



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



Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time / A

12 February 2023

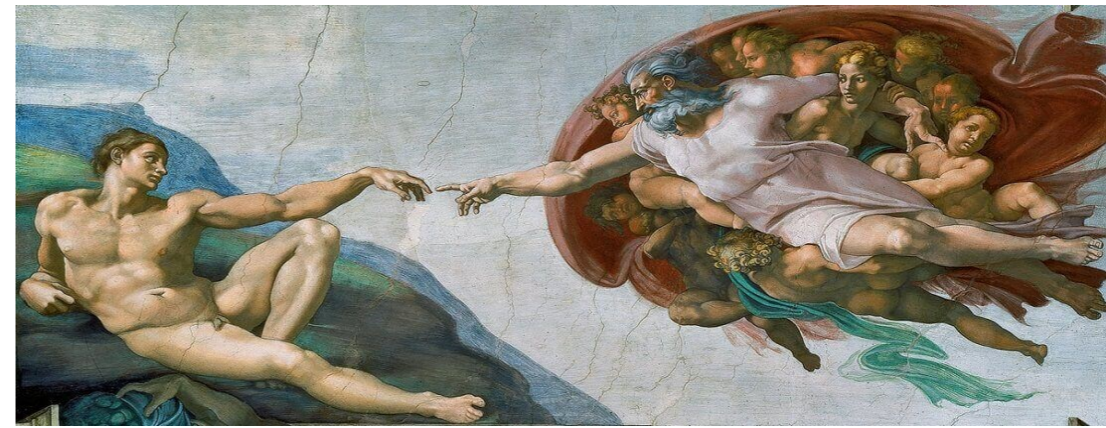
PRIMARY SCHOOL



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"The hidden wisdom of God which we teach ... is the wisdom that God predestined for our glory before the ages began"



"The Creation of Adam" by Michelangelo is said to be one of the best known of all paintings. It is part of a series of frescoes on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel in Rome which also depict the scene of the Last Judgement. In 1994 art restoration experts completed a long process of cleaning and repairing these frescoes, freeing them from centuries of soot, grime and 'additions' which had darkened the original paintings. Visitors since then have been struck by the brightness of these restored frescoes and to see details that had been obscured until then.

This work of restoration is not unlike what Jesus meant when he said to his disciples, "Do not imagine that I have come to abolish the Law and the Prophets. I have come not to abolish them but to complete them." The teachings of the Law contained in the first five books of the Bible and the inspired words of the prophets were the guiding principles of Jewish life, the foundation of a way of life that was faithful to God. Over the centuries however many new laws were added and ways of 'getting around' some of the more demanding commandments were commonly practiced. As a result, the meaning and purpose of "the Law and the Prophets" was 'covered over' just as the dust and smoke of centuries darkened the paintings of the Sistine Chapel.

Jesus 'restored' the original meaning and purpose of the Law of Israel by his own authority. He not only made a claim for himself as 'the new Moses' but also, by going back to their original purpose, widened their application to all who wished to follow him not just to Israel. He provides a number of examples of this new application of the Law to his disciples. Each of these examples deal with the nature of our relationship with each other.

Why did Jesus need to expand the way in which the 'restored' Law should be lived by his followers? In his reflection on "The Creation of Adam" at a Mass in the Sistine Chapel to celebrate the completion of this work of restoration, Pope St John Paul II noted how God the Creator is shown in human form and how his figure and that of Adam "echo" each other. Adam, he said, "could be described as God's visible icon since, as we know from Genesis, man is created 'in the image and likeness of God'." He then went on to comment on how, through the Incarnation of Christ, God had revealed himself through the human body. (Homily 8th April 1994)

In all the examples that he gives of his 'restored and expanded' understanding of the Law and the Prophets, Jesus goes back to the original purpose of the Law stated in the very first book of the Bible: our relationship with God who is our Creator and who in turn wants us to relate to him and to each other as being made in his own image. The commandments given to Moses state what we should not do to God or to each other because of who we are in God's eyes. Jesus goes a step further. He describes what we need to do if we want to relate to each other as each being made in the image of God.

