



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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Facebook: www.facebook.com/StPotC Website: dulwichhillparish.org.au

Email: church@dulwichhillparish.org.au, or
secretary@dulwichhillparish.org.au



Bishop Richard Umbers DD VG (Bishop in Residence)

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



First Sunday of Advent / C

28 November 2021

**PRIMARY
SCHOOL**



Ph: 9558 5308

Principal:

Ms Frances Stewart

REC: Ms Jo-Anne Ross

Email:

info@stpedulwichhill.catholic.edu.au

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

For the sick

Leonor Delgado

Noel Nacua

Patricia Stack

Jovito Redaja

Raul Cabrera

Angela Di Donato

Sr Julianne Murphy

Natalina Gallace

Ruth Wilson

Raymond Hudson

Fr Jim Duggan

Pat Allport

Cardo, Zennie, Ian, Pat

Francheska Bechara

Robyn, Eimy & Helen

Angelis Alima & Charlie

Jan Lawson

Recently Deceased

Carmen Noche

Catalina Bolo

Jimmy Boiser

Cecilia Codera

Nelson Velasquez

Edgar Labella

Death Anniversary

For the Souls

Antonino & Concetina

Trovato

Veneranda Moschetto

All forgotten Souls and Holy

Souls in Purgatory

Special Intentions

Leah Tillam

Advent-our journey from darkness to light

During Advent, we wait; we prepare; we reflect. On Christmas Day, we *begin* to celebrate Christmas, and we keep on celebrating for twelve days, till the feast of the Epiphany on January 6. As in Lent we reflect on the Crucifixion and Resurrection, so, during Advent and Christmas, we reflect on the Incarnation.

The word “advent” means “arrival”: we await the arrival of Our Lord Jesus Christ—both past and future. Past: because at Christmas, we celebrate the birth of Jesus, for he is not an idea or a metaphor, but truly God and truly man, an individual, specific man born on a particular day in history. Future: because we look forward to Our Lord’s second coming, on the Last Day, when all the dead will be resurrected either to eternal life or to eternal punishment—heaven or hell. It’s an unsettling thought, but also a clarifying one: it *matters* whether we live and die in friendship with God or in rejection and opposition to him. That’s why the traditional themes of Advent—death, judgment, heaven, and hell—are serious ones, and why Advent is a partially penitential season: the three purple candles and corresponding priestly vestments are the same colour used during Lent.

And so, during Advent, we should be reflecting that our earthly life will come to an end—either in our own death, or in the coming of the Lord.

The Church has a great tradition of helping us to prepare, by the Great “O” Antiphons, which are 7 short prayers that are sung at the beginning of Mass during Advent. These show different aspects of who Christ is. Here, I’ve chosen just one of the antiphons to reflect on.

O Key of David, O royal power of Israel, controlling at your will the gate of heaven: come, break down the prison walls of death for those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death and lead your captive people into freedom...

This is the fourth Antiphon in the sequence, which means it stands at the turning-point; it is perhaps the most significant of the Antiphons, as it sums up our problem and Christ’s promise; it helps us to understand why the words of the Prophet Isaiah are so important for Christmas: “*The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.*”

Sadness, grief, and suffering are part of human life, but in our modern day, we often don’t really know how to deal with sadness. We want a quick fix, to feel better right away, and that not only puts pressure on ourselves when we feel low, it also puts terrible pressure on *other people* to pretend that they’re doing okay when really they’re not. We walk in the darkness and the shadow of death, and pretend we’re in the sunshine.

That’s one of the reasons why “the prisoner sitting in the darkness and shadow of death” is such a profound image for Advent, in our over-commercialized culture. Let’s face it, the Christmas season is tough. We’re bombarded with images that say we should be merry, and happy, and surrounded by the perfect family, and joyful, and buying lots of stuff!

It’s no surprise that studies show that rates of depression go up during this time.

We can spend a lot of time, energy, and money running away from our own experience of darkness and the shadow of death—but if we are not afraid to look at it, it can help us draw closer to Christ.

Without Christ, we are *all* prisoners in darkness. We cannot rescue ourselves from our own sins and our own alienation. We are the people walking in darkness. When we recognize that, we can truly rejoice that the light has come.

Christ is the Key. He died to save each one of us from our own, individual prison. When we go to confession and the priest speaks the words of absolution, we need to recognize those as the words of Christ, because indeed the priest is acting *in persona Christi*, as Christ, when he hears confession.

