

# St Paul the Apostle Parish

40 Buckleys Road, Winston Hills NSW 2153

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

For latest updates please visit our Facebook page



[facebook.com/stpaultheapostleparish](https://www.facebook.com/stpaultheapostleparish)



[twitter.com/stpaulapostwin](https://twitter.com/stpaulapostwin)

All masses limited to 160.  
No bookings required and everyone to sign in upon entry.

## Weekend Mass times

Saturday 5.00pm Vigil  
Sunday 8.00am, 9.30am and 5.00pm

## 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 Baptism bookings are to be made via our website

## From Father Raining

On my wedding day, I noticed my mother-in-law crying. I said to her, 'Don't think of it as losing a Daughter think of it as gaining a son.' She said, 'That's why I'm crying.'

We think it tragic when parents lose a child, but one way or another, all parents lose their children. We lose our children through marriage, or when they grow up and leave home and move away. Even before that, they've begun to assert their independence, to make the point that they don't belong to us. We enjoy them for a while, but not ours to keep.

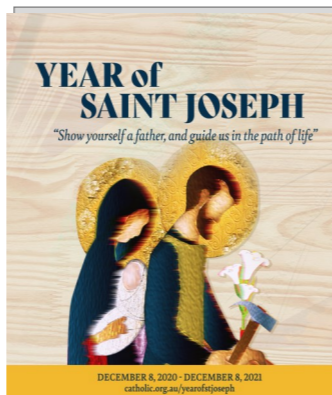
That point is brought home to Mary and Joseph when Jesus is 12 years old. They take him to Jerusalem for the feast and later they set out for home without him. That may seem very careless, but no doubt they were part of a very large extended family. He would be with his grandparents, or his cousin or his aunts. But this time he wasn't with them and gone missing. Desperate with worry, they return to Jerusalem. They find him, eventually, in the Temple, and Mary says to him, 'Why have you done this to us? See how worried your father and I have been, looking for you.' And Jesus replies, 'Why were you looking for me? Did you not know I would be at my Father's?' The Greek phrase could mean, 'At my Father's house' or 'At my Father's business.' Probably Luke meant it to be ambiguous: Jesus is both in his Father's house, and about his Father's business. But the Father in question is not Joseph. It dawns, certainly on Mary, and perhaps on Joseph too, that Jesus has an agenda which is not theirs, business which is not theirs, things to teach which he has not learnt from them, loyalty to someone other than themselves.

We celebrate the feast of the Holy Family, but in fact our Gospel tells us of the beginning of the break-up of the Holy Family. This is the last time in the Bible that Joseph will be mentioned. We don't know what became of him and assume that he died and from now on he is out of the picture. So whenever there is mention of Jesus' father it is his heavenly Father who is meant. Jesus returns to Nazareth and spends another 18 years there, but those years are hidden from us. The next time he is mentioned, he has left home. Only once afterwards does he return to Nazareth, and on this occasion the inhabitants try to throw him over a cliff. He is totally alienated from those with whom he had used to travel to Jerusalem. The split which we see today developing between Jesus and his extended family has become a chasm.

This may or may not offer comfort to those whose children have moved away from their parents, not only physically, but mentally, emotionally, spiritually; those whose children have adopted different ideas, standards, perhaps even different religions, from those learnt at home. It is hard to bear, but has to be so. It was so for Jesus himself. Mary had to experience the pain that is common to many parents.

The pain is necessary because Jesus needs the space to mature. He needs, as St Luke puts it, to increase in wisdom, in stature, and in favour with God and men. Had he remained part of one happy family, if he could always be assumed to be with the caravan of friends and relations, there would have been no Gospel, no crucifixion, no resurrection, no salvation. All this was part of God's plan.

It may be that the loss of our own children is also part of God's plan. I think St Augustine's mother spending a whole night in prayer, praying that her son would not go away to Rome. He slipped away by night, even as she was praying; something of which he was afterwards ashamed, but if he had not gone, he would not have become a Christian, a bishop, a theologian, a Saint. What wonderful things God has planned for our own children! Provided only that we have the wisdom to let them go, and the love to keep them in our prayers.



**"Show yourself a father, and guide us in the path of life"**  
8/12/2020—8/12/2021

## Moments of Mercy

*"I am not only the Queen of Heaven, but also the Mother of Mercy and your Mother . . . I am Mother to you all, thanks to the unfathomable mercy of God." (Diary 330 & 449)*

## Catholic Weekly

- How we found the church
- Disappearing frankincense
- Winning Christians back to Labour
- Doing away with deficient hymns
- Movie review: **A Suitable Boy**
- To Indian with love: The Mary Glowrey story

The next issue of the Catholic Weekly will be 10 January 2021

## Piety Stall

Available in the Piety Store: Requisites for all occasions. Please come and browse!

