St Paul the Apostle Parish

40 Buckleys Road, Winston Hills NSW 2153

| T: 9639 6516 W: www.stpaultheapostleparish.org | |
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| Parish Priest: | Fr Raning Creta |
| Assistant Priest: | Fr Marcus Hazelman |
| For latest updates please visit our Facebook page | |
| Find us on: facebook.com/stpaultheapostleparis | |

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From Father Raning

A young musician's concert was poorly received by critics. The famous Finnish composer Jean Sibelius consoled him by patting him on the shoulder and saying, 'Remember, son, there is no city in the world where they have a statue to a critic.' Could that have been the scribes and the Pharisees' greatest downfall, good critics but unable to see themselves as a sinners and hence receive God's forgiveness? For without that sense of forgiveness, life holds little joy and the future is hopeless. Someone once said that the person who knows himself or herself to be a sinner and does not know God's forgiveness is like an overweight person who fears stepping on a scale.

There once was a very bitter man who was sick in soul, mind, and body. He was in hospital in wretched condition, not because his body had been invaded by a virus or infection, but because his anger and contempt had poisoned his soul. When he was at his lowest, he said to his nurse, "Won't you give me something to end it all?" Much to his surprise, she agreed and retrieved a Bible and began to read, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have eternal life." When she finished she said, "There, if you will believe that, it will end it all. God loves you, forgives you and accepts you as his child." Such a simple answer but it worked.

He realised after much soul-searching she had spoken truly. And over a period of time, he came to believe and accept God's love for him. There is a way to God. Jesus died to provide it. We may not be that woman caught in an act of adultery but there are sins that weigh upon our hearts. There are scars and cuts that we have inflicted on others. There is a darkness within each of us that no one knows of but God. But that same One, our loving God, sees all and forgives all and calls us. Remember, the one who is forgiven little loves little. But the one who is forgiven much loves with all the heart!

First Reading: Isaiah proclaims that God is doing something new. What new thing is God doing in me this Lent?

Second Reading: Paul's losses seem small when compared with his gain of having Christ in his life. What have I already gained by seeking Christ this Lent?

Gospel: Jesus is reluctant to condemn the woman, though her sin seems obvious. When have I been quick to condemn others instead of letting God be the one to judge them?

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, Bourke Gibbons OAM, 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, 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 Frangi, 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.

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 (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

Novena to our

immediately after Mass.

Mother of Perpetual Help

Prayed every Wednesday morning

Divine Mercy Chaplet

Every Friday 3:30pm in the Marian Chapel. All welcome to attend and

join in solemn and intimate prayer.

Held the first Friday through to

Saturday morning every month.

My daughter, during the weeks

when you neither saw Me nor

felt My presence, I was more

profoundly united to you than at

times [when you experienced]

ecstasy. And the faithfulness

have reached Me. (Diary 1246)

Prayer for Vocations

You've got an incredible

message to make credible.

It is not like selling used cars!

forgiveness and Great Love!

It is proclaiming eternal life,

As always you can visit the

Catholic Weekly website for

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

Sydney joins Pope in prayer.

Plibersek gives Mannix Lecture

Euthanasia switch. NSW MP

abandons pro-life position

Labor lost its way. Tanya

Catholic Weekly

a wide range of news,

United for Ukraine.

articles and information:

and fragrance of your prayer

Moments of Mercy

24 hour adoration

Masses that are livestreamed to Facebook: Mon to Fri 9.10am | Sat 9.00am | Sun 9:30am

ST PAUL THE APOSTLE

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 for their awareness. You can also visit the following link which has all services listed across the Diocese including ours: catholicoutlook.org/holyweek2022/

Stations of the Cross and Lenten Discussion Groups

- <u>Stations of the Cross</u> 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.

