

ST.ALOYSIUS GONZAGA Catholic Parish of Cronulla

Incorporating: Our Lady of the Way Church, Bundeena

Website: www.stalcron.org.au Tel: (02) 8522 0300. Email: admin@stalcron.org.au



Second Sunday of Advent ... Year B.

Prayer of the Church: Psalter Week 2

Entrance Antiphon:

People of Zion, the Lord will come to save all nations, and your hearts will exult to hear his majestic voice.

First Reading: Isaiah 40: 1-5. 9-11

Prepare the way for the Lord.

Responsorial:

Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

Second Reading: Peter 3: 8-14

We wait for new heavens and a new earth.

Gospel Acclamation:

ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA! Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God. **ALLELUIA!**

Gospel: Mark 1: 1-8

Communion Antiphon:

Rise up Jerusalem, stand on the heights and see the joy that is coming to you from God.

Congratulations To



Anika Opai, Billy Opai, Jacob Carson and Piper Moss Isla Whitford and Daniel Harrington will be baptised this Sunday.

We welcome these children to our Catholic community and through their Baptism we pray they will love and serve the Lord always.

It has been said that Jesus did not come to explain suffering but to fill it with His presence. Because of Christmas He fills our lives with His presence

An Honest Man's Message :::::

Tonight is our parish Christmas Concert. Different choirs have been practicing carols for tonight. It is beginning to look like Christmas.

Car parks in shopping malls are full. Shops are crowded with customers. There are gifts and cards everywhere. Yes, it is a bit crowded. Nativity scenes are starting to appear; though the parish one is delayed due to renovation works in the church. Along with baby Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, other popular cultural figures like Santa and his elves, Rudolf and other reindeers, the little drummer boy, have slipped into the scene. There are signs along Kingsway announcing opportunity all day to photograph with Santa.

But there is one figure missing from the scenes. All cultures leave this important person out. Not even religious goods stores would have this honest person in the story of Jesus coming as Messiah. This great missing person of Christmas is John the Baptist. We do not receive Christmas Cards with John's words of repentance. But Church places him on central stage on this second Sunday of Advent. He is the voice that points to the coming of Lord, Jesus. He is the voice asking to transform our lives to receive Jesus the Messiah. His message is for all of us to prepare. This Advent and Christmas evokes hopes and dreams. We hope for a peaceful and financially secure world. In the midst of the economic and political turmoil in many parts of the world our hope finds particular relevance. We dream of strong marriage, trusted friendships, a family harmony, a powerful spirituality, and so on.

John the Baptist in today's Gospel tell us how to put a foundation for strong and realistic hopes and dreams. It is transformation of our lives through repentance. Yes we can change. John points out that we, therefore, should not be getting ready for just another holiday season, but should renew our lives in the power of Christ by getting rid of all obstacles that block the full experience of Lord's grace.

With John the Baptist, Christmas will not be just another holiday season, but a healing season bringing joy and peace.

LIGHTS OF CHRISTMAS AT ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL :::::

On the evening of 8th December St Mary's Cathedral will once again be the backdrop for a magnificent colourful light projection which will tell the story of Christmas through this year's theme of Peace.

The amazing projection of lights on the Cathedral's western or main facade will highlight specific Sydney scenes but will also feature a number of stunning Renaissance artworks of the Madonna and the baby Jesus.

Everyone is invited to the opening night, 8th December at 8.30pm when Cardinal Pell will "switch on" the display. The St Mary's Cathedral Choir will also perform a number of Christmas carols. The Lights of Christmas can then be seen every night through to and including Christmas Eve. Various Sydney choirs will also entertain visitors with a variety of carols.





