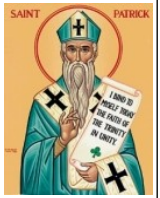


KU-RING-GAI CHASE CATHOLIC PARISH

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

Diocese of Broken Bay ~ 13th December 2020 ~ 3rd Sunday of Advent ~ Year B

Is 61:1-2, 10-11; 1 Thess 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28



Entrance Antiphon: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

Responsorial Psalm: My soul rejoices in my God.

Alleluia Verse: Alleluia, alleluia! The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

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'



Witness to the Light

If I ask you 'Who are you?' and you simply answer with your first name, then I will probably be dissatisfied.

I need to start to put you into a web of relationships to get an idea of who you are. I might need your family name or some hint as to your place of birth. So, when people came to see this strange man in the wilderness, living in dire poverty on the margins of society, if he had simply given his name 'John', that would have been woefully inadequate.

This Gospel immediately puts 'John' in relationship with another – that is how we are to understand who he is. This Gospel never calls him John the Baptist. No, he is John the Witness, 'a witness to speak for the Light'. Witness? Witness to what? **To the Light.**

Many religious traditions use light as a symbol. The sun is the most obvious, and in English, we play on the word at Easter, speaking of the Risen Son. Candles play a prominent part in most religions. They obviously indicate some power which can overcome the darkness, some power which can dispel even the shade of death. But the opening of this Gospel, and John the Witness, prepare us for the revelation that this darkness-defeating power will turn out to be the 'One Who'. The One who is to come is declared to be 'the Light', the radiant Glory of God embodied for us and come to fulfil Isaiah's prophecy by liberating human beings from the many dark captivities which imprison them.

John does not here identify who this 'One' is. Who is it who embodies the Light of Divine Glory? **We** know because that Truth was made evident at the Transfiguration. The Body of Jesus Christ radiated a beautiful Divine Light. His body had the translucent glow of Divinity.

Can we become partakers in this Divine Light? The answer is 'Yes, by becoming children of the Light.' This is wonderfully symbolised in baptism. During the baptism ceremony, a small candle is lit from the great candle lit at Easter, the Paschal Candle which represents Christ the Light of the World overcoming the darkness of death.

This symbolises the sacramental relationship of the newly baptised to Jesus Christ, the Light. Just as John was who he was by his relationship to the one he called 'the Light', so too our lives should *witness* to that relationship, and that can be done in many ways.

First, by relating to those on the margins of society. Didn't Our Lord say, 'I was hungry, and you gave me food.' Every time we are generous in our compassion for another we are relating to Jesus Christ.

Second, sharing a meal is the most normal human way of relating. By sharing in the spiritual drink and heavenly bread at Mass, we are brought into a wonderful relationship with Jesus Christ, so wonderful we call it 'Holy Communion'.

These are some of the ways in which we can answer as to who we are by relating to Jesus Christ. Advent invites us to keep focused on that relationship so that when the 25th of December comes, we relate to it not just as a holiday in the calendar, but as a Holy day which we call 'Christ-mass', Christmas.

On that day we celebrate the coming into human history of a vulnerable baby. We relate to that baby as Jesus the Christ, the Divine Light come into human history, *the* Light of the World.

© Fr Michael Tate

Prayers for
Lighting
the Advent
Candles



3rd Sunday of Advent

Celebrant: As the Shepherds did, we hasten with joy towards the birth of the Christ-child. We light the third candle, coloured **rose for joy**, and we pray for the spirit of repentance, to purify us in readiness for His coming.

Reader: Let the wilderness and the dry lands rejoice; let the wasteland exult and bloom.

Response: Come, Lord, fill us with the fire of your love.

Reader: Courage, be not afraid. Look your God is coming to save you.

Response: Come, Lord, fill us with the fire of your love.

Reader: He will exult over you with joy.

Response: Come, Lord, fill us with the fire of your love.

PASTORAL CENTRE

1-19 Woodcourt Road, Berowra Heights 2082

P.O. Box 335, Berowra Heights 2082

Phone: (02) 9456 2450

Email: parishkccp@bbccatholic.org.au

Website: www.bbccatholic.org.au/kccp

Centre Hours: 9am – 3.30pm.

