

LITURGY THIS WEEK

OLA Chapel, Cnr Jessie & Barney Sts, Armidale.

ORDINARY TIME

MONDAY 16 FEB – Weekday, Ordinary Time 6

07:00 AM Cathedral Mass
09:15 AM Cathedral Mass
12:00 NN Cathedral Mass

TUESDAY 17 FEB – Weekday, Ordinary Time 6

07:00 AM Cathedral Mass
12:00 NN Cathedral Mass +Monica Hinder

LENT

WEDNESDAY 18 FEB – ASH WEDNESDAY

07:00 AM Cathedral Mass
09:15 AM Cathedral Mass
09:15 AM DLS Chapel Mass +Heighton Williams
12:00 NN Cathedral Mass +Jill Ferguson
05:30 PM Cathedral Mass

THURSDAY 19 FEB – Thursday after Ash Wednesday

07:00 AM Cathedral Mass
12:00 NN Cathedral Mass

FRIDAY 20 FEB – Friday after Ash Wednesday

07:00 AM Cathedral Mass
09:15 AM Cathedral Mass
05:30 PM Cathedral Mass +Dawn Hogan
06:00 PM Stations of the Cross

SATURDAY 21 FEB – Saturday after Ash Wednesday

08:00 AM OLA Chapel TLM (Traditional Latin Mass)
09:00 AM Cathedral Mass Private Intention
06:00 PM Cathedral Mass

SUNDAY 22 FEB – FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

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

WEEKLY COLLECTIONS

	Actual	Target	Difference
1st Collection	\$2,761.00	\$2,114.00	\$647.00 ☺
2nd Collection	\$5,500.00	\$6,350.00	-\$850.00 ☹

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!

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

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“Fool” he will answer for it before the Sanhedrin; and if a man calls him “Renegade” he will answer for it in hell fire. So then, if you are bringing your offering to the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar, go and be reconciled with your brother first, and then come back and present your offering. Come to terms with your opponent in good time while you are still on the way to the court with him, or he may hand you over to the judge and the judge to the officer, and you will be thrown into prison. I tell you solemnly, you will not get out till you have paid the last penny.

‘You have learnt how it was said: *You must not commit adultery.* But I say this to you: if a man looks at a woman lustfully, he has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye should cause you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; for it will do you less harm to lose one part of you than to have your whole body thrown into hell. And if your right hand should cause you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; for it will do you less harm to lose one part of you than to have your whole body go to hell.

‘It has also been said: *Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a writ of dismissal.* But I say this to you: everyone who divorces his wife, except for the case of fornication, makes her an adulteress; and anyone who marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

‘Again, you have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: *You must not break your oath, but must fulfil your oaths to the Lord.* But I say this to you: do not swear at all, either by heaven, since that is God’s throne; or by the earth, since that is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, since that is the city of the great king. Do not swear by your own head either, since you cannot turn a single hair white or black. All you need say is “Yes” if you mean yes, “No” if you mean no; anything more than this comes from the evil one.’

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

COMMUNION ANTIPHON Cf. Ps 77: 29-30

They ate and had their fill, and what they craved the Lord gave them; they were not disappointed in what they craved.

**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.

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: Rev Fr Paul Chandler PhD | frpchandler@armidale.catholic.org.au

Assistant Priest: Rev 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



**MONTH OF FEBRUARY - DEDICATED TO THE HOLY FAMILY
SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A/2) 15TH FEBRUARY 2026**

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON Cf. Ps 30: 3-4

Be my protector, O God,
a mighty stronghold to save me.
For you are my rock, my stronghold!
Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name.

FIRST READING Ecclesiasticus 15:16-21

If you wish, you can keep the commandments,
to behave faithfully is within your power.
He has set fire and water before you;
put out your hand to whichever you prefer.
Man has life and death before him;
whichever a man likes better will be given him.
For vast is the wisdom of the Lord;
he is almighty and all-seeing.
His eyes are on those who fear him,
he notes every action of man.
He never commanded anyone to be godless,
he has given no one permission to sin.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Psalm 118(119):1-2,4-5,17-18,33-34

R: Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord!

They are happy whose life is blameless,
who follow God's law!
They are happy who do his will,
seeking him with all their hearts. **R:**

You have laid down your precepts
to be obeyed with care.
May my footsteps be firm
to obey your statutes. **R:**

Bless your servant and I shall live
and obey your word.
Open my eyes that I may see
the wonders of your law. **R:**

Teach me the demands of your statutes
and I will keep them to the end.
Train me to observe your law,
to keep it with my heart. **R:**

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 2:6-10

We have a wisdom to offer those who have reached maturity: not a philosophy of our age, it is true, still less of the masters of our age, which are coming to their end. The hidden wisdom of God which we teach in our mysteries is the wisdom that God predestined to be for our glory before the ages began. It is a wisdom that none of the masters of this age have ever known, or they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory; we teach what scripture calls: *the things that no eye has seen and no ear has heard, things beyond the mind of man, all that God has prepared for those who love him.*

These are the very things that God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit reaches the depths of everything, even the depths of God.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION cf Matthew 11:25

Alleluia, alleluia!
Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth;
you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL Matthew 5:17-37

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘Do not imagine that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets. I have come not to abolish but to complete them. I tell you solemnly, till heaven and earth disappear, not one dot, not one little stroke, shall disappear from the Law until its purpose is achieved. Therefore, the man who infringes even one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be considered the least in the kingdom of heaven; but the man who keeps them and teaches them will be considered great in the kingdom of heaven.

