

# fulfill your purpose

*God created you with a purpose in mind.*

*To do something special with your life.*

*To contribute something unique that only you can.*

*As a Catholic, God gives you a desire to fulfill this purpose.*

*To serve, and not to be served.*

 Our Lady  
of Dolours

Catholic Parish of Chatswood, Diocese of Broken Bay

# what's your purpose to fulfill?

Our parish offers you the opportunity to do just this in various ways.

From being the leader of a group or playing an instrument, to helping organise a parish event or driving an elderly parishoner to and from Mass. You can even help welcome people to the Mass or knit/crochet a prayer shawl for people suffering with cancer. So, no matter what your age or ability, there is surely something you could do for someone else. And in turn, for God.

This booklet outlines all these various possibilities available to you as a parishoner. See what interests you and call the Parish Office on 02 9410 9000 asking for the details of the group leader concerned.

**Come serve, and not look to be served, just as Jesus did  
and fulfill your purpose.**

## Table of Contents

### *In alphabetical order*

31 Club	4	Infant Baptism	8
Altar Servers	3	Jacob's Well (O.L.D.ies gathering)	12
Altar Society	10	Kids Baptism	8
Antioch	14	Kids' Word (During school term)	17
A Year with Torah	9	Liturgy Team	2
Beginnings (0-3 Mothers/Carers support group)	15	Marian Catholic Action Group	5
Bereavement Ministry	12	Marriage Blessings at Mass	7
Bible Study Group	5	Marriage Preparation	19
Catechesis of the Good Shepherd	15	Parish Pastoral Council (PPC)	20
Catechists in State Schools	9	Pastoral Care of the Sick	4
Celebrate Love	7	Piety Stall	4
Charismatic Prayer Group	2	RCIA	8
Children's Choir (First & Third Sundays)	17	Readers or Lectors	3
Children's Reading Roster (Third Sundays)	16	Senior Choir (10.30am Mass)	18
Children's Sacramental Program	7	Social Committee	4
Collection and Counting	11	Social Justice	10
Communion Ministers	2	SPIRO (Year 7-9)	13
Co-ordinating Family Roster (First Sundays)	16	St. Peregrine Prayer Shawl Ministry	12
Ecumenism	3	St. Vincent De Paul Society	6
English & God	13	The Discussion Group	19
Family Group Movement	5	Vigil Choir (5.30pm Sat)	20
Family Mass Activities	16	Welcoming Group	11
Filipino Chaplaincy	6	Young Adults Prayer Group	19
Finance Committee	10	Young Collectors	18
Korean Community	6	Youth Band (2nd and 4th week)	14
Indonesian Catholic Community	6	Youth Choir (1st, 3rd and 5th week)	14
		Youth Mass Readers (5.30pm Sunday)	13

## Charismatic Prayer Group

### Outline of activities:

We come together and pray in a spontaneous way of free praise and worship using the charisms of the Holy Spirit including reading the Word of God, singing hymns, praying for one another and for the needs of the parish. All are welcome.

Meets Monday nights (except Public Holidays)

If you're interested, call the Parish Office on 02 9410 9000 and ask for the details of the group leader, to fulfill your purpose.

## Liturgy Team

### Outline of activities:

Our primary function is to coordinate and monitor all activities pertaining to the Eucharistic Liturgy in the parish. The team comprises members from various ministries who actively participate in the Eucharistic celebrations, e.g. Musicians, Lectors, Acolytes, Children's Liturgy, etc. We are responsible for the planning and smooth running of all liturgical celebrations, including Feast Day and special occasion Masses, maintaining the supply of church requisites, the training and education of members for their various ministries, e.g. Lectors, in the hope that each celebration will be a prayerful experience for all.

If you're interested, call the Parish Office on 02 9410 9000 and ask for the details of the group leader, to fulfill your purpose.

## Communion Ministers

### Outline of activities:

There are 2 distinct activities. It is preferable that each Minister performs both roles (as they are technically part of the one Ministry). However, in practice, it is permissible to perform just one of these roles (given that they utilise very different skill sets).

The first role involves Ministers of Communion distributing Holy Communion during Mass. As a group we cover all Sunday and weekday Masses in the parish. As individuals we are rostered to assist as often or as little as our lives permit (with the minimum requirement being once a month).

The second role involves Ministers of Communion visiting the sick and elderly (in nursing homes, hospitals and private homes) and taking Holy Communion to them. This usually involves saying specified prayers with them, reading the Gospel and giving them Holy Communion. It also usually involves providing conversation and companionship (and a connection with the outside world). As a group, we visit around 120 people each week (and sometimes a couple of times a week). As individuals, we are rostered to visit people as often or as little as our lives permit (with the

minimum requirement usually being once a month).

