



# St Peter's Church, Surry Hills

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Parish phone: (02) 9698 1948  
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**Most Reverend Danny J Meagher:** Bishop in Residence, Episcopal Vicar for the Northern Region

**Fr. John A Macdonald:** Administrator

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

**Sunday Masses:** 9:00am and 10:30am

**Daily Mass: Mon:** 7:30am; **Tue - Sat:** 10:00am;

**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Tues – Thurs:** 5:00pm – 6:00pm

**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction: Fri:** 5:00pm – 6:00pm

**Confessions: Fri:** 5:00pm – 5:45pm; **Sat:** 9:30am - 10:00am

**Holy Rosary:** Daily before Mass

**Stations of the Cross:** Friday at 5:30pm

## Feast Days for the Third Week in Lent (Year A)

Fri 17 Mar Saint Patrick, bishop

Sat 18 Mar Saint Cyril of Jerusalem, bishop, doctor

## We Pray For:

**Our sick and injured:** Roslyn Furber, Patricia Conlan, Patrick Tomelty, Sophie Marden, Grace Moon, Josephine Finneran, Anna Seow, Ricardo Francisco, Catherine Murphy, Adi Soediarto, Gerry Cassar, Makram Nammour, Camilla Pascoe, Ana Teresa Rodrigues, Mafalda Triolo, Aimi McEwen, Louise McCann, Marija Barclay.

**Our deceased:** Robert Azzopardi (First anniversary, 7/3, [Pauline Ciappara's nephew]), Martin Bonke, Luisa Medina Sanches (First anniversary, 5/2, [Rosa Bravo's mum]), Dannie Southee (23/1/23), Julian Ciappara (First anniversary of death 28/1/22), Maria Helena Trujillo, Newton McMahon, Lydia Garrone (4/12 death anniversary, [Patrizia O'Brien's mother]), Henrietta Pham, Frederick, Edward & Margaret M Hailwood & Margaret D Hailwood.

**Recently deceased:**

**Our house bound elderly:** Bernadette Hailwood, Robert Pearce, Joyce Regoski, June Holt, Shirley Kennedy, Anna Maria, Patricia Wells.

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*

On 12<sup>th</sup> March, following the 9:00am Mass, the classes for the Sacrament of Confirmation will begin in the Convent. The Sacrament preparation for Holy Communion will begin in the month of September. To express your interest or obtain enrolment forms, please contact the Missionaries of Charity Sisters on (02) 9318 2881.

## Bishops outline dangers in proposed discrimination reforms

*Archbishops Peter A Comensoli and Anthony Fisher OP*

Senior bishops have warned law changes proposed by the Australian Law Reform Commission would prevent Church schools from being authentically Catholic, arguing they would discount the rights of people with a religious faith.

The fears were raised in the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference's submission to the Law Reform Commission's Inquiry into Religious Educational Institutions and Anti-Discrimination Laws. The submission was signed by Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP and Archbishop Peter A Comensoli, the chairs of the Bishops Commission for Catholic Education and the Bishops Commission for Life, Family and Public Engagement, respectively.



The Law Reform Commission recently released a consultation paper proposing restrictions on the ability of religious educational institutions to hire staff who support the religious mission of the school.

“The propositions and proposals advanced in the consultation are problematic because they would make it impossible for religious educational institutions to pursue their religious mission and ethos,” the archbishops said.

“It is vital in forming a community of faith that religious educational institutions and, in particular, religious faith schools have the right to preference the hiring of staff who are of the same religious faith or who are willing to support the religious faith of the school.”

Archbishops Comensoli and Fisher argued that Catholic institutions “want the capacity to employ and manage employment so that staff can be witnesses for the schools’ Catholic mission”.

“Freedom of religious observance, as part of a balance that observes the rights of all, is a fundamental human right that government is obliged to protect,” they wrote.

“Catholic schools want to continue to be able to authentically teach the Catholic faith with staff who support this mission in word and deed. This faith-based education is a vital part of the identity and mission of Catholic schools and has served students and parents to generations of Australians.”

