

KU-RING-GAI CHASE CATHOLIC PARISH -

Diocese of Broken Bay ~ 3 December 2023 ~ **First Sunday of Advent ~ Year B**

Is 63:16-17; 64:1,3-8; 1 Cor 1:3-9; Mk 13:33-37

Entrance: To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

Responsorial Psalm: Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.

*'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

**While Fr Biju is on leave
(6 Nov - 8 Dec) there will be
ONE Morning Mass only
on weekdays**

St Patrick's 9am:
Mon ~ Tue ~ Thur ~ Sat
St Bernard's 9.15am: Wed ~ Fri
(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 ~ 1st Sunday of Advent ~



Celebrant: As we begin our Advent Journey, we light the first candle. We pray that God will fill our hearts with longing for the coming of his Son.

Reader: Stir up your power, almighty God, to rescue us from the darkness of sin.

Response: Come, Lord, and fill us with the light of hope.

Reader: It is time to wake and be ready.

Response: Come, Lord, and fill us with the light of hope.

Reader: The night is almost over and the day is close at hand.

Response: Come, Lord, and fill us with the light of hope.

HOMILY © Richard Leonard SJ

These days most people keep vigils because they are anxious. We wait in hospital corridors for news of a sick relative. A parent stays up with an infant who may be teething or has a high temperature. We might watch the phone waiting to be reassured that a loved one is safe and well, or that we have passed the exam or got the job. Many of these occasions are highly stressed vigils. Some of the younger or more hardy ones amongst us sometimes keep vigils that are filled with excited anticipation, as when some of us sleep out to get tickets to a sports game or concert, or when we see the old year out and the new year in.

It was not long ago, however, that vigils were a much more common feature of people's lives. We often kept vigil with the dead. We used to keep all night vigils of prayer, especially when parishes had perpetual adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Perhaps before any of us can remember, there were also vigils kept with the bride the night before her wedding, when she waited and watched for the sign of her approaching groom and his attendants. The Church has enshrined the experience of keeping vigil through the Vigil Mass on Saturday night, the Vigil Ceremony in the funeral rites and the most important one, the Easter Vigil.

This tradition starts with today's Gospel where we are exhorted to be alert, keep awake and wait for the Lord to return. In a sense this is a strange Gospel to have as we prepare for Christmas. It is linked to the first preface of Advent which reads, **'Now we watch for the day, hoping that the salvation promised us will be ours, when Christ our Lord will come in glory.'** Our attention is, therefore, directed to a great future event, not the future feast we are about to celebrate.

This is unique. All other feasts of the Church either remember a past event, like those of Holy Week or Pentecost, or they are **'title feasts'** which proclaim a truth about God's action among us which the entire church holds to be true, like Trinity Sunday. But not the First Sunday of Advent. Rather than talk about the coming of Jesus at Christmas it helps us reflect on the final coming of the Lord at the end of time. It is the bridge between the **'last days'** of the Church's year, which we have been celebrating over recent weeks, and the first days of the Church's New Year.

And how does the Church ask us to approach this feast? As on a vigil. Not a vigil of anxiety, where we never want to hear the worst news. Not a vigil of excited anticipation where we pin our happiness on entry into an event. But a vigil of hope where we wait and trust in a person, who has shared our lot, understands our frailties and loved us to death. We place our hope in Jesus the Christ, our brother, saviour and friend. This First Sunday of Advent we look beyond Christmas to the final moment when heaven and earth will be united and our vigil will be complete. On that day we believe the Son will have dawned once, and for all, on the world.

Now, don't you think that's something worth being awake to see?

The first week of Advent is like the first days of other vigils wherein we pitch our tents and begin the wait to make sure we have front row seats for what is going to be, when it arrives, the best show in town!



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.'



Reminder ~ There will be **ONE Morning Mass ONLY** on weekdays up to & including **Fri. 8 Dec. '23**

9am at St Patrick's Asquith ~ **Mon. // Tues. // Thurs. // Sat.**
9.15am at St Bernard's Berowra Heights ~ **Wed. // Fri. NB: No change to weekend Masses.**



Vinnies

Vinnies Conferences for Asquith & Berowra Parish are **THIS** weekend holding their Christmas Appeal.

