

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 - 4:00pm

Emergencies or Anointing of the Sick:
call 9639 6516 and press 5

Parish Priest: Father John Paul Escarlan
Assistant Priest: Father Abraham Kunnatholy

For latest updates please visit our Facebook page



Weekend Mass times

Saturday Vigil 5:00pm
Sunday 8:00am, 9:30am and 5:00pm

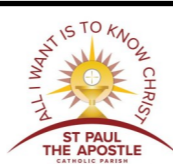
Weekday Mass times

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

Baptisms: First and Third Sunday of each month
Baptism bookings only [via our website](#)



Easter Message from Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv, Bishop of Parramatta

Dear sisters and brothers, The Resurrection isn't simply something we look forward to in the afterlife!

The Resurrection of Christ affects us right now, existentially and fundamentally. That is what happened at our Baptism. We didn't simply go into the water to express our intent to die to sin and then come out of the water to express our intent to try to live a new life anchored in Christ. There's more to it than that. Jesus didn't die a peaceful death in his sleep. His body was subject to torture and humiliation in the last hours of his life.

On the cross, he was naked, beaten, tormented and completely broken. But in death, Jesus underwent a total transformation. On Good Friday he was a wreck, and on Easter Sunday his broken body was transfigured. As St Paul puts it, "the perishable has been clothed with imperishable and the mortal with immortality". The crucifixion, death and glorious Resurrection of Jesus teach us that our human existence is not simply extended. It is transformed by virtue of our being made one with him. Christ emerged from the tomb with a transformed, human, risen life. We emerged from our Baptism with a participation in the same life Christ received when he rose from the dead. This is the only life Christ has, and it is this life that he gives to us: his transformed, human, risen life. Think about it. This is the life that is nourished within us at every Eucharist. At the Eucharist we join with Christ in his dying and rising. At Communion we come forward and sacramentally unite with the Risen Christ. What we celebrate at Easter then is too big to be put into mere words. That's why the main Easter celebration - the Easter Vigil - is full of symbols: darkness, light, fire, the Easter Candle, candles held by everyone, water, oil, Baptisms, Confirmations, Alleluia's, music everywhere. That's why we have all those readings that tell the core stories of Creation, Abraham, the Exodus, the prophets... And to really appreciate what we celebrate at Easter time, let's never forget to think of the real people who have died: our parents, grandparents, children, loved ones, victims of war and violence.

As we ponder and pray about our loved ones gone before us 'marked with the sign of faith', we take in all these symbols, and the full realization comes over us, "They're alive, really living. They're with God. They're with us in a living bond, and a love that still runs back and forth between us." And somewhere deep down inside us we say, "I really believe this. I know it to be true." Of course, we can only dare to believe in such a great mystery - because of our hope in Jesus of Nazareth. Perhaps that is why Pope Francis calls us in this Jubilee year of 2025 to deepen our hope. He wants us to become people of hope and encourage our fellow pilgrims on the journey of faith.

That's not so easy at times! For so many in our chaotic world of 2025 - especially marginalised communities - life seems so hopeless, unjust and unfair. And our beautiful planet is being hopelessly damaged by those who put greed, self-interest and personal ambition before God. But take heart! Christ by his dying on the cross and his rising to a transformed human life, has opened the door of hope, and shown the way for us all.

Let us live the hope of the Resurrection here and now as we journey towards its fulfilment in God's Kingdom.

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia! Wishing you and your families a blessed and holy Easter.

The Bishop's Easter message can be viewed on YouTube: [youtube.com/watch?v=CGeihQQ3-E](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CGeihQQ3-E)

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

Aeroll Klein, Amanda Caputo, Ameriza Ayoub, Anne Burt, Anthony Iannuzzi, Bailey, Cathie Christie, David, Edgar Cruz, Ellen Wynne, Evelyn Rucda, Fermin Manuel, George El-Bayeh, Helene Barker, Jenny Goudas, John Gin, Joshua McCarroll, Krishna Premadas, Loy De'Souza, Lucas Le Huray, Mark Lopez, Mary McConvey, Nick Galea, Mary Finianos, Maureen McLoughlun, Peter Gamble, Rosa Caccamo, Sally Georges, Sam Papallo, Sarah Sheehan, Stella Kim, Valeriano Estacio Jnr, Vanessa Ibrahim.

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

Jack and Gladys Scott, Father David Scott, Beth Kenny, Catherine Formosa. Charles and Josephine Clayton, Charles Thornton, Fouad and Olga Matta, George Steel, Marcel and Claire Maya, Mervyn Davies, Paul, Angeliq, Claude and Myriam Jumeau, Roland Gonzalez.

Moments of Mercy

In difficult moments, I will fix my gaze upon the silent Heart of Jesus, stretched upon the Cross, and from the exploding flames of His merciful Heart, will flow down upon me power and strength to keep fighting. (*Diary, 906*)

Prayer for Vocations

You have been given new life in Christ. Forsake earthly materialism, in order to live life to the full.

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

Women's Ministry St Paul's

Third 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

Contact parish office to organise.