Subject to some qualifications, you need to be around 16 years or older to be a Minister of Communion.

If you're interested, call the Parish Office on 02 9410 9000 and ask for the details of the group leader, to fulfill your purpose.

## Altar Servers

### Outline of activities:

Altar Servers can be sub-divided into Junior Servers and Senior Servers.

All Altar Servers help the priest at the Altar during Mass (eg. by carrying the cross and candles; by holding the book; by setting up various things including the chalices on the Altar and packing them away; by assisting the priest with the water and wine; by ringing the bells and so on).

All Altar Servers also help by setting up these things for Mass and packing up after Mass. Senior Altar Servers also distribute Holy Communion during Mass.

You need to have made your 1st Holy Communion to be a Junior Altar Server. Subject to some qualifications, you need to be around 16 years or older to be a Senior Altar Server.

As a group, we cover all Sunday and weekday

Masses in the parish. As individuals, we are rostered to assist as often or as little as our lives permit (with the minimum requirement being once a month).

If you're interested, call the Parish Office on 02 9410 9000 and ask for the details of the group leader, to fulfill your purpose.

## Ecumenism

### Outline of activities:

It is a movement promoting Christian unity called for by Pope John Paul II in his encyclical "that all may be one" in 1995, promoted by Bishop David and encouraged by our Parish Priest.

We meet on the 1st Monday of the month with members of other Christian faith. We respect each others' differences yet grow closer together by prayer, sharing our love of Christ and each other and socialising.

If you're interested, call the Parish Office on 02 9410 9000 and ask for the details of the group leader, to fulfill your purpose.

## Readers or Lectors

### Outline of activities:

Readers or lectors proclaim the readings from Scripture at Mass each day, including the Psalms. These readings can be taken from any book of the Bible, except the four

Gospels, which are read by the priest or deacon. They can also do the Readings for other Liturgical events such as Confirmation or the Second Rite of Reconciliation.

At Sunday Masses, they read the Prayers of the Faithful, too.

If you're interested, call the Parish Office on 02 9410 9000 and ask for the details of the group leader, to fulfill your purpose.

## 31 Club

### Outline of activities:

Members commit to attending Mass one day a month to pray for vocations to the priesthood.

If you're interested, call the Parish Office on 02 9410 9000 and ask for the details of the group leader, to fulfill your purpose

## Piety Stall

### Outline of activities:

The Piety Stall is a non-profit activity of the Chatswood parish. We have 26 volunteers who are rostered to be on duty after a Mass every 5 weeks or so. People from other parishes visit our shop as we have a good range of cards, children's prayer books, missals, rosaries and other religious articles. Occasionally, it is the first place where visitors who are interested in the Catholic

faith make enquiries and are then directed to the R.C.I.A.

If you're interested, call the Parish Office on 02 9410 9000 and ask for the details of the group leader, to fulfill your purpose.

## Pastoral Care of the Sick

### Outline of activities:

Taking Communion to the Sick.

Visiting people in hospital.

Visiting sick and elderly in homes and retirement villages.

Bringing to the attention of the Priest any specific need for Anointing of the Sick or risk of dying.

If you're interested, call the Parish Office on 02 9410 9000 and ask for the details of the group leader, to fulfill your purpose.

## Social Committee

### Outline of activities:

We identify and organise social events within the parish for the primary purpose of enhancing the sense of community within the parish. We usually focus on organising just a few events during the year. We are not responsible for organising all social events within the parish. That is, other groups and individuals are free to organise additional events of their own.

If you're interested, call the Parish Office on 02 9410 9000 and ask for the details of the group leader, to fulfill your purpose.

## Family Group Movement

### Outline of Activities:

About 120 adults and children in six groups gather once a month, each time for a different type of social event. This brings the group together on a regular basis to enjoy being with one another and gradually to develop supportive relationships.

“A great way for new parishioners to meet others of similar age groups and to develop a sense of belong to the Parish. After joining the Family Group I usually know somebody else when I attend Mass.”

If you're interested, call the Parish Office on 02 9410 9000 and ask for the details of the group leader, to fulfill your purpose.

## Bible Study Group

### Outline of Activities:

Reading the Bible in a relaxed, friendly environment with the assistance of a Guide booklet, the Catholic Catechism and/or a DVD to clarify the teaching of the Catholic Church. Meet each Wednesday night, 7.30-9.00 pm, in meeting room 1 or 2.

“The only Bible study I ever did was when I paid attention at Mass. At least now, I know how important it is to study God's word to get to know and understand Him better.”

