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# **Sunday, 22 December 2019 Fourth Sunday of Advent**



Dear Parishioners and Visitors,

I hope you have each had the opportunity to view the "Lights of Christmas" displayed on the cathedral facade each night in the lead up to Christmas, but if you have not then I encourage you to visit before it finishes at midnight on the 24th.

Not only does the show brilliantly highlight to grandeur of the cathedral

architecture, most importantly it uses beauty, art, light and sound to celebrate the real reason for Christmas: the birth of Christ the Lord! Our mission is like that which St Paul wrote of in the Letter to the Romans, our Second Reading at mass today: to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures:

"This news is about the Son of God who according to the human nature he took was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord."

The cathedral clergy and staff look forward to many of you coming to our Christmas liturgies in a few days, but whether you celebrate the Lord's birth here or elsewhere may it be a blessed time for all of you!

Fr Don Richardson, Dean.

Liturgy...

#### First Reading Is 7:10-14

#### A reading from the prophet Isaiah

#### The virgin will conceive.

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' No', Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said: 'Listen now, House of David: are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men without trying the patience of my God, too? The Lord himself, therefore, will give you a sign. It is this: the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Immanuel, a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

#### The word of the Lord Response: Thanks be to God

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## Responsorial Psalm Ps 23:1-6. R. 7. 10

## Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

- 1. The Lord's is the earth and its fullness, the world and all its peoples. It is he who set it on the seas; on the waters he made it firm. (R)
- **2.** Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord? Who shall stand in his holy place? The man with clean hands and pure heart, who desires not worthless things. (*R*)
- **3.** He shall receive blessings from the Lord and reward from the God who saves him. Such are the men who seek him, seek the face of the God of Jacob. (R)





Liturgy...

#### **Second Reading Rom 1:1-7**

#### A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Jesus Christ, a descendant of David, is the Son of God.

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

## The word of the Lord Response: Thanks be to God



**Gospel Acclamation Mt 1:23** 

#### Alleluia, alleluia!

A virgin will give birth to a son; his name will be Emmanuel: God is with us.

#### Alleluia



Liturgy...

**Gospel Mt 1:18-24** 

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus was born of Mary, the betrothed of Joseph, a son of David.

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

The Gospel of the Lord Response: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ





| Weekend Mass     | Saturday Vigil:<br>Sunday:                                 | 6.00pm<br>7.00am, 9.00am, 10.30am (Solemn High Mass);<br>12.15pm Latin Mass in the extraordinary form; 6.00pm Mass |
|------------------|--|--|
| Weekday Mass     | Monday to Friday:  | 6.45am, 1.10pm & 5.30pm  |
|                  | Saturday:  | 9.00am & 12noon  |
|                  | Public Holidays:   | 9am (or as advertised)   |
| Reconciliation   | Monday-Friday:   | 12noon - 1.00pm & 5.00pm - 5.25pm  |
|                  | Saturday:  | 11.30am - 11.55am, 4.30-5.30pm   |
| Vespers          | Saturday:  | 5.30pm   |
| (Evening Prayer) | Sunday:  | 5.00pm (with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament)   |
|                  | NO VESPERS MON – FRI: From Mon, 09 Dec to Fri, 31 Jan 2019 |  |
|                  | Will resume on Mon, 03 February 2020                       |  |

\*\*COELIACS: Special Provision is made for Coeliacs at the Cathedral. Those who are gluten intolerant may receive communion either from the Chalice or with a gluten low host. Application should be made to the Sacristan before Mass.

#### CATHEDRAL CLERGY

Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP Father Donald Richardson, Dean Father Brendan Purcell Father Gerard Woo Ling Father Lewi Barakat

#### **CATHEDRAL STAFF**

Chris Backhouse – Cathedral Sacristan Thomas Wilson – Director of Music Helen Morassut – General Manager, St Mary's Cathedral Precinct

SUBSCRIBE TO THE NEW LOOK CATHOLIC WEEKLY OR PURCHASE A COPY FOR \$2

### **ELECTRONIC COLLECTION PLATES**

The option to make an offering via credit card is available at this mass.



**Please note**: you can continue to donate with cash or pass the plate on.

#### **CATHEDRAL NOTICES**

# A MESSAGE FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY

SAFEGUARDING. Keeping Our Communities Safe. We understand how difficult it can be for people who have experienced abuse to make a complaint. We have developed a Listening to You card, which is available in all our parishes to provide guidance for those wishing to make a complaint. We want to support you in this process and we can provide access to counselling and support services if needed. For more information please see the attached posters that we ask Parish Priests to print and display in a prominent area within parishes. For assistance, please contact

safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org or visit

www.sydneycatholic.org/safeguarding-and-child-protection/.

