



Saint Catherine of Siena Catholic Church

(Canonically Established: 18th January 2006)

OUR PARISH VISION

"A welcoming and dynamic faith-filled Catholic Community, living and sharing the Gospel, to set the world ablaze."

CHRISTMAS 2025 / New Year 2026 (Year A)



A Christmas Message from Fr Richard Rosse, PP



Wednesday 24th December 2025

My dear people,

The excitement of the end of the year is upon us. I guess it is because we realise that the end of the year is drawing very near, and the approach of the new year represents a bit of a reset to which we all look forward. For believers in Christ, this excitement is increased since the end of the year means that Christmas is upon us as our celebrations start this evening. At Christmas, we will once more celebrate the birth of Our Lord; the celebration we have been waiting for since the start of Advent. The birth of Jesus is the decisive event in the history of salvation and of humanity. The birth of the Son of God brings us joy and peace because it represents the light which removes all darkness, especially the darkness of sin.

Our Mass times are:

Wednesday 24 December | 5pm, 7pm, 9pm & 12 midnight

Thursday 25 December | 8:30am & 10:30am only

(with carols sung half-an-hour before)

(No 12:30pm Mass or evening services)

This year has certainly brought about different events which caused lots of grief, in our lives, in our country and in our world. The senseless tragedies of the deaths in Bondi two Sundays ago leave us feeling bewildered that something like that could happen in Australia. We remember parts of the world being ravaged by war particularly the situation in the Middle East, in Ukraine, in Sudan and so many other areas. Let us spare a thought and pray particularly for all those families who, for the

first time, will have an empty seat at the table. As you know, I have known personally the loss of two family members this year. These are to be acknowledged because they remind us that unfortunately, there is evil and suffering in the world, and they cause tears to be shed.

However, we, disciples of Jesus, believe firmly that tragedies and evil are not the final word. The celebration of the birth of Jesus is an opportune reminder that one day this child will suffer and die for us so that every tear will be wiped away. Once the tears have subsided and time starts diminishing the pain, we know that God will provide the strength and courage required to continue with our own pilgrimage. This certainty accompanies us in all parts of our lives, be it at our work or in our family and indeed in everything that makes up our lives. Friends, this is the conviction with which we must live our lives for if that conviction disappears, our joy will also disappear.

While in no way lessening the seriousness of the pain of loss, I thought that it would be good to think about our achievements as a parish community this year.

Firstly, we completed our thirteenth Alpha. Through Alpha, many people have deepened their faith while others re-discovered the beauty of their faith, and many have joined ministries as a way to serve God.

continued on page 3

For the latest updates, please visit our Parish Website and other social media platforms

Website: www.stcatherinecarolinesprings.org.au

Facebook: @St.Catherine.Siena.CarolineSprings.Australia



Pastoral Letter on the Conclusion of the Jubilee Year 2025

from Most Rev. Peter A. Comensoli, Archbishop of Melbourne

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ, Peace be with you.

As the Jubilee Year 2025 journeys toward conclusion in our local churches on 28 December, I write to you with gratitude - gratitude to God above all, and gratitude to you, the people of the Archdiocese of Melbourne, for the way you have received this year of Jubilee with faith, trust, hope and generosity.

From the initiation of this Jubilee, we have been invited by Pope Francis to be Pilgrims of Hope. This invitation has been about recognising that our Christian life itself is a pilgrimage - lived day by day, step by step, often quietly, always together. Across our Archdiocese, many have taken up this invitation through prayer, reconciliation, pilgrimage, service, and renewed participation in the sacramental life of the Church.

I have been especially heartened by the response of our Pilgrim Places - parishes, shrines, and communities who opened their doors and their hearts to welcome pilgrims from across the Archdiocese and beyond. In offering spaces of prayer, reflection, hospitality, and mercy, these communities reminded us that the Church is most fully herself when she is a place of welcome, encounter, and hope. I thank the clergy, religious, parish leaders, volunteers, and all the faithful who made this possible through their generosity and care.

What has marked this Jubilee most clearly for me has been the faithfulness of ordinary people: people who prayed, who welcomed, who listened, who served, and who walked with one another. In these simple but profound acts, the hope that does not disappoint has been made visible - not as an idea, but as a lived reality grounded in Christ.

As we now mark the formal conclusion of the Jubilee Year, we do not bring its spirit to an end. Rather, we are invited to carry it forward. The call to be pilgrims of hope remains with us - in our families, our parishes, our workplaces, and our communities. We are sent forth to continue walking together, attentive to the presence of the Lord who journeys with us, and responsive to the needs of those we meet along the way.