Parish Priest Fr Shaju John, OSH

Assistant Priest Fr Joy Thomas, OSH

Parish Secretary Margaret Cooper

Bookkeeper Karen Price

Youth Ministry Co-ord. Michelle Chahine

Sacramental Team: kccpsacraments@gmail.com



KU-RING-GAI CHASE
CATHOLIC PARISH
Diocese of Broken Bay, Australia

SEATING CAPACITY AT OUR CHURCHES

[applying the current 4m² requirement]

St Patrick's: 100 persons

at St Bernard's: 60 persons

Physical Distancing - people from the same household may sit together in the church. Couples and families can be seated together however, social distancing is to be maintained between family groups.

Additional restrictions are at the discretion of the Parish Priest for the safety of all parishioners.

WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday	5pm	St Bernard's
	6pm	St Patrick's
Sunday	8am	St Patrick's
	9am	St Bernard's
	10am	St Patrick's
	6pm	St Patrick's

WEEKDAY MASSES

St Bernard's	8am	Mon, Tues and Thurs.
	9am	Wednesday and Friday
St Patrick's	8am	Wednesday and Friday
	9am	Mon, Tues, Thurs and Sat.

RECONCILIATION

Every Saturday	9.30 am at St Patrick's
Every Friday	After 9am Mass at St Bernard's

Emergency sick calls 0468 341 841 (Out of office hours only) - HOSPITAL ADMISSION: If you are admitted to hospital, please write down your religion as Catholic to receive Catholic Services. *Be sure to notify the Pastoral Centre if hospitalised and you would like our own priests to attend.*

THIS WEEK'S READINGS
and PRAYERS

ADVENT ~

Monday 14/12 ~ Memorial

St John of the Cross, priest, doctor

Mass of the Saint
Preface I of Advent or Saint
Nm 24:2-7, 15-17; Mt 21:23-27

Tuesday 15/12

Mass *ad libitum*
Preface I of Advent
Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Mt 21:28-32

Wednesday 16/12

Mass *ad libitum*
Preface I of Advent
Is 45:6-8, 18, 21-26; Lk 7:19-23

Thursday 17/12

Mass *ad libitum*
Preface II of Advent
Gen 49:2, 8-10; Mt 1:1-17

Friday 18/12

Mass *ad libitum*
Preface II of Advent
Jer 23:5-8; Mt 1:18-24

Saturday 19/12

Mass *ad libitum*
Preface II of Advent
Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25; Lk 1:5-25

Ku-ring-gai Chase Parish
Remembers & prayers for...

RECENTLY DECEASED: Margaret Treacy, Karin Wisniewski, George Thompson, Pedro Celso, Colin Kenny, Mary Kathleen Levy, Anita M Jimenez

ANNIVERSARIES: Neil Mickelson, Mary Treacy, David Webster, Helena Noske, David Huntley, Assunta Fraietta, Maria Lombardo, Frank and Mary Jack, Bill McDonagh, Julia Healy, Alison Hinton, Nancy Gomez

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: Antonia Alvarado, Terry Treacy, Margaret Acret, Peter Nguyen, Anne Brady, Sr Tincy Thomas, Nemia Camille Asiong, Marie O'Hare, Stephen C C, Rodney Porter, Araceli 'Chichi' Datoc, Craig Sequeira, Shirley Kelynack, Judy Farrell, Dan Leavy, John Cosgrove (Snr), Pam Cosgrove, Alfredo R De Ramos, Doug Hawkins, Felicity Fone, Antonio, Anna Nicholson, Graeme Kachel, Pat Bowden, Peter Brooks, Brian Treacy, Erick Enriquez, Charles Abela, Penny Rigor, Jaz Pitts, Elaine Estrellado, Maureen Sharpe, Wjona Nowak, Irena Fellmann, Elaine Longmuir, Michael McGaulley, Estrellado, Cathy Gleeson, Georgia Meyers, Rosalinda de Ramos, Angela Smith, Matthew Franklin, Jeanette Bakker, Ewa Rakozy, Jean Cook, Betty Borg, Morrie Ramsden, Brian Neary, Edwina Subramany, Aiko Concepcion, John Buckley, Ellen Asistente, Kath Lock, Arlene Joson, Sam Calacoci, John Macy, Barbara Jones, Cadia Maestri, Marcelina De Ramos, Matthew Conlon, Patrick Dorahy, Tom Dawson, Narelle Cartwright, Mary Fernandes, Patricia Sanders, Monique Leyden, Frederick Novak, Alfredo De Ramos Sr, Barbara & Maciej Maciejewski