Christmas Appeal

Vinnies acknowledge that parishioners in Asquith and Berowra have always been generous in the support of the Society and you can be assured that your donations are always used to help those clients from this area who seek assistance from the Society. Please place your donation in the envelopes in the pews, fill out the details and put the envelope on either of the collections. Receipts will be issued for your donation.
Thanks again for your support for the St. Vincent de Paul Society.



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.



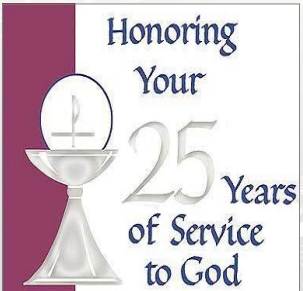
Carols under the Star ~ THIS Thursday 7 Dec.

Pre-show activities 5.30pm / Carols 7pm.

This annual Combined Churches of Berowra, is a wonderful and well supported annual open air event, which takes place on Warrina St Oval, Berowra Heights. Don't forget to come along for this wonderful community event brought to you by all the Christian Churches of Berowra in unity. **You won't be disappointed.**

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

1st Week of Advent ~ Year B
Monday 04/12
 Is 2:1-5; Mt 8:5-11
Tuesday 05/12
 Is 11:1-10; Lk 10:21-24
Wednesday 06/12
 Is 25:6-10; Mt 15:29-37;
Thursday 07/12 ~Memorial
 St Ambrose, bishop, doctor
 Is 26:1-6; Mt 7:21, 24-27
Friday 08/12 ~Solemnity
 The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
 Gen 3:9-15, 20; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12
 Lk 1:26-38
Saturday 09/12
 Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Mt 9:35-10:1, 6-8



Please join us at **St Bernard's Church, Berowra Heights** **NEXT SUNDAY 10 December** for a celebratory **Morning Tea as we give thanks to God for Fr Biju's 25 Years of Service to God in the Priesthood**
 Can't make next Sunday? Not to worry, there will be a similar celebration held on Sunday, December 17 at St Patrick's, Asquith. It would be lovely if as many parishioners as possible could attend one or the other of these Masses to congratulate Fr Biju on such a wonderful and blessed occasion.



An annual part of Advent preparation is our traditional **Taizé evening**, please join us on **Friday 15 December, at 7.30pm at St Patrick's**, for a beautiful, peaceful, meditative way to experience this time of preparation and longing.

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



CALLING ALL Shepherds, Angels and Wisemen for our annual NATIVITY PLAY
Christmas Eve Children's Mass 5pm @ ST BERNARD'S CHURCH (well, the schoolyard actually)
 Would your child like to be involved in the Christmas Nativity Play at the 5pm Christmas Eve Mass at St Bernard's?
Then, please come along to both of the following rehearsals ...
Monday 18 December 10am and Friday 22 December at 2pm.

RECENTLY DECEASED:
 Martha D'Souza, Thomas Wynn, Sr Ellen Cahill RSM, Keith Loughland.
ANNIVERSARY: Dario Bruno Rossi
PRAYERS FOR THE SICK:
 Margaret Patterson, Pat Bowden, Teresa Ashton, 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 Dato, 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.

On the 18th, we will meet at 10am outside St Bernard's Church before making our way into the school grounds. Parents, please stay with your child for the rehearsal. If you have any questions, please contact our Nativity Play Directors, Zinta H & Elaine D on 0422 093 594.



CAROLS EVENING
Wednesday 20th December, 7.30pm
St Patrick's Church, Asquith

Please come and celebrate the imminent arrival of our Infant Saviour with us. This is a whole parish event and we would like as many parishioners as possible to come **from both ends of the parish**, to be united in solidarity and love of Our Lord and our one true faith. Musicians are invited to come and perform, either singing or playing.
Community singing is what the evening is all about so please bring your family and friends and let's celebrate together! There'll be plenty of your favourite Christmas Carols, so don't miss this event!
Please bring along a plate of simple bite-sized morsels to share with a cuppa afterwards.

