



GOSFORD PARISH

*The Communities of St Patrick's East Gosford,
St Francis of Assisi Somersby & Holy Trinity Spencer
Neighbourhoods of Grace, entrusted to the
care of the Salvatorians.*



THE VIRTUE OF HOPE

We all face difficult moments of darkness and anxiety when things can become difficult. Some may become disillusioned with life and lose hope. During these challenging times, hope can also be misunderstood. We may think that it is having a positive attitude or being optimistic. We may place our hope in things of this world, such as our work or charitable projects, thinking they will bring us happiness.

Pope Francis reminds us that true hope is not built on human words or assurances, but on God's Word and His promise of salvation and eternal life. The Easter season is a time to reflect on the effects of Jesus' Resurrection, the opening of heaven for humanity. It is a time of joy together. It can also be a good time to reflect on the true nature of hope and on those who can act as models of it for us today.

THE THEOLOGICAL VIRTUE OF HOPE

Hope is perhaps the most difficult of the three theological virtues to understand. It can be described as an unshakable trust and assurance that the promises of God will be fulfilled. This trust is based on what He has done for us in His Son Jesus, through His Death and Resurrection. Like faith, it is not a human attitude or opinion, but it is a gift of the Holy Spirit. The Catechism of the Catholic Church describes the true nature and meaning of the virtue. It states:

Hope is the theological virtue by which we desire the kingdom of heaven and eternal life as our happiness, placing our trust in Christ's promises and relying not on our own strength, but on the help of the grace of the Holy Spirit. (CCC 1817)

God has placed in each of our hearts the desire and longing for true happiness. The virtue of hope responds to this innermost desire and helps us to place our trust in God. The Catechism of the Catholic Church describes the work and function of hope. It states:

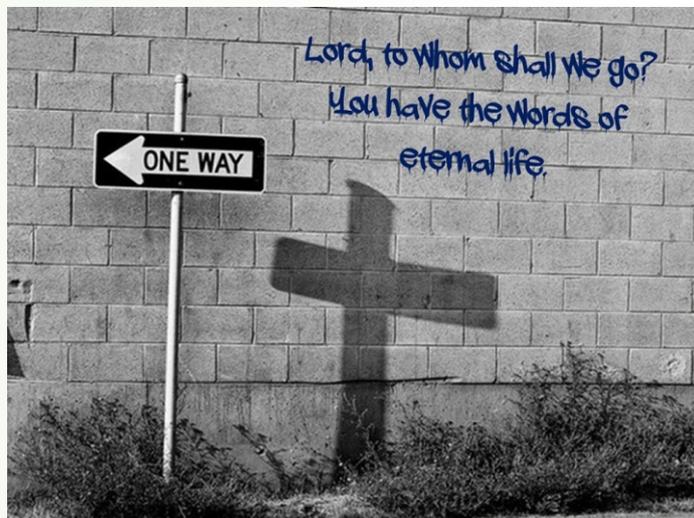
[This virtue] takes up the hopes that inspire men's activities and purifies them so as to order them to the Kingdom of heaven; it keeps man from discouragement; it sustains him during times of abandonment; it opens up his heart in expectation of eternal beatitude. Buoyed up by hope, he is preserved from selfishness and led to the happiness that flows from charity. (CCC 1818)

Jesus used the image of the kingdom of God to express the content of our hope. He used parables, images, and symbols to describe what is eternal and invisible to the human eye. St. Paul declares, "Now hope that sees for itself is not hope. For who hopes for what one sees?" (Romans 8:24). This gift of the Holy Spirit helps us envision what still cannot be seen and which would otherwise be impossible to expect.

MODELS OF HOPE

For St. Paul, hope is a person, it is Christ Himself. It is more than simply a desire for the joys of eternal life, rather is a desire to be with Jesus. To be with the Lord forever is the heart's deepest desire, even more profound than its desire for life itself (1 Thessalonians 4:17). It stems from the believer's sincere love of Jesus. St. Paul assures us, "I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor present things, nor future things, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:38-39). It is this assurance of the love and presence of Jesus and His Father that allows anyone who is suffering to find encouragement and comfort. Jesus Himself, and His love for each of us, is the reason for our hope.

St. Paul offers Abraham as a model of this virtue. God had promised Abraham that he would have an heir through his wife Sarah and descendants as numerous as the stars of the sky. He had many



human reasons for giving up waiting to have a child with Sarah. After all, Abraham and his wife were already advanced in age, he was 99 and Sarah was 90 years old and barren. Yet, Abraham continued to believe that God would be faithful to His promise. St. Paul states, "He believed, hoping against hope, that he would become 'the father of many nations,' according to what was said, 'Thus shall your descendants be'" (Romans 4:18).

Abraham trusted in God's word and had faith in His creative power to do what appeared to be absolutely impossible. His trust was not based on human assurances but on God's word. Pope Francis commented on Abraham's virtue. He stated, "[his] great hope is rooted in faith, and it is precisely for this reason that it is able to go beyond all hope. Yes, because it is based not on our word, but on the Word of God."

