



St Mary's Cathedral
SYDNEY

CATHEDRAL BULLETIN



FOURTH 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 7:10-14*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The virgin will conceive.

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No,' Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said:

'Listen now, House of David:
are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men
without trying the patience of my God, too?
The Lord himself, therefore,
will give you a sign.
It is this: the maiden is with child
and will soon give birth to a son
whom she will call Emmanuel,
a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM *Ps 23:1-6*

R. Let the Lord enter;
he is king of glory.

The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,
the world and all its peoples.
It is he who set it on the seas;
on the waters he made it firm. **R.**

Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?
Who shall stand in his holy place?
The man with clean hands and pure heart,
who desires not worthless things. **R.**

He shall receive blessings from the Lord
and reward from the God who saves him.
Such are the men who seek him,
seek the face of the God of Jacob. **R.**

SECOND READING *Romans 1:1-7*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans
Jesus Christ, a descendant of David, is the Son of God.

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Matthew 1:23*

Alleluia, alleluia!

A virgin will give birth to a son;
his name will be Emmanuel: God is with us.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL *Matthew 1:18-24*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus was born of Mary, the betrothed of Joseph, a son of David.

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, and said 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son
and they will call him Emmanuel,

a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

WORD FROM THE DEAN



Dear Cathedral Parishioners and Visitors,

How could anyone do something so evil as the cold-hearted deliberate killing of people gathered in a beachside park to celebrate a happy religious festival, targeting people just because they were Jewish? It defies imagination, except: this sort of thing has happened before. Violent hatred of the Jewish people has a long and ugly history which has reached its most detestable intensities from time to time and place to place. I never thought to see it in my homeland Australia. This is a country where people come to be safe, to find a peaceable and prosperous and friendly life. That's why my ancestors came here in the early 1800's, that's why my parents taught me to have respect for native peoples of this land, and that's why so many "New Australians" came here in the Twentieth Century after the horrors of the World Wars and totalitarianism in Europe.

There is an evil that stalks across history and across the globe. It changes its clothes frequently to avoid recognition. Sometimes it dresses as a rousing political movement, sometimes it dresses as a righteous religious cause, sometimes it dresses as a benign ally or a true patriot. It is evil and deceptive, whispering lies in people's ears.

We Australians, and certainly we Catholics, should not be so naive as to listen to Satan, who hates the Jews because God chose to reveal himself to them, because God made covenants with them and taught them how to hope for salvation. But we cannot be quick to let ourselves off the hook and push the blame on Satan, for as the Lord Jesus said, it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come, and they defile a person. (cf. Mt 7.21-23)

We have been defiled by what has come from within people in our city and nation. Both Hanukkah and Christmas are about a sacred light that shines. It needs to be rekindled in all our hearts, so that wisdom and love, not lies and hate, come forth from us.

In these last days of Advent we seek Him who is the source of all light.

Fr. Don Richardson, Dean.

UPCOMING LITURGIES AND EVENTS

December – January 2025

<p>FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT</p> 		<p>20 <i>Saturday</i></p> <p><i>Christmas at the Cathedral from 5.30pm Light Show from 8.30pm</i></p>	<p>21 <i>Sunday</i></p> <p>Fourth Sunday of Advent</p> <p>7:30pm Interfaith Remembrance Service by the Catholic Cemeteries & Crematoria</p> <p>2pm Sunday Public Tour</p> <p><i>Christmas at the Cathedral from 5.30pm Light Show from 8.30pm</i></p>	<p>22 <i>Monday</i></p> <p><i>Christmas at the Cathedral from 5.30pm Light Show from 8.30pm</i></p>	<p>23 <i>Tuesday</i></p> <p><i>Christmas at the Cathedral from 5.30pm Light Show from 8.30pm</i></p>	
<p>24 <i>Wednesday</i></p> <p><i>Christmas at the Cathedral from 5.30pm Light Show from 8.30pm</i></p> 	<p>25 <i>Thursday</i></p>  <p>THE NATIVITY of the LORD</p>  <p><i>Christmas at the Cathedral from 5.30pm, Light Show from 8.30pm</i></p>	<p>26 <i>Friday</i></p> <p><i>St Stephen</i></p> <p>Public Holiday Mass 9am</p>	<p>27 <i>Saturday</i></p> <p><i>St John</i></p>	<p>28 <i>Sunday</i></p>  <p>The HOLY FAMILY of Jesus, Mary and Joseph</p> <p>10.30am Mass (Closing of Jubilee Year)</p> <p>2pm Sunday Public Tour</p>	<p>29 <i>Monday</i></p>	<p>30 <i>Tuesday</i></p>
<p>31 <i>Wednesday</i></p>	<p>1 <i>Thursday</i></p> <p>MARY, the Holy MOTHER OF GOD</p> <p>WORLD DAY OF PEACE</p> <p>Public Holiday Mass 9am</p>	<p>2 <i>Friday</i></p> <p><i>Sts Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen</i></p>	<p>3 <i>Saturday</i></p>	<p>4 <i>Sunday</i></p> <p>The EPIPHANY of the LORD</p> <p>2pm Sunday Public Tour</p>	<p>5 <i>Monday</i></p>	<p>6 <i>Tuesday</i></p>

CATHEDRAL NOTICES



Grief Care

Catholic Cemeteries + Crematoria

Christmas

**INTERFAITH
REMEMBRANCE SERVICE**

We invite you and your family to join us for our special Service to remember those who have died during 2025 and past years.

Sunday 21st December, 2025
7.30pm at St Mary's Cathedral
Presided by Bishop Terence Brady
Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus of Sydney
After the service, please join us in Cathedral Square
www.catholiccemeteries.com.au

How Christianity Illuminates Marriage and How Marriage Illuminates Christianity

In partnership with the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney, the Theology of the Body Institute and Dr Christopher West return to Sydney for an unforgettable evening!
Discover how God's love, revealed in the flesh through Christ, is reflected in the mystery of marriage itself. Dr West will unpack how masculinity, femininity, and marital love all point us to the heart of the Gospel. You will never see love, marriage, or faith the same way again.

DETAILS:

Date: Saturday, 17 January 2026

Time: 6:30 pm – Doors Open & Registrations / 7:00 pm – Event Begins / 9:00 pm – Event Concludes

Venue: St Kevin's Catholic Parish, Eastwood
Adults only event (18+). Seats are limited — don't miss this special evening of faith and renewal.

For more information and to register, visit <https://www.trybooking.com/DFVXL>
For enquiries, contact TOBI@sydneycatholic.org.



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

Sapienta - Dominican Retreat

Single adults, ages 18-35, are invited to join the Dominican Friars and Sisters for a weekend retreat at St Mary's Towers, Douglas Park, NSW from 13-15 February 2026. The retreat will consist of talks, discussion, silence, Eucharistic Adoration, the Sacrament of Confession, Mass, and time for fellowship. Places limited. Fee: \$300 per person.

<https://www.trybooking.com/DHJBL>



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY
Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office

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 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



CATHOLIC
ARCHDIOCESE
OF SYDNEY



feel new sydney



Commonwealth
Bank