

*Sunday 21 December 2025*  
*The Fourth Sunday of Advent*

*Welcome!*



*In Memory of those who lost their lives through terrorism*  
*Sunday 14 September 2025*  
*We stand united with our Jewish sisters and brothers*

This weekend we light four candles. The **first candle** is the light of hope for those in times of waiting.

The **second candle** is the light of hope for those who are wearied by the circumstances of life.

The **third candle** is the light of hope for those eagerly watching for God's promised glory.

The **fourth candle** is the light of hope for those who carry the wounds of this past week.

As the light shines, we turn to the Savior who came to rescue the lost, to help the hurting, and to bind up the broken.

Advent is a time to bind up the broken hearted.

**Come, Lord, and make all things new.**

For past wrongs that prevent us from moving forward:

**Come, Lord, and make all things new.**

For any bitterness that scratches our soul:

**Come, Lord, and make all things new.**

For relationships left in decay and neglect:

**Come, Lord, and make all things new.**

For any action that has wounded us or by which we have wounded others:

**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.**

看，一位貞女，將懷孕生子，人將稱他的名字為厄瑪奴耳，意思是：天主與我們同在。 瑪竇福音1:23

Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means

**"GOD IS WITH US". Matthew 1:23**

# Come and See!

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Monday to Friday  
9.00am—5.00pm**

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*Tuesday, Friday to Sunday*

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*Tuesday to Sunday*

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**Mercy College Parent Engagement Coordinator**

Annette Leahy: annette.leahy1@dbb.catholic.edu.au

## Sunday Masses

**5.30pm** Saturday evening Vigil Mass

**7.30am** (followed by Morning Tea on 1st Sunday of the month at the PEW café)

**9.00am** (Includes Children's Liturgy of the Word on 1st, 2nd & 4th Sundays, except on long weekends), followed by Morning Tea on the forecourt

**10.30am**, followed by Morning Tea on the 2nd Sunday of the month, and Community Lunch on the last Sunday.

**11.00am at St Peter's Green Aged Care Facility, North Lane Cove** (Note this is for residents only)

**5.30pm**

**Filipino Culture Mass**

12noon, 1st Sunday of the month

**Indonesian Culture Mass**

7.00pm, 2nd Saturday of the month

**First Friday of the month:** 6.30pm—8.30pm Divine Retreat Centre Healing Mass and Prayer

## Weekday Masses and Devotions

Monday: 12.30pm

Tuesday: 9.00am and 12.30pm

Wednesday: 9.00am and 12.30pm and 6.30pm  
**(The Sacrament of Anointing: after each Wednesday evening Mass and after 12.30pm the 3rd Wednesday of the month)**

Thursday: 9.00am and 12.30pm

Friday: 9.00am and 12.30pm

Saturday: 9.00am

**Morning Prayer:** Tuesday to Saturday: 8.45am

**Rosary**

Monday: 11.45am (preceded by Divine Mercy Chaplet at 11.30am); Tuesday to Saturday 9.30am; Monday to Fridays: 1.00pm

**Thursday Adoration** After 9am Mass, followed by Rosary then Divine Mercy Chaplet ends at midday with Benediction.

**Thursday Holy Hour** with Exposition and Reconciliation 7.00pm

Saturday Morning: **Reconciliation** from 9.30am.



## *Come and See!*

Dear friends,

As I shared at our special Prayer Vigil last Tuesday, 16 December, last Sunday evening, our parish along with members of other Christian Churches in the city of Willoughby gathered on the concourse at Chatswood for a beautiful evening of Christmas Carols. The night resounded with the sense of gentleness and peace, both of which lie at the very heart of the Christian Christmas story. Our evening finished with the sense of harmony and hope. At exactly the same time, on the other side of the city, at Bondi, others, too, were gathering with festivity to mark the Festival of Lights, Hanukah, itself a narrative of memory and hope. Their evening finished with unimaginable pain and distress. How do we reconcile these two experiences occurring in the same city at the same time? Joy and grief? Harmony and severance? Gentleness and barbarity? The juxtaposition feels too great for us to bear. It confounds us; it devastates us. We are confronted with the radical nature of our vulnerability, the acknowledgement that in the end we are completely at the mercy of one another – a truth form which we shield ourselves, but which is so radically exposed in what we have experienced. In an instant, we are confronted with the reality of evil: its inherent violence and even more so, its intrinsic absurdity, characterised as it is by non-sense. Evil abhors innocence; and it is the innocent who are its victims.



It forces yet again, the question how are we to respond to evil when suddenly, dramatically, violently it manifests itself? We are reminded again that evil can never be confronted with seeking to assert a force stronger than itself. This is simply to perpetuate the ancient treadmill of oppression and submission. No, rather the only way that we can address the manifestation of evil is to assert an entirely different logic – simply not to buy into its rhythm and demand – and rather to practice the exercise of an entirely different power – the power of friendship, of hospitality, of solidarity. This is why we absolutely need to come together in the face of evil – to hold one another, to reaffirm the bonds that bring us together, to cultivate community, together to light candles – small, flickering but with a strength stronger than any darkness can extinguish. Then we discover that with this power we hold a light that alone can give the answer to the experience of evil. **Suffering love is the one answer to anxiety suffered.** In other words, only a love that holds, that embraces, that carries, that accompanies demonstrates to us that evil has no ultimate power. This is the power that alone can disarm the power of evil. It refuses to enter the logic of evil and dares to assert something entirely different. And evil is confused and ultimately is forced to recognise its powerlessness, whatever its initial presentation.

