

# 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:

Monday to Saturday 9.10am, Sunday 9:30am



## Liturgical and Reconciliation services in our parish during Holy Week - everyone is welcome to attend

<b>Monday 25<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup></b>	Morning Mass	9:10 am	<i>preceded by Rosary at 8:40am</i>
<b>Holy Thursday 28<sup>th</sup></b>	Morning Prayer	9:10 am	<i>no morning Mass today</i>
	Mass of the Lord's Supper	7:00 pm	<i>followed by Reconciliation</i>
	Night Prayer	9:45 pm	<i>Church closes 10:00pm</i>
<b>Good Friday 29<sup>th</sup></b>	Stations of the Cross	10:00 am	<i>followed by Reconciliation</i>
	Passion of the Lord	3:00 pm	<i>followed by Reconciliation</i>
<b>Holy Saturday 30<sup>th</sup></b>	Morning Prayer	9:10 am	<i>no morning Mass today</i>
	Easter Vigil Mass	7:00 pm	<i>no Reconciliation today</i>
<b>Easter Sunday 31<sup>st</sup></b>	Morning Mass	8:00 am & 9:30 am	<i>no evening Mass today</i>

## Diocese of Parramatta - Holy Week Mass Times for all parishes

Holy Week Mass and Reconciliation Times for all parishes are available on the Diocesan website [parracatholic.org/connect/find-a-mass/](http://parracatholic.org/connect/find-a-mass/)

## Pontifical Annual Holy Land Good Friday Collection: March 29<sup>th</sup>

Every year on Good Friday, a collection is taken up in every Catholic church to support the people and places of the Holy Land. The Franciscans of the Custody of the Holy Land have the unique responsibility of caring for the Holy Places as well as caring for the Christians living in the Holy Land. Your donation is a direct way to make a difference in the lives of people who are keeping alive the Christian presence in the land of Jesus, often in the face of great difficulty. Donations can be made using the envelopes in your pew. If you are unable to donate at this time, or wish to find out more, please visit [holylanfranciscansaustralia.org/good-friday/](http://holylanfranciscansaustralia.org/good-friday/)

**Tap and Go: All contributions made using the Tap and Go on Good Friday will be donated to the Holy Land collection.**

## Call out for help with moving chairs this Thursday

We are kindly seeking the help of some volunteers to carry across chairs from the Parish Centre and stack them under the Church foyer this Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm in preparation for our Holy Week and Easter services. Many thanks!!

## Catholic Youth Parramatta invite you to their Good Friday Night Walk: March 29<sup>th</sup>

The annual pilgrimage is attended by hundreds of youth across the Diocese. Commences St Patrick's Church, Blacktown 10:00pm and finishes the next day at 7:00am at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta. Details and registration: [parracatholic.org/events/gfnw/](http://parracatholic.org/events/gfnw/)

## Veiling Crosses and Statues prior to Holy Week

In general terms, crosses are removed or veiled if possible, so that the focus of the Adoration of the Holy Cross at the celebration of the Passion of the Lord, is the one cross which is processed and unveiled. The cross is the central symbol of Holy Week.

## Caritas Project Compassion boxes

Thank you for your generosity in supporting this collection. Project Compassion boxes can be returned on Holy Thursday and over the Easter weekend and placed in the boxes as you enter the Church. You can also donate by visiting [caritas.org.au/project-compassion](http://caritas.org.au/project-compassion)

## Rosters for the next quarter (April - June) available by the end of this week

Thank you to the continued generosity of the many who assist in our various ministries.

## Come and join in our fortnightly Leisure Group- next gathering March 27<sup>th</sup>

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 Wednesday March 27<sup>th</sup>. Want to find out more? Please phone Anne on 0417 043 605

## Congratulations to our Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults Elect

At the Easter Saturday Vigil mass, Li, Shontay, Maddie and Tan will receive their Sacraments of Initiation. Please continue to pray for them, and if someone you know would like more information about becoming a Catholic, please contact the office. We thank those of our parish community who sponsored our candidates generously with their time and support and made this all possible.

## Baptisms welcome

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

## 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.

## Christ the King Primary School, North Rocks - Jubilee Celebrations

Staff, students, families and parishioners past and present are invited to celebrate! A Jubilee Family Picnic will be held on May 19<sup>th</sup> at Don Moore Reserve, North Rocks and a Jubilee Dinner (over 18s) on June 29<sup>th</sup> at The Epping Club, Epping. For any further information, contact Erin Wynne [ewynne@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:ewynne@parra.catholic.edu.au) or school office 8846 2700 or email [northrocks@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:northrocks@parra.catholic.edu.au)

## MET FaithLIFE Theology Short Course

Considering learning about theology or expand your language for expressing your faith? Seeking ways to deepen the way you put your faith into practice? Course with Dr John Collins is held Tuesdays 16, 23 and 30 April. Registration and details: [met@parracatholic.org](mailto:met@parracatholic.org)

