



St Mary's Cathedral Parish

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Pastoral Associate:
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Cathedral Sacristan:
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Sacred Heart Church Sacristan:
Maureen Chisholm

Parish Secretary:
Jane McKeown

PARISH OFFICE:
(MONDAY - FRIDAY)

Limited hours.
Please ring 62344463 for
Office Hours



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

2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR C - 8th December 2024

As we enter the 2nd Sunday of Advent, the voice of John the Baptist resounds with urgency and hope: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight!" (Luke 3:4). John's proclamation invites us to look inward, clear the obstacles that prevent Christ from entering our lives, and make space for His transformative power.

Advent is not merely a waiting time but a season of active preparation. It calls us to repentance—not simply feeling sorry for our sins but consciously choosing to turn back to God. The Greek word for repentance, "metanoia", signifies a change of heart and direction, aligning our lives with God's will. John's baptism of repentance prepared people to receive the Messiah, and today, we are invited to undergo a similar renewal. Luke situates John's mission within the political and religious context of his time, naming rulers and leaders who foreshadow the challenges Jesus would face. Yet, amidst this backdrop, John's message offers hope: the promise of salvation foretold by Isaiah, where "every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low" (Isaiah 40:4). This vivid imagery reassures us that no obstacle is too great for God's grace. The mountains of pride, anger, and selfishness in our hearts can be levelled, and the valleys of despair, fear, and doubt can be filled with hope and love.

The first reading from the prophet Baruch builds on this theme, calling God's people to put aside their mourning and wear the joy of salvation. Addressed to exiled Jews, Baruch's words resonate today in our struggles—whether personal, relational, or societal. His vision of renewal, where God leads His people with mercy and justice, invites us to place our trust in Him and walk forward in hope.

Advent challenges us to ask: What valleys in our hearts need to be filled with trust and faith? What mountains of resentment or pride need to be brought low? What crooked paths need straightening so Christ can fully enter our lives? These questions require action. Forgiving someone, reconciling with a loved one, or extending kindness to a stranger—such acts of love pave the way for the Lord.

This season is a time to shed burdens and embrace the freedom of walking in God's light.

As we prepare for Christmas, let us heed John the Baptist's call to repentance and transformation. May we welcome Christ, not just as the child of Bethlehem but as the Lord of our lives, with renewed hearts and faith-filled actions.



MASS TIMES

St Mary's Cathedral, Hobart

7.30am: Tuesday - Friday
5.00pm: Saturday
10.30am: Sunday (Mass Livestreamed)
6.00pm: Sunday

Sacred Heart Church New Town

9.00am: Tuesday - Thursday
8.00am: Saturday
8.30am: Sunday

Lawrenny Court

(131 Hill St West Hobart)

Mass Time for 2025

10.30am: Friday 7th February 2025

SACRAMENTS & DEVOTIONS

*ENQUIRIES FOR BAPTISMS
AND MARRIAGE*

PLEASE CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

St Mary's Cathedral, Hobart

4.00pm - 4.30pm: Saturday

NOVENA TO OUR LADY AND ROSARY

Sacred Heart Church, New Town

After 9am Mass: Wednesday

7.30am: Saturday

**ARE YOU INTERESTED IN
BECOMING CATHOLIC (RCIA)
Please contact 62086236**

WHAT'S NEW?

IN THE PARISH



St Vincent de Paul Christmas

Hampers 2024

The Cathedral Conference of St Vincent de Paul receives requests



for assistance throughout the year.

At Christmas we provide assistance to families and singles in the form of a bag full of grocery items suitable for a Christmas lunch.

We would like to "top up" the bags with some extra's. You may wish to donate an edible Christmas treat such as chocolate, jam, chips, cereal, tea or coffee.

You may prefer to donate toiletries or a pair of socks, we would be most grateful for all donations. There is a St Vincent de Paul donation box in the foyer of the Cathedral for monetary donations at any time throughout the year.

There are St Vincent De Paul envelopes for financial donation for the Christmas Appeal in the foyer of Cathedral and Church.

We are mindful that many people within our community are experiencing financial hardship, parishioners included.

If you are able to donate, on the weekends of December 7/8 and December 14/15 we will accept donations in clearly marked bins at the back of the Church.

Thankyou



Children's Corner:

Help John the Baptist prepare the way for the Lord by finding the straightest path to Jesus



Registrations are now available for the 2025 St Mary's Cathedral Sacramental Program.

