

FR ALO WRITES...

**John the Baptist:
The Voice of the Wilderness**
(John 1: 6-8, 19-28)

He was named John the Baptist for he baptized Jesus in the Jordan River. The name that was given to him was based on his first “physical direct” contact with Jesus. However his role as the one who prepared the Lord’s coming has been exercised since he was in his mother’s womb. *“As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy”*(Luke 1:44). Later he announced the Lord’s presence before baptizing him (Matt 3:13-17). There was a time he wasn’t sure of the Lord’s presence which led him to send his disciples to ask Jesus personally who he was. Jesus replied, *“Go back and report to John what you hear and see: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me”* (Matt 11:4-6)



In time when people were expecting the immediate coming of a Messiah, John could have easily proclaiming himself as the messiah. But he did not do that for he knew who he was. The people of his time were wondering who he was, because the things that he did were like what was prophesized long before him. They asked him bluntly, *“Who are you?”* and *“What do you say about yourself?”* They wanted to know if he was really sent by God. John had no doubt and no mistaken identity about his call and mission. In all humility and sincerity he said he was only a voice bidding people to get ready for the arrival of the greatest Ruler of all, God’s anointed King and Messiah.

John the Baptist bridges the Old and New Testaments. He is the last of the Old Testament prophets who points the way to the Messiah. He is the first of the New Testament witnesses and martyrs. He is the herald who prepares the way for Jesus and who announces his mission to the people: *Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world!* (John 1:29). John pointed on Jesus as the messiah, the savior and not himself.

I have been to several countries in Asia and South America. They are mostly developing countries. In those countries, poverty, gap between rich and the poor as well as injustice are predominant issues. This kind of situation could create messiahs (preachers who come in the name of God to proclaim “good news”) which are mostly related to themselves. And people tend to believe them with no filter. They can be manipulated easily with the false promises of the better future. Look at the many young people who joined “religious wars” for false dreams of the future. They tend to believe those preachers rather than God himself who speaks through their hearts. I was impressed by the words of one of our parishioners here who is a doctor. I said to him: *“It’s amazing that you could save so many lives through your ‘ministry’ as a doctor”*. He said: *“Father, I don’t save people’s life. I treat them medically; and God is the one who saves them”*. This is a man of faith, honesty and humility like John the Baptist.



THIS WEEK

SATURDAY 13 DEC

6:00pm Mass

SUNDAY 14 DEC

9:30am Mass + Kids Church, Morning Tea
3:30pm Indonesian Mass
6:00pm Mass + Kids Church

MONDAY 15 DEC

9:00am Mass
9:30am Reconciliation

WEDNESDAY 17 DEC

9:00am Mass
7:00pm Reconciliation - Second Rite

FRIDAY 19 DEC

10:30am Anointing Mass

SATURDAY 20 DEC

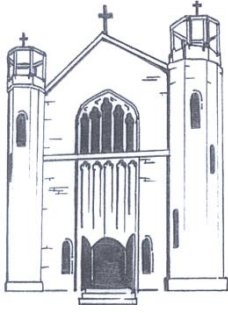
6:00pm Mass

SUNDAY 21 DEC

9:30am Mass + Kids Church, Morning Tea
11:00am French Mass
3:30pm Indonesian Mass
6:00pm Mass + Kids Church

ARE YOU NEW TO THE PARISH?

Welcome! Let us know how we can support you in your faith journey. Please introduce yourself to the parish priest and/or one of the hospitality team at morning tea.



