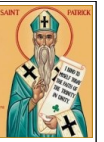


KU-RING-GAI CHASE CATHOLIC PARISH



Diocese of Broken Bay ~ 24 December 2023 ~ Fourth Sunday of Advent ~ Year B

2 Sam 7:1-5,8-12,14,16; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38

Entrance: 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: For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! I am the servant of the Lord; may his will for me be done. Alleluia!

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

*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 ~ 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.



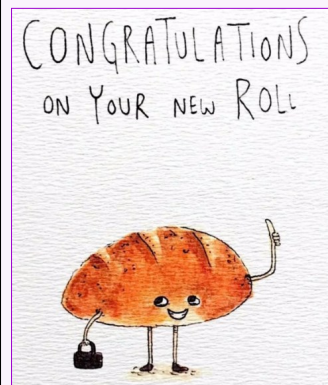
Reader: O Emmanuel, Lord of might, come and spread your kingdom of justice and peace.
Response: Come, Lord, open our hearts to receive your Word.
Reader: O Radiant Dawn, desire of nations, come and bring your peace to all nations.
Response: Come, Lord, open our hearts to receive your Word.
Reader: O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

A note of thanks from Fr Biju:

As you know, 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.

When I came to Broken Bay diocese in November 2021, I was appointed as Assistant Parish Priest in Frenches Forest. Then, after 8 months, I was appointed as the Administrator of Ku-ring-gai Chase Catholic Parish and since August 2022, I have been serving as the Administrator of this Parish. All the priests, office staff, and the parishioners are so kind, helpful, understanding, and friendly to me. God has been extremely good to me in providing me with several good people like you to journey with; I carry each of you in my heart in deep gratitude. You have all deeply enriched my life by allowing me to walk with you. *Thank you all.*

A welcome announcement



Today, I share with you that Bishop Anthony Randazzo appointed me as your **Parish Priest**, effective 1 January 2024.

I am so grateful to him for this appointment, and it makes me more humble in ministering with you all. Expecting your valuable support as you have given me in the last year as the Parish Administrator. *Fr Biju OSH*

Hearty congratulations to you Fr Biju, on your appointment as Parish Priest of KCCP from 1 January 2024

The Parish Office will be closed from 12md 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 / phone messages will 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.

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

4th Week of Advent Year B

Monday 25/12

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
Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Titus 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20;

Day: Is 52:7-10; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18

Tuesday 26/12

St Stephen, the first martyr
Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59; Mt 10:17-22

Wednesday 27/12

St John, apostle, evangelist
1 Jn 1:1-4; Jn 20:2-8

Thursday 28/12

The Holy Innocents, martyrs
1 Jn 1:5—2:2; Mt 2:13-18

Friday 29/12

5th day in the Octave of the Nativity
1 Jn 2: 3-11; Lk 2: 22-35

Saturday 30/12

6th day in the Octave of the Nativity
1 Jn 2:12-17; Lk 2: 36-40

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

RECENTLY DECEASED:

Felice Daidone, Shelly Schreiber,
Teresa Ashton, Martha D'Souza

ANNIVERSARY: Patricia O'Malley,

David Huntley, Assunta Fraietta,
Maria Lombardo, Christopher

Celestino, Dario Bruno Rossi

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
Datoc, 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.



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.



NO PARKING ALLOWED ON SCHOOL GROUNDS

IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR ALL PARISHIONERS OF KCCP
NO PARKING is available in St Patrick's 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.

'Spirit Hovering'

Franco Zeffirelli was a great film director. In his film 'Jesus of Nazareth', he depicted the Annunciation in this way.

Mary is asleep at night. A gust of wind opens a window. Mary, startled and a little afraid, gets up and prays. As she prays we see her face change and her body bend over. With tears in her eyes, Mary looks up through the window at the moonlit sky and simply says 'Yes'. The swirling wind dies down at once.



"Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus."

Luke 1:31

That is beautiful imagery, trying to portray this extraordinary creative act in human affairs – in the life of this young woman.

How can one portray it? Zeffirelli takes the Jewish tradition of the Holy Spirit as the Divine Wind. The Hebrew word we translate as Spirit can just as well be translated breath or wind. In fact the old term 'Holy Ghost' is an unfortunate morphing of the English 'Holy Gust'. So Zeffirelli uses the wind to symbolise the presence of the Holy Spirit.

St Luke's account of the Annunciation also draws on the Jewish tradition. Let us listen to the first lines of the Jewish scriptures and then hear how Mary discerned what was happening with her.

'In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was a formless void.

There was darkness over the deep, and God's spirit hovered over the water.

God said "Let there be light", and there was light.'

What is Mary depicted as hearing in the depths of her soul? It echoes the passage from Genesis:

'The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow.'

Once again, the Holy Spirit hovers, this time over a young Jewish woman, and the most stupendously creative act in human history will take place. With her consent, God assumes human nature to be gradually enfolded, embodied in Mary's womb.

How are we to respond to such a gospel? First, as a community.

Have you noticed that when we come together for the celebration of Mass, after the Holy, Holy, Holy the priest prays:

'And so, Father, we bring you these gifts. We ask you to make them holy by the power of your Spirit.'

As he does so, the priest extends his hands so that they *hover* over the gifts of bread and wine. The symbolism is obvious. It alerts us to the fact that stupendous Divine creativity is about to transform material creation. With the words of consecration, what was simply bread and wine becomes the real presence of Our Risen Lord, Jesus Christ.

And individually, how can we respond to this gospel in our lives?

Mary knew her Jewish scriptures. A naturally bewildered young woman was able to respond to God's will because she understood the imagery and symbolism of the Genesis story.

