

# 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)

 [twitter.com/stpaulapostwin](https://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

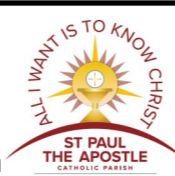
Monday to Friday 9.10am | Saturday 9.00am

*(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*



## From Father Raining

With the coming of each New Year is the realisation that there are some things in life we have in common: We're all getting older. And all through the year, there's no shortage of reminders of that reality, eg,

- At twenty-five years of age, we didn't care what the world thought of us; at thirty, we started to worry about what the world thought of us.
- At forty, we realised that the world wasn't thinking about us at all. We know we're getting older when we try to straighten our socks only to find that we can't reach them.
- At fifty we stop patting ourselves on the back and start patting ourselves under the chin.
- We know we are getting older when we need to put in our teeth and our hearing aid before we can ask where we left our eyeglasses.

Whether you're twenty-five, fifty-five or one hundred and five, the Good News is all wrapped up in a simple phrase, consisting of only two words, to be used in a certain context. The two words are "Please God ..." -- not in the sense of, "Please God, grant me this or that and it will make me happy," but "My happiness depends absolutely on my willingness to please God."

Luke tells us when Jesus was baptised "Heaven opened and the Holy Spirit descended on Him in bodily shape, like a dove. And a voice came from Heaven, 'You are My Son, the Beloved; My favour rests on You'" (Lk. 3:21-22). Some earlier translations say, "This is My Beloved Son in whom I am well pleased."

Jesus was pleasing the Father because He was doing His Will. Jesus was placing his Father's Will at the centre of His life. Jesus' lifestyle was in harmony with God's Will. "Let it be as You, not I would have it" was His abiding prayer to the Father: "Thy Will be done!"

First Reading: At his baptism, God calls Jesus a "beloved Son."

*How can I thank God for making me a beloved child, too?*

Second Reading: Isaiah tells us that God is like a shepherd who gathers the lambs in his arms.

*What part of my life shall I entrust to God's strong arms?*

Gospel: Luke tells us the people were filled with expectation for the coming of the Messiah.

*What fills my heart with expectations today?*

## Please pray for our sick

**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**

Maroun Ayoub, Elly Bejma, Priscilla Bennett, Danielle Brown, John Buggy, Ron Cini, Christine Coorey, Camarillo Cossid, Gus DelVillar, Lara Duncum, Rebecca Duncum, George El-Bayeh, Frances Flannery, Nick Galea, Anthony Iannuzzi, Elizabeth Kenny, Karen Le Huray, Carolyn Martin, Leanne Maree McInerney, Rhiannon McInerney-Robertson, Mary McNamara, Sonia Merhi, Maria Micallef, Tess Micallef, Annie Newton, Iranie Perumal, Silvi Perumal, Honor Rosario, Kenneth Del Rosario, John Trost, Pelenatete Tuaimau, Karl Wagner.

## Please pray for

**May the souls of our dearly departed rest in peace**

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, Andrew Busuttill, Maurice & Yvonne Sequeira, Kerry Cini, Aurelio & Connie Lopez, Bal & Jennifer Villanova, Patricia Minahan, 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, Thelma Nalliah, Vicky Mifsud, Geraldine Senewiratne, Leon Chalker, George Khodeir, Richard Cassin.

## Novena to our

### Mother of Perpetual Help

Prayed every Wednesday morning immediately after Mass.

### 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

I am beginning the retreat today, Jesus, my Master, guide me. Govern me according to Your will, purify my love that it may be worthy of You, do with me as Your most merciful Heart desires. Jesus, there will be just the two of us during these days until the moment of our union. Keep me, Jesus, in a recollected spirit!

—St. Faustina's Diary on Jesus' Heart 218

### Holy Hour for Vocations

A child's handful of pulled dandelions will bring joy to a mother. A small act of kindness will surprise the lonely heart. Who will bring joy and kindness today?

## Catholic Weekly

Please note there is no Catholic Weekly this weekend.

