



# ST PAUL THE APOSTLE PARISH

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Parish Priest: Fr Raining Creta Assistant Priest: Fr Marcus Hazelman



## Masses - only available online:

Please refer to St Paul the Apostle Parish Facebook page: [facebook.com/stpaultheapostleparish](https://facebook.com/stpaultheapostleparish)

## Reconciliation - by prior appointment only

## From Father Raining

An interesting as well as challenging old fable tells of the colt that carried Jesus on Palm Sunday. The colt thought that the reception was organised to honour him. "I am a unique donkey!" this excited animal might have thought. When he asked his mother if he could walk down the same street alone the next day and be honored again, his mother said, "No, you are nothing without Him who was riding you." Five days later, the colt saw a huge crowd of people in the street. It was Good Friday, and the soldiers were taking Jesus to Calvary.

The colt could not resist the temptation of another royal reception. Ignoring the warning of his mother, he ran to the street, but he had to flee for his life as soldiers chased him and people stoned him. Thus, the colt finally learned the lesson that he was only a poor donkey without Jesus to ride on him.

As we enter Holy Week, our readings this Sunday challenge us to examine our lives to see whether we carry Jesus within us and bear witness to Him through our living or are we part of the mob only.

First Reading: God's servants endure much for God's sake.  
*What suffering has been most challenging for me to accept recently?*

Second Reading: Christ emptied himself for others both in life and in death.  
*What can I do today to imitate Jesus' generously?*

Gospel: Jesus gave himself so we might live more fully with God.  
*What incident from Jesus' passion story do I want to pray about today?*

## Pope Francis' Prayer to Mary during the coronavirus pandemic

O Mary, you always shine on our path as a sign of salvation and of hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who at the cross took part in Jesus' pain, keeping your faith firm. You, Salvation of all People, know what we need, and we are sure you will provide so that, as in Cana of Galilee, we may return to joy and to feasting after this time of trial. Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform to the will of the Father and to do as we are told by Jesus, who has taken upon himself our sufferings and carried our sorrows to lead us, through the cross, to the joy of the resurrection.

Amen.



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### Please note all of the following have now been postponed indefinitely:

- Novena Mass to Our Lady of Perpetual Help
- Rosary
- Divine Mercy Chaplet

### Holy Hour for Vocations

Seeing physically dead people return to life is not a common event. But Christians, serious about their vocation, are eager to help the "down and out" find new meaning in Christ and live a full life.

### Piety Store

Please contact the office, we are only too happy to help you with your needs.

### Holy Water

Available to take home please contact the office and bring an empty bottle with you.



Due to the CoronaVirus all ministries will now be suspended until further. Thank you for your continued commitment

## Feast Days

**5th St Vincent Ferrer**  
"What ever you do think not of yourself but of God"

**7th St John Baptist de la Salle**

"Throw yourself into God's arms. He will carry you when the road is rough"

**10th Good Friday**  
"God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son"  
*John 3:16*

**12th Easter Sunday**  
..who through him are Believers In God, who raised him from the Dead and gave him great glory, so that your faith and hope are In God"  
*Peter 1:21*

## Moments of Mercy

Souls perish in spite of My bitter Passion. I am giving them the last hope of salvation; that is, the Feast of My Mercy. If they will not adore My mercy, they will perish for all eternity.  
*(Diary 965)*

## Catholic Weekly

The Catholic Weekly will be Published online in the interim, so that you can stay up to date and informed of Catholic news. The website address is [www.catholicweekly.com.au](http://www.catholicweekly.com.au) You can also connect with via Facebook, by going online to facebook.com and searching at the top of the page for **The Catholic Weekly**.

## Live Broadcast

Channel 7 will broadcast live from St Mary Cathedral The Lord's Passion on Good Friday 10th April at 3pm.

As well as Easter Sunday Mass at 10:30am

## A Message from the Most Reverend Bishop

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, Many of us feel powerless in the face of this corona virus pandemic. We see in a devastating way how widely a virus spreads person to person and the immense damage it is doing to our community.

We are indeed living in a time of great crisis locally and globally. So, it is only human that we will experience considerable fear and anxiety. However, as people of faith in Jesus of Nazareth, we are called to place our trust in our God who promises to be present with us even in these times of great suffering and sickness. Even in his seeming absence, we still place our hope in the One who loves us tenderly and with great mercy. And so, as responsible citizens and faithful Catholics, in solidarity with our wonderful doctors and health professionals, our first rule must be: "Do no harm."

