



# St Mary's Cathedral

SYDNEY

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## CHRISTMAS

### The Nativity of the Lord

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Dear Parishioners and Visitors,

Welcome to the cathedral for our liturgical celebrations for the Nativity of Our Lord! Christmas has a flavour all its own, doesn't it? Christmas music, Christmas decorations, Christmas foods, Christmas presents, Christmas holidays, Christmas traffic, Christmas parties. The approach of Christmas brings a sense of hope – hope that the year will end well, hope for a fresh start. Each year has its highlights and its problems, and at Christmas we look back on the past year, thank the Lord for the good things that happened to ask Him to help us learn what we should from the difficulties we've seen or experienced.

I have asked the other priests at St Mary's to write about a "highlight" at the cathedral this year. Here what Fr Brendan wrote:

"St Mary's is such a big church with at times huge congregations that it might seem it's impersonal, but I don't think that's so. Anne Marie was a regular either at our 6.45am or 1.10pm weekday Masses. I guess in her early 80s, she died alone in her Potts Point unit. But Anne Marie didn't only worship God in St Mary's— she found Jesus in her neighbours. Anyone not looking well, she'd supply with various vitamin supplements. And for someone of her age, she took the long trip down to an Albion St facility to read every day to another member of the 6.45am family recovering from a fall. More than 20 showed up for her funeral Mass in the Lady Chapel, and I heard many more stories about Anne Marie from them after the Mass. And a group from that early Mass accompanied her to Rookwood, so that she got a worthy farewell. For me, it showed how much the apparent 'strangers' at our Masses are much more a living expression of the Mystical Body than we might think."

Fr Emmanuel wrote:

There were too many highlights to mention. But if I have to pick one, it would be the growing enthusiasm and zeal I saw in the young people. Every Sunday, following the evening Mass the Embrace youth group meets between 7-8:30pm. But often the discussions are lively enough that many elect to continue beyond the official schedule.

As a priest, it's always inspiring to witness the young people's love for the Lord and the Catholic faith, especially here at St. Mary's Cathedral parish.

And from Fr Pierluigi:

One of the signs which led St Theresa Benedicta of the Cross to convert from Judaism to the Catholic faith was to see, while she was visiting as a tourist a cathedral in Germany, a woman coming in, kneeling and praying for few minutes. How good is to see that such an experience is so often provided in our cathedral. We have plenty of tourists and all the time people praying.

For myself, a particular highlight this year has been the blessing of celebrating my 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ordination to the priesthood while engaged in the very diverse ministry of a cathedral priest. This is a place of encounter between individuals and Christ, where sometimes a priest can help but always the Holy Spirit is doing the heavy lifting.

May you all have a happy, safe and holy Christmas,

Fr Don Richardson, Dean

### **From the Holy Gospel according to Matthew (1.1-25)**

**A genealogy of Jesus Christ son of David, son of Abraham:**

**Abraham was the father of Isaac,  
Isaac the father of Jacob,  
Jacob was the father of Judah and his brothers,  
Judah was the father of Perez and Zerah, Tamar being their mother,  
Perez was the father of Hezron,  
Hezron the father of Ram,  
Ram was the father of Amminadab,  
Amminadab was the father of Nahshon,  
Nahshon the father of Salmon,  
Salmon was the father of Boaz, Rahab being his mother,  
Boaz was the father of Obed, Ruth being his mother,  
Obed was the father of Jesse;  
and Jesse was the father of King David.**

**David was the father of Solomon, whose mother had been Uriah's wife,  
Solomon was the father of Rehoboam,  
Rehoboam was the father of Abijah,  
Abijah was the father of Asa,  
Asa was the father of Jehoshaphat,  
Jehoshaphat was the father of Joram,  
Joram was the father of Azariah,  
Azariah was the father of Jotham,  
Jotham was the father of Ahaz,  
Ahaz the father of Hezekiah,  
Hezekiah was the father of Manasseh,  
Manasseh the father of Amon,  
Amon the father of Josiah,  
and Josiah was the father of Jechoniah and his brothers.  
Then the deportation to Babylon took place.**

