



CHURCH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION AND ST. PAUL OF THE CROSS

Catholic Parish of Dulwich Hill,

Archdiocese of Sydney, Established in 1907

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Bishop Richard Umbers DD VG

Fr. John Ssemaganda (Administrator), Deacon Rev Louis Azzopardi



Surviving the Flood

A reflection on Gen 9:8-15, 1 Peter 3:18-22, Mark 1: 12-15

Throughout the Old Testament we see God's hand in the formation of the growth of Israel. As the story unfolds, we find the establishment of five covenants that nourish, maintain and signify the close relationship between God and His people. In this way, we can understand that a covenant isn't simply a promise, pledge or contract. It calls all those involved to give of themselves to the other, remaining faithful even when the other has not been. This is seen in the Lord's continued faithfulness to Israel.

The very personal nature of covenants, because they call us to give of ourselves for the other, is the very reason that they are able to signify and make real the relationships that they bind. There are a series of covenants in the Old Testament, and like concentric circles, each builds upon the last, bringing us deeper and deeper in our relationship with God and leading us to Christ. Each circle involves more people and reveals God's call for the salvation for all: First with a Couple in Adam and Eve, with a family in Noah, a tribe through Abraham, a nation through Moses, and a Kingdom through David before His final covenant for all people through Jesus the Christ.

Today's readings make us witness to that covenant with Noah. After the torment of building the ark and surviving the flood, Noah's relationship with God is made explicit in the covenant that God establishes with him. This reflects the return of Christ from His sojourn in the desert, wherein He begins His public ministry. While Noah's covenant was between his family and God, Christ's covenant is for all of us; that through the waters of Baptism, we are brought into that same relationship with God and, through Christ, become family.

Christ of course is the final covenant, the ultimate giving of God to man and of man in his sacrifice to God. Through Christ, the responsibility of the covenant falls on all people, who in turn benefit from it. We have become part of God's family through this miraculous act, and Christ Himself teaches, nourishes and guides us along the way. His promise to "be with you always" and offer to share His yoke, reveals how intimate and loving this covenant is. We too, as participants of this great covenant, are expected to invite others in, share the love that is given us, and be examples of the relationship signified.

We too are sent by the Spirit into the wilderness, perhaps with some wild animals for company. The distractions of the world today tempt us toward a tendency of putting our own desires first. The corruption of power is truly evident, from the financial scandals of world leaders, to the plans of former deputy mayors, we are beset with examples of those who rule for self, and not service of others. Once again, Christ is the model, putting temptation in its place by recognising God's. Upon leaving the Desert He then begins His public ministry, continuing this theme in his teaching and practice.

This is difficult today amidst a world where the person and the community have become estranged. The idea of self has been inflated and the idea of service and suffering has become taboo. This is typical for a world that has divorced itself from faith, but it cannot be so for us. Christ's example of servitude and suffering might be a frightening symbol of what it means to be faithful to Him, but it is far outweighed by the victory and salvation that He has won for us.

The hope of that bright end is what we constantly work towards. It is what we aim for through participation in the sacraments and what God desires for us through His covenant. Let us not lose that hope. It is the same hope that we have in Baptism and what pulls us through our darkest moments. Lent reminds us of our mortality, and in our own sojourn in the desert during these 40 days, it is that bright end that makes sense of all that we suffer.

Christ is the source and summit of our faith. He is the covenant we have with God, and He loves us very much. We are indeed dust, and to dust we shall return, but in, with, and through Christ, we are made so much more. Let us remember this over the next few weeks, so that as we journey through Lent, we come to a real knowledge of who we truly are in relation to God.

Prayer for the Feast of the Chair of St. Peter

O God, who by delivering to thy blessed Apostle Peter the keys to the Kingdom of Heaven, didst confer upon him the pontifical power of binding and of loosing. Grant that, by the help of his intercession, we may be delivered from the bonds of our sins. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, who livest and reignest with thee, One God, world without end. Amen.



With St Paul of the Cross we pray ...

For the sick

Victoria Pacheco, Cathy Consentino, Anne Keogh, Grace, Owen Gallagher, Josieann, Eileen Joyce, Lucia Nicotina, Anna Pezzuto, Anne Keogh, Alfonso Costantini, Sonia, Rodolfo Estrada, Domenic Capello, Marlowe, Jacutin, Sonny Martinez, Annette Rodriguez, Onofrio Ferraro, Salvatore Ferraro, Lolita A Japtan, Felisa C Hao, Nolene Conn, Anna Pezzuto, Lucia Ferraro, Frank Di Napoli

Recently Deceased

Ronalynne Stephenson, Fr. Peter Neville, Raimondo & Raffaella Dolce, Giovanni

Death Anniversary

For the Souls of

Domenico Sergi, Armando Salvagno, Pasquale, Bruno & Rosa Ianni, Giobata Vigolo, Pietro Vigolo, Maria Vigolo, Luigia Pretto, and all forgotten Souls and Holy Souls in Purgatory

Special Intentions

Maria de Silva
Rian Galliot

Parish Office

Maria/Rian

Mon, Wed-Fri
9.30am - 2pm

Hall enquiries:

9558 3257

Mass Times

Sat: 5:30pm (Vigil)

Sun: 8am & 10am

Mon: 8 am

Tue - Fri: 9:00am

Sat: 9:30am

Family Mass with Children's Liturgy:

3rd Sunday of the Month 10am Mass

Filipino Mass:

1st Sun 11:30am

Il Gruppo di Rosario

Italiano: Il gruppo di preghiera Italiano, si raduna ogni giovedì alle ore 10 nella sala parrocchiale.

