

all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

Communion Antiphon Cf Isaiah 35:4
Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

Water Baptism
A drought in Georgia began to affect how the churches in many denominations had to conduct baptisms. The Baptists took up sprinkling, the Methodists used damp cloths and the Presbyterians gave out rain checks.
World's Greatest Collection of Church Jokes, complied by Paul Miller

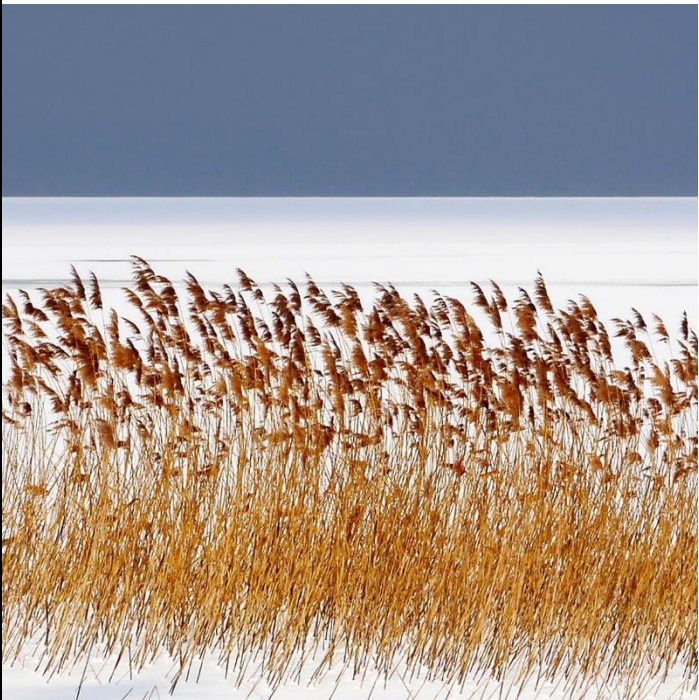


Prayer for the Year of Hope Jubilee 2025
(Year of Jubilee of Hope officially opens on 24 December at 7pm)

*Father in Heaven, may the **Faith** you have given us in Your son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of **Charity** enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of Your kingdom.*

May Your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel. May those seeds transform from within, both humanity and the whole cosmos, in the sure expectation of a new Heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, Your glory will shine eternally.

*May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, **Pilgrims of Hope**, a yearning for the treasures of Heaven. May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth. To You our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever. Amen*



Prayer for Ukraine
O Lord our God, look down with mercy on the Ukrainian people. Protect and save them from the unjust aggressors who seek to subdue them. Grant them steadfast trust in your mercy and protection.
O Mother of God, who gave them your miraculous icon at Zarvanytsia, intercede for the Ukrainian people, who run to the shelter of your mercy in their times of need.
O Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on them. Give them strength and courage to defend what is good, right and holy. Keep them safe from harm and provide for all their needs, both temporal and spiritual. Amen

Catholic Parish of Our Lady of the Southern Cross, Enmore
Archdiocese of Sydney

Serving the suburbs of Enmore, St Peters, Sydenham & Tempe

Third Sunday of Advent – Year A **14 December 2025**

Entrance Antiphon **Philippians 4:4-5**
Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

First Reading **Isaiah 35:1-6, 10**
A reading from the prophet Isaiah
God himself will come and save us.
Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult, let the wasteland rejoice and bloom, let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil, let it rejoice and sing for joy. The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it, the splendour of Carmel and Sharon; they shall see the glory of the Lord, the splendour of our God. Strengthen all weary hands, steady all trembling knees and say to all faint hearts, 'Courage! Do not be afraid. 'Look, your God is coming, vengeance is coming, the retribution of God; he is coming to save you.' Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy, for those the Lord has ransomed shall return. They will come to Zion shouting for joy, everlasting joy on their faces; joy and gladness will go with them and sorrow and lament be ended.

