

ST MARY'S PARISH, SALE

ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL CHURCH, SALE;
ST PATRICK'S, STRATFORD; ST ROSE OF LIMA, ROSEDALE;
ST PATRICK'S, BRIAGOLONG;
THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF LOCH SPORT.

47 Foster Street, PO Box 183, Sale.

Parish Office Tel: 5144 4100 Fax: 5143 2831

Parish email: st.marys.sale@bigpond.com

Parish website: <http://www.stmaryscathedralsale.com.au/>

Bishop Patrick O'Regan

Very Reverend Peter Bickley Dean St Mary's Cathedral

Mobile 0408 517 073

Assistant Priest: Fr Solomon Okeh Mobile 0469 730 756

Ms Clare O'Brien, Parish Secretary

Mrs Veronica Barnes, Pastoral Associate.

Mrs Jennifer Fitzgerald, Sacramental Coordinator.



16th —17th December, 2017
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
WITNESSES FOR THE LIGHT
17th December, 2017

John the Baptist had a central role to play in the coming of the Saviour. His role as today's Gospel puts it, was to be 'a witness to speak for the light' – Jesus. John was a courageous witness, he was a strong personality and a man of principle. His lifestyle, as well as his personal integrity, lent credence to his words. He was a living example of what he preached, and when the great task was completed, he moved aside to make way for Jesus.

Jesus still needs witnesses. Fortunately there still are people who witness faithfully and at a great personal cost.

Some years ago a priest made a visit to China. While there he met with an elderly couple both doctors. They had studied together at medical school, fallen in love and married. She a Catholic, he not. She invited him to join the Church, but he did not wish to be baptised. Soon she had their child.

During China's political movements, the husband, along with several other intellectuals was arrested and sent to a labour camp. The separation was a very difficult time for the wife, who had to work long hours at the hospital during the day and care for the child at night. She was under pressure from the Government to divorce her husband and also to renounce her religion - to gain political advantages. She refused. Every night after she returned home, she and her son knelt in prayer and sought strength from God to endure the difficulties.

At the end of the 1970's her husband and other intellectuals were allowed back home - she and her son went to the railway station, where they were the only family members on the platform to welcome the men. Unable to endure the long separation, all other women had divorced and remarried. Deeply moved, her husband took instruction and was later baptised.

John the Baptist bore witness to the Light. So did this woman in the story, now it is our turn. A good life is a strong and effective witness, and in itself is a proclamation of the Gospel. When religious practice leads to deeds, a very effective witness is given. No witness reaches our contemporaries as persuasively as the witness of those who do what Jesus commanded.

Without our witness the face of Christ, already blurred, will continue to fade from our world. He will continue to stand among us unknown and unrecognised, and the good news will not be preached to the poor.

The task is not one for the individual Christian only but for the Christian community as a whole. It is easier to witness to Christ as a member of a supportive community. The Advent Candle of Hope is lit this Third Sunday - Our spirits are high in joyful hope as we wait for the coming of the Lord.

With Joyful Hope to one and all

Kindest best wishes

Dean Peter

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMETABLE

Sunday Dec. 24th—Christmas Eve

6.00pm Christmas Vigil - Ashleigh House
6.00pm Family Mass - St Mary's Cathedral
7.00pm Vigil Mass - St Rose of Lima Rosedale
9.00pm Christmas Night Mass - St Mary's Cathedral

Monday Dec. 25th—Christmas Day

9.30am St Mary's Cathedral
9.30am St Patrick's Stratford
10.30am Seaspray Community Hall



RITE OF WELCOME: This weekend at St Mary's Cathedral, we welcome Flynn and Hollie Rabbidge children of Laura O'Neill and Jake Rabbidge. Congratulations to the family from all of us

DONATIONS FOR THE CATHEDRAL CHRISTMAS

FLOWERS: If you would like to make a donation towards the cost of this year's Christmas flowers, please place your donation in an envelope clearly marked "Christmas Flowers". Donations may be placed on the plate at Mass or left at the Parish Office. Thank you.

