

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](https://www.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

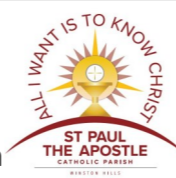
Monday to Friday 9.10am | Saturday 9.00am

(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



24 Hour Eucharistic Adoration - February 2022

Commences: 9:10am Mass Friday 4th | Concludes: 9:00am Mass Saturday 5th

Our Lord Jesus will be exposed for 24 hours and at all times must have someone with Him.

If you are able to be in attendance to ensure we have someone always present, please record your details on the booking sheet as you enter the Church. Thank you.

Come ... spend some time with Him



COVID - CRITICAL INFORMATION AND UPDATE

Procedures and protocols are in place to support and protect everyone, including visitors, Mass attendees, those assisting with the Mass and maintaining the operation of the Church building.

Everyone needs to take personal responsibility to the best of their ability and capacity, and why the following continues to apply:

- wearing of masks (correctly and properly to cover nose/mouth) 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
- please maintain social distancing and congregation singing is not permitted

PLEASE DO NOT VISIT the Church if you are COVID positive or are unwell or think you could be unwell, or vulnerable or at risk if you contract COVID.

PLEASE QR CODE if you have access to it instead of manual signing in because the incidence of COVID positive people attending our Church being reported may become a regular occurrence and we are unable to manually notify everyone. A decision has been made to instead place a notice of the relevant exposure dates on the sign in table as people enter the Church.

Youth Ministry Leadership Course – 29 January 2022

A new pathway for leadership in youth ministry is here! Duc In Altum is an initiative of Catholic Youth Parramatta designed to provide practical youth ministry training, build community between youth leaders across the Diocese, and offer intentional time for prayer and reflection. It is a year-long journey with the first Leaders' Summit to be held on Saturday 29th January from 9:00am to 4:00pm at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown.

For more information and details to sign up visit parracatholic.org/ducinaltum/ or email gwayne.guevara@parracatholic.org

Position Vacant - Pastoral Formation Facilitator

In this full-time role you will be supporting Catholic communities in the Diocese of Parramatta. Applications close 31 January 2022.

For a job description please visit catholicoutlook.org/were-hiring-pastoral-formation-facilitator/

or email Deeanne Martin at parracatholicjobs@parracatholic.org

Lenten Program 2022 and pre-ordering of books (deadline Thursday 27th January)

The theme for our Lenten Program in 2022 is *Remember*.

As much as we intend to conduct our Lenten Discussion groups within the Church we understand that some parishioners may feel more comfortable in their own groups eg with family or friends at home. More details about this program will be shared next month.

To ensure we have enough booklets and resources for everyone (for private use or in the Church groups), we need to know who is interested and the number of copies required. We are placing the order for our parish on Friday 28th January and any late requests cannot be accepted. To place your order, add your details to the register as you enter the Church else email the parish office.

25th January – the Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul, Apostle

In the long history of the Church no conversion has been more consequential than St. Paul's. Paul had not been ambivalent toward the Church before he converted. He had actively persecuted it, even throwing rocks at the head of St. Stephen, in all likelihood.

But he changed, or God changed him, on one particular night, and on that night Christianity changed too. And when the course of Christianity changed, the world changed. It is difficult to overemphasise the impact of today's feast.

One way to think about the significance of an event, is to consider what things would be like if the event had never occurred.

What if St. Paul had remained a zealous Jew? What if he had never converted? Never wrote one letter? Never travelled the seas on missionary voyages? It can safely be assumed that the world itself, not just the Church, would look different than it does today.

The global scale of the effects of Paul's conversion, speak to the significance of his conversion.

The details of Paul's conversion are well known. He was thrown from his horse on the road to Damascus, or maybe he just fell down while walking, however while stunned on the ground Paul heard the voice of Jesus: "Why are you persecuting me?" Not "Why are you persecuting my followers." Jesus and the Church are clearly one. To persecute the Church is to persecute Christ. Paul did not convert to loving Jesus and say that the Church was just an accidental human construct that blocked him from the Lord. No, of course not.

He believed what right minded Catholics have believed for centuries and still believe today. To love Jesus is to love the Church and vice versa. It is impossible to love the Lord while disregarding the historical reality of how the Lord is communicated to us.

The Church is not just a vehicle to carry God's revelation. The Church is actually part of God's revelation.

Paul's conversion teaches us when Jesus come to us, He doesn't come alone. He comes with His angels, saints, priests, and bishops. He comes with Mary, the sacraments, doctrine, and devotions. He comes with the Church because he and the Church are one.

And when we go to the Lord we don't go alone either. We go as members of a Church into whose mystical body we were baptised. Thus St. Paul heard from God Himself, and thus we believe today.

From Father Raining

This is a story of a man blaming others for his frustrations. That began to change through his landlord's dog, of all things. That puppy was shamefully neglected, left tied outside, crying day and night.

He related, "One day, I saw the animal loose in the backyard. His chain had broken somehow, and he was just hanging around. 'He gets an opportunity for freedom and doesn't take it. Therefore he doesn't deserve it,' I said to myself. And I despised him. Suddenly a voice from within spoke to me.

Clearly and distinctly it said, 'You are looking at yourself.' I was dumbstruck, but it was true. I was just like that dog! With all my whining, I'd done nothing to improve my life. I began to see that freedom starts from within, and I realized that I was chained inwardly."

The late Sholem Aleichen, who created the characters in the Broadway Musical "Fiddler on the Roof," is considered by many to have been the greatest of all ethnic humourists. There is a memorable scene in "Fiddler on the Roof" in which the principal character, a Russian peasant name Tevye, is finding it difficult to deal with the truth of his life in the here-and-now. He literally scolds God, saying, "With God's help, I starve to death... and now my horse is lame. I pull the cart. Today I am a horse. Where is justice? If I pull this cart with two legs, why can't a horse with three? Dear God, it's enough You pick on me, Tevye, bless me with a life of poverty. But what have you got against my horse? Sometimes I think when things get too quiet up there, You say to Yourself, "Let's see, what kind of mischief can I play on My friend, Tevye?"

Tevye's problem is everyone's problem. We don't feel free. We live in a world that tries to keep us from feeling free. That is painful. But the Gospel proposes for us an alternative. In today's Reading, Jesus announces that He has been sent by God "to proclaim liberty to captives" (Lk.4:18).

AUSTRALIA DAY Mass Wednesday 26 January at 9.10am

(preceded by 8:40am Rosary)

Grant, we pray, O Lord our God, that as the Cross shines in our southern skies, so may Christ bring light to our nation, to its peoples old and new, and by saving grace, transform our lives.

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, Cheryl Felton, 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, Alison Samuels, 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

"May praise and glory for this Image never cease to stream from man's soul. May praise of God's mercy pour from every heart, now, and at every hour and forever and ever." (Dairy 1)

Holy Hour for Vocations

There was a wedding between God and us: "to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better or for worse." God is faithful and true. Let us do the same.

Catholic Weekly

Is available for sale this weekend for \$2 a copy. As always you can visit the Catholic Weekly website for a wide range of news, articles and information: <https://www.catholicweekly.com.au/>



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