

# 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

There is a legend that tells about the time the devil decided to close up shop in one part of the world and open up in another. A “going out of business” sale was announced. One of the first customers, being quite fascinated with the various evil instruments on display, noticed that of all the devil’s tools, the highest priced one was called “discouragement.” “Why is this one so expensive?” he inquired.

“Quite simple,” replied the devil. “It’s my favorite. With the tool of discouragement I can pry into almost everyone’s life and cause all kinds of damage.”

Today’s scripture lessons tell us that God calls weak and sinful men like Isaiah, Paul, and Peter to His ministry and fills them with His Spirit to free them from all feelings of discouragement when these attack. All they have to do is to ask and receive His help.

First Reading: Isaiah learned God’s holy presence makes us more aware of our lack of holiness.  
*From what sinfulness do I want to be cleansed today?*

Second Reading: Paul lists a chain of witnesses to the resurrection to extend to himself.  
*What names would I add to make the chain extend to me?*

Gospel: Jesus invites Peter to use his fishing skills to bring others to God.  
*How can I use my skills to help others find God today?*

## Synod 2023: Sharing Responsibility

Our Church is all about participation and shared responsibility. How well do we balance authority with teamwork and responsibility? How do we encourage lay participation, involvement and leadership? Have a prayerful conversation with your family, friends or colleagues, and tell Bishop Vincent and Pope Francis what you find!



Online submissions close February 26. Find out more at [bit.ly/synod2023](https://bit.ly/synod2023).

Call Wendy on 0427 863 149 or email [MET@parracatholic.org](mailto:MET@parracatholic.org) if you need assistance.

## 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 DeVillar, Lara Duncum, Rebecca Duncum, George El-Bayeh, Cheryl Felton, 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, Clem O'Donoghue Jim Lynch.



## 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

Souls perish in spite of My bitter Passion. I am giving them the last hope of salvation; that is, the Feast of My Mercy. If they will not adore My mercy, they will perish for all eternity. (Diary 965)

### Holy Hour for Vocations

The world tempts us to grab all we can. Even food becomes more when it is given than when it is taken. Follow Jesus: be a giver.

### Catholic Weekly

As always you can visit the Catholic Weekly website for a wide range of news, articles and information:

<https://www.catholicweekly.com.au/>

- Everything you don't know about Pentecostals
- Pope: Parents, be gentle on kids' gender issues
- Woke brigade in knots over Haneen
- Francis honours three Sydney women
- Book review: The world wakes up to Del Noce
- Why architecture matters

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.**

## Congratulations to Deacon Adam Carlow

Adam Carlow was ordained to the Diaconate by Bishop Vincent Long Van Nguyen last Saturday evening at Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish Greystanes. You can view this Mass via this link: <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=257024786543128> Deacons, such as Adam, respond to a journey towards the ordained priesthood. The ordination as deacon is not transitional in itself. The ordination as deacon is full and valid. Some use ‘transitional deacon’ for someone who is aiming towards ordination as a priest. 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.

## Pregnancy Help Sydney and “The Little White Box”

The work of supporting women with unplanned pregnancies is still an urgent need in our community. On the first weekend each month we put out “the Little White Box” at the entrance to the Church at all masses. The donations raised allow the Pregnancy Help Sydney support group to continue supporting women and their families 24 hours, seven days a week on the telephone or with other assistance as needed. All donations help with the cost of phone bills, and the training and development of the telephone support staff. It is important to note that these phone lines are staffed on a voluntary basis. If you or anyone you know needs support or assistance, or if you want to know more, or to make a contribution, please visit <https://www.pregnancyhelpsydney.com/>. Our parishioners have supported the Little White Box for many years and this generosity has been continually acknowledged by Pregnancy Help. Thank you.

## Word of God Sunday (Sunday 6th)

The Church in Australia celebrates the Sunday of the Word of God on the first Sunday in February. Pope Francis established the day, which is devoted to “the celebration, study and dissemination” of the Word of God. To access resources to help commemorate or for suggestions on how to better engage with Sacred Scripture in various ways and settings visit [www.catholic.org.au/wordofgodssunday](http://www.catholic.org.au/wordofgodssunday)

## Feast Day: Saint Scholastica (Thursday 10th)

Saint Scholastica, sister of St. Benedict, consecrated her life to God from her earliest youth. After her brother went to Monte Cassino, where he established his famous monastery, she settled nearby where she founded and governed a monastery of nuns. When Saint Scholastica died, her holy brother beheld her soul in a vision as it ascended into heaven.

## Feast Day: Our Lady of Lourdes (Friday 11th)

This day marks the first apparition of the Blessed Virgin Mary in 1858 to 14 year old Marie Bernade (St. Bernadette) Soubirous. Our Lady of Lourdes is a Roman Catholic title of the Blessed Virgin Mary venerated in honour of the Marian apparitions that occurred near Lourdes in France. Between February 11 and July 16, 1858, the Blessed Virgin appeared 18 times, showing herself to Saint Bernadette. On March 25 she said to the little shepherdess who was only fourteen years of age: “I am the Immaculate Conception.” Since then Lourdes has become a place of pilgrimage and many cures and conversions have taken place. The message of Lourdes is a call to personal conversion, prayer, and charity.

## Rosters update

Rosters until the end of February are now available for the following ministries: Readers and Commentators, Ministers of the Eucharist, and Projector. Copies of these were emailed this week and if you did not receive a copy please contact the office. Printed copies are available outside the Sacristy and please also note roster information will no longer be included in the weekly bulletin. Please also note that other Ministries, such as Altar Servers, remain on hold until further notice. Thank you.

## Our Lady Help of Christians

Australia Day recently renewed our attention to our country and also to Saint Mary of the Cross McKillop. Together with Our Lady, under the title “Help of Christians”, they are our spiritual patrons. Mary, Our Lady Help of Christians, also has always had a special place in the devotions of Australian Catholics. In 1844, Mary, under the title of Our Lady Help of Christians was chosen as the patroness of Australia at the First Provincial Synod of Sydney. Following are two prayers to Mary, Our Lady Help of Christians:

### Prayer to Mary, Help of Christians: Australia's Patroness

*Lord, you place deep in our hearts the love of Mary, help of Christians. Through her prayers grant wisdom to our leaders and integrity to our Citizens. Under her protection may Australia be granted harmony, justice and peace. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

### Prayer for the Safety of Australia as a Christian Nation

*Almighty God, we Thy people cry out in our affliction. Do not scorn us but for the glory of Thy name come to our rescue. Look mercifully upon us in our tribulation, and, though we have justly deserved punishment, turn away Thy wrath. Through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen. Mary, Help of Christians, bring succour and peace to Australia.*

## COVID - CRITICAL INFORMATION AND UPDATE

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.