

St Paul the Apostle Parish

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

For latest updates please visit our Facebook page



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twitter.com/stpaulapostwin

Weekend Mass times (Limit is 320)

Saturday 5.00pm Vigil
Sunday 8.00am, 9.30am and 5.00pm
No bookings required and everyone is to sign in upon entry

Weekday Mass times

Daily 8.40am (Daily Rosary)
Daily 9.10am (No Tuesday evening Mass at this stage)
Saturday 9.00am (followed by the Rosary)

Reconciliation: Saturday 4.00pm - 4.45pm

Baptisms: First and Third Sunday of each month
All bookings are via our website

From Father Raining

In today's Gospel Lesson, Mark begins his Gospel with the story of John the Baptist, God's messenger whose voice cried out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make His paths straight." John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, Mark says, "preaching a baptism of repentance" (Mk. 1:2,3,4).

And so once again we encounter that Biblical word we all know so well. Repent! The truth is that the subject of repentance is a turn-off. We'd rather talk about something else.

During the early days of the "Cold War," there was a story about Josef Stalin in which the Soviet Dictator is flying from Leningrad to Moscow. The plane passes over a particularly desolate area and Stalin reaches into his pocket and throws out a ruble. "That will make some poor peasant down there happy," he says to others on the plane. One of Stalin's "yes-men" thinks that is a wonderful idea. "Why not throw out five rubles and make five poor peasants happy?" he asks. Stalin replies, "Why not ten rubles?" "Why not fifty?" says the yes-man. Stalin thinks that is a great idea. The excitement grows as the rubles start raining down on the poor peasants -- until, in his exuberance, Stalin's "yes-man" blurts out, "Sir, why don't you throw yourself out and make everybody happy!"

"Sir ... madam, why don't you repent? Why don't you throw your old self out and make everybody happy, including yourself?" You may be thinking, "I'm too young to change; there'll be plenty of time later in life to begin taking all this stuff seriously. You may be thinking, "I'm too old to change. I'm too set in my ways to begin taking this kind of talk literally." But the Gospel is no respecter of youth or age, in this sense. Ours is not a "Middle-Age" Gospel or a "Midlife" Gospel. The Word of God is being spoken to all. There is only one Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Even so, you may be thinking, "Repentance sounds like a very good idea for a lot of people I could name, but why me? I'm all right just as I am." In other words, "I'm too good to change!"

Questions for Reflection/Discussion:

1. During this season of Advent, who or what is calling you to prepare the way and repent of your sins? How are you called to do this?
2. Sometimes messengers --- like John the Baptist --- come in unlikely guises. Who has been a "messenger" of God for you? In what unlikely guise did they appear? What was their message? Were you consoled or challenged by this message?



Holy Hour for Vocations

Isaiah says: "The earth shall be filled with knowledge of the Lord." Who taught you knowledge of the Lord, and who are you teaching today?

Moments of Mercy

It is not always within your power to control your feelings. You will recognise that you have love if, after having experienced annoyance and contradiction, you do not lose your peace, but pray for those who have made you suffer and wish them well. (Diary 1628)

Catholic Weekly

- Illegal to pray? Victorian law alarms experts
- NSW Labor: Open our churches
- At the heart of the storm
- Monica Doumit: This law is dangerous
- Movie review: **The Croods - A New Age**
- Spiritual books to brighten your life

Don't miss our 2 x inserts this week into the Catholic Weekly

The Catholic Schools Art Magazine 2020
The Mustardseed Bookshop Christmas Catalogue.

Piety Stall

Available in the Piety Store:

- ★ Columban Calendars—\$8.00
- ★ Christmas Cards—\$6.00
- ★ gifts for Confirmation
- ★ requisites for all occasions.

Open after all Sunday Masses so please come and browse!

Church cleaning

Joe Budwee, Marie Hiscock, Anne Canty, Linda Pereira, Liz Gold

Due to COVID all other ministries are suspended until further notice. Thank you for your continued commitment.

Feast Days

6th St Nicholas

"The giver of every good and perfect gift has called upon us to mimic His giving, by grace, through faith, and this is not of ourselves."

7th St Ambrose

"Where a man's heart is, there is his treasure also."

8th The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

"Behold the handmaid of the Lord, be it done unto me according to thy word."

9th St Juan Diego

"I am a nobody, I am a small rope, a tiny ladder, the tail end, a leaf"

11th St Damasus

"He is the Illuminator, Truth, because He is from the Father, Life because He is the creator, Bread because He is flesh."

