



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

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With St Paul of the Cross we pray ...

For the sick

Jennifer Keohane
Albert & Hedi Stein
Elmano Belo
Patrick Crowley
Sidney Luximon
Lionel Delgado
Patricia Stack
Raul Cabrera
Ruth Wilson
Raymond Hudson
Fr Jim Duggan
Pat Allport
Cardo, Zennie, Ian, Pat
Christina

Recently Deceased

Death Anniversary

Hugh Dessa
Alvaro Afonso
Maria Aurinda Ferreira

For the Souls

Father Basil Francis Rosen
Raimondo & Raffaella Dolce
Marisa Rulli

All forgotten Souls and Holy Souls in Purgatory

Special Intention

Henry & Tina and my family
Leah Tillam

“They saw no one but only Jesus”



There is an extraordinary depth of insight into the many ‘layers’ of our Gospel story of the Transfiguration of Jesus in this painting by the Fifteenth century Italian painter and Dominican friar, Fra Angelico. Jesus is, of course, at the centre dominating the whole scene. His garments are “as white as the light”. His disciples are so overcome that they shield their eyes. Peter is actually turning away as if this revelation of Jesus was too much to face. On either side of the painting are his mother, representing all the promises and hopes of Israel that she had said ‘yes’ to and St Dominic, representing the continuing teaching of Jesus. Beneath Jesus’ arms, as if drawing them into himself, are the two greatest prophets of the Old Testament, Moses and Elijah.

But it is the stance of the transfigured Jesus that draws us into the painting. His outstretched arms draw us into his life just as his own life fulfilled all the promises God had made to his people throughout the Old Testament, beginning with the call and blessing of Abraham. Even though Jesus is shown as radiating the light of God, his outstretched arms remind us above all, of his crucifixion and the resurrection that would follow. It reminds us how, in Matthew’s Gospel, Jesus tells the disciples who had witnessed his Transfiguration, to tell no one about it until “the Son of Man has risen from the dead”.

We glimpse, in the depth of the imagery in this painting, some sense of what the disciples themselves experienced in their time with Jesus “on a high mountain”. This “mountain” is not intended by Matthew to be understood primarily as a geographic place but as an image of revelation - like the “mountain” in the Sermon on the Mount: this is where Jesus revealed who he was. All that they had experienced with him so far - his extraordinary ‘authority’, his teaching and his miracles of healing - all this came together in that revelation of Jesus as the “Son, the Beloved.” It is, once again, Peter who recognises this when he addresses Jesus as “Lord” not as “Teacher (Rabbi)”.

It was a revelation that would eventually transform their lives as they allowed themselves more and more to be drawn into the life of Jesus. They were told to “Listen to him.” Here we remember how ‘seeing’ and ‘listening’ are used throughout each of the Gospels as images of conversion. We ‘listen to’ Jesus when we take him into our lives and reshape them in obedience to God’s Word, the Word that “became flesh” in Jesus.

Seeing Jesus and listening to him throughout our lives brings us into God’s own life, “Whoever has seen me has seen the Father” (Jn14:9). The disciples could not bear to look at Christ in his divinity, the life he shared with the Father. But when it was “only Jesus”, the man who remained faithful to God, despite suffering and rejection, they could follow him. They followed him until they were finally able to ‘see’ that the Son of God and the Son of Man were one and the same person.

The story of the Transfiguration is found in each of the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke. Only Matthew however has the detail of Jesus touching his disciples and encouraging them to “Stand up”. Jesus’ “touch” had brought healing to the sick and even raised the dead. Now his touch tells his disciples that they had nothing to fear from what they had either seen (his Transfiguration) or heard (his teachings, his revelation of his suffering and death). Jesus’ “touch” is the way in which God shares our difficulties and sufferings with us in a way that can give us hope and enable us to “Stand up” and not be crushed by our experiences. Our own faithfulness to Jesus, the way in which we “listen to him” when we experience our own sufferings and difficulties, gives our lives the depth and the hope that he brought us through his life.

As we reflect on the gospel of the Transfiguration during our Lenten preparation for Easter,

We join in praise of the God who is light and who allowed that light to shine from the humanity of Christ. We give thanks for the gift of that light that we have received at Baptism and that we joyfully bear to all. As we navigate experiences of darkness and suffering, may we come to believe that God still loves us in the night, as his grace purifies us, changes us, and unites us more deeply to himself. (Fr B. Swann Word on Fire article “Divine Light and Holy Darkness” 5/8/21)

Deacon Louis

Feast/Solemnity/Memorial/Saint of the Week

(6- 11 Mar 2023)

Tue 7/3 Sts Perpetua and Felicity, martyrs
Wed 8/3 St John of God, religious
Thu 9/3 St Frances of Rome, religious

St John of God

Born in Portugal in 1495 of humble and virtuous parents. His early years were spent as a shepherd; but in 1522 he enlisted in a military company and served against the French and, later, the Turks in Hungary, while Charles V was King of Spain.



In 1536 he left the army and entered the service of a lady near Seville as a shepherd. At forty years of age he resolved upon an entire change of life and began to devote himself to the service of God. He settled in Granada in 1538 and opened a shop. The sermons of St John of Avila impressed him to such a degree that in order to draw humiliation upon himself, he acted as a madman.

In 1540 St John hired a house to harbor sick persons, and thus laid foundations of a new Order, the *Brothers Hospitallers of St John of God*. He devoted himself to the care of the sick. After ten years of hard labor his health deteriorated. He died on his knees before the altar, March 8, 1550 and was canonized in 1690 by Pope Alexander VIII.

PARISH WEEKEND MASS ROSTER 11 - 12 March 2023

Readers:	5:30pm	R Lazarus M Dos Santos
	8:00am	P Tan M El Khoury
	10:00am	L & J Scanlon
Acolytes:	5:30pm	Ricardo & Morea
	8:00am	Andre
	10:00am	Joseph & Philip
Counters:		Precy T Sherlin N

Choir Notice

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

Lenten Reflections

St Brigid's Marrickville is hosting a series of reflections based on the readings for each Sunday of Lent at 7pm each Monday.

Our parish Lenten program is based on the video series *The Chosen* and every Tuesday at 7pm. There are 8 episodes in the first season so it will continue on each Tuesday after Easter. Please speak to Deacon Louis if you would like to know more about these evenings.

Stations of the Cross - every Friday through Lent at 7:00pm.

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 has begun.. 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 at 6:30pm.



Caritas parish speakers are coming this weekend 4th/5th March 2023 to talk on Project Compassion. “Every dollar your school or parish raises through Project Compassion will help change the lives of some of the world’s most vulnerable people. With your help, we can make a difference today, and For All Future Generations.”

Aid to the Church in Need is asking for support to provide sisters in Romania with a new heating system. The Sisters of the Mother of God are the oldest congregation of sisters in the Romanian Greek Catholic Church. The history of their community has long been one marked by persecution, particularly when Romania was under communist rule. Today the sisters continue to aid their local community with youth groups, spiritual support and counselling, as well as providing the poor with basic necessities. But they are facing a major problem. Their ancient heating system has finally broken down and needs to be replaced, but they cannot afford the cost. The sisters need your help!

To make an offering and learn more visit www.aidtochurch.org/monthlyproject

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

