



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



Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time / B

22 August 2021

**PRIMARY
SCHOOL**



Ph: 9558 5308

Principal:

Ms Frances Stewart

REC: Ms Jo-Anne Ross

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**With St Paul of the
Cross we pray ...**

For the sick

Noel Nacua

Patricia Stack

Jovito Redaja

Eimy & Kenzo

Raul Cabrera

Angela Di Donato

Sr Julianne Murphy

Helen & Robyn

Natalina Gallace

Ruth Wilson

Raymond Hudson

Lourdes Tee

Fr Jim Duggan

Pat Allport

Cardo, Zennie, Ian, Pat

Francheska Bechara

Igor Tadinac

Recently Deceased

Honorio Mercene

(father of Fr Nards)

Death Anniversary

For the Souls

Raimondo & Raffaella Dolce

Marisa Rulli

Naty Ramos

Jean Wise

Veronica Ann Doran

Chung Keng Po

Isabelo Corpus (72nd Birthday)

Elsa Duncan (72nd Birthday)

Roberto and Velia Grimares

Mercedes and Ignacio Morales

Filomena and Carlos Villamor Jr.

Artemio Bernardino

Maria and Manuel Cadiz

All forgotten Souls and Holy

Souls in Purgatory

Special Intentions

Alyssa and Sonny Sinpraseuth

Baby Blake Sinpraseuth

Henry & Tina and family

Leah Tillam

“Lord, to whom shall we go?”

Today's gospel reading is the unexpected ending of a long chapter in John's Gospel (chapter 6) that began with Jesus going up a mountain with his disciples, "*followed by a large crowd*" - a clear reference to Moses and the people of Israel at Mt Sinai. All of these people were fed by Jesus in the miracle of the loaves and fishes. It was a miracle that so impressed them that Jesus had to get away from them "*because they were about to come and take him by force and make him king.*"

Now however we hear that "*many of his disciples left him and stopped going with him.*" What had happened to change their attitude to Jesus so dramatically? The answer is there in the response they made to his teaching, "*this is intolerable language. How could anyone accept it?*" Jesus had explained to them the meaning of the 'sign', the miracle that he had performed: the bread was "*the bread of God that gives life to the world*"; he himself was "*the bread of God*"; this bread is his flesh and "*whoever eats it will live forever.*"

Even though they had experienced what Jesus had done for them, they were repelled by his talk of "*eating my flesh and drinking my blood.*" At this point Jesus could have said, "Wait! Don't you understand? I'm speaking in parables here as I often do." Instead, he went on to be even more provocative, from their point of view, by talking about "*the Son of Man ascending to where he was before*" - an unmistakable reference to the nature of his relationship with God. It was at this point that they rejected Jesus. They could accept him as a great prophet, even an equal to Moses who had also performed great miracles, but this talk of eating his flesh as an experience of the life of God was completely unacceptable.

Jesus however doesn't condemn the people who walked away from him. Instead, he comments on the limitations of our own purely human understanding of who he is. "*It is the Spirit that gives life; the flesh has nothing to offer.*" "*The flesh*" is our natural human understanding of Christ as opposed to the insight (grace) that God alone can give us. "*No one can come to me unless the Father allows him.*" Without this insight, this gift from God, we cannot fully understand Christ or the life he offers us, especially through the gift of himself in the Eucharist.

Earlier on, in response to Jesus' teaching about "*working for food that endures for eternal life*", they had asked Jesus, "*What must we do, to be doing the works of God?*" Their question assumed that it was all up to them. But, as Pope Benedict notes in his book **Jesus of Nazareth**, "*this 'bread' cannot be earned by human efforts, by our own achievements. It can only come to us as a gift from God, as 'God's work.'*"

Simon Peter's own response was both honest and personal and indicates a way forward for us in our understanding of how Jesus can transform us through the gift of himself in the Eucharist. Jesus was a person, "*the Holy One of God*". Even though his own understanding of Jesus' words about "*eating his flesh and drinking his blood*" was most likely no better than the understanding of those who rejected Jesus, Simon Peter was prepared to wait for a fuller understanding. His response, "*Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the message of eternal life, and we believe*", is based on at least an awareness of the depth of who Jesus is. It also involved a profound trust in Jesus' power to make his message clear in a way that would be life giving.

"*And we believe.*" Could a general ignorance and/or misunderstanding of who Jesus is and what he is actually offering us explain why relatively so few Catholics attend Mass? The Eucharist is not a religious service full of symbolism and references to Jesus but a direct link with Jesus himself and, through him, with God: "*no one comes to the Father, except through me.*" We receive Jesus as "*the bread of life*" not only at the moment of Communion but through lives shaped by "*the Holy One of God.*" 'Believing' involves both knowing who Jesus is as, "the Word made flesh, who dwelt amongst us" and trusting in the power of his words and actions to transform our lives.

Reference: Pope Benedict XVI **Jesus of Nazareth** Bloomsbury Books London 2008

Deacon Louis

Planned Giving Program Form

Please return urgently the **Form** for the Planned Giving Envelope and tick/sign whether you are opting for **30% Tax Deduction** or **No Tax Deduction**. This form will also enable us to update your details such as address, email and phone number.

Email: church@dulwichhillparish.org.au

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.