Pope St. John Paul II mentioned that the Blessed Virgin Mary is a model of this virtue for the Church. She was also called to believe what was unbelievable in human terms. The archangel Gabriel announced to her that she would become the mother of God. She opened her heart and trusted in God's guidance. Mary placed her trust in the everlasting kingdom which her Son had come to establish. She stood faithfully by His cross. Hope is what filled the Blessed Virgin Mary's heart during the dark days after her Son's death on the cross. From Friday afternoon until Sunday morning, Mary's heart remained filled as she waited for Jesus to rise from the dead just as He had said (Mark 8:31). She waited patiently for God's promise to be fulfilled. After Pentecost, she strengthened the Church's hope when they encountered difficulties, suffering, and persecution.

Pope John Paul II stated in *Mary: Model of Faith, Hope, and Charity*:

[Mary] is thus the Mother of hope for the community of believers and for individual Christians, and she encourages and guides Her children as they await the kingdom, supporting them in their daily trials and throughout the events of history, however tragic.

<https://catholicstand.com/hope-misunderstood-virtue/>



BLESSED FRANCIS JORDAN SDS

"O Mother, you know how I love the good, that happiness your Son taught us to strive for."

MM *To the Mother of God* 1850 in Poems



ST PATRICK'S PARISH GOSFORD

PASTORAL CARE

Fr Grzegorz [Greg] Skulski SDS

Parish Priest

Email: greg@sds.org.au

Fr Paul Tran SDS

Assistant Priest

email: paulduongsds@gmail.com

SALVATORIANS

Society of the Divine Saviour

<http://www.sds.org.au>

PARISH OFFICE

Secretary:

Colleen Kirk Mon – Thur: 8:30am – 4:30pm

Friday 8:30am – 1:00pm

Bursar: **Darren Fitzgibbon**

Sacramental Programme

Coordinator: **Frances Mathey**

Email: franceshanna@yahoo.com

Catechists' Coordinator: **Raelene O'Connor**

Email: saintpatsccd@acs.net.au

Wed: 9:00am – 1:00pm

Thur: 9:30am – 1:30pm

Youth Ministry: **Jaimi-Lea Andrews**

Ph: 0452 480 112 Email: jaimilea.andrews@gmail.com

Media Coordinator: **Tom Croll**

Thursday: 9:00am – 2:00pm

Email: tomcroll@photom.com.au

Phone: 0411- 962 122.

VOLUNTEER ROLES

Office Admin: **Denise Jay**

Friday: 9:00am – 3:30pm

AV Presentation: **Peter McLean**

Greg McBride

Caretakers: **Ron Begg, Chris Galea**

Tim Mara

Baptism Co-ordinator: **Maisie Tenev**

All bookings must be made through the parish office.

Gardeners: **Trevor Byrne**

Joyce Byrne

Victor Camilleri

Seniors' Ministry: **Barbara McCarthy**

Ph: 4322 0250

Safeguarding Officer: **Hilary Pope**

hilary.p1@optusnet.com.au

School Principals

St Patrick's Primary: **Mrs Cheryl Walsh** 4325 1159

St Joseph's College: **Mr Tony McCudden** 4324 4022

St Edwards College: **Mr Mark Bonnici** 4321 6400

St Peter's College: **Mr Tim Hilderbrandt** 43512344

NATIONAL CATHOLIC LEADERSHIP STANDARDS

LEADERSHIP, MONITORING & IMPROVEMENT

STANDARD 1 – COMMITTED LEADERSHIP, GOVERNANCE & CULTURE

Key Elements of Standard 1:

- † A Commitment to Safeguarding
- † Promoting a Safeguarding Culture
- † Safeguarding Policies
- † Code of Conduct

SAFEGUARDING OFFICER

HILARY POPE



IF YOU SEE ANY ACTIVITIES INVOLVING CHILDREN OR VULNERABLE ADULTS THAT CONCERNS YOU, PLEASE EMAIL HILARY POPE, OUR SAFEGUARDING OFFICER AT HILARY.P1@OPTUSNET.COM.AU.
[CLICK HERE TO VIEW OR DOWNLOAD](#)
[OUR DIOCESAN COMMITMENT TO SAFEGUARDING](#)

MASSES LIVE STREAMED

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC44NSRmeB1mg_EKIJUFJpvg/live

GOSFORD, 76 YORK STREET EAST GOSFORD

Mon: 9:00am	Wed: 11:30am	Fri: 12:00pm
Tue: 9:00am	Thu: 9:00am	Sat: 9:00am

WEEKEND MASSES

GOSFORD, 76 YORK STREET EAST GOSFORD

Sun: 9:30 am



YEAR OF THANKSGIVING FOR
BLESSED FRANCIS JORDAN

21st July 2021 - 21st July 2022

SALVATORIANS AUSTRALIA

ROSARY EVERY NIGHT AT 9:00 PM

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC44NSRmeB1mg_EKIJUFJpvg/live

