



St Peter's Church, Surry Hills

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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

Feast Days for the Thirteenth Week in Ordinary Time (Year A)

Mon 3 Jul Saint Thomas, apostle

Tues 4 Jul Saint Elizabeth of Portugal

Thur 6 Jul Saint Maria Goretti, virgin, martyr

Fri 7 Jul St Peter To Rot, martyr

We Pray For:

Our sick and injured: John O'Brien, Greg Mason, Maximiliano Carias Suriano, (Jacqui's father), Roy Child, Roslyn Furber, Nerisa Williams, Sophie Marden, Grace Moon, Anna Seow, Ricardo Francisco, Gerry Cassar, Makram Nammour, Ana Teresa Rodrigues, Mafalda Triolo, Marija Barclay.

Our deceased: Pat McGannon, Helen McGannon, Geoff Stevens, Ana Ofelia Sierra Bustamante (18/3, (Indi's mother)), Philomena Smith, John Rogers, Martin Bonke, Frederick, Edward & Margaret M Hailwood & Margaret D Hailwood.

Our Recently Deceased: Rose Ly-Schmidt (27/6), Patrick Tomelty (26/5), Adi Soediarso (10/5)

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*

Holy Father's Appeal 1 & 2 July 2023 – Support the good works of the Holy Father throughout the universal Church

"How marvellous it would be if, at the end of the day, each of us could say: today I have performed an act of charity towards others!" Pope Francis

Donate at www.ourfaithourworks.org/give-to-holy-fathers-appeal, phone 1800 753 959 or through our parish collection

Pope at Audience: St. Mary MacKillop brought Christ's love to rural Australia, Devin Watkins, 28 Jun 2023

At the Wednesday General Audience, Pope Francis reflects on the apostolic zeal of St. Mary MacKillop, praising her desire to bring Christ and good education to the aboriginal peoples of rural Australia.

Pope Francis returned to his catechesis series on apostolic zeal on Wednesday, as he held his final General Audience before a month-long summer break.

The Pope focused on the life and example of St. Mary MacKillop (1842-1909), who founded the Sisters of St. Joseph of the Sacred Heart.

Born near Melbourne to Scottish immigrants to Australia, Mary felt called from a young age to serve God in a special way.

Zeal for poor and marginalized

Pope Francis said Mary MacKillop believed she was sent “to spread the Good News and invite others to encounter the living Christ.”

She read the signs of her times, he said, and felt drawn to found several schools to spread the Gospel through Catholic education.

“One essential characteristic of her zeal for the Gospel,” he said, “was her desire to care for the poor and marginalized. This pushed her to go where others refused or were unable to go.”

On the Feast of St. Joseph, on 19 March 1866, Mary opened her first school in southern Australia, which was followed by others in rural communities in other parts of the country and in New Zealand.

Importance of Catholic education

The Pope highlighted her belief that education should promote “the integral development of the person both as an individual and as a member of the community, which requires wisdom, patience, and charity on the part of every teacher.”

“Education consists not in filling heads with ideas,” he said, “but is about accompanying and encouraging students along their path of human and spiritual growth, showing them how friendship with the Risen Jesus opens their hearts and makes their lives more human.”

Pope Francis praised this insight as relevant to our own times, as shown in his own calls for a Global Compact on Education to unite families, schools, and societies.

Trust in Providence

The apostolic zeal of Mary MacKillop also led her to open various houses of charity, starting with the “House of Providence” in Adelaide to welcome both young and elderly people who had been abandoned.

St. Mary nurtured a special trust in God’s Providence amid the myriad financial and organizational problems she had to confront each day.

“Despite the many problems,” said Pope Francis, “she kept her calm and carried her cross patiently as an essential part of her mission.”

Love for the Cross

In conclusion, Pope Francis noted that St. Mary MacKillop learned to love the Cross of Christ and found her own way to respond to the needs of her times.

