

LITURGY THIS WEEK		
OLA Chapel, Cnr Barney & Jessie Sts, Armidale		
Armidale Public Hospital (APH) Chapel, Rusden St, Armidale		
ORDINARY TIME		
MONDAY 15 DEC – Monday of the 3rd week of Advent		
07:00 AM	OLA Chapel	TLM
07:00 AM	Cathedral Mass	
09:15 AM	Cathedral Mass	+Richard Sibraa
12:00 NN	Cathedral Mass	+Mary Dubois
TUESDAY 16 DEC – Tuesday of the 3rd week of Advent		
07:00 AM	Cathedral Mass	Hannah Mangulabnan
09:15 AM	APH Chapel	Besinga Family
12:00 NN	Cathedral Mass	Ruby P. Gudito
WEDNESDAY 17 DEC – Wednesday of the 3rd week of Advent		
07:00 AM	Cathedral Mass	
09:15 AM	Cathedral Mass	Norman S. Manulat
12:00 NN	Cathedral Mass	Ruby Gudito - healing
THURSDAY 18 DEC – Thursday of the 3rd week of Advent		
07:00 AM	Cathedral Mass	
12:00 NN	Cathedral Mass	+Allan, Kit, Ben & John Moon & Rosly Carlon
06:00 PM	CAROLS IN THE CATHEDRAL	
FRIDAY 19 DEC – Friday of the 3rd week of Advent		
07:00 AM	Cathedral Mass	
09:15 AM	Cathedral Mass	Carey & O’Connell Families
12:00 NN	Cathedral Funeral Mass for Colin Cox	
05:30 PM	Cathedral Mass	F & F of Claire Keoghan
SATURDAY 20 DEC – Saturday of the 3rd week of Advent		
08:00 AM	OLA Chapel Mass	
09:00 AM	Cathedral Mass	Private Intention
02:00 PM	Marriage of Hencent Minanto & Maisie Lie - OLA	
06:00 PM	Cathedral Mass	
07:30 PM	CHRISTMAS LESSONS & CAROLS - OLA	
SUNDAY 21 DEC – FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT		
08:00 AM	Cathedral Mass	
10:00 AM	Cathedral Mass	<i>Pro populo</i>
11:00 AM	Solemn Mass with Choir (Latin parts) <i>Pro populo</i>	
04:30 PM	Solemn Vespers & Benediction	
05:30 PM	Cathedral Mass	<i>Pro populo</i>
SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (Cathedral)		
MONDAY - THURSDAY		11:30 – 11:50 AM
FRIDAY		04:45 – 05:15 PM
SATURDAY		09:45 – 10:45 AM & 04:30 – 05:30 PM

Cathedral Parish Child & Vulnerable Adults Protection and Safeguarding Statement

Commitment to Safety

Our parish is dedicated to creating a safe, respectful, and welcoming environment for all, especially children and vulnerable adults.


Zero Tolerance for Abuse

We have a strict zero-tolerance policy for any form of abuse, neglect, or exploitation of children or vulnerable adults.

Compliance with Safeguarding Standards

Our parish follows the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards, Integrity in Our Common Mission, and adheres to the NSW Child Safe Standards to ensure our practices are aligned with best-practice safeguarding principles.


Please ensure that your children are accompanied when leaving the Cathedral during Mass to go to the toilet or for any other reason.



CATHOLIC
VIEWPOINT

OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2025

ACUTIS & FRASSATI CANONISATION



HOW TO M.A.P. YOUR LIFE AS ST. CARLO AND ST. PIER GIORGIO DID

1 ACUTIS & FRASSATI

3 PILGRIMS - HAVE YOU?

4 PILGRIMS OF HOPE

6 OLA WITH THE POPE

7 JUBILEE YEAR MASS

8 AROUND THE DIOCESE

The canonisation Mass of Saints Carlo Acutis and Pier Giorgio Frassati occurred outdoors in the square of St. Peter in Rome, under a clear blue sky, on Sunday 7 September. Prior to the Mass, Pope Leo XIV greeted those present from in front of the temporary altar and commented that while the celebration is very solemn, it is also a bit of great joy! It also took in our hearts when Pier Giorgio and Carlo experienced, namely this love for Jesus Christ, especially in the Eucharist. But also to people in our brothers and sisters. All of you, all of us too, are called to be Saints! Twenty minutes later, Pope Leo then suggested with the liturgical prescriptions, in the scripture "To go to God with shouts of joy, singing."

