

# Parish of Gosford

The Shrine of St John Paul II

The Communities of St Patricks East Gosford,  
Mangrove Mountain Community & Holy Trinity Spencer  
Neighbourhoods of Grace, entrusted to the care of the  
Salvatorians.



## Year of PRAYER



### CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM FATHER GREG

Dear Parishioners,

As we celebrate the joy and hope of Christmas, I write to you with a grateful heart and deep affection. This Christmas is especially meaningful for me, as it will be my last Christmas with you as your parish priest. It is a moment filled with thanksgiving, reflection, and trust in God's ongoing work among us.

At Christmas, we celebrate the mystery of God's love made visible in Jesus Christ. Emmanuel, God with us, comes to dwell in our homes, our families, and our parish community. My prayer for each of you is that Christ will always remain at the very center of your lives. May His presence guide your decisions, strengthen your families, bring healing where it is needed, and fill your hearts with lasting peace and joy.

I am deeply grateful for the years we have shared together. It has been a privilege to walk with you through moments of joy and sorrow, to celebrate the sacraments, to pray together, and to grow together in faith. Your generosity, faithfulness, and willingness to serve have been a constant source of encouragement to me. This parish is rich not only in tradition, but in the love and dedication of its people.

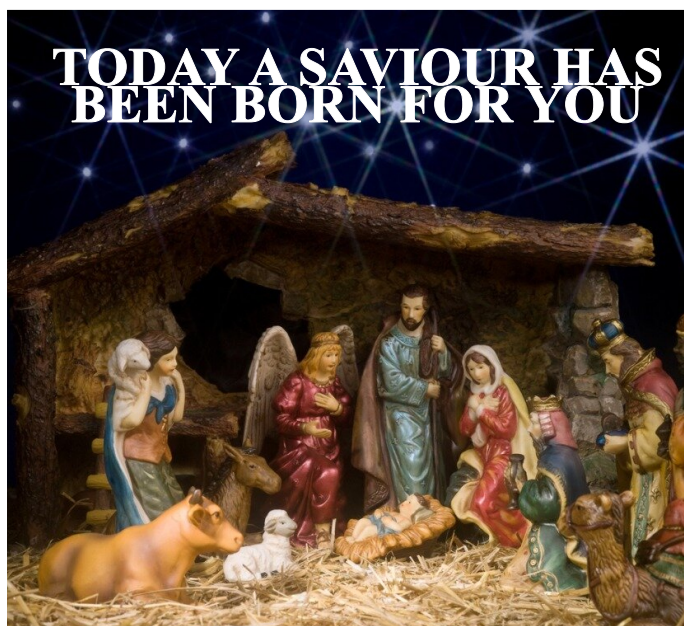
As we approach the end of the Jubilee Year 2025, we also give thanks for the many graces it has brought. The Jubilee reminded us of God's mercy, the call to renewal, and the importance of hope. It encouraged us to look inward with honesty and outward with compassion. I pray that the fruits of this special year will continue to shape our parish life long after it has ended, inspiring deeper faith, stronger community, and a renewed commitment to the Gospel.

Looking ahead to the year 2026, I offer you my heartfelt best wishes. May it be a year filled with God's blessings, renewed hope, and unity. Though my role as your parish priest is coming to an end my prayers and gratitude will always remain with you. I trust that the Lord, who has guided this parish so faithfully, will continue to lead you forward with wisdom and grace.

Thank you for the privilege of serving you and for allowing me to be part of your lives. May the peace of Christ, born anew at Christmas, fill your hearts and homes today and always.

With every blessing for a joyful Christmas and a grace-filled New Year 2026.

Fr Greg Skulski SDS  
Parish Priest



### Pope Leo XIV - Prayer Intention for December For Christmas in areas of conflict

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



### Blessed Francis Jordan

We are named after the highest Lord of heaven and earth, who came and descended: "The savior of the World was born!" If we want to name ourselves after him, we see how important it is to imitate him... JT 1899/12/12

#### MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

As we celebrate the joy of Christ's birth, may His peace, love, and hope fill your hearts and homes. We thank you for your faith, support, and prayers throughout the year. May the New Year bring you renewed strength, good health, and many blessings. Be assured of our prayers for you and your families.

