



**ST PATRICK'S
CATHEDRAL**
PARRAMATTA

11 January 2026 - The Baptism of the Lord (Year A)

1 Marist Place, Parramatta NSW 2150

(02) 8839 8400 www.stpatscathedral.com.au

Bishop of Parramatta: Most Rev Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFM Conv, DD

Mass Schedule

WEEKENDS

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 Reconciliation (till 5:30pm)

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

8:00am Mass (No Adoration or Confessions)

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: Currently in recess

Credo Youth Ministries

Contact the office or find information on

Facebook: [credo.stpats](https://www.facebook.com/credo.stpats)

Email: credo@stpatscathedral.com.au

Friends of St Patrick's Cemetery:

stpatscemeterynp.com



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The Baptism of the Lord

ST THOMAS AQUINAS begins his work *De Ente et Essentia*, stating: "A little error in the beginning leads to a great one in the end." This is demonstrable in all manner of things, from mathematics and other sciences, and even more so in the sacramental life of the Christian. Each year, we are challenged anew to live out the consequences of the profound mysteries of our everyday life in Ordinary Time, beginning with a meditation on the mystery of the Baptism. In the synoptic gospels, baptism serves as the bookends to Christ's public ministry — debuting His ministry at the Jordan and in His final commissioning and command to His disciples immediately before His Ascension.



There is, however, often a limited understanding as regards baptism's significance in our daily lives. It is not uncommon for baptism to be viewed reductively as a sort of "naming ceremony" or "celebration of birth," or vaguely as the washing away of original sin and an admission into the Church. Baptism is not only the singular event at the doorway into Christian life but encompasses it entirely. It is no wonder, then, that pious practice invites us to bless ourselves with Holy Water each time we enter a church as a reminder of this.

The Church, in her baptismal ritual, draws out some of the rich realities we ponder today, especially in the use of the symbol of water. We might ask why we use water at all, and not something like milk, which could also be seen as life-giving. Why use a liquid at all? Why not hit our candidates with a Bible as a wake-up call to the Word of God?

The prayers of our liturgy reveal to us the divine anticipation of the baptismal waters from the beginning. In Genesis, we see the waters as a symbol of new life emerging from the chaos out of which God brings about creation — as the Holy Spirit hovers over the water. Through Noah, we see it as that which purifies the world, bringing "an end to sin and a new beginning in goodness." Through the deadly obstacle of the Red Sea in Exodus, we see it as the pathway from slavery in sin to freedom.

Water is a conflicting symbol, representing both death and chaos, and new life. Like Jonah swallowed by the beast before him, Christ leads us into the dark abyss of death, to be drawn out again into new life. The baptismal font is both the tomb of our fallenness and the womb of rebirth. For today, when we hear that the "heavens are torn open," the descent of the Holy Spirit, and the proclamation of Christ's Sonship, so too does the same happen at each baptism. We are drawn into both the history of our salvation and an adoption into Christ's Sonship as children of God, immersed in the pattern of Christian life which daily calls us to take up our cross and follow Christ in His death and resurrection.

Wishing you a blessed week ahead,

Fr Rooney

THE BULLETIN

STAFF CONTACT DETAILS

Dean and Administrator

Very Rev Robert Riedling EV
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Assistant Priest

Rev Dr Vincent Ojo
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Deacon

Rev Mr David Dowling
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Priest in Residence

Rev Dr Philip Alesin

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

Parish Coordinator: Pascal El-Hage (Mon - Fri)
8839 8419 or coordinator@stpatscathedral.com.au

Parish Secretary: Donna Missio (Mon, Wed, Fri)
8839 8400 or enquiry@stpatscathedral.com.au

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

Sacramental Coordinator: Parish Team
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Youth Coordinator: TBC
8839 8400 or credo@stpatscathedral.com.au

Gift Shop Manager: Contact Parish Office
8839 8400 or giftshop@stpatscathedral.com.au

Sacraments

Baptisms are celebrated in the Cathedral on most Sundays after the 11:00am Solemn Mass, at around 12:45pm. 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 Secretaries.

Hiring of Rooms

For hire of Cloister Function rooms, call the office on 8839 8400 or enquiry@stpatscathedral.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 Secretaries, Pat or Donna, by **12:00 noon on Thursday**.

Cathedral carpark

As you use the carpark, you might notice (hopefully!) a couple of new signs that have been erected by way of alerting drivers to the need to drive carefully in what is a very crowded space, particularly between Masses on Sunday when there is a convergence of people leaving and others arriving. Unfortunately, we have had a couple of incidents of not just cars having a dingle but a couple of people have been hit, fortunately without the worst of consequences.

Please be patient when **arriving** and **leaving** the carpark, but also be considerate. One way we might consider alleviating some of the frustration is for people to **turn left only** when driving out from the carpark onto Victoria Road, especially if the road is not clear, meaning that a right hand turn might take some time, holding up cars and creating frustration for others. If the road is not clear to make an immediate right hand turn onto Victoria Road, please turn left and drive around the block and turn right at the lights on the corner of Marist Place. This extra minute or so of your time will help ensure the traffic leaving the carpark flows somewhat more smoothly, to say nothing of making it safer.