CALENDAR FOR THE COMING WEEK

Monday:	The St Vincent de Paul Evening Conference will meet in the Madden Room at 7.30pm
Tuesday:	The 55 and over Club: This group of seniors will gather in Thornton Hall at 10.00am for carpet bowls and other activities. Come along and join with them. The Legion of Mary meet in the Madden Room at 4.00pm. Advent Program in the Chapel of St Aloysius' Church at 6.30pm.
Wednesday:	Memorial of St Ambrose, bishop doctor. Thanksgiving Mass for St Aloysius School students at 9.30am in Thornton Hall. The Rosary Guild will gather at Carol Stuarts House for a Christmas Party at 12.30pm 95238410
Thursday:	Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary. St Al's Kid's Club will gather in Thornton Hall for fun and games at 3.30pm
Friday:	St Francis De Sales Primary Graduation Mass at St Aloysius' Church at 9.30am The Youth Group will meet in Thornton Hall at 6.00pm.
Saturday:	3rd Sunday of Advent Year B. Vigil Mass at St Aloysius' Church 6.00pm .
Sunday:	3rd Sunday of Advent Year B. Masses at St Aloysius' Church: 8.00am, 10.00am, 6.00pm. Our Lady of the Way Church, Bundeena, 9.00am.

Keep the light of Christ always burning in your heart—for he alone is the Way to walk. He is the Life to live. He is the Love to love.
.....*Blessed Teresa of Calcutta*

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

St Aloysius Church, Cronulla:

No morning Mass Christmas Eve

Christmas Eve: 6.00pm, 8.00pm, Midnight

Christmas Day: Christmas Dawn Mass. 8.00am.

Christmas Day Mass. 10.00am.

No Evening Mass on Christmas Day.

Our Lady of the Way Church, Bundeena.

Sunday : Christmas Day. 9.00am

CHRISTMAS RECONCILIATION (Confession)

St Aloysius' Church, Cronulla:

Wednesday 21st December 7.00pm to 8.00pm.

Thursday 22nd December 7.00pm to 8.00pm.

Our Lady of the Way Church, Bundeena.

Prior to the 9.00am Mass.

NOT JUST A CUPPA, BUT A JUST CUPPA ::::



THIS WEEKEND St Aloysius Social Justice Group will have their Fair Trade Tea and Coffee stall in the foyer of St Aloysius Church after all Masses. By now you must know what this is all about. By your support in purchasing a packet of tea or coffee you are helping our Social Justice Ministry in their good work .



Vinnies

CHRISTMAS APPEAL THIS WEEKEND

At this time every year the St Vincent de Paul Society look to us for support in their endeavours to ensure that those less fortunate than us have a happy Christmas. In our own parish the Vinnies Conferences ensure, that those living around us who cannot afford to enjoy the material things that make Christmas a happy one, by giving food hampers to them.

This weekend they are making an appeal from the pulpit for cash donations. There are many people these days who just cannot afford to look after their children and pay their way on the inadequate welfare funds they receive. Your cash donation this weekend will be greatly appreciated by Vinnies in their efforts to help those on need.

New Principal Appointed :::::

Mrs **Karen Lamarre** has been appointed Principal of St Francis de Sales Primary School at Woollooware, replacing Mrs Diane McInerney who will be retiring this month. Currently Karen is Primary Literacy Curriculum coordinator in the Southern Regional Office of Catholic Schools. Mrs Lamarre will commence her duties when the school resumes in 2012.

Remember your Parish in your Will :::::

To ensure your parish continue to grow, please consider a gift to your Parish in your Will. Contact the parish office for a representative of the parish to contact you, to discuss confidentially leaving a gift in your Will.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION :::::

This weekend 7 of our parish children will be celebrating their First Holy Communion at Our Lady of the Way Church, Bundeena.

To these children we pray that God will bless you and that as you travel along your journey of life you will continue to receive the Body of Jesus, His Son, in the Eucharist frequently.

Our sincere thanks go to Cathy Sammut, our Pastoral Associate, who coordinated the Program, and our Sacramental Group Leader, Brenda Phillis who nurtured these children along the way to this wonderful day in their life. Our parish based programmes are a parish team effort and we could not run these programs so successfully without your support and willingness.

To the parents of these children we also thank for their presence each week during this program and their wonderful support of their children. As you see your child approaching the Altar of God today, cast your mind back to the time of your First Holy Communion Day and pray that your child will be blessed with a continuance of their faith.

