



# Catholic Parish of Baulkham Hills

## Our Lady of Lourdes Church



1 Canyon Rd Baulkham Hills NSW 2153  
 Telephone 02 9639 8385 • [olol@parishofbaulkhamhills.org.au](mailto:olol@parishofbaulkhamhills.org.au)  
[www.parishofbaulkhamhills.org.au](http://www.parishofbaulkhamhills.org.au)

YEAR A

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

18<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2022

### Parish Information

#### St Michael's Church

1 Chapel Lane, Baulkham Hills

Saturday Vigil 5.30pm,  
 Sunday 8.00am, 10.00am, & 6.00pm

#### Weekday Masses

Monday ~ Friday 9.15am  
 Saturday 9.00am

#### Our Lady of Lourdes Church

1 Canyon Rd,  
 Baulkham Hills

Saturday Vigil 6.00pm  
 Sunday 9.30am

#### Weekday Masses

Wed - Friday 9.30am

#### Adoration of Blessed Eucharist

Friday 8.50am  
 Prior to 9.30am Mass

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of Month

Mass of Blessing of the Sick

#### Reconciliation – OLOL

Saturday 5.00-5.30pm

#### Reconciliation – St Michael's

Saturday 9.30-10.30am  
 Saturday 4.45-5.15pm

#### Baptism

By Appointment  
 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the month at 11.15am

#### Our Lady of Lourdes Office

Mon/Tues 1.30pm – 4.30pm  
 Wed – Fri 9.30am – 4.30pm

#### Parish Priest

Fr Wim Hoekstra

#### Assistant Priest:

Fr Jessie Balorio  
 Fr Andrew Rooney

#### Deacons:

Rev. Roque Dias

#### Parish Secretary

Louise Ryall

#### Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School Principal

Mr. Steven Haskins

### GOD IS NEAR

*~ Reflection by Pope Francis*

In this fourth and final Sunday of Advent, the Gospel guides us towards Christmas through the experience of Saint Joseph, a figure seemingly in second place, but whose attitude encapsulates all

Christian wisdom. He, together with John the Baptist and Mary, is one of the characters whom the liturgy proposes to us for the time of Advent; and of the three he is the most modest. He is one who does not preach, does not speak, but tries to do God's will; and he does it in the style of the Gospel and the Beatitudes. Let us think of: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven". And Joseph is poor because he lives on what is essential, he works, he lives by his work; it is the poverty typical of those who are aware that they depend on God for everything, and place all their trust in Him.



Today's Gospel passage presents a situation that is in human terms embarrassing and conflicting. Joseph and Mary are betrothed; they do not yet live together, but she is expecting a child by the work of God. Joseph, faced with this surprise, is naturally disturbed but, instead of reacting in an impulsive and punitive manner – as was the custom, the law protected him – he seeks a solution that respects the dignity and integrity of his beloved Mary. The Gospel says so: "And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly". Joseph knew that if he denounced his betrothed, he would expose her to serious consequences, even death. He had full faith in Mary, whom he chose as his bride. He does not understand, but he seeks another solution.

This inexplicable circumstance leads him to question their bond; therefore, with great suffering, he decides to detach himself from Mary without creating scandal. But the Angel of the Lord intervenes to tell him that the solution he proposes is not the one desired by God. On the contrary, the Lord opened a new path for him, a path of union, love and happiness, and said to him: "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife. For that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit".

At this point, Joseph trusts God totally, obeys the Angel's words and takes Mary with him. It was precisely this unshakable trust in God that enabled him to accept a humanly difficult and, in a certain sense, incomprehensible situation. Joseph understands, in faith, that the child born in Mary's womb is not his child, but the Son of God, and he, Joseph, will be its guardian, fully assuming its earthly paternity. The example of this gentle and wise man exhorts us to lift up our gaze and push it further. It is a question of recovering the surprising logic of God which, far from small or great calculations, is made up of openness towards new horizons, towards Christ and His Word.

May the Virgin Mary and her chaste husband Joseph help us to listen to Jesus Who comes, and Who asks to be welcomed in our plans and in our choices.

#### FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

##### Entrance Antiphon:

Drop down dew from above, you heavens,  
and let the clouds rain down the Just One;  
let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

##### First Reading

Is 7:10-14

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

*The virgin will conceive.*

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No', Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said:

'Listen now, House of David:  
are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men  
without trying the patience of my God, too?  
The Lord himself, therefore,  
will give you a sign.  
It is this: the maiden is with child  
and will soon give birth to a son  
whom she will call Immanuel,  
a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

##### Responsorial Psalm

**Response: Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.**

1. The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,  
the world and all its peoples.  
It is he who set it on the seas;  
on the waters he made it firm.

**Response: Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.**

2. Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord  
Who shall stand in his holy place?  
The man with clean hands and pure heart,  
who desires not worthless things.

**Response: Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.**

3. He shall receive blessings from the Lord  
and reward from the God who saves him.  
Such are the men who seek him,  
seek the face of the God of Jacob.