Palm Sunday - next Sunday April 10th

At all Masses next weekend palms will be blessed. If the weather is suitable please assemble outside the Parish Centre where we commence the ceremony of the Procession of Palms at 9:30am sharp. In addition, if you are intending to attend the 9:30am Mass please allow extra time beforehand for parking (and be cautious) as the congregation will be within the carpark. Please also note that at the 9:30am Mass photographs may be taken by the Parramatta Diocese communications team and posted in Catholic Outlook, etc.

CYP Good Friday Night Walk: Friday 15 April

Young people are invited to join Catholic Youth Parramatta and Bishop Vincent for the annual 21km Good Friday Night Walk from Blacktown to the Cathedral. For more information and to register visit parracatholic.org/goodfridaywalk/

Catholic Outlook available this weekend - free to take home

This is the first edition released in six months. In it you will find articles that will encourage deeper reflection and connection as well as faith issues in day-to-day life. In this edition it highlights Holy Week in the Diocese, Mother's Day, and reflections on Mary for May.

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 Church at all masses. Donations raised allow the Pregnancy Help Sydney support group to continue supporting women and their families 24 hours a day on the telephone or with other assistance as needed. If you or anyone you know needs support or assistance, to know more, or to contribute, visit <u>https://www.pregnancyhelpsydney.com/</u>. Thank you.

Music at Mass

As you may have seen (and heard!) we have recently reintroduced congregational singing and this has been sorely missed. We are also blessed with those who are able to lead us in singing and also as members of our choirs. If you are interested in leading our singing, or to join a choir, or may be able to assist with our music ministry in any way at all please contact the parish office.

Why is music important at Mass? Pope Francis has clearly defined the purpose of music at Mass, that it is "first of all a matter of participating intensely in the mystery of God, in the 'theophany' that takes place in every Eucharistic celebration, in which the Lord makes himself present among his people, who are called truly to participate in the salvation realised by the crucified and risen Christ". The Second Vatican Council called for full, active and conscious participation of the laity at Mass. Like the introduction of the vernacular in liturgy, music is meant to foster this participation. In the words of the Letter to the Ephesians, we should "be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart...".

Positions Vacant - Pastoral Formation Facilitator

Diocese of Parramatta Mission Enhancement Team. Applications close 10pm Sunday 10 April. Refer to: parracatholic.org/employment

Role available—Toongabbie Legal Centre (TLC)

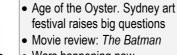
TLC is looking for a person to coordinate and develop "knitting4justice" which is a community engagement and empowering programme trying to bring out seniors from isolation, provide an opportunity to interact with others and where needed provide legal education at appropriate levels. Interested persons may email: Marie McNulty markea3@bigpond.com.au or Susai Benjamin@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

Catholic Engaged Encounter Weekends for 2022

How prepared are you for marriage? Engaged Encounter provides you with deeper insights into each other and into married life, a chance to spend time together to strengthen and enrich your relationship. For further information visit www.engagedencounter.org.au/

Feast Day: April 4th - Saint Isidore of Seville

Saint Isidore of Seville was a bishop and scholar who helped the Church preserve its own traditions, and the heritage of western civilization, in the early middle ages. Three of his siblings - his brothers Leander and Fulgentius, who became bishops, and his sister Florentina, a nun - were later canonised as saints along with him. He is regarded as being among the last of the early Church Fathers, who combined Christian faith and classical education. He was also intent on preventing false teachings from shattering the unity of the Church in Spain. He compiled the "Etymologiae," the first encyclopedia written from a Catholic perspective. Isidore did not neglect the service of those in need."Indeed, just as we must love God in contemplation, so we must love our neighbour with action," he declared. "It is therefore impossible to live without the presence of both the one and the other form of life, nor can we live without experiencing both the one and the other." St. Isidore of Seville died on April 4 in 636. Later named a Doctor of the Church, he was more recently proposed as a patron saint of Internet users, because of his determination to use the world's accumulated knowledge for the service of God's glory.



Wars happening now

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.