If you're interested, call the Parish Office on 02 9410 9000 and ask for the details of the group leader, to fulfill your purpose.

## Marian Catholic Action Group

### Outline of Activities:

We organise the Home Rosary, Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Succour, Prayers for Priests, Divine Mercy chaplet etc.

Support for Pro Life initiatives and promotion of a Christian perspective on social issues, such as euthanasia, marriage & family, etc.

Visitation to sick, housebound and nursing homes.

Encouraging non Catholics to return to the faith.

Invoking the example and intercession of Mary (see quote below):

To assist and encourage members in the practice of the Catholic faith.

To contribute to the devotional and community life of the parish. To engage society by an active apostolate based on Christian principles.

“The Church, therefore, in her apostolic work too, rightly looks to her who gave birth to Christ, who was thus conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of a virgin, in order that through the Church He could be born and increase in the hearts of the faithful. In her life the Virgin has been a model of that motherly love with which all who join in the Church’s apostolic mission for the regeneration of mankind should be animated.” (Lumen Gentium – Vatican Council II)

If you’re interested, call the Parish Office on 02 9410 9000 and ask for the details of the group leader, to fulfill your purpose.

## Filipino Chaplaincy

### Outline of activities:

Celebrate the Holy Eucharist – sponsor 1st Sunday 12 noon Mass.  
Fellowship after 1st Sunday 12 noon Mass.  
Bible Sharing and faith formation.  
Recollection/Retreat.

Spiritual celebrations, such as Midnight Mass during Christmas season, Church visitations and processions during Holy Week, singing carols to residents in care facilities.

If you’re interested, call the Parish Office on 02 9410 9000 and ask for the details of the group leader, to fulfill your purpose.

## Indonesian Catholic Community

### Outline of activities:

The group organises a social gathering around a meal every three months. The purpose is to offer support, friendship and a sense of community to families who have immigrated from Indonesia and to Indonesian students, here. Help with organising the meal is always appreciated.

If you’re interested, call the Parish Office on 02 9410 9000 and ask for the details of the group leader, to fulfill your purpose.

## St. Vincent De Paul Society

### Outline of activities:

The society helps people in material need. The main point of contact is the St Vincent de Paul shop at 287 Victoria Ave, Chatswood, Tel. 9419 4236. Parishioners volunteer to help run the shop. The members of the society also visit those in need in their homes and provide assistance for families in the parish and in the schools. We also support “Vinnies” in other parishes and St Vincent de Paul runs programmes, such as ‘Compeer’.

If you’re interested, call the Parish Office on 02 9410 9000 and ask for the details of the group leader, to fulfill your purpose.

## **Korean Community**

### **Outline of activities:**

Mass is celebrated in Korean in the parish church at 7pm on the first and second Sunday of each month, followed by refreshments. This is part of the Korean chaplaincy of the diocese which is based at Waitara parish.

If you're interested, call the Parish Office on 02 9410 9000 and ask for the details of the group leader, to fulfill your purpose.

## **Celebrate Love**

### **Outline of activities:**

A marriage enrichment weekend seminar, focusing on the communication between husband and wife, with a particular focus on sexuality and the gift and challenges of male-female differences. The weekend is presented by a team of married couples, and the exercises (written and discussed) are done privately between husband and wife. This seminar is for married couples in stable relationships seeking the fullness of God's plan for their marriage. It is not a marriage counselling or problem-solving tool. It is grounded in a Catholic theology of marriage; non-Catholics are warmly welcome and usually enjoy and thrive on the uplifting vision and practical tools presented.

If you're interested, please call the Parish Office on 02 9410 9000 or visit [www.celebratelove.com.au](http://www.celebratelove.com.au) to fulfill your purpose.

## **Marriage Blessings at Mass**

### **Outline of activities:**

When a married couple is celebrating a significant milestone – such as a 25th or 50th Wedding Anniversary – the parish community loves to bless them and pray for them at one of our Sunday Masses. A blessing can be arranged for the usual Sunday Mass that the couple attends, and they are encouraged to invite their friends and family along. Maria & Joe Woods can assist the couple in organising their blessing and liaising with the Priest.

If you're interested, call the Parish Office on 02 9410 9000 and ask for the details of the group leader, to fulfill your purpose.

## **Children's Sacramental Program**

### **Outline of activities:**

This is a three stage process held over the course of one year by which baptised Catholic children in Year 2 or older are prepared to receive the Sacraments of Confirmation, Reconciliation and First Communion. It is a family and parish-based

program, run by a team of parishioners, and supported by the parish primary school and the parish catechists who teach CCD in public schools.

