



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



The Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God / A

1 January 2023

PRIMARY SCHOOL



Ph.: 9558 5308
Principal:

Ms Frances Stewart
REC: Ms Christine Brais
Family Educ: Tania Chahoud
Email: info@stpcdulwichhill.catholic.edu.au

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, Jennie, Ian, Pat
Christina

Recently Deceased

Josh Callaghan
Margaret Hassett

Death Anniversary

Davina Godfrey

For the Souls

Fr Basil Francis Rosen
Raimondo & Raffaella Dolce
Marisa Rulli
Nadim Sara
Mike & Nazira Sara
Fr Anthony Sara
Elias, Youssif, Hanna and
wives Sara
Naim & Nadia El-Etar
Foula & Salima
Rena & husband
Youssif El-Etar

All forgotten Souls and Holy
Souls in Purgatory

Special Intention

Julie Anderson
Francesco & Caterina Dolce
and family
Immacolata Russo & family
Fr Ned Hassett
Henry & Tina and my family
Leah Tillam



"It was exactly as they had been told."

On the night of Jesus' birth, the angel had told the shepherds: "here is a sign for you; you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." In 1609, at a desperate moment in his life, the great Italian painter Caravaggio pictured the later experience of these shepherds in his painting, the Adoration of the Shepherds. It expresses in visual images the truth of Jesus as "a sign" that is described in the words of Luke's Gospel for this Sunday. Caravaggio used the poor and ordinary people that he knew as models in his paintings to emphasize the humanity of the sacred figures that he painted.

Three shepherds and Joseph are looking down at Mary holding the baby Jesus in her arms. Each of them has a different expression on their faces and a different posture as if to emphasize the different responses they make at this unique moment. The older bald shepherd, for example, has his hands outstretched, expressing wonder perhaps at witnessing for himself what the angel had told them: "today a saviour has been born to you." On the right is Joseph. His eyes are half closed, reflecting deeply perhaps on the significance of this moment that had been revealed to him by an angel in a dream.

Each of them are, in their own way, adoring Jesus. The shepherds would return from this experience "glorifying God for all that they had seen and heard". They are in a sense the first human messengers of the good news of Christ in Luke's Gospel since they told everyone about what they had seen and heard in a way that "astonished" them. In Jesus' time, shepherds were at the lowest level of Jewish society: they were considered ritually 'unclean' because they lived with animals and had a reputation for dishonesty. They however were the first to hear about the birth of Christ. God's "good news" was truly intended "for the whole people". Their 'conversion', through their experience of Jesus and their role in making him known, foreshadows the many conversions, such as that of the tax collector Zacchaeus, that Luke will describe in his Gospel and the Acts of the Apostles.

Mary is depicted as a new mother, physically and emotionally exhausted after giving birth. Even though, at this moment, she appears overwhelmed by all that has happened she would go on to "treasure all these things and ponder them in her heart". The adoration of the shepherds echoed what she had experienced for herself: "the Almighty has done great things for me... his mercy is from age to age for those who fear him." God had truly "raised up the lowly" to share in his life and his work.

The painting is dark except for the light that radiates from Christ. This is what John would describe as "the light that shines in the darkness... a light that the darkness cannot overcome." The "sign" that the shepherds see is a baby looking at his mother and raising his little hand towards her face. He isn't shown lying in the manger but as being held by his mother who is shown leaning on the manger. This highlights the 'humanity' of this moment. Jesus didn't just 'appear' as our saviour, as the ancient gods did to protect their favourites. He was, as St Paul says, "born of a woman... to enable us to be adopted as sons."

God has come to share our life with us so that we could come to share in his life. This was why we are told that the shepherds "hurried to Bethlehem". Like the disciples who would later leave their working life behind them in order to follow Jesus, the shepherds left the flocks they were tending to see for themselves what the angel had told them about. Earlier, Mary had gone "as quickly as she could" to visit her cousin Elizabeth and to see for herself in the evident signs of Elizabeth's pregnancy that "nothing is impossible for God". For both Mary and the shepherds nothing was more important than to respond to God and come to know the work of God in our lives.

