

LITURGY THIS WEEK

OLA Chapel, Cnr Jessie & Barney Sts, Armidale.

ORDINARY TIME

MONDAY 12 JAN – Weekday , Ordinary Time 1

07:00 AM Cathedral Mass

09:15 AM Cathedral Mass

12:00 NN Cathedral Mass

TUESDAY 13 JAN – Weekday , Ordinary Time 1

07:00 AM Cathedral Mass

12:00 NN Cathedral Mass

WEDNESDAY 14 JAN – Weekday , Ordinary Time 1

07:00 AM Cathedral Mass

09:15 AM Cathedral Mass

12:00 NN Cathedral Mass

THURSDAY 15 JAN – Weekday , Ordinary Time 1

07:00 AM Cathedral Mass

12:00 NN Cathedral Mass

FRIDAY 16 JAN – Weekday , Ordinary Time 1

07:00 AM Cathedral Mass

09:15 AM Cathedral Mass

05:30 PM Cathedral Mass

SATURDAY 17 JAN – St Anthony, abbot

08:00 AM OLA Chapel TLM (Traditional Latin Mass)

09:00 AM Cathedral Mass

06:00 PM Cathedral Mass

SUNDAY 18 JAN – 2ND SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

08:00 AM Cathedral Mass

10:00 AM Cathedral Mass Pro populo

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

04:30 PM Solemn Vespers & Benediction

05:30 PM Cathedral Mass Pro populo

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

IN YOUR CHARITY,PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR:

RECENTLY DECEASED: Kathleen Beresford, Tom Polak (Geelong)
DEATH ANNIVERSARIES: Bill Crocker, Kath Nixon, Peter Robertson, James Melville, Ian Walford, Cecil Davis
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, Carmen & John Gallagher, Bob Watson, Ferg Watson, Raymond Watson, Robert Watson, Maureen Campbell, Ann Haydon, Irene & Leigh Owen, Robyn Keogh, Robert Markelj, 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)

New to the Parish?

Welcome to Armidale Cathedral Parish!

We warmly welcome you to our parish family and invite you connect with us by providing your contact details. You can do this by emailing the Parish Office at : armidaleparish@armidale.catholic.org.au and requesting a parish registration form.

Planned Giving Program

It’s an easy way for you to give regularly to the work of the Catholic Church within your Parish. The contributions from this programme are used to helps us achieve our pastoral mission and meet our ongoing expenses.

You can register for the Planned Giving Program when you complete your parish registration form. Registering for Planned Giving allows our Finance Committee to plan for expenditure within the parish including all expenses associated with maintaining & repairing buildings and grounds, administration costs, church supplies and pastoral resources. The different ways you can give to the planned giving are with envelopes or by direct deposit either via online banking or through ADIG.

If you are currently giving by direct deposit through online banking and are not registered, please consider doing so.

11 JANUARY, THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD					
	6PM	8AM	10AM	11AM	5:30PM
Welcomer	KMcMahon	D McGrath	T Rimpici	APike	Turley
Reader 1	W Clark	A Rogers	A Dinh	MVanGend	J Roff
Reader 2	C Doherty	B Mackson	K Frazier		P Turley
PoF	A May	F Miron	M Suluma		R Camilleri
ExMin	C Khan	D Miron	B Robinson		D Roff
18 JANUARY, 2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME					
	6PM	8AM	10AM	11AM	5:30PM
Welcomer	W Clark	J Toakley	T Rimpici	APike	Chin
Reader 1	J Carson	N Ramazani	R Menz	MVanGend	J Maher
Reader 2	P Boston	L Quast	K Frazier		N Chin
PoF	D Fittler	C Stephen	P Hordern		J Chin
ExMin	KMcMahon	D Miron	B Robinson		K Steller

WEEKLY COLLECTIONS			
	Actual	Target	Difference
1st Collection	\$2,695.00	\$2,114.00	\$581.00
2nd Collection	\$5,456.00	\$6,350.00	-\$894.00

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

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.smjcathedral.org.au

Administrator: Fr Paul Chandler | frpchandler@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

Parish Finance Council Chair: Mrs Fiona Miron

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD (A/2) 11TH JANUARY 2026

FIRST READING

Isaiah 42:1-4,6-7

now come to realise’ he said ‘is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him.