If you're interested, call the Parish Office on 02 9410 9000 and ask for the details of the group leader, to fulfill your purpose.

## RCIA

### Outline of activities:

R.C.I.A. stands for "Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults". It is a process for preparing adults for baptism which involves weekly reflections on Scripture and the teachings of the Catholic Church, and various ritual steps along the way. There are currently two groups that meet: an English speaking group (Sundays 4pm, Mtg Rm 1) and a Chinese (Cantonese/Mandarin) speaking group (Saturdays 3.30pm, Mtg Rm 2).

More information can be found in the Sacraments Brochure Stand in the main foyer of the church.

If you're interested, call the Parish Office on 02 9410 9000 and ask for the details of the group leader, to fulfill your purpose.

## Infant Baptism

### Outline of activities:

A process for parents who are preparing to have their babies/infants baptised. There are three steps: (1) A one-hour Information Session held usually on the first Saturday of the month at 4pm. (2) A Presentation/ Anointing of the babies at a Sunday Mass. (3) The baptism itself. Baptisms are usually held twice a month: at one of the Sunday morning Masses, and at 12.30pm on a Sunday (without Mass). More information and enrolment forms can be found in the Sacraments Brochure Stand in the main foyer of the church.

If you're interested, call the Parish Office on 02 9410 9000 and ask for the details of the group leader, to fulfill your purpose.

## Kids Baptism

### Outline of activities:

A process for preparing older children (aged 5-11) years for baptism. This family-oriented process can take up to ten weeks and revolves around the 9am Family Mass on Sundays. It involves three short teaching sessions on the meaning of baptism (held at 8.30am, first Sunday of the month), participating in Sunday Masses and "Kids Word". More information and enrolment

forms can be found in the Sacraments Brochure Stand in the main foyer of the church.

If you're interested, call the Parish Office on 02 9410 9000 and ask for the details of the group leader, to fulfill your purpose.

## **A Year with Torah**

### **Outline of activities:**

A bible-education Ministry, which encourages Christians to read the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament). Parishioners are invited to enter into one year of reading the whole of the Torah (the first five books of the Bible), week by week, from Genesis 1 to the end of Deuteronomy, following the Jewish annual cycle of readings. This a private commitment done at home, supported by a weekly leaflet series "In the Light of Torah" which is available in main church foyer and on the parish website (see 'Adult Education' ministry). The weekly Torah reference is published in the parish bulletin each week. Occasional group workshops ("Archaeology of the Word") are held to explore specific passages; these workshops are advertised in the bulletin and on the website as they arise.

If you're interested, call the Parish Office on 02 9410 9000 and ask for the details of the group leader, to fulfill your purpose.

## **Catechists in State Schools**

### **Outline of activities:**

The Catechists teach the fundamental principles of our Catholic Faith to children in the State Schools in our area, that is, 5 Primary Schools, Artarmon, Castle Cove, Chatswood, Roseville, Mowbray Road and Chatswood High School.

Catechists must be authorised by the Bishop in order to teach Catechism. To do so, Catechists, are duly trained by the Diocese. Once a year Catechists are commissioned at Mass in a special ceremony at "Our Lady of Dolours" parish where they accept the task of nurturing the children in faith, in knowledge of the world created and made holy by God and to support the children as they grow in knowledge and wisdom. Catechists must be examples of Christian living in faith and conduct.

Children are given the "Walking With Jesus" book, authorised by the Bishop, to use at school. However, on some occasions they will take a page to complete at home with the assistance of members of the family.

During the school year, children attend and participate in 2 especial ceremonies: The Easter Assembly and the Christmas Assembly in the School Assembly Hall.

Yr 4 student: ‘Thank you for teaching me that God loves me’

If you’re interested, call the Parish Office on 02 9410 9000 and ask for the details of the group leader, to fulfill your purpose.

## Finance Committee

### Outline of activities:

Finance Committee comprises the parish priest, the parish manager and appointed lay members of the parish. Lay members of the Finance Committee are appointed by the parish priest to provide advice and assistance in managing the financial and infrastructure resources of the parish.

The Committee reviews the parish’s annual budget and recommends it to the parish priest for adoption. Parishioners serving this ministry have an interest in and understanding of finance and the financial and material needs of the parish, as well as integrity and ability to respect the confidentiality of matters brought before the Committee. Members commit to a minimum of tri-monthly meetings and others, as required.

If you are interested in participating in this ministry, please call the Parish Office on 02 9410 9000 and ask for details of the group leader, to fulfill your purpose.

## Altar Society

### Outline of activities:

This involves practical support for liturgy by maintaining beauty and order in our church, i.e. caring for linen, vestments, vessels, candles and flowers and assisting with decorating the church for major feast days and liturgies.

