



GLAD YOU'RE HERE

Welcome

A very warm welcome to you, especially to anyone new and visiting our parish. It is good to have you with us! If you have any questions or would like to know more about our community at Our Lady of Dolours please contact us at 02 9410 9000 or email us at chatswoodoffice@bbcatholic.org.au - we would love to hear from you.





Join us for carols on the forecourt this Saturday at 6:30pm after the Vigil Mass! Bring a chair or rug and bring whatever singing voice you have.

This weekend we have some very special guests! **On Sunday at 9:00am Santa will be joining Mass** and be around a short time after to say hello to you. Our other special guests will be in front of the nativity - so come say hello to the **baby and mama sheep visiting us on Sunday from 9:00am - 12:00pm!**

This weekend **online tickets go on sale for Lunar New Year on February 11th!** Beat the lines and get your tickets for the raffle, food and drink online!

Congratulations to our Filipino Community for a wonderful Simbang Gabi celebration, as well as to our Spanish community for their celebration of Our Lady of Guadalupe!

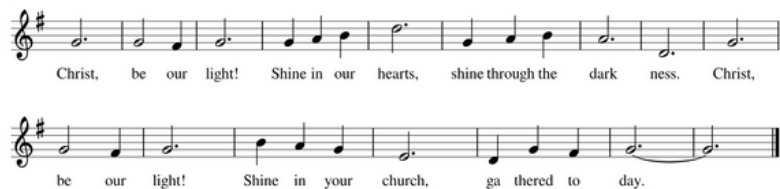
For any inclusions to next week's bulletin, please email your content to Olivia at Olivia.Lee@bbcatholic.org.au by the close of business on Wednesday.

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There stands among you, unknown to you, the one who is coming after me. *This Sunday's Gospel - John 1:6-8, 19-28*

17 DECEMBER 2023 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT / GAUDETE SUNDAY



Hope for Those Who Are Watching

Priest: Advent is a time to awaken our spiritual senses.

All: We stand in awe of your deeds, O Lord, repeat them in our day!

Priest: Grant us vision to behold your glory.

All: We stand in awe of your deeds, O Lord, repeat them in our day!

Priest: Quiet us so we may hear your still, soft voice.

All: We stand in awe of your deeds, O Lord, repeat them in our day!

Priest: Make us vessels of your mercy, compassion, and grace.

All: We stand in awe of your deeds, O Lord, repeat them in our day!

Priest: For all of us eagerly watching for your glory in our midst:

All: Grant that we might have the peace of Christ as we wait, the love of Christ as we act, and the grace of Christ as we speak.

Candle Lighting

Priest: This morning we light three candles. The **first** candle reminds us of those who find themselves in a season of waiting, resting in hopeful anticipation for God to act. The **second** candle is for anyone feeling weakened and wearied by the circumstances of life. We echo the cry of scripture to renew their strength and increase their power. The **third** candle awakens our spiritual senses, challenging us to embrace the glory of God, as we await our Savior's promised coming.

Closing Prayer

All: God of eternity, you called faithful people throughout the ages to behold your glory.

We acknowledge you call us to the same awareness today.

We confess at times our spiritual senses are stifled. Rekindle a new awareness of your everlasting glory. We stand in awe of your deeds and ask you to repeat them in our day.

In Jesus's name we pray. Amen.





It is with a sad heart, that I share with you that **Bishop Anthony has transferred Fr Marek Woldan from our Parish of Chatswood to the Parish of Manly, effective 9 February 2024.** It is an enormous loss to us as a parish family and parish team. Bishop Anthony has considered, however, that the needs of the Parish of Manly are greater and that Fr Marek's contribution there will be of great benefit to the people there. Fr Marek has been with us for just two years. He has been a tireless minister especially with our youth ministry, Men Alive, our aged care facilities, Alpha and other programs, our baptismal preparation ministry, our parish pilgrimages, not to mention the liturgical enhancements he has facilitated and all the amazing handyman tasks he has done. We are going to miss him greatly. Thankfully we will have good time to plan our farewell of our wonderful brother and friend. Please join with me thanking Fr Marek for all his time with us, and praying every blessing for him as he assumes this new challenge in his priestly ministry.

In Fr Marek's place, **Bishop Anthony has appointed Fr Anselam Lakra**, a priest of our diocese, currently Assistant Priest at the Cathedral Parish of Hornsby. Fr Anselam will join us in early February, and we look forward to welcoming him to our parish family.

Our music ministry continues to grow and strengthen. I am pleased to share with you that we have now been able to appoint two Senior Scholars: Ruby Bron, our Senior Choral Scholar, commencing with us this weekend, and Tim Li, our Senior Organ Scholar, starting with us at the end of January 2024. Their scholarship enables them with the experience of church music, the tutelage of our Parish Director of Music, Titus Grenyer and further professional development.

We are now in our final week of preparation for Christmas! Each day this week, our Filipino Simbang Gabi festival unfolds with a Mass each morning at 5.30am. Everyone is welcome to attend this Missa de Gallo (the Mass of the crow). What a powerful and special way to prepare for the celebration of Christmas. These daily Masses began on Saturday 16 December and continue right through to Sunday 24 December.