“May her efforts to form young people inspire us today,” he prayed, “and may her intercession sustain the daily work of parents, teachers, catechists, and all educators, carried out for the good of young people and a future that is more humane and full of hope.”

5 Things to know about Venerable Lucia dos Santos, CNA 22 Jun 2023

Sister Lucia dos Santos, one of the Fatima visionaries, just had her **cause for sainthood** advanced by Pope Francis on June 22.



Lucia dos Santos via Public domain

Jacinta and Francisco Marto, the two other Fatima visionaries, were already canonized by Pope Francis in 2017. The two shepherd children, who died at ages 10 and 11 respectively, are the youngest non-martyr saints in the Church's history.

So, who was Lucia dos Santos? Here are five things to know about this new venerable.

The oldest Fatima seer

Lucia was born on March 22, 1907, in Aljustrel, Portugal. She was the youngest of seven children. At 10 years old, she was the oldest of the shepherd children who witnessed apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary from May to October 1917. Her cousins, Jacinta and Francisco Marto, were 7 and 9, respectively.

Shortly after the early deaths of her cousins, Lucia was sent to attend school with the Dorothean Sisters of Villar at age 14, and in 1928 she became a sister of St. Dorothy. In 1946, she transferred to the convent of the Carmelite Sisters of Coimbra, Portugal, and took the name Sister Maria Lucia of the Immaculate Heart.

More messages from Jesus and Mary

Throughout the rest of her life, Lucia is believed to have received several visions and messages from both Mary and Jesus. A vision she received in 1925 led to the First Saturday devotions, which include praying the rosary, receiving Communion and confession, and meditating on the first Saturday of the month for five consecutive months.

In 1943, **Our Lord appeared** to Sister Lucia and told her that what he desired was for people to fulfill their daily duties and to make sacrifices in accordance with his law.

A 'jokester'

Cardinal José Saraiva Martins, a Portuguese cardinal who was the prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints from 1998–2008, knew Lucia personally during the last few years of her life. **He called her a "jokester" with quite a sense of humour.**

Martins said Lucia was always full of little quips and at one point jokingly threatened to stop sending rosaries to the pope if he didn't allow the beatification of her cousins — Francisco and Jacinta Marto — to take place in Fatima rather than in Rome.

Her sense of humour wasn't the only thing that stood out. The cardinal described her as "a very humble person, simple, very intelligent, and very confident."

Friends with Pope John Paul II

Later in life, Sister Lucia became a friend of Pope John Paul II, who credited her visions with saving his life. It was Pope John Paul II who revealed the **third secret of Fatima**, which spoke of a "bishop in white" being shot by soldiers. Many linked this to the assassination attempt of Pope John Paul II on May 13, 1981.

The two met on multiple occasions, and **Vatican sources** said her death shocked the Holy Father, who was recovering from an illness at the time.



Sister Lúcia with Pope John Paul II in Fátima before the beatification of Lúcia's cousins Francisco and Jacinta Marto in 2000. Credit: Jornal O Bom Católico, CC BY 2.0, via Wikimedia Commons

Lived a long life

Lucia died on Feb. 13, 2005, at the age of 97 at the Carmelite convent of St. Teresa in Coimbra, where she had lived since 1948.

Lucia's cause for canonization opened in 2008, three years after her death, since Pope Benedict XVI granted a dispensation for the usually required five-year waiting period. More than 15,000 letters, testimonies, and other documents were collected during the diocesan phase of her cause, which concluded in 2017.

In a decree signed on June 22, Pope Francis recognized Lucia's heroic virtue and declared her "venerable." The Church will now need to approve a miracle attributed to her intercession before she can be beatified.

Saint Thomas (Feast day 3 Jul)

St. Thomas was born a Jew and was called to be one of the twelve Apostles. His birth and death dates are unknown, but his feast day is celebrated July 3. He lived before the formal establishment of the Catholic Church but is recognized as the patron saint of architects. He was a dedicated but impetuous follower of Christ. When Jesus said He was returning to Judea to visit His sick friend Lazarus, Thomas immediately exhorted the other Apostles to accompany Him on the trip which involved certain danger and possible death because of the mounting hostility of the authorities.

