

**LITURGY THIS WEEK**

OLA Chapel, Cnr Jessie & Barney Sts, Armidale.

DLS Chapel, O'Connor Catholic College, Kirkwood St  
\* The Mass attendance survey is being conducted at all Sunday Masses - Week 2 of 4

**LENT**

**MONDAY 16 MAR – Monday of the 4th Week of Lent**

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

**TUESDAY 17 MAR – ST PATRICK, bishop**

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

**WEDNESDAY 18 MAR – Wednesday of the 4th Week of Lent**

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

**THURSDAY 19 MAR – ST JOPSEPH, spouse of the BVM**

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

**FRIDAY 20 MAR – Friday of the 4th Week of Lent**

07:00 AM Cathedral Mass  
09:15 AM Cathedral Mass Holy Souls in Purgatory  
05:30 PM Cathedral Mass +Michael O'Connor, Pam O'Connor, Joyce Heferen, Christine Nugent

06:00 PM Stations of the Cross

**SATURDAY 21 MAR – Saturday of the 4th Week of Lent**

08:00 AM OLA Chapel TM ((1962 Missal)  
09:00 AM Cathedral Mass  
06:00 PM Cathedral Mass

**SUNDAY 22 MAR – FIFTH 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 MASS (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.*

**WEEKLY COLLECTIONS**

	Actual	Target	Difference
1st Collection	\$2,412.00	\$2,114.00	\$298.00 ☺
2nd Collection	\$6,194.00	\$6,350.00	-\$156.00 ☹

**HOLY WEEK & EASTER LITURGIES**

29 Mar Palm (Passion) Sunday	8am, 10am (with Procession/Palms) 11am (Solemn Mass), 5.30pm Solemn Vespers 4.30pm
01 Apr Holy Wednesday	7.30pm Tenebrae
02 Apr Holy (Maundy) Thu	6pm Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper
03 Apr Good Friday	10am Stations of the Cross, 10.30am Confessions 3pm The Lord's Passion
04 Apr Holy Saturday	10am Confessions 8pm The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night
05 Apr Easter Sunday	8am, 10am, 5.30pm Mass of Easter Sun. 11am Solemn Mass of Easter Sunday 4.30pm Solemn Vespers of Easter Sun.

**IN YOUR CHARITY, PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR:**

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Norma Courtney (99yrs, Murwillumbah), Noel Lockwood, Maureen Farrell

**DEATH ANNIVERSARIES:** Sandra Fittler, Benjamin Moon, Robert Baker, Margaret Rogers, Clarrie Moran,  
**SICK:** Robert Loh, 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, Camen & 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.

**15 MARCH, FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT**

	6PM	8AM	10AM	11AM	5:30PM
Welcomer	T Rice	PStier	T Rimpici		Chin
Reader 1	P Boston	J Toakley	I Mittheu		J Roff
Reader 2	D Fittler	A Rogers	J Turner		P Turley
PoF	W Clark	B Mackson	PHorden		R Camilleri
ExMin	C Khan	D Miron	B Robinson		D Roff

**22 MARCH, FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT**

	6PM	8AM	10AM	11AM	5:30PM
Welcomer	W Clark	J Toakley	T Rimpici		Turley
Reader 1	C Doherty	F Miron	A Dinh		J Maher
Reader 2	A May	N Ramazani	K Frazier		N Chin
PoF	J Carson	L Quast	R Menz		J Chin
ExMin	T Dubois	D Miron	B Robinson		D Roff

**SUPPORTING OUR PRIESTS & PARISH**

**1<sup>ST</sup> 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

**2<sup>ND</sup> 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)*

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](mailto:armidaleparish@armidale.catholic.org.au) W: [www.smjccathedral.org.au](http://www.smjccathedral.org.au)



Administrator: Rev Fr Paul Chandler PhD | [frpchandler@armidale.catholic.org.au](mailto:frpchandler@armidale.catholic.org.au)  
Assistant Priest: Rev Fr Elinio (Eli) Comanda OSJ | [frelino@armidale.catholic.org.au](mailto: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 ST JOSEPH  
FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (A/2) 15TH MARCH 2026**

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

**Cf. Is 66: 10-11**

Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her.  
Be joyful, all who were in mourning;  
exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

**FIRST READING**

**1 Samuel 16:1,6-7,10-13**

The Lord said to Samuel, 'Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen myself a king among his sons.' When Samuel arrived, he caught sight of Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed stands there before him,' but the Lord said to Samuel, 'Take no notice of his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him: God does not see as man sees: man looks at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart.' Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen these.' He then asked Jesse, 'Are these all the sons you have?' He answered, 'There is still one left, the youngest; he is out looking after the sheep.' Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he comes.' Jesse had him sent for, a boy of fresh complexion, with fine eyes and pleasant bearing. The Lord said, 'Come, anoint him, for this is the one.' At this, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him where he stood with his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord seized on David and stayed with him from that day on.