BLESSED SACRAMENT CHAPEL, IS CLOSED DUE TO COVID LOCKDOWN

ST PATRICK'S GROUPS MEETINGS

Cancer Prayer Group

Craft Group

Grief & Loss Support

MenAlive

Prayers for Christian Unity

Prayer Group DVDs

Prayer Group & Bible Discussion

Bible Study - Monday night

Youth Group

Salvatorian Collaborators

Women's Faith Circle

Children, Yrs 5 & 6

Family Group



NOTE:

ALL ADVERTISED ACTIVITIES ARE SUBJECT TO ANY GOVERNMENT COVID RULINGS AND THEREFORE WILL BE POSTPONED OR CANCELLED IF "STAY AT HOME" OR "LOCKDOWN" RULES ARE IN PLACE.

**FR GREG, MAISIE, ADRAIN AND KELLY
TALK ABOUT FAITH.**



**WHY IS
FAITH SO
IMPORTANT
IN THEIR
LIVES AND
SO
IMPORTANT
IN OUR
LIVES.**

[Click here to view on YouTube](#)

UP COMING EVENTS

FAITH FORMATION

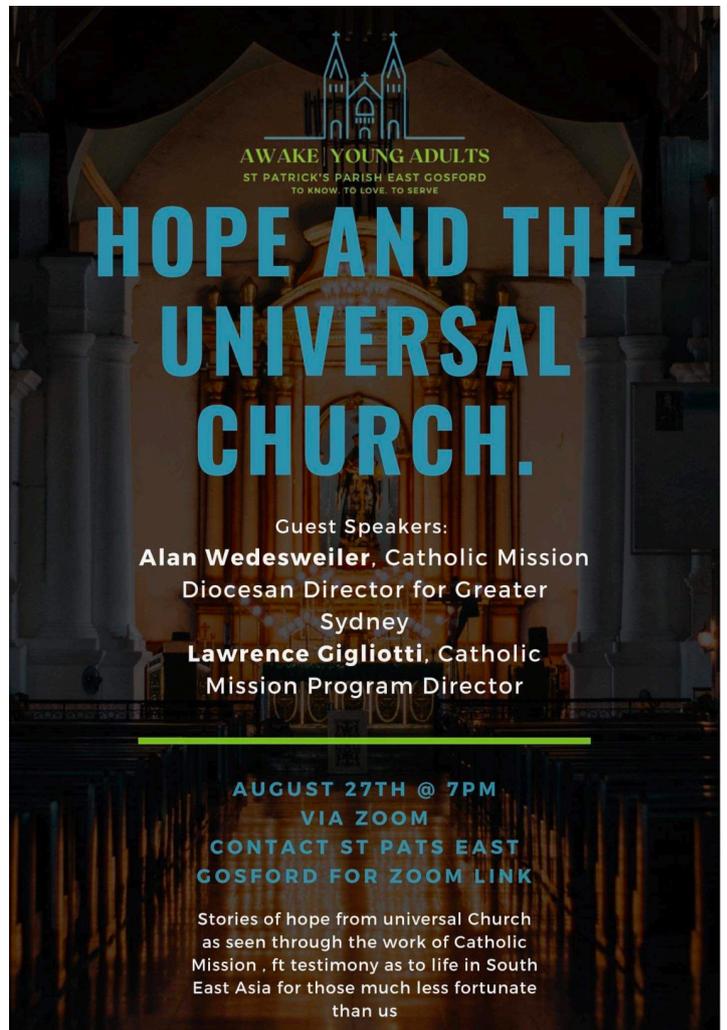
TOPIC – SACRIFICIAL LOVE

2ND SEPTEMBER WITH FR DAVID RANSON

Join us at 7:30pm Wednesday 2nd September, on Zoom.
Zoom meeting details will be advised next week.



If you, or you know someone who is struggling please contact the Parish Office



Free, confidential faith based counselling available for parishioners of St Patrick's.
Available for adolescents, adults, couples and families by a trained, experienced Clinical Psychologist.
Supported by CatholicCare.

TO BOOK PLEASE CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE



Launching Nationally on
Saturday, 31st July 2021
www.catholicmensgathering.com.au



Click here to see more!

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC MEN'S GATHERING 2021

REGISTER TO PARTICIPATE

CLICK HERE TO WATCH THE VIDEOS

"They were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other Apostles,

Brothers - what then must we do?" Acts 2:37

LAUNCHING NATIONALLY ONLINE FROM SATURDAY 31 JULY 2021

The Australian Catholic Men's Gathering aims to inspire and encourage all men with a vision for personal discipleship, service and mission in the family, parish/diocese and the world. The 2020 event saw approximately 1000 men gather across the nation at 42 hosting sites.

