



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

PO Box 149 Dulwich Hill NSW 2203 Ph: 9558-3257 Fax: 9559-3752

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



Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time / C

20 February 2022

PRIMARY SCHOOL



Ph.: 9558 5308

Principal:

Ms Frances Stewart

REC: Ms Christine Brais

Email:

info@stpcedulwichhill.catholic.edu.au

With St Paul of the Cross we pray ...

For the sick

- Allen Portell
- Leonor Delgado
- Patricia Stack
- Raul Cabrera
- 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
- Christina

Recently Deceased

- Bill Campbell
- Paul Kelly

Death Anniversary

- Alexander
- Elisabeth
- Doris

For the Souls

- Davina Godfrey

All forgotten Souls and Holy Souls in Purgatory

Special Intentions

- Aldora Afonso
- Henry & Tina and my Family
- Leah Tillam

"The amount you measure out will be the amount you are given back"

This week's Gospel is addressed to "all who are listening," a clear message to Jesus' disciples, in fact, to each one of us since we do not always listen to what we hear. Listening, as we know, involves much more than the physical act of hearing. It includes being attentive to what the person is saying out of respect for the speaker, reflecting on what had been said and then being prepared to act in response. This is what Joseph did in Matthew's Gospel each time he heard from God in a dream. It is what Mary did when Luke describes her as "storing up all these things in her heart."

Here Jesus is urging us to be generous and compassionate just as God is - generous with what is 'ours' (including our possessions) and generous in the love we show to all (including our enemies). This week and next week, I'd like to look at how we can be generous and compassionate in a context that we rarely think of - being generous and compassionate in sharing the faith that we have been given.

Last Saturday, I took part in a zoom conference organised by the Sydney Archdiocese on the theme 'Why make disciples? What scripture tells us about calling and forming disciples?' The speaker was Dr Mary Healy, a prominent US scripture scholar and a very dynamic speaker. Her focus was on what we can learn from the first evangelisation, "when a handful of fishermen, tax collectors and ordinary people turned the world upside-down even while undergoing waves of state sanctioned harassment and persecution."

How did these people, who seemed to have so little in their favour, achieve so much in such a relatively short period of time? How could their individual generosity, their giving themselves and whatever abilities they had, become so effective? This becomes clear, Dr Healy said, when we look at The Acts of the Apostles which is the continuation of Luke's Gospel. This was meant to be 'a blueprint of the Church,' what the Church should look like, and not just a collection of stories.

When Jesus was baptised in the Jordan "the heavens were opened." They are not described as 'closing' after that in any of the gospels. The Holy Spirit was with Jesus throughout his life and beyond in the lives of his followers, the Church, especially after Pentecost. Jesus' message, the good news of God's love for us, came "with power." This was the power of the Holy Spirit and it would transform people's lives.

The Acts of the Apostles shows how the apostles and the early church shared in this same power of the Holy Spirit. They were fearless and full of hope in the face of indifference, hostility and persecution because they knew that what they were offering weren't just 'consoling words' but "deeds of power." Their ultimate authority for all that they did was Jesus himself, the Saviour of the world, who had said to them "All authority on earth has been given to me. Go out and baptise all nations..." Their evangelisation therefore involved more than simply talking about Jesus and his teachings. It meant living out what Jesus says to us in today's Gospel "love your enemies,, give to everyone who asks you,, treat others as you would like them to treat you." All of these actions are modelled on the life of God shown through the life of Jesus: "Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate."

This is an experience we need to 'listen to' as we look at our own situation now. We are, Dr Healy said, living through 'a perfect storm.' This storm is made up of many elements - the revelation of our own failures (especially the sexual abuse crisis), a desire to 'fit in' and conform to what is understood as 'normal,' a growing exodus from the Church (especially among young people), an increasingly demanding and aggressive secularism, to name a few. This 'perfect storm' however should be considered as 'a time of grace,' an opportunity to become who we truly are. If we believe, as the apostles and the early Church did, that Jesus is the Saviour of the World and Lord of all, then we have no reason to be dominated by anxiety, anger or fear.

