

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



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



Ash Wednesday - February 14th

Ash Wednesday Masses, including distribution of Ashes, will be held at 6:30am, 9:10am and 7:00pm. This marks the beginning of the Season of Lent. Penance, reflection, and fasting prepares us for Christ's Resurrection, through which we attain redemption. The practice includes wearing of ashes on the head and symbolise the dust from which God made us.



Lenten Program 2024 - deadline for ordering books is Monday 22nd January

Our parish will be again holding Lenten discussion groups and more details will be available shortly. The theme for our program is *Pieta*. *Pieta* is perfect for individual devotional reading in addition to the longer-form Sunday Scripture readings and reflections, prayers and questions that traditionally form part of Lenten groups, and contains short daily reflections (from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday). If you are interested in knowing more about *Pieta*, or viewing a sample of the resources, please visit <https://www.dow.org.au/shop/>. Booklets will be provided free of charge. To place your order, please add your details on the register as you enter the Church. We are placing our order on Monday 22nd January and any requests after this date cannot be accepted.

Solemnity of the Conversion of Saint Paul - January 25th

Even though the feast day of our patron saint is on June 29 when he is honoured with Saint Peter, he is also honoured on January 25 for his conversion. Please join us for Mass at 9:10am (preceded by the Rosary at 8:40am) or Mass at 7pm (preceded by Adoration at 6pm). In the words of our Holiness Pope Francis: "May the Apostle Paul help us to change, to be converted; may he obtain for us something of his own indomitable courage... And we are comforted by the words of Saint Paul, which we can feel addressed to each one of us: My grace is sufficient for you (2 Cor 12:9)."

Australia Day Mass

Mass will celebrated on Friday 26th at 9:10am preceded by the Holy Rosary at 8:40am. Everyone is invited to attend.

Upcoming Feast Days

22nd Saint Vincent | 24th Saint Francis de Sales | 25th The Conversion of Saint Paul | 27th Saints Timothy and Titus, Saint Angela Merici | 28th Saint Thomas Aquinas | 31st Saint John Bosco

Availability of Tap and Go donation facility

Starting this weekend, parishioners and visitors are able to donate using this new facility with two units located as you enter the Church. Across our Diocese many parishes already have these units and are in response to the growing trend of people carrying less cash. The donation points do not take the place of the first and second collections, or the weekly envelope offerings, and provide a convenient alternative for those wishing to make a donation. Contributions from these terminals are allocated as follows: 30% to the first collection and 70% to the second collection. Donations can be made using a debit or credit card and a paper receipt can be generated if desired. The donation amounts are pre-programmed at \$5, \$10 and \$20 or you have the option to select any amount of your choice with no minimum amount. There are no financial institution fees to be incurred by you as these are borne by the parish. An instruction sheet will be available at each terminal providing information on how to use, etc. Thank you again for your ongoing generous support of our parish.

Diocesan World Day of the Sick Mass: Saturday February 10th at 11:00am

Mass includes Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, at St Patrick's Church, Mary, Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown.

All are welcome, including those who care for the sick and dying. RSVPs are required by February 6th to mary.gale@parracatholic.org

A conversation with Monsignor Tomas Halik: Monday February 12th

The Diocese of Parramatta invites you to a conversation with Czech priest and theologian Monsignor Tomas Halik at St Patrick's Cathedral Hall on Monday February 12th at 6pm. Seats are limited with free registration at: parracatholic.org/events/tomashalik/.

MET FaithLIFE free Scripture Short Course with Dr Debra Snoddy : Tuesday evenings in February

Looking to learn more about the Bible, guidance on interpreting Scripture, or interested in the theme of women in the Bible?

Course will be held February 13th, 20th and 27th. Visit parracatholic.org/connect/events/?series=faithlife or email met@parracatholic.org

Aspects of the Eucharist Talks: February 21st and 28th

St Finbar's Parish, Glenbrook, is hosting a series of talks exploring the fundamental aspects of the Eucharist with Chris Ohlsen on Wednesday February 21st and 28th at 7.30pm. Entry is via gold coin donation and please RSVP to glenbrook@parracatholic.org

Catholic Engaged Encounter Weekend: February 24th - 25th

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. The next will be held on 24 and 25 February, with future dates in May, August and November 2024. For further information and to register, visit engagedencounter.org.au/

Adult Faith Formation opportunities in 2024

Looking to learn more about the Bible, spirituality, theology or practical skills for ministry?