CHRISTMAS LITURGY: We are inviting volunteers to place their names on sheet provided for Commentators, Readers, Offertory Procession, Collectors, Musicians. Please note: No Eucharistic Ministers are required for the Christmas Night Mass at 9.00pm or 9.30am Christmas Day

DAILY MASS BOOK 2018. These books are available to all who attend daily Mass. Easily seen as you enter front door, please pick up one as you enter, and return to table upon leaving- This encourages all to participate through the recitation of the entrance antiphon, The Responsorial Psalm, the Alleluia and verse and the communion antiphon.

Please remember whenever there is singing throughout the mass the communion antiphon is not said.

PARISH OFFICE will be closed from 3pm on Friday 22nd December and will reopen at 9am on Monday 22nd January. The Parish staff would like to wish you all a holy, happy and safe Christmas and New Year.

PLEASE NOTE: Office hours for the Parish Office have been changed. The Parish office will now be open from 9.00am to 3.00pm each weekday

REMINDER – Connect with the Diocese via social media The Diocese of Sale has Facebook page. You can 'like' the page by visiting Facebook and searching for Catholic Diocese of Sale or by going to www.facebook.com/dioceseforsale. Through the Facebook page you can learn more about what is happening across the Diocese.

THE JESSE TREE is the family tree of Jesus. It goes back to the very beginning, of creation, and traces his family through the Hebrew Scripture (Old Testament), to the birth of Jesus in the Gospels (New Testament). The Jesse Tree tradition focuses on a bible story, a character, and devotion for each day of Advent. It is a countdown to Christmas, each day adding an ornament, symbolising a part of Jesus' story. It begins with Adam and Eve at the bottom, moving upward to the topmost symbol, the Chi Rho representing Christ. So far we have the dove reminding us of the peace and harmony of creation, the apple - Adam and Eve, the ark - Noah, a sky of stars and ram - Abraham, Moses - the burning bush, Aaron - the lamb. This week we add Joshua - the trumpet, King Hezekiah - the tents, Isaiah - the Angel, Jeremiah - a fountain of tears, Habakkuk - the watchtower, Nehemiah—the wall and John the Baptist—the scallop shell.

SERRA CLUB: 31 CLUB: reminder for the 18th—24th December.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL GIVING TREE: The annual St. Vincent De Paul's "Giving Tree" will be in the assembly area of the Cathedral from the 9th-17th December.

Tags on the tree have different items written on them. SVPD Sale, Conference invite parishioners wishing to give, to take the tags, purchase the item and place their purchases back under the Giving Tree. These items will be distributed to needy families in our community.

A monetary appeal will be taken up after all Masses this weekend. Receipts will be available. Many thanks for your support.

STUDY TOUR OF THE BIBLICAL LANDS Catholic Theological College 17 November – 1 December 2018. Jordan, Israel & Palestinian Territories, Turkey and Greece, and option for 3 days in Rome. **Tour Leaders:** Dr Rosemary Canavan & Rev. Anthony Dean CM. **Information Session:** Saturday 20 January 2018: 2pm to 4pm RSVP & further information: Jenny Delahunt Phone: 9412 3314 Email: jenny.delahunt@ctc.edu.au. For more information refer to the flyer on the noticeboard in the Cathedral

THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAM – AIRS 24 December 2017 It has been our pleasure to bring you Journey Catholic radio this year, and look forward to 2018. God Bless and Merry Christmas. Tune into LIFE 103.9FM Sunday 10am or go to www.jcr.org.au or www.itunes.jcr.org.au where you can listen anytime and subscribe to weekly shows by email.

COMMUNICATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS The Diocese is seeking two interested persons to be part of an advisory committee to provide feedback and input into the implementation of the Catholic Diocese of Sale's Communications Strategy 2016. If you have experience in the Communications field, a keen interest in Catholic News or an interest in how the Diocese communicates with Catholics and the wider community, this may be your opportunity to support the Diocese in its transition to a stronger online presence. The scope of advice will include providing feedback on the image and branding of the Diocese's new website and assisting with promotion of the website in the Diocese. This is a two-year voluntary role which would involve a commitment to approximately 6 to 10 meetings and the capacity provide to constructive feedback by phone or email on request. Interested parties can self-nominate with a short statement of interest including relevant career or volunteer experience and references. For further detail on the roles please contact Diocesan Digital Media Manager, Liz Roberts on 5622 6673 or email newsonline@sale.catholic.org.au. Nominations need to be received by Wednesday 1 February 2018 by email or post to Communications Advisory Committee, Diocese of Sale, PO Box 1410, Warragul Vic 3820.

