



ST PAUL'S ANGLICAN CHURCH
Burwood

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sunday 21 December 2025

8:00AM SAID EUCHARIST

Welcome to St Paul's

We warmly welcome you and are glad that you have come to worship God with us today on the Fourth Sunday of Advent.

Whether you are visiting for a short while, have moved here and are joining our Parish, or are returning to your faith, I welcome you to St Paul's Anglican Church, Burwood.

This historic church, dedicated to St Paul the Apostle & Martyr, was designed by the Australian colonial architect Edmund Blacket. It had its foundation stone laid on 29 July 1871 and the first service was held in the church on Saturday 27 April 1872. Since its earliest days St Paul's has maintained a fine reputation for liturgy and music in the Tractarian tradition.

We are very glad that you are here and we look forward to getting to know you. Refreshments (tea/coffee), when served, are available in the Parish Hall immediately following the service. The hall can be found by turning left when leaving the church. May God richly bless you!

Peace,
Fr James Collins OAM
Rector

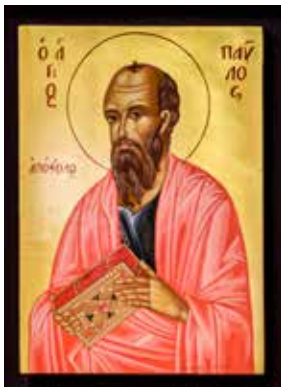
Please take this order of service home.

Are you a new parishioner or do you need to update your details?



Use this QR code to update your details in our parish database and ensure you are kept up-to-date with everything going on at St Paul's Burwood.

Alternatively, you can contact the parish office by phone: (02) 9747 4327 or email: info@stpaulsburwood.org.au



The texts and prayers are taken from *A Prayer Book for Australia* © 1995, The Anglican Church of Australia Trust Corporation.

Hymn texts are taken from *The New English Hymnal* © 1996, The English Hymnal Company Ltd.

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Cover Photo (detail) Advent Wreath.

Icon (left): Icon of St Paul in the Chapel of Our Lady.

ADVENT WREATH LITURGY

The Advent wreath in the church is a traditional way of counting down to Christmas. It has 3 purple candles, one rose pink and a white candle in the centre to remind us of Jesus, the light of the world. We use purple because it is the colour of penitence and forgiveness but it is also the colour of royalty in this season of waiting for the coming of the King. The Advent wreath is always a circle to represent God's unending love for us and is made of evergreen leaves to represent eternal life. The rose pink candle is a blending of the white of the joy to come at Christmas and the purple (in some traditions, red) of the other candles.

This year, as we prepare to celebrate the coming of our Lord, we acknowledge that many parts of our world are at war, that the innocent suffer and the leaders of the nations seem helpless to bring about peace. In response to this we will include a prayer for peace in our Advent Wreath Liturgy each week.

Please STAND as the bell is rung and the sanctuary party processes to the chancel.

Greeting

The priest greets the congregation.

✠ Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The priest continues with the opening sentence:

A virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel: God with us.

Let us pray:

**Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open, all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name,
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Lighting of the Wreath

We relight the candles of Hope, Peace and Joy. Today we light the candle of Love: love that is with us now and always.

Loving God, we are people of love. May we who have received such an abundance of love from you share that love which unites us. Amen.

Purify our conscience, almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Kyrie

The congregation repeats each petition after the priest.
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Collect

The priest says the collect of the day.
Gracious God, you chose the virgin Mary, by your grace, to be the mother of our Lord and Saviour: so fill us with your grace, that with her we may rejoice in your salvation, and in all things embrace your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

Please SIT for the readings and psalm.

First Reading: Isaiah 7.10–16

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: ‘Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

For the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm: 80.1–7, 17–19

The verses are said alternately between the reader and the congregation.
Please observe a short break at the colon in the middle of each verse.

