

St Paul the Apostle Parish

40 Buckleys Road, Winston Hills NSW 2153

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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](https://www.facebook.com/stpaultheapostleparish)



twitter.com/stpaulapostwin

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 (Dec starts 3:30pm)

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

Three days were left for Christmas. Getting up early in the morning, the wife said to her husband, "Honey! Last night I had a dream that you gave me a beautiful golden necklace as present for Christmas. What could that mean?" The husband smiled and said, "Wait and see."

Next morning as soon as she woke up the wife again said to her husband, "Honey! Last night again I had the same dream and in the dream you gave me a beautiful golden necklace as present for Christmas. What could that mean?" And again the husband smiled and said, "Wait and see."

On the third morning the wife said to her husband the same thing and the husband gave her the same reply.

Finally, the Christmas Day arrived and the wife saw her Christmas present wrapped in a beautiful package and kept on her table. Excited as she was, thinking that her tricks worked, immediately opened it expecting a beautiful golden necklace. But unfortunately to her great disappointment she found a book instead. And the title of the book was – "THE MEANINGS OF DREAMS".

First Reading: God offers to give Ahaz a sign of God's care for people.
What signs of God's care have I noticed recently?

Second Reading: Paul reminds us we are called to be holy.
What am I doing this Advent to draw closer to God and others?

Gospel: Joseph overcomes his fear to accept Jesus' growth in Mary's womb.
What fears make it hard for me to accept Jesus' growing presence in me?

Does the parish have an email address?

Our parish does have an email address, however it is not published. This is in order to reduce the likelihood of spam, which is a common occurrence for publicly available email addresses. Our email address can be obtained by phoning the parish office, or if you wish to send us something feel free to use the Contact Us page from our website: www.stpaultheapostleparish.org/#contactus

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, Helene Barker, Renata Beck, Elly Bejma, Bridget Boldt, Gabrielle Boldt, Danielle Brown, John Buggy, Vicente Calonia, Peter Casey, Christine Coorey, Camarillo Cossid, Emmy Cox, Francis D'Abrera, Iyrika D'Cruz, Gus DelVillar, Tracy Derugo, Helen Dillon, Charlotte Dos Remedios, Adam Duncum, Lara Duncum, Rebecca Duncum, George El-Bayeh, Christine Lin Yew Fai, Nick Galea, Molly Griffith, Steven Hitchings, Anthony Iannuzzi, Elizabeth Kenny, Karen and Lucas Le Huray, Carolyn Martin, Ely Mathew, Leanne Maree McInerney, Rhiannon McInerney-Robertson, Sonia Merhi, Maria Micallef, Tess Micallef, Annie Newton, Iranie Perumal, Silvi Perumal, Honor Rosario, Kenneth Del Rosario, Mark Ryder, Alison Samuels, John Trost, Pelenatete Tuaimau, Karl Wagner, Robert Webb, George White.

Please pray for

May the souls of our dearly departed rest in peace

Jack & Gladys Scott, Father David Scott, Lourdes Zaballa, Dex Habito, Charlie Micallef, Jim Rowan, Brian Baker, Charles & Josephine Clayton, Kerry and Ron Cini, Vicky Mifsud, Saverio and Rosa Marotta, Paul Beck, Leon Chalker, Maggie Smpliciano, Annette Herft, Andrew Busuttill, Maurice & Yvonne Sequeira, Wasley and Madeleine Adolphe, Aurelio & Connie Lopez, Patricia Minahan, Lena Pereira, Bal & Jennifer Villanova, Geraldine Senewiratne, Frank Borg, Mary and John Ford, John Ford Junior, Donald Ramage, Andy and Maureen Haddad, Thelma Nalliah, Richard Cassin, Julia and Michael Sherman, George Khodeir, Priscilla Bennett, Siobhain Power, Frederick de Silva, Gillian Shannon, Nancy Radocchia, Andrew Scott, Tom Dennis, Ludie Iruillbandra, Maria Di Marzo, Joseph Ebejer, Leone Minahan, Jim Lynch, Billy Leonard, Bea Therese, Joanna Luz Ococa.



Novena to our Mother of Perpetual Help

Prayed every Wednesday morning straight after Mass.

Thursday Cenacles

Held in Marian Chapel every Thursday morning 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

I desire that you know more profoundly the love that burns in My Heart for souls, and you will understand this when you meditate upon My Passion.

Call upon My mercy on behalf of sinners; I desire their salvation.

When you say this prayer, with a contrite heart and with faith on behalf of some sinner, I will give him the grace of conversion.

This is the prayer: "O Blood and Water, which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus as a fount of Mercy for us, I trust in You." (Diary, 186 and 187)

Prayer for Vocations

God in his wisdom predestined our glory before the ages began. Some people he predestines to be priests or religious – might you be one of them? Listen to the call!

Catholic Weekly

As always you can visit their 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: this bulletin cannot be reused and must be taken home with you.

