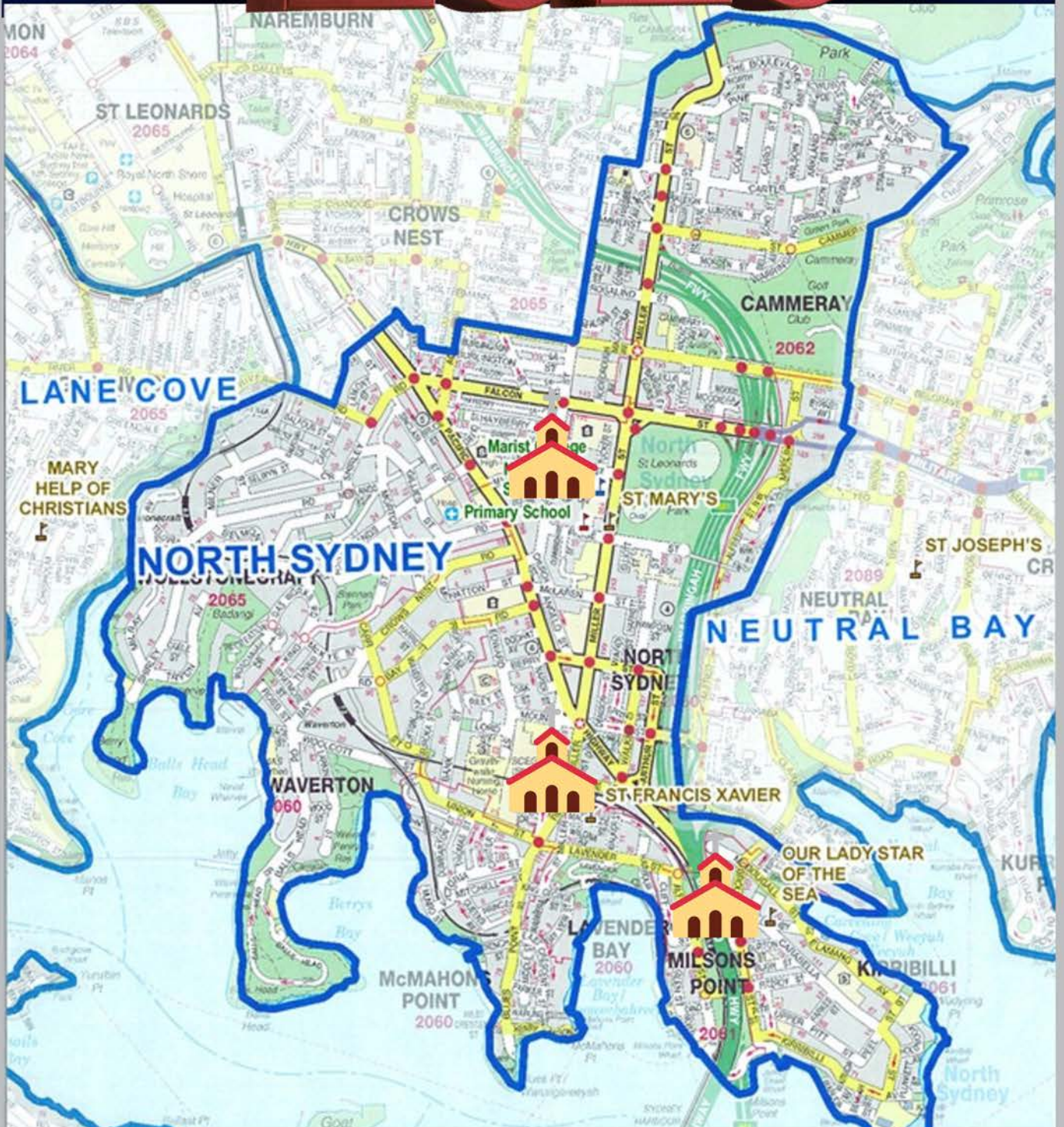


# PARISH PROFILE

## PARISH OF OUR LADY OF THE WAY



# 2026



**ON MISSION WITH CHRIST IN OUR PART OF THE WORLD**

# Welcome from Fr Richard Leonard SJ PP

Sisters and brothers in Christ and fellow travellers, all,

Welcome to the Parish of Our Lady of the Way, incorporating Star of the Sea, Kirribilli, St Francis Xavier's, Lavender Bay, and St Mary's, North Sydney. This is one of Sydney's busiest, and I hope best, Catholic parishes. We acknowledge that our parish is on the land of the Cammeraygal People of the Eora Nation. We pay our respects to their elders past, present and emerging, and join the Australian Catholic Bishops in endorsing the Uluru Statement from the Heart and commit to the ongoing work of reconciliation and closing the gap.

Our parish community started 169 years ago with a diocesan priest, Rev Dr Peter Powell, and was given into the care of the Society of Jesus (the Jesuits) 147 years ago in 1878. I am the 26th priest and 24th Jesuit to serve, love and lead this community as parish priest. I have the honour of leading 15 talented lay people who serve us in the Ron Dyer Parish Centre, representing the equivalence of just over five full-time staff. Along with my brother Jesuits, Joseph Sobb and Andy Nguyen, we coordinate over 415 volunteers without whom our mission with Christ in our corner of the world would be very modest indeed. The coming pages tell some of this story.

Our parish is welcoming, inclusive, intelligent, liberal and compassionate. Strongly rooted in Pope Leo's vision for the Church, you are very welcome among us regardless of your race, religion, ethnicity, gender, sexuality or marital status because the God revealed to us in Jesus Christ is one that loves all people equally. Our community welcomes you whether you belong to another Christian denomination, another of the world's great faiths – Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist or Sikh - or even if you are an atheist, agnostic or secular humanist. We try to live out our Mission Statement:

*In the name of Jesus and in the spirit of Ignatius, we are communities, reaching out and welcoming others. Graced by the sacraments we share a lifelong journey.*

# OUR JESUITS

NORTH SYDNEY COMMUNITY

*and Fr Provincial, Quyen Vu SJ*



**Richard Leonard SJ**  
Parish Priest



**Andy Nguyen SJ**  
Assistant Priest



**Joseph Sobb SJ**  
Assistant Priest

## Members of the Jesuit Community



**Brett O'Neill SJ**  
Director, Jesuit Refugee Service



**Steve Astill SJ**  
Supplies



**Joshua Choong SJ**  
Chaplain, St Aloysius' College

# GUIDED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT

## THE JESUIT ASSEMBLY ON FUTURE PATHS

In July 2025, the Australian/New Zealand Jesuits met at Mary MacKillop Place to discern where the Holy Spirit is leading us in the next five to ten years. We only have 92 Jesuits in our Province who love Jesus with their hearts and lives and serve Christ as best as we can with our gifts and talents.

In this context, numbers are only one reality, but they are important. At the end of 2024 we had 57 Jesuits under 75 years of age and 35 Jesuits over 75. Our projections are that, with some joining us and others going to their eternal reward, by the end of 2034, we might have about 25 Jesuits under 75 years of age and 35 over 75. By 2039 we might have 20 Jesuits under 75 years of age and 20 over 75 years.

We presently lead 31 ministries in parishes, education (primary, secondary and tertiary), social services, spirituality, pastoral, overseas aid development, Jesuit Refugee Service, a winery, as well as specialist ministries. Although we are honoured to minister to our wonderful lay colleagues and volunteers, this is not sustainable for the Jesuits to be present to a ministry in any way we have done so before.

Please God, after 147 years so far, we Jesuits will remain serving you in this parish for as long as we possibly can. Given the present situation about ministry in the church, however, and in a short time, we may only have one full time Jesuit or one full-time and one part-time to serve you. It will not be possible to do anything like the Masses, baptisms, weddings, funerals, hospital & school chaplaincies, and pastoral care that we presently undertake across the three churches. Rather than depressing us, this is an opportunity for all of us to follow the lead of the Holy Spirit and embrace something different and rich.