**After the deportation to Babylon:  
Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel,  
Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel,  
Zerubbabel was the father of Abiud,  
Abiud the father of Eliakim,  
Eliakim the father of Azor,  
Azor was the father of Zadok,  
Zadok the father of Achim,  
Achim the father of Eliud,  
Eliud was the father of Eleazar,  
Eleazar the father of Matthan,  
Matthan the father of Jacob;  
and Jacob was the father of Joseph the husband of Mary; of her was born Jesus  
who is called Christ.**

**The sum of generations is therefore : fourteen from Abraham to David; fourteen from David to the Babylonian deportation; and fourteen from the Babylonian deportation to Christ.**

**This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:**

**The Virgin will conceive and give birth to a son  
and they will call him Emmanuel,**

**a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord told him to do: he took his wife to his home and, though he had not had intercourse with her, she gave birth to a son; and he named him Jesus.**

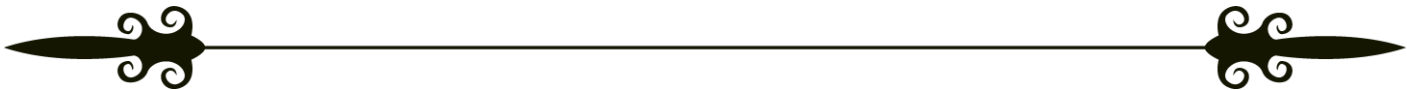
#### **CATHEDRAL CLERGY**

*Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP  
Father Donald Richardson, Dean  
Father Brendan Purcell  
Father Emmanuel Yoon Jae Seo  
Father Pierluigi Passoni*

#### **CATHEDRAL STAFF**

*Chris Backhouse- Cathedral Sacristan  
Thomas Wilson – Director of Music  
Helen Morassut – General Manager, St Marys  
Cathedral Precinct*

**A COPY OF THE CATHOLIC WEEKLY CAN BE PURCHASED FOR \$2**



<b>CHRISTMAS &amp; NEW YEAR MASS SCHEDULE</b>			
<b>Christmas Masses</b>	<b>Christmas Eve:</b>	First Vespers of Christmas Cathedral Choir Vigil Mass with Congregational Carols Choral Vigil Mass (Carols from 7.30pm) St Mary's Singers	5.00pm 6.00pm 8.00pm
	<b>Christmas (Midnight) Mass:</b>	Midnight Solemn Mass (Readings and Carols from 11.15pm) Cathedral Choir	12.00am
	<b>Christmas Day:</b>	Said Mass	7.00am
		Mass with congregational carols	9.00am
		Solemn Choral Mass with Cathedral Choir	10.30am
	Mass with Congregational Carols	6.00pm	
	St Columbkille's, McElhone Street, Woolloomooloo	9.00am	
	<b>Boxing Day:</b>	Mass	9.00am
	Masses from 27 – 29 December 2017		6.45am 1.10pm 5.30pm
	Mass 30 December 2017		9.00am 12.00pm 6.00pm
	Mass 31 December 2017		7.00am 9.00am 10.00am 10.30am 6.00pm
<b>New Year Masses</b>	<b>New Year's Day:</b>	Mass	9.00am
<b>Reconciliation</b>	26 & 31 December 2017, 01 January 2018 – No reconciliation Other Days – Normal Timetable		

<b>STORE HOURS</b>		
<b>Christmas 2017 to New Year 2018</b>		
<b>Closed:</b>	<b>25 December 2017</b> 26 December 2017	<b>Christmas Day</b> <b>Boxing Day</b>
<b>Open:</b>	27 December 2017	10.00am – 4.00pm
	28 December 2017	10.00am – 4.00pm
	29 December 2017	10.00am – 4.00pm
	30 December 2017	10.00am – 4.00pm
	31 December 2017	10.00am – 2.00pm
	<b>01 January 2018</b> (Public Holiday)	10.00am – 2.00pm
THESE HOURS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE		
<b>Merry Christmas &amp; Happy New Year to all</b>		

**\*\*COELIACS:** Special Provision is made for Coeliacs at the Cathedral. Those who are gluten intolerant may receive communion either from the Chalice or with a gluten low host. Application should be made to the Sacristan before Mass.

