



Sunday 15 February 2026

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time



Discorso della Montagna e Guarigione del Lebbroso (Sermon on the Mount and the Healing of the Leper) by Cosimo Rosselli, fresco, (Italian, c. 1439–1507), Cappella Sistina, Vatican, public domain.

In Rosselli's richly detailed fresco Jesus stands on a gentle rise, one hand lifted in blessing as a dense crowd of men, women and children gather around him, their varied poses and coloured garments conveying the energy and diversity of those drawn to his teaching. Behind and beside him the twelve disciples cluster closely, while further back another group approaches with Christ, suggesting that the Lord's word continually gathers new followers into a listening community. On the right, in a linked scene, Jesus leans toward a kneeling leper, his compassionate gesture and the onlookers' reactions visualising the Gospel's movement from proclamation into concrete healing for the outcast and suffering. This combination of preaching and mercy mirrors Matthew's Sermon on the Mount, where Christ both reveals the fulness of the law and embodies it in acts of love, calling his disciples to become true "salt" and "light" amid the crowded world that surrounds them.

THE HOLY FATHER'S WORLDWIDE PRAYER NETWORK

HOLY FATHER'S INTENTION FOR FEBRUARY 2026

For children with incurable diseases

Let us pray that children suffering from incurable diseases and their families receive the necessary medical care and support, never losing strength and hope.. www.popesprayer.va



LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Sunday 15 February 2026 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Monday 16 February 2026 Monday of 6th Week in Ordinary Time

Tuesday 17 February 2026 Tuesday of 6th Week in Ordinary Time

Wednesday 18 February 2026 Ash Wednesday

Thursday 19 February 2026 Thursday after Ash Wednesday

Friday 20 February 2026 Friday after Ash Wednesday

Saturday 21 February 2026 Saturday after Ash Wednesday

SUNDAY 22 FEBRUARY 2026 FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

PRAYER INTENTIONS

Please remember in your prayers, our deceased brethren having anniversaries this week (Including those in our columbarium) & those for whom Mass intentions have been sought (see below).

COLUMBARIUM MASS INTENTIONS

Jeannine Elizabeth Clements (16 February 2024 – niche 340), Denis Fredrick Cribbin (20 February 2025 – niche 263) and Margaret Schestopalov (21 February 2023 – niche 398)

OTHER MASS INTENTIONS

Recently Deceased Louise O'Halloran, Fr Simon Bishop SJ (former chaplain at Oxford University), Dame Marie Bashir (former Governor of NSW), Stephen Neville *Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen*

Sick Lord Jesus, healer of body and spirit, look with mercy on all who are sick or in pain. Give them courage in suffering and trust that you are close to them. Strengthen those who care for them and grant healing, peace and hope. Amen. Through Christ our Lord. Amen

RECENT BAPTISMS AND WEDDINGS

Holy Baptism

Holy Matrimony

MASS INTENTIONS AND COLUMBARIUM

To:

- request the offering of Mass for any intention, or
- make a Columbarium enquiry, application or inurnment appoinemt

please use the Parish Hub QR Code on page 2.

PARISH TEAM

Clergy

Fr Dave Braithwaite SJ Parish Priest

pp@stcanice.org.au

Fr Dave Ryan SJ Assistant Priest

dave.ryan@stcanice.org.au

Parish Hub

Tuesday to Thursday 10:00 am to 3:00 pm

E: contactus@stcanice.org.au

T: +61 2 9358 5229

W: www.stcanice.org.au

Street Address: 24 Roslyn Street

Elizabeth Bay NSW 2011

CONTACTING THE PARISH HUB

To contact St Canice's about:

- St Canice's Columbarium
- St Canice's Sanctuary Guild
- St Canice's Altar Service
- Anointing of the sick
- Deceased anniversaries
- Prayers for an ill friend or family member
- Mass intentions
- David's Place
- Curious Grace @ St Canice's
- St Canice's Kitchen
- Railaco Timor Leste
- Colombière Social Enterprises
- Holy Communion for the housebound
- Sharing God's Word at St Canice's
- St Canice's Op Shop
- St Canice's Bequests



please scan the Parish Hub QR code

HOLY COMMUNION FOR THE HOUSEBOUND:

If you, or someone you know, is unable to attend Mass due to age, illness, or injury and would like to receive Holy Communion at home, please contact Stephen Fulham at +61 411 626 262 to arrange.

