



St Mary's Cathedral
SYDNEY

CATHEDRAL BULLETIN



SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

2026

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

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD



FIRST READING *Sirach 15:15-20*

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus

He never commanded anyone to be godless.

If you wish, you can keep the commandments,
to behave faithfully is within your power.
He has set fire and water before you;
put out your hand to whichever you prefer.
Man has life and death before him;
whichever a man likes better will be given him.
For vast is the wisdom of the Lord;
he is almighty and all-seeing.
His eyes are on those who fear him,
he notes every action of man.
He never commanded anyone to be godless,
he has given no one permission to sin.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM *Ps 118:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34*

R. Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord!

They are happy whose life is blameless,
who follow God's law!

They are happy those who do his will,
seeking him with all their hearts. **R.**

You have laid down your precepts
to be obeyed with care.

May my footsteps be firm
to obey your statutes. **R.**

Bless your servant and I shall live
and obey your word.

Open my eyes that I may consider
the wonders of your law. **R.**

Teach me the demands of your statutes
and I will keep them to the end.

Train me to observe your law,
to keep it with my heart. **R.**

SECOND READING *1 Corinthians 2:6-10*

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians
God in his wisdom predestined our glory before the ages began.

We have a wisdom to offer those who have reached maturity: not a philosophy of our age, it is true, still less of the masters of our age, which are coming to their end. The hidden wisdom of God which we teach in our mysteries is the wisdom that God predestined to be for our glory before the ages began. It is a wisdom that none of the masters of this age have ever known, or they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory; we teach what scripture calls: the things that no eye has seen and no ear has heard, things beyond the mind of man, all that God has prepared for those who love him.

These are the very things that God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit reaches the depths of everything, even the depths of God.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *cf Matthew 11:25*

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth;
you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL *Matthew 5:17-37*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
Such was said to your ancestors; but I am speaking to you.

Jesus said to his disciples: ' Do not imagine that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets. I have come not to abolish them but to complete them. I tell you solemnly, till heaven and earth disappear, not one dot, one little stroke, shall disappear from the Law until its purpose is achieved. Therefore, the man who infringes even one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be considered the least in the kingdom of heaven; but the man who keeps them and teaches them will be considered great in the kingdom of heaven.

'For I tell you, if your virtue goes no deeper than that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven.

'You have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not kill; and if anyone does kill he must answer for it before the court. But I say this to you: anyone who is angry with his brother will answer for it before the court; if a man calls his brother "Fool" he will answer for it before the Sanhedrin; and if a man calls him "Renegade" he will answer for it in hell fire. So then, if you are bringing your offering to the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar, go and be reconciled with your brother first, and then come back and present your

offering. Come to terms with your opponent in good time while you are still on the way to the court with him, or he may hand you over to the judge and the judge to the officer, and you will be thrown into prison. I tell you solemnly, you will not get out till you have paid the last penny.

'You have learnt how it was said: You must not commit adultery. But I say this to you: if a man looks at a woman lustfully, he has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye should cause you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; for it will do you less harm to lose one part of you than to have your whole body thrown into hell. And if your right hand should cause you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; for it will do you less harm to lose one part of you than to have your whole body go to hell.

'It has also been said: Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a writ of dismissal. But I say this to you: everyone who divorces his wife, except for the case of fornication, makes her an adulteress; and anyone who marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

'Again, you have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not break your oath, but must fulfil your oaths to the Lord. But I say this to you: do not swear at all, either by heaven, since that is God's throne; or by the earth, since that is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, since that is the city of the great king. Do not swear by your own head either, since you cannot turn a single hair white or black. All you need say is "Yes" if you mean yes, "No" if you mean no; anything more than this comes from the evil one.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

WORD FROM THE DEAN



Dear Cathedral Parishioners and Visitors,

Lent is beginning this week - Ash Wednesday is 18th February. Lent is penitential period in preparation for Easter and therefore involves prayer and fasting. It should help us deepen our love of Jesus and to conform our hearts more to his. The rules for keeping Lent as a time of penance have varied over the centuries and from place to place. Because Sydney is a multicultural place with many visitors from overseas, and because quite a few Eastern-Rite Catholics visit us for Mass, I want to mention a few specific things about the observance of Lent. This is especially important because information and opinions available on the internet and social media do not always take into account different rules and customs in different jurisdictions.