LOST PROPERTY A pair of glasses, possibly reading glasses, were found after the Volunteer BBQ. If they are yours they can be collected from the Parish Office.

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Sunday 17th December Stratford 9.30am

Len Watson (A)

Sunday 17th December Cathedral 6.00pm

William and Eileen Lyons (A)

COUNTERS:

This week: Team 2: Robert McKenzie, Mark Durrant, Lou Centra

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND:

Planned Giving: \$ 2,508.80

House: \$921.85

With thanks from a grateful parish.

SACRISTY:

Team 2: (24th December) Shirley Slater, Rosie Collins

Team 3: (31st December) Emmy Van Berkel, Lana Nedelko, Carmel Allman

BAPTISMS: By arrangement through the Parish Office or with Veronica, phone 5144 4100. **ADORATION of the Blessed Sacrament,** Friday after Mass 1130am—12.00noon **First Friday of the Month** 11.30am-4.00pm At St Rose of Lima, Rosedale on 1st Wednesday of each month 9.30am-10.30am **RECONCILIATION: Cathedral: Friday** 11.30am after Mass, **Saturday** After the 9.30am Mass—10.30am **Stratford and Briagolong on Sunday or Rosedale on Saturday evening:** Before or after Mass or anytime by arrangement with the priest. **MARRIAGES:** Not less than six months notice please.

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Mass Timetable this week

2nd Sunday of Advent—Year B - 17th December

Day/Date	Time	Place
Saturday 16th December	5.30pm 7.00pm	Cathedral Rosedale
Sunday 17th December	9.30am 9.30am 6.00pm	Cathedral Stratford Cathedral
Monday 18th December	9.30am	Cathedral (St Thomas' whole school Mass)
Tuesday 19th December	9.30am 10.30pm	Cathedral (St Mary's Grade 6 Graduation Mass) Wilson Lodge
Wednesday 20th December	10.30am 11.00am	Ashleigh House Cathedral (Greg Pigot - Funeral Prayers)
Thursday 21st December	9.30am	Cathedral
Friday 22nd December	11.00am	Cathedral
Saturday 23rd December	9.30am 11.00am 5.30pm 7.00pm	Cathedral Loch Sport Cathedral Rosedale
Sunday 24th December	9.30am 9.30am 6.00pm	Cathedral Briagolong Cathedral

PARISH COUNCIL STATEMENTS.

MISSION STATEMENT.

We the parish of Sale believe in the message and mission of Jesus Christ. As a Parish, we seek to live out this belief by enriching the quality of our Parish life and providing opportunities to grow together in God's love.

MOTTO.

Believe! Live! Give!

PARISH PRAYER.

*God our loving Father, we give you thanks and praise
for our Cathedral Parish of Sale, for your people and your Creation.
Nourish us by your daily Word and Eucharist.
Enrich us in our faith, hope and love.
Strengthen us with the spirit of your mercy and grace.
May we be a welcoming and serving community,
always discerning and doing your will for one another.
Make us grateful for your gifts as we journey
through our lives together.
We make this prayer through Christ Our Lord. Amen*

3rd Sunday of Advent

Celebrant: Son of the Most High, whose coming the angel Gabriel announced to the Virgin Mary

Response: Come and reign over your people

Celebrant: Holy One of God, the Precursor greeted you by leaping in Elizabeth's womb.

Response: Come and give the joy of salvation to the whole world

Celebrant: Jesus, Saviour, whose name was announced to the just man, Joseph, by an angel

Response: Come and save your people from their sins

Celebrant: Dayspring of undying splendour heralded by Zechariah as coming from on high to visit us

Response: Come and give your light to those who dwell in the shadow of death.

(3 candles are lit)

Celebrant: Light from uncreated light, be present to all of us gathered in your name.

Response: Let us rejoice in your coming now and at the hour of our death.

Celebrant: During the advent season may almighty God let the light of His Son shine upon us. May he fill our hearts with joy at his coming and lead us to life everlasting.

Hymn: Come Lord Jesus.

Come Lord Jesus.

Come Lord Jesus.