Are we also prepared to look for the signs of God's transforming work in our lives and in the life of our society in the same way? As Christians, we claim to believe that "God is with us" but do we live as if we truly believed that? Are we prepared to "hurry" in the sense of making searching for God's presence a priority in our lives and then, like Mary, "treasuring it and pondering it" in our hearts so that, like the shepherds, we may tell others about "all that we have heard and seen."

Deacon Louis

Feast/Solemnity/Memorial/Saint of the Week

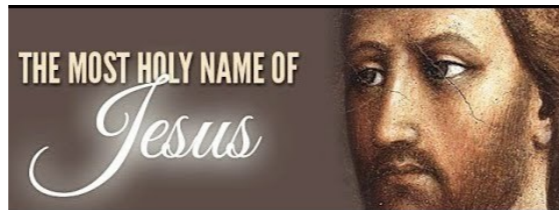
(1 - 7 January 2023)

Mon	2/1	Sts Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, bishops, doctors
Tue	3/1	The Most Holy Name of Jesus
Sat	7/1	St Raymond of Penyafort, priest

St Basil the Great was born at Caesarea of Cappadocia in 330. He attended school in Caesarea, as well as Constantinople and Athens, where he became acquainted with St Gregory Nazianzen in 352. He opened a school of oratory in Caesarea and practice law. He decided to become a monk and founded a monastery in Pontus. He wrote a famous monastic rule which has proved the most lasting of those in the East. After founding several other monasteries, he was ordained and in 370, made Bishop of Caesarea



St Gregory was born at Arianzen in Cappadocia. He studied at Caesarea, Alexandria, and Athens, in which latter city he had as fellow pupils St Basil and Julian the Apostate. On his return to Nazianzen he was baptized by his father and began to lead a most holy life. In 358, he joined St Basil in the solitude of Pontus and remained until his father (who was Bishop of Nazianzen) recalled him and ordained him a priest. He was appointed Bishop of Sasima, a small town, in 372 by St Basil. In 379 he was made Bishop of Constantinople. The depth of his theological knowledge and the vastness of his eloquence have made him one of the greatest Doctors of the Greek Church.



"That is why God highly exalted him (Jesus) and gave him the name above every other name, so that at Jesus' name every knee must bend in the heavens, on the earth and under the earth, and every tongue proclaim to the glory of God the Father: Jesus Christ is Lord!" (Philippians 2:9-11)

Support Caritas Ukraine Appeal

As millions of people are likely to be displaced due to Russia's invasion, your support is more important than ever for the people of Ukraine. Donate generously to the Caritas Ukraine Appeal: <https://www.caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/ukraine/> Donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

Announcing the Damascus Spiritual Leaders Program! Part-time in Feb-Nov 2023 - either in person or online - through Heart of Life Centre for Spiritual & Pastoral Formation. This program is designed for people in various positions of leadership, spiritual formation and parish or outreach ministries. It will equip individuals to lead with integrity, vulnerability and resilience, and will focus on the inner spiritual journey in order to create fully-formed leaders who listen, learn and accompany others with strength and sensitivity. 'Damascus' can be studied as a Graduate Certificate in Divinity through the University of Divinity (Yarra Theological Union/ Catholic Theological College), or as an audit student to receive a Certificate in Spiritual Leadership from Heart of Life. Attendance on Monday mornings and some Saturdays. Read more about the program on the Heart of Life website or contact us on (03) 9890 1101. Applications close on 6/1/23.

2 practising Catholic students from Albury are seeking accommodation in Sydney for the 2023 academic year. Contact seanplee@bigpond.com M 0499 001 653

St Joseph's Enfield Healing Mass

Friday 6th January 2023

Celebrant: Father John Puliparambil
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
Rose: 9642 2359 / 0412 115 961

PARISH WEEKEND MASS ROSTER

7 - 8 January 2023

Readers:	5:30pm	R Lazarus M Dos Santos
	8:00am	P Tan M El Khoury
	10:00am	S Samrani M Portell
Acolytes:	5:30pm	Joseph & Morea
	8:00am	Andre
	10:00am	Tony

A message from the Archdiocese of Sydney

Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with crimes are the police. If you, or anyone you know, have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office at (02) 9390 5810 or safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org. You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.

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