Also, next **Thursday 21 December at 7pm we will have a special Second Form of the Rite of Reconciliation** to prepare for Christmas, joined with our ordinary Holy Hour. Together as a community, we will pray God's mercy and forgiveness and there will be opportunity, too, for individual Confession.

Thank you to all those who have made our celebrations over these weeks ones of such joy!

IN OUR PRAYERS WE REMEMBER:

Our loved ones who have recently passed away:

Chunguang Lin (father of Mary Lin); Malcolm Oakes (brother of Mary Oakes); Antonio Marin Jr - November 6th (brother of Virginia Lagos); Sr Ellen Cahill rsm; Fr John Alt; Rinaldo Navarro; Ross Taylor; Peter Dwyer.

Our loved ones who are sick:

Moh Har Yip (Sister of Moh-Ying Yip); Bill Piper; Frank Hallissy (Husband of Coralie); John O'Brien; Gerard De Leon; Carlos De Leon; Mary Kin-Soon Ng (mother of Elizabeth Chung); Bonnie Leung.

Our loved ones, at rest with God, whose anniversaries fall at this time:

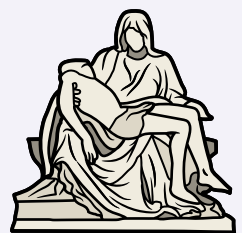
Christopher Dignam - December 20th (son of Michael Dignam); Marija Vlatko Rulo; Agnes Alice Press - December 12th (Mother of Karen & Greg Press); Joyce D'Lemos; Barney Fernandes; Giovanni Moschella - December 11th (father of Rita Biviano).

For Anthony and the new role he has taken on. May he find his work fruitful and successful.

For Moh Har as she begins her treatment next week.

For all the lonely people - I hope they can come to our church and we can find them and help them feel loved. - B.L

Our community would love to pray for you. If you have an intention you would like to be included in this bulletin e-mail
chatswoodoffice@bbcatholic.org.au



Our Lady of Dolours, Pray for Us

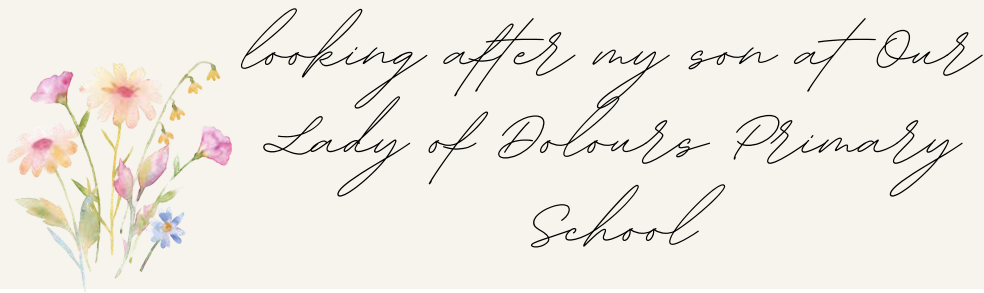
*Rock of constancy,
pray for us.*

*Refuge of the abandoned,
pray for us.*

*Mirror of patience,
pray for us*

*Mother of consolation,
pray for us.*

This week's church flowers are generously donated by **Dr Jimmy Lea** in gratitude to God for:



We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the center of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.



The Pope's Prayer Intention for December. For Persons with Disabilities

GOSPEL REFLECTION



**Deacon
Kevin Hale**

In the world of business, a mission statement describes the purpose of an organisation. This statement is meant to reflect the essence of the organisation and its goals. The prophet Isaiah probably had no idea he was presenting a mission statement for the Messiah.

But listen to it again. Listen to it as a Mission Statement: *"He has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to bind up hearts that are broken; to proclaim liberty to captives, freedom to those in prison; to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord."*

This is the very statement that Jesus used to start his ministry.

And there is really no more a concise picture of what Jesus came to do for us.

How many times did Jesus bring glad tidings to the lowly?

Think of the comfort he gave to the woman at the well.

How many times did he heal the broken-hearted?

Think of the widow of Nain, whose son Jesus brought back to life. What of the multitudes

he liberated from sin and sickness – and not just in first-century Israel?

We have all been touched by Jesus and the good news he proclaimed. But there is more here. Jesus' mission statement is ours as well. We are called to bring the "glad tidings" of God's love to the world. We are called to care for the broken hearted and to tell people that the favour of the Lord is for everyone.

Remember: Jesus didn't come just to lift us up. He also came to show us how to live. We need an outlook like John the Baptist's. Rather than focusing on himself, he answered his questioners in a way that pointed to Jesus. He was "the voice of one crying out in the desert," whose job was to "make straight the way of the Lord".

It is not our job to save people but to help them make contact with their Saviour. They can only make a decision to follow Jesus after they have met him.

We all face the temptation to play God and to try to solve other people's problems. But we can't meet everyone's needs completely—only God can do that.

We can certainly share our time, talent, and wisdom, but ultimately, we must let every person face his or her own challenges with the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

We are halfway through Advent, so maybe it's a good time to evaluate our progress – just as businesses evaluate their own strengths and weaknesses from time to time.