*This text originally appeared in the Parish Bulletin: Not From the Pulpit: by Fr Richard Leonard SJ PP*



"On 24 May, the parish welcomed Manasan Wongwan SJ, who served with the staff until 26 June 2025."

### **Tertianship**

Fr Andy will leave the North Sydney Community on 31 July 2026 to complete his Jesuit formation, known as tertianship. During this period, tertians revisit the Society's founding documents and history, study ascetic theology, engage in apostolic ministry, and participate in a thirty-day silent retreat centred on the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola.

# LAY LEADERSHIP

Fr Richard is assisted in the Parish by several advisory bodies:

Parish Council: Finance; Aged Care; and Social Investment Committees



Nicole  
Siddique  
CHAIR



Richard  
Leonard SJ  
PARISH PRIEST



Jo  
Kenderes



Mark  
Tannock



Steve  
Urwin



Mary  
McInerney



Karen  
Ingram



Jacqui  
Leech

## Finance Committee Chair

David Rothery: [david.rothery@bigpond.com](mailto:david.rothery@bigpond.com)

## Aged Care & Social Investment Committee

Humphrey Nolan: [humphreyn@northsydney Catholics.com](mailto:humphreyn@northsydney Catholics.com)

# PAG REPORT

The Parish Council meets six times a year to provide support to the parish priest in matters concerning the parish community.

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

In October, the Parish Advisory Group attended the Diocesan Synod consultation, held at St Mary's Cathedral. In preparation for that meeting and since, we have reflected on our Parish community and the characteristics of Parish life that are uniquely Our Lady of the Way.

First and foremost, we are enormously thankful for our Jesuit Fathers - Fr Richard Leonard SJ PP, Fr Andy Nguyen SJ, Fr Joseph Sobb SJ and Fr Steve Astill SJ.

Through these wonderful individuals, our Parish offers a unique and thoughtful perspective on our faith as it is lived and encountered in our everyday lives.

For their dedication, leadership and service to our community, we have much to be grateful for. For their wisdom, spiritual guidance and pastoral care we are truly blessed.

Our community would also not be the same without the contribution of our parishioners. We are grateful for the energy, commitment and engagement you bring to our community.

Whether your contribution is official or unofficial - whether you assist in the preparation of the liturgies, coordinate a ministry, organise, attend or otherwise support the myriad of initiatives in the Parish or simply attend Sunday Mass with a warm greeting for those you encounter - we thank you for your contribution.

The collective is the vibrant, welcoming and engaged community which is Our Lady of the Way. We continue into 2026 filled with hope for another wonderful year.

On behalf of the Parish Advisory Group, we wish you, your family and loved ones a blessed and happy Christmas.

Nicole Siddique  
Chair, Parish Advisory Group

# THE HEART OF IGNATIAN CONTEMPLATION

*Encountering God in a way that moves us*

2026 Opportunities

## Online & Retreats

- Jesuit and Ignatian Spirituality in Australia (JISA) - Offers 3-8 day individually guided online retreats, with scheduled dates in March, July, and December 2026.
- JISA - Ignatian Silent Retreat, Pymble NSW: Offers in-person retreats, including a January 2026 retreat, providing private accommodation, meals, and spiritual direction at their Pymble Retreat Centre.

**Individual Spiritual Direction** is a ministry in which one person, the spiritual director, helps another, the directee, become more aware of God's self-communication in his or her life, respond to that self-communication, and live out the gifts of that relationship.

Spiritual Direction is a ministry in the Church concerned with facilitating a person's growth in intimacy with God, which leads, as a consequence, to right relationship with all creation. The ministry has a long and revered history in the Christian tradition and is practiced by lay people, vowed religious, and ordained ministers (Australian Ecumenical Council for Spiritual Direction 2025).

For more information, contact Mary McInerney 0439 416 429, Spiritual Director Graduate 2003, The Sydney Centre for Religious Development.

## *Meet Matthew Pinson SJ*



Matthew Pinson, a 37-year-old physicist, excelled in international physics competitions and earned a PhD at MIT with dreams of academia. However, he felt a deep call to serve communities more directly, which led him to join the Jesuits in 2016. Now finishing his formation in Boston, Matthew will be ordained to the priesthood on Saturday, 8 August 2026, at St Mary's North Sydney.



# AN IGNATIAN EXAMEN

*Grace, gratitude, grow*

- 1** “Transition: Begin by becoming aware of God’s loom of love upon you.”
- 2** “Review the day with gratitude: Reflect on the gifts God has given you today and express your thanks.”
- 3** “Petition: Ask God for insight and strength, asking that the Examen be a work of grace beyond your own ability.”
- 4** “Review: Reflect on the stirrings in your heart and the thoughts God has given you. Recognise what was in alignment with God and what was not; consider how you responded.”
- 5** “Forgiveness: Ask for God’s healing touch to lift the burdens from your heart.”
- 6** “Renewal: Look ahead to the next day and, with God, plan how you will live it according to His loving desires for your life.”
- 7** “Transition: Conclude by being mindful of God’s presence, closing the Examen with prayer.”

St Ignatius encouraged us to speak to Jesus as a friend, and this prayer is a way to invite Jesus into your daily life. By using the Examen at the end of each day, you will begin to see how Jesus, your friend and brother, has been walking with you throughout the day. This practice will help transform your journey of refocusing on Him.

# Ministries we support or promote



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## **Jesuit Mission - Celebrating 75 years**

The Parish supports the various programs of Jesuit Mission through an annual appeal and the Jesuit Mission Bazaar.

Contact: [support@jesuitmission.org.au](mailto:support@jesuitmission.org.au)

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## **Jesuit Social Services**

The Ignite Food Store provides low-cost, healthy food to low-income families in partnership with Jesuit Social Services and Holy Family Parish at Emerton. Contact [ignite@northsydneycatholics.com](mailto:ignite@northsydneycatholics.com) or [JSS.claire.thomas@jss.org.au](mailto:JSS.claire.thomas@jss.org.au)

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## **Christian Meditation Group**

Meets every Saturday morning @ 9.30am at Star of the Sea, 44 Willoughby Street, Kirribilli. Silent meditation, imageless contemplative prayer. Contact: [kathrynsummerhayes@hotmail.com](mailto:kathrynsummerhayes@hotmail.com)

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## **Holy Family Parish - In 2025 the year marked the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

Our Lady of the Way is twinned with Holy Family Parish in Emerton, a Jesuit parish in Western Sydney. The two parishes collaborate in creating opportunities and shared experiences. Fr Cao SJ, Parish Priest. [www.holyfamily.org.au](http://www.holyfamily.org.au)

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## **Jesuit Refugee Service**

JRS provides practical support programs and advocacy for refugees and asylum seekers. The parish supports JRS in its advocacy and via an annual appeal. Contact: [www.jrs.com.au](http://www.jrs.com.au)  
Email: [zoe.grant@jrs.org.au](mailto:zoe.grant@jrs.org.au)

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## **Parish Ecology Group**

The Parish Ecology Group is active in the development of our environmental conscience. Laudato Si' Week is celebrated from 16 to 24 May 2026, commemorating the Church's journey toward ecological conversion inspired by Pope Francis's encyclical. Coordinator: [michael.gill@outlook.com.au](mailto:michael.gill@outlook.com.au)

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## **St Vincent De Paul**

The St Vincent de Paul Society supports the disadvantaged in the Parish and broader community through clothing banks and meal programs. Contact: Peter Fitzmaurice, SVDP North Sydney Conference. Email: [Peter.Fitzmaurice@vinnies.org.au](mailto:Peter.Fitzmaurice@vinnies.org.au)

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# Ministries we support or promote