The archbishops said that the propositions in the discussion paper would “add no further protections than already exist in Australian schools” but would rather “remove the opportunity for parents and students who do wish to participate in the entirety of what Catholic schools can offer through their mission and ethos”.

A copy of the Bishops Conference submission can be found here: <https://bit.ly/BishopstoALRC>

The Law Reform Commission has been asked to provide a report to the Commonwealth Attorney-General by April 21.

## **Pope to young UK Catholics: 'Dare to testify to Christian ideals'**, Devin Watkins, 4 Mar

Pope Francis sends a message to young Catholics gathered in London for the 2023 Flame Congress, and urges them to dare to be different as they walk in friendship with Christ.

Tens of thousands of young Catholics from across England and Wales gathered at the OVO Arena Wembley, in London, for the 5th CYMFed Flame Congress on Saturday. The event was held 150 days before the 37th World Youth Day—to be held in Lisbon, Portugal, on 1-6 August 2023—under the theme “Rise Up!”, an echo of the WYD Scripture passage: “Mary arose and went with haste”.



### **Set free by the Gospel**

Pope Francis sent his greetings and encouragement to participants in the youth rally on Saturday.

In a message signed by Cardinal Secretary of State Pietro Parolin, the Pope assured the young Catholics of his “spiritual closeness” and prayed that “Almighty God will richly bless their time together”.

He expressed his hopes that “through adoration, music, testimonies, and the sharing of friendship with Christ and with one another, all present will grow strong in faith and love and bear witness courageously to the Gospel message that sets us free.”

### **Beauty of generosity**

The Pope also urged them to hasten to respond to the Lord’s call to follow Him, as did Mary the Mother of God.

*“Dare to be different [and] point to ideals other than those of this world, testifying to the beauty of generosity, service, purity, perseverance, forgiveness, fidelity to our personal vocation, prayer, the pursuit of justice and the common good, love for the poor, and social friendship.”*

Pope Francis wrapped up his message by entrusting the young English and Welsh Catholics and their families “to the intercession of Our Lady of Walsingham” and offered them his “blessing as a pledge of wisdom, joy, and peace in Jesus the Lord.”

### **Rising up as young Catholics**

According to the event’s website, Flame 2023 is an opportunity to “Rise up after the pandemic, Rise up as young Catholics, Rise up—as Mary did—for the surprising and beautiful adventure that is our Catholic faith.”

Guest speakers include Filipino-born Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle, Pro-Prefect of the Dicastery for Evangelization, and Australian-born Archbishop Timothy Costelloe of Perth.

### **Saint Patrick of Ireland** (Feast day 17 Mar), CNA

On March 17, Catholics celebrate St. Patrick, the fifth century bishop and patron of Ireland, whose life of holiness set the example for many of the Church’s future saints.

St. Patrick is said to have been born around 389 AD in Britain. Captured by Irish raiders when he was about 16, St. Patrick was taken as a slave to Ireland where he lived for six years as a shepherd before escaping and returning to his home.

At home, he studied the Christian faith at monastic settlements in Italy and in what is now modern-day France. He was ordained a deacon by the Bishop of Auxerre, France around the year 418 AD and ordained a bishop in 432 AD.

It was around this time when that he was assigned to minister to the small, Christian communities in Ireland who lacked a central authority and were isolated from one another. When St. Patrick returned to Ireland, he was able to use his knowledge of Irish culture that he gained during his years of captivity. Using the traditions and symbols of the Celtic people, he explained Christianity in a way that made sense to the Irish and was thus very successful in converting the natives.

The shamrock, which St. Patrick used to explain the Holy Trinity, is a symbol that has become synonymous with Irish Catholic culture.

Although St. Patrick's Day is widely known and celebrated every March the world over, various folklore and legend that surround the saint can make it difficult to determine fact from fiction.

