

St Paul the Apostle Parish

40 Buckleys Road, Winston Hills NSW 2153

T: 9639 6516 W: 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

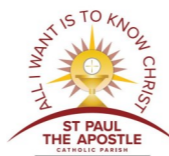
Monday to Saturday 9.10am (*preceded by Rosary at 8:40am*)
Thursday 7.00pm (*preceded by Adoration at 6:00pm*)

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



Christmas Mass times

- Sunday 24th: 5:00pm (Vigil/Children's Mass), 8:00pm, (Carols 11:45pm), 12:00pm midnight.
- Monday 25th: 8:00am, 9:30am (no evening Mass on Christmas Day)
- The only Christmas Mass streamed to Facebook is Monday 9:30 am.

January 1st: Solemnity Of Mary, The Holy Mother Of God

The Solemnity Of Mary is one of the most important days of the Church calendar, however it is not a Holy Day of Obligation. The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference decreed (unchanged since 2001) the only feast days to be observed as holy days of obligation are Christmas Day, the Feast of the Assumption and all Sundays of the year.

St Vincent de Paul Society Christmas Appeal - Thank you

The Society continue to be deeply grateful for the generous support of the parish. This not only includes the generosity of those that provided financial support, and extends to many others who gave of their time and efforts. The Society acknowledges and thanks the students of our primary school with their Mini-Vinnies, and more recently at Christmas time (together with the parents and friends) for donation of presents, and the wrapping helpers from members of our morning mass!

Upcoming Feast Days, Memorials, Solemnities

25th The Nativity Of The Lord | 26th Saint Stephen | 27th Saint John | 28th The Holy Innocents | 29th Saint Thomas Becket
31st The Holy Family Of Jesus, Mary, And Joseph | Jan 1st Solemnity Of Mary, The Holy Mother Of God

Mens Ministry of St Paul ... save the date for the next gathering on January 11th

As we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Saviour kindly reflect on "How can I get to know Him better?"
The Mens Ministry on Thursday January 11th will be contemplating this very thing. Following Adoration and Mass our discussion for January will be "How can I deepen my relationship with God? All men over 18 welcome.
To find out more contact the Parish office on 9639 6516 or mensministryofstpaul@gmail.com.

Come and join in our fortnightly Leisure Group in 2024

A social group where the young at heart share a laugh and a cuppa every second Wednesday 10am - 12pm in the Father David Scott Parish Centre. The next get together is this Wednesday 17th January. Want to find out more? Please phone Anne on 0417 043 605

When does Christmas end?

Octave of Christmas (*until January 1st*)

An octave extends the celebration of a feast or solemnity for eight days (octaves started in the Church back in the fourth century). During Christmas Octave, Mass readings and prayers relate to Christ's birth. The eighth day is 1st January being the Solemnity of Mary. Christmas Season (*The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord*)

Marks the end of the liturgical Christmas season with the celebration of the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, which falls on the Sunday after the Feast of the Epiphany (usually second Sunday in January). Ordinary Time begins after the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord.

Stamps for Charity

A big thank you for your donation of used stamps. For a long time now, our parish proudly supports the Mary MacKillop International Mission through the collection of used stamps. At any time, if you have any unused stamps, please place them in the box in the Church foyer else drop off to the Parish office. These stamps are forwarded to the Mission which are sold to support their charitable works. It doesn't matter if you have a small amount of stamps and they are all gratefully welcomed. Thank you again for your generosity.

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. For more information please contact the parish office.

Marriage Preparation Courses in 2024

Visit www.parracatholic.org/pmp or to find out more, email met@parracatholic.org or call Karin 0419 242 435 or Marisa 0412 280 017.

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 or 8838 3419. More information available at www.safeguarding.org.au

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.

