



PARISH PROFILE

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North Sydney | Kirribilli | Lavender Bay



 @northsydneycatholics
 @olw_parish

ON MISSION WITH CHRIST IN OUR PART OF THE WORLD

Welcome from Fr Richard Leonard SJ PP

Sisters and brothers in Christ and fellow travellers, all,

Welcome to the parish of Our Lady of the Way, incorporating Star of the Sea, Kirribilli, St Francis Xavier's, Lavender Bay, and St Mary's, North Sydney. This is one of Sydney's busiest, and I hope best, Catholic parishes. We acknowledge that our parish is on the land of the Cammeraygal People of the Eora Nation. We pay our respects to their elders past, present and emerging, join the Australian Catholic Bishops in endorsing the Uluru Statement from the Heart and commit to working for reconciliation and closing the gap.

Our parish community started 167 years ago with a diocesan priest, Rev Dr Peter Powell and was given into the care of the Society of Jesus (the Jesuits) 145 years ago in 1878. I am the 26th priest and 24th Jesuit to serve, love and lead this community as parish priest. I have the honour of leading 13 talented lay people who serve us in the Ron Dyer Parish Centre, representing the equivalence of just over five full time staff. Along with my four brother Jesuit priests, Joseph Sobb, Andy Nguyen, Sacha Bermudez Goldman and Steve Astill, we coordinate over 130 volunteers without whom our mission with Christ in our corner of the world would be very modest indeed. The coming pages tell some of their story.

Our parish is welcoming, inclusive, intelligent, liberal and compassionate. Strongly rooted in Pope Francis' vision for the Church, you are very welcome among us regardless of your race, religion, ethnicity, gender, sexuality or marital status. The only God worth believing in, is one that loves all people equally. Our community welcomes you whether you belong to another Christian denomination, another of the world's great faiths – Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist or Sikh - or even if you are an atheist, agnostic or secular humanist

We try to live out our Mission Statement: In the name of Jesus and in the spirit of Ignatius, we are communities, reaching out and welcoming others. Graced by the sacraments, we share a lifelong journey.

With weekly liturgies that cater for children and families, young adults, older people, larger congregations as well as smaller ones, we hope to see you regularly. May 2024 see you find a spiritual home amongst us.

Every blessing,

Fr Richard

AMDG

PARISH OVERVIEW

Under the care of the Jesuits since

1878

St Mary's (STM)

264 Miller St, North Sydney

St Francis Xavier (SFX)

17 Mackenzie St, Lavender Bay

Star of the Sea (SOS)

44 Willoughby St, Kirribilli

OUR HISTORY

St. Mary's has a rich history dating back to its establishment in 1854. The church has served as a spiritual hub for the Catholic community in North Sydney.

St. Francis Xavier Church, located in Lavender Bay, is a historical landmark opened in 1881. Star of the Sea, holds a unique place in history as the first Catholic church built on the North Shore.

A Congregational Church, built in 1863 in Upper Pitt Street, was acquired by the Jesuits in 1903 and renamed Star of the Sea. It served as St Aloysius' College chapel as well as the parish church. The present parish church was transferred to its present site and the building blest and opened in 1970.

PARISH OFFICE

Ron Dyer Centre:

Mon – Fri 9.30am – 3.30pm

42 Ridge St, P.O. Box 1409, North Sydney NSW 2059

Web: www.northsydneycatholics.com

Email: olw@northsydneycatholics.com Tel: 8918 4101

In 2023, a plaque was installed in each church to indicate that we hear and stand with victims & survivors of abuse.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In solidarity with those who have suffered abuse from church personnel, we pray for justice, healing and peace for them and their families.



Developing and Maintaining a Safeguarding Culture

The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse (2013-2017) presented a pressing need for these issues to be addressed. The Jesuits are committed to the safeguarding of all people in our care, particularly children and vulnerable adults. As we move forward as a parish, in the Ignatian tradition, listening, accompanying, and discerning remain essential to our approach to safeguarding all within our care.

In addition, Our Lady of the Way Parish is adhering to the Safeguarding Policy of the Archdiocese of Sydney. Which established the Office of Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity (OSMI) to assist all Church agencies to be safe environments for all, especially for children and vulnerable people. For more information please go to the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney Safeguarding and Child Protection website at www.sydneycatholic.org/safeguarding-and-child-protection/.

It is essential that all those who minister here at Our Lady of the Way Parish are fully cognisant of their responsibilities and are able to contribute well to the maintenance of a safeguarding culture.

For further information or if you have any concerns or questions, please contact the Parish Priest or the Parish Safeguarding Officer – Ph 02 8918 4101 Email: safeguarding@northsydneycatholics.com



Each September, Our Lady of the Way Parish observes Child Protection Week. This year, it takes place on September 5 - 11, 2024

Parish Safeguarding Office, Di Gedeon did a colossal job over five months in attending to the almost 700 questions that made up the Australian Catholic Safeguarding self-assessment. Our parish was one of the 28 chosen in the archdiocese for auditing. The assessment was submitted on November 30, 2023. There will be a field audit, when an auditor will come out to visit us on site and review our parish documents and procedures in early 2024. Many thanks to everyone who made sure they were compliant and that our community is as safe as we can make it in regard to the protection of children and adults at risk. Our parish has zero tolerance of abuse, and we work hard to ensure it is a safe place for everyone.