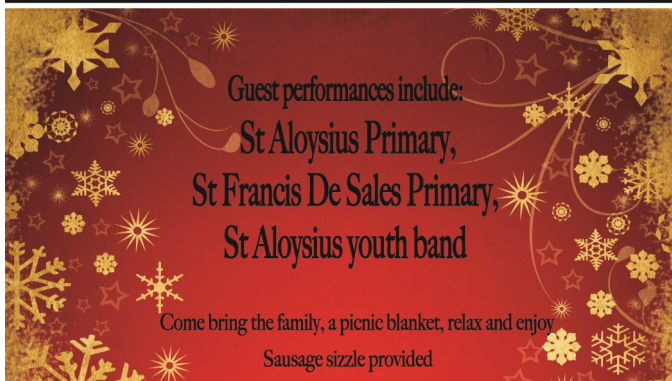
Below we list the names of these children and congratulate them and assure them that as a member of our parish family they will always be in our prayers:

Jesse Bray, Ellie Diver, Angelina Griffiths, Lucy Karis, Sean Kiely, Stella McCann and Jessica Vial.



St Aloysius parish celebrates

CAROLS by CANDLELIGHT



Mass will be Celebrated in the Church at 5pm

Sunday 4th December 6:30pm St Aloysius primary grounds

TONIGHT SUNDAY

Mass at 5.00 PM

Carols in St Aloysius School

Ground at 6.30pm.

St Aloysius Parish Retreat "Opening the Door"

Learn how to enter that privileged place in your heart where no one else goes except you and your God.

Learn how to speak to him, the one that made you, and will be with you until the end of time.

Take the time to stop and listen for the voice of love, speak to him

Then wait, listen, remain, abide, rest

The weekend of the 3rd, 4th & 5th

February 2012

The Hermitage, Marist Brothers Retreat Centre, Mittagong NSW.

\$190.00 per person inclusive of all meals

and accommodation, linen etc.

led by Father John Sullivan

Call the Parish Office to book.

Let's Fill the Christmas Hampers AGAIN ::::: **BE A SANTA!**

Only this weekend and two more weekends will we have the opportunity to fill those boxes at the entrance of St Aloysius' Church with some non-perishable CHRISTMAS FOOD. Then on Saturday 17th December the St Vincent de Paul Elves with other Santa helpers (YOU) will be filling the hampers with the food you have donated to bring some joy to the less fortunate in our parish.

THINK what you will be enjoying on Christmas Day and then give a thought to those who are less fortunate than ourselves.



Year of Grace 2012 :::::

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ. I am writing to you on behalf of all the Bishops of Australia, giving thanks to God for your faith and witness. We now share with you a message of hope.

We call the Catholic people in Australia to a **Year of Grace**, to span the time from Pentecost 2012 to Pentecost 2013. Like the disciples at the first Pentecost, we commit ourselves to **start afresh from Christ**. For several years the Bishops have been reflecting deeply on the life of the Church in Australia. We have asked how we can better serve the needs of you, God's faithful people, in bringing the peace and good news of Jesus Christ to our nation.

Pope Benedict XVI has also proclaimed a **Year of Faith** for the whole Church, to begin on 11 October 2012, the fiftieth anniversary of the beginning of the Second Vatican Council.

We are confident that, with grace leading to faith, and faith responding to grace, the Year of Faith and our Year of Grace will complement each other.

We recognise, firstly, God's abundant blessings to us. You will know many of these in your own lives. We have seen them, too, in large public celebrations such as World Youth Day in Sydney and the Canonisation of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop.

We also acknowledge with sadness that we are a Church in need of healing. There are many wounds – most especially the wounds of abuse which have left not only those abused but the whole Church in need of healing. There is also the struggle to defend the dignity of the first Australians and those who come as migrants and refugees to our shores. We need to extend the hand of friendship to those of other nations and faiths and to be good stewards of the created world. Most deeply, we desire for the light of Christ to burn more brightly in the heart of each Australian.

As Bishops, we asked ourselves where we can turn with so many issues confronting us. Our response in faith is to **start afresh from Christ**. We make this call, firstly and most urgently, to ourselves as Bishops. We are resolved, in the words of Pope John Paul II, to **contemplate the face of Christ**. Both these phrases come from his Apostolic Letter, *Novo Millennio*

Ineunte (At the Beginning of the New Millennium), and we use this Letter as our guide and inspiration.

