



# 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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## What makes us who we are?

The book of Ecclesiastes, the source of our First Reading, was most likely written sometime in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC and is one of a number of books in the Old Testament called 'wisdom books'. It is written in Hebrew but reflects questions raised about the meaning of life in both Jewish and what was becoming the dominant Greek culture and philosophy. The book of Ecclesiastes however does not look at life in an abstract way. It is presented as a series of reflections on life by a man called 'the Preacher', someone who has, in our words, 'seen it all, heard it all and done it all'.

The Hebrew word that is translated as 'vanity' in our reading ("Vanity of vanities. All is vanity!"), is *hebel*, meaning 'mist' or 'smoke'. What follows is a portrait of someone who has worked hard and been successful but in the end must leave the result of all his efforts to those who have done nothing to earn it. There is no suggestion that this man has been in any way dishonest in becoming wealthy. Hence the "great injustice": what is the point, he believes, of all that effort when it vanishes just like smoke or mist?

There's an old saying that 'there are no tow bars on a hearse', meaning that you can't take it with you but this bleak reflection on life from Ecclesiastes goes further than that. It implies that all of our achievements, even the times when we "labour wisely, skilfully and successfully", are meaningless. It is a sentiment that many older people have echoed when they look back on their lives. The things that they thought were so important at the time when they were younger such as being well regarded at work now seem "like a dream".

Our psalm however considers this moment of realisation as a positive step in our lives: "Make us know the shortness of our lives that we may gain wisdom of heart". We grow in our understanding of what is most important in our life when we realise that the things we and our society value most such as wealth, possessions and status, cannot sustain us although they may seem attractive. Our reading from Ecclesiastes made no reference to God but simply described the emptiness of all human achievement. The psalm however outlines what "wisdom of heart" means when it asks God to "fill us with your love".

We eventually become disillusioned and dissatisfied with our lives when we try to fill them only with the pursuit of things and experiences that, by their nature, cannot last. Only our relationship with God can, in the words of our psalm, "give success" to our lives by putting all that we do into perspective. Knowing that God loves us is our compass, giving all that we do a direction and purpose that goes beyond the direction and purpose that we intend. This is at the heart of Jesus' parable of the rich farmer. The farmer assumed that his wealth was his to enjoy and therefore made elaborate plans for the future. His plans however made no allowances either for himself or for God.

He had 'forgotten' that he was mortal and therefore couldn't predict how long he would live to enjoy his wealth. He had also forgotten God. His wealth was in fact his god since his whole life was centred on it. God calls the man "Fool!" an echo of the psalm which begins "The fool has said in his heart, 'There is no God'" (psalm 14). "The fool does not deny God's existence in some abstract sense but his active existence among us...saying to himself 'God is not here, now, with me'." (The Problem of God J.C. Murray) In a society like ours which is so preoccupied with 'getting on' in life or simply enjoying what our world has to offer, it is easy to 'forget' the vital importance of what Jesus calls "making ourselves rich in the sight of God."

Here, Jesus is not being a killjoy or preaching an ascetic lifestyle. He is simply reminding us who we are: "a man's life is not made secure by what he owns." He reminds us that we are 'worth' much more than the sum total of all that we possess. Our 'value' comes from who we are in the sight of God and therefore it is only in terms of our relationship with God that our achievements can be measured. Paul elaborates on this in his letter to the Colossians, by reminding us that we have been created in the image of God and that all our efforts should be directed to 'living out' this image: "You have put on a new self which will progress towards true knowledge the more it is renewed in the image of its creator".

Deacon Louis

This is the link to the **Vinnies Metropolitan Schools and Youth Term 3 2022 Newsletter**: <https://bit.ly/Term-3-Metro-Schools-News>  
The 2022 edition of the **Mini Vinnies Formation Program (MVFP)** for students in Years 4 – 6 is available for those who wish to undertake Social Justice Formation in their own time. For more information please go to <https://bit.ly/VinniesMVFP>

**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](mailto: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.

### First Communion

**Our children's First Communion Mass will be on Saturday the 17<sup>th</sup> September at 10:00am**

Registration and Information: Sunday the 14<sup>th</sup> August 9:00 am in the parish hall

There will be 4 preparation classes for the children either at 4:30pm Saturday or 9am Sunday in the parish hall

Dates for these classes are: 20th/21<sup>st</sup> August; 27th/28<sup>th</sup> August; 3rd/4<sup>th</sup> September; 10th/11th September.