- 1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, you that led Joseph like a flock: *(pause)*
 you that are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine out in glory;
- 2 **Before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh: *(pause)***
 stir up your power, and come to save us.
- 3 Restore us again, O Lord of hosts: *(pause)*
 show us the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 4

- 4 **O Lord God of hosts: *(pause)***
 how long will you be angry at your people’s prayer?
- 5 You have fed them with the bread of tears: *(pause)*
 and given them tears to drink in good measure.
- 6 **You have made us the victim of our neighbours: *(pause)***
 and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
- 7 Restore us again, O Lord of hosts: *(pause)*
 show us the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 17 **Let your power rest on the man at your right hand: *(pause)***
 on that son of man whom you made so strong for yourself.
- 18 And so we shall not turn back from you: *(pause)*
 give us life, and we will call upon your name.
- 19 **Restore us again, O Lord of hosts: *(pause)***
 show us the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

Second Reading: Romans 1.1–7

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

To all God’s beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
For the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Please STAND for the gradual hymn.

Gradual Hymn

WELLINGTON LM

Michael Fleming (1928-2006)



- 1 Lift up your heads ye mighty gates,
 Behold the King of glory waits.
 The King of kings is drawing near,
 The Saviour of the world is here.

- 2 O blest the land, the city blest,
Where Christ as ruler is confessed;
O happy hearts and happy homes
To whom this king in triumph comes.
- 3 Come then, O Saviour, and abide,
Our hearts to thee be open wide;
May all thy inward presence feel,
To all thy grace and love reveal.

George Weissel (1590-1635)
Tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-78) & Editors

Remain standing for the gospel.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Alleluia.

Alleluia, Alleluia.

A virgin will give birth to a son;

His name will be Emmanuel: God is with us.

Alleluia.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

✠ A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel: Matthew 1.18–25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, ‘Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.’ All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

‘Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel’,

which means, ‘God is with us.’ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

For the Gospel of the Lord,

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon

Ms Natalie McDonald

Lay Assistant

Please STAND for the Creed.

Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, ✠ and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Please KNEEL for the prayers.

Prayers of the Faithful

The following response is used:

Let there be peace on earth:

and goodwill to all people.

At the end of the prayers, the following is recited:

Almighty God, you have promised to hear our prayers.

**Grant that what we have asked in faith
we may by your grace receive,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

A selection of Scripture sentences may be used, concluding with the Prayer of Approach:

**We do not presume
to come to your table, merciful Lord,
trusting in our own righteousness,
but in your manifold and great mercies.
We are not worthy
so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table.
But you are the same Lord
whose nature is always to have mercy.**

Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord,
so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ,
and to drink his blood,
that we may evermore dwell in him
and he in us. Amen.

Confession and Absolution

The priest introduces the confession.

The Lord comes, bringing to light things now hidden in darkness, and disclosing the purposes of the heart.

(Silence may be kept)

Let us open our hearts and prepare for his coming, confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

Merciful God,
our maker and our judge,
we have sinned against you
in thought, word and deed, and in what we have failed to do:
we have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves;
we repent, and are sorry for all our sins.
Father, forgive us.
Strengthen us to love and obey you in newness of life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The priest pronounces the Absolution.

Almighty God, who has promised forgiveness to all who turn to him in faith:

✠ pardon you and set you free from all your sins,
strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in eternal life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Please STAND for the Greeting of Peace.

Greeting of Peace

We are the body of Christ.

His Spirit is with us.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

The greeting of peace is exchanged through a silent bow towards those seated around you.

Please remain standing to sing the offertory hymn.

An offertory is taken for the work of the parish. This can be done in cash via the collection plate, direct debit using the details on page 15 or by scanning the QR code to make your offering directly from your mobile phone.