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## **Young Adult Ministry**

Evening reflections, retreats, trivia nights, faith discussions, and volunteering activities are offered throughout the year. The group also meets informally on Sundays after the Youth/Young Adult 6pm Mass at St Mary's Church for a meal and to socialize. Contact: Tom Jenkins or Abby Sinclair at [youngadultministry@northsydneycatholics.com](mailto:youngadultministry@northsydneycatholics.com)

**The Cardoner Network** A young-adult Jesuit volunteering hub. Visit the website: [www.thecardonernetwork.org](http://www.thecardonernetwork.org)

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## **Catholic Mission**

Catholic Mission is the Pope's international mission agency in Australia. The annual Parish Appeal raises funds to support grassroots projects, healthcare, and education. Find out more at [www.catholicmission.org.au](http://www.catholicmission.org.au)

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## **Project Compassion**

During Lent, the Parish fundraises for Project Compassion. Caritas Australia is committed to tackling poverty and inequality in Australia and overseas. Find out more at [www.caritas.org.au/project-compassion](http://www.caritas.org.au/project-compassion)

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## **Christian Life Communities**

CLC is an international lay organisation. People from all walks of life are welcome in its small groups, which draw on Ignatian spirituality to integrate faith and life. Each year, CLC offers a Parish Retreat. Find out more: [www.clcaustralia.org.au](http://www.clcaustralia.org.au) or email Mary at [mary.mcinerney@outlook.com](mailto:mary.mcinerney@outlook.com)

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## **Women Companions in Spirituality**

Women Companions in Spirituality Group meets regularly at the Ron Dyer Centre. Contact Teresa Paredes for 2026 event information: [womensministry@northsydneycatholics.com](mailto:womensministry@northsydneycatholics.com)

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## **Men's Ministry**

The Men's Fellowship Group has a variety of social events throughout the year. Contact: Richard Hamilton [mensministry@northsydneycatholics.com](mailto:mensministry@northsydneycatholics.com)

MenAlive event 21-22 February 2026.


Registration: [www.trybooking.com/DIBWV](http://www.trybooking.com/DIBWV)

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## **Caná Communities**

Caná Communities is a not-for-profit charity working with men and women who are experiencing homelessness, addiction, imprisonment, mental health issues, and other barriers that have prevented them from creating a positive life for themselves. Website: [www.caná.org.au](http://www.caná.org.au)

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 *Special thanks to Ron Lewis, our dedicated Sacristan at St Mary's for his unwavering commitment and service to the parish.*

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## LTURGIES

St Mary's (STM) St Francis Xavier (SFX) Star of the Sea (SOS)

### WEEKDAYS

7:30am – SFX (the Online Mass)

12:00pm – STM

### SUNDAY EUCHARISTS

5:30pm (Vigil) & Sun 10:30am – SFX

Sun 8:00am & 10:00am (Polish) – SOS Church Lavender Bay on the Parish

Sun 9:00am (Family) & 6:00pm

(Young Adults) – STM

### HEALING MASS

Last Thursday of the month 12:00pm – STM

### THE ONLINE MASS

Streamed daily from St Francis Xavier

Church Lavender Bay on the Parish

YouTube channel.

[youtube.com@OurLadyofTheWayParish](https://youtube.com/OurLadyofTheWayParish)

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## LTURGY COORDINATORS

Each of our parish liturgies requires the support of our community, which includes welcomers, readers, Eucharistic ministers, sacristans, and collectors. If you can help, please contact the coordinator at [olw@northsydneycatholics.com](mailto:olw@northsydneycatholics.com)

**St Francis Xavier** – Saturday Vigil: 5:30pm Claire Loneragan

**St Francis Xavier** – Sunday 10:30am Iva Strnadova

**Star of the Sea** – Sunday 8:00am Vicky Antaw

**St Mary's** – Sunday 9:00am Ignatius Mendonca & Laura Barry

[9amfamilymass@northsydneycatholics.com](mailto:9amfamilymass@northsydneycatholics.com)

**St Mary's** – Sunday, 6:00 p.m. Readings – Carmella Antonella

Music – Tom Jenkins; Acolytes – Diana Baird

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## JOIN THE PARISH



Scan QR code  
Census

Our parish is dedicated to building a faith community that is welcoming and connected. To assist us in maintaining accurate parish records and ensuring that every household is included in parish communications and pastoral care, we kindly ask parishioners to complete the Parish Census form. Your information enables us to better serve you and your family and to plan effectively for the spiritual and pastoral needs of our community. We thank you for taking the time to provide these important details and for being an active part of our parish life.

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**THROUGHOUT**

*These 40 Days*

**THURSDAY 19 MARCH  
ST MARY'S @ 7.00PM**

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# **EASTER SCHEDULE**

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**WE WARMLY INVITE  
YOU TO JOIN US**

**Lenten Reconciliation**

26/03/26

**St Mary's North Sydney**

7:00pm

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## Holy Thursday 2/04/26

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### St Mary's North Sydney

6:30pm The Mass of the Lord's Supper

7:45pm Prayer before the Altar of Repose

### St Francis Xavier, Lavender Bay

6:00pm The Mass of the Lord's Supper

7:15pm Prayer before the Altar of Repose

### Star of the Sea, Kirribilli

5:30pm The Mass of the Lord's Supper

6:45pm Prayer before the Altar of Repose

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## Good Friday 3/04/26

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### St Mary's North Sydney

10:00am Family Stations of the Cross

3:00pm The Passion

### St Francis Xavier, Lavender Bay

10:00am Family Stations of the Cross

3:00pm The Passion

### Star of the Sea, Kirribilli

3:00pm The Passion

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## Holy Saturday 4/04/26

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### St Mary's North Sydney

6:30pm Easter Vigil

### St Francis Xavier, Lavender Bay

6:00pm Easter Vigil

### Star of the Sea, Kirribilli

5:30pm Easter Vigil

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## Easter Sunday 5/04/26

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### St Mary's North Sydney

9:00am Mass

### St Francis Xavier, Lavender Bay


10:30am Mass

### Star of the Sea, Kirribilli

8:00am Mass

# “FALL IN LOVE, STAY IN LOVE AND IT WILL DECIDE EVERYTHING” VOCATIONS AWARENESS WEEK

Fr Pedro Arrupe SJ



Discover the Jesuit Way: A Life of Service and Discernment

Joining the Jesuits is a commitment to a rich spiritual and intellectual tradition founded by St. Ignatius of Loyola. Jesuits dedicate themselves to serving others, promoting education, and working for social justice. Formation is a lifelong journey of learning and discerning God's call in everyday life. This National Vocations Awareness Week, we invite you to reflect on the possibilities that the Jesuit vocation offers: to grow in faith, serve with compassion, and engage deeply with the world. For more information about Jesuit vocations and opportunities go to [jesuit.org.au](http://jesuit.org.au)

## HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS: 1ST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH

St Mary's Church, 264 Miller St, North Sydney NSW 2060

## FAITH & SERVICE

Catechist Sunday 1 Feb 2026

Special Religious Education (SRE) in NSW Government Schools

Each school week a committed team of catechists teach Scripture (SRE) at North Sydney Demonstration School, Cammeray Public School, ANZAC Park Public School, Cammeraygal High, North Sydney Girls High and North Sydney Boys High. More volunteers are needed to become catechists or catechist helpers to teach, assist and provide cover when needed. The rewards of being a catechist are significant and include: receiving quality training and professional development having the opportunity to deepen your own faith sharing your faith with others and contributing to the parish meeting new friends. For information on becoming a catechist contact the Parish Office.



