



St Mary's Cathedral
SYDNEY

CATHEDRAL BULLETIN



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

2023

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

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD



FIRST READING *Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Prepare the way for the Lord.

'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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM *Ps 84:9-14*

R. Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

I will hear what the Lord God has to say,
a voice that speaks of peace,
peace for his people.
His help is near for those who fear him
and his glory will dwell in our land. **R.**

Mercy and faithfulness have met;
justice and peace have embraced.
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth
and justice look down from heaven. **R.**

The Lord will make us prosper
and our earth shall yield its fruit.
Justice shall march before him
and peace shall follow his steps. **R.**

SECOND READING *2 Peter 3:8-14*

A reading from the second letter of St Peter

We wait for new heavens and a new earth.

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, 'a day' can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up.

Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised: the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Luke 3:4, 6*

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:
all people shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL *Mark 1:1-8*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Make straight the paths of the Lord.

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah:

Look, I am going to send my messenger before you;
he will prepare your way.

A voice cries in the wilderness:

Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight,

and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

WORD FROM THE DEAN



Dear Cathedral Parishioners and Visitors,

Preparations are underway for the opening night of the “Christmas at the Cathedral” evening festival in the square, featuring of course the illuminations on the façade of the cathedral. The theme is the well known song, “The Twelve Days of Christmas”, which may also be considered to have Christian doctrinal meanings hidden behind the numbers. These symbols will be carried through into the cathedral’s internal decorations.

As part of the musical programme of “Christmas at the Cathedral” there will be different groups performing in the square each night. Be sure not to miss St Mary’s Cathedral Choir at 7.30pm on Friday 15th December and the St Mary’s Singers at 6.30pm on Sunday 17th!

I’d like to remind you that the Cathedral Choir will not be putting on a Christmas Concert this year, but instead a very special celebration, “O Emmanuel”: a reflection in words and music on the mystery of the Incarnation, with a time of adoration, on Sunday 17th at 4.30pm. (It will take the place of our usual Sunday Vespers and Benediction.)

Some people have asked me whether, because Christmas is on a Monday this year, they can just go to Mass on Sunday evening, 24th, Christmas Eve, to cover both their Sunday and Christmas Mass obligations. The answer is NO! Two obligations (Sunday and Christmas), two Masses! You could, if you chose, go to Mass on the evening of Sunday the 24th to fulfil your Sunday obligation, and on the morning of the 25th to fulfil your Christmas obligation. Or you could go to Mass on the morning of Sunday to fulfil your Sunday obligation, and to another Mass on Sunday evening celebrated as a Christmas Vigil to fulfil your Christmas obligation. Two obligations, two Masses, no shirking of your responsibilities.

(And anyway Christmas is hardly the time to be making St Nicholas sad by your misbehavior!)

Have a great week with God’s blessing,

Fr Don Richardson, *Dean*



ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL: MASTERPLAN UPDATE

December 2023



St Mary's Cathedral
SYDNEY

**Thank you for your
input into the
future of St Mary's
Cathedral Precinct**

During 2023, we have been seeking feedback from parishioners, visitors, Clergy and staff on the vision and draft masterplan for the Cathedral Precinct.

During our most recent conversations in November, we heard strong support for the draft masterplan.

This newsletter is to share your feedback and outline the next steps.

A MASTERPLAN INFORMED BY YOUR VISION

During our first stage of engagement in mid 2023, we spoke with hundreds of parishioners, volunteers, visitors, clergy and staff about your ideas and aspirations for the future of the Cathedral Precinct.

Based on feedback from nearly 200 respondents, you told us that you support our vision:

Our vision is to protect and enhance the iconic Cathedral grounds, whilst making these more accessible for everyone.

The key findings of the visioning engagement included:

The masterplan vision

There is a high level of **support for the Cathedral vision** with nearly 90% of respondents supportive of the suggested upgrades.

Respecting the heritage

The Cathedral's rich heritage remains a priority, with 90% of respondents agreeing that **heritage is its most important feature**.

Improved accessibility

Nearly 90% ranked the **need for accessible entrances as high or moderate**, stating more ramps should be prioritised.



OUR MASTERPLAN

Following our visioning engagement, we developed a draft master plan to deliver the future vision for St Mary's Cathedral, the spiritual home to Catholic communities across Greater Sydney and NSW.

