



ST EDWARD'S CATHOLIC PARISH

[Mary Help of Christians Church]

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Rev. Fr Paul Aguilar, PP | Mrs. Liz Hearne, *parish secretary* | Rev. Paul Manvell, *deacon*

NEWS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christmas Offering

At the end of the year, unused funds in the 1st collection (Presbytery Account) are sent to the Armidale Clergy Fund (ACF) to help priests in smaller parishes, retired and sick clergy. This also means that at the beginning of each year our Presbytery Account is \$0. Please help us cover our costs for January. Christmas Offering envelopes are available at the foyer. This contributes towards the support of our priest and presbytery upkeep. Thank you!

You may also EFT your contribution:
Account Name: Special Collection Account
BSB: 082105 Acc. No: 001059638
Reference: Christmas Offering

Christmas Fundraising

This year's Christmas fundraising project is for the benefit of:

- Chaung Ma Gyi Mission Centre Myanmar, a boarding house for children in a Parish in Myanmar near the Thailand-Myanmar border (c/ Fr Philip Shwe, Myanmar),
- Skills Training for 2 African women in Nigeria (c/ Fr Kingsley, Quirindi).

Total donations received:

St Edward's School -	\$ 588.40
Cards & Baubles Sales -	1 181.60
Total	\$ 1 770.00

Distribution:

Chaung Ma Gyi Mission Centre -	\$ 1 270.00
<i>\$1270.00 (incl. remittance fee) = THB 28 570.70 (Thai Bhat)</i>	
Skills Training - 2 Nigerian women -	\$ 500.00

Thank you for your generous donations!

Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

Last Week's Collection

1st Collection - \$ 1 084.04 Christmas Offerings -
Planned Giving - \$ 661.00 Loose - \$ 50.35

In your charity, please pray for

our sick

Fr John Willis	Barry Winning	Sayde Baladia
Peter Richards	Narelle Albans	Chris O'Sullivan
Peachy Family	Julien Ryan	Ginavis Naw Pha Day
Nini Torres	Linda Allan	Helen Oades

our deceased

+ Christine Parkes + Marie Thomas + Patricia Hansen

Roman Martyrology

01/01 Blessed Virgin Mary, *Mother of God*
 02/01 Sts Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen
 03/01 The Most Holy Name of Jesus
 04/01 St Elizabeth Ann Seton
 05/01 St Edward, King & Confessor *death anniversary*
 06/01 St Andre Bessette
 07/01 St Raymond Peñafort

Omnes sancti mátyres, oráte pro nobis.

HOME VISITATION

If there is a parishioner in whom you know would appreciate a visit from a clergy or the SVdP Society, please contact the Parish Office.

SICK LIST PRAYER REQUEST

If you would like to add someone to our sick list please use the "sick list prayer request form" placed in the blue folder at the foyer.

On Church Giving

Giving is an expression of our thankfulness and praise to God. It comes from a heart of worship that recognises everything we have and give already belongs to the Lord. Our ability to earn money is a gift from God. Returning a percentage of our treasure back to God is one way that we live our faith. Just like our family households, our parish community needs financial resources in order to operate, serve, and minister. God provides for these needs through you - you ARE the parish.

To support the priests (1st collection):

A/C Name: St Edwards Church Presbytery Savings Account
BSB: 082 105 A/C No.: 001023592
Reference: First + last name

To support the Church (Planned Giving - envelope):

A/C Name: St Edwards Church Suspense Acct
BSB: 082 105 A/C No.: 001002950
Reference: Envelope Number + last name

What return shall I make to the Lord, for all God has given me? Thank you for making a gift to support the important work of our parish. We sincerely appreciate your generosity!