IN REMEMBRANCE: Michael Weir, Mary Ann Weir

THANKSGIVING: 38th Wedding Anniversary of Jorge & Norma Reyes

Altered Covid-19 Restrictions - New Capacities at KCCP inside our churches
St Bernard's ~ 102 persons and St Patrick's ~ 202 persons

A IMPORTANT change to MASS BOOKINGS from WEEKEND of Dec 19 / Dec 20, 2020

If you have PRE-REGISTERED:

Nothing changes—and we sincerely thank you for making this job much easier and quieter for all.

If you have NOT REGISTERED:

Numbered lists will be placed in front of the church—you are to write your name and contact number on arrival - *You must print clearly AND you MUST provide a contact phone number or email address!*
An Usher will oversee the process to ensure no lines are missed and no one enters the church without having registered and sanitised their hands.

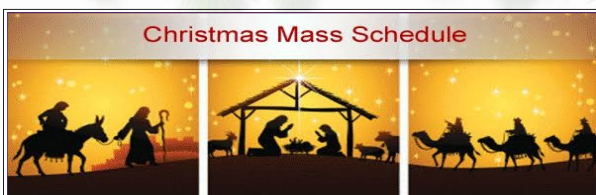
Mass will begin ON TIME regardless of those waiting to register, this is why pre-registering is so much more efficient and quiete.

Thank you for your patience as we transition to this new way of registering for weekend masses, we strongly request you to pre-register to make this process more streamlined and efficient. Fr Shaju

Notwithstanding the above and just so we are clear ... crystal snowflake clear ...

RESERVATIONS ARE ESSENTIAL
FOR ALL CHRISTMAS MASSES

and MUST be made DIRECTLY with the PARISH OFFICE



Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve - Thursday 24 December

- 5pm St Bernard's Children's Outdoor Vigil Mass
(in courtyard of St Bernard's School)
- 6pm St Patrick's Children's Vigil Mass
- 7pm St Bernard's Christmas Vigil Mass
- 9pm St Patrick's Youth Vigil Mass

St Patrick's, Asquith 'Midnight' Mass (12 midnight of course)

Christmas Day - Friday 25 December

- 8am St Patrick's Christmas Day Mass
- 9am St Bernard's Christmas Day Mass
- 10am St Patrick's Christmas Day Mass

NO evening Mass Christmas Day

Preferred booking option by email to:

parishkccp@bbcatholic.org.au ~

Subject line: "Christmas Mass"

Alternatively, call the office on 9456 2450
(leave a message if not answered).

O Come All Ye

Angels, Shepherds, Kings, Donkeys, Sheep-s,
Camels, Cows ~ etc ~ etc ~ etc

We are calling upon all the little folk of our parish (and the young at heart) to help create a wonderful Christmas atmosphere at our Christmas Masses, so please come along dressed up for the occasion.

CHRISTMAS RECONCILIATION TIMES 2020:

Wednesday-Thursday-Friday-Saturday ~
before or after the Mass upon request

SVdP Christmas Appeal 2020



St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal
THIS WEEKEND 12th and 13th December, 2020

Each year Vinnies holds a Christmas Appeal to ensure that families who are struggling can celebrate Christmas with joy and dignity.

A Christmas without family, after fleeing from domestic violence.

A Christmas without comfort and peace of mind, after bills have mounted up.

Or a Christmas without a roof over your head, after losing your home.

Vinnies continues to restore hope to struggling families each year. As we approach the Christmas period there are people who need hope more than ever.

Vinnies makes a real difference in the lives of 1 out of 18 people in Australia.

Your generosity makes it possible for our members, volunteers and staff to continue offering the right kind of assistance at the right time. *We thank you for your compassionate support.*

The impact of your gift will be felt well beyond December 25th. Your donation will be an important foundation in making a difference to the lives of many Australians this Christmas.