It is into our situation of pain and confusion that the Christ Child is born. This is powerfully represented by Caravaggio's 1609 *Nativity*. It is not a scene of escape from the world, but a descent into it. God chooses the low place, the shadowed place, the place where fear and hope exist side by side. Nothing is resolved yet. Nothing is made safe. But everything has been changed. Because in the midst of that darkness, life has been given. And once God has entered the night, the night is never the same again.

# Communicants guide to receiving Holy Communion

## Preparing for Mass

In preparing to receive Christ in the Eucharist, you should consider:

- Have I interiorly prepared through prayer?
- Would the Sacrament of Reconciliation assist my preparation?
- Have I maintained the Eucharistic fast for one hour before receiving, except for water and medicine?\*

*\*The elderly and infirm, along with those who care for them, are not bound to the Eucharistic fast.*

## Communion Procession

The act of processing forward to receive the Body and Blood of Christ is an important symbolic action, reminding us that we are a pilgrim people, while also uniting us as the one Body of Christ, journeying together. It is important, therefore, to remember that receiving the Body and Blood of Christ is not an isolated action, but rather part of a unifying ritual. In this regard, you should consider:

- Ensuring your actions allow the dignified and unifying pilgrimage as the Body of Christ, toward the Body of Christ. This includes singing the Communion Hymn, while processing.
- Being aware of your personal and valid choices as a communicant, that they do not disrupt the flow of the procession, or the ability of others to make their own choices.
- Leaving enough space between yourself and the person in front of you.
- As a sign of reverence to the Blessed Sacrament, gently bow – not genuflect – as you approach the Minister of Holy Communion.

## Receiving the Body of Christ

When receiving the Body of Christ, the common posture in Australia is to stand; however, the communicant can choose to kneel, as long as they are aware of their surroundings and do not impact the reverence and safety of others. As you come forward to receive and gently bow, the Minister holds the host up to your eye level and says the words, **“The Body of Christ”**, allowing you to reply **“Amen”** before receiving.

It is the communicant's choice whether to receive on the hand or on the tongue. Both are acceptable, and both should be done with reverence, respect and care.

### Receiving on the hand

Place your hands out in front of you, with your dominant hand under your less dominant hand. Hold your hands still and open. Keep your fingers out of the way, allowing the Minister of Communion to place the host on your hand. Do not pluck or grab the host.

Once you receive on the hand, step to the side and consume the host while in the presence of the Minister.



### Receiving on the tongue

After responding **“Amen”**, open your mouth and gently extend your tongue out towards the Minister of Communion, so that they may place the host on your tongue. Please do not lower or bow your head while receiving on the tongue.

Once the host has been placed on your tongue, slowly draw your tongue back into your mouth to consume the Body of Christ.



## Receiving the Blood of Christ

If the chalice is being offered at Mass, a communicant can choose if they wish to receive the Blood of Christ.

In the same manner which you approach the Body of Christ, bow gently as you approach the Minister, who will say **“The Blood of Christ”**, and you respond **“Amen.”**

Take the Chalice in your hands as you would normally take a cup, and raise the Chalice to drink as normal, one sip is sufficient. Then carefully hand the Chalice back to the Minister.



For further reflection in relation to our participation in the Celebration of the Eucharist, click the QR Code to read Bishop Anthony's 2025 Pastoral Letter to the Community of the Church in Broken Bay, **“The Mystery of Faith: Encountering Jesus Christ in the Eucharist”**



CATHOLIC  
DIOCESE OF  
BROKEN BAY



# Come and See!

## Love God

Mark 12:30

### Worshipping together



Liturgy & Music

### Leading reflective lives



Prayer & Spirituality

### Growing in faith



Catechesis & Pathways

### Caring for one another



Support & Visitations

### Animating our future



Planning & Strategy

### Igniting young hearts



Inception & Formation

### Caring for our World



Ecology & Social Justice

### Sustaining our community



Administration & Stewardship

### Nurturing relationships



Community & Family

### Sharing the Good News



Mission & Evangelisation

## Love One Another

John 13:34

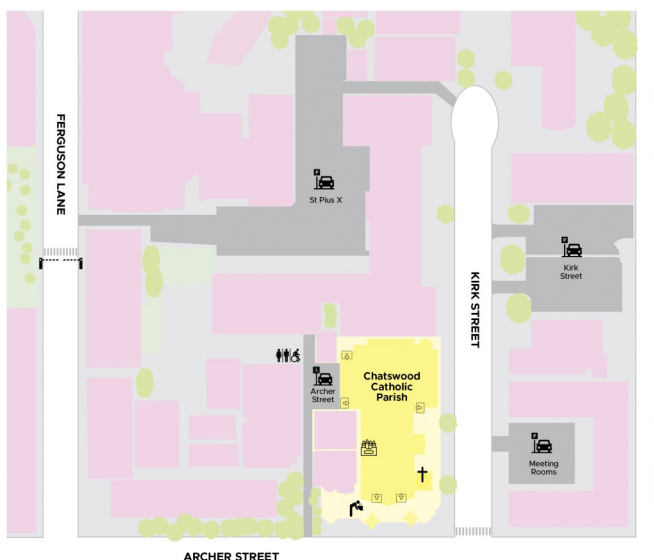
## Go Make Disciples

Matthew 28:18-20

## Supporting our Parish Financially

Donation for	Description	BSB	Account Number
Clergy Giving (First collection) (support for Clergy)	Chatswood Parish Pastoral Revenue A/C	062-784	100001606
Parish Giving (2nd collection) Planned Giving by EFT & general donation to Parish (support for Parish operation)	Chatswood Parish Working A/C	062-784	100001609

