

# ST MARY'S PARISH, SALE

ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL, 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 Hours: Tues - Fri 9.15am to 3pm (Closed Mondays)

Parish email: Sale@cdsale.org.au Parish website: <http://www.stmaryscathedralsale.com.au/>

Bishop of Sale, Most Reverend Gregory Bennet. DD

Dean of the Cathedral: Very Reverend Francis Otopo, Mobile 0448 529 712

Assistant Priest: Fr Jithin Anto Mobile 0490 364 751

Resident Priest: Fr Aneesh George

PARISH OFFICE: Parish Staff: Clare O'Brien, Parish Secretary. Hours: Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 9.15am - 3pm. Mark Durrant, Finance Manager.

Hours: Wednesday 9am - 3pm. Jennifer Fitzgerald, Sacramental Coordinator Email: Sale.sacraments@cdsale.org.au.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL: Fr Francis, Fr Jithin, Rose Lee (Chairperson), John Dykun (Deputy Chairperson), Clare O'Brien (Secretary), Doug Waite (Deputy Secretary), Jennifer Fitzgerald, Brenda Burditt, Claire Everard, Tim Morrison, Carmel Kuizenga, Anita Little, Filomena Padula.

**Safeguarding Statement:** Our Parish is committed to providing a safe and supportive environment for all people with special concern for children, young people and adults at risk. Our Safeguarding Officer is Tim Morrison. Ph 5144 4100



*Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year B  
23 - 24 December 2023*



## CHRISTMAS 2023

Warmest blessings of peace as we celebrate the Feast of the Birth of Jesus.

In many of the churches where you gather, there will be beautiful stained-glass windows which depict the birth, the mission, the miracles, the love and life and death of Jesus on the Cross.

How blessed we are to gather in a country of peace to celebrate the birth of Jesus this year. I remember a few years ago going on pilgrimage to Bethlehem and as we gather this year, we are mindful of all that is going on in our world and in many countries, particularly in the Holy Land at this time. In Bethlehem you must bend low to honour the place of the birth of Jesus. God comes to us; God bows low before us to hold us and to honour us. We are a people of faith and joy and promise, so across our parishes and our schools, wherever you may be this Christmas, may that gift of joy and hope, the gift of Jesus himself, be yours.

Across the Diocese of Sale, we wish to reach out to all our communities and to welcome all people in the name of the One who comes to us: Emmanuel - God with Us, the Prince of Peace.

My dear friends, as we gather with our families, our communities, our parishes, or wherever you are, may you have a blessed and Holy Christmas. May the gift of Jesus that we receive be the one you take to others by bringing His joy, His hope and His promise to all you meet.

Happy and Blessed Christmas and may 2024 give you every grace that you seek.

+Greg Bennet  
Bishop of Sale



**CHRISTMAS MASS TIMETABLE** is shown on the next page. Please note: as Christmas Eve is a Sunday and Christmas Day is a Monday we will be having our regular Masses at Loch Sport—**Sat 23 Dec at 11am**, Rosedale—**Sat 23 Dec at 5.30pm** and Briagolong—**Sun 24 Dec at 9.30am**. The only Mass that will be replaced is the 5.30pm Sunday Mass which will now be the Christmas Eve family Mass at **6pm on Sunday 24 December**.

**ROSTERS FOR THE CATHEDRAL** a new roster covering **30 & 31 December to 4 March 2024** has been emailed last week or your copy is available for collection in the Cathedral if you do not have email..

**2023 ADVENT APPEAL FOR UKRAINE:** During Advent 2022, all Australian dioceses were invited to take up a special collection for the people of Ukraine. The organisation has three focus areas: Evacuation of people from frontline territories; Food packages for people in need; Shelters for internally displaced persons. At the Bishops Conference's November 2023 meeting, bishops agreed to an appeal for the people of Ukraine during Advent. If you would like to donate you can do so online using a normal bank deposit to: Account Name: Trustees of UCC in Au BSB: 704-235 Account:: 00007183 There will be no leaving collection for this appeal in our Parish.

**PARISH OFFICE** will be closed from **Monday 25 December 2023 till Tuesday 16 January 2024**. Have a joy filled, happy, healthy and safe Christmas and New Year from all of us in the Parish Office.

