



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-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time / B

26 September 2021

**PRIMARY
SCHOOL**



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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

Fr Jim Duggan

Pat Allport

Cardo, Zennie, Ian, Pat

Francheska Bechara

Igor Tadinac

Recently Deceased

Alan Orat

Lourdes Tee

Honorio Mercene

Francisco Magno

Paolo Antonio Caesar

Death Anniversary

Tess Lasala

For the Souls

Albert Lavilles

Levi Loyola

Pricilla Aquitania

Nelia Subierre-Gole

Raquel Atienza

Bing and Ludy Javier

Ignacio and Ched Morales

Isabelo Corpus

All forgotten Souls and Holy
Souls in Purgatory

Special Intentions

Leah Tillam

David Santos

“Your word, O Lord, is truth: make us holy in the truth” (Jn 17:17)

Every city has its rubbish dump and Jerusalem was no exception. To the south of the city was a deep valley called Gehenna (the valley of Hinnom). It was, in the time of the prophets, ‘a cursed place’ since children were sacrificed to the pagan gods there in times of drought or famine. In Jesus’ time, it was where all the garbage of Jerusalem ended up. It was literally the place where “*their worm does not die nor their fire go out.*”

This is the phrase that concludes Jesus’ condemnation of all those who are “*an obstacle to bring down one of the little ones who have faith.*” It is a quotation from the final verses of the Book of Isaiah (66:23-24) where Isaiah describes the eternal punishment awaiting those who are enemies of the Lord at the end of time when all the nations are gathered together.

Jesus’ words are harsh and uncompromising even going so far as to say that anyone who is an “obstacle” in this way (literally ‘something that makes you trip over’) would be better off drowned; that it is better to “*lose hands...eyes...feet*” than to have all these and “be thrown into hell.” In the Greek text of Mark’s Gospel, the word for “hell” is Gehenna. Jesus’ strong, in fact violent, language here follows on from his earlier statement to his disciples, “*Anyone who is not against us is for us.*” This spells out very clearly the choice that each one of us must make through the way we live. There is, in the end, no middle way. We are ultimately either ‘for’ Jesus or “*against*” him.

In his commentary on this week’s Gospel, scripture scholar Fr Frank Moloney notes:

There is a sense in which the seemingly harsh images of this Gospel must be given their literal meaning... Of course, this is not a command from Jesus to cut off hands or pluck out eyes. What Jesus announces is simply this: the kingdom of God is so precious that it is far better to lose something truly important and even precious, but which ultimately can be done without, rather than lose the kingdom.

Jesus’ harsh and negative language therefore aims at making a positive message very strongly. When we hear Jesus’ words about being an obstacle that “*brings down one of these little ones who have faith,*” it is impossible, in our context, not to think of the consequences of the unending tragedy of child sexual abuse for the Church. Apart from the physical, mental and spiritual damage it has caused to all those involved, it has muffled the voice of the Church and become an obstacle to the kingdom of God at a time when we need to be heard loudly and clearly about the sanctity of human life at every stage.

But the “*little ones*” Jesus is referring to doesn’t just mean children. As we heard in last week’s Gospel, “*anyone who welcomes one of these little children in my name, welcomes me.*” These are all those who are like children, like Jesus himself in their complete trust in their relationship with God and the guidance that God gives them. Anyone who stands in the way of this relationship with God is therefore an obstacle, interfering with or disrupting God’s work in their lives.

Jesus however also praises all those who offer guidance, support and encouragement to all those who follow him as “*the Way, the Truth and the Life.*” As we saw earlier, this includes all those who, in ways perhaps unknown to them, have inspired us in our faith. We could also think of all those who encouraged us, especially at difficult moments when our own faith was tested, by the way in which they were ‘with us.’ They are, as Jesus said, like “*a cup of water*” to a thirsty traveller.

Reference: Francis J Moloney **This the Gospel of the Lord: reflections on the Gospel readings Year B** St Paul’s Publications Sydney 1993

Deacon Louis

NSW Government Solar Energy offer

Are you a pensioner and want to cut your electricity bills? You may qualify for a free solar system installed on your home and save up to \$600 a year on your electricity bills. Find out more about the NSW Govt’s Solar for Low Income Households trial at www.energysaver.nsw.gov.au/solar-low-income-households

Inaugural March for Life Mass: Sunday 26 September

Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP is inviting Catholics across Sydney to demonstrate their support for a culture of life in NSW at the inaugural March for Life Mass.

Organised by the Life, Marriage and Family team, the Mass coincides with the same date two years ago when the NSW Parliament passed the Abortion Reform Act, allowing for abortion up to birth in NSW.

The Mass will be livestreamed on the St Mary’s Cathedral You Tube channel here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=omSVSNtdIrg>

Palms Australia - All professions and trades are called to assist this mission.

