



## 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-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time / B

5 September 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

Karen Sabarita

Felix Cavan

### Death Anniversary

### For the Souls

All forgotten Souls and Holy  
Souls in Purgatory

### Special Intentions

Roy Sayah

Zare Sayah

Leah Tillam

**“He has done all things well..”**



Even though it has been many years since I've been there, I will never forget the impression this image of Christ, 'Ruler of All' (Christos Pantocrator), made on me as I entered the huge twelfth century cathedral at Cefalu in Sicily. Christ looks directly at you. Everything about this image, its position, its size, its strong colours, all come together to tell you that here is someone who fills your whole life, someone who cannot be ignored.

This is Christ as he is presented in today's Gospel, someone who inspired the pagan people living near the Sea of Galilee with *“unbounded admiration.”* Mark presents Jesus' healing miracle within the context of our first reading from the prophet Isaiah. The healing of the deaf man with a speech impediment is more than an extraordinary act performed by Jesus but a sign that God has come to save us. When God comes, Isaiah says, *“the eyes of the blind shall be opened; the ears of the deaf unsealed.”* The universal nature of Jesus' mission is highlighted by the miracle occurring among a pagan people not in Israel. He is truly 'Ruler of All'.

God's coming will, Isaiah says, give us courage. It certainly did for the man Jesus healed as well as for those who witnessed it. Put yourself in his position: a lifetime of being unable to fully understand what was happening around you, unable to express your thoughts and needs except by sounds that would have made you seem to be less than human to those around you. Imagine a life full of unspoken frustration, anger and humiliation.

But then Jesus comes and, with a few words, completely transforms your life. He does this however in a way that respects you. He takes you aside *“in private, away from the crowds”* and then, through personal physical contact, touches the source of all your problems. In the same spirit, he sighs as he looks up to heaven and says, *“Be opened”* - a personal expression of distress, perhaps, “at the sight of someone who, in the thinking of his time, was bound by the power of Satan.” Jesus has shown his divinity, his power over suffering and evil in all its forms, through his humanity.

Mark wants us to understand this particular miracle as the 'good news' of Christ's power to heal us in our own experience of being unable to hear God or to respond to him. God speaks to us through all that we do and experience each day but, like the man in the Gospel story, we are unable to hear him and respond. Continuing with the Gospel image, our situation can be compared to that of many people as they grow older and are unable to hear people who speak at a lower sound pitch or take part in conversations where a number of people are speaking. As a result they often miss what is being said and become more withdrawn.

Here we can learn from the way Christ healed the man in our Gospel story. There are so many voices that we hear each day from our society as well as from within us. It is easy to become 'deaf' to God speaking to us each day since God often speaks to us quietly in our lives. Jesus took the man *“away from the crowds.”* Our relationship with Christ is formed when we make a conscious effort to be with him, something perhaps that this period of lockdown should provide us with plenty of opportunities. We can't speak with any conviction about God or our faith if, for example, we have never sat with a passage of scripture and put to ourselves, this very simple question - what is it saying to me? Through this relationship with Christ, we learn to identify God's voice among the many discordant voices we hear each day. This in turn gives us the courage to *“speak clearly”*, even to *“sing for joy”* because God has come into our lives to save us.

Reference: Michael Mullins **The Gospel of Mark: a commentary** The Columba Press Dublin 2005

Deacon Louis

### **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](mailto: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.

*Volunteer in Australia and Overseas - The Cagliero Project, Salesians of Don Bosco*

*We are seeking long term (6-12 month) volunteers for January 2022 to work with young people in our Salesian communities in Australia. When it is possible and safe to do so, we will recommence sending volunteers to work with disadvantaged young people in Salesian communities in Samoa, Cambodia, Timor Leste & the Solomon Islands. Applications close October 30th. Send us an inquiry - [www.cagliero.org.au](http://www.cagliero.org.au)*



### *Feast/Solemnity/Memorial/Saint of the Week (6 - 11 September 2021)*

Wed	8/9	The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Thu	9/9	St Peter Claver, priest

#### **The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

Traditions holds that Mary's parents - saints Joachim and Anne - were not fertile. God however, gifted them with Mary who would become the Ark of the New Covenant.



The Church of St Anne (the basilica of St Anne) was built in 1140, on the remains of a Byzantine Church, to commemorate the traditional site of Mary's birthplace at the home of her parents Anne and Joachim. There are only two exceptions where the saints birthdays are celebrated: Our Lady and St John the Baptist. This because their birthdays are so intimately associated with Jesus' birth. St John the Baptist, was born to announce the coming of our Lord, while our lady was born to bear God in Her womb and give birth to Him

#### **St Peter Claver**

Born at Verdu, Catalonia, Spain.

In 1610, he landed at Cartagena (Columbia) the principal slave market of the New World, where a thousand slaves were brought every month.



After his ordination in 1616, he dedicated himself to the service of the Black slaves - a work that was to last for thirty-three years. He laboured unceasingly for the salvation of the slaves and the abolition of the slave trade. During his ministry it is estimated that he personally catechized and baptized 300,000 slaves. He would then follow up on them to ensure that as Christians they received their Christian and civil rights.

### **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](https://www.archbishop.org.au/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 Prayer for Fathers**

God our Father,  
we give you thanks and praise  
for fathers young and old.

We pray for young fathers,  
newly embracing their vocation;  
May they find the courage and perseverance  
to balance work, family, and faith in joy and sacrifice.  
We pray for our own fathers  
who have supported and challenged us;  
May they continue to lead in strong and gentle ways.

We remember fathers around the world  
whose children are lost or suffering;  
May they know that the God of compassion  
walks with them in their sorrow.

We pray for men who are not fathers  
but still mentor and guide us  
with fatherly love and advice.

We remember fathers, grandfathers,  
and great grandfathers who are no longer with us  
but who live forever in our memory  
and nourish us with their love.  
Amen.

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.'

### **Safeguarding Sunday, 12 September 2021**

This week the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney celebrated National Child Protection Week for the fifth year in a row, and today, the week culminates with the celebration of Safeguarding Sunday. The celebration of this past week, leading up to Safeguarding Sunday, has provided us with an opportunity to reflect on how we can improve the ways we care for, protect and listen to the Children and Young People in our communities.

To help us reflect, the Safeguarding Office has developed two new resources; the *Children's Activity Book* and *A Guide for Young People to Better Understand their Wellbeing*.

Additionally, the Safeguarding Offices of the Archdiocese of Sydney, the Diocese of Parramatta and the Diocese of Broken Bay, have collaborated on the development of a resource. Entitled *Children and Young People's Participation in Catholic Communities*, this guide promotes community awareness to support, engage, listen to and communicate with Children and Young People.

These resources can be accessed on the Safeguarding website: <https://www.sydneycatholic.org/safeguarding-and-child-protection/>

### **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

