

# 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 - 4:00pm

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

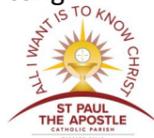
Parish Priest: Father John Paul Escarlan

Assistant Priest: Father Jobi Payyappilly

Assistant Priest: Father Pio Yong Ho Jang



For latest updates



## 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 8:40am Rosary*)

Thursday 7.00pm (*preceded by 6:00pm Adoration*)

**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

**Adoration: (24hour)** First Friday 9.45am - 9.00am Saturday

**Baptisms:** First and Third Sunday of each month

*Baptism bookings only via our website*

## Welcome to the Most Reverend Bishop Ruben Caballero Labajo

Bishop Ruben currently serves as the first Bishop of the newly established Philippines Diocese of Prosperidad, being appointed in 2025, having previously served as the Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Cebu from 2022 to 2025. We welcome Bishop Ruben who will be visiting our parish next week and will be celebrating the 7:00pm Mass on Ash Wednesday.

## Jesus WTL - Launch of Parish Youth Ministry and Commissioning of our Youth Leaders: Sunday, February 15<sup>th</sup>

At the 5:00pm Mass we will focus on our youth as we launch our Parish Youth Ministry and where our Youth Leaders will be commissioned. A special invitation is extended to our youth of all ages to attend this special Mass with a BBQ to follow mass for our youth.

## TRIVIA NIGHT held by the Women's Ministry of St Paul: this Thursday, February 19<sup>th</sup>

Our next women's ministry, which also happens to be our first for this year, will be held on Thursday, February 19<sup>th</sup> straight after the 7:00pm mass. This month we are running a fun trivia night and we hope to see as many women come along and be there for a night of fellowship and friendship. Tea and coffee will be provided and there is no need to RSVP. Our Women's Ministry gathers on the third Thursday each month, commencing with Adoration (6pm), Mass (7pm) then assemble at the Parish Centre (~7:45pm). All women aged 18 and over are welcome so please come along and join us and to find out more contact Hala on 0411 865 649.

## Clergy Update

Father John Paul has returned from the Philippines after spending time with his mother who is in hospital care. We continue to pray for his mother Paloma and their family at this time. Father Jobi is on leave and expected to return from India towards the end of this month. As announced last weekend, following are Diocesan appointments taking effect Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026 which affect our parish:

- Reverend Jobi Payyappilly MS to transfer to [Rooty Hill Parish](#) for his appointment as Parish Administrator
- Reverend Pio Yong Ho Jang to transfer to [Doonside Parish](#) for his appointment as Parish Administrator
- Reverend Ambrose Owusu-Ansah to transfer to Winston Hills Parish for his appointment as Assistant Priest

## Upcoming funeral service at St Paul the Apostle Church

☩ For the late Doreen Maguire, Monday, February 16<sup>th</sup> at 11:00am

## Join our Children's and Family Choir! All welcome - come sing, learn and have fun

Our choir is looking for new members! If you have a heart for serving music at the mass and love to sing, we would love to have you. Rehearsals are held on the first and last Sunday each month after the 5pm mass and our choir sings at the 5pm Mass on the second Sunday of each month. To find out more come and see us after Mass else feel free to contact Thomas 0435 473 099 or Lydia 0419 011 260.

## You are invited - Parish Lenten Retreat "Making the most of Lent": Saturday, February 28<sup>th</sup>

We are pleased to announce that our parish will be holding a Lenten Retreat at which everyone is invited and encouraged to attend. [Father John Flader](#) will lead this special event commencing with 9:10am Mass (feel free to come to the 8:40am Rosary beforehand) followed by a meet and greet. Formation and discussion commences at 10.30am and conclude around midday. No need to RSVP.

## Catholic Charismatic Renewal: Saturday, Saturday February 21<sup>st</sup>

Experience a life-changing encounter with the Holy Spirit! Open to everyone seeking a deeper understanding and connection with the Holy Spirit. 12pm-5pm OLQP Parish. 198 Old Prospect Rd, Greystanes. Register: [trybooking.com/events/landing/1514580](http://trybooking.com/events/landing/1514580)

## Caritas Project Compassion Boxes

In Lent, we are called to Unite Against Poverty. By taking home a Project Compassion box, you'll be answering the Gospels' call to care for our global family and walk alongside the most vulnerable. Visit: [caritas.org.au/project-compassion/](http://caritas.org.au/project-compassion/). Boxes can be returned at Easter.

