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

twitter.com/stpaulapostwin

Sunday

Weekend Mass times

Saturday Vigil 5:00pm

8:00am, 9:30am and 5:00pm

Weekday Mass times

Monday to Friday 9.10am | Saturday 9.00am (Rosary is prayed at 8:40 am before each weekday Mass)

Reconciliation: Saturday 4.00pm - 4.45pm

Baptisms: First and Third Sunday of each month

Baptism bookings only via our website

Masses that are livestreamed to Facebook:

Mon to Fri 9.10am | Sat 9.00am | Sun 9:30am

From Father Raning

In an ancient legend, two brothers in a village in Central Europe were caught stealing sheep. Punishment for the crime was to have the letters "ST" branded on their foreheads. "ST": Sheep Thief! They were to carry that mark for the rest of their lives. For one of brother, life went from bad to worse. Some years later he died in jail, however, the other brother was deeply repentant. He turned his life around. Not only did he grow in self-respect but also he became a caring person and earned the respect of others. Years went by. A stranger came to the village. He noticed the "ST" on the man's forehead and asked one of the younger citizens what it meant. I really don't know the details, the young citizen replied. "It happened many years ago, but I think the letters "ST" on his forehead are an abbreviation for the word "Saint!" From "Sheep Thief" to "Saint." It can happen! That is the message of the Lenten Season.

First Reading: Moses learns that where God is present is holy ground.

Where have I most experienced God's presence creating a holy place or situation?

Second Reading: Paul warns of being overconfident in our relation to God.

What might I need to do take more care with my relationship to God?

Jesus tells us that God is always at work, like a patient gardener, caring for us.

What work of pruning is God doing in me so I might bear more fruit?

Feast of the Annunciation

Gospel:

Solemnity of the Feast of the Annunciation was first celebrated in the fourth or fifth century. Its central focus is the Incarnation: God has become one of us. From all eternity God had decided that the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity should become human. Because human beings have rejected God, Jesus will accept a life of suffering and an agonizing death: "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends". God could have become man in any number of creative ways. The Second Person of the Trinity chose, however, to become man like we all become man. He was like us in all things save sin. He dignified all men and opened to them the possibility of entering into His higher life in Heaven. The Feast of the Annunciation is the reason why we celebrate Christmas on December 25. Christmas comes exactly nine months after the Archangel Gabriel invited the Virgin Mary to be the Mother of God, an event we commemorate on March 25.

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, Renata Beck, Elly Bejma, Danielle Brown, John Buggy, Christine Coorey, Camarillo Cossid, Gus DelVillar, Lara Duncum, Rebecca Duncum, George El-Bayeh, Cheryl Felton, Nick Galea, Annette Hardman, Anthony lannuzzi, Elizabeth Kenny, Karen Le Huray, Carolyn Martin, Ely Mathew, Leanne Maree McInerney, Rhiannon McInerney-Robertson, Mary McNamara, Sonia Merhi, Maria Micallef, Tess Micallef, Annie Newton, Iranie Perumal, Silvi Perumal, Siobhain Power, Honor Rosario, Kenneth Del Rosario, Alison Samuels, Norma Sciara, 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, Leon Chalker, Brian Hurney, Lottie & Fredrick Gibbs, Brian Baker, Maggie Simpliciano, Annette Herft, Andrew Busuttil, Maurice & Yvonne Sequeira, Kerry and Ron Cini, Aurelio & Connie Lopez, Jim Rowan, Patricia Minahan, Vicky Mifsud, Bal & Jennifer Villanova, Michael & Chammouni Franqi, Madeleine & Wasley Adolphe, Geraldine Senewiratne, Mary & John Ford, John Ford Junior, Rosy Attard, Michelle Makin, Lena Pereira, Donald Ramage, Charlie Micallef, Dex Habito, Andy and Maureen Haddad, Lourdes Zaballa, Thelma Nalliah, Richard Cassin, Clem O'Donoghue, Lenny and Hudson Pallas (twins), Julia Sherman, George Khodeir, Jim Lynch, Tom Dennis, Priscilla Bennett.

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.

24 hour adoration

Held the first Friday through to Saturday morning every month.

Moments of Mercy

The greater the misery of a soul, the greater it's right to My mercy. (Diary 1182)

Prayer for Vocations

You've got an incredible message to make credible. It is not like selling used cars! It is proclaiming eternal life, forgiveness and Great Love!

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/

- The chilling of our charities: Soaring prices bite
- Aussies dig deep for Ukraine: Caritas appeal \$1.5m and rising
- Life after death? The new book telling amazing stories
- Monica Doumit: The lies they tell our girls
- Plenary: Germany Warning
- Philippa Martyr: Where preppers go wrong

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.

