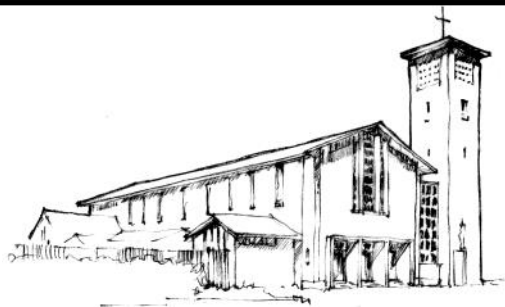


Welcome

St Joan of Arc Parish Haberfield



THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD, 12 JAN 2025

Parish Office:

97 Dalhousie St Haberfield NSW
2045

P: 02 9798 6657

E: admin@stjoanofarc.org.au

W: www.stjoanofarc.org.au

Office hours:

Closed till 2 January 2025

Parish Priest:

Fr Thomas Kurunthanam
thomas.kurunthanam@sydneycatholic.org

Parish Team:

Secretary:

Parish Safeguarding Support Officer (PSSO):

Tony Mediati
0413 481 039
PSSO@stjoanofarc.org.au

Eucharist:

Weekend:

Saturday (Vigil): 5.00pm

Sunday: 9.00am & 6.00pm
(Check for changes on special
Feast Days)

Weekdays:

Wednesday: 9.00am

Thursday: 9.00am

Friday: 9.15am

Reconciliation:

Saturday: 4:30pm - 4.50pm

Schools:

SJOA Primary:

Principal: Amanda Gahan
P: 9798 9780

Domremy College:

Principal: Antoinette McGahan
P: 9712 2133

From the Pastor

Bogan and Bagpipes

Bogan and Bagpipes are an unconventional mix. Then again, the lifestyle of the westies in Bogan Shire are not really bogan (meaning unrefined or unsophisticated), and bagpipes are not exclusive to Scotland. I have just returned from Nyngan in the Bogan Shire, the centre of NSW. In a town overlooked by the statue of Big Bogan, bishop Columba played bagpipes, leading Fr Abraham to a felicitation gathering. It truly was a meeting of cultures. Along with true blue Aussies, there were priests of African origin and of the subcontinent in the sanctuary, celebrating Eucharist with bishop Columba and Fr Abraham, the sacerdotal ruby jubilarian. But the best part was the sharing of stories by the parishioners and visitors alike. Fr Abraham's priestly stories were the highlight, complimented by sub-stories by others. Stories, not only describes persons, but also defines cultures. The narratives in this context were how faith and witness to Jesus Christ flourished beyond cultural difference, harsh climate, and financial inadequacies. An ever-evolving cultural transformation was in operation there. The coming together of Bogan and Bagpipes has become symbolic on this occasion.

Sharing life stories of charity and comradery in the name of Christ are the way to enhance our Christian mission. in this year of Church's Jubilee, mindful of the motto "Pilgrims of Hope", we are to go beyond the physical travel of pilgrimage to the Holy Doors of the Basilicas to acquire indulgences. God's grace is at work in our community, and we are to be prepared for its abundance through sharing of our stories of charity, justice, and sacrificial love. Our parish, like any good parish, thrives because of many committed Christians live here. We are to harvest such good-news stories this year. Think of at least one relation or a friend whose dedication has seen beyond hardships and cultures. Do you perceive any case of Bogan and Bagpipes meeting on our turf? Remember that we are companions in the pilgrimage of hope.



A message from the Archdiocese of Sydney

Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with crimes are the police. If you, or anyone you know have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office at (02) 9390 5813 or safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org. You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.

First Reading *Isaiah 40:1-5. 9-11*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah
 'Console my people, console them'
 says your God.
 'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem
 and call to her
 that her time of service is ended,
 that her sin is atoned for,
 that she has received from the hand of the Lord
 double punishment for all her crimes.'

