

**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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Bishop Richard Umbers DD VG (Bishop in Residence)
Fr. Andrew James (Parish Priest), (Deacon) Rev Louis Azzopardi



Ph.: 9558 5308
Principal:

Ms Frances Stewart
REC: Ms Christine Brais
Family Educ: Tania Chahoud
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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
 Ruth Wilson
 Raymond Hudson
 Fr Jim Duggan
 Pat Allport
 Cardo, Jennie, Ian, Pat
 Christina

Recently Deceased

Peter Ioannou

Death Anniversary

Giuseppe Pino Freeza
 Giuseppe e Maglio
 Mareangeli
 Mario Umali
 Micheal Semrani

For the Souls

Fr Basil Francis Rosen
 Danielle Cossu
 Antonia Luigi
 Antonio Luigi
 Baingia
 Rocco Tonino
 Alan Tonino

All forgotten Souls and Holy Souls in Purgatory

Special Intention

Genevieve Grace Rita Faggion
 (thanksgiving for the birth of a grandchild)
 Henry & Tina and my family
 Leah Tillam

"On him the spirit of the Lord rests"

I have recently had to cut back a well-established silk tree in my garden in the hope that some tiny shoots on the trunk of what appeared to be a dead tree would grow. This seems to be happening and there is a good chance that these shoots will give new life to the tree. This was Isaiah's hope for Israel when he wrote "a shoot springs from the stock of Jesse." Jesse was the father of King David and his "stock" was the line of kings descended from David. These kings had mostly been a disappointment as they had turned away from God and allowed corruption and injustice to flourish in Israel.

In the chapters before the one chosen for our First Reading this week, Isaiah describes God's anger with the situation Israel had placed itself in. He describes the destruction Israel will experience from its enemies as a divine punishment. It will become like "an oak whose stump remains standing when it is felled" (6:13).

But this "stump" has life in it because its roots go deep and here Isaiah sees signs of hope for the future, "a scion thrusts from his roots." It is a natural image that expresses very vividly how our continuing relationship with God can give us hope even when everything seems hopeless. For Isaiah, this hope is expressed in a vision of a new King David, someone who would provide the leadership Israel needed but that none of the kings of the recent past had been able to provide. This hope was not to be realised in Isaiah's lifetime and, in fact, the line of kings ended with the destruction of Jerusalem soon after Isaiah's death.

We recall these verses from Isaiah during Advent because of what they tell us about Christ - who he is for us and for the whole world. In hindsight, we can see that only Jesus could match Isaiah's vision of a descendant of David who would be "a signal to the peoples... sought out by the nations." The Gospel of Matthew begins with Jesus' genealogy from David and Luke's account of his birth says that Joseph "was of David's house and line". Throughout his life Jesus was often called on as "Son of David", especially by those who trusted in him to heal them.

Jesus was also, like Isaiah's "shoot from the stock of Jesse", a sign of new life and hope in a hopeless situation. He was born into a poor family in a forgotten corner of the world and would show, by the way he related to people, that "he did not judge by appearances." To his opponents' horror, he "sought out the tax collectors and sinners and ate with them". John the Baptist echoes the words and imagery of Isaiah when he says that "any tree which fails to produce good fruit will be cut down." Here we see Jesus as "the rod that strikes the ruthless" in the way that his life and his teaching exposed the hidden evil and the empty lives of all those whose devotion to God was "only lip service".

But what raises Jesus beyond what we would expect of a great and holy teacher and prophet is implicit in Isaiah's vision of a time when, as a result of the actions of this "shoot of Jesse", the "wolf lives with the lamb". In the series of vivid poetic images that follow ("calf and lion cub feeding together... cow and bear making friends"), we have a vision of a world as God intended it to be, a world without division and violence. In particular, "the young child who puts his hand into the viper's lair" is a reversal of what happened in the Garden of Eden when Adam and Eve were 'poisoned' as it were by the serpent. Only Jesus as Son of God and son of David could reverse this and reconcile us with God through his life, death and resurrection.

It is a vision that we are part of as Christ's disciples. At the beginning of his description of this shoot of Jesse who would be "a signal to the nations", Isaiah says that "the spirit of the Lord will rest on him" and then goes on to outline what this spirit is in a way that is familiar to us as the gifts of the Holy Spirit given to us at Baptism and Confirmation: "wisdom and insight, counsel and power, knowledge and fear of the Lord". It is in the development and exercise of these gifts from God that we will become, as Jesus himself said, "a light to the nations".

