



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

Feast Days for the Second Week in Lent (Year A)

Tues 7 Mar Saint Perpetua and Saint Felicity, martyrs

Wed 8 Mar Saint John of God, religious

Thur 9 Mar Saint Frances of Rome, religious

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*

Anyone who would be interested to join the re-established Legion of Mary group in the parish, please register your interest via the Parish email address.

Joy in the face of suffering: **Saint Perpetua and Saint Felicity** (Feast day 7 Mar), The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception

On March 7, we observe the Feast of **Saints Perpetua and Felicity**, martyrs of the early church in Carthage. In the face of pressure from both the government and their family members, these two women **remained steadfast in their faith**.

Who are Saints Perpetua and Felicity?

Saints Perpetua and Felicity, a young noblewoman and her slave, were martyred for their faith in A.D. 203, under the emperor Severus. At the time of their arrest, Perpetua had an infant son, and Felicity was pregnant. While she was in prison, Perpetua wrote about the circumstances leading up to their death in a diary that was later published as *The Passion of Saints Perpetua and Felicity* – one of the earliest writings by a Christian woman.

In [her diary](#), Perpetua described an interaction with her father as he came and begged her to recant:

While we were still under arrest, my father out of love for me was trying to persuade me and shake my resolution.

“Father,” said I, “do you see this vase here, for example?”

“Yes, I do,” said he.

And I told him: “Could it be called by any other name than what it is?”

And he said: “No.”

“Well, so too I cannot be called anything other than what I am, a Christian.”

Prior to their arrest, the women had been studying the Scriptures and were preparing for baptism. They were baptized in prison by their teacher, who was imprisoned with them. Their prison warden was so inspired by their faith that he converted.

Peace in the Face of Death

As penalty for professing the name of Christ, Perpetua and Felicity were sentenced to death.

Yet, with God’s peace in their hearts, they remained serene in the face of their fate. A note from an editor at the end of Perpetua’s diary describes:

The day of their victory dawned, and they marched from the prison to the amphitheatre joyfully as though they were going to heaven, with calm faces, trembling, if at all, with joy rather than fear. Perpetua went along with shining countenance and calm step, as the beloved of God, as a wife of Christ, putting down everyone’s stare by her own intense gaze.

Perpetua and Felicity were thrown into an arena of wild animals, but they were not killed. Tragically, the emperor Severus then commanded that they be put to death by the sword.

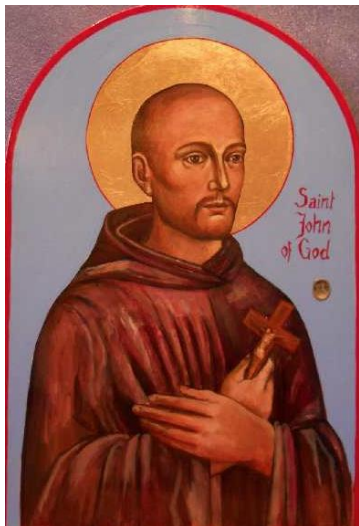


Mosaic detail in the [Saints Perpetua and Felicity Chapel](#) **Depiction in the Basilica**

Felicity gave birth to a son shortly before going to her death, reportedly saying, “Another will be within me, who will suffer on my behalf, seeing that it is for Him that I am to suffer.” This text in Latin is featured in [the chapel of the two saints in the Crypt Church](#). The mosaic is framed by a

flower and ladder, with the two women headed toward an oasis. The altar frontal depicts Felicity's seven sons in silhouette, along with a sword, representing their martyrdom. May you be inspired by these saints' joy and perseverance as they faced their imminent death, knowing that their heavenly home awaited them. No matter what trials we encounter in our time here on earth, we can rest in the knowledge of Christ's sacrifice for us and the joy that awaits us when we join him in heaven.

Saint John of God (Feast day 8 Mar), CNA



The Catholic Church celebrates the extraordinary life of St. John of God on March 8. The saint lived through decades of sin and suffering before a profound conversion that led him to embrace poverty, humility and charity.

John was born in Portugal during the year 1495 to middle-class parents. Tragically, at the age of 8, he was kidnapped by a stranger and was later abandoned to homelessness in a remote part of Spain.

He worked as a shepherd until age 22, when the opportunity came along for him to join the army of the Holy Roman Emperor Charles V. This apparent stroke of fortune, however, would eventually lead John into greater misery.

For the next 18 years, John lived and fought among the emperor's foot soldiers, first against the French and later the Turks. His morals began to decline, as he completely abandoned the piety of his earliest youth for

a greedy and brutal way of life.

John's conscience was occasionally troubled, particularly by the memories of his early years before he was taken from his parents. And despite falling into a lifestyle of violence and plundering, he had a certain weakness for those who were poor or in extreme distress, and would give alms to them.

