



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



First Sunday of Lent / A

26 February 2023

PRIMARY SCHOOL



Ph.: 9558 5308
Principal:

Ms Brooke Watson
REC: Ms Christine Brais
Family Educ: Tania Chahoud
Email: info@stpcedulwichhill.catholic.edu.au

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
Rosario Morales
Adoracion Lim

For the Souls

All forgotten Souls and Holy
Souls in Purgatory

Special Intention

Henry & Tina and my family
Leah Tillam

“By one man’s obedience, many will be made righteous”



This Twelfth Century mosaic in the cathedral of Monreale in Sicily is a striking representation of some of the key themes of our readings for the First Sunday of Lent. Adam is shown as being naked and seated on the earth he came from. God is breathing “the breath of life into his nostrils”. Above him is the sentence (in Latin), “God created man in his own image”. His nakedness emphasizes his original innocence and freedom from sin before God. He has literally ‘nothing to hide’.

But what then follows in our reading from Genesis, reverses that original experience. Because both he and Eve succumbed to temptation and sinned, “their eyes were opened and they realized that they were naked.” Self-consciousness, secrecy and shame replaced their original openness and closeness to God and to each other. In our reading, the serpent presents the temptation as a good thing to do: the fruit “was good to eat and pleasing to the eye and desirable for the knowledge that it could give”.

There is also a social dimension to their sin. Adam trusts Eve just as Eve had trusted in the attractive words of the serpent. She is “bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh”. They both fell for the temptation put to them that eating the fruit would make them “like gods, knowing good and evil”. In following their own desires, they forgot that God had made them both in his own image and given them “the garden of Eden” where they could live in harmony with God. This story of their temptation and fall has been described since the time of St Augustine as a kind of model of how each of us can be tempted to sin. We all have the temptation to shape our lives according to what seems “pleasing and desirable” to us, from our own experience and the experience of others, without reference to God who created us.

In the mosaic, God the creator is presented as Jesus since “Christ is the image of the invisible God, the first born of all creation” (Col 1:15). When we look closely at their facial features, we notice that the faces of Adam and Christ are identical. This refers to the role of Christ as “the new Adam” who not only undoes the sins of arrogance and pride that all of humanity had fallen into but also ‘restarts’ the world based on the experience of his own life. This is what St Paul is referring to when he says: “as by one man’s disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man’s obedience many will be made righteous”.

Today’s Gospel of Jesus’ temptations in the desert, echoes the temptations that Adam and Eve and all of humanity are prone to. The desert that Jesus goes into is not just some desolate and lonely place but, as Pope Benedict says in his book **Jesus of Nazareth**, “a descent into the perils that beset our lives. Jesus has to enter into the drama of human life for that belongs to the core of his mission ... in order to find ‘the lost sheep’, to bear it on his shoulders and bring it home”.

Each of the temptations that Jesus is presented with is accompanied by a quote from scripture. What the devil puts before Jesus seemed, at least on the surface “pleasing and desirable”. They were however twisted versions of his life and mission. Jesus, for example would ‘create’ bread in the miracle of the loaves and fish but this would not be for his own benefit but for others and would be a sign of how he gives himself to us in the Eucharist.

Jesus overcame each one of the temptations put to him in the same way - by turning to God “who alone you must serve.” It would be God who would shape his life and not our natural inclination to want to be secure, to be self-centred and to have influence over others. As we enter into Lent, we are invited to into our own ‘desert’ and to consider what influences and shapes our lives. The three traditional practices of Lent-sharing what we have with the needy, fasting and prayer are not just ‘what we’re supposed to do’ but opportunities to reshape and refocus our daily lives to make what Jesus called the first and greatest commandment, love of God and our neighbour, the focus of our lives.

Deacon Louis

Feast/Solemnity/Memorial/Saint of the Week

(27 Feb - 4 Mar 2023)

Mon	27/2	St Gregory of Narek, abbot, doctor
Fri	3/3	Autumn Ember Day <i>Special Day of Prayer and Penance</i>
Sat	4/3	St Casimir

St Gregory of Narek (c. 950) was an Armenian mystical and lyrical poet, monk, and theologian. He is venerated as a saint in the Armenian Apostolic and Catholic Churches and was declared a Doctor of the Church by Pope



Francis in 2015. The son of a bishop, Gregory was educated, ordained and later stationed at the southern shores of Lake Van (modern Turkey). Gregory is considered by scholars of being the most beloved and significant theological and literary figure of the Armenian religious tradition. He is best known for his *Book of Lamentations*, a major piece of mystical literature, a confessional prayer book present in every Armenian religious household. His works have inspired many Armenian literary figures and influenced the Armenian literature in general throughout the ages.

St Casimir (1458-1483) was the third among the thirteen children of King Casimir IV of Poland. Under the care of the holy canon, John Dugloss, he grew up with exceptional values and learning, but first and foremost a man of prayer.



Casimir was expected to expand the kingdom by seizing the Crown of Hungary, but refusing, he was imprisoned by his father. After a short time, he was released, and he devoted the rest of his life to prayers and study. He reigned briefly as king of Poland during his father’s absence. He died of lung trouble at 25 while visiting Lithuania, of which he was also Grand Duke.

PARISH WEEKEND MASS ROSTER 4 - 5 March 2023

Readers:	5:30pm	R Lazarus P Allport
	8:00am	A Di Donato N Dudley
	10:00am	S Samrani M Portell
Acolytes:	5:30pm	Philip & Morea
	8:00am	Andre
	10:00am	Ricardo & Tony
Counters:		Roberta

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.

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

Preparation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation

Our parish preparation program for children who wish to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time and are 8 years of age (Year 3 in primary school) and over will begin in March. Introduction and enrolment: Wednesday 1 March in the Parish Hall at 7:00pm. Classes will be on Saturday 4:30pm and Sunday 9:00am in the Parish Hall commencing on Saturday 4th March. There will be four weeks of classes (parents can choose to bring their children either on Saturday or Sunday. First Reconciliation (Confession) will be on Wednesday 29th March.

Choir Notice

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

St Joseph’s Enfield Healing Mass Friday 3rd March 2023

Celebrant: Father Mirko Integlia
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

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.

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