MEET THE JESUITS

in Community



Richard Leonard SJ

Parish Priest

richard.leonard@nssj.org.au



Andy Nguyen SJ

Assistant Priest

Liturgy | RCIA | Formation

andyn@northsydney Catholics.com

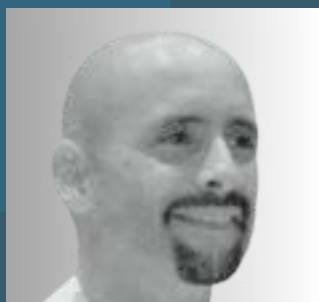


Joe Sobbs SJ

Assistant Priest

Ministry of the Sick & Aged

jsobbsj@northsydney Catholics.com



Sacha Bermudez - Goldman SJ

Assistant Priest

Jesuit Social Ministries | Young Adult Ministry

sacha@northsydney Catholics.com

Also assisting with Masses and Sacraments

Steve Astill SJ and Daven Day SJ

LAY LEADERSHIP *PAG Annual Report*

Fr Richard is assisted in the pastoral administration of the Parish by several advisory bodies:



Parish Advisory Group - Chair

Nicole Siddique nct11@icloud.com

Parish Finance Committee - Chair

David Rothery davidrothery@bigpond.com

Social Investment Committee

Advising on disbursements from the Parish Charities Trust.

Humphrey Nolan humphreyn@northsydney Catholics.com

Aged Care Advisory Committee - Chair

David Rothery david.rothery@bigpond.com

PAG ANNUAL REPORT

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

It is incredible to think that over 12 months has passed since the formation of the Parish Advisory Group in August 2022. We were very pleased to have had the opportunity to introduce ourselves to you at the vigil mass for the Feast of St Ignatius Loyola in July.

We commenced 2023 with two key objectives – the rollout of a census, to better understand the composition of our parish and a focus on parish-wide events, to broaden and deepen relationships across our three churches.

We were pleased that April 2023 saw the return of the much-loved Parish dinner at Mary McKillop Place. This was followed up in the spring with the Parish picnic at St Leonards Park, attended by over 100 community members. We are grateful to all the parishioners who assisted in the organisation of these events and of course, attended!

Activities aimed at building relationships across our churches (including our friends in Mt Druitt) and growing our local communities will continue to be a focus area into the coming year.

We have also been pleased to contribute to the roll-out of the Parish census which is planned for February 2024, led by Christian Townsend, a member of and dear friend of the Parish. This process will also incorporate a review of the Parish's technology capability and the roll out of a new information management platform which in time, will be expanded to assist with Parish operations more broadly.

We have also been honoured to host a number of guests during the year, including the Jesuit Provincial, Fr Quyen Vu SJ, during his annual visitation of ministries across Jesuit Communities in May 2023.

We are grateful to all the friends and members of our wonderful parish community for their support and guidance throughout the year and look forward to continuing our engagement with you in 2024.

We welcome any feedback and input, so if there are any topics parishioners would like us to consider in the coming year, please don't hesitate to contact us via the parish office or at olw@northsydney Catholics.com

On behalf of the Parish Advisory Group, we wish you, your family and your loved ones a blessed and happy Christmas!

Nicole Siddique

Chair, Parish Advisory Group

FAITH & SERVICE

Join the Parish

Welcome to our vibrant and welcoming parish community! At our parish, we strive to create a space where individuals and families can deepen their faith, find meaningful connections, and actively contribute to liturgies and parish events. Whether you are seeking spiritual growth, community involvement, or simply a place to feel accepted and supported, joining our parish offers countless opportunities.

Think Volunteering

The Parish has more than 130 registered volunteers, active across 14 ministries. Volunteering is a powerful way to make a positive impact in the lives of others. By giving your time and skills without expecting anything in return, you contribute to the wellbeing of our Parish community and create a sense of fulfillment and purpose for yourself.

Become a Catechist

Special Religious Education (SRE) in NSW Government Schools

Each week in school terms a committed team of 26 trained catechists teach Scripture (SRE) at North Sydney Demonstration School, Cammeray Public School, ANZAC Park Public School, North Sydney Girls High, Cammeraygal High and North Sydney Boys High. Approximately 400 students attend weekly SRE. Volunteers are always needed to become catechist helpers to teach, assist and provide cover when needed. The rewards of being a catechist are significant and include:

- receiving quality training and professional development
- having the opportunity to deepen your own faith
- sharing your faith with others and contributing to the parish
- meeting new friends

For information on becoming a catechist contact olw@northsydneycatholics.com

We urgently need 7 more catechists for 2024

LITURGIES

St Mary's - St Francis Xavier - Star of the Sea

WEEKDAYS

7.30am – SFX (The Online Mass)

