

LITURGY THIS WEEK

CHRISTMAS TIME

MONDAY 29 DEC – 5th day in the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

07:00 AM Cathedral Mass

12:00 NN Cathedral Mass

TUESDAY 30 DEC – 6th day in the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

07:00 AM Cathedral Mass

12:00 NN Cathedral Mass

WEDNESDAY 31 DEC – 7th day in the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

07:00 AM Cathedral Mass

09:15 AM Cathedral Mass

12:00 NN Cathedral Mass

JANUARY 2026

THURSDAY 01 JAN – MARY, the Holy MOTHER OF GOD

07:00 AM Cathedral Mass

12:00 NN Cathedral Mass

FRIDAY 02 JAN – Sts Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen, bishops, doctors

09:15 AM Cathedral Mass

05:30 PM Cathedral Mass

SATURDAY 03 JAN – Ssaturday before the Epiphany

09:00 AM Cathedral Mass

06:00 PM Cathedral Mass

SUNDAY 04 JAN – The EPIPHANY of the LORD

08:00 AM Cathedral Mass

10:00 AM Cathedral Mass

11:00 AM Solemn Mass with Choir (Latin parts)

04:30 PM Solemn Vespers & Benediction

05:30 PM Cathedral Mass

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

28 DECEMBER, THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH					
	6PM	8AM	10AM	11AM	5:30PM
Welcomer	W Clark	M Barry	T Rimpici	APike	Chin
Reader 1	C Doherty	B Mackson	A Dinh	M Van Gend	P Turley
Reader 2	A May	F Miron	K Frazier		R Camilleri
PoF	J Carson	N Ramazani	M Suluma		J Maher
ExMin	K McMahon	D Miron	B Robinson		D Roff

4 JANUARY, THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD					
	6PM	8AM	10AM	11AM	5:30PM
Welcomer	T Rice	Ana G	T Rimpici	APike	Steller
Reader 1	P Boston	L Quast	I Mittheu	M Van Gend	N Chin
Reader 2	K McMahon	C Stephen	J Turner		J Chin
PoF	D Fittler	J Toakley	P Hordern		D Roff
ExMin	T Dubois	D Miron	B Robinson		K Steller



IN YOUR CHARITY,PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR:

RECENTLY DECEASED: Gregory Gilbert, Colin Cox, Susan O'Brien (Inverell), Irene Bible, Gervasio Miking, Richard Sibraa, Maureen Bullen

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES: Greg Stephen, Daniel Rogers, Maria Haslam, Paul Burraston

SICK: Vicki Caldwell, 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.

Due to privacy legislation, names of the sick can only be published with permission of the person himself or immediate family members.

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)

Thank you for your support!

WEEKLY COLLECTIONS

	Actual	Target	Difference
1st Collection		\$2,114.00	
2nd Collection		\$6,350.00	

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.

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

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH (A/2) 28TH DECEMBER 2025

FIRST READINGEcclesiasticus 3:2-6,12-14

The Lord honours the father in his children, and upholds the rights of a mother over her sons. Whoever respects his father is atoning for his sins, he who honours his mother is like someone amassing a fortune.

Whoever respects his father will be happy with children of his own, he shall be heard on the day when he prays. Long life comes to him who honours his father, he who sets his mother at ease is showing obedience to the Lord.

My son, support your father in his old age, do not grieve him during his life. Even if his mind should fail, show him sympathy, do not despise him in your health and strength; for kindness to a father shall not be forgotten but will serve as reparation for your sins.

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALMPsalm 127(128):1-5

R: Happy are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways! By the labour of your hands you shall eat. You will be happy and prosper. *R:*

Your wife will be like a fruitful vine in the heart of your house; your children like shoots of the olive, around your table. *R:*

Indeed thus shall be blessed the man who fears the Lord. May the Lord bless you from Zion all the days of your life! *R:*

SECOND READINGColossians 3:12-21

You are God's chosen race, his saints; he loves you, and you should be clothed in sincere compassion, in kindness and humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive each other as soon as a quarrel begins. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same. Over all these clothes, to keep them together and complete them, put on love. And may the

peace of Christ reign in your hearts, because it is for this that you were called together as parts of one body. Always be thankful.

