



St Mary's Cathedral
SYDNEY

CATHEDRAL BULLETIN



THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

CHRISTMAS 2025

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

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD



*6pm and 8pm Vigil Readings
Christmas Eve*

FIRST READING *Isaiah 62:1-5*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The Lord takes delight in you.

About Zion I will not be silent,
about Jerusalem I will not grow weary,
until her integrity shines out like the dawn
and her salvation flames like a torch.

The nations then will see your integrity,
all the kings your glory,
and you will be called by a new name,
one which the mouth of the Lord will confer.

You are to be a crown of splendour in the hand of the Lord,
a princely diadem in the hand of your God;
no longer are you to be named 'Forsaken',
nor your land 'Abandoned',
but you shall be called 'My Delight'
and your land 'The Wedded';
for the Lord takes delight in you
and your land will have its wedding.

Like a young man marrying a virgin,
so will the one who built you wed you,
and as the bridegroom rejoices in his bride,
so will your God rejoice in you.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM *Psalm 89.3-4, 15-16, 26+28 (R.1a)*

R. For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

You said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one,
I have sworn to my servant David:

I will establish your descendants forever,
and build your throne for all generations." **R.**

Happy are the people who know the festal shout, who walk, O Lord, in
the light of your countenance;

they exult in your name all day long, and extol your righteousness. **R.**

He shall cry to me, "You are my Father, my God, and the Rock of my salvation!"

Forever I will keep my steadfast love for him, and my covenant with him will
stand firm. **R.**

SECOND READING *Acts 13:16-17, 22-25*

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Paul spoke of Christ, the son of David.

When Paul reached Antioch in Pisidia, he stood up in the synagogue, held up a
hand for silence and began to speak:

'Men of Israel, and fearers of God, listen! The God of our nation Israel chose our
ancestors, and made our people great when they were living as foreigners in
Egypt; then by divine power he led them out.

'Then he made David their king, of whom he approved in these words, "I have
selected David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart, who will carry out my
whole purpose". To keep his promise, God has raised up for Israel one of David's
descendants, Jesus, as Saviour, whose coming was heralded by John when he
proclaimed a baptism of repentance for the whole people of Israel. Before John
ended his career he said, "I am not the one you imagine me to be; that one is
coming after me and I am not fit to undo his sandal".

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Tomorrow the wickedness of the earth will be destroyed:
the Saviour of the world will be our king.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL *Matthew 1:18-25*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Mary will give birth to a son and you will name him Jesus.

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 told him to do: he took his wife to his home and, though he had not had intercourse with her, she gave birth to a son; and he named him Jesus.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

FIRST READING *Isaiah 9:1-7*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

A son is given to us.

The people that walked in darkness
has seen a great light;
on those who live in a land of deep shadow
a light has shone.

You have made their gladness greater,
you have made their joy increase;
they rejoice in your presence
as men rejoice at harvest time,
as men are happy when they are dividing the spoils.

For the yoke that was weighing on him,
the bar across his shoulders,
the rod of his oppressor,
these you break as on the day of Midian.

For all the footgear of battle,
every cloak rolled in blood,
is burnt

and consumed by fire.

For there is a child born for us,
a son given to us
and dominion is laid on his shoulders;
and this is the name they give him:
Wonder-Counsellor, Mighty-God,
Eternal-Father, Prince-of-Peace.

Wide is his dominion
in a peace that has no end,
for the throne of David
and for his royal power,
which he establishes and makes secure
in justice and integrity.

From this time onwards and for ever,
the jealous love of the Lord of hosts will do this.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM *Psalms 96.1-2, 3-4, 11-12, 13 (R, Luke 2.11)*

R. Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

O sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.
Sing to the Lord, bless his name;
tell of his salvation from day to day. **R.**

Declare his glory among the nations,
his marvellous works among all the peoples.
For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised;
he is to be revered above all gods. **R.**

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;
let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
let the field exult, and everything in it.
Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy. **R.**

Rejoice before the Lord; for he is coming,
for he is coming to judge the earth.
He will judge the world with righteousness,
and the peoples with his truth. **R.**

SECOND READING *Titus 2:11-14*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to Titus

God's grace has been revealed to all people.

God's grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own and would have no ambition except to do good.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Luke 2:10-11*

Alleluia, alleluia!

Good News and great joy to all the world:
today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL *Luke 2:1-14*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Today a saviour has been born for you.

Caesar Augustus issued a decree for a census of the whole world to be taken. This census - the first - took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria, and everyone went to his own town to be registered. So Joseph set out from the town of Nazareth in Galilee and travelled up to Judaea, to the town of David called Bethlehem, since he was of David's House and line, in order to be registered together with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to a son, her first-born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn. In the countryside close by there were shepherds who lived in the fields and took it in turns to watch their flocks during the night. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone round them. They were terrified, but the angel said, 'Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.' And suddenly with the angel there was a great throng of the heavenly host, praising God and singing:

'Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and peace to men who enjoy his favour'.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

FIRST READING *Isaiah 52:7-10*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

All the ends of the earth shall see the saving power of our God.

How beautiful on the mountains,
are the feet of one who brings good news,
who heralds peace, brings happiness,
proclaims salvation,
and tells Zion,
'Your God is king!'

