

St Paul the Apostle Parish

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Parish Priest: Fr Raining Creta

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For latest updates please visit our Facebook page



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From Father Raining

Have you heard the beautiful children's story about the three trees?

The trees were talking in the forest one day about their dreams for the future.

The first tree said it would like to be made into a cradle, so that it might go on living as a support for the fragile life of a tiny new baby. The second tree wanted to be made into a big ship, so that it might go on living, carrying important cargo and influential people to exotic new lands.

The third tree longed to stay right where it was, existing only as a tree, but growing ever taller, and pointing ever higher, to remind everyone that there is a God in heaven who loves them.

Those were their dreams: One wanted to be a cradle, one wanted to be a mighty ship, and one wanted to be a tall tree, pointing people toward God.

But then one day woodcutters came and chopped down the three trees...and destroyed their dreams.

The first tree was not made into a cradle, but into a simple feeding trough, a manger for animals. But the manger was sold to a family in Bethlehem, and on the night Jesus was born, that simple feed box became the cradle for the Christ Child.

The second tree was built into a boat, but not the kind it had dreamed of, not a mighty ocean-going vessel but a tiny inexpensive fishing boat. A man named Simon Peter bought the boat, and on one warm afternoon when the crowds pressed in, Jesus himself climbed aboard that small fishing boat that he might preach good news to the multitudes.

The third tree also was deprived of its dream. It wanted to remain standing tall and pointing toward God. Instead, it was cut down and shaped into a horrible instrument of torture, a cross. But it was on that very cross that Jesus was crucified, transforming a symbol of cruelty into a powerful reminder of God's eternal love for all the people.

The three trees were humbled, but in the plan of God, they were exalted.

That's the way it works: When we, in humility, give ourselves to God, our Lord can do great things through us and for us, greater than we can ever imagine.

First Reading: Through suffering, God's servant helps many others.
How has my suffering made me more ready to help others who suffer?

Second Reading: Jesus knows our human weakness.
Which weakness do I want Jesus to help me with today?

Gospel: Jesus encourages us to become great through serving others.
What hidden service can I do for someone this week?

A Prayer—for the fifth Plenary Council of Australia

Come holy spirit, who moved the people of this land in ages past, open our hearts to hear you and our minds to the message you send.

Breathe your vigour into us, and launch us into the deep.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord and companion on the road, Amen



For more information about the Plenary Council please visit paracatholic.org/plenary-2021/

Weekend Mass times

Saturday Vigil 5:00pm

Sunday 8:00am, 9:30am and 5:00pm

Weekday Mass times

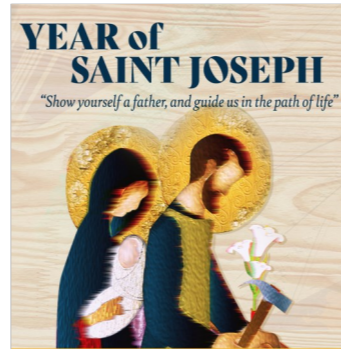
Monday to Friday 9.10am | Saturday 9.00am

(all preceded by the Rosary at 8:40 am)

Reconciliation: Saturday 4.00pm - 4.45pm

Baptisms: First and Third Sunday of each month

All Baptism bookings are to be made via our website



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

Moments of Mercy

I am more generous toward sinners than toward the just. It was for their sake that I came down from heaven; it was for their sake that My Blood was spilled. Let them not fear to approach Me; they are most in need of My mercy. (Diary 1275)

Holy Hour for Vocations

We must stop just putting band-aids on the wounds of society. We must tell the world that we are God's people. God loves us and we were created to serve God, and others in God.

Catholic Weekly

While the Catholic Weekly is not available from the Church, please feel free to access their website for a wide range of news and information:
<https://www.catholicweekly.com.au/>

Feast of St. Gerard Majella

Patron Saint of expectant mothers. His prayers are sought for the children, unborn children, women in childbirth, mothers, expectant mothers, motherhood, falsely accused people, good confessions and lay brothers. *Feast day Oct 16.*