12.00pm – STM

SUNDAY EUCHARISTS

5.30pm (Vigil) & Sun 10.30am – SFX

Sun 8.00am & 10.00am (Polish) – SOS

Sun 9.00am (Family) & 6.00pm (Youth) – STM

HEALING MASSES

Last Thursday of the month

12.00pm – STM

Celebrant: Fr Daven Day SJ

THE ONLINE MASS

Streamed daily from Lavender

Bay and available on the

[Parish website](#)

LITURGY COORDINATORS

Each of our Parish liturgies requires the support of our community as welcomers, readers, Eucharistic ministers, sacristans and collectors. If you can help, please contact the co-ordinator or olw@northsydneycatholics.com

St Francis Xavier – Vigil 5.30pm

Claire Loneragan

clairel@northsydneycatholics.com

St Mary's 9.00am

Ignatius Mendonca

iggymen@bigpond.com

St Francis Xavier - 10.30am

Iva Strnadova

i.strnadova@unsw.edu.au

St Mary's 6.00pm

Readings - Abby Bobkowski

abbybobkowski@gmail.com

Music - Tom Jenkins

thom.p.jenkins@gmail.com

Star of the Sea - 8.00am

Vicky Antaw

vickyantaw@gmail.com

Diana Baird - Acolytes

diana.baird4@bigpond.com

CHRISTIAN LIFE COMMUNITIES - PARISH RETREAT

CLC is an International Catholic Community, lived out in small local communities. It has a common way of life based on the First Spiritual Exercises, a four-week retreat program for men and women. Contact: Di McKenzie dijimpaddy@gmail.com. www.clcaustralia.org.au/contact/.

SACRAMENTS

In God's grace we celebrate the spiritual connection experienced through these sacred rituals.

BAPTISMS

Saturdays 9.30am, 11.00am @ SFX

BAPTISM PREPARATION SESSIONS

1st Tuesday of each month except Jan 2024, 4.00pm @ Ron Dyer Centre.

WEDDINGS

Friday 2.00pm - STM

Saturday 2.00pm & 4.00pm - STM

Sunday 2.00pm-STM

Or by arrangement with the Parish Office.

FUNERALS

Monday to Friday - 10.00am & 1.00pm @ STM or by arrangement with the Parish Office. Our preferred funeral directors are: Gregory & Carr and Maurer Family Funerals.

2024 DATES

The Sacraments are celebrated during school terms 2 & 3. The Parish uses the try booking reservation system for church events. Contact Claire Loneragan: clairel@northsydney Catholics.com

1st RECONCILIATION - 22/23 May

1st HOLY COMMUNION - 22/23 June

CONFIRMATION - 24/25 August

*Become a leader
Contact the
Sacramental
Coordinator*



SPECIAL EVENTS

Accompanying and supporting refugees
Stall Volunteers - Jesuit Mission Bazaar
High Teas for our respected elders
Holy Family Parish Tongan & Samoan Choirs
Thanksgiving Celebrations
Working Bees | Food Drives | Picnics
Book Launches | Men's Gatherings
Music & Reflection Evenings
Women's Spirituality Night | Prayer & Adoration
JRS 'Table talk' for school students

Parish Dinner 13 April 2024

Ignatian Spirituality Offerings

in the Parish 2024

Spirituality Evenings

2-hour sessions on various Ignatian topics (e.g., discernment, imaginative contemplation, service, etc.) Once a term.

Lenten Evenings of Prayer and Reflection

2 Sessions for all Parishioners (Lent and before Holy Week) 21 Feb | 13 March

Weekly Tuesday evening Reflections with the young adults during Lent

Advent Evenings of Prayer and Reflection

Three sessions 28 Nov | 5 Dec | 19 Dec plus an evening of Music and Prayer 12 Dec.

Retreat opportunities through Jesuit and Ignatian Spirituality Australia available throughout the year.

AUSTRALIAN  JESUITS

Religious Education

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

Based within the Parish community the RCIA process is adapted to the spiritual needs and life journey of individual adults. It is the process by which unbaptised adults are welcomed into the active community of believers in the Catholic Church. RCIA is also the preparation process for adults already baptised and who seek full communion with the Catholic Church.

Community Masses

Anointing of the Sick

Sick & Housebound

Visitations of the sick and house bound and administering of the Eucharist. Peter Walden peterchona@gmail.com

James Milson Village Healing Mass

2nd Wednesday of each month except January. Celebrant: Fr Daven Day SJ
www.jmv.org.au

Parish Healing Mass

Last Thursday of the month at St Mary's, 12 noon. Celebrant: Fr Daven Day SJ
olw@northsydneycatholics.com

Mater Hospital Mass

Weekly on Thursdays and Fridays @ 9.00am

Home Visits

To arrange a home visit from one of our priests, contact the Parish office at:
olw@northsydneycatholics.com or call 8918 4101

Anzac Day Mass

St Francis Xavier War Memorial Church



Cultural Masses

Each year the Parish celebrates several cultural Masses.

