



ST EDWARD'S CATHOLIC PARISH

[Mary Help of Christians Church]

72 Hillvue Road (PO Box 5002) South Tamworth NSW 2340
 Parish Office Ph: 6765 9543 | Hall Booking Ph: 6765 7259
 Email: southtamworthparish@armidale.catholic.org.au
 Website: <https://stedwardsparish.org.au/>
 Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/stedwardssouthtamworth>



Rev. Fr Roel Llave | Mmes Liz Hearne & Hilda Raquepo, *parish secretaries* | Rev. Paul Manvell, *deacon*

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

In your charity, please pray for our sick

Bp Rob (Austin) Crapp, Fr John Willis, Barry Winning, Sayde Baladia, Narelle Albans, Chris O'Sullivan, Peachy Family, Julien Ryan, Patricia Jones, Denise Robinson, Ginavis Naw Pha Day, Jo O'Sullivan, Peter Fardy, Anna Gawlik, Pia Layson, Patrick Lawler, Catherine Robinson, Ros Dewick, Kevin Frost, Joan Guyer.

our deceased

Barry Robinson, Lynette Beijeman, Sr Iris Fittler, RSJ, Teresita Ortiga, Fr Morrie Clarke, Anthony Davis, Margaret Blake, Virginia Beramo, Anthony (Nguyen), Victor Stevens, Margaret Single, Robyn Hatton.

Anniversaries

Frank Fahy

WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

ROSARY GROUP

Meet in private homes at 10am on Wednesdays
 For information contact Dulcie Johns Ph: 6762 1092

MOTHERS' PRAYERS

Meet in private homes at 1.30pm on Mondays to pray for our children and all children throughout the world.
 For more information contact Trish Tighe Ph: 0427657259

ST VINCENT de PAUL

St Edward's Visiting Conference

Meet in the Church meeting room on Mondays at 4pm.
 For more information contact Cathy Norvill Ph: 0421591046

PASSIONIST FAMILY GROUP - White Ants

For more information or to join the White Ants Family Group ring Kerry Keating Ph: 0427367628

MIGRANTS & REFUGEES

Free English Lessons

Members of our Parish offer free group lessons in the Church Hall on Sundays from 10am-12pm. For more information or to become a volunteer tutor (no experience needed) contact Lizzie on 0439493266 or Kerry on 0427367628.

ST EDWARD'S CHOIR & MUSIC MINISTRY

The St Edward's Parish Choir is always ready to welcome new members. For more information contact Liz Hearne Ph: 0403137810

ST EDWARD'S SCHOOL READING SUPPORT VOLUNTEERS

When: Any week day from 9-11am

Where: Infants and Primary campus

What you need: A volunteer Working With Children Check which can be obtained free of charge from Service NSW.
 Ring Primary School on 67657847 or Infants on 67658569

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

Offering free and healthy meals for everyone.
 Returning in February after Christmas break.
 MHOC Church Hall, 72 Hillvue Road, South Tamworth.

NEW VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

to volunteer please email: hopekitchen2340@gmail.com

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

NEWS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHRISTMAS FUNDRAISING

This is our last weekend of Christmas fundraising, so if you would like to make a \$5 donation and place a bauble on one of our trees it would be greatly appreciated. Funds raised will go to Caritas for their "Empowerment of People with Disabilities" program assisting. People with disabilities living in rural parts of Asia.

VOLUNTEER READERS, EMHC & PIETY FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON

If you are available to assist with the liturgy over Christmas and the holiday season, please add your name to the sign-up sheet in the foyer.

CHRISTMAS DUES

Every year, excess funds in the first collection (Presbytery Account) are sent to Priest Salary Fund to help priests in the smaller parishes. This also means that, at the beginning of each year our Presbytery Account is \$0. Help us cover our costs for January. Envelopes for Christmas Offering are included in the Planned Giving envelope packs and on the paper table in the foyer, and may be left on the collection plate at any Mass. This contributes towards the support of our priest and presbytery upkeep. Thank you!

LENTEN PROGRAM

Ash Wednesday will fall on the 14 of February this year and we will once again be offering Lenten Program in our Parish. This year Fr Roel will be leading Lenten Groups in the Church on Thursdays at 10.30am and 7.00pm. Please add your details to the sign-up sheet in the foyer if you would like to be included. Lenten Program Booklets will be available for \$10.00 each.

Blessing of Homes and Chalking of Door - Epiphany of the Lord

Epiphany (also known as Twelfth Night) marks the occasion of a time-honoured Christian tradition of "chalking the doors." The formula for the ritual — adapted for 2024 — is simple: take chalk of any color and write the following above the entrance of your home: **20 + C + M + B + 24**. 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 "24" at the end mark the year. It is 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. 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 + 24

while saying:

The three Wise Men, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar followed the star of God's Son who became human two thousand and twenty four 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

On Church Giving

To support the priests (active, sick, and retired) 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 Program—PGP):

A/C Name: St. Edwards Church Suspense Account

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!

PARISH PRAYER

Loving God, Father of us all, gather and form us into a caring and welcoming parish family.

May your Holy Spirit touch our hearts for us to reach out with compassion to those in need.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd. Amen.

Mary Help of Christians... pray for us.

St Edward the Confessor... pray for us.

St Mary of the Cross... pray for us.

Schedule of Masses & Sacraments

Holy Mass

Monday New Year's Day	09.30 am
Tuesday	09.30 am
Wednesday	09.30 am
Thursday	09.30 am
1st Friday Adoration	08.15 am
Friday	09.30 am
1st Saturday Mass	09.30 am

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

Wedding, Anointing of the Sick & Funeral

by appointment

Sick List

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.

Visitation

If there is a parishioner whom you know would appreciate a visit from a priest or the SVdP, please contact the Parish Of-



Please ensure that your children are accompanied when leaving the Church during the Mass to go to the toilet or for any other reason.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

1st Collection - \$ 552.20

Planned Giving - \$ 697.00

Loose - \$ 36.80

MINISTRY ROSTER

6 – 7 January| The EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

	Reader	EMHC	Piety	Counters this week: G. Tighe & F. Gooley
Saturday 5.30 pm				
Sunday 9.00 am	Please volunteer by signing up on the sheet in the foyer			Counters next week: G. Smith & L. Coleman
Sunday 5.30 pm				