

KU-RING-GAI CHASE CATHOLIC PARISH
 Diocese of Broken Bay
 25 February 2024

Second Sunday of Lent ~ Year B



*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'.

Entrance Antiphon: Of you my heart has spoken: Seek his face.
 It is your face, O Lord, that I seek; hide not your face from me.

Communion Antiphon: This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.

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 9.15am Mass St Bernard's

(Out of office hours **URGENT** only)

Emergency sick calls

0468 341 841

HOSPITAL ADMISSION:

If admitted to hospital, please write down your religion as Catholic to receive Catholic Services. *Please, call the office if you would like our own priests to visit you in hospital.*

PASTORAL CENTRE (Parish Office)

Opening Hours: 9am –3.30pm, Mon-Fri

Phone: (02) 9456 2450

Website: www.bbcatholic.org.au/kccp

Email: parishkccp@bbcatholic.org.au

1-19 Woodcourt Rd, Berowra Heights 2082 /

P.O. Box 335, Berowra Heights NSW 2082

Parish Priest: Rev Dr Biju Jose, OSH

Assistant Priest: Fr Joy Thomas, OSH

Parish Secretary: Margaret Cooper

Parish Bookkeeper: Karen Price

Vol. Office Assistant: Jan Favaloro

Vol. Sacramental Team: Peta & Phill

(Email: kccpsacraments@gmail.com)



A message from our Parish Priest ...

My dear Parishioners,

With Ash Wednesday we entered into the holy Season of Lent. During Lent, the Church asks us to do three things—to pray, to fast, and to give alms. Based on Bishop Robert Barron's speech, last week I wrote something about prayer and this week I invite you all to reflect on **Fasting**.

We are all human beings and preoccupied with so many different things in our day. But when we are obsessed with all these things, we rarely **raise our minds and heart to God**. Our prayer life helps us to raise our minds and heart to God so that we can have a good relationship with God, and this ultimately leads us to union with Him.

Regarding fasting, first of all, we must understand that Catholics do not despise the body and so we do not think the natural desires for food, drink, sex, and pleasure are bad things. Fasting should have nothing to do with that kind of thinking. The spiritual writer Thomas Merton commented that the desires for food, drink, sex, and pleasures are in a way like little kids. We know that little kids want what they want when they want it. **"Give me. I want this. I want it now"**. What is interesting is that good parents are not going to indulge every desire of their children, because they love their kids. They have to caution their desires; they have to control them.

Again, Merton says that desires for food, drink and sex are naturally good desires in us and moreover precisely they are the desires for life. It is to keep ourselves alive and they are so powerful. But they must be disciplined so that the deeper hungers of the heart and the soul can emerge. So, we fast to control and limit and put in their proper place these sometimes too insistent desires. Maybe it is a type of food, drink, sexual drive, or obsessive use of social media. Whatever they may be, and if something is a problem for you, start this Lent fasting from that practice. That's why the Church recommends during Lent that we abstain from them.

St John Paul II says, **"Fasting means putting a limit on so many desires, sometimes good ones, in order to have full mastery of oneself, to learn to control one's own instincts, to train the will in good"**. Besides, fasting makes us less selfish and more selfless. The practice of self-denial is essential for us to be conformed more to the image of Christ who emptied himself.

May this Lenten Season be an occasion to limit or discipline our natural desires, so that we can have a deeper hunger of the heart and the soul.

Fr Biju Jose OSH



First Friday of the Month ~ 1 March 2024 ~

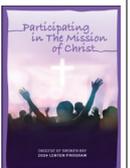
ANOINTING & HEALING MASS @ St Bernard's: 11.30am;

Stations of the Cross: 10.30am; Reconciliation: 11am;

@ Asquith: 7.30pm: Stations of the Cross followed by NIGHT VIGIL. All are welcome.



