



# ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL

1 Marist Place, Parramatta NSW 2150

(02) 8839 8400 Emergency: 0407 289 360 [www.stpatscathedral.com.au](http://www.stpatscathedral.com.au)

Bishop of Parramatta: Most Rev Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFMConv DD

**12 January 2025 - The Baptism of the Lord (Year C)**

## Mass Schedule

### WEEKEND

6:00pm (Saturday) Vigil Mass  
7:30am Morning Prayer  
8:00am Mass  
9:30am Mass  
11:00am Solemn Mass with Cathedral Choir  
6:00pm Mass

### MONDAY TO FRIDAY

6:10am Morning Prayer  
6:30am Mass  
11:15am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament  
11:15am Reconciliation (till 12:15pm)  
Rosary after Angelus at 12:00 noon  
12:30pm Mass

### SATURDAY

7:30am Morning Prayer  
8:00am Mass  
8:30am Reconciliation (till 9:00am)  
5:00pm Sacrament of Penance (till 5:30pm)

### PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

Mass at 8:00am (No Adoration or Confession)

### WEEKLY PRAYER GROUPS

Monday 6:30pm - Legion of Mary  
Tuesday 9:30am - Christian Meditation  
Tuesday 7:30pm - RCIA (Sept - April)  
Friday 1:00pm - Cenacle Prayers

### MONTHLY PRAYER GROUPS

First Friday Devotions: 7:00pm in Chapel  
True Life in God: Last Friday @ 6:00pm in the Cloister Cafe

### OTHER GROUPS

**Playgroup:** Wednesdays 10:00am - 11:30am  
**Facebook:** Parramatta St Pat's Playgroup

### Credo Youth Ministries

Contact the office or find information on  
**Facebook:** [credo.stpats](https://www.facebook.com/credo.stpats)  
**Email:** [credo@stpatscathedral.com.au](mailto:credo@stpatscathedral.com.au)



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## "...my favour rests on you."

BAPTISM IS THE FIRST SACRAMENT we receive as Christians. No other sacrament can be received until we have been baptised, making it foundational and fundamental to our membership of the Church. All mainstream Christian denominations recognise baptism as the point of entry into Christian life, whether it is celebrated early in life or later.

It is important to note that today's feast of The Baptism of the Lord does not occur in isolation. The manifestation of Jesus as the Anointed One at his baptism was not the only manifestation of Jesus in this regard. Last weekend we celebrated the Solemnity of the Epiphany when the Magi came to do homage to the infant Jesus, signifying the truth that the Christ came to offer salvation to all. Next Sunday, though we are returning to Ordinary Time, we hear of the manifestation of Christ's divinity through his miracle of turning water into wine at the wedding at Cana. Though this Gospel is not given to us as a reading for a feast day, and we don't hear it every year, the miracle at Cana is regarded, along with the Epiphany and the Baptism of the Lord, as one of the three manifestations of Christ to the world as Saviour.

In recalling the baptism of Jesus by John, we are recalling more than a simple ceremony. When Jesus was baptised something remarkable occurred: his divinity was made manifest to the world, evident in the words that thunder from the heavens: "You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you." Let us not think however, that it was only at Jesus' baptism that something extraordinary happened.

I frequently use the Gospel of the baptism of Jesus when celebrating this very sacrament. I like to make the point that it is a very dramatic Gospel, with the heavens opening up, the descent of the Holy Spirit and the voice of the Father affirming Jesus' divine nature using the words quoted above.

I always mention that we are unlikely to witness the heavens opening up or the Holy Spirit descend upon the child here in the chapel as they did at the River Jordan nearly two thousand years ago! Yet something dramatic *does* happen in this sacrament, even if the celebration of the sacrament looks uneventful to an onlooker. Though we don't see the Holy Spirit descending on the one being baptised or hear the Father's voice from heaven, the Holy Spirit *does* descend on the child and the Father's favour *does* rest on them too. This being so, we can delight in the knowledge that all of us who have been baptised are filled with the Holy Spirit and are favoured by God.