Legends falsely site him as the man who drove away snakes during his ministry despite the climate and location of Ireland, which have never allowed snakes to inhabit the area.

St. Patrick is most revered not for what he drove away from Ireland, but for what he brought, and the foundation he built for the generations of Christians who followed him.

Although not the first missionary to the country, he is widely regarded as the most successful.

**The life of sacrifice, prayer and fasting** has laid the foundation for the many saints that the small island was home to following his missionary work.

To this day, he continues to be revered as one of the most beloved Saints of Ireland.

In March of 2011, the Irish bishops' conference marked their patron's feast by remembering him as "pioneer in an inhospitable climate."

As the Church in Ireland faces her own recent difficulties following clerical sex abuse scandals, comfort can be found in the plight of St. Patrick, the bishops said.

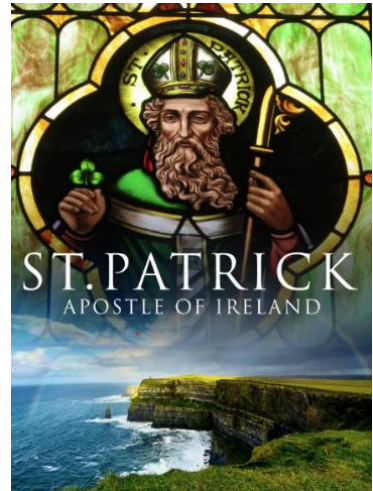
They quoted The Confession of St. Patrick, which reads: **"May it never befall me to be separated by my God from his people whom he has won in this most remote land. I pray God that he gives me perseverance, and that he will deign that I should be a faithful witness for his sake right up to the time of my passing."**

**Saint Cyril of Jerusalem** (Feast day 18 Mar)

**"Make your fold with the sheep; flee from the wolves: depart not from the Church,"** Cyril admonished catechumens surrounded by heresy. These were prophetic words for Cyril was to be hounded by enemies and heretics for most of his life, and although they could exile him from his diocese he never left his beloved Church.

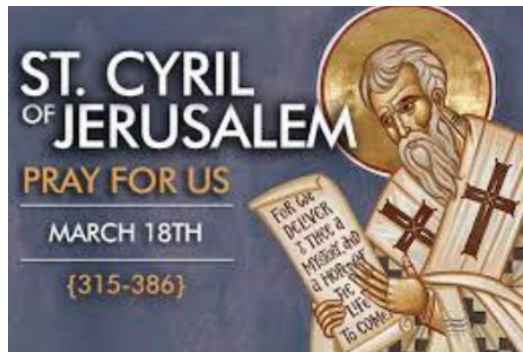
Cyril's life began a few years before Arianism (the heresy that Jesus was not divine or one in being with the Father) and he lived to see its suppression and condemnation at the end of his life. In between he was the victim of many of the power struggles that took place.

We know little about Cyril's early life. Historians estimate he was born about 315 and that he was brought up in Jerusalem. He speaks about the appearance of the sites of the Nativity



and [Holy Sepulchre](#) before they were "improved" by human hands as if he were a witness. All we know of his [family](#) were that his [parents](#) were probably Christians and he seemed to care for them a great deal. He exhorted catechumens to honour [parents](#) "for however much we may repay them, yet we can never be to them what they as [parents](#) have been to us." We know he also had a sister and a nephew, Gelasius, who became a [bishop](#) and a saint.

He speaks as one who belonged to a group called the Solitaries. These were men who lived in their own houses in the cities but practiced a [life](#) of complete chastity, ascetism, and service. After being ordained a deacon and then a priest, his [bishop](#) Saint Maximus respected him enough to put him in charge of the instruction of catechumens. We still have these catechetical lectures of Cyril's that were written down by someone in the congregation. When speaking of so many mysteries, Cyril anticipated the question, "But someone [will](#) say, If the Divine [substance](#) is incomprehensible, why then do you discourse of these things? So then, because I cannot drink up all the river, am I not even to take in moderation what is expedient for me? Because with eyes so constituted as mine I cannot take in all the sun, am I not even to look upon it enough to satisfy my wants? Or again, because I have entered into a great garden, and cannot eat all the supply of fruits, would you have me go away altogether hungry?. I am attempting now to glorify the Lord, but not to describe him, knowing nevertheless that I shall fall short of glorifying [God](#) worthily, yet deeming it a work of piety even to attempt it at all."



