

KU-RING-GAI CHASE CATHOLIC PARISH

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

Diocese of Broken Bay ~ 6th December 2020 ~ 2nd Sunday of Advent ~ Year B

Is 40:1-5, 9-11; 2 Pet 3:8-14; Mk 1:1-8

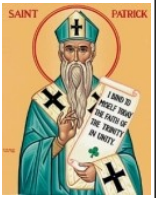
Entrance Antiphon: O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.

Responsorial Psalm: Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

Communion Antiphon: Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

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'



During Advent, Daniel went to his mother demanding a new bicycle for Christmas. 'Danny, we can't afford it', she said, 'so write a letter to Jesus and pray for one instead.' 'Dear Jesus, I've been a good boy this year and would appreciate a new bicycle. Your friend, Daniel.' Now Danny guessed that Jesus really knew he was a brat so he tore it up and tried again. 'Dear Jesus, I've been an OK boy this year and I want a new bicycle. Yours truly, Daniel.' Danny knew this wasn't true either so he tore it up and tried again. 'Dear Jesus, I've thought about being a good boy so may I have a new bicycle?' Daniel.'

Finally, Danny thought better of making these false claims and so ran to the Church. He went inside and stole a small statue of Mary and ran out the door. He went home, hid it under his bed and wrote this letter. 'Jesus, let's face it, I've broken most of the Commandments; tore up my sister's doll and lots more, I'm desperate. I've got your mother Mary, if you ever want to see her again, give me a bike for Christmas. You know who.'

There is a little bit of Danny in all of us.

We often think that we can bargain with God to get the best possible deal out of life. The problem with this bargaining image is that it cannot be reconciled with a Christian faith which believes in Advent. The bargaining image of God is the furthest thing from the mind of the writers of today's readings – Isaiah, Psalm (84) 85, St Peter and St Mark.

These scriptures remind us that God has not held back one thing in his love for us. By becoming one with us in our flesh, God has done everything he can to assure us of his saving love. He has shown us all what can be shown about how to live lives of sacrifice, justice and love and how to transform our world for better.

The image of us 'doing a deal' with God is so prevalent in our theology and prayer that we can find ourselves lapsing into it all the time. 'If you make me well, God, I will lead a better life.' 'I will return to Sunday Mass if I pass my exams.' 'I will raise my children Catholic if I have a fine day for my wedding.' This is all dreadful stuff. And the Church has to take some responsibility for this and correct it.

The scriptures tell us from the beginning of time to the preaching of John the Baptist, to the life, death, resurrection of Jesus Christ and to the continuing work of the Holy Spirit among us today, that we have a God who risked everything so that we might know love and life in this world and in the next. We hold and proclaim, in season and out of season, a God who emptied himself of power and might and came to us as a baby.

That's not the profile of a deal-doer. It's the portrait of a lover.

So this Advent let's not ransom ourselves to a benevolent dictator. Let's ask for anything we need with confidence that God has heard our words and so sent love itself in Jesus Christ our Lord.

© Richard Leonard SJ

Prayers for Lighting the Advent Candles



2nd Sunday of Advent Celebrant:

As we continue our Advent Journey, travelling towards Bethlehem with Mary and Joseph, we light the second candle. **Sign of our faith in God's promise.** We pray that we will be blessed with the baptism of repentance.

Reader: Lord, giver of life, stir up our hearts to prepare for the coming of your Son.

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

Reader: As a dry and weary land thirsts, so we long for you.

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

Reader: Open to us the wellsprings of salvation.