In November, we again reached out to Parish communities to hear your thoughts on how effectively the draft master plan spoke to our vision and aspirations for the precinct. During our engagement on the Draft Master Plan, we:



Held 10 engagement sessions (after Mass)



Received over 100 feedback forms

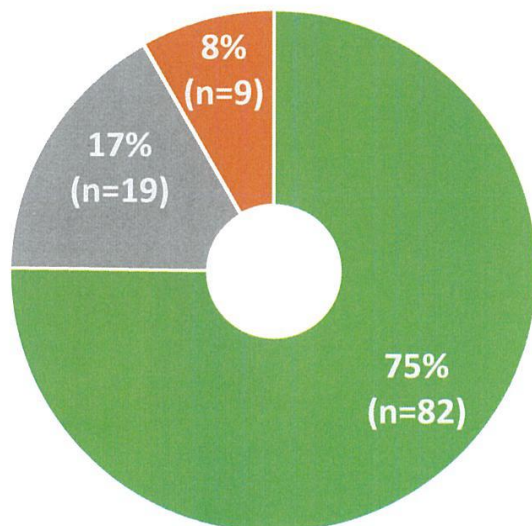


Reached hundreds of people through information

YOUR FEEDBACK

Most respondents supported the draft masterplan. Key findings of the engagement included:

Views on the draft masterplan:



Total responses n = 110

■ Support ■ Neutral ■ Unsupportive

Accessibility upgrades:

81% (n = 83) of respondents believe that the masterplan will make the Cathedral more accessible and more inclusive, by providing facilities that meet the needs of more community members.

Respect for the heritage of the Cathedral:

71% (n = 76) of respondents believe that the masterplan appropriately respects the heritage of the Cathedral.

WHAT YOU TOLD US

Most people felt that the masterplan adequately balanced the need to improve the Cathedral's facilities and accessibility whilst retaining the Heritage values of St Mary's Cathedral. You supported:



Improved access, by upgrading the Cathedral to provide accessible entrances and bathrooms.



Providing somewhere to have coffee or socialise in the proposed Parish & Chancery building.



Modern, accessible bathrooms that accommodate wheelchairs, prams and baby change.



Moving the gift shop to a less intrusive location in the proposed Parish & Chancery building.

"Having so many facilities close to the Cathedral will be great."

"The design balances creating a modern, welcoming space for the community with honouring the heritage and distinct architecture of the Cathedral."

"In addition to the positive and respectful architecture and design, the concepts and rationale presented are consistent with our community, our faith and our mission."

"I believe careful consideration has been given to the masterplan."

OUR NEXT STEPS

Thank you again for your contribution to our master plan for the future of the Cathedral Precinct. We are now preparing to lodge a development application for the Parish & Chancery building this year, and will continue to provide updates on the next steps in the New Year.

CONTACT US

Any questions? Email or call Urbis Engagement on **1800 244 863**.

UPCOMING LITURGIES AND EVENTS

December 2023

<h1>ADVENT</h1> 			9 <i>Saturday</i>	10 <i>Sunday</i> Second Sunday of Advent 10.30am Mass (Mass for Expectant Mothers & those Hoping to Conceive) 2pm Sunday Public Tour	11 <i>Monday</i>	12 <i>Tuesday</i>
			13 <i>Wednesday</i> <i>St Lucy</i>	14 <i>Thursday</i> <i>St John of the Cross</i> Christmas at the Cathedral from 5.30pm  6:30pm RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) (Last session for the year)	15 <i>Friday</i> Cathedral Choir performing at Christmas at the Cathedral (in Cathedral Forecourt)	16 <i>Saturday</i>
20 <i>Wednesday</i>	21 <i>Thursday</i> 6:30pm CITY COMPASS (Last one for the year) 	22 <i>Friday</i> 7pm Artes Christi 'Carols for Peace'	23 <i>Saturday</i>	24 <i>Sunday</i> Fourth Sunday of Advent 	25 <i>Monday</i> The NATIVITY of the LORD 	26 <i>Tuesday</i> <i>St Stephen</i> Public Holiday Mass 9am

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

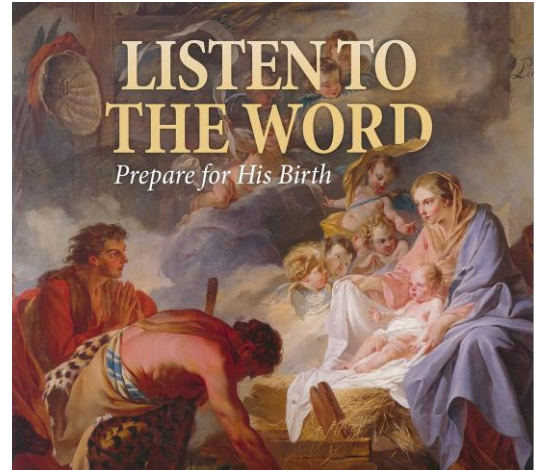
(Choral Vespers and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament)

CATHEDRAL NOTICES



LISTEN TO THE WORD: Prepare for His birth - Advent Companion 2023

The beautiful Season of Advent is approaching. Let us make the most of this precious time to gather in our parishes and communities to prepare for the coming of Jesus. This free Advent Companion contains Gospel readings for the Sundays of Advent and Christmas, and spiritual reflections by Christian Stephens, Rachel Vala, Milad Khalil, Sr Anastasia Reeves OP, and Fr Matthew Meagher. Designed for individual or group prayer, either in-person or online. The resources will be available in parishes of the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney, and online at www.gomakedisciples.org.au.