## Parking at our Parish



## Sustaining our community



## Administration & Stewardship

## *Come and See!*

### *Our Meeting Room Schedule This Week*

Start Date	Start Time	End Time	Subject	Location
22/12/2025	6:30 AM	7:30 AM	Fellowship after Dawn Mass	Pew Garden, Magnificat
23/12/2025	6:30 AM	7:30 AM	Fellowship after Dawn Mass	Pew Garden, Magnificat
	10:00 AM	12:00 PM	Bible Discussion group	St Paul; Pastoral Plan
	5:00 PM	7:00 PM	Breathe- Prayer & Support Group (St Pius)	PEW Garden
	6:30 PM	9:00 PM	Indonesian Legion of Mary [AET=7 pm]	St Peter; Pastoral Plan
	7:00 PM	9:00 PM	Filipino Choir	Harrington Hall
24/12/2025	6:30 AM	7:30 AM	Fellowship after Dawn Mass	Pew Garden, Magnificat
	6:00 PM	7:30 PM	Rehearsal- Christmas Eve Youth Choir	St Paul
26/12/2025	9:00 AM	4:00 PM	Vietnamese Religious Gathering	Harrington Hall
	6:00 PM	8:30 PM	Vesper Coir practice	St Peter; Pastoral Plan
27/12/2025	10:00 AM	11:00 AM	TG Music lessons	St Paul
	10:00 AM	12:30 PM	Legion of Mary @10.30am	St Peter; Pastoral Plan
	4:00 PM	4:45 PM	Vespers Choir Rehearsal	St Paul; Pastoral Plan
28/12/2025	9:00 AM	10:30 AM	TG's Choir Practice	St Paul; Pastoral Plan
	1:30 PM	3:00 PM	Christian Meditation group	St Peter
	6:00 PM	9:00 PM	Capstone Young Adults at 6:30pm	St Peter; St Paul; Magnificat
	8:00 AM	9:00 AM	Filipino Choir	St Paul



# Come and See!

## Our Mass Schedule and church Schedule This Week

Monday	22 December	5.30am and 12.30pm	Monday of 4th Week of Advent
Tuesday	23 December	5.30am, 9.00am, 12.30pm	Tuesday of 4th Week of Advent
Wednesday	24 December	5.30am, 9.00am and 12.30pm <b>5.30pm, 8.00pm and Midnight</b>	Wednesday of 4th Week of Advent <b>Christmas Eve Masses</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>25 December</b>	<b>7.30am, 9.00am, 10.30am</b>	<b>Christmas Day</b>
Friday	26 December	10.00am 11.30am	St Stephen's Day Vietnamese Cultural Mass for Clergy and Religious
Saturday	27 December	9.00am	St John, Apostle and Evangelist
		<b>4.45pm</b>	<b>Solemn Sung Vespers</b>
		5.30pm	Special Farewell Mass for Bryce Gonlin, joining the seminary in 2026
Sunday	28 December	Usual Times	<b>Feast of the Holy Family</b>

Start Date	Start Time	End Time	Subject
22/12/2025	5:30 AM	6:30 AM	Dawn Mass by FCC
	11:00 AM	12:00 PM	SC organ practice
	11:30 AM	12:00 PM	Chaplet of Divine Mercy
	11:45 AM	12:15 PM	Rosary (Cenacle MMP)
	12:30 PM	1:00 PM	12:30pm Mass
	2:30 PM	3:30 PM	Organ Lesson- Bernadette
	7:30 PM	9:00 PM	SC organ practice
23/12/2025	5:30 AM	6:30 AM	Dawn Mass by FCC
	9:00 AM	9:30 AM	Mass
	9:30 AM	10:30 AM	Rosary & Chaplet of Divine Mercy
	12:30 PM	1:00 PM	12.30pm Mass
	2:00 PM	2:45 PM	OC Organ practice
	2:00 PM	4:00 PM	Childrens Christmas Role Play Rehearsal
	4:00 PM	5:30 PM	Organ Practice: AH
	5:30 PM	7:30 PM	Wedding Mass by Fr David @6pm
	7:00 PM	9:00 PM	SC organ practice
24/12/2025	5:30 AM	6:30 AM	Dawn Mass by FCC
	9:00 AM	9:30 AM	Mass
	9:30 AM	10:30 AM	Rosary & Chaplet of Divine Mercy
	12:30 PM	1:00 PM	Mass
	1:00 PM	2:00 PM	ROSARY & allow Mass to wrap up
	2:00 PM	3:00 PM	SC organ practice
	4:45 PM	5:30 PM	Organ Lesson: AH
26/12/2025	10:00 AM	10:30 AM	Mass (the only Mass that day)
	11:00 AM	12:30 PM	Vietnamese Religious Gathering
27/12/2025	9:00 AM	9:30 AM	Mass
	9:30 AM	10:30 AM	Exposition, Reconciliation, Rosary, Benediction.
	11:00 AM	12:30 PM	TG's Choir Practice
	4:45 PM	5:15 PM	Vespers (on last Saturdays)



## *Come and See!*

### FROM THE PEW GIFT SHOP

Thank you to everyone who made our annual PEW Gift Shop Christmas Sale a joyful event!

It was pleasing to see families and people of all ages choose sets of nativity scenes and images of the Holy Family to adorn their homes this Christmas. Some were even requesting the PEW to order more! We started with stacks of Blessing Angels and Christmas story books for children and they were almost sold out within a couple of hours. Many were looking for meaningful gifts to give to their loved ones and were surprised to find beautiful religious, spiritual and inspirational gifts. For those who missed last Sunday's Sale, there is still an opportunity to avail items at marked down prices at the PEW Gift Shop. You will also be delighted to see newly arrived gift items including St Carlo Acutis decade rosaries, jewellerys and accessories..

To mark the last major activity of the year, the PEW volunteers had a simple thanksgiving gathering to celebrate Christmas together. We thank the parishioners, Fr David and the rest of the Parish clergy and staff for your great and ongoing support and encouragement. PEW aims to reflect the light of Christ to everyone who walks through its doors whether through acts of service, a warm atmosphere, or truth-filled gifts, We can only do this because of the generosity and commitment of everyone.



