



# St Mary's Cathedral Parish

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## ARCHBISHOP ANTHONY IRELAND

**Administrator:**  
Fr Bernard Perera

**Assistant Priest:**  
Fr Steven Smith

**Deacon & Sacristan:**  
Deacon Michael Smith  
**Pastoral Associate:**  
Sr. Monica Shelverton PBV

**Director of Music:**  
Clair Stanelos

**Parish Secretary :**  
Nimshini Peiris  
**PARISH OFFICE :**

(Tuesday & Friday - 8.00 am -5.00pm and  
Wednesday 8.00 am -11.00am)



cathedralparishhobarttasmania

<https://www.stmaryscathedralhobart.org.au>

### Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A – 15th February 2026

#### The Freedom of a Simple "Yes"

In a world that often feels like a maze of fine print, hidden agendas, social games of say or do just the right thing," in other words, life keeps getting complicated. The readings this Sunday offer a refreshing, if challenging, clarity. It calls for what can be considered a bad word now days, "simplicity". From the ancient wisdom of **Ecclesiasticus** to the piercing honesty of the Sermon on the Mount, the message is singular: God is not trying to trick us. He does not hide behind ambiguity. He simply asks us to choose.

Ecclesiasticus reminds us that "if you wish, you can keep the commandments." There is freedom in this beautiful moment of dignity God bestows on us. God respects our agency so much that He refuses to complicate the terms of our relationship. He doesn't set traps or create "gotcha" moments. Instead, He offers a straightforward map. The complexity in our spiritual lives rarely comes from God's laws; it usually comes from our own attempts to find loopholes in them.

Jesus takes this transparency a step further in the Gospel. He tells us to let our **"Yes"** mean **"Yes"** and our **"No"** mean **"No."** Why? Because anything more—the swearing of oaths, the over-explaining, the "maybe" that is actually a "no" in disguise—comes from a place of insecurity or manipulation. We complicate our speech when we are trying to manage how others perceive us or hedge our bets to avoid commitment, being held to our word. And the simple truth is, we can't play games with God.

Jesus calls us out of that exhausting cycle. He invites us into a life where:

- We don't have to keep track of what we said to whom.
- We don't have to "spin" the truth.
- Our words match our hearts.

*A truly Catholic life is built on this foundation of transparency. God's "yoke is easy" because it is honest. To follow Him is to step out of the shadows of "it depends" and into the sunlight of "I will."*

*This week, let us ask for the grace of a simple heart. May we trust that God is as direct with us as He asks us to be with one another, offering a love that is steady, a truth that is clear, and a path that begins with a simple, honest "Yes."*



#### MASS TIMES

#### St Mary's Cathedral, Hobart

<b>7.30am:</b>	Tuesday, Thursday & Friday
<b>7.30am 6.00pm:</b>	Ash Wednesday
<b>5.00pm:</b>	Saturday (Vigil Mass)
<b>10.30am:</b>	Sunday
<b>6.00pm:</b>	Sunday

#### Sacred Heart Church New Town

<b>9.15am:</b>	Tuesday & Thursday
<b>9.15am:</b>	Ash Wednesday
<b>6.00 pm:</b>	Way of the cross
<b>8.00am:</b>	Saturday
<b>8.30am:</b>	Sunday

#### Lawrenny Court

(131 Hill St West Hobart)  
**10.30am:** Friday

#### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

**St Mary's Cathedral, Hobart**  
**4.00pm - 4.30pm:** Saturday

#### ROSARY

**Sacred Heart Church, New Town**  
**7.30am:** Saturday

#### EUCARISTIC ADORATION

**St Mary's Cathedral Crypt, Hobart**  
**6.00pm - Midnight:** Friday

#### SACRAMENTS & DEVOTIONS

**ENQUIRIES FOR BAPTISMS AND MARRIAGE**  
**PLEASE CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE**

## Music at Sunday Mass

Dear Parishioners,

Our Sunday and Saturday Vigil Choir groups have been developed and strengthened to better support and enrich our liturgy.

Beginning next week, the original **6.00 pm music group** will resume ministry at the **Sunday evening Mass**, starting on the **First Sunday of Lent**.