Continued page 7

and would like to, please send and email to armidaleparish@armidale.catholic.org.au

IN YOUR CHARITY,PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR:

RECENTLY DECEASED: Gregory Gilbert (Funeral prayers at Piddington’s Chapel Thursday 18 December 12noon), Colin Cox (Funeral Mass Cathedral Friday 19 Dec at 12pm), Susan O’Brien (Inverell), Irene Bible, Gervasio Miking, Richard Sibraa, Maureen Bullen **DEATH ANNIVERSARIES:** Johanna Wissink, Kaylene Hamilton, Leanne Cox, Chris Cunningham, Raymond Poulton **SICK:** Kelemete Hefe, Tom Briggs, Brian Bible, Craig Elliott, Eric McLeod, Pauline Godschalk, Estela & Nelson Segovia, Joseph Hanna, Kristine Sevilla, James Righetti, Lisa Hallman, Elizabeth Williams, Cristina Arellano, Billy Steller, Jessie Hanson, Vanessa Hardy, Maria Grezl, Wili Suluma, Katrin Gödderz, Mary Peter, Sharyn Lucas, Carmen & John Gallagher, Bob Watson, Ferg Watson, Raymond Watson, Robert Watson, Maureen Campbell, Ann Haydon, Irene & Leigh Owen, Robyn Keogh, Robert Markeljic, Don Armatage, Molly Burke, Melissa Gamblen, Hannah Whitton, Tom Britt, Danny Jones, Michael Zhu, Aeron Ryan, Blake Ross, Gemma Milliken, Frederic Kelmeyer, Silvia & Ralph Bowles.

SUPPORTING OUR PRIESTS & PARISH

1ST COLLECTION (cash or eft only)

(supports the clergy: food, housekeeping, annual retreat & monthly stipend)

Account Name: St Mary’s Presbytery Account

BSB: 082-105 Acc. No: 001023527

2ND COLLECTION (cash, eft or tap & go - credit card)

(supports the Cathedral Parish: insurance, employees’ salary, repair & maintenance, office and church requisites, utilities, etc)

Account Name: St Mary’s Cathedral Parish

BSB: 082-105 Acc. No: 001006225

(Ref: Planned Giving Number and/or your name)

WEEKLY COLLECTIONS					
	Actual		Target	Difference	
1st Collection	\$2,544.00		\$2,114.00	\$430.00 ☺	
2nd Collection	\$5,940.00		\$6,350.00	-\$410.00 ☹	
14 DECEMBER, THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT					
	6PM	8AM	10AM	11AM	5:30PM
Welcomer	T Rice	J Toakley	T Rimpici	APike	Steller
Reader 1	J Carson	F Miron	A Dinh	M Van Gend	J Maher
Reader 2	P Boston	N Ramazani	K Frazier		LTindale
PoF	J Hansen	L Quast	R Menz		N Chin
ExMin	T Dubois	D Miron	B Robinson		D Roff
21 DECEMBER, FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT					
	6PM	8AM	10AM	11AM	5:30PM
Welcomer	K McMahon	P Stier	T Rimpici	APike	Turley
Reader 1	K McMahon	C Stephen	I Mittheu	M Van Gend	J Chin
Reader 2	D Fittler	J Toakley	J Turner		D Roff
PoF	W Clark	A Rogers	P Hordern		J Roff
ExMin	C Khan	D Miron	B Robinson		K Steller

The latest copy of Catholic Viewpoint is now available. It is available in flipbook style on the Diocesan web-site: <https://armidale.catholic.org.au/catholic-viewpoint>

For those on the parish email list, it has been sent out in PDF for download. If you would like a hard copy, we can print one for you in the Parish Office. If you are not on the parish email list

Saints Mary & Joseph Cathedral Parish Armidale

Most Reverend Peter Mel Murphy Ph.D

Bishop of Armidale

132 DANGAR St (PO Box 2025), ARMIDALE 2350, PH 6772 2218

E: armidaleparish@armidale.catholic.org.au W: www.smjccathedral.org.au

Administrator: Fr Damien Locke | FrDLocke@armidale.catholic.org.au

Assistant Priest: Fr Elino (Eli) Comanda OSJ | frelino@armidale.catholic.org.au

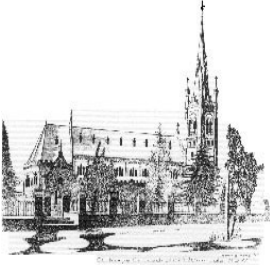
Parish Secretary Ms Tina Clarke | Office Hours: **Mon - Fri 9am - 1pm**

Principal, St Mary’s Catholic Primary School: Mrs Belinda Burton

Principal, O’Connor Catholic College: Mr Philip Gibney

Interim Parish Pastoral Council Chair: Mr Michael Barry

Parish Finance Council Chair: Mrs Fiona Miron



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A/2) 14TH DECEMBER 2025

FIRST READING

Isaiah 35:1-6,10

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult, let the wasteland rejoice and bloom, let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil, let it rejoice and sing for joy.