Parish Lenten Programme ~ Our Lenten Programme continues every Thursday evening during Lent **but the venue has changed to the Chapel of St Patrick's Church, Asquith**. Please gather at 7.15pm for a 7.30pm start, concluding at 9.00pm. You are warmly invite you attend this group. Booklets are available in our churches or as a flip-book on the DBB Website, and **feature a number of Gospel Reflections from our very own Parish Priest, Fr Biju**.



Stations of the Cross during Lent will be prayed

@ St Bernard's Berowra Heights: 8.45am Friday mornings followed by 9.15am Holy Mass, except the 1st Friday of the month (1 March) when Stations will be at 10.30am.

@ St Patrick's Asquith: 7.30pm every Friday evening.

Project Compassion Boxes

are available from the back of our churches. Please take home a box to help support vulnerable people around the world.





Pope's intention for February:

For the terminally ill.
We pray that those with a terminal illness, and their families, receive the necessary physical and spiritual care and accompaniment.



Year of Prayer
2024

Readings & Reflection

First Reading Genesis 22:1-2. 9-13. 15-18

God put Abraham to the test. 'Abraham, Abraham,' he called. 'Here I am' he replied. 'Take your son,' God said 'your only child Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him as a burnt offering, on a mountain I will point out to you.'

When they arrived at the place God had pointed out to him, Abraham built an altar there, and arranged the wood. Then he bound his son Isaac and put him on the altar on top of the wood. Abraham stretched out his hand and seized the knife to kill his son.

But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven. 'Abraham, Abraham' he said. 'I am here' he replied. 'Do not raise your hand against the boy' the angel said. 'Do not harm him, for now I know you fear God. You have not refused me your son, your only son.' Then looking up, Abraham saw a ram caught by its horns in a bush. Abraham took the ram and offered it as a burnt offering in place of his son.

The angel of the Lord called Abraham a second time from heaven. 'I swear by my own self – it is the Lord who speaks – because you have done this, because you have not refused me your son, your only son, I will shower blessings on you, I will make your descendants as many as the stars of heaven and the grains of sand on the seashore. Your descendants shall gain possession of the gates of your enemies. All the nations of the earth shall bless themselves by your descendants, as a reward for your obedience.'

The Word of the Lord **All: Thanks be to God**

Responsorial Psalm

(R.) I will walk in the presence of the Lord, in the land of the living.

1. I trusted, even when I said: 'I am sorely afflicted.' O precious in the eyes of the Lord is the death of his faithful. **(R.)**
2. Your servant, Lord, your servant am I; you have loosened my bonds. A thanksgiving sacrifice I make: I will call on the Lord's name. **(R.)**
3. My vows to the Lord I will fulfil before all his people, in the courts of the house of the Lord, in your midst, O Jerusalem. **(R.)**

Second Reading Romans 8:31-34

With God on our side who can be against us? Since God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that he will not refuse anything he can give. Could anyone accuse those that God has chosen? When God acquits, could anyone condemn? Could Christ Jesus? No! He not only died for us – he rose from the dead, and there at God's right hand he stands and pleads for us.

The Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God**

Gospel Acclamation

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

From the shining cloud, the Father's voice is heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him.

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel Mark 9:2-10

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone by themselves. There in their presence he was transfigured: his clothes became dazzlingly white, whiter than any earthly bleacher could make them. Elijah appeared to them with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Rabbi,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He did not know what to say; they were so frightened. And a cloud came, covering them in shadow; and there came a voice from the cloud, 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.' Then suddenly, when they looked round, they saw no one with them any more but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain he warned them to tell no one what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. They observed the warning faithfully, though among themselves they discussed what 'rising from the dead' could mean.