In this Year of St Joseph, the Australian Catholic Men's Gathering is again being offered as a free event for registered participants. All dioceses across Australia are invited to participate in the 2021 program which will focus on St Joseph and will include a pre-recorded introductory session, three pre-recorded sessions, and a final commissioning, all available from Saturday 31 July 2021.

You can participate individually or gather with others from your parish/diocese or men's ministry group. The

sessions are designed so that they can be used on one full day or across a number of days and they can be integrated with local initiatives such as Mass, testimonies and group discussions.

Individual registration will ensure you receive updates about the program and all links to the pre-recorded videos when they are available.



menALIVE

Yes we are going to have three menALIVE zoom meetings in August.

We will be watching/discussing one of the Australian Catholic Men's Gathering videos in each session as there are three keynotes, too many to do in one.

The topics will be:

- **Tue, Aug 03 => Man of God**
- **Tue, Aug 17 => Man of Service**
- **Tue, Aug 31 => Man of Character**

If you would like to attend, contact Peter Axon ptaxon11@gmail.com or Ph: 0448 005 140

NEW BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS FOR ST PATRICK'S PARISH.

The Commonwealth Bank is streamlining its systems and is transitioning to new account numbers.

Please note that our new account details are

Gosford Parish Church Account

BSB 062784

Account No 10001599.

In an effort to ensure everyone is given the chance to update their records, we will continue advertising this until the CBA closes off the period of grace when both the old and new account numbers will be valid.

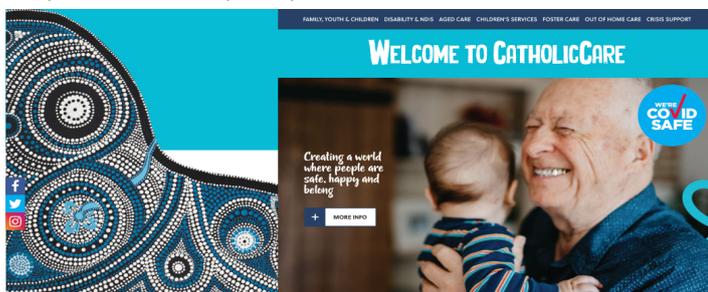
We ask those who are giving directly into the Church Account to take particular notice. Thank you.

HELP FROM CATHOLIC CARE

CatholicCare can help with Coles or Woolworths vouchers.

Times are tough. You might have lost work due to the lockdown, or you might be finding it hard to pay the bills or to put food on the table. Please call CatholicCare on (02) 9481 2600 or email them at info@catholiccarebb.org.au.

They are here to help our parish families.



NEW RCIA PROGRAM

Anybody interested in, or know someone who is interested in becoming a Catholic please contact the Parish Office to register your interest in joining the RCIA program.

Office Phone # 4325-1042.

PLEASE CONSIDER FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

If you wish to donate to our Parish, you can donate direct to our Bank Account. When you do so please indicate in the "Reference" the purpose for the donation.



Bank Account Name

Gosford Parish Church Account

BSB: 062 784

Account Number: 10001599

WOULD YOU LIKE A PRINTED COPY OF THE BULLETIN?

You can pick up a copy of the Bulletin from the front door of the church when you are passing on your exercise walk.

SECURE DROP OFF FOR DONATIONS

We would like to especially thank those who have been contributing to the financial support of the parish and its clergy via direct deposit or calling to donate over the phone, or depositing their envelopes into our mailbox.

However - Donations have dropped 40%, when we compare June 2021 before the lockdown to July 2021 following the lockdown.

We now have a secure letterbox in the fence near our gate into the office area, which people may place their donations - again while they are on their walk.

Certainly, it should be acknowledged that many people and businesses are suffering, and we are grateful for the support we are getting. However, we do have to ask for everyone to keep us in their prayers and remember to give their financial support.

Please also remember that whilst the office isn't open to all, we are taking calls and can assist you should you need help, book future sacraments or appointments, or collect your donations.

We encourage you to please stay in touch as your health and wellbeing are very much at the forefront of our minds.

May you dare to trust in the Lord with your whole heart

and not lean on your own understanding.

May you look up and acknowledge him with every step you take, knowing he'll get you where you need to go.

CATHOLIC FORMATION AND FELLOWSHIP FOR FAMILIES, ENGAGED AND MARRIED COUPLES

7 sessions to strengthen your relationship



Session 3: "RESOLVING CONFLICT"

SUNDAY, AUG 29
1:00 PM

ST PATRICK'S
GOSFORD PARISH

ONLINE EVENT

The
Marriage
Course

Time and space to focus
on your relationship

COUPLES & FAMILY GROUP

Running The Alpha Marriage Course

Due to the current COVID-19 restrictions, this session will be run online.
To receive the relevant links/videos

PLEASE REGISTER at Gosford.Families@gmail.com

Start at 1.00 pm **The Marriage Course: Session 3**
There will be online activities for children run in parallel

The Mass is live-streamed at 9.30am and you are most welcome to join at:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC44NSRmeB1mg_EKIJUFJpvg/live



POPE FRANCIS' AUGUST 2021 INTENTION The Church

Let us pray for the Church, that she may receive from the Holy Spirit the grace and strength to reform herself in the light of the Gospel.