We require creative, dedicated parishioners who are prepared to commit to a regular weekly, fortnightly or monthly roster, as well as occasionally joining a larger group to decorate the church for major liturgical celebrations.

If you enjoy working in a team to share your practical and artistic skills, such as sewing, washing and ironing, arranging flowers, cleaning and polishing, please call the Parish Office on 02 9410 9000 and ask for details of the group leader, to fulfill your purpose.

## Social Justice

### Outline of activities:

We lead the parish in their support of the Maubara Orphanage East Timor, our Sister Parish of Bourke and Brewarrina, and StreetWork in Chatswood, as well as Project Compassion. Guided by Catholic Social Teaching and prayer, we involve the parish in issues of justice affecting the poor and

marginalised. Parishioners are very welcome to join us in Meeting Room 3, on the third Tuesday of each month.

If you are keen to help overcome injustice in our society and would like more information, please call the Parish Office on 02 9410 9000 and ask for details of the group leader, to fulfill your purpose.

## Collection and Counting

### Outline of activities:

The orderly collection of parishioners' donations at Mass and accurate counting of collections is essential for the pastoral and administrative upkeep of the parish

Wardens are responsible for taking up the two Sunday Mass collections and occasional special collections. One Warden is nominated as chief contact for each Mass and takes responsibility for the collection at that Mass.

Counters count and record the collections, including planned giving and other donations to the parish, in preparation for banking. This Ministry requires honest, friendly, yet security-conscious parishioners with a normal understanding of finance and ability to commit to a roster. If you are interested in helping in these areas, please call the Parish Office on 02 9410 9000 and ask for the details of the group leader, to fulfill your purpose.

## Welcoming Group

### Outline of activities:

Parish representatives offer a friendly and respectful welcome to people as they arrive to celebrate the Eucharist. They also provide information for parishioners. This is usually the weekly bulletin which is offered to people as they arrive; however visitors may need directions; new parishioners may need parishioner information packs; people interested in their faith may request education materials and course details.

Welcomers also ensure the entry area looks neat, i.e. notice board posters not torn and messy. In some parishes, welcomers belong to the Ministry of Hospitality, and may also provide refreshment after Mass.

Welcomers nominate to attend one of the weekend Masses on a weekly, fortnightly or monthly basis. Often the Mass they nominate is the one they would usually attend. They must arrive 15-20 minutes before the start of Mass.

Qualities required: Friendly approach to people, reliable, able to listen and maintain confidentiality.

“This welcoming duty gives me the opportunity to meet a wider range of parishioners in a friendly atmosphere and help them with their enquiries. I gradually know more and more parishioners in this

church. Welcoming people is a small service to the parish community”.

If you're interested, call the Parish Office on 02 9410 9000 and ask for the details of the group leader, to fulfill your purpose.

## **Bereavement Ministry**

### **Outline of activities:**

To assist parish families with Funeral Mass liturgy. This applies only if the service is to be held at O.L.D., crematorium or graveside with one of our Priests.

We have met once, at the start of the ministry, in January 2009. Will meet and/or have training, as the need arises.

“The families that we have assisted have been very appreciative with the help given at such a difficult time.”

Please note: The members of the team are not there in a capacity as counselors, but as caring members of the parish helping parishioners in their time of need.

If you're interested, call the Parish Office on 02 9410 9000 and ask for the details of the group leader, to fulfill your purpose.

## **St. Peregrine Prayer Shawl Ministry**

### **Outline of activities:**

We knit/crochet prayer shawls for parishioners or friends of parishioners with cancer.

We meet once a month, on the 2nd Monday of the month, in parish MR1 from 10am to 12 midday.

“I am completely overwhelmed...It's a beautiful ministry and you must get so much joy from being involved, as well as the bonds of friendship that develop as you meet together and pray and knit for those you don't even know.”

If you're interested, call the Parish Office on 02 9410 9000 and ask for the details of the group leader, to fulfill your purpose.

## **Jacob's Well (O.L.D.ies gathering)**

### **Outline of activities:**

To provide Seniors with a place to meet, once a month, and join in activities designated by a host. If no activity is organized it will be like a 'drop-in centre' where Seniors can come and have a 'cuppa' after Mass, etc.

We meet on the 4th Monday of the month in parish MR 1 from 9.30am. The meeting room remains open until 2pm.

If you're interested, call the Parish Office on 02 9410 9000 and ask for the details of the group leader, to fulfill your purpose.

## English & God

### Outline of activities:

English speaking mentors assist people whose first language is not English, to practise their language skills within a faith context.