Christmas / New Years Eve Mass and Reconciliation times

- **Saturday 24th (vigil):** (Carols 4:40 pm) 5:00 pm, 8:00 pm, (Carols 11:45 pm) 12:00 pm midnight.
- **Sunday 25th:** 8:00 am, 9:30 am [no evening Mass]
- **Reconciliation Saturday 24th December** 3:30 pm – 4:45 pm
- **New Years Eve / Day** (usual Weekend Mass times apply) Saturday vigil 5:00 pm, Sunday 8:00 am, 9:30 am, 5:00 pm
- The only Christmas Mass streamed to Facebook is Sunday 9:30 am. Please note there is no dedicated children's Christmas Mass
- Mass and Reconciliation times across the Diocese for all parishes: catholicoutlook.org/christmasmasstimes/

Volunteers for Christmas and NYE Masses

We are in need of Readers, Commentators, Projectionists and Ministers of the Eucharist for all Masses on the last two weekends of this year, being Christmas and New Years. Please write down your availability on the list on the table as you enter the Church. Thank you!

Come and join us for Carols - not once but twice !

In wonderful news, and for the first time in a very long time, we will be blessed with singers and musicians at all Christmas Masses. As a special treat, there will also be Carols before the 5pm vigil Mass and the Midnight Mass. We are grateful for everyone involved in making this possible so please come along and support them and also sing your hearts out.

St Vincent de Paul Society Christmas Appeal—thank you

The Winston Hills conference of the St Vincent de Paul Society extended their thanks and gratitude for your wonderful generosity that made it possible to purchase and provide hampers from Foodbank NSW for distribution to needy families in the Mount Druitt area.

If you were unable to contribute last weekend, you can still donate at anytime via the Winston Hills Conference weblink:

<https://my.fundraise.vinniesnsw.org.au/fundraise-your-way/winston-hills-conference-christmas-appeal>

Feast Days this week

21st Saint Peter Canisius (commemoration) | 23rd Saint John of Kanty (commemoration)

Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses recommence February 2023

This is formation for anyone interested in serving within the Liturgical Ministries either as Readers, Communion to the Sick and Dying, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion and Ministers at the Altar. For more information, or to enrol, please contact our parish office.

Diocesan World Day of the Sick Mass: 11th February 2023

A Mass for the World Day of the Sick, including the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, will be held 11:00am Saturday 11th February at St Patrick's Church, Mary, Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown. All are welcome, including those who may be sick, and those who care for the sick and dying and health care professionals. RSVPs are required by 6th February to hannah.portelli@parracatholic.org

Rosters for January - March available this week

Rosters will be emailed by the end of this week. If you did not receive this email please contact the parish office. As always it is best practice for changes or swaps to be made amongst the relevant volunteers within each group. Thank you for your ongoing commitment!

Visited our Church foyer lately?

If you haven't done so already, please visit our Church foyer. In addition to the welcoming table as you enter the Church, the foyer contains a number of noticeboards and an assortment of religious material, prayers, notices and so on. Please take the time to take a look at what is available and if there is anything you would like to have included or other suggestions please contact the parish office.

Getting Married? Congratulations! Something important to add to your calendar ...

As much as we'd love to accommodate couples with all of their preferences, marriages need to be booked at least six months in advance. That lead in time is not only important to allow sufficient preparation in terms of the parish and government administration, but also to allow for attendance and commitment to Pre-marriage education programs. It is a national policy, as adopted by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, couples intending to marry participate in formal Pre-marriage Education with the aim to cover the Catholic understanding and the practical experience of marriage. Engaged couples should know the crucially central and important role God should be playing in their marriage. Please contact the parish office before making important bookings to ensure the wedding can take place on the preferred date. For more information please refer to: <https://www.catholic.org.au/commission-documents/bishops-commission-for-pastoral-life-1/736-bishops-adopt-a-national-policy-for-pre-marriage-education-2/file>

Australian Catholic Bishops Conference launches new website

Visit the new website at www.catholic.au. The site, known as Catholic Australia, was recently unveiled during the Bishops Conference's plenary meeting. The development of new sites for some of the Conference's key agencies and offices will also be launched in 2023.

What is the Jesse tree?

The Jesse tree helps us connect the custom of decorating Christmas trees to the events leading to Jesus' birth. The Jesse tree is named from Isaiah 11:1: "A shoot shall come out of the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots." Jesse was the father of King David. In its most original form the Jesse tree illustrates Jesus' human royal lineage, from King David down to Mary. We adorn a Jesse tree with ornaments that represent the people, prophecies, and events leading up to the birth of Jesus. Decorating the Jesse Tree in Advent teaches some important lessons. Today we are most likely to see the modern adaptation in our Jesse tree in homes, parishes and schools. When we contemplate the Jesse tree we realise ever more deeply the intimate relationship between God and our own humanity. It helps us to connect with the humanity of Jesus, who, like us, came from a family line that was in many ways imperfect.