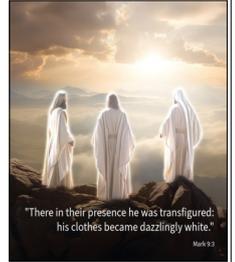
The Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection

'We too are called to climb up the mountain,' says Pope Francis, like the chosen disciples. But, as he points out, we are also called to bring our experience back down the mountain. In our own lives, one way of understanding this is to contemplate our personal spiritual behaviours. The Pope takes the opportunity of this Gospel to remind us to beware of the risk of 'spiritual laziness'. Are we tempted to 'remain on the mountain and enjoy the bliss of this encounter on our own'? Do we risk taking too much private and possessive comfort from 'our prayers and liturgies'? As the Pope points out, we cannot stay on the mountain. 'Jesus himself brings us back to the valley, among our brothers and sisters and into daily life.' There is work to be done. It is not enough to come to Mass and posture and pray in a way that is cut off from life. The Church should never become a means of escaping reality or responsibility. 'We', the Pope proclaims, 'are called to experience the encounter with Christ so that, enlightened by his light, we might take it and make it shine everywhere.' Called up the mountain, we are sent down the mountain to go forth and take the mystery of the Transfigured One with us wherever we may go. We cannot do that if we keep our heads stuck in tents of our own making.

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"There in their presence he was transfigured: his clothes became dazzlingly white."

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

2nd week of Lent ~ Year B

Monday 26/02

Dan 9:4-10; Lk 6:36-38

Tuesday 27/02

Is 1:10, 16-20; Mt 23:1-12

Wednesday 28/02

Jer 18:18-20; Mt 20:17-28

Thursday 29/02

Jer 17:5-10; Lk 16:19-31

Friday 1/03

Gen 37:3-4, 12-13, 17-28; Mt 21:33-43, 45-46

Saturday 2/03

Micah 7 :14-15, 18-20; Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

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

RECENTLY DECEASED:

Dick Turner, Lia Cabrera,
Kathleen Mulligan

ANNIVERSARY:

Karen Fitzgerald, Bill Coleman,
Dr Michael Way, Dr Frances Maung,
Jan Szaikowski, Kevin Harant
Mary & Frank Jack,

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK:

Vince Hughes, Sosefo Ali, Fiona
Loughland, Pat Bowden, Bill Holmes,
Margaret Patterson, Chris Enright,
Cita Del Rio, Philomena & Rex
D'Souza, Mary Mathew, Isabel
Henson, Chichi Datoc, Mary Burns,
Rey Hilario, Georgina Hughes,
Patrick Dorahy, Roger Okell,
John Cosgrove (Snr),
Rosemary Pendlebury-Grainger.

The 250 Club! We're back for 2024
Week 1 ~ 19/2/24;
Winning #: 053

**Amt: \$25.00; Winner:
Unsubscribed**

NB: Not the best way to start the
year, but there's always next week :)



**Parish Bank Account
Number:** To obtain
the details of our new
bank account (for
regular or ad hoc

donations), please contact the
office on 9456 2450 or via email to:
parishkccp@bbccatholic.org.au
~ Thank you for your ongoing
financial support of the parish.



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

Thank you for your support
through these devices.

Hold ONTO YOUR HAT

You're about to be blown away by this VERY EXCITING NEWS

Our priests are delighted to advise that the parish has been gifted
Not 1, Not 2, but ALL 3 Television Screens AND all of them will be 75".

The donation has been made with the assurance of
strict confidentiality as the sponsor wishes to remain anonymous.

This amazing news is to be celebrated and the best way to do this is to get them installed as soon as possible. To facilitate this, we want to let those who have donated towards the screens know, that your donations are still a vital part of this project and will be used to offset the installation costs, so thank you to all who have (and still might) donate towards this wonderful blessing for the parish.

We're not sure what the installation costs will be, as we did not dream that our desire would be fulfilled so quickly, ... you could say we were **"caught hopping"** (sorry folks, couldn't resist, we are approaching Easter after all!) but every little bit will help.