# In Appreciation of Community Spirit

OUR PARISH IS BLESSED TO SHARE BOTH FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP WITH ONE ANOTHER

## SOS KNITTING GROUP

Meets every fortnight, at the SOS Kirribilli. 1:00-3:00pm. Everything is provided - wool, knitting needles and crochet hooks. Contact Freda Garnsey [fredafreda@hotmail.com](mailto:fredafreda@hotmail.com)



## FRIENDS OF TIMOR-LESTE

A community group with a desire to make a meaningful impact for East Timor. Coordinator: Francisco Dias Costa [franciscodc@live.com.pt](mailto:franciscodc@live.com.pt)

## KINDNESS MEALS

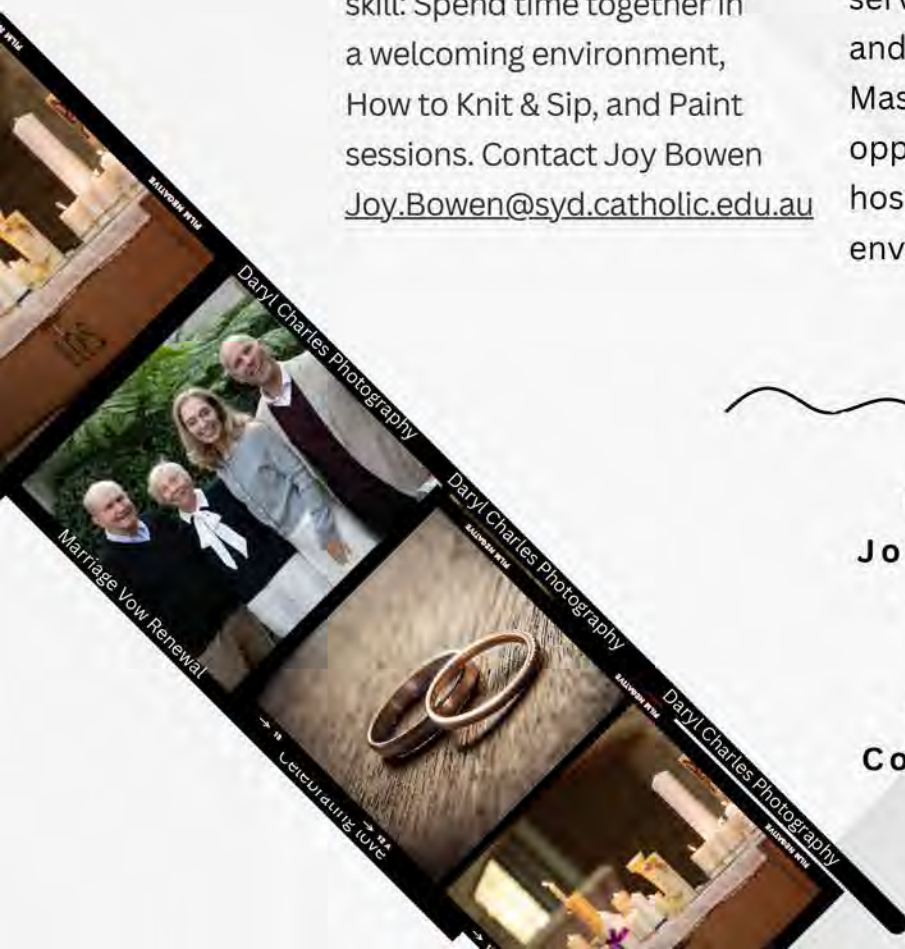
Home cooked meals for people in need. Learn a new skill: Spend time together in a welcoming environment, How to Knit & Sip, and Paint sessions. Contact Joy Bowen [Joy.Bowen@syd.catholic.edu.au](mailto:Joy.Bowen@syd.catholic.edu.au)

## MCCNS HOSPITALITY

Students from Marist Catholic College North Shore are actively involved in service-based learning by preparing and serving hot meals for the Healing Mass lunch, which offers a hands-on opportunity to develop culinary and hospitality skills in a faith-centered environment.



**Marriage Vow Renewal**  
Join us in 2026 at St Mary's Church, 264 Miller St North Sydney.  
Sun 26 July @ 9:00am  
Coordinator: Julie Donnell



*The Road to Santiago  
A Walk of Faith and Discovery*

*May 2025*

# CAMINO

**Pope Francis  
designated the 2025  
Holy Year to be a  
'pilgrimage of hope'.**

Twenty parishioners took this very seriously as we recently made the Camino to Santiago de Compostela.

Superbly organised and led by our fellow parishioner, Francisco Dias Costa, we arrived at the tomb of St James on Ascension Sunday foot-sore and soul enriched.

The physical challenge, the solitude, the fleeting connections with others, all of which contributed to our spiritual growth and new understandings of God and self.

*"It's an experience none of us will ever forget."*

Fr Richard Leonard SJ PP

Pictured: Botafumeiro, St James' Cathedral, Santiago de Compostela. One of the most famous symbols of pilgrimage.



*u m e i r o*

# GLOBAL ROAMING

## PARISH CAMINO PILGRIMAGE

### BROTÉRIA JESUIT CULTURAL CENTRE LISBON AND CHOIR PERFORMANCES IN ROME

On 22 May 2025, parishioners from North Sydney gathered at the Jesuit Brotéria in Lisbon, Portugal, to hear Fr Richard Leonard SJ speak on "The Purpose of Contemporary Criticism: On the Role of Film Critics." With great pastoral insight, Fr Richard reminded us how Catholic film critics serve as guides, helping people of faith to engage the media thoughtfully and with discernment. He encouraged reflection on the ways media shapes our values and invited us to cultivate awareness as we navigate contemporary culture, making choices that nourish our faith and conscience.

## VOICES OF THE VATICAN 2026 PILGRIMAGE

Under the direction of Danielle Whitmore, the Parish choir embarks on a seven-day pilgrimage through Rome and Vatican City. This sacred journey unites faith and music, with performances at St Peter's Basilica, the Caravita Church, St. Ignatius Church, and the Jesuits' Curia Chapel.

- **Thursday 9th April**  
Concert at Caravita 8:00pm ([www.caravita.org](http://www.caravita.org))  
Vatican City Performance
- **Friday 10th April**  
Mass at St Peter's Basilica
- **Sunday 12th April**  
Mass at Oratoria De Caravita
- **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April**  
Mass at Domus Australia Chapel



Co-education in the  
Heart of North Sydney

## OUR PARISH SCHOOL

Marist Catholic College  
North Shore *Virtus Ubique Vincit*  
[www.mccns.syd.catholic.edu.au](http://www.mccns.syd.catholic.edu.au)

### MCCNS Class Masses

22 February - Yr 6 & K | 22 March - Yr 5 & 1  
3 May - Yr 2 | 23 May - Yr 3 | 2 August - Yr 4



St Aloysius' College - Ad Majora Natus  
A Jesuit primary and secondary school  
for boys.

[www.stalloysius.nsw.edu.au](http://www.stalloysius.nsw.edu.au)



Loreto Kirribilli - Mary, Queen of Angels,  
as I Live I Trust in the Cross

A primary & secondary school for girls.

[www.loreto.nsw.edu.au](http://www.loreto.nsw.edu.au)



Monte Sant' Angelo College

Religio Scientia Cultus

A secondary school for girls.

[www.monte.nsw.edu.au](http://www.monte.nsw.edu.au)



Redfern Jarjum College - Gili

A Jesuit primary school.

[www.rjc.nsw.edu.au](http://www.rjc.nsw.edu.au)



# SPIRIT BAND SPIRIT BAND SPIRIT BAND



All Sunday Masses are supported with musicians and cantors offering a broad spectrum of music, from traditional to contemporary. The Spirit Band accompanies the Youth Mass each week at St Mary's Church, North Sydney.

**Sundays  
6:00pm**

# WEEK



ST PATRICK'S DAY - 17 MARCH

MARY MACKILLOP - 2 AUGUST

CHRISTMAS - 6 DECEMBER

HOSTED BY THE YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

# EVENTS



FOR THOSE 18-30 YRS

# YOUNG ADULT

# DINNERS

1ST & 3RD SUNDAY

AFTER THE 6PM MASS AT ST MARY'S

6:00PM - 8:30PM



**PARISH YOUTH MINISTER**  
**ABIGAIL SINCLAIR**

Abby joins Young Adult Ministry Team

Abby is a graduate of Monte and attends the 6:00pm Young Adult Mass. She recently returned from a service placement in Thailand with the Cardoner Network. Abby will help us to identify the needs and interests of young people within the parish and the local community and then plan and execute enriching activities such as regular youth groups, reflection sessions for Lent and Advent and social gatherings. Abby will work closely with the OMG volunteers and create a social outreach program for our young adults.

