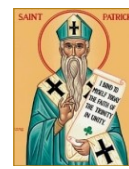
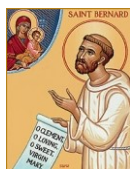


'Seek God, Find God, Embrace God in Jesus'

KU-RING-GAI CHASE CATHOLIC PARISH

Diocese of Broken Bay ~ 26th December 2021 ~ Feast of the Holy Family ~ Year C

1 Sam 1:20-22, 24-28 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24 Lk 2:41-52



Entrance Antiphon: The shepherds went in haste, and found Mary and Joseph and the Infant lying in a manger.

Responsorial Psalm: How happy they who dwell in your house, O Lord.

Alleluia Verse: Alleluia, alleluia! Open our heart, O Lord, to listen to the words of your Son. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: Our God has appeared on the earth, and lived among 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'

HOMILY © Richard Leonard SJ

Christian art has not served us very well in terms of picturing the Holy Family. From medieval times, Joseph is portrayed as being as least 80, Mary is very young with perfect white skin and, usually, Jesus has golden curls and a knowing smile. **Now I don't know about your family, but among my clan no one is a canonised saint, immaculately conceived or the son of God.**

Let's face it, the Holy Family is a tough act to follow!

We know only the barest facts about the Holy Family. Joseph was 18 or 19 when his fiancé, Mary, who was 14 or 15, potentially caused great scandal in the neighbourhood by conceiving a child, by the power of God, before the wedding. They were a poor, devoutly Jewish family from Galilee. They were as olive-skinned as any Lebanese is today and they lived in a country harshly administered by the occupying Roman Army. The scriptures tell us they knew what it was like to be refugees, to lose their child for three days and that Mary so misunderstood what Jesus was on about that she went to bring him home; later she watched him tortured and executed by the Romans. By these traditions the Holy Family has much to say to those in our world who are teenage mothers, are poor, hard working religious people, are refugees or are so-called 'coloured' people. They give consolation to parents who can't work out their children, to children who feel their parents are not on their wavelink, and to anyone of you who has ever lost a child in a market place or been through the heartbreak of losing a child in death. You see, the more we put halos on the Holy Family, sadly, the less we seem to be able to connect their family experience with our own. Most families are about being generous, loving, stable and faithful. They stand for security, roots and identity. Our world needs stable, strong families more than ever before.

Families, however, also fight, can be envious, they break up, are under pressure from all sorts of social forces and, tragically, the family home is the most common place for physical and sexual abuse in our society.

For all our western wealth and technology I think it's very hard to have a happy and balanced family life today.

So what's the secret? Family studies surveys tell us that forgiveness is the key. This flies in the face of the film *Love Story's* outrageous motto, 'Love means not having to say you're sorry'. As Christians, precisely the opposite is the case. Love means you can and want to say you're sorry and that the other person in the family can, and wants, to forgive.

[Continues over page]



Our thanks to you !

In many ways, 2021 has been every bit as challenging as 2020. This year has seen the "goalposts" moved on a number of occasions and has seen many of us experience difficult, trying and stressful circumstances, and yet, here we are together again, as 'one holy, catholic and apostolic' faith family, continuing to celebrate the birth of Our Saviour. **On this Feast of the Holy Family we give thanks to and for our Faith Family for ...** provided their talents and gifts this Christmastide and indeed throughout the year ~ so in no particular order we thank ...

- * our maintenance teams and altar societies
- * our cleaners, decorators and flower arrangers
- * our senior servers
- * our readers, commentators and welcomers
- * our intercession writers
- * our musicians and cantors
- * our Ushers and Wardens
- * our collectors and counters
- * our hospitality team
- * our catechists & helpers
- * our RCIA & RCIC teams
- * You ! our amazing congregation and visitors
- * Fr Shaju, Fr Joy, 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.

Anniversary Congratulations, Fr Shaju & Fr Joy

Dear Fathers,
our thoughts and prayers are with you on this the 27th Anniversary 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

New Year's Day Mass Sat. 1st January 2022

Solemnity of Mary Mother of God

will be celebrated at

9am at St Patrick's Asquith

Please consider starting the New Year with God and Our Lady on this very special day.