As we look ahead to 2026, we hope to continue building and strengthening music in the Cathedral. We are therefore seeking **new and experienced musicians**—both **singers and instrumentalists**—to join the music ministry at the **10.30 am and 6.00 pm Sunday Masses**.

We invite you to consider being part of this wonderful ministry and contributing to the community's liturgical prayer. **Younger people and children are very welcome.**

For further information or to express your interest, please contact **Clair Stanelos, Director of Music, on Phone/SMS: 0412 212 468.**



### COMING UP

- **Parish Lenten Program 1**—19th February  
Day session— Cathedral Parish Centre 10 AM –12 PM | Evening Session— Sacred Heart Parish Centre 5.00 PM –7.00 PM
- **Stations of the Cross**— Every Friday During Lent Season, 6.00PM—7.00 PM at Sacred Heart Church

### ASH WEDNESDAY MASS TIMES

ST. MARY'S CATHEDRAL- HOBART



- 7.30 AM
- 6.00 PM

SACRED HEART CHURCH-NEWTOWN

- 9.15 AM

**Help Us Prepare for Ash Wednesday:** We invite you to bring in the palm crosses given last year and place them in the boxes at the front of the church or hand them in to the parish office during office hours. These will be used to make the ashes for our Ash Wednesday service.

## THE ANGELUS PRAYER

V. The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary.

R. And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.



**Hail Mary, full of grace,** The Lord is with Thee;  
Blessed art thou among women, And blessed  
is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary,  
Mother of God, Pray for us sinners, Now and at the hour of our  
death. Amen

V. Behold the handmaid of the Lord.

R. Be it done to me according to your word. **Hail Mary...**

V. And the Word was made flesh.

R. And dwelt among us. **Hail Mary...**

V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

**Let us pray:** Pour forth, we beseech Thee, O Lord, Thy grace into our hearts, that we to whom the Incarnation of Christ Thy Son was made known by the message of an angel, may by His Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of His Resurrection.  
Through the same Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### Lenten Program-2026

The Cathedral Parish is running a reflection/discussion program based around a series of short videos titled "Made for Heaven/Lent with Fr Agustino". There will be a 10am meeting at the Cathedral Parish Centre on the first floor and then at 5:30pm in the Parish Rooms at Sacred Heart Church. Both meetings will commence on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> February. There will be Handouts available with all details at the back of the Churches as of this coming weekend. Grab one and join us as we travel through Lent together.

### SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

Hello Parishioners,

On Sunday, this weekend, the Cathedral Parish Sacramental Program begins with formation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

With joy, we give thanks to the Parish Sacramental Team for their ministry, including Fr Steven Smith, Jane McKeown, Angela Ritar, Roanne Perera, Therese Kelly, Daniel Melody and Vlad and Dijana Curak.

As a parish community, may we ask for your prayers for the candidates, parents and families, catechist and parish schools religious educators as they journey together through faithful learning.

May their heart, mind and voice be open to receiving the word of God.



May the Holy Spirit guide and embrace them into a more loving and deeper relationship with God.

**PIETY SHOP**— Thursday, 10 am –3pm. Saturday & Sunday the shop is open after every weekend Mass

### From Our Anniversary Book:

Eric O'Neil, Celeste Thomson, Cordelia Solomon, Paolo Scavone, Ursula Polson, Mima Davie, Rev.Fr. Vincent Shelverton, Sybil Saunders, Donald Ferrall, Giulia and Pasquale Longo, Gladys Tehan, Vera Mason, Jack Carroll, John Martin, Yvette Flynn, Maria Bertolotti, Athol Patrick Goss, Emily Davis, Charles McCarthy, David Halton, James Brickhill, Peter Allen, George Carr, Vincent Jeffrey, Eric Smith, Gina Guerzoni, Francis McDonald, Umberto Pulsoni, Pauline Ball, William Fletcher Shaw, Brian Case, Nadeen Longdale, Elizabeth Souter, Margaret Brennan, Maureen James, Mary Kerr, Harry Warren, Frank Burke, Dino Bighin





**Mary MacKillop  
Spirituality Centre  
Josephite Mission  
Hobart**

**Weekly:** Christian Meditation – Tuesdays 10.15 to 11.15am

**Second Thursday of each month** – Lectio Divina – 10-11am

**Second Tuesday of the month** – Benni Abbes, Larche Prayer and Reflection time – 5.30pm to 6.15pm – all welcome

**Coming up:** Music and Spirituality with Mary-Anne Johnson – Tuesdays 3,10, 17 and 24<sup>th</sup> of March at 11.30am to 12.30pm

