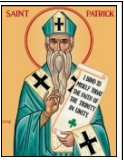


'Seek God, Find God, Embrace God in Jesus'



KU-RING-GAI CHASE CATHOLIC PARISH

Entrance Antiphon: Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

Responsorial Psalm: Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! A virgin will give birth to a son; his name will be Emmanuel: God is with us. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.

18th December 2022
Fourth Sunday of Advent

Is 7:10-14;
Rom 1:1-7;
Mt 1:18-24

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

Until further notice there will be
ONE Morning Mass only
on weekdays

St Patrick's 9am:
Mon ~ Tue ~ Thur ~ Sat
St Bernard's 9am: Wed ~ Fri
(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 ~ 4th Sunday of Advent

Celebrant: As the day of the Lord approaches very near, we light the 4th candle. We pray that, like Mary, our hearts may be open to receive the Son of God, so that we may bring joy and peace to our world.



Reader: O Emmanuel, Lord of might, come and spread your kingdom of justice and peace.
Response: Come, Lord, open our hearts to receive your Word.
Reader: O Radiant Dawn, desire of nations, come and bring your peace to all nations.
Response: Come, Lord, open our hearts to receive your Word.
Reader: O Root of Jesse and Key of David, rescue your people from selfishness and sin.
Response: Come, Lord, open our hearts to receive your Word.



'Keep Christ in Christmas'

CHRISTMAS 2ND RITE RECONCILIATION TIMES

Monday 19 December ~ 7.30pm St Patrick's

CHRISTMAS-MASS TIMES:

Christmas Eve - Saturday 24 December

5pm St Bernard's Vigil Mass for Children (Outdoor in school grounds), Carols & BBQ ~ bring a chair
6pm St Patrick's Vigil Mass for Children (dress up as Angels & Shepherds etc)
9pm St Patrick's Youth Vigil Mass

Christmas Day - Sunday 25 December

12 am St Patrick's 'Midnight' Mass
8am St Patrick's Mass 9am St Bernard's Mass
10am St Patrick's Mass **NO evening Mass Christmas Day**



CHRISTMAS CLOSURES

The Parish Office will be essentially **CLOSED** from **23 December 2022** and won't fully reopen until **30 January 2023**

HOWEVER,

If you need **URGENT** assistance during this period please email the office on: parishkccp@bbcatholic.org.au
(the inbox will be monitored regularly BUT FOR URGENT MATTERS ONLY)
You may also phone the office at any time on 9456 2450 and leave a message, which will be converted into an audio message and sent as an email.

Please note, messages will only be **CHECKED ONCE PER WEEK.**

REMEMBER:

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

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

Sacramental Team Email: 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.'

THIS WEEK'S READINGS
and PRAYERS

Fourth Week of Advent
Year A

Monday 19/12

Judges 13:2-7, 24-25;
Lk 1:5-25

Tuesday 20/12

Is 7:10-14; Lk 1:26-38

Wednesday 21/12

Song 2:8-14; (or Zeph 3:14-18);
Lk 1:39-45

Thursday 22/12

1 Sam 1:24-28; (1 Sam 2:1, 4-8);
Lk 1:46-56

Friday 23/12

Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Lk 1:57-66

Saturday 24/12

2 Sam 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16;
Lk 1:67-79



Pope's intention for
December: For
volunteer not-for-profit
organisations:

We pray that volunteer non-profit organisations committed to human development find people dedicated to the common good and ceaselessly seek out new paths to international cooperation.

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

RECENTLY DECEASED: Frances Gleeson, Sally Agnew, Daryl Harvey, Marie Rita Romano, Edith Ireland, Philip Joseph, Alfredo Figueras, Antonia Passalacqua, Jeanette Bakker, Brian Patterson

ANNIVERSARIES: Maria Lombardo, Assunta Fraietta, David Huntley, Patrick Porter, Robert Martin, Lesley White, Irena Iwona, Mary & Frank Jack, Patrick O'Halloran, Fr Patrick McMaugh, James Treacy, Nancy Gomez.

