



## 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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[secretary@dulwichhillparish.org.au](mailto:secretary@dulwichhillparish.org.au)



Bishop Richard Umbers DD VG (Bishop in Residence)

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



Third Sunday of Advent / C

12 December 2021

**PRIMARY  
SCHOOL**



Ph: 9558 5308

**Principal:**

Ms Frances Stewart

**REC:** Ms Jo-Anne Ross

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[info@stpedulwichhill.catholic.edu.au](mailto: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

Genaro Villanueva

Paula

### Recently Deceased

Michael Alam

Fr Dario Betancourt

Hector Gadian

Carmelo Samson

### Death Anniversary

### For the Souls

All forgotten Souls and Holy  
Souls in Purgatory

### Special Intentions

Cheryl and baby

Ric, Chris & Joseph

Patricio Arriaga

Cristelle & Fabrice Mannion

Teresa Campos

Elvira Rojas Delgado

Henry & Tina and Family

Leah Tillam

## All the people asked John, 'What must we do, then?'

In Walk the Line, a much praised movie about the singer Johnny Cash, there is a scene where he and his band are auditioning for a recording company. The song they have chosen is a very popular Gospel song - the movie is set in the Bible Belt of the American South. Halfway through, the company executive stops them and tells them that they were singing with neither energy nor conviction. He then goes on to say, "If you were hit by a truck and you had time to think of one song, one song that sums up your life, what song would that be? That's the kind of song that saves people."

John the Baptist had one 'song' that summed up his whole life: "Repent! The Kingdom of God is close at hand." He sang this with both conviction and urgency first of all through the way he lived. The words of his 'song' also spoke to everyone in Israel, from the poorest farmer to Herod, its powerful and ruthless king.

The 'song' was not about him but about what moved him to act in the way that he did. It was about the life of "someone who is coming", someone who was more significant than he was. Everyone needed to prepare for this moment since the one who was to come would not simply change the world but completely transform it. "I baptise you with water....he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire."

What did John expect from his dramatic and fiery language? Did he want people to completely reject society and all its conventions and compromises in the way that he himself had done? Luke presents us with a number of examples of people who responded to the urgency of John's message and asked him, "What must we do, then?" He responded by saying to all of them that they had to prove that they had changed their hearts and minds (Repent!) by changing the way they lived each day. In practice, this meant that they were to share the food and clothing they had in addition to what they needed with all those who lacked the basics of life. Notice how mild this advice is, compared with the absolute simplicity of his own life.

He was also approached by some tax collectors and soldiers who asked the same question. These two groups represented the two most obvious expressions of Roman power and oppression in Israel. John could have told them to completely give up what they were doing since their work, by its nature, linked them directly to Rome and all it stood for. Instead, he simply told them to change the way they went about their work. If they collected taxes, only the amount they were obliged to collect and not that bit extra for themselves. If they were soldiers, not to use their authority to intimidate people.

Both the urgency of John's message and the challenge of applying it to the complexities of our everyday life are essential parts of the Good News that John announced. Jesus too would respond to ordinary men and women, to tax collectors and soldiers who saw in him and in his teaching the answer to their own questions. If he at times seemed to expect the impossible, he would assure them that they were never alone, that with God everything was possible.

John prepared the way for Jesus by showing us that what God wanted us to do was, through Jesus, humanly possible. As Fr Graham Schmitzer notes in his reflection for this Sunday; *John is not asking for instant perfection, just to take the first steps. We must learn sensitivity to people who are still groping their way, rather than demand they accept the whole package immediately. Our sensitivity may lead them eventually to God and the Church. (p40 Blessed)*

As we reflect on John the Baptist's life as a preparation for the coming of Jesus into our world, there is also a message for each of us as we consider our own mortality and our own meeting with Christ. What will my 'song' be? Will it be in harmony with the song that Mary sang, the song that summed up her whole life, "My soul glorifies the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my saviour. For he who is mighty has done great things for me"? Or will it be my own version of "I did it my way"?

**Reference: Blessed: Advent and Christmas daily reflections 2021 Catholic Diocese of Wollongong**

Deacon Louis

### **PARISH WEEKEND MASS ROSTER 18th & 19th December 2021**

Readers:	5:30pm	R Lazarus P Allport
	8:00am	J Peters G Turnbull
	10:00am	B Yammine C Alam

**Choir Practice** on Monday at 7pm in the Church every fortnight. Next choir rehearsal is on the **13th December 2021.**

### **Catholic Mission Parish Appeal - Thank you**

Thank you for supporting this year's Catholic Mission Parish Appeal. I would be grateful if you could please pass on my sincere thanks to all those parishioners who contributed to the appeal. With their help, The Good Shepherd Sisters of Thailand can continue to support women and children from vulnerable and disadvantaged backgrounds by providing critical programs like the Mother and Babies Home. Total amount raised: \$415

**"Break Open the Word"** (the book for readers) now available at the Sacristy.

### Christmas Mass Times

24th December Friday Family Mass 5:30pm

Midnight Mass 12:00am

25th Dec Saturday Christmas Day 8:00am

10:00am

26th December Sunday - The Holy Family 8:00am  
10:00am

Reconciliation (Individual) each Saturday at 4:30pm

### Lights of Christmas 2021

#### St Mary's Cathedral forecourt

**9-25 December**

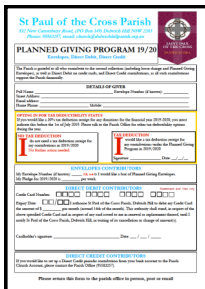
Join in Sydney's favourite free Christmas tradition, uniting families, locals and tourists with a display of digital storytelling projected onto St Mary's Cathedral.

Find out more: <https://lightsofchristmas.com.au/>

### 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.

Email:  
[church@dulwichhillparish.org.au](mailto:church@dulwichhillparish.org.au)



**St John of the Cross**, born John Ypez in Old Castile, Spain. After studying in a Jesuit college, he took the Carmelite habit, in the monastery of that Order at Medina del Campo in 1563. In 1567 he was ordained priest. He met St Teresa of Avila at Medina del Campo, at which time she interested him in the work of reforming the Order. When the first monastery of Discalced Carmelite Friars was opened, St John was its first member. He successively filled the posts of superior, prior, vicar-general, and definitor. He is known in the Church as one of the great contemplatives and teachers of mystical theology.



### **St Vincent de Paul Parish Appeal this Weekend 11/12 December 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

### **Parish Secretary – St Joan of Arc Parish, Haberfield, NSW**

Applications sought for the position of Parish Secretary at St Joan of Arc Parish, Haberfield. Position is permanent part time, hours negotiable – minimum 18 hours per week. Responsible to the Parish Priest and working also with the Pastoral Associate.

Please see our website where the advertisement is posted - [www.stjoanofarc.org.au](http://www.stjoanofarc.org.au)

For a confidential discussion about this rewarding position please contact Fr Phil Zadro on 9798 6657.

Send your application to Fr Phillip Zadro at [admin@stjoanofarc.org.au](mailto:admin@stjoanofarc.org.au).

Applications close 22 December 2021

### 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