# *Come and See!*

18 December 2025

## **MOST REV ANTHONY RANDAZZO DD JCL BISHOP OF BROKEN BAY CHRISTMAS MESSAGE 2025**

My dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

Across many lands there is a venerable and beautiful custom: at the Christmas table, a place is set but left empty.

It is a quiet sign of welcome for the unexpected guest, perhaps a stranger, perhaps someone in need. Such a simple gesture, yet it speaks profoundly of the goodness of an open heart and a willingness to receive and to share.

In the busyness that so often accompanies Christmas, we can lose sight of these small but powerful symbols. The empty chair itself draws us back to the very first Christmas, when Mary and Joseph found no room at the inn.

Into that humble setting, God chose to enter our world as a tiny child, carried by a young mother who dared to say “yes,” and protected by Joseph, who trusted the message of an angel.

The place prepared for the Christ Child was nothing more than a manger, an open box where animals were fed, yet it became the cradle of our salvation.

His birth in such unassuming surroundings was not only the fulfilment of ancient prophecy; it was the dawn of a hope that shines in every darkness, a mercy that heals the wounded heart, and a love that endures beyond all telling.

Oten at this time of year, countless people feel overwhelmed by financial strain, social pressures, or the uncertainties of our times.

Year after year, we find ourselves speaking of conflict, fear, and suffering, now felt with heartbreaking clarity in recent days when the brutal Bondi massacre devastated families and shattered communities.

And yet, Christmas proclaims a hope that cannot be silenced.

This Holy Year of Hope was never intended to distract us from the world’s sorrows, but rather to teach us that no darkness, however deep, has the final word.

So, this Christmas, as we give thanks for God’s greatest gift to the whole of humanity, may our parishes, families, and communities become *living Bethlehems*, places where the tenderness, humility, and peace of Jesus Christ are encountered anew.

And may we always keep a place at our tables, and in our hearts, for those in need.

I pray that the graces poured out upon us in this Jubilee of Hope will lead us into the coming year with renewed confidence in our Saviour, who draws near to us always.

May you and your loved ones enjoy a holy and blessed Christmas Season



## *Come and See!*

**Our Parish church is designated as a Shrine of Hope for Young People  
during the Year of Jubilee.**

Friday	21 March 5.30pm—7pm	Students from Central Coast Catholic Schools
Saturday	5 April 9am Mass	50 Young Adults from Hornsby Parish
Monday	7 April	Parish group from Toukley-Lake Munmorah
Tuesday	8 April 10.30am - 1.00pm	Parishioners from St John the Baptist Woy Woy
Thursday	10 April	Parish group from St Monica's Parramatta Diocese
Saturday	26 April—afternoon	Young Adults from Parish of Manly-Freshwater
Friday	9 May—11.50am-12.30pm	70 Students from Redfield College
Monday	12 May at 10.30am	Students from Tangara School for Girls
Sunday	24 May—afternoon	Young Adults from around our Diocese, walking from Lindfield
Friday	6 June 10am –11.30am	80 Staff from St Brigid's College, Lake Munmorah
	6 June 1.00pm—2pm	120 Staff from St Peter's College, Tuggerah
Thursday	19 June, 11.30am—1.00pm	45 x Stage 3 Students from St Thomas and St Philip Neri, Willoughby
Saturday	28 June, 11.30am	Parishioners from Parish of Wyoming
Tuesday	5 August 11.30am,	30-50 Homeschool children
Thursday	14 August at 10.30am	School leaders from St Mary's Manly
Saturday	30 August at 3.00pm	Parish group from Warringah Parish (Dee Why)
Saturday	13 September 12.30pm	Parish Group from Hornsby Cathedral Parish
Saturday	27 September 2.00pm	Youth Group from St Agatha's Parish Pennant Hills Western Sydney Catholic Chinese Community Youth Group
Tuesday	30 September 11.30am	Diocesan Parent Engagement Coordinators
Thursday	9 October 12.30pm	Parish group from French's Forest Parish
Wednesday	15 October, 9.30am	Wyong Parishioners
Friday	24 October 11.30am	Staff of Schools of Lower North Shore Parish
Tuesday	28 October 10.00am	Students from Holy Spirit Primary School, North Ryde
Saturday	8 November	Parishioners from St Patrick's East Gosford, 10.30am
		Parishioners from Epping/Carlingford at 2.00pm
Sunday	9 November, 2pm	Parish group at St Felix's, Bankstown
Thursday	13 November, 1.30pm	Parishioners from the Parish of Pittwater
Friday	14 November	Students from Holy Family Primary School Lindfield, 10.30am-11.15pm
Monday	15 November	Parishioners from Parish of Manly-Freshwater, 9.00am
		Parishioners from the Parish of The Lakes, 10.30am St Joseph's College, Gosford 11.00am
Saturday	22 November	Catholic Indonesian Community Youth and parents from Wyong parish
Saturday	29 November	Legion of Mary 4.15pm
Saturday	6 December	Molinaro Family Pilgrimage
		Youth Group at 2.30pm
Monday	15 December at 10am	65 Staff from St Joseph's Catholic College, East Gosford



## *Come and See!*



Last Tuesday evening, 16 December, our community came together in prayer and hope following the horrendous events at Bondi on the evening of Sunday 14 December, at the same time we were celebrating our Carols on the Concourse.

We were joined by Rabbi Nicole Roberts and her husband, David and other members of the North Shore Temple Emmanuel in Chatswood.

