

LITURGY THIS WEEK

OLA Chapel, Cnr Jessie & Barney Sts, Armidale.

DLS Chapel, O'Connor Catholic College, Kirkwood St

Please note changes to the schedule: No 9:15am Mass on Mondays & there are confessions 30 mins before each Mass as well as the Friday & Saturday Confessions.

LENT

MONDAY 23 FEB – Monday of the First Week of Lent

07:00 AM Cathedral Mass

12:00 NN Cathedral Mass

TUESDAY 24 FEB – Tuesday of the First Week of Lent

07:00 AM Cathedral Mass

12:00 NN Cathedral Mass

WEDNESDAY 25 FEB – Wednesday of the First Week of Lent

07:00 AM Cathedral Mass

09:15 AM DLS Chapel Mass

12:00 NN Cathedral Mass

THURSDAY 26 FEB – Thursday of the First Week of Lent

07:00 AM Cathedral Mass

12:00 NN Cathedral Mass

05:00 PM Cathedral Mass for St Albert's commencement

FRIDAY 27 FEB – Friday of the First Week of Lent

07:00 AM Cathedral Mass

09:15 AM Cathedral Mass

05:30 PM Cathedral Mass

06:00 PM Stations of the Cross

SATURDAY 28 FEB – Saturday of the First Week of Lent

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

09:00 AM Cathedral Mass

06:00 PM Cathedral Mass

SUNDAY 29 FEB – SECOND 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)

30 MINUTES BEFORE ALL MASSES (for 20 mins)

as well as

FRIDAY 04:45 – 05:15 PM

SATURDAY 09:45 – 10:15 AM &

05:00 – 05:45 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.

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GOSPEL

Matthew 4:1-11

Jesus was led by the Spirit out into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, after which he was very hungry, and the tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to turn into loaves.' But he replied, 'Scripture says:

Man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'

The devil then took him to the holy city and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. 'If you are the Son of God' he said 'throw yourself down; for scripture says:

He will put you in his angels' charge, and they will support you on their hands in case you hurt your foot against a stone.'

Jesus said to him, 'Scripture also says:

You must not put the Lord your God to the test.'

Next, taking him to a very high mountain, the devil showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. 'I will give you all these' he said, 'if you fall at my feet and worship me.' Then Jesus replied, 'Be off, Satan! For scripture says:

You must worship the Lord your God, and serve him alone.'

Then the devil left him, and angels appeared and looked after him.

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

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Mt 4: 4

One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.

WEEKLY COLLECTIONS

	Actual	Target	Difference
1st Collection	\$2,029.00	\$2,114.00	-\$85.00 ☹
2nd Collection	\$3,540.00	\$6,350.00	-\$2,810.00 ☹

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!

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

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT (A/2) 22ND FEBRUARY 2026

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Cf. Ps 90: 15-16

When he calls on me, I will answer him;
I will deliver him and give him glory,
I will grant him length of days.

FIRST READING

Genesis 2:7-9,3:1-7

The Lord God fashioned man of dust from the soil. Then he breathed into his nostrils a breath of life, and thus man became a living being.

The Lord God planted a garden in Eden which is in the east, and there he put the man he had fashioned. The Lord God caused to spring up from the soil every kind of tree, enticing to look at and good to eat, with the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the middle of the garden.

Now the serpent was the most subtle of all the wild beasts that the Lord God had made. It asked the woman, 'Did God really say you were not to eat from any of the trees in the garden?' The woman answered the serpent, 'We may eat the fruit of the trees in the garden. But of the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden God said, "You must not eat it, nor touch it, under pain of death."' Then the serpent said to the woman, 'No! You will not die! God knows in fact that on the day you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods, knowing good and evil.' The woman saw that the tree was good to eat and pleasing to the eye, and that it was desirable for the knowledge that it could give. So she took some of its fruit and ate it. She gave some also to her husband who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened and they realised that they were naked. So they sewed fig-leaves together to make themselves loin-cloths.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 50(51):3-6,12-14,17

R: Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.

In your compassion blot out my offence.

O wash me more and more from my guilt

and cleanse me from my sin. **R:**

My offences truly I know them;

my sin is always before me

Against you, you alone, have I sinned;

what is evil in your sight I have done. **R:**

A pure heart create for me, O God,
put a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence,
nor deprive me of your holy spirit. **R:**

Give me again the joy of your help;
with a spirit of fervour sustain me,
O Lord, open my lips
and my mouth shall declare your praise. **R:**

SECOND READING

Romans 5:12-19

Sin entered the world through one man, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned. Sin existed in the world long before the Law was given. There was no law and so no one could be accused of the sin of 'law-breaking', yet death reigned over all from Adam to Moses, even though their sin, unlike that of Adam, was not a matter of breaking a law.