**CONGRATULATIONS** Brenda Burditt on the occasion of your 80th Birthday this weekend. Thank you for all you do for our Parish.

**CONGRATULATIONS** Terry and Dianne Sullivan who are celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary next week. This is a tremendous milestone in your life together. Well done from all of us.

**THE BULLETIN** for January will be our usual two page one over this quieter time for our Parish. There will be no Christmas bulletin. The Christmas readings can be at <https://www.stmaryscathedralsale.com.au/>

**THANK YOU FROM ST VINCENT DE PAUL** would like to thank our very generous Parishioners who donated a total of **\$2,281.20**. This money will be used to help local families who are struggling over the Christmas period and into 2024. Thanks once again from Vin Claxton and the St Vincent de Paul volunteers.

**FR JITHIN'S FAREWELL** On behalf of the PPC, I want to thank you all for your very generous contributions towards the farewell package—the huge turnout at the farewell Mass, the fabulous morning tea, and the lovely atmosphere at the luncheon. May God continue to bless you all as we continue to journey as one. The proceeds from the leaving collection is \$2,264.00. Thanks heaps.

**CATHEDRAL SCREEN** I was hoping we'd be able to use the screen this Christmas to listen to the Bishop's Christmas message and to also use it at the family Mass. Unfortunately, the wrong trolley was delivered (manual instead of motorised). They had to take that back. The right trolley will be delivered by the end of January to the first week of Feb. Let's keep our fingers crossed. Thank you for your patience, understanding and support. We also thank St Mary's students for contributing \$300.00.

**GRATITUDE TO ALL** You have shown us a lot of love this Christmas. Words alone cannot express the depth of our gratitude. Notwithstanding, only words can we express. So on behalf of Bishop Greg and my brothers, Jithin and Aneesh, I want to say "thank you" to you all for your love and support in words, in your cards, in your presents, in your invitations to meals, and above all, in your prayers and good wishes. May God's abundant love overflow upon you and your family. Let us look toward 2024 with renewed hope and enthusiastic spirit. God bless you all.

I remain grateful also to all those who worked tirelessly to make sure our liturgies run smoothly: to our sacristans, flower ladies and gentlemen, the choirs, the liturgical ministers, and all others. Know that you are very much appreciated for all you do for the parish community. Abundance of blessings to you.

**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.  
 Make us grateful for your gifts as we  
 journey through our lives together.  
 May we be a welcoming  
 and serving community,  
 always discerning and  
 doing your will for one another.  
 We make this prayer through  
 Christ Our Lord. Amen*

**WEEK 4 OF ADVENT:** 4th candle lit  
**Celebrant:** O DAWN OF THE EAST, brightness of light eternal, and Sun of Justice:

**Response:** COME, and enlighten those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.

**Celebrant:** KING OF THE GENTILES and their desired One, the Cornerstone that makes both one:

**Response:** COME, and deliver man, whom you formed out of the dust of the earth.

**Celebrant:** O EMMANUEL, God with us, Our King and Lawgiver, the expected of the nations and their Savior:

**Response:** COME to save us, O Lord our God. Amen.

**4 Candles lit ... The Advent hymn "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"**



**31 CLUB REMINDER** 25 - 31 December. Please pray for vocations.

**DAILY PRAYER** Short daily Gospel reflections with access to readings and prayers of the faithful can be found at <https://www.pray.com.au>

**BAPTISMS:** By arrangement through the Parish Office phone 5144 4100.  
**ADORATION of the Blessed Sacrament,** Friday before Mass 10.00am — 11.00am  
 At St Rose of Lima, Rosedale on 1st Wednesday of each month 9.30am — 10.30am  
**RECONCILIATION: Cathedral: Friday** 10.30-11am before Mass.  
**At Other times:** Available on request  
**Stratford and Briagolong on Sunday or Rosedale on Saturday evening:** Available on request.  
**MARRIAGES:** Not less than six months notice please.

**COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND:**  
**Planned Giving:** \$975.00  
**Presbytery:** \$993.05  
**Credit Cards** \$30.00  
**Direct Debits & Credits:** \$1,792.00  
**Cathedral EFTpos:** \$170.00  
 With thanks from a grateful parish.

  
**DMG FINANCIAL**

For all your accounting, financial planning & taxation needs, whether personal or business, simply call:  
 (03) 5144 4422  
[www.dmgfinancial.com.au](http://www.dmgfinancial.com.au)

Pre-planning your funeral is one way you can make a difficult time easier for your loved ones.