A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness
 a way for the Lord.
 Make a straight highway for our God
 across the desert.
 Let every valley be filled in,
 every mountain and hill be laid low,
 let every cliff become a plain,
 and the ridges a valley;
 then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed
 and all mankind shall see it;
 for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

Go up on a high mountain,
 joyful messenger to Zion.
 Shout with a loud voice,
 joyful messenger to Jerusalem.
 Shout without fear,
 say to the towns of Judah,
 'Here is your God.'

Here is the Lord coming with power,
 his arm subduing all things to him.
 The prize of his victory is with him,
 his trophies all go before him.
 He is like a shepherd feeding his flock,
 gathering lambs in his arms,
 holding them against his breast
 and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 103:1-2. 3-4. 24-25. 27-30. R. v.1
 (R.) Oh, bless the Lord, my soul!

1. Lord God, how great you are,
 clothed in majesty and glory,
 wrapped in light as in a robe!
 You stretch out the heavens like a tent. (R.)
2. Above the rains you build your dwelling.
 You make the clouds your chariot,
 you walk on the wings of the wind,
 you make the winds your messengers
 and flashing fire your servants. (R.)
3. How many are your works, O Lord!
 In wisdom you have made them all.
 The earth is full of your riches.
 There is the sea, vast and wide,
 with its moving swarms past counting,
 living things great and small. (R.)
4. All of these look to you

to give them their food in due season.
 You give it, they gather it up:
 you open your hand, they have their fill. (R.)

5. You take back your spirit, they die,
 returning to the dust from which they came.
 You send forth your spirit, they are created;
 and you renew the face of the earth. (R.)

Second Reading *Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to Titus
 God's grace has been revealed, and it has made
 salvation possible for the whole human race and
 taught us that what we have to do is to give up
 everything that does not lead to God, and all our
 worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and
 live good and religious lives here in this present
 world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing
 which will come with the Appearing of the glory of
 our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He
 sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from
 all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could
 be his very own and would have no ambition except
 to do good.

When the kindness and love of God our saviour for
 mankind were revealed, it was not because he was
 concerned with any righteous actions we might
 have done ourselves; it was for no reason except
 his own compassion that he saved us, by means of
 the cleansing water of rebirth and by renewing us
 with the Holy Spirit which he has so generously
 poured over us through Jesus Christ our saviour.
 He did this so that we should be justified by his
 grace, to become heirs looking forward to inheriting
 eternal life.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
 John said: He who is to come is mightier than I;
 he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.
 Alleluia!

Gospel *Luke 3:15-16. 21-22*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke
 A feeling of expectancy had grown among the
 people, who were beginning to think that John might
 be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I
 baptise you with water, but someone is coming,
 someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am
 not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will
 baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire.'

Now when all the people had been baptised and
 while Jesus after his own baptism was at prayer,
 heaven opened and the Holy Spirit descended on
 him in bodily shape, like a dove. And a voice came
 from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my
 favour rests on you.'

PRIMA LETTURA ([Is 40,1-5.9-11](#))

Si rivelerà la gloria del Signore e tutti gli uomini la vedranno.

Dal libro del profeta Isaia

«Consolate, consolate il mio popolo – dice il vostro Dio.

Parlate al cuore di Gerusalemme e gridatele che la sua tribolazione è compiuta la sua colpa è scontata, perché ha ricevuto dalla mano del Signore il doppio per tutti i suoi peccati».

Una voce grida:

«Nel deserto preparate la via al Signore, spianate nella steppa la strada per il nostro Dio.

Ogni valle sia innalzata, ogni monte e ogni colle siano abbassati; il terreno accidentato si trasformi in piano e quello scosceso in vallata.

Allora si rivelerà la gloria del Signore e tutti gli uomini insieme la vedranno, perché la bocca del Signore ha parlato».

Sali su un alto monte,

tu che annunci liete notizie a Sion!

Alza la tua voce con forza,

tu che annunci liete notizie a Gerusalemme.

Alza la voce, non temere;

annuncia alle città di Giuda: «Ecco il vostro Dio!

