
The Cathedral Coronavirus Chronicle



St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney — 9 December 2020 — Sixteenth edition

“Hear Ye Hear Ye....”

Dear Cathedral Parishioners and friends all,

Advent is the great season of hope, and I am hoping this will be the last issue of the online Cathedral Coronavirus Chronicle! As our situation here in Sydney is easing, we are now able to accommodate as many as 1200 worshippers inside the Cathedral, and we will now return to printing a weekly bulletin.

We have seen how things can go wrong with COVID-19, so we need to remain careful about the possibility of the virus taking hold in the community again, but at least we are better off than millions around the world. Thanks be to God!

And everybody is allowed to sing again!

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day usually draw thousands of people to Mass at the Cathedral. Midnight Mass, for example, usually sees three or four thousand trying to cram in.

THAT CANNOT HAPPEN THIS YEAR!

With a cap of 1200 people inside the Cathedral now in force, it will be absolutely necessary to book a place to attend any Mass on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

Please do NOT come without a booking and expect to be admitted to Midnight Mass, or any other Mass at Christmas. **YOU WILL NEED TO BOOK AHEAD**, and I expect demand for the available places will be high. With this in mind, some extra Masses have been added to the schedule for Christmas Eve and Christmas morning.

You will be able to book for these Masses from Friday morning, 11th December, via the St Mary's Cathedral website only. It might not be possible for you to get a spot at your preferred Mass time.

Use of hand sanitizer on entry is required. Wearing of facemasks is encouraged. Reception of Holy Communion on the hand

is recommended. Physical distancing from persons not of the same household is encouraged.

For the benefit of Coronavirus Chronicle readers, here is an exclusive scoop: the Christmas Liturgy Timetable for 2020:

Thursday 24th DECEMBER:

5.00pm: 1st Vespers of Christmas (Evening Prayer)

6.00pm: Mass, Vigil of Christmas

8.00pm: Mass, Vigil of Christmas

10.00pm: Mass of Christmas Night

11.15pm: Matins of Christmas (The Office of Readings)

Friday 25th DECEMBER:

12midnight: Mass of Christmas Night (Archbishop)

6.00am: Mass of Christmas at Dawn (Low Mass in the Extraordinary Form – Traditional Latin Mass)

7.00am: Mass of Christmas Day

8.00am: Mass of Christmas Day – in Cathedral Crypt (Max capacity 150)

9.00am: Mass of Christmas Day

10.30am: Mass of Christmas Day
(Archbishop)

6.00pm: Mass of Christmas Day

The Cathedral priests and staff are looking forward to seeing many of you (even if from behind a mask) at Christmas!

Fr Don Richardson, Dean,

Administrator of St Mary's Cathedral Parish, Sydney.

Administrator St Philip Howard Parish, Norfolk Island, South Pacific.

Administrator of Sacred Heart Parish, Darlinghurst.

Liturgy Office Director, Archdiocese of Sydney.

Chronicle Notices

COVID-19 update

In a welcome step forward for our churches in the lead up to Christmas, NSW Health has announced that from Monday 7 December, churches will be able to have unlimited numbers at all religious services, as long as a two square metre rule is observed.

You'll find more information here:
<https://www.sydneycatholic.org/coronavirus-frequently-asked-questions/>

Churches are required to keep records of all attending Masses for contact tracing purposes and the NSW Government recommends that church-goers continue to wear face masks when attending Mass.

CHRISTMAS LITURGY 2020 SCHEDULE

THURSDAY 24th DECEMBER:

5.00pm: 1st Vespers of Christmas
(Evening Prayer)

6.00pm: Mass, Vigil of Christmas

8.00pm: Mass, Vigil of Christmas

10.00pm: Mass of Christmas Night

11.15pm: Matins of Christmas (The Office of Readings)
Followed by midnight Mass of Christmas Night (Archbishop)

FRIDAY 25th DECEMBER:

6.00am: Mass of Christmas at Dawn
(Low Mass in the Extraordinary Form – Traditional Latin Mass)

7.00am: Mass of Christmas Day

8.00am: Mass of Christmas Day -
in Cathedral Crypt (Max capacity 150)

9.00am: Mass of Christmas Day

10.30am: Mass of Christmas Day (Archbishop)

6.00pm: Mass of Christmas Day

BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL

<https://www.stmaryscathedral.org.au/>

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