At the Last Supper, when Christ told His disciples that He was going to prepare a place for them to which they also might come because they knew both the place and the way, Thomas pleaded that they did not understand and received the beautiful assurance that Christ is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

St. Thomas is best known for his role in verifying the Resurrection of his Master. Thomas' unwillingness to believe that the other Apostles had seen their risen Lord on the first Easter Sunday earned him the title of "doubting Thomas."

Eight days later, on Christ's second apparition, Thomas was gently rebuked for his skepticism and furnished with the evidence he had demanded - seeing in Christ's hands the point of the nails. Thomas even put his fingers in the nail holes and his hand into Christ's side. After verifying the wounds were true, St. Thomas became convinced of the reality of the Resurrection and exclaimed, "My Lord and My God," thus making a public Profession of Faith in the Divinity of Jesus.

St. Thomas is also mentioned as being present at another Resurrection appearance of Jesus - at Lake Tiberias, when a miraculous catch of fish occurred.

This is all that we know about St. Thomas from the New Testament. Tradition says that at the dispersal of the Apostles after Pentecost this saint was sent to evangelize to the Parthians, Medes, and Persians. He ultimately reached India, carrying the Faith to the Malabar coast, which still boasts a large native population calling themselves "Christians of St. Thomas." According to tradition, Thomas was killed in an accident when a fowler shot at a peacock and struck Thomas instead. Following his death, some of his relics were taken to Edessa while the rest were kept in what is now known as India. They can still be found within the San Thome Basilica in Chennai, Mylapore, India.

The relics taken to Edessa were moved in 1258 to Italy, where they can be found in the Cathedral of St. Thomas the Apostle in Ortona, Italy. However, it is believed that Saint Thomas' skull rests in the Monastery of Saint John the Theologian on the Greek Island Patmos.

In art, Saint Thomas is commonly depicted as a young man holding a scroll, or as a young adult touching the resurrected Christ's wounds.

Saint Thomas was mentioned in several texts, including one document called *The Passing of Mary*, which claims then-apostle Thomas was the only one to witness the Assumption of Mary into heaven, while the other apostles were transported to Jerusalem to witness her death. While the other apostles were with Mary, Thomas was left in India until after her first burial, when he was transported to her tomb and he saw her bodily assumption into heaven, when her girdle was left behind.

In versions of the story, the other apostles doubted Thomas' words until Mary's tomb was discovered to be empty with the exception of her girdle. Thomas and the girdle were often depicted in medieval and early Renaissance art.

Prayer to Saint Thomas the Apostle

Dear Saint Thomas,

You were once slow in believing that Christ had gloriously risen; but later, because you had seen him, you exclaimed: "My Lord and my God!"

According to an ancient story, you rendered most powerful assistance for constructing a church in a place where pagan priests opposed it.

Please bless architects, builders and carpenters that through them the Lord may be honoured.

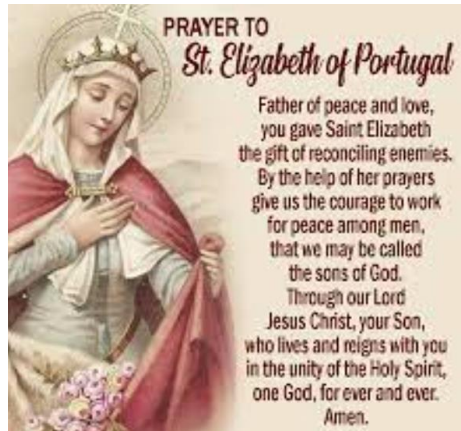
Saint Elizabeth of Portugal (Feast day 4 Jul)

Elizabeth is usually depicted in royal garb with a dove or an olive branch. At her birth in 1271, her father Pedro III, future king of Aragon, was reconciled with his father James, the reigning monarch. This proved to be a portent of things to come. Under the healthful influences surrounding her early years, she quickly learned self-discipline and acquired a taste for spirituality.