Please speak to Deacon Louis if you have any questions

### CFW August Parish Appeal The next Charitable Works Fund (CFW) Parish Appeal will be held next weekend (6-7th August).

The CFW supports a whole range of charities and ministries, including the Good Shepherd Seminary, CatholicCare, the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, the Ephpheta Centre for the deaf and hearing impaired, Aboriginal Catholic Ministries, and university, hospital and prison Chaplaincies. Appeal envelopes will be provided for your use, so keep an eye out for them. You can also make a donation and find out more at [www.ourfaithhourworks.org/cwf](http://www.ourfaithhourworks.org/cwf)

### The Bishop's Blend Breakfast

Looking to network with other young Catholic professionals and learn how to live your faith in the workplace? Then join Bishop Richard Umbers, Auxiliary Bishop of Sydney on **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> August at 7am at the Radisson Blu Plaza Hotel Sydney** for The Bishop's Blend Breakfast for Young Professionals. Online booking is essential. For more information and to purchase tickets go to <https://sydneycatholic.eventsair.com/the-bishops-blend/tbbx> or contact us at [bishopsblend@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:bishopsblend@sydneycatholic.org)

### St Joseph's Enfield Healing Mass

**Friday 5th August 2022**

Celebrant: Father Maroun El Kazzi  
Rosary: 7:00pm Reconciliation: 7:00-8:00pm  
Prayer and Praise: 7:30pm Mass: 8:00pm  
Exposition (after Mass) & Prayer Ministry  
*St Joseph's Catholic Church*  
126 Liverpool Rd., Enfield  
Parking at rear of church. Enter from Baker St.  
E-mail: [rosetwymansydney@gmail.com](mailto:rosetwymansydney@gmail.com)

### To all St Paul's Choir members:

Greetings of Peace!  
I am inviting you to my send off Holy Mass at St Brigid's Parish on 18th of August 2022 at 11:00am (Thursday) and lunch will be at 1:00pm Shrubland, St Brigid's Parish. You have been a part of my memorable journey in Sydney. Your presence is a blessing. I appreciate if you can come.

### Feast/Solemnity/Memorial/Saint of the Week (1 - 6 August 2022)

Mon	1/8	St Alphonsus Liguori, bishop, doctor
Tue	2/8	St Eusebius of Vercelli, bishop St Peter Julian Eymard, priest
Wed	3/8	St Dominic, priest
Thu	4/8	St John Vianney, priest
Fri	5/8	Dedication of the Basilica of St Mary Major
Sat	6/8	The Transfiguration of the Lord

The **transfiguration** is the miraculous manifestation of Jesus' glory along with the glorified forms of Moses and Elijah. This manifestation was witnessed by three specially selected disciples (Peter, James and John) who were on a high mountain with the Lord when the event took place.



The Bible reveals that Moses and Elijah, during the transfiguration, were discussing with Jesus his upcoming suffering and death in Jerusalem. Christ himself had only first begun to openly teach the details of his upcoming sacrifice to his disciples less than two weeks prior. As the three men were speaking, a cloud enveloped them with the voice of God declaring, "This is My Son, the Beloved. Listen to Him!" The cloud, along with Moses and Elijah, then quickly disappeared.

### Parish Renewal Conference 2022

**International biblical scholar Dr Scott Hahn to Speak Live, Online at the Parish Renewal Conference**  
Dr Hahn, Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP and a stellar array of speakers will address Sydney's faithful at the upcoming Parish Renewal Conference. Join us as Dr Hahn, a convert from evangelical Christianity, explores the perennial call to be **Evangelising Catholics** in the midst of **A Culture in Need of the Gospel**. Register at [www.gomakedisciples.org.au/prc22](http://www.gomakedisciples.org.au/prc22)  
St Mary's Cathedral Precinct  
Friday 19 August, 6 – 9 pm and Saturday 20 August, 9 am – 5:15 pm  
\$25 per person for parishioners in the Archdiocese of Sydney

### PARISH WEEKEND MASS ROSTER 6 & 7 August 2022

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

Please do RSVP for catering purposes.

My new Mission is in Florence, Italy.

Prayerfully,

Sr Marie Christine T. Fontanilla, C.P.

(Sr Marie is the Passionist Nun who attends the 10am Sunday Mass here at St Paul's.)

### 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 and 4th Sunday of the month.

#### 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