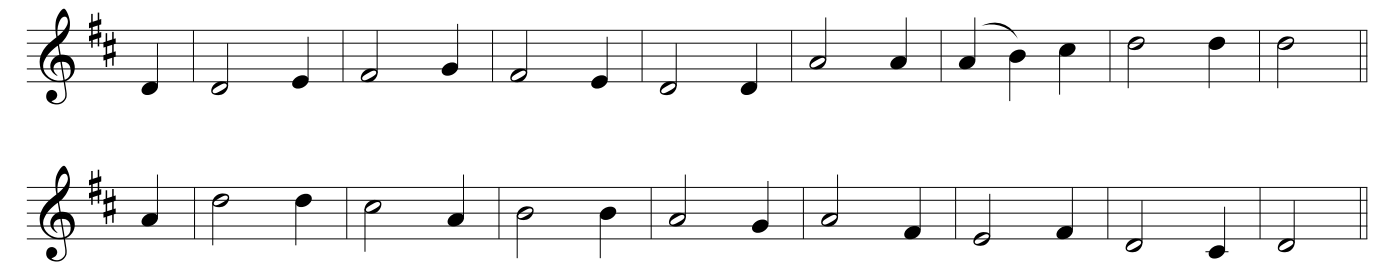
There is also a donation point at the West Door where you can tap your card.

Offertory Hymn

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR LM

Melody adapted by Michael Praetorius (1571-1621)

Harmony by G.R. Woodward (1848-1934)



- 1 Come, thou Redeemer of the earth,
And manifest thy virgin-birth:
Let every age adoring fall,
Such birth befits the God of all.
- 2 Begotten of no human will,
But of the Spirit, thou art still
The Word of God, in flesh arrayed,
The Saviour, now to man displayed.
- 3 O equal to thy Father, thou!
Gird on thy fleshly mantle now,
The weakness of our mortal state
With deathless might invigorate.
- 4 Thy cradle here shall glitter bright,
And darkness glow with new-born light,
No more shall night extinguish day,
Where love's bright beams their power display.
- 5 O Jesu, Virgin-born, to thee
Eternal praise and glory be,
Whom with the Father we adore
And Holy Spirit, evermore. Amen.

St Ambrose (340-97); Tr. J.M. Neale (1818-66) and others

The Preparation

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, for through your goodness we have received the bread we offer you: fruit of the earth and work of human hands, it will become for us the bread of life.

Blessed be God for ever.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, for through your goodness we have received the wine we offer you: fruit of the vine and work of human hands, it will become our spiritual drink.

Blessed be God for ever.

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The priest continues with the Prayer of Thanksgiving.

Sanctus & Benedictus

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

✠ **Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord;
Hosanna in the highest.**

Please KNEEL. The priest continues with the Prayer of Consecration.

Memorial Acclamation

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith: *or* Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

✠ Renew us by your Holy Spirit, unite us in the body of your Son,
and bring us with all your people into the joy of your eternal kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, with whom, and in whom, in the fellowship of
the Holy Spirit, we worship you, Father, in songs of never-ending praise:

✠ **Blessing and honour and glory and power,
are yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are confident to pray:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.**

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever,
Amen.**

The breaking of the bread

The priest breaks the bread and says the following:

[We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.]

We who are many are one body,

for we all share in the one bread.

Agnus Dei

Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.

Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.

Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us your peace.

Invitation to Communion

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Happy are
those who are called to his supper.

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word
and I shall be healed.**

Communion

Communion is distributed along the length of the communion rail.

Please form a single line on the Organ side of the nave and return on the Pulpit side.

At the end of the distribution of communion, all STAND for the post-communion prayer.

Post-Communion Prayer

The priest says the following seasonal prayer:

God for whom we wait, we thank you that you have fed us with the bread
of life and the cup of salvation. As we joyfully await your Son, keep us ever
watchful that we may be ready to stand before him on the day of his coming.

**Father, we offer ourselves to you as a living sacrifice through Jesus
Christ our Lord. Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.**

Blessing

The priest says this seasonal Blessing:

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you, and make you ready to meet
him when he comes in glory; and the blessing of God almighty, ✠ the Father,
the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

✠ **In the name of Christ, Amen.**

Remain standing for the final hymn.