For all children in Year 3 and upwards (Sacrament of Reconciliation, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist).

Register at the Parish Office by

Phone: 03 62344463 or

Email: cathedral@aohtas.org.au

Information and Enrolment Night is 6pm

Tuesday 11th February 2025 at St Mary's Cathedral, Hobart



COLUMBAN CALENDARS 2025

2025 Columban Calendars have arrived and are on sale at the Parish Office for \$10.00 each. Please contact the Parish Office if further information is required.

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.



Children's Christmas Nativity Play

Dear Parents I would like to invite all interested primary aged children (or younger) in our parish to a **Nativity rehearsal at the Cathedral at 10am on Tuesday 24th December 2024**

The children will then perform their enactment during the 6pm Cathedral Family Mass on Christmas Eve. Costumes will be provided, for further information please contact, parish office on 62344463 or 0408778152.

Fr Bernard Perera

ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL PARISH CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Tuesday 24th December 2024

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

11.15pm: Carol Service followed by Midnight Mass St Mary's Cathedral

Wednesday 25th December 2024

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD CHRISTMAS DAY

8.30am: Sacred Heart Church

10.30am: St Mary's Cathedral

Please note NO Evening Mass



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, 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!

WHAT'S NEW?

IN THE DIOCESE

RICHMOND PARISH INVITES YOU TO THE 2024

ST JOHN'S ADVENT CONCERT

SUNDAY, 15 DECEMBER AT 2PM

With Peter Tanfield & The St John's Chamber Players Conducted by Damien Holloway

ST JOHN'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, RICHMOND

Followed by afternoon tea at Comoradh (St John's Primary School Hall)

Book via email to richmond@aohtas.org.au Tickets \$40 • Payable at time of booking

FURTHER ENQUIRIES Andrea Probert • 0417 161 002

Ring the Bells
13 DECEMBER 7PM
JESSA
ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL
MUSICAL DIRECTOR
JANE EDWARDS
PIANIST
SARAH CHICK
TICKETS VIA TRY BOOKING
ADULTS \$40
CONCESSION \$30

Blessing of the Christmas Crib and Nativity Figures

Eager to encourage the beautiful family tradition of preparing in our homes a nativity scene in the days before Christmas, Pope Francis in his Apostolic Letter on the meaning and importance of the nativity scene, *Admirabile Signum* (Enchanting Image), observes that it is a simple reminder of something astonishing: God became human to reveal the greatness of his love.

Parishioners are reminded to bring their nativity scene (or just the statue of the baby Jesus) for blessing by His Grace Archbishop Porteous during the 10.30am Mass on Sunday 15th December when the Cathedral Crib will be blessed in the lead up to Christmas.



CATHOLIC STANDARD SURVEY

We value your feedback!

The Archdiocese of Hobart invites you to share your thoughts to help us enhance the *Catholic Standard*. Could you spare five minutes to complete our 2024 Readership Survey?

Your responses are anonymous, and no contact details are required. Thank you for helping us improve! The survey will close on 15 December 2024.

ONLINE SURVEY



<https://bit.ly/4enNKT7>

FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

To celebrate the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe on **12 December**, the Office of Life, Marriage and Family invites you to join us for the annual **'Mass for the Unborn'** at St Mary's Cathedral - **6pm, Thursday 12 December**.

Please join us and pray for the protection of Human Life in the womb. For more information, contact:

mark.griffin@aohtas.org.au (Mark Griffin - Director of the Office of Life Marriage & Family).

Archdiocese of Hobart
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MASS FOR THE UNBORN
6 pm | Thursday 12 December
St Mary's Cathedral, Hobart
Please join us and pray for the protection of human life in the womb. For more information, contact mark@aohtas.org.au
(Director, Office of Life Marriage & Family)

Light a Candle for Christmas
Archbishop Julian warmly invites you to light a candle & say a prayer for loved ones
Saturday 21 December 2024
10am - 2pm | Elizabeth St Mall, Hobart
The Archdiocese of Hobart gratefully acknowledges the assistance of parishioners, clergy, religious, volunteers, and the Hobart City Council who make this annual event possible.