**Response: Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.**

##### Second Reading

Rom 1:1-7

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

*Jesus Christ, a descendant of David, is the Son of God.*

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son

of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

##### Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

A virgin will give birth to a son;  
his name will be Emmanuel: God is with us.  
Alleluia!

##### Gospel

Mt 1:18-24

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

*Jesus was born of Mary, the betrothed of Joseph, a son of David.*

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son  
and they will call him Emmanuel,

a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

##### Communion Antiphon

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son;  
and his name will be called Emmanuel.



St Vincent de Paul Society

good works

During this Holy

Season of Advent let us pause to pray for all those who are victims of family violence.

Gentle Jesus join to your own suffering, the pain of all who have been hurt in body, mind and spirit, by those who betrayed the trust placed in them.

Grant that all harmed by abuse, may find peace in justice.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## REFLECTION FOR 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### YEAR A



JULIAN McDONALD CFC AO

***"Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her."***

Matthew 1: 18-24

Today's gospel-reading is Matthew's version of the birth of Jesus. It's a story which Matthew places squarely in the chequered history of the Jewish people. In order to appreciate that history, we would do well to stop and read the first seventeen verses leading up to today's gospel-reading. They come under the heading of ***Genealogy of Jesus***, which we remember because it contains all those "begats", a rather quaint feature of the opening of Matthew's Gospel. U.S President Ike Eisenhower once told how he was reared in a deeply religious family where he was instructed to read the entire Bible but allowed to skip that section of Matthew with all the "begats".

There are lots of words for birth that Matthew could have used in describing Jesus' origin, but he settled on the Greek word *genesis*, a word that relates nicely to the word *genealogy* and replicates the title of the very first book of the Bible, *Genesis* - an account of the very beginnings of creation.

In Jesus' family tree, Matthew lists all the great heroes of Jewish history. In addition, there are some whose track-record was less than edifying. Abraham was a man of faith who came very close to sacrificing his beloved son, Isaac. However, things got worse after that. Jacob, with family encouragement, cheated his older brother, Esau out of his birthright. David had Uriah killed in battle to hide his adulterous relationship with Uriah's wife Bathsheba. Among others who featured in Jesus' ancestry were Tamar who tricked her father-in-law Judah into impregnating her so she could obtain security in his family. Then there was the prostitute Rahab who hid in her house two of Joshua's spies who had come to reconnoitre the city of Jericho. She talked the spies into protecting her and her family when Joshua's army invaded Jericho. And when Joseph, a true "son of Abraham" and a distant descendant of King David accepted Jesus as his son, Jesus' lineage became even more complicated. Matthew's point is that God could cope with the messiness of life and human frailty and that Jesus could come and live in the midst of that messiness.

Now let's for a moment consider the confusion and messiness that overtook Mary's life. Matthew introduces Mary's pregnancy with a glorious understatement: "When Jesus' mother Mary was engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child through the power of the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 1: 18). There is no indication as to who found Mary to be pregnant. Moreover, it would have been impossible to keep that news under wraps. It would have spread like wild-fire and the village gossips would have had a field-day. And we know the questions that Mary would have been asked had she confided in close friends: "What did your parents say when you told them?" "Does Joseph know?" "Did some Roman soldier do this to you?" Had Mary dared to say that an angel had told her she would become pregnant by the power of the Holy Spirit, she would have attracted the label of "lunatic". Still more complications and messiness were to follow.

And what about Joseph? Now we would say that he was caught between a rock and a hard place. We are told that he had secret thoughts of divorcing Mary quietly. That might have been a just solution to his problem, but it could easily have led to her being stoned to death. - the penalty for infidelity as prescribed by the Levitical law. Had she escaped that, she could have ended up destitute, with no adult male to provide for her. Yet, for Joseph to marry a woman who appeared to be unfaithful to him, he would be defiled by her seeming disregard for the law. Even worse, for him to accept Mary's child would be tantamount to his bringing an illegitimate child into his ancestral line. That child would inherit the birthright of any offspring he might eventually father. As he was wrestling with issues such as these, in a dream he experienced during the night, he was engaged by an angel, whose first words were: "Joseph, son of David, don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife. It is by the Holy Spirit that she has conceived this child" (Matthew 1: 20). We all know that directives to stop being afraid are generally ineffective. Let's not forget that the Angel Gabriel gave the same advice to Mary. That leaves me wondering whether angels create fear by their sudden, unexpected arrival or whether those to whom they appear are already frightened by the issues with which they are dealing. The crux of the matter which had brought an unresolved dilemma to both Mary and Joseph was that they were confronted with a pregnancy they had not cooperated with one another in creating. But to all intents and purposes they were left with the problem of resolving it for no other reason than that Mary's pregnancy threatened her place, her child's and her fiancé's place in the community that would normally have been home to them.