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

PASTORAL CENTRE

1-19 Woodcourt Road, Berowra Heights 2082

P.O. Box 335, Berowra Heights 2082

Phone: (02) 9456 2450

Email: parishkccp@bbcatholic.org.au

Website: www.bbcatholic.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



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

ORDINARY TIME

Monday 7/12 ~ Memorial
St Ambrose, bishop, doctor

Mass of the Saint
Preface of Advent I or saint
Is 35:1-10; Lk 5:17-26

Tuesday 8/12 ~ Solemnity
The IMMACULATE CONCEPTION of the
BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Mass of the Solemnity, Gloria, Creed
Preface of Immaculate Conception
Gen 3:9-15, 20; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12;
Lk 1:26-38

Wednesday 9/12
Mass *ad libitum*
Preface of Advent I
Is 40:25-31; Mt 11:28-30

Thursday 10/12
Mass of the Saint
Preface of Advent I
Is 41:13-20; Mt 11:11-15

Friday 11/12
Mass *ad libitum*
Preface of Advent I
Is 48:17-19; Mt 11:16-19

Saturday 12/12
Mass *ad libitum*
Preface of Advent I
Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11; Mt 17:10-13

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

RECENTLY DECEASED: Colin Kenny,
Mary Kathleen Levy, Anita M Jimenez,

ANNIVERSARIES: Frank and Mary Jack,
Bill McDonagh, Julia Healy, Alison Hinton,
Nancy Gomez,

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: 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, Jwona
Nowak, Irena Fellmann, Elaine Longmuir,
Michael McGaulley, Estrellado, Cathy
Gleeson, Georgia Meyers, Rosalinda de
Ramos, Angela Smith, Matthew Franklin,
Jeanette Bakker, Ewa Rakoz, Jean Cook,
Betty Borg, Morrie Ramsden, Brian Neary,
Edwina Subramany, Aiko Concepcion,
John Buckley, Ellen Asistente, Kath Lock,
Arlene Josen, 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 and
Mary Ann Weir



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.

A serious reminder about the **PRIEST'S EMERGENCY PHONE**

Dear Parishioners,

Fr Joy and I have been receiving phone calls and text messages on the (After Hours) Emergency Phone for matters which are **NOT emergencies** eg Mass bookings/Mass times etc ~ **this is not the purpose of this phone**. The purpose of this phone is to contact a priest at a time of **EMERGENCY ONLY** ~ for example, if a person is at the point of death and needs to be anointed or seriously ill and has been admitted to hospital outside business hours. We thank you for your understanding and adherence to this request. Fr Shaju.

When one priest of the parish is away on holidays...

When one of the priests of this parish is on holidays, from now onward, there will be **only ONE Morning Mass on weekdays** (Monday to Friday) in our parish.

These masses will therefore be...:

9am at St Patrick's Asquith ~ Monday-Tuesday-Thursday

9am at St Bernard's Berowra Heights ~ Wednesday-Friday.

Advance notice will be placed in the bulletin when this change is required. Fr Shaju.

CHRISTMAS RECONCILIATION TIMES 2020:

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

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES & HOW TO RESERVE YOUR SEAT

Thursday 24 December - Christmas Eve -

St Bernard's, Berowra

St Patrick's, Asquith

5pm Children's Outdoor Vigil Mass
~ in Courtyard of St Bernard's School

6pm Children's Vigil Mass
9pm Youth Vigil Mass

7pm Christmas Vigil Mass

Friday 25 December - Christmas Day -

St Patrick's, Asquith 12 midnight St Patrick's 'Midnight' Mass

St Bernard's, Berowra

St Patrick's, Asquith

9am Christmas Day Mass

8am Christmas Day Mass

10am Christmas Day Mass

NO evening Mass Christmas Day

RESERVATIONS ARE ESSENTIAL FOR ALL CHRISTMAS MASSES

and **MUST** be made **DIRECTLY** with the **PARISH OFFICE**

Preferred booking option by email to: parishkccp@bbcatholic.org.au ~

Please use "Christmas Mass" in the subject line,

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

NB: Regular Mass goes **CANNOT** book in advance via the Usher for Christmas Masses

O Come All Ye

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

Et cetera ~ Et cetera ~ Et cetera

We are calling upon all the little folk of our parish and the young at heart of our parish to help create a wonderful Christmas atmosphere at our Christmas Masses.