Listen! Your watchmen raise their voices,
they shout for joy together,
for they see the Lord face to face,
as he returns to Zion.

Break into shouts of joy together,
you ruins of Jerusalem;
for the Lord is consoling his people,
redeeming Jerusalem.

The Lord bares his holy arm
in the sight of all the nations,
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM *Psalms 98.1, 2-3a, 3b-4, 5-6 (R. 36c)*

R. All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.

O sing to the Lord a new song,
for he has done marvellous things.
His right hand and his holy arm
have brought him victory. **R.**

The Lord has made known his victory;
he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.
He has remembered his steadfast love
and faithfulness to the house of Israel. **R.**

All the ends of the earth have seen
the victory of our God.
Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises. **R.**

Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre,
with the lyre and the sound of melody.
With trumpets and the sound of the horn
make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord. **R.**

SECOND READING *Hebrews 1:1-6*

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

In our own time, God speaks to us through his Son.

At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son, the Son that he has appointed to inherit everything and through whom he made everything there is. He is the radiant light of God's glory and the perfect copy of his nature, sustaining the universe by his powerful command; and now that he has destroyed the defilement of sin, he has gone to take his place in heaven at the right hand of divine Majesty. So he is now as far above the angels as the title which he has inherited is higher than their own name.

God has never said to any angel: You are my Son, today I have become your father, or I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Again, when he brings the First-born into the world, he says: Let all the angels of God worship him.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

A holy day has dawned upon us.

Come you nations and adore the Lord.

Today a great light has come upon the earth.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL *John 1:1-18*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us, and we saw his glory.

In the beginning was the Word:
the Word was with God and the Word was God.
He was with God in the beginning.
Through him all things came to be,
not one thing had its being but through him.
All that came to be had life in him
and that life was the light of men,
a light that shines in the dark,
a light that darkness could not overpower.

A man came, sent by God.

His name was John.
He came as a witness,
as a witness to speak for the light,
so that everyone might believe through him.
He was not the light,
only a witness to speak for the light.

The Word was the true light
that enlightens all men;
and he was coming into the world.
He was in the world
that had its being through him,
and the world did not know him.
He came to his own domain
and his own people did not accept him.
But to all who did accept him
he gave power to become children of God,

to all who believe in the name of him
who was born not out of human stock
or urge of the flesh
or will of man
but of God himself.
The Word was made flesh,
he lived among us,
and we saw his glory,
the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father,
full of grace and truth.

John appears as his witness. He proclaims:

'This is the one of whom I said:
He who comes after me
ranks before me
because he existed before me.'

Indeed, from this fullness we have, all of us, received -
yes, grace in return for grace,
since, though the Law was given through Moses,
grace and truth have come through Jesus Christ.
No one has ever seen God;
it is the only Son, who is nearest to the Father's heart,
who has made him known.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

WORD FROM THE DEAN



Dear Cathedral Parishioners and Visitors,

Christmas at last brings us joy and hope, and light shines in a world that is especially darkened since the Bondi Beach atrocity. This is a light that the darkness cannot overpower, as John's Gospel attests: it is the Eternal Word of God.

As Christians, the sight of the newborn Prince of Peace impels us to be more worthy of the gift of a Saviour, and keep the commandment to love God and to love our neighbour as our self much better than we have done.

On behalf of myself and the other priests here at St Mary's Cathedral, a heartfelt "Merry Christmas" to you all! We are glad that so many of you have joined us to adore Jesus the Lord. A word of thanks, too, to our staff and volunteers who make our Christmas celebrations possible. Let's all now take his light into our city and our homes.

Fr Don Richardson, Dean

Donations by credit card to the tap'n'go terminal near the big Christmas tree in the cathedral (near the Irish Saints Chapel) will go to the Church in the Holy Land, to the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem (which includes the parish Gaza), via the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem.

UPCOMING LITURGIES AND EVENTS



December – January 2025

			25 <i>Thursday</i> THE NATIVITY of the LORD <i>Christmas at the Cathedral from 5.30pm, Light Show from 8.30pm</i>	26 <i>Friday</i> <i>St Stephen</i> Public Holiday Mass 9am	27 <i>Saturday</i> <i>St John</i>	28 The HOLY FAMILY of Jesus, Mary and Joseph 10.30am Mass (Closing of Jubilee Year) 2pm Sunday Public Tour
29 <i>Monday</i>	30 <i>Tuesday</i>	31 <i>Wednesday</i>	1 <i>Thursday</i> MARY, the Holy MOTHER OF GOD WORLD DAY OF PEACE Public Holiday Mass 9am	2 <i>Friday</i> <i>Sts Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen</i>	3 <i>Saturday</i>	4 <i>Sunday</i> The EPIPHANY of the LORD 2pm Sunday Public Tour
5 <i>Monday</i>	6 <i>Tuesday</i>	7 <i>Wednesday</i> <i>St Raymond of Penyafort</i>	8 <i>Thursday</i>	9 <i>Friday</i>	10 <i>Saturday</i>	11 <i>Sunday</i> The BAPTISM of the LORD 2pm Sunday Public Tour

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



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
feel new sydney
Commonwealth Bank

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.



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY
Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office

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.



No photography
or videography
permitted while
Mass is in
progress.



*From all of us
at St Mary's Cathedral,
we wish you
a happy, safe and peaceful Christmas*