It is not insignificant that Jesus asks to be baptised as he commences his public ministry. The affirmation he receives from his Father, along with the intimate presence of the Holy Spirit, means that he can approach all that is to come with peace of mind and openness of heart.

And so it is for us. We can live out our mission of spreading the Good News, safe in the knowledge that, like Jesus, we are gifted with the same Spirit and affirmed by the same heavenly Father.

And that is something surely worth celebrating and for which to give thanks.

*Wishing you a blessed year in 2025, Fr Robert*



# THE BULLETIN

## STAFF CONTACT DETAILS

### Dean and Administrator

Very Rev Robert Riedling EV  
8839 8420 - dean@stpatiscathedral.com.au

### Assistant Priest

Rev Tom Green  
8839 8423 - assistantpriest@stpatiscathedral.com.au

### Deacon

Rev Mr David Dowling  
8839 8415 - deacon@stpatiscathedral.com.au

### Priests in Residence

Rev Fr Van Xua (Joseph) Nguyen  
Rev Fr Chinonye Akamadu

Office Hours: 9:00am - 4:00pm weekdays

**Receptionist:** Donna Missio (Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri)  
8839 8400 or enquiry@stpatiscathedral.com.au

**Parish Secretary:** Pat Preca (Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri)  
8839 8412 or secretary@stpatiscathedral.com.au

**Cathedral Parish Manager:** Mili Lee (Mon-Thu)  
8839 8419 or manager@stpatiscathedral.com.au

**Sacramental Coordinator:** Parish Team  
8839 8400 or secretary@stpatiscathedral.com.au

**Director of Music:** Bernard Kirkpatrick KSS  
8839 8400 or music@stpatiscathedral.com.au

**Assistant Director of Music:** Eric Grella  
8839 8400 or music@stpatiscathedral.com.au

**Assistant Organist:** Patrick Newman  
8839 8400 or music@stpatiscathedral.com.au

**Liturgy Coordinator/Sacristan:** Fr Tom Green  
8839 8400 or assistantpriest@stpatiscathedral.com.au

**Youth Coordinator:** Parish Team  
8839 8400 or credo@stpatiscathedral.com.au

**Gift Shop Manager:** Minnie Harb  
0419 153 195 or giftshop@stpatiscathedral.com.au

## Sacraments

**Baptisms** are celebrated in the Cathedral on most Sundays after the 11:00am Solemn Mass. Contact the parish office to book or fill out the form on the website.

**Weddings** are by appointment only.

**At least six months' notice is necessary.**  
Contact the Parish Secretary on 8839 8412.

**First Eucharist and Confirmation**  
Please contact the Parish Secretary.

## Hiring of Rooms

For hire of Cloister Function rooms, call the office on 8839 8400 or enquiry@stpatiscathedral.com.au

## Material for Bulletin

If you have something that you would like published in the bulletin, please ensure that it is conveyed to our Parish Secretary, Pat, by **12:00 noon on Wednesday**. Please note that material must relate to the parish and its mission. Don't forget that businesses can advertise on the rear page of the bulletin too!

## Cathedral reopens for 2025



Happy New Year and welcome back to St Patrick's Cathedral! As we celebrate the Solemnity of the Baptism of the Lord this Sunday, we give thanks for the opportunity to gather again as a community of faith after the holidays. The Cathedral Office has officially reopened, and our regular Mass schedule has resumed. For detailed Mass times, please see the front page of this bulletin. We encourage you to invite others to join us in worship as we begin this new year together.

This year, we are blessed to celebrate the Jubilee Year of Hope. Hope is a powerful force that connects us to the promises of God, offering strength and renewal as we face life's journey. At the start of the year, many of us make resolutions or set intentions. This is a time to reflect on our desires and place our hopes before the Lord, trusting that he will guide us in fulfilling his will in our lives.

