

Listening to God's Word
Growing in Faith



Reaching out to All

WEBSITE

www.allsaintsblackbuttsouth.org.au

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR

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ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH

Lockyer Street ADAMSTOWN

ST KEVIN'S CHURCH

226 Main Road CARDIFF

ST PHILIP'S CHURCH/PRESBYTERY

31 Vista Parade KOTARA

PARISH OFFICE

230 Main Road Cardiff

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Secretaries

Louise Byron, Anna Bojkowski

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday

9.00am-3.00pm (May vary)

Closed 12 noon - 1.00pm

PARISH PRIMARY SCHOOLS

St Columba's Adamstown

St Kevin's Cardiff

St James' Kotara

PARISH HIGH SCHOOLS

St Pius X Adamstown

St Paul's Booragul

Links are on our Website



SUNDAY MASSES

Saturday Vigil Kotara-5.30pm; Sunday Adamstown-8am;

Sunday Cardiff-9.30am

WEEKDAY MASSES

Tuesday 9.30am Adamstown;

Wednesday 7am Kotara; 9.30am Adamstown;

Thursday Cardiff 9.30am;

Friday 9.15am Kotara

Dear Parishioners,

Greetings in the Lord,

Most of us were infants when we were baptised. Our parents brought us to Church. We were dressed up in extraordinary, white baptismal garments. That was one of the memorable happy days in our life's history. On this day, they took pictures of us with our godparents. They took pictures of us with our grandparents. They took pictures of us with the priest or deacon who baptised us. We may not remember the actual event. Our thanks go to Kodak, Polaroid, Nikon, and now the cameras on our phones; we've got pictures to prove the event took place. So much beautiful and fun memories!

On this Sunday, we commemorate and celebrate the Baptism of our Lord. On this day of Baptism, the heavens opened up for Him. And He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming upon Him. And then, of course, there's that loud voice from the heavens, booming across the sky, "This is My Beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." You talk about the dramatics of it all!

Interestingly, for a baby born in a simple stable, on a quiet night, a silent night; that same baby all these years later has a pretty dramatic Baptism in the Jordan River. Christmas begins with a Silent Night. But the Christmas season ends with God's voice echoing across the sky, telling the world how pleased He is with His Son!

We know, of course, that Jesus didn't need Baptism. The Son of God did not. St. Matthew points this out for us also in his version of the story, as even St. John the Baptist, wonders whether or not he is doing the right thing. By this magnanimous and miraculous event, Jesus sanctifies the waters of the Jordan and all waters in the world. Because of Jesus' Baptism, we are baptised! And we also know how vital Baptism is. Baptism is our way of beginning our walk with Jesus Christ. It all starts with water and oils, and fire, and promises. That is how we start the life that eventually will lead all of us to Heaven that is our Faith that we proclaim in every Holy Eucharist. It all starts with Baptism!

(Continued over page)

Parish News

SICK/SPECIAL NEEDS: *We remember in prayer ...*

Leonie Pickett, Veronica Hipwell, Karen Curran, Algi & Geraldine Bajelis, Mick King, Margaret McLellan, Jan Hobson, Lewis Peel (Purcell), Rita Martin, Emma Pacifico, Lorraine Caldwell, Emilinda Peralta, Loris Jackson, Linda McDonald, Dean Hart, Barry Moore, Leigh Hooper, Chris Patsan, Catherine Hobbs, Bernadette Coffey, Dorota Bakowska, Abby Rodwell, Gae Alderton, Ernestina Klein, Alexander Klein, Joseph Cuschieri, Geoffrey Caruana, Anthony Swadling, Ian Barton

And for all those who have been affected by COVID-19 and the frontline and medical staff that are caring for them.