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

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK:
Patricia O'Malley, Isabel Henson, Judy Farrell, Chichi Datoc, Carla Medeiros, Ann Leslie, Modesta Borromeo Laroco, Georgina Hughes, Mary Burns, 'Roy', Rey Hilaro, Patrick Dorahy, Roger Okell, Jean Cook, Barbara Jones, Rosemary Pendlebury-Grainger, Brian Treacy, John Cosgrove (Snr), Patrick O'Donoghue, Fr Thomas Philip OSH, Josef, Marie Haag, Elaine Longmuir.

What's in a name?

King Ahaz could be honoured as the patron of skeptics. He simply would not rely on God to help him through the greatest crisis in his life. In the crisis facing his kingdom, he preferred to trust in his soldiers and his military plans.

Are we much the same?

Do we trust only the range of our own power and resources, and turn to the true God only as an extra insurance, a vague source of possible help in moments of crisis? But such faith is weak and inadequate. A fuller kind of faith would see us relying on God's invisible, helping presence, not just in those moments when human support fails us. Real faith accepts the reality of God in every moment of life. It sees God as a dimension of all our experience, literally, the **Emmanu-El, God-with-us.**

The promise that God is with us was not for Isaiah's time only, it is for our own. Even now the sign of that continuing presence is a young woman and her child, the Virgin Mary and her son Jesus. For Joseph the unexpected pregnancy of Mary was not a sign to confirm his trust either in her or God, it was a contradictory sign. In the hours of his darkness he found the enlightening Spirit of God, the Spirit who teaches us not to judge by what our eyes see or by what our ears hear (cf. Is 11:3.) This gospel shows us that the signs God gives are not always the ones we would choose for ourselves. He gives signs for those who are willing to take on the darkness of doubt in openness and sincerity.

What can a name tell us about a particular person? Not much, usually. Names like Helen, Paula, Sharon or Jason are useful for distinguishing various members of a family, but they don't **describe** the people themselves. With some Biblical names it is different. For instance, **Abraham meant "Father of a great people"** (Gen. 17:5) and **Moses meant "Rescued from the Waters"** (Ex. 2:10.) Above all, our blessed Lord has names which are full of meaning. **"Jesus" means "God saves," "Christ" means "God's Anointed Messiah" and the name "Emmanuel" in today's Gospel, means "God in our midst."**

How important is Jesus for our religious belief? Be honest. Ask the question what is the heart of Christianity and what will people say? Something to do with loving your neighbour; keeping the law; going to church on Sunday? Will there be any mention of Jesus Christ, who is at the very centre of our faith. Ghandi once said, **"If only you Christians took your Christ to heart.."**

Jesus shares our lot, our life-experience and our troubles. At Christmas we will concentrate on the simplicity and poverty of Our Lord's birth: how human he was, born of a young woman, not in luxurious comfort, but in the discomfort of a stable. That shows him as one of us, the human side of **"Emmanuel."** This gospel however mentions the divine origin of Jesus. Although he has a human mother, he has not a human father, but was conceived in Mary by the power of God. This unique way of coming into life, with God as father, and the virgin Mary as mother, underlines who Jesus truly is: both God and man, one of ourselves and yet one with the eternal God.

If this seems mysterious to us, it must have been baffling for St Joseph. Close to Mary as he was, and finding her pregnant without any involvement by him, Joseph could only accept in faith what God's messenger told him, that the child was in her womb by the power of the Holy Spirit. With great patience and humility, Joseph accepted the part for which God had chosen him, as guardian and foster-father to our Lord and Saviour. This kind of faithful acceptance is asked from each of us, when Christ comes into our lives, as **"God-with-us."**

© name? <https://associationofcatholicpriests.ie/homily-resource/18-dec-2022-4th-sunday-in-advent-a/>



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**



The 250 Club!

