

# ST PAUL'S

# ST CLARE'S

## *Bulletin Highlights*

### *Second Sunday of Advent*

*8th December 2019*



### *Sacrament of Penance Programme*

The programme was launched last weekend with the distribution of a 'timeline' to families who are seeking to assist their children in preparing for this very important sacrament. After Masses this weekend, enrolment forms will be distributed. Those who were unable to attend Mass in our own parish last weekend will need to collect two forms this weekend – the timeline and the enrolment form. A requirement of the programme is for parents/carers to have a presence at Mass with their children. Investing in the spiritual formation of children is really a wonderful and privileged duty that belongs to parenthood. So valuable and so important.



### *Second Rite of Reconciliation*

On Thursday 19th December, the 2nd Rite of Reconciliation will be available in the Church at 7:00 PM. There are generally five or six priests who are present to be hearing confessions. Reception of the Sacrament of Penance at this time during Advent is an ideal way of remaining focused on the beautiful spirituality of Christmas

## *Farewell to Father Joe*

For the past five years, Father Joe has had a wonderfully helpful presence in the parish among, not only our weekly parishioners, but also to the great number of visitors who have come to our church for reasons of baptisms, funerals, and weddings. So it's with a heavy heart that we bid farewell to Father Joe. We extend to him our best wishes for his new appointment at All Saints Shellharbour City and pray that his priestly ministry, in collaboration with the people of God, will flourish to yield a bountiful harvest.



Father Joe's final celebration of the sacred mysteries will be here in St Paul's today, Sunday 8th December at the 5:00 PM Mass. It will be followed by a social gathering of about an hour that includes beverages, a sausage sizzle and some brief formalities. All are invited. Our schoolteachers at St Paul's have graciously volunteered to cook up 400 snags with onions. The usual condiments will be available. Kids very welcome. Parishioners who have attended the Vigil Mass or a Sunday morning Mass are welcome to return.



## *Advent Event ~ Wrap Up*

A wonderful evening was enjoyed by just over 90 parishioners last Saturday evening. Beginning with a very large number of people at the Vigil, our special guests were Bishop Brian as well as those who were celebrating significant anniversaries of marriage, religious profession and ordination. The evening was quite nicely proportioned with a discussion question and a few reflections towards the end. The formalities came to conclusion about 8:30 PM although many remained for some time afterwards. The Menu was Middle Eastern in style and certainly appreciated by the many guests. Gratitude is extended to all our parishioners who helped to make the evening so successful.



## *Parish Survey*

Following a resolution from the September meeting of Parish Pastoral Council, a survey has been formulated as a way of inviting parishioners to indicate the way they feel about the parish. The survey will be included in a little package that will be posted this week to a very substantial number of parishioners from all parts of the parish. If, by chance, you don't receive a survey by Friday this coming week, then please notify the office and one will be provided asap. The survey is intended by the PPC to help in the process of being collaborative and consultative.