RECENTLY DECEASED: George Pink (husband of Sally), Sr Dorothy Curran RSM, Robert Mahony

ANNIVERSARIES: Gerry Sullivan, Michael Hayes, Mateusz Kanonczuk, Robyn Farroll

BAPTISM at Cardiff: Sofia Murray

COUNTING	ADAMSTOWN	CARDIFF	KOTARA
<u>10/01/2021</u>	Kathy Kelly Paula O'Neill Francine Goodman	Mary Nixon	Narelle Robb Patricia Hines Paul Crosbie
<u>17/01/2021</u>	Dot Reynolds	N/A	N/A

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Today we celebrate Jesus' Baptism and the beginning of His public ministry. But today demands that we also remember our baptisms and the origins of our walks with Christ. As we come to the end of our Christmas season, before we head into Ordinary Time, we take the time to remember that we ARE baptised people. We have to ask some personal questions here. Why was I baptised? What was the Christian duty given to me by my Baptism? Have I fulfilled that correctly? Let's take this as our checklist for today!

Today, then, becomes the perfect day to get out our pictures from everyone's baptisms. Watch the video or get out the old movies. Dig out your Baptismal Candle. Talk to your parents or your Godparents today about your Baptism. But we can't forget. We must always remember. We were washed clean in the waters of Baptism. Now is time to live our baptismal promises! As people, working together in the Church, to the salvation of all people. Our Baptism not only buy us a whole new way of life, but our Baptism also bestow on us the job and responsibility of carrying the Good News of Jesus Christ out to many others. With His Baptism, Jesus started his public Mission, so too for us, following this Feast Day, we are reminded that it is time for all of us to go to work, building the Kingdom of God, and bringing His Gospel to every person that we come in contact with. Let us come forth and dedicate with true missionary passion, choosing various new ways and means to serve our people in our Parish before extending hands to others in need!

The Day of the Baptism of the Lord is a great day! We are sent out to a world on this Feast Day, particularly to our Parish that so desperately needs us, just like Jesus was, two-thousand years ago! May we bear witness to our Baptisms with our lives, not just with our words. May we live out our Faith every day. And may we put into action, Jesus' Good News, by the way that we care and get involved! May our memories of our Baptisms bring us the awareness and reminder of our Heavenly call on Earth!

With prayers and love in the Lord,
Fr. Joseph Figurado

Parish News

Nominations for Pastoral Council - nomination forms and boxes for collection are at the back of each church. **Nominations close this Friday, 15 January.** Each Mass Centre is asked to nominate at least 15 members please.

The Parish Office will be closed this Thursday, 14 January. Anna is on holidays.

Prayer Partners are required to support the Religious Education program at Kotara High School. We ask only that you spend a minute a day asking God to bless the teacher in her efforts to bring the love of Jesus to the students who attend her class, and that SRE continues to be welcomed by the school community. If you are able to commit to this ministry please contact Paula on 0411 813 101.

At the last meeting of the **Parish Finance Committee** it was noted the collections have dropped significantly during the pandemic. As people return to Mass, we ask you **collect your planned giving envelopes** from the church foyer at Adamstown, the hall at Kotara or the back of the church at Cardiff. Alternatively, please contact the Parish Office to make other arrangements. Please consider converting to regular electronic giving from your bank account or credit card to help reduce our stationery costs. It is convenient, safe, flexible and confidential. The form is available from the Parish Office. Everyone is encouraged to participate in the planned giving program. Despite the pandemic our expenses remain constant and we need your help to meet these ongoing costs.

Volunteers are needed from the **Kotara Vigil Mass** to assist with counting the weekly collections. If you can assist please contact the Parish Office.

The Christian Formation Course (CFC) is a face-to-face learning experience that allows participants to explore their life's journey and their faith within the Catholic Tradition. This one-year course introduces participants to scripture, theology, church history, sacramental life, and liturgy. The course runs across twelve months and comprises of eight units. Commencing on Tuesday February 2, 2021, no prerequisite formation or qualification is required to enrol. All who complete the Course are awarded a diocesan Certificate in Christian Formation.

Bishop Bill writes:

The Christian Formation Course has been a very great contributor to Catholic life in this

diocese. It is based on adult learning methods that involve the participants in on-going dialogue and engagement with the material and the staff. It is my hope that many, many people will take this course. I further hope that it will be just the beginning of their living more informed and engaged Christ lives.

If you would like to enrol in the Christian Formation Course in 2021 go to:

<https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/adult-faith-formation/christian-formation-course/>

Rainbow Family Group are having an Australia Day breakfast on Tuesday, 26 January. Contact Kerina for details M 0409 448 255.