Responsorial Psalm **Ps 145:6-10. R. see Is 35:4**
R/ Lord, come and save us.
1.It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever, who is just to those who are oppressed. It is he who gives bread to the hungry, the Lord, who sets prisoners free. **R/**
2.It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, who raises up those who are bowed down, the Lord, who protects the stranger and upholds the widow and orphan. **R/**
3.It is the Lord who loves the just but thwarts the path of the wicked. The Lord will reign for ever, Zion's God, from age to age. **R/**

Second Reading **James 5:7-10**
A reading from the letter of St James
You also must be patient; do not lose heart, the Lord's coming will be soon.
Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting



with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation **Isaiah 61:1 (Lk 4:18)**
Alleluia, alleluia!
The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.
Alleluia!

Gospel **Matthew 11:2-11**
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
Are you the one who is to come, or must we wait for someone else?
John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.'
As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of



Parish Administrator—Reverend Father Christopher Higgins
(available Tuesday to Sunday)
Parish Permanent Deacon – Reverend Mister Alfredo Bouroncle
Parish Secretary—Bernadette Hickey
(Office hours—Tuesday 8-3pm & Thursday 8-5pm)



*Our Parish respectfully acknowledges the Gadigal people of Eora nation
as traditional caretakers of the land.*

Parish Office Address—209A Edgeware Rd, Enmore 2042
Parish Church Address—St Pius V Church, 256 Edgeware Rd, Enmore 2042
Postal Address—PO Box 3266, Marrickville Metro 2204
Telephone: 9557 1815 | Email: admin@enmoreparish.org.au
Parish website: www.enmoreparish.org.au

St Pius V Catholic Primary School, Enmore

209 Edgeware Rd Enmore 2042
Principal: Mrs Caroline Boulis
Telephone: 9557 4027 | Email: info@stpenmore.catholic.edu.au

MASSES AND SACRAMENTS

Masses	<i>See notices</i> Saturday—5:00pm – (6:30pm – Portuguese) Sunday—9:30am – (12:00 noon - Indonesian)
Confessions	Saturday 4:15—4:45pm <i>or</i> by appointment
Adoration & Benediction	Mon 3:00 – 3:50pm, Tues to Fri 8:00 – 9:00am & Sun 9:00—9:25am
Baptisms (2 nd & 4 th Sundays)	By appointment—about 1 month's notice required
Marriages	By appointment—about 6 months' notice required

COLLECTIONS for weekends from 29/30 November & 6/7 December 2025

1st collection	2nd collection	Envelopes	Candle offerings
\$745.75	\$724.20	\$190.00	\$122.40
(supports the priest's expenses)	(for running of parish)	(part of 2nd collection)	(part of 2nd collection)

Masses for: Ivan Jilwan, Norma & Mauna Alam, souls of Jilwan & Alam families. Moetoto (50th birthday), Punou (36th birthday), Nikikola (50th birthday), Lasitani (40th birthday), Suzana Jesus, Conceição Santos, Nelson Afonso, Emanuel Cruz, João Manuel, Mary Aquilina's November deceased intentions, Fr Vincent Reilly.

A message from the Archdiocese of Sydney: Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with crimes are the police. If you, or anyone you know, have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office at (02) 9390 5810 or safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org. You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police. (Archdiocesan permanent notice)
Safeguarding Children information can be found in folder at the back of the church.

Lord Jesus, Strengthen and guide us as we strive to make our Catholic communities a safe place for all, especially the children and vulnerable adults you entrust to our care. We also pray for those who have been harmed. We ask this through Christ, our Lord, Amen

We thank Jean, Senya, Truman & Jack, who helped put up the nativity scene & Christmas decorations.

Side altar votive candle stands at Fatima altar & St Anthony/Mother Teresa altars It was discovered during the week that these stands are made of plastic. One of the them caught fire. They are no longer to be used and will be removed. We will get new ones.

Mass Times Tuesday 16 December 9:15am (School End-of-Year Mass – all welcome)
Thursday 18 December 9:15am (Parish Mass – school staff attending)

Christmas Mass Times **Christmas Eve:** 5:15-5:45pm – Confessions | 6:00pm - Christmas Vigil Mass
Christmas Day: 9:30am - Christmas Day Mass
Boxing Day: No Mass

ACU Centre for Liturgy Newsletter with an interesting article on the importance of the Reader at Mass. *Copy at the back of the church*

Adoremus at St Benedict's, Broadway You are invited to join us for an evening of adoration, formation, vespers, and fellowship. **Every Wednesday from 5:30pm to 7:00pm** at St Benedict's Church, Broadway. Everyone is welcome.

