

#### Entrance Antiphon:

Responsorial Psalm: Gospel Acclamation: Communion Antiphon:

# **KU-RING-GAI CHASE CATHOLIC PARISH**

'Seek God, Find God, Embrace God in Jesus' Diocese of Broken Bay ~ 3rd October 2021 ~ 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year B Gen 2:18-24; Heb 2:9-11; Mk 10:2-16



Within your will, O Lord, all things are established, and there is none that can resist your will. For you have made all things, the heaven and the earth, and all that is held within the circle of heaven; you are the Lord of all.

May the Lord bless us all the days of our lives.

Alleluia, alleluia! If we love one another, God will live in us in perfect love. Alleluia! The Lord is good to those who hope in him, to the soul that seeks him.

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**  $\sim$  During World War II, Mary was one of hundreds of Australian women who fell in love with an American soldier. She married her Episcopalian Army Major at the side altar in a Catholic Church in 1945. He was dashing and handsome and by the time it came for him to return to Philadelphia in 1946, they were expecting their first child.



Upon arrival at her new home Mary found that her brave solider was not as fearless as she thought. He was completely dominated by his aristocratic, wealthy mother who made it clear from the beginning that she opposed the marriage. Mary's life in the family home was a nightmare. The tensions boiled over when Brendan was born. Regardless of the promises his father had made in Australia to have their children baptised Catholics, the solider waged no war against his mother who declared that if any grandchild of hers was baptised a 'papist' she would disinherit the three of them. The Major buckled under the maternal pressure and demanded that Brendan be baptised an Episcopalian. Mary was devastated. She gathered her few possessions together, had her son baptised a Catholic and fled home.

In 1950, by now a divorcee, she met Maurice, a wonderful man who wanted to marry her and be a father to Brendan. When they went to see the local parish priest, he told them they could not be married in the Church and if they contracted a civil marriage they ran the risk of going to hell for eternity. They were tough days. Catholicism was one of the reasons Mary left the USA. In turn, the very Church she defended shut her out.

In today's Gospel, Jesus speaks directly about marriage and divorce. In Jesus' day only a few women had rights before the law. These were wealthy women from the priestly families. They could divorce their husbands. The vast majority of women, however, were seen as possessions of their father, husband or son. A husband could draw up a divorce writ for any reason he wished and so force his wife out of their home into destitution or humiliate her by sending her back to her own family. No wonder Jesus lays down the law so strongly about fidelity and commitment. His new interpretation of the Law of Moses defended women's rights to dignity and security.

Every Catholic parish today has parishioners who are divorced and remarried; no doubt some are here at this Mass. In the face of the negative messages you hear, I want you to know how much we admire your often heroic faith, how much God loves you and how grateful we are that you hang in here with us. The problem for the Church is that, on the one hand, we want to keep affirming the permanence of married love, and yet, on the other hand, we have an increasing number of Catholics who are divorcing. We are caught between the fine ideal Jesus teaches and the frail human condition we all carry in different ways. We have not got the balance right yet.

The Church's remedy to marriage breakdown is an annulment. An annulment is not a Catholic divorce. A civil divorce says the parties that were married are not now. An annulment says that there were factors, often unknown to the couple on the day, which meant that there was never a full and true Christian marriage in the first place. The sacrament is therefore null and void.

Some Catholics, and certainly people who are not Catholic, cannot face up to the long, complex and legal process involved in an annulment. It can be a traumatic experience. Others argue that the Church might step away from the more recent legal approach to dealing with marriage and, like the Orthodox Churches, use the Sacrament of Penance to nullify the Sacrament of Marriage. Whatever of the process, Christian teaching on this issue must always be metered with compassion.

From 1951 until 1993 Mary and her second husband did not receive the Sacraments. At my encouragement, she instigated annulment proceedings in 1990. In 1993 they received communion for the first time in 42 years. God had never moved away from them, embracing them in his arms, laying his hands on them every day and blessing them.

