

# 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: 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

 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)

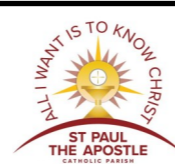
Saturday 4.00pm - 4.45pm

**Adoration:** Thursday 6.00pm - 7.00pm

First Friday 9.45am - 9.00am Saturday

## Masses livestreamed to Facebook:

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



## Saint Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal (third collection) at all masses next weekend

By helping this annual appeal, you will assist in two ways. At a local level, our members and volunteers will be able to offer assistance directly to families and individuals. At a broader level, you will contribute to the large and varied network of short and longer-term support services for people in NSW requiring specialised care. Support for this Appeal will benefit recipients, and address poverty and disadvantage in our communities. St Vincent de Paul told his followers there are no people so rich that they have nothing to receive, and none so poor that they have nothing to give. *"The strongest hand of true friendship is charity; the exercise of charity is the practice of good works."* - Blessed Frederic Ozanam, founder of St Vincent de Paul Society.

As always, your generosity is greatly appreciated. You can donate using the envelopes in the pews, St Vincent de Paul members will be available to take card donations, use the QR code or donate anytime online using the following link:

[my.fundraise.vinniesnsw.org.au/fundraise-your-way-conference/svdp-winston-hills-conference-christmas-appeal-2024](https://my.fundraise.vinniesnsw.org.au/fundraise-your-way-conference/svdp-winston-hills-conference-christmas-appeal-2024)



## Men's Ministry talk - "A Path to Sexual Freedom": this Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> 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 Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> December to [mensministryofstpaul@gmail.com](mailto:mensministryofstpaul@gmail.com) or to the parish office on 9639 6516.

## World Apostolate of Fatima (WAF) Parish Prayer Ministry: this Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> December

Approved by the Holy See, the World Apostolate of Fatima (WAF) with millions of members worldwide, live the message of Fatima and try to give witness of God's love, imitating also the little shepherds of Fatima, Saint Francisco and Saint Jacinta Marto and Sister Lúcia. The WAF recognises and supports our own Parish Prayer Ministry and is a response to Our Lady's call for prayer, penance and sacrifice. The intention is to meet once a month for a holy hour to pray, learn and live the message of Fatima. It is recommended to enrol and become a member of the WAF (free to join) where your name will be placed at Our Lady's feet in the Chapel of Apparitions, in Fatima. Please come along this Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm and join us in the Marian Chapel, with this month's topic being: *"The Secrets of Fatima."*

Sign up here: <https://worldfatima.com/en/join-us>. To find out more contact Mark Napoli 0433 119 424. **Our Lady of Fatima, pray for us!**

## Sausage Sizzle for our parish Youth Adults (aged 18 to 30): Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> December

All young adults aged 18 to 30 are invited to attend mass next Sunday at 5:00pm, which will be followed by a free sausage sizzle.

It is important to record your name for catering purposes on the sheet as you leave church or contact the parish office by 11<sup>th</sup> December.

## End of Year Mass for our Volunteers and Ministers: Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> December

All volunteers who assist in our parish, and anyone involved in any of our various ministries, are invited to attend the 7:00pm mass.

This is an opportunity to reflect on the efforts and contributions, individually and collectively, especially throughout this year, and for those present to assemble and share in the celebration of the mass. After mass, all volunteers and ministers are invited for light refreshments in the Father David Scott parish centre. RSVP to parish office (ideally by email) by 16<sup>th</sup> December for catering purposes.

## Final Morning Tea for 2024 next weekend - see you there !

After the 8:00am and 9:30am Mass next weekend please join us for morning tea. Stay and enjoy a hot cuppa and a treat with our fellow parishioners and a great opportunity to meet old friends and make new ones. Thank you also to our volunteers who make this possible.

## Rosters for January to March 2025

Please advise the parish office by Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> December for any extended unavailability for the next roster period, Thank you.

