



St Peter's Parish, Surry Hills

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Fr. John Macdonald, Administrator

Fr. Nicola Falzun OP, Priest in Residence for the *Missio ad gentes* of the Neocatechumenal Way

Feast days of the week:

Mon 7 Dec	Saint Ambrose
Tue 8 Dec	The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Wed 9 Dec	Saint Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin
Thu 10 Dec	Our Lady of Loreto
Fri 11 Dec	Saint Damasus I
Sat 12 Dec	Our Lady of Guadalupe

Mass times this week:

Tuesdays and Wednesdays: Church will open from 4:30pm, Mass at 5:15pm
Every Tuesday: Rosary at 12:00 noon

Thursdays and Fridays: Church will open from 12noon, Mass at 1:05pm
Every Thursday: Eucharistic Adoration 12noon (with Benediction before First Fridays)

Every Friday: Rosary at 12:30pm

Saturdays: 9:00am Rosary followed by Mass at 9:30am

Sundays: 9:00am (1st Sunday Singer/Organist) and 10:30am (Sung Mass)

Confessions: Before Mass Tuesday to Saturday, particularly Friday 12:30 – 1:00pm and Saturday 9 - 9:30am

.For this Sunday's 9:00am Mass, sisters Gabrielle Rumora and Angeline Wilkes will be offering their Music Ministry.

Go Make Disciples - Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP will be launching a new Archdiocesan Mission Plan **Go Make Disciples** on **12 December**, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the Star of the New Evangelisation. The new plan is aimed at renewing our parishes as places of encounter with the living Christ and centres of evangelisation and outreach to our community in love and mercy. To help promote the prayer campaign, you will also find three social media tiles attached, with prayers through the intercession of three saints who we are turning to in prayer throughout the campaign- Our Lady of Guadalupe, Our Lady Help of Christians and St Mary of the Cross MacKillop. For more information contact Parish Renewal Team at the Sydney Centre for Evangelisation, Archdiocese of Sydney on 9390 5307 or elizabeth.arblaster@sydneycatholic.org



Blessed are you, Father, who, in your infinite love sent us your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, that we may have life, and have it in abundance.

By the power of the Holy Spirit, renew our Eucharistic communities.

May they be places of encounter with the living Christ, centres of evangelisation and outreach to our community in love and mercy.

Grant us the gifts of faith, hope and love to be faithful disciples of Jesus and radiant witnesses to the people of Sydney.

Our Lady of Guadalupe, Star of the New Evangelisation. *Pray for us!*

GO MAKE DISCIPLES
www.go-make-disciples.com

WHY CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS? A series of Friday night presentations on the Sunday Mass readings during Advent, followed by questions from the audience.



Where? Right here! 1880 Hall, Saint Peter's Parish Surry Hills

When? Friday nights: 11 and 18 Dec from 6.00pm to 7.00pm

For whom? Everyone is welcome

By whom? Dr. Ken Brimaud, BA/ LLB (Sydney), STL (Angelicum), Ph. D (Gregorian) of the Catholic Institute of Sydney.

Please contact the Parish office on 02 9698 1948 or via email to st61538@bigpond.net.au to reserve a seat.



per copy. Please get your copy early as we have limited copies available.

Daily Mass Book 2021 – A compact Mass book which contains all the texts for both Sunday and weekday Mass. It is available at **\$20.00**



Launch of 2020 Lights of Christmas at St Mary's Cathedral - St Mary's Cathedral is again hosting the magnificent lights of Christmas with the event officially being launched on 10 December with the lights display commencing at 8:30pm. The lights will be displayed each night until 11:00pm, concluding on Christmas Day.



Christmas CD titled **"I believe It's Christmas"** with a selection of Christmas hymns and even a track on the traditional Maltese lullaby. This CD is one of Stasia Very's many other CDs produced in her Music Ministry.

Stasia Very and her daughters, Gabrielle and Angeline have graced us with their beautiful singing. This CD will bring their angelic



voices to your homes and is available at a special price of \$8.