We who have the whole of the Bible available to us between the covers of a single book can point to story after story of how God had worked through messy and shameful domestic and national situations to rescue people and restore them to hope and promise. Isaac was saved from being sacrificed at the eleventh hour, Moses, a murderer, led an enslaved people out of Egypt into freedom, Tamar, by deception, ensured that Judah would have sons, an earlier Joseph, one of Jacob's many sons, also had dreams and rescued the very brothers who had sold him into slavery. There is little doubt that Matthew saw the event of Mary's pregnancy, the birth of Jesus and the courageous selflessness of the second Joseph as just another episode that really belonged to the Old Testament. For Matthew, Jesus was first and foremost the fulfilment of all the prophecies of the Old or First Testament. On eight occasions in the course of his Gospel, Matthew cites Jesus or his actions as being the fulfilment of what had been proclaimed by the prophets of the Old Testament.

In the two creation stories at the start of the *Book of Genesis*, we hear the story of how God created the world. At the commencement of Matthew's Gospel, we are told how God, created the world afresh in the person of Jesus, The crux of that fresh or new creation was the fact that God, in Jesus, became part of our flesh and blood, a full member of the human community. Jesus became one with us when he was born of Mary. In today's gospel-reading, Matthew quotes Isaiah's prophecy of that birth in all the details with which we are familiar: "The virgin shall be with child and give birth to a son, and they shall call him Emmanuel, a name which means "God is with us".

In our baptism we became even more closely linked to Jesus as his sisters and brothers, all children of God. Our family histories with their skeletons in the cupboard, with their frailties, shames, mistakes and failures are as messy and confused as was Jesus' genealogy. None of us is beyond God's capacity to reach out to us in love, forgiveness and acceptance. In the festival we call Christmas we celebrate the fact that the child who became part of the families of both Mary and Joseph is also born into our family. God has made our world new through him, and because of him will continue to renew it through us. Can we accept that responsibility? Isn't that what being a follower of God-with-us really means?

## Prayer Requests



Please remember in your prayers the relatives and friends of our Parish Communities for whom prayers have been requested:

**Recently Deceased:** Kerry Dorahy

**Anniversaries:** Cheryl Todd, Charles Boffa, Merryn Bertus

### Our sick relatives & friends

Mabel Yabsley, Maria Roche, Benett Perera, Joel Uvero (Lourdes Subijano's brother), Melba Oki, David Wadick, Peter Dawson, Harry Williams, Peter Campbell, Philippa Ford, Honor Rosario, Lavinia Costello, Pablo Herrara, David Molina, Anne Torina Wayman, Michael Dawborne, Holly Burns, Evan Garcia, Brian Roche, Warren Moses, Carmel Willis, Matthew Burke, Julie Bracks, Roumanos Nehme, Deba Beani, Edward Beani, Richard Meagher and all who are ill or struggling as a result of the Coronavirus throughout the world.

### Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament



Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament takes place in Our Lady of Lourdes Church each Friday morning prior to the 9.30am Parish Mass. Adoration commences at 8.50am.

### Are you Coeliac/Gluten Intolerant?



If you are Coeliac or Gluten- Intolerant we have low gluten (negligible) hosts to enable you to receive the Body of Christ in Communion.

Please speak to Father or the Acolyte before Mass. Please go to the priest celebrating Mass to receive Communion.

## Keeping You Connected

The following links will take you to the 6.00pm live-streaming of Saturday evening :

17th December 2022, "4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT" .....  
<https://youtu.be/OODBgkJkYqM>

24th Dec 2022, "MASS FOR CHRISTMAS" "THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD." .....<https://youtu.be/AVVrNSklgCY>

**Note Time Change – Live-streaming is for 8pm Mass**

31st Dec 2022 "THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD" ..... <https://youtu.be/prHi2M9Djeg>

