

St Paul the Apostle Parish

40 Buckleys Road, Winston Hills NSW 2153

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Parish Priest: Fr Raning Creta

Assistant Priest: Fr Marcus Hazelman

For latest updates please visit our Facebook page



facebook.com/stpaultheapostleparish



twitter.com/stpaulapostwin

All masses limited to 320.

Bookings are not required for any of our Masses.

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

Baptism bookings only via our website ([2022 bookings open 20th Dec](#))



From Father Raning

Today is the First Sunday of ADVENT and with this we WELCOME a new Liturgical year with a new cycle of prayers and Scripture readings – Cycle C of St. Luke. Last Sunday we celebrated the Feast of Christ the King and waved GOOD BYE to the outgoing Liturgical year – Cycle B of St. Mark.

Literally speaking, the term 'advent' comes from Latin meaning 'coming' or 'arrival' of someone, but in the Christian liturgical sense it specifically refers to 'the coming of Christ.'

So, "Advent" is a Holy Season when we spiritually prepare ourselves for "the Coming of Christ."

Speaking of 'the coming of Christ', it is a mystery, for there is not one, but three comings of Christ:

(1) Christ has already come in the past about 2000 years ago,

(2) Christ will come in future at the end of the world and

(3) Christ still comes today in the sacraments – very specifically through the Eucharist.

Thus in a general sense, the period of Advent encompasses all time: Past, Future and Present.

So, a Christian in this sense is always a citizen of Advent. Therefore, it is not surprising that we begin the new Liturgical Year this Sunday, with the same theme of "the coming of Christ."

Several years ago, Carl Reiner and Mel Brooks did a comedy skit called the "2000 Year Old Man".

In the skit, Reiner interviews Brooks, who is the old gentleman.

At one point, Reiner asks the old man, "Did you always believe in the Lord?"

Brooks replied: No. We had a guy in our village named Phil, and for a time we worshiped him.

Reiner: You worshiped a guy named Phil? Why?

Brooks: Because he was big, and mean, and he could break you in two with his bare hands!

Reiner: Did you have prayers?

Brooks: Yes, would you like to hear one? O Phil, please don't be mean, and hurt us, or break us in two with your bare hands.

Reiner: So when did you start worshiping the Lord?

Brooks: Well, one day a big thunderstorm came up, and a lightning bolt hit Phil. We gathered around and saw that he was dead. Then we said to one another, "There's something bigger than Phil!"

First Reading: God declares that now is the time for fulfilling promises.

What promises do I most desire to be fulfilled?

Second Reading: Paul encourages us to grow in love as we await Jesus' coming.

What act of loving kindness can I do today to show my eagerness for Jesus' coming?

Gospel:

Jesus urges us to watch for him so as not to be completely surprised.

What daily anxieties make it hard to watch for Christ?

Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses 2022

The Parramatta Diocese will be begin Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses in February. This is formation for anyone interested in serving within the Liturgical Ministries either as Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, Communion to the Sick and Dying and Ministers at the Altar. If you are interested or would like more information please email the Parish Office.

2022 Life, Marriage and Family Office Marriage Preparation Courses

Dates for the Diocesan Office's in-person marriage preparation courses in 2022 are now available, with the SmartLoving Engaged Online course another option to prepare for your marriage.

For more information, or to book your course, visit www.parracatholic.org/pmp or call (02) 8838 3460

Year of Saint Joseph - nearly at the end

We are entering the last few weeks and it's important for us to stop and reflect especially in terms of how we have embraced and engaged ourselves. There are reflections on the various aspects of St Joseph's life and available here: <https://catholicoutlook.org/category/latest/vatican/year-of-st-joseph/>

Christmas Mass times and important information

- Friday 24th (vigil): 5:00pm, 8:00pm and 12:00pm midnight. Saturday 25th: 8:00am and 9:30am
- The 5:00pm Mass celebrated Saturday 25th evening is not for Christmas. It is the vigil Mass for Sunday 26th.
- Extended reconciliation times: Saturday 11th and 18th December 3:30pm to 4:45pm (both priests available)
- There will be no dedicated children's Christmas Mass.