Young adults interested in getting involved or sharing ideas for future activities are invited to connect with Abby after Mass or by emailing:

[abigail@northsydneycatholics.com](mailto:abigail@northsydneycatholics.com)



[@northsydney\\_catholics](https://www.instagram.com/northsydney_catholics)



[youtube.com/@NorthSydneyCatholics](https://www.youtube.com/@NorthSydneyCatholics)



[facebook.com/northsydneycatholicssj](https://www.facebook.com/northsydneycatholicssj)



[youngadultministry@northsydneycatholics.com](mailto:youngadultministry@northsydneycatholics.com)

# PARISH ● MUSIC | PRAYER | REFLECTION

St Mary's Church North Sydney

## Special Celebrations at Lent and Advent in 2026

"Throughout these 40 Days" Thurs 19 March @ 7:00pm

"Celebration of Christ's Coming" Thurs 10 Dec @ 7:00pm

Contact our Music Minister Alastair Wright:

[alastairw@northsydneycatholics.com](mailto:alastairw@northsydneycatholics.com)

## Parish Music Conductor/Director

Sunday Community Choir and the Parish Choir 9am Children's Choir and Women's Night of Spirituality. Contact Danielle Whitmore: [danielle@daniellesmusicschool.com.au](mailto:danielle@daniellesmusicschool.com.au)

“

*We sincerely thank Danielle, Tom, Alastair, the musicians and cantors of our parish who play a vital role in enriching our liturgies and community life. Thank you to Fr Richard Leonard SJ PP, for his knowledge and support in guiding the music ministry.*

”

# THE SACRAMENTS



The sacramental co-ordination team invites the young people of the parish and their parents to deepen their understanding of, and relationship with, their God through the sacramental programs offered by the parish. The team provides information, training and support for Baptism, Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation.

**Baptism Preparation Sessions:** 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month except January, 6:15-7:00pm, Ron Dyer Centre. Parents must attend a preparation session for their first child's baptism before proceeding with the booking. It includes a brief theology of the sacrament, an explanation of the symbols, liturgy, and the Baptism ceremony. These sessions provide a welcome to the first sacrament in our Catholic tradition. Baptisms are celebrated on Sundays following 9:00am Mass at St Mary's and the 10:30am Mass at St Francis Xavier Church.

“Families now attend the Mass on the morning of their child's Baptism as a joyful celebration with the parish community.”

Fr Richard Leonard SJ, Parish Priest

■ *The admin fee for Baptism, First Holy Communion and Confirmation of \$130 per child goes towards covering the costs of running the church's sacramental, liturgical, and administrative resources, including supporting the work of the church sacristan and other related expenses. This fee is not a sacrament charge but rather an administration or resource fee to help maintain the facilities and services involved in the Sacramental process.*

### **Baptism Preparation for children 7 years and older.**

If a child is over the age of 7 years, they must be prepared for baptism within a three-week program, held in the parish offices, by appointment with the Sacramental Coordinator. Accompanied by a parent, each child, will be involved in discussion about Belonging to a Community, the Symbols of Baptism and an Explanation of the Sacrament and its Liturgy. The program has been developed within the guidelines of the Archdiocese of Sydney Religion Curriculum and Jesuit Spirituality, with age-appropriate language and information. At least one parent and one godparent must be Catholic.

### **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)**

Based within the Parish community the RCIA process is adapted to the spiritual needs and the life journey of individual adults. It is the process by which unbaptised adults are welcomed into the community of believers in the Catholic Church. RCIA is also the preparation process for adults already baptised and who seek full communion with the Catholic Church. Please contact:  
[olw@northsydneycatholics.com](mailto:olw@northsydneycatholics.com)



### **First Reconciliation and First Eucharist**

This combined sacramental program is offered to children in Yr 3 and older and provides an opportunity for them to develop their relationship with Christ. There are 3 units for each sacrament, each culminating in a celebration of the sacrament. Parents are required to attend one of the information nights, held early in the school year.

God Reveals Himself Through  
His Holy Spirit

**1<sup>ST</sup>**

**RECONCILIATION &  
HOLY COMMUNION 2026**

*A joyful step in your child's faith journey*



# FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

## Mass Schedule

St Francis Xavier Church - Sat 13 June @ 5:30pm Vigil Mass

Star of the Sea Church - Sun 14 June @ 8:00am

St Mary's Church - Sun 14 June @ 9:00am & 6:00pm

St Francis Xavier Church - Sun 14 June @ 10:30am

## WHAT YOU NEED TO DO:

1

**Register the candidate** by the due date and pay the \$130 administration fee. Registration opens on 2 February and closes on 29 March 2026. Register online at [www.trybooking.com/DHWKW](http://www.trybooking.com/DHWKW).

2

**Information nights:** attend an information session on the 25 February or 4 March @ 6:00 - 6:45pm, St Mary's Church. A parent is expected to attend.

3

**Leaders training:** consider being a leader. Training 18 & 19 March @ 6:15 - 7:30pm, Ron Dyer Centre.

4

**1st Reconciliation liturgies** at St Mary's Church, 20 & 21 May, 6:00 - 7:00pm. All families are expected to participate.



## CONFIRMATION

Confirmation provides the baptised person the opportunity to affirm living the life that baptism offered them as a child. It is a confirmation of the commitment to follow Christ and live the Gospel values. The program involves 4 units, culminating in the celebration of Confirmation with the Bishop. Parents and candidates are required to attend one of the information sessions, held in Term 2 of the school year.



### Mass Schedule

St Francis Xavier - 12 Sept @ 5:30pm

St Mary's - 13 Sept @ 9:00am & 6:00pm

St Francis Xavier - 19 Sept @ 5:30pm

St Mary's - 20 Sept @ 9:00am

REGISTRATION



### Candidate Registration

Opens 27 April > 30 May

[www.trybooking.com/DHWMB](http://www.trybooking.com/DHWMB)



### Information Nights

Thurs 4 & 11 June @ 6:00pm

St Mary's Church



### Leaders Training

22 & 29 July @ 6:00-7:30pm

# WEDDINGS



Weddings are celebrated at St Mary's Church North Sydney.  
Fridays 2:00pm, Saturdays 2:00 & 4:00pm, Sundays 2:00pm.  
St Francis Xavier and Star of the Sea by appointment

You are encouraged to engage your own deacon, priest or bishop to officiate at your wedding at one of our parish churches. He would be very welcome. Depending on other parish demands the parish may not be able to provide you with a priest, especially if you are not a registered and regular parishioner. Check church availability at: [www.northsydneycatholics.com](http://www.northsydneycatholics.com). Marriage Preparation contact Clare Koch 0417 226 680.

# BAPTISMS

Sundays 9:00am St Mary's & 10:30am St Francis Xavier

# FUNERALS

Monday - Friday

10:00am & 2:00pm @ St Mary's North Sydney.

