



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-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time / B

29 August 2021

**PRIMARY
SCHOOL**



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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

Karen Sabarita

Felix Cavan

Death Anniversary

For the Souls

Raimondo & Raffaella Dolce

Marisa Rulli

Naty Ramos

Jean Wise

Veronica Ann Doran

Chung Keng Po

I

All forgotten Souls and Holy
Souls in Purgatory

Special Intentions

Alyssa and Sonny

Sinpraseuth

Baby Blake Sinpraseuth

Henry & Tina and family

Leah Tillam

On Saturday, we celebrated the Feast of St Augustine, Doctor of the Church and one of the most influential men in the history of the Church and indeed of Western culture generally. His mother, St Monica, has her Feast day on the day before his. The following reflection speaks about his mother's role in his spiritual journey. It highlights the role of prayer in our lives, especially prayer for others, as an expression of our hope and trust in God's care for us. The value of Christian hope and the power of prayer as trust in God is particularly important to us now as we experience this pandemic and work for the future of the Church in our society.

THE INEXHAUSTIBLE HOPE OF ST. MONICA

St. Monica was born in the Roman province of North Africa in 331 AD and died in the year 387 AD. She had been baptized and brought up in a well-known Christian family. Her husband was a Roman of minor nobility named Patricius, and with Patricius, Monica had three children, one of whom was named Augustine. Augustine's father did not become a Christian until the end of his life, perhaps through his wife's influence and her prayers for him. Augustine, however, would become one of the premiere converts to the Catholic faith, and his works of theology and spirituality are among the greatest of the treasures of the Church.

But the path from Augustine to St. Augustine would not be clear and easy. Augustine spent much of his youth resisting Christ and the Church, and this resistance caused his mother, Monica, much in tears and in turmoil.

Monica petitioned the Lord for years that he might intervene in the life of her son. When this intervention finally did take place, and Augustine came to know Christ and accepted a life as a disciple in the Church, Monica was overjoyed, but would not live long enough to see the full flowering of Augustine's faith.

Prayer of petition is the most common kind of prayer that we offer and, though common, it is perhaps the most mysterious.

The Lord knows our needs better than we do and nothing that we request of him comes as a surprise. Further, our petitionary prayer, no matter how eloquent or persistent, has no power to force God to act in accord with our desires. We ask God for many things in prayer, but the deepest purpose of our petitions is not to get what we want, but to discern what God wants. Augustine's conversion to Christ happened, but it happened on the Lord's terms, not Monica's.

Augustine's relationship with his mother, as he describes it throughout his **Confessions**, was a complex one since she herself was a mixture of many conflicting desires. *"She loved to have me with her, as with most mothers, but far more than most mothers."* She was very ambitious for her children, particularly Augustine and her role in the breakup of his long term de facto relationship was motivated by concerns for his future career prospects as much as for his spiritual wellbeing.

St. Monica however trusted that God in Christ would not abandon her son to a directionless life of faithlessness and dissolution. She trusted that God's purposes for her son's life were greater than what his narrow perceptions could conceive. This act of trust, which is truly a manifestation of the theological virtue of hope, became the crucible through which Monica's sanctity was accomplished.

God's purposes were as much accomplished in Monica's willingness to abide in hope that God ultimately loved her son, even though he resisted that love. God's purposes would finally be accomplished through Augustine's conversion to Christ.

It was not Augustine's conversion that made Monica a saint, but her willingness to surrender her will to Christ's, and in this surrender, to abide in hope that Christ's purposes for Augustine would one day be fulfilled. Monica lived to see that day, but even if she had not, her sanctification would have been accomplished.

Hope is one of the least remembered and least understood of the great theological virtues. This is sad in so many ways, as it is often because people are bereft of hope that they refuse to believe and refuse to love.

Hope is not merely optimism but an act of trust that God, who did not abandon Christ to the powers of sin and death and the devil, will also not abandon us. Hope dares to believe that God's purposes will be fulfilled even if we cannot foresee how this will be possible or when such fulfillment will take place.

Adapted from *The inexhaustible hope of St Monica* Fr Steve Grunow Word on Fire blog 27/8/12

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 and the lockdown is extended up to September.

Parishes may continue live-streaming Masses at this time.

For livestreamed Masses:

www.sydneycatholic.org/live-masses

Bulletin/website Notice

Archbishop's Afghan Refugee Appeal

Sydney Catholic Archbishop, Anthony Fisher OP, has launched the Archbishop's Afghan Refugee Appeal. The appeal will raise desperately needed funds and commit the Archdiocese resources of education, health and welfare to Afghan families and individuals fleeing their homeland in the wake of the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan. The UN and aid agencies are preparing for a Syria scale refugee crisis. The appeal means that those who find their way to Australia will have support and resources waiting for them. These dark times remind all of us that we really are our brother and our sisters' keeper. We urge you to donate here: [Archbishop's Afghan Refugee Appeal](#)

For further information go to: <http://justiceandpeace.org.au/> Thank you on behalf of the Archbishop and those most vulnerable people for your support.

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

(30 August - 4 September 2021)

Fri 3/9 St Gregory the Great, pope, doctor

St Gregory the Great

Born about 540, was the son of Gordianus, a wealthy senator. He renounced the world and he became one of the seven deacons of Rome. After he had acquired the usual thorough education, Emperor Justin appointed him Chief Magistrate of Rome.



After the death of his father he built six monasteries in Sicily and founded a seventh in his own house in Rome which became the Benedictine Monastery of St Andrew. St Gregory was chosen pope by the unanimous consent of priests and people. His zeal extended with all the Churches of Christendom and, in spite of his bodily sufferings and innumerable labours, he found time to compose a great number of works. Known above all for his magnificent contributions to the liturgy of the Mass and Office, he is one of the four great Doctors of Latin Church. He died March 12, 604.

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>