## Missionaries of God's Love Discernment Retreat Weekend: March 13<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup>

An opportunity for single women aged 18-35 to come and listen for the voice of Jesus, ask questions and experience prayer, talks, sisterhood and times of sharing to help you discern your vocation. Details and registration visit: [mqlsisters.org/retreats/#clw](http://mqlsisters.org/retreats/#clw)

## Special Year of St Francis: Pastoral letter from Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv

This year marks the 800th anniversary of the death of St Francis. For this reason, Pope Leo XIV proclaimed a Special Year in honour of the Poverello ("little poor man"), offering a plenary indulgence to foster spiritual renewal, peace, and reconciliation. This Franciscan Jubilee invites the faithful to imitate St Francis's evangelical virtues of poverty, humility, compassion and service to the poor. I encourage you all to take advantage of the Franciscan Jubilee Year with a view to revitalising the Gospel life and witness we are called to give, personally and collectively. Until January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2027, the faithful can obtain a plenary indulgence under the usual conditions - sacramental confession, Communion, and prayer for the intentions of the Pope - by making a pilgrimage to any Franciscan conventual church or place of worship dedicated to St Francis anywhere in the world. Here are the following places in our Diocese:

- [The Good Shepherd Church](#), Plumpton
- [St Bernadette's Church](#), Dundas Valley
- [Our Lady of the Rosary Church](#), Kellyville
- [Franciscan Shrine of Holy Innocents](#), Kellyville
- [Poor Clares Monastery](#), North Richmond
- Our Lady of Consolation Chapel, Rooty Hill

Furthermore, the elderly, the sick, and those who, for serious reasons, cannot leave their homes can obtain the plenary indulgence by spiritually joining in the jubilee celebrations and offering their prayers, pains, or sufferings to God. I pray for a spiritually enriching year through the intercession of Our Lady of Poverty and St Francis. Link to the full letter: [parracatholic.org/year-of-st-francis/#letter](http://parracatholic.org/year-of-st-francis/#letter)

## 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.

## Upcoming Feast Days, Memorials, Solemnities

18<sup>th</sup> Ash Wednesday | 21<sup>st</sup> Saint Peter Damian

## Parish Safeguarding Statement

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](mailto:safeguarding@parracatholic.org) or 8838 3419. More information available at [www.safeguarding.org.au](http://www.safeguarding.org.au)

## Moments of Mercy

I need sacrifice lovingly accomplished, because that alone has meaning for Me. Enormous indeed are the debts of the world which are due to Me; pure souls can pay them by their sacrifice, exercising mercy in spirit. (*Diary 1316*)

## Vocations reflection

The Lord says:

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; before you were born I dedicated you." Always listen to an Old Friend.

## Communion to the sick

Contact parish office to organise.

## Mother of Perpetual Help

Novena prayed after Mass every Wednesday morning.

## Thursday Cenacles

Held in Marian Chapel after every Thursday morning Mass.

## Christ's Catholic Community

Prayer group every Friday 10am: Parish Centre Conference Room.

## Divine Mercy Chaplet

Fridays 3:30pm in Marian Chapel.

## Liturgy of the Hours

First Friday at 6:00pm

## Mass with Ephpheta

Third Sunday at 9:30am

## 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

## St Vincent de Paul Society

2nd & 4th Mondays of the month  
7pm Parish Centre conference room  
Assistance? 131812 (M-F 8.30-4.30)

## Low gluten hosts

Available upon request

## 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*

## Ash Wednesday and Mass times - February 18<sup>th</sup>

Ash Wednesday Masses, including the distribution of Ashes, will be held at **6:30am, 9:10am and 7:00pm.**

## Lenten Reflection Program - you are invited

There are two sessions available and please add your details to the sheets as you leave Mass.