Whether your hope for this year is for personal growth, healing, stronger relationships, or deeper faith, we pray that you will experience God's grace and renewal. Let this Jubilee Year inspire us to trust in the Lord's goodness, to act with courage and faith, and to share hope with those around us.

As we reflect on the Baptism of the Lord, we are reminded of our own baptismal call. Through the waters of baptism, we became beloved children of God and were entrusted with the mission to live as witnesses of his love and mercy. May this solemnity be a moment of renewal for us all, as we recommit to living our faith boldly in the year ahead.

May the hope of Christ guide us, strengthen us, and sustain us throughout this Jubilee Year and beyond. *Fr Robert*

## Exciting news – Alpha launching on Pentecost Sunday!

As we continue to celebrate the Jubilee of Hope, we are thrilled to announce that our parish will launch the Alpha program on Pentecost Sunday. Alpha is an opportunity to explore life, faith, and meaning in a welcoming and open environment, where conversations about Jesus Christ, our true hope, are central.

In preparation for this significant public launch, we are beginning training for our specially selected Alpha leaders. This pilot program will kick off later this month, allowing our leaders to experience Alpha firsthand and grow in their roles to guide others on their faith journey.

We ask you, as a parish community, to pray for our Alpha leaders during this important time of formation. May they be filled with wisdom, compassion, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit as they prepare to serve in this ministry of hope. Stay tuned for more updates as we approach this exciting milestone for our parish!

# PARISH NOTICES

## Early arrivers for Mass

I noted recently that some parishioners, especially on Saturday morning, are arriving very early for Mass, sometimes more than an hour before the scheduled start time for Mass.

Whilst this might not seem a problem, please note that the chapel is normally scheduled to open half an hour before Mass starts. This means that if you arrive early, you may have to wait outside. The parish **cannot** guarantee your health and safety under these circumstances. Should you have a fall or suffer a medical emergency, there may be no one around to assist you. Also, there is the possibility, however remote, of a vulnerable person being the victim of crime when alone around the cathedral precinct.

I urge all those who come to Mass here, on whatever day of the week, to arrive no more than half an hour before the first scheduled Mass of the day for the sake of their well being.

Thank you for your cooperation! *Fr Robert*

## Join us for the Red Mass

All parishioners are warmly invited to the Red Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral, a special celebration seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit for those in the legal profession. The Mass will take place on **Monday 03 February at 7:00pm**.

Come and pray with us for justice and wisdom in our community.

We look forward to seeing you there!

RSVP to Donna or via the Cathedral App.



## Gift Shop Reopening Delay

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the gift shop will delay its opening till **Tuesday 28 January**. Apologies for any inconvenience caused.



## Hospitality @ St Pat's

The Hospitality team will take a break, ready to return reinvigorated for the Café's reopening on **02 February**.

If you have enjoy being a part of these Sunday gatherings, you may wish to become a part of the team. You can be rostered on as little or as much as you like! Just send an expression of interest to Marian, our hospitality coordinator at [balmapp5@bigpond.com](mailto:balmapp5@bigpond.com).

Enjoy the festive holiday season and stay safe. See you in 2025!

## Cathedral Choir in recess till February

Our magnificent and hard-working choir will be in recess after this Sunday and will return on **02 February**.

I know I share the sentiments of all our parishioners in wishing the members of our choir, along with our organists and our Director of Music, Bernard Kirkpatrick, a restful time away from their duties here at the Cathedral. I want to thank them for all they did to enhance our recent Christmas Masses to say nothing of all they do each week in this regard.

We look forward to their return in a few weeks' time. *Fr Robert*

## Volunteers needed....

### Join our Media Ministry Teams!

Are you passionate about storytelling, content creation, or connecting with others? St Patrick's Cathedral is excited to announce two opportunities to serve through media and communication: the Social Media Group and the St Pat's Matters Magazine Team.