By arrangement @ St Francis Xavier and Star of the Sea churches

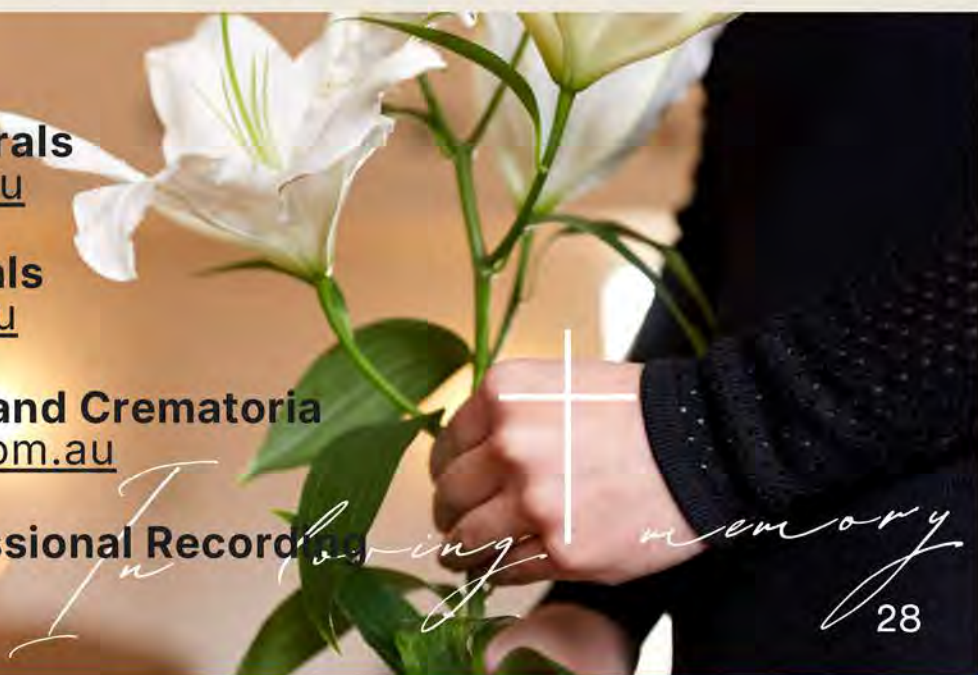
When a loved one passes away, it can feel overwhelming to know where to begin. The first step in preparing for the funeral is to contact the funeral director, who will gently guide you through the process. They will liaise directly with the parish office on your behalf.

**Gregory & Carr Funerals**  
[gregoryandcarr.com.au](http://gregoryandcarr.com.au)

**Maurer Family Funerals**  
[maurerfunerals.com.au](http://maurerfunerals.com.au)

**Catholic Cemeteries and Crematoria**  
[catholiccemeteries.com.au](http://catholiccemeteries.com.au)

**Funeral Video: Professional Recording**  
[funeralvideo.com.au](http://funeralvideo.com.au)



# COMMUNITY MASSES

*The Grace We Hold*

## **Sick & Housebound**

Visitations of the sick and housebound and administering of the Eucharist. Peter Walden  
[peterchona@gmail.com](mailto:peterchona@gmail.com)

## **James Milson Village Healing Mass**

2nd Wednesday of each month except January.  
Celebrant: Fr Daven Day SJ [www.jmv.org.au](http://www.jmv.org.au)

## **Healing Mass**

Last Thursday of the month at St Mary's, 12 noon.  
Celebrant: Fr Daven Day SJ, and other Jesuits.  
Commencing 29 January 2026.

## **Mater Hospital Mass**

Weekly on Wednesdays and Thursdays @ 9:00am

## **Home & Hospital Visits**

To arrange a home or hospital visit from one of our priests, contact the Parish office at:  
[olw@northsydneycatholics.com](mailto:olw@northsydneycatholics.com) or call 8918 4101.

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## **KINDNESS MEALS**

If you are interested in helping or receiving meals, please contact Joy Bowen:  
[joy.bowen@syd.catholic.edu.au](mailto:joy.bowen@syd.catholic.edu.au)



Signs of Hope on the Edge

## SOCIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT 2025/26

Serving Homeless People with Mental Ill-Health



**ECOLOGY LAUDATO SI'**

10<sup>TH</sup>  
ANNIVERSARY

Our Ecology Group embraces with commitment the call to care for creation, inspired by Pope Francis' encyclical Laudato Si'. As a parish community, we reflect on our shared responsibility to nurture and protect our common home. Contact:

michael.gill@outlook.com.au

**2026 Ecological Justice Calendar. [www.caritas.org.au](http://www.caritas.org.au)**

## WALK WITH CREATION

On Sept 25, parishioners walked through the beautiful paths of Tambourine Bay, reflecting on its rich Jesuit and Indigenous history.

This journey invited quiet prayer, thoughtful contemplation, and new conversations with companions old and new.

**SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY**  
**30 AUG 2026**

**SAT 18 JULY**

**PARISH DINNER**



**2026 Venue: Monte Sant' Angelo College**

## *Sydney Archdiocese Synod*

2026

**30 APRIL - 3 MAY**

Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP has convoked a diocesan Synod for Sydney from 30 April to 3 May 2026 to address the Holy Spirit-inspired longings expressed by the People of God in Sydney.

The Archbishop is seeking positive, practical and faithful ideas on how we can make our Church in Sydney more vibrant, addressing three recurring longings: for more prayerful liturgies, more Christ-centred communities, and more mission-oriented.

Fr Richard, parish priest, along with members of the Parish Council and the 2024 Parish Synodal Working Group, participated in a consultation gathering at St Mary's Cathedral Hall on 24 October, sharing ideas confined within the parameters set by "the three longings".

Participants were invited to submit their individual proposals for consideration in the Synod.

In November 2025, nominations for the appointment of delegates were sought from parish priests. Each Deanery will submit to the Archbishop a group of delegates who fulfil a set of criteria, including varying ages, women and men, lay and clergy, and ministry and involvement in their parishes.

Stay tuned for more updates as we approach the Sydney Synod in 2026.



# W O M E N ' S N I G H T O F S P I R I T U A L I T Y

Wed 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept 2026  
St Mary's Church

For nearly 30 years, the Women's Night of Spirituality has brought together women from across our community to share faith, friendship, and inspiration. This year's gathering didn't disappoint, featuring three remarkable guest speakers: Elisabeth Murphy, Ailsa Piper, and Ornella Byak, who opened their hearts and shared their stories with us, enriching our evening with wisdom, hope, and grace.

The event once again supported charities nominated by our speakers. Thanks to the generosity of all who attended, the money raised helps extend the spirit of this night well beyond our gathering and into the wider community.

The funds were distributed evenly between Jarjum College, the Brigidine Asylum Seekers Project (BASP), and BETTER: Building East Timor Through Education and Resources.

WNS Committee: Richard Leonard SJ PP; Chair: Jennifer Boland; MC: Emma Rossi; Kerry Bristow; Maryrose Morgan; Merin Boyd; Annie McNamara; Corrine McPhee; Danielle Whitmore; Fran Boyle

## *Join us in 2026*

### OTHER WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

Women of the Well

Women Companions in Spirituality

Women and the Australian Catholic Church (WATAC)

Mary's House Services: Say No to Domestic Abuse

Australian Women Preach

# Friends of Timor - Leste <sup>olw</sup>

FRANCISCO DIAS COSTA

The OLW Friends of Timor-Leste group emerged in August 2025 as a volunteer initiative supporting the parish's involvement with the Instituto São João de Brito (ISJB), a teacher-training institution in Timor-Leste. ISJB strives to prepare knowledgeable, highly skilled and ethical young professionals who can provide leadership in East Timorese education, address the country's current educational priorities, and serve in areas where the need is greatest. The institute forms part of the Society of Jesus' (Jesuits) commitment to education in Timor-Leste. Fr Sacha Bermudez-Goldman SJ, a current member of the ISJB staff, coordinates and mentors the group.

The OLW Friends of Timor-Leste group hopes to develop an enduring relationship of friendship and mutual enrichment with our friends at ISJB. Through engagement with the parish community and other interested supporters, it also aims to assist ISJB in overcoming its numerous challenges, including limited financial resources, a lack of essential buildings and facilities, educational constraints, and others. The Friends' initial project will seek to provide annual scholarships for ISJB students, particularly those coming from rural areas, as well as raise funds for formation activities such as retreats and Ignatian recollection days. In the future, it also hopes to support other projects, such as the expansion and improvement of the ISJB library and the construction of its multipurpose hall, chapel, and administrative and research wings.