For us, Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, 18th February 2026. Ash Wednesday is a day of FASTING and of ABSTINENCE FROM MEAT. At a minimum, "fasting" according to our rules means that you may eat only one large meal on that day, and any other meals must be small. Everyone aged 18 to 59 must fast. Anyone outside that age range is not strictly obliged to fast, though obviously it should be encouraged, taking into account proper health and nutrition. Abstinence from meat means we do not eat meat from warm blooded land animals and birds. The meat of fish, shellfish, amphibians and reptiles may be eaten. Every Catholic aged 14 years or over is obliged to abstain from meat.

In Australia, and therefore in our Archdiocese of Sydney, the only other compulsory day of FASTING and ABSTINENCE is Good Friday. On every Friday in Lent in many places it is compulsory to abstain from meat, but that is not compulsory in Australia. Here, if you choose to eat meat on a Friday in Lent, instead you do penance in another way:

- Prayer: e.g. Mass attendance; family prayer; a visit to a church or chapel; reading the Bible; making the Stations of the Cross; praying the rosary.
- Self denial: e.g. not eating meat; not eating sweets or dessert; giving up entertainment to spend time with the family; limiting food and drink so as to give to the poor of one's own country; limiting use of social media, smart phones or television.
- Helping others: e.g. special attention to someone who is poor, sick, elderly, lonely or overburdened.

But, the options above are for the minimum you need to do for lent, not the maximum! The more fully we can enter into the penitential nature of Lent, the more benefit we will gain from it!

If you belong to one of the Eastern Catholic Churches (Maronite, Syro-Malabar, Armenian, Melkite or Ukrainian), Lent for you begins on a different day and the rules of fasting and penance are quite different, so you should check with your local eparchy and follow the rules for your own Rite.

For our Year of Saints here at the cathedral, this week I would like to specially mention:

Saint Geltrude (Caterina) Comensoli: She was born on 18 January 1847 and baptised the same day. From a very young age she had a strong desire to pray and to meditate deeply. When people asked her what she was doing she would say "I am thinking." She made her first Holy Communion at the age of seven, having a great love for the Eucharist. She said she would have liked to take Jesus present in the Holy Sacrament onto the top of a high mountain so that everyone could see and adore Him. She was aware that the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament in churches was often left "alone", and she organised with some of her friends a guard of honour for Him. In 1862 she entered the novitiate of a convent of Nuns at Brescia, but she became very ill so she was sent away. After recovering Caterina went into domestic service, first with a local priest and then with an aristocratic family. While still in service, she began to educate local children in Christian faith and life. In 1880 while on a trip to Rome she was able to speak with Pope Leo XIII about her desire to found a religious institute dedicated to adoration of the Eucharist. The pope suggested she add to that apostolate the education of the children of factory-workers. In 1882 Caterina and two friends began the Congregation of the Sacramentine Sisters of Bergamo, and she took the name Sister Geltrude. Hers was a spirit of prayer, sacrifice, mortification, obedience, humility and charity mainly towards the poor. She died in 1903, and was Beatified in 1989 and Canonised in 2009.

Blessed John of Fiesole: he is much better known as **Fra' Angelico**, the renowned artist, a Dominican Friar born in 1395. He devoted his life to painting beautiful artworks in monasteries, convents, and churches. The frescoes he painted for his convent at Fiesole, and later for the Dominican priory of San Marco in Florence, were intended to be seen only by his fellow friars, to delight their senses with holy scenes and thus move them to meditation and prayer. He died in Rome in 1455 and is buried in the Church of Santa Maria Sopra Minerva, the same church where St Catherine of Siena's body is enshrined. He is a patron saint of artists.

May we all have a fruitful beginning to Lent,

Fr Don Richardson, *Dean.*



LENTEN PENANCE

In this season of Lent, we seek to experience the mercy of God the Father, and to practice it in our daily lives. But first we must experience *our need for mercy*, that is, our brokenness and, indeed, our sinfulness, insofar as we have failed to love God above all, and to love our fellow men and women as ourselves. This is why the Church's Canon Law reaffirms the obligation to do penance – to interrupt the usual comforts of life, to rediscover in prayer the merciful love of God, and to practice charity and justice towards those in need. The special times of penance are all Fridays throughout the year and the season of Lent.

We recall that St John the Baptist prepared for the coming of the Lord by "preaching a baptism of repentance". Jesus began his ministry with the exhortation: "Repent and believe the Gospel" (Mk 1:15). Repentance means the rejection of sin. It implies conversion to, and reconciliation with, God. Prayer, self-denial, and works of charity are the concrete expressions of repentance. Each of these identifies us more closely with our Saviour. By penance we make satisfaction for our sins, and take real steps in the renewal of our lives. Repentance and conversion are central, on-going, and even daily practices of Christian living.