Ecco, il Signore Dio viene con potenza, il suo braccio esercita il dominio.

Ecco, egli ha con sé il premio

e la sua ricompensa lo precede.

Come un pastore egli fa pascolare il gregge

e con il suo braccio lo raduna;

porta gli agnellini sul petto

e conduce dolcemente le pecore madri».

Parola di Dio

SALMO RESPONSORIALE ([Sal 103](#))

Rit: Benedici il Signore, anima mia.

Sei tanto grande, Signore, mio Dio!

Sei rivestito di maestà e di splendore,

avvolto di luce come di un manto,

tu che distendi i cieli come una tenda.

Costruisci sulle acque le tue alte dimore,

fai delle nubi il tuo carro,

cammini sulle ali del vento,

fai dei venti i tuoi messaggeri

e dei fulmini i tuoi ministri.

Quante sono le tue opere, Signore!

Le hai fatte tutte con saggezza;

la terra è piena delle tue creature.

Ecco il mare spazioso e vasto:

là rettili e pesci senza numero,

animali piccoli e grandi.

Tutti da te aspettano

che tu dia loro cibo a tempo opportuno.

Tu lo provvedi, essi lo raccolgono;

apri la tua mano, si saziano di beni.

Nascondi il tuo volto: li assale il terrore;

togli loro il respiro: muoiono,

e ritornano nella loro polvere.

Mandi il tuo spirito, sono creati,

e rinnovi la faccia della terra.

SECONDA LETTURA ([Tt 2,11-14;3,4-7](#))

Il Signore ci ha salvato con un'acqua che rigenera e rinnova nello Spirito Santo.

Dalla lettera di san Paolo apostolo a Tito

Figlio mio, è apparsa la grazia di Dio, che porta salvezza a tutti gli uomini e ci insegna a rinnegare l'empietà e i desideri mondani e a vivere in questo mondo con sobrietà, con giustizia e con pietà, nell'attesa della beata speranza e della manifestazione della gloria del nostro grande Dio e salvatore Gesù Cristo.

Egli ha dato se stesso per noi, per riscattarci da ogni iniquità e formare per sé un popolo puro che gli appartenga, pieno di zelo per le opere buone.

Ma quando apparvero la bontà di Dio, salvatore nostro, e il suo amore per gli uomini,

egli ci ha salvati,

non per opere giuste da noi compiute,

ma per la sua misericordia,

con un'acqua che rigenera e rinnova nello Spirito Santo,

che Dio ha effuso su di noi in abbondanza

per mezzo di Gesù Cristo, salvatore nostro,

affinché, giustificati per la sua grazia,

diventassimo, nella speranza, eredi della vita eterna.

Parola di Dio

Canto al Vangelo ([Lc 3,16](#))

Alleluia, alleluia.

Viene colui che è più forte di me, disse Giovanni;

egli vi battezzerà in Spirito Santo e fuoco.

Alleluia.

VANGELO ([Lc 3,15-16.21-22](#))

Mentre Gesù, ricevuto il battesimo, stava in preghiera, il cielo si aprì.

+ Dal Vangelo secondo Luca

In quel tempo, poiché il popolo era in attesa e tutti, riguardo a Giovanni, si domandavano in cuor loro se non fosse lui il Cristo, Giovanni rispose a tutti dicendo: «Io vi battezzo con acqua; ma viene colui che è più forte di me, a cui non sono degno di slegare i lacci dei sandali. Egli vi battezzerà in Spirito Santo e fuoco».

Ed ecco, mentre tutto il popolo veniva battezzato e Gesù, ricevuto anche lui il battesimo, stava in preghiera, il cielo si aprì e discese sopra di lui lo Spirito Santo in forma corporea, come una colomba, e venne una voce dal cielo:

«Tu sei il Figlio mio, l'amato: in te ho posto il mio compiacimento».