Charitable Works Fund November Appeal 2020

Unfortunately, we are still a good way off our allotted quota for this appeal. *Thanks to all who have already donated.*

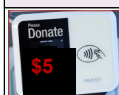


Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for December:
For a life of prayer

We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer.



Week 15: ???/2020 ~ Winning No.: ??? ~ Amt: \$25.00 ~ Winner: ???



Your 'Tap' Helps our Parish 'Go' on. We deeply appreciate the financial support of the parishioners and visitors to Ku-ring-gai Chase Catholic Parish. **No Cash? No problem!** One machine at Asquith is set to \$5 per tap and the other is set to \$10 per tap. Our single machine at Berowra Heights is set to \$10 per tap. **Thank you for your generosity.** Donations made help to cover ongoing church maintenance costs.

A letter to the People of God in the Diocese of Broken Bay ~ [8 December 2020] ~ My dear brothers and sisters in Christ.

One hundred and fifty years ago today, Pope Pius IX proclaimed Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. We know Saint Joseph primarily through what we read in the Sacred Scriptures. In Matthew's Gospel we discover that Joseph was from the House of David and can trace his family all the way back to Abraham and Sarah (Matthew 1:1-17). We are told that Joseph lived in Nazareth (Luke 2:4), was betrothed to Mary (Matthew 1:18), and went to Bethlehem to be registered in the census ordered by the Emperor Augustus (Luke 2:1-5). Joseph is known to be an honourable and righteous man who was sensitive to the needs of Mary and the child Jesus. He was discerning and obedient to the will of God. Joseph offered protection to the Holy Family when they were vulnerable, and he provided for their care. Saint Matthew describes Jesus as the son of the carpenter. The word used by Matthew in Greek is "tekton" which refers to an artisan who works with wood, stone, and iron. Saint Joseph was clearly a man of craft and talent. For centuries, Saint Joseph has been sought as an intercessor and protector. He is often referred to as the guardian of the family, the patron of unborn children, fathers, immigrants, workers, pilgrims, carpenters, and engineers. In our Catholic tradition, Saint Joseph is called upon for help by those who struggle against doubt and hesitation. His intercession is also sought for a happy death. As we commemorate the 150th anniversary of the universal patronage of Saint Joseph, I would like to announce an initiative for our Diocese beginning today. After much prayer, thought, and consultation, I have decided to initiate a house of discernment for young men which will be called "Joseph House." It will be located at Willoughby not far from the Church of Saint Thomas. Further details will be released in the coming months. It is also my desire to initiate a house of discernment for young women in the Diocese. Please pray for the success of both initiatives. Last week I announced the transfer of 20 of the clergy within the Diocese. This is no surprise to you, of course, because I have previously requested your prayers as I discerned and prayed for our priests and our parishes. I am delighted to say that when I spoke to each of the priests and deacon, they all responded with generosity and gratitude. I am not surprised by their response, as I have come to know our clergy as good, faithful men who are willing to serve God and you, God's holy people. Please support and pray for these fine men as they conclude their time in various communities and prepare to serve others in the mission. Page 2/2 For the couple of people who have expressed their disappointment at these transfers, please remember that we are ordained for the service of the whole community of the Church, and each of us knows what is expected of us when a need arises. Please remember that each of us made a promise of obedience when we were ordained. We do not need people urging us to be disobedient or to be stingy with our gifts or generosity. That is contrary to the spirit of the Gospel and is not the spirit of our community of the Church. I would ask you to be as generous in your acceptance of these transfers as the clergy themselves have been. We are fast approaching Christmas, and my thoughts and prayers are very much with those who have been especially burdened by the events and challenges of this year. Might I encourage all of us in Broken Bay to be alert to the particular needs of others at this time. With government restrictions being eased and larger numbers of people being able to attend churches for Mass, worship, and prayer, we need to keep up our vigilance for those who might find it a challenge to return to the church space. Don't be frightened to reach out to others, you may be the face of Christ for them this Christmas. Thank you for all that you do in our community of the Church. May God bless you and your families abundantly. + *Anthony*



CHRISTMAS CLOSURES

The Pastoral Centre will be **CLOSED** from **Friday 25 December 2020 until Tuesday 19 January 2021** (inclusive).