BB35
CELEBRATING
35 YEARS
DIOCESE OF BROKEN BAY



THE YEAR
OF ST JOSEPH
& THE FAMILY
2021



SALVATORIAN FORMATION DONATION CODE.

If you would like to support future Salvatorian priests please go to the link. Just scan with your QR Code Reader on your phone.

https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=FHE9UKNMLYLQA

ANNOUNCEMENT: BAY CONNECT PROGRAM LAUNCH

Dear Colleagues and Friends

To support Bishop Anthony's wish to continue to connect and engage online with our community during these challenging times, the Evangelisation team launches BAY CONNECT today. This initiative provides an online program of regular activities commencing on 30 August, to converse, reflect and connect spiritually online with our communities. The Bay Connect page is published today, <https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/news/covid-19-updates/prayer-resources/bay-connect> and featured on the Diocese home page <https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/>

The program features commencing Monday, 30 August, include:

- Mondays @ 7:30-8:45pm via Zoom - THE CHOSEN MONDAY - Join us as we go through the first season of The Chosen, viewing one episode every Monday, breaking open some themes and coming to know Jesus in a fresh new way.
- Tuesdays @ 7:00-7:30pm via Instagram Live (@cybbaus) - TUESDAY NIGHT LIGHTS - A place for the community to come together for prayer and to praise God from the setting of your home. All youth, young adults, singles and families, parishioners and clergy are invited.
- Wednesdays @ 7:00-7:30pm via Zoom - HUMPDAY HANGOUT W/ BR BERNARD - Our jolly friar Br. Bernard Mary will host the session with time for prayer, 'Banger' of the week, casual chat and an entertaining selection of activities.
- Fridays @ 7:00-8:00pm via Zoom - FORMATION FRIDAYS - An opportunity to get some simple Catholic formation on various aspects of the faith, from the basics to the hot topics, featuring a different guest speaker each week, followed by some time for questions/discussion.

We request your participation and support by liking and sharing the social media posts including Bishop Anthony's Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/bishopanthonyrandazzo> and Diocese Broken Bay Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/brokenbaydiocese/>

More importantly, if we could ask you to join us in prayer for this initiative, that would be most appreciated. If you need more information, please contact us at evangelisation@bbcatholic.org.au.

God Bless.

Tomasz Juszczak

Director, Evangelisation Broken Bay

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF BROKEN BAY

AFTER THE HONEY MOON SMARTLOVING

The Parish and Marriage Resource Centre has launched a program for newlywed couples to accompany them during the first year of marriage.

Dispatched every two weeks for a year, SmartLoving Newlywed Date Nites is brimming with inspiration, tips and practical tools. Couples can subscribe FREE at....

www.smartloving.org/newlywed

VINNIES COMMUNITY SLEEPOUT IS GOING VIRTUAL!

The human reality of homelessness is told through the many people the St Vincent de Paul Society assists each day.

In 2019, the NSW Government Department of Communities and Justice Engagement Week Program identified the below statistics surrounding homelessness:

- Of those sleeping rough on our streets, 57% in Woy Woy and 71% in Gosford identified with a high vulnerability

score and needed ongoing assistance with housing and support services.

- 70 years of age was the oldest respondent sleeping rough and 24 years of age was the youngest, with an average age of 49 years.
- The program identified that the average duration of time spent sleeping on the street was 5.16 years.

It is critical that we support those experiencing or at risk of homelessness in rebuilding their lives and reconnecting with the community. We also strive to address the causes of homelessness and disadvantage.

On the NSW Central Coast, the St Vincent de Paul Society provides assistance through three Vinnies Support Centres in Wyong, Gosford and Woy Woy.

These Support Centres not only connect those in need with Vinnies provided services, but also facilitate other agencies in the fields of homelessness and poverty to provide comprehensive support to those most vulnerable within our community.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

All funds generated from this event will go to supporting our three local Vinnies Support Centres, allowing us to continue providing essential services to the community with respect, justice, hope and joy.

Register or sponsor a participant to help us change lives and help shape a more just and compassionate society.

<https://my.fundraise.vinniesnsw.org.au/vinnies-community-sleepout-central-coast-region-2021/>

Sleep out at home in your car, backyard or couch and join us online to help change lives in our community. Event details

Date: Fri, 27 Aug 2021 6:00pm

Venue: At home in your car, backyard or couch

Event Coordinator: Janice Stokes | janice.stokes@vinnies.org.au

Bring: We invite you to bring your warm clothes, a sleeping bag/ swag and join us to raise much needed funds and awareness of homelessness.



ANNOUNCEMENT

Rebrand of CWF to Pastoral Works Broken Bay

We are delighted to announce the Charitable Works Fund (CWF) is rebranding to **Pastoral Works Broken Bay** from July 2021

The purpose of the new name is to better reflect the authentic, life-giving pastoral work you are helping to support, and provide a name that uniquely connects it to our Diocese of Broken Bay.

