:

I have sworn to David my servant:

I will establish your dynasty for ever and set up your throne through all ages.' **(R)**

Happy the people who acclaim such a king.

who walk, O Lord, in the light of your face.

who find their joy every day in your name,

who make your justice the source of their bliss.(R)

'He will say to me: "You are my father, my God, the rock who saves me." I will keep my love for him always for him my covenant shall endure. (**R**)

Second Reading Acts 13:16-17. 22-25 A reading from the Acts of the Apostles Paul spoke of Christ, the son of David.

When Paul reached Antioch in Pisidia, he stood up in the synagogue, held up a hand for silence and began to speak: 'Men of Israel, and fearers of God, listen! The God of our nation Israel chose our ancestors, and made our people great when they were living as foreigners in Egypt; then by divine power he led them out. Then he made David their king, of

whom he approved in these words, "I have selected David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart, who will carry out

my whole purpose". To keep his promise, God has raised up for Israel one of David's descendants, Jesus, as Saviour, whose coming was heralded by John when he proclaimed a baptism of repentance for the whole people of Israel. Before John ended his career he said, "I am not the one you imagine me to be; that one is coming after me and I am not fit to undo his sandal"

The word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation Lk 2:14

Alleluia, alleluia! Tomorrow the wickedness of the earth will be destroyed: the Saviour of the world will be our king. Alleluia!

Gospel Mt 1:18-25 A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Mary will give birth to a son and you will name him Jesus.

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus. because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The Virgin will conceive and give birth to a son

and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord told him to do: he took his wife to his home and, though he had not had intercourse with her, she gave birth to a son; and he named him Jesus.

The Gospel of the Lord

REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSS

As we stand at the threshold of Christmas, we reflect on the theme of covenant. Out of inexplicable love, God established a covenant with us, one that is best characterised with marriage imagery. The love reflected in such imagery is the basis of everything that has transpired in history and that will unfold in the future. Because of this love, God promised to send a saviour, and throughout the history of a particular people, God moved to bring that promise to fulfilment. The promises of God are realised in actual human history.

The Incarnation is grounded in belief that Jesus is not only the Son of God, but also a real human being. Therefore, it is important to be able to situate him in bit to be able to situate him in history, to know his family, his ancestry. Often when the gospel writers proclaim some of the wondrous aspects of Jesus, they also underscore his human origins. Though he might be misunderstood, he was still in many ways a man like other men, a vulnerable child like other children. The Incarnation assures us that God does not love us despite our humanity. Rather, it is precisely through it that we know God's love. Finally, today we realise that the promises of God blossom in the soil of vulnerability. Though covenants were made with a people or a family, they are brought to completion in a child whose birth was shrouded in misunderstanding. He will be our saviour, he will be 'God with us', but he will still always be a mystery of God's own vulnerability.

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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.



The Living Word Mass of the Day

First Reading

Is 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. (\mathbf{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)

All 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

Heb 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 oppointed to isolar according and 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

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 Jn 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

REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSS

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. 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 bit tort are once on the is not a distant 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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Jesus Christ, our beginning and end: A Pastoral Letter from Bishop Anthony Randazzo to the community of the Church of Broken Bay 2020 – 2021



Hard copies of the Pastoral Letter book and an accompanying prayer card are available at the back of Church, or download on www.bbcatholic.org.au

25th December 2020





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.

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