250 Club
in recess
until
Feb. 2023

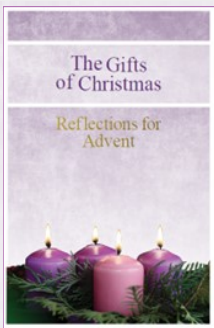
Dear all, thank you for your amazing support of this long running and highly successful fundraiser for our parish. **We now have TWO DEFINED SERIES each year beginning in February and in July.** When the office re-opens in late-January after the Christmas break, reminders will be sent to those not financial. Number sets are available. For more information contact the Office.



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.



THE GIFTS OF CHRISTMAS ~ Reflections for Advent

The new Diocesan Advent resource is now available. Written by Fr David Ranson, (our Vicar General and PP of Chatswood Parish), it offers reflections based on the Gifts of Christmas that are represented by the Advent candles, these being Hope, Faith, Joy, and Peace. Advent is a time for preparation and anticipation and this resource helps you along the way with scripture verses, reflections and prayers. The resource can be accessed on the Diocesan webpage <https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/our-faith/evangelisation/advent-2022>

Merry Christmas from Catholic Schools Broken Bay

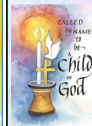
We wish each of our families every blessing for the Christmas season and a wonderful New Year ahead. On behalf of the staff at Catholic Schools Broken Bay, we thank you for your support throughout this extraordinary year and we will see you back in 2023. For more about our schools visit <https://csbb.catholic.edu.au/schools/why-choose-a-catholic-school/>



Welcome to our Faith Family

Baptism congratulations to **Gloria Foinse Walsh** who is to be baptised this weekend.

Please keep her, her parents and Godparents in your prayers.



Welcome to our Faith Family (in advance!)

Baptism congratulations to **Matilda Clare Elizabeth Davidson**

and **Harry Richard Davidson**

who are to be baptised on Sunday 22nd January 2023.

Please keep them, their parents and Godparents in your prayers.

CALLING ALL Shepherds, Angels and Wisemen NATIVITY PLAY Christmas Eve Children's Mass 5pm @ ST BERNARD'S CHURCH (well, the schoolyard actually)

Would your child like to be involved in the Christmas Nativity Play at the 5.00 pm Christmas Eve Mass at St Bernard's? Then, please come along to the rehearsal on Thursday 22nd December.

We will meet at 10.00 am outside St Bernard's Church. Parents, please stay with your child for the rehearsal. If you have any questions, please contact us on 0422 093 594. Zinta H & Elaine D



Calling all volunteers! Christmas Eve Children's Mass 6pm - @ ST PATRICK'S CHURCH

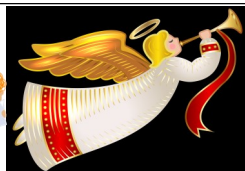
Any children that would like to participate in the Christmas pageant are asked to attend 2 rehearsals at St Patrick's church. Wednesday 21st Dec AND Friday 23rd Dec Choir practice at 9am Pageant rehearsal 9.45am Parent volunteers are also most welcome! If you have any questions please email Loretta and Cecilia on ceciii@hotmail.com

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

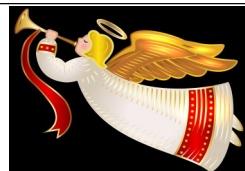


Children's Choir @ St Patrick's is now in recess.

However, Children's Choir will be singing at the Carol evening on 21st December.



CAROLS EVENING Wednesday 21st 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.**

Anniversary of Ordination Congratulations, Dr Biju & Fr Joy
(We are a little early in our congratulations this year due to Christmas day being a Sunday but we didn't want to forget!)

Dear Fathers, our thoughts and prayers are with you on the Anniversaries of your Ordination to the Priesthood.

May the Eternal Priest, give you both more wisdom and strength to carry out His mission towards the people entrusted to your Pastoral Care.

