

St Paul the Apostle Parish

40 Buckleys Road, Winston Hills NSW 2153

T: 9639 6516 W: www.stpaultheapostleparish.org

Office hours: Monday 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

 [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)

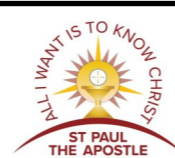
Saturday 4.00pm - 4.45pm

Adoration: Thursday 6.00pm - 7.00pm

First Friday 9.45am - 9.00am Saturday

Masses livestreamed to Facebook:

Sundays 9:30am, except 3rd Sunday of the month at 5:00pm



24 Hour Eucharistic Adoration - December

Commences: 9:10am Mass Friday 6th | Concludes: 9:10am Mass Saturday 7th

Our Lord Jesus will be exposed for 24 hours and at all times must have someone with Him.

If you are able to be in attendance to ensure we have someone always present, please record your details on the booking sheet as you enter the Church. Thank you.

Come ... spend some time with Him



It's not just 24 hours of silent Adoration

During the 24 hours of Eucharistic adoration, there are other ways one can participate in prayer or reflection and everyone is invited:

- 3:30pm - Chaplet of Divine Mercy will be sung in the church in front of the Blessed Sacrament (feel free to assemble at 3:00pm)
- 6:00pm - Evening Prayer/Vespers will be held. This is also known as Liturgy Of The Hours.
- 6:00pm - Reconciliation until 7:00pm

Men's Ministry talk - "A Path to Sexual Freedom": Thursday, 12th December

Men aged 18 and over are invited to attend a session and discussion entitled "Overcoming Temptation – A Path To Sexual Freedom".

This is a free event presented by Simon Carrington, co-founder of Fire Up Ministries, and a renowned speaker on theology of the body. The modern world challenges men in many ways including that of sexual promiscuity which not only affects those involved but by extension it robs family, friends, community and God. The reasoning behind this is while one wallows in sin they are unable to effectively help others as God commands. Please come along even if you haven't been to a previous Men's Ministry gathering and entry is not limited to St Paul parishioners. Held in the Father David Scott parish centre from 6:00pm to 9:00pm and will include tea and coffee. It is important to RSVP by Wednesday, 4th December to mensministryofstpaul@gmail.com or to the parish office on 9639 6516.

Bishop's Christmas Appeal for Catholic Care's Houses to Homes—this weekend

Your compassionate generosity and prayers will support pregnant women and young mothers aged between 16 and 25, who are homeless or at serious risk of homelessness. Many of these women and their children have experienced significant trauma, including domestic and/or family violence. At all Masses this weekend, a collection will be taken. Donate at anytime via: parracatholic.org/appeal.

Sacrament of Reconciliation in our parish

On Sunday afternoon of this weekend, children will be receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation. We pray for them and their families, and we extend a special thank you to the wonderful volunteers in our Sacramental team in supporting these children.

Drop in and enjoy our Leisure Group: Wednesday, 4th December

Where the young at heart share a laugh and a cuppa 10am - 12pm in our Parish Centre. To find out more phone Anne on 0417 043 605

Solemnity of anniversary of dedication of St Paul the Apostle Church (1985): Monday, 16th December

While the date is actually 15th December, in 2024 this date falls on the 3rd Sunday in Advent which takes priority for celebration.

The foundation stone for the church that was blessed by his Holiness Pope Paul VI on 2nd December 1970 is in our parish centre wall.

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.

Immaculate Conception Marian Procession: Saturday, 7th December

All are welcome to the 2nd annual Marian Procession for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception at Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, 8 Diana Avenue, Kellyville, with 6pm vigil mass followed by candlelight procession to the Franciscan Shrine of the Holy Innocents.

Why the Gloria is omitted during the season of Advent

Advent is a time of solemn preparation for Christmas, and part of that preparation includes penance. One of the ways that the Church marks this penitential character to the season is the omission of the Gloria at Sunday Mass. This is meant to remind us that we are not quite ready to celebrate the Christ's arrival just yet, but need to strive to stay vigilant and awake for his coming.

Something just for the children for Advent

It is important for children to get a better understanding of what Advent represents and especially 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: https://issuu.com/ccressnsw/docs/2022_my_catholic_advent_and_christmas_ccress

Advent and Christmas - same or different?

Christmas (liturgical not societal!) season is December 25th until January 6th (Epiphany), and **Advent** is the season of *preparation* for Christmas, not the celebration of it. Advent is included with Christmas similar to the 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, 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. This also extends to the music and why Christmas hymns aren't played during Advent.

Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses: February to April 2025

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!** If you are interested in joining any of these Ministries, or want to know more, please contact the parish office.

Moments of Mercy

God never violates our free will. It is up to us whether we want to receive God's grace or not. It is up to us whether we will co-operate with it or waste it"

Prayer for Vocations

Isaiah says: "The earth shall be filled with knowledge of the Lord." Who taught you knowledge of the Lord, and who are you teaching today?

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 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

Low gluten hosts

Available upon request

Hearing Loop

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

Communion to the sick

Contact parish office to organise.

St Vincent de Paul Society

2nd & 4th Mondays of the month 7pm Parish Centre conference room

News and Information

www.parracatholic.org/

www.catholicoutlook.org/

www.catholicweekly.com.au/

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

Invitation to light our Advent Wreath candles

Advent has a twofold character, for it is a time of preparation for the Solemnity of Christmas, in which the First Coming of the Son of God to humanity is remembered, and likewise a time when, by remembrance of this, minds and hearts are led to look forward to Christ's Second Coming at the end of time.

For these two reasons, Advent is a period of devout and expectant delight.

As part of our tradition leading up to Christmas, an Advent wreath is placed on the sanctuary, and at the beginning of each Mass, these candles are lit by members of our congregation.

The wreath is typically made of a circle of evergreen branches laid flat to symbolise eternal life and is surrounded by four candles, each one representing the four Sundays of Advent. In the centre of the circle is a fifth candle, the Christ Candle, which is lit on Christmas Day. The candles remind us that Jesus Christ came to conquer the darkness of sin and to lead us into the light of his glorious kingdom. During Advent this bulletin will contain information about the significance and meaning of the candle for each week.

First week of Advent: Hope

It is only fitting that the first candle on the Advent wreath represents Hope. The first Sunday not only leads us to anticipate the birth of Christ but celebrate the beginning of a new liturgical season as well.

The first candle is purple, the primary colour of Advent and a colour symbolising royalty. It is sometimes called the "Prophecy Candle" in remembrance of the prophets, especially Isaiah, who foretold the birth of Christ. It represents the expectation felt in anticipation of the coming Messiah. It harkens us back to Isaiah's foretelling of the birth of Christ and all of the promises God gave us in the Old Testament that would be fulfilled by the birth of Jesus.

May the wreath and its light be a sign of Christ's promise to bring us salvation, and this season of Advent be a time of prayer and reflections for you and your family!

If you would like to light an Advent candle, record your details on the roster located in the foyer.

Holy Father's monthly intentions for December: *For pilgrims of hope*

We pray that this Jubilee Year strengthen our faith, helping us to recognise the Risen Christ in our daily lives, and that it may transform us into pilgrims of Christian hope.

Upcoming Feast Days, Memorials, Solemnities

3rd Saint Francis Xavier | 4th Saint John Damascene | 6th Saint Nicholas | 7th Saint Ambrose

Daily Mass Books and resources to assist

Available in the Mass Books drawer next to the Holy Water font in the centre aisle of the church. Feel free to use these, and other literature that may be of assistance for personal prayer or devotion whilst in church.

Morning Tea next weekend - see you there!

After the 8:00am and 9:30am Mass next weekend please join us for morning tea.

Parish Safeguarding

Refer concerns to Parish Priest, safeguarding@parracatholic.org or 8838 3419. www.safeguarding.org.au

Please pray for our sick ... Heavenly Father, lay your healing hands upon all those who are sick. Amen

Aeroll Klein, Ameriza Ayoub, Anne Burt, Anthony Iannuzzi, Cathie Christie, David, Dominic Abate, Edgar Cruz, Fermin Manuel, George El-Bayeh, Helene Barker, Jenny Goudas, John Gin, Joshua McCarrroll, Loy De'Souza, Lorraine Abraham, Lucas Le Huray, Mary McConvey, Nick Galea, Mary Finianos, Maureen McLoughlun, Peter Gamble, Rosa Caccamo, Sally Georges, Sam Papallo, Sarah Sheehan, Tashia Vergara, Valeriano Estacio Jnr, Venessa Ibrahim.

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

Jack & Gladys Scott, Father David Scott, Asanta Mendis, Charles and Josephine Clayton, Herbert Morris, Lou Burbidge, Amy Burbidge, Marcia Vidolin. Margarita Simpliciano, Mary Hackett.