I encourage you to hold fast to the practices that have sustained you during this year: prayer that opens the heart, the sacraments that nourish and heal, and a generosity of spirit that reflects the mercy of God. May the seeds sown during this Jubilee continue to grow, bearing fruit in lives shaped by faith, hope, and love.

With every grace and blessing,
Yours sincerely in Christ,
Most Rev Peter A Comensoli

The Season of Christmas

Christmas is one of the most important days of the Church year, second only to Easter itself. It is the feast of the incarnation, the feast of God becoming flesh (the Latin "in carne" means "enfleshment").



It is a uniquely Christian teaching, the Divine choosing to become one of us. Because of this belief, God is not only Transcendent, but also wholly Immanent, Emmanuel (God-with-us). While remaining Transcendent (meaning we must rise above our present condition to reach Him, He is at the same time Immanent (meaning He is with us as we rise toward Him). Every Eucharist is like Christmas where the bread and wine are transformed into His flesh, His Body and Blood, and, in a sense, He is born anew on the altar.

The liturgical season of Christmas begins with the vigil Masses on Christmas Eve and concludes on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. During this season, we celebrate the birth of Christ into our world and into our hearts, and reflect on the gift of salvation that is born with him... including the fact that he was born to die for us.

In Summary

Colour: *White*

Duration: *At least 2 weeks*

Start: *Christmas Day (Vigil)*

Finish: *Baptism of the Lord*

Themes: *Rejoicing, celebration, salvation*

Special Considerations: *Christmas manger or nativity scene*

MASSSES on NEW YEAR'S EVE AND DAY

Wednesday 31 December

7:00pm (*Vigil Mass - Mary, The Mother of God*)

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, The HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

Thursday 1 January (*Public Holiday*)

9:30am (*No Mass in the Evening*)

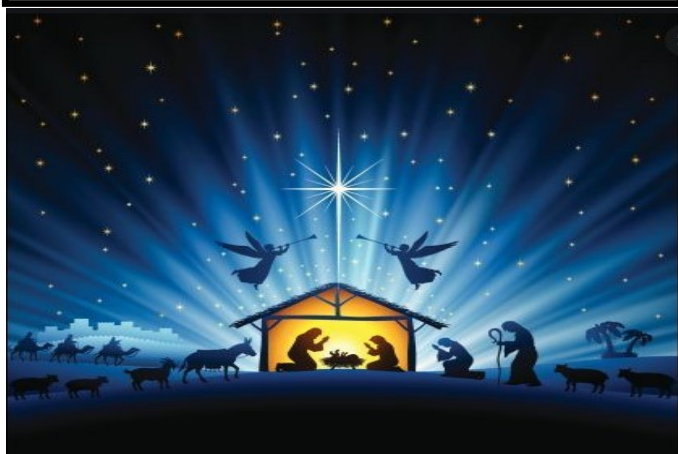
1st FRIDAY MASS on 2 JANUARY 2026

Please note that due to the holiday season there will be **NO 1st Friday Mass on 2 January 2026**. The next 1st Friday Mass will be on 6 February.

IMPORTANT: CHILD SAFETY

It is the Archdiocese Child Safety Policy that every child has to be under the care of a parent at all times within our premises. As such, we advise that from now on, any child who goes to the toilet has to be accompanied by an adult, preferably by a parent.

READINGS



24/25 December CHRISTMAS VIGIL MASSES 5:00pm, 7:00pm & 9:00pm

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Readings

Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 88; Acts 13:16-17,22-25; Mt 1:1-25

CHRISTMAS MIDNIGHT MASS (12:00am)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

*Good News and great joy to all the world:
today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.*
Alleluia!

Readings

Isaiah 9:1-7; Ps 95; Titus 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14

CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES

8:30am & 10:30am (NO 12:30pm or Evening Mass)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

*All the ends of the earth have seen the saving
power of God.*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

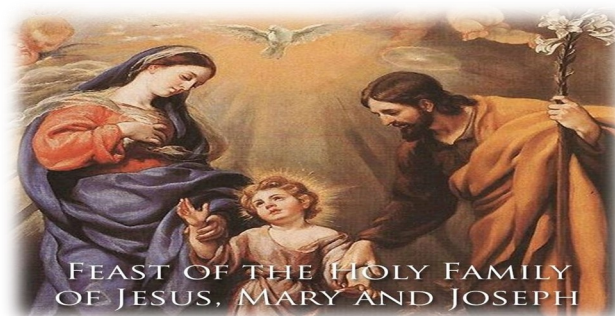
Alleluia, alleluia!