Final Hymn

ABBOT'S LEIGH 87 87 D

Cyril Taylor (1907-91)



- 1 Sing we of the blessed Mother
Who received the angel's word,
And obedient to his summons
Bore in love the infant Lord;
Sing we of the joys of Mary
At whose breast that child was fed
Who is Son of God eternal
And the everlasting Bread.
- 2 Sing we, too, of Mary's sorrows,
Of the sword that pierced her through,
When beneath the cross of Jesus
She his weight of suffering knew,
Looked upon her Son and Saviour
Reigning high on Calvary's tree,
Saw the price of man's redemption
Paid to set the sinner free.
- 3 Sing again the joys of Mary
When she saw the risen Lord,
And in prayer with Christ's apostles,
Waited on his promised word:
From on high the blazing glory
Of the Spirit's presence came,
Heavenly breath of God's own being,
Manifest through wind and flame.
- 4 Sing the chiefest joy of Mary
When on earth her work was done,
And the Lord of all creation
Brought her to his heavenly home:
Virgin Mother, Mary blessed,
Raised on high, and crowned with grace,
May your Son, the world's redeemer,
Grant us all to see his face.

G. B. Timms (1910-1997)

Please SIT for the notices.

Postlude

Ave Maris Stella III 'So now as we journey, aid our weak endeavour'
(Vêpres du Commun, Op. 18)

Marcel Dupré (1886-1971)

To maintain the prayerfulness of the liturgy, it is requested that there be no applause at the end of the organ postlude. Please be mindful of those who wish to stay, listen or pray.



Parish Notices

CHRISTMAS @ ST PAUL'S 2025

Sunday 14 December
5:00pm Carol Service

CHRISTMAS EVE
Wednesday 24 December
9:30pm Choral Eucharist

CHRISTMAS DAY
Thursday 25 December
9:00am Choral Eucharist

Fr James Collins OAM
Rector

Summer Service Schedule

Wednesday Mid-week Eucharist: The final mid-week Eucharist for the year will be on Wednesday 24 December and will resume on Wednesday 4 February 2026.

Friday Services: Friday Evening Prayer & Holy Communion will resume on Friday 30 January 2026.

Sunday Services: From Christmas Day until Sunday 18 January 2026 (inclusive), there will be one combined Sunday service at 9:00am, followed by refreshments in the hall.

The regular schedule of 8:00am and 10:00am will resume on **Sunday 25 January 2026** when we will celebrate the Feast of the Conversion of Paul.

Christmas Raffle

The raffle was drawn after the Carol Service last Sunday. Thank you to those who donated prizes and all those who purchased tickets. We raised \$373 – thank you for your support.

Parish Prayer List

In the Anglican cycle of prayer we pray for the Anglican Church of Burundi.
In our Parish cycle of prayer we give thanks for Anglican Aid Abroad.
We bring before God those in our community who need the reassurance of your loving care for them. We pray particularly for:

Barry Brandy, Leonie Cable, Tiffany Cheng, Deb Edmeades, Dela Gibson, Elaine Gow, John, Kate, Andrew McCulloch, Denise McManus, Elizabeth Morris, Pam Priest, Geoff Riccord, Sam, Elizabeth Scott, Ajun and Paul Sibun, Steve, Bob Woods, Joyce Bannister, Belinda, Dale Berry, John Burns, Betty Daniels, Debbie, Elsie Dunnam, Margery and Peter Foss, Merle Gorman, Malcolm Green, Jean Greenwood, Gwen Hackett, Meg Harley, Alec Harris, Barbara Hawkins, Christine Johnson, Terry Kelly, Helen Kingsley, Larry Howley, Clyde Livingstone, Terry and Betsy McKay, Melissa Moore, Sally Palmer, Winnie Pang, Yolande Phillips, Michelle Phillips, Mark Roberts, Peter Sorensen, Barbara Stone, Sylvia, Anne Wardle, David Wheatley, Bill Whittle, and others known to us.

We pray for their carers, medical staff and families.