Jesus Our Light and Hope: Advent Twilight Retreat

Take time this Advent to pause and reflect at the Twilight Advent Retreat hosted at Joseph's Camperdown. A time to receive the peace and hope of Christmas. All welcome.

Date: Tuesday 12 December
Time: 6.30 pm – 9:30 pm (doors open at 6 pm)
Venue: St Joseph's Parish
Address: 2 Missenden Road, Camperdown



Global Gifts Christmas cards are a great way to spread joy and hope this Christmas season and to make a life-changing impact.



Give a gift card that represents a donation



www.globalgifts.org.au

Caritas Australia's Gaza Crisis Appeal

The sudden escalation of hostilities in Israel and Gaza since 7 October has seen unimaginable impacts for the people affected by this conflict.

The human toll has been devastating with more than 7,000 deaths across Israel and Gaza. Over 5,700 Palestinians have been killed so far, nearly half of them are children, while more than 15,000 people have been injured in Gaza.

Over 1.4 million people (60% of the population) have been displaced in Gaza with immediate food, shelter, health, and psychosocial needs.

Caritas Australia is working with our partner Catholic Relief Services (CRS), providing emergency shelter for over 1,200 people and cash support to over 7,100 families so far. We are also assisting with household items, including mattresses, blankets and other materials and support for food assistance and water, sanitation and hygiene.

Please donate to Caritas Australia's Gaza Crisis Appeal.

You can donate online www.caritas.org.au/gaza or phone 1800 024 413



GAZA CRISIS APPEAL

Help provide urgent humanitarian assistance to the people affected by the conflict.



DONATE NOW
www.caritas.org.au/gaza
1800 024 413



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY



CHRISTOPHER WEST

THEOLOGY of the BODY

LOVE & RESPONSIBILITY

IMMERSION COURSE

21-26 JANUARY 2024

W: TOBI.SYDNEYCATHOLIC.ORG



COST : \$1900 AUD.

INCLUSION : Immersion Course with all materials, five nights (single occupied) accommodation and meals. Partial subsidies available for approved students. REGISTRATIONS CLOSE 15 DECEMBER 2023

SUMMER SCHOOL 24

HEARTS ON FIRE

LUKE 24:32

SYDNEY
7 - 14 JANUARY 2024

WHAT IS IT?

A week long retreat into the powerful experience of the Holy Spirit, opening up possibilities for deepening faith, peace, healing, joy, and freedom.

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

All activities, accommodation and meals.

WHO FOR?

16-35 yr olds



summerschool.org.au

Marriage - not a day but a lifetime



Of Life and Love Marriage Preparation Weekend

St Luke the Evangelist Parish

1 Beaconsfield St, Revesby NSW 2212

24-25 February 2024

9am - 5pm Saturday & Sunday

The 'Of Life and Love' is a recognised marriage preparation course. Offering opportunities for formation, discussion, practical wisdom from married couples, and prayer, the course will help you and your fiancé more deeply understand the sacrament of marriage.



More information and registration:
trybooking.com/CMGTS





St Mary's Cathedral National Trust Christmas Appeal

We need your support for ongoing conservation of our beloved St Mary's Cathedral.

For generous benefactors giving \$50 or more, we will be delighted to send you a special, limited edition, 24 page **2024 St Mary's Cathedral Calendar**, filled with beautiful images of our historic and iconic mother Church. **Donate now or by 11 December for pre-Christmas delivery.**

Yes, I'd like to give \$50 \$100 \$250 Other

Give today. Donate at www.ourfaithourworks.org/give-to-smc or call 1800 753 959.



Gifts to St Mary's Cathedral National Trust are tax-deductible.

CATHOLIC
WEEKLY
OFFER

St Mary's Cathedral
CALENDAR 2024

Purchase your copy now!



BEAUTY
AND
LIGHT
with *FAITH*

By
Fr Donald Richardson

\$50.00

+ \$5.00 postage & handling

BEAUTY AND LIGHT WITH FAITH. The Stained Glass Windows of St Mary's Cathedral, is a guide which takes the reader through the history and story of each beautiful stained glass window of St Mary's Cathedral and Crypt. The beauty and story in each window may serve to draw the reader closer to their faith.