PASTORAL CENTRE: 1-19 Woodcourt Road, Berowra Heights 2082; P.O. Box 335, Berowra Heights

Centre Hours: 9am – 3.30pm. Phone: (02) 9456 2450; Email: parishkccp@bbcatholic.org.au; Website: www.bbcatholic.org.au/kccp

Parish Priest: Fr Shaju John, OSH;

Assistant Priest: Fr Joy Thomas, OSH;

Parish Secretary: Margaret Cooper;

Bookkeeper: Karen Price;

Vol. Office Assistant: Jan Favaloro

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: 8am Monday, Tuesday & Thursday; 9am Wednesday &

Friday St Patrick's, Asquith: 8am Wednesday & Friday; 9am Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday

RECONCILIATION: Fridays: 9.30am at St Bernard's Berowra ; Saturdays: 9.30 am at St Patrick's, Asquith



The Parish Office is CLOSED until Monday 17 January 2022. For urgent assistance email the office on: parishkccp@bbcatholic.org.au OR phone 9456 2450 and leave a message. **Please note,** Phones

will only be checked **WEEKLY**, and **only urgent messages** will be responded to. (Non-urgent emails & calls will be responded to after Jan. 17th) **REMEMBER: If in URGENT NEED ONLY of a priest, the emergency number is: 0468 341 841.**

ROSTERS & READINGS FOR WEEKEND - 1st /2nd Jan – Is 60:1-6; Eph 3:2-3,5-6; Mt 2:1-12 - (Solemnity) The Epiphany of the Lord - Year C

	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	Alex Jarominek	Mani Subramany	Malcolm Cross	Volunteer needed	Robert Pesavento
Reader (1)	Mark Dunkley	Barbara McMullen	Helen Chui	Russell Schreiber	Sue Newnham	Sub requested
Reader (2)	Sophia Smith	Isaac Tonkin	Miguel Do Rego	Vivienne Schreiber	Chris Newnham	Sub requested
Usher / s	Jan & Joseph Favaloro	Paul Dryden & Peta Tonkin	Chris Smith	Michael Halliday, Tess & Francis Lizardo	Peter Daly, Susie Gates	Les Fogden
Sacristy/Cleaning/Flowers	Natasha Steele, Genevieve Funk, Ted Cook, Gisela Muschal (s)		Scott Smith, Aastasia Smith, Mervyn Soares, Liz Soares, Maria Hon (f)			
Maintenance	Teams A & B (help always needed)		Grace Milen, Milen Kurishingal, Patrick Dias			

[[from previous page] But if my experience is anything to go by, **'I'm sorry'** is second only to **'I love you'** as the hardest statement to say and hear, in family life.

When I was 16 I read the works of Jesuit Fr John Powell who wrote, **'We should never leave this world not having told the people that we love that we love them.'** Now, I don't come from a particularly demonstrative family. So I took John Powell's line as a personal challenge. I wrote to my sister, who was then working with Mother Teresa in Calcutta, and to my brother who was working interstate, telling them that I loved them. That left my mother. I stayed home one Saturday night and with my heart pumping and my tummy churning I approached my mother after tea while she was watching the news. 'Mum, I have something important to tell you', I began. My mother, not taking her eyes from the screen, casually said, 'Oh yes, what's that?' 'Mum', I responded, 'I've never told you this before.' And now I could tell there was a duet of hearts pumping and tummies churning. I plucked up all my courage and came straight out with it. 'Mum, I just want to tell you that I love you.' And such was her relief that my mother replied 'I hope so' and promptly turned back to the TV. My brother and sister wrote to Mum asking what was wrong with me. They all concluded it was a phase I was going through. In our complex world, no one can pretend that forgiveness is easy or that it is a magic wand we wave over deep hurts and harsh words. True forgiveness does not deny reality, it deals with it. But forgiveness is necessary if we are going to follow Jesus. It is also necessary if we want to enjoy a happier family life. Revenge and spite, so endemic in society, are the antithesis of what Jesus taught and lived out.

**May this feast of the Holy Family, then, give our families the
'serenity to accept the things we cannot change, courage to change the things we can, and wisdom to know the difference'.**

RECENTLY DECEASED: Peter Paul Raj, Elizabeth (Betty) Borg, Fr Thomas Kunnasserry (Fr Joy's uncle), Francisca Aloysius, Jess Formby
ANNIVERSARIES: Eliazs Pieprzyk, Samuel Fuda, Assunta Fraietta, Maria Lombardo, Irena & Iwona, David Huntley, Alfredo R, De Ramos, Jack & Marie McNamara

SPECIAL PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: For those suffering around the world from Covid-19 - that this disease will be successfully brought under control and eliminated as a health risk for all. **PRAYERS FOR THE SICK:** Josef, Jean Cook, Roger Okell, Patrick Dorahy, Patrick O'Donoghue, Fr Thomas Philip OSH, Felicity Fone, Barbara Jones, Peter Brooks, Brian Treacy, John Cosgrove (Snr), Rodney Porter.
Please NOTE WELL: It is now the practice of this parish (each January), to delete from the Sick list the names of those whose situation hasn't been updated. Please contact the office after January 17th to reinstate a name.

The businesses below support our parish by advertising here. Please give them your support in turn.

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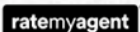
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Francesca Parrino

Upper North Shore Expert

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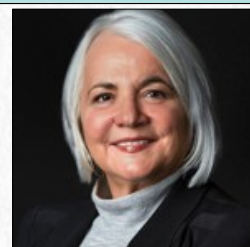
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