With every blessing,  
Fr Greg and Fr Bronek

#### THANK YOU MESSAGE

Our heartfelt thanks go to the many ministry volunteers and parishioners who contributed to making our Christmas celebrations such joyful and meaningful occasions. So many gifts of time, talent, and dedication came together to create the beautiful services enjoyed by all.

From those who served at the altar, to our readers and commentators, musicians and choir members, nativity play directors and participants, we are deeply grateful. We also extend sincere appreciation to those who worked behind the scenes — our cleaners and decorators, gardeners, sacristans, and all who quietly ensured that our church and grounds were welcoming and prayerful.

Every role, seen and unseen, mattered. Together, you helped create a sacred space where Christ was truly welcomed and celebrated.

On behalf of the parish, thank you for your generosity, commitment, and faithful service. Your efforts are truly appreciated and deeply valued.

#### PARISH OFFICE HOURS DURING CHRISTMAS BREAK

Please note that the parish office will be closed from 25 December 2025 until 5 January 2026.

If you have an emergency and need to speak with a priest during this time, please approach one of our priests after the morning Masses.

From 5 January to 9 January, the office will be open on reduced hours:

9.30am – 1.00pm.

We wish you and your families a blessed and joyful Christmas season.

#### NEW PARISH PRIEST IN GOSFORD

Fr Pawel (Paul) Szczur SDS has been appointed the new parish priest of Gosford Parish. Currently serving in Esperance, Western Australia, Fr Paul is known for his enthusiasm, energy, and strong work ethic. He brings with him many years of dedicated priestly ministry and pastoral experience. The Gosford community looks forward to welcoming him as he officially begins his new role on 24 January 2026.

#### JUBILEE YEAR PASSPORTS

If you have completed your Jubilee passport and collected four stamps, please bring it to the Parish office so we can apply for the Bishop's Certificate for the Jubilee year for you and your family.

#### MASS FOR THE CLOSING OF THE JUBILEE YEAR OF HOPE

Bishop Anthony extends a very warm invitation to the clergy and people of God in Broken Bay to join him for Mass and Closing of the Jubilee Year. The Relics from our three Shrines of Hope will also journey to the Cathedral to be present for this Mass.

Date: Sunday 28 December 2025

Time: 9.30am

Location: Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral, Waitara

#### END OF YEAR THANK YOU TO ALL VOLUNTEERS

As we come to the end of the year, we offer our heartfelt thanks to all the volunteers of our parish for your generous service and dedicated commitment to our many ministries. Through your willingness to give your time, talents, and energy, you have helped build a parish that is welcoming, vibrant, and truly Christ-centered.

Whether your service is visible or quietly offered behind the scenes, every contribution has made a real difference. You have supported our worship, strengthened our community, and brought care and compassion to others. Your faithfulness reflects the spirit of Christ's love in action and inspires us all.

We are deeply grateful for all that you do. May God bless you abundantly for your generosity, and may the coming year bring you renewed strength, joy, and peace in your continued service.

#### FAREWELL FR GREG - SATURDAY JANUARY 17TH

As Fr Greg moves to WA in the second part of January to lead Salvatorian head office as Superior of Australian Region of the Salvatorians, we invite you to join us for Mass at 5pm followed by a joyful farewell dinner at 6pm in the Parish Hall, with international style food, and music. Tickets will be available in the church foyer after all weekend Masses starting from December 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>. Join us in thanking Father Greg for 7 wonderful years of hard work and service as Parish Priest. Dress code: WHITE

good  
bye



Father Greg's

Farewell Party

Adult \$20 Child \$10 Family \$60  
2 Adults and 3 kids

Join us as we come together as a parish  
community to celebrate of time with  
Father Greg & to wish him all the very best!