‘It is true, God sent his word to the people of Israel, and it was to them that the good news of peace was brought by Jesus Christ – but Jesus Christ is Lord of all men. You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil.’

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

cf Mark 9:8

Alleluia, alleluia!

The heavens were opened and the Father’s voice was heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Matthew 3:13-17

Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptised by John. John tried to dissuade him. ‘It is I who need baptism from you’ he said ‘and yet you come to me!’ But Jesus replied, ‘Leave it like this for the time being; it is fitting that we should, in this way, do all that righteousness demands.’ At this, John gave in to him.

As soon as Jesus was baptised he came up from the water, and suddenly the heavens opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming down on him. And a voice spoke from heaven, ‘This is my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on him.’

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

PLEASE NOTE: The Parish Secretary is on leave from Monday 12 January until Tuesday 27 January. During this period the Parish Office hours will be 9am to 1pm

Thus says the Lord:

Here is my servant whom I uphold,
my chosen one in whom my soul delights.
I have endowed him with my spirit
that he may bring true justice to the nations.

He does not cry out or shout aloud,
or make his voice heard in the streets.
He does not break the crushed reed,
nor quench the wavering flame.

Faithfully he brings true justice;
he will neither waver, nor be crushed
until true justice is established on earth,
for the islands are awaiting his law.

I, the Lord, have called you to serve the cause of right;
I have taken you by the hand and formed you;
I have appointed you as covenant of the people and light of the nations,

to open the eyes of the blind,
to free captives from prison,
and those who live in darkness from the dungeon.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Psalm 28(29):1-4,9-10

R: The Lord will bless his people with peace.

O give the Lord, you sons of God,
give the Lord glory and power;
give the Lord the glory of his name.
Adore the Lord in his holy court. **R:**

The Lord’s voice resounding on the waters,
the Lord on the immensity of waters;
the voice of the Lord, full of power,
the voice of the Lord, full of splendour. **R:**

The God of glory thunders.
In his temple they all cry: ‘Glory!’
The Lord sat enthroned over the flood;
the Lord sits as king for ever. **R:**

SECOND READING Acts 10:34-38

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: ‘The truth I have

NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 7th February 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.

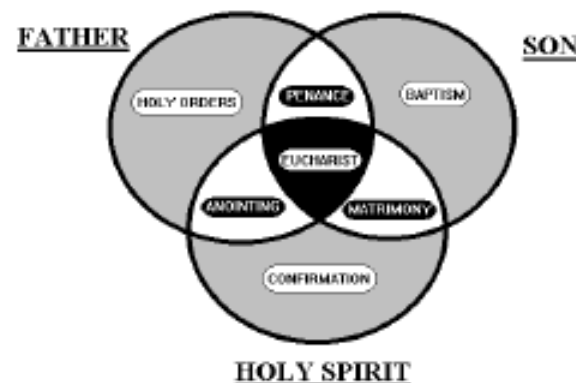


BAPTISM of the LORD

Christ stepped into the Jordan River, through which the Israelites had come into the Promised Land and was baptized by St John, cleansing the waters for all time, and taking on himself, that which he commanded to others.

This baptism began his testament and swung slowly shut the gates of the Old Testament. It was the last gesture of reverence and submission to the giants of the Old Law, the greatest of whom was John the Baptist, his instrument in introducing the New.

Jesus' public life begins with his symbolic baptism. The Holy Spirit, in the form of a dove, comes upon Jesus and a voice from heaven proclaims, "This is my beloved Son." As John poured the water, Christ, in a vision peculiar to himself, saw the heavens open. For this was the beginning of the battering down of the doors locked since the sin of Adam. He, the Son, stood in the Jordan; the Father's voice declared that this was his beloved Son; and the Holy Spirit hovered over him in the form of a dove. He himself later instructed his apostles to baptize all men **in the name** of the **Father**, the **Son**, and the **Holy Spirit**.