Our prayers for the Sick – Ettore Pelewzick (*Dominic's father*), Ana Chiasa, Mira Krcma, Josephine Finneran, Bro. Kevin Guthrie and Gian Pagani Pietro.

We remember our deceased - Frederick, Edward & Margaret M Hailwood, Margaret D Hailwood (21/9), Joyce Hailwood & Marge Heaney, Joan McEvoy, June Veronica Hailwood, Robin Bridgewater, Marie La Brooy (24/9), Charles Grech (25/9), Ethel & Des Fitzgerald, Brian McFadden, Giles Auty, Bernard Saddler, Jeanne MacPherson (née La Brooy, 20/10, 1st anniversary), Jane Ann Ryan (24/10), Sylvia Abela (née Lewis, 28/10, 1st anniversary), Josphine Bugeja (16/11), William Grech (1/12), Lydia Garrone (1st Anniversary 4/12) and Elaine Buchhorn.

MUSIC LIST FOR THE 10:30AM MASS

Entrance Chant

Populus Sion

People of Zion behold, the Lord is coming to save all nations;
and the Lord shall cause you to hear his majestic voice for the joy of your heart. (Cf
Is 30: 19, 30)

Offertory Motet

Vox clamantis - D. Muelas (1698-1743)

A voice cries in the wilderness:
Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths. (cf. Is. 40: 3)

Communion Chant

Ierusalem surge

Arise, O Jerusalem, and stand on high;
and behold the joy that shall come to you from your God.
∩. Praise the Lord, Jerusalem;
Sion, praise your God. (Bar 5: 5; 4: 36; ∩. Ps 147(148): 12)

Communion Motet

Alma Redemptoris Mater (1617) - G. Aichinger (c.1565 - 1628)

Kind mother of the Redeemer,
who remain the open gate of heaven and the star of the sea:
help your falling people who want to rise,
you who bore your holy Parent, while nature marveled:
a virgin before and after,
receiving that Ave from Gabriel's mouth,
have mercy on us sinners.

Second Sunday of Advent (Year B) – Reflection – The Greatness of Humility

(from My Catholic Life – Dec 6, 2020)

And he preached, saying, “After me comes he who is mightier than I, the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie.” (Mark 1:7)

John the Baptist was considered by Jesus as one of the greatest human beings ever to walk the face of the Earth (see Matt. 11:11). Yet in the passage above, John states clearly that he is not even worthy to “stoop down and untie the thong” of Jesus’ sandals. This is humility to the greatest extent!

What made St. John the Baptist so great? Was it his powerful preaching? His dynamic and attractive personality? His way with words? His good looks? His numerous followers? Certainly it was none of the above. That which made John truly great was the humility with which He pointed everyone to Jesus.

One of the greatest human struggles in life is pride. We tend to want to draw attention to ourselves. Most people struggle with a tendency to tell others how good they are and why they are right. We want attention, recognition and praise. We often struggle with this tendency because self-elevation has a way of making us feel important. And such a “feeling” feels good, to an extent. But what our fallen human nature often fails to recognize is that humility is one of the greatest attributes we can have and is, by far, the greatest source of greatness in life.

Humility is found clearly in these words and actions of John the Baptist in the passage above. He knew who Jesus was. He pointed to Jesus and turned the eyes of his followers from himself to his Lord. And it is this act of pointing others to Christ that has the double effect of elevating him to a greatness that self-centred pride can never achieve.

What could be greater than the act of pointing others to the Saviour of the World? What could be greater than helping others to discover their purpose in life by coming to know Christ Jesus as their Lord and Saviour? What could be greater than exhorting others to a life of selfless surrender to the one and only God of mercy? What could be greater than elevating the Truth over the selfish lies of our fallen human nature?

Reflect, today, upon your calling in life to imitate the humility of John the Baptist. If you want your life to have true value and meaning, then use your life to elevate the

Saviour of the World to the greatest extent possible in the eyes of those around you. Point others to Jesus, make Jesus the central focus of your life and humble yourself before Him. In this act of humility, your true greatness will be discovered and you will find the central purpose of life.