Let the message of Christ, in all its richness, find a home with you. Teach each other, and advise each other, in all wisdom. With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms and hymns and inspired songs to God; and never say or do anything except in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Wives, give way to your husbands, as you should in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and treat them with gentleness. Children, be obedient to your parents always, because that is what will please the Lord. Parents, never drive your children to resentment or you will make them feel frustrated.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATIONCol 3:15a,16a

Alleluia, alleluia!
May the peace of Christ rule in our hearts, and the fullness of his message live within you. Alleluia!

GOSPELMatthew 2:13-15,19-23

After the wise men had left, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother with you, and escape into Egypt, and stay there until I tell you, because Herod intends to search for the child and do away with him.' So Joseph got up and, taking the child and his mother with him, left that night for Egypt, where he stayed until Herod was dead. This was to fulfil what the Lord had spoken through the prophet:

I called my son out of Egypt.

After Herod's death, the angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother with you and go back to the land of Israel, for those who wanted to kill the child are dead.' So Joseph got up and, taking the child and his mother with him, went back to the land of Israel. But when he learnt that Archelaus had succeeded his father Herod as ruler of Judaea he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he left for the region of Galilee. There he settled in a town called Nazareth. In this way the words spoken through the prophets were to be fulfilled:

'He will be called a Nazarene.'

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

NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank You for the Christmas Dues!

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.

ROSTERS | As many people are away during January, including the Parish Secretary, please help out when needed.

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 the Parish Office 67722218.

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

The Parish Adoration Program will be take a break from: Reposition of the Blessed Sacrament on Wednesday 24 December at 3pm through to Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on Monday 9 February at 8am.

CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD UPDATE AND MORE HELPERS NEEDED

During 2025 we have been blessed to be able to run three groups of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS) – two sessions for the 3-6 yr olds and one session for the 6-9 yr olds. Next year we hope to start an additional session for the 9-12 yr olds. If you would like your child to start attending CGS in 2026, please register your interest with Monica van Gend on 0431 385 524 (we have a waitlist for the 3-6 yr olds).

Also, we are in need of 2 more adult helpers for our sessions in 2026. All that is required is 1.5 hrs a week (or fortnight) and a WWCC, we will provide training. Please contact Janine Turner on 0416 767 866 if you are able to offer any help.

THE HOLY FAMILY & FAMILIES

CCC 2207 The family is the original cell of social life. It is the natural society in which husband and wife are called to give themselves in love and in the gift of life. Authority, stability, and a life of relationships within the family constitute the foundations for freedom, security, and fraternity within society.

CCC 2215 Respect for parents derives from gratitude toward those who, by the gift of life, their love and their work, have brought their children into the world and enabled them to grow in stature, wisdom, and grace.



ALL THE BEST FOR 2026 !

And it will be the BEST if we keep our resolutions: we need to make at least two -

- ***One for the Body*** - eat better, exercise daily, smile more often, drink less ...
- ***One for the Soul*** - pray the Rosary, go to daily Mass, Benediction, Confession.

MARY, MOTHER OF GOD January 1st



There are FOUR Christian doctrines about Mary the Mother of Jesus:

1. **Mary is ever Virgin;**
2. **Mary is the Mother of God;**
3. **Immaculate Conception of Mary;**
4. **Assumption of Mary into Heaven.**

On the first day of the year, New Year's Day, we celebrate the Solemnity of Mary as the Mother of God. Of all the teachings concerning Our Lady this one, that she is the Mother of God, is primary and fundamental to the others. It was because she was chosen to be the Mother of Jesus, truly God and truly Man, that Mary was conceived without original sin; and that she remained a virgin while the Holy Spirit overshadowed her with a miraculous conception; and that she was assumed into heaven. The belief that Mary is the Mother of the Lord God is based on the earliest teachings [original Greek term was Theotokos = God bearer] and is located in the Bible when Elizabeth greets Mary as the “Mother of my Lord” Luke 1:43.

Some people, however, think that Mother of God asserts that a creature is greater than God, the Creator. Mary is the Mother NOT of God the Father, but of God's Son, Jesus, who took His humanity from her. To claim that Mary is ONLY the mother of Jesus is to imply that Jesus is not divine.

