



*St Mary's Cathedral*  
SYDNEY

## CATHEDRAL BULLETIN



FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

2024

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

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD



**FIRST READING** 2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23 (Year B)

Please note: the liturgy for today's Sunday 6pm Mass is (Year A)

A reading from the second book of Chronicles

*The wrath and the mercy of the Lord are revealed in the exile and liberation of his people.*

All the heads of the priesthood, and the people too, added infidelity to infidelity, copying all the shameful practices of the nations and defiling the Temple that the Lord had consecrated for himself in Jerusalem. The Lord, the God of their ancestors, tirelessly sent them messenger after messenger, since he wished to spare his people and his house. But they ridiculed the messengers of God, they despised his words, they laughed at his prophets, until at last the wrath of the Lord rose so high against his people that there was no further remedy.

Their enemies burned down the Temple of God, demolished the walls of Jerusalem, set fire to all its palaces, and destroyed everything of value in it. The survivors were deported by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon; they were to serve him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power. This is how the word of the Lord was fulfilled that he spoke through Jeremiah, 'Until this land has enjoyed its sabbath rest, until seventy years have gone by, it will keep sabbath throughout the days of its desolation.'

And in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, to fulfil the word of the Lord that was spoken through Jeremiah, the Lord roused the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia to issue a proclamation and to have it publicly displayed throughout his kingdom: 'Thus speaks Cyrus king of Persia, "The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth; he has ordered me to build him a Temple in Jerusalem, in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all his people, may his God be with him! Let him go up."'

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Please note: the liturgy for today's  
Sunday 6pm Mass is (Year A)

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** *Ps 136 (Year B)*

**R.** Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!

By the rivers of Babylon  
there we sat and wept,  
remembering Zion;  
on the poplars that grew there  
we hung up our harps. **R.**

For it was there that they asked us,  
our captors, for songs,  
our oppressors, for joy.  
'Sing to us,' they said,  
'one of Zion's songs.' **R.**

O how could we sing  
the song of the Lord  
on alien soil?  
If I forget you, Jerusalem,  
let my right hand wither! **R.**

O let my tongue  
cleave my mouth  
if I remember you not,  
if I prize not Jerusalem  
above all my joys! **R.**

Please note: the liturgy for today's  
Sunday 6pm Mass is (Year A)

**SECOND READING** *Ephesians 2:4-10 (Year B)*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

*When we were dead through sins, he brought us to life.*

God loved us with so much love that he was generous with his mercy: when we were dead through our sins, he brought us to life with Christ - it is through grace that you have been saved - and raised us up with him and gave us a place with him in heaven, in Christ Jesus.

This was to show for all ages to come, through his goodness towards us in Christ Jesus, how infinitely rich he is in grace. Because it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith; not by anything of your own, but by a gift from God; not by anything that you have done, so that nobody can claim the credit. We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he had meant us to live it.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** *John 3:16 (Year B)*

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son,  
that all who believe in him might have eternal life.

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

*Please note: the liturgy for today's  
Sunday 6pm Mass is (Year A)*

**GOSPEL** *John 3:14-21 (Year B)*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

*God sent his Son into the world that we might be saved through him.*

Jesus said to Nicodemus:

'The Son of Man must be lifted up  
as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert,  
so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.

Yes, God loved the world so much  
that he gave his only Son,

so that everyone who believed in him may not be lost  
but may have eternal life.

For God sent his Son into the world

not to condemn the world,

but so that through him the world might be saved.

No one who believes in him will be condemned;

but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already,

because he has refused to believe

in the name of God's only Son.

On these grounds is sentence pronounced:

that though the light has come into the world

men have shown they prefer

darkness to the light

because their deeds were evil.

And indeed, everybody who does wrong

hates the light and avoids it,

for fear his actions should be exposed;

but the man who lives by the truth

comes out into the light,

so that it may be plainly seen that what he does is done in God.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## WORD FROM THE ACTING DEAN



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

From the Holy Gospel according to St John we receive one of the most referred to passages of Scripture and it shouldn't come as a surprise that it's about God's love for us.

