



# OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY PARISH

2nd Sunday of Advent

Year B Cycle II

10 December 2023



## Prepare a Way for the Lord

Live holy and saintly lives as you wait for the Day of God to come" (2 Pt 3:11-12).

We must seriously heed St Peter's advice and strive to live holy and saintly lives so that God will find us at peace and ready for him whenever that day does come for each of us. But how can we do this in today's post-Christian society that largely has not only become spiritually deaf to the voice of the Church, but often actively opposes and works against it and the Christian message of the Gospel?

Only prayer, sacrifice, and graced personal holiness of life can straighten what has become twisted and buried in the moral and human turmoil of the lives of so many today. This will only happen when Christ is born again in the hearts of individual believers and families, who like leaven, can transform the world once more in the image and likeness of God, as happened when Christ was first born. And for this to happen, we must maintain a serious, daily prayer life that includes reading and meditating on the sacred Scriptures, regular Confession and worship at Mass, and a solid devotion to Our Lady. These fundamentals are the Christian's road map of life; without them we will very quickly lose our hope and our way.

*Mary, Mother of the Word made flesh, pray for us. St Joseph, Guardian of the Redeemer, intercede for us. Amen.*

*The Sign Fr Christopher G Sarkis*

## St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal this Weekend

The St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal is being held in our parish this weekend. Please support families struggling with the escalating cost-of-living crisis this Christmas. Your help will provide for food, clothing, living expenses and crisis support for vulnerable people in Australia like Anna and her family.

Envelopes are available on the pews and may be added to the collections or you may like to donate online at [vinnies.org.au/Christmasappeal](http://vinnies.org.au/Christmasappeal)

Thank you for your kindness.





## Feast Days this Week

**St Lucy**  
13 December  
**St John of the  
Cross**  
14 December



**Congratulations  
Yr 6 Students**  
on the occasion  
of your  
**Graduation**  
from Primary  
School!

## Parish Morning Tea



The Ambrosian  
Family Group  
is hosting our  
final Morning Tea  
for 2023 this  
Sunday 10  
December in the  
Parish Centre after  
9:30am Mass.  
All Welcome!



**Nursing Home  
Mass**  
and Anointing of  
the Sick will be  
celebrated at Opal  
Killarney Vale at  
11am on Tuesday.

## Preparing & Repenting

It's difficult to fathom why in the time of Jesus the people left relatively comfortable cities like Jerusalem to go out into the desert to hear John the Baptist. Despite the stirring and spine-tingling opening words of today's Good News, sometimes the Good News seems to have a packaging problem. In New Testament times, the "Good News," or Gospel, had come to mean in particular political good news, one being the visit of a king to one of his subject cities. In the ancient world such a visit could mean pardons, the promise of new buildings, and other benefits. Nothing in today's Gospel looked much like good news. That desert was one of the most abandoned places in the world, with deep gulches, arid limestone soil, and rocky precipices. Its days were unbearably hot, its nights terribly cold.

John had skin like leather, feet strong and hard, face emaciated and stern, hair never cut or shaved, and body wiry. His clothes were a loose weave of camel's hair, tied about his waist by a leather belt. No political marketer would permit him to appear in public looking like that today. Another side of John caused some of the people to think that he was the Messiah: his remarkable austerity, which struck the imagination; the very suddenness of his appearance; his mighty voice which shook the people from their listlessness; and the fact that there had been no prophet for about 400 years. John's self-sacrificing way of life resulted in a piercing eye, a majesty of bearing, of authority together with a touching humility.

John's message was present not only in his words but in his whole life: the man was the message. The time of Jesus was a time of elegance for the rich. That a messenger should make paths straight (v. 3) by filling in the valleys and cutting into the hills (Is 40:4) was the custom of kings. A herald would precede a king on a journey, to forewarn the inhabitants of his arrival so that they might thus smooth out their ill-kept roads.

John's essential message was repentance. This would be a message of Jesus, too. Repentance doesn't mean only regret for the past or the performance of penance, but also a change of mind and heart, a new direction of life, a new beginning, in keeping with the will of God. Its outward sign for both John and Jesus was baptism. John's baptism was an external sign. The Jews were familiar with ritual washings like that. Symbolic washing and purifying was part of the very fabric of Jewish life, as we know from the regulations in the Book of Leviticus (chap 11-15) and from part of the Pharisees criticism of Jesus. All of this, of course, was different from Jesus' Baptism - a sacrament imparting the Holy Spirit.

Mark shows us that Jesus' story didn't begin with his birth on earth, but began in the mind of God long before. He reminds us that he is presenting the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The word "Christ" is not a surname, and it means "Anointed One" or "Messiah." To his contemporaries, Jesus, whose name means "Saviour," would have been referred to as Jesus the Son of Joseph, to signify who his father was, or Jesus the Nazarean, indicating his city of origin, as later with Francis of Assisi, Catherine of Siena and others.

Mark calls Jesus the "Son of God." These opening words are special: they fling us right into the middle of Jesus' reason for coming into this world; they make us want to read on. Mark tells us about it here in the very first verse of his Gospel, and again at the end, when the soldier who stood facing him on the cross will declare that this man was truly the son of God! (15:39).

*365 Days with the Lord* Fr Harold A Buetow PhD, JD

## Christmas Mass Times

### Second Rite of Reconciliation Wednesday 20 December

6pm (With several visiting priests available for Confessions)

### Christmas Eve Sunday 24 December

Carols 4:30pm, Children's Nativity Mass 5pm

Christmas Vigil Mass 7pm

Carols 11:30pm, Midnight Mass 12am

### Christmas Day Monday 25 December

Morning Masses 8am and 9:30am (No Mass Christmas night)

## Be a Witness

There is a great need for catechists (Scripture Teachers) in our community today. The world is constantly changing, and the challenges facing our youth are becoming more complex. It is crucial that we have dedicated and passionate individuals who are willing to share their faith and knowledge with children in our public schools. We are seeking catechists for the 2024 school year.