Parola del Signore

REFLECTION, THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

The readings for this feast recapitulate the themes of the entire Advent-Christmas season. Within the Christian tradition the voice that announces the future events is associated with John the Baptist. However, the reading itself proclaims the coming and manifestation of the Lord, clearly an Advent theme. The gospel reading from Luke moves us from anticipation of the coming of the messiah to fulfillment of God's promise. This theme of fulfillment is at the heart of the Christmas message. In the baptism narrative we see that Jesus has come into our midst, not only as a helpless infant, but as our anointed messiah. There is a dimension to this same gospel reading that opens us to a future yet to be fully realized in our lives. The one upon whom the Spirit descends has come to baptize us in that same Spirit.

The reading from Titus is similar to the gospel. Both herald the appearance of Jesus and promise a future fulfillment for us. Renewed by the Spirit, we will be justified and become heirs in hope of eternal life. The readings clearly announce that: the Lord is coming; the Lord has come; the Lord will continue to come to and through us into the whole world. Under all of this rings the melody of God's creative power as seen in the Psalm response. In view of the Isaian passage, God promises to create something new in the wilderness of chaos. There the glory of the Lord will be revealed.

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Weekly Diary Dec Jan 6-12

Date	Time	To note
Wednesday,	9:00 am	Mass
Thursday,	9:00 am	Mass
Friday,	9:15am	Mass
Saturday,	5:00 pm	Vigil Mass
Sunday,	9:00 am 6.00pm	Mass, Mass,

Reflection on Gospel, Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

Historical context – Baptism

John makes clear to the people that the baptism he performs is with water but the baptism by Jesus is with the Holy Spirit. John preached a baptism of repentance. In keeping with his Jewish tradition, John called upon the people to make a public declaration of their wrong-doing and commitment to be washed clean of this sinfulness and desire to live in right relationship with God and others. The baptism to which he refers is the complete change of heart and mind that comes through the Holy Spirit and results from a person accepting the message of Jesus.

Gospel focus – My Son, the Beloved

'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.' This declaration by the voice from Heaven – the voice of God – is an amalgamation of two earlier pieces of scripture: 'You are my son; today I have begotten you' (Ps 2:7) and 'Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights' (Is 42:1). The fact that it is uttered before Jesus has begun his ministry is a sign to all of us that God delights in us for who we are, not for what we have achieved in our lives.

Have you thought? Trinity

The baptism event in the gospels is a moment of revelation of the Trinitarian nature of God. The Holy Spirit descends upon Jesus in the form of a dove whilst the voice of God is heard to declare of Jesus, 'You are my Son.' It is a unique moment in the scriptures where the three persons of God are individually and collectively revealed. Although the scriptures do not explicitly name God as Trinity, by the time of Paul's early writings, blessings in the name of Jesus, God and the Holy Spirit are frequent. Despite this, Trinity continues to be a difficult concept for many Christians.

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Writings by the Fathers of the Church

The baptism of Christ

From a sermon by Saint Gregory Nazianzen

Christ is bathed in light; let us also be bathed in light. Christ is baptized; let us also go down with him, and rise with him.

John is baptizing when Jesus draws near. Perhaps he comes to sanctify his baptizer; certainly he comes to bury sinful humanity in the waters. He comes to sanctify the Jordan for our sake and in readiness for us; he who is spirit and flesh comes to begin a new creation through the Spirit and water.

The Baptist protests; Jesus insists. Then John says: I ought to be baptized by you. He is the lamp in the presence of the sun, the voice in the presence of the Word, the friend in the presence of the Bridegroom, the greatest of all born of woman in the presence of the firstborn of all creation, the one who leapt in his mother's womb in the presence of him who was adored in the womb, the forerunner and future forerunner in the presence of him who has already come and is to come again. I ought to be baptized by you: we should also add, "and for you," for John is to be baptized in blood, washed clean like Peter, not only by the washing of his feet.

Jesus rises from the waters; the world rises with him. The heavens, like Paradise with its flaming sword, closed by Adam for himself and his descendants, are rent open. The Spirit comes to him as to an equal, bearing witness to his Godhead. A voice bears witness to him from heaven, his place of origin. The Spirit descends in bodily form like the dove that so long ago announced the ending of the flood and so gives honour to the body that is one with God.

