

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*

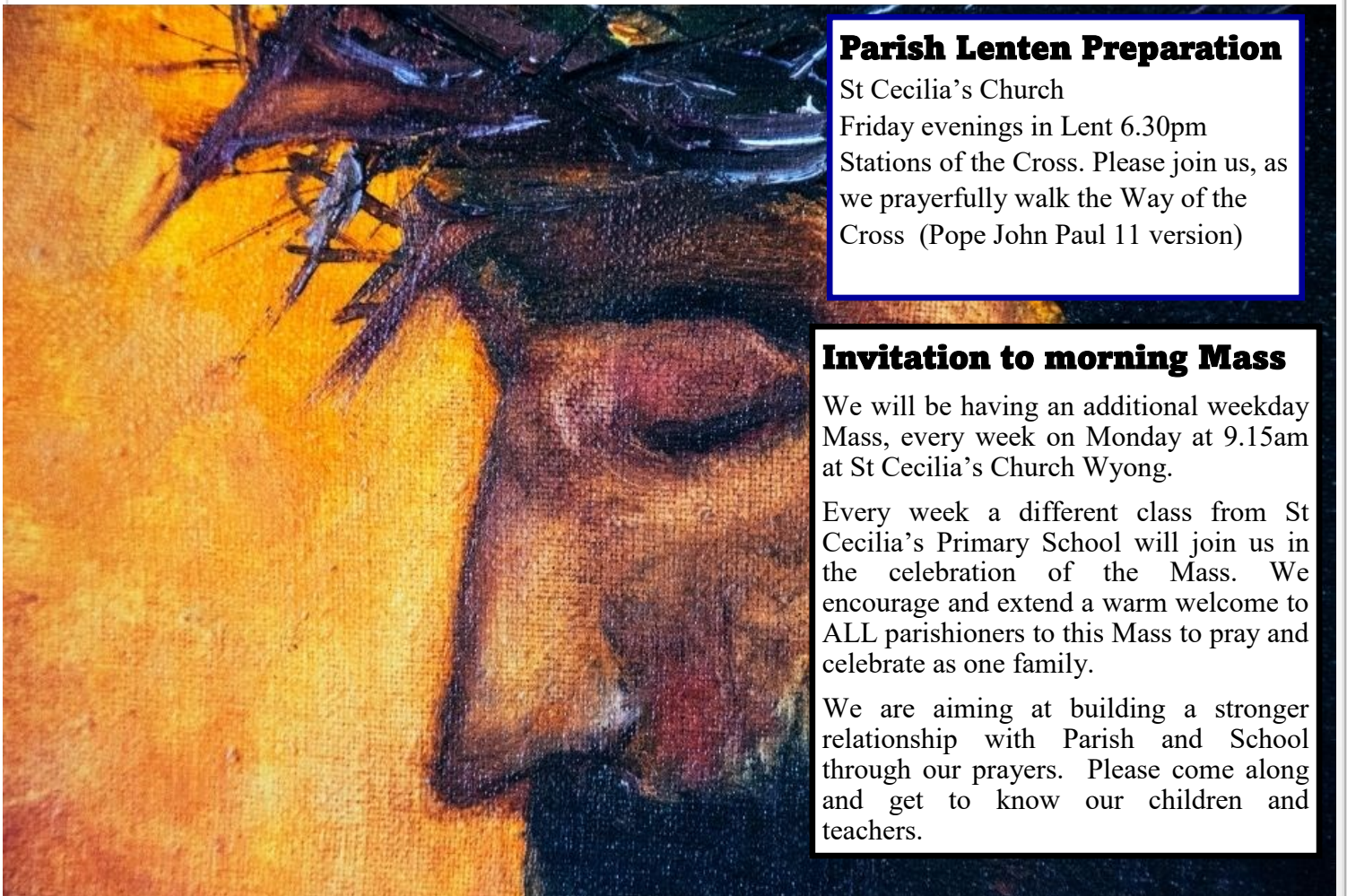
26TH MARCH 2023 5TH SUNDAY in LENT Year A

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)



Parish Lenten Preparation

St Cecilia's Church

Friday evenings in Lent 6.30pm

Stations of the Cross. Please join us, as we prayerfully walk the Way of the Cross (Pope John Paul 11 version)

Invitation to morning Mass

We will be having an additional weekday Mass, every week on Monday at 9.15am at St Cecilia's Church Wyong.