Pope Francis | 29.12.13 | Angelus, St Peter's Square | Feast of the Holy Family of Nazareth Year A

Matthew 2: 13-15, 19-23

Dear Brothers and Sisters, Good morning!
On this first Sunday after Christmas, the Liturgy invites us to celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family of Nazareth. Indeed, every nativity scene shows us Jesus together with Our Lady and St Joseph in the grotto of Bethlehem. God wanted to be born into a human family, he wanted to have a mother and father like us. And today the Gospel presents the Holy Family to us on the sorrowful road of exile, seeking refuge in Egypt. Joseph, Mary and Jesus experienced the tragic fate of refugees, which is marked by fear, uncertainty and unease (cf. Mt 2:13-15; 19-23). Unfortunately, in our own time, millions of families can identify with this sad reality. Almost every day the television and papers carry news of refugees fleeing from hunger, war and other grave dangers, in search of security and a dignified life for themselves and for their families.

In distant lands, even when they find work, refugees and immigrants do not always find a true welcome, respect and appreciation for the values they bring. Their legitimate expectations collide with complex and difficult situations which at times seem insurmountable. Therefore, as we fix our gaze on the Holy Family of Nazareth as they were forced to become refugees, let us think of the tragedy of those migrants and refugees who are victims of rejection and exploitation, who are victims of human trafficking and of slave labour. But let us also think of the other “exiles”: I would call them “hidden exiles”, those exiles who can be found within their own families: the elderly for example who are sometimes treated as a burdensome presence. I often think that a good indicator for knowing how a family is doing is seeing how their children and elderly are treated. Jesus wanted to belong to a family who experienced these hardships, so that no one would feel excluded from the loving closeness of God. The flight into Egypt caused by Herod's threat shows us that God is present where man is in danger, where man is suffering, where he is fleeing, where he experiences rejection and abandonment; but God is also present where man dreams, where he hopes to return in freedom to his homeland and plans and chooses life for his family and dignity for himself and his loved ones.

Today our gaze on the Holy Family lets us also be drawn into the simplicity of the life they led in Nazareth. It is an example that does our families great good, helping them increasingly to become communities of love and reconciliation, in which tenderness, mutual help, and mutual forgiveness is experienced. Let us remember the three key words for living in peace and joy in the family: “may I”, “thank you” and “sorry”. In our family, when we are not intrusive and ask “may I”, in our family when we are not selfish and learn to say “thank you”, and when in a family one realizes he has done something wrong and knows how to say “sorry”, in that family there is peace and joy. Let us remember these three words. Can we repeat them all together: may I, thank you, sorry. (Everyone: may I, thank you, sorry!) I would also like to encourage families to become aware of the

importance they have in the Church and in society. The proclamation of the Gospel, in fact, first passes through the family to reach the various spheres of daily life. Let us fervently call upon Mary Most Holy, the Mother of Jesus and our Mother, and St Joseph her spouse. Let us ask them to enlighten, comfort and guide every family in the world, so that they may fulfil with dignity and peace the mission which God has entrusted to them.



2 January

Saints Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors—Memorial

St. Basil: 329–379

**Patron Saint of monks, hospital administrators,
reformers, and Russia**

St. Gregory: c. 329–389

Patron Saint of harvests and poets

Saints Basil and Gregory were actually life-long friends, first as university students in Athens and later as monks. They were both important teachers of the Eastern Church, and both came from Cappadocia in what is now Central Turkey, and hence are known as ‘Theologians of the Cappadocian School’.

Basil was born in 330 AD into a family which would later produce a number of canonised saints. Following his studies, he became a monk and a hermit before he was consecrated Bishop of Caesarea (Kayseri today) in his native Cappadocia. He was not only a theologian, but a very pastoral bishop and deeply concerned with the plight of the poor. He produced a monastic rule, known as the ‘Basilian Rule’, which is still followed everywhere by monks and nuns of the Eastern Church. He died in 379 at the relatively early age of 49.

Gregory was born in the town of Nazianzus, also in Cappadocia and also about 330 AD. He was the son of a bishop and, like Basil, joined the monastic life. He was ordained a priest relatively late in life. He was first made bishop of an out of the way town called Sasima, but later was asked to go to Constantinople to restore harmony to the community there following the divisions of the Arian heresy. In this, he was very successful. In later life, Gregory retired to the (for him) more congenial life of study and prayer in a rural setting and subsequently died in 389 AD.

Both Basil and Gregory were deeply involved in dealing with the Arian heresy, named after Arius, a monk from Alexandria in northern Egypt, who denied the divinity of Jesus Christ. It was Basil's teaching in particular which influenced the Council of Constantinople (381 AD) in revising the Nicæan Creed of 325 AD into the form we now use on Sundays and feasts.