



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 - 8.30 am -5.00pm and Wednesday
8.00 am -12.00pm)



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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT— 21ST DECEMBER 2025

Just imagine, if you can. We are in Jerusalem somewhere around 730 years before the coming of Christ. King Ahaz is declaring that he will not put the Lord to the test but Isaiah gives one of the most important prophecies of the Old Testament. That there will be a maiden with child and will give birth to a Son whom she will call “Immanuel” which means “God is with us.”

Could you imagine how King Ahaz, who did not want to put the Lord to a test, reacted to this prophecy. Could you imagine how the Jewish people would have reacted. Amazement, probably disbelief, probably amused that such a thing was possible. Yet here we are, in the year 2025 Knowing that this prophecy did indeed come true.

We have this amazing four week period called Advent which is totally about recognizing exactly what Isaiah prophesised. A time of reflection, wonder and awe, knowing that God did indeed come to earth as a baby, grew into a man and walked among us.

Yet there are still doubters and disbelievers who believe in themselves more than they believe in God. So, it comes to us to shine the light on the truth. Just like the Servant of Christ who called himself Paul. He went out preaching this good news of this Child born to a maiden, who was indeed the one prophesised by Asaiah. Paul told everyone who would listen that it was through him that we receive Grace and our mission to preach to all the nations

Think of this miracle of the birth of a child to a maiden, the faith of Joseph to take her as his wife and between them raise this child who becomes acknowledged, by the Holy Spirit, at his baptism as the Son of God.

It is our belief, our faith, our joy and happiness that we project when at Christmas we celebrate this amazing occasion. Like Paul, it is when we tell others of our joy and faith that the word is spread to all those unbelievers and doubters. This is the mission given to us by Jesus Himself, through His apostles and through His church.

Just like King Ahaz did not want to put the lord to the test, so do we today have no need to test the Lord, because he answered all our prayers when He came into our world on Christmas Day. We should celebrate, we should sing carols, we should light up our trees and houses, and more than any of these we should tell all that we meet that the reason we do all these things is to celebrate the coming of Immanuel “God is with us”.



MASS TIMES St Mary's Cathedral, Hobart

23rd December
7.30am: Tuesday

24th December
6.00pm: Family & Children's
Christmas Eve mass

25th December
Midnight: Christmas Midnight mass
10.30am: Christmas Day Mass

27th December
5.00pm: Saturday -
Vigil Mass Feast of Holy Family

28th December
10.30am: Sunday mass
6.00pm :Sunday mass

Sacred Heart Church New Town

9.15am : Tuesday (23rd December)
8.30 am: Christmas Day Mass (25th December)
9.15am : Thursday (26th December)
8.30am : Sunday(28th December)

Lawrenny Court
(131 Hill St West Hobart)
Will Resume on 6th February 2026.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

St Mary's Cathedral, Hobart
4.00pm - 4.30pm: Saturday(27th Dec)

SACRAMENTS & DEVOTIONS
ENQUIRIES FOR BAPTISMS AND MARRIAGE
PLEASE CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE



Pope Francis has declared 2025 a Jubilee Year for our Church, themed “*Pilgrims of Hope*”, a year of hope for a world suffering the impacts of war, the ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the climate crisis. As Pope Francis states “the forthcoming Jubilee can contribute greatly to restoring a climate of hope and trust as a prelude to the renewal and rebirth that we so urgently desire; that is why I have chosen as the motto of the Jubilee, Pilgrims of Hope.”

PARISH SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM—2026

The Cathedral Parish is delighted to announce that enrolments are now being received for the **2026 Sacramental Program** for the Sacrament of **Reconciliation, Confirmation and First Holy Communion**.

According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, 'The sacraments are efficacious signs of grace, instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church, by which divine life is dispensed to us' (#1131).

The Sacraments are a way in which we experience God's love, healing, forgiveness, nourishment and strength. They are a deep meaningful step in our faith journey.