Every week a different class from St Cecilia's Primary School will join us in the celebration of the Mass. We encourage and extend a warm welcome to ALL parishioners to this Mass to pray and celebrate as one family.

We are aiming at building a stronger relationship with Parish and School through our prayers. Please come along and get to know our children and teachers.

Reflection 26.3.2023 5th Sunday in Lent, Year A

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

Following today's Gospel the Pharisees plan the demise of Jesus, but they are only one example of a response to the miraculous raising of Lazarus. There are at least five responses in the Gospel, starting with Jesus for whom this is an experience of relationship with the Father, who glorifies the Son and leads others to belief. For Martha and Mary it is an experience of the love of Jesus in their love for Lazarus who is restored to life. For the onlookers it is an event which leads them to believe in Jesus. For the Pharisees blinded by the self-concern which we saw last Sunday, this miracle challenges their identity, and they now plot the death of Jesus. The unstated but perhaps more important response belongs to Lazarus. What is his experience? It is much more than simply coming back to life. Before being raised, Lazarus had experienced life in the same way as we have experienced life. He took life for granted, it was a given. After experiencing death, his experience of life is different. Being alive is now a conscious reality through which Lazarus knows love. Life is a gift which unites us to God and each other through love.



PALM SUNDAY CROSSES

All are welcome to come and help make our Palm Crosses for Palm Sunday Masses.

Tuesday 28th March at 1pm in the Parish Hall 23 Byron Street Wyong. Afternoon Tea will be provided.

Also if anyone has any palms that would be suitable to decorate our Churches for Palm Sunday could you please speak to Fr Raul or Fr Alex after Mass.

PARISH RETREAT – FRIDAY, FRIDAY 31 MARCH.

A parish retreat (reflection) day will be held on **Friday 31 March** at St Cecilia's Wyong, given by Fr Roni George, Director of Divine Retreat Centre, Somersby.

Each session will have three parts- Meet and Greet; Formal Church Liturgy; and Retreat (Reflection). All parishioners are invited to attend **one** or **both** of the listed sessions.

All formal arrangements for the retreat will handed out at mass this weekend.

Please mark 31 March in your calendar so you are free to attend.

Reconciliation 2nd form of the Rite of Reconciliation

St Cecilia's Church 6pm Wednesday 29th March.

Reconciliation 1st form of the Rite of Reconciliation

St John Fisher Mass Ctr

1st April Saturday Vigil

Reconciliation following the 5pm Mass

2nd April Sunday

Reconciliation following the 5pm Mass

Holy Thursday

6th April

Followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament (Reconciliation will be available)

Good Friday

7th April

Mass of the Last Supper

St John Fisher Tumbi 7pm

Stations of the Cross

St Cecilia's Wyong 10am

St John Fisher Tumbi 10am

The Lord's Passion

St Cecilia's Wyong 3pm

St John Fisher Tumbi 3pm

Holy Saturday

8th April

Easter Vigil Mass

St Cecilia's Wyong 7pm

Easter Sunday

9th April

Mass of the Resurrection

St Cecilia's Wyong

7.30am & 9.30am

St John Fisher Tumbi

8.30am & 5pm

EASTER CEREMONIES

We will continue with the same format used the last 5 years for our Easter ceremonies;

Holy Thursday service in our Parish will take place at St John Fisher only, and that the Easter Saturday Vigil service will take place at St Cecilia's only.

This allows the opportunity for the whole parish to come together as one on these two significant occasions and allows our priests the opportunity of concelebrating Mass on the feast of the institution of the priesthood (Holy Thursdays Mass of the Last Supper) and the Mass which many regard as being the most symbolic in our liturgical year (The Easter Saturday Vigil).

Good Friday and Easter Sunday services will still take place at both Tumbi and Wyong as per previous years.

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Pope Francis' Prayer Intention March—For Victims of Abuse

We pray for those who have suffered harm from members of the Church; may they find within the Church themselves, a concrete response to their pain and suffering.

Chrism Mass

The Chrism Mass will be celebrated at 7.30pm on **Tuesday, 4 April** at Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral, Waitara.

