St Mary's Cathedral
SYDNEY

CATHEDRAL BULLETIN



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

2026

ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL PARISH

INCLUDING

ST COLUMBKILLE'S CHURCH,

MCELHONE STREET, WOOLLOOMOOLOO

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING *Isaiah 63:16-17; 64:1,3-8*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah
Oh that you would tear the heavens apart and come down.

You, Lord, yourself are our Father,
Our Redeemer is your ancient name.
Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways
and harden our hearts against fearing you?
Return, for the sake of your servants,
the tribes of your inheritance.
Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down
- at your Presence the mountains would melt.
No ear has heard,
no eye has seen
any god but you act like this
for those who trust him.
You guide those who act with integrity
and keep your ways in mind.
You were angry when we were sinners;
we had long been rebels against you.
We were all like men unclean,
all that integrity of ours is like filthy clothing.
We have all withered like leaves
and our sins blew us away like the wind.
No one invoked your name
or roused himself to catch hold of you.
For you hid your face from us
and gave us up to the power of our sins.
And yet, Lord, you are our Father;
we the clay, you the potter,
we are all the work of your hand.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM *Ps 79:2-3, 15-16, 18-19*

R. Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.

O shepherd of Israel, hear us,
shine forth from your cherubim throne.
O Lord, rouse up your might,
O Lord, come to our help. ***R.***

God of hosts, turn again, we implore,
look down from heaven and see,
Visit this vine and protect it,
the vine your right hand has planted. ***R.***

May your hand be on the man you have chosen,
the man you have given your strength.
And we shall never forsake you again:
give us life that we may call upon your name. ***R.***

SECOND READING *1 Corinthians 1:3-9*

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians
The revelation we looked for, Christ Jesus our Lord.

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace.

I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed been strong among you so that you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Ps 84:8*

Alleluia, alleluia!
Lord, show us your mercy and love,
and grant us your salvation.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL *Mark 13:33-37*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark
Stay awake! You never know when the Lord will come.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

WORD FROM THE DEAN



Dear Cathedral Parishioners and Visitors,

With the First Sunday of Advent we begin a new liturgical year, and commence "Year B" in the three-year cycle of Scripture readings at Mass.

"Year B" features Gospel Readings mostly from Mark, whereas the year just past has featured Matthew.

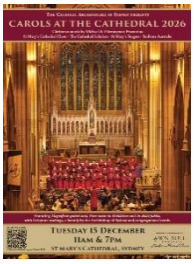
The first words in the Gospel according to Mark are an immediate proclamation of the truth: "The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God." (Mark 1.1.) – Mark gets straight to the point! Our reading for today, the beginning of Advent, is taken from Mark 13: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come." There is a wonderful flavour of directness about Mark, and it is the shortest of the four Gospels so I'd encourage you to read through the whole sixteen chapters during Advent – that's only four chapters per week!

Our Year of Saints at the Cathedral continues, though, until the end of December. This week there are feast days of several important saints, such as the Apostle Andrew on Monday and the great missionary, St Francis Xavier, on Wednesday. The holy relic taken from the arm of St Francis Xavier and entrusted to us some years ago by the Jesuit Fathers in Rome, is always on display for veneration in our cathedral, in the western aisle just past the Sacred Heart Chapel. May the prayers of the saints accompany us as we move through the beautiful Advent season.

