

'Seek God, Find God, Embrace God in Jesus'

KU-RING-GAI CHASE CATHOLIC PARISH

Diocese of Broken Bay ~ 1st January 2023 ~ Mary, the Holy Mother of God ~ Year A

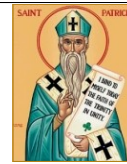
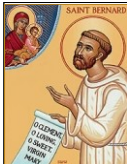
Num 6:22-27 Gal 4:4-7 Lk 2:16-21

Entrance Antiphon: Hail, Holy Mother, who gave birth to the King, who rules heaven and earth for ever.

Responsorial Psalm: May God bless us in his mercy.

Alleluia Verse: Alleluia, alleluia! In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; now he speaks to us through his Son. Alleluia!


Communion Antiphon: Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and for ever.



The Calendar-Shattering Mary © Fr Michael Tate

It is fitting that on this day when we note the start of a New Year, we celebrate an entirely new calendar-shattering, calendar-shaping, event in human history. We celebrate the extraordinary role that a young woman in Galilee played in God's plan for the human race. Mary of Galilee was a teenager in a small village of perhaps a few hundred families. Yet today that teenager is especially venerated by the Church. The Greek word for this day describes Mary as 'Theo-tokos' – God-Bearer. It is a way for the Church to say that the One whom Mary bore in her womb was no mere prophet or guru or wonder-worker, but **EMMANU-EL – God with us, God embodied, God enfleshed. Hence: Theotokos, Godbearer.** But, in the Western Church, the title 'Mother of God' was used to convey the same truth, and I prefer it. It is less clinical, more relational, less instrumental, more personal – in short, it is maternal. As soon as one proclaims Mary to be **'Mother of God'**, one immediately signifies a relationship, a loving, nurturing relationship which goes well beyond carrying in the womb to a safe birth. We can quite easily imagine that relationship which was not altogether placid and straightforward. One thinks of her anguish and fright at his disappearance at the age of twelve. Humanly speaking, he was undergoing his growing awareness of his true identity. She was experiencing the pangs of a certain distancing by this adolescent son. Yes, she was pre-eminently a Mother, with all that that entails, including the horror of seeing her son tortured and done to death on the Cross. **Yes, she was a mother, but Mother of God.** How can this be portrayed for our minds to grasp? How did Divine Revelation picture the event which set all calendars going? We need to go to the very beginning, the Book of Genesis which commences the Hebrew scriptures. Billions of years ago, the creative act which began all reckoning of the passage of time and seasons was signalled by the Divine Wind hovering over the formless void. Light, and then the whole of the beautiful order of the cosmos came into existence at the word of the Creator. When that Holy Gust hovered over Mary, and she responded: **'Be it done unto me according to thy Word,'** the Light of the World was united to our human nature. The human existence of Our Lord Jesus Christ began. On this calendar-changing day of 1 January, it is indeed fitting that we celebrate the maternity of Mary, the calendar-shattering event which is the fulcrum of history and from which we count the passing of the years.

At the end of all history, at the end of all calendars, may we share in Divine life with Mary of Galilee, Mother of God.



A New Year Prayer ~
 Lord Jesus Christ,
 you appeared to the
 frighten apostles and said:
 "Peace be with you".
 Grant that your abiding
 peace may remain with
 each of us;
 within our families;
 and within our
 faith family of
 Ku-ring-gai Chase
 Catholic Parish.
 May we always be open to
 the presence of Christ in
 word and sacrament and
 use our talents and abilities
 to your greater glory.
 We ask this
 through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

All thanks go to you! For some in our faith community, 2022 has come and gone very quickly. Some among us have lost a loved one who has gone forever, yet for others it was another unexceptional year. Most years will see us face personal challenges which can bring about unlooked for changes. This year, Fr Shaju, was called home to India to continue his ministry to God. This was *God's will* and our role is to move forward, which is what the parish will do in 2023 and we will do so 'together'. Fr Joy and I would like to sincerely thank you all for your support of the clergy (new, visiting, resident and supply) throughout 2022 and we also take this opportunity to thank all of you for attending the celebrations over Christmas and we especially thank those among you who provided their time, talents and gifts this Christmas and who will indeed continue to do so throughout the year. *Fr Biju*. So, in no particular order we thank ...

- * our maintenance teams and altar societies
- * our cleaners, decorators and flower arrangers
- * our acolytes/senior servers
- * our readers, commentators and welcomers
- * our intercession writers
- * our musicians and cantors

- * our collectors and counters
- * our hospitality team
- * our catechists & helpers
- * our RCIA & RCIC teams
- * You! our amazing congregation and visitors
- * Our office staff and volunteer.

Lord,
we thank you for our family.
Bless each one of us in our uniqueness
and let us use our gifts and talents to ensure
unity and love within our family now and
always. Amen.

WEEKEND COLLECTIONS ~ How the funds are administered ...

1st Collection: **LEAVES** the parish and goes to a common fund **outside the Parish** to support priests.

