

WELCOME

VISION *The Wyong Catholic Parish is a welcoming, caring dynamic community*

MISSION STATEMENT *We will live and proclaim the message of the Gospel :
Engage, Participate, Reach out and Transform*

17TH DECEMBER 2023 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR B

WYONG CATHOLIC PARISH

ST CECILIA'S CHURCH, ST JOHN FISHER MASS CTR & ST PETER'S CHAPEL

Under the Pastoral Care of the

Society of Our Lady of The Most Holy Trinity (SOLT)

Reflection 17.12.2023

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR B

Reproduced from God's Word 2023: Daily Reflections, published by St Pauls Publications, Strathfield

Because John, the son of the priest Zechariah, Baptises people in the Jordan River, the moniker 'Baptist' or 'Baptiser' is attached to his name. but in the fourth Gospel, he is primarily a 'witness,' the first and the witness par excellence to Jesus.

What testimony does John give to the delegation consisting of priests and Levites who launch a formal inquiry against him? They ask him who he is and why he baptizes. Rather than identifying himself, he formally states who he is not: 'I am not the Christ.' asked if he is Elijah, he responds: 'I am not.' and asked if he is the Prophet like Moses, he answers: 'No.' when pressed for his identity, he reveals himself as 'a voice that cries in the wilderness'.

The voice acknowledges only that he baptizes with water. But he goes on to say: 'There stands among you—unknown to you—the one coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.' John's act of humility further enhances the honor of the one to whom he gives witness: Jesus of Nazareth. Here and in the following episodes, John testifies to Jesus as the Master, the Son of God, the Lamb of God, the Bridegroom. John does not only testify with words but also with deeds. And he witnesses to the very end, to the shedding of his blood.

On this Gaudete Sunday, when we are invited to rejoice always, we are reminded that the 'works of Christmas' focus on the joyful witnessing to Christ, the Saviour of the world, the Lamb of God who takes away our sins. Our witnessing may not reach the point of shedding blood in martyrdom, but we are invited to 'die to ourselves' so that the life of Jesus may be made manifest through us in our humility and acts of love and service.



ARE YOU BEING CALLED TO BECOME A CATHOLIC?

Dear Parishioners,

This is Clint Warren-Davey, Religious Education teacher at St. Peter's Catholic College. With the support of Fr Raul, Fr Alex, Fr Teody and Jo Helm (Parent Engagement Coordinator), I will be running **RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults)** through Wyong Parish in 2023-24. This is for people who are curious about becoming Catholic, or lapsed Catholics who want to re-examine their Faith.

I will be explaining the core doctrines of Catholicism along with rational arguments for why we believe them.

If you have any questions about the Faith, this is the place to ask them!

The program will run from November 2023 to March 2024, with a one-hour session every second **Saturday at 3pm at St. Cecilia's Church, Wyong.**

The next session will be **3pm, Saturday 16th December.**

If anyone is curious about this, please contact myself or Joanne Helm.

Clint: clint.warrendavey@dbb.catholic.edu.au

Joanne: joanne.helm@dbb.catholic.edu.au

CHRISTMAS BUSH NEEDED-

If anyone has any Christmas Bush for decoration purposes that can be donated before the **22nd December** that would be much appreciated.

CHRISTMAS MASSES

CHRISTMAS EVE VIGIL MASSES

St John Fisher, Tumbi

5pm Children's Mass

St Cecilia's Church, Wyong

5pm Children's Mass

10:30pm Christmas Carols followed by Mass at 11pm

CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES

St John Fisher, Tumbi

8:30am

St Cecilia's Church, Wyong

7:30am & 9:30am



Invitation—Children's Liturgy

All children are invited to attend the children's Liturgy at our weekend masses. Children's Liturgy is when the children leave the congregation to celebrate and reflect on the Sunday Gospel reading in an age appropriate way. The children are led through prayers, songs and readings that are adapted to their level of understanding.

(Parents are always welcome to attend the Children's Liturgy).