SIGN UP FOR THE ST CANICE'S PARISH BULLETIN!

Stay connected and informed with all the latest parish news, events, and Mass times by subscribing to our weekly bulletin. We encourage ALL parishioners and visitors to sign up - receive updates direct to your inbox and never miss important announcements.

Simply scan the QR code below right to join our mailing list



MASSES & OTHER SACRAMENTS

Holy Mass

Sunday 8:30 am and 10:00 am

Tuesday to Friday 8:00 am (No Mass on Monday)

Monday at Lulworth House (Activity Room 2 North) 10.30 am

Saturday 9:00 am and 6:00 pm (Vigil Mass)

Penance (Reconciliation)

Sunday 9:30 am

Holy Baptism

Each third Sunday of the month after 10:00 am Mass

Holy Matrimony

By appointment

Funeral

By appointment

DEVOTIONS

Holy Rosary

After Weekday Mass

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

First First Friday of the Month 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm

RAILACO, TIMOR LESTE

For many years, St Canice's Parish has provided financial support for Our Lady of Fatima Parish and its parish school, NOSSEF Secondary School, located in Railaco, Timor-Leste.

To donate, to Railaco kindly scan the QR code (see right)



CURIOS GRACE

Curious Grace warmly welcomes everyone, offering hospitality and group activities on the church steps on the first Sunday of each month from 11 am to 1 pm. There is also a Yarn Knitting and Crochet Group with hospitality on the third Thursday of each month from 10:30 am to 1 pm in the church hall.

Next Curious Grace Sunday 1 March 2026 10:00 am - for more details, please contact Sonia at curiousgrace@stcanice.org.au

ST CANICE'S KITCHEN

St Canice's Kitchen provides nourishing meals to disadvantaged and lonely members of our community six mornings a week, from Monday to Saturday. The kitchen relies on dedicated volunteer drivers to collect donated bread, fruit and vegetables, ensuring there is always enough fresh food to prepare and serve those in need.

If you are available to help this important mission, please email kitchen@stcanices.org.au

SERVERS AND LECTORS

Those who feel called to assist at the altar or in the proclamation of the Word are warmly invited to consider serving as servers or lectors in our parish. Training and ongoing support will be provided. If you are interested or would like to know more, please contact Dominic at bulletin@stcanice.org.au.

EUCHARIST28 - POPE LEO IV IS COMING TO SYDNEY

A new website, www.eucharist28.org and parish resources have been launched to mark the beginning of "Eucharist28", the journey toward the **2028 International Eucharistic Congress** to be held in Sydney. The initiative offers catechesis, prayer materials and national events to help individuals, families and parishes deepen their love for the Blessed Eucharist and prepare spiritually for the congress.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday 18 February 2026 @ 8:00 am Ash Wednesday Mass and Distribution of Ashes

Wednesday 18 February 2026 @ 10:00 am St Canice's Kitchen Tour & Morning Tea Parishioners are invited to a special tour of St Canice's Kitchen at 10:00 am, followed by a hosted morning tea. You will have the opportunity to view plans for the new St Canice's Kitchen and hear more about this important ministry after a brief guided tour. Bookings are limited.

Sunday 1 March 2026 @ 11.00 am Curious Grace Sunday

All are warmly invited to Curious Grace on Sunday 1 February at St Canice's Church. Enjoy generous hospitality, morning tea, creative activities, conversation and company. Come as you are and stay as long as you like. Gathering will take place at the front of the Church.

Friday 6 March 2026 @ 6:00 pm-7:00 pm Adoration Hour at St Canice's

Wednesday 11 March 2026 The Way of the HeART Prayer Walk Join a special "Way of the HeART" Prayer Walk in and around the Art Gallery of New South Wales, facilitated by Anne Gray, Coordinator of the Pope's Prayer Network in Australia. Numbers are strictly limited to 15; further details and costs will be available in early February. The walk will focus on spiritual reflection and intercession for the area and its people, engaging all the senses to perceive God's presence.