GIFTS OF FAITH. This Christmas give a gift with faith at the Centre. The Catholic charity Aid to the Church in Need has produced a Gifts of Faith catalogue in support of suffering and persecuted Christians. Copies can be found (\*list the location in your parish\*). Alternatively visit

www.aidtochurch.org/GiftsofFaith or phone 1800 101 201. Order by 09 December to receive your Gift of Faith cards and envelopes in time for Christmas.

# VISIT OF THE RELICS OF ST THERESE OF LISIEUX AND HER PARENTS. The

National Pilgrimage of the Relics of Saints Thérèse, and her parents, Louis and Zélie, will visit St Mary's Cathedral on Sat, **01 Feb 2020** at 4.30pm. The relics will remain for an all night vigil and leave of Sun, 02 February at 4.00pm.

# BISHOPS ANNOUNCE NATIONAL PRAYER CAMPAIGN FOR DROUGHT.

The Catholic Bishops of Australia have announced a National Prayer Campaign for Drought to take place during November. People across the country are encouraged to pray for the gift of rain, for people affected by the drought and to provide practical support, where possible. The Bishops note that large parts of the country are directly affected by the drought, but the impact is national – and so should the response be national. Access

resources and find out more at: www.catholic.org.au/drought.

DURING THE FESTIVE FOR SECURITY PLEASE LEAVE BACKPACKS AND LARGE BAGS AT HOME.

NO VESPERS MON – FRI: From Mon, 09 Dec to Fri, 31 Jan 2019 Will resume on Mon, 03 February 2020

LIGHTS OF CHRISTMAS. Celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Lights of Christmas at St Mary's Cathedral. A wonderful free community event from 05 December running every night until Christmas. Featuring a range of choirs from 7.30pm with the light show on at 8.30pm.

CARITAS AUSTRALIA GLOBAL GIFTS. Be an angel this Christmas – buy a Global Gift. Order online at <a href="www.globalgifts.org.au">www.globalgifts.org.au</a> or call 1800 024 413

#### EMBRACE YOUNG ADULTS GROUP.

Embrace, St Mary's Cathedral young adult group is for young people of 18-35 yrs old from all cultures and backgrounds. We meet every Sunday after the 6.00pm Mass at St Mary's Cathedral House, adjacent to the Cathedral. Our activities and youth projects are designed to support spiritual development and encourage active practice of our faith. On 22 Dec Embrace is on holiday and will resume on Sunday, 02 February 2020. You are welcome to join us in the New Year. For more information please write to embrace@stmaryscathedral.org.au.

# IS YOUR FAMILY FACING FINANCIAL STRESS? Connect with financial counsellors who can offer information, guidance and advocacy for people in financial distress who are at risk of or not able to pay bills or make repayments. Contact CCareline 13 18 19.

PLENARY COUNCIL. Have you been a part of the Plenary Council process of listening, prayer, dialogue and discernment? Do you feel called to express your interest in being a delegate from our diocese to participate in the plenary council general assembly held in Adelaide in October? If so, speak with your Parish Priest or Barbara Perry (Sydney Plenary Council Working Group) on 0438 012 964, <a href="mailto:barbara.perry@sydneycatholic.org">barbara.perry@sydneycatholic.org</a> for more details. All applicants must fill in and submit an application form found here: <a href="https://sydneycatholic.org/plenary-council.pdf">https://sydneycatholic.org/plenary-council.pdf</a>.



# ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL

St Mary's Road, Sydney

## 24 December

5:00pm: Vespers

6:00pm: Vigil Mass with Congregational Carols 8:00pm: Choral Vigil mass (Carols from 7:30pm)

11:15pm: Readings & Carols 12:00am Midnight Solemn Mass

#### 25 December

7:00am: Mass

9:00am: Mass with Congregational Carols10:30am: Solemn Mass (Cathedral Choir)6:00pm: Mass with Congregational Carols

## **SACRED HEART CHURCH**

Oxford Street, Darlinghurst

24 December

5:00pm Christmas Vigil Mass

25 December

9:00am Christmas Day

## ST COLUMBKILLE'S

McElhone Street, Woolloomooloo

25 December

9:00am Mass