

St Paul the Apostle Parish

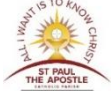
40 Buckleys Road, Winston Hills NSW 2153

📞 9639 6516 🌐 www.stpaultheapostleparish.org

Office hours: Monday to Friday 9:00am – 4:00pm

Emergencies or Anointing of the Sick:
call 9639 6516 and press 6

Parish Priest: Father John Paul Escarlan
Assistant Priest: Father Ambrose Owusu-Ansah





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Weekend Mass

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

Weekday Mass

Monday to Saturday: 9:10am
(preceded by 8:40am Rosary)
Thursday: 7.00pm

Reconciliation

Thursday 6.15pm - 6.45pm
First Friday 6.00pm - 7.00pm
Saturday 4.00pm - 4.45pm

Adoration

Thursday 6.00pm - 7.00pm
(24 hour Adoration) First Friday 9.45am - 9.00am Saturday

Baptisms

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

Old Testament Isaiah (56:1, 6-7) Commentary by Fr Mark O'Brien

As noted in an earlier commentary, this chapter of Isaiah is the beginning of what many modern scholars regard as a late addition to the Isaiah corpus, namely chapters 56–66. It was probably added after the end of the Babylonian exile as a vision of what the post-exilic community in the Persian province of Judah should be like. Like most ideals, it probably had its rivals and detractors, and scholars detect evidence of a vigorous debate in post-exilic Judah about who should and who should not be admitted to the community. Isaiah 56–66, or what many call ‘Third-Isaiah’, seeks to advance the aims and ideals of ‘First-Isaiah’ (chapters 1–39) and ‘Second-Isaiah’ (40–55). These final chapters of the 66 that make up the present book of Isaiah indicate that its authors saw the greatest threat to the community’s well-being and future not from outside enemies such as Assyrians or Babylonians but from within Judah itself. There is an echo here of a theme that unfolds in the Pentateuch or Torah. As the story of Israel unfolds in the narrative, it becomes clear that the greatest hindrance to the realisation of God’s purpose is not really the Egyptians or other foreign powers but Israel itself, because of its disobedience and failure to trust God. Regardless of whether one believes it is the inspired word of God or not, there is hardly any other national literature as self-critical as the Old Testament.

One can sense the tension between hope in a new life for Israel/Judah and a lurking threat to this hope in the opening verse of our reading. The author or authors voice their hope that soon the Lord’s ‘salvation will come and my integrity be manifest’. The threat is challenged indirectly in the call to ‘have a care for justice, act with integrity’. Without a shared notion of justice and integrity, a community can quickly fragment into factions, each with quite different and competing notions of these two foundational virtues. The following verses present key aspects of the ‘new Israel/Judah’ that is envisaged and it is as open to foreigners as to Israelites and Judeans. The one requirement, the common notion of justice and integrity to which the text appeals, is that each commits to four basic things: to serve the God of Israel, to love his name (not profane or abuse it and thereby profane God), to keep the Sabbath, and to be loyal to the covenant (by this is presumably meant the Sinai covenant inaugurated in Exodus 19–24). Anyone who abides by these will be welcome in God’s house (the rebuilt temple in Jerusalem) and his or her offerings will be acceptable to God (they can take part in the liturgy alongside Israelites and Judeans). The reading ends on a ringing note, proclaiming that God’s house is open to all peoples, a proclamation that acts as a fulfilment of the hope expressed early in the book of Isaiah, in 2:2-4. It is taken up by Jesus in Mark 11:17.

This text and a number of others in Isaiah 56–66 stand in sharp contrast to texts such as Ezra 10 and Nehemiah 13 that required Jews to divorce foreigners whom they had married and forbade such marriages. The thinking of the authors behind these books was that intermarriages like these were not only in breach of the law in Deuteronomy but would tempt the people to turn from the Lord to foreign gods as Deuteronomy repeatedly warns. But the Torah also tells of Joseph who married an Egyptian princess without being censured for it, that Moses himself had a Midianite wife, and that his father-in-law Jethro brought offerings to God that were accepted by Moses (Exodus 18). Certain things were much debated in Old Testament times and some remained unresolved, as is also the case in the New Testament (e.g. slavery). The work of the Spirit did not cease with the production of the Biblical canon or list of sacred books; biblical authors believed that the Spirit would inspire their descendants to resolve things that they could not do so in their time. As we well know, the question of how open or closed a society should be is as pressing an issue in our time as it was in biblical times.

Upcoming Feast Days, Memorials, Solemnities

19th St John Eudes | 20th St Bernard | 21st St Pius X | 22nd The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Please pray for the repose of the souls of our dearly departed that they may rest in peace:

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, Fred and Hodette Hanna, Louis, Mary and George El-Bayeh, Moshen and Haifa Hayek, Doreen Marsh, Lynette Giri, Joseph (Soo-Hyun) Um, Joseph Ng Swee Teck, Audrey Ng Mei Yen, Myriam Jumeau, and the recently deceased Shane Mounsey.

Communion to the sick

Contact office to organise.

Wednesday Novena

To Mother of Perpetual Help

prayed after 9:10am Mass

Christ’s Catholic

Community Prayer group

Fridays 10:00 am in Parish

Centre Conference Room

Divine Mercy Chaplet

Friday 3:30pm Marian Chapel

Liturgy of the Hours

First Friday at 6:00pm

Mass with Ephpheta

Third Sunday at 9:30am

Women’s Ministry

Third Thursday of the month

6:00pm - Church

7:45pm - Parish Hall

2SM Filipino Mass

Second Sunday 11:00am

Low gluten hosts

Available upon request

Hearing Loop

Set to ‘T’ (Telecoil).

