



St Mary's Cathedral
SYDNEY

CATHEDRAL BULLETIN



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

2025

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

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD



FIRST READING *Isaiah 2:1-5*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The Lord will gather all nations in eternal peace in the kingdom of God.

The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz, concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In the days to come
the mountain of the Temple of the Lord
shall tower above the mountains
and be lifted higher than the hills.
All the nations will stream to it,
peoples without number will come to it; and they will say:
'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the Temple of the God of Jacob
that he may teach us his ways
so that we may walk in his paths;
since the Law will go out from Zion,
and the oracle of the Lord from Jerusalem.'

He will wield authority over the nations
and adjudicate between many peoples;
these will hammer their swords into ploughshares,
their spears into sickles.
Nation will not lift sword against nation,
there will be no more training for war
O House of Jacob, come,
let us walk in the light of the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM *Ps 121:1-2, 4-5, 6-9*

R. Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

I rejoiced when I heard them say:

'Let us go to God's house.'

And now our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem. **R.**

It is there that the tribes go up,
the tribes of the Lord.

For Israel's law it is,
there to praise the Lord's name.
There were set the thrones of judgement
of the house of David. **R.**

For the peace of Jerusalem pray:

'Peace be to your homes!

May peace reign in your walls,
in your palaces, peace!' **R.**

For love of my brethren and friends

I say: 'Peace upon you!'

For love of the house of the Lord

I will ask for your good. **R.**

SECOND READING *Romans 13:11-14*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

The time has come, our salvation is near.

You know 'the time' has come: you must wake up now: our salvation is even nearer than it was when we were converted. The night is almost over, it will be daylight soon - let us give up all the things we prefer to do under cover of the dark; let us arm ourselves and appear in the light. Let us live decently as people

do in the daytime: no drunken orgies, no promiscuity or licentiousness, and no wrangling or jealousy. Let your armour be the Lord Jesus Christ.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Ps 84:8*

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord, show us your mercy and love,
and grant us your salvation.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL *Matthew 24:37-44*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Stay awake, you must be ready.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'As it was in Noah's day, so will it be when the Son of Man comes. For in those days before the Flood people were eating, drinking, taking wives, taking husbands, right up to the day Noah went into the ark, and they suspected nothing till the Flood came and swept all away. It will be like this when the Son of Man comes. Then of two men in the fields one is taken, one left; of two women at the millstone grinding, one is taken, one left.

'So stay awake, because you do not know the day when your master is coming. You may be quite sure of this that if the householder had known at what time of the night the burglar would come, he would have stayed awake and would not have allowed anyone to break through the wall of his house. Therefore, you too must stand ready because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

WORD FROM THE DEAN



Dear Cathedral Parishioners and Visitors,

Welcome to the season of Advent, a time for new starts and high expectations!

Some news about our neighbouring parish, St Patrick's Church, Church Hill:

After 157 years of dedicated service, the Marist Fathers are withdrawing from St Patrick's at the end of this year. Care of St Patrick's Parish will be returning to the clergy of the Archdiocese.

The Archbishop has appointed Fr Lewi Barakat as the next Parish Priest of St Patrick's. Fr Lewi is well known to our Cathedral community, as he was for several years Assistant Priest here and, having recently returned from a period of studies in Rome, is currently resident here at St Mary's. He will take up this important new assignment officially on 1 January.

Fr Lewi will be joined at St Patrick's by Fr Anthony Mifsud, Fr Anderson Rodas and Fr Matthew Lukaszewicz. As Cathedral Administrator I am very glad to have Fr Lewi as my new neighbouring Pastor, and as Dean I look forward to welcoming Frs Anthony, Anderson and Matthew to the City Deanery.

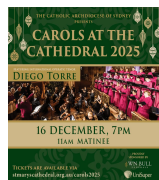
St Patrick's, opened in 1844, is such an important part of the Catholic life of our city, with a busy sacramental ministry of Masses and Confessions, and a rich variety of spiritual and pastoral activities. Its parish covers the northern part of the CBD, the Rocks and Barangaroo, and incorporates the even older St Brigid's in Millers Point.

The Marist Fathers will be greatly missed at St Patrick's, which is every Sydneysider's "second parish." Do please remember in your prayers the outgoing Parish Priest, Fr Michael Wheelan SM, and his fellow Marists at St Pat's, as they move to their next homes and ministries.

Fr Don Richardson, Dean.

UPCOMING LITURGIES AND EVENTS

November – December 2025

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT 		29 Saturday	30 Sunday First Sunday of Advent 12pm Blessing of the Nativity Scene (Cathedral Forecourt) 2pm Sunday Public Tour	1 Monday	2 Tuesday	
3 Wednesday St Francis Xavier 5.30pm Mass (Annual Volunteers Concelebration) RCIA (CANCELLED TODAY)	4 Thursday 5.30pm Mass (Celebrate the Return of the WYD Cross & Icon - Catechist and veneration of the Cross after 5:30pm Mass concludes). CITY COMPASS (CANCELLED TODAY) – Instead will be joining this evening's 5.30pm Mass	5 Friday	6 Saturday 11am Annual Lourdes Day Mass PLEASE NOTE ▪ The 12pm Mass is CANCELLED	7 Sunday Second Sunday of Advent 2pm Sunday Public Tour	8 Monday The IMMACULATE CONCEPTION of the BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	9 Tuesday
10 Wednesday 6:30pm RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)	11 Thursday 6:30pm CITY COMPASS 	12 Friday	13 Saturday St Lucy	14 Sunday Third Sunday of Advent 3.30pm Organ Recital  4.30pm Carol Service 2pm Sunday Public Tour	15 Monday PLEASE NOTE ▪ 4.30pm Confession & 5.30pm Mass has moved to the Crypt	16 Tuesday 11am Matinee Carols at the Cathedral 7pm Carols at the Cathedral  PLEASE NOTE ▪ Today's Masses (6.45am, 1.10pm, 5.30pm) have been moved to the Crypt