The 250 Club!

Week 19 ~ 27/11/23;
 Winning #: 793
Amount: \$25.00
Winner: Penny Loughland



"How does the 250 Club work?" There are two Series per year. For a \$20 outlay per series (paid in advance) you get a block of 4 consecutive numbers. Series 1: Approx. Feb - June & Series 2: Approx. Aug - Dec. Each series is over a 20 week period and your outlay is just \$1 per week. 1 block of 4 numbers gives you **64 chances per series to win \$25.00** and **16 chances per series to win \$500!**
NB: Payouts can only be made to financial members so please if you have numbers and are unsure if you are financial, call the office to make sure. And if you don't have numbers, we can sort you out! Call today to subscribe to Join the Club (9456 2450).



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.

AN IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR ALL PARISHIONERS OF KCCP

Renovation/Building works have commenced at St Patrick's Catholic Primary School, Asquith and will continue for some time.

As regular church goes, you will understand parking around St Patrick's Church has always been somewhat challenging, and this will become even more so throughout the duration of these important and necessary building works.

PLEASE NOTE: Once works begin NO PARKING will be available in the School grounds at St Patrick's Asquith.

These works need to be carried out with safety being the priority for all, including parishioners, students, staff and contractors. This is why the work is beginning now, to make use of the summer school holiday break. The Diocese, School, and Contractors all regret the impact this will have upon the Parish, especially with parking over the Christmas Season, however, all agree this is by far the safest way to proceed.

At every stage of the building works the parish and school will be in constant contact and every attempt will be made to minimise the impact upon parishioners and to keep parishioners apprised of progress.

I ask for your patience, consideration of others and flexibility during the challenges we will face over the months ahead.

I would also remind all parishioners (especially those who have mobility challenges) that St Bernard's Church, Berowra Heights, has a large carpark which provides easy and reasonably level access to the church. Thank you, Fr Joy.

An important message from The Bishops Office

Dear friends, the Voluntary Assisted Dying Act 2022 comes into effect on 28 November 2023. This means eligible people in NSW will be able to request medical assistance to end their life. Bishop Anthony Randazzo and the Diocese have produced a booklet, an *Interim Pastoral Guideline on Voluntary Assisted Dying*, which includes a full explanation of the Voluntary Dying Act as well as the Catholic Response. The Aust. Catholics Bishop Conference has also produced a document to guide priests, chaplains and pastoral workers who are asked to provide pastoral support to Catholics who are considering euthanasia. This document is titled **To Witness and to Accompany with Christian Hope**. Both booklets are available on the Diocese website as a flipbook at <https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/news/latest-news/euthanasia-now-legal-in-nsw> into your browser. You are encouraged to download and read the booklets.

Last Saturday, a wonderful young couple were wed by Fr Joy in our parish. The angels even cried with happiness!



**Congratulations to
Mr Sharan & Mrs Rachel Kutty
(nee) Rodrigues**

who were married on 25th November 2023
in St Patrick's Church, Asquith.

**May the Good Lord
bless your marriage abundantly.**

*"May your marriage always bring glory to God,
joy to one another and blessings to your family
for many generations to come.*

*May love and laughter fill your hearts
and your home all the days of your lives.*

*May you face every challenge hand-in-hand and side-by-side
knowing that with God's grace, you'll conquer all obstacles together.*

May the world be forever a better place because the two of you fell in love.

In Jesus' name, Amen." (Dave Willis)



**Simone Noel's
Advent Group:**
will continue to meet
at 7.30pm Thursday
evenings, December
7, 14 and 21.

You are welcome to come to any
of the remaining evenings, just let
Simone know by calling/texting
her on: 0423 238 010.

