



St Mary's Cathedral
SYDNEY

CATHEDRAL BULLETIN



FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

2026

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

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD



FIRST READING *1 Samuel 16:1, 6-7, 10-13 (Year A)*

A reading from the first book of Samuel

In the presence of the Lord God, they anointed David king of Israel.

The Lord said to Samuel, 'Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen myself a king among his sons.' When Samuel arrived, he caught sight of Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed one stands there before him,' but the Lord said to Samuel, 'Take no notice of his appearance or his height for I have rejected him; God does not see as man sees; man looks at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart.' Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen these.' He then asked Jesse, 'Are these all the sons you have?' He answered, 'There is still one left, the youngest; he is out looking after the sheep.' Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he comes.' Jesse had him sent for, a boy of fresh complexion, with fine eyes and pleasant bearing. The Lord said, 'Come, anoint him, for this is the one.' At this, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him where he stood with his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord seized on David and stayed with him from that day on.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM *Psalm 23.1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 (R,1)*

R. The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;
he restores my soul. **R.**

He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil;
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff—they comfort me. **R.**

You prepare a table before me

in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows. **R.**

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me

all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
my whole life long. **R.**

SECOND READING *Ephesians 5:8-14 (Year A)*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth. Try to discover what the Lord wants of you, having nothing to do with the futile works of darkness but exposing them by contrast. The things which are done in secret are things that people are ashamed even to speak of; but anything exposed by the light will be illuminated and anything illuminated turns into light. That is why it is said:

Wake up from your sleep,
rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *John 8:12 (Year A)*

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

I am the light of the world, says the Lord;

whoever follows me will have the light of life.

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL *John 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38 (Year A)*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

The blind man went off and washed himself and came away with his sight restored.

As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. He spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man and said to him, 'Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam' (a name that means 'sent'). So the blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored.

His neighbours and people who earlier had seen him begging said, 'Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'Yes, it is the same one.' Others said, 'No, he only looks like him.' The man himself said, 'I am the man.'

They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It had been a sabbath day when Jesus made the paste and opened the man's eyes, so when the Pharisees asked him how he had come to see, he said, 'He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see.' Then some of the Pharisees said, 'This man cannot be from God: he does not keep the sabbath.' Others said 'How could a sinner produce signs like this?' And there was disagreement among them. So they spoke to the blind man again, 'What have you to say about him yourself, now that he has opened your eyes?' 'He is a prophet', replied the man.

'Are you trying to teach us,' they replied 'and you a sinner through and through, since you were born!' And they drove him away.

Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him he said to him, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' 'Sir,' the man replied 'tell me who he is so that I may believe in him'. Jesus said, 'You are looking at him; he is speaking to you.' The man said, 'Lord, I believe', and worshipped him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

WORD FROM THE DEAN



Dear Cathedral Parishioners and Visitors,

Today (Sunday) I am really glad that we have our first Cathedral College/Parish Family Mass at 9am. St Mary's Cathedral College is such a wonderful part of our Cathedral community, but the students come from many different parishes around Sydney, and it is good for us to build up a sense of "belonging" to the Cathedral parish too! It is nice that this first family Mass happens on the Fourth Sunday of Lent, *Laetare* Sunday: "Rejoice" Sunday!

For our "Year of Saints" at the Cathedral, as well as mentioning two very important feast days this week, St Patrick (Tuesday 17th) and St Joseph (Thursday 19th), I would also like to draw your attention to two lesser known saints:

St Jan Sarkander. He was born in 1576 in Silesia in Poland. As a young man he thought of becoming a priest but decided instead to marry. Sadly, his wife died after one year, and, having no child to provide for, Jan did enter the priesthood after all. The times became turbulent in that part of Europe, with the struggle between Catholicism and Protestantism getting subsumed into the political struggles between princes and states. Fr Jan Sarkander fell into the hands of violent anti-Catholics, who tortured him in an effort to make him divulge what he had heard in Confession. He refused to tell. After being tormented with flames and sulphur and burning pitch, he died on March 17, 1620.

Blessed Sybillina Biscossi: An extraordinary life, really, but one which shows that holiness can be found despite trials: Sybillina (born 1287 at Pavia in Italy) was orphaned at a very early age, and became blind at the age of twelve. A local group of Dominican Sisters took care of her, and she decided to join them. Because of her blindness she could not do much of the work of the Sister's apostolate, so she did what she could do: she prayed. She had profound mystical experiences, and she decided that she wanted to live in her darkness in such a way as to reach the light of heaven, so she became an " anchoress", living in a tiny cell built within the walls of the Dominican church in Pavia. She lived there in great austerity and prayerfulness for 65 years, and people would come to her for spiritual advice. She died in 1376.

Our lives today are different in many ways from the times of Bl Sybillina or St Jan, but the Lord's call is for us no less than for them.

Fr Don Richardson, Dean.

