



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



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Principal: Ms Frances Stewart
REC: Ms Christine Brais
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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

- Allen Portell
- Sue Khoch
- Gonzalo T Lospe
- Gaspar Vargas
- Danny Martinelli
- Irene K Yusingco

Death Anniversary

- Camila Corpus

For the Souls

- Alvaro Soares

All forgotten Souls and Holy Souls in Purgatory

Special Intention

- Antonio Travia
- Paolo Travia
- Leo Sullivan
- John O'Sullivan
- Henry & Tina and my family
- Leah Tillam

"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand"

The context and timing of Jesus' entry into public life are both important. In our reading from his gospel, Matthew says that he "went back to Galilee after John had been arrested." Jesus, like John the Baptist himself, had "been led by the Spirit into the desert" where he was tested by temptations. He then returned to Galilee where he proclaimed, as John himself had done: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand."

The significance of Galilee as the place where "the kingdom of heaven" was first proclaimed is described by Matthew through the prophecies of Isaiah. It is "Galilee of the nations (where) the people that lived in darkness have seen a great light." Ever since the time this region of Israel had come under Assyrian rule many centuries before, non-Jews ("the nations") had settled there, drawn by its fertility. As a result, Jews living in Galilee were regarded, especially by the Pharisees, as being less orthodox and more 'relaxed' in the way they kept the Law of Moses than Jews in Judea.

Jesus however did not simply continue John the Baptist's work. John himself knew that there was something unique about Jesus: "he ranks before me because he existed before me." The difference is there in the message of repentance that both of them proclaimed. John had said this to prepare the way for the coming of a messiah and people had responded to the message that he preached. Jesus however is "the kingdom of heaven" in person and he proves this by the effect that he has on people's lives, by the different ways in which he is able to transform them. "When Jesus speaks of the kingdom of heaven/kingdom of God he is quite simply proclaiming God and proclaiming him to be the living God who is able to act concretely in the world and is even now so acting". (p55 **Jesus of Nazareth** Pope Benedict XVI)

The kingdom of heaven is not a place or something that will come about sometime in the future but the transforming presence of Christ in our lives now and throughout the centuries. Matthew's Gospel illustrates this with three key signs of this transforming presence. The four fishermen left everything "at once" to follow Jesus when he said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men." This invitation is personal in every sense. Jesus did not outline what he proposed to do but simply said "Follow me." They responded from their own experience as fishermen to this teacher whose person and authority commanded respect, a respect that silenced any questions they may have had.

Matthew goes on to mention two further signs of the kingdom of heaven in Jesus' life - his teaching and his works of healing. These will be described at length in his Gospel. They are each, in their different ways, examples of the "great light" to "people living in darkness".

Next Thursday, we will celebrate Australia Day and the beginning of European settlement in Australia. Amidst all the inevitable controversies associated with that day, we should try to remember all those in our national and personal story who have been the light of Christ in the dark moments of our past. Mary MacKillop and the Sisters of St Joseph immediately come to mind for their work in an environment that was hostile to Catholic education but so too do the Good Samaritan sisters who began in Sydney to work with destitute women and children in the inner city. With them we also remember the many brothers and sisters who did their best to lift children and families out of poverty and ignorance.

In the 1930's Francis McGarry left a comfortable suburban life in Sydney to live and work among the dispossessed Aboriginal people in Alice Springs. He begged for food and clothing for them, looked after them when they were sick and shared his faith with them. He stands for the many priests, religious and lay people who have done what they could over the years to overcome the worst effects of European settlement. In Sydney's earliest years, James Dempsey looked after the spiritual welfare of Catholic settlers and convicts at a time when no priest was available. Remembering him, we remember the efforts of so many lay men and women to build up parishes, foster faith in their families and be a witness to Christ in their work and through their role in society.

