

# St Paul the Apostle Parish

40 Buckleys Road, Winston Hills NSW 2153

T: 9639 6516 W: [www.stpaultheapostleparish.org](http://www.stpaultheapostleparish.org)

Office hours: Tuesday to Friday 9:00am to 4:00pm

Parish Priest: Father John Paul Escarlan  
Assistant Priest: Father Abraham Kunnatholy

For latest updates please visit our Facebook page

 Find us on: [facebook.com/stpaultheapostleparish](https://www.facebook.com/stpaultheapostleparish)

**Baptisms:** First and Third Sunday of each month  
*Baptism bookings only via our website*

## Weekend Mass times

Saturday Vigil 5:00pm  
Sunday 8:00am, 9:30am and 5:00pm

## Weekday Mass times

Monday to Saturday 9.10am (*preceded by Rosary at 8:40am*)  
Thursday 7.00pm (*preceded by Adoration at 6:00pm*)

**Reconciliation:** Thursday 6.15pm - 6.45pm (*during Adoration*)  
First Friday 6.00pm - 7.00pm (*during Adoration*)  
Saturday 4.00pm - 4.45pm

**Adoration:** Thursday 6.00pm - 7.00pm  
First Friday 9.45am - 9.00am Saturday

## Masses livestreamed to Facebook:

Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri, Sat 9.10am, Thu 7:00pm, Sun 9:30am



## Funeral services this week

✠ For the late William Geraghty: Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> 11:00am St Paul the Apostle Church, Winston Hills  
✠ For the late John Buggy: Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> 1:00pm Castlebrook Memorial Park, Rouse Hill  
May the souls of our dearly departed rest in peace.

## Men's Ministry of St Paul Inaugural Gathering—Thursday December 14<sup>th</sup>

All men 18 & over are welcome for an evening of Mass and Worship in our Church followed by Prayer and Fellowship in our Parish Centre. December's topic of discussion: "The Christian meaning of Christmas". The evening commences at 6pm with Adoration then Mass. It would be appreciated if you could indicate your interest by phoning the parish office 9639 6516 else email [mensministryofstpaul@gmail.com](mailto:mensministryofstpaul@gmail.com). Scan this QR code for updates:



## Invitation to light our Advent Wreath candles

As part of our tradition at Christmas time, an Advent wreath is placed on the Altar. At the beginning of each Mass, these candles are lit by members of our congregation. If you would like to take part, please record your details on the roster located in the foyer.

## Liturgical Ministry Formation Course commencing in 2024

This is formation for anyone interested in assisting our parish as Ministers of the Word, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, Communion to the Sick and Dying and Ministers at the Altar. **IMPORTANT: Positions for these courses fill quickly!** For more information please contact the parish office and please note the courses commence in mid February 2024.

## 2024 Daily Mass Books have arrived

As Advent is the start of a new Church year, copies of the 2024 Daily Mass Book will be available in the Mass Books drawer next to the Holy Water font. Feel free to use these and as they are shared, we ask that they are kept clean and returned to the drawer after Mass.

## 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 <https://www.pregnancyhelpsydney.com/>. Thank you.

## Rosters for January to March 2024: seeking your unavailability

Please advise (ideally by email) the parish office ASAP of your unavailability to assist with roster preparation for the next quarter.

## Baptisms welcome

To Julian and Josiah who were baptised here recently. We pray that their faith will be an important and integral part of their lives.

## Upcoming Feast Days, Memorials, Solemnities

4<sup>th</sup> Saint John Damascene | 6<sup>th</sup> Saint Nicholas | 7<sup>th</sup> Saint Ambrose | 8<sup>th</sup> The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
9<sup>th</sup> Saint Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin

## And something just for the children

With the season of Advent starting this weekend, it is important for children as they grow to get a better understanding of what Advent represents and especially it's significance in relation to Christmas. There is an online resource used by our Catechists who teach Special Religious Education which is easy to follow and also contains a number of activities (for children of all ages!). How to access this Advent resource: [https://issuu.com/ccressnsw/docs/2022\\_my\\_catholic\\_advent\\_and\\_christmas\\_ccress](https://issuu.com/ccressnsw/docs/2022_my_catholic_advent_and_christmas_ccress)

## Holy Father's monthly intentions: December

For persons with disabilities: We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the centre of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.

## What is the Jesse tree?

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. Originally, 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, prophesies, and events leading up to the birth of Jesus. Decorating the Jesse Tree in Advent teaches some important lessons. 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.

## Advent and Christmas - same or different?

**Christmas** (liturgical not societal!) season is December 25<sup>th</sup> until January 6<sup>th</sup> (Epiphany), and **Advent** is the season of *preparation* for Christmas, not the celebration of it. Advent is included with Christmas similar to way Lent is with Easter. It is important, in terms of the purpose of Christian Holy Days as teaching tools of the Faith, that Advent and Christmas be different, with different emphases, especially on the first two Sundays of Advent. These need to emphasise expectation and longing, a preparation for celebration. Without that, it is one long celebration without any context for celebration, and with little contact with the reality of life that gave birth to the season in the first place. This also extends to the music and why Christmas hymns and songs are typically not played during Advent.