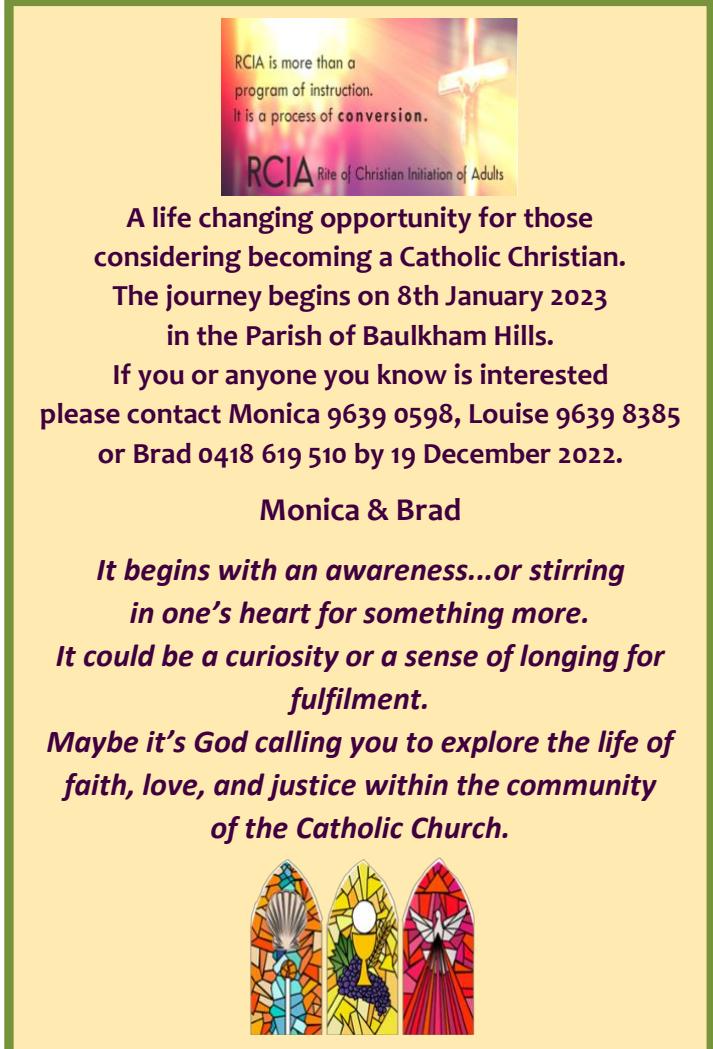
## Parish of Baulkham Hills

### - Sacrament of Reconciliation(2<sup>nd</sup> Rite)

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Rite (Communal Rite) of Reconciliation for the Christmas Season will be celebrated at St Michael's Church on **Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm.**



Reconciliation



RCIA is more than a program of instruction.  
It is a process of conversion.

RCIA Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

A life changing opportunity for those considering becoming a Catholic Christian.

The journey begins on 8th January 2023 in the Parish of Baulkham Hills.

If you or anyone you know is interested please contact Monica 9639 0598, Louise 9639 8385 or Brad 0418 619 510 by 19 December 2022.

Monica & Brad

*It begins with an awareness...or stirring in one's heart for something more.*

*It could be a curiosity or a sense of longing for fulfilment.*

*Maybe it's God calling you to explore the life of faith, love, and justice within the community of the Catholic Church.*



## Christmas Choir & Musicians

Are you a musician or do you enjoy singing?



All musicians and singers - young, old or in-between, are invited to join us as we **Prepare the Way of the Lord** and **welcome the Christ-child** this Christmas.



Would everyone like to gather **this Tuesday evening 20th December at 7:30 for a Christmas music practice?** Please pass this on to any musicians and singers you know who may wish to join us. Everyone is most welcome to join us.



## "Thank You & God bless"

We sincerely thank Lourdes Subijano who has so graciously co-ordinated our Liturgical Ministry at Our Lady of Lourdes over the past two years, steering us through the pandemic so beautifully. Please keep Lourdes & her family in your prayers as she takes a well-earned rest from this service to us all.

Lourdes has now prepared her last Liturgy Rosters for our Faith community and we are now in need of a new person to take on this role. If you would be interested please speak to Father or contact OLOL Office:

[Louise@parishofbaulkhamhills.org.au](mailto:Louise@parishofbaulkhamhills.org.au)

**PARISH UPDATE – FRIDAY DECEMBER 16**  
**A COVID SAFE PARISH**

Dear Parishioners,

As we come to the last week before Christmas next Sunday, may I take this opportunity, on behalf of the Parish Team, to wish you a Happy and Holy Christmas, and a prosperous New Year.

We wish our parish families, visitors and on-line readers a peace-filled Christmas and please enjoy the break for those who are having one. Travel safely.

A reminder that an opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation is available in the communal form on Monday evening at 7.30pm at St Michael's.

**CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE**

Sat 24 Dec Christmas Eve	5.30pm	St Michael's	Family Mass
	6.00pm	Our Lady of Lourdes	Family Mass

*Children welcome to come dressed as one of the figures in the Christmas Story – cows included!*

Sun 25 Dec Christmas Day	8.00pm	St Michael's
	8.00pm	Our Lady of Lourdes – livestream
	Midnight	St Michael's
	8.00am	St Michael's
	9.30am	Our Lady of Lourdes
	10.00am	St Michael's
	11.30am	Our Lady of Lourdes (Korean language)

There is no evening Mass on Sunday 25 December.

**Reconciliation times**

Second Rite	Mon 19 Dec 7.30pm	Second Rite (Communal) of Reconciliation at St Michaels
First Rite (St Michael's)	Sat 17 Dec	9.30am to 11am; 4.15pm to 5.15pm
		Wed, Thu and Fri after the 9.15am Mass
	Sat 24 Dec	9.30am to 11am – no afternoon confessions
First Rite (OLOL)	Sat 17 Dec	4.30pm to 5.30pm
		Thu & Fri after the 9.30am Mass

All Maronite Liturgies are at Gilroy College. For times, please see Christ the Redeemer website (<https://ctr.org.au>) for details.

**BISHOP VINCENT'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE**

Bishop Vincent's Christmas message for 2022 is available on the Diocesan website and on YOUTUBE via this link.

A copy of his message appears below.

**NEW WEBSITE**

It's live. Thank you to Danny Liu, who has spent many hours working on this. Check it out at our website address, i.e. <https://parishofbaulkhamhills.org.au>

If you have any thoughts or comments, please don't hesitate to contact us.



## **CONGRATULATIONS TO DAVID DOWLING**

Last Saturday saw the ordination of David Dowling to the Permanent Diaconate at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta by Bishop Vincent. Congratulations to David and Dee and the Dowling family on this wonderful occasion. David will remain at Stanhope Garden till 31 January as a Deacon, and will then move to St Patrick's Cathedral to assist the Bishop and the Dean there.