In nominating special times of penance, the Church encourages and promotes in all of us the habit of penance. Furthermore, observance of these special times by all Catholics throughout the universal Church emphasises what we call "the social dimension of sin". The sin of the individual member always in some measure infects the whole body. Therefore during Lent and on every Friday throughout the year, we do penance, not only on our own account, but also in the name of the Church and of the world. We must take very seriously our penitential obligations and be sure to carry them out. The Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference has not restricted our penance to fast and abstinence; in all cases, it has left room for our own responsible choice. We should carefully select the form of penance that we consider most appropriate for our own circumstances and growth in the Christian life.

DAYS OF PENANCE

1. Abstinence from meat, and fasting*, must be observed on two days: Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.
All aged 14 and over are bound to abstain from meat. All aged 18 to 59 are bound to fast.
*Fasting means only one large meal in the day; the others must be small.
2. On the Fridays of Lent – and all other Fridays of the year – the law to practise penance is fulfilled by performing any one of the following:
 - (a) prayer – for example, Mass attendance; family prayer; a visit to a church or chapel; reading the Bible; making the Stations of the Cross; praying the rosary.
 - (b) self-denial – for example, not eating meat; not eating sweets or dessert; giving up entertainment to spend time with the family; limiting food and drink so as to give to the poor of one's own country; limiting use of social media, smart phones or television.
 - (c) helping others – for example, special attention to someone who is poor, sick, elderly, lonely or overburdened.

LENT LASTS FROM ASH WEDNESDAY (18th FEBRUARY) TO THE MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER (2nd APRIL). ON GOOD FRIDAY AND, IF POSSIBLE, ALSO ON HOLY SATURDAY UNTIL THE EASTER VIGIL, THE EASTER FAST IS OBSERVED.

PASCHAL PRECEPT

Each of the faithful is obliged to receive Holy Communion at least once a year. This is to be done between Ash Wednesday, 18th February, and Trinity Sunday, 31st May, 2026 unless for a good reason it is done at another time during the year. All the faithful are obliged to confess their grave sins at least once a year.

St. Mary's Cathedral
SYDNEY
12th February 2026

+ Alfonso Nicanor

ARCHBISHOP OF SYDNEY

UPCOMING LITURGIES AND EVENTS

February – March 2026

			14 <i>Saturday</i> Sts Cyril & Methodius	15 <i>Sunday</i> 2pm Sunday Public Tour	16 <i>Monday</i>	17 <i>Tuesday</i> The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order
18  ASH WEDNESDAY TODAY'S MASSES 6.45am 12.00pm 1.10pm 5.30pm 6:30pm RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)	19 <i>Thursday</i> 6:30pm CITY COMPASS 	20 <i>Friday</i> 12.15pm STATIONS OF THE CROSS	21 <i>Saturday</i> 6pm Mass (Chinese New Year Concelebration)	22 <i>Sunday</i> First Sunday of Lent 2pm Rite of Election 2pm Sunday Public Tour	23 <i>Monday</i>	24 <i>Tuesday</i>
25 <i>Wednesday</i> 6:30pm RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)	26 <i>Thursday</i> 6:30pm CITY COMPASS 	27 <i>Friday</i> 12.15pm STATIONS OF THE CROSS	28 <i>Saturday</i>	1 <i>Sunday</i> Second Sunday of Lent 10.30am Mass (Launch of IEC) 4.30pm Holy Hour PLEASE NOTE Today's 12.15pm Latin Mass will be in the Crypt 2pm Sunday Public Tour	2 <i>Monday</i>	3 <i>Tuesday</i>

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

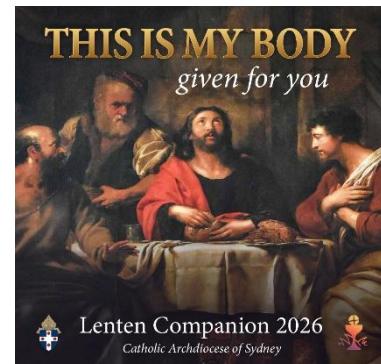


This is My Body, given for you – Lenten Companion 2026

The beautiful Season of Lent is approaching. Let us make the most of this precious time to gather in our parishes, communities, and homes to reflect on the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus, using the Lenten companion: *This is My Body, given for you*.

Lenten Companions will be available in parishes from Sunday, 15 February.

