



# 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 (Bishop in Residence)**

**Fr. Andrew James (Parish Priest), (Deacon) Rev Louis Azzopardi**



First Sunday of Advent / A

27 November 2022

**PRIMARY SCHOOL**



Ph.: 9558 5308

**Principal:**

Ms Frances Stewart

**REC:** Ms Christine Brais

**Family Educ:** Tania Chahoud

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## With St Paul of the Cross we pray ...

### For the sick

Elmano Belo

Patrick Crowley

Sidney Luximon

Allen Portell

Leonor Delgado

Patricia Stack

Raul Cabrera

Ruth Wilson

Raymond Hudson

Fr Jim Duggan

Pat Allport

Cardo, Zennie, Ian, Pat

Christina

### Recently Deceased

Peter Ioannou

Maurcen Margaret Bailey

### Death Anniversary

Giuseppe e Maglio

Marengeli

Isabelo Corpus

Concetta Rigoli

Mario Umali

Micheal Semrani

### For the Souls

Rocco Tonino

Alan Tonino

Antonia Luigio

Danielle Baingia

Domenico Gallucci

Vincenzo - Lupino Concetta

Salvatore Galluccio

Amante Concetta - Montagnina

Avati

All deceased members of

Balastrieri family

All forgotten Souls and Holy

Souls in Purgatory

### Special Intention

Henry & Tina and my family

Leah Tillam

## The vision of Isaiah

Over the four weeks of Advent, our First Reading will be from the prophecies of Isaiah. There is a vast gulf between Isaiah's world—he lived some 800 years before Christ in the northern part of a divided Israel - and our own. His prophecies however deal with questions that every person of faith wrestles with in one form or another, such as, how is God involved in human history; to what extent is God, the God of Israel, also the God of all nations; why does God seem to be hidden in times of suffering; does God deliberately allow or bring about punishment and suffering in order to achieve his purpose?

His prophecies are quoted or referred to in the New Testament more than the writings of any other prophet. In Lent we hear them in the prophecies relating to 'the Suffering Servant' and, of course, as Advent progresses, we realise their significance in the story of Jesus. Isaiah naturally had no knowledge of Jesus when he wrote down the revelations he received. "Hear, O heavens and listen, O earth: for the Lord has spoken" (Isa 1:2). He had his own time and place in mind when he passed on to his people the visionary message he had received from God.

Isaiah's prophecies illustrate what we mean when we say that Scripture is 'divinely inspired'. His writings are addressed to his own time and written in a way that is appropriate to that time but they have a depth of meaning that Isaiah could not have been aware of. In addition to the universal questions I have mentioned, they contain references that only make sense if we consider them in relation to Christ.

Today's reading from the second chapter of his prophecies is in sharp contrast to what he had written in the opening chapter. There he had spoken about God's anger with "a sinful nation, laden with iniquity" and speaks about a time of punishment to follow when "your country lies desolate and your cities are burned". This is his understanding of what actually happened in his lifetime when Assyria, the most aggressive and brutal of the Middle Eastern empires, invaded Israel.

Now he offers a message of hope in language that contrasts with the forceful, almost violent language he had used earlier. He speaks of "the days to come" when God is acknowledged as the true God not only of Israel but of the whole world, a time when "all nations will stream" to a renewed Jerusalem. It will be a time not of violence, but of peace when "nation shall not lift up sword against nation".

When we reflect on the life of Jesus and the way in which his life has profoundly changed human history over the past two thousand years, we realise that "the vision of Isaiah" is not some utopian dream, like so many others in history. "Peoples without number" from every part of the world have followed the way of Christ over the centuries. In a way that Isaiah could never have imagined, Jesus would fulfil his vision of God "teaching us his ways so that we may walk in his paths". The lives of countless ordinary people and especially the heroic lives of the saints and martyrs, teach us that evil and violence do not have the last word and that no society is beyond hope.

As we know only too well whenever we see the news, peace "when there will be no more training for war" continues to elude us and will always do so for as long as every nation remains, as Isaiah said of his own people, "a people laden with iniquity". For now, Jesus reminds us to "stay awake", to look for signs of his presence and the peace and hope that he alone can give to our restless lives and our troubled world. Through Christ "the Word made flesh", we are shown how to be awake to God's presence in the circumstances of our own lives, just as Isaiah experienced the challenge of God's words to him in the context of his own time.

*We look for Jesus not in the clouds, but on the streets, among people who need him... in the home where parents are out of work or out of love; in the person who is in trouble at work or at home; in the eyes of that person who is difficult to love. (Incarnate: Advent and Christmas daily reflections 2022)*

Deacon Louis

"Break Open the Word" (the book for readers) now available in the Sacristy.

