



*St Mary's Cathedral*  
SYDNEY

## CATHEDRAL BULLETIN



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

2023

ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL PARISH  
INCLUDING  
ST COLUMBKILLE'S CHURCH,  
MCELHONE STREET, WOOLLOOMOOLOO

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD



### FIRST READING *2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16*

A reading from the second book of Samuel

*The kingdom of David will be established for ever in the sight of the Lord.*

Once David had settled into his house and the Lord had given him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent.' Nathan said to the king, 'Go and do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you.'

But that very night the word of the Lord came to Nathan:

'Go and tell my servant David, "Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader of my people Israel; I have been with you on all your expeditions; I have cut off all your enemies before you. I will give you fame as great as the fame of the greatest on earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel; I will plant them there and they shall dwell in that place and never be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked continue to oppress them as they did, in the days when I appointed judges over my people Israel; I will give them rest from all their enemies. The Lord will make you great; the Lord will make you a House. And when your days are ended and you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make his sovereignty secure. I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever.'"

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** *Ps 88:2-5, 27, 29*

**R.** For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord;  
through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth.  
Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever,  
that your truth is firmly established as the heavens. **R.**

'I have made a covenant with my chosen one;  
I have sworn to David my servant:  
I will establish your dynasty for ever  
and set up your throne through all ages.' **R.**

He will say to me: 'You are my father,  
my God, the rock who saves me.'  
I will keep my love for him always;  
for him my covenant shall endure. **R.**

**SECOND READING** *Romans 16:25-27*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

*The mystery kept secret for endless ages is now revealed.*

Glory to him who is able to give you the strength to live according to the Good News I preach, and in which I proclaim Jesus Christ, the revelation of a mystery kept secret for endless ages, but now so clear that it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere to bring them to the obedience of faith. This is only what scripture has predicted, and it is all part of the way the eternal God wants things to be. He alone is wisdom; give glory therefore to him through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** *Luke 1:38*

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the servant of the Lord:  
may his will for me be done.

Alleluia!

**GOSPEL** *Luke 1:26-38*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

*You will conceive and bear a son.*

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you' the angel answered 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.' 'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the angel left her.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## WORD FROM THE DEAN



Dear Cathedral Parishioners and Visitors,

There are four different Christmas Masses in our Roman Rite, for use only at certain times of the day: One for the evening before Christmas, one for the night of Christmas, one for the Dawn of Christmas day, and one for the rest of Christmas Day.

Here in Sydney, sunrise on Christmas Day 2023 is at 5.42am, and the dawn light begins to show at about 4am: and our first Mass on Christmas Day is well after that at 7am. If you've been participating in the Midnight Mass until about 2 in the morning, getting to another Mass at dawn is "a bit of an ask!" In Rome, being the northern hemisphere in winter, dawn on Christmas Day is a couple of hours later, at around 7.30am, which is much more do-able.

So most of us Aussies never attend a proper Christmas Dawn Mass, which means we miss out on hearing this rather nice prayer, recited by the priest as the sun begins to lighten the sky:

O God, who have made this most sacred night  
radiant with the splendor of the true light,  
grant, we pray, that we, who have known the mysteries of his light on earth,  
may also delight in his gladness in heaven.

The prayer captures what God is doing in the Incarnation of His Son: our ordinary natural experience is given a deeper supernatural reality. As the dawn brings light where there was darkness, so the Birth of Jesus Christ brings the glory of divinity to our humanity. As sin brings the darkness of death into our world and our lives, so the Birth of Jesus Christ brings the dawn of forgiveness and the new life which he will make possible through his saving death and resurrection. And as we participate in the sacramental life of grace in the Church now, we look forward experiencing life with the Lord forever!




Where there is darkness in your life, light will come from God. Where it is already light in your life, an even more wonderful glory will come from Him. Have faith in Christ.

On behalf of the cathedral clergy, thank you for joining with us to celebrate Christmas, and may God bless each of you with the growing radiance of Christ!

