

<p>Masses (17th Dec.-23rd Dec.) Sat. 7.30am:†Aloysius &amp; Anthony Chong; Vigil 5pm † Paul Lim; Sun. 8am: Kieran Smith; 9.30am For the Parishioners; Mon: †Elizabeth, Joseph, Theresa; Tue: †Lim Family; Wed: For flood victims; Thurs:; Fri:+Holy Souls</p>		<p>9.(16). <b>Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity (Apostolicam Actuositatem):</b> The laity participates in the mission of the church, but especially in the temporal order.</p>	
<p><i>Dear Catechists, Teachers, Parents and Students from all our schools, we wish you a Blessed Christmas and very much deserved a wonderful holiday. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.</i></p>		<p><b>Pre-Christmas “Thank-you” gathering on 18<sup>th</sup> Dec.</b> from 5pm in the Church hall. All welcome! In order for the venue preparation, please place your name on the attendance list provided in the church. Coming to the celebration, it will be fantastic if you can bring some traditional dish to share.</p>	
<p>21<sup>st</sup> Dec. St Peter Canisius 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec. St John of Kanty</p>		<p>The exact origin of 25<sup>th</sup> Dec. as the birth date of Jesus is vague. The New Testament provides no clues in this regard. 25<sup>th</sup> Dec. was first identified as the date of Jesus' birth by Sextus Julius Africanus (historian b.180 d.250) in 221. One explanation of the origin of this date is that 25<sup>th</sup> Dec. was the Christianizing of the <i>dies solis invicti nati</i> (“day of the birth of the unconquered sun”), a popular holiday in the Roman Empire that celebrated the winter solstice as a symbol of the resurgence of the sun, the casting away of winter and the heralding of the rebirth of spring and summer. Indeed, after the 25<sup>th</sup> Dec. had become widely accepted as the date of Jesus' birth, Christian writers frequently made the connection between the rebirth of the sun and the birth of the Son. One of the difficulties with this view is that it suggests a willingness on the part of the Christian church to appropriate a pagan festival when the early Church was so determined on distinguishing itself categorically from pagan beliefs and practices. A second view suggests that 25<sup>th</sup> Dec. became the date of Jesus' birth by a priori reasoning that identified the spring equinox as the date of the creation of the world and the fourth day of creation, when the light was created, as the day of Jesus' conception (i.e., March 25). December 25, nine months later, then became the date of Jesus' birth.</p>	
<p>We acknowledge the traditional Custodians of this land.</p>		<p><b>Christmas at St. Joseph's</b></p> <p><b>18<sup>th</sup> December</b> 5pm Christmas Dinner in the church hall.</p> <p><b>21<sup>st</sup> December</b> 7pm Penitential Rite with Reconciliation</p> <p><b>24<sup>th</sup> December</b> 5pm Family Mass (parents with children) 7.30pm Vigil Mass 10:30pm Christmas Carol 11pm Night Christmas Mass</p> <p><b>25<sup>th</sup> December</b> 8am Christmas Day Mass 9.30am Christmas Day Mass <b>26<sup>th</sup> December</b> 7:30 am Mass</p>	
<p><b>Daily Masses:</b> 7:30am <b>Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday</b> (Saturday: Mass, Cenacle, Confession &amp; Benediction); <b>Tuesday</b> 5:30pm: Adoration, Novena, Confession, Benediction and 6pm Mass. <b>First Fridays</b> 5:30pm Devotions &amp; 6pm Mass.</p>		<p><b>St. Vincent de Paul Food Drive.</b> Box for donations of non-perishable, in date, food items will be located at the front of the Church. Please donate generously for those in need.</p>	
<p><b>Weekend Mass times: Saturday:</b> Vigil 5pm <b>Sunday:</b> 8am, 9:30am and <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday</b> of the month at 3pm: Divine Mercy Chaplet with Benediction and Mass.</p>		<p><b>Christmas Offering.</b> Please use <b>Christmas envelopes provided with the intention to offer a Christmas gift of appreciation for a pastoral ministry of our Retired Priests.</b></p>	
<p><b>Baptisms after 9:30 Mass.</b> Marriage and Baptism inquiries please contact Parish Office.</p>		<p><b>Christmas at the Cathedral.</b> The Christmas display of lights will end on 25<sup>th</sup> Dec.</p>	
<p>“Catholic SRE Learning from Home” materials:<a href="https://www.cress.org.au/learning-from-home-sre-lessons/">https://www.cress.org.au/learning-from-home-sre-lessons/</a></p>		<p>Archbishop's Flood Appeal. Online donations are welcome for the Archbishop's Flood Appeal via: <a href="https://www.ourfaithourworks.org/flood-appeal/">https://www.ourfaithourworks.org/flood-appeal/</a></p>	
<p>St. Joseph's Como cares for safeguarding children. Safeguarding Office at (02) 9390 5810 or <a href="mailto:safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org">safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org</a>.</p>		<p>There are many things to do around the Church before Christmas per se: to clean the light shades, to vacuum the carpet.... Please do not hesitate to give hand at any convenient time. Thank you.</p>	
<p><b>Our sick:</b> Richard Davis, Victoria Stojanovic, Michele McQuillan, Vincent Fernandez, Drago Mikan, Therese Dorff, Steve Smith, Barbara Moore, Elizabeth Kinsela, Ida Melis, Katrina Marinilli, Rita Shah, Julia Lock, Marie Lawsen, Ian Duffey, Eliette Majdandzic; Dragica Furda, Carmen Camilleri, Mary Carmen Borg, Norma Cook, Josefa Dabu, Josie Lay, Christine Woodard, Maria Suszycka, Urszula Kaminska, Josephine and Steven Marinilli, Nicholas Mircevski and all dear Friends from Mildred Symons House.</p>		<p>Parishes hold three CWF Appeals in a single financial year. The quota for the current appeal stands at \$12,500. Up to last weekend \$ 3,715 was given to the appeal. Please consider that all your donations are 100% tax deductible.</p>	
		<p>Please scan the QR code with your mobile phone camera and follow the instructions or kindly use the link below. <a href="https://www.bpoint.com.au/pay/COMOOYSTERBAYPARISH">https://www.bpoint.com.au/pay/COMOOYSTERBAYPARISH</a></p>	
		<p>11<sup>th</sup> Dec1<sup>st</sup> coll. \$ 277.3; 2<sup>nd</sup> coll.\$132.90; P.G. \$ 410</p>	
		<p>“Kindness of St Joseph shows us the nobility of someone who prays and ponders the ways of God, even when it is difficult to understand His purpose.” (from Advent Companion 2022 p.13)</p>	