Book can also be purchased at St Mary's Cathedral SHOP



ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL SYDNEY FREE GUIDED TOURS



**EVERY SUNDAY
at 2pm**

Please join us for a **FREE** guided tour
of St Mary's Cathedral

Learn about the history and architecture
of this magnificent Cathedral and Crypt

Please note:

Participants receive 10% discount in the Cathedral Shop

Meeting point: Cathedral Shop internal entrance

Wheel chair access is available to Main Cathedral

To book a spot please email:

info@stmaryscathedral.org.au

Walk-ins still accepted



No photography or videography
permitted while Mass is in progress.



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.

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.

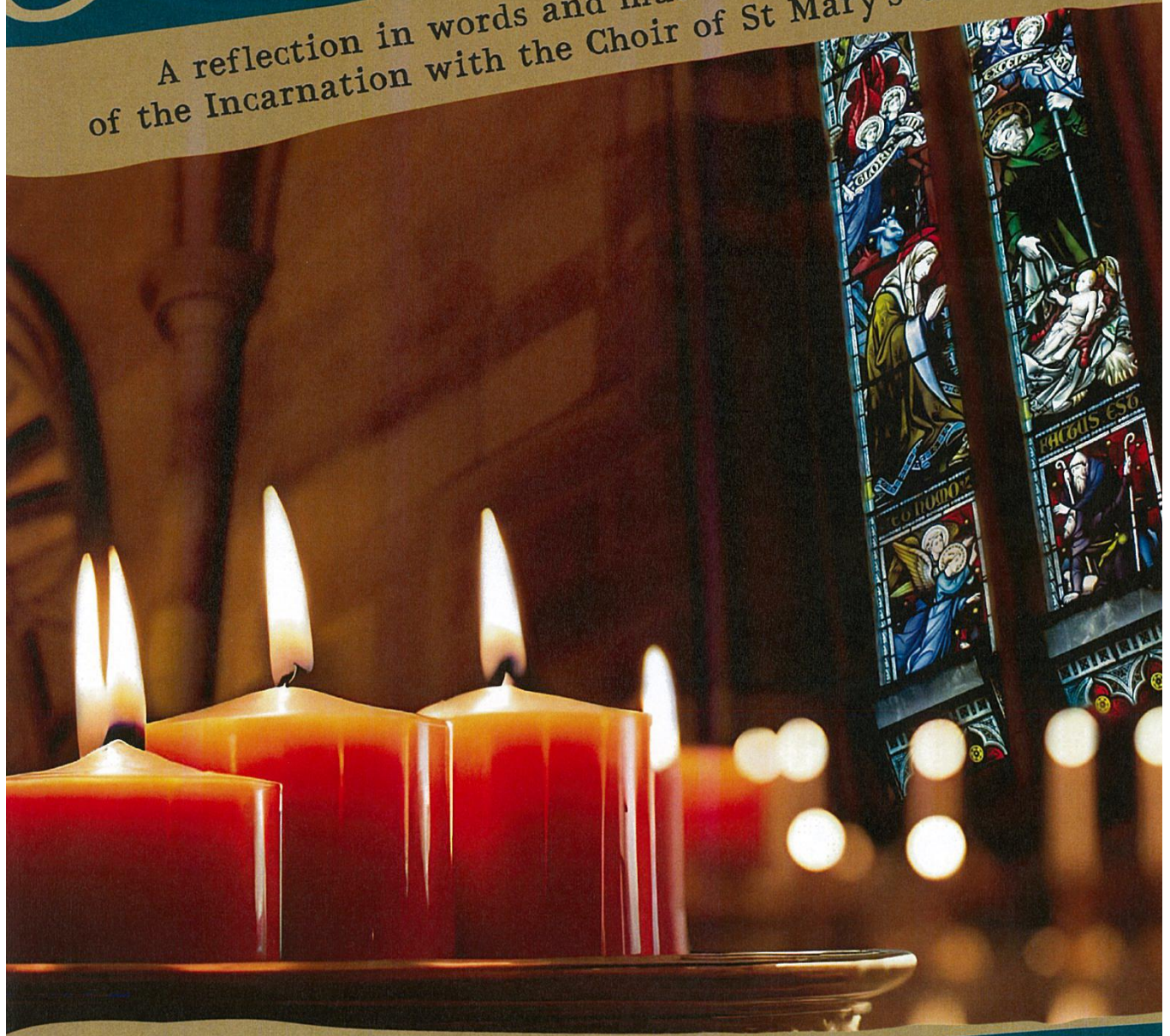
ELECTRONIC DONATIONS

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



Emmanuel

A reflection in words and music on the mystery
of the Incarnation with the Choir of St Mary's Cathedral



ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL, SYDNEY

SUNDAY 17TH DECEMBER

4:30PM

ADMISSION FREE

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

CHRISTMAS at the Cathedral

PRESENTED BY **PAYCE**[®]
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



CATHOLIC
ARCHDIOCESE
OF SYDNEY

PAYCE[®]
FOUNDATION