He was narrowly saved on two occasions from what seemed like certain death – once after instinctively uttering a prayer to the Virgin Mary after falling wounded in enemy territory; and again, when he was falsely suspected of theft and nearly executed but for another soldier's intervention.

Events such as these weighed heavily upon him, and when his regiment was disbanded he decided to amend his life – beginning with a pilgrimage to Spain's Santiago de Compostela Cathedral along the "Way of St. James." There, he confessed his sins and committed himself to living a life of repentance.

Soon after this, he returned to Portugal and discovered what had become of his parents. His mother had died, broken hearted, after the loss of her son, after which his father had become a Franciscan monk.

At age 42, John returned to Spain and picked up nearly where he had left off 20 years before, working again as a shepherd. This time, however, he was committed to living out the faith in God that he had regained.

He travelled briefly to North Africa, seeking to help Christians there who had been enslaved by Muslims. Eventually, however, he returned to Spain and settled for a time in the occupation of selling religious books and other goods, always encouraging his customers to live their faith sincerely. St. John of God's later reputation as the patron saint of booksellers derives from this period of his life.

Later, however, he felt compelled to give himself entirely to the service of the poor, sick, and vulnerable. He opened his house to them – allowing it to become a combined hospital, homeless shelter, and halfway-house, run entirely by John himself. When he was not bandaging wounded occupants or breaking up fights between them, he would go out begging on their behalf.

The Bishop of Granada approved his work, and gave him the name “John of God.” A group of volunteers came to accompany him in his work, many of whom had first come to him while in dire need themselves.

Others, who resented his work, assaulted John's reputation by focusing on his past sins – but John, unfazed in his humility, would acknowledge the truth of what was said, as a testament to God's grace in his life. He once offered to pay a woman to tell the entire city what she had been saying about him in private.

John served the sick and poor for 15 years before meeting his death through an act of charity. He jumped into a freezing river and managed to save a drowning man, but came home shivering and weakened from the ordeal. He lay down in one of his own hospital beds, where his condition further declined.

The Bishop of Granada came to administer the last rites. As the bishop prepared him for death, John expressed a number of anxieties.

“There are three things that make me uneasy,” he said. “The first is that I have received so many graces from God, and have not recognized them, and have repaid them with so little of my own.”

“The second is that after I am dead, I fear lest the poor women I have rescued, and the poor sinners I have reclaimed, may be treated badly.”

“The third is that those who have trusted me with money, and whom I have not fully repaid, may suffer loss on my account.”

The bishop, however, assured him that he had nothing to fear. John then asked to be alone, and summoned his last strength to rise from bed and kneel before a crucifix.

He died in prayer, with his face pressed against the figure of Christ, on the night of March 7, 1550. St. John of God was canonized in 1690, and has become the patron of hospitals and the dying.

SAINT FRANCES OF ROME (Feast day 9 Mar)

(Saint Francesca Romana; 1384 – March 9, 1440) was an Italian saint.

She was born in Rome to wealthy parents. When she was eleven years old, she decided to be a nun, but within two years her parents married her off to Lorenzo Ponziani, commander of the papal troops of Rome. Although the marriage had been arranged, it was a happy one, lasting for forty years, partly because Lorenzo admired his wife and her sister, Vannoza, and partly because he was frequently away at war. The women prayed, visited the poor, and took care of the sick, inspiring other wealthy women to do the same. Francesca became widely known among the poor by the nickname “la Ceccolella”.

Francesca and Lorenzo lost two of their six children to the plague. In their case, it sensitized them to the needs of the poor. The city of Rome was largely in ruins, wolves were known to enter the streets. During the wars between the legitimate pope and various antipopes, Lorenzo served the former. However, in his absence, much of his own property and possessions were destroyed. Eventually he would return, wounded, to Francesca's care, dying in 1436.

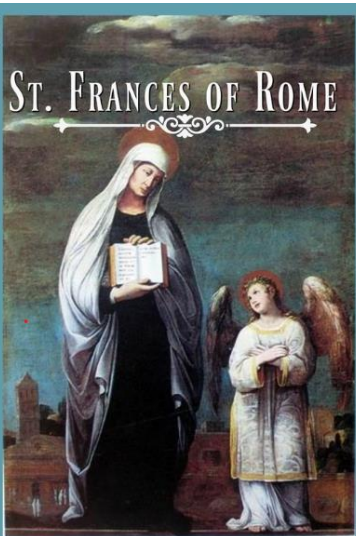
According to the Catholic Encyclopedia, "With her husband's consent St. Frances practiced continence, and advanced in a life of contemplation. Her visions often assumed the form of drama enacted for her by heavenly personages. She had the gift of miracles and ecstasy, (as) well as the bodily vision of her guardian angel, had revelations concerning purgatory and hell, and foretold the ending of the Western Schism. She could read the secrets of consciences and detect plots of diabolical origin. She was remarkable for her humility and detachment, her

obedience and patience".