Parish COVID-19 Safety Plan Requirements

Thank you for your continuing efforts to help us support and protect our fellow parishioners and visitors during this pandemic. It is important we remain vigilant. The Parish COVID-19 Safety Plans continue to be updated as we receive advice from the NSW Government and Bishop's Office. These are available for your information and review at each Mass Centre.

Please remember, it is your responsibility to ensure you stay home if you are not feeling well.

The capacity limits of our churches have now changed due to the 2 square metre rule : Adamstown & Kotara - 100 each and Cardiff - 84. This includes funerals.

Effective immediately, registration for Mass and all other liturgies will be via **QR code on arrival**. We ask parishioners with phones to assist others who may not have a phone to register. Capacity will be subject to the limits outlined above.

The previous arrangements concerning a 'discrete' group (e.g. a family, a household etc.) **have been discontinued. The contact details of all persons entering a church building or attending a religious service must be collected (this includes anyone assisting with the liturgy including sacristans, lectors etc.)**

Sanitisation is required before entering the church. Please maintain required social distancing and refrain from gathering before/after any liturgy.

Parishioners are asked to ensure doors and windows are open and fans on to increase natural ventilation.

The Baptism of The Lord Year B

First Reading Is 42:1-4. 6-7

Here is my servant, my chosen one in whom I am well pleased.

Thus says the Lord:

Here is my servant whom I uphold,
my chosen one in whom my soul
delights.

I have endowed him with my spirit
that he may bring true justice to the
nations.

He does not cry out or shout aloud,
or make his voice heard in the streets.
He does not break the crushed reed,
nor quench the wavering flame.

Faithfully he brings true justice;
he will neither waver, nor be crushed
until true justice is established on earth
for the islands are awaiting his law.

I, the Lord, have called you to serve the
cause of right;

I have taken you by the hand and formed
you;

I have appointed you as covenant of the
people and light of the nations,
to open the eyes of the blind,
to free captives from prison,
and those who live in darkness from the
dungeon.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 28:1-4. 9-10. R. v.11

*(R.) The Lord will bless his people with
peace.*

1. O give the Lord you sons of God,
give the Lord glory and power;
give the Lord the glory of his name.
Adore the Lord in his holy court. (R.)
2. The Lord's voice resounding on the
waters,
the Lord on the immensity of waters;
the voice of the Lord, full of power,
the voice of the Lord, full of splendour. (R.)
3. The God of glory thunders.
In his temple they all cry: 'Glory!'
The Lord sat enthroned over the flood:
the Lord sits as king for ever. (R.)

Second Reading Acts 10:34-38

God anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power.

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: 'The truth I have now come to realise' he said 'is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him.

'It is true, God sent his word to the people of Israel, and it was to them that the good news of peace was brought by Jesus Christ - but Jesus Christ is Lord of all men. You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil.'

Gospel Acclamation See Mk 9:8

Alleluia, alleluia!

*The heavens were opened and the
Father's voice was heard:*

this is my beloved Son, hear him.

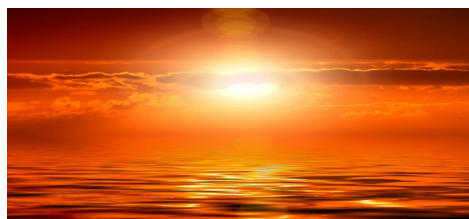
Alleluia!

Gospel Mk 1:7-11

You are my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

In the course of his preaching John the Baptist said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

It was at this time that Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptised in the Jordan by John. No sooner had he come up out of the water than he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit, like a dove, descending on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.'



Gloria

Glory to God in the highest,
And on earth peace to people
of good will
We praise you, we bless you,
we adore you, we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great
glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father
Lord Jesus Christ,
Only begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
Son of the Father
You take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
You take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer
You are seated at the right hand of
the Father, have mercy on us.
For you alone are the Holy One,
You alone are the Lord,
You alone are the most high
Jesus Christ,
With the Holy Spirit,
In the glory of God the Father. Amen

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our
Lord, who was conceived by the Holy
Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again
from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God
the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the
living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. Amen.