Overheads for hymns used

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“All I want
is to know Christ”

St Paul the Apostle,
pray for us

PARISH NEWS

Diocesan Medal of Honour:

Congratulations to three of our parishioners

Our Diocese recognises and honours those who have made an outstanding contribution in the service of their parishes.

Our parish is proud to announce that Denis McKeon, Tony D’Souza and Paul Dahlberg each received the Diocesan Medal of Honour in recognition of their outstanding service, having given almost 150 years of service in total to our parish.

We congratulate our three recipients and there is a link to the post on our parish page where you can also share your congratulations: facebook.com/stpaultheapostleparish

For the full article and photos, and to find out more, please visit: catholicoutlook.org/three-receive-papal-honours-as-14-recognised-with-diocesan-awards/

OTHER EVENTS AND HAPPENINGS

Bishop Vincent presents: Gerard O’Connell and Elisabetta Pique: August 26th

Bishop Vincent, in partnership with the University of Notre Dame Australia and Catholic Schools Parramatta Diocese, warmly invites all to a special public lecture featuring two of the world’s most respected Vatican journalists, Gerard O’Connell and Elisabetta Piqué. Hear their insider’s account of the historic transition from Pope Francis to Pope Leo XIV. Wednesday 26 August, 6:00–8:00pm, at St Patrick’s Cathedral Cloister Hall, 1 Marist Pl, Parramatta. All are welcome. Register at parracatholic.org/oconnellpique.

Invitation: St Carlo Acutis Relic and Exhibition

Campion College is hosting the internationally renowned Eucharistic Miracles Exhibition, created by St Carlo Acutis, with the opportunity to venerate a relic of the Church’s newest saint, on Tuesday September 1st and Wednesday, September 2nd. Explore the exhibition at your own pace, learn more about St Carlo Acutis, with guest lectures, evening prayer and Eucharistic Adoration.

St Carlo’s extraordinary devotion to the Eucharist and his witness as a young person make this a particularly meaningful for young Catholics, youth groups and families. Attendance is free. Register: campion.edu.au/event/carlo-acutis/ or visit stcarloaustralia.com/

Catholic Medical Association Mini Expo: Saturday, September 12th

The Catholic Medical Association is hosting a General Practitioner (GP) Mini Expo. Parishioners interested in finding out how to identify good Catholic GPs for their care are especially invited to come along. Also invited are our Youth interested in Healthcare as a profession on leaving school. On the panel discussing the issues facing good Catholic GPs today will be [Michael Tan](#).

Deacon Michael is a retired GP with significant involvement in community Palliative Care who retired and made the transition into the permanent diaconate in Parramatta. Venue: Bishop Bede Centre 1-5 Marion St Blacktown from 2:00pm to 4:30pm.

Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary Centenary Jubilee Celebrations: Sunday, September 13th

Takes place on Sunday, September 13th at 9:45am for a 10am start, concluding at 3pm. Begins with Solemn Mass of Thanksgiving with Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP followed by light refreshments and an official program. An exhibition on the Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary is available for viewing in from 8:30am – 6:00pm. For details or to RSVP: www.schoenstatt.org.au

Annual African Mass 2026: Sunday, September 27th

The African Catholic communities of the Diocese of Parramatta, in collaboration with the Diocesan Office for Migrant Chaplaincies and the Nigerian and Ghanaian Chaplaincies, warmly invite you join us 1pm–5pm at St Patrick’s Church, Allawah Street, Blacktown, for a vibrant celebration of faith, culture and community. Refreshments and entertainment provided following Mass. All are welcome.

Important Safeguarding information

Safeguarding is everyone’s responsibility. It ensures that children, young people, and vulnerable adults are safe, respected, and protected in our parish community. All volunteers and ministry members are required to complete safeguarding training. This can be completed online or face-to-face training sessions: parracatholic.org/connect/events/?series=safeguarding-training. To know more, please contact our parish office or visit Diocese of Parramatta Safeguarding website parracatholic.org/safeguarding/. At St Paul the Apostle Parish we are dedicated to creating a safe and nurturing environment for all members of our community, especially children and vulnerable adults. We take safeguarding of children and vulnerable persons seriously. Refer concerns to Parish Priest, Office for Safeguarding and Professional Standards safeguarding@parracatholic.org or 8838 3419.

Heavenly Father, we pray you will lay your healing hands upon all those who are sick:

Aeroll Klein, Amanda Caputo, Antonia Maturano, Arlene Diaz, Bailey Whou, Daisy Ocden, Danny Mulia, Darrel Morrison, David, David Nichols, Declan Trainor, Edgar Cruz, Ellen Wynne, Emily Anthony, Fermin Manuel, Ron Locke, Gabrielle Locke, Glen, Grace Kaddissi, Helene Barker, Higgy Simpliciano, Irene Barry, Jennifer and John Lopez, Jeanette Dib, John Gin, Joshua King, Joshua McCarroll, Judy Ibrahim, Vanessa Ibrahim, Loui Ibrahim, Krishna Premadas, Loy De’Souza, Lucas Le Huray, Lynda Steel, Maria Mezzagosto, Marian Bacho, Maridel Manuzon, Mary McConvey, Michael Hall, Michelle Kobeissi, Micheline Mathieu, Mark Lopez, Nick Galea, Pat Willemsen, Peter Beck, Roy Oliveros, Sharni Alexander, Sam Papallo, Socorro Alfaro, Therese Garamy, Valeriano Estacio Jnr, Vincent (Vinny)

How to donate to our parish

Tap and Go terminals
inside our church

Scan this QR code
for secure one off
donations via our
parish website