Caritas Australia: Be a light in the darkness for families facing adversity this Christmas. This Christmas, we are inviting Australians to "be a light in the darkness" for families who are living through the trauma of war, displacement, and poverty. The intensity of the conflict in Ukraine has increased and more people are experiencing displacement and poverty. Our partner, Caritas Ukraine are on the ground working hard to prepare food kits, emergency shelter kits and psychosocial assistance to families facing adversity. Donate today at <https://www.caritas.org.au/christmas-appeal/be-the-light-in-darkness/>

Carols at the Cathedral 2025 It is that time of the year again! Join the Cathedral Choir alongside Sinfonia Australis as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, through music. Featuring a performance by international operatic Tenor, Diego Torre, Carols at the Cathedral is an event you do not want to miss! Date: Tuesday, 16 December 2025 Time: 11:00 AM Matinee / 7:00 PM Evening Performance Venue: St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney To purchase tickets, visit: <https://stmaryscathedral.org.au/carols2025>

CAROLS FOR PEACE: Artes Christi Orchestra, Combined University Choir, Pipes and Drums as well as Danny & Leila Abdullah, Gary Pinto and more. SYDNEY TOWN HALL **Fri 19 Dec 6:30pm**. Entry by \$10 donation. Booking Essential. <https://www.trybooking.com/DHSJI> See noticeboard

Christmas at the Cathedral 2025 at the forecourt of St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney, for nine fun-filled nights of market stalls, delicious food, roaming entertainment and live performances. Experience stunning light projections that bring the beloved Christmas song "The Little Drummer Boy" to life, transforming the cathedral into a beautiful spectacle. **DETAILS: Date: 17 - 25 December 2025 Time: 5:30 – 10:30 PM** with lights on at 8:30 PM each night Venue: Forecourt of St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney For more information, visit <https://christmasatthecathedral.org.au>.

Christopher West's Theology of the Body: Head and Heart Immersion Course Deepen your understanding of the human person and God's beautiful plan for life, love, and healing. From **18–23 January 2026**, world-renowned speaker Christopher West will lead the TOB 1: Head and Heart Immersion retreat at the Benedict XVI Retreat Centre, bringing St John Paul II's Theology of the Body to life. This 5-day experience includes daily Mass, Adoration, and 30 hours of engaging teaching. Places are limited. **DETAILS: Date:** Sunday 18 January - Friday 23 January 2026 **Time:** 3 pm Sunday to 1 pm Friday **Venue:** Benedict XVI Retreat Centre, Grose Vale, NSW **Who:** Adults only event (18+) For more information and to register, visit <https://tobi.sydneycatholic.org/tob-1-immersion-course/> For enquiries, contact TOBI@sydneycatholic.org.

Everlasting Love Marriage Preparation Courses 2026 'Everlasting Love' is a marriage preparation course that gives special emphasis to the sacramental, spiritual, and relational dimensions of marriage. The course highlights the importance of God's grace and intentional human love in building a joy-filled, fruitful and lifelong relationship. There are three sessions available. Couples are only required to attend one session. So when booking, book only one session that suits you. Session dates and locations are as follows: - **Session 1: Friday 13 – Saturday 14 February 2026** - St Catherine Laboure Parish Gynea - **Session 2: Friday 5 – Saturday 6 June 2026** - St Joachim's Parish Lidcombe - **Session 3: Friday 20 – Saturday 21 November 2026** - St Joseph's Parish Moorebank *Please note that the course is split across 2 days (no overnight stay). Day 1 takes place on Friday evening from 6pm to 10pm. Day 2 begins at 9am and ends at 5pm. Cost: \$350.00 per couple To book, visit: <https://www.trybooking.com/DGPMC>