

KU-RING-GAI CHASE CATHOLIC PARISH



Gaudete Sunday
Third Sunday of Advent

Diocese of Broken Bay ~ 17 December 2023 ~ **Third Sunday of Advent** ~ Year B

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

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

Responsorial Psalm: My soul rejoices in my God.

Gospel Acclamation: 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.

The third candle is **pink** and symbolises joy. It is called the "Shepherd's Candle," and is **pink** because rose is a liturgical colour for joy.

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

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'.

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 Patrick's, Asquith

8am Wednesday and Friday
9am Mon, Tues, Thurs, Saturday
St Bernard's Berowra Heights
8am Thursday
9.15am Wednesday and Friday
(except 1st Friday of the month when Mass is at 11.30am @ St Bernard's)

RECONCILIATION

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

Emergency sick calls
0468 341 841

(Out of office hours **URGENT** 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.**

Prayers for Lighting the Advent Candles ~ 3rd Sunday of Advent

Celebrant: As the Shepherds did, we hasten with joy towards the birth of baby Jesus.

We light the third candle, coloured **rose for joy**.

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, open our hearts to receive your Word.

Reader: Courage, be not afraid.

Look your God is coming to save you.

Response: Come, Lord, open our hearts to receive your Word.

Reader: He will exult over you with joy.

Response: Come, Lord, open our hearts to receive your Word.



'Keep Christ in Christmas'

CHRISTMAS RECONCILIATION TIMES

2ND RITE ~ Tuesday 19 December ~ 7.30pm

St Bernard's, Berowra Heights

1ST RITE ~ unchanged ~ see left hand column for details

CHRISTMAS-MASS TIMES:

Christmas Eve - Sunday 24 December

5pm St Bernard's Vigil Mass (Outdoor in school grounds with Carols and Sausage Sizzle ~ bring a chair/rug).

6pm St Patrick's Vigil Mass (Children may dress up as Angels & Shepherds etc)

9pm St Patrick's Youth Vigil Mass

Christmas Day - Monday 25 December

12 am St Patrick's 'Midnight' Mass

8am St Patrick's Mass | 9am St Bernard's Mass

10am St Patrick's Mass | NB: **NO evening Mass Christmas Day**

Important Notice Regarding ~ Your usual Sunday obligation and your Christmas Day ~ Holy Day of Obligation:

With Christmas Day falling on a Monday, the Vigil Mass on 24 December for Christmas **cannot** suffice for the **usual Sunday obligation** i.e. you **cannot attend one Mass for two obligations**. **To fulfil both obligations please take note of the following:** Attend Vigil Mass on Saturday 23 December **OR** in the morning of 24 December to fulfil your **usual Sunday obligation**, then attend Christmas Vigil Mass on 24 December **OR** Christmas Day Mass on 25 December to fulfil your **Christmas Day ~ Holy Day of Obligation**.



The Parish Office will be closed from 12nd on Fri. 22 Dec 2023 and reopen at 9am on Tues. 23 Jan 2024.

If you **URGENTLY** need a priest during this period (e.g. if someone is close to or has passed away) please call the **priest emergency number: 0468 341 841**.

Emails and phone messages will only be checked sporadically and only FOR URGENT MATTERS.



PASTORAL CENTRE (Parish Office)

Opening Hours: 9am – 3.30pm, Mon-Fri only.

Phone: (02) 9456 2450 / **Website:** www.bbcatholic.org.au/kccp

1-19 Woodcourt Road, Berowra Heights 2082 / P.O. Box 335, Berowra Hts 2082

Parish Office Email: parishkccp@bbcatholic.org.au



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

Parish Administrator: Rev Dr Biju Jose, OSH

Assistant Priest: Fr Joy Thomas, OSH

Parish Secretary: Margaret Cooper

Bookkeeper: Karen Price / **Vol. Office Assist:** Jan Favaloro

Vol. Sacramental Team: Peta & Phill (kccpsacraments@gmail.com)

'Ku-ring-gai Chase Catholic parish acknowledges the Darug and Guringai people, the Traditional Custodians who have walked upon and cared for this land for thousands of years. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to this country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of Reconciliation.'

 **Pope's intention for December: For persons with disabilities:**
We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the centre of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.




CHRISTMAS CHURCH CLEANING
Jesus is nearly here so..., it's all hands on deck! We need lots of help by folk who are ready to roll up their sleeves and get out the elbow grease!
Unfortunately, not many folk turned up to help out last Christmas and none at all at Easter, so please, *please* come along and lend even 20-30 minutes of your time.
Remember, many hands make light work so please come armed and ready to get stuck in and prepare our Churches for the imminent arrival of the Infant Jesus.