Download the Lenten Companion and Leader's Resource at gomakedisciples.org.au/resources/



40 DAYS FOR LIFE™

SYDNEY 2026
18 February to 29 March

17 February Shrove Tuesday
LAUNCH EVENT
6pm to 9.30pm
St Thomas of Canterbury,
3 Thomas St, Lewisham
(right near the train station)
BBQ, Pancakes & Refreshments
followed by THE ELEPHANT IN
THE ABORTION ROOM
a talk by Anouska Firth

18 February Ash Wednesday
40 DAYS BEGINS!
Daily prayer vigils outside
NSW Parliament House
6 Macquarie St, Sydney
Every Day 7am - 7pm

29 March Palm Sunday
FINAL HOLY HOUR
followed by Victory Celebration

Hosted by
Family Life International
ph: 02 9519 9111 mail@fli.org.au
www.fli.org.au

REGISTER NOW! www.fli.org.au

PRAY TO END ABORTION

 **Volunteer with IMPACT**

Develop sustained self-reliant futures in overseas communities!

Join **Palms International Volunteering** [online](#) in this special session where you'll learn about our [diverse assignments](#) suited to your qualifications. Hear from past Palms volunteers how skill-exchange makes a lasting impact in communities and changes lives.

Venue: Online- Scan the QR or register at palms.org.au/events

Date: Thursday 19 February 2026

Time: 7 pm – 8:30 pm AEDT

02 9560 5333
palms@palms.org.au



Want to visit a community first?
Join our 13-day **Encounter Tour to Timor Leste!**
Book by **28 February** for the May tour! See palms.org.au/encounters

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.

 **No photography or videography permitted while Mass is in progress.**



CHINESE NEW YEAR OF THE HORSE 2026

In celebration of
The Chinese New Year
At
St. Mary's Cathedral

慶祝農曆新年
聖瑪利主教座堂
Saturday 21st February 2026

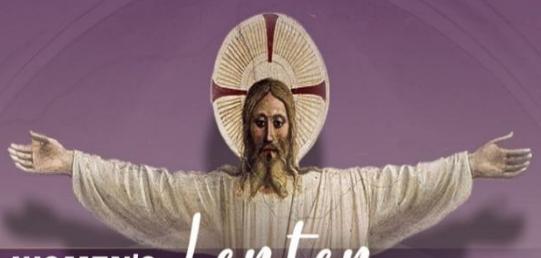
6:00pm Mass 農曆新年彌撒

Main Celebrant
Most Rev. Anthony Fisher OP
Archbishop of Sydney
方仕漁總主教主禮

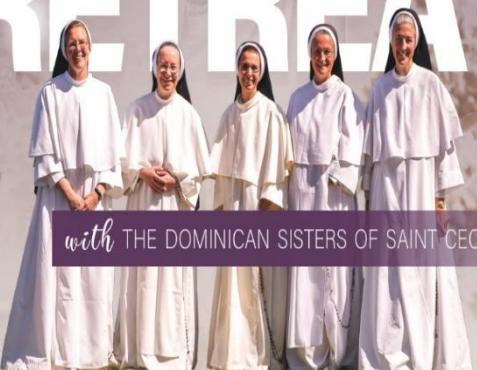
The Lord bless you and keep you. Numbers 6:24
願上主祝福你,保護你. 戶籍紀 6:24



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY



WOMEN'S Lenten RETREAT



with THE DOMINICAN SISTERS OF SAINT CECILIA

seek His face
PSALM 27

HOLY SACRIFICE OF THE MASS • EUCHARISTIC ADORATION • CONFESSIONS
• TALKS FROM THE DOMINICAN SISTERS • BREAKOUT SESSIONS • CATHOLIC STALLS

OPTION 1
SATURDAY 28 FEBRUARY 2026
9AM-4PM | ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL

OPTION 2
SATURDAY 14 MARCH 2026
9AM-4PM | ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL

TO REGISTER
WWW.TRYBOOKING.COM/DIBPT




CATHOLIC WOMEN'S NETWORK

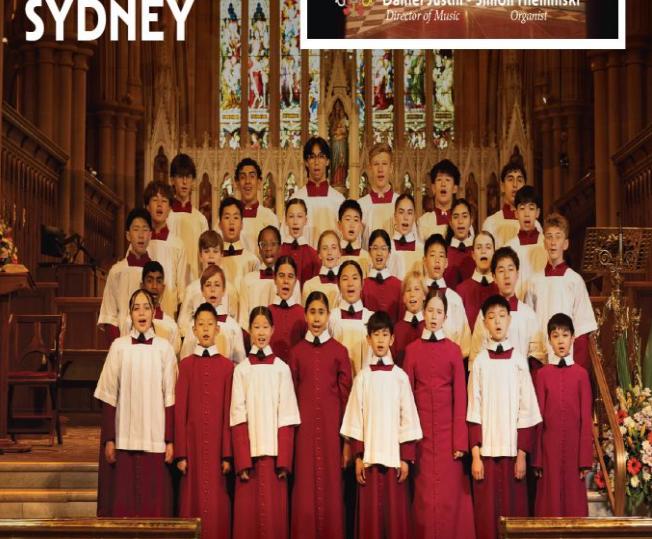

DOMINICAN SISTERS OF
Saint Cecilia.
Founded in 1816—Naples

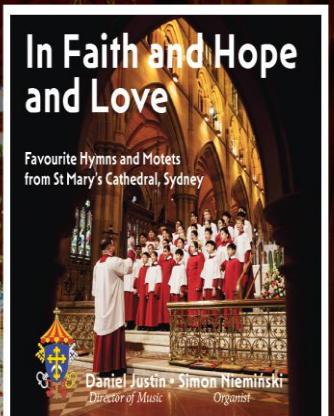

Sydney Catholic Schools

**A NEW CD
FROM THE
CHOIR OF
ST MARY'S
CATHEDRAL
SYDNEY**

**In Faith and Hope
and Love**

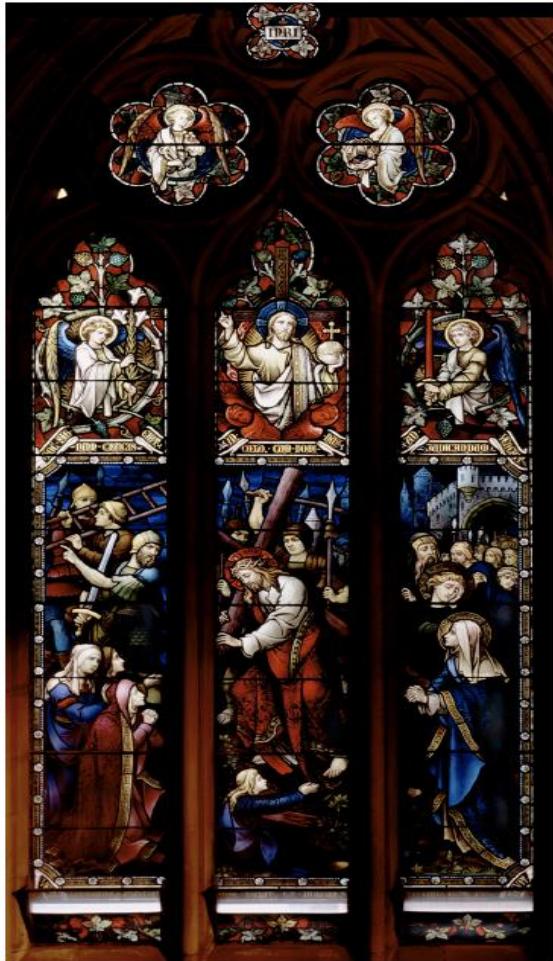
Favourite Hymns and Motets
from St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney





\$30 from the Cathedral Shop

Featuring favourite hymns, including:
In Faith and Hope and Love, Hail Queen of Heaven,
Soul of my Saviour, Sweet Sacrament Divine,
and many more!



STATIONS OF THE CROSS

at
ST MARYS CATHEDRAL
LENT 2026

DATE: FRIDAYS
20 FEBRUARY, 27 FEBRUARY, 6
MARCH, 13 MARCH, 20 MARCH,
27 MARCH
TIME: 12.15PM



EASTER AT ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL

“I welcome you to the Sacred Liturgies of Holy Week.

Jesus Christ died for all and rose from the dead so that all people may come to know and believe in the saving power of God.”

Fr Don Richardson
Dean of St Mary's Cathedral

PALM SUNDAY / 29 MARCH 2026

7.00am: Mass
9.00am: Mass
10.30am: Procession & Solemn Mass
5.00pm: Solemn Vespers and
Benediction 6.00pm: Mass

MAUNDY THURSDAY / 2 APRIL 2026

10.30am: Chrism Mass
6.30pm: Mass of the Lord's Supper
9.00pm: Compline The Office of Night Prayer

GOOD FRIDAY / 3 APRIL 2026

10.00am: Stations of the Cross
3.00pm: Celebration of the Passion of the Lord

HOLY SATURDAY / 4 APRIL 2026

10.00am: Tenebrae The Office of Readings
7.00pm: Easter Vigil

EASTER SUNDAY / 5 APRIL 2026

7.00am: Mass
9.00am: Mass
10.30am: Solemn Mass
5.00pm: Solemn Vespers and
Benediction 6.00pm: Mass