

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.

**Communion Antiphon** **Cf Isaiah 40:5**  
The glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all flesh will see the salvation of our God.

**Big Fisherman**  
A very upset priest walked into the fish market. “I want you to throw me four big fish,” he said to the clerk. “Just toss ‘em to me.”  
“But why toss them to you?” the fishmonger asked. “Can’t I just wrap them and give them to you like everyone else?”  
“No sir!” yelled the preacher. “Do just as I say. So if anyone asks me if I caught any fish today, I can truthfully say, ‘Sure did. Caught four big ones!’”  
*World’s Greatest Collection of Church Jokes, compiled 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*

**The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) Vigil** **25 December 2025**

**Entrance Antiphon** **Cf Exodus 16:6-7**  
Today you will know that the Lord will come, and he will save us, and in the morning you will see his glory.

**First Reading** **Isaiah 62:1-5**  
A reading from the prophet Isaiah  
*The Lord takes delight in you.*

About Zion I will not be silent, about Jerusalem I will not grow weary, until her integrity shines out like the dawn and her salvation flames like a torch. The nations then will see your integrity, all the kings your glory, and you will be called by a new name, one which the mouth of the Lord will confer. You are to be a crown of splendour in the hand of the Lord, a princely diadem in the hand of your God; no longer are you to be named ‘Forsaken’, nor your land ‘Abandoned’, but you shall be called ‘My Delight’ and your land ‘The Wedded’; for the Lord takes delight in you and your land will have its wedding. Like a young man marrying a virgin, so will the one who built you wed you, and as the bridegroom rejoices in his bride, so will your God rejoice in you.

**Responsorial Psalm** **Ps 88:4-5. 16-17. 27. 29**  
**R. see v.2**  
**R/** For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

1. ‘I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn to David my servant: I will establish your dynasty for ever and set up your throne through all ages.’ **R/**

2. Happy the people who acclaim such a king, who walk, O Lord, in the light of your face, who find their joy every day in your name, who make your justice the source of their bliss. **R/**

3. ‘He will say to me: “You are my father, my God, the rock who saves me.” I will keep my love for him always; for him my covenant shall endure.’ **R/**

**Second Reading Acts of the Apostles 13:16-17. 22-25**  
A reading from the Acts of the Apostles  
*Paul spoke of Christ, the son of David.*

When Paul reached Antioch in Pisidia, he stood up in the synagogue, held up a hand for silence and began to speak:  
‘Men of Israel, and fearers of God, listen! The God of our nation Israel chose our ancestors, and made our people great when they were living as foreigners in Egypt; then by divine power he led them out.  
‘Then he made David their king, of whom he approved in these words, “I have selected David son



of Jesse, a man after my own heart, who will carry out my whole purpose”. To keep his promise, God has raised up for Israel one of David’s descendants, Jesus, as Saviour, whose coming was heralded by John when he proclaimed a baptism of repentance for the whole people of Israel. Before John ended his career he said, “I am not the one you imagine me to be; that one is coming after me and I am not fit to undo his sandal”.’

**Gospel Acclamation**  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Tomorrow the wickedness of the earth will be destroyed: the Saviour of the world will be our king. Alleluia!

**Gospel** **Matthew 1:18-25**  
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew  
*Mary will give birth to a son and you will name him Jesus.*

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





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](mailto:admin@enmoreparish.org.au)  
Parish website: [www.enmoreparish.org.au](http://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](mailto:info@stpenmore.catholic.edu.au)

**MASSES AND SACRAMENTS**

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

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

1st collection	2nd collection	Envelopes	Candle offerings
<b>\$747.75</b>	<b>\$724.20</b>	<b>\$190.00</b>	<b>\$122.40</b>
(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 and/or 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](mailto: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** We thank Sera for cleaning up the leaves.

**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.

<b>Christmas Mass Times</b>	<b>Christmas Eve:</b> 5:15-5:45pm – Confessions   6:00pm - Christmas Vigil Mass <b>Christmas Day:</b> 9:30am - Christmas Day Mass <b>Boxing Day:</b> No Mass
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<b>Fr Chris' Jan/Feb Roster</b>	<b>Retreat</b> Tues 6 Jan – Sun 11 Jan (Father will say Mass on Sat 10 Jan) <b>Holidays</b> Tues 13 Jan – Wed 11 Feb <i>There will be no mid-week Masses from Fri 2 Jan – Thurs 12 Feb.</i> <b>Back in parish</b> Thurs 12 Feb (Whole school Mass Fri 13 Feb 1:50pm – all welcome)
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**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/>

**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](mailto:info@mmp-oceania.net) | Website: [www.mmp-oceania.net](http://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](mailto: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>

**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. 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 Gympie - **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>

**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>

**Catholic Bushwalking Club** The Catholic Bushwalking Club holds at least one walk each weekend, with other activities including abseiling, cross-country skiing, caving, canyoning and cycling. For more information, go to [www.cbcsnw.org.au](http://www.cbcsnw.org.au) or phone Robert on 0478919427.