Above – Deacon David and his wife Deirdre, with some parishioners (and ex-parishioners)

The Diocese's *Catholic Outlook* has a story about the ordination [via this link](#).

## **MASS LINKS**

The Mass link for this Saturday for **Fourth Sunday of Advent – Year A** (Sat 6pm) and available on YOUTUBE after that is <https://youtu.be/OODBgkJkYqM>. Please copy the link into browser if it does not immediately work.

Mass is live streamed on Saturday evening at 6pm from Our Lady of Lourdes, and available for viewing afterwards via the link. We are also using FACEBOOK links via the Parish of Baulkham Hills FACEBOOK page. Thank you to Jim and Brian for your help with this every week.

The link for the Mass is now also available on the parish webpage. Bookmark the parish website <https://parishofbaulkhamhills.org.au> and each week just open and click on the link.

**Incidentally, the livestream Mass for Christmas Day will be the 8pm Vigil Mass from Our Lady of Lourdes**, and not the 6pm Mass as is usual. For your information, the link for this Mass is <https://youtu.be/AVVrNSklgCY>. But remember if you have bookmarked the parish website the link will be available there.

## **SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM FOR 2023**

The Parish sacramental program for 2023 has been finalised, and details are included in this week's full bulletin. The preparation program for the three sacraments – Confirmation, Reconciliation and Eucharist - will run at the same time for both communities.

## **MOVEMENT AT THE STATION**

Bishop Vincent has appointed Fr Andrew as Assistant Priest to Mary Queen of the Apostles Parish, Blacktown, and Fr Chadi Ibrahim SDB, currently at Blacktown, as Assistant Priest to the Parish of Baulkham Hills. Both appointments are effective from 16 January 2023.

## RCIA PROGRAM

RCIA stands for the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults It is a process of Christian faith formation offered to those who seek to become Catholic.

The initiation of new members is a gradual process allowing enquirers time to grow in faith and become full participants of the Catholic community. This program commences on Sunday, January 8. See full details in the Bulletin.

## QUO VADIS PILGRIMAGE TO ISRAEL AND ROME: 5 – 23 SEPTEMBER 2023

Details of my proposed pilgrimage to Israel and Rome next year are now available for download via [this link](#) or by via the QR code. Our pilgrimage will be following in the footsteps of St Peter.

If you are intending to join me, it would be appreciated if you could please contact Olive Tree Travel as soon as possible to indicate your interest.



Paper copies with booking forms are available in the Foyers of both Churches. Please feel free to forward these link to your friends or family.

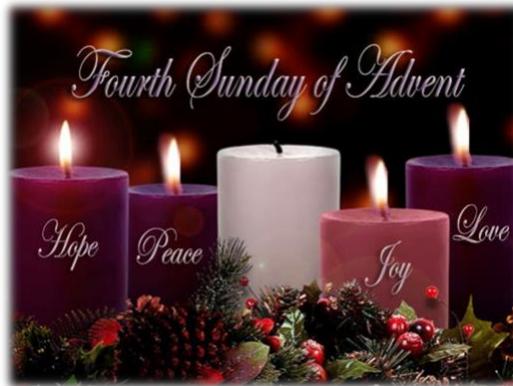
## THE DECEASED

Please remember those for whom prayers have been requested, especially for:

**Recently deceased:** Anna Francis, Gladys D'Souza, Alan Palumbo

**Anniversary:** Robert Prasad, Charles Pinto, Gary Kerr, Margaret Harrison, Alice Redden, Ellen Kiely

Fr Wim



## SUPPORT DONATIONS

We really appreciate your continued support. To assist with the proper recording for the second collection, please include your envelope number if you have one.

For EFT to the First Collection - supporting the priests

BSB 067 950

Account No 000004265

Account Name Diocesan Clergy

Reference 6001 your name

For EFT to the second (envelope and loose) Collection – for support of the Parish,

BSB 067 950

Account No 000000214

Account Name St Michael's Baulkham Hills

Reference Envelope Number or Your Name

If you wish to pay by credit card, please use this link

<https://www.bpoint.com.au/pay/stmichaelsparishbaulkhamhills>



## Pastoral Care

We have a number of people who are housebound and we would like to offer them communion along with a visit during the week.

We are also trying to build up a visiting/communion roster for residents at our aged-care facilities – Aminya Care, BUPA, Summit Care and MacKillop House.

### **For this we need your help.**

We are willing to guide you - especially to help with giving communion. Volunteers will need to some online training.

If you can spare some time each week or fortnight please contact either office –OLOL on 9639 8385 or via [olol@parishofbaulkhamhills.org.au](mailto:olol@parishofbaulkhamhills.org.au) or St Michael's on 9639 0598 or via [admin@parishofbaulkhamhills.org.au](mailto:admin@parishofbaulkhamhills.org.au)

Thank you.



St Vincent de Paul Society  
good works



### **Vinnies Christmas Hamper Appeal**

Our Hamper Appeal to provide hampers to needy families in our local area including families being assisted by the Lisa Harnum Foundation, is reaching its final stages.