Come Lord Jesus;

come and be born in our hearts

Our hearts are open

Our hearts are open

Our hearts are open

come and be born in our hearts

We remember those who have died recently **Gregory (Greg) Pigot, Noel Bateson, Nellie Brown, Sr Genevieve Fitzpatrick**, and those whose anniversaries occur about this time **Fr Cornelius Sheehan, Fr John Gowen, Mgr Thomas Lynch, Fr James Duffy, William & Eileen Lyons and Len Watson**. We pray for those who are sick **Celie Smith, Harry Fuest, Cath Smyth, Luke Packham, Rosa Maria Santos, Daniel Waugh, Fr. Frank Freeman SDB, Joyce Leeds, Jaxon Kent, Kevin Kelly, John Cunningham, Noreen Waud, Valda Armstead, Caroline Robinson, Aussie Boyd and Rosie Carroll**. We pray in thanks for all who care for the sick.

Date 24/12/2017	Welcomer	Commentator	Reader	Offertory Procession	Extraordinary Minister of Communion
Saturday 5.30pm		Ann Neville	Bryan Leake Brenda Burditt		Bill Smits, Theo Smolenaars,
Sunday 9.30pm	Dave Ellison	Diane Ward	Clare O'Brien Carmel Kuizenga	Dave Ellison	John Cooper, Peter Centra, Please offer
Sunday 6.00pm Family Christmas Mass		VOLUNTEER	ROSTER	FOR	CHRISTMAS

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ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice! The Lord is near.

FIRST READING:

A reading from the prophet Isaiah 61:1-2. 10-11

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me,
for the Lord has anointed me.
He has sent me to bring good news to the poor,
to bind up hearts that are broken;
to proclaim liberty to captives,
freedom to those in prison;
to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord.
'I exult for joy in the Lord,
my soul rejoices in my God,
for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation,
he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity,
like a bridegroom wearing his wreath,
like a bride adorned in her jewels.
'For as the earth makes fresh things grow,
as a garden makes seeds spring up,
so will the Lord make both integrity and praise
spring up in the sight of nations.'

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

My soul rejoices in my God.

My soul glorifies the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.
He looks on his servant in her nothingness;
henceforth all ages will call me blessed. **(R.)**

The Almighty works marvels for me.
Holy his name!
His mercy is from age to age,
on those who fear him. **(R.)**

He fills the starving with good things,
sends the rich away empty.
He protects Israel, his servant,
remembering his mercy. **(R.)**

SECOND READING:

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians 5:16-24

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus. Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything – hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil.
May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL:

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 1:6-8. 19-28

A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light. This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then,' they asked, 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not,' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied: a voice that cries in the wilderness: Make a straight way for the Lord.' Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

The Gospel of the Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.



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Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Cathedral:

Friday after Mass from 11.30am -12noon

1st Friday of each Month 11.30am - 4.00pm

Reconciliation:

Cathedral: Saturday:

Following Mass: 9.30am to 10.30am.

**MARY'S SOUP KITCHEN
CHAPTER HOUSE**

Serves 'Soup and Sandwiches'

on Thursdays, from 12.00 noon-1.30pm

Tea and Coffee provided.

At Chapter House.

All welcome.



NEXT SUNDAY

Third Sunday of Advent—Year B

First Reading: Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24;

Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28

SUNDAY MASS TIMETABLE

Saturday: Cathedral - 5.30pm Vigil

Saturday: Rosedale - 7:00pm Vigil

Saturday: Loch Sport - 11.00am (2nd & 4th)

Sunday: Cathedral - 9:30am

Sunday: Briagolong 9.30am (2nd & 4th)

Sunday: Stratford - 9.30am (1st, 3rd & 5th)

Sunday: Cathedral - 6.00pm (DST) 5.00pm (EST)

**NEW IN THE PARISH? CHANGED ADDRESS IN THE LAST YEAR?
NEED PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES OR TO
UPDATE THE PARISH RECORDS?**

Please let us know we'd like to meet you! If you complete the form below, you could place it on the plate at Mass or hand it in to the Parish office. We'll hope to catch up soon.

NAME:

ADDRESS:

PHONE:

EMAIL:

Please tick: If you would like to join the Planned Giving Program
If you would like to join a Family Group

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☐