If you need assistance during this period please email the office on: parishkccp@bbcatholic.org.au (this will be monitored regularly for urgent matters only) or phone 9456 2450 - leave a message.

Please note, messages will **ONLY** be **CHECKED WEEKLY**.

REMEMBER: If in urgent need of a priest, the emergency number is: 0468 341 841.

Advance Notice

There will be **only ONE Morning Mass on weekdays** in our parish from **28 December 2020 to 22 January 2021 (inclusive) ~ being....**

9am at St Patrick's Asquith ~ Monday-Tuesday-Thursday
9am at St Bernard's Berowra Heights ~ Wednesday-Friday.

[Exception: New Years Day ~ 8am at Asquith/9am Berowra Heights for Solemnity of Mary Mother of God].

Preparing our Churches for the arrival of a Very Special Baby

CHRISTMAS CLEANING BEE ~ Saturday 19 December from 9.30am at St Bernard's and St Patrick's ~ (general cleaners & maintenance)

Extra help is always needed and appreciated at our annual "extra cleaning blitz" for Christmas.

Please bring your own cleaning equipment to ensure the windows are at their sparkling best, and any other cleaning paraphernalia you think might be useful.



The 2020 School Year has been a difficult one with disruptions, changes to routine and yet ... you have all handled it beautifully.

SCHOOL IS OUT!

We take this opportunity to wish all students, parents and staff of our Parish Schools and our State Schools visited by our Catechists, a Holy and Sacred Christmas and ask that the Good Lord blesses you abundantly in 2021 with health, happiness and increased faith.

Travelling? Please go carefully and return to us safely for Term 1, 2021.



Candela Mission Appeal ~ TODAY
Sunday December 13th from 9am - 12 noon.

Handicrafts will be sold from a stall at Mary's place.

12 Nyara Road Mount Kuring-gai ~

Morning tea provided!

Raising funds for the Sisters of Mercy to provide assistance to families in Peru who are doing it tough through the pandemic with no government assistance available.



SAVE THE DATE: The local **World Day of Prayer 2021** for Vanuatu is to be hosted by St Bernard's Berowra Heights on **Friday 5 March at 7pm.**

Please ensure the date is noted on your church calendar for next year as we very much look forward to welcoming you on this occasion! Our Co-ordinator for this event is Natasha Steele and she is looking for some assistance.

Can you help? Please call the office to be put in contact with Natasha.

Personal Participation of the Eucharist ~



It is good to see the increasing number of our parishioners for the participation of our daily masses and weekend masses.

Vatican calls for a "necessary and urgent" return to in-person Mass. Very recently, Cardinal Robert Sarah, the Prefect of the Congregation for Divine Worship has sent a letter to world's Episcopal conferences which says, "Broadcast liturgies can never replace personal participation in the Eucharist".

He has encouraged them a return to the "normality of Christian life," in particular to the resumption of regular participation at Mass. He continues to say that "As soon as circumstances permit, it is necessary and urgent to return to the normality of Christian life, which has the church building as its home and the celebration of the liturgy, especially the Eucharist as the summit toward which the activity of the Church is directed...".

VINNIES stalls at our Churches

SVDP Society have the 2021 Columban Art Calendars and Christmas Cards in stock.

Prices are unchanged from last year at \$9.00 per Calendar and \$7.00 per pack of 10 Christmas Cards.

Thankyou, Natasha and Les.

The combined diocese of Broken Bay presents
Carols Under the Star
2020

We are going VIRTUAL

Exciting details to come...

save the date
17 December 2020, 7:30pm

ROSTERS & READINGS FOR WEEKEND 19th / 20th Dec – 4th Sunday of Advent - Year B

IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND FOR YOUR ROSTERED DATE PLEASE ARRANGE A SUBSTITUTE; 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8-12, 14-16; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38