St Vincent de Paul Society

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

Hearing Loop

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

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

Save the date! Annual St Paul the Apostle Parish Feast Day: Sunday, 29th June

Over the coming weeks we will be reaching out to our parishioners with updates on this special celebration in our parish. We also cannot make this happen without the generous time and assistance of our volunteers! Please save the date and stay tuned for more details.

With our deepest gratitude and appreciation

Commencing with our Lenten journey and culminating with Holy Week and Easter, our parish was blessed many times over with the ability and capacity to undertake and celebrate a wide range of liturgies and gatherings. How awesome are our volunteers!

This would not have been possible without the generous time, efforts and sacrifices by many of you, and especially behind the scenes. Thank you also for your patience while we were one TV screen down in waiting for the exhaust vents to be removed and bricked over.

ANZAC Day Mass and Scroll

A special Dawn Mass will be celebrated on ANZAC Day at 6:00am with morning tea to follow. Feel free to bring a plate. Please also note:

- you are invited to bring a photo and place it on the Sanctuary steps prior to Mass.
- a scroll will be placed on the Altar during this Mass and will be offered for all those listed, and you are invited to include names on the scroll which is on the table as you enter the Church.
- the regular Thursday morning Mass at 9.10am (and preceding Rosary) will still be celebrated.

Divine Mercy Sunday - April 27th (and Novena)

Saint Faustina's Diary (Divine Mercy in My Soul), contains many passages in which Our Lord is quoted as requesting that a "Feast of Mercy" be officially established. At the canonisation of Saint Faustina, Pope John Paul II announced "It is important that we accept the whole message that comes to us from the word of God on this Second Sunday of Easter, which from now on throughout the Church will be called 'Divine Mercy Sunday'." Leading up to this most special celebration we will be praying a **daily** Novena at 3:30pm in the Marian Chapel here at our Church. Novena commences Good Friday (immediately after the Passion) and continues Saturday April 26th. If you are unable to attend, you can pray the Novena using the resources from this website: thedivinemercy.org/message/devotions/novena

Interested in becoming an Altar Server?

Our parish is inviting interested children to join our Altar Server Ministry and commence in July of this year with all training provided. Please apply using the form available on the table as you leave Mass today and contact the parish office for any enquiries.

Pontifical Annual Holy Land Good Friday Collection: Thank you

Every year on Good Friday, a collection is taken up in every Catholic church to support the people and places of the Holy Land. Thank you for your tremendous support and generosity for this annual appeal. Visit: holylandfranciscansaustralia.org/good-friday/

Caritas Project Compassion boxes

Your generous support will provide life-changing support to communities facing poverty, food insecurity, lack of education, water shortages, while building resilience. We kindly request that all boxes be returned by next weekend. Thank you for your generosity.

Easter isn't over yet!

The observance of Lent culminates in the solemn celebrations of Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter. Did you know that the Easter Season is a fifty day period following Easter Sunday? The Easter Season actually comes to an end Pentecost Sunday on June 8th.

Drop in and enjoy our Leisure Group: this Wednesday, 23rd April

A social group for the young at heart. Share a laugh and a cuppa from 10am - 12pm in the Father David Scott Parish Centre.

Special Mass for the Canonisation of Blessed Carlo Acutis, Rouse Hill: Sunday, 27th April

A special Mass will be celebrated by Father Tom Green on Divine Mercy Sunday, 27 April at 10am at Our Lady of the Angels Parish, Rouse Hill in celebration of the Canonisation of Blessed Carlo Acutis to be held in Rome at the Jubilee of Teenagers. All welcome.

Marriage Enrichment Weekend: 23rd - 25th May

Learn to become the best version of yourselves together and live your best life in love! Held at Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville. A stunning & tranquil oasis. Book at www.wvme.org.au or contact Christine & Terry on 0490 774 419 or nswbookings@wvme.org.au

Ministry of Care Courses: 4th - 25th June (Wednesday evenings)

Those who visit the sick and are involved in the Ministry of Communion to the Sick and Dying in Hospitals, Aged Care Facilities and in Homes are invited to attend this course at Bishop Bede Heather Centre in Blacktown. Attend all four sessions or just attend the session(s) that interest you. To register or for more information visit parracatholic.org/events/ministry-of-care-courses/

Parish Safeguarding

Please refer concerns to our Parish Priest, or safeguarding@parracatholic.org or 8838 3419.

Coming up in our parish:

Fri 2nd - Sat 3rd May: 24 Hour Eucharistic Adoration

27th April to 7th May: Father Abraham will be on leave to Uganda

Sunday, 11th May: Farewell morning tea for Father Abraham in the Parish Centre after the 9:30am Mass

Friday, 23rd May: Visitation by the Sisters of Belarus (at the morning Mass)

Interested in knowing more? All enquirers welcome

Are you, or is someone you know, not Catholic but may be interested in finding out more about what Catholics believe and understanding Catholic Teachings? Please leave your name with the Parish Office to arrange a quick chat.

Low Cost Counselling Services (Catholic Care Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains)

Provides low cost and affordable counselling services for individuals seeking support. Whether you're looking for general guidance or assistance with specific challenges like grief, loss, or family matters, they are there to help. Call 8843 2500 for a friendly chat today.