Pastoral Works Broken Bay will play a vital role in building on the six Pastoral priorities for the Diocese, including giving vital support to life-changing ministries, nurturing families, and parish communities.

Each year, about 20,000 families and friends - those in hospitals, schools, parishes, and the wider community - will be assisted through the generous support of parish communities to Pastoral Works Broken Bay.

Thank you for your support of this important and historic initiative for the Diocese of Broken Bay.

My prayer is the change from CWF to Pastoral Works Broken Bay enables us to reach further and wider in helping our local community, and more deeply connects us to the mission of Jesus.

Most Rev Anthony Randazzo DD JCL,
Bishop of Broken Bay

August Appeal

At this time, we appreciate support that can be given, no matter how big or small. Our ministries continue to operate and provide vital services. We encourage donations at your parish website or www.bbcatholic.org.au/pastoralworks. All donations over \$2 are tax-deductible. Collection envelopes for Masses will be available when parishes re-open.

Thank you for helping to renew and rebuild lives.
Every gift makes a difference to someone in hospital, school, a parish or the wider community.



I have called you to renew and rebuild.



Donate to help families and parish communities in Broken Bay.

Lord, your words give everlasting life



21st Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B



By listening to Jesus, we too can have everlasting life. What are some things Jesus is telling us? Draw the missing pictures, then circle the correct answers.



Simon Peter said that Jesus' words give eternal life. Can you think of some other things that Jesus gives us? Write or draw your answers.



Love one another

Do anything you want



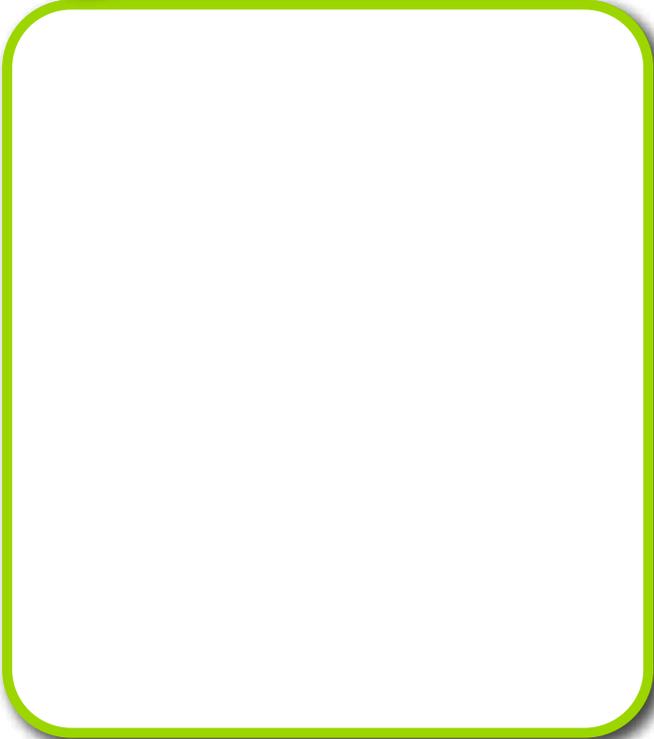
Always be the winner

Help others

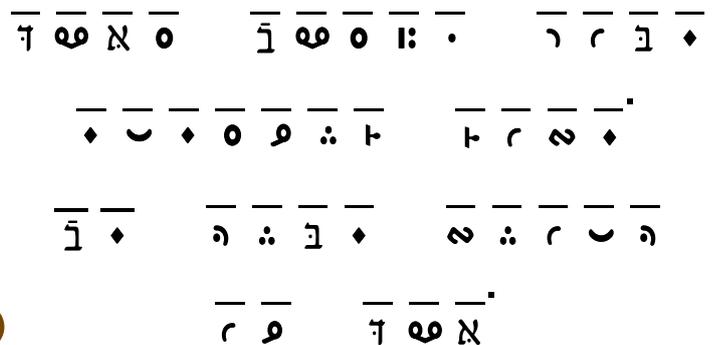
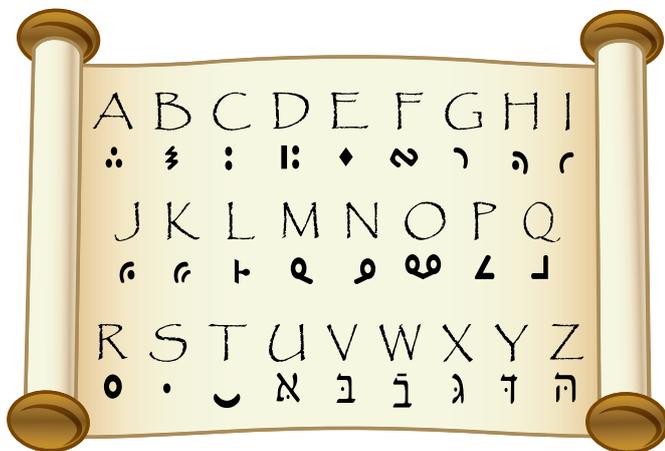


Be stronger than others

Pray to God



Jesus spoke to his disciples about the bread of life. It was hard to understand, but those who had faith continued to follow him. Crack the code to find out what Simon Peter said to Jesus.