Bishop Anthony's message: [Bondi Shooting - Catholic Diocese of Broken Bay](#)

Fr David's homily: [davidranson.com.au](http://davidranson.com.au)



# OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT / A

21 DECEMBER 2025

A MAN OF HONOUR. Today's Gospel invites us to reflect on Joseph, the husband of Mary, who played such an important role in God's plan of salvation. Joseph was a man of honour who combined respect for the law with compassion for Mary. He was open to hear God's word to him. He is an example for us all.

## INTRODUCTORY RITES

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON** cf. Isa 45:8

**Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.**

## GREETING

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

**R. Amen.**

P. Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**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. You were sent to heal the contrite of heart: Lord, have mercy.

**R. Lord, have mercy.**

P. You came to call sinners: Christ, have mercy.

**R. Christ, have mercy.**

You are seated at the right hand of the Father to intercede for us: Lord, have mercy.

**R. Lord, have mercy.**

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

**R. Amen.**

*The Gloria is not said during Advent.*

## COLLECT

P. Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord, your grace into our hearts, that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son was made known by the message of an Angel, may by his Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of his Resurrection. 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 7:10–14

**A reading from the prophet Isaiah**

*The virgin will conceive.*

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself

coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No,' Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said:

'Listen now, House of David:

are you not satisfied with trying the

patience of men

without trying the patience of God, too?

The Lord himself, therefore,

will give you a sign.

It is this: the maiden is with child

and will soon give birth to a son

whom she will call Emmanuel,

a name which means "God-is-with-us".

**The word of the Lord.**

**R. Thanks be to God.**

**RESP PSALM** Ps 23:1–6. R. cf. vv. 7, 10

**R. Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.**

1. The Lord's is the earth and its fullness, the world and all its peoples.

It is he who set it on the seas;

on the waters he made it firm. **R.**

2. Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?

Who shall stand in his holy place?

The man with clean hands and pure heart, who desires not worthless things. **R.**

3. He shall receive blessings from the Lord and reward from the God who saves him.

Such are the men who seek him,

seek the face of the God of Jacob. **R.**

## SECOND READING

Rom 1:1–7

**A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans**

*Jesus Christ, a descendant of David, is the Son of God.*

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from



the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

**The word of the Lord.**

**R. Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mt 1:23

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**The virgin will give birth to a son;**

**his name will be Emmanuel: God-is-with-us.**

**Alleluia!**

## GOSPEL

Mt 1:18–24

P. The Lord be with you.

**R. And with your spirit**

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

**R. Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Jesus was born of Mary, the betrothed of Joseph, a son of David.*

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 had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

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 Holy Spirit, O Lord, sanctify these gifts laid upon your altar, just as he filled with his power the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary. 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 II 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: When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.**

## 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

Isa 7:14

**Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P. Having received this pledge of eternal redemption, we pray, almighty God, that, as the feast day of our salvation draws ever nearer, so we may press forward all the more eagerly to the worthy celebration of the mystery of your Son's Nativity. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

**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 in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.

**R. Thanks be to God.**

## BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

### GOD WITH US

With Christmas only days away, today's Gospel announces Jesus' birth. Unlike the perhaps more familiar story from Luke's Gospel, with the annunciation by Gabriel to Mary, Matthew's focus is on Joseph, a heroic character for the Gospel's Jewish audience, reminiscent of the Old Testament patriarch, Joseph. Matthew's story is different from Luke's. In Matthew's Jewish world marriage occurred in two stages. The first was engagement; the second, cohabitation. Mary and Joseph are married according to Jewish law, though not living together. We must remember, too, that the Gospel in general and this story in particular is a *theological* narrative. Matthew is not concerned with gynaeology, but *theology*. It is about God and the Holy Spirit. Mary's pregnancy is the fruit of God's action. As this becomes known to Joseph, he wants to step out of the scene and divorce her quietly without bringing her shame—an option open to him from Jewish law.

Through an angel in a dream—reminiscent again of the Old Testament patriarch, 'the dreamer'—Joseph comes to a profound theological truth. Mary's conception is the work of God's Spirit. This is God's act. Joseph is then instructed to name the child, an important Israelite convention that incorporates the one to be born into Joseph's kinship group. Matthew concludes the scene with a second naming, now provided by the prophet Isaiah. The child will be 'Emmanuel', 'God with us', a theme that will continue throughout Matthew even to the Gospel's concluding scene on Easter day. We celebrate and affirm God 'being-with-us' this Christmas. We want this God to 'be with us' for the year ahead.

FR MICHAEL TRAINOR

## A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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*Come and See!*



Orals



at the Concourse  
2025





*Come and See!*

Our Lady of Dolours

# CHRISTMAS EVENTS

**DECEMBER**

**Sunday  
14TH**

**CAROLS AT THE  
CONCOURSE 7PM**

**Sunday  
21ST**

**SANTA VISIT  
9AM MASS AT CHURCH**

**Wednesday  
24TH**

**CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES  
5:30PM, 8PM,  
CAROLS 11:30PM FOLLOWED  
BY MIDNIGHT MASS**

**Thursday  
25TH**

**CHRISTMAS DAY  
MASSES 7:30AM, 9AM,  
10:30AM**

Enquiries, please contact  
02 9410 9000 or  
[chatswoodoffice@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:chatswoodoffice@bbcatholic.org.au)

 **Our Lady**  
OF DOLOURS



## *Come and See!*

Our 5.30am daily Simbang Gabi Masses that began last Tuesday 16 December and continue through to Wednesday 24 December. Everyone is welcome!



Each year in the nine days before Christmas, our Parish celebrates Simbang Gabi, a beautiful Filipino tradition of early morning Masses.

Some 200 people have joined us these last days each morning.

All are welcome to join us in the coming days until Christmas Eve.





