



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



Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time / A

29 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
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
Emerlina Elizan Almonte
Angelina Eugenio
Roger Pasetes

Death Anniversaries

Rosalio Morales
Adoracion Lim
Camila Corpus

For the Souls

Anunzia Zerbi
Carmela Stillittano
Carmelo Zerbi
Antonio Zerbi
Mary Pretto
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

"Seek the Lord all you, the humble of the earth, who obey his commands"



Matthew presents Jesus as a teacher in the tradition of Moses. Like Moses, who went up Mt Sinai to bring the Law of God to Israel, Jesus "went up the hill" and there began to teach, as all teachers did, seated before his followers. As we heard in last week's gospel, his teaching was an experience of the presence of the kingdom of heaven/of God among them rather than instruction about living in a way that was pleasing to God.

Matthew describes "the crowds" that came to hear him speak as coming from all over Israel and "beyond the Jordan". This would have included non-Jews as well as Jews, people from a variety of ethnic backgrounds, religious beliefs and social position. What Jesus offers is for all, not just for Israel.

The Beatitudes are, first of all, a description of Jesus himself, his own CV as it were. What "the kingdom of heaven" means is there in the life that he lived. Taking just a few of his statements, we see how he himself was "merciful...pure in heart...persecuted in the cause of right". We remember the many times he was moved with compassion for people who were suffering in any way and healed them; of his single minded dedication ("pure in heart") to "following the will of the Father", even if this meant persecution and, eventually, death on the cross.

Throughout his life he was "blessed" in both senses of the Greek word 'makarios' that can be translated as either 'happy' or 'blessed'. He was blessed in being chosen by God, as we heard in the account of his baptism in the Jordan: "this is my Son, the Beloved, listen to him." He was happy in that he acted out of love and not out of a sense of duty. Even when he was persecuted and rejected, he could "rejoice and be glad" because it was the ultimate proof that he was not "a false prophet".

Jesus addressed his teaching to all those who, in their different ways, were "seekers of the Lord, the humble of the earth who obey his commands". He praised and encouraged their efforts to live as close to God as he did, to be signs of the kingdom of heaven on earth. Many of the people who came to listen to Jesus lived hard lives, often at the mercy of the wealthy and powerful. Jesus did not praise or romanticise their poverty when he said to them: "how happy are the poor in spirit; theirs is the kingdom of heaven." Nor does he praise those who are comfortably off, saying later to his astonished disciples: "it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."

Jesus is being realistic when he tells all those who are "poor in spirit" that they are both blessed and happy. They are blessed not because they are poor but because they have learned to trust in God: "They have seen through the false promise of wealth. As in each of the beatitudes, Jesus shows how these people are happy right now and assures them that the future kingdom is already their possession" (p41 J.P. Meier **Matthew**). Later on, Jesus will remind all of us who are spiritually poor rather than "poor in spirit" of the constant restlessness and anxiety that comes with forgetting that "life means more than food and the body more than clothing."

The beatitudes are addressed to people living in the present: "how happy are...", even though the reward for living in this way may not be experienced now - "your reward will be great in heaven." It reminds us that Jesus experienced his 'reward' through his Resurrection. They are not presented as ideal virtues but as expressions of 'the good life', the "kingdom of heaven" that is there for those who choose to live like Jesus.

It is the life that is there, for example, for all those who choose not to take in the division and hatred that poisons our world so much. Instead, they are prepared to make the effort to be "gentle...peacemakers" by hungering and thirsting "for what is right". As Jesus knew from his own life, the choices expressed in the beatitudes are not easy to make but, in choosing them, we become, through God's grace and blessing, an expression of "the kingdom of heaven".

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	31/1	St John Bosco, priest
Thu	2/2	The Presentation of the Lord
Fri	3/2	St Blaise, bishop, martyr St Ansgar, bishop

The Presentation of the Lord

In this feast we commemorate the presentation of Jesus in the temple forty days after his birth, in conformity with the law of Moses. Inspired by the words of the Canticle of Simeon "a light to the revelation of the Gentiles", the custom had developed of blessing candles on the Feast of Presentation, known as Candlemass. The candles were lit, and a procession took place through the darkened church while the Canticle of Simeon was sung. Candlemass is still an important feast in many European countries.



Saint Blaise is the Patron of Throat Illnesses and much of this has to do with a legend that a boy was brought to St Blaise who had a fishbone caught in his throat. The boy was going to die, however, Blaise was able to heal him. An invocation to St Blaise and a blessing of the throat remains in practice today. The blessing is done by using two candles, held open slightly and then pressed against the throat.



St Blaise was raised as a Christian in Armenia and became a bishop of Sebastea. Once he became a bishop, there was a new level of Christian persecutions, and he was killed.

Allen Portell, after a long illness, passed away last Thursday 19th January 2023.

Allen was a valued member of our parish council for a number of years and contributed a great deal to the life of our parish. We remember especially his friendly manner and his kindness to many people in our parish. May he Rest In Peace

Mass of Christian Burial for Allen Portell will be held at the Church next Friday, 3rd February 2023 at 11:30am.

PARISH WEEKEND MASS ROSTER 4 - 5 February 2023

Readers:	5:30pm	M Dos Santos P Allport
	8:00am	J Peters G Turnbull
	10:00am	L & J Scanlon
Acolytes:	5:30pm	Ricardo & Morea
	8:00am	Andre
	10:00am	Joseph & 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
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

St Joseph's Enfield Healing Mass Friday 3rd February 2023

Celebrant: Father Matthew Meagher
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

Choir Notice

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

Parish Office

Maria - Mondays
Cecilia - Wed-Friday
9.30am - 2:30pm

Parish 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

Monday - Friday before morning mass

Rosary & Benediction

Sat 8:30-9:30am

Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Wednesday 7pm