In 2026, the OLW Friends of Timor-Leste plan to formally introduce this project and ISJB to the parish community. A launching event is scheduled for the first quarter of 2026, followed by additional activities, including a community event and fundraising appeal and other ongoing opportunities to deepen our bonds of friendship and mutual support. The group also intends to keep the community regularly informed of ISJB's progress by including updates in selected weekly parish bulletins and additional information on the parish website.

The OLW Friends of Timor-Leste is strongly committed and motivated to be part of this initiative and looks forward to sharing this important project with the community—an initiative that we hope will have a direct and meaningful impact not only on the lives of people in Timor-Leste, but also on the life of in our parish community. The OLW Friends of Timor-Leste warmly invites all parishioners and friends of the community to participate and support ISJB and shape the next generations of East Timorese teachers and their students.

**Instituto  
São  
João de  
Brito (ISJB)**

# Audience Insights

## The Online Mass

1<sup>st</sup> Dec 2025 - 1<sup>st</sup> Dec 2026

### Demographics

#### • Age Groups:

18-24 yrs:	1.0%
25-34 yrs	2.2%
35-44 yrs	1.2%
45-54 yrs	7.6%
55-64 yrs	16.3%
65+ yrs	71.1%

#### Gender Distribution:



#### Top Locations:

Aus	66.3%	Singapore	1.9%
USA	7.3%	Malaysia	1.8%
India	2.8%	Philippines	1.5%

### Audience Behavior

#### • Most Active Times:

- Weekdays: 9:00 AM - 07:00 PM
- Weekends 10:00 AM - 9:00 PM

#### Watch time (hours) by: Content type

- Livestream 85,802,40 - 97.8%
- Videos 362.0 - 0.4%
- Shorts 1496.2 - 1.7%

Subscribers 2996

#### Top Three Videos for 2025

- The Story of Pope Francis
- God is Beyond Words
- How far will you go out of love?

### Growth Trends

- Estimated total number of viewers in the past 28 days, 9,328. This metric is calculated daily, always looking back at the previous 28 days from that specific day.
- The average view duration across the channel from 1 Dec 2024 to 1 Dec 2025 was 12:31 sec
- Audience by watch behaviour: of the 447,669 views 23.9% are regular viewers, 60.3% new viewers and 16% casual viewers
- The top video for 2025 with 13,195 views is The Pope's Election by Fr Richard Leonard SJ PP.

# SAFEGUARDING



The “Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office” was established in the Archdiocese of Sydney in November 2015, in response to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse (2013-2017). The Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney, along with the Jesuits, are committed to a collective responsibility for the safety, well-being, and dignity of children, young people, and vulnerable adults within our parish. We acknowledge our legal, moral and spiritual obligations to foster a safe and nurturing environment.

We uphold a zero-tolerance policy, and our focus is on prevention. Over the past couple of years, we have been updating and implementing training programmes, protocols, and procedures to promote a strong culture of safeguarding. All clergy, staff, committee members, contractors and volunteers are expected to uphold and follow these standards. We remain vigilant to emerging risks and opportunities for continuous improvement.

Our community has very clear expectations regarding child protection and expects children, young people, and vulnerable adults will be safeguarded from all forms of harm, including sexual, physical, and psychological ill-treatment and neglect. Our parish supports these expectations and is committed to the safety of every individual in our care.

Our continuous review of these processes, procedures, and training has been recognised and commendably acknowledged by the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney (CAS), the Office of the Children’s Guardian (OCG), and Australian Catholic Safeguarding Limited (ACSL) for maintaining high standards and ensuring legislative compliance in our biannual reports.

Sydney Archdiocese Safeguarding Events in 2026.

- National Volunteer Week - 18th to 24th May
- National Child Protection Week - 7 to 13th September
- Safeguarding Sunday 13 Sept
- Mental Health Month – October
- International Day of People with Disability – 3rd December



As of 1 Dec 2025, the OLV parish has 418 registered volunteers. If you would like to join our volunteering team please email: [volunteering@northsydneycatholics.com](mailto:volunteering@northsydneycatholics.com)



If you or someone you know has experienced abuse, we encourage you to contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office at (02) 9390 5813 or [safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org).



For further information or if you have any concerns or questions, please contact our Parish Priest or Parish Safeguarding Support Officer on (02) 8918 4148 or Email: [safeguarding@northsydneycatholics.com](mailto:safeguarding@northsydneycatholics.com)



Together, these businesses model how commercial success can be aligned with social responsibility, ensuring that business growth also nurtures community wellbeing.

Gratefully we  
acknowledge Percy's,  
North Sydney Hotel

HARRIS FARM  
Markets

## **CELEBRATING A YEAR OF PARTICIPATION AND GROWTH**

The life of our community depends on your generosity and engagement. On 8 Feb, the parish launched the Planned Giving Appeal, which was hugely successful, with 24.25% new family givers and a 38.09% increase in regular planned giving contributions. The most notable gains were with Jesuit Social Services, and the outcome was the best-ever result for Project Compassion. Furthermore, the parish observed substantial growth in event participation and social media engagement. From our appeal for financial assistance for a newly refurbished organ for St Mary's to our requests for volunteers to assist with church activities. Thank you.

## **2026 PARISH APPEALS**

JESUIT MISSION  
ST VINCENT DE PAUL  
JESUIT REFUGEE SERVICE  
CATHOLIC MISSION  
JESUIT SOCIAL SERVICES

11/12 APRIL  
27/28 JUNE  
15/16 AUG  
17/18 OCT  
28/29 NOV

# IGNITE FOOD STORE

MT DRUITT COMMUNITY  
HOLY FAMILY EMERTON

*Our Lady of the Way Parish and Holy Family: Together in Spirit and Service*

Since 2008, the Ignite Food Store and Op Shop in Mount Druitt has been providing affordable, fresh, and healthy food to one of Sydney's most disadvantaged communities. Operated by Jesuit Social Services with the help of local volunteers, the Store offers both essential groceries and valuable work experience opportunities for unemployed residents.

Through strong partnerships with organisations such as Harris Farm, Chemist Warehouse local Woolworths branches and the North Sydney Parish community the Store served 8,821 customers in the year to June 2025. Manager Rosemary Peri notes: "that many locals rely on the Store as a place where \$10 or \$20 can stretch to a basket of nutritious food and, perhaps more importantly, a sense of dignity and belonging".



# DID YOU KNOW ...

In 2025 our parish experienced a surge in families seeking the sacrament of Baptism, with 215 families attending our Baptism Preparation classes. More than three times as many baptisms were celebrated compared with 2024. Notably, 53 of the children baptised were over the age of seven.

RCIA Program - 5 candidates were received into the church.

We give thanks to our Jesuit community Fathers who have accompanied the community in faith, sharing in these sacred moments.

**Baptisms 202**

**Weddings 40**

**Funerals 51**

On the 24<sup>th</sup> April, we gave thanks for the life of Pope Francis at a special Thanksgiving Mass at St Mary's North Sydney.

Shortly after on the 8<sup>th</sup> May the Conclave elected Robert Francis Cardinal Prevost as the 267<sup>th</sup> Bishop of Rome.

We welcomed Joshua Choong SJ & Isaac Demase SJ, who were ordained to the priesthood on the 8<sup>th</sup> July at St Mary's.



# EMBRACING

## *The Richness of Our Community*

Our parish community respectfully acknowledges significant cultural and national moments throughout the year; Lunar New Year, Laudato Si, NAIDOC, Mental Health Month, International Day of People with Disability, Refugee Week, World Mission Sunday, International Women's Day, times of friendship and exchange with the Emerton community, Australia Day, Remembrance Day, ANZAC Day commemorations, and the call to remember,

*"Lest We forget."*

While not all of these are formally celebrated within our calendar, each reflects our shared values of culture, creation, and connection. Together, they remind us of the richness of our parish community and the many ways we honour faith, heritage, and belonging.