‘For I tell you, if your virtue goes no deeper than that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven.

‘You have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: *You must not kill;* and if anyone does kill he must answer for it before the court. But I say this to you: anyone who is angry with his brother will answer for it before the court; if a man calls his brother

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NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

STUDY GROUP with Bishop Peter Murphy on the Compendium of the Catholic Church, Wednesday evenings, 7:30 - 8:30 pm in the Ursula Room (Chancery Building), commencing Wednesday 18 February. Please contact the Chancery Office for any enquiries on 67718700.

FIVE FIRST SATURDAYS DEVOTION

Marian devotion on the first Saturday of each month. Next gathering **Saturday 7th March at 9.30am**, immediately after the 9am Mass in the Cathedral.

FISHERS OF MEN PRAYER GROUP | meets in the Parish Meeting Room, Mondays 5:30 - 7:00 pm. For enquiries contact Nirmal on 0430871064.

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

"Every Holy Hour we make so pleases the Heart of Jesus that it will be recorded in Heaven and retold for all eternity" - St Mother Teresa



Come and Adore the Lord in Eucharistic Adoration!

When:

Monday - Friday 8:00am - 8:00pm,
Friday 8:00am- Saturday 8:00am (overnight)

Hours needing Committed Adorers:

Monday: 9am, 10am, 11am, 12pm, 2pm, 4pm
Tuesday: 9am, 10am, 11am, 12pm, 2pm, 3pm, 4pm
Wednesday: 10am, 11am, 12pm, 4pm
Thursday: 9am, 10am, 11am, 12pm, 2pm, 4pm
Friday: 9am, 10am, 11am, 3pm, 4pm, 7pm, 8pm, 11pm
Saturday: 2am, 3am, 4am, 5am

If you are unable to commit to a Holy Hour every week but are still interested in doing Adoration, we need *substitute Adorers* who are available to cover Adoration hours when Adorers are unable to attend their Adoration hours.

If you would like to commit to a Holy Hour each week or would like to be a Substitute Adorer, please contact the Armidale Adoration Team on armidaleadoration@gmail.com or 0459 089 778.

PARISH SYNODAL MEETING PREPARATION

On Monday, February 16th at 5pm in the meeting room of the Parish Centre members of the previous Interim PPC and those who recently nominated to Fr Paul will gather to plan the synodal meeting in the parish, scheduled for March 14th.

ALTAR GUILD OF ST ANNE

Introducing a guild of women in our parish, who wish to honour God and serve our parish, by caring for the sacred linens, mending and caring for the sacred vestments, and supplying other needs for the cathedral and OLA chapel, such as seasonal decorations. They meet fortnightly on a Wednesday at 12:30pm in the parish centre but attendance is not compulsory. If you would like to be a member of the guild and contribute to all or even one of the tasks of the Guild, please let the Parish Office know your contact information by telephone, email or in person. Then one of the members of the Guild will contact you so that you may contribute to this worthy work for the glory of God and the sacred liturgy.

SACRISTAN GUILD OF ST STEPHEN

Introducing a guild of men in our parish, who wish to honour God and serve our parish, by caring for the sanctuary, the sacristies, the sacred vessels, and the brassware in both the cathedral and OLA chapel. If you would like to be a member of the guild and contribute to all or even one of the tasks of the Guild, please let the Parish Office know your contact information by telephone, email or in person. Then one of the members of the Guild will contact you so that you may contribute to this worthy work for the glory of God and the sacred liturgy.

**Pastoral Letter for Lent - Bishop Peter Murphy
18 February 2026**

With Ash Wednesday, we begin our journey of Lent in 2026. This annual spiritual pilgrimage towards the Risen Lord at Easter consists of forty days. The number forty is in commemoration of the forty years God's people were in the desert before the promised land and the forty days that the Lord spent in the desert in preparation for his public ministry. We too, likewise, are in training, spiritual training in this penitential season of Lent.

As the Lord endured three temptations, for our sake, in order that we might know how to combat them, so we are all called to fortify our wills in three specific domains (all good things come in threes): prayer, fasting and works of charity or alms-giving.

