



## 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 - Sixteenth week in Ordinary Time:

Tue 20 Jul	Saint Apollinaris
Wed 21 Jul	Saint Lawrence of Brindisi
Thu 22 Jul	Saint Mary Magdalene
Fri 23 Jul	Saint Bridget
Sat 24 Jul	Saint Sharbel Makhlof

### Saint Peter's Church - temporary COVID closure

In line with the directive of the Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Sydney, Saint Peter's Church at Surry Hills will be closed until at least the morning of Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> July 2021.

**Our Parish patronal celebration and the Holy Father's "Peter Pence" Appeal will take place on the first practically suitable Sunday after the churches reopen.**

***We pray for our sick*** – Nerisa Williams, Nathan Essey, Mira Krcma, Josephine Finneran, Marija Barclay, John Yo-un and Dan Southee.

***We remember our deceased*** – Charles Xavier ((13/7), William Winterton (8/6), Peco Mitrevski (30/6/21), Muriel Rosemary Goddard [Tyrrell] (2/7)(Paula's mother), Helen McGuirk, George Vorlicek, Lourdes Eulalia Martinez (10/6), Anne Kelly (Deborah White's mum (14/5), Betty Harkins (12/5), Frederick, Edward & Margaret M Hailwood, Margaret D Hailwood, Joyce Hailwood & Marge Heaney, Joan McEvoy, June Veronica Hailwood, Michelle Perez Saldivar, Garry Hansen, Rita Azzopardi, Pauline Micallef, Loreta Manawag, George Vorlicek, John Lehane, Oscar Vonwiller, Bernard Mills and John Curtin.

**Evangelium** – This Sunday's presenter is Dr. Samuel Birch and the topic is "**Working as a pro-life doctor.**" - **Zoom Link:** Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android: <https://uni-sydney.zoom.us/j/7766586513>  
Password: 432028

**Partaking in the Eucharist commits us to others, especially the poor, teaching us to pass from the flesh of Christ to the flesh of our brothers and sisters, in whom he waits to be recognised, served, honoured and loved by us.**

*Pope Francis*

*Catechesis on the Mass 2018*



### **Saint Michael the Archangel stained glass**

**window:** In the current circumstances, we have been illuminating the stained glass windows of Saint Michael the Archangel.

From next Tuesday evening, the lighted images of Saint Michael, the Blessed Virgin and Saint Joseph will look out over Surry Hills throughout the night. We pray that we may all be protected in body, mind and soul through their intercession.

Moreover, the shrine of Our Lady Help of Christians, patroness of Australia, is now bathed each night in a

beautiful blue colour emanating from the dome over Our Lady's statue. The blue light of the Blessed Virgin was first seen on the vigil of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, the feast day on which Mary made her final appearance at Lourdes. We thank Gian Pietro and Quique for their technical expertise in making these illuminations possible (and



all their other work on the parish property!!)



The cross atop Petershill (“The Mission House”), which Gian Pietro and Quique erected some months ago, continues to shine out over Surry Hills in the liturgical colours of the day.

### **Spiritual Holy Communion:**

As Fr. John mentioned in this Sunday’s homily, Jesus Christ comes to us in Word and Sacrament: We always have access to Jesus as the Word of God via Sacred Scripture (see the attachment to this email or the parish website for this Sunday’s readings). Moreover, when we do not have access to the Sacraments, we can make an act of perfect contrition (see homily) and a “spiritual communion”.

### **Communion Prayers**

The following prayers before and after Holy Communion may be helpful in

normal times, and currently in the form of a **“spiritual communion”**.

### **Prayers before Communion**

Heavenly Father, you offer me the living and life-giving food that is Christ your Son. Humbly, I accept and I pray that this divine food may deepen, strengthen and make flourish the supernatural life in me and in all who receive Him at this Mass.

Jesus, you became the Lamb of God, the victim for our sins. May I receive you with gratitude and love. May I absorb something of your love for the Father and of your love for all; and may all of us who receive you be filled with your Spirit and become more like you.

Holy Spirit of God, abiding in me, help me to receive with great reverence and love of this gift of the Father. Help me to surrender myself to Jesus and through him to the Father, and make stronger and more conscious the bond that unites us to one another in Christ Jesus.

### **Prayers after Communion: Thanksgiving**

Heavenly Father, You have given me this divine gift under the form of bread because you intend Him to be food for me. May, then, this living Bread give me life, his divine strength replace my

weakness, his nourishment promote my spiritual health, his perfection transform me into the likeness of Jesus, Himself..