The priests of our Diocese gather for this celebration with Most Rev Bishop Anthony Randazzo to renew their priestly commitment. During Mass, the oils of Catechumens and the Sick are blessed, and the Chrism is consecrated and then taken back to each parish for use in various Sacramental liturgies throughout the year.

Congratulations



Our heartfelt congratulations to all our children who received their First Reconciliation on Monday and Tuesday.

Following the Reconciliation, the children and their families together with parishioners celebrated with a sausage sizzle.

May God's Blessings of Love, Mercy and Peace be upon them and their families.

250 Club Update

WE HAVE SOLD 233 NUMBERS, THANK YOU EVERYONE, THIS IS AMAZING GENEROSITY.

Final number allocation will occur on Tuesday Morning, 28th March 2023. If you still need a number, you need to reach out to our sellers by the 27th March.

So, the immediate timeline is:

27/3/23 – last chance for numbers

28/3/23 – allocation of numbers –
NO MORE SALES, new allocations will be advised

First prize draw done under the watchful eyes of Father(s)

Bulletin for the weekend of 1st /2nd April will contain:

WEEK 1 Prize Winners

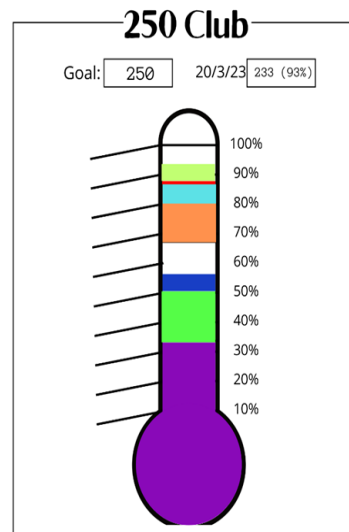
Any prize changes due to not selling 250 tickets (if applicable)

Any questions, please call

Maureen Roast 0435 245 849

Anne Hooley 0428 149 793

Kerry Bugden 4388 2938



COMMUNITY COLLECTIONS

Each year as a parish we have three donated item collections supporting the disadvantaged members of the community. These collections are in March/April (Wyong Neighbourhood ctr and We "Care Connect both local charities), June (Vinnies Winter collection) and December (Vinnies Christmas collection).

This years Community Collection drive will run till the end of Lent.

We Care Connect (Children's Charity) is currently out of baby toiletries, baby body and hair wash, nappy cream, body lotion, and size 5 and 6 nappies and baby wipes.

Wyong Neighbourhood Centre are needing items such as: canned food, breakfast cereal, pasta, pasta sauces, soups, 2 min noodles, long life milk, tea, coffee muesli bars, & biscuits.

Please place your items into the collection baskets at both St Cecilia's and St John Fisher.

Thank you for your generous donations. Any help will be greatly appreciated.



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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, Mon 9.15am

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

PARISH OFFICE 23 Byron Street Wyong

Phone: 02 4352 1011 Po Box 385 Wyong 2259

OFFICE HOURS: Mon to Thurs 9.30am to 2.30pm & Fri 9.30am to 12pm

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

Parish Coordinator **Jo Helm** ph: 0424 763 734 (Mon, Tues, Wed & Fri)

email: jo.helm@bbcatholic.org.au

Parish Secretary **Helen Bath** ph:02 4352 1011 (Wed & Thurs)

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

night 5pm to 6pm

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, William Martin, Terence (Ted) Dafter, Finn McConnon, Margaret Hobbs, Christine, Jacqui Stacey, Josie Campbell, Carol Dafter, Dave Rodney, Gwen Dwyer, Helen Waters, Rod & Pauline Cornwell, Marie Rheinberger, Hannah Hopwood, Fay King, Joan Mabbutt, Irene Dainty, Eoin, Paula, Peter Meury, Lyn Nash, Jai Coleman, Danielle.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Sr Clare Keating, Kathleen Pidgeon,

ANNIVERSARY MARCH: Myrtle & James Murphy, Reg Preston, Fr Tito Ayo, SOLT, Kevin Barry

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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 Joanne. The contact details are on the back to the Bulletin.