At that Nuptial Mass in 1994, Maurice's best man was Brendan, born in Philadelphia in 1946. Maurice had legally adopted Brendan the day after he married Mary. And as we all received communion, with tears streaming down our faces, we understood that it is to human, frail and open hearts that the Kingdom of God belongs. © Richard Leonard SJ

		WEEKEND MASSES
-19 Woodcourt Road, Berowra Heights 2082 .0. Box 335, Berowra Heights 2082 Phone: (02) 9456 2450 Email: parishkccp@bbcatholic.org.au	KU-RING-GAI CHASE CATHOLIC MASH Dicener di triden by, Autolia	Saturday 5pm St Bernard's   6pm St Patrick's   Sunday 8am St Patrick's   9am St Bernard's   10am St Patrick's
Vebsite: www.bbcatholic.org.au/kccp Centre Hours: 9am – 3.30pm. Parish Priest Fr Shaju John, OSH Issistant Priest Fr Joy Thomas, OSH Parish Secretary Margaret Cooper Bookkeeper Karen Price Vol. Office Assist. (Tues) Jan Favaloro Gacramental Team: kccpsacraments@gmail.com	SEATING CAPACITY AT OUR CHURCHES Both churches CLOSED for the duration of the LOCKDOWN Additional restrictions are at the discretion of the Parish Priest for the safety of all parishioners.	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 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.* 

#### THIS WEEK'S READINGS and PRAYERS

ORDINARY TIME ~ Year B Monday 04/10 ~ Memorial St Francis of Assisi Jonah 1:1-2:1, 11; Lk 10:25-37 Tuesday 05/10 Jonah 3:1-10; Lk 10:38-42 Wednesday 06/10 Jonah 4:1-11; Lk 11:1-4 Thursday 07/10 ~ Memorial Our Lady of the Rosary Malachi 3:13-20; Lk 11:5-13 (Alt. Acts 1:12-14; Lk 1:26-28) Friday 08/10 Joel 1:13-15, 2:1-2; Lk 11:15-26

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

Saturday 09/10

Joel 4:12-21; Lk 11:27-28

#### RECENTLY DECEASED:

John Kitchen, Harold D'Souza, Nicholas Shaw, Fr James Duck, Joyce Dimmock, Alejandro Maniego ANNIVERSARIES:

Nancy Gomez, Kerrin Enright, K P Thomas, Ted Newnham

**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: Sr Joel SVM Mary John, Alex John, Bindu Alex, Joseph Alex, Antonia Alvarado, Dana Saleh, Chris Enright, Tom Dawson, Sally Agnew, Jola & Stach Uchman, David Chee, Elaine Longmuir, Jean Cook, Roger Okell, Patrick Dorahy, Patrick O'Donoghue, Sr Mary Treacy, Marie Haag, Fr Thomas Philip OSH, Sr Tincy Thomas, John Gallagher, Dan Leavy, Felicity Fone, Barbara Jones, Peter Brooks, Anne Brady, Marie O'Hare, Brian Treacy, Stephen C C, John Cosgrove (Snr), Antonia Alvarado, Peter Nguyen, Nemia Camille Asiong, Rodney Porter.

### The 250 Club!🥳

Week 11 – 27/09/2021 Winning #: 531 Winner: *Norma De Couta* Amount: \$25.00

August 2021 Pastoral Works Abged Works Appeal Broken Bay.

**Donations to date = \$5,190,** and can still be taken, please call or email the parish office.

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for October: Missionary Disciples

~ We pray that every baptised person may be engaged in evangelisation, available to the mission, by being witnesses of a life that has the flavour of the Gospel.

> **Tap n Go** donation points available in both Churches. All taps are set to \$10.

Dinate \$10

Thank you for your support through these devices.



What a Celebration Mass! Congratulations! Not even a pandemic could dampen the Spirit of this faith filled community.



Even though you were not able to be present physically in St Patrick's Church last Sunday, the outpouring of love and

appreciation for last Sunday's Mass has been relayed to the office many times over and your participation in the Mass seemed very real to those lucky enough to be present. We take this opportunity to sincerely thank those who were present and who very ably represented you, the parishioners of Asquith church. **So, Thank you...** 





**Bishop Anthony** for gifting us the first Mass you have celebrated outside the Cathedral since the pandemic began. Your presence and wonderful Homily were inspiring and food for the journey for the next 50 years!

Others there on the day - Fr Joy and Fr Shaju together with Malcolm Cross who represented all Senior Servers of SPA, Phil Daidone who assisted the Bishop and

*Philip & Cara Daidone,* our candle bearers, *Pat Smith* and *Naomi Massa* for providing the wonderful

music and singing, those who decorated the Altar

- Francis & Tess Lizardo and Michelle Hwang for the

glorious flower arrangements *Chris Smith* for the educational history lesson on the church together with the PowerPoint presentation, as well as reading and

*Michael Halliday* for reading and wrapping up proceedings with a fantastic thank you speech and for





arranging the beautiful plaque now on display in the church,

all PPC members, & Special thanks to Michelle Chahine our 'livestreamer', without whom we would not have been able to participate in in this wonderful Thanksgiving Mass.