- Spanish Mass
- NAIDOC Week Mass
- Laudato Deum Mass

Online Publications

- Parish Profile
- Weekly Bulletin
- Bits & Pieces

Online Community

- Scripture Reflection
- The Online Mass

Ministries

Education & Music

Education - Local Jesuit & Catholic Colleges

Marist Catholic College North Shore
Our Parish School
www.mccns.catholic.edu.au

St Aloysius' College
A Jesuit primary and secondary school for boys.
www.staloyusius.nsw.edu.au

Loreto Kirribilli
A primary & secondary school for girls
www.loreto.nsw.edu.au

Monte Sant' Angelo College
A secondary school for girls.
www.monte.nsw.edu.au

Sydney Catholic Early Childhood Services
Licencee: Richard Leonard SJ PP



Music

Parish Music Conductor/Director
Women's and Parish Community Choir
9am Children's Choir and
Women's Night of Spirituality
Contact: Danielle Whitmore
danielle@daniellesmusicschool.com.au

All Sunday Masses are supported with musicians and cantors offering a broad spectrum of music, from traditional to contemporary. The Spirit Band accompanies the Youth Mass each week at St Mary's at 6pm. Contact: Tom Jenkins
thom.p.jenkins@gmail.com

Special Celebrations at Lent & Advent Music, Reflection and Prayer. Contact: Music Minister Alastair Wright
alastairw@northsydneycatholics.com

Special Musical Reflection Nights

Lent - 'Throughout these 40 days'
Thursday 16 March

Advent Reflection & Christmas Drinks

'A Celebration of Christ's Coming'
Thursday 12 December

Ministries

We support & promote



Holy Family Parish

Our Lady of the Way is twinned with Holy Family Parish in Emerton, a Jesuit parish in Western Sydney. The two parishes collaborate in creating opportunities and shared experiences. www.holyfamily.org.au



Jesuit Social Services (JSS)

The Parish supports the work of JSS at Emerton through donations of groceries and cash for the Ignite Food Store. Contact ignite@northsydney Catholics.com or JSS claire.thomas@jss.org.au



Christian Meditation Group

Meets every Saturday morning at 9.30am at Star of the Sea, Kirribilli. Silent meditation, imageless, contemplative prayer. Contact: kathrynsummerhayes@hotmail.com



Jesuit Mission (JM)

The Parish supports the various programs of Jesuit Mission through an annual appeal and the Jesuit Mission Bazaar. engagement@jesuitmission.org.au

Ministries

We support and promote



Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS)

JRS provides practical support programs and advocacy for refugees and asylum seekers. The parish supports JRS in its advocacy and via an annual appeal. www.jrs.com.au
Contact: zoe.grant@jrs.org.au



St Vincent de Paul (SVDP)

St Vincent de Paul Society supports the disadvantaged in the Parish and broader community through clothing banks and meals. Terry Byrnes SVDP North Sydney Conference: byrnes@byrnes.com.au



Enviroment

The Parish Ecology Group is active in the development of our environmental conscience. Laudato Si' Week 16-21 May celebrates the church's journey to ecological conversion. Coordinator Michael Gill: michael.gill@outlook.com.au



Social Justice in Action

In 2020, the Parish introduced a social justice component for children enrolled in the Parish Sacramental Program. Many thanks to the candidates and their families for the generosity of scores and scores of groceries for the Ignite Food Store.

Ministries

**New for 2024
Yrs 7 & 8 program**

OMG! for Yrs 5 & 6

For years 5 & 6, 'OMG!' 'Food, friends, fun and faith!' Supervised games and a period of reflection in the Ron Dyer Centre. Held once a term.

For Teenagers

For Yrs 7 & 8. Friendship, faith development and social outreach. Held once a term in the Ron Dyer Centre and supported by our Catholic Schools in the Parish.

Young Adults 18-35yrs

Evening reflections, retreats, faith discussions, and volunteering activities (throughout the year); also meets informally most Sundays after the Youth/Young Adult 6pm Mass at St Mary's Church for a meal and fellowship. Coordinators: Fr Sacha - Henry Madigan sacha@northsydneycatholics.com | henry@northsydneycatholics.com

Parish Vocations Ministry

Andy Nguyen SJ
andyn@northsydneycatholics.com
Patricia Drummond
patriciamanueldrummond@gmail.com
Jenni & Michael Hickson
michaelhickson@gmail.com

1st Friday of the month
6-7pm
St Francis Xavier
Church

Holy Hour for Vocations

COMMUNITY WORKS WE SUPPORT



JAMES MILSON VILLAGE

4 Clarke Rd, Kirribilli

Offering retirement living apartments, residential aged care and advanced care. Operated by the North Sydney Retirement Trust in which our Parish is a stakeholder.

www.jamesmilsonvillage.com.au/




A refuge in Sydney's North Shore for women and children escaping domestic violence. This independent charity has been supported by the Parish community since its foundation.