The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it, the splendour of Carmel and Sharon; they shall see the glory of the Lord, the splendour of our God.

Strengthen all weary hands, steady all trembling knees and say to all faint hearts, ‘Courage! Do not be afraid.

‘Look, your God is coming, vengeance is coming, the retribution of God; he is coming to save you.’

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy for those the Lord has ransomed shall return.

They will come to Zion shouting for joy, everlasting joy on their faces; joy and gladness will go with them and sorrow and lament be ended.

The word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

SECOND READING

James 5:7-10

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord’s coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord’s coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Isaiah 61:1 (Luke 4:18)

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Matthew 11:2-11

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?’ Jesus answered, ‘Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.’

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: ‘What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says:

‘Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you.

‘I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.’

The Gospel of the Lord. *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*

NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

2026 CLERGY APPOINTMENTS

As announced last weekend, Fr Damien has been appointed Parish Priest of Manilla and Administrator of Barraba. Fr Paul Chandler will be the Administrator of the Cathedral Parish, effective 5 January 2026. Bishop Murphy has also made the following appointments:

NAME	APPOINTED AS	TOWN	WITH EFFECT FROM
Fr Vic Ignacio MS	Parish Priest	West Tamworth	12th January, 2026
Fr Saji Kappikuzhi RCJ	Parish Priest	Moree/Mungindi	12th January, 2026
Fr John Pereira	Assistant Priest	Moree	5th January, 2026
Fr Juvi Coronel	Administrator	Inverell	5th January, 2026
Fr Damien Locke	Parish Priest	Manilla/Barraba	5th January, 2026
Fr Paul Chandler	Administrator	Cathedral Armidale	5th January, 2026
Fr Antony Vattakkunnel CMI	Administrator	Wee Waa	21st February, 2026
Fr Mario Mendoza LRMS	Assistant Priest	Gunnedah	7th February, 2026

FR DAMIEN | as we are now aware that Fr Damien is leaving the parish, we are very grateful for his time here in Armidale would like to offer him a testimonial. Envelopes are available over the next two weekends and can be placed on the collection plates.

CHRISTMAS LITURGY ROSTERS | we are now putting rosters together for the Christmas Masses. There is a roster in the Cathedral foyer. Please register your name against your available/preferred ministry & Mass time.

CATECHISTS 2026

Would you like to join our Catechists team for 2026 and make a difference to the lives of children in our State Primary Schools? Are you called to be a disciple to spread the mission of God? Can you spare an hour a week as a Catechist or an Assistant? Please contact Kerry Steller or Tina Clarke at the Parish Office on 67722218 for further information.

CLEANING ROSTER FOR DECEMBER/JANUARY

Volunteers are needed over the December/January period. There is a roster in the Cathedral foyer. Please add your name alongside the week/date that you are available to help. If you would further information, please contact Tina in the Parish Office 67722218.

CATHEDRAL CHOIR REHEARSALS FOR CHRISTMAS

Saturday 13, 11am in the Cathedral.

FIVE FIRST SATURDAYS DEVOTION

Marian devotion on the first Saturday of each month. Next gathering this **Saturday 3rd January 2026 at 9.30am**, immediately after the 9am Mass in the Cathedral.

FISHERS OF MEN PRAYER GROUP | meets in the Parish Meeting Room, Mondays 7:30 - 9:30 pm. For enquiries contact Nirmal on 0430871064.

HOLY FACE DEVOTION | Tuesday's at 5:45 pm in the Parish Prayer Room (formerly Adoration Chapel).

