

# 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



### REFLECTION FOR THE FEAST OF HOLY FAMILY

On the Feast of the Holy Family, the Church invites us to contemplate the family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph as a model of love, faith, and trust in God amid life's challenges. The Gospel from Matthew presents a family that is far from sheltered or comfortable. Instead, the Holy Family experiences fear, displacement, and uncertainty, reminding us that holiness is not found in perfection, but in faithful love lived in difficult circumstances.

In today's Gospel, Joseph is once again called to act. Warned in a dream of Herod's plan to kill the child Jesus, he rises in the night and takes Mary and Jesus to Egypt. This moment reveals the family as a place of protection and self-giving love. Joseph risks everything to safeguard the life entrusted to him. Mary shares in this suffering and trust, while the child Jesus begins his life marked by vulnerability. From the very beginning, the Son of God enters a family that must flee violence in order to preserve life.

This Gospel highlights why the family is so important in our society. The family is the first and most vital community where life is welcomed, nurtured, and protected. It is within the family that children first learn love, sacrifice, faith, and moral values. The Holy Family shows us that when God is at the center, the family becomes a sanctuary of life and hope, even in the face of external threats.

Today, families face many challenges from forces that weaken their unity and dignity. Ideologies that diminish the meaning of marriage, blur the identity of family, or undermine the value of human life place families at risk. The Feast of the Holy Family calls us to protect the family as God's design: founded on faithful love, open to life, and rooted in truth. Families must be supported, not redefined or eroded, because a healthy society depends on strong families.

Central to this protection is the defense of human life itself. The Holy Family reminds us that every human life is sacred and deserving of care—from natural conception to natural death. Jesus' life was threatened even before He could speak or act. His survival depended entirely on the love and courage of His parents. In the same way, each member of the family—unborn, young, elderly, sick, or vulnerable—must be protected and cherished. When we defend life at every stage, we defend the dignity of the family and the foundation of society.

As we honor the Holy Family, we are called to renew our commitment to our own families. May we be homes of prayer, forgiveness, and faithful love. May parents, like Joseph and Mary, courageously protect life and guide their children in truth. And may the Holy Family of Nazareth watch over every family shielding them from harm, strengthening them in faith, and leading them closer to Christ.



**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**

My first and only desire is to belong to this Society ever more closely until my death. Dear God, thanks be to you forever!

MM Diary 1882/07/04 note 54

**PREPARATION FOR FATHER GREG'S FAREWELL**

Father Greg's Farewell Committee are currently planning the celebrations for January 17<sup>th</sup>. They have decided on a dinner party with an international food theme. Please send an email to the Parish office patsgos@acs.net.au by January 10<sup>th</sup> to confirm what you would like to bring for this special event. Thank you in advance!

**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.

**JORDAN ROOM COFFEE SHOP CLOSURE JANUARY**

Please note that there will be no coffee shop in January.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to all the volunteers who helped raise money for charity organisations on all Saturdays in 2025. Your time, effort, and generosity have made a real difference, and we are truly grateful for your support.

Thank you all ✨

**2025 PARISH STATISTICS**

Baptisms - 75

1st Holy Communion - 47

Confirmation - 66

Funerals - 37

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

As Fr Greg moves to WA in the second part of January to lead the Salvatorian head office as Superior of the 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



*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**

THE SHRINE OF ST JOHN PAUL II

# SATURDAY MASS

DEVOTION TO ST JOHN PAUL II

@9AM SPECIAL PRAYERS THROUGH HIS INTERCESSION

GOSFORD PARISH

# FATHER GREG'S FINAL MASS TIMES

SAT 17/01 @ 5PM  
SUN 18/01 @ 7.30AM  
9.30AM & 6PM

# TAKE THE CHILD AND HIS MOTHER AND FLEE TO EGYPT



## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

LUKE 2:16

The shepherds went in haste,  
and found Mary and Joseph and the  
Infant lying in a manger.

## FIRST READING

SIRACH 3:2-6. 12-14

### A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus

The Lord honours the father in his children,  
and upholds the rights of a mother over her sons.  
Whoever respects his father is atoning for his sins,  
he who honours his mother is like someone amassing a fortune.  
Whoever respects his father will be happy with children of his own,  
he shall be heard on the day when he prays.  
Long life comes to him who honours his father,  
he who sets his mother at ease is showing obedience to the Lord.  
My son, support your father in his old age,  
do not grieve him during his life.  
Even if his mind should fail, show him sympathy,  
do not despise him in your health and strength;  
for kindness to a father shall not be forgotten but will serve as reparation for your sins.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

PS 127:1-5. R. SEE V.1

### (R.) Happy are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

1. O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways!

By the labour of your hands you shall eat. You will be happy and prosper.

### (R.) Happy are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

2. Your wife like a fruitful vine in the heart of your house;  
your children like shoots of the olive, around your table.

### (R.) Happy are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

3. Indeed thus shall be blessed the man who fears the Lord.

May the Lord bless you from Zion all the days of your life!

### (R.) Happy are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

kindness and humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive each other as soon as a quarrel begins. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same. Over all these clothes, to keep them together and complete them, put on love. And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, because it is for this that you were called together as parts of one body. Always be thankful.

Let the message of Christ, in all its richness, find a home with you. Teach each other, and advise each other, in all wisdom. With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms and hymns and inspired songs to God; and never say or do anything except in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Wives, give way to your husbands, as you should in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and treat them with gentleness. Children, be obedient to your parents always, because that is what will please the Lord. Parents, never drive your children to resentment or you will make them feel frustrated.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

COLOSSIANS 3:15. 16

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the peace of Christ rule in your hearts,  
and the fullness of his message live within you.  
Alleluia!

## GOSPEL

MATTHEW 2:13-15. 19-23

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

After the wise men had left, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother with you, and escape into Egypt, and stay there until I tell you, because Herod intends to search for the child and do away with him.' So Joseph got up and, taking the child and his mother with him, left that night for Egypt, where he stayed until Herod was dead. This was to fulfil what the Lord had spoken through the prophet:

I called my son out of Egypt.

After Herod's death, the angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother with you and go back to the land of Israel, for those who wanted to kill the child are dead.' So

Joseph got up and, taking the child and his mother with him, went back to the land of Israel. But when he learnt that Archelaus had succeeded his father Herod as ruler of Judaea he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he left for the region of Galilee. There he settled in a town called Nazareth. In this way the words spoken through the prophets were to be fulfilled:

He will be called a Nazarene.

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

BARUCH 3:38

Our God has appeared on the earth,  
and lived among us.

## PARISH MEMORIAL WALL NICHES

The Parish Memorial Wall, located at the rear of St Patrick's Church, offers a sacred and peaceful place of remembrance for our dearly departed. The wall contains niches available for purchase for yourself or for loved ones, providing a lasting memorial within the grounds of our parish.

Each year, the Memorial Wall and its niches are Blessed by the Parish Priest during a special ceremony, often attended by family members and parishioners who gather to remember, pray for, and honour those who have passed away.

The surrounding gardens are lovingly maintained by our parish volunteers, creating a tranquil space for quiet reflection and prayer throughout the year.

This area stands as a visible sign of our faith in the Resurrection and our continuing bond with those who now rest in the peace of Christ. For further information about purchasing a niche please contact the Parish Office on 4325 1042 or email [patsgos@acs.net.au](mailto:patsgos@acs.net.au)



## SECOND READING

COLOSSIANS 3:12-21

### A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians

You are God's chosen race, his saints; he loves you and you should be clothed in sincere compassion, in

**RELAX**



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