Lent, Holy Week and Easter Triduum services at our Church

For a complete list of all upcoming services and additional reconciliation times, please refer to the handout as you leave the Church. Feel free to take as many as you need to pass on to your families and friends.

Stations of the Cross and Lenten Discussion Groups

- Stations of the Cross will be held 7:00pm every Friday evening during Lent. Everyone is welcome to attend.
- Lenten Discussion Groups are held every Wednesday during Lent in the Marian Chapel at 7:00pm. There is no need to register your attendance and everyone is invited to attend any or all of these sessions. Each week there will be a different theme.

Release of our Parish Mission Statement and Vision

Members of the Parish Pastoral Council are speaking at all Masses this weekend to announce and introduce our Parish Mission Statement and Vision. Please take home a copy which is available as you leave the Church. As part of this process we are also encouraging and inviting feedback, and can be done using this QR code: If you want to know more, please feel free to approach members of the Council who will be available after all Masses this weekend, or feel free to contact our Parish Pastoral Council via Peter Rood, who is the Parish Pastoral Council chairperson by email pro05364@bigpond.net.au



Baptisms welcome

To Christopher, Jayden and Kazimir who were baptised here recently. We pray that their faith will be an important and integral part of their lives.

St Paul the Apostle - Kindergarten Enrolment 2023

If you have a child ready for school in 2023, enrolment packages can be collected from the school office between 8.30am and 3.00pm. For further information please email winstonhills@parra.catholic.edu.au or telephone 8841 3800. Enrolments close 31st March.

The wait is over - return of Altar Servers

Unfortunately our Liturgical celebrations over the last two years have not been the same without the presence of Altar Servers. Come July of this year we will put an end to that and will be welcoming back children to the Altar Server ministry. Children intending to be Altar Servers must have already received the Sacrament of Holy Communion and regularly attend Mass. Children are welcome from any school to join. If your child, or any child you know, is interested in becoming an Altar Server here at St Paul's, please pick up an application form as you leave the Church, email altarservers2153@gmail.com or phone Peter on 0422 448 206. For families of children that are existing Altar Servers, you will shortly receive an email seeking confirmation as to whether or not your children wish to continue.

Rosters for April to June - now available

Rosters are now available for the following ministries: Readers and Commentators, Ministers of the Eucharist, and Projector. Copies are available outside the Sacristy and were also emailed. Many thanks for your ongoing commitment and support in these roles.

Bishop's Good Samaritan (Lenten) Appeal next weekend

The Bishop's Good Samaritan Appeal for 2022 will be held next weekend and is raising funds for Catholic Care's Community Drop-In Centres across our Diocese of Parramatta. With the help and support of our parish and faith communities, Catholic Care are working hard to reach people in need, and to reduce social isolation and loneliness throughout Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains, and are truly grateful for your compassion and kind-hearted support. If you are unable to donate in person, or to find our more please visit: https://yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/bishops-good-samaritan-appeal-22/

Fun, faith and sport!

Catholic Youth Parramatta is holding their annual Lifted Sports Day next Sunday 27th of March and we want to see YOU representing our parish. The event is held at Parramatta Marist High School and begins at 9:00am with mass on the oval. Sports include basketball, soccer, touch football, and volleyball. No experience is required and the day is a great opportunity to meet new people and have some fun! If you are aged 16-25 and are keen to have a go please contact Maddie on 0403 866 287 for more details and be added to the team.

Job Vacancies – Aid to the Church in Need (applications close April 3rd)

Two positions: Benefactor Support Officer + Coordinator, Friends of the Suffering Souls. Part-time or full-time option available. Join an international Catholic charity which exists to keep the faith alive in those places where it is most at risk. Visit: www.aidtochurch.org/jobs

Role available—Toongabbie Legal Centre (TLC)

TLC is looking for a person to coordinate and develop "knitting4justice" which is a community engagement and empowering programme trying to bring out seniors from isolation, provide an opportunity to interact with others and where needed provide legal education at appropriate levels. Interested persons may email: Marie McNulty markea3@bigpond.com.au or Susai Benjamin sbenjamin@tic.asn.au . To find out more about "knitting4justice" please visit: https://www.tlc.asn.au/projects/knitting-for-justice/what-is-knitting-for-justice

Pastoral Formation course (Diocese of Parramatta) - Themes of Faith Program

Themes of Faith Program is ideal for people interested in asking life & faith questions in discussion groups. 10 sessions (\$5/session). Please visit <u>pfparra.org.au</u> or email <u>met@parracatholic.org</u> for more details.

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.