Since 1961 Palms Australia has quietly prepared and supported humble Catholics like you for mission. It’s our response as church to calls from Australian and overseas communities to help bring opportunity to the poor. Sharing your skills with local co-workers helps them to develop their essential community organisations. Improving their self-reliance aids sustainable poverty reduction and removes dependence on foreign aid and influence. Your relationships within the local community will transform your heart and soul.

Visit palms.org.au Email: palms@palms.org.au or call Christine on 02 9560 5333 Applications close October 29th.

Feast/Solemnity/Memorial/Saint of the Week (27 Sep - 2 Oct 2021)

Mon	27/9	St Vincent de Paul, priest
Tue	28/9	St Wenceslaus, martyr St Lawrence Ruiz and companions, martyrs
Wed	29/9	Sts Michael, Gabriel, Raphael, archangels
Thu	30/9	St Jerome, priest, doctor
Fri	1/10	St Therese of the Child Jesus, virgin, doctor
Sat	2/10	The Holy Guardian Angels

St Vincent de Paul

Vincent was born in the south of France and ordained a priest in 1600. He spent his life preaching missions and providing relief to the poor. He founded the Vincentian Congregation in 1625. With the cooperation of St Louise de Merillac, he founded the Daughters of Charity in 1633. The Society of St Vincent de Paul was founded by Frederick Ozanam in 1833.



Wenceslaus was the duke of Bohemia from 921 until his assassination in 935. His younger brother, Boleslaus the Cruel, was complicit in the murder. His martyrdom and the popularity of several biographies gave rise to a reputation for heroic virtue that resulted in his elevation to sainthood.



St. Lawrence Ruiz and Companions

In the 17th century (1633-1637) St. Lawrence Ruiz and his companions shed their blood for Christ in Nagasaki, Japan. These martyrs were members of the Order of St. Dominic. They were nine priests, two religious, two sisters, and three laymen. Among the latter was Lawrence Ruiz, a family man from the Philippines.



The Archangels

St Michael, the Warrior Angel

(who is like God)

St Raphael, the Healing Angel

(God heals)

St Gabriel, the Messenger

(strength of God)



St Jerome

From Dalmatia, Jerome was named Eusebius Sophronius Hieronymus. His numerous biblical ascetical, monastic, and theological works profoundly influenced the early middle ages. He is known for his Latin translation of the Bible, the *Vulgate*, for which he was named a Doctor of the Church.



St Therese of the Child Jesus

Born in Normandy, France, Marie Frances Theresa Martin entered the Carmel of Lisieux at age of fifteen years. She was canonized in 1925 by Pope XI, and made her the third woman Doctor of the Church. Love of God as a Father, expressed in child-like simplicity and trust, and a deep understanding of the mystery of the Cross were the basic principles of her “little way,”



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.’

Charitable Works Fund Appeal: 26 September

Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP is inviting Catholics across Sydney to donate what you can to support the Charitable Works Fund appeal.

The appeal helps support important works for the needy including Catholic Care, Aboriginal Catholic Ministry and hospital and prison chaplaincies.

Donations can be made online here: <https://www.ourfaithourworks.org/give-to-cwf/>

Parishes are also invited to download and share Archbishop Anthony’s video message on social media: https://www.dropbox.com/s/re3r0vg8f3tqpn8/20210902_cwf_appeal_v.04.mp4?dl=0

Online Holy Hour for the needs of Sydney Catholics: Thursday 30 September

The Parish Renewal Team in the Sydney Centre for Evangelisation is inviting Sydney Catholics to an online Holy Hour on Thursday 30 September, the eve of the first Friday in honour of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Feast Day of St Therese, patron saint of missionaries. St Therese knew that her daily union with Christ in prayer was the most effective help she could offer for the Church’s proclamation of the Gospel.

As we await the end of lockdown, let us unite ourselves with Christ and pray that many hearts will be open to his love and granted the grace to encounter Him in this time of challenge and to live ever more deeply as his disciples. [Registrations essential.](#)

Online Holy Hour

Date: Thursday 30 September

Time: 7:00pm – 8:30pm

Venue: Online at www.gomakedisciples.org.au/cas-events

Write to your local NSW MP to stop proposed euthanasia laws in our state.

Parishioners are encouraged to please contact your local NSW MP, expressing your opposition to the voluntary assisted dying bill, proposed by Independent MP Alex Greenwich. The anti-euthanasia coalition, HOPE has developed an online tool that will allow you to send an email directly to your state MP and to all members of the NSW Upper House. The tool is available here: https://www.no euthanasia.org.au/petition_2108_ocp_nsw

Can you picture yourself being a foster carer?

To learn more about becoming a carer register for our next online informative session on:

27 October 2021 12:30pm—1:30pm

[Family Spirit 13 18 19](#)

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

