



St Mary's Cathedral
SYDNEY

CATHEDRAL BULLETIN



FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
(SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD)

2026

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

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING *Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13*

A reading from the prophet Zephaniah

In your midst I will leave a humble and a lowly people.

Seek the Lord

all you, the humble of the earth,
who obey his commands.

Seek integrity,

seek humility:

you may perhaps find shelter
on the day of the anger of the Lord.

In your midst I will leave

a humble and lowly people,

and those who are left in Israel will seek refuge in the name of the Lord.

They will do no wrong,

will tell no lies;

and the perjured tongue will no longer
be found in their mouths.

But they will be able to graze and rest
with no one to disturb them.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM *Ps 145:7-10*

R. Happy the poor in spirit;
the kingdom of heaven is theirs!

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 *1 Corinthians 1:26-31*

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians
God has chosen what is weak by human reckoning.

Take yourselves, brothers, at the time when you were called: how many of you were wise in the ordinary sense of the word, how many were influential people, or came from noble families? No, it was to shame the wise that God chose what is foolish by human reckoning, and to shame what is strong that he chose what is weak by human reckoning; those whom the world thinks common and contemptible are the ones that God has chosen - those who are nothing at all to show those who are everything. The human race has nothing to boast about to God, but you, God has made members of Christ Jesus and by God's doing he has become our wisdom, and our virtue, and our holiness, and our freedom. As scripture says: if anyone wants to boast, let him boast about the Lord.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Matthew 5:12*

Alleluia, alleluia!
Rejoice and be glad;
Your reward will be great in heaven.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL *Matthew 5:1-12*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Happy are the poor in spirit.

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them:

'How happy are the poor in spirit;
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Happy the gentle:
they shall have the earth for their heritage.

Happy those who mourn:
they shall be comforted.

Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right:
they shall be satisfied.

Happy the merciful:
they shall have mercy shown them.

Happy the pure in heart:
they shall see God.

Happy the peacemakers:
they shall be called sons of God.

Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right:
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

WORD FROM THE DEAN



Dear Cathedral Parishioners and Visitors,

This Sunday in Australia is “Sunday of the Word of God”, something established by the late Pope Francis several years ago. In the rest of the world it is held on the 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time but in Australia on the first Sunday in February.

Two relevant paragraphs from the Catechism of the Catholic Church:

104 In Sacred Scripture, the Church constantly finds her nourishment and her strength, for she welcomes it not as a human word, "but as what it really is, the word of God". (1 Thes 2:13; cf. *Dei Verbum* 24.) "In the sacred books, the Father who is in heaven comes lovingly to meet his children, and talks with them." (*Dei Verbum* 21)

108 Still, the Christian faith is not a "religion of the book." Christianity is the religion of the "Word" of God, a word which is "not a written and mute word, but the Word is incarnate and living". (St. Bernard, *S. missus est* hom. 4, 11: PL 183, 86) If the Scriptures are not to remain a dead letter, Christ, the eternal Word of the living God, must, through the Holy Spirit, "open [our] minds to understand the Scriptures." (Cf. Lk 24:45.)

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For our Cathedral “Year of Saints”, here are two to be inspired by this week:

- Blessed John Speed, died 1594. He was a lay man living in the north of England during the time of persecution of Catholics under Queen Elizabeth the First. At that time, not only were any Catholic priests found in England condemned to death, but anyone who helped a priest was also considered a traitor and liable to be executed. John Speed assisted several missionary priests ministering clandestinely in England by escorting them between safe-houses and Catholic families. As a guide and companion he enabled the priests to reach isolated

Catholics for sacraments such as Mass, confession, and viaticum. John Speed was eventually arrested when the priest John Boste was caught near Durham. Speed had accompanied Boste and other priests through hostile territory where government agents were always on the lookout. He was imprisoned for several months, tried, and hanged for the crime of aiding a Catholic priest.