Feast/Solemnity/Memorial/Saint of the Week (23 - 28 August 2021)

Mon	23/8	St Rose of Lima, virgin
Tue	24/8	St Bartholomew, apostle
Wed	25/8	St Louis
		St Joseph Calasanz, priest
Fri	27/8	St Monica
Sat	28/7	St Augustine, bishop, doctor

St Rose of Lima. Born of a Spanish family at Lima, Peru. At twenty entered the Third Order of Saint Dominic in Lima. She became concerned for the native peoples who were outcast in her society and dedicated her life to bringing them the Good News.



Patron saint of Peru
and all of South
America

St Bartholomew. Born in Galilee, one of the apostles. His name appears in all of the New Testament apostolic lists. Some scholars have identified him with the "Nathanael" whom Philip brought to Jesus. He was chosen by our Lord Himself to be one of the Twelve Apostles.



St Louis IX King of France. Succeeding to the throne under the regency of his mother, Louis reigned for forty-four years. Austere and prayerful in his private life, as king he was energetic but considerate, especially to the poor. He led the French to victory over King Henry III of England and led two Crusades.



St Joseph of Calasanz. Born in Aragon, Spain in 1556. He was a Spanish Catholic priest, educator and the founder of the Pious Schools, providing free education to the sons of the poor, and the Religious Order that ran them, commonly known as Piarists. He laid the foundation of the Clerics Regular of the Poor Schools of the Mother of God.



St Monica. Though a Christian, Monica married a nonbeliever and bore three children. Her husband's example led her oldest son, Saint Augustine, to lapse from the faith, but her patience and gentleness converted her husband, and her prayers and tears drew Augustine back to the Church.



St Augustine. Born in Thagaste, in North Africa. Augustine experienced a singular conversion in Milan, famously recounted in his autobiography *Confessions*. God's grace and the prayers of his mother, who followed him to Italy as well as the instructions of saintly friends particularly St Ambrose, effected his conversion. As bishop of Hippo, he found himself constantly opposing one heresy or another. This Doctor of the Church and greatest of the Latin Fathers is also known for his *City of God*.



COVID-19 Update

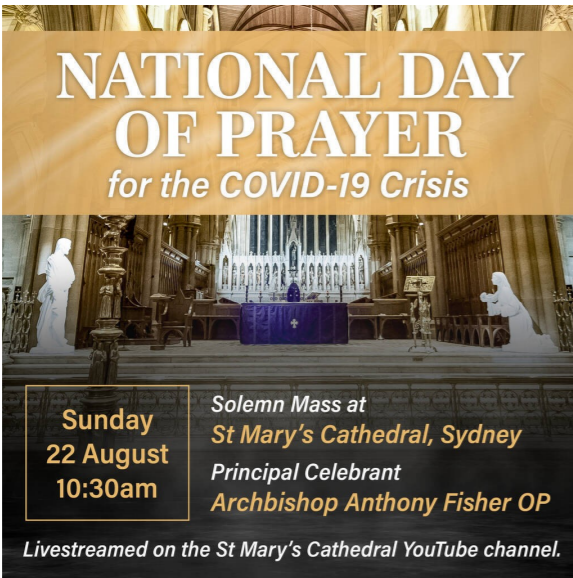
Bishop Richard celebrates Mass at 10am in our church each Sunday. This is then livestreamed on his Facebook page under 'Bishop Umbers livestream' and on our parish Facebook site under 'Parish of the Immaculate Conception and St Paul of the Cross.'

Public masses across greater Sydney, including the whole metropolitan area, have been suspended until at least **Saturday 28th August.**

Parishes may continue live-streaming Masses at this time.

For livestreamed Masses:

www.sydneycatholic.org/live-masses



Sign the No Euthanasia Petition to prevent state-sanctioned killing in NSW

Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP is urging all Catholics to sign an e-petition to prevent the NSW parliament passing laws that sanction the killing of vulnerable human beings. There is never a good time to introduce laws such as this, but to do so in the middle of a pandemic and amidst lockdowns adversely affecting the lives and livelihoods of millions is unconscionable.

Our sick and elderly have already suffered 17 months of increasing isolation and right now that is being intensified. Meanwhile, people are losing their jobs, businesses are going under, families are under the pressures of schooling and working from home, people's movements are severely restricted, and depression rates are up. The last thing we need to hear from our leaders in this situation is a pro-suicide message.

Please sign this petition, calling on the Government to keep us focused on the present challenges and once they have been met, let us focus on medicine at its best and not its most lethal.

https://www.no euthanasia.org.au/protect_life_nsw

Parish Office

Maria - Mondays

Cecilia - Wed-Friday

9.30am - 2:30pm

Parish & Hall enquiries

9558 3257

Mass Times

Sat: 5:30pm (Vigil)

Sun: 8am & 10am

Mon to Fri: 9:00am

Sat: 9:30am

Family Mass with

Children's Liturgy

3rd Sunday of the

Month 10am Mass

Family Rosary & Morning

Tea - 2nd Sunday of the

Month after 10am Mass in

the Church Hall

Filipino Mass

1st Sun 11:30am

Sacraments

Confession

Sat 8:30-9:20am, 4:45pm

or any time by

appointment

Baptism

Every 2nd, 3rd and 4th

Sunday 11.15am

Marriage

At least 6 months notice

required

Anointing of the Sick

Any time on call

Devotions

Holy Hour & Rosary

Sunday - Friday

before morning mass

Rosary & Benediction

Sat 8:30-9:30am

Novena to Our Lady of

Perpetual Help

Wednesday 7pm