Each team will be made up of four dedicated individuals, and we are currently seeking two volunteers for each group to help us bring these initiatives to life. Whether you're tech-savvy or a creative thinker, this is your chance to use your talents to make an impact!

#### Social Media Group

Help us engage our community online by creating dynamic content for our Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter accounts. We're looking for:

- Content creation (writing, photography, videography)
- Graphic design (Canva Pro)
- Social media management

#### St Pat's Matters Magazine Team

Be part of producing our parish magazine, filled with inspiring stories, reflections, and parish news. Join us as a:

- Writer or editor
- Photographer
- Designer for print layout (Canva Pro)

Both teams will have kickoff meetings soon, where we'll share our vision, provide training, and brainstorm ideas. Whether you prefer working behind the scenes or directly engaging with the community, there's a place for you here.

#### Get Involved!

Interested in joining one of these exciting teams? Contact Mili at [manager@stpatscathedral.com.au](mailto:manager@stpatscathedral.com.au) and let us know which team you're interested in and how you'd like to contribute.

Your time and talents can help us reach more people, share our faith, and strengthen our parish community. We look forward to hearing from you!

## Latin Mass - Moved to Prospect

Please note that the Saturday morning Latin Mass has been transferred from St Patrick's Cathedral to St Mark's Coptic Catholic Church, 533 Reservoir Road, Prospect, where the Latin Mass is offered daily. For more information please visit the website [fssp-parra.org](http://fssp-parra.org) or email Fr Sypher at [admin@fssp-parra.org](mailto:admin@fssp-parra.org).

## Display of material

Some people have been leaving multiple copies of pamphlets and flyers in the narthex of the chapel. Please note that if you wish to leave a promotional flyer, religious or otherwise, for display anywhere at the cathedral, permission from the Dean must be sought. Note too, that if permission is granted, the material will only be allowed to display for a limited time. Any material left without permission, regardless of quantity, will be sent to recycling. Thank you for your cooperation. *Fr Robert*

# PRAYER INTENTIONS

## We pray for...

### RCIA team and enquirers

**Sick:** Susan Jhun Jhun Uwala, Emerlinda Sarreal, Bernardo Dado, Monica, Sam Galea, A J Thomas, Apo Policarpio, Michael Lilley, Fred Harb, Shirley, Patrick Slatter, Felicitas Appathurai, William Lelyveld, Martina Galea, Chris Doughty, Antoinette Burchdan, Ramza Ibrahim, Frank Davino, Fr Bob Bossini, Fatima Rodricks, Ray Love, Sharon Webb

**Special Intentions:** Stephen Sensak, Clara Cabezas, Espirita Isidro, Poor & needy, Miguel Custodio, Mouzel Del mar, Naleen, Tian & Raveen, All poor & sick, Franz Tito, Leonardo Close, Michael Perez, Arternio Patacsil, Mary Rose Perez Tito, Leonrado Close, Agnes, Bernadette & Joaquin Patacsil, Thanksgiving for 2024, Jann Kirystel Sequia & family, Leonardo Perez, Mary Rose Perez Tito, Franz Tito, Michael Perez, Bernabe Patacsil, Joaquin Patacsil, Santiago & Antonio Tito, Agnes Patacsil, Anita Ramirez, Joaquin Patacsil, Bernabe Patacsil, Naleen, Paul Peters

**Deceased:** Nancye Benzie, Jose Barredo, D Herft, Lucy D'Mello, YT Hsu & Deanna Hsu, Jose Barredo, All souls, Michael Phong Huynh, Karam Karam, Houda Chehade, Le Thu Cuc, Philip Punla, Reynaldo Saquilayan

**Anniversaries:** Judy Gallagher, Thuy Huynh, Paul So Nguyen, Marie Saldanha, Danny Doulub, Philip Vas, Maximina Manlangit, Boulos & Jamel Saba, Robert Dearie, Boulos & Jamel Saba, Adelina Fernandes, Frank Maccarone