Catholic Devotion: Blessing of Homes and Chalking of Door

Epiphany of the Lord

Epiphany (also known as Twelfth Night, *Theophany*, or Three Kings Day) marks the occasion of a time-honoured Christian tradition of "chalking the doors." The formula for the ritual — adapted for 2023 — is simple: take chalk of any color and write the following above the entrance of your home: **20 + C + M + B + 23**. The letters have two meanings. First, they represent the initials of the Magi — Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar — who came to visit Jesus in His first home. They also abbreviate the Latin phrase, *Christus mansionem benedicat*: "May Christ bless this house." The "+" signs represent the cross, and the "20" at the beginning and the "23" at the end mark the year. The chalking of the doors is a centuries-old practice throughout the world, though it appears to be somewhat less well-known in Australia. It is, however, an easy tradition to adopt, and a great practice whereby we dedicate our year to God from its very outset, asking His blessing on our homes and on all who live, work or visit them there. The timing for the chalking of the doors varies somewhat in practice. In some places, it is done on New Year's Day.

More commonly, it is performed January 6 — the traditional Feast of the Epiphany — the Twelfth Day of Christmas. Traditionally the blessing is done by either a priest or the head of the family. This blessing can be performed simply by just writing the inscription and offering a short prayer. The chalking of the doors of a home encourages Christians to dedicate their life at home to God and to others. Seeing the symbols over our doors can help to remind us, while passing in and out on our daily routines, that our homes and all those who dwell there belong to Christ. It also serves as a reminder of the welcome the Magi gave to Jesus. With time the chalk will fade. As it does we let the meaning of the symbols written sink into the depths of our heart and be manifest in our words and actions the Latin words, *Christus mansionem benedicat*, "May Christ bless the house." We should strive to be welcoming to all who come to our homes to visit us!

Instructions for Blessing the Home

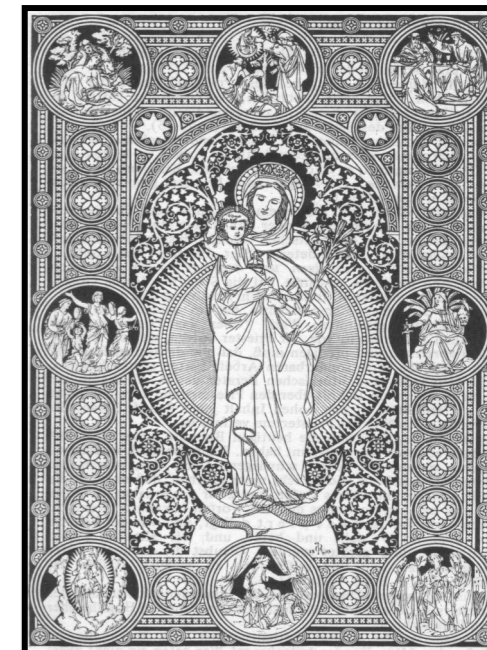
Using the blessed chalk mark the lintel of your front door (or front porch step) as follows:

20 + C + M + B + 23 while saying:

The three Wise Men, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar followed the star of God's Son who became human two thousand and twenty three years ago. May Christ bless our home and remain with us throughout the new year. Amen.

Then offer the following prayer:

Visit, O blessed Lord, this home with the gladness of your presence. Bless all who live or visit here with the gift of your love; and grant that we may manifest your love to each other and to all whose lives we touch. May we grow in grace and in the knowledge and love of you; guide, comfort, and strengthen us in peace, O Jesus Christ, now and forever. Amen



Schedule of Masses & Sacraments 2 - 8 January '23

Holy Mass

Mon - Fri	NO MASS
Saturday	05.30pm
Sunday	09.00am 05.30pm

Confessions

Saturday	04.45pm to 05.15pm
Sunday	08.15am to 08.45am 04.45pm to 05.15pm

Baptism

by appointment

Online baptism request form:

<https://stedwardsparish.org.au/sacraments/>

Wedding

Anointing of the Sick

Funeral

by appointment

HOPE KITCHEN

Free and healthy meal for everyone.

We have served 1309 meals from 28/09/2022 to 21 December 2022

This program will resume late February 2023.

Heart of Peace (HOPE) is a social justice ministry of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Armidale.

New volunteers are welcome.

To volunteer please email: hopekitchen2340@gmail.com

Follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/hopekitchen>

Child Safe Parish

Electronic copy of the Child Safe Parish Policy is now available on our website www.stedwardsparish.org.au/safeguarding/ It is a valuable resource to keep our parish a child safe environment. All are encouraged to read the booklet.