On this same theme, another way we can help traffic to flow better on **entering** the carpark is to always enter by turning left into the carpark from Victoria Road (from the east) rather than stopping to turn across traffic and holding up others, bearing in mind that the road is not quite wide enough to allow traffic to pass on the left of those waiting to turn right into the cathedral carpark. Again, this might mean an extra minute or so of detours for some people, but it will be time well spent if it decreases frustration and so helps ensure a safer space for all.

Thank you for helping to make our cathedral precinct a safer space for all, particularly the elderly and vulnerable, who make up a considerable percentage of our parishioners. *Fr Robert*



Thank you...

...to all those who helped to make the cathedral look so beautiful over the Christmas season.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Regina, Kathleen, Jean Luc, Iris, Ollie, Rachel, Stacie, Aidan, Edward, and all the other dedicated volunteers who consistently step up to support us.

Additionally, a special shout-out goes to Doreen and Brian, who have seamlessly taken on Edward's responsibilities while he takes some personal leave.

Our Commitment to Safeguarding

At St Patrick's Cathedral Parramatta, we are dedicated to creating a safe and nurturing environment for all members of our community, especially children and vulnerable adults, in line with the "Parramatta Way."

The Parramatta Way of Safeguarding is to...

- Act with justice, and state that we have a zero tolerance for any form of abuse or harm to children or any person;
- Act with justice, and ensure that laws and obligations are upheld, and safety is paramount.

THE BULLETIN

A Fond Farewell to Two Cherished Parishioners

With heavy hearts, we bid farewell to Greg and Marjorie Simpson, who have been valued members of St. Patrick's for nearly 30 years.

Greg's contributions

Greg has played a vital role in numerous projects at the cathedral, including:

- Designing plans for submission to the council for our Spring Fair, which took place in Albert Park.
- Organising and participating in the covering of the cross during Easter for many years.
- Actively engaging with the 'Friends of St Patrick's Cemetery'
- Offering his expertise in engineering, which was his profession.

Marjorie's involvement

Marjorie dedicated many years to managing the piety stall and made significant contributions to the Spring Fair when it was a major event for our community. If you attend hospitality after Mass on Sundays, you'll notice the St Patrick's tea cosy, a lovely creation by Marjorie herself.



We have been very fortunate to have these wonderful people in our community and I am sure you will join us in wishing them well as they venture north to be nearer to family. Farewell, and God bless!

Cathedral Choir in recess till February

Our magnificent and hard-working choir is currently in recess and will return on **01 February**.

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

Sacraments of Initiation

Continuing from last year, the sacramental journey for children wishing to make their First Holy Communion, will start up again on Monday, 09 February.

To register, click on the following link:

<https://stpatscathedral.cbcchurch.com/goto/forms/109/responses/new>

OR register through the parish app - Connect > Sacraments > Eucharist > First Holy Communion Registration 2026 > Register Here

Red Mass

The annual Red Mass to commemorate the commencement of the law year will again be held in the Cathedral in 2026. This special event, celebrated by Bishop Vincent Long, is an opportunity to come together in prayer and reflection, particularly honouring those in the legal profession for their dedication to justice and service.

When: Tuesday 03 February 2026 at 7:00pm

Where: St Patrick's Cathedral

Please send RSVP to enquiry@stpatscathedral.com.au

Epiphany Blessing

Many people like to maintain the tradition of marking their homes with blessed chalk each year at this time, as the year begins. As the Ordo states: "The ancient custom of marking the door of the home with blessed chalk is a way of incorporating the liturgical feast of the Epiphany as a domestic ritual into the prayer life of the family." Blessed chalk and a sheet with the text for the ritual are available in the narthex of the chapel.

20 C+M+B 26

Catenians - City of Parramatta 333

We are a group of Catholic men and families who enjoy each other's company and help and support each other. We share and uphold the Gospel and through our association, belonging to a network of like-minded people.

What we are about...

- Catholic community
- Family & friendship
- Encouraging vocations
- Supporting youth.

The city of Parramatta Circle 333 hold our monthly meetings every fourth Thursday of the month at Mary Mackillop Spirituality Centre, 33 Barina Downs Rd, Baulkham Hills.

For more information please contact Circle Membership Officer, Michael Lilley

M: 0415 335 368 or Email: mjlilley@hotmail.com

Roadworks near Cathedral

We have been notified by **Transport for NSW** that there will be road improvement works happening at the intersection of Victoria Road, Marist Place and Villiers Street between **11 January** and **27 March**. Hopefully this will not be a great problem for parishioners, but please be prepared!

Updating Credit Card Details for Planned Giving

The beginning of a new year is a good opportunity to update things we perhaps often don't think about. To update your credit card details, please follow these steps:

- Visit the [St Pat's website](#).
- Click Donate, then click Donate again. You will be redirected to the Pushpay website.
- Select the person icon with the padlock and log in using your mobile number.
- Once logged in, you can update your details by clicking on "Payment Methods" and then select the card details to update/change.