We meet for 1-1.5 hrs every third week of the month, after the Sunday 5.30pm Youth Mass.

"This is a chance to be of real practical help whilst studying the gospels read at Mass. It's brought me closer to God and my fellow parishioners."

If you're interested, call the Parish Office on 02 9410 9000 and ask for the details of the group leader, to fulfill your purpose.

## Youth Mass Readers (5.30pm Sunday)

### Outline of activities:

People in sympathy with the dynamism and contemporary nature of the Youth Mass,

especially young people, proclaim the Word.

We roster people to read once a month at the Sunday 5.30pm Mass.

"I always had faith but being involved with reading at Mass has made my faith grow stronger."

If you're interested, call the Parish Office on 02 9410 9000 and ask for the details of the group leader, to fulfill your purpose.

## SPIRO (Year 7-9)

### Outline of activities:

Want to get out and have some fun? Well, here's your chance!

At SPIRO, for a couple hours on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month, we pretty much - hang out, play high energy games, go for activities like laser zone or rock climbing.

As a young adult/leader for the group, we can work around your work/study program, and can hook you up with training if you require it.

So if you're in year 7-9 or a young adult/senior student and want to get involved call the Parish Office on 02 9410 9000 and ask for the details of the group leader, to fulfill your purpose.

## Antioch

### Outline of activities:

A community of young people 16-20 who meet weekly, with the annual highlight of a live-in weekend. A parent couple supports a leadership group including a male and a female youth leader

“The weekend is a real ‘church experience’ of what a true Christian community can be. It is peer ministry that is relevant to my life.”

If you're interested, call the Parish Office on 02 9410 9000 and ask for the details of the group leader, to fulfill your purpose.

## Youth Choir (1st, 3rd and 5th week)

### Outline of activities:

Inspired by contemporary music, we sing an interesting mix of up-beat and melodious hymns.

Our repertoire would include a few of the favorites from ‘Shout to the Lord’ and ‘He is Exalted’ to ‘Power of Your Love’ and ‘Open the Eyes of our Hearts Lord’. Singing alongside pre-programmed backing tracks makes the Mass more lively and pleasurable, not only for the congregation but for us, too.

Needless to mention, we enjoy ourselves preparing and singing for Mass and

participating at various similar events.

We'd like to take this opportunity to invite you to join us or come attend Mass at 5.30pm on Sundays on the 1st, 3rd and 5th weeks of every month.

“Singing along with friends in the Choir has not just been a whole lot of fun, but it has deepened and enriched my experience of Mass and prayer. It does make the Mass way more interesting for me.”

If you're interested, call the Parish Office on 02 9410 9000 and ask for the details of the leader of the group to fulfill your purpose.

## Youth Band (2nd and 4th week)

### Outline of activities:

People in sympathy with the dynamism and contemporary nature of the Youth Mass, especially young people, play live and sing at the 5.30pm Youth Mass.

We organise music which encourages full active and conscious participation of the congregation - 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month.

“It's great to have a chance to use my musical talent whilst also thinking about the pastoral, liturgical and musical considerations of selecting hymns and Mass parts.”

If you're interested, call the Parish Office on 02 9410 9000 and ask for the details of the group leader, to fulfill your purpose.

## **Catechesis of the Good Shepherd**

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is a faith formation program for children aged 3-12 years. It is based on the belief that God and the child are already in relationship, but the child needs the right environment to help develop this relationship.

This environment includes a specially prepared room (the Atrium) as well as adults trained to guide the children in building their relationship with God.

### **Outline of activities:**

Being trained in this approach to bringing children into relationship with God

Working in the 'Atrium' (room used for the program) once per week, for one and a half hours, with the children.

Helping to set up before and clean up after each session

Planning the sessions/term with the other Catechists (once per term)

Coming together to help make materials as required (about once per term)

Comment from an adult involved: "It has

taught me so much about my own faith, and about my children!"

If you're interested, call the Parish Office on 02 9410 9000 and ask for the details of the group leader, to fulfill your purpose.

## **Beginnings - (0-3 Mothers/ Carers support group)**

'Beginnings' is a place for parents and carers of babies and toddlers (up to age 3) to come together to support each other and be supported by the parish in their important role of bringing their children up as Catholics.

### **Outline of activities:**

Helping setup the Meeting Room for the parents and children to arrive.

Playing with the toddlers. Holding babies while mums 'have a break' (get a tea, go to the toilet, etc).

Speaking with mums.

Helping and leading songs for our group 'prayer' time...just some simple child friendly songs and a candle on a 'prayer table'.

Helping pack away after the mums/children have gone .