Please consider contributing towards to installation costs of our TV screens.
Contact the office on 9456 2450 or email: parishkccp@bbcatholic.org.au



Current installation donations raised: \$900.00



World Day of Prayer
AUSTRALIA

"For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them." Matthew:18:20

The World Day of Prayer is an annual, ecumenical service, where we collectively pray for a particular themed country. This year it is our turn ('the Catholics') to host the service and it will be held: **At: St Bernard's Catholic Church, Berowra Heights; On: Friday 1 March 2024; At: 7pm.** All are warmly invited to come & join us in prayer and song. 'Voices from the Waters,' Berowra's 'a cappella' group will lead the congregation in deep, meaningful music. A light supper will follow. **Please mark your diary to join us.**

SPECIAL LENTEN OPPORTUNITY ~Fr Biju and Fr Joy have been busy arranging a special day out to the **Divine Retreat Centre at Somersby** to help us prepare for the great celebration of Easter.

Please Save The Date: Thursday 21 March 2024; DRC Somersby; Arrive Somersby 10.30am; Depart 4pm
The day will cost \$25.00 p/p and will include Morning Tea ~ Lunch ~ Afternoon Tea

(Dietary restrictions need to be advised in advance)

Car pooling is on offer from the carpark at St Bernard's Berowra Hts, so if you wish to travel with someone else or offer to drive others, please let the office know when you **RSVP** which is by **Thursday 14 March 11am.**

Sacramental
Preparation



Reconciliation Workshops have begun ~ During the programme of preparation there are several key dates we would ask those involved to mark in their diary

Weekend of March 2nd/3rd: Reconciliation Candidates presented to the parish community during Mass

Wednesday March 20 from 6.30pm: Reception of Sacrament for candidates of Asquith end of the parish

Thursday March 21 from 6.30pm: Reception of Sacrament for candidates of Berowra end of the parish

Please keep our young candidates in your prayers over the coming weeks

as they learn of the comfort and love of Our Most Merciful Lord in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Our Sacramental Team can be contacted via: kccpsacraments@gmail.com

WOW! We give grateful thanks to those who have responded to our appeal for Volunteers

- † Sarah R will join the readers at SBB
- † Markus H will join Maintenance folk at SBB
- † Christine V will investigate reintroducing Children's Liturgy
- † Leanne Mc will join flower arrangers at SPA

In a nutshell though we could still do with more help ...

- Readers
- Senior Servers
- Junior Servers
- (we need heaps more esp. at SPA)
- Communion to the housebound
- Maintenance folk **mowing, gardening, odd jobs etc**
- Sacristy Care
- Church Cleaners
- Flower arrangers
- Computer Operator SBB ~ and ...
- Children's Liturgy



Please, please speak to our priests or contact the office for more information, thank you.

It's been way too long ... here is a "non"-COVID CHUCKLE ...

"John Smith, the only Baptist to move into a large Catholic neighbourhood". On the first Friday of Lent, John was outside grilling a big juicy steak on his grill. Meanwhile all of his neighbours were eating cold tuna fish for supper. This went on each Friday during Lent. On the last Friday of Lent the neighbourhood men got together and decided that something just HAD to be done about John, he was just tempting them to eat meat each Friday of Lent and they couldn't take it anymore. They decided to try and convert him to be Catholic. They went over and talked with him and were so happy when he decided to join all of his neighbours and become a Catholic. They took him to church and the priest sprinkled some water over him and told him "You were born a Baptist, you were raised a Baptist and now you are a Catholic". The men of the neighbourhood were SO relieved, now their biggest Lent temptation was resolved. The next year's Lent rolled around. The first Friday of Lent came and just at supper time when the neighbourhood was setting down to their fish dinners came the wafting smell of steak cooking on a grill. The neighbourhood men could not believe their noses! What was going on??? They decided to meet in John's yard to see if he had forgotten it was a Friday in Lent. The group arrived just in time to see John standing over his grill with a small pitcher of water. He was pouring small droplets over his steak on the grill and saying, **"You were born a cow, you were raised a cow, and now you are a fish."**

LIMITED PARKING!