Do you believe that you are called to bind up the broken-hearted, to comfort those that mourn and to bring good news to the afflicted?

Try to remember that you are called to be Christ's presence in the world today. Through your words and actions many people who are hurting may be restored.

Do you point others to Jesus Christ by the example and witness you give to others?

How are you going at fulfilling your mission?

Have you been working to bring glad tidings to people?

If so, then thank the Lord, and tell him that you want to go even further.

Imagine the grace and peace that can flow from every act of kindness, every gentle word of encouragement, and every work of service you do. And then it won't take long before "justice and praise" spring up wherever you go.



Remember we have special visitors this weekend on Sunday 17 December from 9:00am – 12:00pm! Come and say hello to the farm animals that will be in front of our Nativity!

MASS & LITURGIES THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Monday 18 December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5:30am Novena Dawn Mass • 11:30am Chaplet of Divine Mercy • 11:45am Rosary (Cenacle, MMP) • 12:30pm Mass
Tuesday 19 December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5:30am Novena Dawn Mass • 8:45am Morning Prayer • 9:00am Mass • 9:30am Rosary and Chaplet of Divine Mercy • 12:30pm Mass
Wednesday 20 December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5:30am Novena Dawn Mass • 8:45am Morning Prayer • 9:00 Mass • 9:30am Rosary and Chaplet of Divine Mercy • 12:30pm Mass • 6:00pm Mass
Thursday 21 December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5:30am Novena Dawn Mass • 8:45am Morning Prayer • 9:00am Mass • 9:30am Eucharistic Exposition and Adoration, Rosary, and Chaplet of Divine Mercy • 12:00pm Benediction • 12:30pm Mass • 7:00pm Holy Hour with the Second Rite of Reconciliation Eucharistic Exposition and Adoration with Reconciliation also available
Friday 22 December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5:30am Novena Dawn Mass • 8:45am Morning Prayer • 9:00am Mass • 9:30am Rosary and Chaplet of Divine Mercy • 12:30pm Mass
Saturday 23 December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5:30am Novena Dawn Mass • 8:45am Morning Prayer • 9:00am Mass • 9:30am Eucharistic Exposition and Adoration with Reconciliation, Rosary • 10:00am Novena Our Lady of Perpetual Help • 10:30am Benediction • 5:30pm Vigil Mass
Sunday Mass 24 December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5:30am Christmas Novena Mass • 7:30am Mass – 4th Sunday of Advent • 9:00am – 4th Sunday of Advent • 10:30am Mass – 4th Sunday of Advent • 5:30pm Mass – Christmas Eve Family Mass • 8:00pm Mass – Christmas Eve • 12:00pm Midnight Mass – Christmas Eve <i>with carols at 11:30pm</i>

Fourth Sunday in
Advent and
Christmas Eve

應常歡樂，不斷祈禱，事事感謝：這就是天主在基督耶穌內對你們所有的旨意。願賜平安的天主親自完全聖化你們，將你們整個的神魂、靈魂和肉身，在我們的主耶穌基督來臨時，保持的無瑕可指。得撒洛尼前書 5:16-18;23

Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus. May the God of peace himself make you perfectly holy and may you entirely, spirit, soul, and body, be preserved blameless for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. – 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18;23




CAROLS IN THE
Forecourt

16 DECEMBER

ALL ARE WELCOME TO JOIN US FOR:
MASS AT 5:30PM THEN CAROLS ON THE FORECOURT
AT 6:30PM
BRING YOUR BEST VOICES!

Our Lady of Dolours | 94 Archer St Chatswood



YOUTH GROUP
2nd and 4th Sunday of the month
Magnificat room 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

YOUNG ADULTS
1st and 3rd Sunday of the month
PEW garden 6:30 pm – 9 pm

Our Lady OF DOLOURS

THE CHINESE CATHOLIC ASSOCIATION INVITES YOU
AND YOUR LOVED ONES TO CELEBRATE THE 2024

LUNAR NEW YEAR
Lunar New Year

**SUN
DAY
11
FEB**

MASS TOGETHER AT 10:30AM THEN
CELEBRATION ON THE FORECOURT

LION DANCERS | RAFFLE DRAWN BY FR
DAVID | LUCKY DIP | FOOD STALLS |
PLANT STALL |

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT AMELIA.LEE@BBCATHOLIC.ORG.AU

GATHERINGS THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Monday
18 December

- 6:00am Fellowship after Novena Dawn Mass (Magnificat, St Paul)
- 2:00pm Organ Practice (Church)
- 4:30pm Organ Practice (Church)
- 6:30pm Young Adults Christmas Choir Rehearsal (Church)

Please note that the Parish Office will open at 11am today.

Tuesday
19 December

- 6:00am Fellowship after Novena Dawn Mass (Magnificat, St Paul)
- 10:00am Bible Discussion Group (St Paul)
- 1:30pm Organ Practice (Church)
- 4:00pm Atrium 3-6 years old (Atrium)
- 4:00pm Atrium 6-9 and 9-12 year olds (Atrium)
- 5:30pm Organ Practice (Church)
- 7:00pm Filipino Choir (Church)
- 7:00pm Indonesian Legion of Mary (St Peter)

Please note that the Parish Office will be closed from 1pm to 3:30pm.

