

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: secretary@dulwichhillparish.org.au



Parish Office

church@dulwichhillparish.org.au



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



Christmas Mass Times

8:00am 25th Dec Sunday Christmas Day

Maria - Mondavs Cecilia – Wed-Fridav 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

required

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**



24th December Saturday Family Mass 5:30pm Midnight Mass 12:00am

10:00am

Announcing the Damascus Spiritual Leaders Program! Part-time in Feb-Nov 2023 - either in person or online - through Heart of Life Centre for Spiritual & Pastoral Formation. This program is designed for people in various positions of leadership, spiritual formation and parish or outreach ministries. It will equip individuals to lead with integrity, vulnerability and resilience, and will focus on the inner spiritual journey in order to create fully-formed leaders who listen, learn and accompany others with strength and sensitivity. 'Damascus' can be studied as a Graduate Certificate in Divinity through the University of Divinity (Yarra Theological Union/ Catholic Theological College), or as an audit student to receive a Certificate in Spiritual Leadership from Heart of Life. Attendance on Monday mornings and some Saturdays. Read more about the program on the Heart of Life website or contact us on (03) 9890 1101. Applications close on 6/1/23.

The Christian's Final Journey: Catholic Cemetery and Crematoria and partner, the ACU Centre for Liturgy, are offering a one-day workshop on Catholic funerals on 9 February 2023. It has been designed for Clergy, Funeral Directors, Bereavement Teams, Pastoral Associates, Parish Secretaries and Family Faith Educators, Teachers, APRE's, School Staff and interested individuals. Catholic practices around burial and cremation will be investigated as well as preparation of a funeral (for future discussion with the funeral celebrant) and how to support the grieving. It will be held at the Polding Centre, 133 Liverpool Street, Sydney. Time: 9am-5pm (registration from 8.30am). Registration is essential by 3 February. Cost: \$60 (includes lunch and a workbook) (\$120 for Funeral Directors who will receive certification for 5 years.) Enquiries: CentreforLiturgy@acu.edu.au or 02 9701 4751. For more information, and to register, go to www.acu.edu.au/centreforliturgy/pastoraltraining



Feast/Solemnity/Memorial/Saint of

the Week (26 - 31 Dec 2022)

Mon	26/12	St Stephen, the first martyr	
Tue	27/12	St John, apostle, evangelist	
Wed	28/12	The Holy Innocents, martyrs	
Thu	29/12	St Thomas Becket, bishop, martyr	
Fri	30/12	The HOLY FAMILY of Jesus, Mary	
		and Joseph	
Sat	31/12	St Sylvester I, pope	

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph This feast is offered as a model for Christian family life today. Sirach 3:2-6. 12-14 Children, listen to me; I am your father. Do what I tell you and you will be safe, for the Lord has given fathers authority over their children and given

children the obligation to obey their mothers. If you respect your father, you can make up for your sins, and if you honor your mother, you are earning great wealth. If you respect

your father, one day your own children will make you happy; the Lord will hear your prayers. If you obey the Lord by honoring your father and making your mother happy, you will live a long life. Obey your parents as if you were their slave. Honor your father in everything you do and say, so that you may receive his blessing. When parents give their blessing, they give strength to their children's homes, but when they curse their children, they destroy the very foundations.

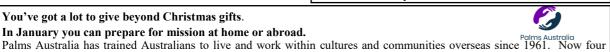
2 practising Catholic students from Albury are seeking accommodation in Sydney for the 2023 academic year.

Contact seanplee@bigpond.com M 0499 001 653

<u>PARISH WEEKEND MASS ROSTER</u> <u>31 Dec - 1 January 2023</u>				
Readers:	5:30pm	R Lazarus P Allport		
	8:00am	J Peters G Turnbull		
	10:00am	B Yammine C Alam		
Acolytes:	Special Roster	r		

Choir Notice

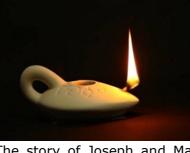
After Christmas Masses the choir will be on holiday til the end of January.



The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) / A

"A light that shines in the dark; a light that darkness could not overpower"

We are so used to turning on a switch that suddenly fills a dark room with light that we miss the point of John's image in the Prologue to his Gospel that is read on Christmas Day: "a light that shines in the darkness; a light that darkness *could not overpower.*" In Jesus' time, light would be provided by small lamps filled with olive oil like the one pictured here. The light that these lamps provided would indeed have shone in the darkness but, the further one moved away from this light, the dimmer this light would be, so that the edge of the room would have been in semi darkness.