Sundays only



- **LIMITED PARKING** is again available in the SPA school grounds **ON SUNDAYS ONLY**
- Access to and from the school grounds is **ONLY** via Royston Pde ~ **do not use the railway access**
- Please leave vehicle and walk to the church via Royston Pde
- **The concrete steps from the playground to the church are not to be used**



When it comes to flowers, "Fresh is Best", but not always practical or affordable

so we are working towards a compromise ...

During Ordinary Time the church will have predominantly artificial arrangements of flowers (or just greenery during Lent). However, for the really special celebrations in the Church year it would be lovely to have an abundance of fragrant fresh blooms.

For example, at the moment we are journeying towards the special celebration of EASTER, so in anticipation of being able to have our churches come alive with a plethora of vibrant blooms, a donation box has this week been mounted in each church to pay for fresh flowers. If you are able, next time you pass the box you might consider popping a donation inside.



Children's Choir @ St Patrick's

is made up of young people of different ages, different abilities, different interests, from different schools and parts of the parish: you'd fit right in!
Children's Choir is open to: Anyone in Year 3 and above, from any parish or local state school in the parish.

Children's Choir practises: every Friday (except school holidays) in St Patrick's church from 4 to 5pm.

Children's Choir sings at: 10am Mass on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month and sometimes for other special occasions.

If interested in joining: Please call Patricia Smith on 9482 7935.

Rosters & Readings for W/nd – 2nd/3rd March 2024 - Third Sunday of Lent Year B - Ex 20:1-17; 1 Cor 1:22-25; Jn 2:13-25

	St Bernard's Church		St Patrick's Church			
	5.00pm	9.00am	6.00pm	8.00am	10.00am	6.00pm
Acolyte / Snr Server	Justin Berry	Paul Dryden	Mani Subramany	Francis Lizardo	Malcolm Cross	Volunteer needed
Altar Servers Altar Servers	Martha Askew Piper Thompson	Verity Hartmann Joshua Rumble	Volunteer needed Volunteer needed	Volunteer needed Volunteer needed	Amy Francis Mia Nguyen	Volunteer needed Volunteer needed
Reader (1)	Alodie Wheeler	Zinta Hartmann	Miguel Do Rego	Michael Halliday	Cora Cuasay	Mary Stokes
Reader (2)	Sophia Smith	Allena Hartmann	Penny Loughland	Jim Fitzgerald	Christine Vila	Volunteer needed
Sacristy/Cleaning/Flowers	Genevieve Funk, <i>additional help really needed</i>		Cynthia Gilbertson, Sue Watts, Cathy Gray, Maria Hon (f) <i>additional help needed</i>			
Maintenance	Team A & B - <i>additional help always appreciated</i>		March: Malcolm Cross, David Chui <i>additional help always appreciated</i>			

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*.

the working
with children
check

Do you hold a current Working With Children Check that needs to be renewed?
Then we have some great news! It just got a whole lot easier !!

Working with Children Check renewals go digital.

A Working with Children Check (WWCC) lasts for five years and then needs to be renewed. **In great news for you, our wonderful volunteers, you can now skip the queue and digitally renew your WWCC in as little as 10 minutes.**

Online renewals remove the need for busy workers to visit a Service NSW Centre. The new process is streamlined, efficient and secure and will become the go-to renewal method for essential workers looking to easily meet their compliance obligations and reclaim valuable time.

Enabled by photo verification tech, the process delivers a high-level of security by ensuring the images are destroyed after the real-time check is completed, without the hassle of submitting physical documents. Since launching late last year, more than 3000 customers have successfully renewed their WWCC online and 98% of those who provided feedback gave a 'thumbs up' to the online experience.

For more information please visit: <https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/transaction/renew-working-children-check-wwcc>.

Of course, once renewed you still need to advise this office of the renewal so it can be verified internally and the parish's legal obligations are met.

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

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Rebecca Pincott
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Berowra and Berowra Heights

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