**Retreat with Jenny Scally** – February 21 and 22<sup>nd</sup>

For more information ring JMHC(03) 62281628 or email [ad-min.JMHC@sosjspirit.org.au](mailto:ad-min.JMHC@sosjspirit.org.au)

### [Episcopal Ordination and Installation of Bishop-Elect Mark Freeman for the Diocese of Ballarat](#)

The Episcopal Ordination Mass will be held on Thursday, March 19, 2026, at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat at 11.00am. Due to limited seating capacity in the Cathedral, attendance will be by invitation and entry card only.

The Mass will be livestreamed online, and into St Patrick's Hall, adjacent to the Cathedral. Seating in the Cathedral cannot be guaranteed for those attending the Mass without an entry card.

To assist with accommodating as many people as possible, please register your name and email address with Julie [Boyd](mailto:Boyd) [Julie.boyd@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:Julie.boyd@ballarat.catholic.org.au) at the Diocese of Ballarat so that you can be placed on the reserve list

### Lenten Reflection Days

#### Come Beloved - into the wilderness with Jesus

You are invited to a day of prayer and reflection *accompanying Jesus in the wilderness and discovering the temptations that distract you from your belovedness.*

Saturday 14th March, 10am - 3pm, Catholic Pastoral Centre, Launceston. Cost \$50 (including morning tea, BYO lunch). Facilitated by Belinda Chapman.

#### "...and Come Follow Me"

You are invited to hear the invitation of Jesus and discover what it means for you.

Saturday 21st March, 10am - 3pm, Mary MacKillop Spirituality Centre, New Town.

Cost \$50 (including morning tea BYO lunch). Facilitated by Belinda Chapman.

#### Silent Retreat - At Your Feet

Do you desire to grow in intimacy with God? You are invited to the welcoming space of love and listening at the feet of Jesus. Come as you are into scripture stories of acceptance, accompaniment and intimacy. Discover your deeper identity and find yourself at home and growing in intimacy with God who walked in human feet.

*Each day will include input sessions on scripture passages, time for silent personal prayer and reflection, and individual spiritual direction.*

*Directors: Belinda Chapman and Maureen O'Halloran*

Friday 26th June (4pm) - Sunday 28th June (2pm), Seaview, Camp Clayton, Ulverstone. Cost \$500 (including accommodation, all meals, spiritual direction and all prayer resources)



Archdiocese  
of Hobart

Cordially invites parishioners to attend a

## **Mass of Thanksgiving and Farewell**

to honour

## **Bishop-Elect Mark William Freeman**

Mass will be celebrated by His Grace, Most Reverend Anthony J. Ireland



**Monday 2 March, 2026 | 6pm**

**St Mary's Cathedral, Hobart**

Following Mass, a reception will be held at Best Western Hobart.

Reception attendance is by RSVP only, for catering purposes.

**Please RSVP by 20 February 2026 by scanning the QR code.**



## READINGS OF THE DAY—6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR 1

### First Reading

Sirach 15:15-20

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.

### Responsorial Psalm

Ps 118:1-2. 4-5. 17-18. 33-34. R. v.1

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

1. 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.)

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

May my footsteps be firm to obey your statutes. (R.)

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

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

4. 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

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.

### Gospel Acclamation

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

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.'

### GOSPELS FOR THE COMING WEEK

Monday 16th February	-	Mark 8:11-13
Tuesday 17th February	-	Mark 8:14-21
Wednesday 18th February	-	Matthew 6:1-6. 16-18
Thursday 19th February	-	Luke 9:22-25
Friday 20th February	-	Matthew 9:14-15
Saturday 21th February	-	Luke 5:27-32

### NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS:

First Reading	-	Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7
Responsorial Psalm	-	Ps 50:3-6. 12-14. 17. R. see v.3
Second Reading	-	Romans 5:12-19 /Romans 5:12, 17-19
Gospel	-	Matthew 4:1-11

Pray and Reflect on the Word of God

Please take your copy of the AVE home to reflect and to share with family and friends.