Vol 40 No 17
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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

The Nativity of Our Lord :::: Solemnity

Coffee and Christmas ::::::

It is common sight in Cronulla to see people walking around carrying a cup of coffee. It is almost like Charlie Brown's security blanket dragged around (cartoon 'peanuts' by Charles Schulz). Everyone knows where to get good coffee. Comfort or convenience of the shop does not matter as long as the coffee tastes good. But there is another scenario of coffee drinking. It is after dinner and at casual home visits. It could be friends or relatives. When that happens the host is keen to bring the best looking cups out. It could be exquisite or modern. Most times there will be a story attached to the crockery. It may be something inherited from the grandparents. It may be a special gift they received at their wedding. It could be something they bought from a high end shop. There may be stories of how one of the set was broken and the pain they took to replace the missing one. The whole conversation is so much around the cup as if the cup matters much more than coffee. The more you can admire the cups the higher your dignity seems to be.

The experience of Christmas is also something like a 'coffee culture'. There are people who really enjoy carrying Christ around wherever they go. They sip Christ as they go to work as well as they sit down and relax. For them the comfort of their house or the price tag of their boat is secondary. For them cars are for transport rather than means of announcing the brand name and the prestige attached to it. It does not upset these people that the clothes they wear does not carry fashion labels.

There is another group of Christians for whom fitting Christ into their busy schedule of life is a big juggle. For them the only time perhaps they get to spend with their family is Sunday. Other days are busy working, partying, night clubs, going to the favourite shows, going for health watch programs, and so on. They are annoyed that demands are made on them to fit in Christ in the midst of their already busy life. Just as the look and price tag of the cup is important, status and appearance are important for these people. They are good people who make sure their children make their First Communion, and Sacraments. They are gentle people who speak only courteously so that they will not offend anyone. They are as gentle and polite as Pharisees. But fitting Christ into life could be a big ask for these people.

But the birth of Jesus was not announced to such well-mannered people. His birth was announced in "Beth Sahur", a place known for shepherds gossiping and whispering to one another. It is the openness and simplicity of their lives that made them eligible to hear the message from the angels who said, "Glory to God in the highest, Peace to People of Good Will." Acceptance is more important than appearance. Wilful undertaking is more important than feeling good.

I wish you all peace and joy of Christmas. May you always cherish Christ being with you. May the promises of Christ realise more fully in in the New Year, in your life.

THANK YOU ::::::

Father Andrew and I thank you for your warm greetings and lovely Christmas presents. We cannot reciprocate adequately, but we do pray God's blessings on all of you. We wish peace and joy of Christmas on all our friends, parishioners and visitors. There are a number of people who worked together for the Christmas Liturgy, Children's celebrations, church cleaning etc. To all volunteers, thank you for your generosity. May you all have all good blessings of God in the New Year. ..... Fr Thomas

The Liturgy for Christmas Masses

The Vigil Masses 6.00pm & 8.00pm

Entrance Antiphon:
Today you will know that the Lord is coming to save us, and in the morning you will see his glory.

First Reading:
This Reading is from the Prophet Isaiah 62: 1-5

Responsorial:
For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

Second Reading:
This Reading is from the Acts of the Apostles. 13: 16-17. 1-14

Gospel Acclamation:
ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA! Tomorrow the wickedness of the earth will be destroyed: the Saviour of the world will be our king. ALLELUIA!

Gospel: Matthew 1: 1-25

Communion Antiphon:
The glory of the Lord will be revealed and all mankind will see the saving power of God.

The Midnight Mass

Entrance Antiphon:
The Lord said to me: You are my Son, this day have I begotten you.

First Reading:
This Reading is from the Prophet Isaiah. 9: 1-7

Responsorial:
Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

Second Reading:
This Reading is from the letter of St Paul to Titus. 2: 11-14

Gospel Acclamation:
ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA! Good News and great joy to all the world: today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord. ALLELUIA!