So, we need to get to know the scriptures more intimately so that we will have the language skills to converse with God. God needs conversation partners in order to enter into human history and change the way things would otherwise pan out.

We need to read the gospels with all their Jewishness so that we can understand when God attempts to speak to our souls.

And during the next few days before Christmas let us be alert. To use Zeffirelli's imagery, if we hear the wind blowing, let us resist the urge to get up and close the window. Let it rattle a bit, however disconcerting.

Since our baptisms, the Divine Wind, the Holy Gust, the Holy Spirit, has been hovering over each of us wanting to do great things. It may be that the time has come for a Marian response: **'Be it done unto me according to your word.'** © Fr Michael Tate



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.

On Sunday 10th December a low-key but very lovely celebratory Mass and morning tea was held at St Bernard's Berowra Heights to humbly mark the occasion of Fr Biju's Silver Jubilee, which reflected Father's quite and unassuming manner perfectly.

Last Sunday 17th December saw Bishop Anthony preside over another Mass to mark this milestone of Fr Biju's priestly life which was also followed by a well attended morning tea and cake cutting.

Both events were beautiful in their own ways and reflected the wonderful community spirit present here in KCCP.

Thank you to everyone who contributed towards this truly memorable celebration, Clergy, Musicians, the coffee shop across the road, the parishioners who provided food, the parishioners who served the food, the decorators and flower arrangers, and all those who attended either of these special Masses.

May God bless you all!



Earlier this month, just in passing, Fr Biju remarked in the office *"that any gift made by hand is made with love"*, so we asked a parishioner for help.

They have since (anonymously) donated both their time and talent to hand make this gift, from the parish of KCCP to Fr Biju, to mark this very special anniversary.

The stole is made of satin and Aboriginal print material which has a pattern of predominantly fish – and what is Father Biju if he is not a "fisher of men"? The artwork also features circles which in Aboriginal culture means:

"Groups of people ... may represent a meeting place, a campsite, a fireplace, or a watering hole" or a parish family perhaps? We certainly hope so!

Of course the images of the Cross, Host and Chalice are representative of Fathers 'tools of trade'.

Together, the artwork and images will always reflect Fathers specific time in Australia, and will serve as a 'reminder of us to him' whenever and wherever in the world he wears it while offering Mass.

Fr Biju, this stole is made with love from KCCP to you, we hope you treasure it as a memento of your time with us and wear it with pride!



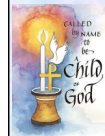
The St. Vincent De Paul Society Berowra Conference would like to say ... **THANK YOU ST BERNARD'S!**



St Vincent De Paul - Berowra conference, would again like to thank the St Bernard's Parish community for their very generous donations for the 2023 Christmas Appeal. We raised just over \$2000.00. These funds will go to help the families we are helping in the area from Berowra to Mooney Mooney.

For those Parishioners who requested receipts, they will be delivered to your post-box.

Two years on from the biggest global crisis in recent memory, the hardship continues for many in our community combined with interest rate increases and the current housing crisis, which are making it almost impossible for many struggling families to stay afloat. Thanks to you once again for your generosity. John Ryan, President – St Vincent de Paul Society, Berowra Conference.



Welcome to our Faith Family

(in advance!)

Baptism

congratulations to

Brody Brett Ainsworth

who is to be baptised on Sunday 21st January 2024.

Please keep him, his parents and Godparents in your prayers.



"Congratulations to the Class of 2023 Year 6 students of our Parish on your Graduation.

Wishing you all the best as you begin your high school journey."



St Bernard's Catholic Primary School
Class 6 Bernard - 2023



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

(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 | Vicente Sanchez |
| 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 | Penny Loughland | |
| Reader (2) | Jim Fitzgerald | Penny Loughland | |

THE ROSTER BELOW is for the Feast of the Holy Family 30th/31st December 2024

Rosters & Readings for Weekend 30/31 Dec 2023: Feast of the Holy Family - Year B: Gen 15:1-6, 21:1-3; Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19; Lk 2:22-40

St Bernard's Church Usual Sunday Masses

| | | |
|---------------------------|--|------------------|
| 30th/31st December | 5.00pm | 9.00am |
| Acolyte / Snr Server | Matthew Waite | Barbara McMullen |
| Altar Servers | Archie Tod | Miranda Tablizo |
| Altar Servers | Harry Tod | Bronte Tonkin |
| Reader (1) | Francesca Parrino | Isaac Tonkin |
| Reader (2) | Anne Maree Hutchins | Peta Tonkin |
| Sacristy/Cleaning/Flowers | GC (Ch. Clean); Cecilia Waite (F), Brenda Brooks (S) | |
| Maintenance | Teams A & B (help always needed & appreciated) | |

St Patrick's Church Usual Sunday Masses

| | | | | |
|---------------|--|------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| | 6pm | 8am | 10am | 6pm |
| Acolyte / Snr | Mani Subramany | Francis Lizardo | Malcolm Cross | Keith Fone |
| Altar Servers | Volunteer needed | Volunteer needed | Rishona Gonsalves | Volunteer needed |
| Altar Servers | Volunteer needed | Volunteer needed | Joshua Telfore | Volunteer needed |
| Reader (1) | Miguel Do Rego | Michael Halliday | Christine Vila | Fiona Fone |
| Reader (2) | Hayley Rodrigues | Jim Fitzgerald | Cora Cuasay | Les Fogden |
| Sac./Clean/ | Pat Smith, Marion Pahalawatta, Ellen Downey (f) | | | |
| Maintenance | December: Malcolm Cross & David Chui (additional help appreciated) | | | |

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



Agent of the Year - 2021, 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017
 Berowra and Berowra Heights

Francesca Parrino

Upper North Shore Expert

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KCCP Parishioners John & Moauli Griffiths

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