2nd Collection: **STAYS** in the parish to pay for all our costs, including insurance, maintenance, telecommunications, wages, pastoral programmes, church and office expenses, the Priests' cars & petrol etc, etc and is **ESSENTIAL** for our **PARISH to FUNCTION FINANCIALLY**

PASTORAL CENTRE: 1-19 Woodcourt Road, Berowra Heights 2082; P.O. Box 335, Berowra Heights
Hours: 9am – 3.30pm. P: (02) 9456 2450; E: parishkccp@bbcatholic.org.au; W: www.bbcatholic.org.au/kccp
 Parish Administrator Rev Dr Biju Jose, OSH Assistant Priest Fr Joy Thomas, OSH
 Parish Secretary Margaret Cooper Vol. Office Assistant Jan Favaloro
 Bookkeeper Karen Price Sacramental Team Peta & Phill - kccpsacraments@gmail.com

RECONCILIATION: Fridays: 9.30am at St Bernard's Berowra; Saturdays: 9.30 am at St Patrick's, Asquith
WEEKEND MASSES: St Bernard's, Berowra Heights: Saturday Vigil 5pm and Sunday 9am
 St Patrick's, Asquith: Saturday Vigil 6pm and Sunday 8am, 10am, 6pm
WEEKDAY MASSES: St Bernard's, Berowra Heights: 9am Wednesday & Friday
 St Patrick's, Asquith: 9am Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday



The Parish Office is essentially CLOSED until Monday 30 January 2023.

For **urgent assistance only** please
 E: parishkccp@bbcatholic.org.au
 (monitored regularly for urgent matters only).
 Or, phone 9456 2450 and leave a message. This will be converted into an audio message and sent as an email to the office. **REMEMBER: If in URGENT NEED ONLY of a priest, call: 0468 341 841.**



ROSTERS & READINGS FOR W/end – 7th/8th January 2023 – (Solemnity) The Epiphany of the Lord - Year A - Is 60:1-6; Eph 3:2-3,5-6; Mt 2:1-12

	St Bernard's Church		St Patrick's Church			
	5.00pm	9.00am	6.00pm	8.00am	10.00am	6.00pm
Acolyte / Snr Server	Garth Graham	Volunteer now	Mani Subramany	John Messina	Malcolm Cross	Sue Lum
Altar Servers	Archie Tod Harry Tod	Andrew McLoughlin Volunteer now	Volunteer now Volunteer now	Volunteer now Volunteer now	Lucy Henao Vila Joshua Telford	Volunteer now Volunteer now
Reader (1)	Justin Berry	Denise Harant	Helen Chui	Jim Fitzgerald	Susie Gates	Les Fogden
Reader (2)	Donna Machado	Paul Maher	Penny Loughland	Mary Stokes	Simone Noel	Volunteer now
Sacristy/Cleaning/Flowers	Gwen Wood, Elaine Maatouk, Marissa Maatouk, Cecilia Waite (f), Volunteer (s)		Pat Smith, Ellen Downey (f), Marion Pahalawatta, Anh Nguyen			
Maintenance	Teams A & B (help always needed)		January: Les Fogden, Graham Palmer, Richard Fellow			

LITURGICAL SERVICES & PASTORAL CARE

Rosary After weekday Masses both Churches
Visits to Housebound Dr Biju & Fr Joy - 9456 2450
Nursing Home Visits By request
Emergency Priest 0468 341 841 (Out of office hours only)
Clergy Days Off Dr Biju – Monday Fr Joy – Tuesday
Home Visits For Masses, House Blessings & Pastoral Requests. Please phone the office 9456 2450.
HOSPITAL ADMISSION: If you are admitted to hospital, please write down your religion as Catholic to receive Catholic Services.
 Please notify the Parish Office, if hospitalised and would like our own priests to attend.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Dario Rossi

ANNIVERSARIES: Maria Lombardo, Assunta Fraietta, David Huntley, Patrick Porter, Robert Martin, Lesley White

SPECIAL PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: Those suffering from Covid-19 - that it is contained and eliminated as a health risk.

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: Isabel Henson, Judy Farrell, Chichi Datoc, Ann Leslie, Georgina Hughes, Mary Burns, Rey Hilario, Patrick Dorahy, Roger Okell, Jean Cook, Barbara Jones, Rosemary Pendlebury-Grainger, Brian Treacy, John Cosgrove (Snr), Patrick O'Donoghue, Fr Thomas Philip OSH, Marie Haag, Elaine Longmuir. **Please NOTE WELL:** It is our practise during January, to delete names from the Sick list whose situation hasn't been updated. To reinstate a name, please contact the office via email: parishkccp@bbcatholic.org.au



Pope's intention for January: For educators: We pray that educators may be credible witnesses, teaching fraternity rather than competition and helping the youngest and most vulnerable above all. brothers and sisters in the human family.



Are you travelling this New Year?

You are important to us and so we ask you to take special care when travelling over the New Year ~ School Holiday period. Enjoy your break away but please return to us safely.



We the people of the **Catholic Diocese of Broken Bay and in Ku-ring-gai Chase Catholic Parish**, are committed to fostering communities of safety and care for all people, especially for children and others in the community who are vulnerable. Our commitment is underscored by our faith in Jesus Christ.

The businesses below support our parish by advertising, please support them in turn.



SEND FREIGHT, PARCELS, DOCs – ANYWHERE ANYTIME

We pick-up, pack and send quickly, cheaply and safely. For friendly, efficient service contact James or Stuart (Berowra Heights resident), for a competitive quote for large and small packing and shipping needs for local and international deliveries. **Free pick-up for local residents.**

P: 02 9804 1544 or M: 0451 531 759; E: westryde@packsend.com.au

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HARANT'S ~ Home & Office Improvements Pty. Ltd

Builder's Licence No. 27126C and our own KCCP parishioner

CHRISTIAN HARANT

Specialising in kitchens, bathrooms, decks, carports, gyprock, plastering, maintenance work.

M: 0412 478 813; E: harantspty@gmail.com

King Tide Café / Restaurant

Open 7 days ~ 8am to 4pm ~ Owned & operated by our own KCCP Parishioners John & Moauli Griffiths

Come by Car / Boat / Train

Faafetai fo'i ~ means 'You're Welcome' in Samoan

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Agent of the Year - 2021, 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017
Berowra and Berowra Heights

Francesca Parrino

Upper North Shore Expert

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