We give thanks for the lives of the recently departed, particularly Elizabeth Morris, William Walsh and Frances Robinson, and those whose year’s mind occurs at this time:

Morna Stopani, Karina Venteman, Rosina Raisbeck, Harry Salisbury, Audrey Elaine Darke, Trevor Herbert Curtis.

✝ May they rest in peace and rise with Christ in glory.

At St Paul’s, we pray by name for people who have either asked for our prayers or for whom someone else has made a request. This list is updated every 3 months or when we receive a new request. Some names are on our list on a long-term basis while others reflect a more immediate need and are short term.

We will only be reading the names on the short-term list in the services but the whole list will still be included in the printed prayers for parishioners to use throughout the week. The full list of names will be read in our midweek service.

Names can be added to or removed from the lists at any time.

Next Week’s Readings

Sunday 28 December – Holy Innocents

OT: Jeremiah 31.15–20

Psalm: 124

NT: 1 John 1.5–2.2

Gospel: Matthew 2.13–18

Offertory

Budget to end of November: \$212,400 – Receipts: \$189,616

Collection and other donations

Offertory: \$6,527.20

Parish Pantry: \$315.00

Trading Table: \$500.00

TOTAL GIVING: \$7,342.20

Thank you for your generous doantion.

Support us @ St Paul's



Use this QR code to make a payment via PayPal directly from your mobile phone.

General Offertory / Donation Account

Account Name: St Paul's Anglican Church
BSB: 032-062 Acc: 818 285

Parish Pantry Account

Account Name: Parish Pantry
BSB: 032-062 Acc: 812 238

National Trust Account

Account Name: National Trust of Australia (NSW) St Paul's Anglican Church Burwood
BSB: 032-044 Acc: 742 926
donations over \$2 are tax-deductible

Donations & Bequests

“I bequeath the sum of \$____ to the Rector and Wardens of the Anglican parish of St Paul’s Burwood, to be used at their absolute discretion for the charitable or other beneficial purposes of the parish.”

Wills

Mark Squire (an 8:00am service parishioner) is a solicitor experienced in drafting Wills. While he does not wish to have any commercial association with the church and/or its members, he has made an offer to assist, at no cost, senior parishioners and community members who wish to make donations to the parish in their Wills.

Mark is concerned to ensure that any senior who wants to help our wonderful parish this way is not deterred by the potential cost of so doing. Mark can be contacted via the parish office – (02) 9747 4327

JOIN US @ ST PAUL'S

HOLY COMMUNION

Summer Schedule: *(from 28 December 2025 to 18 January 2026)*

9:00am Sung Eucharist

Sundays throughout the year: *(resume on Sunday 25 January 2026)*

8:00am Said Eucharist – *with hymns*

10:00am Choral Eucharist – *with the Choir of St Paul's*

Wednesdays:

10:30am Eucharist *(resume on Wednesday 4 February 2026)*

Fridays: *(resume on Friday 30 January 2026)*

5:40pm Evening Prayer

6:00pm Eucharist

Seasonal Services:

6:00pm Choral Eucharist – *with the Choir of St Paul's*

Special services are held during the year to mark Feast Days and other days of seasonal significance. These are advertised in the pew bulletin and on our website.

CHORAL EVENSONG

Sundays as advertised:

5:00pm Choral Evensong – *with the Choir of St Paul's*

For further information please visit our website: stpaulsburwood.org.au



ST PAUL'S ANGLICAN CHURCH, BURWOOD

205-207 Burwood Road Burwood NSW 2134

info@stpaulsburwood.org.au | (02) 9747 4327

Rector
Senior Assistant Priest
Honorary Priest
Lay Minister
Director of Music
Organist
Sacristan
Lay Assistant

Fr James Collins OAM
Fr Michael Deasey OAM FRSCM
Fr Mark Battison
Ms Rosemary King
Mr David Russell
Mr Bailey Yeates
Br Brian Luhr OGS OAM
Ms Natalie McDonald