Searching for encouragement and growth by listening to life & faith stories from adults in their 20s, 30s and 40s?

Get in touch with the Diocesan Mission Enhancement Team met@parracatholic.org or view their 2024 calendar <https://shorturl.at/grLV3>

Please remember to keep our clergy in your prayers

Even though it will be one year ago this week that Father Marcus left our parish, we continue to pray for him in his ministry at Sacred Heart Parish, Mount Druitt South and also for the blessings received in his time here at St Paul's. In early February it will also be the one year anniversary for the ordination to the priesthood of Father Adam Carlow currently at St Madeleine Sophie Barat Parish, Kenthurst

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

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

The loss of each soul plunges Me into mortal sadness.

You always console Me when you pray for sinners. The prayer most pleasing to Me is prayer for the conversion of sinners. Know My daughter that this prayer is always heard and answered. (*Diary 1397*).

Prayer for Vocations

Come on, continue your Baptism by baptising others in the Holy Spirit and fire. "You are my beloved child," says the Lord!

Catholic Outlook

Access at anytime online:
www.catholicoutlook.org/

Catholic Weekly

News, articles and information:
www.catholicweekly.com.au/

Low gluten hosts

Available upon request.

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

We are in urgent need of Special Religious Education Catechists

As you may be aware, a number of our parishioners, on a weekly and voluntary basis visit a number of our local State schools in their role as Special Religious Education Teachers or Catechists.

Catechists are critical as they spread the joy of the Gospel to children who otherwise may not get a chance to hear it. The emphasis is to show the children that God loves them, and unconditionally, to develop a relationship with God and to feel welcomed and valued members of the Church community.

The role of Catechists is both crucial and sacred. Not only are they sowers of seeds who respond to the call of Jesus, they bring the light of Christ into this world and do so with the strength of the Holy Spirit.

The need for scripture teachers in public schools continues to increase dramatically, with more students than we have Catechists to teach. In a world filled with distractions and challenges, the need for strong, compassionate, and dedicated catechists is more significant than ever.

For an increasing number of children in State schools, Catechists are their only contact with the Church and unfortunately we have experienced a reduction in the numbers of Catechists within our parish.

We invite you to prayerfully consider joining this ministry and extend a heartfelt invitation to all faithful hearts within our parish to consider answering the call to become Catechists. You will contribute to the spiritual growth and formation of our parish youth and also make a lasting impact on their lives. The rewards of being a Catechist extend far beyond the classroom. It is a journey of personal growth and deepening one's own understanding of the Catholic faith and your faith too will grow as you take up the many opportunities this ministry offers to explore and share.

Catechists need to be prayerful, live a Christ-centred life, be passionate about sharing their faith, and enjoy being with children. In terms of commitment, they only need to give up about one hour a week, being 30 minutes to prepare the lesson and 30 minutes of class time.

You do not have to be a trained teacher nor have a Theology degree, just a generous heart, a willingness to share your faith and the Gospel of Christ with children and a sense of humour.

Catechists come from all walks of life, retired or working, the young and the young at heart.

Interestingly, the role of Catechist is becoming increasingly popular with tertiary and university students.

All relevant training and resources to support Catechists are provided, ensuring they feel confident and prepared to guide our youth on their faith journey, and have the generous support of our Catechist team. As you may also appreciate there are a number of requirements such as background checks.

We continue to be grateful for the dedication, sacrifice and passion of all our Catechists, which they perform on a purely voluntary basis. To know more about this ministry or even to chat with one of our Catechists, please contact me on 0409 744 565 or mel.ellis@me.com, or speak to one of our priests.

Melissa Ellis, Parish Catechist SRE Coordinator

Please pray for our sick. Lord, heal the sick, grant strength, comfort, and divine peace. Amen

Aeroll Klein, Anthony Iannuzzi, Cathie Christie, Peter Casey, Daniella Younis, David, George El-Bayeh, Gracia Zalvidea, Iranie Perumal, Kayla Ho, Lucas Le Huray, Mary Finianos, 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, Alfred Sfirse, Alan and Noel Darcy, Brother Ambrose Kyne, Charles & Josephine Clayton, Claude Jumeau, David Wilks, George Steele, Gonzalo Balagtas (Senior), Gus Del Villar, Jennifer Villanova, Joan Gurr, John Cremen, Maria Micallef, Patricia McInerney, Brother Patrick Fetherston, Rosa & Saverio Marotta, Ross Pollard.