Wednesday 8 April 2026 @ 10:00 am Sisters of Charity Heritage Centre Tour - You are invited to a guided tour of the Sisters of Charity Heritage Centre, 1 Rockwall Crescent, Potts Point, at 10:00 am. Discover the story of Mary Aikenhead and the Sisters of Charity, whose dedication to people in need gave rise to many works, including St Vincent's Hospital and St Vincent's Health Australia. The tour will be escorted by a Sister of Charity and will explore their inspiring missions.

Wednesday 10 June 2026 @ 7:30 pm Bangarra Dance Theatre - "Sheltering" - Sydney Opera House

All are invited to join a group booking for Bangarra Dance Theatre's Sheltering at the Sydney Opera House at 7:30 pm. Tickets are available at a discounted group price of \$104 per person. This triple-bill program draws deeply from Indigenous perspectives and explores shelter as a sacred space of protection, connection and shared stories.

For all events, please contact Sonia at sonia@stcanice.org.au or scan the QR Code (see right) for all parish events.



ST CANICE'S RESTORATION APPEAL

St Canice's is undertaking a **Restoration Appeal** to preserve and enhance our beautiful church for generations to come. This project focuses on careful repair and renewal of key heritage elements, ensuring that our church remains safe, welcoming and spiritually uplifting for all who gather here. Parishioners are invited to support the appeal through one-off or regular donations according to their means. Every contribution - large or small - makes a real difference to the ongoing care of our parish church and its mission. To learn more about the Restoration Appeal or to make a donation, please visit scan the QR Code (see right)



ADORATION HOUR

"Be still, and know that I am God." Ps 46: 10



Adoration is a time of silent prayer before the Blessed Sacrament, where we sit in the presence of Christ, listen, reflect, and open our hearts. It is a moment to encounter the peace and love of Jesus, to pray for ourselves, our parish and our world. Everyone is warmly invited

to spend time in adoration **each First Friday of the month, from 6 pm to 7 pm in the church**



WOMEN'S LENTEN RETREAT - ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL SYDNEY - 28 FEBRUARY 2026 AND 14 MARCH 2026

All women are warmly invited to a special Lenten Retreat hosted by the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney at St Mary's Cathedral, led by the Dominican Sisters.

The retreat will be offered on two Saturdays - 28 February and 14 March 2026 - from 9am to 4pm in the Cathedral College Hall, giving you a choice of dates. Across the day there will be talks, prayer and opportunities for quiet reflection. Breakout sessions include: testimonies on finding God in fear and suffering (Vivian Mourani, Tina DeLuca-Tohi), practical guidance on everyday evangelisation (Sr Anastasia OP) and tools for praying with Scripture (Sr Susanna OP).

Participants will also be able to spend time in Eucharistic Adoration, receive the Sacrament of Penance in the crypt and visit a Catholic expo in the library. To register, please scan QR code (right)



YOUNG ENGLISH UNIVERSITY STUDENT ON THE PATH TO SAINTHOOD

The Vatican is currently reviewing the life of Pedro Ballester, a British university student who died of bone cancer in 2018 at the age of 21. Formed in a deeply Catholic family, Pedro embraced a vocation of celibate lay holiness, studying chemical engineering at Imperial College London while striving to live a life of daily prayer, apostolic friendship and generous service.

SACRED SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THIS SUNDAY

First Reading Sirach 15:15–20 (If you choose, you can keep the commandments)

Responsorial Psalm Psalm 119 (118): 1–34 (Response: Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord!)

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 2:6–10 (God's wisdom, mysterious and hidden)

Gospel Acclamation: cf Matthew 11:25 Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom

Gospel Matthew 5:17–37 (I have not come to abolish the Law but to fulfil it)

The Church urges us to listen to the proclamation of the Word of God "with reverence and silence, as Christ himself speaks to his people" (GIRM 29). All are encouraged to open the eyes and ears of their hearts to the sacred readings. For those who require them, a small number of printed copies of the full texts of today's readings are available at the rear of the church.