Thank you to everyone that has contributed to the Appeal; your generosity will bring much joy and comfort to our sisters and brothers over this Christmas period.

All donations should be returned to the rear of the Church this weekend.

If you have been unable to make it to Church but still wish to be part of the Appeal, feel free to call Larry on 0409 347 309, and we will arrange to pick up your donation.

Please keep those in need of assistance in your prayers this Christmas.

Thank you & may God bless you and keep you safe.

## Advent/Summer 2022 Catholic Outlook Magazine out now!

The Advent | Summer 2022 version of the Catholic Outlook Magazine is out now! This edition, discover how our multicultural families across the Diocese are celebrating Christmas, learn about using Christmas to deepen your marriage and read Bishop Vincent's Christmas message. Pick up your free copy from parishes and offices across Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains today or read it online via [catholicoutlook.org/magazine](http://catholicoutlook.org/magazine)

### Our Lady of Lourdes



### Christmas Morning Tea



This Sunday - 18<sup>th</sup> December

Following 9.30am Mass

Come along and join us this Sunday morning, 18<sup>th</sup> December, for Christmas Morning Tea, following 9.30am Mass.

This is a time when we come together to bring Christ's love and peace to each other and to say "thank you" for making Our Lady of Lourdes such a special place to be.



Bring along a small plate of Christmas treats to share as we support each other in loving friendship and wish each other the joy of the Christmas Season.

### Christmas Flowers



The gardens are beautiful at the moment with blue and white Agapanthus and Hydrangeas, Christmas bush and much red-tipped greenery. If you would like to contribute flowers to decorate God's House for the Christmas Liturgies please leave them behind the Sanctuary Wall on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> December. They will be very much appreciated.

It would be a great help to have some extra hands in a final clean up as we prepare God's house for the birth of His Son. Any time you can give will be very much appreciated.

**The ladies will be preparing the church following 9.30am Mass on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> December.**

Celebration	Date	Mass	Acolyte	Reader 1	Reader 2	EMC
4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent	17 <sup>th</sup> December	Saturday Vigil 6.00pm	Roland Barros	Maureen Steele	Peter Steele	Sonia Tannous
	18 <sup>th</sup> December	Sunday 9.30am	Anthony Pope	Anne Mitchell	Nicole Christoy	Louise Ryall Madeleine Menasse
Christmas Eve	24 <sup>th</sup> December	Family Mass 6.00pm	John Vassett	Lourdes Subijano	Paul Lewis	Volunteers Required
Christmas Eve	24 <sup>th</sup> December	Vigil Mass 8.00pm	John Cavalieri	Bernard Ryall	Angela Ryall	Nicole Whittaker Louise Ryall
Christmas Day	18 <sup>th</sup> December	Sunday 9.30am	Ian Starkey	Madeline Leslie	Janina Starkey	Kay Bull Marlene Murrow



**Most Reverend Vincent Long Van Nguyen** OFM Conv DD STL  
Bishop of Parramatta

Bethany Centre, 470 Church St, Parramatta NSW 2150, Australia  
PO Box 3066, North Parramatta, NSW 1750

02 8838 3400 02 9630 4813

[bishop@parracatholic.org](mailto:bishop@parracatholic.org)

[parracatholic.org](http://parracatholic.org)

## BISHOP VINCENT'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

### A Christmas 2022 Message from Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv, Bishop of Parramatta

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

We live in an increasingly dangerous world where a spiral of violence seems to be out of control. Violence and selfishness dominate our daily news, as the ‘answer’ the world offers to us. The horrors unfolding in Ukraine and the scandal of the arms race, and even more the danger of nuclear war frightens us all. Our planet continues to be exploited and the beauty of God’s creation plundered for profit. And the ongoing tragedy of refugees continues with many people closing their hearts to compassion.

Instead of sharing, many are choosing exclusion as the solution. Only the other day Pope Francis issued a new, scathing warning against the exclusion of migrants. For him, “The exclusion of migrants is scandalous. Actually, the exclusion of migrants is criminal. They are dying right in front of us, as the Mediterranean is the largest cemetery in the world...”

Not opening doors to them “is revolting, sinful and criminal,” he added, off the cuff. Even worse: “We do not exclude them, we send them away to camps, where they are exploited and sold like slaves.”

This Christmas then, let’s all pledge to become committed peacemakers – as we remember the birth of the Prince of Peace amongst us. Jesus of Nazareth built his entire Gospel message on peace, and nowhere in His words or deeds did He even hint that war was actually the way of achieving it.

Indeed, peace is the stuff of the four Gospels; a constant theme of the New Testament and the ultimate goal of two thousand years of Christian vision and witness.

This Christmas, where violence and war seem so close to us on our television screens, let’s remember one of the great witnesses to peace in our Catholic tradition – St Francis of Assisi.

While many people associate St Francis with nature, not as many know the story of his voyage and witness to the Muslim world as a peacemaker.

It was the time of the Fifth Crusade, shortly after a Crusader victory at the port city of Damietta – modern Dumyat – on the Nile Delta.