John 3:16

*Yes, God loved the world so much  
that he gave his only Son,  
so that everyone who believed in him may not be lost  
but may have eternal life.*

We are always in need of God's love.

God's love has creative power - the created world being the first expression and extension of his love in space and time. But God's love doesn't end there. He didn't make us only to then leave us with something to play with. It's not as though we can ever be in danger of disturbing God that he has to give us something to distract us.

If we were to treat the world only as man's playground, we would risk causing harm to the world and to ourselves. If we treat creation on par with the Creator, then we can easily get lost thinking we are only made for this world.

To show us that his love extends beyond his first act of creation, God not only made us, but he gave us his most precious gift. God sent us his heir and so offers us and anyone who believes in him a real share in his life.

We are in danger of spending too much money on material possessions trying to store up treasures for ourselves on earth, whilst neglecting to spend more of ourselves for others and gaining the gifts that endure forever.

God sent us his Son so that we wouldn't be lost.

If a parent was to buy their child a book or video game for the sole purpose of not having to talk to them then that parent might not be giving anything at all, except probably a bad example.

Lost in our ego. Lost to others. Lost by this world.

The gifts that God gives us aren't to keep us away from him. A real gift brings us into union with the giver.

We are all made for God and He wants everyone to live with Him forever. Sadly, some still prefer darkness to this light (3:19).

What do you want?

Believing in God and living by the truth that Jesus reveals to us about God, about ourselves, and about this world gives us a real share in his life, which endures for all eternity.


God bless,

Fr Lewi Barakat, Administrator and Acting Dean.



# UPCOMING LITURGIES AND EVENTS

## March – April 2024

|   |   |   |   |  |  |   |
|---|---|---|---|--|--|---|
|  <h1>LENT</h1> |   |   | 9<br><i>Saturday</i>  | 10<br><i>Sunday</i><br><b>Fourth Sunday of Lent</b><br><br>2pm Sunday Public Tour  | 11<br><i>Monday</i>  | 12<br><i>Tuesday</i>  |
| 13<br><i>Wednesday</i><br><br>6:30pm<br><b>RCIA</b><br>(Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) | 14<br><i>Thursday</i><br><br>6:30pm<br><b>CITY COMPASS</b>   | 15<br><i>Friday</i><br><br>12.15pm<br><b>STATIONS OF THE CROSS</b>  | 16<br><i>Saturday</i>   | 17<br><i>Sunday</i><br><b>Fifth Sunday of Lent</b><br>10.30am Mass (Catholic Institute of Sydney Opening Mass)<br>2pm Sunday Public Tour   | 18<br><i>Monday</i><br><b>ST PATRICK</b><br><br>10am St Patrick's Day Mass | 19<br><i>Tuesday</i><br><b>ST JOSEPH, SPOUSE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY</b> |
| 20<br><i>Wednesday</i><br><br>6:30pm<br><b>RCIA</b><br>(Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) | 21<br><i>Thursday</i><br><br>6:30pm<br><b>CITY COMPASS</b>   | 22<br><i>Friday</i><br><br>12.15pm<br><b>STATIONS OF THE CROSS</b>  | 23<br><i>Saturday</i>   | 24<br><i>Sunday</i> <br><b>PALM SUNDAY</b><br>2pm Sunday Public Tour  | 25<br><i>Monday</i>  | 26<br><i>Tuesday</i>  |
| 27<br><i>Wednesday</i><br><br>6:30pm<br><b>RCIA</b><br>(Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) | 28<br><b>MAUNDY THURSDAY</b><br><br>Mass Times<br>10.30am Chrism Mass<br>6.30pm Mass of the Lord's Supper<br>9.00pm Compline | 29<br><b>GOOD FRIDAY</b><br>Mass Times<br>10.00am Stations of the Cross<br>3.00pm Passion of the Lord  | 30<br><b>HOLY SATURDAY</b><br>Mass Times<br>10.00am Tenebrae<br>7.30pm Easter Vigil  | 31<br><b>EASTER SUNDAY</b><br>Mass Times<br>7.00am <br>9.00am<br>10.30am<br>5pm Vespers & Benediction<br>6.00pm<br>2pm Sunday Public Tour | 1<br><b>EASTER MONDAY</b><br><br>Public Holiday<br>Mass 9am                | 2<br><i>Tuesday</i><br><br>Resume normal Liturgy Schedule                   |