Sacraments

Confession

Sat 8:30—9:20am,
4:45pm or any time by -
appointment

Baptism

Every 2nd, 3rd and 4th
Sunday 11.15am

Marriage

At least 6 months notice
required

Anointing of the Sick

By appointment

Devotions

Every Friday

Adoration

3-4pm

Rosary & Benediction

Sat 8:30-9:30am

Elsa George Rosary

Group Second
Saturday of every
month at 2.30pm
9716 6676 All welcome

Novena to Our Lady

of Perpetual Help

Wednesday 7pm

Stations of the Cross Fridays through Lent
at 7pm. Beginning on 16th of Feb, 2018.

A PROGRAM FOR THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION, 2018 is now ready. CLASSES at 9 am SUNDAYS- **FEB 18, 25, MARCH 04, 11** in the Parish Hall and in the Church. Mass of your choice Sundays 8 or 10 AM. **SECOND RITE** 13TH MARCH- 6 PM – TUESDAY NIGHT.

Mass for the Anointing of the sick: will be on the first Saturdays of March, June, Sep, and Dec. It will be during the regular Saturday Morning Mass.

YOUTH GROUP

The Year of Youth has begun!

Youth nights: Mar 10, Apr 14, May 12, Jun 16, Jul 14, Aug 4, Sep 8, Oct 13, Nov 10, Dec 15.

Ages 10-15: 4pm-5:20pm before Mass

Ages 15-18: 6:30pm-8pm after Mass

Young Adults: Select days regularly

For more information or if you are interested in becoming a leader, call **Rian** on **0402 135 637**

Project Compassion: The project compassion boxes and envelopes are now available at the back of the Church for all who are interested in participating in this great cause.

Help around the house: If you have some handyman jobs that need doing around the house and find that you don't currently have the capacity to do them, Dave the Job Man will be happy to help. For more information call 0484622288 or go to www.davethejobman.weebly.com.

Prayer Journals: There are copies of the 'God's Word 2018' Prayer journals for sale. They are \$15.95 each. If you would like to purchase one, please contact **Rian** on **0402 135 637. Hurry, there are only 6 left!**

There will be Choir Practice in the hall on Wednesday the 21st of February from 7:30pm in the Church. All choir members are encouraged to attend as well as anyone interested in joining. It will be a continuous event, happening every fortnight.

FORMED

THE CATHOLIC FAITH.
ON DEMAND.

Week 1—Where are You?

What are we to do with guilt? Should it be ignored, or does it present an opportunity we don't want to miss? The truth is, God seeks us out when we have sinned, not to scold or punish us, but to offer us his healing and his forgiveness. It's certainly true that God is omnipotent and just, but before all else he is our loving, merciful Father. This week, login to formed.org and watch *A Lent to Remember*, Episode 1. Register now at DulwichHillParish.formed.org

The Bishop's Blend: Join the Most Reverend Bishop Richard Umbers, Auxiliary Bishop of Sydney on **Tuesday, 27th February 2018 at 7:00am at the Radisson Blu Plaza Hotel Sydney**. Online booking is essential. For more information and to purchase tickets go to <https://thebishopsblendthirdedition.eventbrite.com> or contact us at bishopsblend@sydneycatholic.org

Casimir Catholic College: Come along and tour our school at the Casimir **OPEN DAY** for Year 7 2019 and 2020 on Friday 2nd March 2018, 3.00pm – 7.00pm. All Families Welcome. 200 Livingstone Road, Marrickville Telephone: 9558 2888 Web: www.casimirmarrickville.catholic.edu.au

Christian Brothers High School OPEN DAY on Tues, the 20th of Feb. There will be tours at 9:15am and 7pm for those interested. Enrolments for 2019 close on March 2nd, 2018. For more information contact 8585 1744 or 8585 1702.

Chanel College 60th Anniversary Reunion for students of THE MARIST FATHERS ERA [1958-1970]. For details send your email address to chanel.geelong@gmail.com OR your postal details to PO Box 3069 Geelong West 3218

Walk the Lenten Journey on your Mobile Phone! The Xt3 Lent Calendar 2018 App is available on Apple and Android devices and can be viewed at: www.xt3.com/lent. It will run from Ash Wednesday to Divine Mercy Sunday. Each day will unlock a new video, meditation or podcast.