


St Paul the Apostle Parish

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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

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From Father Raning

Carl Michalson, a brilliant young theologian who died in a plane crash some years ago, once told about playing with his young son. They tussled playfully on their front lawn when Michalson accidentally hit the young boy in the face with his elbow. It was a sharp blow full to his son's face. The little boy was stunned by the impact of the elbow. It hurt, and was just about to burst into tears.

But then he looked into his father's eyes. Instead of anger and hostility, he saw his father's sympathy and concern; he saw there his father's love and compassion. Instead of exploding into tears, the little boy suddenly burst into laughter. What he saw in his father's eyes made all the difference!

The sharp blow of God's message to us is: Repentance. But, look into your father's eyes. What he offers you is forgiveness and that makes all the difference. Repent and you will be forgiven.

First Reading: Zephaniah tells us to be glad and rejoice.
What makes me glad and joyful today?

Second Reading: Paul reminds us that God is near.
When have I felt God near me this past week?

Gospel: The crowds ask John what to do to change their lives.
What should I do this week to change my life to be more like what Jesus wants?

24 Hour Adoration returning in 2022

Unfortunately in 2021 due to COVID we were unable to hold the 24 Hour Adoration each month. We are hopeful it will return in the first weekend of February 2022 and further updates will follow.

Baptisms Welcome and update

To Benjamin, Giulia, Hailey, Hunter and Remi who were baptised here last weekend. We pray their faith will be an important and integral part of their life. Online bookings for 2022 Baptisms will reopen and become available from 20th December.

Confirmation Congratulations

Congratulations to all candidates who were confirmed this month. A very big thank you to Father Raning and Father Marcus and the Masses would not have been so successful without the help of all of who prepared, assisted and provided support throughout the children's journey. A special thank you to the Sacramental team and parents who prepared and presented children for this sacrament.

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.

They've arrived!

As it's the start of a new Church year, there are copies of the 2022 Daily Mass Book available in the Mass Books drawer next to the Holy Water font. Feel free to use these and as these are shared, we kindly ask to ensure these are kept clean and returned to the drawer after Mass.

Parish Caritas Ambassador—volunteer role available

As part of their commitment to connecting the local Catholic community to the mission of Caritas Australia, a Caritas Ambassador is being sought within each parish. The Volunteer role will be part of a network of national contacts and be supported to promote the work of Caritas, particularly during Lent. If you want to know more about this role please contact the Parish Office.

All masses limited to 320.
Bookings are not required for any of our Masses.

Weekend Mass times

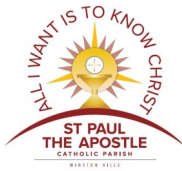
Saturday Vigil 5:00pm
Sunday 8:00am, 9:30am and 5:00pm

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)



Divine Mercy Chaplet

Every Friday 3:30pm in the Marian Chapel. All welcome to attend and join in solemn and intimate prayer.

Moments of Mercy

Do not defend yourself when you are put to shame, though innocent. Let others triumph. Do not stop being good when you notice that your goodness is being abused. I Myself will speak up for you when it is necessary. Be grateful for the smallest of my graces, because your gratitude compels me to grant you new graces. Jesus to St Faustina (Diary, 1701).

Holy Hour for Vocations

You know that at the end of earth-time, every thing will be stubble. Be sure there is a monument to your earth-love in heaven. Listen to Jesus.

Catholic Weekly

- New priests fruit of Neocatechumenal Way.
- Death by a thousand cuts. Activists target religious exemptions.
- The cross behind bars. Prison Memoirs Vol 3.
- Subversion of the universities
- Movie review: *Westside Story*
- Tired of the Church? Turn to St Francis.

Overheads for hymns used in the Church are used with permission under ONE LICENCE No A-642251

Due to COVID-19 this bulletin cannot be reused and must be taken home with you.

Christmas / New Year Eve 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 held on Sat December 11th and 18th from 3:30pm to 4:45pm (both priests available)
- There will be no dedicated children's Christmas Mass
- There will be a special Mass for New Years Eve at 7:00pm on Friday 31st December.

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 and 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.

Keeping Christ in Christmas

Our Piety stall has 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.

St Vincent de Paul Society Christmas Appeal this weekend

This year the conference has decided to purchase hampers from Foodbank NSW which is why they are seeking financial support. Hampers cost \$20 each and funded through your generous donations and be distributed to needy families in the Mount Druitt area. If you are unable to contribute this weekend, you can still donate via the Winston Hills Conference weblink: <https://my.fundraise.vinniesnsw.org.au/fundraise-your-way/winston-hills-conference-christmas-appeal>

Rouse Hill Parish Christmas Novena Dawn Masses (16th—24th December)

Leading up to Christmas Our Lady of the Angels Parish, Rouse Hill will be celebrating a Novena of Dawn Masses. Commencing on 16 December and celebrated at 5am. Bookings are NOT required. For details, contact rousehill@parracatholic.org or (02) 8883 4063.

They're back on! St Mary's Cathedral Christmas Lights and Choir

This spectacular light and sound show is free and every night until 25th December. Choirs from 7.30pm, Lights from 8.30pm-11pm. For more details visit: <https://lightsofchristmas.com.au/>

Documentary for Year of St. Joseph

Inspiring film about St. Joseph and what he does for those devoted to him is available now that the Year of Saint Joseph has ended. It is a Knights of Columbus produced documentary and an opportunity to deepen your devotion to St. Joseph. It provides viewers a glimpse into one of the most incredible lives in all of human history, a figure whose spiritual fatherhood remains open to all of us.

Important Changes to this bulletin—(Please pray for our sick)

As you are aware, this bulletin provides an opportunity within our parish community to share awareness and a reminder of those who are sick (**Please pray for our sick**) and those who have passed away (**Please pray for**). As has always been the practice, everyone has the opportunity to submit names to the Parish Office of those they would like included. In saying that, there comes a time we need to ensure that the list of those named is still current and relevant eg those included as sick may thankfully be recovered and no longer required to be included.

Over the coming weeks we will be removing names listed for **Please pray for our sick** where we are unable to determine the person's current status. If you wish to have the name of someone still included, please contact the parish office, preferably by email else feel free to telephone.

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, 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 Filfil, 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, Mary McNamara, 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, 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, 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 Busutil, 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**

