



ST EDWARD'S CATHOLIC PARISH

[Mary Help of Christians Church]

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Website: <https://stedwardsparish.org.au/> Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/stedwardssouthtamworthmyFaith> - mobile app (available in Apple Store or Google Play)

Rev. Fr Paul Aguilar, PP Rev. Paul Manvell, *deacon* Mrs Joy Makepeace, *secretary*

NEWS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

Holy Week Schedule

Holy Monday	26/3	07.00am	Holy Mass
Holy Tuesday	27/3	11.00am	Mass of Holy Oils, Armidale
Holy Wednesday	28/3	09.30am	Holy Mass
Maundy Thursday	29/3	07.00pm	Mass of the Lord's Supper Washing of the Feet, Prayer Vigil at the Altar of Repose
Good Friday	30/3	08.30am	Outdoor Stations of Cross
		03.00pm	Celebration of the Lord's Passion
Black Saturday	31/3	06.00pm	Easter Vigil Mass
Easter Sunday	01/4	09.00am	Holy Mass & Easter Egg Hunt
		05.30pm	parents to bring Easter Eggs Holy Mass

Mass of Holy Oils — Armidale (mini-bus \$5/person for petrol)

Holy Tuesday	27/3	08.40am	assembly, Church
		09.00am	mini-bus departure
		11.00am	Mass, Armidale Cathedral

Working Bee

Good Friday 04.30 pm | Volunteers needed to decorate the Church for Easter celebrations

Easter Duties Volunteers

Readers, commentators, Extra-ordinary Ministers of Communion and people for Washing of the Feet are needed for Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday. Please put your name down on the sheet in the foyer if you are able to help.

Special Collection

On Good Friday a collection will be taken up for the upkeep of the Holy Places in the Holy Land. We ask for your support.

Easter Dues/Offering

Easter dues are for the support of the clergy. Envelopes for Easter dues are in the PGP packs. Extra envelopes are available in the foyer. Dues may also be deposited direct to the Presbytery A/C. Account Name: St Edward Presbytery Account BSB: 082105 A/C: 001023592

Reference: ED+PGP number + last name

Child Safe Parish

Please could all parish volunteers/ministers who have read the Child Safe Parish Document, please sign the declaration form that you have done this and return in a sealed envelope. Forms available from Fr Paul or the Piety Stall. Thank you!

Information for the bulletin to be emailed to southtamworthparish@armidale.catholic.org.au or please drop a note to the Parish Office no later than Thursday afternoon

Mass Time and Liturgical Services

Weekends

Saturday Vigil 5.30 pm
Sunday 9 am & 5.30 pm

Weekdays*

Monday 7.00 am
Tuesday - Friday 9.30 am

Anointing Mass

1st Wednesday of the Month 9.30 am

Confession

Saturday 4.45 - 5.15 pm
Sunday 8.15 - 8.45 am
& 4.45 - 5.15 pm
or by appointment.

Baptism

Preparation Class, 2nd Sunday of the Month 10 am
Baptism, 3rd Sunday of the Month 10 am
or by appointment.

Wedding,
Sick Call & Funeral
by appointment

Plate Collections

1st Collection \$ 734.65
Envelopes PGP \$ 1318.00
Loose \$ 43.30

*In your charity,
please pray with us for*

Our sick

Fr Tom Shanahan
John Gooley
Mary Wallace
Ricky Lee Peachy
Kylie Burgess
Rita Sutton
Bayly Turner
Ignacio de Castro

Our deceased

Susan O'Brien
Fr Peter McGrath
Joan Cavanagh
Noel Lane

Anniversary

26.3 + Thomas Gorman

Roman Martyrology

26.3 St Catherine of Genoa
27.3 Lazarus
28.3 St Catharine of Bologna
29.3 St Ludovico of Casoria
30.3 St Peter Regalado
31.3 St Stephen of Mar Saba

*Omnes sancti Mátyres,
oráte pro nobis*

Low Gluten Hosts

are available for people with coeliac disease, please advise priest before Mass.