Sunday 26th March 2023 5th Sunday in Lent

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD (Year A)

First Reading Ezekiel 37:12-14 (Year A)

The Lord says this: I am going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall resettle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this - it is the Lord who speaks.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 129

R. With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

Second Reading Romans 8:8-11

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

Gospel Acclamation John 11:25, 26

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ! I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord; whoever believes in me will not die for ever. Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel John 11:1-45

There was a man named Lazarus who lived in the village of Bethany with the two sisters, Mary and Martha, and he was ill. - It was the same Mary, the sister of the sick man Lazarus, who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair. The sisters sent this message to Jesus, 'Lord, the man you love is ill.' On receiving the message, Jesus said, 'This sickness will end not in death but in God's glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified.'

Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judaea.' The disciples said, 'Rabbi, it is not long since the Jews wanted to stone you; are you going back again?' Jesus replied: 'Are there not twelve hours in the day? A man can walk in the daytime without stumbling because he has the light of this world to see by; but if he walks at night he stumbles, because there is no light to guide him.'

He said that and then added, 'Our friend Lazarus is resting, I am going to wake him.' The disciples said to him, 'Lord, if he is able to rest he is sure to get better.' The phrase Jesus used referred to the death of Lazarus, but they thought that by 'rest' he meant 'sleep', so Jesus put it plainly, 'Lazarus is dead; and for your sake I am glad I was not there because now you will believe. But let us go to him.' Then Thomas - known as the Twin - said to the other disciples, 'Let us go too, and die with him.'

On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. Bethany is only about two miles from Jerusalem, and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to sympathise with them over their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, 'If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that, even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.' 'Your brother' said Jesus to her 'will rise again.' Martha said, 'I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said: 'I am the resurrection and the life. If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?'

'Yes, Lord,' she said 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.' When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in a low voice, 'The Master is here and wants to see you.' Hearing this, Mary got up quickly and went to him. Jesus had not yet come into the village; he was still at the place where Martha had met him. When the Jews who were in the house sympathising with Mary saw her get up so quickly and go out, they followed her, thinking that she was going to the tomb to weep there.

Mary went to Jesus, and as soon as she saw him she threw herself at his feet, saying, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' At the sight of her tears, and those of the Jews who followed her, Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, 'Where have you put him?' They said, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus wept; and the Jews said, 'See how much he loved him!' But there were some who remarked, 'He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man's death?' Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, 'Take the stone away.' Martha said to him, 'Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day.' Jesus replied, 'Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said:

'Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer. I knew indeed that you always hear me, but I speak for the sake of all these who stand round me, so that they may believe it was you who sent me.'

When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, here! Come out!' The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, let him go free.' Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him.



GUIDANCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

*Retreat with Fr. Roni George VC,
Director of Divine Retreat Centre, Somersby*

Friday, 31st March, 2023

Wyong Catholic Parish,
23 Byron St, Wyong NSW 2259

*Morning: Mass and Retreat starts at 8:00am
Evening: Retreat and Benediction starts at 6:45pm*



DIVINE RETREAT CENTRE

160 Hensons Road, Somersby, SYDNEY-NSW 2250,
Tel: 02 4372 1598, email drccsydney@gmail.com

• www.divineretreatcentre.org • www.facebook.com/divineretreatcentersomersby

The Divine Retreat Centre promotes the safety and protection of children and other vulnerable persons in its care.



Office for the Bishop

Vox Episcopi
22nd March 2023

This Saturday, 25 March, we celebrate The Annunciation of the Lord.

The Annunciation is possibly one of the most commonly depicted scenes in the history of art, from the oldest known fresco of the angel Gabriel's message to Mary in the Roman Priscilla catacombs dating to the 4th century to Leonardo da Vinci's famous Renaissance masterpiece to modern day efforts.

The story of the Annunciation is found in Luke's Gospel (1:26-38). The angel Gabriel tells Mary she would bear the Son of God, Jesus Christ, and her acceptance or "Fiat" of God's will. This is the beginning of the Incarnation when Jesus took on His human nature.

It is a story infused with surprise, doubt and belief; joy, sorrow, comfort and hope. And it is generative – a story for everyone, whomever we are and wherever we are in life.