All are encouraged to come to whichever Mass you are booked for dressed up as an

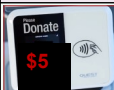
Angel, Shepherd, King, Donkey, Sheep, Camel, Cow,

Mary, Joseph or even (for our littlest parishioners of all) **Baby Jesus!**

Looking forward to seeing you all in your best Christ-Mass finery.



Week 14: 01/12/2020 ~ Winning No.: 526 ~
Amt: \$25.00 ~ Winner: Unsubscribed



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.



For those who wish to donate by directly depositing into our bank account, please contact the parish office on 9456 2450 and we will provide you with the details.

Charitable Works Fund November Appeal Concludes this weekend

Thank you to all who have again given to the CWF under difficult circumstances.



Your contributions to date total a wonderful \$4,670.

Currently we are around **\$7,000 short** of our November quota.

CWF envelopes are at the back of our churches for those who still wish to contribute **OR** scan the QR code, **OR** visit www.bbatholic.org.au/give

All donations are tax deductible and contribute towards our parish quota.

Thank you for ever constant donations to this appeal.



The BIGGEST of THANKS to you, Mr Peter Brooks

Thank you so much **Peter**, for your stewardship and loving devotion in providing our **church** with your beautiful **music** over the past many, **many** years.

We have been truly **blessed** with your **musical** ability and we want you to know how much we have appreciated your time and **talent**.

You have been **instrumental** in making our **parish** a very special place of worship.

John Dryden: "What passion cannot music raise and quell!"



Vox Populi - The Voice of the People: *This week we hear from newly ordained Deacon Sam French. Sam grew up in the Woy Woy Parish and is now serving at Pennant Hills Parish. He is the youngest member of the Clergy in Broken Bay.*

He must increase...By Deacon Sam French

This week, on the Second Sunday of Advent, the lectionary jumps back to the opening verses of Mark's Gospel, where we are introduced to Saint John the Baptist. Since I was a child, I've had a particular love for this ragged desert dwelling cousin of Jesus; I even chose him as my confirmation saint. While, I suppose, sainthood is not a competition, not too many among the 'Church Triumphant' can claim to have been called the "greatest among those born of women (Mt 11:11)" by Christ himself. So, if my bias towards John is a little obvious, I can safely say: Jesus started it. I grew up as a parishioner of Saint John the Baptist Catholic Church in Woy Woy and attended the parish primary school by the same name. I had the benefit of inspirational stories about John the Baptist's poverty, courage, and holiness drilled into my consciousness from day one of Kindergarten. I distinctly remember shouting the lyrics: "Fill every valley up, tear every mountain down, prepare the way of the Lord" in Miss Culmer's Year 2 class, and being taught that we can be more like John the Baptist if we prepare the way of the Lord in our hearts by being much quieter. Saint John the Baptist is often called the "Forerunner of Christ" for obvious reasons, but this was truly the case in my own spiritual journey. I remember realising how important Jesus must be, if the guy my church and school was named after was "not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals." This was an early glimpse at the divinity of Christ and the humility of Saint John. Saint John's humility is again captured perfectly in his quote about Jesus, the Bridegroom: "He must increase, but I must decrease" (Jn 3:30). This has long been one of my favourite scripture passages, but it has taken on a new significance in light of my recent Ordination to the Diaconate. Even with only a few weeks of ministry under my belt, I've begun to see with clearer eyes the nature of my vocation. In order to increase Christ through my preaching and sacramental ministry, I must decrease by submitting my will to his. I'm discovering that the spirit of diaconal service is, in some sense, a zerosum game – it's either my will or his, I can't have both. The poverty of John's camel cloak and locust lunch make more sense to me now. The more I seek distractions or comforts superfluous to my vocation, the more my ministry suffers. As each week passes, I'm finding new habits – in thought and action – that need pruning to make room for Jesus to work better through me. For example, I learned that a prayerful, well thought-out homily can't coexist with a Netflix binge. Fortunately for me, John also proclaims "a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sin" (Mk 1:4). Advent is a time of particularly focused spiritual preparation. I would encourage anyone reading this, regardless of your vocation, to take some time to reflect on the example of Saint John the Baptist, and ask his intercession to prepare the way of the Lord in your heart in these weeks leading up to Christmas. **In Christ, Deacon Sam.**



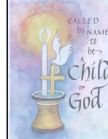
Candela Mission Appeal ~ This year I will be selling handicrafts from a stall at my home - 12 Nyara Road Mount Kuring-gai on Sunday December 13th from 9am - 12 noon. Morning tea will be provided!