The Daisy Centre is the only domestic violence service in NSW where clients can access continuous support while they navigate options before, during and after escaping a domestic violence situation.

info@maryshouse.com.au



MARY'S HOUSE SERVICES



WOMEN'S NIGHT OF SPIRITUALITY

**ST MARY'S CHURCH
NORTH SYDNEY**

WED 15 MAY 2024

7.00PM

2023 GUEST SPEAKERS

The WNS Committee would like to express their gratitude to Professor Fran Boyle; Sr Ruth Durick OSU and The Hon Dr Tricia Kavanagh for their contribution to the Women's Night of Spirituality in 2023. We are thankful for the knowledge and inspiration they shared with us. We eagerly anticipate the announcement of our 2024 speakers early next year.

'WOMEN IN THE LIFE AND MISSION OF THE CHURCH'

THE SYNTHESIS REPORT

Synod on Synodality

The current phase of the Church's Synod on Synodality drew to a close on Sun 29 Oct 2023. There has been a lot of praise for Pope Francis convening a synod where participants sat at round tables. Of the 363 eligible to vote, 54 were women. That's a record 15% but still not much to write home about. There were also 54 cardinals with voting rights. And though everyone sat at round tables, the clerics were all in their full clerical attire – and the zucchetos, the small skull caps, were always worn marking clear the hierarchical order: white for the pope, red for cardinals and violet for bishops.

On the last day, the participants voted on the proposals put forward in the 41-page synthesis document which had been amended about a thousand times. The Synthesis Report makes it clear that local churches are now to take up the issues raised, engaging in spiritual conversation and discernment, so that Synod participants can return to Rome in a year's time.

Under each topic, the document sets out convergences, matters for consideration and proposals. It describes only four of these as crucial. They are (1) climate change; (2) the need for unity in a world of violence and fragmentation; (3) support for families in ensuring that the online space is not only safe but also spiritually life-giving, and (4) ensuring that women can participate in decision-making processes and assume roles of responsibility in pastoral care and ministry.

Cardinal McElroy makes the point that of the 81 proposals voted on, 'There's only one that's called urgent. **And that is bringing women into greater roles of leadership at all levels of the church**', so that both authority and responsibility, as well as service, can be equally shared.

Embracing the Spirit:

Parish Life as a Thriving and Engaged Community

Celebrating what God has done in and through us over the last year.

Every day of the past year has seen faithful work and ministry done by our volunteers, parish staff and Jesuit community. Daily Masses, Sundays Masses, Weddings, Baptisms, Funerals, Reconciliations, chaplaincy to our parish school, Marist Catholic College North Shore, the Mater Hospital, James Milson Village, Greenwich Hospital, Loreto Kirribilli, Monte Sant'Angelo Mercy College and St Aloysius' College as well as spiritual direction and CCD work in the government schools, are the ongoing ministries we are proud to undertake in Christ's name. Added to those weekly opportunities have been some special occasions. **Here are the highlights.**

December 2022

Tiffany and Adam Rahme donated their money, time and great talent to clean up the old confessionals and update the Reconciliation/Spiritual Direction Room at the back of St Mary's, and help select the new chairs for North Sydney.

The Christmas High Afternoon Tea with the young adults serving and caroling started a new tradition.

The Advent Service and Christmas party lived up to the very high standards that have been set for these events over the years: prayerful and beautiful. The simple Christmas party in the Ridge Street gardens was an opportunity for the parish to thank the legion of volunteers, benefactors and friends who bring faith, passion and energy to the extraordinary array of ministries we undertake for the Lord.

Over 180 people attended the Advent Second Rite of Reconciliation at Lavender Bay.

We celebrated nine Christmas Masses in twenty hours. We estimate over 4,000 'came home for Christmas.'

January 2023

Dr Frances Henshaw joined Josephine Heesh as our parish's nominees to the Board of James Milson Village. Our thanks go to Dr Dorothy Leeder for the great work she did on the Board. Dorothy has stayed on the Clinical Governance & Care sub-committee and gives medical input, especially to visiting GPs.

Seven new people came forward to be catechists for the 3,500 students we have in the seven government schools in our parish. The most important thing they communicate is God's love and care for each student. We always need more catechists. Please join us.

9,500 Catholic school students began the school year at the four Catholics Schools in our parish: Marist Catholic College North Shore; Loreto Kirribilli, St Aloysius' College and Monte Sant' Angelo Mercy College.

The New Year saw our redesigned website go live. Images from Stephen Moore's 1964 stain glass window, "The Christian Life", which runs the entire north wall of St Francis Xavier's (SFX), Lavender Bay, is the home page's visual cue to the vitality of our parish community. Our website <https://www.northsydney Catholics.com> is now more secure, easier to navigate and engaging.

The special Australia Day Mass on January 26 gave thanks for what we should be very grateful for and prayed that we commit ourselves to closing the gap and the ongoing journey of reconciliation.

February 2023

"From Ashes to Hope", a six- week Lenten reflection book, was made available.

Six Masses for Ash Wednesday, including in the Mater Hospital Chapel, with over 600 people attending, began our Lenten journey.