LORD, WHOM SHALL WE GO TO? YOU HAVE THE WORDS OF EVERLASTING LIFE.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

CF. PS 85:1-3

Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me; save the servant who trusts in you, my God.

Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.

FIRST READING

JOS 24:1-2. 15-18

A reading from the book of Joshua

We will serve the Lord God, because he is our God.

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel together at Shechem; then he called the elders, leaders, judges and scribes of Israel, and they presented themselves before God. Then Joshua said to all the people: 'If you will not serve the Lord, choose today whom you wish to serve, whether the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are now living. As for me and my House, we will serve the Lord.'

The people answered, 'We have no intention of deserting the Lord and serving other gods! Was it not the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors out of the land of Egypt, the house of slavery, who worked those great wonders before our eyes and preserved us all along the way we travelled and among all the peoples through whom we journeyed. We too will serve the Lord, for he is our God.'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

PS 33:2-3. 16-23. R. V.9

(R.) Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

1. I will bless the Lord at all times, his praise always on my lips; in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.

The humble shall hear and be glad.

(R.) Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

2. The Lord turns his face against the wicked to destroy their remembrance from the earth.

The Lord turns his eyes to the just and his ears to their appeal.

(R.) Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

3. They call and the Lord hears and rescues them in all their distress.

The Lord is close to the broken-hearted; those whose spirit is crushed he will save.

(R.) Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

4. Many are the trials of the just man but from them all the Lord will rescue him.

He will keep guard over all his bones, not one of his bones shall be broken.

(R.) Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

5. Evil brings death to the wicked; those who hate the good are doomed.

The Lord ransoms the souls of his servants.

Those who hide in him shall not be condemned.

(R.) Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

SECOND READING

EPH 5:21-32

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

This is the great mystery, it applies to Christ and the Church.

Give way to one another in obedience to Christ. Wives should regard their husbands as they regard the Lord, since as Christ is head of the Church and saves the whole body, so is a husband the head of his wife; and as the Church submits to Christ, so should wives to their husbands, in everything. Husbands should love their wives just as Christ loved the Church and sacrificed himself for her to make her holy. He made her clean by washing her in water with a form of words, so that when he took her to himself she would be glorious, with no speck or wrinkle or anything like that, but holy and faultless. In the same way, husbands must love their wives as they love their own bodies; for a man to love his wife is for him to love himself. A man never hates his own body, but he feeds it and looks after it; and that is the way Christ treats the Church, because it is his body – and we are its living parts. For this reason, a man must leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one body. This mystery has many implications; but I am saying it applies to Christ and the Church.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

SEE JN 6:63. 68

Alleluia, alleluia!

Your words, Lord, are spirit and life: you have the words of everlasting life.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

JN 6:60-69

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Lord, whom shall we go to? You have the words of everlasting life.

After hearing his doctrine many of the followers of Jesus said, 'This is intolerable language. How could anyone accept it?' Jesus was aware that his followers were complaining about it and said, 'Does this upset you? What if you should see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before?'

'It is the spirit that gives life, the flesh has nothing to offer.

The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life.

'But there are some of you who do not believe.' For Jesus knew from the outset those who did not believe, and who it was that would betray him. He went on, 'This is why I told you that no one could come to me unless the Father allows him.' After this, many of his disciples left him and stopped going with him.

Then Jesus said to the Twelve, 'What about you, do you want to go away too?' Simon Peter answered, 'Lord, who shall we go to? You have the message of eternal life, and we believe; we know that you are the Holy One of God.'

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

CF. PS 103:13-15

The earth is replete with the fruits of your work, O Lord; you bring forth bread from the earth and wine to cheer the heart.

SCRIPTURE COMMENTARY

BY DIANNE BERGANT CSA

Joshua's address to the assembly is a prophetic declaration: Thus says the Lord. He places before the people a choice: Whom will they serve? Three options are given. They can continue to serve ancestral gods and remain true to their past identity. They can opt for the gods of the people in whose land they dwell and hope to reap the blessings that accompany the land. Or they can worship the Lord, who is tied neither to their cultural past nor to their geographic present. They must make a choice from among all of the gods to whom they can commit themselves. Joshua's statement of choice is decisive: We will serve the Lord.

The responsorial psalm is the third part of the acrostic poem. The contrast between the just and the wicked is clearly drawn. God looks favourably toward the righteous; the fortunes of the wicked will be just the reverse. The psalmist knows that the theory of retribution is more a statement of faith in God's justice than an accurate description of the circumstances of life. Good people do indeed suffer, but they turn to God in their pain and misery. Whether they are rescued from their affliction or not, they stand under the promise of God's loving presence. Because suffering is often

seen as the result of alienation from God, assurance of God's nearness can alleviate the distress that such a misperception might cause.

