

PARISH BULLETIN, 20TH DECEMBER 2020

WYONG CATHOLIC PARISH
ST CECILIA'S CHURCH & ST JOHN FISHER MASS CTR
Under the Pastoral Care of the
Society of Our Lady of The Most Holy Trinity (SOLT)

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*



HOPE
PEACE
JOY
LOVE

ADVENT RECONCILIATION

1st Rite Reconciliation: St John Fisher Mass Ctr 19th Dec Following 5pm Mass and 20th Dec following 5pm Mass.

2nd Rite Reconciliation: St Cecilia's Church Wednesday 16th Dec 6pm

TRIDUUM MASS St Cecilia's Church 21st, 22nd and 23rd December 7pm

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES 2020

We kindly remind you that you **MUST RING** to book in your attendance for our **CHRISTMAS MASSES**
Please text or call Jo on 0424 763 734 to book your attendance.

CHRISTMAS EVE THURSDAY 24TH DEC

St John Fisher

5.00pm **(is now booked out)**

7.00pm Mass

St Peter's Catholic College

5.00pm Children's/family Mass

St Cecilia's Church

10.30pm Christmas Carols (listen and reflect)

11.00pm Midnight Mass

CHRISTMAS DAY FRIDAY 25TH DEC

7.30am St Cecilia's Church

8.30am St John Fisher

9.30am St Cecilia's Church

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.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT REFLECTION 20TH DECEMBER

The setting for the Annunciation to Mary appears to be a domestic setting. The angel came to her, in her home, in the midst of her ordinary daily life. This is so different to the setting for the angel's appearance to Zechariah, in the parallel annunciation scene in the first chapter of Luke. Zechariah is in the Holy of Holies – the most sacred part of the temple. Being a woman, Mary had no access to the Holy of Holies. So it seems to have been in an ordinary domestic setting that this marvelous intervention of God into Mary's life occurred. We can say in effect that in the first annunciation story Zechariah went to God, but in the second story God comes to Mary.

We can also note the contrast between Jerusalem, with its magnificent temple where the Lord appeared to Zechariah, and Nazareth where the angel appeared to Mary. Can anything good come out of Nazareth? People asked. It was a backwater that held no claims to fame or prestige or religious significance.

At times we may have profound experience of God in a chapel or church, but God can and will visit us also in the ordinary settings of our life, in our homes, our work places, while travelling, and so on. Wherever and however God may speak to us, let us pray that we, like Mary, may be able to give our 'fiat, our yes. May we be able to say with Mary: 'I am the servant of the Lord; let what you have said be done to me'.

Reproduced from God's Word 2020: Daily Reflections, published by St Pauls Publications, Strathfield

Message from Shane (Seminararian)

To the Parishioners of Wyong Catholic Parish,

My time at the Parish is sadly coming to an end. Over these past 3 weeks I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know you, to pray and worship our loving God with you. I am very grateful to all of you for your prayers, support and friendship. I want to especially thank Fr Raul and Fr Alex for putting up with me for so long hahaha! This time has been very consoling and helpful for discerning my vocation to the Priesthood.

Please know that you all have very much been in my prayers during this time and will continue to be so. I once again humbly ask that you continue to pray for me as I continue my formation and respond to God's call.

I hope you have a Blessed Christmas and experience the joy of God with us in the person of Jesus Christ!

God bless,

Shayne (Seminararian)

Message from PPC

Dear Parishioners

As 2020 draws to a close, on behalf of our Priests and the Parish Pastoral Council, I would like to thank you for your support of the parish and each other in this very challenging year.

We have all had to learn new ways. Some of these have been fruitful and are worthwhile continuing, while others served their purpose at the time but will be discarded.

A special thank you goes to the maintenance / garden team, church cleaning team and all other volunteers for their commitment and dedication.

Your monetary support each week, as well as for special collections and our two major fundraisers – '150' Club & Christmas Stall have all helped to keep our parish running.

New back and side fences have already been completed, and once the quote for the presbytery roof is received, a volunteer group will work with the 'roofer' to complete the necessary repairs.