"It's lovely to meet all these young Mums, and to get to know them and their children".

If you're interested, call the Parish Office on 02 9410 9000 and ask for the details of the group leader, to fulfill your purpose.

## Family Mass Activities

### Outline of activities:

As the faith community of Our Lady of Dolours, Chatswood, we want to empower parents in their role of bringing their children into relationship with God. The 9.00am Family Mass, each Sunday, is central to this mission.

The 9.00am Family Mass is our 'family friendly' Mass. It celebrates in a way that welcomes and supports the involvement of children and young families in the liturgy. The following gives an outline of the various ways families and children can get involved.

If you're interested, call the Parish Office on 02 9410 9000 and ask for the details of the group leader, to fulfill your purpose.

## Co-ordinating Family Roster (First Sundays)

This is a roster of families who wish to be involved in preparing and reading the Sunday readings and the Prayers of the Faithful at Mass. They also bring up the gifts at the Offertory Procession, when rostered on.

### Outline of activities:

We want to give families the opportunity to be involved in a way which can help them support each others' faith in the home environment. Preparing for this Mass at home, by deciding who will read, who will write prayers, who will do the Offertory, as well as practising their readings to each other, are all ways to support one another.

We also think it is important for the entire Community (children and adults alike) to see that children can be involved in the Mass, alongside adults. It is not just adults, only...nor is it just kids, only.

If you're interested, call the Parish Office on 02 9410 9000 and ask for the details of the group leader, to fulfill your purpose.

## Children's Reading Roster (Third Sundays)

This is a roster of children who want to read the readings or prepare and read a prayer at the Children's Mass on the 3rd Sunday of each month. When rostered to prepare a prayer, the children are given a prayer topic. The children then read their own prayer at the Mass.

### Outline of activities:

If you love to read, this is a great way to share your gift with the Community!

We want to encourage children to get involved with the Mass in as many ways as possible, to encourage them to grow in faith and feel a part of the Community.

If you're interested, call the Parish Office on 02 9410 9000 and ask for the details of the group leader, to fulfill your purpose.

## **Children's Choir (First & Third Sundays)**

This is a group of enthusiastic singers and musicians who play music and sing at Mass. The songs chosen are all child friendly and fun!

### **Outline of activities:**

If you don't like singing or you can't play an instrument, you might like to operate the data projector, instead. This person presses the button to change the words to the songs which are displayed on the screen for all to sing along. If you're shy, this job is for you!

If you love to sing, or you can play an instrument, this is a great way to share your gift with the Community! We want to encourage children to get involved with the Mass in as many ways as possible, to encourage them to grow in faith and feel a part of the community.

To sing: Just come along to the choir area before Mass begins and ask to join in. Everyone is welcome.

To play an instrument, join the data projector roster, or for further information, please call the Parish Office on 02 9410 9000 and ask for details of the group leader, to fulfill your purpose.

## **Kids' Word (During school term)**

Kids' Word is short for 'Children's Liturgy of the Word'. This is when the children leave the congregation to celebrate and reflect on the Gospel reading, in an age-appropriate way. The readings are the same as those the adult community is hearing in the church, but adapted to the children's level of understanding.

At Our Lady of Dolours, we separate the children into 2 groups; 3-6 year olds and 6 year olds and up. We do this to better cater for the wide age range of children and their stages of faith development. Children under 3 are welcome to join the younger group with a parent. Kids' Word is rostered by parents within the community who lead and support the children during this time

### **Outline of activities:**

If you asked any parent why their child attends Kids' Word, you would probably hear: "Because they enjoy it".

"They like coming to Mass when Kids' Word is on".

“I can listen to the Word and homily without the children asking when it is time to go home”.

The reality is that attending Mass is part of being a Catholic family. Mass is a celebration of worship for all Gods’ children, but it was not originally designed to cater for children. Kids’ Word is a way of helping children enter into this celebration more fully by catering to their needs.

Other benefits of Kids’ Word is to help form and build peer relationships within the parish community. The children who attend Our Lady of Dolours come from a wide area, many different schools and backgrounds. As a parish we want to create friendships to help build and sustain their faith as they grow. Kids’ Word is one way in which we do this.

We are always looking for more parent volunteers to support this ministry, so if you think you can help lead or just help the children with craft activities, or for further information, please call the Parish Office on 02 9410 9000 and ask for details of the group leader, to fulfill your purpose.

## Young Collectors

This is taking a basket around for people to place their offering money into. You will be assigned one small section of the church. When you have passed the basket around

your section, you just take it to the foyer where the co-ordinator will be waiting to take the money. You can then return to your seat.