CATHEDRAL NOTICES

CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY

CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF
SYDNEY
CELEBRATES
THE RETURN OF THE
WYD CROSS + ICON

For a single day, the World Youth Day Cross and Icon are returning to Sydney - a rare and powerful moment of grace for our city.

**CONNECT
BE INSPIRED**

**THURSDAY, 4 DECEMBER
ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL**

5:30PM VOTIVE MASS CELEBRATED BY ARCHBISHOP ANTHONY FISHER OP,
TOGETHER WITH THE AUXILIARY BISHOPS AND FR CHRIS RYAN MGL.
AFTER MASS: CATECHESIS AND VENERATION OF THE CROSS



Lourdes Day Mass

Saturday 6 December 2025, 11am
at St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney

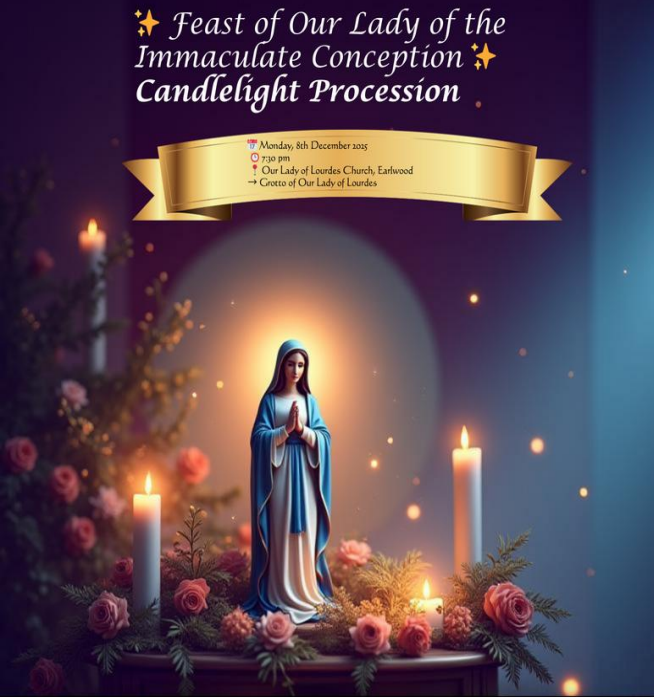
Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP will be the principal celebrant of the Mass and will be assisted by chaplains of the Order of Malta.

All those in attendance will receive a blessing for good health and water brought from the Shrine at Lourdes

 **ORDER OF MALTA**
AUSTRALIA

✧ *Feast of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception* ✧
Candlelight Procession

Monday, 8th December 2025
7:30 pm
Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Earlwood
→ Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes



Join us in a beautiful torchlight procession as we honour Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception.

The evening begins at the church. The Recital of the Rosary will take place with a candlelit walk to the Grotto, where we will conclude in prayer

🕯️ Candles will be available at the church doors.

✿ All are welcome – bring your family and friends to share in this special night of faith and community.

Jubilee Christmas Concert at Our Lady of Mount Carmel

Come and join us in the historic Jubilee Church – Our Lady of Mount Carmel Waterloo for a special Christmas concert followed by a free BBQ. Performances by the Noel Ensemble, led by Emelina Phillips and more. All welcome and no registration required!

Date: Friday, 5 December 2025

Time: Concert Start 6 pm (BBQ 7:30 pm)

Venue: Our Lady of Mount Carmel Waterloo, 2-6 Kellick Street, Waterloo (access via Mount Carmel Way)

For more information contact Ruth 0410 470 678 or manager@citysouthcatholic.org.au



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 safeguarding@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 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.



No photography or videography permitted while Mass is in progress.

THE CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY
PRESENTS

CAROLS AT THE CATHEDRAL 2025

FEATURING INTERNATIONAL OPERATIC TENOR
DIEGO TORRE



16 DECEMBER, 7PM
11AM MATINEE

TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE VIA
stmaryscathedral.org.au/carols2025

PROUDLY SPONSORED BY
WN BULL FUNERALS
UniSuper



Merry Christmas

2025 CHRISTMAS
LITURGY SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY 24 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
11:30pm: Carols
12:00pm Midnight: Solemn Mass of Christmas Night*
(Celebrated by Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP)

THURSDAY 25 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



Archbishop
Anthony Fisher OP
invites you to

CHRISTMAS at the Cathedral

a festival evening at St Mary's

17-25 DECEMBER

Celebrate the season
with market stalls, delicious food,
live entertainment and projections
illuminating the cathedral.

CHRISTMASATTHECATHEDRAL.ORG.AU

CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY

NSW GOVERNMENT

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