Deacon Louis



That Catholic Shop - Christmas orders from Aid to the Church in Need's online store - That Catholic Shop - can still be made all the way up to 19 December! Choose from our broad range of religious gifts and receive free shipping for orders over \$100. Peruse our Christmas range at www.thatcatholicshop.com

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.

Christmas at the Cathedral

Presented by Paynter Dixon

8-25 December

St Mary's Cathedral Forecourt.

Festivities begin at 7pm with Christmas market stalls, food, fun activities for the kids and live entertainment.

The signature light show of Christmas art will be projected onto the Cathedral at 8:30pm.

Christmas at the Cathedral**Thursday 8 December**

As a gesture of thanks to our parishes, the Archdiocese of Sydney is offering reimbursement of bus hire for parishes sending parish groups to the opening night of Christmas at the Cathedral.

4pm Confession

5:30pm Mass

7pm-Christmas Festivities

8pm-Official Launch

To receive your special gift of reimbursed bus hire, parishes must register online here:

[Christmas at the Cathedral 2022 Launch - Parish Engagement - Register your parish's attendance to receive a special gift from the Cathedral on opening night. \(eventsair.com\)](#)

Would your parish choir, singers or musical groups be interested in performing as part of Christmas at the Cathedral? Please contact Event Manager

Monica Bautista -

monica.bautista@sydneycatholic.org

Mass for Expectant Mothers and those hoping to conceive

Sunday 11 December 10:00am

St Paul of the Cross church

522 New Canterbury Rd, Dulwich Hill

Are you expecting a little one? Are you hoping to conceive but have been unable to have children? The Mass for Expectant Mothers is for you. Join Bishop Daniel Meagher for this annual celebration-family and friends welcome! The celebration will be followed by some light refreshments, please RSVP for catering purposes by 27 November at www.trybooking.com/CDILN

'Made for More' events by Theology of the Body Institute

The Sydney Centre for Evangelisation is proud to host Dr Christopher West and his team for their Australian tour of 'Made for More' events in Sydney and Melbourne. Please join us on Friday, 20 January at St Mary's Cathedral College Hall or on Saturday, 21 January at All Saints Liverpool Parish Hall. 'Made for More' weaves dynamic presentations with live music, media and sacred art bringing an evening of beauty and reflection on the meaning of life, love, and human destiny. An event not to be missed! **For tickets and more information, visit www.sydneycatholic.org/TOB**

Choir Notice

The next rehearsal will be on Monday 5th December 2022 at 7:00pm

Feast/Solemnity/Memorial/Saint of the Week

(5 - 10 Dec 2022)

Tue	6/12	St Nicholas, bishop
Wed	7/12	St Ambrose, bishop, doctor
Thu	8/12	The IMMACULATE CONCEPTION of the BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
Fri	9/12	St Juan Diego Cuauhtlatatzin, hermit
Sat	10/12	Our Lady of Loreto

Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

The Immaculate Conception of Mary is one of the four Marian dogmas of the Catholic Church, meaning that it is held to be a divinely revealed truth whose denial is heresy. Defined by Pope Pius IX in *Ineffabilis Deus* in 1854, it states that Mary, through God's grace, was conceived free from the stain of original sin through her role as the Mother of God.

Anne appears as the mother of Mary in the late 2nd-century Gospel of James. Anne and her husband, Joachim, are infertile, but God hears their prayers and Mary is conceived.

Our Lady of Loreto refers to the Holy House (Sancta Casa) of Loreto, the house in which Mary was born, and where the Annunciation occurred, and to an ancient statue of Our Lady which is found there. The Sancta Casa appeared in Italy as early as 1291. Legend says that angels carried the house from Nazareth to modern-day Croatia, then on to Italy.

There's actually a detailed story about two brothers discovering the Sancta Casa and arguing over how to make the most profit from it. The house then disappeared and reappeared on a road next to a ditch in the town of Loreto, off the Adriatic coast. The shrine of Our Lady of Loreto is located on the Adriatic coast of Italy, three hours from Rome.

**PARISH WEEKEND MASS ROSTER**

10 - 11 December 2022

Readers:	5:30pm	M Dos Santos P Allport
	8:00am	A Di Donato N Dudley
	10:00am	L & J Scanlon
Acolytes:	5:30pm	Andre & Morea
	8:00am	Tony
	10:00am	Joseph & Philip

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

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

Morning Tea Sunday

3rd Sunday of the Month

after 10:00am Mass

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