In You, Jesus, we are all united. Sharing your life, we are made one with you and with one another. How wonderful the bond that invites, how wonderful the charity that should animate us. Make my love for others a reflection of your love for us all.

May the Holy Spirit, the soul of the Mystical Body, dwell in my soul and enkindle it with the flame of true love.

Mary, Mother of Jesus and my mother, at this moment when I am so closely united with him help me to give him the love and worship that are his due. You knew him so intimately in his earthly life; you know him so wonderfully in glory: teach me to know him better:

Help me to become more like him in my thinking, in my imagining, in my desiring and in my living.

**Feast days:** Saints Louis and Zélie Martin's, parents of Saint Thérèse of Lisieux (July 12)

**St. Louis Martin's favourite Bible verse** - [Philip Kosloski](#) - published on 07/12/21

*The father of St. Therese constantly prayed this Bible verse and his daughters printed it on his funeral card.*

Saint Therese of Lisieux learned from the example of her holy parents, Louis and Zélie Martin. They taught the Little Flower how to love Jesus and nurtured her simple faith.

St. Therese's sister Celine recalled in the book *The Father of the Little Flower* how their father would always recite a particular Bible verse.

*[M]any times we heard him murmuring, "Ego ero merces tua magna nimis." **His soul was filled with this thought**; it was overflowing with it. Then, stressing each syllable he would repeat it in translation: "**I am thy reward exceeding great.**" We had been so struck by this, that this text, which he had loved so much, was printed as the heading of his mortuary card.*

The verse that Louis Martin repeated was from the book of Genesis and is translated in the Douay-Rheims as follows:

**Fear not, Abram, I am thy protector, and thy reward exceeding great.** GENESIS 15:1

It is a beautiful verse, one **full of hope in God's protection and promise of eternal happiness**. When looking at his life, Louis experienced great sorrow, such as losing his wife at a young age, and watching four of his children die shortly after birth.



Yet, in the midst of the suffering, Louis had hope in God and was confident in the reward God has in store for those who trust in him.

## Saint Charbel Makhlouf (July 24)

### **THE MIRACLES OF ST CHARBEL MAKHLOUF – FR. DWIGHT LONGENECKER**

One of the great gifts I experienced when we returned from England to the USA was the great diversity in the American Catholic Church. I had never been a Catholic in the United States so I had to learn about the Catholic history. So I met the saints: St John Neumann, St Elizabeth Ann Seton, the Jesuit martyrs and more.

Another part of that diversity was the presence of the Eastern Rite churches. We have a Maronite congregation in Greenville and their priest, Fr Bart Leon has become a good friend. He introduced me to the Maronite liturgy and I learned about two of their modern saints-St Rafka and St Charbel Makhlouf whose feast day is today.

St Charbel was born Youssef Antoun Makhlouf in Lebanon in 1828. His father was a mule driver who died when Youssef was only three. Two of the boy's uncles were hermits and Youssef wanted to follow their example. As a boy he tended the family's flock of sheep and goats and would spend the day praying at a small grotto where he had installed an icon of the Blessed Virgin.

He became a monk and took the name Charbel after a second century martyr. He made his final profession as a monk in 1853 and in 1875 he was given permission to live as a hermit. He spent the next twenty three years living the solitary life. He died on Christmas Eve 1898 and was interred in the monastery chapel the next day.

#### *That's when the miracles started:*

*One story claims: "A few months after his death, a bright light was seen surrounding his tomb and the superiors opened it to find his body still intact. After that day, a blood-like liquid flowed from his body. Experts and doctors were unable to give medical explanations for the incorruptibility and flexibility." In the years 1950 and 1952, his tomb was opened and his body supposedly still had the appearance of a living one.<sup>[6]</sup> The official site mentions: In this century his grave has been opened four times, the last time being in 1955, and each time "it has been noticed that his bleeding body still has its flexibility as if it were alive"; no mentioning of later openings<sup>[7]</sup>. The Catholic Tradition website<sup>[8]</sup> says: Father Joseph Mahfouz, the postulator of the cause, certified that in 1965 the body of Saint Charbel was still preserved intact with no alteration. In 1976 he again witnessed the opening of the grave; this time the body was completely decomposed. Only the skeleton remained.<sup>[9]</sup>*

The incorruptibility of his body is one of the best attested in modern times along with that of St Bernadette. As usual with these cases, the incorruptibility is not the only thing that is inexplicable. In Charbel's case the miracle was accompanied by supernatural lights and a miraculous blood-like fragrant oil that flowed from the corpse which had healing qualities. You can read the full story of Charbel's incorruptible remains and the miracles that surrounded them [here](#).