Today let us do honour to Christ's baptism and celebrate this feast in holiness. Be cleansed entirely and continue to be cleansed. Nothing gives such pleasure to God as the conversion and salvation of men, for whom his every word and every revelation exist. He wants you to become a living force for all mankind, lights shining in the world. You are to be radiant lights as you stand beside Christ, the great light, bathed in the glory of him who is the light of heaven. You are to enjoy more and more the pure and dazzling light of the Trinity, as now you have received – though not in its fullness – a ray of its splendour, proceeding from the one God, in Christ Jesus our Lord, to whom be glory and power for ever and ever. Amen.

Holy Father's Prayer Intentions

January—For the gift of diversity in the Church

We pray that the Holy Spirit may help us to recognize the gift of different charisms within the Christian community and to discover the richness of different traditions and rituals in the Catholic Church.

February -For vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

Let us pray that the ecclesial community might welcome the desires and doubts of those young people who feel a call to serve Christ's mission in the priesthood and religious life

Recently Deceased: Franca Campagna, Salvatore Caliutti, Vicki MacDonald, Noemia Fong Wai Cheng,

Please note: Names of **Recently Deceased** will remain for **1 month** period before being removed.

Anniversary: Frank Bova. Pietro Vella,

Rest in Peace: .

Please note: Names of **Anniversary and Rest in Peace** will remain for **2 weeks** period before being removed.

In your love and concern please pray for the following ill members of our community:

Silvana Cocilova, Vittoria Colantuono, Enrico Cuomo, Neville Hill, John Kcoury, Mary Finios, Glen Dixon, Roberto Tramarin, Vittoria Lavecchia, Rosa Santos, Elisha Lau, Liz Smith, Pat Rankine, Jerry Andre, Donna Neeley, Adeline Ashing, Annelise Buda, Giovanni Luci, Stephan Ferenc, Giancarlo Buda, Mario Bianco.

Thank You...

Amanda Gahan for organising the CHALKING THE DOOR kit for the Feast of Epiphany last weekend. It was novel idea to some people and to others it was reminiscing the tradition. We all cherish any ritual that invites God's blessings



9.00 am

2 February 2025

Launching Jubilee 2025

Parish Strategic Plan

Children's Liturgy



Thank you to all those who helped out and attended in 2024. In 2025 **we are looking for new leaders to assist with this very rewarding ministry.** If you can help and join the roster please contact Antonia on email as soon as you can: antc84@hotmail.com We need more help to keep this ministry going strong.
Thank you.

Sacramental Program 2025

Registration

Registration for the Sacrament of Confirmation and First Holy Communion will be open during the month of March 2025. It is important to register early. There will not be any Reconciliation Program in 2025. In 2026 children in year 3 or over will be invited to register for First Reconciliation Program. Age appropriation for the Sacrament is raised from now on.

First Holy Communion

FHC Parents meet with Fr Thomas on Wed. 27 Aug @ 7 pm.

Commitment to the preparation program will be on Sat 29 Aug @ 5PM/ Sun 30 Aug @ 9 AM.

FHC children's weekly Journalling of Church (Mass) experience starts on 14/15 September (weekend).

Weekly Catechesis starts on Wednesdays starting on 15 October.

First Holy Communion will be @ 3pm on Saturday 22 & @11 am on Sunday 23 November.

Should any child be seeking first communion next year and has not made their First Reconciliation must seek advice from Fr Thomas in February 2025.

Confirmation

Parents meeting with Fr Thomas at 7 pm on Wednesday 30 April.

Commitment to the Program @ Mass Sat 3 May, 5PM & Sun 4 May 9 AM

weekly Catechesis on Wednesdays 7-28 May @7PM

Confirmation Retreat May 31/ June 1 weekend

Bishop Danny Meagher will do the confirmation on Sunday 29 June @ 11 AM

Note the Change of Dates