CATHEDRAL PARISH ADORATION PROGRAM

8am - 8pm Monday-Friday and then Friday from 8pm - Saturday 8am - a total of 72 hours a week. Rosters are managed by the Sisters of the Immaculata who can be contacted at: armidaleadoration@gmail.com

THANKS FROM FR DAMIEN

My very sincere thanks to everyone who dropped by on Wednesday afternoon. It was such an honour to receive your very gracious thanks and to be able to thank you for your support and care over these past 26 months. As I mentioned on Wednesday, these months have not been without their challenges, but the kindness of you, the very good people of God in Armidale has been more of a blessing to me that you will ever know. While I am sad to be leaving you all, I do so promising that I will continue to pray for you and I also ask for your prayers please. You are welcome to come and visit me in Manilla or Barraba any time. God bless, Fr D.

BLUE BUCKET APPEAL

The St Vincent de Paul Society will be holding a Blue Bucket Appeal to support the Vinnies Christmas Appeal at all Sunday Masses this weekend. We will collect cash and a machine will be available for electronic donations. All donations from the Masses will be spent locally to supply food hampers, vouchers, assistance with bills and other expenses to our needy in the Armidale Community over the Christmas period.

Envelopes at the back of the Cathedral can be used for those wishing to claim a tax deduction.



IMMACULATA MISSION SCHOOL 2026

What is it? A wonderful opportunity to grow in faith through daily Mass, Adoration and times of prayer, fantastic Catholic speakers (including international speakers Steve and Katey Norman from Renewal Ministries), share groups, fun activities, friendship and lots more.

What is the theme? "Our Father" - join us and go deeper in God's goodness and love!

When is it? 1-7 Jan for youth and adults (14 years and up); 1-5 Jan for married couples and families (includes children's ministry)

Where is it? Armidale, NSW

For costs, more information and to register visit: www.immaculata.org.au/ims

Registrations close 23rd December.



Welcome Home

Go our beautiful Cathedral of Saints Mary and Joseph this

CHRISTMAS

Carols in the Cathedral

Christmas Lessons & Carols

First Vespers of Christmas

Christmas Vigil Mass

Christmas Night Mass

Christmas Morning Mass

Christmas Day Mass

17 December, 6pm

20 December, 7.30pm

Our Lady of the Angels Chapel

24 December, 5pm

24 December 6pm

24 December, 10.30pm

25 December, 8.00am

10.00am

with a focus for Families and Children

Third Week of Advent: Joy

Friends, we've lit the candles of hope and peace.

Now, as we enter the third week of Advent, the theme shifts to **Joy**, often called Gaudete Sunday (Rejoice Sunday). This is the Sunday of gladness, as we realize Christmas is drawing near. We light the third candle, the pink one, to symbolize this rising joy, a joy that comes from God, not worldly things, the same joy Mary felt, the same gladness of the angels. This week, we anticipate the fulfillment of God's promises as we prepare for Jesus' arrival.



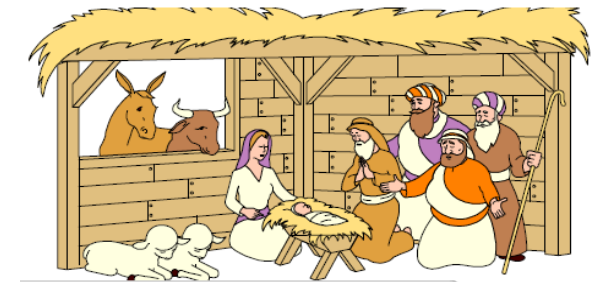
Let us pray: Gracious God, as we light the third candle of joy, fill our hearts with gladness. May we share this joy and hope with all people, especially those in need, as we await the coming of Jesus. Amen.

ORIGINS of the CHRISTMAS CRIB

St. Francis spent the Christmas of 1223 at Greccio in the valley of Rieti, Italy where he formulated the idea of building a crib. He said: "I would like to make a memorial of the Child Jesus who was born at Bethlehem and in some way behold with bodily eyes the hardships of His infant state, lying on hay in a manger with the ox and ass standing by."

Accordingly a "crib" was set up at the hermitage, and the peasants crowded into Midnight Mass, at which St.

Francis served as Deacon and preached on the mystery of Christmas. From this time on the custom of crib-making to express the Christian sentiments of Bethlehem grew in popularity.



Who will YOU invite to Christmas Mass this year ?

LOOK UP this fascinating website
www.bethlehemstar.net

ADVENT REFLECTION GROUP

With Sem. Allem Alba

On the Joyful Mysteries

Thursdays of December

10:00am Morning Tea

10:30am Rosary

11:00am Reflection

12:00pm Mass

All Welcome!

For registration and/or expression of interest, please contact Tina.