Things are very desperate in Peru with no government assistance and families are doing it tough. About 35% of families have been affected by the epidemic. The Sisters of Mercy are sending money for food and medicines and have set up soup kitchens. If you would like to support the families

Sr Patricia McDermott's Commonwealth Bank details are:

BSB: 062009 ~ A/c 10326743 ~ Ref: Kuring-gai Parish.

Any enquiries please ring me on 0405188547. *Thanks for your support, Mary.*



Welcome to our Faith Family
Baptism congratulations to...

Gabriel Zavone
and

Finn Michael Duffy

who are to be baptised this weekend.

Please keep Gabriel & Finn, as well as their parents and Godparents in your prayers.

The new Music Coordinators at St Bernard's Berowra Heights will be Freda Alaalatoa & Moauli Griffiths. We thank them for their stewardship.

COLUMBAN ART CALENDARS CHRISTMAS CARDS available now through VINNIES stalls.

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.*



Mass of Inclusion ~ TODAY

This annual Mass, will be celebrated by

Bishop Anthony at Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral, Waitara **TODAY at 11.00am**, and will mark the International Day of Disability (Dec. 3) recognising the ability and dignity of all. This year, we encourage all to join via the live stream at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNenwlf17i14XB9TsVBrLvQ>



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..."

The combined diocese of Berwick 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 12th / 13th Dec – 3rd Sunday of Advent - Year B

IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND FOR YOUR ROSTERED DATE PLEASE ARRANGE A SUBSTITUTE; Is 61:1-2, 10-11; 1 Thess 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

	St Bernard's Church		St Patrick's Church			
	5.00pm	9.00am	6.00pm	8.00am	10.00am	6.00pm
Acolyte / Snr Server	Garth Graham	Barbara McMullen	Sandra Sparkes	Bill Martin	Malcolm Cross	Darrin Patterson
Reader (1)	Francesca Parrino	Alena Hartmann	Miguel Do Rego	Rosemary Pendlebury	Jo Quinlan	Fiona Fone
Reader (2)	John Ryan	Zinta Hartmann	Hayley Rodrigues	Jim Fitzgerald	Cora Cuasay	Sue Lum
Usher / s	Jan & Joseph Favaloro	Vince & Georgina Hughes	Chris Smith	Tess, Fraancis Lizardo	Michael Halliday	Les Fogden
Sacristy Care/ Church Cleaning/	Marcia Wood, Gwen Wood, Cecilia Waite (f) Elaine Maatouk, Marissa Maatouk		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*.

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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

You have most likely heard that 'Places of Worship' can now have up to 300 people in attendance.

What isn't heard often enough, is that the **4 square metre per person rule still determines the upper limit** within a Church and it **DOES NOT INCLUDE THE GROUNDS SURROUNDING THE CHURCHES.**

We can officially accommodate **101 people at Asquith and 61 people at Berowra.**

Once the inside capacity of the church is reached additional parishioners will need to vacate the perimeter of the parish boundaries. **To avoid disappointment, it is MUCH PREFERRED that you BOOK IN ADVANCE please.** This will make entry into the Church much quicker as ushers simply "tick" your name & don't have to "take" details. Mass will not be disrupted either. *Thank you, Fr Shaju.*

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

Capacity of our churches:
101 in St-Patrick's
61 in St-Bernard's
 If unwell DO NOT come to mass please see your doctor

Stand apart (1.5m)

WE'RE COVID SAFE

Wear a mask

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