A large number of miracles have been attributed to Saint Charbel since his death in 1898—many of them very recent. Some say the number is as high as 26,000 accounts of healing. [This website](#) chronicles some of them with video witnesses. One of the most astounding is that of Nohad El Shami, a 55-year-old woman who was healed from a partial paralysis.

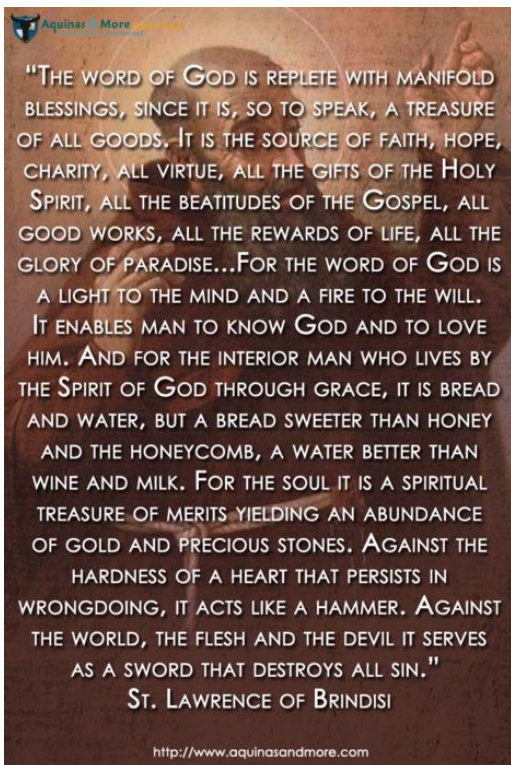
*She witnesses that on the night of January 22, 1993, she saw in her dream two Maronite monks standing next to her bed. One of them put his hands on her neck and operated on her, relieving her from her pain while the other held a pillow behind her back. When she woke she discovered two wounds in her neck, one on each side. She was completely healed and recovered her ability to walk. She believed that it was Saint Charbel who healed her but did not recognize the other monk. Next night, she again saw Saint Charbel in her dream. He said to her: "I did the surgery to let people see and return to faith. I ask you to visit the hermitage on the 22nd of every month, and attend Mass regularly for the rest of your life".*

What to make of such prodigies? The cynic would dismiss them as so much fantasy and fairy tales. Never mind the evidence. The open minded unbeliever would shrug and say, "There are more things in heaven and earth Horatio than our science can dream of." I guess we don't have any answers. The believer accepts the miracles as a great gift and realizes the anomalies like the fact that Charbel's remains did eventually decompose are part of the greater mystery of it all.

Me? I'd rather be guilty of believing too much than too little. When I get to see the Lord face to face I'd rather confess to being gullible than cynical. With Therese I want to say, "I will have it all!"

Give me the miracles, the incorrupt bodies, the healings and I'll even give the other weird stuff the benefit of the doubt. You saw Mother Teresa's face in a bagel or the Blessed Virgin Mary in a rose garden? Well why not?

Reality is rubbery. Things are not what they seem. The physical world is not so concrete as we think it is, and stories like the miracles of St Charbel remind us that there are far greater powers at work in the world than our puny plans can ever imagine. St Charbel Makhoul, Pray for us.



**God is Love  
And all his operations  
proceed from love.  
Saint Lawrence of Brindisi,  
pray for us.**

**Parishes for Mission Day – Saturday 21 August**, St Peter's Parish will host the neighbouring parish of Redfern, Rosebery and Waterloo for a "parishes for mission" day between 9:00am to 4:00pm. Fr. John is calling for expressions of interest any parishioners who would like to attend. This event which will be held in our parish Hall (1880). Program for the day will be aimed at helping to form us for the Archbishop's missionary project "Go Make Disciples". There is no cost associated with this event.

**Social Justice Sunday** - we celebrate on the **29th of August**. The Australian Bishops' Social Justice Statement, *Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor*, invites us to join in responding to Pope Francis' invitation to take a seven-year journey towards total ecological sustainability guided by seven Laudato Si' Goals. The Statement provides theological foundations to ground and inspire our efforts to care for creation while responding to the needs of the disadvantaged and excluded. More information: ACBC Office for Justice, Ecology and Peace, [www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au](http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au) or tel. (02) 6201 9845.

