



St Mary's Cathedral—Cnr Harrington & Patrick Streets, Hobart; Sacred Heart Church—Cross St, New Town;

St Ephrem the Syrian was a third century Church Father who is best remembered today as a composer of hymns and poems. At present, over four hundred of St Ephrem's work is still in existence. One of his hymns on the Nativity of the Lord begins with the following words:

"The Babe that I carry carries me, saith Mary, and He has lowered His wings, and taken and placed me between His pinions, and mounted into the air..." It is certainly a paradox. This is the intricate nature of the mystery of the Incarnation. Heaven for a moment has downscaled in humility to touch our humanity in order that frail humankind will be raised to his eternal divinity. This paradox, Karl Barth the Swiss Protestant theologian articulates as: "He is human without limitation. He is not only similar to us, he is like us."

Hence, the Solemnity of the Incarnation of Christ is a celebration and a sheer manifestation of the humility of God and a gentle reminder to live that humility during this season of Christmas. The Incarnation of Christ teaches us that when one shrinks before God in humility accepting our finite human nature, God holds us high close to His cheeks with love. We concede that we all struggle in the practice of the virtue of humili-

ty. Let us crush our ego, and open our littleness before God and before our loved ones without fear and in humility so that Christ, in his unfailing love, will make us great in his sight.

I wish you a blessed Christmas and a joy-filled New Year!

Fr Shammi Perera



share the story



shape the future

At Christmastime, we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ and our friends and families get together, share stories and make plans for the year ahead.

In October 2020, the Catholic Church is gathering to make plans and decisions for the future. Your voice is needed to help create the agenda. What are your experiences of God in your life, your faith and the Church? What do you think God is asking of us in Australia?

Please find a special feedback card on the seats of the Cathedral and Sacred Heart Church for you to complete and pop into the box supplied at the back of the Churches. If you would like to take time to think more deeply and write a lengthier reply please take the card home and post the card later or access www.share-the-story.com or spend some time listening to other stories at www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au

It takes many generous volunteers to ensure our parish community runs smoothly. Our heartfelt thanks to our Cathedral Parish Deacon Nick MacFarlane for the many initiatives taken this year; Sr Monica Shelverton, our Parish Pastoral Associate; to Liz Horne our Office Manager; Michael McKenna, MC to the Archbishop, for organising our beautiful Christmas decorations in the Cathedral; our amazing sacristans Chris, Rossalyn, Maureen and Anna; to Ben Mackey our Choir Director, Jo-Anne Kemp our Assistant Choir Director and all members of our 10.30am Cathedral choir; Cathy and Stan Murrowood, Charles Watts, Michael Stanelos, Alex Rodrigues, Chris Wroblewski and all our choristers and musicians; to Michael Marshall and Paul Kilworth for their handyman help in many ways; to David Shelverton and all our money counters; to Christine, Aniela, Gilly, Ishara and Chaminda, all part of our generous Cathedral Centre cleaning team as well as Colleen, Stan, Anne and our roster of generous parishioners who clean the Cathedral and items used in our celebration of the Mass; Maryan and Ishara who have assisted Ros with the flowers, as well as Mrs Mangione who regularly gives flowers from her garden; Eva and the members of our Sacramental Process team; Deacon Nick and his wife Gio, Jane McKeown and the Matuszek family for their enormous contribution to the Alpha program; to Peter Toohey and our gardeners; our acolyte Vincent Parr and the members of our dedicated altar serving team; our Parish Pastoral Councillors, headed by Xavier Kumar, who have helped enormously this year; to our youth group members; to our office volunteers Louise, Suzanne and Judy; thanks also to greeters, ushers, lectors, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion; thank you to the Arabic community for their contribution to decorations for Sacred Heart Church and also the Cathedral nativity scene; thanks to the Maintenance and Finance Committee members, headed by Michael Stanelos; the Cathedral Restoration Committee and the many others who have stepped forward from time to time with their assistance. *Everlasting God, strengthen, bless and sustain all those who volunteer in our churches and grant that together they may follow Jesus Christ, offering their gifts and talents. Amen.*



Fr Shammi Perera and Fr Emmanuel Ibeke

Dear parishioners, our annual Marriage Mass Renewal Of Vows will be celebrated by Archbishop Julian at 10.30am on Sun 24th Feb. Couples celebrating Catholic Marriage milestones are invited to RSVP to the Office of Life, Marriage and Family by emailing ben.smith@aohtas.org.au or on 6208 6036.