Gospel: Luke 2: 1-14

Communion Antiphon:
The Word of God became man, we have seen his glory.

Christmas Dawn Mass 8.00am Cronulla

Entrance Antiphon:
A light will shine on us this day, the Lord is born for us; he shall be called Wonderful God, Prince of peace, Father of the world to come, and his kingship will never end.

First Reading:
This Reading is from the Prophet Isaiah. 62: 11-12

Responsorial:
A light will shine on this day" the Lord is born for us.

ComSecond Reading:
This Reading is from the letter of St Paul to Titus. 2: 4-7

Gospel Acclamation:
ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA! Glory to God in the highest, peace to his people on earth. ALLELUIA!

Gospel: Luke 2:15-20

Communion Antiphon:
Daughter of Zion, exult, shout aloud, daughter of Jerusalem! Your king is coming, the Holy One, the Saviour of the world.

Christmas Day Mass 9.00am Bundeena 10.00am Cronulla.

Entrance Antiphon:
A child is born for us, a son given to us; dominion is laid on his shoulder, and he shall be called Wonderful Counsellor.

First Reading
This Reading is from the Prophet Isaiah 52: 7-10

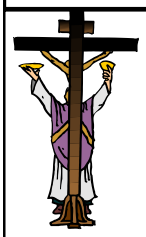
Responsorial:
All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.

Second Reading:
A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Hebrews. 1: 1-6

Gospel Acclamation:
ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA! A holy day has dawned upon us. Come you nations and adore the Lord. Today a great light has come upon the earth. ALLELUIA!

Gospel: John 1: 1-18

Communion Antiphon:
All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.



The following deceased are included in our prayers during Christmas Masses

Bernard Fitzpatrick, Stephan Filan and John Sidgreaves who died recently, also **Mary Olive Harrigan, Noel Staines, Michael & Mary Tabone and Charles Collins** whose anniversaries occur around this time. Let us remember our relatives and friends who have parted this life, especially George Markham, Teresa & Monica Mullins, Felix & Mary Mandile, Moya Holmes, Vincent Holmes, Kathleen & Stanley Riley, Christina Obbering, Geoff Hurst, Lorna & John George, Nativdad & Rogelio Garcia, Jorgina Abella, Dorothy. A & Trever G. Ison, Anthony & Josephine Cordina, Eric & Kathleen James, Jean & Jim Quinn, Michael & Ester ….., Diana Casaceli, William Noel Dwight, Keith Hilder, Jean Givney, Brian Small, Allan Howarth, Megan Howarth, Keith Pyne, Eileen & William Cruickshank, Bert Rowe.

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

HOLIDAY MASS TIMES St Aloysius' Church

THIS MONDAY 8.00am ONLY

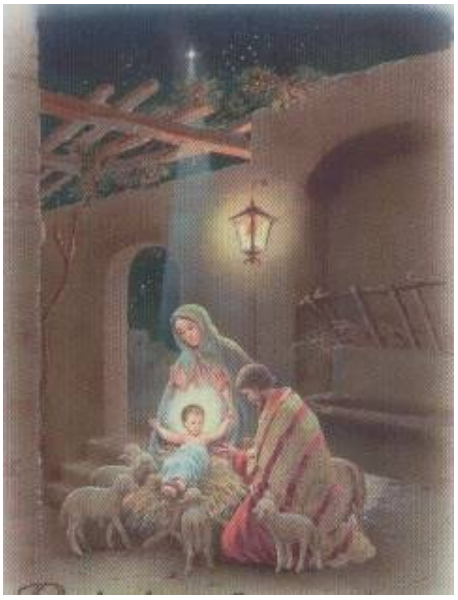
THIS TUESDAY 8.00am ONLY

This Week in the Catholic Weekly

- Student Christmas art show
- Five new priests ordained
- Parish Nativity scenes
- 'Outstanding' HSC results for Sydney CEO schools
- God gave Lauren strength to say 'no' to 'impure' roles.
- St Mary and 'Boree Log' win cash