With the 'Covid' changes announced recently, we should be able to enjoy our Christmas celebrations as we usually do. We wish all of you a wonderful Christmas.

May the Christ Child and the Holy Family continue to bless you and help all of us to be ready to meet the challenges in 2021.

Kerry Bugden

PPC Secretary

365 Pacific Highway
North Wyong NSW 2259
PO Box 736
Wyong NSW 2259



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KEEP US IN YOUR PRAYERS

Prayer: The most valuable gift you can give someone.

SICK: Len Miller, Victor Gibbs, Harriet Powell, Danae Roe, Peter Ford, Harry Hall, Michael Briggs, Christine Heffernan, Jennese Thompson, Leeann Hazelton, Catherine Amey, Bernadette Kiely, Steve Durnford, Ann Durnford, Maureen Mulheron, Angela Watts, William Martin, Terence (Ted) Dafter, Finn McConnon, Margaret Hobbs, Christine, John Baxter, Joey Moloney, Noel Muir, Cathryn Sharkey, Jacqui Stacey, John Bof (Jnr)

RECENTLY DECEASED:

ANNIVERSARY DECEMBER: James Bastick, Bill Martin, Larry George Hooley, Geoffrey McPherson, Fr Barry Nobbs, Dionisio Gler,



*Birthdays
and*

Anniversaries

Best Wishes

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Natalie Murace 1/12/2011
Colleen Hughes 23/12/1930 (90 years)
Mary Kerry 19/12/

Warmest Congratulations

ANNIVERSARIES

Marie & Frank Dyer
21/12/1963 (57 years)
Jan and Ian McCall
1/12/1962 (58 years)
Serge & Michelin Yardin
14/12/1970 (50 years)

WYONG PARISH FUNDRAISING

RETURN AND EARN

From when we started collecting recycled bottles in October 2019

RETURN AND EARN HAS RAISED \$1504.50 TO DATE.

100 CLUB

WEEK 10

- 1st Prize \$450 Charlie Conaty no. 104
- 2nd Prize \$250 Maureen Kernan no. 9
- 3rd Prize \$150 Margaret Mahoney no. 48
- 4th Prize \$50 Helen Bath no. 114

CHRISTMAS STALL

ST CECILIA’S AND ST JOHN FISHER

Many thanks to all those who donated money and items to enable us to raise the following monies.

St Cecilia’s & St John Fisher Stall \$2201.50
Garage sale and “online” sales \$1095.00

A very HUGE thank you to Rae Bof who organised these stalls and Christine Unger, Biddy Smith, Marie Dyer who assisted Rae with them.

**ST VINCENT DE PAUL
CHRISTMAS APPEAL**

A very sincere thank you for everyone’s generous donations. Your contributions have assisted us in putting together Christmas hampers which will be distributed to the needy families in our area. Thank you for your continued support.

*We wish you all a very happy
and Blessed Christmas.
Wyong Conference Centre*

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ONLINE BOOKING
AVAILABLE

Emergency Priest Contact

Fr Raul ph: 0450 115 099

Fr Alex ph: 0432 947 245

Parish Contacts

Parish Priest **Fr Raul Balute, SOLT**
ph:0450 115 099 email: frraul_solt@yahoo.com

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

Parish Coordinator **Jo Helm** ph: 0424 763 734
Mon, Tues, Wed & Fri
email: jo.helm@bbcatholic.org.au

Parish Secretary **Helen Bath** ph:4352 1011
Wed & Thurs

Please note: Parish Office will be closed from 12pm Wednesday 23rd December and reopen Wednesday 13th January.