Thus fortunately prepared, Elizabeth was able to meet the challenge when at the age of 12, she was given in marriage to Denis, king of Portugal. She was able to establish for herself a pattern of life conducive to growth in God's love, not merely through her exercises of piety, including daily Mass, but also through her exercise of charity, by which she was able to befriend and help pilgrims, strangers, the sick, the poor—in a word, all those whose need came to her notice. At the same time she remained devoted to her husband, whose infidelity to her was a scandal to the kingdom.

Denis, too, was the object of many of her peace endeavours. Elizabeth long sought peace for him with God, and was finally rewarded when he gave up his life of sin. She repeatedly sought and effected peace between the king and their rebellious son Alfonso, who thought that he was passed over to favour the king's illegitimate children. She acted as peacemaker in the struggle between Ferdinand, king of Aragon, and his cousin James, who claimed the crown. And finally from Coimbra, where she had retired as a Franciscan tertiary to the monastery of the Poor Clares after the death of her husband, Elizabeth set out and was able to bring about a lasting peace between her son Alfonso, now king of Portugal, and his son-in-law, the king of Castile.

Reflection: The work of promoting peace is anything but a calm and quiet endeavour. It takes a clear mind, a steady spirit and a brave soul to intervene between people whose emotions are so aroused that they are ready to destroy one another. This is all the more true of a woman in the early 14th century. But Elizabeth had a deep and sincere love and sympathy for humankind, an almost total lack of concern for herself, and an abiding confidence in God. These were the tools of her success.



Why St. Maria Goretti is Important in our Times, Aquinas and More (Feast day 6 Jul)

Most of us know the story of Maria Goretti, and the martyrdom that led to her canonization. Hers is truly a story of Love and Mercy, and she is the Patroness of Chasity, Purity, and Youths.

In 1902, an eighteen-year-old neighbour, Alexander, grabbed her from her steps and tried to rape her. When Maria said that she would rather die than submit, saying that Alexander would go to Hell for his actions if she let him do it, Alexander began stabbing her with a knife.

As she lay in the hospital, she forgave Alexander before she died. Her death didn't end her forgiveness, however.

Alexander was captured and sentenced to thirty years. He was unrepentant until he had a dream that he was in a garden. Maria was there and gave him flowers. When he woke, he was a changed man, repenting of his crime and living a reformed life. When he was released after 27 years he went directly to Maria's mother to beg her forgiveness, which she gave. "If my daughter can forgive him, who am I to withhold forgiveness," she said.

When Maria was declared a saint in 1950, Alexander was there in the St. Peter's crowd to celebrate her canonization. She was canonized by Pope Pius XII in 1950 for her purity as model for youth:



...Why does this story move you even to tears? Why has Maria Goretti so quickly conquered your hearts, and taken first place in your affections?

The reason is because there is still in this world, apparently sunk and immersed in the worship of pleasure, not only a meagre little band of chosen souls who thirst for heaven and its pure air – but a crowd, nay, an immense multitude on whom the supernatural fragrance of Christian purity exercise an irresistible and reassuring fascination.

During the past fifty years, coupled with what was often a weak reaction on the part of decent people, there has been a conspiracy of evil practices, propagating themselves in books and illustrations, in theatres and radio programs, in styles and clubs and on the beaches, trying to work their way into the hearts of the family and society, and doing their worst damage among the youth, even among those of the tenderest years in whom the possession of virtue is a natural inheritance.

Dearly beloved youth, young men and women, who are the special object of the love of Jesus and of us, tell me, are you resolved to resist firmly, with the help of divine grace, against every attempt made to violate your chastity? ...

