

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

KU-RING-GAI CHASE CATHOLIC PARISH

Diocese of Broken Bay ~ 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

Entrance Antiphon: Behold, the Lord, the Mighty One, has come; and kingship is in his grasp, and power and dominion.

Responsorial Psalm: Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

Alleluia Verse: Alleluia, alleluia! We have seen his star in the East; and have come to adore the Lord. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: We have seen his star in the East; and have come with gifts to adore the Lord.

Our Mission Statement: 'Help others to recognise, through their experiences, that Jesus who died and is risen is the truth that lights up their lives'

Our Vision Statement: 'That the parishioners of Ku-ring-gai Chase Catholic Parish grow as missionary disciples and live as community in Christ inviting all people into our Parish, welcoming them to our Parish life and embracing the rich diversity of our community'

Presents and Presence

© <https://associationofcatholicpriests.ie/homily-resource/29225/>

Over the Christmas period we give presents to different people and they give presents to us. What's all this gifting about? Its roots lie in the story of the wise men who, on arriving at the stable in Bethlehem, fell on their knees and offered their best gifts to the baby who was born to be king.

Christmas can be more than just the season for exchanging **presents**. Even more, it's a time for being **present**, i.e. sharing ourselves with others, showing them warmth, affection and sincerity. The sharing of our personal presence is vital.

Our practical gift-giving may be superficial, going through the motions, more a way of keeping the peace than of being really present. Our gift-giving can be shallow or hollow, it is not an expression of personal love.

The **Magi** were generous and sincere visitors, whose gifts expressed reverence, gratitude and love for the child in the manger. Their gifts were given with no conditions attached and no mixed motives. The mixed motives in our own gift-giving may make us feel that the commercialisation of Christmas should be restrained and restricted, if not eliminated altogether. Still, the consumerism of Christmas is somewhat necessary.

If it became a completely spiritual celebration, hundreds of small businesses would go to the wall. Thousands of factory workers making bon-bons, trees, chocolates, decorations, cards and toys, would find themselves unemployed. Also, if people did not buy gifts for family and friends at Christmas, their consciences might not be stirred to make donations to the poor and needy at this special time of giving and sharing.

So, whatever the imperfections of our gift-giving, it's worth keeping the practice alive while avoiding its excesses.

It's particularly important to the lives of children. The good news is that while they are attracted to receiving e.g., a gift of an I-pad or of shiny new roller-blades, they are also attracted to the Crib and to the story of the baby lying there clothed in rags. Their hearts are touched by the plight of his parents who are so poor that they can offer him nothing but their protection and affection. Children very easily get the message that this is a story of love.

They appreciate the humanity of the Holy Family, their struggles and their sacrifices, to bring to the human race the Light of the Nations.

The Wise Men visiting the manger is a story of giving and receiving.

It shows how gifts express love between persons, and of how gifts given with love bind people together. It is not simply a giving of things (gold, frankincense, and myrrh) but a mutual giving of persons, being present to the other.

At Epiphany we are celebrating the greatest proof of goodness in our world, of God's personal love for each of us. It was an act of love when the Father gave us the Son, to be our Light, our Saviour, our King and our Joy. This great gift is nothing less than the divine presence in our lives.

The poet John Betjeman describes it as:

A present that cannot be priced; Given two thousand years ago.

Yet if God had not given so, He still would be a distant stranger; and not the Baby in the manger.



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 WEEKEND - 14th/15th January 2023 - 2nd Sunday Ordinary Time - Year A - Is 49:3, 5-6; 1 Cor 1:1-3; Jn 1:29-34

	St Bernard's Church		St Patrick's Church			
	5.00pm	9.00am	6.00pm	8.00am	10.00am	6.00pm
Acolyte / Snr Server	Paul Dryden	Volunteer now	Mani Subramany	Bill Martin	David Massa	Darrin Paterson
Altar Servers	Robyn Orr Archie Tod	Andrew McLoughlin Volunteer now	Volunteer now Volunteer now	Volunteer now Volunteer now	Oscar Braga Rebecca Clarke	Volunteer now Volunteer now
Reader (1)	Volunteer now	Peter Collins	Hayley Rodrigues	Jim Fitzgerald	Sandra Maloney	Fiona Fone
Reader (2)	Sophia Smith	Volunteer now	Sue Watts	Mary Stokes	Elizabeth Fernandes	Les Fogden
Sacristy/Cleaning/Flowers	Glenn Shapter, Annette Shapter, Cecilia (f), Gisela Muschal (s)		Meralyn Tarte, Lea Mead, Barbara Folkard, Michelle Hwang (f), Leticia Wee, Michelle Blanco			
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

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@bbccatholic.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.

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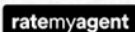
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Agent of the Year - 2021, 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017
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Upper North Shore Expert

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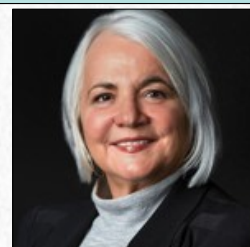
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