Join other young people and youth groups from across Tasmania to celebrate World Youth Day Panama and Australia Day at St Mary's Cathedral, Hobart on Sunday, 27 January from 12:00pm-2:30pm (Mass at 10:30am). The free event will feature live streaming of WYD from Panama, entertainment, music, a free sausage sizzle and guest speaker, Sam Clear, who walked around the world. Invite your friends and come along for a great afternoon of festivities! For further information contact Office of Youth Evangelisation on 6208 6274 or youth@aohtas.org.au

Please note the Cathedral Parish office will be closed from the afternoon of 24th December and will reopen Monday 7th January. During this time please try to keep non-urgent matters until the office reopens. Please follow the prompts on the office phone to contact Fr Emmanuel in an emergency. The Parish email will be checked periodically also.
With thanks.



Please remember our bookstall in the Cathedral Centre stocks sacramental gifts, bibles, missals, contemporary and classic spiritual books, statues, rosaries, cards, crucifixes and other items. Our bookstall is open following 10.30am Mass on Sundays and from 9am-3pm when the Parish office reopens on January 7.



Are you new to our parish?

We welcome you to St Mary's Cathedral Parish!

To help you become involved in our parish life and any of the various ministries of the parish, please return this slip to the Cathedral Office or place it on the collection plate at any Mass.

We will then be in touch.....with thanks.

Name
Email
Phone
Address

Monday 24th Dec

Christmas Eve

6pm : St Mary's Cathedral
(Family Vigil Mass)

8pm : Sacred Heart Church
(Family Mass)

Midnight Mass with Service of
Carols beginning 11.15pm St
Mary's Cathedral

Tuesday 25th Dec

Christmas Day

8.30am : Sacred Heart Church
10.30am : St Mary's Cathedral

Please note there is NO evening
Mass on Christmas Day

Wednesday 26th Dec

St Stephen, first martyr

9am : Sacred Heart Church

Thursday 27th Dec

St John, apostle, evangelist

9am : Sacred Heart Church

Friday 28th Dec

The Holy Innocents, martyrs

9am : Sacred Heart Church

Saturday 29th Dec

Octave of the Nativity

8am : Sacred Heart Church

6pm : Vigil St Mary's Cathedral

Sunday 30th Dec

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary
and Joseph

8.30am : Sacred Heart Church

10.30am : St Mary's Cathedral

6pm : St Mary's Cathedral

Christmas/New Year

Mass times 2018/19

Tuesday 1st Jan

Mary, the Holy Mother of God

10am : Sacred Heart Church

Wednesday 2nd Jan

Christmas Time

7.30am : St Mary's Cathedral

9am : Sacred Heart Church

Thursday 3rd Jan

Christmas Time

7.30am : St Mary's Cathedral

9am : Sacred Heart Church

Friday 4th Jan

Christmas Time

7.30am : St Mary's Cathedral

9am : Sacred Heart Church

Saturday 5th Jan

Christmas Time

8am : Sacred Heart Church

6pm : Vigil St Mary's Cathedral

Sunday 6th Jan

The Epiphany of the Lord

8.30am : Sacred Heart Church

10.30am : St Mary's Cathedral

6pm : St Mary's Cathedral



Reconciliation : St Mary's Cathedral : 5pm Saturdays

Sacred Heart Church : following 8am Mass Saturdays

Contact Us

Presbytery

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Administrator

Fr Shammi Perera

Assistant Priest

Fr Emmanuel Ibeke

Deacon

Nick MacFarlane

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Sr Monica Shelverton PBVM

Cathedral Office Manager

Ms Liz Horne

Office Hours

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Email

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Website

www.stmaryscathedralhobart.org.au

www.facebook.com/cathedralparishhobarttasmania

(remember to 'like/follow us' to stay up to date!)



Ministries you may be interested in: (please circle)

greeters, lectors, choir members, musicians, flower arrangers, childrens' liturgy, youth ministry, cleaners, setting up for morning teas, sewing, altar servers, Eucharistic ministers, book stall attendant after Mass, office help, handyman work, gardening, organising special events/ fundraising.

Would you like to meet our clergy and staff?

Just let us know and we'll arrange a visit!