Attending Mass together is a part of being a Catholic Family, while Children's Liturgy allows children to enter the celebration more fully by catering to their needs.

Please see below the weekend masses with Children's Liturgy

St Cecilia's Church,

Saturday Vigil 5pm & Sunday 9.30am

St John Fisher Mass Centre

Saturday Vigil 5pm & Sunday 5pm



250 Club Update

THANK YOU FOR YOUR OUTSTANDING SUPPORT

250 NUMBERS SOLD

Weekly Prizes are \$50 – 1st & \$20 – 2nd
Monthly Prizes are \$200 – 1st & \$50 – 2nd
and will be last weekend of the month.

PRIZES WILL BE DRAWN AT THE PARISH CHRISTMAS FUNCTION ON:

FRIDAY THE 15TH OF DECEMBER

365 Pacific Highway
North Wyong NSW 2259
PO Box 786
Wyong NSW 2259



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Ph: 02 4392 8777

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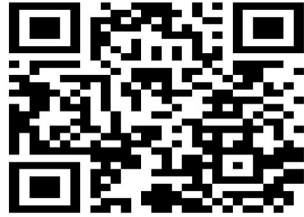
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Parish Vocations Volunteer

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. In Christ, Fr Sam.



We are very grateful for the kind donation of a new table tennis table for Gabbi our Parish Youth Co-Ordinator to use for our Parish youth group.

ADVENT RECONCILIATION

1st form of the Rite of

Reconciliation:

St John Fisher Mass Ctr

-Saturday 16th Dec Following 5pm Mass

-Sunday 17th Dec following 5pm Mass

2nd form of the Rite of

Reconciliation:

St Cecilia's Church

-Wednesday 20th Dec 6pm

RAFFLE PRIZES

1ST Prize: Michael PINK 80D
Tumbi

2ND Prize: Barbara McBride BLUE 40A
Wyong

3RD Prize: Sofia Bryant BLUE 4A
Wyong

4TH Prize: Sue Hickey BLUE 67A
Wyong

God's Word—

Daily Reflections Book 2024

Books are now for sale \$20.00 each. Please come and see me in the office to purchase.

Margaret

Pope Francis

December Intentions

For persons with disabilities

We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the center of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.



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MASS TIMES

ST CECILIA'S CHURCH

23 Byron St Wyong

Saturday Vigil / Sunday Mass Times

Sat Vigil 5.00pm Sun 7.30am & 9.30am

Weekday Mass

Mon-Sat: 8.00am, Monday 9.15am (School Term)

Reconciliation/Confession Saturday morning after the 8am Mass & Saturday at 4.30pm

ST JOHN FISHER MASS CENTRE

Hicks Lane Tumbi Umbi

Saturday Vigil / Sunday Mass Times

Sat Vigil 5.00 pm Sun: 8.30am & 5pm

Weekday Mass

Mon, Wed, Thurs 8:00am Tue & Fri: 9.15am

Reconciliation/Confession Saturday at 4.30pm

EMERGENCY PRIEST CONTACT

Fr Raul ph: 0450 115 099

Fr Alex ph: 0432 947 245

Fr Teody ph: 0414 494 823

PARISH OFFICE 23 Byron Street Wyong

Phone: 02 4352 1011 Po Box 385 Wyong 2259

OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday 9.30am to 2.30pm

PARISH CONTACTS

Parish Priest **Fr Raul Balute, SOLT** ph:0450 115 099

email: raul.balute@bbcatholic.org.au

Assistant Priest **Fr Alex Barnedo, SOLT** ph: 0432 947 245

Assistant Priest **Fr Teody Medina, SOLT** ph: 0414 494 823

Parish Secretary **Margaret Vandenberg** ph: 02 4352 1011

Youth Co-Ordinator **Gabbi Scherer:**

Email: gabbi.scherer@bbcatholic.org.au

PARISH EMAIL: wyongparish@bbcatholic.org.au

PARISH WEBSITE: <https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/wyong/>

FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/wyongcatholicparish

Children's Liturgy at the following Masses

St Cecilia's 5pm Mass Saturday

St Cecilia's 9.30am Mass Sunday

St John Fisher 5pm Mass Sunday

BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS AND FUNERALS

PLEASE CALL THE PARISH OFFICE

Mass St Barnabas, Yarramalong

1st Sun of month 11.15am

Filipino Mass St Cecilia's Church

3rd Sun of the month 12pm

Anointing of the Sick

First Friday of the Month

St Cecilia's During 8.00am & 11.30am Mass

St John Fisher During 9.15am Mass

Eucharistic Adoration

St Cecilia's Daily 7am-8am

St John Fisher 1st Fri 8.45 - 9.15am

Devotion to Our Lady of Perpetual Help Sat St Cecilia's & Wed St John Fisher (after the 8am Mass)

Devotion to the Divine Mercy

St Cecilia's Fri after the 8am Mass

St John Fisher Fri after the 9:15am Mass

Prayer groups

St Cecilia's Rosary Group Tues after 8am mass followed by Divine Mercy

St Cecilia's Legion of Mary 9am Wed

Meetings

St Cecilia's Choir practice every Tues

KEEP US IN YOUR PRAYERS

Prayer: The most valuable gift you can give someone.

SICK: Harriet Powell, Danae Roe, Peter Ford, Harry Hall, Michael Briggs, Christine Heffernan, Jennese Thompson, Leeann Hazelton, Bernadette Kiely, Steve Durnford, Ann Durnford, Maureen Mulheron, Angela Watts, Terence (Ted) Dafter, Finn McConnon, Christine, Jacqui Stacey, Josie Campbell, Dave, Rodney, Gwen Dwyer, Helen Waters, Rod & Pauline Cornwell, Marie Rheinberger, Hannah Hopwood, Joan Mabbutt, Irene Dainty, Eoin, Paula, Peter Meury, Jai Coleman, Danielle, Frank Farrugia, Betty McDermott, David Myers, Adam Smith, Darcy,

RECENTLY DECEASED: Richard Mahinay, Carol Dafter, Raymond (Ray) Baker, Fay King (Regina Preston's Aunt), Moira Grace, Maureen Murphy

ANNIVERSARY DECEMBER: Bill Martin, Larry George Hooley, John Taylor, James Bastic, Rove Varman, Claire Baxter, John Taylor



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Safeguarding Message

Wyong parish is committed to safeguarding. All children, young persons and vulnerable adults have a right to feel safe and be safe. If you have a concern about the safety of anyone in the parish, please raise your concern with Fr Raul, Fr Alex or Fr Teody. The contact details are on the back to the Bulletin.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

I exult for joy in the Lord.

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for the Lord has anointed me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to bind up hearts that are broken; to proclaim liberty to captives, freedom to those in prison; to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord. 'I exult for joy in the Lord, my soul rejoices in my God, for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation, he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity, like a bridegroom wearing his wreath, like a bride adorned in her jewels. 'For as the earth makes fresh things grow, as a garden makes seeds spring up, so will the Lord make both integrity and praise spring up in the sight of the nations.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm Luke 1:46-50, 53-54

R. My soul rejoices in my God.

Second Reading 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

A reading from first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

May you all be kept blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus.

Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything - hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil.

May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation Isaiah 61:1 (Luke 4:18)

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;

he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.

Alleluia!

Gospel John 1:6-8, 19-28

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

There stands among you, unknown to you, the one who is coming after me.

A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light.

This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then,' they asked 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied:

a voice that cries in the wilderness:

Make a straight way for the Lord.'

Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you unknown to you the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Installation Process for the St Cecilia Reliquary



Timeline

<u>1 May 2023</u>	Father Raul approached Bishop Anthony to determine the authenticity of the relic.
<u>17 May 2023</u>	Bishop Anthony decreed the relic is authentic and would be installed.
<u>September 2023</u>	A committee was formed to begin the liturgical processes required
<u>October 2023</u>	The committee determined the date for <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the official launch, • preparation of banner and • prayer cards.
<i>OFFICIAL LAUNCH</i>	9:30 am Mass on Sunday, 26 November 2023 , followed by a celebratory morning tea.
<u>December 2023</u>	Committee will visit the Shrine of St John Paul at Gosford. Father Skulski will provide information on the process for the development of our Shrine and many other considerations.
<u>2024</u>	Throughout 2024, the committee will investigate and determine the best ways to meet all liturgical and other requirements. These include Safety, Presentation (incl memorabilia), Location and Security Measures for the relic itself, as well as infrastructure and policy changes necessary to ensure these can be met.
<u>November 2024</u>	INSTALLATION OF THE RELIC
<u>Ongoing Activities</u>	Pastoral Activities e.g., Pilgrimages, Faith Formation, Workshops Shrine Activities e.g., Special Masses, Healing Evenings.

15 November 2023, Volume 18

ST PETER'S NEWS

CHALLENGING OUR STUDENTS THROUGH A FOCUS ON EXCELLENCE



WHAT'S INSIDE:

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TRANSFORMING EDUCATION: THE VISION BEHIND EILEEN O'CONNOR SCHOOL

Dear Parents, Carers, Staff and Students

Our Bishop, Most Rev Anthony Randazzo, has been committed to ensuring that Catholic Schools Broken Bay provides an inclusive model of education which caters for all students with a disability. In response to this commitment Catholic Schools Broken Bay is transforming inclusive education by establishing a new school, Eileen O'Connor School.

Eileen O'Connor School (EOS) will provide a flexible and responsive model of education for students with disability through the structure of a Base School and a network of Support Classes in local parish schools. Transition between the Base School and Support Classes, or Support Classes and local parish school enrolment is facilitated.

The Eileen O'Connor school base school will be constructed on our site here at Tuggerah. The base school will be a K – 12 school where educators and allied health professional work collaboratively to provide resources and service that will help our children with disabilities flourish. The base school will have capacity for up to 200 students and will feature small adult to student ratios. It will have 20 general Learning areas catering for 2 streams of primary school classes and a single stream of secondary. The site will host flexible workspaces for Kitchen, technologies and Visual Arts as well as a state of the art library. Sensory indoor and outdoor play spaces and complimentary learning spaces will provide the support best needed to cater for the needs of the students who attend the school.

Building works are scheduled to begin on our site in 2025 with the first enrolments of the base school commencing in 2027 with Year 1, Year 2 and Year 7 students.

This is an exciting project for our system and will provide quality learning for students with a disability as well as supporting our families in an inclusive model that will enable the participation and success of all learnings.

If you would like more information about the Eileen O'Conner school please use the QR code or the CSBB website <https://csbb.catholic.edu.au/our-strategy/eileenconnor/>

Tim Hildebrandt
Principal



Eileen O'Connor School
represents a key
NSW education
initiative.



THE NEED

WE KNOW...

- Raising a child with a disability can significantly impact many aspects of family life.
- Searching for the ideal school for a child with a disability can leave parents feeling overwhelmed.
- Parents deserve the right to choose the most appropriate educational setting for their child.
- 1 in 12 school-aged children have a disability.
- Disability diagnoses among school students is increasing.
- 60,000 more children will be attending schools in NSW over the next decade.
- Demand for disability support is growing at 4 times the rate of enrolment.
- Successful transition between support and mainstream classrooms is reliant on building teacher capacity in specialised and inclusive education.

WE BELIEVE...

- All children have the right to quality education regardless of financial means.
- Children must be at the centre of decision-making.
- Education systems have a moral imperative to provide disability supports within an **inclusive model of education to enable the participation and success of all learners.**
- Large school systems should not continue outsourcing this responsibility to small scale providers.
- Effective and respectful partnerships between schools, parents and carers, and allied health professionals best supports students' engagement in an inclusive environment and curriculum.
- Streamlining education and therapy support and services places the child at the centre.

