

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)

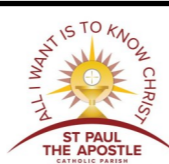
Saturday 4.00pm - 4.45pm

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



Our Advent Wreath

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.

Fourth week of Advent: Peace

On the fourth week of Advent, we light the final purple candle to mark the final week of prayer and penance as we wait for the birth of our Saviour. This final candle, the "Angel's Candle," symbolises peace. It reminds us of the message of the angels: "Peace on Earth, Good Will to Men" and marks the final week of prayer and penance as we wait for the birth of our Saviour and represents the peace and justice the angels and Christ bring to the world.

Dear Jesus, may the light of your love always shine in our hearts. As Christmas draws closer, we marvel at your great love for us. Let your love transform every aspect of our lives and touch everyone we encounter.

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/

Boxing Day: 9:10am mass will still be celebrated however there will be no 6pm Adoration or 7pm Mass.

All children and youth are especially encouraged to attend our Christmas vigil Masses!
We are blessed in that there will also be a choir at all of our Christmas Masses.



Please pray for our sick ...

Heavenly Father, We pray that you will lay your healing hands upon all those who are sick. We ask you to have compassion on all who are suffering so that they may be delivered from their painful circumstances. May they know that you are always with them, especially through difficult times. 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, Alley Murphy, Annie Magee, Noelene and Matthew Maree, Charles and Josephine Clayton, Ella (Bobbie) Darcy, George Steel, Geraldine Senewiratne, John Bush, John & Prisca D'Souza, Lourdes Zaballa, Maria Nguyen Thi Jhue, Paul, Angelique, Claude & Myriam Jumeau.

Moments of Mercy

In an appearance to St Faustina, the Christ Child told her, "I keep company with you as a child to teach you humility and simplicity" (Diary 184)

Prayer for Vocations

Who will come forward to explain the love God has for His people who should be one in faith?

We need more faith-filled, prayerful and spirited people to make the vine and the branches one again. How about 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

St Vincent de Paul Society Christmas Appeal - Thank you

The Society continue to be deeply grateful for the generous support of the parish. Your financial support allows members and volunteers to offer assistance directly to families and individuals and will benefit recipients, and address poverty and disadvantage. Thank you.

Donate anytime: my.fundraise.vinniesnsw.org.au/fundraise-your-way-conference/svdp-winston-hills-conference-christmas-appeal-2024

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

Pope Francis "The forthcoming Jubilee can contribute greatly to restoring a climate of hope and trust as a prelude to the renewal and rebirth that we so urgently desire; that is why I have chosen as the motto of the Jubilee, Pilgrims of Hope." A Jubilee is a special and profound year of grace, mercy and conversion, involving prayer, pilgrimage, and sacramental repentance, held every 25 years.

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 24th December at 7pm. To find out more about this Jubilee Year visit www.iubilaeum2025.va/en.html

The Jubilee runs to 6th January 2026, the Feast of the Epiphany, with the closing of the Door.

How can we participate in the Jubilee here in our Diocese?

In the Diocese of Parramatta, people are invited to participate in the many events that will be taking place as an individual or a group. You may consider undertaking a pilgrimage for the Jubilee Year to one, or all three of our pilgrimage sites within our Diocese:

St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta; Mount Schoenstatt Shrine, Mulgoa; or The Franciscan Shrine of the Holy Innocents, Kellyville.

A Jubilee Indulgence is granted to those who make a Jubilee pilgrimage during the year. For those who cannot make a jubilee pilgrimage due to illness or other circumstances, you are invited to take part in the spiritual movement that accompanies the Jubilee year, offering up the sufferings of their daily lives, and participating in reconciliation, prayer, and the Eucharistic celebration.

Our Diocese is also organising events during the year, eg on Sunday, 2nd February 2025, the Feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple, there will be a Procession and Solemn High Mass for the Jubilee of Consecrated Life in St Patrick's Cathedral.

As events are finalised, they will be available on parracatholic.org and please follow catholicoutlook.org for further news updates.

For the Jubilee Year of Hope, let us pray that it will bring about a renewed trust and confidence as we witness to the Gospel of Christ.

Mass intentions requests and envelopes

To prevent any confusion, assumptions or spelling errors, it would be greatly appreciated if parishioners using envelopes, to please:

- ensure names that are written clearly and feel free to use the back of the envelope if you need the extra space.
- indicate if the mass intentions are for eg illness, anniversary, birthday, deceased, recently deceased
- including the specific date (and mass time where relevant).

Note that the bulletin is printed every Thursday so names not submitted by Wednesday afternoon cannot be included for that weekend.

If your intention is to have a specific mass offered for the deceased, then this must be clearly indicated on the envelope, including the date and time of the Mass that you will be attending as (only) that specific Mass will be offered for the intended person(s). It is also important to include your phone number in the event the office has any queries or needs clarification. Thank you.

"Father, I would like my house blessed please"

Every church has in their (well used) library something called the **Book of Blessings**. The rituals contained punctuate the Christian life; joyful events are celebrated, life's blessings are named and objects and human endeavour are marked for Christian service.

The Blessings, for the most part, are celebrated by a community of faith. Some rites may be celebrated within Mass while others outside of the Church. While the majority of the rites are led by Priests and Deacons, suitably trained lay persons may lead some of the prayers.

The Book of Blessings contains more than 70 ritual prayers that are suitable for a variety of needs and occasions and contains six parts:

1. *Persons (eg birthdays, married couples, pilgrims, parents after a miscarriage)*
2. *Buildings and Human Activity (eg homes, cars, athletic events, animals, school)*
3. *Objects for use in Churches (eg articles for liturgical use, furnishings, organ, holy water)*
4. *Articles for devotion (eg religious articles, rosary beads, scapulars)*
5. *Feasts and seasons (eg advent wreath, mothers on Mothers' Day, distribution of ashes)*
6. *Various needs and occasions (eg commissioning of ministers, blessing of a departing parishioner)*

Please contact the parish office or approach either of the priests (ideally after Mass) if you are interested in organising a blessing.

Access and security during the school holidays

Now that school holidays have commenced, there will be a considerable reduction in the amount of people in the church grounds and it is important to remain vigilant. If you notice anything suspicious please phone the parish office 9639 6516 and press 5 (at any time) which will have your call transferred to a staff member or clergy. Thank you.

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

Lost and Found

This is located in the bottom drawer of the cabinet in the centre aisle of the Church. Just a reminder that at the end of every month, anything that remains in that drawer will be removed and donated to the St Vincent de Paul Society.

Mass for the Holy Innocents: Saturday, 28th December 9:30am

Join in at Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, Kellyville to celebrate the Feast of the Holy Innocents. A procession of the Blessed Sacrament will follow Mass to the Shrine of the Holy Innocents. Please bring a plate to share. For more information call Brother Louis 0422 028 647

Position Vacant: Parish Secretary - Mary, Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown

Working hours are 9:00am to 4:00pm, Tuesday to Friday. For job description and details, please email admin@mqofblacktown.org.au