## 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



## St Patrick's Day Mass

Bishop Terry Brady, Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus warmly invites you to the celebration of the St Patrick's Feast Day Mass on **Monday, 18th March 2024 at 10:00am** in St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney.



DOMINICAN SISTERS OF *Saint Cecilia*  
 Founded in 1886 - Nashville

### WOMEN'S LENTEN RETREAT DAY

with THE DOMINICAN SISTERS OF SAINT CECILIA

**CHRIST, OUR FIRM FOUNDATION**  
 Rediscovering the wisdom of the Church's spiritual tradition

**16 MARCH 2024**  
 ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL HALL | SATURDAY 10AM-4PM

Women of all ages are invited to join the Dominican Sisters of Saint Cecilia for a Lenten Retreat Day. This day will focus on renewing the foundations of the spiritual life as we strive to live the Paschal Mystery throughout the year. The retreat day will include all day Eucharistic Adoration and Confessions, talks by the Sisters, personal testimony, a Holy Hour, and discussion groups. Women who have attended previous retreat days with the Sisters are encouraged to bring a friend to this event.

REGISTRATION  
 SCAN QR CODE OR VISIT THE WEBSITE TO REGISTER. ALSO PLEASE ARRIVE WITH COVERING RETREAT EXPENSES. DOORS OPEN 9AM. TEA & LUNCH INCLUDED.  
[www.bit.ly/3RRAKfa](http://www.bit.ly/3RRAKfa)

SUPPORTED BY CATHOLIC WOMEN'S NETWORK

GO MAKE DISCIPLES PARISH RENEWAL TEAM

## Prayer and the Mission to Proclaim Jesus

YEAR OF PRAYER 2024

# 18 MARCH

Monday | 7:30-9PM | St Martha's  
 38 Renwick Street Leichhardt | RSVP 15 March

gomakedisciples.org.au/cas-events  
 parishrenewal@sydneycatholic.org

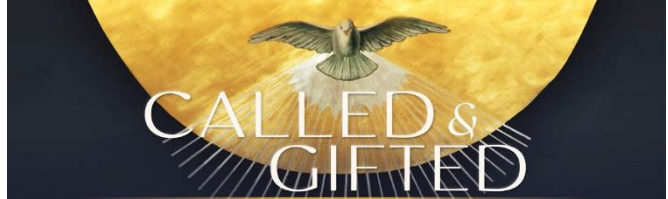
## Emmaus Silent Retreat

Embark on the sacred journey of the disciples on the road to Emmaus, where the victorious love of God is revealed through the abiding presence of Jesus. Be renewed in spending time alone with the Lord, and watch as He slowly sets your heart ablaze. This retreat is run by the MGL Sisters and is a retreat for both men and women.

**DATE:** Friday 19th April - Sunday 21st April 2024

**VENUE:** Varroville NSW

More information and registration at [trybooking.com/CNSXX](http://trybooking.com/CNSXX)



## CALLED & GIFTED

DISCERNMENT PROCESS 2024

*The path to discovering your charisms!*

DISCERN | GROW | BUILD  
 YOUR CHARISMS | IN FREEDOM | THE KINGDOM

MON 29 APR 2024 — MON 15 JUL 2024 | \$140 +BOOKING FEES LIMITED PLACES

EIGHT ONLINE SESSIONS PLUS ONE PERSONAL INTERVIEW

For more information and to register, scan code or go to [gomakedisciples.org.au/called-gifted-discernment-process](http://gomakedisciples.org.au/called-gifted-discernment-process)