PARISH DIRECTORY

4 Roma Ave Kensington NSW 2033
 T: 9663 1070
 F: 9313 6348
 E: kensoparish@pacific.net.au
 W: <http://olrkensington.org.au>

PARISH PRIEST
Fr Aloysius Lamere msc

PARISH SECRETARY
 Maria Caetano (Mon-Fri, 9am-1pm)

MASS TIMES
 Sat - 6pm (Vigil)
 Sun - 9:30am (Family), 6pm
 Mon, Wed, Fri - 9am
 Indonesian Mass Sun - 3:30pm
 French Mass Third Sun - 11am

RECONCILIATION
 Mon 9:30am or by appointment

HOLY HOUR + RECONCILIATION
 Thursday before 1st Friday - 7:00pm

INDONESIAN COMMUNITY
 Fr Aloysius Tamnge msc – 0426 042 624

BAPTISMS
 First Sunday - 11am, bookings required

WEDDINGS
 By Appointment

SACRAMENTS
 Contact parish office

OLR PRIMARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL
 Marie Nilon – 9663 3346

OLSH COLLEGE PRINCIPAL
 Jenny Fowler – 9662 4088

RESPONSES

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON
 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice.
 Indeed, the Lord is near.

FIRST READING
 Isaiah 61: 1-2, 10-11

RESPONSORIAL PSALM
 My soul rejoices in my God.

SECOND READING
 Thessalonians 5: 16-24

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION
 Alleluia, alleluia!
 The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me
 to bring Good News to the poor. Alleluia!

GOSPEL
 John 1: 6-8, 19-28

COMMUNION ANTIPHON
 Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do
 not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he
 will save us.

OREMUS

Let us Pray

SICK
 Paul Liew, Vivien Christie,
 Margaret Carrick (Bowral),
 Lucienne Radzyminski, Miriam McKoy,
 Fr Roger Duggan msc, Neville Dunn,
 Mr MacKenzie, Fr Chris Murphy msc,
 Pam (Rose’s friend), Derek Chick,
 Tony (Dulwich Hill), Br James Maher msc,
 Francesco Alessi, Fr Peter Robinson msc,
 Lucia Simeone, Assunta Ciaglia, Natalina
 Beghetto, Frank Zakrzewski, Llewellyn
 Samuel, Antonio Laquian, Joe Di Blasio,
 Rina Vecchief, Betty Mansfield,
 Anton’s mum, Nella Custorella,
 Marie LaBrooy, Patty Ingram, Dee Piper,
 Rosaria Ciaglia, Frank George,
 Colleen Corcoran, Zanita Banzon,
 Angela Breen Ortega

BELOVED DECEASED
 Fr James John O’Meara,
 Lindawati Alie

ANNIVERSARIES
 Monica Mary McCaughan

ROSTERS

| DEC 13/14 | SAT 6PM | SUN 9:30AM | SUN 6PM |
|--------------|---|--|----------------------------------|
| Acolyte | Dennis Fenech | George Bedirian | Fred Luca |
| Readers | Sr Helen Hearne John Dorahy | Toni McGuinness Kelsey McGuinness | Selvi Ung Ben Keneally |
| E. Ministers | Alice Mouco Jan Nicholas | Roel Castillo Brigid Siely Trish Veness Hartono Ong Nani Widarto Dewi Suryani | Kristina Keneally Diana Woon |
| KidsChurch | 9:30am – 6:00pm – Francine & Marcus Pirola | | |
| Counting | John Moore, Ray Delohery, Selvi Ung | | |
| Comm to Sick | Roel Castillo, Trish Veness | | |
| DEC 20/21 | SAT 6PM | SUN 9:30AM | SUN 6PM |
| Acolyte | Gus Alimhamzah | George Bedirian | John Allen |
| Readers | Cathy Shiner Thelma Slunsky | Ross Martin Anna Corpuz | Virginia Black Nicholas Black |
| E. Ministers | Judith Lynch Vien Suhadi | Mary Martin Grace Pandiangan Thomas Chia Henny Ramali Amelia Iovanella Ana Corpuz | Lyn King Marieann Duncan |
| KidsChurch | 9:30am – Charisse Low, Jacki Ma 6:00pm – Erin Beavis, Harriet Beavis | | |
| Counting | Johannes Tantohardjono, Bob Brenac, Giovanna Ziccardi | | |
| Comm to Sick | Thomas Chia, Grace Pandiangan | | |

PARISH CLEANING BEE

Once again our church is in need of a spring clean before the big crowds of Christmas. Please join us for an hour or two on the morning of **Saturday December 20 from 9am**. BYO gloves, basic cleaning and maintenance tools.

