



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

Catholic Parish of Dulwich Hill, Archdiocese of Sydney, Established in 1907

532 New Canterbury Road, Dulwich Hill NSW 2203

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secretary@dulwichhillparish.org.au



Bishop Richard Umbers DD VG (Bishop in Residence)

Fr. Andrew James (Parish Priest), (Deacon) Rev Louis Azzopardi

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



Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time / B

3 October 2021

The Plenary Council must face up to our crisis of faith, says Archbishop (Catholic Weekly interview September 9th 2021)

After a long delay because of the COVID pandemic, the Plenary Council will commence with an opening Mass in Perth this Sunday. Archbishop Anthony Fisher argues that the Plenary Council must deal with real challenges - a crisis of faith in national life and increasing hostility to Christians and the Church among them - but it is also a moment of opportunity.

Q: The last Plenary Council was in 1937. Why do you think it is important we hold a Plenary Council at this time, and what are some things you would like to see the Plenary Council address?

Strengths ...

The Church in Australia today has enormous strengths, and it is important that we spend some time acknowledging that. The Church includes many faithful, gifted, generous laity, religious and clerics. Our networks of individuals and families, of diocesan and parish communities (with their churches, agencies and pastoral outreach), of educational institutions (pre -schools, primary and secondary schools, and tertiary institutions), of health and aged care facilities, and of welfare services are second to none. The three traditional wells of evangelical energy in Australia—family, parish and school—have proven resilient and adaptable. Faith is still a prominent influence in many people's lives, and both Church and society live off the spiritual and cultural inheritance of generations past.

Weaknesses

Nevertheless, the child sexual abuse crisis and the ensuing Royal Commission brought with them much justified criticism and understandable disillusionment, continuing scrutiny and demands for reform, not only to ensure that all church situations are safe for children and vulnerable adults, but also to ensure transparency and accountability in all areas of ecclesial life. Secularisation has also left our culture and society without sound moorings, some people with no moral compass, too many without meaning or hope. It has unsettled many of our faithful, corroded the identity of some institutions, inoculated many young people to faith, and contributed to formal disaffiliation or informal disconnection.

It is certainly a time that is different to others in the history of the Church in Australia, and so the holding of a Plenary Council at this time will no doubt bear fruit

... and challenges

If the primary purpose of a plenary council is to address pastoral needs, then ours must address the crisis of faith in Australia: what we are going to do about bringing the Gospel more effectively to the Australian population in the 2020s, '30s and beyond, especially to those with no religion, to catechise more deeply those who already have faith, and to draw all more closely to Christ, inspiring, forming and otherwise assisting them to live as 'missionary disciples'.

Declining practice among Catholics

Another major concern for the Plenary Council to address must surely be the present predicament of declining church practice amongst those who identify as Catholic. Regular Sunday Mass attendance is at around 1 in 10 on average, reception of the sacrament of Penance is well down on previous levels and I don't think that's because people have stopped sinning. Baptisms and Sacramental marriages, too, are now falling. Perhaps the decline in church practice represents a decline in regular prayer. If family, parish and school have been Australia's traditional wells of evangelical creativity, we must recognise that all three are now under stress of various kinds, and seek ways to draw people back to regular practice, and inspire, form and otherwise assist them to be active participants in the liturgical life and outreach of their eucharistic community.

Religious freedom

For much of our history in Australia we've been able to take religious liberty for granted, but this has left us dangerously short of protections at a time of considerable social and cultural change. Some people fear that religious liberty protections will be used as weapons against particular groups, even though our record in education and elsewhere is very strong in terms of inclusiveness and non-discrimination. Contemporary challenges to religious freedom threaten the very possibility of the Church advancing the "observance, promotion and protection" of her faith, pastoral life, moral teaching and discipline (can. 445)—the express purposes of a plenary council. So, I would hope the Council will address what we are to do about evangelising the culture and educating the community so these are more hospitable to the Church and about seeking protections for Christian institutions and individuals to continue to be their true selves.

Increasing hostility to Christians, addressing the family

Meanwhile, we have seen increased hostility towards and rejection of Christian understandings of the preciousness of human life, of the nature of the human person including the body, and of sexuality, marriage and family. Our Plenary Council will have to address the present dilemmas with respect for family and life in Australia: how we are to advance the Gospel of Life and Love in the face of many hostile cultural forces and legal changes, to be a voice for the voiceless, and to ensure we are there to serve them now more than ever.