Adam prefigured the One to come, but the gift itself considerably outweighed the fall. If it is certain that through one man's fall so many died, it is even more certain that divine grace, coming through the one man, Jesus Christ, came to so many as an abundant free gift. The results of the gift also outweigh the results of one man's sin: for after one single fall came judgement with a verdict of condemnation, now after many falls comes grace with its verdict of acquittal. If it is certain that death reigned over everyone as the consequence of one man's fall, it is even more certain that one man, Jesus Christ, will cause everyone to reign in life who receives the free gift that he does not deserve, of being made righteous. Again, as one man's fall brought condemnation on everyone, so the good act of one man brings everyone life and makes them justified. As by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience many will be made righteous.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Matthew 4:4

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!
No one lives on bread alone,
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Continued on back page

NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

STATIONS OF THE CROSS | Fridays in lent, the Way of the Cross will be prayed at **6pm**, following the 5:30pm Mass.

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).

ALTAR GUILD OF ST ANNE | 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. Contact the Parish Office for enquiries.

SACRISTAN GUILD OF ST STEPHEN | 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. Contact the Parish Office for enquiries.

IN YOUR CHARITY, PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR:

RECENTLY DECEASED: Bernie Callinan (Newcastle), Monica Hinder, Jake Wicks, Michael Zhu (Shanghai, China),

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES: Jean Latham, Patrick Kennedy, Desmond O'Brien, Beatrice Armstrong, Anne Simpson, Fr Mark Hagan

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 Markeljc, Don Armatage, Molly Burke, Melissa Gamblen, Hannah Whitton, Tom Britt, Danny Jones, , Aeron Ryan, Blake Ross, Gemma Milliken, Frederic Kelmeyer, Silvia & Ralph Bowles.

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
28 FEBRUARY, SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT					
	6PM	8AM	10AM	11AM	5:30PM
Welcomer	T Rice	P Stier	T Rimpici	APike	Steller
Reader 1	P Boston	A Rogers	I Mittheu	MVanGend	P Turley
Reader 2	D Fittler	B Mackson	J Turner		R Camilleri
PoF	W Clark	F Miron	A Dinh		J Maher
ExMin	K McMahon	D Miron	B Robinson		K Steller

HOLY WATER

The Church has instituted sacramentals. These are sacred signs and objects which bear a connection to the Sacraments but do not of themselves confer divine grace. Rather, the sacramentals dispose us to receive the effects of the Sacraments and to cooperate with divine grace.

Among the sacramentals of the Church is **Holy Water**.

Holy Water is first exorcised and then blessed. Then to it is added exorcised and blessed salt. From the prayers said and through the providence of God, holy water has great power and efficacy.

Every time you bless yourself with holy water, or sprinkle it in the home, God's blessings descend upon body and soul, and the object sprinkled. Many people make the sign of the cross with holy water before sleep, so as to ask divine protection through the night. Every Catholic home should have a supply of holy water.

To help you in this, both in the cathedral and OLA chapel, a container of blessed and exorcised holy water is available. They are near the front doors.

Please bring your own bottle/container but ensure it is worthy to hold water that is blessed and exorcised.

Holy water also reminds us of baptism when we were cleansed from original sin and born into the family of God, the Church. Holy water repels the devil and the fallen angels. The demons cannot remain near to a person who has been sprinkled with holy water nor can they stay in a place that has been sprinkled with holy water.

Always have some holy water in your house.

PAMPHLET RACK

Have you checked out the pamphlet rack in the narthex (entry) of the Cathedral lately? It is on the right as you enter. There are many new titles available there, including a booklet on the meaning of Lent. All pamphlets and booklets are free to take but, if you wish, you could make a donation through the electronic donation terminals.



First Sunday of Lent
21-22 February 2026

Project Compassion 2026 shares four stories from around the world. We'll meet Sisilia from Tanzania, Monoranjon from Bangladesh, Manaini from Fiji and Ahmad from Gaza.

Each of this year's stories highlights unique challenges, yet they are united by the determination to rise above adversity and to build brighter, more hopeful futures for themselves, their families and their communities.



UNITE AGAINST POVERTY
this Lent

Please donate today.

You can support Project Compassion 2026 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code.