Please bring a plate of food to  
share and BYO drinks

Saturday January 17<sup>th</sup> 2026- 6pm





# TODAY A SAVIOUR HAS BEEN BORN FOR YOU

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

**CF ISAIAH 9:5**

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.

## FIRST READING

**ISAIAH 52:7-10**

### A reading from the prophet Isaiah

How beautiful on the mountains,  
are the feet of one who brings good news,  
who heralds peace, brings happiness,  
proclaims salvation,  
and tells Zion,  
'Your God is king!'  
Listen! Your watchmen raise their voices,  
they shout for joy together,  
for they see the Lord face to face,  
as he returns to Zion.  
Break into shouts of joy together,  
you ruins of Jerusalem;  
for the Lord is consoling his people,  
redeeming Jerusalem.  
The Lord bares his holy arm  
in the sight of all the nations,  
and all the ends of the earth shall see  
the salvation of our God.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**Ps 97:1-6. R. v.3**

**(R.) All the ends of the earth  
have seen the saving power of God.**

1. Sing a new song to the Lord  
for he has worked wonders.  
His right hand and his holy arm  
have brought salvation.

**(R.) All the ends of the earth  
have seen the saving power of God.**

2. The Lord has made known his salvation;  
has shown his justice to the nations.  
He has remembered his truth and love for the house of Israel.

**(R.) All the ends of the earth  
have seen the saving power of God.**

3. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.  
Shout to the Lord all the earth,  
ring out your joy.

**(R.) All the ends of the earth  
have seen the saving power of God.**

4. Sing psalms to the Lord with the harp,  
with the sound of music.  
With trumpets and the sound of the horn acclaim the King, the Lord.  
**(R.) All the ends of the earth  
have seen the saving power of God.**

## SECOND READING

**HEBREWS 1:1-6**

### A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son, the Son that he has appointed to inherit everything and through whom he made everything there is. He is the radiant light of God's glory and the perfect copy of his nature, sustaining the universe by his powerful command; and now that he has destroyed the defilement of sin, he has gone to take his place in heaven at the right hand of divine Majesty. So he is now as far above the angels as the title which he has inherited is higher than their own name.

God has never said to any angel: You are my Son, today I have become your father, or: I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Again, when he brings the First-born into the world, he says: Let all the angels of God worship him.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

A holy day has dawned upon us.  
Come you nations and adore the Lord.  
Today a great light has come upon the earth.  
Alleluia!

## GOSPEL

**JOHN 1:1-18**

### A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

In the beginning was the Word:  
the Word was with God  
and the Word was God.  
He was with God in the beginning.  
Through him all things came to be,  
not one thing had its being but through him.

All that came to be had life in him  
and that life was the light of men,  
a light that shines in the dark,  
a light that darkness could not overpower.

A man came, sent by God.  
His name was John.

He came as a witness,  
as a witness to speak for the light,  
so that everyone might believe through him.

He was not the light,  
only a witness to speak for the light.  
The Word was the true light  
that enlightens all men;  
and he was coming into the world.

He was in the world  
that had its being through him,  
and the world did not know him.  
He came to his own domain  
and his own people did not accept him.

But to all who did accept him  
he gave power to become children of God,  
to all who believe in the name of him  
who was born not out of human stock

or urge of the flesh  
or will of man  
but of God himself.

The Word was made flesh,  
he lived among us,

and we saw his glory,  
the glory that is his as the only Son  
of the Father,  
full of grace and truth.  
John appears as his witness, He proclaims:

'This is the one of whom I said:

He who comes after me  
ranks before me  
because he existed before me.'

Indeed, from his fullness we have,  
all of us, received –

yes, grace in return for grace,  
since, though the Law was given  
through Moses,  
grace and truth have come through Jesus Christ.

No one has ever seen God;  
it is the only Son, who is nearest to the Father's heart,  
who has made him known.

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

**CF PSALM 97:3**

All the ends of the earth  
have seen the salvation  
of our God.

**RELAX**



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