"And she gave birth to her first-born son" ::::::::

On this Feast of Christmas we welcome a new-born child into this World. He looks like any other child in outward appearance; he is small and vulnerable like any other child; he feels the cold and cherishes the love of his mother, as infants do. Yet, we believe through the mystery of Christmas that this child is unique; that he existed before he was born in time, and that through this precious infant, God has fulfilled his promise to visit his people, and to remain with them always. What a breathtaking and almost inconceivable way for God to visit us, that he would become one with us; that he would take on our human nature and live our life! The Lord needed a Mother, just as we need a mother as well, and yet we need our mothers not only while we are infants, but throughout our entire lives as adults too.



The Prophet Isaiah, long ago, revealed this beautiful sign of the mother/ the maiden with child. It would be this beautiful, intimate and very human sign that would reveal that God has come among his people. The heavens would not be ripped apart with dramatic scenes of light and power; there would be no dramatic interruptions to nature and human life. It would be this child, born in the midst of the night; born silently and hidden in the manger, ignored and even despised by many, who would fulfil God's promise made long ago, to the Prophets and to Abraham.

While we do not recognise the Divinity of this child with human sight, and we only see his weakness and tenderness as a baby, there is one outward sign that would indicate that this child is unique. It is the Angels who appear and who announce this wonderful news to the Shepherds, who were lowly workers in the field, tending their sheep, that they should come and worship him. What an unexpected thing – shepherds, having direct access to, and worshipping the King!

The birth of Jesus, this Divine child, is the key and central event in the history of humanity. It is like the hinge of the door, upon which the whole frame hangs. Our lives are fixed in place, are made firm and renewed by the coming of this little one into the world, yet it is an event that we need to search for in our lives, so that it does not pass us by.

God wanted his birth to happen quietly, so quietly that the world went about its business as if nothing had happened. The question that the Feast of Christmas poses for each of us is whether ***WE*** have recognised this event in our lives by our desire to confess our sins, to be renewed and strengthened in our faith by God's grace, and to let this event change us. Or, have our lives remained largely unchanged, our hearts still cold and unforgiving, our lives still obsessed with possessions and personal pride, and Christmas only a word, an empty word, flashing in neon lights?

……..Father Andrew Benton

CONGRATULATIONS Jessica ::::

Jessica Maughan, a parishioner of Our Lady of the Way Church, Bundeena, Graduated at Notre Dame University with credits and distinction in her subjects. She received her Degree as Bachelor of Education (Primary) last Wednesday during the Graduation Ceremony at the Notre Dame Campus. We congratulate Jessica on her achievement, but we are sorry to see her leave us in Bundeena,. Our choir will be one singer less to praise God next year.

She elected to teach in the rural schools of NSW. She has decided to teach in a Mission school in a town almost beyond the 'Black Stump' ….. Wilcannia. Over the past month she has visited the school and spent a week teaching there before making her final decision, She loved it so much she has signed on for three years. Good on ya Jess!!!! ……. Pop.

Vinnies

MANY, MANY THANKS from the St Vincent de Paul Society Conferences in our Parish, for your wonderful support to their Christmas Hamper Appeal. Your donations of food and gifts over the past few weekends were packed into colourful Christmassy hampers, and there were many delighted faces to greet our delivery people.

We want to recognise especially the students and teachers of ST ALOYSIUS AND ST FRANCIS de SALES PRIMARY SCHOOLS, and DE LA SALLE COLLEGE CRONULLA, for their very generous contributions. Despite their busy schedules, including end-of-year exams, these Schools have been constant in their support over many years and we as a Parish are very grateful to them.

As a result of this combined effort, there are now many people in our Community who will now have a Happier Christmas than they might otherwise have done, with plenty of food on their tables and gifts for their children.

Heartfelt thanks go particularly to those wonderful people who donated money and goods anonymously. Please be assured that the rewards for your generosity can be seen on the faces of many Mums, Dads, children and single people, in our Cronulla area, and not just at Christmas time. Money donated will be used during the coming year's to make sure that we can continue to look after those who need our services.