## **PARISH GROUPS should only meet online until further notice**

**RCIA** – The Duffy Hall – Thursday: 6:30pm – 7:30pm (fortnightly)

**Neocatechumenal Way** – B16 - Thursday: 7:30pm – 8:30pm

**Mother's Group** – Courtyard – Friday: 2:30pm

**AA Surry Hills Group** – Duffy Hall – Tuesday: 6:00pm – 7:00pm

**Christian Life Community (CLC)** – B16 Room - Tuesday: 7:30pm (fortnightly)

**Young Adults** – Sun 11:30 – 2:00pm (morning tea, Angelus, Evangelium & pub lunch)

**Marian Group** – before mass daily

**Divine Mercy Group** – before mass daily

**Cenacle** – Church – Tuesday: 10:30 am (Thurs 9:00am)

**Bible Group** – Church – Monday: 8:00am

**Liturgy Group** – B16 – after Sunday lunch

Legion of Mary – To be announced

### **3 Things to Know About Our Lady of Mount Carmel – by Jennifer Dabovic - Mary, the Blessed Mother**

#### **1. Early History of the Carmelites**

The Carmelite Order originated on Mount Carmel in the Holy Land. They do not have a particular founder. Early historical accounts find Christian hermits already settled on Mount Carmel around the year 1200. The hermits dwelt near the fountain or well of Elijah. (You can read about Elijah on Mount Carmel in the 1st Book of Kings in the Bible.) In 1204, the hermits were given a Rule of life by St. Albert of Jerusalem.

#### **2. Our Lady of Mt. Carmel and The Brown Scapular**

Invasion by the Saracens caused the hermits to flee to Europe by the end of the 13th century. One of these hermits, St. Simon Stock, returned to his native England, entered the Carmelite order and was eventually named prior of his community. He appealed to Our Lady of Mount Carmel, the patroness of their order, on July 16, 1251, with the following prayer:

*Flower of Carmel, Blossoming vine,  
Splendour of Heaven,  
Mother Divine, None like to thee,  
Peerless and fair, Thy children of Carmel,  
Save by thy care, Star of the sea.*



The Blessed Virgin, accompanied many angels and the child Jesus, appeared to St. Simon Stock and presented him with the brown scapular. She made him this promise: "This shall be the privilege for you and for all Carmelites that whoever dies piously wearing this scapular, shall not suffer eternal flames." The brown scapular is one of the most popular sacramentals in the Church. According to the Catechism, sacramentals are "sacred signs which bear a resemblance to the sacraments. They signify effects, particularly of a spiritual nature, which are obtained through the intercession of the Church. By them men are disposed to receive the chief effect of the sacraments, and various occasions in life are rendered holy". CCC 1667



### 3. Carmelite Nuns

The first community of Carmelite nuns was founded in Belgium in the 14th century. The nuns soon also spread throughout Europe. In 1534, St. Teresa of Avila, a great reformer and Doctor of the Church, entered the Carmel of the Incarnation in Avila, Spain.

After almost three decades as a Carmelite nun, St. Teresa became convinced that the nuns had become too worldly and needed to return to the primitive rule of Carmel with its emphasis on silence, solitude, strict enclosure and a small, sisterly community life of manual labour, prayer, penance and joyful recreation, where all would strive to live "the evangelical counsels as perfectly as possible". She founded the first monastery of Discalced Carmelite nuns under the patronage of St. Joseph in Avila, Spain.

The Carmelite nuns have since spread throughout the world. The first monastery of Carmelite nuns in the United States was founded in 1790. Now there are 60 monasteries of Carmelite nuns in the U.S. alone.

#### Questions for Reflection:

The Carmelite hermits were forced to move from their original location but continued to thrive. **Are you willing to go wherever the Holy Spirit leads you?**

The word "Carmel" means "garden." **How are you growing the garden of your soul?** Do you frequently appeal to Mary like St. Simon Stock?

St. Teresa of Avila's decision to reform the order was not a popular one with some of her sisters. **What do you do when you make a decision that might be opposed by others? How does your faith help you to stay on course?**

***The month of JULY is dedicated to the MOST PRECIOUS BLOOD***



**The Power of the Blood**

Rev. 12:11 - And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

There is a phrase that we seldom hear anymore, and that may be the reason why some are having trouble getting victory over Satan. That phrase is, "PLEAD THE BLOOD!"

We should plead the blood over our children, over our homes, over our Automobiles, over our church, over EVERYTHING!

**THE POWER OF THE BLOOD WILL BRING PROTECTION OVER YOU AND YOUR POSSESSIONS.**



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