## Charismatic Healing Mass: Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> December

Join in for this Healing Mass where many have testified to God's healing touch in their lives and have encountered God in a new way. It will be a time of praise, Mass, adoration and healing prayer, followed a Christmas BBQ and some carols. We'd be delighted to see you. Commences 2pm at Campion College Chapel, 8-14 Austin Woodbury Place, Toongabbie. Details: [matthew.leslie@dojccinternational.org](mailto:matthew.leslie@dojccinternational.org)

## 2025 Jubilee Year: Pilgrims In Hope (Peregrinantes In Spem)

In our journey towards the Jubilee, let us return to Scripture and realise that it speaks to us in these words: "May we who have taken refuge in him be strongly encouraged to seize the hope set before us. We have this hope, a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters the inner shrine behind the curtain, where Jesus, a forerunner on our behalf, has entered" (*Heb 6:18-20*). Those words are a forceful encouragement for us never to lose the hope we have been given, to hold fast to that hope and to find in God our refuge and our strength. The coming Jubilee will thus be a Holy Year marked by the hope that does not fade, our hope in God. It will commence with the Holy Father as he officially opens the Holy Year with the rite of the Opening of the Holy Door of the Papal Basilica of St. Peter on December 24<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. To find out more about this Jubilee Year visit [www.iubilaeum2025.va/en.html](http://www.iubilaeum2025.va/en.html)

## What is the difference between the first and second collections?

As you are aware, there are two collections at our weekend Masses. There is a difference between these in terms of allocation of funds, with the following information providing some clarification.

**First Collection:** primarily supports the clergy across our Diocese. This provides the monthly stipend for our clergy

and in addition provides for care and health of clergy both current and retired.

**Second Collection:** provides for our specific parish (ie St Paul's) expenses. These include both our Church and Office

and in respect of our various ministries, and includes all operating and maintenance costs, liturgical provisions and insurance.

As always, thank you for your ongoing and generous financial support of our Parish and if you are interested in our Planned Giving program, please don't hesitate to contact the Parish office.

## 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

Christ showed us the path to eternal life. Know that the Lord is with you always, through your struggles and triumphs, and that he hears your prayers.

## 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  
*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.

## Second week of Advent: Peace

The second candle on the Advent Wreath is called the Bethlehem candle. It is a symbol of the preparations being made to receive and cradle the Christ child. It is also called The Candle of Peace. We hear from Isaiah of one who will be born Prince of Peace.

It symbolises faith and a reminder of the experience of Joseph and Mary in the city of Bethlehem.

A symbol of the preparations being made to receive and cradle the Christ child.

*God of power and mercy open our hearts in welcome. Remove the things that hinder us from receiving Christ with joy so that we may share his wisdom and become one with him when he comes in glory.*

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

## 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.

## Welcome to those Baptised here recently

To Brody and Georgia, we pray that their faith will be an important and integral part of their lives.

## Lights of Christmas at St Mary's Cathedral

Every evening 5:30pm till 10:30pm from 12<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> December. Details: [christmasatthecathedral.org.au/](http://christmasatthecathedral.org.au/)

## Upcoming Feast Days, Memorials, Solemnities

9<sup>th</sup> The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary | 10<sup>th</sup> Our Lady of Loreto |

11<sup>th</sup> Saint Damasus | 12<sup>th</sup> Our Lady of Guadalupe | 13<sup>th</sup> Saint Lucy | 14<sup>th</sup> Saint John of the Cross

## Parish Safeguarding

Refer concerns to Parish Priest, [safeguarding@parracatholic.org](mailto:safeguarding@parracatholic.org) or 8838 3419. [www.safeguarding.org.au](http://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, Jessica Roach, John Gin, Joshua McCarroll, 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 and Gladys Scott, Father David Scott, Charles and Josephine Clayton, George Steel, Herbert Morris, Mervyn Davies, Ratnam John, Anna Mary and Maria Segar Joseph, Sarina Pantaleone.