

MEDIA RELEASE



Polding Centre
133 Liverpool Street
Sydney NSW 2000

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ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY HOSTING A MONTH OF CHRISTMAS EVENTS

The Catholic Archbishop of Sydney, Most Rev Anthony Fisher OP is inviting Sydneysiders to a month-long free celebration of Christmas, which will feature a spectacular light show, concerts, choir performances and organ recitals at St Mary's Cathedral.

The celebrations will be officially launched Wednesday 5 December, with more than 800,000 people expected to gather at St Mary's Cathedral Square over the next three weeks for the free community event, *The Lights of Christmas*.

Wednesday night's launch will start with Mass at the cathedral at 5:30pm to celebrate the end of the Year of Youth, followed by a concert on the cathedral forecourt by renowned singer Gary Pinto. At 7:30pm Network Ten newsreader Sandra Sully will kick off the official start to the Lights of Christmas show with money raised from donations supporting the Heart and Lung Transplantation program at St Vincent's Hospital. Ms Sully will be joined by Archbishop Fisher and Premier Gladys Berejiklian.

"I warmly invite all Sydneysiders to join in this free community event and to enjoy the spectacular festive lights show, honouring the essence of the Christmas story, including artworks depicting the Madonna and Christ Child", Archbishop Fisher said.

"The celebrations will continue every night until Christmas Eve with concerts, carol services and organ recitals in St Mary's Cathedral, followed by the Christmas Lights display from 8:30pm each night".

St Mary's Cathedral Singers will perform two concerts on Friday 14 December at 11am and 7pm. Tickets start from \$15. All members of the public are invited to a Cathedral Carol Service from 5:00-6:00pm on Sunday 16 December and free Organ recitals will be held at 7:30pm on 6, 20 and 23 December.

Catholic Cemeteries and Crematoria will also host a Remembrance Service at St Mary's Cathedral on Sunday 16 December at 7:30pm to remember deceased loved ones.

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Media contact:

Michael Kenny

Manager Communications & News Media

Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney

Phone: (02) 9390 5348

Mobile: 0438 046 406 Email: michael.kenny@sydneycatholic.org