Being a catechist is not just about teaching the faith, it's about being a witness to the faith and helping children to encounter Christ. It's about being present to them and helping them grow in their relationship with God.

If you have a passion for sharing the faith and helping children on their spiritual journey, then consider becoming a catechist. You don't need to have a degree in religious studies. All you need is a love for God and a willingness to share that love. You will be required to have a current Working With Children Check number and attend training which is provided free of charge. The Diocese has its own curriculum, 'Walking With Jesus' and these resources are also provided to you. Classes are held each Thursday in school terms at Killarney Vale, Brooke Avenue, Bateau Bay and The Entrance public schools.

I encourage you, if you feel called to this important ministry, to step forward and answer that call. Together, we can help build a stronger, more vibrant Church for generations to come.

For more information call Leanne on 4332 2216 or email [leanne@ourladyoftherosary.org.au](mailto:leanne@ourladyoftherosary.org.au)

## Please Note

### Diocesan Advent Resource

*O Come O Come Emmanuel*, prepared by our Vicar General, Fr David Ranson, is a beautiful series of Advent Reflections based on the O Antiphons; the Christmas hymn. These reflections will accompany the participants towards the sacred Mystery of Christmas in wondrous anticipation for the birth of the Lord. This resource is downloadable from <https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/evangelisation/advent-2023>

### Divine Retreat Centre

The Divine Retreat Centre offers a variety of programmes for December including an Advent live-in Retreat weekend and a one-day Retreat. Located at 160 Hensons Road Somersby. For more information and bookings contact 4372 1598, [drcsydney@gmail.com](mailto:drcsydney@gmail.com) or [www.divineretreatcentre.org](http://www.divineretreatcentre.org)



### Children's Christmas Mass Rehearsal

All children are invited to come to rehearsal on Friday 22 December 4-5pm in the church, for the Children's Christmas Nativity Mass. Costumes provided.



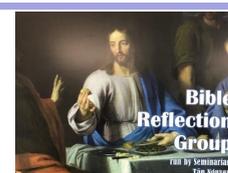
### Welcome

to the Baldock & McIntosh families for the Reception of their children for the Sacrament of Baptism.



### Happy Birthday to Jesus!

Join us at KidsClub for a very special Christmas Party. Saturday 9 December 3-4:45pm in the Reynolds Room.



### Bible Reflection

Final session Wednesday 13 December in the Reynolds Room 9:30am.

# THE ENTRANCE PARISH DIOCESE OF BROKEN BAY

*A beacon of Faith, Hope and Love*

**PARISH PRIEST & DEAN OF THE CENTRAL COAST** Fr Brian Moloney **ASSISTANT PRIEST** Fr Joshi Naduppura

**DEACON** Paul Simmons **SEMINARIAN** Tân Nguyen **PASTORAL ASSOCIATE** Colleen Smith

**SAFEGUARDING OFFICER** Leanne McGill **PROPERTY MAINTENANCE MANAGER** Karen Green

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## Mass & Devotions

**Sunday Masses** Saturday Vigil 5:00pm Sunday 8:00am & 9:30am (11am at Reynolds Court, Bias Ave Bateau Bay)

**Weekday Masses** Monday - Thursday 9:00am Friday 11:45am Saturday 9:00am

**Reconciliations** Saturdays 9:30-10am and 4-4:30pm

**Liturgy of the Hours** Saturday 8:40am **Rosary** Monday-Thursday 8:35am Friday 11:20am Saturday 9:30am

**Cenacle Prayer Group** Wednesday 9:30am **Christian Meditation** Friday 10:30am-11:30am Reynolds Room

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 40: 1-5, 9-11

2 Peter 3:8-14

Mark 1:1-8

**Entrance Antiphon:** O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.

**Responsorial Psalm:** Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!

**Communion Antiphon:** Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

## Keep Us In Your Prayers *There is no gift more precious than prayer - Fr Benedict Groeschel*

**Recently Deceased:** Jim Eves (Sadie Fletcher's brother), Moira Grace, James Diggins, Dawn Collins, Charles Gatt.

**Funerals:** The funeral of Jim Eves will be held on Monday at 11am. Please pray for Jim and his family.

**Anniversaries:** Patricia Byrne, Ana Naraj, Leonie Perera.

**Remembrances:** Pat Smith, Marie Powell, Jill O'Sullivan, Arthur Vella, Margaret Pizzuto, Terence & Josephine Smith, Ralph Jayesuria, John Giutronich and all the Holy Souls in Purgatory.

**Families:** Lanalley & Moore.

**Sick:** Margaret Falzon, Martin Ghirxi, Susan Simmons, Barbara Greaney, Anne & Trish Knoke, Lyle Dunn, Paul Smith, Anne O'Rourke, Collette O'Grady, Emma Horton, Marc Sabat, Linda Read, Peter O'Grady, Tanya Doorn, Kelly Will, and all with serious illness.

## Pearly Gates Revisited



## Christmas has Arrived at our Gift Centre

Beautiful Christmas gifts and Nativities - come and see!  
We are open before and after the 5pm Saturday Vigil Mass and before and after the 9:30am Sunday Mass in the Church foyer. EFTPOS is available. For any enquiries:

**4332 2216**