1. Prayer. Every good relationship is based on communication. It is vital component of every personal relationship - a real connection needing to be made. Since Lent is a spiritual time of growth, as our first endeavour, we should desire to upgrade our communication with God. We can achieve that goal by attending daily Mass, praying the Stations of the Cross, the Divine Mercy Chaplet or daily Rosary. It is one way to 'knock at the door' of God's heart.

2. Fasting / Abstinence: On Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, the entire Church abstains from meat (according to our age) and fasts from some food. But throughout the whole of Lent some form of sacrifice or self-denial is recommended. Why? It is a form of penance and detaches us from any inordinate pleasures we might have. In addition, it strengthens our will power against addictive tendencies. This Lent try going beyond giving up chocolate! Some people try to give up social media. Is it not true that we all could be less attached to technology this Lent!

3. Alms-giving. It is an old word that means to give unto those in need. So we promote our Project Compassion endeavours and works of mercy to those who are doing it tough. But true charity extends beyond material goods; it encompasses acts of kindness. Perhaps, we could give up some of our time and visit someone who is alone in a nursing home or recently widowed. Whatever, we do, let us become instruments of God's love by bringing hope and healing to a broken world — and acting with kindness, forgiveness and reconciliation.

Let us conclude, by asking Saint Francis on this 800th anniversary of his transition into eternity to inspire us in these three domains: something for God, something for self and something for others. Each of these domains, in turn, will increase our faith, hope and love.

*O Lord make me an instrument of your peace;
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.*

*O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.*

GOOD, BETTER, BEST

All too often Good Enough is where the weak hearts stop.

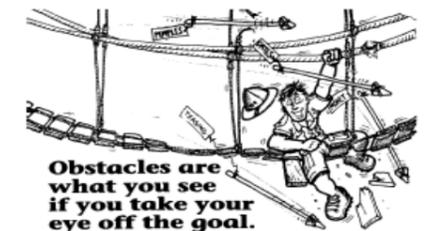
It takes the very best in each for rising to the top.

Enough implies just getting by And good falls short of best.

So good enough is average stuff that seldom meets the test.

Remember that the choice is yours and you alone choose either.

But those who win are those that know that good enough is neither.



IN YOUR CHARITY, PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR:

RECENTLY DECEASED: Bernie Callinan (Newcastle), Monica Hinder, Jake Wicks, Michael Zhu (Shanghai, China), Will Pearson, Emiliano Comanda (Fr Eli's father), Robyn Barraclough, Beulah Adams.

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES: Heighton Williams, Jill Ferguson, Eva Townsend, Leonard McKenzie,

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 Markeljic, Don Armatage, Molly Burke, Melissa Gamblen, Hannah Whitton, Tom Britt, Danny Jones, 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.

15 FEBRUARY, 6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

	6PM	8AM	10AM	11AM	5:30PM
Welcomer	T Rice	D McGrath	T Rimpici	APike	Turley
Reader 1	K McMahan	B Mackson	K Frazier	MVan Gend	RCamilleri
Reader 2	D Fittler	F Miron	R Menz		J Maher
PoF	W Clark	N Ramazani	A Dinh		N Chin
ExMin	T Dubois	D Miron	B Robinson		D Roff

22 FEBRUARY, FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

	6PM	8AM	10AM	11AM	5:30PM
Welcomer	W Clark	J Toakley	T Rimpici	APike	Chin
Reader 1	C Doherty	L Quast	R Menz	MVanGend	J Chin
Reader 2	A May	C Stephen	K Frazier		D Roff
PoF	J Carson	J Toakley	P Hordern		J Roff
ExMin	C Khan	D Miron	B Robinson		D Roff

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Beginning of the first Friday of Lent, February 20th, the Way of the Cross will be prayed at **6pm**, following the 5:30pm Mass.

A *plenary indulgence* (the remission in the eyes of God of all the temporal punishment due to sins that have been forgiven in the Sacrament of Confession) is granted to those who devoutly make the Stations of the Cross. This devout exercise helps renew our remembrance of the sufferings that our Divine Redeemer underwent on His journey to Calvary.

The conditions for gaining the *plenary indulgence* are: a prayer for the Pope's intentions, reception of Holy Communion, and a sacramental confession.

These conditions may be carried out several days before or after the Stations of the Cross, but it is fitting that the Holy Communion and prayer for the Pope's intentions take place on the day. There must be an exclusion of attachment to sin.

A *plenary indulgence* may be gained for oneself or a soul in Purgatory, but not for another living person.

ADJUSTED SCHEDULE FOR WEEKDAY MASS AND CONFESSION

Thank you to those who provided feedback about the current weekday Mass schedule and the modest proposals for adjustment.

From the 1st Sunday of Lent, February 22nd, please note the new schedules:

Weekday Mass:

Monday to Friday 7am
Monday to Thursday 12noon
Friday 5:30pm
Wednesday & Friday 9:15am (only in school terms)

Confessions:

30mins before ALL Masses and
Friday 4:45pm-5:15pm
Saturday 9:45am-10:15am
Saturday 5pm-5:45pm