*Fr Don Richardson, Dean.*

# UPCOMING LITURGIES AND EVENTS

December 2023 – January 2024

			23 <i>Saturday</i>	24 <i>Sunday</i> <b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b>  Please note: there is <u>no</u> Public Tour today 	25 <i>Monday</i> <b>The NATIVITY of the LORD</b> 	26 <i>Tuesday</i> <i>St Stephen</i> <b>Public Holiday</b> Mass 9am
			27 <i>Wednesday</i> <i>St John</i> <b>Mass at 9am</b> 12pm Confession <i>(Holiday Schedule)</i>	28 <i>Thursday</i> <i>Holy Innocents</i> <b>Mass at 9am</b> 12pm Confession <i>(Holiday Schedule)</i>	29 <i>Friday</i> <b>Mass at 9am</b> 12pm Confession <i>(Holiday Schedule)</i>	30 <i>Saturday</i> <i>Resume normal Liturgy Schedule</i>
3 <i>Wednesday</i>	4 <i>Thursday</i>	5 <i>Friday</i>	6 <i>Saturday</i>	7 <i>Sunday</i> <b>The EPIPHANY of the LORD</b>  2pm Sunday Public Tour	8 <i>Monday</i> <b>The Baptism of the Lord</b>	9 <i>Tuesday</i>
10 <i>Wednesday</i> <b>5.30 Mass Today (One year Memorial for George Cardinal Pell AC)</b>  <b>6:30pm RCIA</b> <i>(Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)</i> <i>Resumes today</i>	11 <i>Thursday</i>	12 <i>Friday</i>	13 <i>Saturday</i>	14 <i>Sunday</i>  2pm Sunday Public Tour	15 <i>Monday</i>	16 <i>Tuesday</i>

## Weekly Mass Schedule

### MASS

Monday to Friday: 6:45am, 1:10pm, 5:30pm

Saturday: 9:00am, 12:00 noon

Saturday Vigil: 6:00pm

Sunday: 7:00am, 9:00am, 10:30am (Solemn Choral Mass), 6:00pm

### RECONCILIATION

Monday to Friday: 12noon to 1:00pm and 4:30pm to 5:25pm

Saturday: 11.00am to 12noon and 4:30pm to 5:30pm

### EVENING VESPERS

Monday to Friday: 5:00pm

Saturday: 5:30pm

Sunday: 5:00pm

*(Choral Vespers and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament)*

## *merry christmas*

### **SUNDAY 24th DECEMBER:**

**5.00pm:** 1st Vespers of Christmas (Evening Prayer)\*

**6.00pm:** Mass, Vigil of Christmas\*

**8.00pm:** Mass, Vigil of Christmas

**10.00pm:** Mass of Christmas Night

**11.15pm:** Matins of Christmas (The Office of Readings)\*

**12:00 Midnight:** Solemn Mass of Christmas Night (celebrated by Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP)\*

### **MONDAY 25th DECEMBER:**

**7.00am:** Mass of Christmas Day

**9.00am:** Mass of Christmas Day

**10.30am:** Solemn Mass of Christmas Day (celebrated by Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP)\*

**6.00pm:** Mass of Christmas Day

#### **NO BOOKINGS**

**Admission to the Cathedral may be restricted until after the previous Mass has concluded**

**\*Mass will be live-streamed**



*St Mary's Cathedral*  
SYDNEY

# 2023



#### **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 5810 or [safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org](mailto: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.

#### **ELECTRONIC DONATIONS**

The option to make an offering via credit card is available at St Mary's Cathedral.



No photography or videography permitted while Mass is in progress.

# CHRISTMAS at the Cathedral

PRESENTED BY **PAYCE**<sup>®</sup>  
FOUNDATION

**14-25 DECEMBER**

Experience the wonder and beauty of this Advent Season as we wait in joyful anticipation for the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ at Christmas

Live entertainment starts at 6:30 pm  
Christmas projection starts at 8:30 pm

*Market stalls, food and  
live entertainment.*

*All Welcome!*

Use the hashtag  
*#ChristmasAtTheCathedral*  
on your social posts.

For more information, visit our website  
[christmasatthecathedral.org.au](http://christmasatthecathedral.org.au)



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