



St Peter's Church, Surry Hills

235-241 Devonshire St (between Crown and Marlborough Streets),
Parish phone: (02) 9698 1948
Email: admin@stpeterssh.org.au
Website: www.stpeterssurryhills.org.au



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 (during Lent)

HOLY WEEK/EASTER LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday: 9:00am and 10:30am

Holy Week Masses: Mon: 7:30am; **Tue - Wed:** 10:00am

Holy Thursday: Mass of The Lord's Supper: 7:00pm

Good Friday: Stations of the Cross: 10:00am

Passion of the Lord: 3:00pm

Confession on Fri: 11:00am – 12noon

Holy Saturday: Easter Vigil Mass in the Holy Night – 7:00pm

Easter Sunday Mass of the Resurrection: 10:00am

Octave of Easter: Mon – Sat (10 Apr – 15 Apr) – 10:00am

Second Sunday of Easter [or of Divine Mercy] (16 Apr): 9:00am & 10:30am

We Pray For:

Our sick and injured: Roy Child, Roslyn Furber, Nerissa Williams, Patrick Tomelty, Sophie Marden, Grace Moon, Josephine Finneran, Anna Seow, Ricardo Francisco, Catherine Murphy, Adi Soediarlo, Gerry Cassar, Makram Nammour, Ana Teresa Rodrigues, Mafalda Triolo, Aimi McEwen, Louise McCann, Marija Barclay.

Our deceased: Ana Ofelia Sierra Bustamante (18/3, (Indi's mother)), Philomena Smith, John Rogers, 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), Miguel Trujillo, (23/3, (Teresa's father)), Frederick, Edward & Margaret M Hailwood & Margaret D Hailwood.

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 12th 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.

A new outlook on Confession, the Sacrament of joy, Vatican News

At the centre of forgiveness, there is God who embraces us, not the list of our sins and our humiliation.

Confession is a "sacrament of joy", indeed a "feast", in Heaven and on earth. On Tuesday, September 14, in the stadium of Košice, it was as if Pope Francis were looking into the eyes of each of the young people who had come to welcome him, in order to invite them to live the sacrament of penance in a new way. And what the Pope said to them was comforting, not only for those present, but for anyone who followed that meeting on television or on the internet, and even those who simply read the papal address.

It is not the sacrament, scarcely frequented these days, that is changing. What the Pope proposes is a completely different outlook on Confession, different from the experience of so



Pope Francis makes his confession in St Peter's Basilica

many Christians and different from a certain historical legacy.

First of all, the Pope indicated that within the sacrament lies "the remedy" for the moments in life when we are down. And to the question of a young lady, Petra, who asked him how her peers could "overcome the obstacles on the path to God's mercy", he responded with another question: "If I ask you: what do you think about when you go to

Confession? I am almost certain of the answer: sins. But are sins really the focus of Confession? Does God want you to approach Him by thinking about you, your sins, or about Him?"

The Christian way, Pope Francis had said two days earlier in Budapest, begins with taking a step backward, with removing oneself from the centre to make room for God. This same criterion, this same outlook, applied to Confession, can provoke a smaller or greater Copernican revolution in the life of each person: I am no longer at the centre of the sacrament of penance, humiliated with my list of sins — perhaps always the same ones — to be told with difficulty to the priest. At the centre is the encounter with God who welcomes, embraces, forgives, raises up.

"One does not go to Confession," the Pope explained to the young people, "as chastised people who must humble themselves, but as children who run to receive the Father's embrace. And the Father lifts us up in every situation, He forgives our every sin. Hear this well: God always forgives! Do you understand? God always forgives!" One is not going to a judge to settle accounts, but "to Jesus who loves me and heals me".