TRANSFORMING THE APPROACH

Catholic Schools Broken Bay (CSBB) is transforming quality, inclusive education for students with a disability by:

- **Building staff capacity** across the region to meet the needs of students with disability in mainstream classrooms.
- **Establishing a network of Eileen O'Connor Support Classes** across the region in existing CSBB Primary and Secondary schools, offering:
 - Small class sizes with skilled teacher and teaching assistant teams, typically 1:3 and no more than 1:4 ratio.
 - Opportunities for students to generalise their learnt skills in mainstream environments.
 - Opportunities for students to participate in school events and activities with their age-peers.
- **Building a K-12 Eileen O'Connor Base School** using land located within St Peter's Tuggerah - in the Central Coast region of the Diocese of Broken Bay, where educators and allied health professionals work collaboratively to provide resources and services that will help our children with disabilities flourish.

Eileen O'Connor School will provide an **inclusive model of education in action** - in purpose-built facilities - focusing on student strengths and high expectations for learning growth. Learning will be tailored to individual differences through systematic delivery of contemporary innovative curriculum to meet the needs of students with disability.

The establishment of Eileen O'Connor Base School and Support Classes will broaden

CSBB facilities and support for students with disability, affording parents with enrolment options tailored to the specific needs of their children.

Creating a **flexible and responsive model of education for students with disability** through the structure of the Eileen O'Connor School as a Base School and network of Support Classes in mainstream setting will:

- Provide appropriate resources and opportunities throughout a child's school journey.
- Provide opportunities for transition between Base and Support Classes, or Support Classes and mainstream classes.
- Allow greater accessibility to specialist services provided by the Base School for students across the region.
- Promote dissemination of pedagogy, staff expertise and curriculum delivery strategies developed by the Eileen O'Connor Base School across a broader teaching community in CSBB schools.
- Offer tailored adult: student ratios allowing for individualised instruction at students' point of need.
- Create smaller class sizes to provide safe, responsive learning environments.

Eileen O'Connor School will promote inclusive practices according to the Disability Discrimination Act (1992) and the Disability Standards for Education (2005). Placement in Eileen O'Connor Base School and Support Classes will be based on set criterion that will allow for flexibility to target the functional impact of the disability.



**Where education and therapy
come together to ensure positive
student growth**

EILEEN O'CONNOR BASE SCHOOL

A concept design and fly-through for Eileen O'Connor Base School has been created by Stanton Dahl Architects and includes:

- Capacity for 200 students.
- Small adult : student ratios (specialist teacher and teaching assistant teams).
- 20 General Learning Areas catering for 2 streams of Kindergarten - Year 6 and a single stream Years 7-12.
- Flexible workspaces for Kitchen, TAS/STEAM, Visual Arts.
- State of the art Library.
- Sensory indoor and outdoor play spaces.
- Complimentary learning spaces to
- support collaboration with allied health professionals for tailored interventions and in-class support.
- Amenities, storerooms and staffroom.
- Co-located on CSBB owned land alongside St Peter's Catholic College, Tuggerah.

Subject to funding, the Eileen O'Connor Base School will be constructed in 2 stages across 3 years.

- First enrolments will begin in 2027 with Kindergarten, Year 1, Year 2 and Year 7 students.
- The school will be at capacity by 2032.

Eileen
O'Connor
School

WHY DO WE NEED A PURPOSE-BUILT FACILITY?

60,000



more children will be in NSW schools over the next decade.

1 in 12



school-aged children have a disability.

4 x



demand for disability support is growing at four times the rate of enrolment.

EILEEN O'CONNOR SCHOOL

Learner diversity matters



CATHOLIC
DIOCESE OF
BROKEN BAY



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS
Broken Bay



csbb.catholic.edu.au/eileenconnor

SAFEGUARDING is everyone's responsibility



Everyone must practice **A DUTY OF CARE**. We are called to step up and speak out.

Need to be listening & watching to understand if there are any concerns and take them seriously



Tell one of our designated persons in authority

- Fr Raúl 0450 115 099
- Maureen Roast 0435 245 849
- Anne Hooley 0428 149 793

Contact will be made with Diocesan Safeguarding Office



Our Community is **SAFE**