	St Bernard's Church		St Patrick's Church			
	5.00pm	9.00am	6.00pm	8.00am	10.00am	6.00pm
Acolyte / Snr Server	Matthew Waite	Denis Steiner	Mani Subramany	Malcolm Cross	David Massa	Vicente Sanchez
Reader (1)	Natasha Steele	Peter Collins	Nuria Gonsalves	Vivienne Schreiber	Susie Gates	Simone Noel
Reader (2)	Alodie Wheeler	Isaac Tonkin	Rionah Gonsalves	Russel Schreiber	Elizabeth Fernandes	Mary Stokes
Usher / s	Jerome Gomez	Paul Dryden	Chris Smith	Tess, Francis Lizardo	Peter Daly	Les Fogden
Sacristy Care/ Church Cleaning/	Glenn Shapter, Annette Shapter, Marlene Moloney (f) Gisela Muschal (s)		Scott Smith, Maria Hon (f), Winston Rodrigues, Paul Mathew, Antony Davis			
Maintenance	Teams A & B		December: Les Fogden, Graham Palmer - additional help appreciated please			

Working in a child-related ministry in the Catholic Diocese of Broken Bay: Paid and volunteer workers who have direct face to face contact with children (under 18 years) are required by law to obtain a Working with Children Check number. Please note though, exemptions may apply in some cases. The Parish is the employer of the paid or volunteer worker and therefore is required by law to verify the Working with Children Check number. All paid or volunteer workers engaged in a child-related role must have a clear Working with Children Check to work in a child-related ministry. This disclosure references the legislation, *Child Protection (Working with Children) Act 2012*.

Now in Hornsby
**Solutions for Mobility,
 Independence and Dignity**
 Registered NDIS, My Aged Care,
 DVA and Insurance Provider

- Easy Under Cover Parking at the Rear on Ground Floor
- Easy access to the showroom from the Car Park
- Enter Parking from Jersey Street NORTH, north bound
- Corner of Jersey Street North and Bridge Road

9987 4500

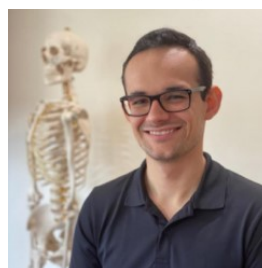
73 Jersey St North, Hornsby NSW 2077



**Comfort
 Discovered**

www.comfortdiscovered.com

healthspace



**DR. ALEX JAROMINEK
 CHIROPRACTOR**

107/10 Edgeworth David Avenue,
 HORNSBY 0408 999 195
 9842 4877

BACK PAIN INJURIES HEADACHES POSTURE
 NECK PAIN ERGONOMICS MUSCLE PAIN STRESS

HIRING

**Youth Minister – Pastoral
 Support Worker, St Agatha's
 Catholic Parish, Pennant Hills
 10 hours per week**

Do you have a passion for working with youth and young people? Are you dynamic and enthusiastic about the Catholic faith? Are you willing to help our youth and young people engage with their faith in a fun, caring and supportive environment?

St Agatha's Catholic Parish, Pennant Hills invites you to join our team as a Youth Minister. Visit bbcatholic.org.au/jobs for the full advertisement.

The successful applicant will be required to undertake a pre-employment Working with Children Check and National Police History Check.

Covid Caretaking ~ Caring for our Community & each other

**MOST
 IMPORTANT
 and
 No. 1 Rule
 follow
 ALL
 DIRECTIONS
 of
 the
 USHER/s**

Capacity of
 our churches
**202 in
 St Patrick's,
 122 in
 St Bernard's**
 If unwell ~
DO NOT
 come to mass ~
 please
 see your doctor



Volunteer to
**disinfect
 pews after
 Mass, OR
 leave
 immediately
 and DO NOT
 congregate
 outside the
 church**

**Covid-19
 symptoms**
 *Fever
 (37.5 or higher)
 *Sore/scratchy
 throat
 *Shortness of
 breath
 *Loss of smell
 *Loss of taste
 *Cough

The new **upper limit rule**
 within a Church is
**2 square metres
 per person**

We can officially
 accommodate
**202 people at Asquith and
 122 people at Berowra.**
**To avoid disappointment,
 it is still very
 MUCH PREFERRED
 that you
 BOOK IN ADVANCE
 please.**

This will make entry into
 the Church quicker for you
 and the ushers and Mass
 will not be delayed or
 disrupted.

Thank you, Fr Shaju.