Wednesday
20 December

- 6:00am Fellowship after Novena Dawn Mass (Magnificat, St Paul)
- 3:00pm Organ Practice (Church)
- 6:30pm Indonesian Traditional Instruments (St Paul)
- 7:00pm Exploring the Faith (St Peter)
- 6:30pm Young Adults Christmas Choir Rehearsal (Church)

Thursday
21 December

- 6:00am Fellowship after Novena Dawn Mass (Magnificat, St Paul)
- 3:45pm Organ Scholar Lessons (Church)
- 5:30pm Choir Rehearsal (Church)

Friday
22 December

- 6:00am Fellowship after Novena Dawn Mass (Magnificat, St Paul)
- 5:00pm Organ Practice (Church)

Saturday
23 December

- 6:00am Fellowship after Novena Dawn Mass (Magnificat, St Paul)
- 10:30am Legion of Mary (Magnificat)
- 11:00am Choir Practice (Church)
- 12:00pm Extra Choir Practice (Church)
- 1:00pm Children's Christmas Eve Mass Rehearsal (Church)
- 3:00pm Organ Practice (Church)

Sunday Mass
24 December

- 6:00am Fellowship after Dawn Novena Mass (Magnificat, St Paul)
- 9:30am Parish Choir Practice (St Paul)
- 2:30pm Organ Practice (Church)
- 10:00pm Parish Choir Rehearsal (Church)

**Fourth Sunday
in Advent and
Christmas Eve**



LUNAR NEW YEAR RAFFLE
PRIZES
TICKET \$10

1ST PRIZE: \$800 COLES GIFT VOUCHER
2ND PRIZE: \$200 WESTFIELD VOUCHER
3RD PRIZE: \$100 MOVIE VOUCHER

Tickets \$10 for 1
\$15 for 2 and \$20 for 4
All proceeds go to the Pastoral Works Fund

BUY YOUR TICKET BY CONTACTING THE
PARISH OFFICE OR AMELIA AT
CHATSWOODOFFICE@BBCATHOLIC.ORG.AU
02 9410 9000



DONATIONS WANTED

Do you have any gift prizes that you can donate to our Chinese Lunar New Year celebrations?

We are currently seeking **large gift** for the raffle ticket prizes and **small gifts** for the Lucky Dip draws.

Gifts can be dropped off to the Parish Office on Monday - Wednesday from 9:00am - 4:00pm from now until December 20. Then again from January 10 - 31.

Donations towards celebration programs are welcomed and to Parish Working Account:

Chatswood Parish Working A/C
062-784
100001609
Ref: Your Name LYN donation

All funds raised for LNY 2024 will go towards the Parish's \$64,730 allocated contribution for the Pastoral Works Broken Bay Fund.

Cultural Community Mass:

Filipino: 12:00pm, 1st Sunday

Spanish: 12:00pm, 3rd Sunday

Indonesian: 7:00pm, 3rd Sunday

Scan this QR code to donate to the first or second collection for our Parish.

Thank you for the many ways in which you already support our parish!



OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT / 17 DECEMBER 2023

REJOICING IN GOD, OUR SAVIOUR. Christmas is a feast of joy and light. We celebrate God who comes to dwell among us and save us. With the prophet Isaiah, we exult for joy in the Lord. With Mary, our spirits rejoice in God our saviour. We do not deny the pain and evil that exist in the world, but we rejoice in the knowledge that nothing can come between us and the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Phil 4: 4-5

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice.

Indeed, the Lord is near.

GREETING

P. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen.

P. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

R. And with your spirit.

PENITENTIAL ACT

P. Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

P. Have mercy on us, O Lord.

R. For we have sinned against you.

P. Show us, O Lord, your mercy.

R. And grant us your salvation.

P. May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

R. Amen.

V. Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

V. Christ, have mercy.

R. Christ, have mercy.

V. Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

The Gloria is not said during Advent.

COLLECT

P. O God, who see how your people faithfully await the feast of the Lord's Nativity, enable us, we pray, to attain the joys of so great a salvation and to celebrate them always with solemn worship and glad rejoicing. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever

R. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

Isa 61:1-2, 10-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

I exult for joy in the Lord.

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for the Lord has anointed me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor,

to bind up hearts that are broken;

to proclaim liberty to captives,

freedom to those in prison;

to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord.

'I exult for joy in the Lord,

my soul rejoices in my God,

for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation,

he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity, like a bridegroom wearing his wreath, like a bride adorned in her jewels.

'For as the earth makes fresh things grow, as a garden makes seeds spring up, so will the Lord make both integrity and praise spring up in the sight of nations.'

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Lk 1:46-50, 53-54

R. My soul rejoices in my God.

1. My soul glorifies the Lord,

my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.