**Perpetuals:** Wendy A Smith, Louisa & Arthur Baxter, Paul Mahoney, Nat Fedyk, Robert Dearie, Norm Hector, Bokeyar family, David family, Japour family, Paula Loto'aniu, Peter & Annette Van Tilburg, Margaret Angela Roberts, Sally & Frank Martlew, Sherwood family, Pat & Jim Hartman, Mark Fletcher, Royan & Andrews families, Don & Pat Andrews, Juliet Noronha, Dr Joseph Malouf, Abel Moses, Jimmy, Anna & Frank Grainda, Jack & June Barrett, Ann O'Brien, Watson Lee, Ian & Pat Sanders, Bill & Alice Kendall, Allan Kendall, Maria Patterson & Ellen Bancan, Hooper family, Giuseppina & Giovanni Rechichi, Mary Coady, Mary & Jack White, Vincent & Rebecca Vella, Walter Townsend, Ferris Grugeon, McInherny, White, McWilliam & McGuckin families, Mary Abela, Robert Andrews, Sylvester family, Rogan family, Adcock & McMillan families, Love family, Gabrielle Baker, Paula Cowling, McDermott & Starr families, Repose of the Souls in Purgatory and all deceased parishioners of St Patrick's and St Monica's

## BAPTISMS



We welcome into our Catholic Christian family the following children who were recently baptised here...

**Nicolai Danaila      Aubrey Fleming**  
**Rafael Nirthanakumaran**

## WEDDINGS



We also pray for the following couple recently married here...

**Emma Awad & Jayden Haddad**

## POPE FRANCIS'

### Prayer Intention for January



#### *For the right to an education*

"Let us pray for migrants, refugees, and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, might always be respected."

From Pope Francis...

*Bluesky post dated  
08 January*

"Even in the darkest nights, a star shines. It is the star of Jesus, who comes to care for our fragile humanity. Let us set out towards Him. Let us not give apathy and resignation the power to trap us in the sadness of a flat life." [#ChristmasSeason](#)

# Saint of the Week

16 January - St Joseph Vaz (1651-1711), Priest and Missionary

Joseph Vaz was a missionary born on 21 April 1651 in Goa, India. He died on 16 January 1711 in Kandy, present day Sri Lanka. He was an Oratorian missionary priest. He arrived in Sri Lanka (formerly known as Ceylon) during the Dutch occupation.

The Dutch had expelled the Portuguese who had introduced Catholicism to Ceylon. The Dutch then went on to impose Calvinism as the official religion. Father Vaz travelled throughout the country, bringing the Eucharist and Sacraments to clandestine groups of Catholics. He would sometimes disguise himself as a beggar in order to facilitate his mission. Later, he founded a shelter in the Kingdom of Kandy where he intensified his missionary work of ministering to both the minority Tamil and Sinhalese ethnic groups. By the time of his death, he had managed to rebuild the Catholic Church in Ceylon. He was beatified by Pope Saint John Paul II on 21 January 1995, in the Sri Lankan capital, Colombo, and canonized there by Pope Francis on 14 January 2015.



Information: Universalis

## “Quote of the Week”

“Christ did not receive the Spirit for himself, but rather for us in himself: for all good things flow through him also into us.”



**St Cyril of Alexandria**  
(c.376-444)  
Bishop and Doctor of the Church  
*Commentary on St John's Gospel*

## Did You Know...?

**...that the Baptism of Jesus is the first of the Rosary's Luminous Mysteries, prayed each Thursday?**

The Luminous Mysteries, or Mysteries of Light, were introduced by Pope John Paul II in October 2002. The other Luminous Mysteries are (respectively) the self manifestation at the wedding of Cana, his proclamation of the Kingdom of God, his Transfiguration, and his institution of the Eucharist.



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