*Come and See!*

BROKEN BAY FILIPINO  
CHAPLAINCY INVITES YOU TO  
JOIN OUR CHRISTMAS NOVENA  
MASSES THIS DECEMBER 2025

# Simbang Gabi

Contacts:



Deacon Roberto - 0414 525 448

Vilma Tolosa - 0411 250 593



Filipino Chaplaincy Broken Bay

*Chatswood*

**OUR LADY OF DOLOURS**

94 Archer St, Chatswood

16 - 24 Dec | 5:30 AM

Contacts:

Giselle Goloy

Dei Pagunuran

*Hornsby*

**OUR LADY OF THE  
ROSARY CATHEDRAL**

23 Yardley Ave, Waitara

15 - 23 Dec | 7:00 PM

Contacts:

Deacon Roberto

Vilma Tolosa

*Dee Why*

**ST. KEVIN'S CHURCH**

50 Oaks Ave, Dee Why

15 - 23 Dec | 7:30 PM

Contact:

Marlon Cabilao

*Wyong*

**ST. CECILIA'S CHURCH**

**Triduum Mass**

23 Byron St, Wyong

21, 22 & 23 Dec | 7:00 pm

Contact:

Mona Santos





## *Come and Grow!*



Many celebrations this week: Conversational English, Chinese Alpha group and our wonderful Play Group had a visit from Santa!



## *Come and Serve!*

### **Chatswood High School Catholic seminar 'Borne': December 17**



Chatswood catechists Roberto, Gillian, Tony, Alison and Deacon Roberto, and Karen gathered for our final seminar at Chatswood High School with Year 7 – 10 students.

We explored Jesus' genealogy and his family tree, noting key ancestors. We discussed how God seemed to go to all this effort so we could know that Jesus is God's unique Messiah: Son of Man (human) Son of God (divine).

Students were invited to explore their own genealogy and family tree with their families at home.

We discussed celebrating Jesus' birth at Christmas and reaching out to others with kindness during this time.

A warm thank you to Chatswood catechists and Chatswood High School for another wonderful year of seminars; it has been delightful to grow in faith with students during this Year of Hope! Warm wishes to all for a Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year.

**Karen Forbes**  
Catechist Co-ordinator



Last Saturday  
Our wonderful catechists enjoyed a  
Christmas Lunch together!



## Come and Grow!

OUR LADY OF DOLOURS

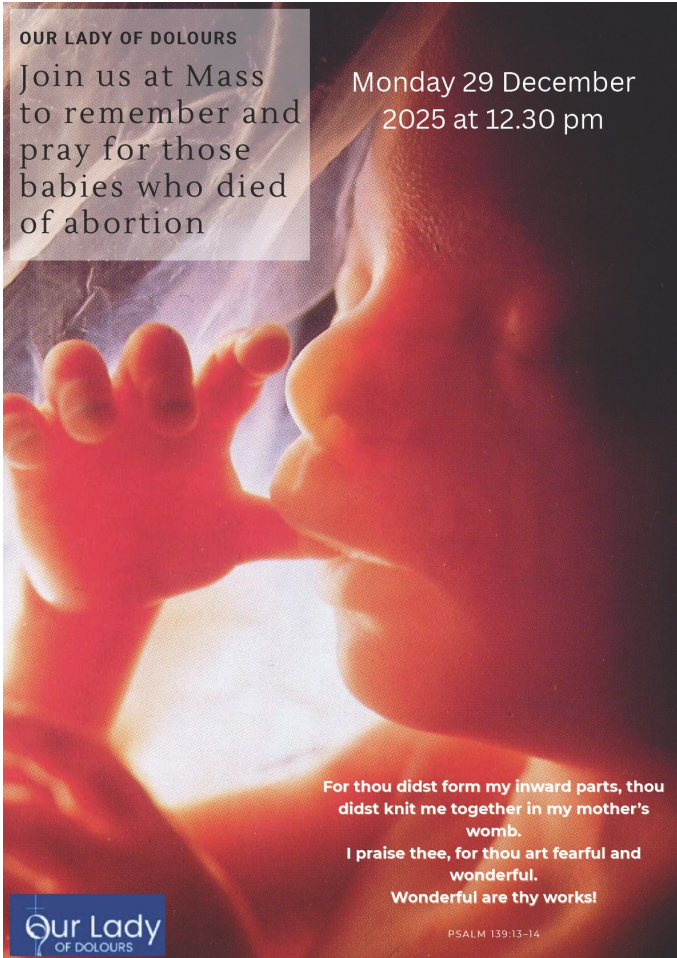
Join us at Mass to remember and pray for those babies who died of abortion

Monday 29 December 2025 at 12.30 pm

For thou didst form my inward parts, thou didst knit me together in my mother's womb.  
I praise thee, for thou art fearful and wonderful.  
Wonderful are thy works!

PSALM 139:13-14


Our Lady OF DOLOURS



Our Lady OF DOLOURS

Join us for a  
*Rosary*  
via Zoom  
on Thursday, 1 January 2026 at 8 pm  
to honour  
Mary, Mother of God  
(Solemnity)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82215493002>  
ID 822 1549 3002  
(no passcode required)



### Children for Parish Rosary via online Zoom

We are looking for children to participate in our Parish Rosary via Zoom on Thursday 1 January 2026 at 8 pm in honour of Mary, Mother of God. The rosary is a Catholic Tradition and is a devotional practice that focuses on prayer and meditation on the life of Jesus and the Virgin Mary. If you child or children are interested, please ring Cecilia on 0466961240 before Christmas. If your child has previously taken part and is interested, she/he is most welcome to join again.