He looks on his servant in her nothingness; henceforth all ages will call me blessed. **R.**

2. The Almighty works marvels for me. Holy his name!

His mercy is from age to age, on those who fear him. **R.**

3. He fills the starving with good things, sends the rich away empty.

He protects Israel, his servant, remembering his mercy. **R.**

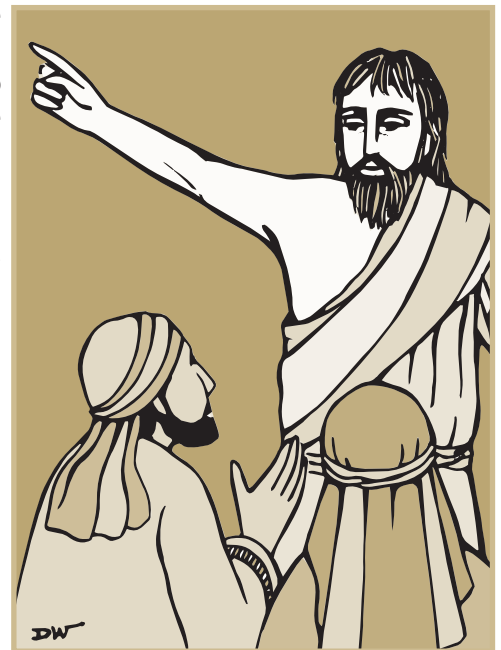
SECOND READING

1 Thess 5:16-24

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

May you all be kept blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus.



Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything – hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil.

May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Isa 61: 1 (Lk 4: 18)

Alleluia, alleluia!

The spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Jn 1:6-8,19-28

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit

P. A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

R. Glory to you, O Lord.

There stands among you, unknown to you, the one who is coming after me.

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.

This is how John appeared as a witness.

When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he not

only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then,' they asked 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied:

a voice that cries in the wilderness:

Make a straight way for the Lord.'

Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

HOMILY

PROFESSION OF FAITH APOSTLES' CREED *Or the Nicene Creed may be said.*

I believe in God, / the Father almighty, / Creator of heaven and earth, / and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, / who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, / born of the Virgin Mary, / suffered under Pontius Pilate, / was crucified, died and was buried; / he descended into hell; / on the third day he rose again from the dead; / he ascended into heaven, / and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; / from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. / I believe in the Holy Spirit, / the holy catholic Church, / the communion of saints, / the forgiveness of sins, / the resurrection of the body, / and life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

After the priest raises the paten with the bread and prays, and then the chalice, we respond to each prayer:

R. Blessed be God for ever.

P. Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters), that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

R. May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

P. May the sacrifice of our worship, Lord, we pray, be offered to you unceasingly, to complete what was begun in sacred mystery and powerfully accomplish for us your saving work.

Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

P. Lift up your hearts.

R. We lift them up to the Lord.

P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

R. It is right and just.

PREFACE I OF ADVENT

After the Preface, we sing or say:

All: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

THE MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

P. The mystery of faith.

All: Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and resurrection you have set us free.

COMMUNION RITE

P. At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

All: Our Father, who art in heaven ...

P. Deliver us, Lord, we pray ...

All: For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and for ever.

P. Lord Jesus Christ, who said ...

R. Amen.

P. The peace of the Lord be with you always.

R. And with your spirit.

P. Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

All exchange a sign of peace

LAMB OF GOD

All: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P. Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

R. Lord, I am not worthy

that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

cf. Isa 35:4

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear.

Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P. We implore your mercy, Lord, that this divine sustenance may cleanse us of our faults and prepare us for the coming feasts. Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

THE CONCLUDING RITES

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

P. May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen.

P. Go forth, the Mass is ended.

R. Thanks be to God.

BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

SHEER JOY

What brings joy to you? What makes your heart sing? Joy is infectious. Joy rings out today from the beginning of our prayer with the Entrance Antiphon "Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I say rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near." (Phil 4:4-5). Isaiah proclaims, "I exult for joy in the Lord, my soul rejoices in my God" (Isa 61:10). The psalm, drawn from the Magnificat in Luke, invites us to respond: "My soul rejoices in my God" (Luke 1:46), and we hear "My soul glorifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God, my saviour" (vv. 46-47). Paul's final exhortation from his First Letter to the Thessalonians begins "Rejoice always" (1 Thess 5:16). What is the cause of all this rejoicing? It is the story of the Good News unfolding from the prophet Isaiah, becoming flesh through Mary's faithful response; it is God's gift of God's son, Jesus, born among us who has been raised. We draw near to the celebration of Jesus' birth but we live in the light of resurrection, so we have reason to rejoice.

Today's Gospel reveals the witness to the coming of Jesus, "a man sent from God" (John 1:6). We hear emphatic repetition of the truth with both "witness" and "light" repeated three times. John is the voice in the wilderness confirming "the one who is coming after" (1:27).

Today our hearts lift with joy amid all that might distress us. We are faithful believers in God's saving grace. Take a moment to hear: "Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks to God" (1 Thess 5:16-17).

Dr Rosemary Canavan

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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OUR WEEK IN PICS



The Zoom Rosary group had their Christmas party last week and also came together one last time for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.



Simbang Gabi - the launch of the Novena Masses - was a wonderful celebration! Thank you to the combined Filipino Chaplaincies of Broken Bay for such a vibrant and joyous night!