Saturday December 23rd at 9.30am at both St Patrick's and St Bernard's

Please bring your own cleaning paraphernalia.
Sure, baby Jesus was born in a stable with sheep and oxen, but ...
we don't want Jesus to be greeted by DUST BUNNIES do we!?

THIS WEEK'S READINGS
3rd Week of Advent ~ Year B
Monday 18/12
Jer 23:5-8; Mt 1:18-24
Tuesday 19/12
Judges 13:2-7, 24-25; Lk 1:5-25
Wednesday 20/12
Is 7:10-14; Lk 1:26-38
Thursday 21/12
Zep 3:14-18; Lk 1:39-45
Friday 22/12
1 Sam 1:24-28; Lk 1:46-56
Saturday 23/12
Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Lk 1:57-66


NO PARKING ALLOWED ON SCHOOL GROUNDS

IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR ALL PARISHIONERS OF KCCP
NO PARKING is available in the School grounds until further notice.

St Patrick's Catholic Primary School, Asquith is now effectively a building site with only authorised personnel allowed access. Works will continue for some time.
When parking is again available you will be advised through the bulletin.
PLEASE NOTE: *Your patience, tolerance, and consideration of others for the duration of these essential building works would be appreciated.*

A reminder to all parishioners (especially those who have mobility challenges): St Bernard's Church, Berowra Heights, has a large carpark which provides easy and reasonably level access to the church.

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

RECENTLY DECEASED:
Teresa Ashton, Martha D'Souza, Thomas Wynn, Sr Ellen Cahill RSM.

ANNIVERSARY: Patricia O'Malley, David Huntley, Assunta Fraietta, Maria Lombardo, Christopher Celestino, Dario Bruno Rossi



The 2023 School Year is done and dusted! Where did the year go?!
As schools across NSW have now broken-up for the Summer Holidays, we take this opportunity to wish all students, parents and staff of our Parish Schools and our State Schools (who are visited by our Catechists), a Holy and Blessed Christmas, and ask that the Good Lord blesses you abundantly in the New Year with health, happiness and increased faith. *For those travelling, please go carefully and return to us safely in 2024.*

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK:
Margaret Patterson, Pat Bowden, Sosefo Ali, Bill Holmes, Cita Del Rio, Adele Ramos, Simon Riddett, Judith Ryan, Won Lee, Chris Enright, Maris Park, Philomena & Rex D'Souza, Mary Mathew, Fiona Loughland, Garth Graham, Yvonne Graham, Isabel Henson, Judy Farrell, Chichi Dato, Ann Leslie, Mary Burns, Georgina Hughes, Patrick Dorahy, Rey Hilario, Roger Okell, Barbara Jones, Brian Treacy, Josef, Marie Haag, John Cosgrove (Snr), Patrick O'Donoghue, Elaine Longmuir, Rosemary Pendlebury-Grainger.



WHOLE PARISH




CAROLS EVENING



Wednesday 20th December, 7.30pm
St Patrick's Church, Asquith

Please come and celebrate the imminent arrival of our Infant Saviour with us. This is a whole parish event and we would like as many parishioners as possible to come **from both ends of the parish**, to be united in solidarity and love of Our Lord and our one true faith. Musicians are invited to come and perform, either singing or playing.
Community singing is what the evening is all about so please bring your family and friends and let's celebrate together! There'll be plenty of your favourite Christmas Carols, so don't miss this event!
Please bring along a plate of simple bite-sized morsels to share with a cuppa afterwards.

 **Simone Noel's Advent Group:**
final Advent gathering
Thursday 21 Dec. 7.30pm.
All welcome, just let Simone know you're attending by calling/texting her on: 0423 238 010.

Calling all ~ Shepherds & Angels to be part of our 5pm Christmas Eve Children's Mass Nativity Play @ ST BERNARD'S CHURCH
(well, the schoolyard actually)

Singers and actors needed—all welcome!
Christmas Eve Pageant for 6pm Christmas Eve Vigil Mass - @ ST PATRICK'S CHURCH

 **COLUMBAN CALENDARS:**
The 2024 calendar is available at both our Churches for **\$10.00**. They make a quality gift for family & friends at a very reasonable price!
CHRISTMAS CARDS available at **St Bernard's**. Pack of 8 for \$2.50. NB: These are religious themed but not SvDP cards.

Would your child like to be involved in the Christmas Nativity Play at the 5pm Christmas Eve Mass at St Bernard's? **Then, please come to both rehearsals on Monday 18 December 10am AND Friday 22 December 2pm.** On the 18th, we will meet at 10am outside St Bernard's Church before going into the school grounds. Parents, please stay with your child for the rehearsal. If you have any questions, please contact our Nativity Play Directors, Zinta H & Elaine D on 0422 093 594.