**Joseph House was established by Bishop Anthony to foster an environment where young men can deepen their relationship with Christ and discern their baptismal vocation.**

Joseph House provides a structured environment of daily prayer, community life, spiritual direction, and personal formation, all while allowing residents to continue with their work or studies. As a call to action, I kindly ask you to consider promoting Joseph House in the following ways:

- Sharing the opportunity with youth or young adult ministry groups
- Personally referring individuals who may benefit from this experience

**Promotional video:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iPdlfsLXfEE>

If you'd like more information or would like me to speak further with your parish team, I'd be more than happy to assist: [Stephen.WayoyiOmwanda@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:Stephen.WayoyiOmwanda@bbcatholic.org.au).

With gratitude in Christ,  
Fr Stephen Wayoyi Omwanda AJ  
Director of Joseph House

## *Come and Grow!*

### **Dignity Pro-Life Alliance What Value Motherhood?**

At Christmas we celebrate the birth of Jesus, the second person of the Blessed Trinity who became man. To become man Jesus was conceived in the womb of Mary. In this role Mary played an essential part providing a supreme example of motherhood.

God has given to women the vocation of motherhood making them co-creators with Him. It is only through the co-operation of women that new life and the propagation of the human race is possible. This gives women a very special dignity. This is a role that some women accept willingly despite the difficulties it entails while other women reject and disavow, resorting to contraception in their attempt to prevent conception. But worst than this is the magnitude of the resort to abortion to destroy a human life that has already been conceived and is growing in the womb of the mother. This is why the question as to the value and dignity of motherhood is a very live and relevant one in today's world.

We celebrate Mothers' Day as an occasion that recognizes the role that women play as mothers. None of us come into existence other than with the co-operation of our mothers. So each of us has a personal reason to value motherhood. But if we value our mothers for the life they have given us and the many sacrifices they have made in bringing us into the world and caring for us as we grow, can we not extend our vision to celebrate the role that all mothers play. This might lead us to support the endeavours of the pro-life movement in defending life and building a society that values mothers and the lives they give, and to reject the contrary attitude of too many men and women who resort to abortion.

Please help to promote respect for life and appreciation of the role of mothers by supporting our Pro-life Alliance group through prayer, practical assistance to organisations that support women in need and calling on government to turn from assisting the abortion industry and instead provide assistance to mothers and families.

Please join us on **Monday 29 December at the 12.30 pm Mass** to mark the feast of the Holy Innocents and to pray for those babies who have had their lives ended by abortion. Please also join us on **Thursday 1 January 2026 at 8 pm** to honour Mary, Mother of God by praying the rosary together online via Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82215493002>, ID 822 1549 3002. Mass for the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God that day will be celebrated at 10.00am

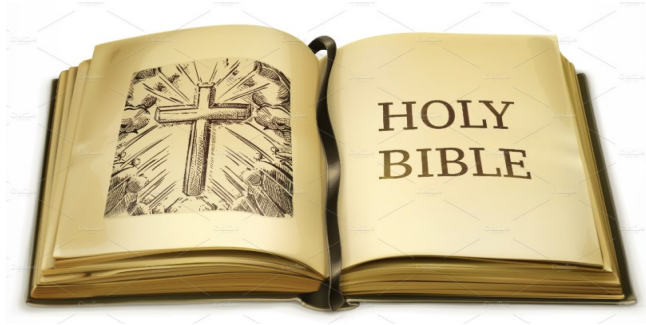


Our Parish Office Staff and office volunteers enjoyed a Christmas Lunch together last Wednesday at *Smoque* on the Concourse! A happy time to bring the work of the year to its end and look forward to a new year ahead!

**A HUGE THANK-YOU TO DOM  
TAGLE, FRANK RITONI, FRED,  
AND DAVID SANJAYA AND TO  
ALL WHO HELPED THEM TO  
RECONSTRUCT OUR  
MAGNIFICENT CRIB ON OUR  
CHURCH FORECOURT READY  
FOR CHRISTMAS!**



## *Come and Serve!*



*When the Sacred Scriptures are read in the Church, God himself speaks to His people, and Christ, present in His own Word, proclaims the Gospel.*

*GIRM # 29*

**Each time God's Word is proclaimed, we touch hearts  
and help community strengthen its faith.**

**Our Parish invites you to join this beautiful ministry of proclaiming Scripture  
during our liturgies at daily and Sunday Masses.**

If you have a clear voice and a love for Scripture, you are warmly welcome to be part of this ministry.  
Training and guidance will be provided, so you can proclaim with confidence and reverence.

Please contact Ditas Naguit at [bhnaguit@gmail.com](mailto:bhnaguit@gmail.com) or send her a text message at 0405999510.

### **VINNIES CHATSWOOD CHRISTMAS HAMPERS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

**Can you help us spread the joy of Christmas by  
delivering Christmas hampers to our local  
households in need?**

**Are you available for a few hours any day(s)  
between Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> December – Monday 22<sup>nd</sup>  
December?**

Please put your name down on the sign-up sheet  
found at the back of the church or email  
[el.herlianto@vinnies.org.au](mailto:el.herlianto@vinnies.org.au)

**Ability to safely carry up to 10kg useful**





## *Around and About*

**Our Serra Association invite us to remember one of the bishops, priests and deacons in our Diocese in our prayer each day during December**

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
1 Fr Paul Finucane	2 Fr Paul Durkin	3 Fr Bogdan Skupien	4 Fr Chima Ofor	5 Fr Marek Wol-dan	6 Fr Joshi Nadup-pura	7 Fr Philip Thottam MSFS
8 Fr Grzegorz (Greg) Skulski	9 Fr Bronislaw (Bronek) Pie-	10 Fr Ryszard (Richard) Sa-	11 Fr Zygmunt Smigowski SDS	12 Fr Bill Stevens	13 Fr Harry Kenne-dy	14 Fr Stephen Ham-ilton
15 Fr Rex Curry	16 Fr Jack Robson	17 Fr Stan Skibicki	18 Fr Robert Bro-gan	19 Fr Geoff Bugden	20 Sr Marea Ross rsj	21 Sr Josefa Mabini OSA
22 Seminarians Shayne D'Cunha	23 Seminarians Matthew French Tan Nguyen	24 Seminarians Victor Atuhura Huy Tran	25 Fr Robert Craw-ford	26 Sr Ann Duncan rsj	27 Fr Carmelo Sci-beras	28 Fr Jim Tierney
29 Fr Clem Hill	30 Fr Terry Johns	31 Sister Damian Lai				



"St. Ignatius of Loyola called on Jesuits to go where the needs are greatest. Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) continues this mandate by accompanying some of the world's most vulnerable people who have been displaced from their homelands.