Francis, who opposed all killing no matter what the cause, sought the blessing of the cardinal who was chaplain to the Crusader forces to go and preach the Gospel to the Sultan. At last, the cardinal stood aside, certain that Francis and Illuminato, the brother travelling with him, were being led to die as martyrs.

The two left the Crusader encampment singing the psalm, 'The Lord is my shepherd'.

For a month, Francis and the Sultan met daily. Though neither converted the other, the sultan had such warmth for his guests that he not only spared their lives but gave them a passport allowing them to visit Christian holy places under Muslim control, and presented Francis with a beautifully carved ivory horn which is now among the relics of the saint kept in the Basilica of Assisi.

The two (Francis and Malik-al- Kamil, the Sultan) parted as brothers.

During this holy season of Christmas, we too are especially called to be witnesses to peace like St Francis of Assisi, in our daily lives.

For in many ways, we too are living in 'war'. Often, we can be at 'war' with ourselves, at 'war' with others, especially when we 'crusade' against people and see them as rivals and enemies.

A life of peace, however, means daily trying to make peace with ourselves and to cultivate a daily practice of 'nonviolence'.

I speak to you today in the peace and beauty of our chapel here at our Diocesan Chancery. Let's make that peace a reality in the lives of all those we encounter.

This Christmas, as we contemplate the Christ child in the manger, who was born, died and rose from the dead to give us peace – let's commit ourselves here in Parramatta to pray and work for justice and peace so that the Kingdom will come!

In the prophetic words of St Paul VI: "If you want peace, work for justice!"

A blessed Christmas to you all.



Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv

Bishop of Parramatta





## Seasons Greetings

Please be advised that all employees planning to dash through the snow in a one-horse open sleigh, going over the fields and laughing all the way are required to undergo a Risk Assessment addressing the safety of open sleighs. This assessment must also consider whether it is appropriate to use only one horse for such a venture, particularly where there are multiple passengers. Please note that permission must also be obtained in writing from landowners before their fields may be entered. To avoid offending those not participating in celebrations, we request that laughter is moderate only and not loud enough to be considered a noise nuisance.

Benches, stools and orthopaedic chairs are now available for collection by any shepherds planning or required to watch their flocks at night. While provision has also been made for remote monitoring of flocks by CCTV cameras from a centrally heated shepherd observation hut, all facility users are reminded that an emergency response plan must be submitted to account for known risks to the flocks.



The angel of the Lord is additionally reminded that prior to shining his/her glory all around s/he must confirm that all shepherds are wearing appropriate Personal Protective Equipment to account for the harmful effects of



UVA, UVB and the overwhelming effects of Glory.

Following last year's well publicised case, everyone is advised that EC legislation prohibits any comment with regard to the redness of any part of Mr. R. Reindeer. Further to this, exclusion of Mr. R Reindeer from reindeer games will be considered discriminatory and disciplinary action will be taken against those found guilty of this offence.

While it is acknowledged that gift-bearing is commonly practised in various parts of the world, particularly the Orient, everyone is reminded that the bearing of gifts is subject to Hospitality Guidelines and all gifts must be registered. This applies regardless of the individual, even royal personages. It is particularly noted that direct gifts of currency or gold are specifically precluded under provisions of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act. Further, caution is advised regarding other common gifts, such as aromatic resins that may initiate allergic reactions.

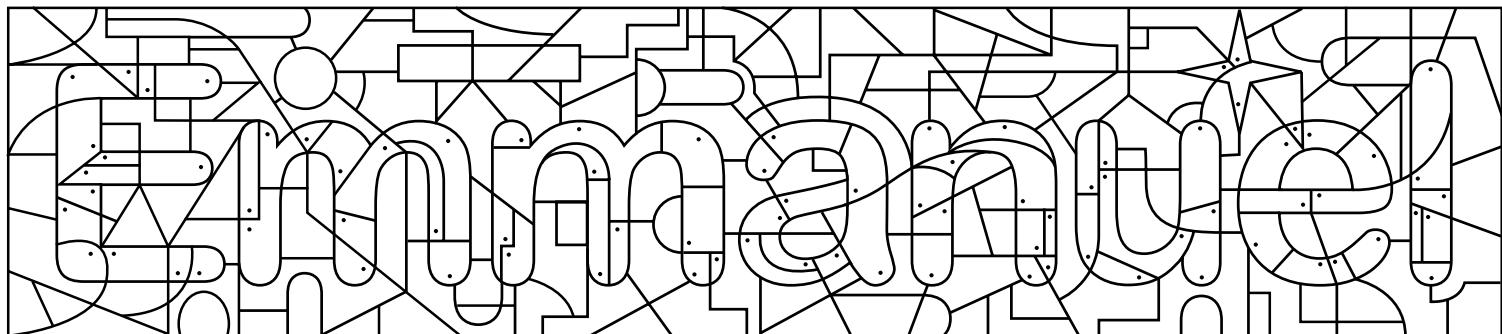
Finally, in the recent case of the infant found tucked up in a manger without any crib for a bed, Social Services have been advised and will be arriving shortly.

