

St Paul the Apostle Parish

40 Buckleys Road, Winston Hills NSW 2153

☎ 9639 6516 🌐 www.stpaultheapostleparish.org

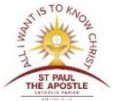
Office hours: Monday to Friday 9:00am – 4:00pm

Emergencies or Anointing of the Sick:

call 9639 6516 and press 6

Parish Priest: Father John Paul Escarlan

Assistant Priest: Father Ambrose Owusu-Ansah



OLD TESTAMENT COMMENTARY by Fr Mark O'Brien

Isaiah 22:19-23

This passage from Isaiah occurs in a section that contains oracles against foreign nations (chapters 13–23). These were part of an ANE (ancient Near Eastern) nation's propaganda repertoire, often called 'taunt songs' by scholars, and were used to ginger up the troops before battle (a bit like footy club anthems). They were also used in the liturgy in the form of oracles delivered by the national god to fuel hope of victory over enemies. In this setting, an oracle against the enemy would be accompanied by an oracle promising a glorious victory for one's own nation. Old Testament prophets used the oracles in both the traditional way and in more innovative ways. Our reading provides an example of this but to appreciate it one needs to look at the context.

The passage immediately preceding our reading (i.e. 22:1-14) is an oracle that is apparently addressed to Judah. Most scholars understand the 'valley of vision' as a reference to the famous Kidron valley near Jerusalem/Zion. The sweep of the oracles against the nations is dramatic: God's word is like a TV camera that pans from Babylon in chapter 13, across the desert caravan routes and the various nations 'en route', and at last reaches the mountain opposite Zion. Although the focus of 22:1-14 is on Zion it is not to offer comfort. The inhabitants may think that with the fall of Babylon, Zion's troubles are over. But, as with the nations, God has a purpose that involves the removal of all sin and evil, both foreign and Israelite/Judean. Zion still has to undergo cleansing before its destiny can be realised.

Shebna, the master of the palace addressed in our reading, is now singled out as an example of what is wrong in Zion and what will happen to evildoers. The preceding verses imply that he planned a grand tomb, presumably in the Kidron valley, the valley of vision. A grand tomb in the land for a grand man of the land can be taken as a sign of ownership, status and an assured future for the family name; in short, Shebna is concerned about himself and not about God or the welfare of Zion and Judah. The oracle presents a counter-sign: all of Shebna's grand plans will come completely unstuck and God will put another, Eliakim son of Hilkiah, in his place. These names reappear in the story of the Assyrian crisis in Isaiah 36 and presumably refer to the same duo although one cannot be certain. There is no impression in the story that Shebna is destined for doom and replacement by Eliakim. Either our passage is based on another episode in Isaiah's time or the figures have become symbolic or representative of the city and its people (something that happens frequently in our era with celebrities). A more disturbing feature of this oracle is not included in our reading (vv. 24-25); it implies that Eliakim, despite being designated by God, will himself come unstuck like a faulty peg that cannot bear the weight placed on it. Is the overall thrust of the text, as one commentator put it, 'that one great man follows another, but that everyone eventually falls if he does not conduct his office incorruptibly'? As such, these characters serve as signs for what will happen to Zion and its people if there is no repentance.

Upcoming Feast Days, Memorials, Solemnities

24th St Bartholomew | 25th St Louis, St Joseph Calasanz | 27th St Monica | 28th St Augustine

29th The Passion of Saint John the Baptist

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, Maureen Haddad, Joseph (Soo-Hyun) Um, Joseph Ng Swee Teck, Audrey Ng Mei Yen, Aaron Apikotoa, Angelito Diwa.

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 (24 hour 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

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).

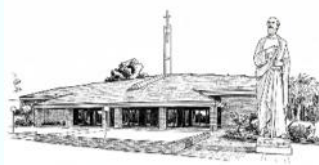
Overheads for hymns used

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**"All I want
is to know Christ"**



**St Paul the Apostle,
pray for us**

PARISH NEWS

Remembering our fathers no longer with us

At all Masses on Father's Day, a scroll will be placed on the Altar where Mass will be offered for those listed. You are invited to include names of fathers, grandfathers, etc no longer with us on the scroll which is on the table as you enter the Church.

Upcoming Registration for Sacrament of Reconciliation

Details are being finalised and an announcement will be made in next weekend's bulletin with an update on this program.

To be eligible for this Sacrament, your child must be already Baptised and ideally be in Year 3 or above in 2026.

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.

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/

Feast of Our Lady of Good Health, Vailankanni: September 5th – 7th

Mary Immaculate Parish, Quakers Hill warmly invites everyone to celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Good Health, Vailankanni.

Triduum Novena with Rosary at 6:30 pm and Mass at 7:00 pm Feast Day Mass Tuesday, September 8th at 7:00 pm

Come and honour Our Lady of Vailankanni, seeking her intercession for good health, healing and blessings for families and communities.

'Be The Witness' Musical

Arrives at Riverside Theatres Parramatta, September 10th – 13th. Presented by Mary Queen of the Family Parish, with a full cast and chorus now in place and rehearsals underway, excitement is building. Gather your parish and book now at bethewitness.com.au

BISHOP'S ANNUAL FATHER'S DAY APPEAL

On the weekend of 5-6 September, the annual Bishop' Father's Day appeal will take place. This year's focus will be on Fr John O'Neill, recently retired Parish Priest of St John Vianney's, Doonside. This appeal supports all the retired priests of the Diocese, and your donations are very much appreciated. Full information will be provided next week, but if you wish to get in early, please visit

<https://parracatholic.org/donate/clergy-support-foundation>

Raffle tickets on sale after all Masses next weekend

Toongabbie Legal Centre (TLC) volunteers are selling raffle tickets, along with some merchandise items.

All proceeds will directly support their free legal clinic provided for over 17 years to disadvantaged, marginalised and vulnerable people of Western Sydney. Tickets are \$2 each.

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 Oden, 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 Willemssen, Peter Beck, Roy Oliveros, Sharni Alexander, Sam Papallo, Socorro Alfaro, Therese Garamy, Valeriano Estacio Jnr, Vincent (Vinny) Coorey.

Thank you and congratulations:

Sacrament of Confirmation program

As a parish we continue to be blessed as we witnessed over 50 children who recently received the Sacrament of Confirmation.

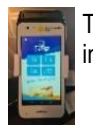
We extend our thanks and congratulations to these children, to their Sponsors, supportive parents and family members accompanying them on their sacramental journey. A big thank you to our wonderful parish volunteers in our Sacramental Team who made this possible and so giving of their time.

We especially extend our gratitude to Very Rev. Peter Williams AM VG for celebrating this Sacrament in our parish.



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Parramatta Diocese
News and Updates

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

