



St Mary's Cathedral
SYDNEY

CATHEDRAL BULLETIN



SECOND 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 11:1-10*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

He judges the poor with justice.

A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse,
a scion thrusts from his roots:
on him the spirit of the Lord rests,
a spirit of wisdom and insight,
a spirit of counsel and power,
a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.

(The fear of the Lord is his breath.)

He does not judge by appearances,
he gives no verdict on hearsay,
but judges the wretched with integrity,
and with equity gives a verdict for the poor of the land.
His word is a rod that strikes the ruthless;
his sentences bring death to the wicked.

Integrity is the loincloth round his waist,
faithfulness the belt about his hips.

The wolf lives with the lamb,
the panther lies down with the kid,
calf and lion cub feed together with a little boy to lead them.
The cow and the bear make friends, their young lie down together.
The lion eats straw like the ox.
The infant plays over the cobra's hole;
into the viper's lair the young child puts his hand.
They do no hurt, no harm, on all my holy mountain,
for the country is filled with the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters swell the sea.

That day, the root of Jesse
shall stand as a signal to the peoples.
It will be sought out by the nations
and its home will be glorious.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM *Ps 71:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17*

R. Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

O God, give your judgement to the king,
to a king's son your justice,
that he may judge your people in justice
and your poor in right judgement. **R.**

In his days justice shall flourish
and peace till the moon fails:
He shall rule from sea to sea,
from the Great River to earth's bounds. **R.**

For he shall save the poor when they cry
and the needy who are helpless.
He will have pity on the weak
and save the lives of the poor. **R.**

May his name be blessed for ever
and endure like the sun.
Every tribe shall be blessed in him,
all nations bless his name. **R.**

SECOND READING *Romans 15:4-9*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Christ, the hope of all people.

Everything that was written long ago in the scriptures was meant to teach us something about hope from the examples scripture gives of how people who did not give up were helped by God. And may he who helps us when we refuse to give up, help you all to be tolerant with each other, following the example of Christ Jesus, so that united in mind and voice you may give glory to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It can only be to God's glory, then, for you to treat each other in the same friendly way as Christ treated you. The reason Christ became the servant of circumcised Jews was not only so that God could faithfully carry out the promises made to the patriarchs, it was also to get the pagans to give glory to God for his mercy, as scripture says in one place: For this I shall praise you among the pagans and sing your name.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Luke 3:4, 6*

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:
all people shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL *Matthew 3:1-12*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.

In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.'

This was the man the prophet spoke of when he said:

A voice cries in the wilderness:

Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight.

This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole Jordan district made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. But when he saw a number of Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism he said to them, 'Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from the retribution that is coming? But if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit, and do not presume to tell yourselves, "We have Abraham for our father," because, I tell you, God can raise children for Abraham from these stones. Even now the axe is laid to the roots of the trees, so that any tree which fails to produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown on the fire. I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand; he will clear his threshing-floor and gather his wheat into the barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

WORD FROM THE DEAN



Dear Cathedral Parishioners and Visitors,

- St John the Baptist makes a number of appearances in St Mary's Cathedral. There's a rather good marble statue of him in the reredos of St Joseph's chapel, a small silver one on top of the baptismal font, and numerous images of him in the windows. On this Second Sunday of Advent he appears in the liturgy, too, for he is key figure in the drama of the coming of the Saviour, Jesus Christ. His message of "Repent!" while seeming stern is actually full of hope, because those who hear it and heed it know that the goodness of God has begun to dawn in their hearts, and divine justice comes in company with divine mercy. So, the week ahead is a good time to seek out that mercy in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Please don't leave your Christmas Confession to the last couple of days before Christmas Eve, when hundreds are lining up!
- There are three beautiful feasts of Our Lady this week. The first is the Immaculate Conception on Monday 8th. This is a most important feast related to Mary's unique role in God's plan for our salvation in Christ. The other two are more devotional in character: Our Lady of Loreto on Wednesday 10th, and Our Lady of Guadalupe on Friday 12th. I recommend setting aside a few extra minutes of prayer time on those days to reflect on Our Lady's motherhood of us all.

May your week be a happy one, and blessed.

Fr Don Richardson, *Dean*

UPCOMING LITURGIES AND EVENTS

December 2025

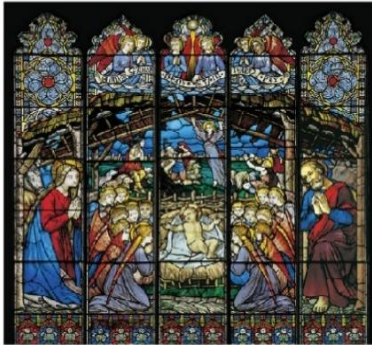
<p>SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT</p> 			<p>6 <i>Saturday</i></p> <p>11am Annual Lourdes Day Mass</p> <p><u>PLEASE NOTE</u> The 12pm Mass is CANCELLED</p>	<p>7 <i>Sunday</i></p> <p>Second Sunday of Advent</p> <p>2pm Sunday Public Tour</p>	<p>8 <i>Monday</i></p> <p>The IMMACULATE CONCEPTION of the BLESSED VIRGIN MARY</p>	<p>9 <i>Tuesday</i></p>
<p>10 <i>Wednesday</i></p> <p>6:30pm RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)</p>	<p>11 <i>Thursday</i></p> <p>6:30pm CITY COMPASS</p> 	<p>12 <i>Friday</i></p>	<p>13 <i>Saturday</i></p> <p><i>St Lucy</i></p>	<p>14 <i>Sunday</i></p> <p>Third Sunday of Advent</p> <p>3.30pm Organ Christmas Recital </p> <p>4.30pm Carol Service</p> <p>2pm Sunday Public Tour</p>	<p>15 <i>Monday</i></p> <p><u>PLEASE NOTE</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4.30pm Confession & 5.30pm Mass has moved to the Crypt 	<p>16 <i>Tuesday</i></p> <p>11am Matinee Carols at the Cathedral</p> <p>7pm Carols at the Cathedral</p>  <p><u>PLEASE NOTE</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Today's Masses (6.45am, 1.10pm, 5.30pm) have been moved to the Crypt
<p>17 <i>Wednesday</i></p> <p>Christmas at the Cathedral from 5.30pm Light Show from 8.30pm</p> <p>6:30pm RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) (Last one for the year Returns in 2026)</p>	<p>18 <i>Thursday</i></p> <p>Christmas at the Cathedral from 5.30pm Light Show from 8.30pm</p> <p>6:30pm CITY COMPASS (Last one for the year Returns in 2026)</p> 	<p>19 <i>Friday</i></p> <p>Christmas at the Cathedral from 5.30pm Light Show from 8.30pm</p>	<p>20 <i>Saturday</i></p> <p>Christmas at the Cathedral from 5.30pm Light Show from 8.30pm</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>Christmas at the Cathedral from 5.30pm Light Show from 8.30pm</p>	<p>22 <i>Monday</i></p> <p>Christmas at the Cathedral from 5.30pm Light Show from 8.30pm</p>	<p>23 <i>Tuesday</i></p> <p>Christmas at the Cathedral from 5.30pm Light Show from 8.30pm</p>

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

PROUDLY SPONSORED BY
W N BULL
FUNERALS
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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

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

No photography or videography
permitted while Mass is in progress.

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

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.