Now, to be freed from darkness and imprisonment does not mean to be freed from suffering. It *does* mean that our suffering is meaningful and redemptive. When Christ as the Key unlocks us, it can be a very painful experience—so much so that we may be tempted to stay locked up in our prison cells. We may be tempted to say, “I’m a good person. I’m doing just fine. My little sins are no big deal”—which means we are hiding the truth from ourselves, and we are in fact in a much worse state than we realize. Or we may be tempted to say, “My sins are too big, God can’t possibly forgive me, I can’t forgive myself”—but no sin is too great for God to forgive, and he wants to forgive you; he wants to unlock the door of your prison-cell and let in the light.

This is where we must take courage. Let us pray that Christ the Key of David will open us into the light and life of the kingdom of God.

“*Advent-our journey from darkness to light*” Dr Holly Ordway Word on Fire blog 19/12/18

Advent booklets 'Blessed'

As we countdown the days to Christmas during these difficult times, we pray that by meditating on God’s Word in these daily Advent and Christmas reflections, you may be graced with moments of silence to ponder in your heart (cf. Lk 2:19) the many “blessings” in your life - inspiring you in your call to “blessedness” (that is, “holiness”) where true happiness is gained (cf. Pope Francis, *Gaudete et exsultate*, 64) These are available at the front of the church \$2 donation

**No Saturday Morning Mass & Holy Hour
4th December 2021
Mass will be at 10:00AM.**

First Holy Communion

First Communion Mass:

Friday 26 November 2021 6:30pm

Saturday 4 December 2021 10:00am

Thank you for supporting the CWF Parish Appeal

On behalf of this parish, we thank you for supporting the **Charitable Works Fund (CWF) August Appeal**. We cannot do the work that we do without your help! Once again, we are able to continue in our mission to provide care for the most vulnerable in our communities, while also building up our Catholic communities.

For more information about the Catholic Work Fund, please visit www.ourfaithhourworks.org/cwf.



PARISH WEEKEND MASS ROSTER 4th & 5th December 2021

Readers:	5:30pm	R Lazarus P Allport
	8:00am	A Di Donato N Dudley
	10:00am	M Peddie R Rita

Choir Practice on Monday at 7pm in the Church every fortnight. Next choir rehearsal on the **29th November 2021**.

‘It’s the most wonderful time of the year’ - Your local **St Vincent de Paul** Conference is now holding it’s Christmas Appeal!

Your kindness can help us feed families, help with essentials and support those in crisis. Together we can give practical and emotional support to those who are vulnerable in our community.

This year we have our very own website - we have a target of \$1,500 if you can help please go to our website here <https://my.fundraise.vinniesnsw.org.au/fundraise-your-way/dulwich-hill-conference-christmas-appeal>

You can also:

- Fill an envelope and return to us or via poor box
- Over the phone on 13 18 12

All donations over \$2 or more are tax deductible - please see us for a receipt



A message from the Archdiocese of Sydney

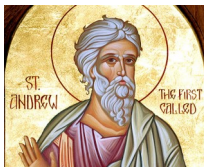
Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with crimes are the police. If you, or anyone you know, have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office at (02) 9390 5810 or safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org. 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 (29 Nov - 4 Dec 2021)

Tue	30/11	St Andrew, apostle
Fri	3/12	St Francis Xavier, priest
Sat	4/12	St John Damascene, priest, doctor

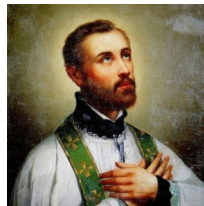
St Andrew

Originally a disciple of John the Baptist, Andrew followed Jesus and then brought his brother Simon Peter to Jesus as well. Andrew is said to have evangelized Asia Minor and Greece and to have been crucified in Achaia.

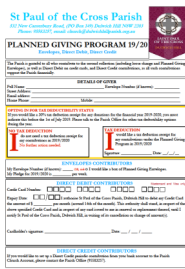
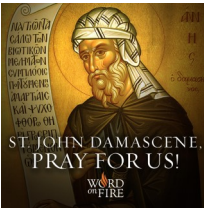


St Francis Xavier

Born a nobleman of Navarre, Spain. A fellow student of Ignatius of Loyola, Francis was one of the founders of the Jesuits (Society of Jesus) and the first Western missionary in India and Japan. He died at the frontiers of China in 1552.



St John Damascene was a Christian monk, priest, and apologist. Born in Damascus; he wrote three Discourses on Sacred Images, defending their veneration against the Byzantine emperor Leo III and the Iconoclasts.



Planned Giving Program Form 2021/2022

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.

*Also, please do not
use your old enve-
lopes (2020/2021).*

Email:
church@dulwichhillparish.org.au

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

1st Sun 11:30am

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