The Cathedral Parish Sacramental Program is a program for all children who are **Baptised, Year 3 and upwards who attend as parishioners and are students of Parish Schools (Catholic, Government and independent)**. Enrolments and further information can be received at the Parish Office by **Phone: 03 62344463** or Email: smcsacramentalprogram@gmail.com

The Cathedral Parish welcomes you who are interested to **Join our Sacramental Program Team as a volunteer** to assist, guide and journey with the children, their families and the team through the program for 2026.

Please contact the Parish Office if interested.



PIETY/GIFT STORE

It is Christmas and our piety/gift store on the ground floor of the Parish Centre is open after all Masses this weekend. Check out the great range of books, cards, ornaments, statues, nativity sets and so on. If you are looking for a great Christmas gift, then check out this week's highlighted book "Shadow Of His Wings". A truly inspirational story of a German soldier taking sustenance and comfort to those on the battlefield. Read of his spirit and faith amongst a bitter 2nd world war, animosity of others and the trials and tribulations he endured. This is an exceptional true story that will inspire all those who love a great read.

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.**

Family and Children's Mass

Dear Parents,

We kindly invite you to bring your children to the **Family and Children's Mass**, which will be celebrated on **24th December at 6:00 pm**.

We also encourage your children to take part in the **Nativity Play**. Kindly ensure that your children attend the **rehearsal at 10:00 am on the same day**.

Thank you for your cooperation, and we look forward to celebrating this special occasion together.

VOLUNTEERS

A Special Thank You to all those who have volunteered their time and skills thereby enhancing the capability of our Parish. There are always many ways to be involved if you are willing. A special call out for Readers at all our Masses. (Especially - Saturday night Vigil Mass and Sunday 6 pm mass)

We are also looking for Sacristans and Welcomers, It is our volunteers who help make our parish community welcoming, vibrant, and strong. **If you are interested, please contact the parish office or talk to Deacon Michael.**

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE—2025

St. Mary's Cathedral Parish

Wednesday(24th Dec 2025)	10.00 am	Family and children's Mass Rehearsal	
	6.00 pm	St Mary's Cathedral, Hobart	Family and Children's Mass
	11.00 pm	St Mary's Cathedral Hobart	CHRISTMAS CAROLS
Thursday (25th Dec 2025)	12.00 am	St Mary's Cathedral, Hobart	Christmas Midnight Mass
	8.30 am	Sacred Heart Church, New Town	Christmas Day Mass
	10.30 am	St Mary's Cathedral, Hobart	Christmas Day Mass
	No Evening Masses		

From Our Anniversary Book: Catherine Kinsella, Neil Harrington, Frank Laughlin, Victor Westbrook, Elaine and Alan Hurle, Sr. Ignatius Thorold PBVM, Matthew Bryson, Donal Noel O'Doherty, John Sheehan, Marmaduke Manley, Colleen McKeown, John Andrews, James Nolan, Eileen Lester, Charles Beresford Watts, Giancarlo Ranalli, Margaret Wakefield, Archbishop Eric D'Arcy, Robin Brimfield, Domenico Mainella, Patrick Nally, Claire Donnelly, Lelia Lowrie, Josef Freeman, Mary Cairns, Don Morgan, Moira Orpwood, Elsie Watt, Theresa Moore, Lidia Giovanni, Veronica Gregory, John Alexander Joseph Stranaghan.



May they rest in peace !

Important Notice: Sick & Deceased Prayer List

Within our parish, we hold a sincere commitment to pray as a community for our sick and deceased members. We honour this in two ways:

- 1. Death Anniversaries:** These are included in the Weekly Bulletin for the parish community to read.
- 2. Names in the Universal Prayers:** Names of the deceased and the sick are read out during the Universal Prayers at all our Weekend Masses, as requested by parishioners.