When Maximus died, Cyril was consecrated as [bishop](#) of Jerusalem. Because he was supported by the Arian [bishop](#) of Caesarea, Acacius, the orthodox criticized the appointment and the Arians thought they had a friend. Both factions were wrong, but Cyril wound up in the middle.

When a famine hit Jerusalem, the poor turned to Cyril for help. Cyril, seeing the poor starving to death and having no money, sold some of the goods of the churches. This was something that other saints including Ambrose and Augustine had done and it probably saved many lives.

There were rumours, however, that some of the [vestments](#) wound up as [clothing](#) for actors. Actually, the initial [cause](#) of the falling out between [Acacius](#) and Cyril was territory not beliefs. As [bishop](#) of Caesarea, [Acacia](#) had authority over all the [bishops](#) of Palestine. Cyril argued that his authority did not include [Jerusalem](#) because [Jerusalem](#) was an "apostolic see" -- one of the original sees set up by the apostles. When Cyril did not appear at councils that [Acacius](#) called, [Acacius](#) accused him of selling [church goods](#) to raise money and had him banished.

Cyril stayed in [Tarsus](#) while waiting for an appeal. Constantius called a council where the appeal was supposed to take place. The council consisted of orthodox, Arians, and semi-Arian bishops. When [Acacius](#) and his faction saw that Cyril and other exiled orthodox [bishops](#) were attending, they demanded that the persecuted [bishops](#) leave. [Acacius](#) walked out when the demand was not met. The other [bishops](#) prevailed on Cyril and the others to give in to this point

because they didn't want [Acacius](#) to have [reason](#) to deny the validity of the council. [Acacius](#) returned but left again for [good](#) when his [creed](#) was rejected -- and refused to come back even to give testimony against his enemy Cyril. The result of the council was the [Acacius](#) and the other Arian [bishops](#) were condemned. There's no final judgment on Cyril's case but it was probably thrown out when [Acacius](#) refused to testify and Cyril returned to Jerusalem.

This was not the end of Cyril's troubles because [Acacius](#) carried his story to the emperor -- embellishing it with details that it was a gift of the emperor's that was sold to a dancer who died wearing the robe. This brought about a new [synod](#) run by [Acacius](#) who now had him banished again on the basis of what some [bishops](#) of [Tarsus](#) had done while Cyril was there.

This exile lasted until Julian became emperor and recalled all exiled bishops, orthodox or Arian. Some said this was to exacerbate tension in the Church and increase his imperial power. So Cyril returned to Jerusalem. When [Acacius](#) died, each faction nominated their own replacement for Caesarea. Cyril appointed his nephew Gelasius -- which may seem like nepotism, except that all orthodox sources spoke of Gelasius' holiness. A year later both Cyril and Gelasius were driven out of Palestine again as the new emperor's consul reversed Julian's ruling.

Eleven years later, Cyril was allowed to go back to find a [Jerusalem](#) destroyed by [heresy](#) and strife. He was never able to put things completely right. He did attend the Council at [Constantinople](#) in 381 where the Nicene [Creed](#) and [orthodoxy](#) triumphed and [Arianism](#) was finally condemned. Cyril received [justice](#) at the same Council who cleared him of all previous rumors and commended him for fighting "a [good](#) fight in various places against the Arians." Cyril had eight years of peace in [Jerusalem](#) before he died in 386, at about seventy years old.