Over our Lenten Journey 704 bags of groceries for Jesuit Social Services' Ignite Store at our twinned parish of Mt Druitt/Emerton were donated. Parishioner and pharmacist, Tony Herro, offered to look after nappies and personal items as an ongoing gift. Sr Lorraine Phelan RSM, Diana Gedeon, Loretta McKee and Fr Sacha have done wonderful work coordinating all our efforts.

For the first time ever Fr Richard and Fr Sacha met with the Principals of the four Catholic schools to look at ways the parish can support the spiritual growth and practice of our students.

252 people attended the book launch by Rev Dr Margaret Beirne RSC of Fr Chris Gleeson's "Wings for the Soul" and Fr Richard's "The Law of Love". It was a most engaging and enjoyable adult education session.

Nicole Siddique accepted the invitation to be the first Chair of the Parish Advisory Group.

Beginning a monthly gathering on the third Friday of the month, Fr Andy and the Parish's vocation team began the Holy Hour for Vocation at Lavender Bay.

March 2023

65 parishioners attended our second high afternoon tea in honour of St Patrick. Our debt to the Irish Church is immeasurable with Irish Jesuits, Mercies and Loretoes founding our parish, and the Colleges therein, and the great Irish lay women and men who made sure these Catholic ministries flourished. We are a microcosm of the Australian Catholic story. Jill Jenkins magnificently coordinated the catering while Tom Jenkins and the Spirit Band sang beautifully.

Henry Madigan was appointed our new Youth Minister. Henry, 18, hails from Orange, graduated from St Ignatius' College, Riverview, is presently reading economics at Sydney and resides at St John's College.

On Sunday 26 March we went on pilgrimage to our twinned parish of Holy Family Emerton/Mt Druitt for their 10.30am Mass followed by morning tea.

35 men joined the MenAlive Retreat; for many of them was an important and moving experience of faith, and a safe place for men to speak with others about important issues which are rarely if ever discussed.

During Lent, Fr Andy and Maree Curry coordinated nine people through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) who were then either, Baptised, Received into the Church, Confirmed or made their First Communion at Easter.

The parish supported Mary's House at their lunch on International Women's Day:

<https://maryshouse.org.au/>

On March 31, 10 Aloysians helped facilitate about 40 Year 5 & 6s in the OMG programme.

April 2023

Jenni and Michael Hickson led a Lenten group each Thursday during Lent in the parish centre.

Over 200 people attended our Lenten Rite of Reconciliation which we moved to St Mary's North Sydney.

We celebrated the full Easter Ceremonies with grace and engagement in each of the three churches: at Kirribilli, Lavender Bay and North Sydney. The Easter Vigils were particularly well attended.

The Jesuit Provincial made his annual Visitation of the ministries in the parish and the Jesuit Community.

Diana Gedeon commenced as our Safeguarding Officer, taking the place of Maree Curry who is looking after our Catechists and the RCIA.

Joy Bowen commenced as our Family Educator, a joint appointment with Marist Catholic College North Shore (MCCNS).

We were honoured to host the Final Vows of Sr Rachel McLoughlin IBVM as a Loreto Sister at St Francis Xavier Church (SFX), Lavender Bay on April 23.

The special ANZAC Day Mass at SFX on April 25 was a moving occasion with appropriate hymns, the organ, a trumpet and The Last Post.

We had the first parish dinner in eight years at Mary Mackillop Place on Saturday April 29. 110 people attended and the concert band from St Aloysius' College entertained us.

May 2023

Sr Lorraine and her team organised the 'A Night for Ignite' fundraiser at St Ignatius' College, Riverview on Saturday May 6. We were able to raise \$23,000 for replacement of the Ignite Store's roof, including one parishioner's donation of \$10,000.

The MenAlive Retreatants started a WhatsApp group. There are now 40 on the App group. This led to 32 men gathering for a night of formation, prayer and a meal on May 13.

144 children made their First Reconciliations on May 17 and 18.

410 people attended the Women's Night of Spirituality on May 16. It was, as ever, very well received with Judge Trish Kavanagh, Dr Fran Boyle and Sr Ruth Durick OSU offering moving testimonies to their faith and its growth.

June 2023

73 people attended "Good Grief – Understand Death Better" with Margaret Rice at which a lawyer, an oncologist, a priest and a funeral director spoke about end-of-life issues. A parish grief support group seems to be emerging from this occasion.

50 Year 11 & 12s and their teachers gathered on Thursday June 8 for the first Table Talk and pizza, facilitated by Jesuit Refugee Service.

The St Vincent De Paul Winter appeal raised \$13,000 for the local conference, as well as attracting two new members. The Parish's Charity's Trust made a further donation to SVDP.

12 young adults joined the Parish's 'Beach Retreat' at Gerroa!

147 young people made their first Holy Communion at the 5.30pm, 9.00am and 10.30am Masses over two weekends. Claire Loneragan did a great job, very ably assisted by Helen Maguire IBVM.