*My glorious Lord, You and You alone are the Saviour of the World. You and You alone are God. Give me the wisdom of humility that I may dedicate my life to pointing others to You so that many will come to know You as their true Lord and God. I am not worthy of You, my Lord. Yet in Your mercy, You use me anyway. I thank You and dedicate my life to the proclamation of Your holy name. **Jesus, I trust in You.***



The Litany of Humility (by Merry Cardinal de Val, Secretary of State to Pope Saint Pius X from the prayer book of Jesuits, 1963)

O Jesus! meek and humble of heart, hear me.

Deliver me Jesus

From the desire of being esteemed,
From the desire of being loved,
From the desire of being extolled,
From the desire of being honoured,
From the desire of being praised,

From the desire of being preferred to others,
From the desire of being consulted,
From the desire of being approved,
From the fear of being humiliated,
From the fear of being despised,
From the fear of suffering rebukes,
From the fear of being calumniated,
From the fear of being forgotten,
From the fear of being ridiculed,
From the fear of being wronged,
From the fear of being suspected,

Jesus grant me the grace to desire it

That others may be loved more than I,
That others may be esteemed more than I,
That, in the opinion of the world, others may increase and I may decrease,
That others may be chosen and I set aside,
That others may be praised and I unnoticed,
That others may be preferred to me in everything,
That others may become holier than I, provided that I may become as holy as I should,

The Feast of the Immaculate Conception (8 December 2020)



The Immaculate Conception means that Mary, the Mother of God, was preserved from all sin from the first moment of her conception, in her mother's womb. Pope Pius IX proclaimed the dogma in 1854, four years before the "Beautiful Lady" of Massabielle introduced herself to Bernadette Soubirous on 25th March 1858 when she said, "*Que soy era Immaculada Councepciou.*" (I am the Immaculate Conception)

What does “Immaculate Conception” mean?

According to the Catholic faith, Mary is conceived without original sin. Some twenty years before the proclamation of the dogma by Pope Pius IX in 1854, through Saint Catherine Labouré, the Virgin Mary had given the Church the prayer, “O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee.”

On 8th December 1854, the Pope proclaimed, “The Blessed Virgin Mary was, at the first moment of her conception (...) preserved immune from all stain of original sin.” On this day, members of the Church contemplate, in Mary, the perfect success of humanity as desired by God. This feast day is celebrated on 8th December. “*In the Gospel of the Annunciation, the Angel’s greeting to Mary resounds: “Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with thee”, (Luke 1:28). God has always thought of her and wanted her in his inscrutable plan, to be a creature full of grace, that is, full of his love.*

Perfectly conforming to God’s plan for her, Mary then becomes the “most beautiful”, the “most holy”, but without the slightest shadow of complacency. She is humble. She is a masterpiece, whilst remaining humble, small, poor. In her is reflected the beauty of God, which is all love, grace, the gift of self. (Pope Francis, 8th December 2019)

Lourdes and the Immaculate Conception

After the apparition on 25th March 1858, Bernadette went from the Grotto directly to the presbytery: she wanted to tell the parish priest, Father Marie-Dominique Peyramale, the name that the Lady had given her but which she did not understand. On the way, she repeated the words so as not to forget them. Entering the presbytery, she said in the Bigourdan dialect, “*Que soy era Immaculada Councepciou*” (*I am the Immaculate Conception*). Father René Laurentin, historian of Lourdes, recounts the parish priest’s reaction. “*The rock that was Peyramale reeled from the shock, it lost its footing. The weapon of his authority which he bore in the service of good, abandoned him. From the depths of his heart and his chest, a tide rose up and overwhelmed him. What surfaced were the sobs...*” It was undoubtedly at this time that the parish priest of Lourdes was convinced that the apparitions of the Virgin to Bernadette were authentic.

- Lourdes Sanctuaire