Overheads for hymns used in the Church are used with permission under ONE LICENCE N<sup>o</sup> A-642251

## Church cleaning

Minda Chumroonridhi, Warren D'Costa, Jhun Balagtas, Charlotte Dos Remedios and Vlatko Valjak

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

## Feast Days

### 27th St John, Apostle

"My most treasured possessions are not things; they are only things, my friends, family and animals are what counts."

### 28th Holy Innocents

"The precious death of any martyr deserves high praise because of his heroic confession; the death of these children is precious in the sight of God because of the beatitude they gained so quickly. For already, at the beginning of their lives, they pass on. The end of the present life is for them the beginning of glory."

### 31st Saint Sylvester I

Lord, help and sustain your people by the prayers of Pope Sylvester. Guide us always in this present life and bring us to the joy that never ends.

### 1st Mary, the Holy Mother of God

### 2nd Sts Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen

"Words are truly the image of the soul."  
— St. Basil the Great

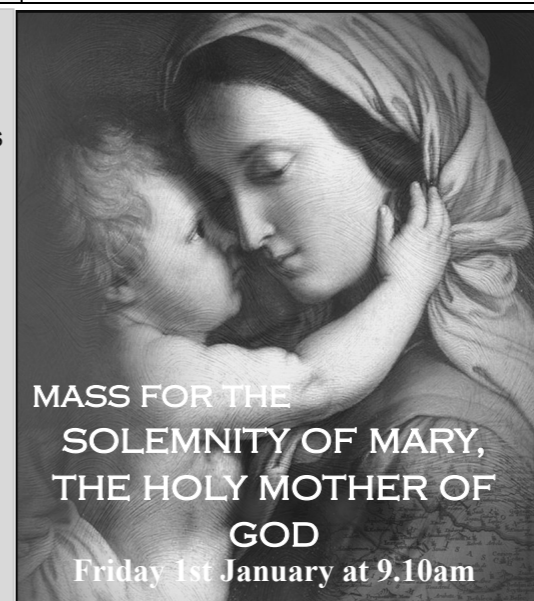
"Give something, however small, to the one in need. For it is not small to one who has nothing. Neither is it small to God, if we have given what we could."

- St. Gregory Nazianzen, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

## Holy Hour for Vocations

Can you honestly pray: Unless your family loves you, nothing else makes sense. In your family your vocation can grow in wisdom, age and grace.

**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.**



## Bishop's Christmas Appeal

A word of thanks to everyone who contributed to this Christmas appeal.

Your compassionate gifts and prayers will be helping CatholicCare's Project Elizabeth in supporting vulnerable families to build strong, loving relationships.

Our faith community's support provides practical and emotional help for parents, children and families in need so that they have every chance to live their potential and lead positive and fulfilling lives.

thankful  
grateful  
blessed

## Please pray for our sick

Antonio Abulad, Maroun Ayoub, Marija Barclay, Elly Bejma, Danielle Brown, Kay Bull, Helen Butler, John Cassar, Richard Cassin, Ron Cini, Christine Coorey, Sorayda Corpuz, Camarillo Cossid, Kainaz Cowasjee, Favoura 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 Filfil, 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, Judy McNeilage, 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, Joe Stagnitta, Marty Stockford, John Trost, 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 Simpliciano.

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

## IMPORTANT COVID UPDATE

Until further notice, the following applies:

- **Bookings are no longer required for any Mass—please DO NOT contact the parish office**
- Limit of 160 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
- 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
- Follow any signage for seating and please use common sense, remembering to apply social distancing restrictions
- Members of the same family and/or household are permitted to sit together.

## Come join our Green Army

One of the endearing and inspiring features of our parish are the beautiful gardens. This has been the labour of love of our parishioners who have been generous with their time, efforts and talents. The colourful blooms and array of plants, as you may appreciate, requires some attention and care. As we head into a new year and as you make your resolutions, please consider how you are able to lend a hand and ensure that our gardens continue to thrive. Whether you're happy to do some maintenance on the existing plants or perhaps see an opportunity to be creative and plant something new or different. There are many ways to assist, and an experience you can also enjoy on your own or as part of a team. For more information and to find out more please contact the Parish Office.