Any children that would like to participate in the Christmas pageant are asked to attend **2 rehearsals at St Patrick's church. Wednesday 20 December AND Friday 22 December**
Music practice at 9am followed by pageant practice 9.45am.
Parent helpers always appreciated.
If you have questions please email Loretta and Cecilia on ceciii@hotmail.com

Come and take part in the Celebration of Christmas. The more the merrier!



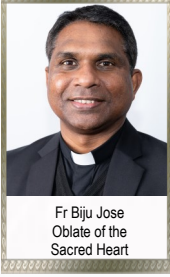
Tap n Go donation points available in both Churches. All taps are set to \$10. Thank you for your support through these devices.



Bank Account Number: To obtain the details of our new bank account (for regular or ad hoc donations), please contact the parish office on 9456 2450 or via email to: parishkccp@bbcatholic.org.au
~ Thank you for your ongoing financial support of the parish, Dr Biju.



Welcome Bishop Anthony Randazzo to our parish and thank you for agreeing to offer a Mass of Thanksgiving for Rev Dr Biju Jose's Silver Jubilee (25 years in the Priesthood). All welcome to come to morning tea following the **10am Mass this Sunday, December 17 at St Patrick's.**



Fr Biju Jose
Oblate of the
Sacred Heart

A narrative of my own vocational journey. Rev Dr Biju Jose OSH

This year, I have been given the great privilege of celebrating 25 years of ministry as a priest. Life is a journey and over the past twenty-five years, I have travelled with a great number of people; many people have joined me on my personal journey and enriched my life with their love, friendship, support, and generosity.

Today, I would like to share with you a short history of my own vocational journey. I am the eldest of five children of Joseph and Mary. I have four siblings—Bincy, Binoy, Binu and Biby. Obviously, my parents had a significant role in my discernment and the fostering of my vocation to the priesthood.

They strictly observed all the religious customs in the home. As a young boy, I attended daily Mass with my parents, and they explained to me the purpose and value of the Holy Mass and the sacraments. They have always been actively involved in parish ministries and so I was given many opportunities to form a good relationship with our parish priests. In short, I believe my beloved parents are my first catechists and teachers of the Christian faith.

When I was in high school, vocation promoters from different dioceses and congregations introduced the importance of priestly and religious life. I was really attracted by the experiences of many priests and their examples.

Growing up, I was an altar boy in my parish. I was blessed to have my primary and high school education in Catholic Schools. After having completed my high school education, I chose to participate in the vocation camp in which Rectors from different seminaries introduced their way of life and formation programmes. I was attracted by the charism and spirituality of the Society of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. After a prayer and a serious consultation with my parents and then the parish priest, I joined the OSH Society.

The first three years I spent in our minor seminary and underwent an academic formation. Then I entered a novitiate and spent a whole year in prayer, meditation, and statute studies. It was a good time to think seriously about religious life, the priesthood, and contemporary challenges. After having completed my novitiate, I was sent to Bangalore for Philosophical studies and completed it with a B.Ph. degree. It was also a good time to think philosophically. After my Philosophical studies, I had the good fortune to do a one-year Pastoral placement and it was an occasion to learn more about my diocese and its activities. Many opportunities were offered to me to deal with the concrete problems of life. It enabled me to keep an equilibrium between apostolic activities and spiritual life.

Then I took my perpetual vows, and I was welcomed as a perpetually incorporated member of the Society. After my Pastoral placement I was sent to complete a 4-year Theological studies course and I completed it with a B.Th. degree in 1998. I was Ordained as a Priest on December 28, 1998. It was really a joyful and blessed day in my life.

After my ordination, I served two and a half years in different parishes in Kerala. It was indeed a wonderful time, and I experienced the real pastoral life of the Church. I came to know that every priest is a gift from God and priesthood is ever meaningful in the world. Then my Superior General asked me to go for higher studies in Rome. I certainly experienced the providential hand of God in that I could do my doctoral studies in the Bible. During that time, I travelled most of the European countries and learned Italian, German, and French. I also personally meet Pope John Paul II and Pope Benedict.

After having completed my PhD in the Pontifical Gregorian University, in 2007, I returned to my Society and was appointed as the Director of a Retreat Centre in Kerala and then as a PP. During this time as PP, under my leadership I was able to lead my flock in the building of a brand-new Parish Church. It was really a memorable time in my priestly life.

Simultaneously, I was teaching Scripture in different Seminaries as a visiting Professor. In 2014, at the request of the Seminary authorities, the then Superior General and his council asked me to take up the duty as a resident Bible Professor as well as the Vice-Rector in one of the major seminaries in India.