We reinstated the kneelers in North Sydney and the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive.

On June 23 eight MCCNS students helped facilitate 35 Year 5 & 6s in the OMG programme.

July 2023

Jesuit Social Services (JSS) Appeal was a great success. \$15,500 was given in envelopes and online donations; \$10,000 was given in groceries. The Parish's Charitable Trust made a further substantial donation to JSS for their works in Western Sydney.

Mr Anthony Boys, the MCCNS Principal renamed "The old Presbytery" The Gonzaga Music Centre, in honour of St Aloysius Gonzaga. A Jesuit, he is the patron saint of students and Christian youth.

The chair of the parish advisory group, Nicole Siddique, joined the Parish Finance Meeting on 24 July.

St Ignatius Loyola's Feastday was well celebrated at each of the Masses, especially at the 10.30am Mass at SFX where the parish choir showed why they had recently won prizes at the Sydney Eisteddfod.

Our Sunday night Mass and BBQ, where we hosted our friends from our Jesuit-sister-parish of Holy Family, Mt Druitt, and their wonderful Tongan Catholic Choir, was uplifting in every way. At this Mass we also presented and blest the members of the parish advisory group.

August 2023

To celebrate St Mary Mackillop's Feastday we had another high afternoon tea with 65 guests served and entertained by 20 young adults. We celebrated the Josephites, Loreto and Mercies for their great contribution to our parish.

We welcomed Fr Joseph Sobb SJ home on August 19 from extended sick leave.

On Friday August 25, Year 11 Loreto College students assisted Fr Sacha and our youth minister, Henry Madigan, in facilitating OMG! for 48 Year 5 & 6 children. It was the largest gathering we have ever had.

It was the month for funerals. We celebrated 13 funerals in four weeks.

September 2023

We found out the good news that the relatives of our Afghani Mohammadi family were granted Humanitarian Visas to come to Australia from the refugee camp in Iraq. We set about finding them accommodation and support. Hugh Macken and Susan Marshall were exceptionally generous in offering a townhouse in Cremorne rent-free for 2024. Ten people also made donations to cover the rates and utilities. The North Sydney Sisters of Mercy gave them an almost-new car and Dr Edwin Wijaya, the owner of Advanced Dental Cammeray, has offered the the women and their four children pro bono dental care.

On September 9 the Parish ran three stalls for the Jesuit Bazaar: cakes, Brick-a-brac and Sevenhill wine. The last stall was run by our young adult group. They were good community events and raised good funds for Jesuit Mission. 10,000 people attended.

On Child Protection Sunday, September 10, we unveiled plaques in each of the three churches that reads: *In solidarity with those who have suffered abuse from church personnel, we pray for justice, healing and peace for them and their families.*

On September 15 over 500 people gathered at St Mary's Church, North Sydney for our night on The Voice with Fr Frank Brennan SJ and, very generously at the last minute, Louise Clegg. Except for one or two interventions from the floor, it was a respectful exchange of ideas.

On September 16 and 17 the appeal for Mary's House for domestic violence was very well supported. The Parish's Charitable Trust made a further donation to Mary's House and The Daisy Centre.

On September 19, 20 and 21 respectively we celebrated the graduation Masses of MCCNS, Loreto and Monte schools.

135 young people were Confirmed over three Masses on September 23 and 24. Claire Loneragan and Sr Helen Maguire IBVM did another great job. As part of their preparation for their Confirmation candidates donated 140 grocery bags for the Ignite Shop at Mt Druitt.

October 2023

On October 1 the Jesuit Community explained why we were all voting 'yes' on the Referendum. While our North Sydney electorate voted Yes, the majority of Australians in a majority of States voted No. We received some negative emails.

On October 8 and 15 we had special blessings at the end of the 6.00pm Masses for all students doing the HSC.

On 15 October after the 9.00am Mass we had our first parish picnic in years at St Leonard's Park. With just two weeks' notice, over 100 people enjoyed a BBQ, played games and met new friends.

We launched the Jesuit priests' offer to visit parishioners in their homes as a way of making personal pastoral care the core business in the Parish. By the end of the year we had visited 14 homes.

At the 10.30am Mass on October 22 Fr Andy and Maree Curry welcomed the six people who are beginning the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. We also welcomed back those who completed the program this last Easter. That night at the 6pm Mass we confirmed one adult candidate, as well seven young people who missed the earlier date.

November 2023

For the first time and beginning with what will be an annual observance, we had a special 5.30pm Mass at North Sydney on All Souls Day, Wednesday November 2, where we invited all the families who celebrated a funeral in the parish over the last year to return to us as we remembered their loved ones. 160 people attended.

With its new name, the Men's Spirituality Group met from 4pm at the Presbytery on Saturday 4 November. 30 came together to hear from three men in our parish, and participated in parish sharing and discussion.

We had a special 9.00am Family Mass for students from our six government schools on Sunday 5 November. We reinstated visits to James Milson Village. Fr Daven Day SJ celebrates Mass with the residents there on the second Wednesday of the month.

