



Parish of Our Lady of the Way

North Sydney | Kirribilli | Lavender Bay
Under the care of the Jesuits since 1878
Sunday 17 December 2017 – Third Sunday of Advent



Not from the Pulpit: Michael Gill

The Royal Commission winds up - What now for our Church?

I expect that Justice Peter McClellan and his fellow commissioners have and will be flooded by messages of thanks. Not all will come from Catholics. And not all will be as follows:

“You listened to and gave hope to people, I suspect for the first time in many instances who were criminally abused by members of my church and others.

That listening and hope should have been provided by my church leaders decades ago. It was our pastoral duty, indeed the only reason to embrace Christianity. Our failures are broad and deep, and have resulted in a deserved withdrawal of trust by the community generally and the Catholic laity and the clergy and an abandonment of church allegiance. I thank you for shining the light of truth on these crimes while my church leaders denied and concealed the truth.

If the Catholic Church is ever able to re-establish its credibility in Australia, I hope that those who benefit will generously recognise that it was your Commission which rebuilt a key part of the destroyed foundations. Without your work, I fear we would have stumbled towards a slow but inevitable death. Let's hope you have given enough encouragement to the laity and the clergy to get on with all that needs to be done.

I prayed for your Commissioners as I will continue to do. You have truly “walked through the valley of the shadow of death”. I pray you have come through it ok; I suspect your lives are changed forever.”

Michael Gill is a parishioner and former Chair of the Parish Council

Parish Notices

Australian Catholic Youth Festival Wrap-Up



After months of planning and coordination, some 130 Young people from the Jesuit Youth Groups of St Ignatius Toowong, Xavier Catholic College Hervey Bay, Youth Engagement Project Melbourne, Holy Family Parish Mt Druitt and Our Lady of the Way North Sydney made their way to the Ron Dyer Centre to encounter music, prayer, and most importantly – each other on Wednesday night. They were blessed by the Jesuit Province Socius, Robin Koning SJ, and felt the buzz of the festival coming upon them.

The ‘Jesuit ACYF Group’ kicked off the Festival with an early morning bacon and egg roll each morning, cooked beautifully by our wonderful volunteers from the Parish and from Jesuit Mission. As we arrived on the train to Homebush, the 19 000 strong crowd was an overwhelming shock to our young people, many of whom can say their experience of Catholicism only ventures as far as St Mary’s Church. The kids had smiles on their faces, they were chanting Jesuit chants, and embraced the festival as it was designed – to *open new horizons for spreading joy*. Our youth sung loudly, listened carefully, prayed passionately and discerned with an honest heart. They were inspired by talks from international speakers on Climate Change, Modern-day slavery, Refugees, Pornography and the Sexualisation of our secular society. At night they sung their hearts out with Canadian Catholic Superstar Matt Maher (*Composer: Lord I Need You, Your Grace Is Enough*), and had a taste of many different modes of prayer. My favourite quote was from Sr Hilda Scott – “*There are 400 000 ways to say ‘I love you’, so there are at least as many ways to pray*”.

As we made our way on pilgrimage to the Domain for the final Mass, all members of the team started reflecting on what it means to be a Catholic in today’s world. Matt Maher taught us to allow our identity to be “*that we are made in the image and likeness of God*”, rather than what sport we are best at.

Be prepared to see a louder and more active youth in Sydney in 2018. *Michael Paton, Youth Minister*



An Ignatian Journey with Fr Andrew Bullen SJ and Alex Gorman

5 February – 26 March 2018, St Francis Xavier Hall, 17 Mackenzie St, Lavender Bay.

Course duration: 8 weeks, Mondays 7.30-9.15pm; Program cost: \$250.00

Bookings: <https://www.trybooking.com/TIAU> | Enquiries: Alex Gorman 0415 768 330

Christmas and New Year Masses

	St Mary's	St Francis Xavier's	Star of the Sea
Saturday 23 December	8.00am	9.30am 5.30pm (Vigil)	
Sunday 24 December (*Masses for 4th Sunday of Advent)	11.00am*	9.30am*	8.00am*
Sunday 24 December (Christmas Masses)	5.00pm (Family Mass) 6.45pm Carols 7.00pm (Youth Mass) 11.30pm Carols Midnight Mass	5.45pm Carols 6.00pm Mass	8.45pm Carols 9.00pm Mass
Monday 25 December (Christmas Masses)	10.30 Mass	9.30am Family Mass	8.00 Mass
Tuesday 26 December	No 7.00am Mass 5.30pm Mass	No 12.10pm Mass	
Wednesday 27 December Thursday 28 December Friday 29 December	7.00am Mass 5.30pm Mass	12.10pm Mass	
Saturday 30 December	8.00am Mass	9.30 am Mass 5.30pm (Vigil)	
Sunday 31 December (Holy Family)	11.00am Mass No 6.00pm Youth Mass	9.30am Mass	8.00am Mass
Monday 1 January (New Year's Day)	7.00am Mass 5.30pm Mass	12.10pm Mass	
Tuesday 2 January (Note change for weekdays thereafter)	No 7.00am Mass 5.30pm Mass	7.00am Mass 12.10pm Mass	
Saturday 6 January (Note change for Saturday's thereafter)	No 8.00am Mass	8.30am Mass No 9.30am Mass 5.30pm (Vigil)	

No 9.00am Sunday Family Mass until 21 January

Sunday's Readings

First Reading

[Is 61:1-2, 10-11](#)

Isaiah proclaims the goodness of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Lk 1:46-50, 53-54, R. Is 61:10

My soul rejoices in my God.

[Second Reading](#)

1 Thes 5:16-24

Rejoice and pray always.

[Gospel Acclamation](#)

Is 61:1 (Lk 4:18)

[Gospel](#)

Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

The priests and Levites question John's identity.

In Our Prayers

Baptisms

Josefin Ware, Jack Bingham, Tai Lord, Sebastian Wickramasinghe, Nicholas Hain

Maximilian Klingberg, Sierra Prentice, Charlie Prentice

Sick

Ron Whitmore, Sr Natalina Todeschini, Brian McClosky, Craig Chase, Rosa Maria Santos, Vedran Simunovic, Bruce Horsfield, Tony Breslin, Gavin O'Connor, Fr Tony Smith SJ, Joseph Meagher, Sharon Collins, John Fitzgerald, Sandra Tsui, Neave Mackey (17yrs), Mee-Na Cheok, Mary O'Connor, Sister Anna Ventura rsm,

Recently Deceased

Nancye Delaney, Gwen O'Riordan

Anniversaries

Alice Ho, Katrina Dawson, Joy and Cecil O'Dea, Alice Redden, Fr. Keith Gorman, SSC

Ted Knox, Margarita Greig