Fr Don Richardson, *Dean*

UPCOMING LITURGIES AND EVENTS

November – December 2026

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT 			28 *Saturday*	29 *Sunday*  **First Sunday of Advent** ***12pm Blessing of the Nativity Scene (Cathedral Forecourt)*** **2pm Sunday Public Tour**	30 *Monday* *St Andrew*	1 *Tuesday* **Today's 5.30pm Mass** ***(Annual Cathedral Volunteers Mass Concelebration)***
2 *Wednesday* **6:30pm RCIA** (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)	3 *Thursday* *St Francis Xavier* **6:30pm CITY COMPASS**	4 *Friday* *St John Damascene*	5 *Saturday* **Today's 12pm Mass** ***(Catholic Medical Association End of Year Concelebration)***	6 *Sunday*  **Second Sunday of Advent** **2pm Sunday Public Tour**	7 *Monday* *St Ambrose*	8 *Tuesday* **The IMMACULATE CONCEPTION of the BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**
9 *Wednesday* *St Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin* **6:30pm RCIA** (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)	10 *Thursday* *Our Lady of Loreto* **6:30pm CITY COMPASS**	11 *Friday* *St Damasus I*	12 *Saturday* *Our Lady of Guadalupe* **Today's 9am Mass** ***(Our Lady of Guadalupe Feast Day Concelebration)***	13 *Sunday*  **Third Sunday of Advent** **2pm Sunday Public Tour**	14 *Monday* *St John of the Cross* **PLEASE NOTE** **Today's 4.30pm Confession & 5.30pm Mass has moved to the Crypt**	15 *Tuesday* ***11am Matinee Carols at the Cathedral*** ***7pm Carols at the Cathedral***  **PLEASE NOTE** **Today's Masses 6.45am, 1.10pm & 5.30pm have been moved to the Crypt** **Today's Confessions 12noon & 4.30pm are cancelled**

Weekly Mass Schedule

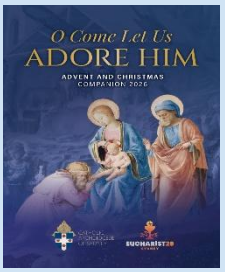
MASS
Monday to Friday: 6:45am, 1:10pm, 5:30pm
Saturday: 9:00am, 12:00 noon
Saturday Vigil: 6:00pm
Sunday: 7:00am, 9:00am, 10:30am (*Solemn Choral Mass*), 6:00pm

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

O Come Let Us Adore Him – Advent & Christmas Companion 2026



The beautiful Season of Advent is upon. Let us make the most of this precious time to gather in our parishes, communities, and homes to reflect on the Incarnation of Jesus and deepen in our Eucharistic devotion using the Companion: Come Let Us Adore Him. Advent and Christmas Companions are now available you can download the Companion and Leader's Resource at gomakedisciples.org.au/resources/





ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL SYDNEY



A CONCERT FOR CHRISTMAS

Olivier Messiaen's

La Nativité du Seigneur

('The Birth of the Lord') for organ

Organist:

Simon Niemiński (St Mary's Cathedral)

Sunday 20th December 2026, 3.30pm

FREE ADMISSION

Preceding the Cathedral Carol Service at 4.30pm.

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.