Fr. Pedro Arrupe, SJ, former Jesuit Superior-General, founded JRS in 1980, as he saw the significant needs of refugees across Southeast Asia and recognised how Jesuits were uniquely placed to respond. JRS Australia continues this legacy today, walking alongside refugees and asylum seekers to help them make a home in our community. We do this by supporting over 150 families each week through our foodbank program and many others through specialised case work. Our Finding Safety Project supports refugee and migrant women facing violence in the home, who are often unable to access mainstream services. Further, we promote asylum seekers and refugees' self-reliance and community contribution through our Employment Program. This program equips people with the skills and capacity to enter the workforce. It seeks to match asylum seekers and refugees with employers so they can have the independence and dignity that a decent job can bring."

This Christmas, you can help JRS continue accompanying, serving, and advocating for asylum seekers and refugees. Every donation helps provide support, safety, and opportunity to those who need it most.  
Make Room This Christmas - Stand Up for Those Seeking Refuge Among Us

With gratitude,  
**Your Friends at JRS.**  
**Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) Australia**



## *Please Remember in our Prayer*

### **For those recently deceased:**

Janet Namey. Mary Kin-Soon Ng (Elizabeth Chung's mother); Rogelio Torres; Tania Witts; Zhongyuan Jiang; Helen Orban; Tranquilla Stranges; Fong Wang; Gerard Say; Albert Wong; Fulvio Cogrossi; Victoria Balcanao; Braulio Dela Fuente; Almira Aurora Sabulao; Tom Rowan; Aljoša Žuvela.

### **For those who are sick:**

Bruce Meppem; Ely Herft; Augustine D'silva; George Lo; Catherine M Chan, Mirjana Marinovic; Mellita Jones; Daniel West; Ying Leong Fong; Rosetta Lo Presti; Celine Robinson; Rafael Senedrin; Gina Marotta; Deysi Villanueva; Ervita Wiroatmodjo; Almira Christina Chen; Mary Oakley; Eugenia San Gabriel; Jim Dennis; Jeremy Moon; Ley Peng Tan; Lody Herlianto; Chet Catapang; Mila Fidel; Onni Wong; Victor Chun Kau Ng; Carmel Villanueva; Mr Gurung; Delfin Mendoza; Irene Margaret; Laila Haddad; Thomas West; Lucy Rodriguez; Gillian Hawkins; Sr Marie Dayton; Judith Ryan; Maria Taylor; Ban le Llamas; Sally Hawkins; Donna Fernandez; Allison Roberts; Zac Vlasic; Helen Coutts -Trotter (sister of Terry Meagher); Teddy Malapria; Kristen O'Loan; Mitch East; Victor Villanueva Herriquez; Johnson Siu; Joseph Bonnici; Bill Piper; Gerard de Leon; Carlos de Leon; Bonnie Leung; John Triog and family; Esther Grant and family.

### **For those whose anniversaries occur at this time:**

Mollie Curitin; Deceased members of the Curtin, Rolfe, Hughes and Egan families; Amparo Pua; Tuan Sheng Hao; Ruben Gabila; Christopher Dignam; Mate Bacic Fratric; Maria Vlatko Rulo; Mario Tan; Fausto and Sayone Enad; Dale Dazo; Lin Chunguang; Weng Haosong; Shi Ting; Agnes Press; Lydia Tan; Manuel Tan; John Kohr; Philip Ryan; Dayton family members; Vinko Cetinic; John Cetinic; Anthony Raffaele; Teresa Wang; James Biddell; Ellen Sunjaya.

**Deceased birthday:** Flora Yaptinchay

**Wedding:** Tuesday 23 December 6.30pm: Daniel Prieto and Karen Martinez Cardenas

**19th Ordination Anniversary:** Fr Anselam (27 December)

**Vespers:** Saturday 27 December at 4.45pm

**Infant Baptism** Sunday, 28 December 2025 at 12noon: Rishik Deora Swan

### *Our Altar Flowers this Week*

Our Altar Flowers this week are donated by Celine, Shaun, Lilah & Leo, in loving memory of Flora Yatco Yaptinchay.

Flowers that will soon be displayed on the sanctuary for Christmas Day, are gifted by parishioners, offered for world peace and peace in everyone's heart.



## FLOWER DONATIONS

*Would you like to donate flowers to adorn our church?*

Honour a special occasion or remember a loved one with altar flower arrangements

Donations can be one-time or annual.



Suggested donations: \$130+ for standard arrangements, \$150-\$200 for fuller or specific flowers like roses.



Our volunteers, Irene, Cynthia, and Teresa, will beautifully arrange and place them by the tabernacle for Sunday.



Submit your donation at least one month in advance.  
To reserve a date, contact Chloe at [Chloe.Aylward@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:Chloe.Aylward@bbcatholic.org.au).

### **Pope's Prayer Intention for December 2025**

#### **For Christians in areas of conflict**

Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation, and hope.