As always you can visit the Catholic Weekly website for a wide range of news, articles and information: <https://www.catholicweekly.com.au/>

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

**COVID-19: this bulletin cannot be reused and must be taken home with you.**



## Ordination to the Diaconate of Adam Carlow

In wonderful news we are extremely pleased and proud to announce the Ordination to the Diaconate of Adam Carlow in the Parramatta Diocese. Adam is currently located at Greystanes parish and was recently a resident Seminarian here at St Pauls for over a year. This is a special moment for Adam in his journey and calling as a Priest and please continue to pray for Adam and his fellow Seminarians. Ceremony details are as follows:

- Our Lady of Queen of Peace (OLQP) Parish, 198 Old Prospect Road, Greystanes
- Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> January at 5:00pm

**IMPORTANT:** Anyone wishing to attend must RSVP to OLQP directly by email and by January 22<sup>nd</sup> to [parishoffice@olqp.org.au](mailto:parishoffice@olqp.org.au). Please do not contact the Parish Office here at St Pauls as we are unable to RSVP on your behalf.

## Nothing Ordinary about Ordinary Time

Ordinary Time (colour Green) commences this week. During the season between Christmas and Lent, the readings focus on Jesus' early ministry of teaching, and healing, and the gathering of disciples. Shrove Tuesday celebrations often mark the end of this season. Ordinary Time resumes later in the year. The word "ordinary" in Ordinary Time comes from the word ordinal. "Counted Time" would be a better translation. The occurrence of Easter determines the length of this counted time. Easter falls on the 1st Sunday after the first full moon after the spring equinox. The timing falls between March 22 and April 25. The Sundays and weeks of Ordinary Time are days of growth and harvest -- days of hope and time to mature in one's faith. Green is the colour of ongoing life in nature: the renewal of spring grass, flowers and trees. Green signifies hope and growth. The green weeks, 1 to 34, provide time to be refreshed with the Sunday Scriptures, sequentially following the life and works of Jesus in his public ministry. The longest liturgical season is that of the weeks following Easter. The last Sunday of the liturgical year is the celebration of the Feast of Christ the King.

## Stamps for Charity

A big thank you for your donation of used stamps. For a long time now, our parish supports the Mary MacKillop International Mission through collection of used stamps. At any time, if you have any unused stamps, please place them in the box in the Church foyer else drop off to the Parish office. These stamps are forwarded to the Mission which are sold to support their charitable works. It doesn't matter if you have a small amount of stamps and they are all gratefully welcomed. Thank you again for your continued generosity.

## Unwanted Spectacles and Glasses

From time to time we receive donations of unwanted glasses and spectacles. We have no arrangements in place with a charity organisation to send these, so if you have glasses that you no longer use, we kindly ask that you take them to your local Specsavers store. Specsavers in partnership with Lions Recycle For Sight delivers quality glasses and sunglasses to people in need.

## 24 Hour Adoration returning 4th/5th February 2022

Our first 24 Hour Adoration for 2022 will be held on the first weekend of February. At all times our Lord Jesus must have someone with him and please register your interest at the back of the Church.

## Staying up to date: Catholic Outlook and Catholic Weekly

The printed Catholic Outlook booklet in more recent times has shifted away from hard copy and content instead available online. If you have not done so already, please visit the Catholic Outlook website where you will find regular updated content and articles of interest: <https://catholicoutlook.org/category/latest/>. You can even subscribe on their website to receive email updates.

Even though the Catholic Weekly is available each weekend as a printed newspaper, you can always visit the Catholic Weekly website for a wide range of news, articles and information: <https://www.catholicweekly.com.au/>

## Mass will stay on television for 2022

The Diocese of Wollongong, which took over production of Mass for You at Home in early 2021, recently confirmed the plan to ensure the ministry remains on free-to-air television, as well as being accessible online. Last year the ministry marked 50 years on Australian television, supporting the housebound, those in prison or in hospital, those in remote Australia and who for other reasons could not attend Mass in their local parish. It is believed to be the longest-running program on Australian commercial television. Mass for You at Home airs each Sunday on Channel 10 at 6am, on Aurora (Foxtel Channel 173) at 10am, and on the web from 7am. Find out more at [www.massforyou.com.au](http://www.massforyou.com.au) and for an interesting behind the scenes video just [click on this link](#).

## Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses 2022

The Parramatta Diocese will 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.

## COVID restrictions and information

- Wearing of masks is mandatory and a requirement whilst in the Church at all times
- You will need to sanitise, QR code or record your details on the sign on sheet upon entry
- Congregation singing is not permitted
- Holy Water is available from the glass dispenser in the centre of the Church foyer
- Church is open daily for personal prayer and Masses are livestreamed on Facebook
- All Ministries that are currently suspended will continue to remain temporarily on hold.