Talk to a locally owned business serving Gippslanders for over 125 years.  
 1390 Maffra Road Sale  
 03 5143 2477


 **GIPPSLAND FUNERAL SERVICES**



To find out more please call 1300 386 375 or visit [gippslandfuneralservices.com.au](http://gippslandfuneralservices.com.au)

**Mass Timetable this week  
Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year B  
23 - 24 December 2023**

Day/Date	Time	Place
<b>Saturday 23 December</b>	9.30am	Cathedral
	11.00am	Loch Sport
	5.30pm	Cathedral
<b>Sunday 24 December</b>	5.30pm	Rosedale
	9.30am	Briagolong
	9.30am	Cathedral
	6.00pm	Cathedral
	9.00pm	Cathedral
<i><b>CHRISTMAS EVE MASS</b></i>	9.30am	Cathedral
<i><b>CHRISTMAS NIGHT MASS</b></i>	9.30am	Cathedral
<i><b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b></i>	9.30am	Stratford
<b>Monday 25 December</b>	9.30am	Stratford
	11.00am	Seaspray
<b>Tuesday 26 December</b>	9.30am	Cathedral
<b>Wednesday 27 December</b>	9.30am	Cathedral
<b>Thursday 28 December</b>	9.30am	Cathedral
<b>Friday 29 December</b>	9.30am	Cathedral
<i><b>Exposition &amp; Reconciliation Mass</b></i>	10.00am	Cathedral
	11.00am	Cathedral
<i><b>WEEKEND</b></i>		
<b>Saturday 30 December</b>	9.30am	Cathedral
	5.30pm	Cathedral
	5.30pm	Rosedale
<b>Sunday 31 December</b>	9.30am	Stratford
	9.30am	Cathedral
	5.30pm	Cathedral



**Activity tubs & books:** available in the Youth Corner for all children attending mass.

**Youth Mass:** The next youth mass will be held on the 3rd Saturday in **February 2024**.

**Children's Liturgy:** Running every Sunday on school term during **9:30am Mass** (If you would like to volunteer please contact Parish Office, A WWCC & Parish Code of Conduct required)

**Family Fun & Faith Day:** Has been rescheduled and will now be held on **Saturday 10 February 2024**. Please put this date in your diary. Please contact Shari on 0430 932 220 if you would like more information.

Date & Time	Sat 23 Dec 5.30pm	Sun 24 Dec 9.30am	Sun 24 Dec 6.00pm
<b>Welcomer</b>		<b>VOLUNTEER</b>	
<b>Commentator</b>		<b>ROSTER</b>	
<b>Reader</b>		<b>ALL MASSES</b>	
<b>Counters</b>	Len & Lyn Althaus (Tuesday 26/12)		

Date & Time	Sat 30 Dec 5.30pm	Sun 31 Dec 9.30am	Sun 31 Dec 5.30pm
<b>Welcomer</b>	John Dykun	Marie & Nick Centra	Claire Everard
<b>Commentator</b>	Veronica Stewart	Amanda & Maya V	Andreena Jolly
<b>Reader</b>	Christine & Larissa	Christine Lyon	Faye Flint
<b>Eucharist</b>	Carmel Wade	Anna Allen	Lyn Althaus
<b>Counters</b>	Theo & Sandra Smolenaars		

**CHRISTMAS MASS TIMETABLE**  
**St Mary's Cathedral Parish**

**SATURDAY 23 DECEMBER: SUNDAY MASS**

11.00am Loch Sport  
5.30pm Cathedral  
5.30pm Rosedale

**SUNDAY 24 DECEMBER: CHRISTMAS EVE**

9.30am **Sunday Mass** — Cathedral  
9.30am **Sunday Mass** — Briagolong  
6.00pm **Christmas Vigil Mass** — Ashleigh House (residents only)  
6.00pm **Christmas Vigil Family Mass** — Cathedral  
*St Mary's Cathedral Parish invite all families to attend the Christmas Mass. Children are welcome to dress up as a character from the Nativity.*