- Blessed Maria Helena Stollenwerk was born in 1852 in Rollesbroich in Germany. From her girlhood she had thoughts of being a missionary, and she tried to find a convent that sent missionaries around the world, but without any success. However, she met St Arnold Janssen (founder of the Divine Word Missionaries) who supported her idea of a women's congregation dedicated to the missions. He established the Missionary Sisters Servants of the Holy Spirit, which Maria joined and in due course became Superior General, helping to form the sisters for missionary service overseas. After eight years as Superior, she resigned that responsibility and dedicated herself to adoration. In 1899 she was diagnosed with meningitis and died in 1900. Her final words were "Jesus: I die for You."

Finally, Monday 2nd February is the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, when it is customary to bless candles that will be used at prayer. If you have candles you would like blessed, do bring them along to Mass on Monday.

Fr Don Richardson, Dean.

UPCOMING LITURGIES AND EVENTS

January – February 2026

			31 Saturday St John Bosco	1 Sunday WORD OF GOD SUNDAY 2pm Sunday Public Tour	2 Monday The Presentation of the Lord WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR CONSECRATED LIFE	3 Tuesday St Blaise
4 Wednesday 6:30pm RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)	5 Thursday St Agatha 6:30pm CITY COMPASS 	6 Friday St Paul Miki & Companions	7 Saturday	8 Sunday 2pm Sunday Public Tour	9 Monday	10 Tuesday St Scholastica
11 Wednesday Our Lady of Lourdes WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE SICK 6:30pm RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)	12 Thursday 6:30pm CITY COMPASS 	13 Friday	14 Saturday Sts Cyril & Methodius	15 Sunday 2pm Sunday Public Tour	16 Monday	17 Tuesday The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order

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



POSITION VACANT Assistant Sacristan

St Mary's Cathedral is currently seeking a candidate to fill the permanent full-time role of Assistant Sacristan.

This is an exciting opportunity to work with a supportive for purpose employer.

The primary purpose of this position is to ensure the Cathedral is cleaned and kept in good order, and that the Sanctuary, Crypt, furnishings and decorative objects are cleaned and maintained. The Assistant Sacristan will also be required to assist with the preparation for liturgical celebrations.

For a comprehensive role overview and/or to apply,

Please email

helen.morassut@stmaryscathedral.org.au

Applications for this position close on
Friday 13 February 2026

Mass and Blessing of the Sick

Join us for a special day of prayer and healing at the Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto, Earlwood.

Date: Sunday, 8 February 2026

Time: Rosary at 2:30 PM / Mass & Blessing of the Sick at 3:00 PM.

Address: Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto, Earlwood, St James Avenue, Earlwood.

Main Celebrant: Bishop Terry Brady.

In case of extreme weather, the Mass will be held in the Church of Our Lady of Lourdes. All welcome.

Australian Catholic Historical Society Talk

The next event for the Australian Catholic Historical Society will be held in the crypt of **Saint Patrick's, Church Hill at 2:00 PM on Sunday, 15 February 2026.**

The Topic: The 60th Anniversary of Vatican II *Dei Verbum* - Its influence on the history of Biblical Scholarship.

Presenter: Archbishop Mark Coleridge

Members, their guests, and visitors are most welcome, and there is no charge.

Details of the programme of the ACHS, as well as resources on church history are on the website
<https://australiancatholichistoricalsociety.com.au/>

Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney Women's Lenten Retreat

Join us at the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney Women's Lenten Retreat - a full day of prayer and reflection led by the Dominican Sisters of St Cecilia and hosted by the Catholic Women's Network and Sydney Catholic Schools. To accommodate the growing interest in this beautiful retreat day, we are offering the same retreat on two days. **To book, visit:** <https://www.trybooking.com/DIBPT>

DETAILS:

Dates: Saturday 28th February 2026 *or* Saturday 14th March 2026.

Venue: St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney. **Time:** 9 AM - 4 PM. **Cost:** \$50



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.