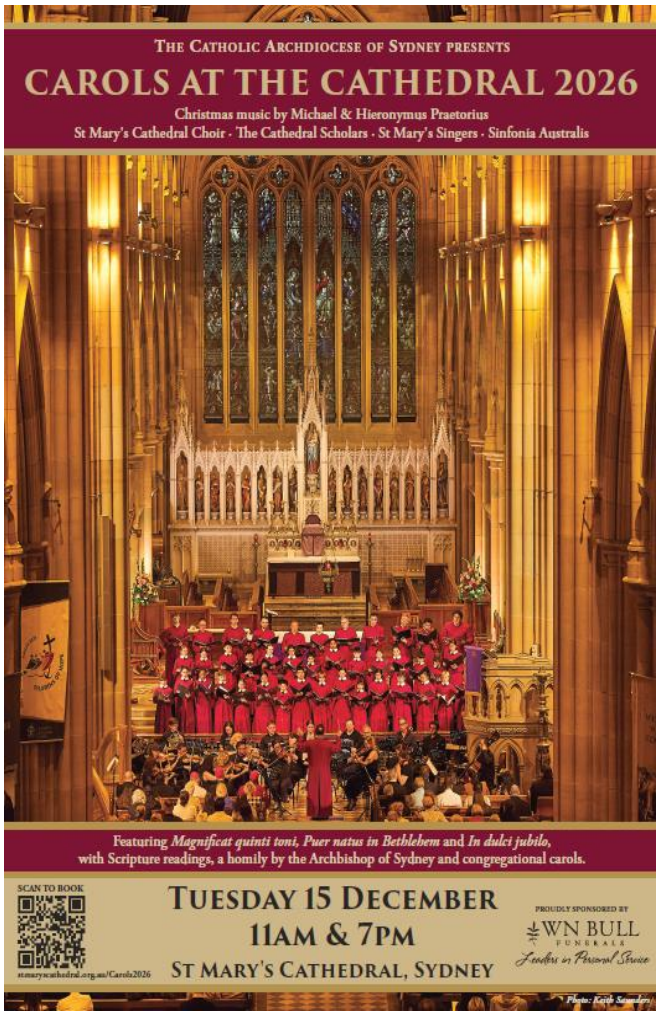


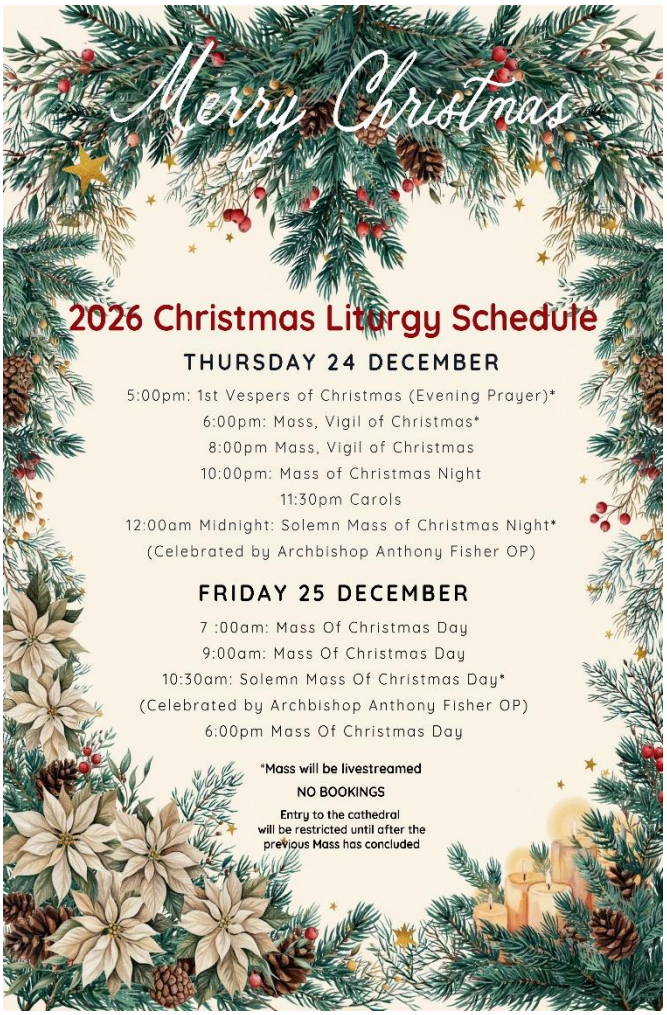
Please note you can continue to donate with cash or pass the plate on.



No photography or videography permitted while Mass is in progress.


All Welcome!
CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY
ARCHBISHOP ANTHONY FISHER OP
invites you to
CHRISTMAS at the Cathedral
16-25 DEC
Celebrate the wonder of Christmas with market stalls, delicious food, live entertainment, and spectacular projections that bring the story of St Nicholas to life.
CHRISTMASATTHECATHEDRAL.ORG.AU
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Design. Develop. Deliver.


THE CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY PRESENTS
CAROLS AT THE CATHEDRAL 2026
Christmas music by Michael & Hieronymus Praetorius
St Mary's Cathedral Choir · The Cathedral Scholars · St Mary's Singers · Sinfonia Australis
Featuring Magnificat quinti toni, Puer natus in Bethlehem and In dulci jubilo,
with Scripture readings, a homily by the Archbishop of Sydney and congregational carols.
SCAN TO BOOK
TUESDAY 15 DECEMBER
11AM & 7PM
ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL, SYDNEY
PROUDLY SPONSORED BY
WN BULL FUNERALS
Leaders in Personal Service


Merry Christmas
2026 Christmas Liturgy Schedule
THURSDAY 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
12:00am Midnight: Solemn Mass of Christmas Night*
(Celebrated by Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP)
FRIDAY 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
*Mass will be livestreamed
NO BOOKINGS
Entry to the cathedral will be restricted until after the previous Mass has concluded