

Mass Intentions (27th Jan. – 3rd Feb).

Vigil 5pm: +Michael Han ; **Sun.:** 8am Pro Populo; 9.30am: +; **Mon:+Dantis; Tues.** +Adrian Han; **Wed.:** +Sr Miriam & Boland Fm; **Thurs.** Holy Souls; **Fri.** +Deceased Priests; **Sat** +Dantis

Catholic news: The Catholic Thing, National Catholic Reporter; EWTN; Crux, L'Osservatore Romano Vatican News. [Pope Francis@Pontifex](mailto:PopeFrancis@Pontifex)

On Sundays after 8am Mass there is cuppa in the foyer of the hall.

We acknowledge the Gweagal People, the traditional Custodians of this land.

St. Joseph's Como *cares* for safeguarding children. Safeguarding Office at 9390 5810 or safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org.

Daily Masses: 7:30am **Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday** (Saturday: Mass, Cenacle, Confession & Benediction); **Tuesday 5:30pm:** Adoration, Novena, Confession, Benediction and 6pm Mass. **Friday 9:15am First Fridays** 5:30pm Devotions & 6pm Mass.

Weekend Mass times: **Saturday:** Vigil 5pm **Sunday:** 8am, 9:30am and **2nd Sunday** of the month at 3pm: Divine Mercy Chaplet with Benediction and Mass.

Baptisms at 9:30 Mass(1st & 3rd Sunday) Other inquiries please contact Parish Office.

Our sick: Elizabeth Mercieca, Nerida Tullio, Steven Leeke, Helen Cramer, Max McLeod, Richard Davis, Michele McQuillan, Joan & Vince Fernandez, Drago Mikan, Therese Dorff, Steve Smith, Barbara Moore, Albert McMaster, Elizabeth Kinsela, Katrina Marinilli, Rita Shah, Julia Lock, Marie Lawsen, Ian Duffey, Eliette Majdandzic; Dragica Furda, Mary Carmen Borg, Josefa Dabu, Josie Lay, Christine Woodward, Urszula Kaminska, Josephine and Steven Marinilli, Nicholas Mircevski and all Dear Friends from **Mildred Symons House:** Next Mass 10.45am, 6th March, 2024.

World Interfaith Harmony Week is observed every year from 1st to 7th Feb. This observation has emerged from the United Nations General Assembly Resolution. It was started in 2010 by King Abdullah II and Prince Ghazi bin Muhammad of Jordan. The goal of the week-long celebration is to promote harmony between people of the world, regardless of their faith. It is a celebration of unity in diversity, and the divine connection between people and their faith. The World Interfaith Harmony Week modified the two Commandments to “Love of the Good,” and “Love of the Neighbour.” This mantra teaches everyone goodwill and the power of kindness, charity, and healing. Amidst rising religious conflicts, noble celebrations like World Interfaith Harmony Week are the call of the hour. The most important goal of this observation is to get people to realise that our common values of love, faith, and kindness easily outweigh our differences. With patience and humility, we could all make the world a wonderful place to live in — one where faith unites and religion is not a means of oppression.



Saint Blasé (d.316) was the bishop of Sebasta in Armenia during the fourth century. Very little is known about his life. According to various accounts he was a physician before becoming a bishop. His cult spread throughout the entire Church in the Middle Ages



because he was reputed to have miraculously cured a little boy who nearly died because of a fishbone in his throat. From the eighth century he has been invoked on behalf of the sick, especially those afflicted with illnesses of the throat.

This year in the liturgical calendar, the Christmas season ends with the Baptism of Our Lord, it falls on 8th Jan. This ending does not exclude Catholics from continuing the traditional pious practices of the Church, for even with the change from liturgical white to green colour. There is one more feast to come connected to Our Lord's nativity. **This feast falls on 2nd Feb.** and its traditional name is **Candlemas Day**, the day on which candles are blessed for the year. In the new Church calendar, it is called **the Presentation of Our Lord**; in the traditional calendar, it is called the Purification of the Blessed Virgin. This last Christmas feast is found in Scripture, in Luke 2:22-38, which explains how the Blessed Mother and St. Joseph follow the Mosaic Law. As late Pope Benedict XVI notes in *Jesus of Nazareth: The Infancy Narratives*: “In the book of Leviticus it is laid down that, after giving birth to a male child, a woman is impure for seven days (that is, she is excluded from taking part in worship), that the boy is to be circumcised on the eighth day, and that the woman must then remain at home a further thirty-three days for her blood to be purified (Leviticus 12:1-4). After this she is to present a purification sacrifice. [...] Mary presented the offering of the poor.” In this, Benedict explained, we see the Holy Family living “under the law” and the Blessed Mother, who as sinless does not need to be purified, participating in the purification of the world. In her obedience to the law, “she serves the fulfillment of the promises.”

St John Bosco Memorial 31st January.

St. John Bosco was born in 1815 in Becchi, near Turin, Italy. Bosco was ordained a priest (1841) in Turin and began to work to improve the life of poor and neglected boys who came to seek employment in the city. Working in borrowed premises, Bosco provided boys with education, religious instruction, and recreation; eventually he headed a large establishment containing a grammar school, a technical school, and a church, all built through his efforts. He also achieved a local reputation as a popular and eloquent preacher and was known to use the magic tricks he had learned as a boy to get a crowd's attention. In Turin he and 22 companions founded the Society of St. Francis de Sales (the Salesians) in 1859, and before his death (1888) it had spread to England, France, Spain, and South America. With St. Mary Mazzarello he founded the Daughters of Our Lady Help of Christians (Salesian Sisters of Don Bosco) in 1872, a congregation of nuns dedicated to similar work among girls. Bosco was canonized in 1934 by Pope Pius XI, who knew him as a young priest. Last year the Salesians celebrated 100 years of their presence in Australia.

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“God is the silent partner in all great enterprises.” (Abraham Lincoln)