# He will be called **Emmanuel**

4th Sunday of Advent, Year A



Colour in the shapes with dots to reveal a special name.



One night, an angel appeared to Joseph in a dream.  
What were some of the things the angel told Joseph?



Follow the branch that extends from  
King David to the birth of Jesus.

# Parish of Baulkham Hills ~ Christmas Liturgy Times 2022

## Reconciliation

†Communal (2<sup>nd</sup> Rite)

Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	7.30pm	St Michael's Church
Please Note:	NO 2 <sup>nd</sup> Rite at Our Lady of Lourdes Church	

Why not take a little time out of the hustle and bustle of the commercial Christmas Season and prepare yourself for the Spiritual Christmas Season, a season that brings the most beautiful gift of the Christ-child and, with Him, an offering of loving peace and forgiveness? Why not make a date to celebrate the loving gift of our Saviour in the Sacrament of Reconciliation – a most worthwhile gift to yourself and to your family this Christmas?

†Individual (1<sup>st</sup> Rite)

Saturday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	4.30pm – 5.30pm	Our Lady of Lourdes Church
Thurs 22/Fri 23	After 9.30am Mass – 10.30am	Our Lady of Lourdes Church
Saturday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	9.30am – 11.00am 4.00pm – 4.30 pm	St Michael's Church St Michael's Church
Wed 21/Thurs 22/Fri 23	After 9.15am Mass – 10.15am	St Michael's Church

## Christmas Mass Times

Vigil	Family Mass	6.00p.m.	Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup> December	Our Lady of Lourdes
	Family Mass	8.00pm	Saturday 24th December <i>(Live-streamed)</i>	Our Lady of Lourdes
Vigil	Family Mass	5.30p.m.	Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup> December	St Michael's
	Family Mass	8.00pm	Saturday 24th December	St Michael's
Midnight Mass		Midnight	Sunday 24th December <i>(Carols commence at 11.30pm)</i>	St Michael's
Christmas Day		9.30a.m.	Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> December	Our Lady of Lourdes
	Korean	11.30a.m.	Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> December	Our Lady of Lourdes
		NO 6.00pm Evening Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes on Christmas Day		
		8.00a.m.	Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> December	St Michael's
		10.00am	Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> December	St Michael's
		NO 5.30pm Evening Mass at St Michael's Church on Christmas day		

# PARISH OF BAULKHAM HILLS

## 2023 Sacramental Programme Details for The Sacraments of Initiation and the Sacrament of Reconciliation for Children of Catechetical Age who have been baptised.

St Michael's Church ~ 1 Chapel Lane, Baulkham Hills  
Our Lady of Lourdes Church ~ 1 Canyon Road, Baulkham Hills

### School Term 1/2 **Sacrament of Confirmation**

~ children must be 10.5 years before the celebration

Online Registration : Friday 17 February to Friday 3 March

Parents' Information Evening : Monday 6 or Tuesday 7 March

Celebration at St Michael's : Monday 8, Tuesday 9, Friday 12 May at 7.00pm

Celebration at Our Lady of Lourdes : Wednesday 10, Thursday 11 May at 7.00pm

### Term 3 **Sacrament of Reconciliation**

Online Registration : Friday 16 to Friday 30 June

Parents' Information Evening : Monday 17 or Tuesday 18 June

Celebration : Monday 21 to Friday 25 August  
*(venue, dates & times to be advised)*

### Term 4 **Sacrament of Eucharist**

~ children must be 8.5 years before the celebration

Online Registration : Friday 1 to Friday 15 September

Parents' Information Evening : Monday 18 or Tuesday 19 September

Celebration at St Michael's :

Friday 10 November / 17 November ~ 7.30pm,

Saturday 11 November / 18 November ~ 2.30pm

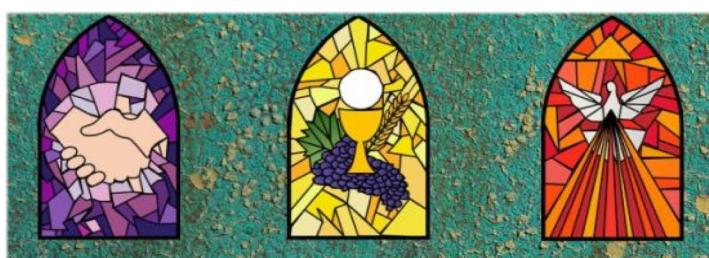
Sunday 12 November / 19 November ~ 12noon and 2.30pm

Celebration at Our Lady of Lourdes :

Friday 24 November ~ 7.30pm

Saturday 25 November ~ 2.30pm

Sunday 26 November ~ 9.30am



Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP  
invites you to

# CHRISTMAS at the Cathedral

*a festival evening at St Mary's*

PRESENTED BY **paynterdixon**

**8-25 DECEMBER 2022**

We invite our parish families and all people of goodwill across Sydney to come together at St Mary's Cathedral during Advent to prepare for the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Festivities begin at 7pm with:**  
Christmas market stalls, food,  
fun activities for the kids and live  
entertainment.



**paynter  
dixon**

**PAYCE®  
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