

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



twitter.com/stpaulapostwin

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

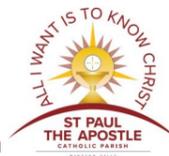
Monday to Friday 9.10am | Saturday 9.00am

(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 Raining

A man was being chased by a ferocious tiger. He ran and ran until he came to a sheer cliff. As the tiger came bearing down on him, he grabbed a rope hanging over the cliff and climbed down out of the tiger's reach. The man looked up and saw the tiger fifty feet away leering down and waiting to devour him. Then he looked down and saw jagged rocks sticking up from the ground five hundred feet below. Then he saw two mice beginning to chew into the rope. What to do! What to do! He saw a big, bright red strawberry growing out of the side of the cliff. He stretched out his hand, plucked the strawberry, popped it into his mouth and ate it. Then he said, "Yummy! That was the most delicious thing I've ever tasted." The point is, had the man allowed himself to become pre-occupied with the jagged rocks below (the future) or with the leering tiger above (the past), he would have completely missed the strawberry (the gift that was being offered to him in the present moment).

First Reading: God will bring forth a ruler for Israel from a small and insignificant clan.
How has God worked wonders today through persons not rich and famous?

Second Reading: Jesus always does what God wants.
What lures me away from doing what God wants?

Gospel: Mary is blessed because she believed that what God promised would be fulfilled.
Which of God's promises most inspires me with confidence?

Have your say: Synod of Bishops 2021/23 Parramatta Diocese Response

What would you say to Pope Francis if you had 10 minutes? Catholics across the world are invited to participate in a period of local consultation for the next international Synod of Bishops.

Synod means "coming together" or "travelling with". A Synod brings together Catholics from all over the world to pray and reflect upon where the Holy Spirit is leading the Church. These sort of gatherings have existed since the earliest years of Christianity, when local leaders would come together to pray and make decisions.

One of the most significant Synods was the Second Vatican Council (1962-65). This Council stressed the importance of bishops as local leaders and as collaborators with one another, and encouraged more frequent synodal gatherings of bishops, known as "General Assemblies".

Pope Francis has held a particular interest in the Synod of Bishops. In the year after he was elected Pope, he held an "Extraordinary General Assembly of Bishops" on the topic of vocation and family.

Pope Francis asks all Catholics to participate in this Synod to respond to his call for a 'Listening Church'. The first step for Australian Catholics is participation in a discernment process, whereby they consider their thoughts individually or in groups of family and friends. There are resources to assist at the website created for Parramatta Diocese parishioners found at the link <https://parracatholic.org/synod-of-bishops/>

Parishioners can then upload their responses onto a [portal operated by the ACBC](#). Responses will be accepted up until **27 February 2022**.

Thank you for helping to contribute to Pope Francis' vision of a Listening Church that welcomes all through the discernment of the People of God and the work of the Holy Spirit.

Find out how to send your message at parracatholic.org/synod-of-bishops



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

The loss of each soul plunges Me into mortal sadness. You always console Me when you pray for sinners. The prayer most pleasing to Me is prayer for the conversion of sinners. Know My daughter that this prayer is always heard and answered. (Diary 1397)

Holy Hour for Vocations

Who will work for Jesus, the King of Peace, Hope and Honour, the King of Love, Truth and Justice? Who is dedicated and enthusiastic enough to proclaim his Good News? Must be YOU!

Catholic Weekly

- Evangelisation. Person by person.
- Page by page. Parishioners write the entire Bible out.
- Channel Nine journalist: recover your faith.
- Labor courts faiths
- Movie: **The Wheel of Time**
- First Australians honoured

Christmas Edition

Next week the Catholic Weekly will produce a special Christmas edition and features unique artwork by Daniel Mitsui on the cover.

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

• **Friday 24th (vigil):** 5:00pm, 8:00pm and 12:00pm midnight (Carols @ 11:45pm).

• **Saturday 25th:** 8:00am, 9:30am

- The 5:00pm Mass celebrated Saturday 25th evening is not for Christmas. It is the vigil Mass for Sunday 26th.
- Although there is no dedicated children's Christmas Mass, children are encouraged to attend the 5:00pm vigil.
- New Years Eve - there will be a special Mass at 7:00pm on Friday 31st December.

IMPORTANT UPDATE: Easing of COVID restrictions and changes effective this weekend

- Bookings are no longer required for Christmas Masses or for any of our Masses
- Wearing of masks is encouraged however it is voluntary and personal choice
- Congregation singing is now allowed
- Upon arrival at the Church you will still need QR code or record your details on the sign on sheet
- Holy Water fonts will remain empty however is available from the glass dispenser in the centre of the Church foyer
- 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
- All Ministries that are currently suspended eg Altar Servers, Children's Liturgy will continue to remain temporarily on hold.

Christmas Mass and Reconciliation Times in other Parishes

Christmas Mass and Reconciliation Times across Western Sydney and Blue Mountains are available on the Diocesan website (www.parracatholic.org), Catholic Outlook (www.catholicoutlook.org) and Diocesan social media channels.

St Vincent de Paul Society Christmas Appeal—THANK YOU

The Winston Hills conference of the St Vincent de Paul Society extended their thanks and gratitude for your wonderful generosity that made it possible to purchase and provide hampers from Foodbank NSW for distribution to needy families in the Mount Druitt area. If you were unable to contribute last 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>

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.

Columban Calendars

Thank you for your support and generosity in purchasing these and unfortunately we are now sold out.

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 Filfilii, 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 Busuttill, 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**