



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

### For the sick

Elmano Belo

Patrick Crowley

Sidney Luximon

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

Christina

Francheska Bechara

Bonifacio Su Ramo III

### Recently Deceased

Emma Mudie

Gavin Powell

Ruth Alam

Rogelio & Baby Jane Castro

Alfonso Costantini

### Death Anniversary

Salvatore Gesimondo

Fiorentino Rita

Rosita & Deogracias Fabia

### For the Souls

Benvinda Gois

Jose Sebastiao Freitas

Maurilio Nobrega

Antonia Nobrega Gomes

Antonio Gomes

Maria Nobrega Gomes

All forgotten Souls and Holy

Souls in Purgatory

### Special Intentions

Juanita Fabia (thanksgiving)

Henry & Tina and my Family

Leah Tillam

## "Where your treasure is, there your heart is also"

A common assumption among many people who claim to be atheists is that religious faith is a form of make believe, something that we have developed over human history to help us cope with all the problems, fears and uncertainties of life. In his short book **Why I am not a Christian**, the eminent twentieth century philosopher Bertrand Russell expressed this sentiment very clearly: "Religion is based primarily and mainly on fear. It is partly the terror of the unknown and partly the wish to feel that you have a kind of elder brother who will stand by you in all your troubles and disputes."

A superficial look at the psalms for example may encourage some people to think that there is some truth to the belief that faith is ultimately either a form of escapism or a relic of a prescientific era in human history. Doesn't saying "The Lord is our help and our shield", for example, imply that we are incapable of looking after ourselves, of solving our own problems with the means and resources we now have at our disposal?

This understanding distorts the way that religious faith works in our lives. We find a different story as we read the scriptures more closely and in a different spirit, a story not of escapism but of courage in confronting the difficulties of life, a story of lives transformed by the nature of their response to God. Our reading from the Letter to the Hebrews, for example, praises the faith of Abraham and Sarah, 'our parents in faith'. From this faith came the people of Israel and, from them, Christ the Saviour of the world would one day be born. It emphasises that their faith "proves the existence of the realities that remain unseen."

If you saw Abraham and Sarah, what you would see was an ageing couple living a way of life that was no different to that of many others in their time. What you couldn't see was the depth of their relationship with each other and with God, how it would develop and how it would make them 'take risks' and act in a way that would make their "unseen" relationship with God visible and transforming.

Our reading from the Letter to the Hebrews mentions two significant moments in this developing relationship-Abraham's decision in response to God to leave their homeland and to settle in a strange land that would one day be the Promised Land of Israel; Sarah's trust in God that she would have the son that God had promised her. These and many other experiences in their life with God took them beyond what they were familiar and comfortable with. Their 'unseen faith' in a way of life that they could only partially understand and that developed over a long period of testing, "looked forward to a city founded, designed and built by God."

This 'unseen faith' is what Jesus refers to when he says to his disciples, "Where your treasure is, your heart is also." What do we treasure in our lives, Jesus asks us? Is it just what we have or that we surround our lives with? Here we remember Jesus' words in last week's Gospel that no one's life is made secure by what he owns. Like Abraham and Sarah, our 'unseen faith' is what gives perspective to our lives and challenges us to go further as we come to know God more and to trust in his guidance.

Jonathan Sacks in his book **Celebrating Life**, compares religious faith to the journey and challenge of marriage. I would also add, from a Catholic perspective, to the journey and challenge of a way of life that responds to God's invitation to know and love him through a life of service to God's people. He notes that the biblical (Hebrew) word for faith is 'emunah'. This word, he says, means many things - trust, loyalty, fidelity, strength, firmness, affection, caring. All these things have to do not with knowledge but with the relationship between persons. He goes on to say:

*'Emunah' means I take your hand and you take mine and we walk together across the unknown country we call the future. It is what I would describe as a covenant relationship. That is our relationship with God. It is also the relationship of marriage... Faith is what happens when God reaches out his hand to us and we respond in love and trust. It does not mean - any more than marriage does - that there will be no shocks in store, no crises, no tragedies. It does however mean that we will not desert one another. We will have our domestic disagreements but God will always be there with us. We will always be there with him.*

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>

### Choir Notice

The next rehearsal will be on Monday 8th August 2022 at 7:00pm.

## Feast/Solemnity/Memorial/Saint of the Week (8 - 13 August 2022)

Mon	8/8	ST MARY OF THE CROSS, virgin
Tue	9/8	St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, virgin, martyr
Wed	10/8	St Lawrence, deacon, martyr
Thu	11/8	St Clare, virgin
Fri	12/8	St Jane Frances de Chantal, religious
Sat	13/8	Sts Pontian, pope, martyr and Hippolytus, priest, martyr

### Saint Mary of the Cross

St Mary MacKillop was born in Melbourne in 1842. Died in Sydney in 1909. At 14 MacKillop began working, and she was often her family's main source of support. In 1860 she moved to the small rural town of Penola to serve as governess for the children of her aunt and uncle. There MacKillop provided her cousins with a basic education and soon extended to the poor children of the town.



SAINT MARY OF THE CROSS

In 1867 MacKillop took vows and became the first mother superior of the sisters. She and sisters opened schools as well as orphanage and a refuge for women released from prison. They shared the life of the poor and the itinerant, offering special care to destitute women and children. Mary MacKillop is remembered for her eagerness to discover God's will in all things, for her charity in the face of calumny, and for trusting in Divine Providence.

*'Whatever troubles may be before you, accept them cheerfully, remembering whom you are trying to follow. Do not be afraid. Love one another, bear with one another, and let charity guide you in all your life.'*  
- St Mary MacKillop

### PARISH WEEKEND MASS ROSTER 13 & 14 August 2022

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

### 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.

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.)

### 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 Charitable Works Fund (CFW) August Appeal

is happening this weekend and we need your help. Our six ministries are all working hard at ensuring the most vulnerable in our communities receive the support they need. The devastation of the last two years has especially taken its toll on the unemployed, the homeless, those with mental health concerns, and broken families. Special envelopes are available at the parish. You can also learn more and donate securely at [www.ourfaithourworks.org/cwf](http://www.ourfaithourworks.org/cwf). Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible.

### Parish Renewal Conference: Registrations Close 14 August

You are warmly invited to the inaugural Archdiocesan Parish Renewal Conference where Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP, Dr Scott Hahn (live online), and a stellar array of speakers will address Sydney's faithful, 19-20 August, St Mary' Cathedral. Join us to pray together, receive formation and share ideas to strengthen our parishes. Registration essential via [www.gomakedisciples.org.au/prc22](http://www.gomakedisciples.org.au/prc22). \$25 per person for parishioners in the Archdiocese of Sydney. Register soon as spaces are filling. Parishes are invited to share [this social tile](#) (please see parish bulletin board) to help promote the conference.

### Billings LIFE are presenting a free webinar entitled "Fertility Literacy in the Digital World ~ the best use of fertility tracking apps"

on Monday 22nd August at 7.30pm AEST Presenters from Australia, Mexico and NZ will review 3 fertility tracking apps. See the Billings LIFE website or Facebook page for details and registration. website: <https://www.billings.life/en/> Facebook: <https://fb.me/e/10MLh9IHl>

### 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