Being generous and compassionate means trying to live with God's heart, to relate to everyone as Jesus himself did. Through his life and teaching, he showed immense generosity and compassion for all who are 'lost' - remember his treatment of Zacchaeus and the parable of the prodigal son. Trusting in the power and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, just as the apostles and the early church did, we are asked, in fact, challenged, to live out the generosity and compassion of Jesus in our own lives, especially in our response to all those we believe to be 'lost.'

(to be continued)

Deacon Louis

Feast/Solemnity/Memorial/Saint of the Week (21 - 26 Feb 2022)

Mon 21/2	St Peter Damian, bishop, doctor
Tue 22/2	The Chair of St Peter, apostle
Wed 23/2	St Polycarp, bishop, martyr

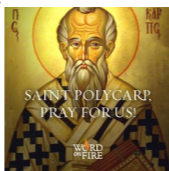
St Peter Damian Born in Ravenna, Italy, Peter joined the Benedictines, became a model monk, eventually abbot, and later became Cardinal-Bishop of Ostia. He worked zealously for the internal reform of the Church. He wrote many works on ascetical theology and was named a Doctor of the Church.



The Chair of Saint Peter The feast has been kept at Rome since the fourth century, as a symbol of the unity of the Church. Pope Benedict XVI described the chair as "a symbol of the special mission of Peter and his Successors to tend Christ's flock, keeping it united in faith and in charity."



St Polycarp Based on the *Martyrdom of Polycarp*, he died a martyr, bound and burned at the stake, then stabbed when the fire failed to consume his body. In *On Illustrious Men*, Jerome writes that Polycarp was a disciple of John the Apostle and that John had ordained him as a bishop of Smyrna.



PARISH WEEKEND MASS ROSTER 26th & 27th February 2022

Readers:	5:30pm	M Dos Santos P Allport
	8:00am	A Di Donato N Dudley
	10:00am	M Peddie M Portell

Open your home and heart to foster care

Family Spirit are seeking safe and stable homes for children and young people. To learn more, register for our next online information session Wednesday, 23 February, 6:30pm - 7:30pm To register call 13 18 19 admin@familyspirit.org

The Gift of Joy! A Retreat in the Spirit of Taize
PRESENTER: Brother Matthew (Taize community, France)
Where: Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, 247 St Andrews Road, Varroville, NSW
www.mtcarmel.com.au
Please see bulletin board for more information.

Preparation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation

Our parish preparation program for children who wish to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time and are 8 years of age (Year 3 in primary school) and over will begin this month Introduction and enrolment: Tuesday 22nd February in the parish hall at 7:00pm.

Classes will be on Saturday 4:30pm and Sunday 9am in the parish hall commencing on Saturday 26th February. There will be four weeks of classes (parents can choose to bring their children either on Saturday or Sunday)

First Reconciliation (Confession) will be on Tuesday 22nd March and Wednesday 23rd March at 7:00pm

Lenten Program

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday 2nd March. This year we will trial an online Lenten reflection program based on a series of reflections on the scripture readings for the Sundays of Lent provided by the Wollongong diocese.

If you wish to take part in this (one hour/one evening per week) please write your name and email address on the enquiry sheet at the front door of the church. You will then be sent a link to the Zoom site Please speak to Deacon Louis if you would like to know more about this.

St Paul of the Cross Catholic Primary School



Open Days are as follows :

- Tuesday 22 March 3.15pm-4.15pm
- Thursday 24 March 3.15-4.15 pm
- Saturday 26 March 9.30 am-11.00am

St Paul of The Cross Catholic Primary School
Ph:9558 5308

Casimir Catholic College Open Day

Friday, 4th March 2022
3:00pm - 7:00pm



200 Livingstone Road
Marrickville NSW 2204
(02) 9558 2888

Domremy College Five Dock
Open Day
Sunday 6 March
11am - 3pm

and
Domremy College Five Dock
Now Enrolling Year 7 2024
Applications close 8 April 2022

and
Try Domremy for a Day
for Year 4 and 5 2022 students
register at www.domremy.catholic.edu.au
or tel: 9712 2133

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



A message from Aid to the Church in Need Australia: In many places throughout the world there is a shortage of priests and therefore religious sisters are the custodians of the faith. These sisters however often struggle to live and support the faithful, so across the course of a year ACN supports more than 18,000 religious sisters in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe and Latin America. Could you help support a religious sister? Visit www.aidtochurch.org/sisters