#### Vox Episcopi - The Voice of the Bishop - (This is the Homily the Bishop delivered on the 50th Jubilee of St Patrick's Church) My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Last Sunday I had the joy of joining with the Catholic community at Asquith in the Parish of Ku-ring-gai Chase for the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of Saint Patrick's church. It was a somewhat bittersweet moment. When Archbishop Freeman opened and blessed the church building on 19 September 1971, the local community turned out in great numbers. Fifty

years later, due to the COVID pandemic and the associated government health orders, the local community participated via livestreaming. It was hardly the way any of us envisaged celebrating this significant event in the life of Saint Patrick's community. And yet, we did celebrate. The government restrictions might keep us from our church buildings, but they do not keep us from being the Church, the body of Christ, the living disciples of Jesus our Saviour.

Over these past few months of physical separation, I have become more deeply aware of the spiritually connected people that we are. As Saint Mark reminds us in the Gospel, in our faith we are "for Christ" because we "belong to Christ" (cf. Mark 9:40-41). It is easy to fall into the trap of focusing on the negative and painful dimensions of life, especially when there is so much suffering around us. And yet, as I read the history of the church building and the parish, I could not help but be inspired by the grit and determination, along with the faith and zeal for the Lord, of Christ's lay faithful – women and men, the priests, and the religious – who claim Saint Patrick's as their spiritual home.

The Catholic community at Asquith has long made Saint Patrick's a Centre of worship; a home of spiritual devotion; the locus of the sacraments; a place of community gathering; and the launch pad for mission so that Jesus Christ is rightly our beginning and end. The early challenges that pressed upon the first Catholics who gathered there almost 100 years ago, never held them back. With their indomitable spirit, fortified by tremendous faith, they forged ahead not merely to build buildings, but to foster and support their mission as Catholic Christians in the world.

The celebration on Sunday was one of recognition of those who have gone before us. It was rightly a celebration of thanksgiving for the many good works of God in and through the community. It was and still is an inspiration to the whole community of the Church of Broken Bay for our ongoing mission and our imminent return to worship in our church buildings.

Our work of evangelisation and catechesis has never seemed so urgent as what it is in these times. It is not a work for this one or that, for him or her, for old or young. The work to be taken up, through the power of the Holy Spirit, belongs to God and each one of us baptised into Christ has a responsibility and a duty to be co-workers with the Lord.

My brothers and sisters, all our parishes have the love of Christ as their foundation stone. It was because of His love that our forebears, priests and people, gathered as a community of Catholic communities. Faith was the centre of their lives, their families, their mission in the world. My prayer is that the occasion of the golden Jubilee of Saint Patrick's church at Asquith might provide for us an opportunity for deep and prayerful reflection upon the past. That, in a strange time and circumstance, we will take every opportunity to reconnect in the communion of Christ, despite the challenges of this year. And that as we return physically to one another, we will have a deeper sense of our spiritual communion as disciples of the Lord, as living members of the Catholic Church. May God bless you and your families, and may Saint Patrick continue to intercede for us. + Authouy

### THE JOURNEY CONTINUES ! Fan the Flame ~ Plenary Assembly ~ 01 / 10 / 2021

### Watch the Plenary Council Assembly Online

The First General Assembly of the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia opens with Mass at 2pm AEDT Plenary Council from St Mary's Cathedral, Perth on Sunday, 3 October.

- + Principal Celebrant: Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SDB, President of Plenary Council.
- \* Key moments will be live streamed between 3 and 10 October.
- <sup>†</sup> They will include daily Masses, morning prayer and sharing of the fruits of discernment.
- + Watch the live-streamed Mass and access other information on the Plenary Council website at <u>www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au</u>

#### Don't forget to register! Broken Bay Plenary Council Online Prayer Vigil ~ THIS Saturday October 2nd, 7pm. The First Plenary Council Assembly starts Sunday 3 October and we are inviting the community of the church of Broken Bay to an online prayer vigil with Bishop Anthony on Saturday 2 October from 7-7:30pm.

"Listen to what the spirit is saying" has been the theme of this Plenary Council acknowledging the importance of prayer and God's relationship with His Church. This prayer vigil will call the community to come together as one Church to offer our prayers of support to the Bishop, Members, Delegates, and the whole Assembly gathering.

We encourage you to attend and take part in this special prayer night. To register please visit: www.bbcatholic.org.au/bayconnect





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Faafetai fo'i ~ means 'You're Welcome' in Samoan