The Church is open—some important updates and reminders

- Bookings are not required for any of our Masses
- Upon arrival at the Church please sanitise, and QR code or record your details on the sign on sheet.
- Masks are required inside the Church at all times, whether it be for Mass or personal visit.
- The Church is open every day for personal prayer.
- Our Masses will also continue to be livestreamed on Facebook.
- There are no entry requirements based upon your vaccination status – the Church is open to everyone.

Columban Art Calendar

This is an iconic Catholic Calendar, well known for its traditional religious paintings and liturgical information and is a major fundraiser for Columban Missionaries. Please consider buying one for yourself or perhaps a family friend or relative and available for \$8.00.

Baptisms Welcome and Booking information for 2022

To Isla, Evie, Isabella and Mia, Andre and Aria, and Isabella and Lexi baptised here last weekend. We pray their faith will be an important and integral part of their lives. Online bookings for 2022 Baptisms will reopen and become available from 21st December.

Keeping Christ in Christmas

Our Piety stall over the coming weeks will have available a range of Christmas cards as well as Nativity themed prayer cards for sale. And if you're at the Post Office buying stamps, please remember to ask for the Religious series.



Invitation to light our Advent Wreath candles

As part of our Advent and Christmas Masses we place a special Advent wreath on the Altar.

At the beginning of each Mass these candles are lit by our parishioners and if you would like to take part, please record your details on the roster located in the foyer.

(Parramatta Catholic Foundation's) Bishops Christmas Appeal—this weekend

This appeal is being held across all parishes in the Diocese. Funds raised will enable CatholicCare's Houses to Homes to support vulnerable young pregnant women who are facing hardship, abuse and homelessness – so that they and their children can face the future with hope, safety and security. We invite you in this Year of the Family, to show your Christian kindness to vulnerable women and their children in need, by supporting this appeal. Your gift will help pregnant and at-risk young mothers bring their babies into the world in a safe, nurturing and emotionally secure environment, setting them up for the very best start to their family life. Please give generously via the giving envelopes which can be placed in the third collection this weekend. Thank you.

Feast of Saint Andrew the Apostle—November 30

Much like his younger brother, Simon Peter, Andrew was a fisherman. His very name means strong and was known for having good social skills. In Matthew's Gospel, it is said Jesus was walking along the Sea of Galilee and saw Andrew and Simon Peter fishing. It is then he asked the two to become disciples and "fishers of men." Per Christian tradition, Andrew went on to preach the Good News around the shores of the Black Sea and throughout what is now Greece and Turkey. Andrew was martyred in Patras by crucifixion on a cross form known as "crux decussata," which is an X-shaped cross or a "saltire", where he was bound, rather than nailed. Today this is commonly referred to as "St. Andrew's Cross." It is believed Andrew requested to be crucified this way, because he deemed himself "unworthy to be crucified on the same type of cross as Jesus." His saltire cross features on the Scotland flag and represented in much of his iconography. St. Andrew is the patron saint of fishermen and singers. He is also the patron saint to several countries including Scotland and Russia.

Please pray for our sick

Antonio Abulad, Junelle Ausuncion, Maroun Ayoub, Rosalin Baker, 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, Favoura, 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, Lutie 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, Annie Newton, Lesley Palaki, Arun Papali, Iranie Perumal, Silvi Perumal, Des Prendergast, Emely Reyes, Rhiannon McInerney-Robertson, Honor Rosario, Kenneth Del Rosario, Rudy Severino, Geraldine Senewiratne, Joe Stagnitta, Marty Stockford, John Trost, Pelenate 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, Charles & Josephine Clayton, Saverio & Rosa Marotta, Paul Beck, Brian Hurney, Lottie & Fredrick Gibbs, Brian Baker, Major Dante Dinanno Snr, Annette Herft, Maurice & Yvonne Sequeira, Andrew Busuttil, Kerry Cini, Aurelio & Connie Lopez, Bal & Jennifer Villanova, Michael & Julia Sherman, Chammouni Frangi, Madeleine & Wasley Adolphe, Mary & John Ford, John Ford Junior, Rosy Attard, Jim Rowan, Michelle Makin, Lena Pereira, Donald Ramage, Dex Habito, Andy and Maureen Haddad, Charlie Micallef, Maggie Simpliciano, Lourdes Zaballa, Patricia Minahan, Thelma Nalliah, Vicky Mifsud, Joseph Borg, Leon Chalker, George Khodeir, Richard Cassin. *May the souls of our dearly departed rest in peace*

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.