As we address this challenge to ourselves, we invite you to walk this journey with us in hope. We commit ourselves to pray daily, seeking the mind and heart of Jesus Christ. We commit ourselves to repent for the areas in which we have failed, individually and together, seeking healing and renewal through the grace of Christ's forgiveness. We commit ourselves to the path of holiness, cultivating the many gifts of the Spirit and seeking to grow as disciples of Jesus.

We entrust this year to the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and through this renewed commitment, we are confident that the Church in Australia will be transformed by the power of Christ's resurrection in our lives. Planning has already begun in every diocese in the country, so that the Catholics of this nation may respond to this fresh invitation to "**contemplate the face of Christ**".

We invite you to join us in this journey of prayer so that this "Pentecost" year will be for our nation and all Australians truly a "year of grace".

Your brother in Christ,
Archbishop Philip E Wilson
President, Australian Catholic Bishops Conference



'ADVENT Through the Old Testament'

This Tuesday night at 6.30pm we continue our reflections on the Old Testament during the Season of Advent. This will take place in the Chapel of St Aloysius' Church. You are invited to spend an hour in discussion on the liturgy and readings of the Sundays of Advent. There is no cost involved and the program arranged is very interesting. If you have any enquiries, please contact Vicki Rolland on 0414523449.

Fr Cornelius Keogh :::: Rest in Peace



Father Cornelius (Con) Keogh, OAM, founded the International Community Mental Health Movement GROW. Fr Con Keogh died on 24 November, 2011 aged 90. A requiem Mass for was celebrated for him at Lidcombe last Wednesday. Keogh entered the Springwood Seminary at 18 years of age, and went on to study in Rome, obtaining degrees in philosophy and theology, and was ordained. On his return to Australia he became Professor of Philosophy at Springwood.

Keogh suffered ill health in 1954 and was treated in hospital for mental illness. In 1957, whilst he was recovering from his episodes of unwellness, he began attending meetings of Alcoholics Anonymous because there was at that stage no other support group available. Along with others who were also recovering from mental illness, Keogh began to develop the programme material and the structured network of support groups which became the GROW organisation. In 2004, Keogh was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for his work with GROW.

GROW is a ministry in the field of mental health. It is a voluntary, community based organisation, started in Hurstville in 1957.. Since 2010 our parish also sponsor this ministry in Cronulla. They meet in Parish Centre. GROW members share their own experiences and coping strategies in order to help one another.

Members don't just benefit from one another's experience but, through mutual sharing, and the establishment of trust. The mutual support and friendship developed creates a an ongoing network of support and a community of caring and sharing. People come to GROW because they have experienced mental illness; depression, anxiety, panic attacks, and mental and emotional distress. GROW participants can join in weekly GROW meetings, attend social activities, and education and information sessions which are structured to assist participants with their personal growth and development. We also encourage and support GROW participants to undertake leadership roles and discover their potential.

GROW also provides specialised services including:

- Personal testimonies—offering hope and optimism.
- Carer groups
- Prison groups
- Early intervention for youth provided in schools
- Supported accommodation
- Dual diagnosis (Drug and Alcohol and Mental Illness)

New Website

The Parish Website is redesigned and launched recently. In addition to all the information the previous webpage provided, there are up to date catholic news uploaded each day. It also has a greater emphasis on youth ministry activities. Soon it will also enable parishioners to make direct payment into parish account with the click of a button on the webpage. Have a look.

Catholic Social Justice Timor Leste Friendship Group :::::

Initial Parish meeting of the Catholic Social Justice Timor Leste Friendship Group held on Thursday 17th November.

Parishioners were able to get a good understanding of the history and relationship between Timor Leste and Australia. The hour length presentation by the MacKillop Sisters certainly highlighted the opportunities to assist our neighbor and why Australians have a particular obligation to help Timor Leste.

With a new school being built in our Friendship area of Hato Udo by Turramurra Rotary, we can help to fill out the needs of the school. It costs about \$750 per year to employ a local teacher. A very successful program of visits by Australian school teachers from Ballarat has assisted students in the adjoining area of Ainaro.

Medical supplies are also difficult to maintain. Cuba is well on its way to training 1,000 Timor Leste doctors. On our recent trip we met some of these doctors who are doing a great job. Volunteer Australian nurses, doctors and dentists spend regular tours in the country.