In November 2021, I came to Australia and was appointed as the assistant parish priest in Frenchs Forest. 2022 August onwards, I have been serving as the administrator of Ku-ring-gai Chase Parish.

I believe that my priesthood is a gift for me and a gift for all. I always give thanks to God for His wonderful and precious gift given to me for the service of God and His people.

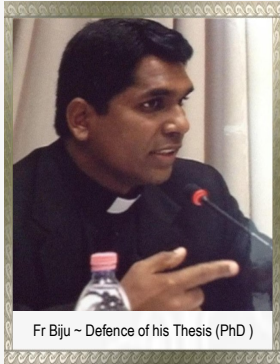
*Fr. Biju Jose
Oblate of the
Sacred Heart of Jesus*



After Ordination, Fr Biju offers his first Holy Mass in the presence of his mother and father.



Fr Biju has an audience with St John Paul II in 2003



Fr Biju - Defence of his Thesis (PhD)



St Joseph's Church, Alex Nagar, Kerala built under the leadership of Fr Biju



Celebratory Dinner of Thanksgiving with guest of honour Fr Biju Jose, Bishop Joseph Pandarasseril, Fr David Ranson, Vicar General of DBB and brother priests serving in the Diocese of Broken Bay.



Celebratory Mass of Thanksgiving by all OSH Priests and other brother priests serving in the Diocese of Broken Bay, Our Lady of Good Counsel Church, Frenchs Forest Parish


Rosters & Readings for Weekend 23rd/24th Dec 2023: Fourth Sunday of Advent Year B: 2 Sam 7:1-5,8-12,14,16; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38

**St Bernard's Church Saturday 23 & Sunday 24 December
Usual Sunday Masses**


23rd/24th Dec	5.00pm	9.00am
Acolyte / Snr Server	Justin Berry	Barbara McMullen
Altar Servers	Archie Tod Harry Tod	Olive O'Keefe Penelope O'Keefe
Reader (1)	Mary Dorahy	Denise Harant
Reader (2)	Jerome Gomez	Volunteer needed
Sacristy/Cleaning/Flowers	GC (Clean); Cecilia (F), Gwen Wood (S)	
Maintenance	Teams A & B (help always needed & appreciated)	

**St Patrick's Church Saturday 23 & Sunday 24 December
Usual Sunday Masses**

23rd/24th Dec	6pm	8am	10am
Acolyte / Snr	Mani Subramany	Francis Lizardo	David Massa
Altar Servers	Volunteer needed	Volunteer needed	Oscar Braga
Altar Servers	Volunteer needed	Volunteer needed	Lucy Henao Vila
Reader (1)	Edwina Subramany	Jim Fitzgerald	David De-Fina
Reader (2)	Penny Loughland	Michael Halliday	Simone Noel
Sac./Clean/Fl.	Cynthia Gilbertson, Sue Watts, Cathy Gray; Maria Hon (f)		
Maintenance	December: Malcolm Cross & David Chui (help appreciated)		



**THE ROSTER BELOW IS FOR
CHRISTMAS EVE & CHRISTMAS DAY
MASSES
ONLY**



ROSTERS & READINGS FOR WEEKEND - 24/25th December 2023
Christmas Eve / Christmas Day
(Vigil) Is 62:1-5; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25.
(Night) Is 9:1-7; Titus 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14. (Day) Is 52:7-10; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18

24 December / 25 December	Christmas @ St Bernard's Church, Berowra Heights	
	5pm (Vigil - outdoor)	9am
Acolyte/Snr Server	Garth Graham	Barbara McMullen
Altar Servers	Martha Askew Piper Thompson	Substitute requested Miranda Tablizo
Reader (1)	Genevieve Funk	Donna Machado
Reader (2)	Sophia Smith	Celia Cox

24 December / 25 December	Christmas @ St Patrick's Church, Asquith		
	6pm (Vigil)	9pm—Youth	Midnight
Aco./Snr Ser.	John Messina	Malcolm Cross	Volunteer needed
Altar Servers	Thomas Clarke Volunteer needed	Volunteer needed Volunteer needed	Rishona Gonsalves Substitute requested
Reader (1)	Christine Vila	Miguel Do Rego	Vivienne Schreiber
Reader (2)	Gabriel Henao	David Massa	Russell Schreiber
	8am (Monday)	10am (Monday)	NO EVENING MASS ON CHRISTMAS DAY
Aco./Snr Ser.	Phil Daidone	Francis Lizardo	
Altar Servers	Volunteer needed Volunteer needed	Substitute requested Volunteer needed	
Reader (1)	Paul Worthington	Substitute requested	
Reader (2)	Michael Halliday	Penny Loughland	

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

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Agent of the Year - 2021, 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017
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