



St Mary's Cathedral
SYDNEY

CATHEDRAL BULLETIN



THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

2026

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

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD



FIRST READING *Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7 (Year A)*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Here is my servant, my chosen one in whom I am well pleased.

Thus says the Lord:

Here is my servant whom I uphold,
my chosen one in whom my soul delights.
I have endowed him with my spirit
that he may bring true justice to the nations.
He does not cry out or shout aloud,
or make his voice heard in the streets.
He does not break the crushed reed,
nor quench the wavering flame.
Faithfully he brings true justice;
he will neither waver, nor be crushed
until true justice is established on earth,
for the islands are awaiting his law.
I, the Lord, have called you to serve the cause of right;
I have taken you by the hand and formed you;
I have appointed you as covenant of the people
and light of the nations,
to open the eyes of the blind,
to free captives from prison,
and those who live in darkness from the dungeon.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM *Ps 28:1-4, 9-10 (Year A)*

R. The Lord will bless his people with peace.

O give the Lord you sons of God,
give the Lord glory and power;
give the Lord the glory of his name.
Adore the Lord in his holy court. **R.**

The Lord's voice resounding on the waters,
the Lord on the immensity of waters;
the voice of the Lord, full of power,
the voice of the Lord, full of splendour. **R.**

The God of glory thunders.
In his temple they all cry: 'Glory!'
The Lord sat enthroned over the flood;
the Lord sits as king for ever. **R.**

SECOND READING *Acts 10:34-38 (Year A)*

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

God anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power.

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: 'The truth I have now come to realise' he said 'is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him.'

'It is true, God sent his word to the people of Israel, and it was to them that the good news of peace was brought by Jesus Christ - but Jesus Christ is Lord of all men. You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *cf Mark 9:8 (Year A)*

Alleluia, alleluia!

The heavens were opened and the Father's voice was heard:
this is my beloved Son, hear him.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL *Matthew 3:13-17 (Year A)*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

When Jesus was baptised, the heavens were opened and the Spirit of God came upon him.

Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptised by John. John tried to dissuade him. 'It is I who need baptism from you,' he said 'and yet you come to me!' But Jesus replied, 'Leave it like this for the time being; it is fitting that we should, in this way, do all that righteousness demands.' At this, John gave in to him.

As soon as Jesus was baptised he came up from the water, and suddenly the heavens opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming down on him. And a voice spoke from heaven, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on him.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

WORD FROM THE DEAN



Dear Cathedral Parishioners and Visitors,

Praised be Jesus Christ, as we make our way into this new year!

I want to express my sincere thanks, and that of all the clergy, to everyone who made our Christmas celebrations at St Mary's so special, particularly our ushers, readers and acolytes, and our hardworking cathedral staff, and our amazing choirs and cantors. We had at least 16,000 people come to Mass here on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day!

As we commemorate The Baptism of the Lord today, we renew our faith in Jesus as the Son of God, anointed by the Holy Spirit and beloved of the Father.

The Jubilee Year has now finished, and we are encouraged to keep walking with the Lord along the path of holiness. The example of the Saints can be a great help to us in this journey, and so here at St Mary's Cathedral, 2026 will be a kind of "Year of Saints." We will put a special emphasis on celebrating the saints at our Masses this year, particularly those whose feast-days are "optional" in the liturgical calendar. So, for example, this week we will celebrate the Mass of St Hilary on the 13th, when we might usually have passed him over in favour of the Wednesday of the First Week in Ordinary Time. The following week we will celebrate the optional memorials of St Sebastian and St Vincent, as well as the usual obligatory saints days: and so on through this year when the liturgical rules permit, although not during Lent.

There are so many Saints and Blesseds, hundreds and hundreds, whom we never get a chance to commemorate with a special Mass, but whose stories could be just the inspiration you need! Here are some for this week you could look up:

- Bl. Maria Dolores Rodriguez Sopeña (Spain, died 1918)
- St. Tommaso da Cori (Italy, died 1729)
- Bl. Nicholas Bunker Kitbamrung (Thailand, died 1944)

Every blessing for the week ahead!

Fr Don Richardson, Dean.

UPCOMING LITURGIES AND EVENTS

January 2026

			10 Saturday	11 Sunday The BAPTISM of the LORD 2pm Sunday Public Tour	12 Monday	13 Tuesday St Hilary
14 Wednesday 6:30pm RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) Resumes today	15 Thursday	16 Friday	17 Saturday St Anthony	18 Sunday 2pm Sunday Public Tour	19 Monday	20 Tuesday St Sebastian
21 Wednesday St Agnes 6:30pm RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)	22 Thursday St Vincent	23 Friday	24 Saturday St Francis de Sales	25 Sunday 2pm Sunday Public Tour	26 Monday AUSTRALIA DAY Public Holiday Mass 9am Celebrating Australia Day at St Mary's Cathedral ▪ Organ Recital ▪ History & Crypt Tours ▪ Bell Tower Tours ▪ Hand Bell Ringing	27 Tuesday Sts Timothy & Titus

PLEASE NOTE: No Vespers during the school holidays

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



EVERLASTING LOVE

MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSE

A God-centred program empowering engaged couples to future proof their relationship and make marriage last.