BROUGHT TO YOU BY CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY CATHERINE OF SIENA INSTITUTE

EMMANUEL COMMUNITY

## Join us for a Love & Truth Weekend

# Order in Chaos

Spend time away as a couple to focus on your relationship with God, married life, and raising children

**Married & Engaged couples welcome**


Saturday April 27, 10am to Sunday April 28, 3:30pm


Mt Carmel Retreat Centre  
 257 St Andrews Rd, Varroville

Cost: \$200 per couple

**Information & Registration:**  
<https://www.trybooking.com/CPPE>

Couples will find the retreat more fruitful if they could organise babysitting for the weekend. If this is not possible please enquire about on-site child minding options.

 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](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.



# Cathedral festive dinner

Join parishioners and others from the Cathedral community celebrating its patroness, Our Lady Help of Christians, with dinner and musical entertainment.

- ▶ A recital by renowned soprano Anke Höppner-Ryan over canapés will commence the evening
- ▶ Three-course dinner with wines followed by tea and coffee
- ▶ Enjoy the surroundings of Cathedral House, by kind invitation of the Dean
- ▶ Get together with friends old and new for our annual celebration dinner
- ▶ Book now to avoid disappointment!

**Friday 24th May 2024, 6.30 p.m.**  
Cathedral House

SUGGESTED DRESS CODE  
Lounge suit / cocktail attire

TICKETS  
\$120 from [cathedralfriends.org.au](http://cathedralfriends.org.au)



*Join the Friends  
today to become  
part of our vibrant  
community*



*Read more and  
buy tickets for the  
festive dinner*





# Love to sing?

Join  
St Mary's Singers  
at St Mary's Cathedral,  
SYDNEY



The St Mary's Singers is an unauditioned choir of men and women based at the Cathedral. The Singers sing at Vespers and evening Mass on the second Saturday of every month, as well as at concerts and occasionally at other liturgies. The Choir includes people of all ages.



at  
St Mary's Cathedral  
SYDNEY

Registrations are open now via:

email [stmaryssingers@stmaryscathedral.org.au](mailto:stmaryssingers@stmaryscathedral.org.au)

or complete the online registration form:

<https://www.stmaryssingers.com/join-st-marys-singers.html>





## St Mary's Cathedral Training Choir is launching from February 2024 for Boys and Girls in Years 1-3

This group will be the foundation choir for the main Cathedral Choir, rehearsing every Thursday from 4:15pm to 5:30pm in the Cathedral Song School. Run by experienced vocal specialist Anna Sandström, this free-to-access ensemble is available to any child with an interest in singing.

To register your interest, please scan the QR code and complete the online form.





# EASTER

AT  
ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL

*"I welcome you to the Sacred Liturgies of Holy Week.*

*Jesus Christ died for all and rose from the dead so that all people may come to know and believe in the saving power of God."*

**Fr Lewi Barakat**  
Acting Dean of St Mary's Cathedral

## **PALM SUNDAY / 24 MARCH 2024**

7.00am: Mass  
9.00am: Mass  
10.30am: Procession & Solemn Mass  
5.00pm: Solemn Vespers and  
Benediction 6.00pm: Mass

## **MAUNDY THURSDAY / 28 MARCH 2024**

10.30am: Chrism Mass  
6.30pm: Mass of the Lord's Supper  
9.00pm: Compline The Office of Night Prayer

## **GOOD FRIDAY / 29 MARCH 2024**

10.00am: Stations of the Cross  
3.00pm: Celebration of the Passion of the Lord

## **HOLY SATURDAY / 30 MARCH 2024**

10.00am: Tenebrae The Office of Readings  
7.30pm: Easter Vigil

## **EASTER SUNDAY / 31 MARCH 2024**

7.00am: Mass  
9.00am: Mass  
10.30am: Solemn Mass  
5.00pm: Solemn Vespers and  
Benediction 6.00pm: Mass