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

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

**Psalm 22(23)**

**R: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**

The Lord is my shepherd;  
there is nothing I shall want.  
Fresh and green are the pastures  
where he gives me repose.  
Near restful waters he leads me,  
to revive my drooping spirit. **R:**

He guides me along the right path;  
he is true to his name.  
If I should walk in the valley of darkness  
no evil would I fear.

You are there with your crook and your staff;  
with these you give me comfort. **R:**

You have prepared a banquet for me  
in the sight of my foes.

My head you have anointed with oil;  
my cup is overflowing. **R:**

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me  
all the days of my life.  
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell  
for ever and ever. **R:**

**SECOND READING**

**Ephesians 5:8-14**

You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth. Try to discover what the Lord wants of you, having nothing to do with the futile works of darkness but exposing them by contrast. The things which are done in secret are things that people are ashamed even to speak of; but anything exposed by the light will be illuminated and anything illuminated turns into light. That is why it is said:

Wake up from your sleep,  
rise from the dead,  
and Christ will shine on you.

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

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**John 8:12**

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!  
I am the light of the world, says the Lord;  
whoever follows me will have the light of life.  
Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

**GOSPEL**

**John 9:1-41**

As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. His disciples asked him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, for him to have been born blind?' 'Neither he nor his parents sinned,' Jesus answered 'he was born blind so that the works of God might be displayed in him.

'As long as the day lasts  
I must carry out the work of the one who sent me;  
the night will soon be here when no one can work.  
As long as I am in the world  
I am the light of the world.'

Having said this, he spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man, and said to him,

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'Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam' (a name that means 'sent').

So the blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored.

His neighbours and people who earlier had seen him begging said, 'Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'Yes, it is the same one.' Others said, 'No, he only looks like him.' The man himself said, 'I am the man.' So they said to him, 'Then how do your eyes come to be open?' 'The man called Jesus' he answered 'made a paste, daubed my eyes with it and said to me, "Go and wash at Siloam"; so I went, and when I washed I could see.' They asked, 'Where is he?' 'I don't know' he answered.

They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It had been a sabbath day when Jesus made the paste and opened the man's eyes, so when the Pharisees asked him how he had come to see, he said, 'He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see.' Then some of the Pharisees said, 'This man cannot be from God: he does not keep the sabbath.' Others said, 'How could a sinner produce signs like this?' And there was disagreement among them. So they spoke to the blind man again, 'What have you to say about him yourself, now that he has opened your eyes?' 'He is a prophet' replied the man. However, the Jews would not believe that the man had been blind and had gained his sight, without first sending for his parents and asking them, 'Is this man really your son who you say was born blind? If so, how is it that he is now able to see?' His parents answered, 'We know he is our son and we know he was born blind, but we do not know how it is that he can see now, or who opened his eyes. He is old enough: let him speak for himself.' His parents spoke like this out of fear of the Jews, who had already agreed to expel from the synagogue anyone who should acknowledge Jesus as the Christ. This was why his parents said, 'He is old enough; ask him.'

So the Jews again sent for the man and said to him, 'Give glory to God! For our part, we know that this man is a sinner.' The man answered, 'I don't know if he is a sinner; I only know that I was blind and now I can see.' They said to him, 'What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?' He replied, 'I have told you once and you wouldn't listen. Why do you want to hear it all again? Do you want to become his disciples too?' At this they hurled abuse at him: 'You can be his disciple,' they said 'we are disciples of Moses: we know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.' The man replied, 'Now here is an astonishing thing! He has opened my eyes, and you don't know where he comes from! We know that God doesn't listen to sinners, but God does listen to men who are devout and do his will. Ever since the world began it is unheard of for anyone to open the eyes of a man who was born blind; if this man were not from God, he couldn't do a thing.' 'Are you trying to teach us,' they replied 'and you a sinner through and through, since you were born!' And they drove him away.

Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him he said to him, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' 'Sir,' the man replied 'tell me who he is so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said, 'You are looking at him; he is speaking to you.' The man said, 'Lord, I believe', and worshipped him.

Jesus said:

### NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

**ANNUAL MASS ATTENDANCE SURVEY** | will be conducted over the next four weekends. The welcomers will be counting during the first collection

#### PARISH CONFIRMATION PROGRAM

Parent information & enrolment next **Wednesday 18 March at 6pm in the Torreggiani Room** 45 minute lessons between 9am & 10am will be held on **Sundays 22 March, 19 & 26 April, 3, 10 May & the final lesson including a rehearsal will be 17 May.** The Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated on Pentecost Sunday 24 May at the 11am Mass. All enquiries to the Parish Office 67722218 or [armidaleparish@armidale.catholic.org.au](mailto:armidaleparish@armidale.catholic.org.au)

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

#### FIVE FIRST SATURDAYS DEVOTION

Marian devotion on the first Saturday of each month . Due to **Saturday 4th April being Holy Saturday the next gathering will be 2nd May 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 at 5:45 pm in the Parish Prayer Room (formerly Adoration Chapel).