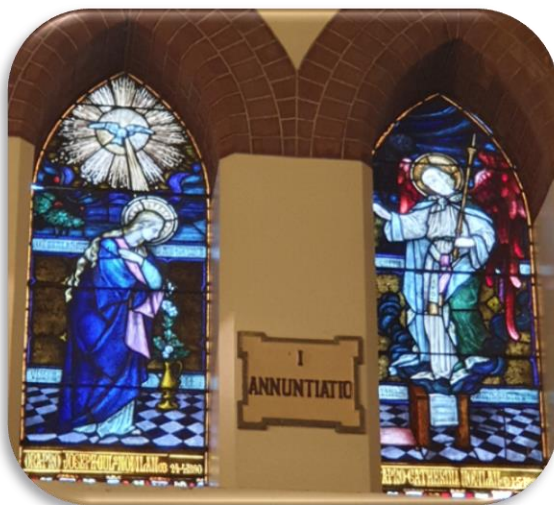
Pope Francis advised priests to "feel" in God's place: "Let them feel themselves to be in the place of God the Father who always forgives and embraces and welcomes. Let us give God first

place in Confession. If God, if He, is the protagonist, everything becomes beautiful, and confessing becomes the Sacrament of joy. Yes, of joy: not of fear and judgment, but of joy". The new outlook on the sacrament of penance proposed by the Pope, therefore, asks us not to remain prisoners of shame for our sins — shame which "is a good thing" — but to overcome it, because "God is never ashamed of you. He loves you right there, where you are ashamed of yourself. And He loves you, always". To those who still cannot forgive themselves, believing that not even God can do it "because I will always fall into the same sins", Pope Francis says, "When does God take offence? When you go to ask Him for forgiveness? No, never. God suffers when we think He can't forgive us, because it is like telling Him, 'You are weak in love!' Instead, God rejoices in forgiving us, every time. When He raises us up, He believes in us as He did the first time, He does not get discouraged. We are the ones who are discouraged, He is not. He does not see sinners to label, but children to love. He does not see people who have erred, but beloved children; wounded, perhaps; and then He has even more compassion and tenderness. And every time we confess — never forget this — there is a celebration in Heaven. May it be the same on earth!"

From shame to celebration, from humiliation to joy. This does not come from Pope Francis, but from the Gospel, where we read of the father who anxiously awaits his sinful son, constantly scanning the horizon, and even before the son has time to humble himself by meticulously detailing all his faults, he embraces him, lifts him up and celebrates with him and for him.

Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord, (Feast day 25 Mar), Vatican News

As early as the middle of the 6th century in the East, and the 7th century in Rome, there is evidence of this Feast celebrated on 25 March. Since this feast is connected with the Lord Jesus and to His entry into history, the revised liturgical calendar gave this feast the title of the "Annunciation of the Lord", over the more popular Annunciation of Mary. The Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord is a Christmas feast even though it is not celebrated during the Christmas Season. Nine months before we celebrate the Lord's birth, we celebrate His incarnation in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary.



The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, "Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you." But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most

High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his Kingdom there will be no end.” But Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?” And the angel said to her in reply, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God.” Mary said, “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her. (Lk. 1:26-39)

God enters through the back door

The Annunciation is the Feast celebrating the Lord’s incarnation in Mary’s womb, initiating a new history. It is interesting to notice that God does not send the angel to the Temple in Jerusalem, but to Galilee, a despised region, considered a haven for unbelieving pagans. Nazareth is a city that is never mentioned in the Old Testament.

Mary is troubled

On hearing the Angel’s message, Mary reflects, she enters into dialogue with herself and with the angel, asking what his message meant and how it would happen. Mary does not allow herself to be overcome by her emotions. She appears as a courageous woman, who remains in control of herself even though she is faced with something unheard of. In the end, she evaluates and makes a decision in God’s light.

The action of the Holy Spirit

It is the Spirit who clothes Mary, making her fit for her mission. He does it here and He will do it again in the Upper Room. Mary is the woman clothed with the Spirit, thanks to whom and in whom everything becomes possible.

Mary’s Yes

Mary’s “Let it be done to me” transforms the humble house of “her” being into God’s House, becoming a Tabernacle of the Most High Jesus. All it took was her “Let it be done to me”, a sign of her willingness, knowing she could trust in the action of the Holy Spirit. And God entered into history, accepting to “make” history in the lives of those who have said and who would say over and over again, “Let it be done to me”.