### **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)**

The parish has commenced a new cycle of RCIA. In addition, to the seven (enquirers), any parishioner is welcome to attend the RCIA presentations which involved a systematic exposition of the doctrine and practice of the Catholic faith. The RCIA meetings take place each Wednesday evening between 6:30 and 7:30pm in the Duffy Hall.

In addition to serving as an excellent revision of our own knowledge of the faith, parishioners will also lend valuable moral support to the RCIA enquirers. Feel free to invite any of your own relatives and friends who would like to participate in this program.

### **Day of the Unborn Child**

#### **Feast of the Annunciation Mass and Procession**

**Sunday 26th March** at St Mary's Cathedral

- 10:30am Mass (Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP as Principal Celebrant)
- 12 noon Street Procession
- 1:30pm Benediction

#### **Sunday 10:30am Mass Readers' Roster**

|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| First Sunday: 12 March  | <b>Jessica Gereis and Rebecca Lerve</b> |
| Second Sunday: 19 March | Brendan and Theresa Byrne               |
| Third Sunday: 26 March  | Alex Leech and Fiorella Vayda           |
| Fourth Sunday: 2 April  | John and Susannah McCaughan             |

(If there is a fifth Sunday of the month, readers will be arranged ad hoc for that day.)

NB: if you are unable to read on your rostered Sunday, and you have been unable to find a replacement, please contact the parish office. Other parishioners are welcome to contact the office if they wish to read at either of the Sunday Masses.

## Guide to Project Compassion and Lenten Companion 2023

Project Compassion began with Ash Wednesday. Distribution boxes and donation envelopes will be placed on the side entrance and the front of the church.

There is also available Lenten Companion 2023 prepared by the Go Make Disciples, Parish Renewal Team to guide us through lent with reflections for each week in Lent. The Lenten Companion 2023 titled Spirit and Truth, *The Power of Christ Revealed*

Many people find it easier to donate to Project Compassion via the Parish website. You may begin this donation process by clicking on the Yellow **SUPPORT US** button on the top right-hand corner of the Parish website and then by following the prompts.



### Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney: Parish Safeguarding volunteer Online Induction Training, working With Children Check & Code of Conduct



The Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office of the Archdiocese of Sydney advises that any person performing any role in the life of the Parish (e.g., readers, servers, collectors, welcomers) is required to comply with Safeguarding Volunteer Online training as per the details below: Registration to complete the Online Safeguarding Induction Training via this link <https://forms.gle/9ebT3voEAtfP7P8R9> or you can register to attend a Zoom Safeguarding Induction Training session by emailing [safeguardingtraining@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:safeguardingtraining@sydneycatholic.org) for further information and dates.

### The month of March dedicated to Saint Joseph (Feast day 19 Mar)

**Oh St. Joseph, whose protection is so great, so strong, so prompt before the throne of God, I place in you all my interests and desires.**

**Oh St. Joseph, do assist me by your powerful intercession and obtain for me from your divine son all spiritual blessings through Jesus Christ, our Lord; so that having engaged here below your heavenly power, I may offer my thanksgiving and homage to the most loving of Fathers.**

**Oh St. Joseph, I never weary contemplating you and Jesus asleep in your arms. I dare not approach while he reposes near your heart. Press Him in my name and kiss his fine head for me, and ask him to return the kiss when I draw my dying breath. St. Joseph, patron of departing souls, pray for us. Amen**



Statue of Saint Joseph with the child Jesus in our church

## The Litany of Humility

(by His Eminence Cardinal Merry del Val)

O Jesus, meek and humble of heart,  
*Hear me.*  
From the desire of being esteemed,  
*Deliver me, O Jesus.*  
From the desire of being loved,  
*Deliver me, O Jesus.*  
From the desire of being extolled, *etc.*  
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,  
That others may be loved more than I,  
*Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.*  
That others may be esteemed more than I,  
*Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.*  
That, in the opinion of the world,  
others may increase and I may  
decrease, *etc.*  
That others may be chosen and I set  
aside,  
That others may be praised and I go  
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,

Stained glass window of the  
Annunciation in our church