Beginning next week, all names included in the Universal Prayer list will remain for a **four-week period**. After this time, the names will be removed unless a renewed and proper request is submitted through our Parish Office.

This process ensures that our community prayers continue to support those individuals and souls who are truly in need of ongoing remembrance and prayers.

FRIDAY ADORATION

Adoration for the new year will resume on **30th January 2026**.

COMING UP IN THE NEW YEAR

You're Invited: St Mary's Cathedral Birthday!

Join us on Friday 23rd January at 9am as we celebrate the anniversary of the Dedication of St Mary's Cathedral. The Mass will be celebrated by Archbishop Anthony Ireland. This is a significant day in the life of our Parish & Archdiocese.

After Mass, please stay for morning tea. We would love for you to bring a small plate to share if you can, but more importantly, we want to see you there! Let's come together to celebrate our history and our future.

Australia Day Mass & BBQ Breakfast

Join us for a special Mass 9am on Monday 26th January to pray for our nation and the year to come, afterwards everyone is invited for a free BBQ breakfast.

There is no cost for breakfast, but we welcome any donations on the day toward our World Youth Day 2027 fund. Your generosity will directly support our young pilgrims as they prepare for the journey to Seoul, Korea. We hope to see you there!



Some Highlights from the Christmas Edition of the Catholic Standard:

- Christmas joy fills St Mary's Cathedral
- Tassie pilgrims report: Holy Spirit 'alive and well' at ACYF 2025!
- Richmond Christmas display places Jesus at the centre
- Pilgrims step out in hope with Jesus (Launceston Parish)
- Presentation Sisters worldwide mark 250 years
- Guilford Young Medal 2025: 'A declaration of hope'
- Inspiring students to make a positive difference in the world
- Picture this! Young artists in the frame for fancy fundraiser (St Joseph's Rosebery)
- Jubilee joy as pilgrims head west with hearts full of blessings (West Coast Parish)
- First class effort as school marks 130 years (Our Lady of Mercy Deloraine)



St Mary's Cathedral Parish embraces and wholeheartedly supports the Archdiocese of Hobart Safe Communities Policy and Framework, which can be found at the Parish office. Any enquiries regarding Safe Communities contact the Parish Office (03) 6234 4463.

READINGS OF THE DAY—FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT—(YEAR A)

First Reading

Isaiah 7:10-14

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No', Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said:

'Listen now, House of David:
are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men
without trying the patience of my God, too?

The Lord himself, therefore,
will give you a sign.

It is this: the maiden is with child
and will soon give birth to a son
whom she will call Immanuel,
a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 23:1-6. R. see vv 7. 10

**(R.) Let the Lord enter;
he is king of glory.**

The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,
the world and all its peoples.

It is he who set it on the seas;
on the waters he made it firm. **(R.)**

Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?
Who shall stand in his holy place?

The man with clean hands and pure heart,
who desires not worthless things. **(R.)**

He shall receive blessings from the Lord
and reward from the God who saves him.
Such are the men who seek him,
seek the face of the God of Jacob. **(R.)**

Second Reading

Romans 1:1-7

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

A virgin will give birth to a son;
his name will be Emmanuel: God is with us.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 1:18-24

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son
and they will call him Emmanuel,
a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home



GOSPELS FOR THE COMING WEEK

Monday 22nd December	-	Luke 1:46-56
Tuesday 23rd December	-	Luke 1:57-66
Wednesday 24th December	-	Luke 1:67-79
Thursday 25th December	-	Luke 2:15-20 John 1:1-18
Friday 26th December	-	Matthew 10:17-22
Saturday 27th December	-	John 20:2-8

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS:

(Feast of Holy Family)

First Reading	-	Sirach 3:2-6. 12-14
Responsorial Psalm	-	Ps 127:1-5. R. see v.1
Second Reading	-	Colossians 3:12-21
Gospel	-	Matthew 2:13-15. 19-23

Pray and Reflect on the Word of God