ASH WEDNESDAY – 18 FEBRUARY 2026



Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, our 40-day journey of conversion and preparation for Easter. In the liturgy we receive ashes on our foreheads as a sign that we are dust and that we desire to turn back to God with all our hearts. It is a day of fasting and abstinence from meat for

those who are able and an invitation for all to renew the three traditional Lenten practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving in a simple, concrete way.



MEDITATION ON MATTHEW 5:17–37 WITH REFLECTIONS FROM SACRED TRADITION

On this Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time the Sermon on the Mount takes us further into the heart of Jesus' mission. He tells us that he has not come to abolish the Law or the Prophets, but to 'fulfil' them. The commandments are not being discarded; they are being brought to completion in the person of Christ. In him the eternal will of the Father takes on a human face and a human heart. The righteousness he calls for goes beyond the external observance of rules and reaches into the hidden places where our desires, choices and intentions are formed. He wants to lead us from a religion of minimums and boundaries into a living communion of love.

Jesus' words about anger, reconciliation and contempt reveal how seriously he takes the relationships that bind us together. It is not enough merely to avoid physical violence; the slow simmer of resentment, the cutting word, the refusal to forgive - all these wound the image of God in our brother or sister. Before we approach the altar, he urges us to seek peace with those we have wronged or who have something against us. The saints saw here a call to examine our hearts before every Eucharist: is there someone I need to forgive, apologise to, or at least begin to pray for? Christ fulfils the law "You shall not kill" by drawing us into his own reconciling love, which reaches out even to enemies. The Lord then speaks with equal seriousness about the covenant of marriage and the desires of the heart. He teaches that adultery begins long before any outward act and that a glance which deliberately treats another person as an object already distorts the truth of love. In a culture that often separates desire from responsibility, these words are deeply counter-cultural. Yet they are not meant to crush us with guilt but to awaken in us a longing for a pure heart, capable of seeing and loving others as the Father does. When the Church upholds the indissolubility of marriage and the dignity of every person, she is not imposing a burden from outside; she is echoing the voice of the Bridegroom who desires our joy and our freedom.

Finally, Jesus calls us to a radical simplicity of speech: "Let your word be 'Yes, Yes' or 'No, No.'" He forbids the kind of oath-taking that hides behind elaborate formulas, as if extra words could compensate for a lack of honesty. The deeper issue is integrity. Do my words and promises correspond to reality or do I bend them to protect my image, to avoid responsibility or to manipulate others? The holiness of the law is fulfilled when our speech becomes reliable, reflecting the faithfulness of God himself. To live this way is to let the truth of Christ seep into every level of daily life - contracts and casual conversations, public commitments and hidden resolutions. This Gospel invites a thorough and hopeful examination of conscience. Where do I keep the law outwardly yet nurse anger, contempt, or desire inside? Are there relationships where I have accepted a quiet cold war as "normal"? Are there patterns of looking, imagining, or speaking that I excuse but that quietly erode my capacity to love? Jesus does not ask these questions from afar; he walks beside us as the One who has already carried the weight of our sins on the cross. In the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist he offers not only forgiveness but the grace to live with a new heart. As we allow him to shape our thoughts, reconcile our conflicts, purify our desires, and steady our words, the law is no longer an external demand but the inner path of love along which he himself leads us, step by step, into the freedom of the children of God.

Lord Jesus, you came not to abolish the Law but to fulfil it in love. Write your law upon my heart; free me from anger, resentment and harsh words, and make me an instrument of reconciliation. Purify my thoughts and desires, that I may see others with your gaze and honour the dignity of every person. Strengthen me to be faithful in my promises, truthful in my speech and consistent in my actions, so that my "yes" may be yes and my "no" no. When I am tempted to settle for outward observance alone, draw me back to the deep conversion of heart you desire. May all my choices, great and small, give glory to our Father in heaven and bear witness to the mercy of your cross. You who live and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

A MESSAGE FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY

Child abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with a crime 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. 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.