**Children's Choir @
St Patrick's** enjoyed
a great Christmas
party last Friday,

which was also the final practice
for the year. **NO PRACTICE on
Friday 8th or 15th December.**

The Choir will be singing on
Sunday 10th December, and at
the Parish Carol Evening, on 20th
December. Children's Choir
sings at 10am Mass on 2nd and
4th Sundays of every month
except January. For information
contact Patricia Smith 9482 7935.

Children's Choir Cake Stall

Thank you to all for a highly
successful cake stall, raising
funds for Vinnies Christmas
Appeal. Donations of cakes and
goodies were received (and sold!)
from parishioners, as well as all
our Choir families. A total of
\$675.00 was raised on the day.
Well done everyone!

Parish Vocations Volunteers Wanted!

The Broken Bay Vocations Team is seeking your help to nurture a culture of vocations in our local Church. As a Parish Vocations Volunteer, you could play a vital role in promoting vocations awareness, encouraging prayer, and supporting local events in your parish. If you feel called to this rewarding service, your involvement would be greatly valued.

To express your interest, simply scan the QR code provided and follow the prompts.



COLUMBAN CALENDARS: The 2024 calendar is now available at **BOTH** St Bernard's & St Patrick's for only **\$10.00**, and they make a cheap but quality gift for family and friends alike!

CHRISTMAS CARDS are also available from both churches.

St Patrick's has SVdP cards in packs of 10 for \$9.00. Please put money in box provided.

St Bernard's has 8 for \$2.50 - but **NB:** are not the SVdP cards offered at St Patrick's.



Rosters & Readings for Weekend 9th & 10th December 2023: Second Sunday of Advent – Year B: Is 40:1-5, 9-11; 2 Pet 3:8-14; Mk 1:1-8

	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	Paul Dryden	Mani Subramany,	Francis Lizardo	David Massa	Robert Pesavento
Altar Servers Altar Servers	Martha Askew Volunteer needed	Sub requested Joshua Rumble	Volunteer needed Volunteer needed	Volunteer needed Volunteer needed	Oscar Braga Lucy Henao Vila	Volunteer needed Volunteer needed
Reader (1)	Justin Berry	Paul Maher	Edwina Subramany	Michael Halliday	Sue Newnham	Les Fogden
Reader (2)	Sophia Smith	Isaac Tonkin	Miguel Do Rego	Jim Fitzgerald	Chris Newnham	Sue Lum
Sacristy/Cleaning/ Flowers	Marcia Wood, Gwen Wood, Elaine Maatouk, Cecilia Waite (f) Chichi Datoc (s)		Scott Smith, Anastasia Smith, Francis Lizardo, Tess Lizardo			
Maintenance	Teams A & B (help always needed & appreciated)		December: Luke Massa, David Mooney (help always needed)			

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*.



POSITION VACANT

The Safeguarding Office (Chancery & Parishes), at

Pennant Hills is seeking someone who can deliver learning and development initiatives, coupled with passion and drive in child protection, justice, compliance and community engagement for a permanent full-time role as **Safeguarding Training Coordinator**. While the role is noted as full-time, there is flexibility with the working schedule for the right candidate. Pivotal to the role is the requirement

to assist with preparations for internal and external audits, providing advice on processes and offering recommendations for improvements, educating, and supporting clergy and Chancery employees to develop understanding of and compliance with NCSS requirements. Sound like you, or someone you know? We invite you to apply by submitting your CV and brief cover letter addressing the skillsets via email to recruitment@bbcatholic.org.au. Applications close **Friday, 8 December 2023**. There is flexibility on the commencement date - why not interview now and lock in a new role to commence in January 2024! **For more information or to obtain a copy of the position description or for further details, please contact recruitment@bbcatholic.org.au.**

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

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E: director@albertmeyer.com.au



Rebecca Pincott
General Manager



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M: 0412 478 813; E: harantspty@gmail.com

King Tide Café / Restaurant

Open 7 days ~ 8am to 4pm ~ *Owned & operated by our own KCCP Parishioners John & Moauli Griffiths*

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Berowra and Berowra Heights

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Upper North Shore Expert

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