2026 DATES

13 - 14 FEBRUARY 2026
ST CATHERINE LABOURE PARISH | GYMEA
6PM TO 10PM FRIDAY - 9AM-5PM SATURDAY

5 - 6 JUNE 2026
ST JOACHIM'S PARISH | LIDCOMBE
6PM TO 10PM FRIDAY - 9AM-5PM SATURDAY

20 - 21 NOVEMBER 2026
ST JOSEPH'S PARISH | MOOREBANK
6PM TO 10PM FRIDAY - 9AM-5PM SATURDAY

FOR MORE INFORMATION EMAIL:
LIFEMARRIAGEFAMILY@SYDNEYCATHOLIC.ORG



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY
LIFE, MARRIAGE AND FAMILY

 **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.

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.



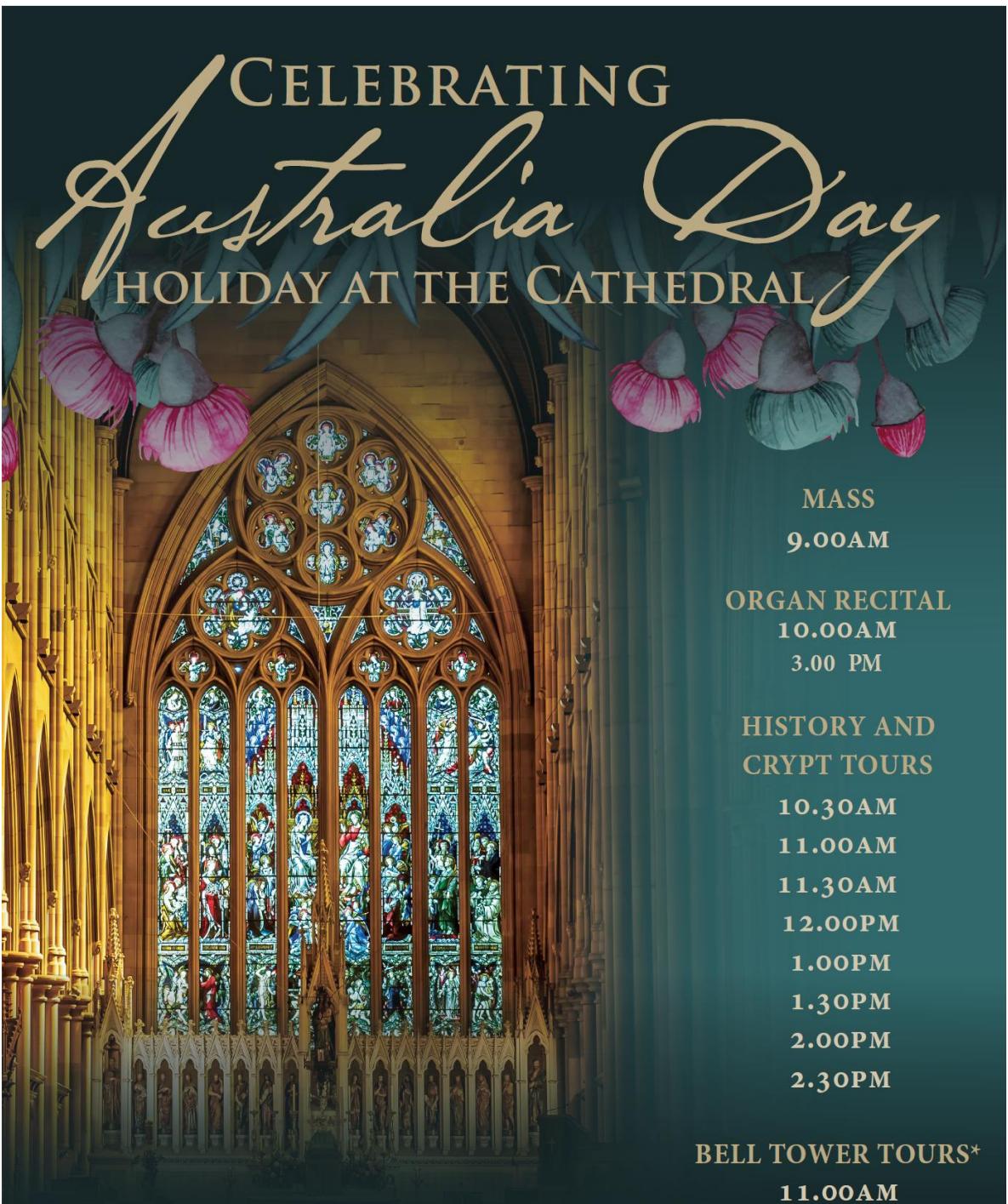
Sapientia

Single adults, 18-35 years of age, are invited to join the Dominican Friars and Sisters for this weekend retreat of prayer, formation, and fellowship.

13-15 February 2026
St Mary's Towers Retreat Centre
Douglas Park

For more information or to register:
www.trybooking.com/DHJBL
or email the Sisters at sydney@op-tn.org.





CELEBRATING *Australia Day* HOLIDAY AT THE CATHEDRAL

MASS
9.00AM

ORGAN RECITAL
10.00AM
3.00 PM

HISTORY AND
CRYPT TOURS
10.30AM
11.00AM
11.30AM
12.00PM
1.00PM
1.30PM
2.00PM
2.30PM

BELL TOWER TOURS*
11.00AM
1.30PM

26 January 2026
OPEN HOURS
6.30AM TO 6.30PM

RINGING OF
HAND BELLS –
PERFORMANCE
3.30 PM
MAIN CATHEDRAL

*Bell Tower Tour participants must be in good health and sign a standard waiver form.