Or online at www.projectcompassion.org.au/donate
Or by calling: 1800 024 413

Thank you for standing with us, as we *Unite Against Poverty this Lent.*



100 years since the last time Australia hosted an international eucharistic congress and 20 years since World Youth Day, Sydney will enter once more into the spotlight of the Catholic world two years from now.

This will be a moment of profound joy for the whole Church in Australia, says Archbishop Timothy Costelloe, Archbishop of Perth and President of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference. We will be welcoming pilgrims from across the globe, including the Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV, he says.

To prepare well for this important event, and to ensure that we do not let this opportunity slip by, every Catholic is invited to enter into a time of personal and communal reflection and prayer by focusing on the Congress theme: **"This is My Body, Given for You."**

The Eucharistic Sacrifice, the Holy Mass, is the source and summit of the Christian life and through this sacrifice and sacred mystery, we enter into profound communion with Our Lord. While many activities and programmes will be developed and implemented, we do well to recall the words of St John Paul II, "The program already exists...it has its centre in Christ Himself, who is to be known, loved and imitated." The Bishops of Australia encourage and exhort us to embrace this unique opportunity for renewal of our faith in the Most Holy Eucharist and so we embark on these years of prayerful preparation. We pray it will be a time of Eucharistic Renewal in our country.

The theme for 2026 is **Call to Prayer - a mystery to be encountered**

Prayer cards, of multiple designs, are available at the entry to the Cathedral. Please take some and spread them around to your family and friends There are posters on the noticeboards also, with the QR code to take you to the website, eucharist28.org.

Next Sunday, March 1st, is the launch of the three year preparation period. We will hear the gospel of the Transfiguration on that Second Sunday of Lent. We are asked to be united in prayer, asking the Lord Jesus to transform our hearts, through reverent and worthy reception of Holy Communion, and to engage in Eucharistic Adoration, so that His will may be done in our lives, in the life of the Church, and through the preparation for the **54th International Eucharistic Congress 2028.**

There will be a Holy Hour next Sunday 1 March from 4:30 - 5:30pm, including Solemn Vespers. Holy Mass will follow the Holy Hour.

HEART OF PEACE (HOPE OUTREACH) is the charitable arm of our Diocese. HOPE's primary function is to support and care for those in need of assistance who have "fallen through the net". One initiative of HOPE is the serving of hot midday meals each Wednesday to the community in Tamworth—last year it also expanded to Moree. Now it's our turn in Armidale. HOPE Kitchen is looking to start in Armidale in 2026. We are looking for volunteers to either help with cooking or serving a meal. Contact George at george@adig.com.au for more information.

CANONICAL VISIT

The Superior General of the Oblates of St. Joseph, together with the OSJ General Economo and the Provincial Superior of the Philippines Province, will be visiting Fr. Elino as part of their Canonical Visitation to all OSJ communities engaged in mission and pastoral work. This occasion also offers a meaningful opportunity to meet the father of the Diocese, Bishop Peter Murphy and to share an audience with him. We pray for their safe travels, a fruitful and successful visitation, and continued blessings upon their religious endeavours.

ADORATION

The soon-to-be beatified Archbishop Fulton Sheen was the most famous Catholic preacher in American history. He took advantage of the new pulpits of radio and television at their infancy to communicate with passion, joy and overflowing charisma the truths of the Catholic faith and of the gift of life.

On the day of his priestly ordination, Father Sheen made a commitment to make a Eucharistic holy hour each day of his priesthood and he was humbly grateful, as he wrote in his autobiography "Treasure in Clay" as his earthly life was about to end, that with God's grace he had kept that commitment faithfully for 60 years. It's so fitting that he, who spent much of life on his knees in adoration, and said, "The greatest love story of all time is contained in a tiny white host," died in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament on the last day of his priestly life.

The graces, that Jesus gives through being in His presence before the monstrance, are beyond our imaginings. But we know for sure, that to those who remain faithful to keeping Him company, He is exceedingly generous.



Eucharistic Adoration

Our Lady of the Angels Chapel

Monday – Friday 8am – 8pm

Friday 8am – Saturday 8am (overnight)

Can you commit to a Holy Hour each week and be a Guardian of the Blessed Sacrament?

Monday: 11am, 12pm, 2pm

Tuesday: 9am, 11am, 12pm, 2pm, 3pm, 4pm

Wednesday: 10am, 11am, 12pm, 4pm

Thursday: 9am, 11am, 12pm, 2pm

Friday: 9am, 11am, 1pm, 3pm, 4pm

Saturday: 1am, 3am, 4am, 5am

Contact the Armidale Adoration Team:

armidaleadoration@gmail.com

0459 089 778