



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

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"You are the salt of the earth ... the light of the world"



St Paul tells the small Christian community in Corinth that, when he first came to them, it was "in great fear and trembling" - a very surprising statement from someone known for being a fearless and confident speaker. Corinth however was a special case. It was a Roman city in

Greece, a major centre of trade that attracted people from all over the Roman Empire to take advantage of the many opportunities it offered for the ambitious and the desperate. They came of course with their own gods and beliefs to a city where there were also many teachers, 'philosophers', who made a living from the followers they taught.

Naturally, therefore, Paul felt "great fear and trembling" as he addressed people who could easily be either hostile or indifferent to what he had to say. If the gods they worshipped and the ways they lived brought so many benefits, why would anyone want to change? To make things worse, Paul emphasised a most unattractive message to people who wanted above all to succeed in life: "Jesus as the crucified Christ."

Paul confronted the situation he found himself in 'head on', as we would say. He says that he did not use the methods and the topics of the various teachers of his time but "only a demonstration of the power of the Spirit." Their methods were designed to attract a following (and therefore a steady income) for themselves. Paul's message was focused not on himself but on God and the way in which God worked in human history through Christ.

The Greek word for "power" that Paul uses is 'dunamis', from which we get the words dynamic and dynamite. God is dynamic, a constantly active presence in our world from the moment of creation to the resurrection of Christ. God is active now through the presence of Christ among us, transforming our lives into an image of himself. The disciples had experienced this at Pentecost and Paul had experienced this himself. This is what he offered to those who were prepared to listen to him.

The way in which he himself had responded to Christ and spoke to a challenging and often hostile world is a powerful example of what Jesus meant when he said to his disciples, "You are the salt of the earth, the light of the world." The images of salt and light directly follow the Beatitudes where Jesus praised his disciples who were "pure in heart... poor in spirit... who hungered and thirsted for holiness." They were signs of "the kingdom of heaven" that existed in his own life.

Jesus himself is, as we know from the Prologue to John's Gospel, "the light that has come into the world." His followers and disciples, like Paul himself, would share in this light whenever they reflected "the true light": the mission, the teachings and the life of Jesus. As with the Beatitudes, 'light' and 'salt' are what we, as disciples of Jesus, are now. By relying on "the power of God", as Paul did, we allow something new and transforming to come into our lives. We are then able to bring this same spirit into people's lives just as Jesus himself did.

This doesn't mean that we are somehow privileged in God's eyes, an elite group in our world. Jesus combined these images of being salt and light with a warning. Salt, a preservative in the ancient world, was worthless if it was so contaminated that it ruined the taste of the food it was meant to preserve. If we fail to 'preserve' the teachings and the spirit of Christ in our lives then we are worthless as disciples. If the light of Christ that we carry through Baptism is completely hidden or fails to 'brighten' our lives and the life of our world with the hope that Christ alone can give then it is, as Jesus said about putting a lamp under a tub, useless for what it is intended to do.

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@sydneyecatholic.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

(6 - 11 February 2023)

Mon	6/2	St Paul Miki and companions, martyrs
Wed	8/2	St Jerome Emiliani
		St Josephine Bakhita, virgin
Fri	10/2	St Scholastica, virgin
Sat	11/2	Our Lady of Lourdes

St Josephine Bakhita is the patron saint of the Sudan, human trafficking survivors. While still a young girl around 7 years old, she was kidnapped and sold into slavery. During her time of captivity she was tortured by her various owners. She suffered brandings and beatings on many occasions. Eventually, after exchanging hands five or six times, St Bakhita found herself serving as a caretaker for a young girl at a school in Venice run by Canossian Sisters.



She went before the Italian courts seeking her freedom. The courts declared that Bakhita was a free woman because slavery had been outlawed in both Italy and the Sudan and they allowed her to stay in Italy. St Bakhita was attracted to the religious life and entered the Canossian Sisters where she remained for about forty five years. She lived out the rest of her days serving God and her community and teaching others to love Him with great faithfulness. She died in 1947.

Our Lady of Lourdes

The statue within the rock cave at Massabielle in Lourdes, France, where Saint Bernadette Soubirous witnessed the Blessed Virgin Mary.

(11 February to 16 July 1858)
Large numbers of sick pilgrims travel to Lourdes each year in the hope of physical healing and spiritual renewal.

Prayer:

Our Lady of Lourdes, intercede for the sick, the suffering, and for those enslaved by their sins, and pray for us..



SPIRIT AND TRUTH: The Power of Christ Revealed - Lenten Companion 2023

The beautiful Season of Lent is approaching. Let us make the most of this precious time to gather in our parishes and communities to reflect on the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus, using the Lenten companion *SPIRIT AND TRUTH: The Power of Christ Revealed*. This free booklet contains Gospel readings for the Sundays of Lent until Easter Sunday, and Gospel reflections by Sister Joanna Marie Collins OP, Daniel Ang, Fr Lewi Barakat, Mat De Sousa, Anna Harrison, Elizabeth Flynn MCR and Bishop Richard Umbers. Designed for individual or group prayer, either in-person or online, the resource will be available in parishes and online at www.gomakedisciples.org.au.

The Sydney Centre for Evangelisation will be providing training for those interested in leading a group - see www.gomakedisciples.org.au/cas-events/ for dates and registration. No experience required - all welcome!

Parishes are invited to promote the [Lenten Companion](#) and the [training sessions](#) on social media.

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.

Free Baby Cot

Good quality timber cot, expensive brand and range. Please see the bulletin board for details. If interested, please text Luca 0412 527 819 within this week, or else it will be given to The Smith Family.

Casimir Catholic College Marrickville
OPEN DAY
FRIDAY, 3 MARCH 2023
3:00PM TO 7:00PM

All Welcome

200 Livingstone Road
Marrickville 2204
info@casimirmarrickville.catholic.edu.au
(02) 9558 2888

Choir Notice

The next rehearsal will be on Monday 13th February 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