Inevitably this is an incomplete picture of the countless ways in which the kingdom of heaven has been experienced in our lives and our history. "The kingdom of heaven" is not a utopian dream but the living presence of Christ among us, expressed through his Church, transforming our lives so that we who have been "living in darkness" may go on to become "fishers of men".

Deacon Louis

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.

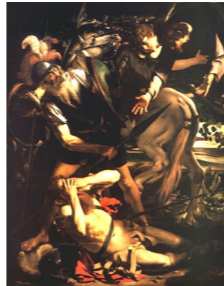
Feast/Solemnity/Memorial/Saint of the Week

(23- 28 January 2023)

Tue	24/1	St Francis de Sales, bishop, doctor
Wed	25/1	The Conversion of St Paul, apostle
Thu	26/1	Australia Day
Fri	27/1	St Angela Merici, virgin Sts Timothy and Titus
Sat	28/1	St Thomas Aquinas, priest, doctor

St Paul's conversion from a persecutor of Christ to a true Christ-follower is one of the most eye-opening and most powerful conversions ever recorded in the Bible.

"I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that the gospel I preached is not of human origin. I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it; rather, I received it by revelation from Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my previous way of life in Judaism, how intensely I persecuted the church of God and tried to destroy it. [...] But when God, who set me apart from my mother's womb and called me by his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son in me so that I might preach him among the Gentiles, my immediate response was not to consult any human being." - Galatians 1:11-16



Ananias: "Brother Saul, the Lord—Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here—has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit." Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength. - Acts 9:13-19

PARISH WEEKEND MASS ROSTER

28 - 29 January 2023

Readers:	5:30pm	R Lazarus M Dos Santos
	8:00am	A Di Donato M El Khoury
	10:00am	B Yammine C Alam
Acolytes:	5:30pm	Joseph & Morea
	8:00am	Andre
	10:00am	Philip

Pontifical Requiem Mass for the late George Cardinal Pell AC 2 February

The Funeral Mass for our late Archbishop will be held on Thursday 2 February at 11am at St Mary's Cathedral. Members of the public are invited to attend.

If you're unable to attend the Funeral Mass, there will also be other opportunities to pay our respects to our late Archbishop, George Cardinal Pell at St Mary's Cathedral:

Wednesday 1 February

- 9:30am Reception of the Body and Commencement of Lying in State
- 1:10pm A Mass for the Dead
- 5:30pm Evening Prayer and Vigil
- 8:00pm A Mass for the Dead

Thursday 2 February

- 6:45am Mass for the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord
- 11:00am Pontifical Requiem Mass (Cathedral Doors open from 9:00am)
- Please continue to pray for the repose of the soul of our late Archbishop.

Catechists

Would you like to help children at Dulwich Hill public school learn about their faith? Training and teaching resources are available for anyone who is generous enough to spare less than one hour a week (Wednesday 2:30-3:15) with a small group of primary school children during the school year. Please speak to Deacon Louis for more information or contact him through the parish office.

2 practising Catholic students from Albury are seeking accommodation in Sydney for the 2023 academic year.

Contact seanplee@bigpond.com M 0499 001 653

Choir Notice

After the holiday break, the next rehearsal will be on Monday 30th January 2023 at 7:00pm.

Roll up your sleeves; make a difference overseas.

Do you require professional renewal, or are you seeking a retirement challenge? Communities abroad are asking for qualified and experienced Australians able to mentor their people in education, health, administration, trades, agriculture and more.

Imagine yourself re-engaging your vocational passion in Africa, Asia or the Pacific. Since 1961 Palms Australia has been recruiting Australians able to offer mentoring that will allow overseas counterparts opportunities otherwise unattainable. Sharing your skills will strengthen the capacity of workers overseas to serve their communities for generations to come, long after you return home.

Communities in American Samoa, Cambodia, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tanzania, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Zambia are seeking to fill a variety of roles.

Enquire about those roles via www.palms.org.au or by calling 02 9560 533 or 0422 472 567.

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

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