12th Our Lady of Guadalupe

"Let not your heart be disturbed... am I not here, who am your **mother**? Are you not under **my** protection?"

Catholic Outlook Magazine Summer 2020/21 Edition

Catholic Outlook Summer edition is out now and free to all parishioners. Read about our amazing HSC students, the new bells of St Patrick's Cathedral and how the new Vatican Ambassador who originates from Castle Hill is settling in. Plus what the symbols of Advent really mean. Don't forget to check out page 47!

Due to COVID-19 do not put this bulletin back in the holder, as it cannot be reused. This bulletin must be taken home with you.

Overheads for hymns used in the Church are used with permission under ONE LICENCE N° A-642251

Christmas Mass Times

No bookings required for Christmas masses

Thursday 24th (vigil):

4.30pm, 7:00pm and Midnight
(The new 7:00pm Mass replaces 6.00pm & 8:00pm)

Friday 25th:

8:00am, 9.30am and 11:00am
(No evening Mass on Christmas Day)



New Year's Day Masses

Mary, the Holy Mother of God

Friday 1st Jan: 9.00am

Bookings no longer required for masses

Reconciliation

Every Saturday in December 4.00pm-4:45pm with two priests in attendance.

Confirmation

Please pray for our candidates continuing on their journey of Christian initiation. Final Ceremony is this Friday 11th at 7:00pm

Little White Box

Is available this weekend. Your financial support no matter how small makes a big impact on the lives of a mother and her little one.

Please pray for our sick

Antonio Abulad, Maroun Ayoub, Elly Bejma, Danielle Brown, Kay Bull, Helen Butler, John Cassar, Richard Cassin, Ron Cini, Christine Coorey, Sorayda Corpuz, Camarillo Cossid, Fevoura Daroy, Joseph Daroy, Selene Daroy, Emma Davies, Norman De Luca, Frederick de Silva, Gus DelVillar, Camille Diesta, Lara Duncum, Rebecca Duncum, David Edwards, George El-Bayeh, Josephine & Chafic Filfili, Nick Galea, Ma Juana Gaueta, Patricia Gleeson, Piper Hastings, Peter and Julie Herlinger, Brian Horan, Anthony Iannuzzi, Ludie Irrulbandra, Jacqueline Kelly, Karen Le Huray, Michelle Makin, Josephine Mamari, Carolyn Martin, James Matos, Sonia Merhi, Maria Micallef, Tess Micallef, Dennis Murray, Lesley Palaki, Arun Papali, Lina Pereira, Iranie Perumal, Silvi Perumal, Judy Phillips, Des Prendergast, Emely Reyes, Honor Rosario, Chris Sheehan, Joe Stagnitta, Marty Stockford, Patrick Wheeler, Marielin Suazo Barcelona, Tony Draybi, Fr Domingo Barrawib, Lourdes Zaballa.

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, Andrew Busuttill, Kerry Cini, Aurelio & Connie Lopez, Michael & Julia Sherman, Chammouni Frangi, Madeleine Adolphe, Brian Baker, Mary & John Ford, John Ford Junior, Rosy Attard, Jim Rowan, Bal & Jennifer Villanova, Donald Ramage, Dex Habito, Charlie Micallef, Andy and Maureen Haddad, Maggie Sempliciano.

May the souls of our dearly departed rest in peace

IMPORTANT CHANGES

Easing of COVID-19 restrictions take effect Mon 7/12:

- **Bookings are no longer required for any Mass- please DO NOT contact the parish office**
- New limit of 320 people for any and all Masses
- You will need to record your name and phone number yourself upon entry and self sanitise.
- Allow for extra time before Mass to sign in
- Sign on sheets will be at each door
- Those with existing bookings still need to sign in
- When signing in every person is to be listed separately and not as a group entry.
- Do not write on the back of the sheets if full
- All pre-existing bookings for Christmas and weekend masses are no longer applicable
- Although there are no designated seating arrangements please use common sense and remember to apply social distancing restrictions
- Members of the same family and/or household are permitted to sit together
- Please note reconciliation times have changed to Saturday 4.00pm - 4.45pm
- There is now one Saturday Vigil mass at 5.00pm

St Vincent de Paul Society Christmas Hamper Appeal

We've had a tremendous response to this appeal. Next weekend will be your last chance to donate.

You may wish to donate at any time via this link: <https://my.fundraise.vinniesnsw.org.au/fundraise-your-way/christmas-appeal-4>

A new 'tap and go' facility will also be available after masses this weekend and 12th/13th December.

Any donation no matter how big or small is very much appreciated.