We acknowledge and give thanks for the first people of Australia and honour the traditional custodians of the land on which we gather today. We pay our respect to the elders past and present and emerging of the Cammeraygal People of the Eora Nation. May our whole nation embrace the hopes of the First peoples of Australia, voiced in the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

## PARISH CHARITIES TRUST

Advising on disbursements from the Parish Charities trust - Humphrey Nolan

Part of our planned giving programme obtains tax deductibility when donations are applied to works that have recognised charitable status, those with DGR status.

This year, in 2025 the parish charities trust donated \$630,000 to various ministries including Jesuit Social Services Western Sydney, The Ignite Store, Holy Family Parish Mt Druitt, Jesuit Mission, St Vincent De Paul North Sydney Conference, Jesuit Refugee Service, the Cardoner Network for Young Adults, Mary Ward International and Jarjum College.

Your generosity made a practical difference to many people's lives. Thank you.

## BEQUESTS

If you or your family are considering making a bequest, please contact the parish priest: Fr Richard Leonard SJ PP, [richard.leonard@nssj.org.au](mailto:richard.leonard@nssj.org.au)

### Project Compassion

\$44,984.03

New additions this year to **ST MARY'S BENEFACTORS BOARD**

Mary Bayldon  
Joyce Lang Zea

## PARISH FINANCES

David Rothery - Chair  
Parish Finance Committee

The Parish conforms with Archdiocesan accounting practices and its accounts are audited. For the year ended 30 June 2025, the Parish had an operating income of \$1,349,637 and operating expenditure of \$1,060,110 resulting in a surplus of \$289,527 which was transferred to reserves. The principal expenditures were staff costs; insurances; repairs & maintenance; utilities; music and pastoral expenses.



**Charitable Works**  
Fund donations are 100% tax deductible.  
CWF Appeal  
16-17 May 2026

## CAMPAIGN RESULTS

The results of the Parish Appeals were truly pleasing, reflecting the remarkable generosity of the community. We look forward with hope and gratitude to the difference these gifts will have on our parish ministries and the people we serve.

Jesuit Mission	\$32,000.00
St Vincent De Paul	\$90,000.00
Jesuit Refugee Service	\$20,638.00
Catholic Mission	\$4,132.45
Jesuit Social Services	\$59,605.00

## The Parish Appeal

# Planned Giving

In effecting its mission, the parish relies heavily on the financial support and generosity of the parish community. If you are able to support the parish financially through the planned giving program (via credit card, direct debit or envelopes) please contact the parish office. Donations attract a 50% tax deduction. 50% of all planned giving is directed to the Parish Charities Trust which disburses these funds in support of the works of the Jesuit social ministries and other social causes.

Contact: Ieva Lapina

[ieval@northsydneycatholics.com](mailto:ieval@northsydneycatholics.com)



**“ We need your help to keep doing what we do with you, and for you ”**

Fr Richard Leonard SJ PP

## PARISH OFFICE

Ron Dyer Centre

42 Ridge St

North Sydney NSW 2060

PO Box 1409, North Sydney NSW

2059. +61 2 8918 4101

## OUR CHURCHES

St Mary's (STM)

264 Miller St, North Sydney

St Francis Xavier (SFX)

17 Mackenzie St, Lavender Bay

Star of the Sea (SOS)

44 Willoughby St, Kirribilli

### Our Meeting Rooms

Companions Board Room

MacCauley & Marcellin Rooms

### Our Hospitality Rooms

Ron Dyer Centre - Gathering Space & Hall

St Francis Xavier Church Hall

### Parish Council

[richard.leonard@nssj.org.au](mailto:richard.leonard@nssj.org.au)

### Parish Office - General Enquiries

[olw@northsydneycatholics.com](mailto:olw@northsydneycatholics.com)

### News Media and Events

[communications@northsydneycatholics.com](mailto:communications@northsydneycatholics.com)

### Church Car Parks

Limited spaces available for lease

Mon to Fri @ St Mary's: contact the

parish office. For St Francis Xavier

carpark [info@spacegenie.com.au](mailto:info@spacegenie.com.au)

### Sacramental Office - FHC & Confirmation

[daniellew@northsydneycatholics.com](mailto:daniellew@northsydneycatholics.com)

### Finance Office - Planned Giving

[ieval@northsydneycatholics.com](mailto:ieval@northsydneycatholics.com)

### Safeguarding Office - Volunteering

[safeguarding@northsydneycatholics.com](mailto:safeguarding@northsydneycatholics.com)

# OUR FUTURE PATH

## **North Sydney Parish and Marist Catholic College Northshore (MCCNS) Precinct development.**

The construction of the MCCNS's Carlow St Building (Stage 2B) has now been completed. However, the demolition of the existing Miller St school building has been put on hold for some time.

In 2026, the following construction works are scheduled to begin, subject to MOU finalisation: the beautification of the present car park and Ridge Street gardens.

The Ron Dyer Centre continues to be our parish centre including the Gathering Space.

## **Our vision for St Francis Xavier**

We are planning a renewal of our Parish of Our Lady of the Way site in Lavender Bay, in partnership with St Vincent de Paul Society Housing Australia (Vinnies Housing).

We are at the very early stages, and in early 2026 we will be running a series of conversations with our parishioners and neighbours to ensure the renewal reflects what matters most to our communities.

We know that our site at St Francis Xavier isn't being used to its full potential. Currently, the site consists of a ground-level car park, with some of the buildings requiring restoration or significant repair.

We want to create a site that protects and celebrates the heritage of our parish, by improving community facilities, creating safer and greener spaces and providing more affordable homes. Our vision is to build a fairer, more welcoming place for everyone.

## Our Vision

We have the responsibility to steward our assets as best we can both now and for generations to come. We must make better use of our wonderful sites.

To do this, our vision includes:

- **An enduring Catholic precinct**, where daily mass will be easier to access for the community.
- **Restoration of our heritage buildings**, including the church and former school building, so they can be used and enjoyed for decades to come.
- **Enhanced celebrations and gatherings**, with greater capacity and a new Church forecourt, creating a welcoming space to gather after Mass.
- **Modern parish facilities**, including meeting rooms and bathrooms.
- **No net loss of parish parking numbers**
- **Carefully designed new buildings**, which will provide more affordable housing to our community and help fund the parish facilities.
- **A mix of market and affordable rental housing**, providing homes for all, including essential workers and vulnerable members of the community, in partnership with Vinnie's Housing.
- **A safer precinct**, with a new direct link to Blue Street Plaza and better lighting.
- **A greener church setting**, with improved landscaping and the new church forecourt.



Ultimately, the proposal will involve removing two existing residential buildings, restoring St Francis Xavier Church, and adapting the former school hall for new uses. As well as adding a 20-storey mixed-use building containing homes and offices and a 5-storey building linked to the church, with affordable homes managed by Vinnies Housing.

## What's important to you?

We want to know what spaces, services and features are most important to you: what you value, how you use them, and what you'd like to see in the future parish and community spaces. We want to hear your thoughts on our vision for St Francis Xavier.

- What are your views on the proposed vision?
- Do you have any other outcomes you'd like to see considered as part of the vision?

To provide your initial ideas in response to these questions, please scan the QR code. More information will be available on the parish website early in the new year:

[www.northsydneycatholics.com](http://www.northsydneycatholics.com)

## Get involved

Early next year we will be consulting with our parish and neighbours.

We will share further information on our engagement activities and how you can have your say in the new year. Alternatively, contact Urbis Engagement at [engagement@urbis.com.au](mailto:engagement@urbis.com.au) or 1800 244 863 to stay informed.

OLW Parish

# DEVELOPMENTS: INFORMATION AND ENQUIRIES

**Postal enquiries:**

Xavier Terrace Office - 1 Mackenzie St,  
Lavender Bay 2060 NSW