Thank you to the Spanish Community for another beautiful celebration of Our Lady of Guadalupe! Congratulations also to Doris who was commissioned as an Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist.

THANK YOU PARISHIONERS!

To the dear priests, parishioners, and staff of Our Lady of Dolours Parish,

I hope this message finds you in good health and as jubilant as your new parish Christmas display suggests!

I am writing to express the heartfelt thanks from myself, the Broken Bay seminarians, and the entire vocations team for the generous support shown by you at the recent Seminarians Benefit Dinner. As a result of your kindness and willingness to contribute, each seminarian will receive a bonus financial Christmas gift this year to help them celebrate with their friends and family.

Your support is more than a financial gift; it's a gesture of faith and encouragement in their calling. The communal celebration and festivity of the fundraiser was a visible reminder to our seminarians that they are not alone in their journey towards serving God and the Church. Your participation and generosity on the night was a testament to the strength of your parish community – embodying a spirit of faith, solidarity, encouragement and unwavering support towards our future priests.

As we look towards the future of building a culture of Vocations throughout the Diocese, your continued support and prayers are invaluable. We are blessed to have a parish community so dedicated to the growth and support of its members.

Wishing you a happy and holy Advent, and a very merry Christmas. May God's grace and blessings be upon you, your families, and the wonderful parish of Our Lady of Dolours.

In Christ,

Fr Sam French (Director of Vocations), Fr Stephen Wayoyi (Assistant Director), Michelle Chahine (Vocations Officer)



Some pictures from this year's benefit in September!

Dear Parishioners of Our Lady of Dolours, thank you for supporting this year's Catholic Mission Parish Appeal. Your generosity and prayers are supporting lifechanging mission programs like the Maria Auxiliadora Clinic in Venilale, Timor-Leste, where they are addressing critical health issues such as tuberculosis, malnutrition, and maternal mortality. Thank you also for warmly welcoming Conor Nolan to the parish over the weekend, I know he thoroughly enjoyed being part of the parish, especially the youth gathering on the Sunday evening.

Total amount raised: \$5233!



The St Vincent de Paul Chatswood Conference have so far received about 100 Christmas food hampers donated by the Holy Family School Lindfield, St Philip Neri Primary School Northbridge, Our Lady of Dolours Primary School and Mercy College. We would like to thank the students and their families for their support and generosity.

These hampers are currently being distributed by volunteers to people who are in need in our local areas i.e. Lindfield, Chatswood, Artarmon and Forestville.

We would also like to extend our thanks and appreciation for the parish volunteers Kathy, Robyn and Casey and Helena from the Youth Conference to help with the deliveries.

Also, our big thanks to Michael and Rick from the parish Men Alive Group, who have done a big bulk of deliveries for us. Your kind support and assistance are very much appreciated!



Near the PEW Garden you will see an area sectioned off with hazard tape and safety cones – please do not enter this area under any circumstances as there is ongoing maintenance work occurring,

LUNAR NEW YEAR TICKETS

Lunar New Year tickets for food, drinks, and the raffle are now on sale online!

Lunar New Year is a wonderful celebration centred around removing the old and bad of the previous year, and ushering in a new year of goodness! In our parish, culture and religion intersect peacefully by celebrating the Lunar Year as a time of renewal, excitement, and community.

On **Sunday February 11th** the Chinese Catholic Association of Chatswood invites you and your loved ones to join us at Mass at 10:30am and then for celebrations out on the forecourt where you can taste the food of our cultural communities, have a go at the lucky dip, watch the lion dancers, and get yourself a ticket into our raffle!

This year we are fundraising to help meet our parish's **\$64,730.00** allocated quota for Pastoral Works Broken Bay (PWBB) which supports the work of two key Diocesan ministries: our catechists, and Hospital Chaplaincy and Pastoral Care Program. PWBB also supports St Lucy's School and St Edmund's College for students with disabilities and the Ephpheta Centre which supports the deaf community.

Get your tickets at <https://www.trybooking.com/COAXT> or scan the QR code! Cash payments can be made at the parish office during opening hours.



Tickets:

\$5 Plate food
from all stalls



\$10 Plate food
from all stalls

\$2 Drink

water, coke, coke no
sugar, sunkist,
lemonade.



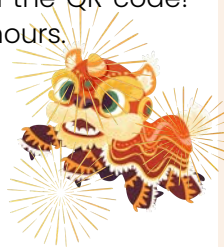
Raffle Tickets

1 for \$10
2 for \$15
4 for \$20

First Prize - \$800 Coles Gift Voucher
Second Prize - \$200 Westfield Gift Voucher
3rd Prize - \$100 Movie Voucher!



Scan for tickets!