### Choir Notice

The next rehearsal will be on Monday 5th December 2022 at 7:00pm

## Feast/Solemnity/Memorial/Saint of the Week

(28 Nov - 3 Dec 2022)

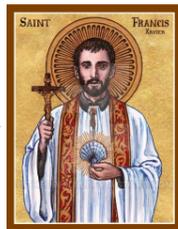
Wed 30/11 St Andrew, apostle

Sat 3/12 St Francis Xavier, priest

**St Andrew the Apostle**, (died 60/70 CE, Patras, Achaia [Greece]; feast day November 30), one of the Twelve Apostles of Jesus and the brother of St. Peter. He is the patron saint of Scotland and of Russia. In the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke), Peter and Andrew—whose Greek name means "manly"—were called from their fishing by Jesus to follow him, promising that he would make them "fishers of men." With Saints Peter, James, and John, Andrew asked Jesus on the Mount of Olives for signs of the earth's end, which inspired the eschatological discourse in Mark 13. In the Gospel According to John, Andrew is the first Apostle named, and he was a disciple of St. John the Baptist before Jesus' call.



**St Francis Xavier** was a Basque Roman Catholic Missionary and a co-founder of the Society of Jesus. He was born as Francisco de Jasso y Azpilicueta in Navarre into a prosperous family. He had a happy childhood until the age of nine when his father passed away. He received his early education from his mother and a parish priest and later left home to pursue his studies at the University of Paris. He met Ignatius of Loyola in 1529, who was a roommate and was 15 years elder to him. After several dialogues with Ignatius who had undergone a religious conversion, Xavier became one of the first seven Jesuits to undertake the vows of poverty and chastity, and also pledged his allegiance to the Pope. The friendship between Ignatius and Xavier was the one for a lifetime. Francis Xavier achieved priesthood in 1537 and on the Pope's order he became the first foreign missionary to visit India. After landing in Goa, he started learning the local language. He began preaching, attending to the sick and teaching children. His work was notable and he enjoyed reasonable success, but found hardships while trying to convert the Brahmins. After India, he visited Indonesia, Malaysia, and Japan. He then decided to visit China, but fell ill before reaching the mainland and died.



### Advent Reflections

This Sunday is the First Sunday of Advent. To help you in preparing for Christmas, we have once again ordered a number of small beautifully illustrated daily reflection booklets for Advent. Please take one and read each day's reflection together with its Gospel passage. This will help you make the most of this wonderful season and enable you to find a prayerful space in what can often be a very busy time. A \$2 donation would be appreciated.

### Christmas at the Cathedral

Presented by Paynter Dixon

**8-25 December**

St Mary's Cathedral Forecourt.

Festivities begin at 7pm with Christmas market stalls, food, fun activities for the kids and live entertainment.

The signature light show of Christmas art will be projected onto the Cathedral at 8:30pm.

### Mass for Expectant Mothers and those hoping to conceive

Sunday 11 December 10:00am

St Paul of the Cross church

522 New Canterbury Rd, Dulwich Hill

Are you expecting a little one? Are you hoping to conceive but have been unable to have children? The Mass for Expectant Mothers is for you. Join Bishop Daniel Meagher for this annual celebration—family and friends welcome! The celebration will be followed by some light refreshments, please RSVP for catering purposes by 27 November at [www.trybooking.com/CDILN](http://www.trybooking.com/CDILN)

### St Vinnies Christmas Appeal

Weekend 26th - 27th November 2022

Christmas is nearly here which means your local St Vincent de Paul

Conference is holding their annual Christmas Appeal.

Any donation, big or small, will go towards providing food, shelter, utilities and clothing for those who need a hand up in their times of need. If you would like to donate, you can use a Vinnies envelope, hop online at <https://www.vinnies.org.au/> or by calling 13 18 12



### St Joseph's Enfield Healing Mass

Friday 2nd December 2022

Celebrant: Father Yacub Barkat

Rosary: 7:00pm Reconciliation: 7:00-8:00pm

Prayer and Praise: 7:30pm Mass: 8:00pm

Exposition (after Mass) & Prayer Ministry

St Joseph's Catholic Church

126 Liverpool Rd., Enfield

Parking at rear of church. Enter from Baker St.

E-mail: [rosetwymansydney@gmail.com](mailto:rosetwymansydney@gmail.com)

Rose: 9642 2359 / 0412 115 961

### Parish Office

Maria - Mondays

Cecilia - Wed-Friday

9.30am - 2:30pm

### Parish & Hall enquiries

9558 3257

### Mass Times

Sat: 5:30pm (Vigil)

Sun: 8am & 10am

Mon to Fri: 9:00am

Sat: 9:30am

### Family Mass with

Children's Liturgy

3rd Sunday of the

Month 10am Mass

### Morning Tea Sunday

3rd Sunday of the Month

after 10:00am Mass

### Filipino Mass

1st Sun 11:30am

### Sacraments

Confession

Sat 8:30-9:20am, 4:45pm

or any time by

appointment

### Baptism

Every 2nd and 4th

Sunday of the month.

### Marriage

At least 6 months notice

required

### Anointing of the Sick

Any time on call

### Devotions

Holy Hour & Rosary

Sunday - Friday

before morning mass

### Rosary & Benediction

Sat 8:30-9:30am

### Novena to Our Lady of

Perpetual Help

Wednesday 7pm