Adultery, for example, is explicitly forbidden by the commandments. "Lustful thoughts", the use of pornography are more than 'thoughts and actions that don't hurt anyone'. They have turned that man, that woman who is the subject of our thoughts into objects. They are 'ours' and not an "image of God" in their own right. So too with nursing feelings of resentment and anger. Even though we may not go to the extent of actually killing someone because of the way we feel, allowing these feelings to grow within us destroys our sense of being all made in God's image. Anger can paralyse us in that we can become incapable of relating to someone in any other way than through the feelings we have against them. They are now simply the objects of our feelings of anger and resentment not 'images of God' entitled to understanding and forgiveness.

In these, and the other examples of his 'Way' that he gives, Jesus continues to show us how to live as "the salt of the earth, the light of the world". This is our role as his followers. He gives us his understanding, God's perspective, on who we really are. Without this perspective, this understanding of ourselves that God has intended for us "before the ages began", we have nothing of Christ to offer.

Deacon Louis

With St Paul of the Cross we pray ...

For the sick

- Albert & Hedi Stein
- 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 Anniversary

- Alexander, Elisabeth, Doris & Nada
- Carmelo Flordeza
- Rosalio Morales
- Adoracion Lim

For the Souls

All forgotten Souls and Holy Souls in Purgatory

Special Intention

Henry & Tina and my family
Leah Tillam

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



Lenten reflection

This year we are combining with members of St Brigid's parish Marrickville on a Lenten program that is different from previous years. We will come together to see and discuss an episode of The Chosen and share a supper based on the typical food of Jesus' time. The Chosen is a much praised recent 'adaption' of the Gospel story that includes imagined background stories that are intended to help us better understand Jesus and the life that he offers us. There are 8 episodes in the First Season so it will continue after Easter. Each episode is approximately 40 minutes and will be screened on a weekday evening either in the parish hall or at St Brigid's.

Please write your name and phone number on the 'expression of interest' sheet at the front table if you wish to take part in this.

Deacon Louis

Choir Notice

The next rehearsal will be on Monday 13th February 2023 at 7:00pm.



Please come and join us to celebrate the Mass and Blessing of the Sick on Sunday 12th February 2023
Rosary will be recited at 2:30pm followed by Mass at 3:00pm

Celebrant will be Bishop Terry Brady
Everyone is welcome!

St Joseph's Prayer Group, Enfield

Teaching Day

Saturday, 18th February, 2023

9:45am - 3:30pm

Speaker:

Fr. John Puliparambil

God is our Father, the Source of all Love

Contact: Rose: 9642 2359 Mobile: 0412 115 961
Cost: \$15.00. Please bring a dish for our communal lunch.
Please bring your bible with you.

Carmelite Retreat Program 2023

Mount Carmel Retreat Centre

247 St. Andrews Road

Varroville 2566 NSW

Brochures at the back table near the front door of the church.

Feast/Solemnity/Memorial/Saint of the Week

(13 - 18 February 2023)

Tue 14/2 Sts Cyril, monk, and Methodius, bishop
Fri 17/2 The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order

Sts Cyril and Methodius were brothers and Byzantine Christian theologians and missionaries. They translated the Bible, and liturgical texts, into the Slavonic language. Honoured as apostles of the Slavic peoples. Remembered together for their contribution to Slavic culture, for their missionary inculturation of the faith and for establishing unity for the true faith. In 1980, the first Slav pope, Pope John Paul II declared them co-patron saints of Europe, together with Benedict of Nursia.



The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order

All seven of these devout men individually experienced an apparition of the Blessed Virgin Mary, calling them to withdraw from the world and to devote themselves entirely to the service of God. They obeyed and embraced the mendicant life of begging, poverty, and prayer. As a result, they received many requests for spiritual counsel and moral guidance.

Around the year 1240, at Monte Senario (Italy), the seven received a joint vision of the Blessed Virgin Mary who appeared to them surrounded by angels. She instructed them on their mission, clothed them in their habits, presented them with their rule of life, and personally founded their order. Central to their mission was to spread devotion to the Seven Sorrows of Mary and to be her servants. Within a decade, the order was tentatively approved by the pope and their numbers began to grow.



PARISH WEEKEND MASS ROSTER 18 - 19 February 2023

Readers:	5:30pm	R Lazarus M Dos Santos
	8:00am	P Tan M El Khoury
	10:00am	P Marshall J Duru
Acolytes:	5:30pm	Ricardo & Morea
	8:00am	Tony
	10:00am	Andre & Philip
Counters:		Precy T Margaret P

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.