'You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek' Hebrews 7:17

Fr Joy Thomas Kunnasserry ~ 28th Anniversary of Ordination on 27th December 1994
Dr Biju Jose ~ 24th Anniversary of Ordination on 28th December 1998

Do you realise what this means?

Fr Biju is beginning his 'Silver Jubilee Year' and from past experience ... we know what that means, don't we!

The Indian tradition is to celebrate all year leading up to the big day ~ it's going to be a long year!

Congratulations Fr Biju.

Thanks to everyone for the wonderful Christmas party, and a wonderful year!

Choir will resume when school starts in 2023.

Midnight Mass practice - all singers and musicians - Tuesday 7.30pm St Patrick's church. All welcome!

Lectionary Art



Joseph takes the active role in Matthew's infancy narrative.

It is Joseph, rather than Mary, who encounters an angel.

In a dream, Joseph is reassured by a heavenly messenger that Mary's pregnancy is legitimate, albeit unconventional.

© Jenny Close

ROSTERS & READINGS FOR WEEKEND - 24/25th December 2022

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



Christmas @ St Bernard's Church, Berowra Heights

5pm (Vigil - outdoor)

9am

Acolyte/Snr Server	Justin Berry	Volunteer now
Altar Servers	Robyn Orr Archie Tod	Andrew McLoughlin Volunteer now
Reader (1)	Elaine D'S to arrange	Jeanette Neary
Reader (2)	Elaine D'S to arrange	Denise Harant
Cleaning/Flowers/ Sacristy	Ning Biyo; Cecilia Waite(f); Gwen Wood (s)	
Maintenance	Team A & B - <i>additional help always appreciated</i>	



Christmas @ St Patrick's Church, Asquith

6pm (Vigil)

9pm—Youth

Acolyte/Snr Server	Mani Subramany	Malcolm Cross
Altar Servers	Oscar Braga Liam Daly	Catherine Mooney Volunteer now
Reader (1)	Cecilia R to arrange	Youth reader
Reader (2)	Cecilia R to arrange	Youth reader

Midnight

8am (Sunday)

10am (Sunday)

A/SS	Vicente Sanchez (SS) Darrin Patterson (Thurifer)	Phil Daidone	Volunteer now
AS	Lucy Henao Vila Volunteer now	Volunteer now Volunteer now	Joshua Telford Volunteer now
R(1)	Sue Newnham	Jim Fitzgerald	Cora Cuasay
R(2)	Christine Vila	Mary Stokes	David De-Fina
Cleaning/Flowers/ Sacristy	Scott & Anastasia Smith, Francis Lizardo, Tess Lizardo(f)		
Maintenance	December: Malcolm Cross, David Chui		

Six Little Stories With Lots of Meaning

1. Once all villagers decided to pray for rain. On the day of prayer, all the people gathered, but only one boy came in with an umbrella. That is **FAITH**.
2. When you throw babies in the air, they laugh because they know you will catch them. That is **TRUST**.
3. Every night we go to bed without any assurance of being alive the next morning, but still we set the alarms to wake up. That is **HOPE**.
4. We plan big things for tomorrow in spite of zero knowledge of the future. That is **CONFIDENCE**.
5. We see the world suffering, but still, we get married and have children. That is **LOVE**.
6. On an old man's shirt was written a sentence "I am not 80 years old; I am sweet 16 with 64 years of experience". That is **ATTITUDE**.

The businesses advertising in our bulletin support our parish financially allowing it to be published each week in full colour. Please support them in turn with your patronage.

King Tide Café / Restaurant

Open 7 days ~ 8am to 4pm ~ *Owned & operated by our own*

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Berowra and Berowra Heights

Francesca Parrino

Upper North Shore Expert

M (+61) 0415 651 740 E Francesca.parrino@smileelite.com

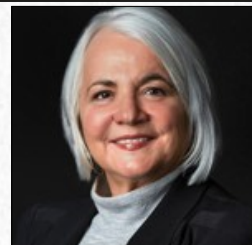
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