



St Mary's Cathedral
SYDNEY

CATHEDRAL BULLETIN



THIRD 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 35:1-6, 10*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

God himself will come and save us.

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult,
let the wasteland rejoice and bloom,
let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil,
let it rejoice and sing for joy.

The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it,
the splendour of Carmel and Sharon;
they shall see the glory of the Lord,
the splendour of our God.

Strengthen all weary hands,
steady all trembling knees
and say to all faint hearts,
'Courage! Do not be afraid.

'Look your God is coming,
vengeance is coming,
the retribution of God;
he is coming to save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
the ears of the deaf unsealed,
then the lame shall leap like a deer
and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy,
for those the Lord has ransomed shall return.

They will come to Zion shouting for joy,
everlasting joy on their faces;
joy and gladness will go with them
and sorrow and lament be ended.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM *Ps 145:6-10*

R. Lord, come and save us.

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,
who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
the Lord, who sets prisoners free. **R.**

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
who raises up those who are bowed down,
the Lord, who protects the stranger
and upholds the widow and orphan. **R.**

It is the Lord who loves the just
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign for ever,
Zion's God, from age to age. **R.**

SECOND READING *James 5:7-10*

A reading from the letter of St James

You also must be patient; do not lose heart, the Lord's coming will be soon.

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Isaiah 61:1 (Luke 4:18)*

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL *Matthew 11:2-11*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Are you the one who is to come, or must we wait for someone else?

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.'

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

WORD FROM THE DEAN



Dear Cathedral Parishioners and Visitors,

Since childhood, I have personally found The Little Drummer Boy rather annoying as a song, but I know that many people like it a lot. So, to prove I am broad-minded, welcoming, and not dictatorial, I did not try to veto The Little Drummer Boy when the Archdiocese's "Christmas at the Cathedral" organising committee was planning this year's sound and light show. And in fact the creative team who produce the show have put together a really nice animation of the story of The Little Drummer Boy with a pleasing soundtrack! Maybe I just hadn't heard the song well sung before.

So I really encourage you to bring your family and friends to "Christmas at the Cathedral" show, featuring The Little Drummer Boy, with market and food stalls, which opens in the cathedral square this Wednesday evening, the 16th. Then come inside the cathedral to experience the very special lighting and art display we have in the crypt for the first time for Christmas this year. The cathedral and crypt will be open every evening until 10.00pm from Wednesday until Christmas.

However, before then we have:

- Today, Sunday 14th, our annual Carols Service commencing at 4.30pm. Entry to the Service is free.
- Tuesday 16th, the Cathedral Choir's annual Christmas Concerts, in the morning at 11.00 o'clock and in the evening at 7.00 o'clock. Entry to the concerts is by ticket only and the evening concert is sold out already.

Please look for our schedule of Christmas Masses and pre-Christmas Confession times, and prepare well for this wonderful celebration.

Pa-rum-pum-pum-pum etc.,

Fr Don Richardson, *Dean*.

UPCOMING LITURGIES AND EVENTS

December 2025

<div>THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT</div> <div></div>		<div>13</div> <div>Saturday</div> <div>St Lucy</div>	<div>14</div> <div>Sunday</div> <div>Third Sunday of Advent</div> <div><div>3.30pm Organ Christmas Recital</div><div></div><div>4.30pm Carol Service</div><div>2pm Sunday Public Tour</div></div>	<div>15</div> <div>Monday</div> <div>PLEASE NOTE</div> <div><div>4.30pm Confession & 5.30pm Mass has moved to the Crypt</div></div>	<div>16</div> <div>Tuesday</div> <div>11am Matinee Carols at the Cathedral</div> <div>7pm Carols at the Cathedral</div> <div></div> <div>PLEASE NOTE</div> <div><div>Today's Masses (6.45am, 1.10pm, 5.30pm) have been moved to the Crypt</div></div>	
<div>17</div> <div>Wednesday</div> <div>Christmas at the Cathedral from 5.30pm Light Show from 8.30pm</div> <div>6:30pm RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) (Last one for the year Returns in 2026)</div>	<div>18</div> <div>Thursday</div> <div>Christmas at the Cathedral from 5.30pm Light Show from 8.30pm</div> <div>6:30pm CITY COMPASS (Last one for the year Returns in 2026)</div> <div></div>	<div>19</div> <div>Friday</div> <div>Christmas at the Cathedral from 5.30pm Light Show from 8.30pm</div>	<div>20</div> <div>Saturday</div> <div>Christmas at the Cathedral from 5.30pm Light Show from 8.30pm</div>	<div>21</div> <div>Sunday</div> <div>Fourth Sunday of Advent</div> <div><div>7:30pm Interfaith Remembrance Service by the Catholic Cemeteries & Crematoria</div><div>2pm Sunday Public Tour</div><div>Christmas at the Cathedral from 5.30pm Light Show from 8.30pm</div></div>	<div>22</div> <div>Monday</div> <div>Christmas at the Cathedral from 5.30pm Light Show from 8.30pm</div>	<div>23</div> <div>Tuesday</div> <div>Christmas at the Cathedral from 5.30pm Light Show from 8.30pm</div>
<div>24</div> <div>Wednesday</div> <div>Christmas at the Cathedral from 5.30pm Light Show from 8.30pm</div> <div></div>	<div>25</div> <div>Thursday</div> <div><div>THE NATIVITY of the LORD</div><div></div><div>Christmas at the Cathedral from 5.30pm, Light Show from 8.30pm</div></div>	<div>26</div> <div>Friday</div> <div>St Stephen</div> <div>Public Holiday Mass 9am</div>	<div>27</div> <div>Saturday</div> <div>St John</div>	<div>28</div> <div>Sunday</div> <div><div></div><div>The HOLY FAMILY of Jesus, Mary and Joseph</div><div>2pm Sunday Public Tour</div></div>	<div>29</div> <div>Monday</div>	<div>30</div> <div>Tuesday</div>

CATHEDRAL NOTICES

ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL SYDNEY

A CONCERT FOR CHRISTMAS

Olivier Messiaen's
La Nativité du Seigneur
(The Birth of the Saviour) for organ



Organist:
Simon Niemiński (St Mary's Cathedral)

Sunday 14th December 2025, 3.30 p.m.
FREE ADMISSION

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

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**SUPPORTING
AND TO
THE CHURCH
IN NEED**

Carols for Peace

Full Orchestra
and Choir
of over 60
musicians

BISHOP
TONY PERCY
DANNY & LEILA
ABDALLAH
GARY PINTO

Supporting
the suffering
Church in Nigeria
the Holy Land
& Ukraine

ENTRY BY DONATION
Bookings Essential - Tickets Strictly Limited
www.carolsforpeace.org

FRI 19 DEC | 6.30PM
SYDNEY TOWN HALL

BOOK NOW

Hosted by:

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



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.

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.

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.



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