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Gluten-free hosts are invalid matter and therefore cannot be consecrated at Mass.

Sick List

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



<https://www.facebook.com/stedwardssouthtamworth>

Catechesis | Why the True Cross is the greatest relic?

We worship your cross, O Lord, and we praise and glorify your holy resurrection, for the wood of the cross has brought joy to the world. (Ant., Lauds)

The True Cross of our Saviour Jesus Christ is the greatest and most precious of all relics. It is only to the True Cross, from among all other relics, that the Christian faithful are instructed to genuflect. Every other image and relic (whether of our Lord or of any of the saints) is venerated by a bow, but the relic of the True Cross is adored and worshipped with a genuflection!

The Church herself speaks quite boldly when she declares in the Sacred Liturgy that the Cross of Christ is our only hope and directs us to worship the Cross. Finally, in the *Benedictus* antiphon for feast of the Exaltation of the Cross in the *Novus Ordo* breviary, the Church proclaims: "We worship your cross, O Lord" (*Crucem tuam adoramus, Domine*).

The Cross as united with Christ [see *Summa Theologica III, q.25, a.4*]

St. Thomas Aquinas affirms that the Church does indeed worship the True Cross since we put our hope of salvation in the wood of the Cross. This the Church does as she sings in the *Vexilla Regis*: "Dear Cross, best hope over all beside." Now, since we worship with *latria* that in which we put our hope of salvation, it follows that Christians do indeed worship the relics of the True Cross. However, St. Thomas affirms that worship is due, in the first place, to God alone – i.e. we worship only the Divine Essence (The Most Blessed Trinity) for its own sake. However, the Common Doctor rightly asserts that we worship also the flesh of Christ our Savior, not because the flesh is itself divine, but because this sacred flesh has been hypostatically united to the Divine Essence through the Person of the Word. In this respect it is clear that we worship with *latria* what is joined and united to the divinity in the work of our salvation.

But the Cross was most highly and perfectly united to the Person of Jesus in the plan of salvation – for it was through the wood of the Cross that our Saviour redeemed us. Moreover, this wood has been saturated with the most precious and holy Blood of our Lord. This same wood has borne the limbs of Christ and was sanctified by contact with his Body.

Therefore, from among all relics – and even those other relics which are connected with Christ himself (e.g. the Shroud of Turin) [and, even though these relics may perhaps also be worshiped with *latria*] – the Cross deserves special veneration and worship as having been uniquely united to Christ Jesus in bringing about the salvation of the world. This special and unique role of the Cross is proclaimed by the Church when she says: "We worship you O Christ and we bless you, for by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world" – Holy Mother Church does not speak about any other relic in this manner.

The Cross as the image of Christ

Additionally, the Cross deserves special veneration and worship on account of the fact that it is uniquely an image of Christ. Indeed, even more than images made after the proper proportions of his natural body – i.e. paintings, icons, and sculptures made after the physical likeness of Christ – the Cross is THE image of our Saviour. More even than the image of The Divine Mercy, the True Cross represents Christ as his perfect icon.

The Scriptures themselves testify, according to the interpretation of the Church Fathers and Doctors, that the Cross is the "Sign of the Son of Man" (cf. Matthew 24:30). Moreover, Christ is identified as "the one who was crucified" – though many events occurred throughout our Saviour's life, it is the crucifixion which really defines who he is for us. Therefore, more than any other image, it is the Cross which represents the Person of our Saviour. The True Cross holds a particular place among all icons, since the Cross is identified with Jesus in a most particular way. Therefore, it is worthy of a higher veneration and even of worship, over and above every other relic or icon. The True Cross is the only relic which is given a special feast in the calendar of the Roman Liturgy.

Ave Crux, spes unica nostra! – Hail, O Cross, our only hope!