**SUNDAY 24 DECEMBER: CHRISTMAS NIGHT**

9.00pm St Mary's Cathedral — Sale

**MONDAY 25 DECEMBER: CHRISTMAS DAY**

9.30am St Mary's Cathedral — Sale  
9.30am St Patrick's — Stratford  
11.00am Seaspray Community Hall — Seaspray



**MASS INTENTIONS:**

**PLEASE PRAY FOR:** We offer prayers for those who have died **Patricia Hayes**, and those whose anniversaries occur about this time **Fr John Nolan, Fr Daniel Lordon, Mgr Jim Fitzpatrick, Fr Dan Dee, Fr George Todd**. We pray for those who are sick **Jim Durrant, Emma O'Hare, Moira Petrie, Hubert Somasiri, Andrew Lyon, Jim Clottin, Nimal & Vajira, Dushyanthi, Helen O'Kane, Michael McGrath, Troy Barney, Bill Harkin and Maureen O'Kane**. **We pray in thanks for all who care for the sick.**

NEW TO 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!

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   
Please place on the plate at Mass or drop into the Parish Office

**Barry & Annette Lett**  
**FUNERAL DIRECTORS**

We offer care, compassion and service with dignity, for the people of Gippsland  
Caring and personal 24-hour service .  
Chapel facilities available.

**67 Macarthur Street, Sale**  
**Phone: 5143 1232**  
www.lettsfunerals.com.au  
Member **Australian Funeral Directors Association**



### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

**Drop down dew from above, you heavens,  
and let the clouds rain down the Just One;  
let the earth be open and bring forth a Saviour.**

### FIRST READING:

A reading from the second book of Samuel 7:1-5. 8-12.14.16

Once David had settled into his house and the Lord had given him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent'. Nathan said to the king, 'Go and do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you.'

But that very night the word of the Lord came to Nathan:

'Go and tell my servant David, "Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader of my people Israel; I have been with you on all your expeditions; I have cut off all your enemies before you. I will give you fame as great as the fame of the greatest on earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel; I will plant them there and they shall dwell in that place and never be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked continue to oppress them as they did, in the days when I appointed judges over my people Israel; I will give them rest from all their enemies. The Lord will make you great; the Lord will make you a House. And when your days are ended and you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make his sovereignty secure. I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever."

The word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

**For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.**

I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord;  
through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth.  
Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever,  
that your truth is firmly established as the heavens. **(R.)**

'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.)**

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:

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 16:25-27

Glory to him who is able to give you the strength to live according to the Good News I preach, and in which I proclaim Jesus Christ, the revelation of a mystery kept secret for endless ages, but now so clear that it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere to bring them to the obedience of faith. This is only what scripture has predicted, and it is all part of the way the eternal God wants things to be. He alone is wisdom; give glory therefore to him through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

I am the servant of the Lord:  
may his will for me be done.

**Alleluia!**

### GOSPEL:

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 1:26-38

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you' the angel answered 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.' 'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the angel left her.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

### COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

**Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son;  
and his name will be called Emmanuel.**



The psalm responses are from the English Translation of the Lectionary for the Mass © 1981 & the prayers are from the English Translation of the Roman Missal © 1973 International Committee on English in the Liturgy Inc. (ICEL). All rights reserved. The psalm texts, from *The Psalms, A New Translation*, copyright © 1963 by The Grail, England and used with permission of the publishers. The scriptural quotations are taken from the Jerusalem Bible, published and copyright 1966, 1967 and 1968 by Darton Longman and Todd Ltd and Doubleday & Co Inc, and used by

#### **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Cathedral**

**Every Friday 10 - 11am**

**RECONCILIATION: Cathedral**

**Friday 10.30 - 11am**

#### **READINGS NEXT WEEK:**

**The HOLY FAMILY of Jesus, Mary & Joseph**

1st Reading: **Genesis 15:1-6, 21:1-3**

2nd Reading: **Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19**

Gospel: **Luke 2:22-40**

#### **WEEKEND MASS TIMETABLE**

**Saturday:** Loch Sport - 11.00am (2nd & 4th Saturday of the Month)

**Saturday:** Cathedral - 5.30pm

**Saturday:** Rosedale - 5.30pm

**Sunday:** Cathedral - 9.30am and 5.30pm

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

**Sunday:** Briagolong - 9.30am (2nd & 4th Sunday of the Month)

**Please check the bulletin each week for weekday Mass times.**