## Receiving Communion for those unable to attend Mass

If you, or anyone you know, seeks to receive the blessed Eucharist at their home please contact the parish office to arrange.



**Last Morning Tea for 2023 is on next weekend after the 8:00am and 9:30am Mass - see you there!**  
**Please note there will be no 24 Hour Eucharistic Adoration on the first Friday in January 2024.**

## Novena to our Mother of Perpetual Help

Prayed during our morning Mass every Wednesday.

## Thursday Cenacles

Held in Marian Chapel after every Thursday morning Mass.

## Divine Mercy Chaplet

Fridays 3:30pm in Marian Chapel.

## Liturgy of the Hours

First Friday at 6:00pm

## 2SM Filipino Mass

Second Sunday at 11:00am

## "Ephpheta" Mass

Third Sunday at 9:30am

## Moments of Mercy

It is not always within your power to control your feelings. You will recognise that you have love if, after having experienced annoyance and contradiction, you do not lose your peace, but pray for those who have made you suffer and wish them well. (*Diary 1628*)

## Prayer for Vocations

Vocations from God are not always clear. Not all of us are like Joseph who had an angel appear to him saying "Take Mary as your wife, and fear not"

## Hearing Loop

For signal, set to 'T' (Telecoil).

## Low gluten hosts

Available upon request.

## Catholic Weekly

Their website also has a range of news, articles and information: [www.catholicweekly.com.au/](http://www.catholicweekly.com.au/)

## Catholic Outlook

Access at anytime online: [www.catholicoutlook.org/](http://www.catholicoutlook.org/)

Overheads for hymns used in the Church are used with permission under ONE LICENCE No A-642251

## Message from our Priest

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

Greetings with the love and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The New Liturgical Year in the Catholic Church begins with the season of Advent.

The word 'advent' comes from the Latin word *adventus*, meaning 'coming'.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church stresses the two-fold meaning of this coming:

*When the Church celebrates the liturgy of Advent each year, she makes present this ancient expectancy of the Messiah, for by sharing in the long preparation for the Saviour's first coming, the faithful renew their ardent desire for His second coming (CCC 524).*

The liturgical season of Advent marks the time of our spiritual preparation before Christmas, when we celebrate the fulfillment of our longing for the Savior with the birth of Jesus Christ.

The season of Advent lasts about four weeks, beginning four Sundays before Christmas

and ending on Christmas Eve. The Church's Christmas season begins on Christmas Eve

and lasts for twelve days. Hence, Advent is a season of anticipation that leads up to Christmas.

During this time, we observe a season of prayer and reflection—followed by anticipation, hope, joy.

This new liturgical year also marks the transition from one lectionary cycle (A, B, or C) to the next.

This three-year cycle, a result of the Second Vatican Council, should help us become more familiar with the Sacred Scriptures. In this new liturgical year of cycle B, the Gospel readings will mainly be from the Gospel of Mark. With Year A being Luke and Year C being Matthew, the Gospel of John is read during the Easter season. Every Sunday's Gospel, there will be a significant theme which may help us in our reflections and in spiritually preparing ourselves for the Christmas celebration.

In this First Sunday of Advent, we are reminded that we need to be spiritually awake and be ready for the coming of Jesus in our lives.

May this season of Advent be a time of prayer and reflections for you and your family!

Father John Paul

## Parish Safeguarding

We take the safeguarding of children and vulnerable persons seriously.

Refer concerns to the Parish Priest, or to Office for Safeguarding and Professional Standards

[safeguarding@parracatholic.org](mailto:safeguarding@parracatholic.org) or 8838 3419. More information available at [www.safeguarding.org.au](http://www.safeguarding.org.au)

**2024 Columban Calendars available from our piety stall and still only \$8 each.**

## 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*

Aeroll Kleins, Anthony Iannuzzi, Cathie Christie, Daniella Younis, David, Fran Flaherty, George El-Bayeh, Iranie Perumal, Kayla Ho, Marjory Baker, Michael Ford, Nick Galea, Peter Gamble, Tony Charlesworth.

## Please pray for ... May the souls of our dearly departed rest in peace. Amen

Jack & Gladys Scott, Father David Scott, Charles & Josephine Clayton, Anna Abate, Bal & Jennifer Villanova, Beth Kenny, Gonzalo del Villar, Grace Lucas, Herbert Morris, Howard D'Abera, John Buggy, John Ford Jnr, Josephine Mamari, Julianna Torres, Julio Revilla, Keith Wyatt, Leon Chalker, Lou, Amy & Leon Burbidge, Maggie Simpliciano, Mary Hackett, Oscar Estacio, Paul & Josephine Lauria, Thelma Nalliah, William Geraghty.