A vocations crisis

Finally, there is the ongoing vocations crisis that needs to be addressed. When people hear 'vocations crisis' they probably think 'shortage of priests', but in fact the numbers embracing and sustaining marital and religious vocations is much more starkly in decline.

Lay Catholics in the public square

Underneath all these vocational shortages is, again a crisis of the faith and values that sustain them, especially the prior and underlying sense of baptismal vocation and mission, which should play out not just in good spouses and parents, good priests and religious, but also in good politicians and journalists, teachers and academics, scientists, artists and other professionals, and leaders and workers of all sorts in the world beyond Church institutions, as well as future leaders of our own Catholic institutions. Finding ways to identify, inspire, form and support them all will be crucial going forward.

Opportunities

These are not only areas of challenge, but areas of opportunity for being a better Church in the decades ahead. I look forward to the Plenary Council offering a new commitment and initiatives in the areas identified. I have tremendous confidence that by God's grace we have the people, faith and generosity to do so and do so well.

I ask you please to keep praying and keeping your communities praying for the delegates and for the rest of the Plenary Council process, that we will genuinely hear and follow God's call to the Church in Australia today.

Feast/Solemnity/Memorial/Saint of the Week (4 - 9 Oct 2021)

Mon	4/10	St Francis of Assisi
Tue	5/10	St Faustina Kowalska, virgin
Wed	6/10	St Bruno, priest
Thu	7/10	Our Lady of the Rosary
Sat	9/10	St Denis, bishop, martyr, and companions, Martyrs St John Leonardi, priest

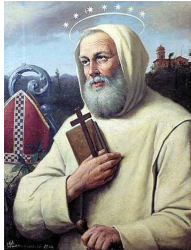
St Francis of Assisi Founder of Franciscan Orders was born at Assisi, Italy. St Francis abandoned his affluent way of life and began to live a life of radical poverty. His example soon drew followers to his way of life. He has captured the heart and imagination of men of all religious persuasions by his love for God and man, as well as all God's creatures.



St Maria Faustyna Kowalska of the Blessed Sacrament and popularly spelled Faustina, was a Polish Roman Catholic nun and mystic. Her apparitions of Jesus Christ inspired the Roman Catholic devotion to the Divine Mercy and earned her the title of "Secretary of Divine Mercy".



St Bruno Born at Cologne, St Bruno was ordained about 1056 and taught theology at Rheims for twenty years. He founded the Carthusian Order, He was a celebrated teacher of Rheims and a close adviser of his former pupil, Pope Urban II. He felt called to a life of asceticism and solitude, and retired to the mountains near Grenoble with a few companions.



Our Lady of the Rosary

On October 7, the first Sunday of October 1571. Don Juan of Austria gained his famous naval victory over the Turks at Lepanto. In thanksgiving for this event, which he attributed to the intercession of the Blessed Virgin through the recitation of the Holy Rosary, St Pius V instituted an annual feast under the title of Our Lady of Victory (changed the title to Rosary)



St Denis and Companions

About in the middle of the 3rd century, six bishops were sent to preach the Faith in Gaul by Pope St Fabian. One of these was St Denis who brought the Faith to Paris and organised a church. So effective these holy men in converting the people to Christ. The Roman governor arrested the missionaries, imprisoned and suffered martyrdom.



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.'

5th Plenary Council of Australia First Assembly: 3-10 October Opening Mass for Sydney Members

Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP will be celebrating an Opening Mass for Sydney members on Sunday 3 October at 10:30am. The Mass will be livestreamed on St Mary's Cathedral You Tube. On the Plenary Council website, you will find a full schedule for the First Assembly including Mass times and details of sessions which can be watched online
The Catholic Weekly will be sharing a daily blog from Sydney members online.
Archbishop Fisher will also be celebrating a Closing Mass for Sydney members on Sunday 10 October at 10:30am, livestreamed on St Mary's Cathedral You Tube.

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.noeeuthanasia.org.au/petition_2108_ocp_nsw

Archbishop's Afghan Refugee Appeal

This appeal is continuing to raise desperately needed funds and commit the Archdiocesan resources across education, health and welfare to support Afghan families and individuals fleeing their homeland in the wake of the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan. Donations can be made online here: <https://www.ourfaithourworks.org/ara/>

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

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.