...Finally, all of you who are intently listening to our words, know that above the unhealthy marshes and filth of the world, stretches an immense heaven of beauty. It is the heaven which fascinated little Maria; the heaven to which she longed to ascend by the only road that leads there, which is, religion, the love of Christ, and the heroic observance of his Commandments. We greet you, O beautiful and lovable saint! Martyr on earth and angel in heaven, look down from your glory on this people, which loves you, which venerates, glorifies and exalts you. On your forehead you bear the full brilliant and victorious name of Christ. In your virginal countenance may be read the strength of your love and the constancy of your fidelity to your Divine Spouse. As his bride espoused in blood, you have traced in yourself His own image. To you, therefore, powerful intercessor with the Lamb of God, we entrust these our sons and daughters who are present here, and those countless others who are united with us in spirit. For while they admire your heroism, they are even more desirous of imitating your strength of faith and your inviolate purity of conduct. Fathers and mothers have recourse to you, asking you to help them in their task of education. In you, through our hand, the children and the young people will find a safe refuge, trusting that they shall be protected from every contamination, and be able to walk the highways of life with that serenity of spirit and deep joy which is the heritage of those who are pure of heart. Amen.

– Homily of Pope Pius XII, June 24, 1950

We see here with the example of Saint Maria Goretti. What can we learn from her today? Taken from remarks by Blessed John Paul II:

- Her canonization showed Maria to the world as a **model of courageous fidelity** to the Christian vocation, even to the supreme sacrifice of life.
- St Maria Goretti is an example for the newer generations who are threatened by a non-committal attitude that finds it difficult to understand the importance of the values which admit of no compromise.
- Although she was poor and deprived of a school education, Maria, who was not yet 12 years old had a strong and mature personality, shaped by the religious instruction she had received in the family. This made her capable not only of defending

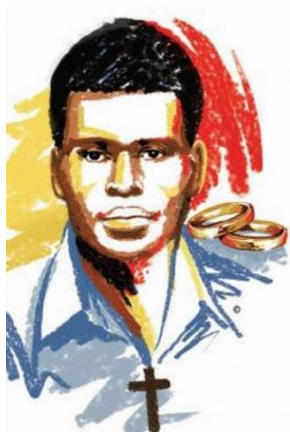
herself with heroic chastity, but even of forgiving her murderer. Parents, living and teaching our faith is so important!

- Her martyrdom reminds us that the human being is not fulfilled by following the impulses of pleasure but by living life with love and responsibility. *Maria Goretti calls us to be alert and vigilant “watchmen”, be the real champions of a new humanity.*

As a martyr of purity, hopefully adolescents and young people will get to know her better.

Our Lady, whose name was given to Saint Maria Goretti, may the purest of human creatures help the men and women of our time, and especially young people, to rediscover the value of chastity and to live interpersonal relations in reciprocal respect and sincere love.

Blessed Peter To Rot (Feast day 7 Jul)



Blessed Peter To Rot

PREA BILONG KAMAP HOLI

God Papa, mipela amamas long tingim Bleset Pita To Rot. Yu bin singautim em bilong mekim wok katekis namel long mipela. Holi Spirit i strongim bilip bilong em na em i no lusim wok bilong em long taim bilong hevi. Em i sanap strong na autim Gutnius inap long dai bilong em. Harim pre bilong em na strongim bilip bilong mipela. Mekim mipela kamap holi na stap redi long autim Gutnius na mekim wok marimari. Mipela pre long nem bilong Kraiss, em i Bikpela bilong mipela. Amen.

Sunday 10:30am Mass Readers' Roster

Sun 2 July	James and Geneviève McCaughan
Sun 9 July	Jessica Gereis and Rebecca Lerve
Sun 16 July	John and Patricia O'Brien

(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.

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/9ebT3voEA#fP7P8R9> or you can register to attend a Zoom Safeguarding Induction Training session by emailing safeguardingtraining@sydneycatholic.org for further information and dates.