Fridays 10am led by Pauline Camilleri commencing February 20<sup>th</sup> in Parish Centre Conference Room

Sessions by [Doctor Peter Holmes](#) will be held as follows:

Thursday, February 19<sup>th</sup> - the first session will be a reflection shared by Doctor Holmes during the Eucharistic Adoration and focus on the readings for the First Sunday of Lent.

Wednesdays at 7:00pm - all subsequent sessions will be a reflection in the Marian Chapel on the following evenings: Feb 25<sup>th</sup>, Mar 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>

## Stations of the Cross - every Friday evening (preceded by 6:30pm Reconciliation)

### Please come along to the Stations of the Cross - held Friday evenings during Lent at 7:00pm

It is also known as Way of the Cross, a devotion that reflects on Jesus' final days. It developed when knights and pilgrims began to follow the route of Christ's way to Calvary, spread throughout Europe, promulgated by the Franciscan friars from the 14<sup>th</sup> century. It became an important catechetical tool and this devotion is to "walk" in Jesus' shoes by praying and meditating on each event Jesus experienced. In 1731, Pope Clement XII allowed all churches to have stations and fixed the number at 14.

## Praying the Nicene Creed during the season of Lent

There are two creeds that are used for the Profession of Faith: the Apostles Creed and the Nicene Creed. In the majority of instances, the Apostles Creed is prayed, however during the season of Lent, there is an option to use the Nicene Creed. The "Nicene" Creed is actually not the creed from the Council of Nicea in the year 325, but a summary of the faith expressed by that council and the Councils of Constantinople in 381 and Chalcedon in 451. The Creed was originally used only in the celebration of baptism. Proclaiming the creed is not about reciting a long list of what we believe but rather a vibrant, life-filled glorification of God, and of God's love for us. Its structure, its every word, is a proclamation of God's goodness.

## Other changes in Mass during Lent

During Lent, the Gloria is not said (or sung) nor is the Alleluia verse used before the Gospel. The Gloria is a hymn that celebrates the coming of the Lord using words from the angels at Christ's birth. The Church during Lent returns in spirit to a time when the people of God were in exile, waiting for the Messiah to come and save them. It is a time of agony and purification, one where the faithful join together in saying, "How shall we sing the Lord's song in a foreign land?" which is why "Alleluia", the word is rooted in a Hebrew expression "praise the Lord", is thus omitted during Lent. Our Lenten focus is not in rejoicing, but in mourning our sins, looking at how they prevent us from an authentic relationship with God. Once these are removed through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, we are able to rejoice again at Easter.

## Please pray for our sick ...

*Heavenly Father, We pray that you will lay your healing hands upon all those who are sick.*

Aeroll Klein, Amanda Caputo, Ameriza Ayoub, Anne Burt, Arlene Diaz, Aurora Ignacio, Bailey Whou, Ben Rivera, Darrel Morrison, David Nichols. David, Declan Trainor, Edgar Cruz, Ellen Wynne, Eric Wood, Fermin Manuel, Grace Kaddissi, Helene Barker, John Gin, Joshua McCarroll, Judy Ibrahim, Krishna Premadas, Lesley Neylan, Loui Ibrahim, Loy De'Souza, Lynda Steel, Lucas Le Huray, Lynette Giri, Maria Mezzagosto, Marian Bacho, Maridel Manuzon, Mark Lopez, Mary McConvey, Michael Hall, Nick Galea, Paloma Escarlan, Peter Beck, Sam Papallo, Stella Kim, Sally Georges, Therese Garamy, Vanessa Ibrahim, Valeriano Estacio Jnr, Vincent (Vinny) Coorey.

## Please pray for the repose of the souls:

Jack and Gladys Scott, Father David Scott, Beth Kenny, Charles and Josephine Clayton, George Steel, John and Kevin Young, Noel Young, Lorna and Jack Wardell, Roland Gonzalez, Tania Nicholas, Sarkis and Tamina Matta, Frank Massoud and the recently deceased Natina Caccamo and Doreen Maguire.

*May the souls of our dearly departed rest in peace. Amen*