On Thursday September 23 we held a Prayer Vigil for Peace in the World at St Mary's. The children from St Mary's Campus (MCCNS) wrote prayers for peace and placed them on the trees in the Ridge Street garden. Fr Andy blest the shrine of St Barbara and workers, at the entrance of the new Western Harbour Tunnel Cammeray, before construction started.

On the last OMG for the year 16 Monte Year 11 girls helped with running the evening. Over 45 children attended. The JRS appeal was on the weekend 18/19 November. It raised \$15,000. The Parish's Charitable Trust made a further donation.

December 2023

"With Expectant Hearts", a 22-day Advent reflection book, was made available.

Fr Sacha, Jenni & Michael Hickson coordinated our Advent Reflection groups on Thursdays November 30, December 7 and 21.

The Tongan Choir from Mt Druitt Choir returned Lavender Bay for 5.30pm Mass on Saturday December 2. (1st Sunday of Advent and the Vigil of the Feastday of St Francis Xavier). Pizza and wine followed in the hall.

We thanked our catechists with a Mass and lunch on Friday December 8.

The Christmas High Tea on Sunday December 10 at North Sydney was a sell out and enthusiastically received.

St Mary's Campus of MCCNS made up 200 Christmas hampers for Holy Family Parish Mt Druitt.

The Advent Thanksgiving Service on December 14 celebrated the generosity of the 134 volunteers and our many benefactors with a thanksgiving party. On the weekend of 17/18 December 401 bags of groceries were donated for the Ignite Store.

On Monday 18 December more than 200 people celebrated the Advent Rite of Reconciliation at St Mary's.

In 18 hours over Christmas Eve and Day we will celebrate nine Masses.

Richard Leonard SJ



Masterplan at the completion of Carlow St Building

LONG TERM MASTERPLAN

The new wing building in Stage 2A was completed in December 2022. The development of the new Carlow St building in Stage 2B has commenced and is projected to be finished in early 2025.

The Presbytery will be modified in Stage 3A1 to satisfy the needs of the Parish by March 2026. The Presbytery's interior will be finished in 2025, and the building's exterior will be restored in 2023.

The Ron Dyer Centre will be renovated in Stage 3A2 by July 2025, with Sydney Catholic Schools acquiring the current Ron Dyer Centre and the Parish acquiring the Presbytery building. Stages 3B and 3C involve various works on the church and the surrounding plaza, with work beginning in 2025 and ending in March 2026.

Finally, development on the Miller St building will likely begin in 2029-2030 and be finished by 2032, depending on available money. The parish will continue to use the current RDC gathering area until the new Miller Street building gathering space is built.

View the Master Plan at: www.northsydneycatholics.com

PARISH FINANCES

The Parish conforms with Archdiocesan accounting practices and its accounts are audited. For the year ended 30 June 2023, the Parish had an operating income of \$1,031,708 and operating expenditure of \$1,013,489 resulting in a surplus of \$18,218 which was transferred to reserves. The principle expenditures were staff costs, insurances, R&M, utilities, music and pastoral expenses.

PLANNED GIVING

In effecting its mission, the Parish relies heavily on the financial support and generosity of the Parish community. If you are able to support the Parish financially through the planned giving program (via credit card, direct debit or envelopes) please contact the Parish office. Donations attract a 50% tax deduction. 50% of all planned giving is directed to the Parish Charities Trust which disburses these funds in support of the works of the Jesuit social ministries and other social causes. Contact the Parish Office: 8918 4101 olw@northsydneycatholics.com

if you or your family are considering making a bequest, please contact the Parish Priest: Richard Leonard SJ PP, richard.leonard@nssj.org.au

PARISH CHARITIES TRUST

Part of our planned giving programme obtains tax deductibility when donations are applied to works that have recognised charitable status. This year the parish donated \$272,000 to Jesuit Social Services Western Sydney, The Ignite Store Mount Druitt, Jesuit Mission, Mary's House Services, St Vincent De Paul North Sydney, Jesuit Refugee Service, Catholic Mission, the Cardoner Project for Young Adults, Mary Ward International, and the Mater Hospital Pastoral Care Services. Your generosity made a practical difference to many people's lives.

2024 ANNUAL APPEAL CAMPAIGNS

Project Compassion - Starts 18th Feb

Jesuit Mission - 6/7 April

Charitable Works Fund - 18/19 May

St Vincent de Paul - 29/30 June

Jesuit Social Services - 10/11 August

Jesuit Refugee Service - 19/20 October

Mary's House Talk - 23 /24 Nov

Catholic Mission - 30 Nov/1 Dec TBC

CHARITABLE WORKS FUND DONATIONS
ARE 100% TAX DEDUCTABLE



HELP US

UNDERSTAND THE NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY

2024 Parish Census

The last Parish census was 2007, conducting a census in our parish community is vital for our growth and development. It helps us maintain accurate and up-to-date contact information for all our parishioners. It is crucial for effective communication, planning and decision making and allows us to anticipate the future needs of the Parish.

Thank you for your support.