WANTED: MUSICIANS AND SINGERS FOR CHRISTMAS

There will be a practice for the Christmas Carols and the masses at 6.30pm (Christmas Eve) and/ or 9.30am (Christmas Day) on **Monday December 22 at 7.30pm** in the church. Any musicians and singers interested in being involved in one or both of these events are welcome to come along. Contact Frank Reid on 0422 894 127.

PARISH YOUTH GROUP 2015**Do you have a passion for sharing your faith with the younger generation?**

Plans are in place to launch a youth group in 2015 for Yrs 7-10 (age 12-16). We're looking to recruit some adult leaders who would be willing to join a team to support the group which will get underway in late February. We need parents (especially fathers) and young adult mentors to be part of our adult support team with a variety of different skills including organisation/administration, hospitality, music, good listening, sporty etc. Can you do one of these things really well? Do you have children in this age bracket?

We're looking for expressions of interest in supporting this dynamic initiative. Contact Francine Pirola 0433 451 433 or the parish office and leave your contact details.

Information Evening: Thursday Feb 5, 8pm.

BIG KIDSCHURCH

Join the team and lead the 9:30am Mass every fourth Sunday. Ages 10-15. Contact: Ana Corpuz – 0416 166 149.

KIDSCHURCH CATECHISTS

We are delighted to see some parent/teenager teams join our KidsChurch catechists. Welcome to all our newcomers. We still have a few places available for the KidsChurch team, especially for Sunday evenings. For information, contact Francine 0433 451 433 or francine@marriagerc.org.

YOUTH SUMMER SCHOOLS OF EVANGELISATION 2015**A Great Summer Retreat!**

What are you doing this summer? A week long retreat for young people wanting to grow in faith and share the Christian challenge with others. Theme: "Let Your Light Shine" *1 Peter 3:18*. Includes lectures and seminars, prayer, music, loads of fun and new friends. Two locations in **NSW – Bathurst and Paterson (11-18 January 2015)**. Run by the Disciples of Jesus Community for over 25 years. For ages 16-35. For more information see www.summerschool.org.au.

OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY SCHOOL NEWS - YEAR 2W

This term, Year 2W is learning about Advent as a time of waiting and hoping. Through the Jesse Tree, students recalled some Old Testament people who waited in joyful expectation for the coming of Jesus. Through the stories of Elizabeth and Zechariah and Anna and Simeon, students have been introduced to some people of the New Testament who waited for Jesus, the promised Light and Saviour who would lead people out of darkness and into freedom. Students will be focusing on Matthew's account of the birth of Jesus and the visit of the Magi who followed the star to the promised light of Jesus.

HOLY HOUR**Thursday before first Friday (7pm)**

This Hour of Grace and Mercy is a time to encounter the healing presence of Jesus and refresh your soul. Reconciliation is also available during Adoration.

MORNING TEA

Fr Alo and all of us wish to express our thanks and appreciation to all those who provided the morning tea after 9.30am Mass each Sunday. Their generosity and commitment has been outstanding.

There will be no Morning Tea served on 28th December because of holidays. For 2015 we would like some additional volunteers to help when Domenico and Myrna are overseas for an extended period. Please call Margaret 9313 8334 if you can help.

ANOINTING MASS

We will celebrate the Sacrament of Anointing of the sick on **Friday 19th December at 10:30am**. Mass will be followed by morning tea.

Everyone is welcome to attend.

Those requiring transport, please contact the parish office or Jan 0407 218 072.

