

Communion Antiphon Isaiah 7:14
Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.

Reader
Mattie George was a first-class church lady and constant bible reader. When asked why she did not try a more varied reading, Mattie replied, “I can’t. I’m cramming for my finals.”
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 ends on 28 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

Fourth Sunday of Advent – Year A21 December 2025

Entrance Antiphon Cf Isaiah 45:8
Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

First Reading Isaiah 7:10-14
A reading from the prophet Isaiah
The virgin will conceive.
The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, ‘Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.’ ‘No’, Ahaz answered ‘I will not put the Lord to the test.’
Then Isaiah said: ‘Listen now, House of David: are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men without trying the patience of my God, too? The Lord himself, therefore, will give you a sign. It is this: the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Immanuel, a name which means “God-is-with-us”.’

Responsorial Psalm Ps 23:1-6. R. see vv 7. 10
R/ Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.
1.The Lord’s is the earth and its fullness, the world and all its peoples. It is he who set it on the seas; on the waters he made it firm. **R/**
2.Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord? Who shall stand in his holy place? The man with clean hands and pure heart, who desires not worthless things. **R/**
3.He shall receive blessings from the Lord and reward from the God who saves him. Such are the men who seek him, seek the face of the God of Jacob. **R/**

Second Reading Romans 1:1-7
A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans
Jesus Christ, a descendant of David, is the Son of God.
From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.
This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God’s beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may



God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.
Gospel Acclamation Matthew 1:23
Alleluia, alleluia!
A virgin will give birth to a son; his name will be Emmanuel: God is with us.
Alleluia!

Gospel Matthew 1:18-24
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
Jesus was born of Mary, the betrothed of Joseph, a son of David.
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 had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.



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	Thursday 1 January 9:15am + <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 (2nd & 4th 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: Amy (in WA), Blackie (sentenced in Court), Alfred Khouri, Connie Marques' deceased November intentions, Connie Ribeiro's deceased November intentions, Roasria & Orazio Salvo, Santa, West Bank Palestinians being terrorised/murdered by illegal Israeli settlers.

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

Church grounds Father had a gardener come during the week who did not clean up the leaves near the letterbox. If anyone has time to do this before Christmas, it would be appreciated.

Christmas catalogue *That Catholic Shop* catalogues available at the back of the church. Purchasing these items helps Aid to the Church in Need assist persecuted Christians around the world.

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.

No Adoration from 5 – 9 January 2026, as Alfredo will be away

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
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Fr Chris' Jan/Feb Roster	Retreat Tues 6 Jan – Sun 11 Jan (Father will say Mass on Sat 10 Jan) Holidays Tues 13 Jan – Wed 11 Feb <i>There will be no mid-week Masses from Fri 2 Jan – Thurs 12 Feb.</i> Back in parish Thurs 12 Feb (Whole school Mass Fri 13 Feb 1:50pm – all welcome)
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Archdiocesan Commision for Ecumenism and Inter-Religious Relations 2025 Overview *available 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/>

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>.

The Marian Movement of Priests | Annual New Year's Eve Prayer Vigil St Dominic's Catholic Church Flemington
Schedule: 8:00pm Exposition until Mass at midnight | 8:30pm Cenacle | 9:30pm Cenacle | 10:30pm Cenacle | 11:45pm Benediction | 12:00 midnight: Mass with Fr Andrew Grace | 1:00am Supper in parish hall (please bring a plate). Confessions all evening. Our Lady has requested prayer & reparation in the messages for New Year's Eve in her book *To The Priests Our Lady's Beloved Sons*. Email: info@mmp-oceania.net | Website: www.mmp-oceania.net

Christopher West's Theology of the Body: Head and Heart Immersion Course From **18–23 January 2026**, world-renowned speaker Christopher West will lead the TOB 1:. 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.

Sapienta - Dominican Retreat Single adults, ages 18-35, are invited to join the Dominican Friars and Sisters for a weekend retreat at St Mary's Towers, Douglas Park, NSW from **13-15 February 2026**. The retreat will consist of talks, discussion, silence, Eucharistic Adoration, the Sacrament of Confession, Mass, and time for fellowship. Places limited. Fee: \$300 per person. <https://www.trybooking.com/DHJBL>

Finding Solace and Support with Heartfelt In times of grief, finding a compassionate and understanding community can make all the difference. Heartfelt is based on Catholic teachings and offers online gatherings, support groups, and events, accessible to anyone navigating their grief journey. For more information, visit <https://heartfelt.community>