



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

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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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REC: Ms Christine Brais
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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

“Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you”

There is enough anger in the Catholic community to light up the eastern seaboard for a year. I say this not to pick on Catholics in particular; I would say it of any group of human beings. We are - all of us - sitting on a lot of unresolved rage. Thomas Aquinas defines the deadly sin of anger in his typically pithy manner as an irrational or excessive desire for revenge. Every one of us has been hurt by someone else, aggressed, unjustly harmed, insulted- perhaps to an extreme degree. And so, naturally enough, we harbour a desire to respond in kind.

Now, there is such a thing as justified anger, which is nothing but a passion to right wrongs. Think of the “anger” displayed by Jesus as he cleansed the temple or by Martin Luther King as he led the civil rights movement. That righteous indignation is to be praised. But many of us, let’s be honest, cultivate an excessive, unreasonable passion to get back at those who have harmed us. We spend an extraordinary amount of time fantasizing about what we might say and do to our enemies if we ever had the opportunity or the requisite power. This is what Thomas Aquinas means by the “deadly sin” of anger.

And this is precisely what Jesus is urging us to extricate from our souls precisely through the admittedly wrenching act of forgiving our enemies. In the Sermon on the Mount, the Lord teaches, “You have heard it said, ‘You shall not murder...’ But I say to you, ‘that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council...’ So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there... First be reconciled to your brother or sister.” And in what constitutes, in my judgment, the rhetorical and spiritual highpoint of the Sermon, Jesus says, “You have heard it said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, Love your enemies.” This teaching makes no sense unless we are assuming that we have real enemies - that is to say, people who have unfairly and aggressively harmed us.

But the Lord is summoning us beyond the desire for revenge, even beyond the strict justice of the *lex talionis*, the “eye for an eye” principle. He is insisting that we love those who have made us angry, that we desire their good. He is offering us a unique opportunity - not just to be ‘good and kind to others’ but to be ‘God-like’, because this is how God acts since he “causes the sun to rise on bad men as well as good.” It is how Jesus himself acted when, on the cross he said, “Father, forgive them for they know not what they are doing.” By acting in this way we become not just ‘good people’ but “sons and daughters of our Father in heaven”.

About twenty-five years ago, Joseph Cardinal Bernardin of Chicago was accused by a young man named Steven Cook of sexual misconduct. In a speech given at Mundelein Seminary shortly thereafter, the cardinal said that he was devastated by this charge, indeed so demoralized and traumatized that he had taken to praying, spread-eagle on the ground in his chapel, that the Lord might deliver him from the shame and hurt that he felt. After two agonizing months, Cook withdrew the charge, admitting that it was based on a false memory.

Who would have blamed Cardinal Bernardin if he had said, “Good riddance!” and never had a thing further to do with Steven Cook? But the cardinal didn’t do that. Instead, he travelled to see the young man, brought him the gift of a Bible, anointed him (Cook was dying of AIDS), and offered his forgiveness. That’s what loving, and not just tolerating, one’s enemy looks like.

Might I urge all of my readers to call to mind an enemy? Hold an image of him or her in your mind—someone who has done you real harm. Think of a way to love that person, to heal that relationship. It might be a phone call, an email, a visit, a gesture - but do it.

Adapted from “Love an enemy this Lent” Word on Fire article 10/3/20 Bishop Robert Barron

Mission: Change their lives ... and yours.



Communities in Africa, Asia or the Pacific are seeking Australians from a variety of professions and trades to share their skills with those who have less opportunity to develop their talents.

Explore 35 positions by scanning the QR code below. On our website you can also see news including stories from those currently supported in Timor-Leste, Samoa, American Samoa and Thailand.

Please enquire further about potential assignments for you or someone you know:
RING: 02 9560 5333 or 0422 472 567. WEB: www.palms.org.au

Feast/Solemnity/Memorial/Saint of the Week

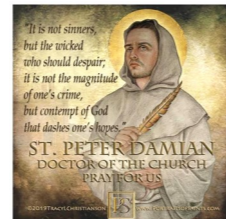
(20 - 25 February 2023)

Tue	21/2	St Peter Damian, bishop, doctor
Wed	22/2	Ash Wednesday (Fast and abstinence)
Thu	23/2	St Polycarp, bishop, martyr

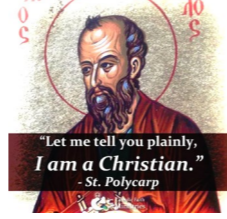
Ash Wednesday, 22nd February 2023

9:00am	Morning Mass
7:00am	Evening Mass

Stations of the Cross during Lent will be at 7pm in the church commencing on Friday 24th February.



St Peter Damian, a devoted collaborator of Pope St Gregory VII and, like him, a Benedictine. Born in Ravenna in 1007, he became a Camaldolese monk at the monastery of Fonte Avellana, of which he became Abbot. He later became Cardinal and Bishop of Ostia and Velletri. He worked for the internal reform of the Church by fighting against such abuses as simony and incontinence. He wrote many works on ascetical theology. He is a Doctor of the Church.



St Polycarp embraced Christianity while very young, and became a disciple of St John the Evangelist who made him Bishop of Smyrna. In the fourth general persecution, the Saint was apprehended and brought before the proconsul. Refusing to deny Christ, he was condemned to be burned. Remembered because of his martyrdom, for his fearless acknowledgement of Christ, and honoured as one of the apostolic fathers of the Church.

Lenten Reflections

St Brigid's Marrickville will host a series of reflections based on the readings for each Sunday of Lent at 7pm each Monday commencing the 27th February.

Our parish Lenten program is based on the video series The Chosen and will commence on Tuesday the 28th February at 7pm. There are 8 episodes in the first season so it will continue on each Tuesday after Easter. Please write your name and phone number on the list at the front of the church if you wish to take part in this. Please speak to Deacon Louis if you would like to know more about these evenings.

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

Morning Tea - Third Sunday of each month

This Sunday, 19th February is our Morning Tea Sunday after the 10:00am Mass at the front of the Church (outside).

Please join and bring a plate to share.



Choir Notice

The next rehearsal will be on Monday 27th February 2023 at 7:00pm.

This is the link to the Metropolitan Vinnies Schools and Youth Newsletter Term 1 2023: <https://bit.ly/Term-1-Vinnies-Metro-Schools-News>

The 2023 edition of the Mini Vinnies Formation Program (MVFP) for students in Years 4 – 6 is available for those who wish to undertake Social Justice Formation in their own time. For more information please go to <https://bit.ly/VinniesMVFP>

A message from Aid to the Church in Need Australia: ACN is the Pontifical Foundation dedicated to supporting the suffering and persecuted Church.

HELP SYRIA. Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) has launched an emergency appeal for the people in northern Syria desperate for help following the devastating earthquakes. ACN is begging for funds to support their long-time local project partners on the ground in Syria. To read more about what ACN is doing and to make an offering please visit www.aidtochurch.org/syriaearthquake or scan the QR code.



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.