We feel blessed to have so many giving and caring people in our midst. There is nothing more beautiful than a Community in Action.

ST VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY, CRONULLA CONFERENCES

THANK YOU FATHER THOMAS ,AND WE WONT SAY GOODBYE ,BUT SEE YOU SOON.

Our Church and Parish has progressed and changed during the time Father Thomas has been our Parish Priest. Many new and innovative things have happened and this has taken great commitment and faith from you. We thank you for all your hard work. You have developed many new ministries within our Parish and given a lot of time to our Youth Ministry, Care of the Sick, Pastoral Council and developed many new advances in the IT area. You have touched the hearts of many parishioners and will be greatly missed. You have crossed the path of our lives at the right time and have made a difference in our parish life. We will celebrate a Thanksgiving Farewell Mass for Father Thomas on Friday 24th February 2012 at 7pm at St Aloysius Church and then supper to follow in Thornton Hall.

Good Bye Cronulla

Having completed my term in Cronulla on New Years Day, I will be moving on to pastor St Peter Chanel Berala which will incorporate St Joseph the Worker Parish South Auburn.

Berala is between Bankstown and Auburn parishes. By going there, I am, in a way, going back to where I came from! Rev Dr Tom Carroll from Ashbury will be your new Parish Priest.

My efforts in updating the facilities in the parish may be more noticed than other pastoral initiatives. Yet I have great satisfaction of achievements in Youth Ministry, Ministry to the children, adult education and retreats, ministry to the children, and building up a relationship with schools as a ministry of the parish. I also tried to be as communicative to the parish families as possible through various media. Various teams and individuals have helped me in wonderful ways. In short I have had a great time in Cronulla and made some very good friends. I have had plenty of appreciation for the Pastoral Ministry and Sacramental Ministry I could offer during my time here. I thank you my friends and parishioners and God for all those good times and for the good people. Now it is time to say goodbye.

My new Contact details:
St Peter Chanel Church, 60 Kingsland Rd, Berala 2141
Tel: 96447787, Fax 96442861; Email: kurunthanam@gmail.com

I wish you a great time with Fr Tom Carroll in the New Year and thereafter.

WELCOME DEACON SAM LYNCH :::::

Sam Lynch was ordained a deacon, along with three other seminarians, recently in St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney, by Cardinal Pell. He has been appointed to Cronulla to exercise his diaconate ministry 'till his priestly ordination here. The parish congratulates and welcomes him. Sam is not new to the parish, he spent some time with us as a seminarian last year. One of Sam's first duties with us was to erect and decorate the Christmas tree in the foyer of St Aloysius' Church this week. Nice work Rev Sam!

WE WELCOME VISITORS TO OUR CHURCH AND OUR EUCHARIST.

If you are a non Catholic and wish to receive a blessing during Communion time, please cross your arms on your chest so that the priest or minister can recognize you as such. This also applies to children who have not made their First Holy Communion.

St Aloysius Church – Alterations and Additions.

On the 16th December 2010, the Sutherland Shire Council issued the Construction Certificate for the Alterations and Additions to the Church.

On the 23rd December 2010, the Contract for these works was awarded to Building Project Management Pty Ltd (Mr. Bradley Piggott- Managing Director). Work is to commence on the 10th January 2011 and is scheduled to be completed on the 21st April 2011.

Alan Wells.
St Aloysius Parish, Project Manager.

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This notice appeared in our Bulletin last Christmas. Tonight and Today, as you look around our Parish Church you will see that the Project has been completed in time for our celebrations this Christmas.

Due to the foresight of our Parish Priest, Fr Thomas Kuruntham, and the expertise and hard work of Mr Alan Wells, a fellow parishioner, in the refurbishing of the church, the additions to its forecourt in the installing of the Columbaria, (a place of rest after death), and other much needed work; all these works have been carried out over the past year and both Fr Thomas and Alan Wells are to be congratulated on the planning and arranging for this work to be done and completed on time. The only internal installations to the church are the additional stained glass windows that we hope will be purchased and installed during the new year.