*A holy day has dawned upon us. Come you nations
and adore the Lord. Today a great light has come
upon the earth.*

Alleluia!

Readings

Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 97; Hebrews 1:1-6; John 1:1-18



27/28 December 2025 THE HOLY FAMILY of JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

*Happy are those who fear the Lord
and walk in his ways.*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

*May the peace of Christ rule in your hearts,
and the fullness of his message live within you.*

Alleluia!

Readings

Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14 ; Psalm 127;
Col 3:12-21; Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

Continued from page 1... Fr Richard's Christmas message

Through our two catholic primary schools and the Society of Christian Doctrine, more than 300 of our younger parishioners have celebrated the Sacraments of either Reconciliation, Confirmation or received Holy Communion for the first time.

At the Easter Vigil, we welcomed nine parishioners as members of the parish as they completed their Christian initiation. We ran two Leadership Summits with ministry coordinators and with members of their ministries. The last event of the year, our Carols by Candlelight, was a resounding success. These are the main events and you and I know there are many more smaller events which also need to be celebrated.

As we come to the end of the year I would like to sincerely thank, from the bottom of my heart, all the people who contribute to making our parish the wonderful community it is. I thank the office staff, the coordinators of ministries, and everyone involved in all the min-

istries. I would also like to thank the members of the Leadership Team. Most importantly, all of you, the disciples of Jesus Christ here at St Catherine of Siena Caroline Springs. Thank you for your support and your love, which I treasure immensely.

Please be advised that the parish office will be closed from 1:30pm today and will re-open on 5 January. For the month of January, the office will operate at a slower pace and will close at 1:30pm.

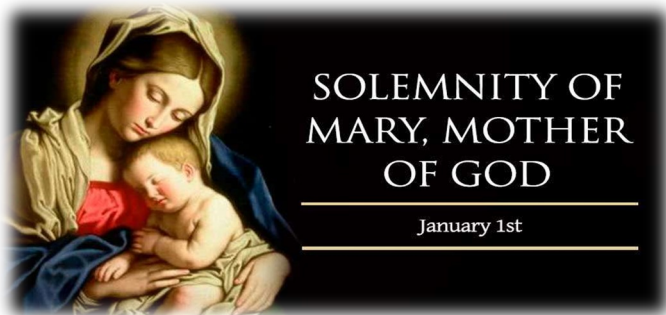
My dear people, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year for 2026.

We continue turning to our patron saint and we ask for her intercession.

St Catherine of Siena, Pray for us.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Fr Richard Rosse PP



NEW YEAR'S EVE (31 Dec 2025)
& NEW YEAR'S DAY (1 Jan 2026)

MARY MOTHER OF GOD

Wed - 7:00pm | Thurs - 9:30am (No Evening Services)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

May God bless us in his mercy.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; now he speaks to us through his Son.

Alleluia!

Readings

Numbers 6:22-27; Psalm 66; Galatians 4:4-7;
Luke 2:16-21



10/11 January 2026

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Sat - 6:00pm | Sun - 8:30am, 10:30am & 12:30pm

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

The Lord will bless his people with peace.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

The heavens were opened and the Father's voice was heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him.

Alleluia!

Readings

Is 42:1-4, 6-7; Ps 28; Acts 10:34-38; Mt 3:13-17

17/18 January 2026

2nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

Sat - 6:00pm | Sun - 8:30am, 10:30am & 12:30pm

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Here I am, Lord; I come to do your will.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us. He enabled those who accepted him to become the children of God.

Alleluia!

Readings

Is 49:3, 5-6; Ps 39; 1 Cor 1:1-3; Jn 1:29-34

24/25 January 2026

3rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

Sat - 6:00pm | Sun - 8:30am, 10:30am & 12:30pm

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

The Lord is my light and my salvation.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom and healed all who were sick.

Alleluia!

Readings

Is 8:23 - 9:3; Ps 26; 1 Cor 1:10-13, 17; Mt 4:12-23



Epiphany

The wise men followed the star,
And found Christ who is light from light.
May you too find the Lord
when your pilgrimage is ended. (Amen)

3/4 January 2026

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Saturday - 6:00pm

Sunday - 8:30am, 10:30am & 12:30pm

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

*We have seen his star in the East;
and have come to adore the Lord.*

Alleluia!

Readings

Is 60:1-6; Psalm 71; Eph 3:2-3, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE



Please note that the Parish Office is closed over the Christmas and New Year period commencing from 1:30pm on Wednesday 24 December. The Office will re-open on **Monday, 5 January 2026** in a limited capacity.

Normal office operation will resume from Monday 2 February 2026 onward.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.