That means not doing anything that might spread the virus to others with whom we live in community. We need to listen to our medical experts and not to conspiracy theorists who use any crisis to profiteer or stir up hatred and division.

We must also comply with the directives of our government authorities for the sake of the common good. The gospel calls us to practice such solidarity in these difficult days. All of us in the Diocese of Parramatta must follow these guidelines without exception, so that we can be like St Joseph: 'Protectors of Life'. Becoming 'Protectors of Life' will certainly demand of us sacrifices. Let's especially not forget the suffering in our midst: the elderly, the weak, the disabled, the homeless, the unemployed et cetera. Let us not forget vulnerable groups and communities: the indigenous, the asylum seekers in detention, prisoners et cetera.

Then there are also those whom the Catholic Church through the traditional Lenten Project Compassion supports.

In previous ages before germs and viruses were understood, people blamed strangers, Jews and 'outsiders' for sickness. Anyone who was different could be the target of people's fear. So, let us in these days be especially mindful of caring with compassion and charity for any persons in community who are on the 'margins': be they the aged, the chronically ill and all those living in poverty and isolation. Let our love for them be real and concrete.

May we also use these days to deepen our prayer and spiritual lives. Even as we mourn our losses, Pope Francis encourages us, "Let us call upon him today, firmly rooted in prayer, for without prayer all our activity risks being fruitless and our message empty." (*Evangelii Gaudium*, no. 259)

So please visit our diocesan website at: [www.parracatholic.org/covid19](http://www.parracatholic.org/covid19) for some good and helpful information about how we can follow this path of deeper prayer. It includes online liturgy resources for personal and family prayer and various options for viewing Mass on-line and meditating on the daily scripture readings.

The coronavirus crisis strikes fear and anxiety into people across the globe. It also reveals deep cultural prejudices and divisions against the elderly, the weak and even those of certain race and ethnicity.

Our faith makes us step beyond these human boundaries. It expands our horizons and pushes the limits of our capacity to love.

Through the example of Jesus, we are called to embrace those vulnerable in our society and reach out to them. It is not the time to look after ourselves only but to care for others, through our prayers, acts of kindness and deep communion with them.

May these days of suffering and fear draw us ever close to Christ and let's all pray with Pope Francis to Mary, our mother: Under your protection, we seek refuge, Holy Mother of God. Do not disdain the entreaties of we who are in trial, but deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.

Yours in Christ, Most Reverend Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFM Conv Bishop of Parramatta

## Please pray for our sick

Antonio Abulad, Maroun Ayoub, Elly Bejma, Danielle Brown, Kay Bull, Helen Butler, Richard Cassin, Camarillo Cossid, Gus DelVillar, Fevoura Daroy, Selene Daroy, Joseph Daroy, Frederick de Silva, Rebecca Duncum, George El-Bayeh, Josephine & Chafic Filfili, Nick Galea, Ma Juana Gaueta, Patricia Gleeson, Dex Habito, Piper Hastings, Brian Horan, Anthony Iannuzzi, Ludie Irrulbandra, Jacqueline Kelly, Josephine Mamari, Sonia Merhi, Maria Micallef, Tess & Charlie Micallef, Dennis Murray, Lesleu Palaki, Arun Papali, Lina Pereira, Silvi Perumal, Judy Phillips, Des Prendergast, Shaista Quraishi, Emely Reyes, Joe Stagnitta, Marty Stockford & Patrick Wheeler.

**Heavenly Father, We pray that you will lay your healing hands upon all those who are sick. We ask you to have compassion on all who are suffering so that they may be delivered from their painful circumstances. May they know that you are always with them, especially through difficult times. Amen**

## Please pray for

Jack & Gladys Scott, Father David Scott, Josephine Clayton, Saverio & Rosa Marotta, Paul Beck, Brian Hurney, Lottie & Fredrick Gibbs, Anna Mary Joseph & Ratnam John Joseph, Maurice & Yvonne Sequeira, Aurelio & Connie Lopez, Michael & Julia Sherman, Chammouni Frangi, Madeleine Adolphe, Kerry Cini, Mary & John Ford, John Ford Junior, Rosy Attard, Andrew Busuttil, Jim Rowan, Bal & Jennifer Villanova, Brian Baker, Donald Ramage.

*May the souls of our dearly departed rest in peace*