The story of Joseph and Mary's journey to Bethlehem and the birth of Jesus in humble surroundings is a very human story that is not hard for us to relate to. By comparison, the Prologue that is read on Christmas Day seems somewhat abstract and remote from 'the real story'. This is an unfortunate comparison because the purpose of the Prologue to John's Gospel is not to tell a story but to outline the depth and meaning of the story, the story of God's relationship with us all through Christ and how "from this fullness we have, all of us, received". The rest of the Gospel then goes on to show how all this was achieved through the story of Jesus' life, death and resurrection.

Jesus is described as "the Word, the true light that enlightens all men." This connects Jesus with the creative power of God and takes us back to the very beginning of creation where, in the book of Genesis, we read how, "in the beginning, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep" until God said "let there be light." God's creative power was able to bring light and life out of darkness and lifelessness. John shows how Jesus was able to bring light and life through his teachings, his miracles of healing (including raising the dead to life) and finally through his own resurrection from the dead.

"The Word that was with God and was God" is identified as "the light" that lights up our lives. John the Baptist, the last and greatest of the prophets, is mentioned. He represents all those men and women in the entire story of the Old Testament who "listened to the Lord and kept his ways, for, whoever listens to him finds life" (Proverbs 8:32). But, like them, John the Baptist is only "a witness to speak for the light." Through the way he presents Jesus in his Gospel, John shows us how and why it is only Jesus "who is nearest to the Father's heart and makes him known." This "light" and "Word" that we receive through Christ enables us, as John says, "to become children of God".

The humble way in which "this Word became flesh" in Jesus reminds us how faint this light must have seemed when he was born. How could the cries of this tiny baby compare with the words of a great emperor, words that commanded universal attention and obedience? Later, when many, including some of his closest followers, "did not accept him", it would seem as if this light had gone out and that darkness would have finally taken over.

But it didn't and the story continues up to our own time, beginning with the resurrection of Jesus and the bringing of "the Word, the true light that enlightens all men" to the ends of the earth. Many people who celebrate Christmas are aware of the story of Jesus' birth but are either unaware of or deny the reality of the great story of God's love for us that it expresses. At Christmas we celebrate the miracle of God coming to share our life with us, to live among us so that we can come to share in his own life. This is the gift that God gives through Christ "to all who accept him: the power to become children of God." It is the gift of his life, his light and his Word that he wanted us to have "in the Beginning".

"Glory to God in the highest and peace on earth to all who enjoy God's favour."

Deacon Louis

Aid to the Church in Need is asking for support to aid our brothers and sisters who are suffering so deeply in Syria and Lebanon through our Christmas appeal Sharing Hope with Christians in Syria and Lebanon this Christmas. The support we are pledging to them is very much emergency relief to sustain the Christian population in hope. The projects we are supporting are projects such as medical aid, community help and gifts for children in Lebanon, as well as support for lay faithful and accommodation for families in Syria. It is only with your help that ACN can support Christians in Lebanon and Syria this Christmas! To watch videos and read stories of the projects we are supporting visit www.aidtochurch.org/ christmas2022 or scan the Qr code.

Support Caritas Ukraine Appeal

As millions of people are likely to be displaced due to Russia's invasion, your support is more important than ever for the people of Ukraine. Donate generously to the Caritas Ukraine Appeal: Donations over \$2 are tax deductible. https://www.caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/ukraine/

Palms' Neighbours Without Borders program (January 7-11) will "focus on building communities that are welcoming to all, with particular attention to those on the margins of society and the church" as urged by the recent Plenary Council. Overseas Completing a further four days (January 12-15) will prepare you to meet one of the many requests Palms has from communities in Africa, Asia and the Pacific who need educators; health professionals, administrators and others to assist

days of that training will be available for parishioners interested to assist harness the diverse gifts of our community and

build on the strengths of their people who otherwise have little opportunity for training. Enquire about Palms Orientation for mission via www.palms.org.au or call 02 9560 533 or 0422 472 567

Sunday of the month.

<u>Marriage</u> At least 6 months notice

Anointing of the Sick

Wednesday 7pm



In January you can prepare for mission at home or abroad.

You've got a lot to give beyond Christmas gifts.

make it stronger.

At Home



PRIMARY SCHOOL



Ph.: 9558 5308 **Principal:** Ms Frances Stewart **REC:** Ms Christine Brais Family Educ: Tania Chahoud Email info@stpcdulwichhill.catholic.

edu.au

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, Zennie, Ian, Pat Christina

Recently Deceased Margaret Hassett

Death Anniversary

For the Souls

Leonardo Chiarella Umberto Chiarella Angela Chiarella Maria Da Silva Luis Da Silva **Richard Paquim** Nadim Sara Mike & Nazira Sara Fr Anthony Sara Elias, Youssif, Hanna, (and wives) Sara All forgotten Souls and Holy Souls in Purgatory

Special Intention

Fr Ned Hassett Henry & Tina and my family Leah Tillam