Imagine Mary's initial reaction when told she would bear the Son of the Most High – but then her response, a resounding 'yes'. And later when visiting Elizabeth her glorious Song of Praise, the Magnificat (Luke 1:46-55).

With the Annunciation, we see the the great things that God can bring when we listen with our hearts and cooperate with Him.

When we are looking for the courage in saying "yes" to God, we can look to Mary as our best example.

WYONG PARISH SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2023

We are delighted that you are bringing your child to receive the Sacraments, we look forward to sharing with you and your child, this journey of faith as he/she prepares to receive this sacrament.

In Baptism, your child began a life-long journey and a way of life. At Confirmation, the graces received in Baptism were sealed with the reception of the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit. First Eucharist completes their reception of the Sacraments of Initiation into the Christian life.

The Family plays a central role in the faith formation of children, and as parents, you are your child's primary teacher as he/she develops a relationship with the person of Christ and his Church. We are also grateful to the grandparents, godparents, aunts and uncles, older siblings, other relatives, and family friends who undertake this role.

As family, friends, parish personnel, teachers, and volunteers work with the children in the activity of preparing them for the sacraments, the Holy Spirit inspires and draws them into the relationship with Christ. It is a sacred time and we encourage you to enter this process whole-heartedly with the children as they prepare to receive this sacrament.

Wyong Parish will be commencing their Sacramental Program for 2023 in February. Please contact the Parish Office on 0424 763 734 to make arrangements for your child to receive instruction for Confirmation, Reconciliation, and First Eucharist. We look forward to seeing you at the Parent information night.

RECONCILIATION FOR CHILDREN IN YEAR 4 AND ABOVE WHO HAVE COMPLETED CONFIRMATION

Parent Information night 7 pm Monday 20th February St Cecilia's Church 23 Byron Street Wyong

Enrolment Presentation weekend at all weekend Masses 25th /26th February

Children will be asked to attend Mass for the 4 weeks leading up to the Reconciliation Ceremony.

Reconciliation Ceremony Tumbi Monday 20th March 4 pm

Reconciliation Ceremony Wyong Tuesday 21st March 4 pm

CONFIRMATION FOR CHILDREN IN YEAR 3 AND ABOVE WHO HAVE BEEN BAPTISED

Parent Information night 7 pm Monday 29th May St Cecilia's Church 23 Byron Street Wyong

Enrolment Presentation weekend at all weekend Masses 3rd /4th June

Children will be asked to attend Mass for the 4 weeks leading up to the Confirmation Ceremony

Confirmation Ceremony St Peters College Saturday 15th July

FIRST EUCHARIST FOR CHILDREN IN YEAR 4 AND ABOVE WHO HAVE COMPLETED CONFIRMATION & RECONCILIATION

Parent Information night 7 pm Monday 7th August St Cecilia's Church 23 Byron Street Wyong

Enrolment Presentation weekend at all weekend Masses 12th/13th August

Children will be asked to attend Mass for the 4 weeks leading up to the First Eucharist Ceremony

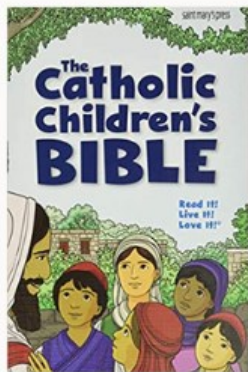
First Eucharist Ceremony Friday 8th September St John Fisher Mass Ctr 5 pm and 6.30 pm

First Eucharist Ceremony Friday 15th September St Cecilia's Church 5 pm and 6.30 pm

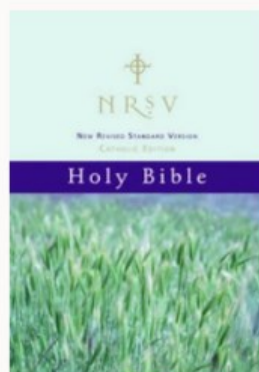
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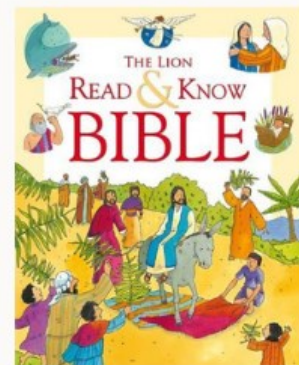
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