

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

 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)

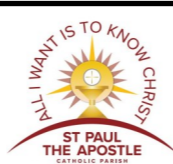
Saturday 4.00pm - 4.45pm

Adoration: Thursday 6.00pm - 7.00pm

First Friday 9.45am - 9.00am Saturday

Masses livestreamed to Facebook:

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



Saint Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal (third collection) at all masses this 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, contributing to the large and varied network of short and longer-term support services requiring specialised care. Support for this Appeal will benefit recipients, and address poverty and disadvantage.

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. As always, your generosity is greatly appreciated. St Vincent de Paul members will be available to take card donations after Mass, you can 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

Sausage Sizzle for our parish Youth Adults (aged 18 to 30): Sunday, 15th December

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

End of Year Mass for our Volunteers and Ministers: Thursday, 19th 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 16th December for catering purposes.*

Filipino Chaplaincy's nine day Novena Dawn Masses: commences Monday, 16th December

You're welcome to attend 4:30am Mass (in English) Monday 16th until Tuesday 24th at St Patrick's Church, 51-59 Allawah St, Blacktown. It is a Filipino Christmas tradition practiced worldwide, in preparation for the Feast of the Birth of Jesus Christ. The early pre-dawn start continues the tradition where historically it was meant to accommodate agricultural workers before they went out to work on the land.

Another year winds up for our Special Religious Education Teachers

Throughout this year, seven of our parishioners were out and about visiting a number of our local State schools each week in the role of Catechists, or Special Religious Education Teachers. 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. We continue to be grateful for their dedication, sacrifice, passion and contributions, which they joyfully perform on a purely voluntary basis. At this time of year, together with their students, they have been preparing for Christmas and please remember them all in your prayers. If you would like to know more about this ministry and their tremendous work, please contact Melissa Ellis 0409 744 565 or mel.ellis@me.com

Men's Ministry of St Paul's Winston Hills (MMSP) - one year on

It is with humble gratitude to God, Fr John Paul, Fr Abraham and the parish office as we celebrate one year since the Men's Ministry of St Paul's Winston Hills (MMSP) held its inaugural gathering. The constant unwavering and faithful support from those mentioned above, along with Tony Montgomery (our resident speaker) and the MMSP core group have made this first year truly inspiring and something to behold, full of hope and joy. We average about twenty in attendance and as our Lord comfortingly says, "wherever two or three gather in my name, there I shall be", this is what drives us: quality not quantity. If by our actions one man moves closer to God, then we view our role here as a great success. "As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another." Proverb 27:17. This sharpening must be based on good formation less we stray and join the multitude of the aimless and lost.

To that end our meetings are blessed and pastorally supported by the presence of either Fr Abraham or Fr JP, sometimes both. On purpose our gatherings commence at 6pm with adoration, rosary, reconciliation and benediction. The absolute peak of the evening without question is the Holy Mass. Fellowship and formation follow, with the evening concluding with group discussions. The reason for such a routine is to truly acknowledge that although, as men we may be masters of our own domains, we are merely simple creatures before God. God and the Mass gives us bearing and a solid foundation. With God's grace we pray it places us in a position of humility, thanks and charity.

If you are male, aged 18 and over, and have time on the second Thursday night of each month, I encourage you to call in at 6pm. Come, take the opportunity to worship and commune again with your God and then later meet and converse with your fellow man. *MMSP Core Group: Cebastian Diel, Chris Massoud, Meynard Palomares, Norman Badaoui. email: mensministryofstpaul@gmail.com*

Receiving a blessing during distribution of Communion

It is not uncommon for some attending Church, be it for Mass or funeral or other liturgy, to refrain from receiving Communion. There are many reasons for this eg children who have not received the Sacrament of Holy Communion, those who are not Catholic, those conscious of their spiritual state. For those that are unable to, or choose not to, receive Communion, it is common to come forward to receive a blessing. It is kindly requested that anyone choosing to do so, and in order to receive a blessing, to kindly please present yourself in the line where the Clergy is distributing Communion rather than the Acolyte or Extraordinary Minister. It will also assist the Clergy if your arms are folded so that he is aware your intention is to receive a blessing.

Coeliac disease and Communion Hosts

If you have been diagnosed with Coeliac disease, you have the option of receiving low gluten hosts for Communion (at Mass or home). These are always available and before Mass, visit the Sacristy and speak to the Acolyte or Priest to make arrangements. Canon law states that bread used for Holy Communion must be made from wheat and water in order for transubstantiation to occur. Bread used for communion must contain enough gluten to attain the "confection of bread" and have to be made by wheat. Hosts that are completely gluten-free are invalid matter for the celebration of the Eucharist, however the gluten content is quite small in the gluten free bread.

Liturgical Ministry Courses return in 2025

This free formation is open to anyone in the diocese interested in serving within the Liturgical Ministries either as Ministers at the Altar, Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, and Communion to the Sick and Dying. To enrol or for more information, please contact the parish office. Registrations close 28th January, 2025. Spaces are limited so enrol now to avoid disappointment.

Moments of Mercy

O living Host, my one and only strength, fountain of love and mercy, embrace the whole world, fortify faint souls. Oh, blessed be the instant and the moment when Jesus left us His most merciful Heart! (*Diary*, 223)

Prayer for Vocations

Who will work for Jesus, the King of Peace, Hope and Honour, the King of Love, Truth and Justice? Who is dedicated and enthusiastic enough to proclaim his Good News? Must be YOU!

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

Men's Ministry St Paul's

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.

Third week of Advent: Joy

The third candle is pink and symbolises joy. It is called the "Shepard's Candle," and is pink because rose is a liturgical colour for joy. The third Sunday of Advent is Gaudete Sunday" and is meant to remind us "of the joy that the world experienced at the birth of Jesus. "Gaudete" is derived from the Latin word for "rejoice," taken from the entrance antiphon for the day, which begins with the words "Gaudete in Domino semper" or "Rejoice in the Lord always." In the season of anticipation before Christmas, today marks a joyful midpoint, also serving as a respite, albeit briefly, from the more sombre aspects of the season, allowing the faithful to rejoice knowing that the arrival of the Christ child is imminent.

Dear Jesus, help us focus on you during this busy season. May we stay aware of the joy you bring into our lives. We want to find you in the everyday moments and come with hearts of gratitude to your manger on Christmas.

If you would like to light an Advent candle, record your details on the roster as you leave church.

Christmas / New Years Mass and Reconciliation times

• Christmas Mass times

Tuesday 24th [vigil]: 5:00 pm (Children's Mass), 8:00 pm (Youth Mass), 12:00 pm midnight (Carols 11:45 pm).

Wednesday 25th: 8:00 am, 9:30 am (no evening Mass on Christmas Day)

• New Years Eve

Tuesday 31st : 9:30pm Filipino Chaplaincy (Mass celebrated in English)

• New Years Day

Wednesday 1st: 9:10am Morning Mass (preceded by Rosary at 8:40am)

• Reconciliation times

Thursdays: 6.15pm - 6.45pm (during Adoration) and Saturdays: 4.00pm - 4.45pm

For Mass and Service times around the Diocese, please visit parracatholic.org/connect/find-a-mass/

Solemnity of anniversary of dedication of St Paul the Apostle Church (1985)

Although the date is actually 15th December, in 2024 this date falls on the 3rd Sunday in Advent which takes priority for celebration. Therefore the Solemnity will be celebrated at 9:10am Mass, Monday 16th.

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, 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, Barbara Killick, Charles and Josephine Clayton, George Steel, lyrika DCruz, Lena Pereira, Mervyn Davies.