During January the office will only be open:
Wed 13th/ Thurs 14th and Wed 20th/ Thurs 21st.
Office hours will return to normal Wednesday 27th January:

Parish Office 23 Byron Street Wyong

Phone: 4352 1011 Po Box 385 Wyong 2259

Office Hours: Mon to Thurs 9.30am to 2.30pm
& Fri 9.30am to 12pm

Parish Email:

wyongparish@bbcatholic.org.au

Parish Website:

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

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/wyongcatholicparish

Parish Pastoral Council

email: wyongcatholicparishppc@yahoo.com.au

PPC Secretary; **Kerry Bugden** ph 4388 2938

JESUS CHRIST, OUR BEGINNING AND END:

A Pastoral Letter from Bishop

Anthony Randazzo to the community of the Church of Broken Bay 2020 – 2021

Please collect Pastoral Letter book and an accompanying prayer card at the entrance of the church/hall

Saturday Vigil / Sunday Mass Times

St Cecilia's Church

23 Byron St Wyong

Sat Vigil 5.00pm Sun 7.30am & 9.30am

St John Fisher Mass Centre

Hicks Lane Tumbi Umbi

Sat Vigil 5.00 pm Sun: 8.30am & 5pm

Weekday Mass

St Cecilia's : Mon-Sat: 8.00am

St John Fisher:

Mon, Wed, Thurs 8:00am

Tue & Fri: 9.15am

Eucharistic Adoration

St Cecilia's Daily 7am-8am

St John Fisher 1st Friday 8.15 - 9.15am

Reconciliation/Confession

St Cecilia's Saturday morning after the 8am Mass & Saturday at 4.30pm

St John Fisher Saturday at 4.30pm

Anointing of the Sick (**First Friday of the month and will recommence Feb 2021**)

St Cecilia's During 8.00am & 11.30am Mass

St John Fisher During 9.15am Mass

Monthly Mass

St Barnabas Yarramalong TBA

Filipino Mass TBA

Devotion to Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Sat St Cecilia's & Wed St John Fisher

(after the 8:00am mass)

Devotion to the Divine Mercy

St Cecilia's Fri after the 8am Mass

St John Fisher Fri after the 9:15am Mass

Fr Raul/Fr Alex and the Legion of Mary

visit **Berkley Vale Nursing home** 3rd

Wednesday of the Month

Prayer groups/Meetings

St Cecilia's Rosary Group 2pm Tues

St Cecilia's Legion of Mary 8am Wed

St Cecilia's Choir practice every Tues night

7 to 8pm

Liturgy Meeting

Catechist Meeting

Sacramental team Meeting

Parish Pastoral Council Meeting

Social Justice Meeting



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THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

SUNDAY MASS 20 DECEMBER 2020

FIRST READING: 2 SAMUEL 7:1-5. 8-12. 14. 16

Once David had settled into his house and the Lord had given him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent.' Nathan said to the king, 'Go and do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you.'

But that very night the word of the Lord came to Nathan:

'Go and tell my servant David, "Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader of my people Israel; I have been with you on all your expeditions; I have cut off all your enemies before you. I will give you fame as great as the fame of the greatest on earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel; I will plant them there and they shall dwell in that place and never be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked continue to oppress them as they did, in the days when I appointed judges over my people Israel; I will give them rest from all their enemies. The Lord will make you great; the Lord will make you a House. And when your days are ended and you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make his sovereignty secure. I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever."

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Ps 88:2-5. 27. 29

R. For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

SECOND READING: ROMANS 16:25-27

Glory to him who is able to give you the strength to live according to the Good News I preach, and in which I proclaim Jesus Christ, the revelation of a mystery kept secret for endless ages, but now so clear that it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere to bring them to the obedience of faith. This is only what scripture has predicted, and it is all part of the way the eternal God wants things to be. He alone is wisdom; give glory therefore to him through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: LUKE 1:38

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

GOSPEL: LUKE 1:26-38

The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary.

And coming to her, he said, "Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you." But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.

"Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." But Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?" And the angel said to her in reply, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God." Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

A Christmas Pilgrimage

"A Christmas Pilgrimage" this advent season! Come along and join us as we virtually walk through Luke and Matthew's Gospel and the Nativity story all the way up to Christmas Day.