Access and security during the school holidays

Now that school holidays have commenced, there will be a considerable reduction in the amount of people in the church grounds and it is important to remain vigilant. If you notice anything suspicious please phone the parish office 9639 6516 and press 5 (at any time) which will transfer your call to a staff member or clergy. Thank you.

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



- There will be no Mass with the Ephpheta community in January, and will resume in February.
- Please note there will be no 24 Hour Eucharistic Adoration on the first Friday in January.

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

St Paul's Men's Ministry

Second Thursday of the month:
6pm-Church, 8pm-Parish Hall

2SM Filipino Mass

Second Sunday at 11:00am

Mass with Ephpheta

Third Sunday at 9:30am

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!

Hearing Loop

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

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,

Our Advent wreath, adorned with candles symbolising these virtues, serves as a powerful reminder of the transformative journey we embark upon as we draw closer to the celebration of Christ's birth: *Hope* is the first candle, flickering in the face of darkness, that our Saviour is the source of our hope. *Peace* is the second, a peace that transcends understanding and emanates from the Prince of Peace. *Joy* is the third, being the pure and true joy that radiates from the Good News of Christ's coming. *Love* is the fourth, which is the greatest gift of all; God's love for us is manifested in the gift of His Son! Finally, the fifth and central candle, will be lit at Christmas, symbolising the arrival of the Christ Child. As we gather in celebration, let us remember the true meaning of Christmas: the gift of God's love incarnate in the form of a vulnerable infant born in a humble manger.

On this Fourth Sunday of Advent, our hearts are filled with eager anticipation as we approach the glorious celebration of the birth of our Saviour. The candle of love is a radiant flame reminding us of the boundless love our Heavenly Father has for each and every one of us. It is a love so profound that it takes on flesh and dwells among us in the person of Jesus Christ. We are invited to open our hearts wide to receive this divine love. Let us, like Mary, respond with a resounding "yes" to God's call, allowing His love to fill every aspect of our lives.

As we transition into the Christmas season, we find ourselves on the threshold of a miracle - the birth of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Let us reflect on the extraordinary love that brought Christ into the world. God's love, embodied in the infant Jesus, is a love that knows no bounds, a love that transcends time and space to reach each of us in the depths of our hearts.

Let our homes be filled with this love that surpasses understanding, and may our interactions with one another be marked by the love that Christ showed us on that holy night in Bethlehem. As we stand on the brink of the Christmas celebration, may the love of God, made manifest in the Christ Child, be the guiding light that leads us to a deeper relationship with our Lord. May our preparations be guided by prayer, reflection, and acts of kindness, as we joyfully anticipate the arrival of the newborn King.

May the peace of the season reign in our hearts and in the world around us, and be a time of profound encounters with the love of God, and may the joy and peace of Christ reign in your hearts and homes.

Father John Paul

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 Klein, Anthony Iannuzzi, Cathie Christie, Daniella Younis, David, George El-Bayeh, Iranie Perumal, Kayla Ho, Marjory Baker, 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, Father Brian Rooney, Anthony Camilleri, Barry Sligar, Brian Reardon, Burbidge, Gardner & Griffiths families, Carly Young, Carmen Kent, Charles & Josephine Clayton, Charles Spiteri, Colomba Mifsud, Concetta Signati, Denis Debono-Cullen, Filippa Spata, George Steele, Geraldine Senewirathne, Iyrika D'Cruz, Lolit & Jonnel Del Rosario, Laurence James Scott, Lorain Coyte, Mary Hackett, Maxwell John Talty, Mifsud Family, Nametallah and Sanira ElKhoury and all the deceased members of their family, Noelene and Matthew Maree, Parnis Family, Paul, Gladys, Tom and Damien Beck, Paul, Angelique, Claude & Myriam Jumeau, Rosario Sciara, Sarkis & Tamina Matta and all the deceased members of their family, Saverio and Rosa Marotta, Stephen & Anthony Perumal, Tess Borg, Tony Vasta, Vicky Mifsud, and all Holy souls in purgatory.