A number of small scale building, power and water projects have been undertaken by volunteer trades people.

Groups like Catholic Mission runs tours for both donors and students, providing an easy and organised introduction to Australians who want to learn more about the country. Travel time from Sydney is surprisingly short, about 5 hours flying plus a break in Darwin, and the cost is reasonable.

So, we are very lucky to be given this opportunity to better understand our friends at Hato Udo and hopefully the parish and the broader Catholic community and their friends will take up the opportunity. In 2012 lets move forward in getting to know our friends in Hato Udo.

If you would like to join us in learning more about Hato Udo or planning opportunities for 2012 please contact Warren on wasu14@yahoo.com.au or John on tteatree@gmail.com

Ministerial Duties Next Weekend 10th & 11th December.

Masses Cronulla	Vigil Mass Saturday 6.00pm	8.00 am Sunday	10.00 am Sunday	6.00 pm Sunday	Bundeena Sunday 9.00am	Nursing Home
Acolyte & Adult Server	R. Driscoll	P. Coady	B. Eaton	M. Sakowicz	K. Maughan M. Baldwin	F.O'Driscoll
Communion Ministers	G. Radford B. Kuschert A. Hale M. Remedios	F. Schrmברי K. Hilder R. Winton C. Coady	K. Eaton A. Zammit A. Palumbo R. McCabe	C. Sammut P. Neate D. DeSouza M. Pearce		
Ministers of the WORD	B. Kuschert A. Hale	K. Hilder F. Schemברי	K. Eaton G. Hather-ingham	L. Wright L. Brbot	R. Watts B. Minogue	
Commentator	M. Tran	V. Rolland	A. Zammit	B. Neate	C. Tiffney	
Junior Altar Servers					ChurchWork C. Feldick	
Parish Counting Groups	This Week Group 3 K. Hilder, K. Donohoe, A & J. Palumbo.		Next Week Group 4 B. McMahon, F. Yan, F. Schemברי, S & T. Farrell.		The Prayer Tree Can you please pray for someone who needs your prayers? Phone Jane on 9527 9964	

DIRECTORY

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SCHOOLS

St Aloysius Primary 9523 2593
 St. Francis de Sales Primary 9523 7323
 O.L.M.C Burraneer 9544 1966
 De La Salle, Caringbah 9524 9133
 De La Salle, Cronulla 85221500

Mass and other Liturgical Schedules**Sunday:**

St Aloysius Church, Cronulla

Our Lady of the Way Church, Bundeena:

Vigil Mass: 6.00pm. (Saturday). 8.00am, 10.00am, 6.00pm
 Sunday Mass 9.00am

Weekdays: This week:

St Aloysius Church, Cronulla:

Monday: 7.00am
 Tuesday to Friday: 7.00am
 Tuesday to Friday: 9.30am
 Saturday: 8.00am

NO Mass at Woolooware this week

Sacrament of Penance (Confession) St Aloysius Church, Cronulla:

Saturday 5.00pm to 5.30pm

(or by appointment)

Our Lady of the Way Church, Bundeena:

Before Sunday Mass..

Baptisms: By appointment. **Morning Prayer:** Monday to Friday 6.45 am.,**Rosary:** After the weekday Mass**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction:** First Friday of the month: 6.30 pm - 7.30 pm.**Anointing of the Sick in Mass:** 1st Saturday of February, April, June, August, October, December. Mass at 10.00am

Anointing of the sick as required in the home or church. Please contact the Parish Centre.



We pray for the repose of the soul of **Fr. Cornelius (Con) Keogh, KE Kuriakose, Jesus Edo** who died recently, also for **Christina Martin** whose anniversary occurs around this time. Let us remember in our prayers our relatives and friends who have departed this life, especially Jean & Jim Quinn, William Noel Dwight, Diana Casaceli, Les Cooke, Jean Givney, Allan Howarth, Megan Howarth, Brian Small and Dominic.,

MAY THEIR SOULS AND ALL THE SOULS OF THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED REST IN PEACE

Your Contribution to the Church is your appreciation for your Parish. To become a regular contributor please fill in this slip and return it to the Parish Office or place it on the Sunday Collection Plate.

Planned Giving Envelope Request Form

Name Telephone Number

Address