Featured will be our friends from St Peter's Catholic College, St Leo's Catholic College, and students, staff, young adults, and priests from around the Diocese with special guests you won't want to miss! Christmas Carols, special reflections, creative items and, last but not least, the "voices of Broken Bay." Let's dive into the true meaning of Christmas with the Broken Bay community!

We begin on 14 December and finish on Christmas Eve, the links can be found via the Catholic Youth Broken Bay social media links:

Catholic Youth Broken Bay Facebook – <https://www.facebook.com/CYBBAUS>

Catholic Youth Broken Bay YouTube – <https://www.youtube.com/user/youthinbrokenbay>

May God bless us all and our families this Advent and Christmas Season.

For enquiries contact pj.almendras@bbcatholic.org.au

Vox Populi - The Voice of the People

This week we hear from Rebecca Billing, a teacher at Maria Regina Catholic Primary School, Avalon as well as an Innovation Lead at Catholic Schools Broken Bay. She has a Master of Theology from Newcastle University. Rebecca and her husband James were married in Maria Regina Catholic Church and have two children Ryder (7) and Koa (5) who were both baptised there.

Bec and her family have been a members of the Pittwater Parish since its origin. Her grandfather John Johnson played an integral role in the building of Maria Regina Catholic Church and her 50 plus family members have been involved ever since.

The U-Turn

By Rebecca Billing

My entry into Catholicism wasn't my choice. But rather, like many of us, it was the choice of my parents. Baptised at three months old, I went on with my five brothers to attend my local Catholic primary school, Maria Regina, Avalon.

We were a good Catholic family that attended Mass most Sundays. Mum oversaw the children's liturgy each Christmas Eve and with Dad, was heavily involved in St Vincent De Paul Society. As a result, so were we. Each year my family would deliver all the Yellow Pages phone books for Vinnies between Avalon and Mona Vale and as an army of six children, we would run behind my family's hardware delivery truck throwing phone books into each driveway. It was vocation by default rather than by choice.

At high school I was perceived as a good Catholic girl, well behaved (except for talking a little too much... sorry Mr Leaver), high academic achiever, altar server and prefect. I looked and acted the part, but like many teenagers I took what I like to call a "faith break".

It wasn't until my early 20s that my faith U-Turn occurred. My cousin who was the same age as me, passed away from cystic fibrosis. I had a faith-filled moment when I realised where I needed to be and what I needed to be doing. So, I quit my job as an investment banker that day and enrolled in teaching at university. Life was too short to be doing something that didn't make me happy and I wanted to make a positive difference in people's lives.

Since beginning teaching, I haven't looked back. I genuinely come to work happy every day. This time my vocation is not by default but rather it is being guided by faith. I have the absolute privilege of witnessing the likeness of Jesus every day in the children I teach. More importantly I have the honour of guiding my students through their own faith journey. There are ups and downs and bumps along the way, that's life. By connecting with each one of them I feel that I am making a difference, no matter how small, to guide them in their own faith journey - to make wise choices, treat others the way I want to be treated, trust God no matter what, and know that he will never stop loving me.

Now that I'm an adult, I have made a personal decision to follow Jesus Christ. It's no longer the faith of my parents, but a faith that I am proudly able to call my own. I have a relationship with God that I express through quiet prayer and meditation. I also feel most connected when I'm alone in nature. The stillness is always something that really resonates with me. We spend time as a family praying before dinner. It's our way to come together and give thanks.

This year has particularly been challenging for our students and families. Not able to look outward to our local parish for faith, we have had to instead go back into ourselves and find who we are in a different way. With churches closed, our students have had to look to God's creation as a sacred space, and we have held many a prayer session out in nature. We have had to connect with our families and communities in different ways. This is what I call the UTurn of 2020.

The U-Turn in me started with the faith that my family gave me and now I'm passing the same thing to my own children and the students in my school.

Our faith is always with us. There may be times in our journey when we stray, but I have learnt that we are never alone. We have family, friends and God in our hearts. He never leaves us, no matter what. Everyone has a stop sign, everyone has a give-way, and everyone can find their U-Turn.