**VINNIES XMAS GIFT DONATIONS**

The parish Vinnies Conference is preparing for the annual delivery of hampers to needy families. We are grateful for the support parishioners give us. Donations of appropriate festive food for hampers and toys/gifts for children would be very much appreciated. Gifts can be left in the boxes at the back of the Church. We desperately need gifts for boys and girls between 7-11 and 12-16. Please don't wrap gifts, as the volunteers need to know what each gift is. Thanks!

Vinnies Xmas cards and Columban Calendars

Vinnies Xmas cards and Columban Calendars are on sale at the back of the church from this weekend. Packs of 10 cards - \$6 and 2015 Columban calendars - \$9 each.

WE'RE CELEBRATING...

25TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Carmel Amasi & Michael Puglisi

NOTICES

POSITION AVAILABLE:

Cleaner / Housekeeping

De La Salle Brothers Kensington

Permanent Part-time. Award salary.

Thirteen hrs wkly over 3 days. Modern

facilities. **Phone: Gary Wilson 8344 4100.**

HOME MANAGEMENT DIPLOMA

Kenvale College's one year Home Management Diploma Course assists women in professionally managing households, fostering family and community connections.

Based on Catholic ideals, it offers a range of theoretical and practical modules, from home maintenance, de-cluttering and entertaining through to finance and time management – helping people achieve work-life balance.

Contact: **Nina Ovalle at**

ovallex@kenvale.edu.au , **9314 6213**

www.kenvale.edu.au/home-traditions

JOKE CORNER

Did Santa Give You That Present?

On Christmas morning a cop on horseback is sitting at a traffic light, and next to him is a kid on his shiny new bike.

The cop says to the kid, "Nice bike you got there. Did Santa bring that to you?"

The kid says, "Yeah."

The cop says, "Well, next year tell Santa to put a tail-light on that bike."

The cop then proceeds to issue the kid a \$20.00 bicycle safety violation ticket.

The kid takes the ticket and before he rides off says, "By the way, that's a nice horse you got there. Did Santa bring that to you?"

Humoring the kid, the cop says, "Yeah, he sure did."

The kid says, "Well, next year tell Santa to put the stupidity in the horse's brain instead of on his back."

THIRD ADVENT CANDLE

(Re-light the first and second candles before continuing).

Prayer:

Almighty Father, each day brings us closer to the day of the Advent of your son, Jesus Christ. He is your gift to us, the fulfillment of your promises. Your Spirit helps us now to pray and to watch for his coming. Praise to you, Father, Son, and Spirit, for the promise of Advent, and the happiness of Christmas.



Lighting the third candle:

We draw closer to Christmas. As we light this candle, that Christ will be born again in our lives this Christmas time.

Prayer:

Eternal God: through long generations you prepared a way in our world for the coming of your Son, and by your Spirit you are still bringing the light of the gospel to darkened lives. Renew us, so that we may welcome Jesus Christ to rule our thoughts and claim our love, as Lord of lords and King of kings, to whom be glory always.

Amen.

Christmas Season Services



Reconciliation (Confession), Dec 17

7.00pm - Second Rite

Christmas Eve, Wednesday Dec 24

6.00pm – Carols

6.30pm - Vigil Mass (Children) (shepherds & angels welcome!)

8.30pm - Indonesian Community Mass

11.00pm - Parish Mass (Youth)

Christmas Day, Thursday Dec 25

9.00am – Carols

9.30am - Christmas Day Family Mass

(No evening Mass on Christmas Day)

Holy Family, Sunday Dec 28

9:30am: Mass & KidsChurch + Morning Tea

Also: Sat 6pm, Sun 3:30pm (Indonesian), Sun 6pm

Mary, Mother of God, Thursday, Jan 1

9am: Mass

Epiphany, Sunday Jan 4

9:30am: Mass & KidsChurch + Morning Tea

Also: Sat 6pm, Sun 3:30pm (Indonesian), 6pm