Mary’s characteristics

Mary’s first characteristic is her faith. She believes and entrusts herself to God, certain that nothing is impossible for Him. God is not afraid of our moments of confusion, of reflection, of trying to understand. God does not force our freedom, but teaches us how to be free so that each one of us can say our own “Let it be done to me”.

The second characteristic is that she accepted God’s time and pace—His time requires our time, it requires that we live more profoundly. God asks for our “yes”, but He also asks that we assume go at His “pace” and “time” which is not simply the ticking of the clock. God’s time is the right time, the fullness of time, the opportune moment, the moment of grace.

Prayer

*Today is disclosed the mystery before the ages;
and the Son of God shall become the Son of Man,
that by his adoption of the lowest
he may grant us the highest.
Of old Adam failed to become a God*

as he desired,
so God became Man
that Adam might become as God.
Wherefore, let creation rejoice,
and nature exchange greetings,
for the archangel did stand reverently before the Virgin
and offered her joy instead of sorrow.
Wherefore, O our God,
who by thy compassion became man,
glory be to thee.

From the Byzantine Matins for the Feast of the Annunciation

Pope at Audience: The first means of evangelization is witness, Francesca Merlo, Vatican News 22 March 2023

Pope Francis continues his weekly catechesis at his General Audience and urges all those present to re-read Saint Paul VI's Apostolic Exhortation "Evangelii nuntiandi", as each person goes forth in their journey of evangelizing and evangelization.

Addressing the faithful gathered in St Peter's Square for his Wednesday General Audience, Pope Francis spoke of evangelization, and opened his catechesis by referring to Saint Paul VI's Apostolic Exhortation ***Evangelii nuntiandi***. He noted that "evangelization is more than just simple doctrinal and moral transmission but rather that it is first and foremost, the *witness* of the personal encounter with Jesus Christ, the Incarnate Word in which salvation is fulfilled". The witness of Christ, continued the Pope, "is at the same time the first means of evangelization and an essential condition for its efficacy, so that the proclamation of the Gospel may be fruitful".

To witness is also to profess faith

Pope Francis went on to express the importance of remembering that "witness also includes *professed faith*, that is, convinced and manifest adherence to God the Father and Son and Holy Spirit, who created and redeemed us out of love". Witness, he continued, "cannot be separated from consistency between what one believes, what one proclaims and what one lives". The Pope, in this regard, noted that many Christians live their lives saying they believe, but live by something else, as if they do not. "This is hypocrisy", said the Pope.

"The witness of a Christian life involves a journey of *holiness*, based on Baptism, which makes us "sharers in the divine nature; in this way, they are really made holy". This holiness is a holiness that is not reserved for the few, but is a gift from God and demands to be received and made to bear fruit for ourselves and for others, nourished by prayer, said the Pope.

The Holy Father then explained that we must as such be aware that the people to whom evangelization is addressed are not only others, "those who profess other faiths or who profess none, but also *ourselves*, believers in Christ and active members of the People of God".

To bear witness

"To bear this witness, the Church as such must also begin by evangelizing herself"; she must do so in order to not become "a museum piece", he added. In brief, the Pope explained, "this means that she has a constant need of being evangelized if she wishes to retain freshness, vigour, and strength in order to proclaim the Gospel".

Bringing his catechesis to an end, Pope Francis stressed that "a Church that evangelizes herself in order to evangelize is a Church that, guided by the Holy Spirit, is required to walk a

demanding path of continuous conversion and renewal" and this also entails the ability to change the ways of understanding and living its evangelizing presence in history, avoiding taking refuge in the protected zones of the logic of 'it has always been done this way'. This Church, concluded the Pope, is one that "dialogically encounters the contemporary world, that weaves fraternal relationships, that generates spaces of encounter, implementing good practices of hospitality, welcome, recognition and integration of the other and of otherness, and that cares for the common home that is creation".

With this in mind, Pope Francis, finally, before blessing all those following his audience, once again urged all those present to read or re-read *Evangelii nuntiandi*, "at home and in your communities," assuring them that he himself reads it often.