The majority of parishioners are delighted that this work has been carried out. They are very disappointed that Fr Thomas was not re-appointed to our parish for a further 6 years, to enjoy the fruits of his vision of a parish plant that needed to be attended to after the years of wear and tear, and additions for the benefit of the parish for years ahead.

We, on behalf of those parishioners, congratulate Fr Thomas and Alan Wells and thank them for providing us with a church that is not only one of beauty internally and its surrounds; a Parish Centre that now meets the needs of modern administration of a parish; a Parish House (Presbytery) that is a fitting place for our future clergy to enjoy, rest and entertain, and a refurbished parish assembly hall for both parishioners and children to gather and enjoy. Thank you! Thank you! We are appreciative of your thoughts in planning, and the hard and sometime difficult task of these projects.

To Fr Thomas, on behalf of your parishioners, we say: 'Well done!' You have served the parish well over the past 6 years, both spiritually in your priestly ministry, labouring for God in His Vineyard, and keeping this part of it in good shape to continue your good works by others. We will always remember you. To Alan Wells! You thought you had retired, didn't you!!!. Thank you for using your talent for us in the many projects over the past 6 years. We really appreciate the time and worry you must have experienced, particularly during your time of sadness when your wife, Barbara, died. You too are really a man of action, and along with Fr Thomas, have left your mark on this Parish. Thank you Alan!

Ministerial Duties Next Weekend 31st Dec & 1st Jan

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	J. o' Neill	V. Steed	F.O'Driscoll	G. Alessi	R. Farrell M. Baldwin	F.O'Driscoll
Communion Ministers	I. O'Neill M. Boyd J. McDonald M. Remedios	R. Winton F. Schembri A. Cimino C. Coady	R. McCabe A, Zammit R. Natoli K. Vitenov	P. Neate M. Pearce L. Overton C. Sammut		
Ministers of the WORD	M. Boyd M. Tran	R. Winton F. Schembri	B. Slamon K. Vitenov	I. Erceg C. Snow	C. Toutounji L. McMullin	
Commentator	J. McDonald	M. Downes	A. Zammit	C. Sammut	C. Tiffney	
Junior Altar Servers						

Parish Counting Groups	This Week Group 6	Next WeekGroup 7
	J. Lynch, C, Muirson, J & M. Bainbridge.	J. Keogh, J. Small, M. Remedios, M & S. Barlow.

The Prayer Tree
Can you please pray for someone who needs your prayers? Phone Jane on 9527 9964

DIRECTORY

Pastor ..... Fr Thomas Kurunthanam
Email ..... frthomas@stalcron.org.au
Assistant Priest ....Fr Andrew Benton
Email ..... andrewbenton@stalcron.org.au
Pastoral Associate.. ....Mrs Cathy Sammut
Parish Centre .....18 Giddings Ave, CRONULLA 2230
Secretary .....Mrs Kim Plummer
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Phone 8522 0300
Fax 9544 1451
Email..... admin@stalcron.org.au
Internet Website ..... www.stalcron.org.au
Bulletin..... .....Mr Ken Maughan
Phone 9523 1357
Email ..... bulletin@stalcron.org.au

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 — Vigil Mass: 6.00pm. (Saturday). 8.00am, 10.00am, 6.00pm
Our Lady of the Way Church, Bundeena: Sunday Mass 9.00am

Weekdays: This week:
St Aloysius Church, Cronulla:
Monday & Tuesday: 8.00am only. (Public Holiday's)
Wednesday to Friday: 7.00am
Wednesday to Friday: 9.30am
Saturday: 8.00am

No Mass at St Francis de Sales School, Woolooware, during school holidays.

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.

From we who bring this Bulletin to you each week

May your Christmas be a happy and holy one
And may the Peace of the Lord be upon you

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 .....