

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES - Great Lent 2026

Dear God-loving Parishioners! Christ's Holy Church, like a wise and loving mother, calls each of us to use the time of Great Lent to work on ourselves spiritually and with greater fervour. During this time, the services are especially touching and morally edifying. As well, prayer and fasting – are the best means by which a person may regain and retain spiritual health and grow. With this aim in mind the schedule of services also includes: 2 General Confessions, 2 services of General Unction (choose one only - at the Cathedral, Rocklea or Holy Annunciation Church) as well as a number of spiritual discussions.

Concerning Holy Communion: it is better to partake of Communion more frequently and regularly, especially during Great Lent, and especially on the feastdays and the night of Holy Pascha! For this, one may obtain a blessing to not be required to go to Confession before each Communion. How is this done? By coming to Confession on any evening where «Confession» is indicated in the schedule, and asking for this blessing. Even so, it is still best to attend the General Confessions (when scheduled) as an additional spiritual aid.

With love in the Lord, Fr Gabriel Makarov.

Sun 22 Feb: CHEESEFARE SUNDAY - FORGIVENESS SUNDAY – end of Maslenitsa.

Divine Liturgy, followed by “rite of forgiveness” 8.30am
 (“...and the faithful kiss the icons and the priest's cross and, before entering the period of Great Lent, ask forgiveness of one another”).

BEGINNING OF GREAT LENT – FIRST WEEK

Mon 23 Feb: Great Compline with reading from the Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete..... 6.00pm

Tue 24 Feb: Great Compline with reading from the Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete..... 6.00pm

Wed 25 Feb: Great Compline with reading from the Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete..... 6.00pm

Thu 26 Feb: Great Compline with reading from the Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete..... 6.00pm

Fri 27 Feb: Confession..... 5.30pm

Matins..... 6.00pm

Sat 28 Feb: SATURDAY OF ST. THEODORE OF TYRO.

Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom. and blessing of "kolivo" here? 8.00am

Confession..... 4.30pm

All-night Vigil..... 5.00pm

Sun 01 Mar: 1st Sunday of Great Lent. SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY.

Liturgy of St. Basil and Moleben "For the Conversion of Those Who Are Lost" 8.30am

Wed 04 Mar: Vespers with *Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts* 6.00pm

Sat 07 Mar: MEMORIAL SATURDAY.

Commemorative Liturgy with General Pannikhida 8.00am

Confession..... 4.30pm

Meeting of the Bishop and Vigil..... 5.00pm

Sun 08 Mar: 2nd Sunday of Great Lent. ST. GREGORY PALAMAS

Meeting of the Bishop and Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great 8.30am

This year the Great-lenten clergy concelebration and conference of the Australian and New Zealand Dioceses will be held at our St Nicholas cathedral, 10-11 March, according to the times below.

All the faithful are invited to attend the church services!

Tue 10 Mar: Pre-Communion rule 5.00pm
Great-lenten Matins 6.00pm

Wed 11 Mar: *Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts* 8.00am

Fri 13 Mar: Matins with commemoration of the departed 6.00pm

Sat 14 Mar: MEMORIAL SATURDAY.
Divine Liturgy for the departed and General Pannikhida 8.00am

GENERAL ORDER OF CONFESSION, (participants must not be late for this service). 4.00pm
Vigil with the taking out of the Cross 5.00pm

Sun 15 Mar: 3rd Sunday of Great Lent. ADORATION OF THE HOLY CROSS.

Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great 8.30am

Wed 18 Mar: Matins 8.00am
Vespers with *Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts* 6.00pm

Fri 20 Mar: Matins with commemoration of the departed 6.00pm

Sat 21 Mar: MEMORIAL SATURDAY.
Divine Liturgy for the departed and General Pannikhida 8.00am

Confession 4.30pm
Vigil 5.00pm

Sun 22 Mar: 4th Sunday of Great Lent. ST JOHN OF THE LADDER and FORTY HOLY MARTYRS OF SEBASTE.

Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great ***and blessing of sky lark breads*** 8.30am

General Unction at Rocklea church 6.00pm

Wed 25 Mar: Matins with reading of the Great Canon of ST. ANDREW OF CRETE 6.00pm

Fri 16 Mar: ***Sisterhood will need helpers to prepare verbiy – in the hall from early morning.***
Matins with singing of the Akathist to the Mother of God 6.00pm

Sat 28 Mar: LAUDATION OF THE MOTHER OF GOD.
Divine Liturgy of St John Chrysostom 8.00am

Confession 4.30pm
Vigil 5.00pm

Sun 29 Mar: 5th Sunday of Great Lent. ST MARY OF EGYPT.

Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great 8.30am

Mon 30 Mar: **General Unction** at Cathedral 6.00pm

Wed 01 Mar: Matins 8.00am
Vespers with *Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts* 6.00pm

Thu	02	Mar:	<i>Sisterhood will need helpers to tie verbiy – in the hall from early morning.</i>	
Fri	03	Mar:	Confession for School Students - for Lazarus Saturday	5.15pm
			Matins.....	6.00pm
Sat	04	Mar:	LAZARUS SATURDAY.	
			Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom	8.00am
			GENERAL ORDER OF CONFESSION , (<i>participants must not be late for this service</i>).....	4.00pm
			Vigil (with blessing of loaves and "verbiy").....	5.00pm
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Sun	05	Mar:	6th Sunday of Great Lent. ENTRY OF THE LORD INTO JERUSALEM - PALM SUNDAY.	
			Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom	8.30am

Passion Week

For those desiring to partake of Holy Communion on the night of Pascha it is permissible to come to Confession on any evening of Passion Week (or even earlier) where «Confession» is indicated in this schedule, and receive for this a blessing. This gives an opportunity to prepare for Pascha unhurriedly, in good time, rather than leaving Confession to the very final hours before Pascha, where there is little time for such things.

Mon	06	Mar:	Vigil service for Annunciation , with Great Complines (and blessing of loaves).....	6.00pm
Tue	07	Mar:	GREAT TUESDAY. HOLY ANNUNCIATION.	
			Vespers with Liturgy of St John Chrysostom	8.00am
			Matins with hymns: "Behold, the Bridegroom cometh..."and "I see Thy bridal chamber..."	6.00pm
Wed	08	Mar:	GREAT WEDNESDAY.	
			Confession.....	5.30pm
			Matins with hymns: " <i>When the glorious disciples...</i> "and " <i>I see Thy bridal chamber...</i> "	6.00pm
Thu	09	Mar:	GREAT THURSDAY - COMMEMORATION OF THE MYSTICAL SUPPER.	
			Vespers with Liturgy of St. Basil the Great	8.00am
			COMMEMORATION OF THE HOLY PASSION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST.	
			Matins <i>with reading of the 12 Passion Gospels</i> , before the Holy Crucifix	6.00pm
Fri	10	Mar:	GREAT FRIDAY.	
			Royal Hours.....	8.00am
			Vespers with bringing out of the Epitaphion (Shroud) of Christ	2.00pm
			Confessionfollowing the bringing out of the Epitaphion	
			Matins with the Lamentations over the Shroud and burial procession	6.00pm
			Concerning the Fast: Great Friday is the strictest fast day of the year. “We do not eat on this day of the Crucifixion....” According to the Typicon, only the infirm and aged take bread and water after the setting of the sun. Even today Christians strive not to eat at least until after the bringing out of the Epitaphion.	
Sat	11	Apr:	GREAT SATURDAY.	
			Vespers with Liturgy of St. Basil (blessing of bread and wine)	8.00am
			<i>1st blessing of kulich immediately following Liturgy</i>	approx. 12.00am
			<i>2nd blessing of kulich</i>	7.30pm
			Confession at this time only by previous appointment	9.30pm
			Reading of the Book of Acts by parishioners	9.30pm
			<i>3rd blessing of kulich</i>	11.00pm
			Midnight Office with the taking into the altar of the Holy Epitaphion.....	11.15pm

Sun 12 Apr: **HOLY PASCHA. Bright Week - fast free.**
Procession with the cross and Paschal Matins and Paschal Liturgy..... 12.00pm
4th blessing of kulich..... following Paschal night Liturgy

Christ is Risen ! Truly He is Risen !

Paschal Vespers at Cathedral with concelebration of deanery clergy 6.00pm

Mon 13 Apr: **BRIGHT MONDAY.**
 Divine Liturgy with procession around the church..... 8.30am

Sat 18 Apr: Vigil..... 5.00pm

Sun 19 Apr: THOMAS' SUNDAY or ANTIPASCHA. Radonitsa Week.
Divine Liturgy (with distribution of holy "Artos" bread)..... 8.30am

Mon 20 Apr: Paschal commemoration of the departed - *graveside services at the following cemeteries:*
Toowong.....from 10.00 am to 11.30 am.
Dutton Park.....from 12.30 pm to 1.00 pm
Mt Gravatt.....from 1.30 pm to 3.30 pm.

Tue 21 Apr: **PASCHAL COMMEMORATION OF THE DEPARTED - RADONITSA.**
General Paschal Pannikhida at Mt Gravatt Cemetery chapel 10.00am
followed by graveside services until 2.30 pm.

Sat 25 Apr: Vigil..... 5.00pm

Sun 26 Apr: SUNDAY OF THE MYRRH-BEARING WOMEN.
 Divine Liturgy 8.30am