

# 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



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



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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

Today, we celebrate the feast of "The Epiphany of the Lord." The word "Epiphany" comes from the Greek word 'Epiphania' meaning 'revelation,' or 'manifestation.'

According to the tradition, "The Epiphany of the Lord" signifies specifically the manifestation of the Christ child to the entire world. The feast is based on one of the most enigmatic stories in the New Testament, of the visit of the Magi (Wise Men), shortly after the birth of Jesus. The Magi followed the star which led them to Bethlehem. There they found the Christ child, did him homage and presented him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

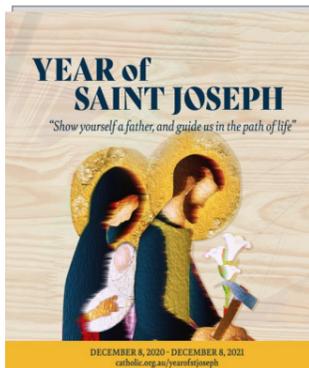
The Magi represent the non-Jewish world, they represent us. Their arrival on the scene shows as it were, that the Savior born in Bethlehem comes not just for one people, but for all peoples, all races – of all times and places. And we joyfully proclaim, "Lord, all the nations will adore you."

Henry Van Dyke has a story about a fourth wise man. His name was Artaban. He had planned to travel along with his fellow kings. However, he delayed to assist a woman who was dying. So, he missed the march west. As gifts, he carried a precious sapphire, a rare ruby, and an exquisite pearl. He had to give up his sapphire to help a starving family. When finally he found the stable, it was deserted. Mary and Joseph had scooped up the Child and escaped into Egypt. Artaban gave the ruby to secure the life of a babe destined to be destroyed by the mad King Herod.

His search for the King of kings continued for thirty-three long years. When he learned of the events on Calvary, he rushed there to ransom Jesus with the priceless pearl. But on the way he met a man about to be sold into slavery. To his master he gave his pearl as ransom. At that moment, the earthquake struck. He was critically wounded by falling debris. The man he had just rescued held his head in his lap. He whispered into his ear, "Because you did it for one of these, you did it for me." Artaban had found his King.

The same spirit that prompted Artaban to help the dying woman, the family, the infant, and the slave should motivate us to move out of our underground bunkers and do something similar, transferring our bibles from our dusty shelves into our hearts and spirits.

Thus the solemnity of the Epiphany not only celebrates that God was revealed in Christ some 2000 years ago; the Epiphany also invites us to open ourselves up to discover God's presence among us today; and the Epiphany reminds us that each one of us is called to be a revelation or epiphany of God in our world.



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

## Moments of Mercy

"No soul that has approached Me has ever gone away unconsolated."  
(Diary of St. Faustina, 1777)

## Catholic Weekly

Next edition will be 10 January  
Thank you for your continued support.

## Piety Stall

Available in the Piety Store:  
Requisites for all occasions.  
Open after all weekend Masses so please come and browse!

## 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.

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

## Church cleaning

Eileen & Dennis Dunnachie, Judy Hince, Chris Leonard, Gemma Martin

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

## Feast Days

### 4th St. Rigobert

Rigobert was long venerated as a model of patience and credited with many miracles.

### 5th Martyrs of Egypt

Two groups of martyrs, otherwise unknown, who were slain in Egypt, a large number of them dying in Alexandria.

### 6th St. Melanie

Wiped out idolatry in his diocese, helped draw up the canons of the Council of Orleans in 511 and highly revered by King Clovis.

### 7th St Raymond of Penyafort

"The preacher of God's truth has told us that all who want to live righteously in Christ will suffer persecution"

### 8th St Pega

Her relics were honoured with miracles, and kept in a church which bore her name at Rome; but this church is not now known.

### 9th St. Honorius

A cattle merchant slain by his own servants. He was immediately venerated as a martyr and was canonized in 1444.

### 10th Baptism of the Lord

"Dearly Beloved, each word and deed of Our Saviour Jesus Christ is for us a lesson in virtue and piety. For this end also did He assumed our nature, so that every man and every woman, contemplating as in a picture the practice of all virtue and piety, might strive with all their hearts to imitate His example ..."  
St Basil the Great (329-379)

## Holy Hour for Vocations

More valuable than material gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh, is the invaluable gift of our lives. There is no greater gift than to lay down one's life for one's friends.

**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.**

## Goodbye 2020, Hello 2021

As we prepare for the new year, 2020 is a year we will never forget. It challenged many in how we can truly live out our values as Catholics. As much as the year started off tremendously with the wonderful 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary parish celebrations, it quickly changed in March when the COVID-19 pandemic took hold, leading to significant and ongoing interruptions. Suspension of Sunday Mass obligation and compliance with ever changing restrictions presented many challenges. This affected many people deeply, not only for Mass but for the sacraments, funerals, communion to the sick and various other ministries and liturgical undertakings. In saying that, we had to adapt and evolve, and along the way opportunities arose where we, in some ways, can pleasingly look back on our resolve and patience. We were blessed in being able to engage using Facebook to livestream mass as well as a platform for communication which was critical with ever changing restrictions. This also opened up access to Mass for those normally unable to attend and also for those outside our parish. Not everyone came through 2020 the way they hoped and we continue to pray for them, to remember that we should remain humble and thank God for all we have been blessed with. As we enter 2021 let us all look to God with humility, continue in our prayers and devotions, and remain steadfast in our resolve to live our lives as Catholics.

**Wishing you and yours a most blessed and truly happy 2021**

## Please pray for our sick

Antonio Abulad, Maroun Ayoub, Marielin Suazo Barcelona, Marija Barclay, Fr Domingo Barrowib, Elly Bejma, Danielle Brown, Kay Bull, Helen Butler, John Cassar, Richard Cassin, Ron Cini, Christine Coorey, Sorayda Corpuz, Camarillo Cossid, Kainaz Cowasjee, Fevoura Daroy, Joseph Daroy, Selene Daroy, Emma Davies, Norman De Luca, Frederick de Silva, Gus DelVillar, Camille Diesta, Tony Draybi, 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 Iruibandra, 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.

**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, Lourdes Zaballa.  
**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.