### Outline of activities:

If you are shy, or don’t like to read or sing, this is a great way to get up and do something during Mass...and you aren’t noticed by everyone! You get to walk around TWICE without getting into trouble from Mum and Dad!

Just come to the foyer of the church before Mass and look for the man with the baskets. Ask him if you can help, today. They are always keen for willing helpers!

If you’re interested, call the Parish Office on 02 9410 9000 and ask for the details of the group leader, to fulfill your purpose.

## Senior Choir (10.30am Mass)

### Outline of Activities:

We sing regularly at the 10.30 am Mass each Sunday, leading the congregation in praise and glory to God, with the accompaniment of our well-acclaimed church organ!

We also prepare for and sing alongside other groups in the parish, at liturgical celebrations over Easter and at Christmas (eg. Midnight Mass).

We rehearse just before the 10.30 Mass (from 10.00 am) and every Thursday, from 7.30 to 9.00 pm in the Church Choir loft.

“To sing is to pray, twice!” We sing for our faith, our hope and our love for God and for one another.

If you'd like to join us, please call the Parish Office on 02 9410 9000 and ask for the details of the choir leader, to fulfill your purpose.

## Marriage Preparation

The loving communion that exists between husband and wife reveals to us the kind of love which Christ has for us: free, faithful, fruitful and forever.

### Outline of Activities:

We provide engaged couples planning for the sacrament of marriage with mentor support and resources to assist you through this exciting and special time.

If you're a married couple and would like to offer your support, or if you're getting married and would like more information, please call the Parish Office on 02 9410 9000 and ask for the details of the group leader, to fulfill your purpose.

## The Discussion Group

### Outline of Activities:

We are a group that study the following Sunday's Gospel, with prayer, reflection and a discussion thereafter, over a cuppa.

We meet every Tuesday, immediately after the 9am Mass, for a couple of hours from 9.30am to 11.30am. **On the first Tuesday of each month we have someone guide us in “Lectio Divina” which is a meditative, prayerful reading of the scriptures.**

“It is a great joy to invoke the Holy Spirit to help us explore and share the implications of the Word of God and the wisdom it imparts to our own individual spiritual journey.”

If you'd like to join us, please call the Parish Office on 02 9410 9000 and ask for the details of the group leader, to fulfill your purpose.

## Young Adults Prayer Group

### Outline of Activities:

We are a group of young adults in our 20's-30's and we meet each fortnight, on every 2nd and 4th Thursday of every month, to share our experiences and support each other through Lectio Divina and other prayer & study.

“It’s a joy to support and be supported by such an interesting and diverse group of people”

If you’d like to join us, please call the Parish Office on 02 9410 9000 and ask for the details of the group leader, to fulfill your purpose.

## Vigil Choir (5.30pm Sat)

### Outline of Activities:

The Choir at the Vigil Mass takes as its text “Make a joyful noise unto the Lord” and works to do it as well as possible to help the congregation sing. We have been blessed with organists, pianists who are learning the organ, a flautist, people who can conduct, people who can cantor, people who don’t cantor and data projector operators.

We gather at 5.00 pm before Mass if there is something seriously new to learn. The hymns are sent out by email during the week and a roster for roles is prepared for a few months ahead.

If you’d like to join us, just come up to the choir loft before or after Mass or please call the Parish Office on 02 9410 9000 and ask for the details of the group leader, to fulfill your purpose.

## Parish Pastoral Council (PPC)

### Outline of Activities:

The Parish Pastoral Council consists of up to twelve Councillors elected or appointed from Parishioners and representing their views. (Ex-officio members comprise the Priests, Deacons and Parish Associates).

The objectives of the PPC are to develop the Parish as a Community that facilitates the commission of Christ by examining, considering and forming conclusions about all matters that relate to pastoral work and, together with the Parish Priest, to develop strategic plans for the direction of the Parish, in accordance with the Parish Vision and Mission.

The PPC meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month from 7.30 to 9.30 pm. Parishioners are welcome to observe proceedings which follow an agenda.

Office bearers include: Chairperson, Secretary and Prayer Leader. Elections are held annually and each Councillor serves a term of three years. Casual vacancies may be filled on appointment by the Council.

If you are interested in finding out more about the PPC, please call the Parish Office on 02 9410 9000 and ask for details of a PPC Member, to fulfill your purpose.

*Mathew 20: 26, 28*

**“Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant. Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”**



**fulfill  
your  
purpose**

For any other information on Fulfill Your Purpose,  
please feel free to give the Parish Priest a call, on 9410 9000.



**Our Lady  
of Dolours**

Catholic Parish of Chatswood, Diocese of Broken Bay

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