If you need help at any stage, please contact the parish office or coordinator for assistance where you can get a detailed "how to guide".

PRAYER INTENTIONS

We pray for...

Sick: Elias Safadi, Hamish Perreira, Vickram & Vasvi Arcot, Rodolfo Manalo, Gretta D'Souza, Sharon Webb, Jessica Blatman, Rodolfo Manalo, Hamish J Pereira, Valentyna, Fr Michael Attard, Mary Nissan, Nadia Nissan, Silvana Rechichi

Special Intentions: Ernesto & Riza Angeles, David Ibella, Raveen, Naleen, Tian, Ping Hsu, Daniel Pinto, Stephen Senjak, Romeo D'Souza, Romeo Esteves, Marianno De Arrogante, Shannen Mendoza, Jared & Hien Besant, Hilda & Gaulbert Pais, Peachy Romulo, Pedro & Sheila Romulo, Raven Seguia, Charmaine, Duy Xhang Hoang, Legion of Mary Officers

Anniversaries: Watson Lee, Nida De Noronha, Moltea Iezzi, Sally & Frank Martlew, Sherwood family, Paul So Nguyen, Danny Doolub, Maximena Manlangit, Jure & Maria Drazenovic, Eddie Lai, Hans Bucher & parents, Honorato & Wilhemina Dela Cruz, Maria Lelyveld, Warlito Arciaga, Divine Grace Marigomen, Pedro Obar Morales, Juan Montesco

Recently Deceased: Ralph Vallejo, Elijah Brown, Janine Burn, Fr Mario Colina CM, Peter Lewin, Paul Peters, Se Christeia Uy, Evelyn Maguire

Deceased: Noah Ta, Tanto Tanzil, Philomina Yagappa, YT & Deanna Hsu, Lucy D'Mello, Nazar & Lewis Nissan, Jose Evangelista, Murad Andranes, Meynard V Guilles, Maria Megale, Pasquale Altamore, Flood victims in Sri Lanka

Anniversaries: Pedro Obar Morales, Edward Muller, Juan Montesco, Maximena Manlangit, Johannes Lelyveld, Frank Maccarone, Rodney Jayatilaka, Dora Kirk, Joseph Fung, Gabriel Muniandi, Jose Ramirez, Anacorita, Jesus

Perpetuals: Thanh Hung Le, June Schembri, Antoine Morvan, Leo Bardetta, Carmen Train, Joan Brady, Rudy Rupac, Frank Agostino, 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, John Ryan, Mark Fletcher, Royan & Andrews families, Don & Pat Andrews, Juliet & Peter Noronha, Vijaya Sawant, 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 recently baptised here...

Alliera Eid

Milena Cardoso & Sienna Wehbe

WEDDINGS



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

Vo Thi Xuan Hien & Jared Besant

POPE LEO'S...



Prayer Intention for January

For prayer with the Word of God

"Let us pray that praying with the Word of God be nourishment for our lives and a source of hope in our communities, helping us to build a more fraternal and missionary Church."

From Pope Leo...

*"X" post dated
08 January*

"In order to be a truly missionary Church, one that is capable of witnessing to the attractive power of Christ's love, we must first of all put into practice his commandment, the only one he gave us after washing his disciples' feet: "Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another."

Saint of the Week

12 January - St Benet (Benedict) Biscop (c.628 - 690), Abbot

He was born of a noble Northumbrian family and was for a time a thegn of King Oswiu.

While returning from a journey to Rome, he visited Lérins, a monastic island off the Mediterranean coast of Provence, and stayed there for two years, from 665 to 667, during which he took monastic vows and the name of "Benedict".

Ecgrith of Northumbria granted Benedict land in 674 for the purpose of building a monastery. He went to the Continent to bring back masons who could build a monastery in the Romanesque style, and St Peter's, at Jarrow, was the first ecclesiastical building in England to be built in stone. Its library became world-famous and it was here that Benedict's student Bede wrote his famous works.

For the last three years of his life Benedict was bed-ridden. He suffered his affliction with great patience and faith. He died on 12 January 690.



Information: Universalis

"Quote of the Week"



"Prayer, fasting, watching may be good in themselves; yet it is not in these practices alone that the goal of our Christian life is found, though they are necessary means for its attainment. The true goal consists in our acquiring the Holy Spirit of God."

St Seraphim of Sarov
(1759 - 1833)
Russian monk

Did You Know...?

...that the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord is also referred to as the Theophany, meaning the revelation, or manifestation, of God?

Originally, the Baptism of the Lord was celebrated on the Epiphany, along with the miracle at the wedding at Cana. Over time, in the western Church, the Feast of the Epiphany came to focus solely on the revelation to the Magi, over the other two "epiphanies". Each of these three events however, is a manifestation of God to the world, an announcement that God has indeed appeared in order to bring salvation to those who believe.



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