#### CHOIR FOR EASTER

For those interested in singing for the liturgies of the Sacred Triduum there will be rehearsals in the cathedral on Saturdays 21st and 28th of March, 9:30-10:30am. All welcome.

#### LEGION OF MARY ACIES CEREMONY

An annual gathering where members renew their consecration to Mary. Saturday 28th March, 2pm in the Cathedral. All are welcome to attend.



#### IGNITE CONFERENCE 2026

**DARWIN JUN 19-21 | SYDNEY JUL 9-12 | BRISBANE SEP 24-27**

#### Gospel Continued

'It is for judgement that I have come into this world, so that those without sight may see and those with sight turn blind.'

Hearing this, some Pharisees who were present said to him, 'We are not blind, surely?' Jesus replied:

'Blind? If you were, you would not be guilty, but since you say, "We see," your guilt remains.'

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

#### COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Lord anointed my eyes: I went, I washed, I saw and I believed in God.

### The effects of Holy Baptism are as follows:



1. **\*\*Remission of Sin\*\***: Baptism washes away original sin and any actual sins committed before baptism, remitting both the guilt and the punishment due to those sins.

2. **\*\*Sanctifying Grace\*\***: It confers sanctifying grace, which regenerates the baptized person, making them a new creature in Christ and an adopted child of God.

3. **\*\*Indelible Character\*\***: Baptism imprints an indelible spiritual character on the soul, which distinguishes the baptized from non-believers and qualifies them to receive the other sacraments.

4. **\*\*Membership in the Church\*\***: It makes the baptized a member of the Church, subject to her jurisdiction, and allows them to participate in the communal life of the Church.

5. **\*\*Right to Other Sacraments\*\***: Baptism gives the baptized the capability and right to receive the other sacraments, thus enabling them to partake in the spiritual treasures of the Church.

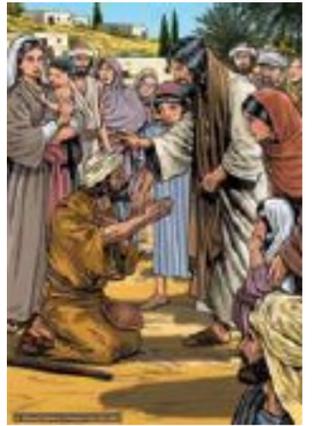
6. **\*\*Divine Life\*\***: It imparts divine life, making the baptized a temple of the Holy Spirit and enabling them to live a Christian life filled with the infused virtues of faith, hope, and charity.

7. **\*\*Opening of Heaven\*\***: Baptism opens the gates of heaven, allowing the baptized to attain eternal life, provided they remain in a state of grace.

These effects highlight the transformative power of baptism as a sacrament instituted by Christ for the salvation of souls.

### A Blind Man Sees

Jesus spat and laid His hands upon the blind man, wishing to show that His divine word, accompanied by His operation, works wonders: for the hand signifies operation; the spittle signifies the word which proceeds from the mouth. "He made clay of the spittle, and spread the clay upon the eyes of the blind man," Augustine says: "Of His spittle He made clay because 'the Word was made flesh.'" The Sacraments likewise involve something done and said, which we call in theology the form [words] and the matter [gesture and thing]. In the Old Testament the Sacraments were prefigured. For example, the anointing of David with oil as the future king of Israel, bears much similarity to our Confirmation when we are anointed by the Bishop as members of God's Royal Family.



#### Saint Joseph,

**Patron of the family:**

**feast-day March 19th**

In this year we ask for his intercession to assist all families and fathers in the parish.



Life was hard for **Manaini** and her children living in rural Fiji. With the support from Caritas Australia's partner, **FRIEND**, she learnt food processing and gardening skills, improving nutrition and creating new income opportunities to support her children's education.



**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](http://www.projectcompassion.org.au/donate)  
Or by calling: 1800 024 413

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



#### 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: 12pm

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

Wednesday: 9am, 10am, 11am, 12pm, 4pm

Thursday: 11am, 12pm, 2pm, 3pm

Friday: 9am, 10am, 11am, 1pm, 3pm,

4pm, 5pm, 7pm

Saturday: 3am, 5am

Contact the Armidale Adoration Team:

[armidaleadoration@gmail.com](mailto:armidaleadoration@gmail.com)

0459 089 778

#### Spiritual blindness is due to a lack of Faith.

Let us pray this week amid our health fears for an increase of Faith in the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist -

#### On Friday

What will you be doing?

BOX WATCH

[code word for TV] or

CROSS WATCH

There are ONLY a few weeks in Lent. *Stations of the Cross,*



**In the Cathedral following the 5:30pm Mass at 6pm.**