IMPORTANT: COVID update and when Masses will resume

- In terms of when our Church will reopen for Masses, this is currently scheduled for when the NSW COVID full vaccination rate reaches 80%, and most likely to occur before the end of this month.
- We do not know the date for this and we will immediately update everyone at the same time as announcements during our daily livestreamed Masses and posts on our Parish Facebook page.
- Please remember that you don't actually need to have a Facebook account to access our parish Facebook page.
- We are aware that not all of our parishioners are across these updates. If you know of anyone who does not have internet access, then please continue to reach out to them and keep them informed of the latest news and information.
- We understand parishioners have questions about returning to attend Mass and this resulted in an increase in enquiries and calls to our Parish Office. We kindly ask for your patience to allow our Parish and Sacramental staff to work closely with our priests to prepare for the reopening of the Church, the progressive reintroduction of Sacraments, etc.
- It would be reasonable to expect when Masses resume, parishioners will be required to sign in, sanitise and wear a mask at all times; capacity limits to numbers attending will apply and bookings will be required for weekend Masses only.
- In saying that, it is anticipated that the 80% fully vaccination rate could be reached by Monday 18th October. On the condition that the Diocesan office has given approval for reopening, then our first weekend masses will take place on 23rd and 24th October. Bookings will be required and made by calling the office on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday only between 9:00am and 1:00pm. Again, we will advise and update our parishioners once this approval has been received.
- Please note there will be only one vigil Mass and at 5:00pm. For the vigil Mass only, if the Church capacity exceeds the limit of 160 then subsequent bookings will be allocated to an additional overflow Mass which will be held in the Parish Centre.
- It is expected Saturday reconciliation will again be available on the Saturday after Masses resumes.
- Bookings are not required for weekday masses.
- The Church will be open for private devotion and general access the same day Masses recommence.

Pregnancy Help Sydney and "The Little White Box"

The work of supporting women with unplanned pregnancies is still an urgent need in our community. On the first weekend each month we put out "the Little White Box" at the entrance to the Church at all masses. The donations raised allow the Pregnancy Help Sydney support group to continue supporting women and their families 24 hours, seven days a week on the telephone or with other assistance as needed. All donations help with the cost of phone bills, and the training and development of the telephone support workers. It is important to note that these phone lines are staffed on a voluntary basis. If you or anyone you know needs support or assistance, if you want to know more or to make a contribution, please visit <https://www.pregnancyhelpsydney.com/>. Our parishioners have supported the Little White Box for many years and this generosity has been continually acknowledged by Pregnancy Help. Thank you.

Message from Schools and Youth Engagement team of the St Vincent de Paul Society

The team thank you in advance for the amazing support and thoroughly look forward to working with you in the near future. Here are some links which are especially appealing and relevant to parents and their children:

- link to the **Vinnies Metropolitan Schools and Youth Term 4 2021 Newsletter**: bit.ly/VinniesSchoolYouthNewsTerm42021
- the 2021 edition of the **Mini Vinnies Formation Program (MVFP)** for students in Years 4 – 6 is available for those who wish to undertake Social Justice Formation in their own time. For more information please go to <https://bit.ly/VinniesMVFP>

Employment Opportunity

Catholic Mission is seeking applications for a Donor Relations Officer role. This is an exceptional opportunity to join the international mission agency of the Catholic Church in Australia, which supports children, communities and church leaders both in Australia and overseas. For more information, please visit <https://www.catholicmission.org.au/jobs-at-catholic-mission>

Please pray for our sick

Antonio Abulad, Junelle Ausuncion, Maroun Ayoub, Marielin Suazo Barcelona, Marija Barclay, Elly Bejma, Danielle Brown, John Buggy, Kay Bull, Helen Butler, Christine Casey, Ron Cini, Christine Coorey, Sorayda Corpuz, Camarillo Cossid, Fevoura, Daroy, Joseph Daroy, Selene Daroy, Emma Davies, Mark Deady, Stephen Deady, 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, Jake Graudins, Piper Hastings, Peter and Julie Herlinger, Colleen Holroyd, Brian Horan, Anthony Iannuzzi, Ludie Irrulbandra, Jacqueline Kelly, Elizabeth Kenny, Karen Le Huray, Sophie Lawrence, Josephine Mamari, Carolyn Martin, James Matos, Leanne Maree McInerney, Judy McNeilage, Sonia Merhi, Maria Micallef, Tess Micallef, Dennis Murray, Lesley Palaki, Arun Papali, Iranie Perumal, Silvi Perumal, Des Prendergast, Emely Reyes, Rhiannon McInerney-Robertson, Honor Rosario, Kenneth Del Rosario, Rudy Severino, Joe Stagnitta, Marty Stockford, John Trost, Pelenatete Tuaimau, Karl Wagner, 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, Brian Baker, Anna Mary Joseph & Ratnam John Joseph, Maurice & Yvonne Sequeira, Andrew Busuttill, Kerry Cini, Aurelio & Connie Lopez, Bal & Jennifer Villanova, Michael & Julia Sherman, Chammouni Frangi, Madeleine Adolphe, Mary & John Ford, John Ford Junior, Rosy Attard, Jim Rowan, Michelle Makin, Tony Draybi, Donald Ramage, Dex Habito, Andy and Maureen Haddad, Charlie Micallef, Maggie Simpliciano, Lourdes Zaballa, Patricia Minahan, Matthew Essey, Joseph Borg, Louis Saliba, Wasley Adolphe, George Khodeir, Richard Cassin. **May the souls of our dearly departed rest in peace**