DIOCESAN AWARDS NOMINATIONS

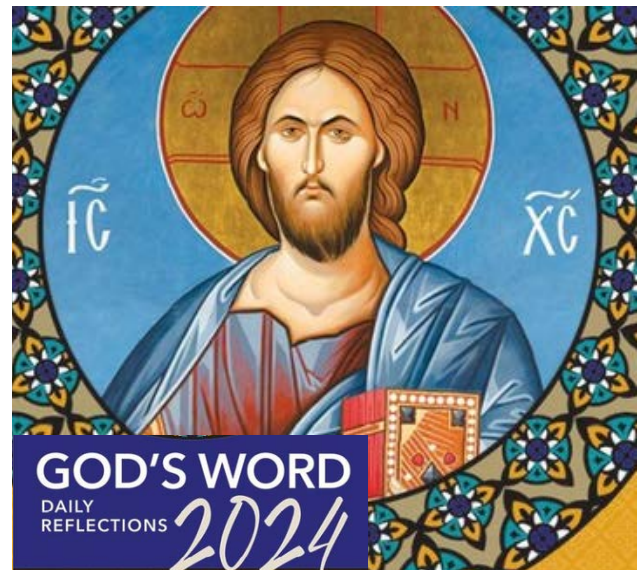
THERE ARE SO MANY PEOPLE IN OUR COMMUNITY WHO HAVE DONE INCREDIBLE WORK, DRIVEN BY LOVE OF GOD AND OUR CHURCH! WHO COULD YOU NOMINATE FOR A DIOCESAN AWARD?

Bishop Anthony has established a Diocesan Awards Committee to consider nominations for the honours and awards to encourage aspirations and ideals of the highest standards and value of the Catholic Church.

This Committee will provide the Bishop with a consistent and transparent framework for the encouragement, evaluation, and recommendation of nominations.

The committee will discern nominations for Papal Honours, as well as Diocesan and Civil Awards.

For more information, or to begin a nomination process, please visit our website: <https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/about/awards>



God's Word 2024: Daily Reflections brings you:

- Scripture readings of the day from the Jerusalem Bible
- Inspiring reflections by eminent Australasian spiritual writers
- Liturgical information for the day
- Space to note down important events and personal reflections

A companion on the journey to pray, to share, to grow in God's love and be nourished by the Word of God.

Now available at the Piety Stall for \$18 per copy!

Children's Christmas Eve Nativity Mass

All children who would like to be involved in the Nativity play at the 5.30pm Christmas Eve Mass, please come to the **Blue Room** (Where we hold Children's Liturgy), after the 9:00am Family Mass on **Sunday 10th December**. We will allocate roles and have a quick first practice at this meeting.

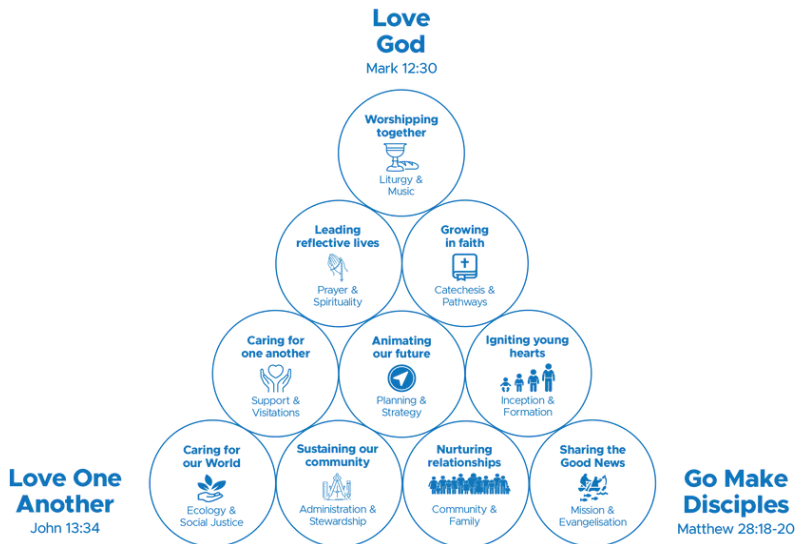
There will be two further practices as follows:

Sunday 17th December in the Blue Room after 9:00am Mass
Saturday 23rd December Rehearsal in the Church at 1:00pm

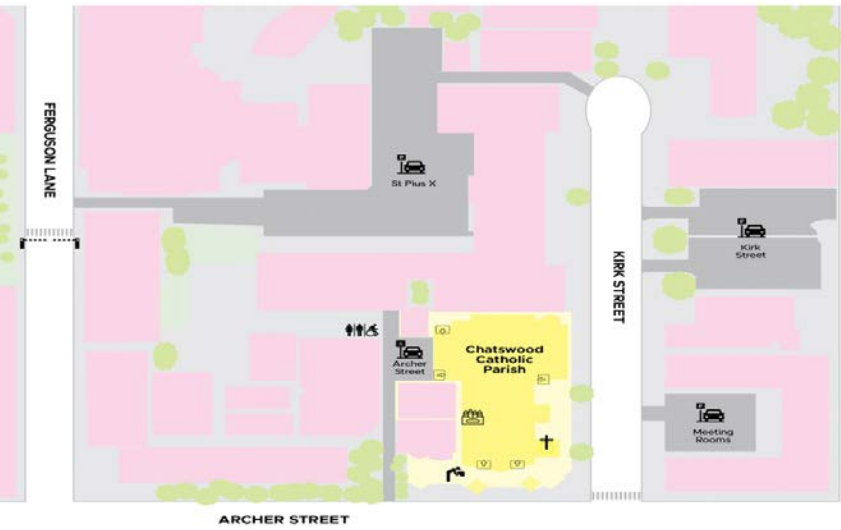


Any enquiries about the Children's Christmas Mass please contact Angela in the parish office on 9410 9033 or angela.hague@bbcatholic.org.au

OUR CIRCLES OF MINISTRY



PARKING



The Children's Atrium

of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd for children aged from 3 to 12 years.