## Parish Safeguarding

We take the safeguarding of children and vulnerable persons seriously. Refer concerns to the Parish Priest, or to [safeguarding@parracatholic.org](mailto:safeguarding@parracatholic.org) or 8838 3419. More information [www.safeguarding.org.au](http://www.safeguarding.org.au)

**Upcoming Feast Days, Memorials, Solemnities, Commemorations:** 25<sup>th</sup> The Annunciation Of The Lord

## Moments of Mercy

Souls perish in spite of My bitter Passion. I am giving them the last hope of salvation; that is, the Feast of My Mercy. If they will not adore My mercy, they will perish for all eternity. (Diary 965)

## Prayer for Vocations

Seeing physically dead people return to life is uncommon. But Christians, serious about their vocation, are eager to help the "down and out" find new meaning in Christ and live a full life.

## Mother of Perpetual Help

Novena prayed after Mass every Wednesday morning.

## Thursday Cenacles

Held in Marian Chapel after every Thursday morning Mass.

## Divine Mercy Chaplet

Fridays 3:30pm in Marian Chapel.

## Christ's Catholic Community

Prayer group every Friday 10am: Parish Centre Conference Room.

## Liturgy of the Hours

First Friday at 6:00pm

## St Paul's Mens 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

## Low gluten hosts

Available upon request

## Communion to the sick

Please contact parish office to make arrangements for a visit.

## Hearing Loop

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

## Catholic Outlook

[www.catholicoutlook.org/](http://www.catholicoutlook.org/)

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

## The significance of Palm Sunday as we enter Holy Week

Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week, during which we journey with Jesus through his Passion, Death, and Resurrection. The joyous procession on Palm Sunday gives way to the solemn reading of the Passion narrative, reminding us of the ultimate sacrifice Jesus made for our salvation.

Palm Sunday finds its roots in ancient Jewish tradition, specifically the Feast of Tabernacles (Sukkot) and the Feast of Dedication (Hanukkah). During these festivals, people would wave palm branches as a symbol of victory and deliverance, echoing triumphs of their ancestors. In ancient times, palm branches were associated with victory, peace, and royalty. By welcoming Jesus with palms, the people acknowledged him as the long-awaited King who would bring deliverance to Israel.

The Gospel narratives today resonate deeply with Old Testament prophecies (Zechariah 9:9) which foretold of the Messiah: "Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout, Daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

As Jesus rode into the city on a humble donkey, crowds hailed him as the long-awaited Messiah, spreading their cloaks and palm branches on the road before him shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" (Matthew 21:9). This event symbolises Jesus' kingship and the fulfilment of ancient prophecies, underscoring his role as the long-awaited Messiah.

The word "Hosanna" expresses praise and adoration, derived from the Hebrew phrase "hoshiya na," which means "save, please." However, their understanding of salvation was temporal, seeking deliverance from Roman oppression, whereas Jesus came to offer eternal salvation from sin and death.

Palm Sunday serves also as a poignant reminder of the fickleness of human allegiance and the depth of Christ's sacrificial love. The same crowds that hailed him as King would soon cry out for his crucifixion.

We are invited to reflect on the paradox of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem amidst the backdrop of humility. In a world that often values power, prestige, and self-promotion, the image of Jesus riding on a humble donkey serves as a profound reminder of the true nature of greatness – one rooted in humility, service and sacrificial love. Let us reflect on the ways in which we welcome Jesus into our lives.

Do we acknowledge him as our King and Saviour, or do worldly distractions cloud our vision? May today inspire us to be open to Christ, welcoming him with humility, reverence, and unwavering faith.

## Palm Sunday thank you

We extend thanks to the Parish Adornment Ministry members and other volunteers who generously gave of their time in preparing the palms and especially fashioning the palm branches into crosses. These palm crosses are reminders of Jesus' sacrifice and our call to discipleship through the year.

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

Adleen Hadchiti, Aeroll Klein, Anthony Iannuzzi, Cathie Christie, Daniella Younis, David, George El-Bayeh, Helen Facione, Helene Barker, Iranie Perumal, John Gin, Kayla Ho, Lucas Le Huray, Mary Finianos, Nick Galea, Peter Casey, Peter Gamble, Valeriano Estacio Jnr.

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

Jack & Gladys Scott, Father David Scott, Sister Antionette Khoury, Sister Julia Lourey, Ana & Joseph Grdinic, Antoun and Laila Moubarak, Bonifacio Casalme, Charlie Micallef, Charles and Josephine Clayton, Concetta Signati, George Steele, Gioacchino Lombardo, Giuseppina Spata, Giuseppe Di Mauro, Hilaria Mapili Estacio, Ivan Justinic, Kathleen Modini, Norma and Rosario Sciara, Oswald & Phyllis Herbert, Robert Moussa, Sarkis, Tamina & Badia Matta, Siobhain Power, Tessie Micallef and Tony Marino.