Elizabeth Street Mall, 50 Elizabeth St, Hobart

Archbishop Julian warmly invites you to light a candle and say a prayer for loved ones at the annual 'Light a Candle for Christmas' event in the bustling heart of the city. There will be a large nativity scene and the opportunity for passersby to light a candle, pray in front of the crib and listen to Christmas carols. Please contact the Archbishop's Office on (03) 6208 6223 if you would like to help either by singing in the choir or by being available to chat to passers-by and encourage them to light a candle if they would like to. It is a great opportunity to witness to our faith in the middle of the city just before Christmas!

The Hour of Grace

The 8th of December is an important day - the **Feast of the Immaculate Conception**. It is also the day on which in 1947 Our Blessed Mother gave us the Hour of Grace. Our Lady said as follows: "It is my wish that every year, on 8th December, at noon, the HOUR OF GRACE FOR THE WORLD be celebrated. Many divine and bodily graces will be received through this devotion. Our Lord, my Divine Son Jesus, will send His overflowing mercy if **good people will pray continuously for their sinful brother....** it is my wish that the HOUR OF GRACE FOR THE WORLD be made known and spread throughout the world. If anyone is **unable to visit his church, yet will pray at home, he will also receive graces through me....** will find a secure heavenly ladder and receive protection and grace through my motherly heart." **An hour of Prayer will be held in the Cathedral Crypt on Sunday 8th December 2024 from 12 noon -1pm**



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 Jane McKeown (03) 6234 4463.

READINGS OF THE DAY – 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR C

First Reading Baruch 5:1-9

Jerusalem, take off your dress of sorrow and distress, put on the beauty of the glory of God for ever, wrap the cloak of the integrity of God around you, put the diadem of the glory of the Eternal on your head: since God means to show your splendour to every nation under heaven, since the name God gives you for ever will be, 'Peace through integrity, and honour through devotedness'. Arise, Jerusalem, stand on the heights and turn your eyes to the east: see your sons reassembled from west and east at the command of the Holy One, jubilant that God has remembered them. Though they left you on foot, with enemies for an escort, now God brings them back to you like royal princes carried back in glory. For God has decreed the flattening of each high mountain, of the everlasting hills, the filling of the valleys to make the ground level so that Israel can walk in safety under the glory of God. And the forests and every fragrant tree will provide shade for Israel at the command of God; for God will guide Israel in joy by the light of his glory with his mercy and integrity for escort.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 125: R. v.3

- (R.) The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.
1. When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage, it seemed like a dream.
Then was our mouth filled with laughter,
on our lips there were songs. (R.)
 2. The heathens themselves said: 'What marvels the Lord worked for them!'
What marvels the Lord worked for us!
Indeed we were glad. (R.)
 3. Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage
as streams in dry land.
Those who are sowing in tears
will sing when they reap. (R.)
 4. They go out, they go out, full of tears,
carrying seed for the sowing:
they come back, they come back, full of song,
carrying their sheaves. (R.)

Second Reading Philippians 1:3-6,8-11

Every time I pray for all of you, I pray with joy, remembering how you have helped to spread the Good News from the day you first heard it right up to the present. I am quite certain that the One who began this good work in you will see that it is finished when the Day of Christ Jesus comes. God knows how much I miss

you all, loving you as Christ Jesus loves you. My prayer is that your love for each other may increase more and more and never stop improving your knowledge and deepening your perception so that you can always recognise what is best. This will help you to become pure and blameless, and prepare you for the Day of Christ, when you will reach the perfect goodness which Jesus Christ produces in us for the glory and praise of God.

Gospel Acclamation Luke 3:4,6

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia!

Gospel Luke 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar's reign, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judaea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of the lands of Ituraea and Trachonitis, Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the pontificate of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. He went through the whole Jordan district proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the sayings of the prophet Isaiah:

A voice cries in the wilderness;
Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight.
Every valley will be filled in,
every mountain and hill be laid low,
winding ways will be straightened
and rough roads made smooth.
And all mankind shall see the salvation of God.

GOSPELS FOR THE COMING WEEK

Monday 9th December	- Lk 1:26-38
Tuesday 10th December	- Mt 18:12-14
Wednesday 11th December	- Mt 11:28-30
Thursday 12th December	- Mt 11:11-15
Friday 13th December	- Mt 11:16-19
Saturday 14th December	- Mt 17:10-13

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS: **3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR C**

First Reading	- Zephaniah 3:14-18
Responsorial Psalm	- Isaiah 12:2-6,R.v.6
Second Reading	- Philippians 4:4-7
Gospel	- Luke 3:10-18

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.