NECESSITY OF BAPTISM

CCC 1257 The Lord himself affirms that Baptism is necessary for salvation. He also commands his disciples to proclaim the Gospel to all nations and to baptize them. Baptism is necessary for salvation for those to whom the Gospel has been proclaimed and who have had the possibility of asking for this sacrament. The Church does not know of any means other than Baptism that assures entry into eternal beatitude; this is why she takes care not to neglect the mission she has received from the Lord to see that all who can be baptized are "reborn of water and the Spirit." *God has bound salvation to the sacrament of Baptism, but he himself is not bound by his sacraments. E.g. baptism by blood - babes at Bethlehem.*

1258 The Church has always held the firm conviction that those who suffer death for the sake of the faith without having received Baptism are baptized by their death for and with Christ. This Baptism of blood, like the desire for Baptism, brings about the fruits of Baptism without being a sacrament. So there are three forms of Baptism.



- ☐ Baptism Sacramental
- ☐ Baptism of Blood
- ☐ Baptism of Desire

✓ **Why** baptize? - so as to remove original sin and to receive sanctifying grace and become God's child with a right to heaven.

✓ **Where:** in case of emergency anywhere, otherwise in a Church with a font.

✓ **When** to baptize? - as soon as possible.

✓ **How** to baptize? - book in to see the parish priest. In emergency one may pour water while saying: I baptize you in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.



ST ANTHONY the ABBOT

Feastday: 17 January

Two Greek philosophers ventured out into the Egyptian [desert](#) to the mountain where Anthony lived. When they got there, Anthony asked them why they had come to talk to such a foolish man? He had [reason](#) to say that -- they saw before them a [man](#) who wore a skin, who refused to bathe, who lived on bread and water. They were Greek, the world's most admired civilization, and Anthony was Egyptian,

a member of a conquered nation. They were philosophers, educated in languages and rhetoric. Anthony had not even attended school as a boy and he needed an interpreter to speak to them. In their eyes, he would have seemed very foolish.

But the Greek philosophers had heard the stories of Anthony. They had heard how disciples came from all over to learn from him, how his [intercession](#) had brought about [miraculous](#) healings, how his words comforted the suffering. They assured him that they had come to him because he was a wise man.

Anthony guessed what they wanted. They lived by words and arguments. They wanted to hear his words and his arguments on the [truth](#) of [Christianity](#) and the value of ascetism. But he refused to play their game. He told them that if they truly thought him wise, "If you think me wise, become what I am, for we ought to imitate the good. Had I gone to you, I should have imitated you, but, since you have come to me, become what I am, for I am a Christian." Anthony's whole [life](#) was not one of observing, but of becoming. When his [parents](#) died when he was eighteen or twenty he inherited their three hundred acres of land and the responsibility for a young sister. One day in church, he heard read [Matthew](#) 19:21: "If you wish to be perfect, go, sell your possessions, and give the money to the poor, and you [will](#) have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." Not content to sit still and meditate and reflect on Jesus' words he walked out the door of the church [right](#) away and gave away all his [property](#) except what he and his sister needed to live on. On hearing [Matthew](#) 6:34, "So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow [will](#) bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today," he gave away everything else, entrusted his sister to a convent, and went outside the village to live a [life](#) of praying, fasting, and manual labor. It wasn't enough to listen to words, he had to become what [Jesus](#) said.

Every [time](#) he heard of a holy [person](#) he would travel to see that person. But he wasn't looking for words of wisdom, he was looking to become. So if he admired a person's constancy in [prayer](#) or courtesy or patience, he would imitate it. Then he would return home.

Anthony went on to tell the Greek philosophers that their arguments would never be as strong as faith. He pointed out that all rhetoric, all arguments, no [matter](#) how complex, how well-founded, were created by human beings. But [faith](#) was created by God. If they wanted to follow the greatest ideal, they should follow their faith.

Taken from:

https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=23