A place where children come to be with God to discover and explore God's love for them.

The Atrium is a specially prepared room, where children spend time with God so that they can nurture their relationship with him. The program is based on Scripture and Liturgy and framed by Montessori principles of Education. Run in three age groups, each room is prepared for them based on their stage of development and their religious needs and capacities at each stage. The age groups and times available for the children to come to our Atrium at Chatswood are:

3-6 year olds
Mondays 10am-11:30am
Tuesdays 4:00-5:45pm
Thursdays 10am-11:30am

6-9 year olds
Mondays 4:00-5:45pm
Tuesdays 4:00-5:45pm

9-12 year olds
Mondays 4:00-5:45pm
Tuesdays 4:00-5:45pm

To find out more watch this video or contact Angela or Rose at: old.childrensatrium@gmail.com

PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE

The Parish Office will be closed from 25 December to 1st January. All communication will be responded to when staff return. Thank you for your understanding!

RESOURCES

- AVAILABLE AT THE BACK OF THE CHURCH TO TAKE HOME AND READ AT YOUR LEISURE:
- The 2023 Parish Annual Finance Report
 - O Come, O Come Emmanuel - A book of Advent Reflections by Fr David
 - The Pastoral Guidelines on Voluntary Assisted Dying
 - The Parish Directory - check out the ways in which you can get involved and help within the church

UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

THURSDAY 28 DECEMBER | FEAST OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS

All are welcome to join us at the 9:00am and 12:30pm Mass to remember all children who have died before birth through abortion, miscarriage, or stillbirth. In this Mass we invoke God's love and mercy by our prayers and ask God to ensure that these children enjoy union with him in heaven. We pray too for their mothers/fathers. You are invited to place a candle on the table near the lectern to commemorate these children.

SUNDAY 11 FEBRUARY 2024 | CHINESE LUNAR NEW YEAR

The Chinese Catholic Association invites everyone to celebrate Lunar New Year 2024 by attending 10:30am Mass together and then joining the celebrations on the forecourt which include: Lion dancers, raffle prizes, lucky dips, food.

Parish Support Team:

Parish Priest: Very Rev Dr David Ranson VG PP

david.ranson@bbcatholic.org.au

Personal blog: davidranson.com.au

X (Twitter): @FrDavidRanson

Assistant Priest: Rev Fr Joey Frez

joey.frez@bbcatholic.org.au

Assistant Priest: Rev Fr Marek Woldan

marek.woldan@bbcatholic.org.au

Deacon: Rev Richard Houwing

Richard.Houwing@bbcatholic.org.au

Manager of Parish Operations: Olivia Lee

Olivia.Lee@bbcatholic.org.au

Receptionist: Diana Tinambun

chatswoodoffice@bbcatholic.org.au | (02) 9410 9000

Project Officer: Chloe Aylward

Chloe.Aylward@bbcatholic.org.au

Director of Music: Titus Grenyer

titus.grenyer@bbcatholic.org.au

Children's Ministry Coordinator: Angela Hague

angela.hague@bbcatholic.org.au | (02) 9410 9033

Pastoral Support Worker: Mona Saouma

mona.saouma@bbcatholic.org.au

Youth Minister: Bettina Ignacio

bettina.ignacio@bbcatholic.org.au

Catechist Coordinator: Karen Forbes

karen.forbes@bbcatholic.org.au

Book-keeper: Amelia Lee

amelia.lee@bbcatholic.org.au | (02)9410 9032



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bbcatholic.org.au/chatswood

Want to receive the bulletin via

e-mail? Contact Olivia at

Olivia.Lee@bbcatholic.org.au



Regular Mass Times:

Monday	Mass 12:30pm.
Tuesday	Mass 9:00am & 12:30pm.
Wednesday	Mass 9:00am, 12:30pm & 6:00pm.
Thursday	Mass 9:00am & 12:30pm. Reconciliation: 7:00pm.
Friday	Mass 9:00am & 12:30pm.
Saturday	Mass: 9:00am Reconciliation: 9:30am. Vigil Mass: 5:30pm
Sunday	Mass <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7:30am • 9:00am • 10:30am • 5:30pm



Christmas Mass Times:

December 21 Adoration and Reconciliation	Adoration of the blessed sacrament together with the second rite of reconciliation. Take this opportunity to clear your heart and spend time with Jesus before Christmas comes.
December 23 4th Sunday of Advent Mass	5:30pm
December 24 4th Sunday of Advent Mass	7:30am, 9:00am, 10:30am
December 24 Christmas Eve	5:30pm (Kids and Families) 8:00pm (Youth led) 12:00am
December 25 Christmas Day	7:30am, 9:00am, 10:30am

**Please note no evening Mass.*