St. Francesca had turned part of the family's country estate into a hospital. On 15 August 1425, the feast of the Assumption, she founded the Olivetan Oblates of Mary, a confraternity of pious women, attached to the church of Santa Maria Nova in Rome, but neither cloistered nor bound by formal vows. In March 1433, she founded a convent for common life by the members of the group at Tor de' Specchi, which remains the only house of the Order. On 4 July of that same year, they received the approval of Pope Eugene IV as a religious congregation of nuns. The community thus also became known

MARCH 9 FEAST OF ST. FRANCES OF ROME

"A married woman must, when called upon, quit her devotions to God at the altar to find him in her household affairs."



www.CatholicFamilyCelebrations.com

as the Oblates of Saint Frances of Rome. When her husband died in 1436, she became the group's superior. She died in 1440 and was buried in that church.

On 9 May 1608 she was canonized by Pope Paul V, and in the following decades a diligent search was made for her remains. They were found on 2 April 1638 and reburied on 9 March 1649, which since then is her feast day. Again, in 1869, her body was exhumed and has since then been exposed to the veneration of the faithful in a crystal coffin. The church of Santa Maria Nova is usually now referred to as the church of Santa Francesca Romana. In 1925 Pope Pius XI declared her the patron saint of automobile drivers because of a legend that an angel used to light the road in front of her with a lantern when she travelled, keeping her safe from hazards.

Reflection: Looking at the exemplary life of fidelity to God and devotion to her fellow human beings which Frances of Rome was blessed to lead, one cannot help but be reminded of Saint Teresa of Calcutta, who loved Jesus Christ in prayer and also in the poor. The life of Frances of Rome calls each of us not only to look deeply for God in prayer, but also to carry our devotion to Jesus living in the suffering of our world. Frances shows us that this life need not be restricted to those bound by vows.



Guide to Project Compassion and Lenten Companion 2023

Project Compassion begins 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, by

following the prompts.

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.

THE AUSTRALIAN HAYDN ENSEMBLE IS THRILLED TO LAUNCH THE PERFORMANCE ARM OF OUR EDUCATION ACTIVITIES WITH THIS FIRST CONCERT BY THE AHA! YOUNG ARTISTS

AHA! YOUNG ARTISTS CONCERT

Sunday, 12 March 2023
3:00 pm – 4:00 pm

1880 Hall St Peter's Parish
On the corner of Devonshire Street and High
Holborn Street. Access is via Devonshire
Street., Surry Hills NSW, Australia (map)

Google Calendar - ICS



.AHA is a newly formed collective of the brightest conservatorium graduates with a passion for period music. Under the auspices of AHE, and inspired by their

experience at the Australian Haydn Academy intensive in 2022, the group aspires to present and perform works from the huge repertory of non-canonic works from the late 18th and 19th centuries.

In this intimate concert you will be one of the first to hear these exciting young players as they showcase composers including Haydn, Wagensell (an Austrian like Haydn) and Pleyel, later regarded as, perhaps, Haydn's greatest commercial rival.

PERFORMANCE: 1880 HALL ST PETER'S PARISH, SURRY HILLS NSW | SUNDAY 12 MARCH | 3 PM

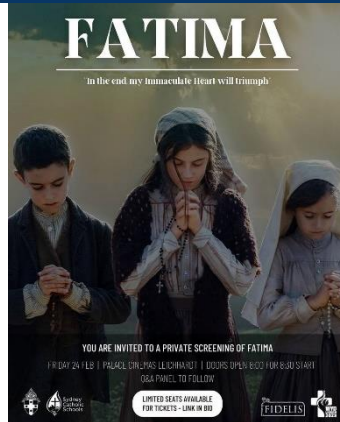
Event Link - <https://www.australianhaydn.com.au/events/aha-young-artists-concert>

FATIMA - MOVIE NIGHT

There is no doubt one of the draw cards for this WYD is the opportunity to visit the shrine of Our Lady of Fatima!



Private Screening of 'FATIMA'



One of the most powerful events in salvation history!

Join us for a private screening of 'FATIMA' this Friday Night @ Palace Cinemas, Leichhardt.

Tickets only \$12.50 but seats are limited so get in quick!

We will also have a Q&A panel after the movie as we are sure many of you will have some question.

This screening is especially great for those who are travelling to WYD23!

Start preparing for your spiritual pilgrimage to Fatima!

Register here:

<https://www.trybooking.com/au/events/landing/1020728>

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.



OPEN DAYS

1 March 2023
3-5.30pm

23 March 2023
9-11am

[Register Now](#)

PROUDLY PART OF THE COMMUNITY OF  Sydney Catholic Schools

March dedicated to Saint Joseph

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