UPCOMING LITURGIES AND EVENTS

March 2026

			14 Saturday	15 Sunday Fourth Sunday of Lent 9am Mass <i>(Cathedral College Family Mass Concelebration)</i> 2pm Sunday Public Tour	16 Monday	17  Tuesday ST PATRICK 10am Annual St Patrick's Day Mass
18 Wednesday 7pm Passiontide Choral Concert <i>(Held in Crypt)</i> 6:30pm RCIA <i>(Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)</i>	19  Thursday ST JOSEPH, SPOUSE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY 6:30pm CITY COMPASS 	20 Friday 12.15pm STATIONS OF THE CROSS	21 Saturday	22 Sunday Fifth Sunday of Lent 10.30am Mass <i>(Concelebration for the Day of the Unborn)</i> Followed by Angelus and Procession at 12pm. 2pm Sunday Public Tour	23 Monday	24 Tuesday
25 Wednesday THE ANNUCIATION OF THE LORD 6:30pm RCIA <i>(Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)</i>	26 Thursday 5.30pm Mass <i>(Concelebration for Sydney Catholic Schools Commissioning Mass)</i> 6:30pm CITY COMPASS 	27 Friday 12.15pm STATIONS OF THE CROSS	28 Saturday	29  Sunday PALM SUNDAY * Today's 12.15pm Latin Mass to be held in the Crypt 2pm Sunday Public Tour	30 Monday	31 Tuesday

Weekly Mass Schedule

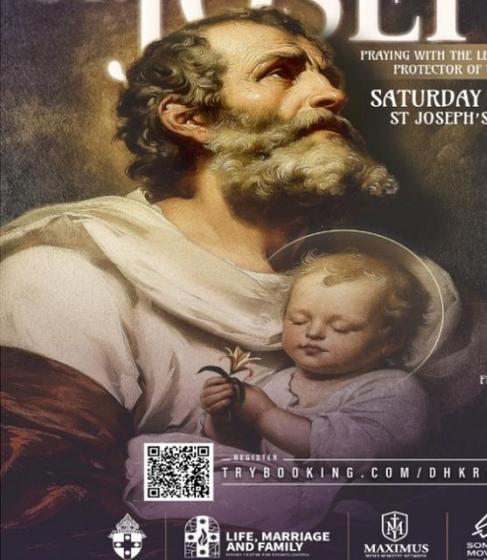
MASS
 Monday to Friday: 6:45am, 1:10pm, 5:30pm
 Saturday: 9:00am, 12:00 noon
 Saturday Vigil: 6:00pm
 Sunday: 7:00am, 9:00am, 10:30am (Solemn Choral Mass), 6:00pm

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

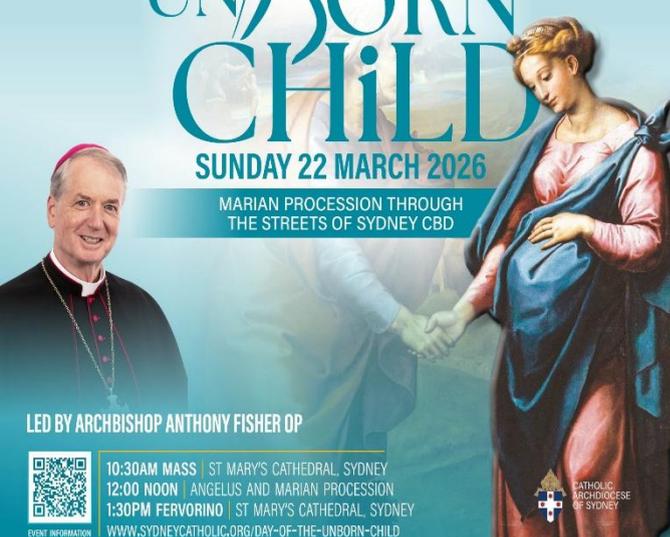
CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY
FINDING SILENCE WITH ST. JOSEPH
 PRAYING WITH THE LEADER, PROVIDER, PROTECTOR OF THE HOLY FAMILY
SATURDAY 21 MARCH
 ST JOSEPH'S MOOREBANK
 9AM - 4PM
2026
 SEASON OF LENT
 PRAYER
 SILENCE
 HEALING
 INSPIRATION
 DIRECTION
ALL MEN WELCOME!
 WITH
 FR JOHNSON MALAYIL
 JOSEPH CRS



REGISTER
TRYBOOKING.COM/DHKRV




CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY
DAY OF THE UNBORN CHILD
SUNDAY 22 MARCH 2026
 MARIAN PROCESSION THROUGH THE STREETS OF SYDNEY CBD
LED BY ARCHBISHOP ANTHONY FISHER OP



10:30AM MASS | ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL, SYDNEY
 12:00 NOON | ANGELUS AND MARIAN PROCESSION
 1:30PM FERVORINO | ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL, SYDNEY
WWW.SYDNEYCATHOLIC.ORG/DAY-OF-THE-UNBORN-CHILD




Gala dinner

FOR OUR LADY
 HELP OF CHRISTIANS



For Tickets Visit
www.ourfaithourworks.org/cathedral-gala-dinner



Join the Friends of St Mary's Cathedral today to become part of our vibrant community



Read more and buy tickets for the dinner

Canapés • Three courses
 Music from the Australian World Orchestra
Friday 5th June 2026, 6.30 p.m.
 Cathedral House
 TICKETS
 \$120 from cathedralfriends.org.au




IN LUMINE FIDEI

IN THE LIGHT OF FAITH
 A Gala Fundraising Dinner

Join with **Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP** in supporting the Campaign for St Mary's Cathedral and major restorations to advance the home of Catholic faith in Australia.

FEATURING



Master of Ceremony,
Ben Fordham



Performances by the
St Mary's Cathedral Choir



International Actress &
Opera Singer,
Silvia Colloca



Opera Australia leading Tenor
Diego Torre

Live and silent auctions featuring exclusive items and unique experiences, along with an incredible Car Raffle.

Saturday, 9 May 2026 6:00pm to 10:30pm | Sofitel Wentworth Sydney | **SEATS LIMITED – BOOK TODAY**

*Includes a partial tax-deductible gift for St Mary's Cathedral National Trust

BOOK NOW | For Tickets Visit www.ourfaithourworks.org/cathedral-gala-dinner



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.

