

St Cecilia's Catholic Church
37 Hillside Parade
GLEN IRIS VIC 3146
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Parish Priest:
Fr Kevin McGovern



Sunday Masses:
Sun. 10 a.m.
Sun. 5:30 p.m.
Weekday Masses:
Mon. 9:15 a.m.
Wed. 9:15 a.m.
Fri. 9:15 a.m.
Confessions:
By arrangement

AUSTRALIA DAY

26 January 2025

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

ANNIVERSARIES: John Brennan, Bernard Docherty Sr, Jim (James Walton) Hall, Margaret Murray, Betty (Elizabeth) Pearce, Mary (Margaret Mary) Simpson, Hugh Rae Smart, Cyril Smith, Stan (Stanislaus Struan) Smith

MEMORIAL MASS: Our 10 am Mass this morning is a memorial Mass for Bernard Docherty Senior, who passed away on this day in 2022. Bernard's family say that it is so appropriate that he passed away on a day which is both Australia Day and India Republic Day. We remember Bernard in prayer today.

2025 NATSICC AUSTRALIA DAY STATEMENT: The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council (NATSICC) is the peak advisory body to the Australian Catholic Bishops and the Australian Catholic Church on issues relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholics. Attached to our newsletter this week is their 2025 Australia Day Statement.

They state, "For many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples... January 26th is a day of mixed emotions – one that brings sadness, reflection and a sense of unresolved history.... As a Nation, we are yet to confront fully the realities of what colonisation meant in 1788 and how its legacy continues to impact the world's oldest living culture today."

They advocate that we celebrate our nation on another day: 27th May, the anniversary of the 1967 Referendum.

They note "the many and varied challenges – including disparities in life expectancy, socio-economic disadvantage, and other long-standing issues – that affect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Peoples." They state that "this is something that all of us must address, individually and collectively as a society."

Note that there is a ten-page *Australia Day Reflection & Discernment Guide* which is available online at <https://www.natsicc.org.au/assets/australia-day-reflection-and-discernment-guide-v2.pdf>.

As NATSICC states, "May our faith inspire us to build a future where reconciliation and unity allow all Australians to celebrate together with pride, respect and hope."

WEEKDAY MASSES this week are at 9:15 am on Monday 27th January, Wednesday 29th January, and Friday 31st January.

EPIPHANY HOUSE BLESSING: There is a Catholic custom of blessing our homes on or after the Epiphany. This blessing is performed by the members of each home. It can be done by a family, or by someone who lives alone. It involves a short prayer service, and writing an inscription over the front door of our home with blessed chalk. Chalk was blessed at our Masses when we celebrated the Epiphany. We are now invited to call down a blessing on our homes by taking home a stick of blessed chalk and a sheet of paper with the instructions and the prayer service. It's a great way of starting the New Year, and we hope that you will give it a go.

If you know someone who might also want to bless their own home, you are welcome to take chalk and paper for them too.

This is the last weekend on which the materials for the Epiphany House Blessing will be available, so if you wish to bless your house, please take some chalk and the instruction sheet this weekend.