This epistle addresses some of the responsibilities of husbands in a traditional patriarchal marriage. Although the passage opens with a recommendation for mutual subordination, the reading itself counsels wives who are told to be submissive, not husbands. The teaching is somewhat circular. First, marriage is seen as a metaphor for the relationship between Christ and the church. Next, this relationship becomes an analogy for marriage. Christ loved the church enough to give his life for it. This is the degree of spousal commitment envisioned for husbands. A second metaphor is used. In the Genesis account, the two are described as constituting one flesh. Husbands are identified with their wives, just as Christ is identified with the church. Marriage now characterises the mysterious union of Christ and the church.

In today's gospel, Jesus' words or deeds are met with disbelief by some of his own disciples. They were scandalised by what he said. Rather than soften the hardness of his message, Jesus responds to their challenge with one of his own. If they were troubled by the thought of him descending from heaven, what would they think about him ascending back to where he had been originally? Jesus further insists that the flesh (the human way of living) cannot give life, which the spirit can. Faith in Jesus does not come easily or naturally. It is a grace given by God. While some of Jesus' followers have turned away, others have been convinced of the trustworthiness of his claims.



THIS WEEK

Tue St Bartholomew, apostle
Fri St Monica
Sat St Augustine, bishop, doctor

NEXT WEEKS READINGS

22ST SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

1st: Deut 4:1-2, 6-8
2nd: James 1:17-18, 21-22, 27
Gospel: Mk 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

YOUR PRAYERS PLEASE

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SERIOUSLY ILL MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY

Susan Milne, Bernadette Humphries, Maura Garvey, Allan Hoole, Arthur Holland, Maree Nolan, Carlos Lienado. Jim Dibben, William Parkhouse, Anne Holohan, Brent Senger, Oliver Senger, Christopher Michael Graham, Nancy Fitzgerald, Angela Gibbs, Peter Allman, Peter Gloss, Pat Lowe, Maria Keisellis, Pam O'Malley-Jones, Megan McGowan, Judith Wennerbom, Marie O'Donovan, Frank McGuinness.

RECENTLY DECEASED:

John Eggenhuizen, Ruth Axon, John Vaughan, Julian Martinez, Ernesto Jose Lumayno, Keanu Campbell, Allan Sidney Barrett, Lawrence Meehan, Maria Del Sagrario Gomez De Las Heras Alonso.

ANNIVERSARIES:

Amparo Valenia Bantay, Norman Curran, George Frediani, Josephine Comensoli, Boleslaw Then, Rodney Spencer, Andrew Murphy, John & Eva

Smith, Sr Marie Paul Chanel, Maria Dabski, Eric Fitzgibbon, Ines Bembo, Marget Richter, Elaine Murphy, Angelina Comensoli.

REMEMBRANCES:

Fabria Ghazi, Ron Nixon, Jean Gimmongs, Valerie & Eric Neilson, Keanu Campbell, Joseph Vaz, Ronald Freeman, Fariba Ghazi, Mary Jane Buhagiar, Glenn Mills, Friquet Family, Mr Sammut, Foss family members, For all the Souls of the Vaz family, Kevin Boland, Fariba Ghazi, Mary Anne Dwyer, Gary Bell, John & Doris Bourke.

CONDOLENCES:

Our sincere condolences to Peter Axon and family on the loss of Peters mother Ruth. May her soul rest in the peace and glory of our Lord.

Also our condolences to the family of John Eggenhuizen following Joh's recent passing. May his souls rest in peace.



Date	Mass	Intention	Date	Mass	Intention
Sat 21/08	9:00am Gosford	+ Recently Deceased DENIS HICKEY	Thu 26/08	9:00am Gosford	
Sat 21/08	4:30pm Spencer 2nd Sunday of Mth		Fri 27/08	12:00pm Gosford	
Sat 21/08	5:00pm Gosford		Sat 28/08	9:00am Gosford	
Sat 21/08	5:30pm Somersby			4:30pm Spencer 2nd Sunday of Mth	
Sun 22/08	7:30am Gosford		Sat 28/08	5:00pm Gosford	
Sun 22/08	9:30am Gosford	1. Parish Intentions 2. AUSTRALIA PRAYS	Sat 28/08	5:30pm Gosford	
Sun 22/08	6:00pm Gosford		Sun 29/08	7:30am Gosford	
Mon 23/08	9:00am Gosford	+ Remembrance FARIBA GHAZI	Sun 29/08	9:30am Gosford	
Tue 24/08	9:00am Gosford	+ Anniversary AMPART VALENIA BANTAY	Sun 29/08	6:00pm Gosford	
Wed 25/08	11:30am Gosford	+ Remembrance VAL & ERIC NEILSON			

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