Catholic health care institutions in US 'should not perform gender transitions', 23 March 2023 CathNews

The United States bishops have issued new guidance that Catholic health care institutions must not perform gender transition interventions, whether surgical or chemical, on a person regardless of their age. Source: *Crux*.

"Catholic health care services must not perform interventions, whether surgical or chemical, that aim to transform the sexual characteristics of a human body into those of the opposite sex or take part in the development of such procedures," the March 20 statement reads.

The 14-page statement, signed by the eight members of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Doctrinal Committee, which is led by Bishop Daniel Flores of Brownsville, states such interventions "do not respect the fundamental order of the human person as an intrinsic unity of body and soul, with a body that is sexually differentiated".

The bishops note that bodiliness and the sexual difference of the body is a fundamental aspect of human existence. They go on to say a gender transition intervention "harms the human person."

"The Hippocratic tradition in medicine calls upon all healthcare providers first and foremost to 'do no harm,' the statement explains. "Any technological intervention that does not accord with the fundamental order of the human person as a unity of body and soul, including the sexual difference inscribed in the body, ultimately does not help but, rather, harm the human person."

The "Doctrinal Note on the Moral Limits to Technological Manipulation of the Human Body" statement was issued to provide a moral criteria to Catholic health care institutions for discerning which medical interventions "promote authentic good of the human person and which are in fact injurious," according to the USCCB. The bishops noted that the document was developed in consultation with medical ethicists, physicians, psychologists, and moral theologians.

Evangelium: This presentation has been postponed until the middle of the year, Fr Aloysius Rego, OCD - on The Spirituality on Saint Therese of Lisieux

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

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 for further information and dates.

Act of Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary (abridged form)

O Mary, Mother of God and our Mother, in this time of trial we turn to you. As our Mother, you love us and know us: no concern of our hearts is hidden from you. Mother of mercy, how often we have experienced your watchful care and your peaceful presence! You never cease to guide us to Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

Therefore, O Mother, hear our prayer.

Star of the Sea, do not let us be shipwrecked in the tempest of war. Ark of the New Covenant, inspire projects and paths of reconciliation. Queen of Heaven, restore God's peace to the world.

Eliminate hatred and the thirst for revenge, and teach us forgiveness. Free us from war, protect our world from the menace of nuclear weapons. Queen of the Rosary, make us realize our need to pray and to love. Queen of the Human Family, show people the path of fraternity.

Queen of Peace, obtain peace for our world.

Holy Mother of God, as you stood beneath the cross, Jesus, seeing the disciple at your side, said: "Behold your son" (*Jn* 19:26). In this way he entrusted each of us to you. To the disciple, and to each of us, he said: "Behold, your Mother" (v. 27). Mother Mary, we now desire to welcome you into our lives and our history. At this hour, a weary and distraught humanity stands with you beneath the cross, needing to entrust itself to you and, through you, to consecrate itself to Christ. The people of Ukraine and Russia, who venerate you with great love, now turn to you, even as your heart beats with compassion for them and for all those peoples decimated by war, hunger, injustice and poverty.



Therefore, Mother of God and our Mother, to your Immaculate Heart we solemnly entrust and consecrate ourselves, the Church and all humanity, especially Russia and Ukraine. Accept this act that we carry out with confidence and love. Grant that war may end and peace spread throughout the world. The "Fiat" that arose from your heart opened the doors of history to the Prince of Peace. We trust that, through your heart, peace will dawn once more. To you we consecrate the future of the whole human family, the needs and expectations of every people, the anxieties and hopes of the world.

Through your intercession, may God's mercy be poured out on the earth and the gentle rhythm of peace return to mark our days. Our Lady of the "Fiat", on whom the Holy Spirit descended, restore among us the harmony that comes from God. May you, our "living fountain of hope", water the dryness of our hearts. In your womb Jesus took flesh; help us to foster the growth of communion. You once trod the streets of our world; lead us now on the paths of peace. Amen.

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