



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

NB: This Sunday 25 June, we will celebrate the parish's patronal feast day with the Mass for the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul, there will be only one Mass at 10:00am, with our Regional Bishop Danny Meagher presiding. Mass will be followed by a catered morning tea in the parish hall and the courtyard to which all are invited.

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

Tues 27 Jun Saint Cyril of Alexandria, bishop, doctor

Wed 28 Jun Saint Irenaeus, bishop, martyr

Thur 29 Jun Saints Peter and Paul, apostles

We Pray For:

Our sick and injured: John O'Brien, Pat McGannon, 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: 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: 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*

4 Moments to Pray to Saint Peter and Saint Paul, Good Catholic, 1 May 2023 ((Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul 25 Jun)[translated, according to Canon Law, from 29 Jun])

Many great saints offer us insight into their own human struggles and temptations. St. Augustine once struggled to renounce his promiscuous life. St. Francis of Assisi was once so tempted to impurity that he threw himself into the freezing snow to overcome the temptation. (St. Benedict had thrown himself into a thorn bush to overcome a temptation to unchastity!)

To summarize the words of St. Teresa of Calcutta, **“Saints are just sinners who keep on trying.”** The imperfections, daily pursuit, and endless perseverance of the saints can give courage to all of us on our spiritual journeys.

Today, we're looking at two inspiring saints in particular: Peter and Paul. The Catholic Church celebrates the feast of Sts. Peter and Paul on June 29th.



These two apostles changed the course of human history—but not without challenges, frustrations, and personal weaknesses.

We are privileged to hear about their journeys as followers of Christ through the lens of sacred scripture. By meditating on their words and experiences, we can learn to better relate to them and ask for their intercession in times of hardship.

Here are four particular situations in which Peter and Paul could be fantastic intercessors. Which one do you find yourself in?

1) When you need an increased zeal for souls

The Apostles converted the known world in a single generation. It was their evangelization to all ends of the earth that spread the gospel of Jesus Christ to men. Such exhaustive mission work wouldn't have been possible without Peter and Paul's zeal for souls—that is, the conviction that every individual soul is called to the salvation found only in Christ. Since each person has been ransomed by the priceless blood of Jesus, the value of their souls are beyond measure.



That's why all of us need zeal for souls! And we can pray for the intercession of Peter and Paul whenever we feel complacent or hesitant.

Each of them are ideal intercessors because, together, they've experienced a broad spectrum of zeal—or reluctance!

St. Paul, for example, never lacked zeal in his activities. Even before his conversion to Christianity, he was zealous in his persecution of Christians, whom he believed to be an offense to God. When he converted, he became an on-fire disciple of Jesus Christ. He's a man who did nothing by halves.

Then there's Peter. Peter had zeal, yes, but he also struggled with weakness and fear. He abandoned Jesus the night of His arrest, rather than staying with Him.

And when there was debate over whether Christians had to be circumcised or not, he had a moment of weakness. In Galatians 2:11-13, we hear about Paul's challenge of Peter, who began to eat with Gentiles only when unseen by the Jews.

Like so many of us today, Peter was concerned about respectability. He was nervous to proclaim radically different beliefs.

How often do we do the same—hiding our “controversial” Catholic opinions from our secular friends?

Paul challenged Peter in this. And Peter changed his ways and renewed his zeal!

May they inspire us to be unashamed of the Gospel in our lives and to preach it simply and truthfully, without fear of the consequences.

2) When you have sinned and need help repenting

One of the most moving scenes in the Bible is Peter's denial of Christ.

Despite deep intimacy with Jesus and the insistence that he would never commit such a cowardly act, Peter denied knowing Him three times the night of His arrest.

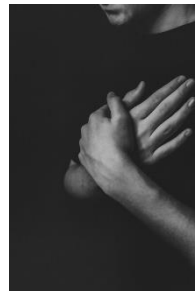
Perhaps we all can relate to the pierced heart of Peter when the cock crows and his sin is made clear. He goes out and weeps bitterly.

But what is so beautiful to reflect on is that, after Peter's fall, the Lord provides the opportunity for his redemption. He gives Peter a three-fold chance to say “I love You” to replace his three-fold denial.

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Feed my lambs.” A second time he said to him, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Tend my sheep.” He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” And he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep.” John 21:15-17

The Lord offers us this same mercy, this same opportunity for redemption, in the Sacrament of Confession.

It can be easy to put off going to Confession, though, so ask St. Peter to pray for you whenever you fall, that you might have the courage to repent and turn back to Christ.



3) In times of chaos

It is sometimes easy to forget the realities of the events that took place in the Bible. Jesus as the Messiah fulfilled the prophecies of the Jewish faith, but He did not look as people imagined. People were afraid, uncertain, and flabbergasted by what and how He taught. There were also considerable amounts of danger and fear among His followers as people reacted to the challenges of His teachings, not to mention the chaos the Apostles must have felt after the Passion. Both St. Peter and St. Paul faced the weight of discipleship and can teach us much about how to respond to it. St. Paul was often in prison during his mission work, and if he wasn't, there were many trying to get him there. And yet, St. Paul had the wonderful ability to give thanks, even in times of stress and struggle.



Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

When you experience fear or confusion, turn to St. Peter and ask that he pray for you. Remember that, after the Bread of Life discourse, many of Jesus' followers walked away—shocked by His teaching that they must “eat His flesh and drink His blood” (John 6). Jesus then turned to his disciples and asked if they also wanted to leave.

St. Peter was troubled, but He trusted in Jesus, and responded with these simple words: **“Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.”** John 6:68

May these words inspire reliance on the Lord in times of affliction, reminding us that Jesus is always in control—no matter what happens.

4) When you are struggling to love someone

Both St. Peter and St. Paul sacrificed greatly for the Church we have today.

They loved the men and women that God had made. And wanted their souls to be in heaven one day.

It is important to remember that this strength, zeal, hope, and holiness all came from one source: grace. Grace gave them the love of Christ, and enabled them to do great things for God and His Church.

The same goes for you and I. It is less a question of how much have we accomplished, and more a question of how much did we love?

(Just remember that love doesn't mean “feeling affection for others” or even “liking them” but “desiring someone's ultimate good, aka eternal salvation”!)

We may not all be asked to die for our faith like St. Peter and Paul, nor may we all have such impacts on the Church. But one thing is certain: **we all are called to love.**



Saints Peter and Paul, intercede for us to our heavenly Father that in every moment we may find strength, hope, courage and wisdom in your examples. Saints Peter and Paul, teach us how to love!

Saint Cyril of Alexandria, Saints, Feast, Family (Feast day 27 Jun)



St. Cyril of Alexandria, Bishop and Doctor of the Church (June 27) Cyril was born at Alexandria, Egypt. He was nephew of the patriarch of that city, Theophilus. Cyril received a classical and theological education at Alexandria and was ordained by his uncle. He accompanied Theophilus to Constantinople in 403 and was present at the Synod of the Oak that deposed John Chrysostom, whom he believed guilty of the charges against him. He succeeded his uncle Theophilus as patriarch of Alexandria on Theophilus' death in 412, but only after a riot between Cyril's supporters and the followers of his rival Timotheus. Cyril at once began a series of attacks against the Novatians, whose churches he closed; the Jews, whom he drove from the city; and governor Orestes, with whom he disagreed about some of his actions. In 430 Cyril became embroiled with Nestorius, patriarch of Constantinople, who was preaching that Mary was not the Mother of God since Christ was Divine and not human, and consequently she should not have the word theotokos (God-bearer) applied to her. He persuaded Pope

Celestine I to convoke a synod at Rome, which condemned Nestorius, and then did the same at his own synod in Alexandria. Celestine directed Cyril to depose Nestorius, and in 431, Cyril presided over the third General Council at Ephesus, attended by some two hundred bishops, which condemned all the tenets of Nestorius and his followers before the arrival of Archbishop John of Antioch and forty-two followers who believed Nestorius was innocent. When they found what had been done, they held a council of their own and deposed Cyril. Emperor Theodosius II arrested both Cyril and Nestorius but released Cyril on the arrival of Papal Legates who confirmed the council's actions against Nestorius and declared Cyril innocent of all charges. Two years later, Archbishop John, representing the moderate Antiochene bishops, and Cyril reached an agreement and joined in the condemnation, and Nestorius was forced into exile. During the rest of his life, Cyril wrote treatises that clarified the doctrines of the Trinity and the Incarnation and that helped prevent Nestorianism and Pelagianism from taking long-term deep root in the Christian community. He was the most brilliant theologian of the Alexandrian tradition. His writings are characterized by accurate

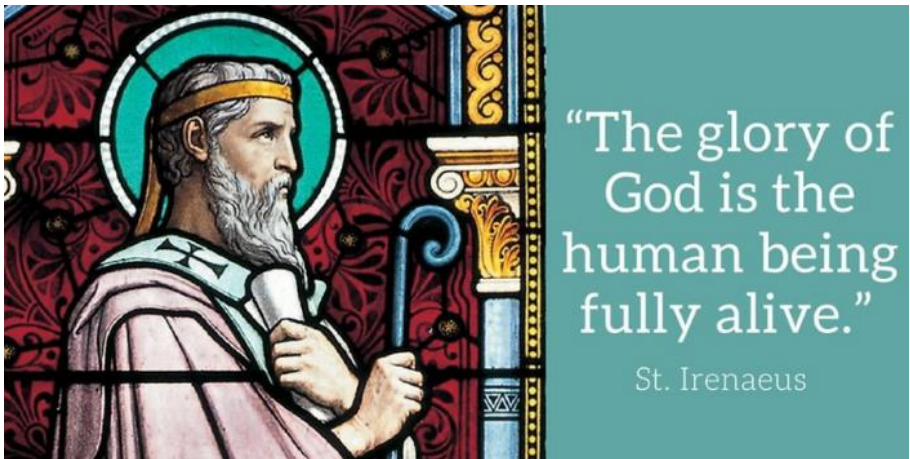
thinking, precise exposition, and great reasoning skills. Among his writings are commentaries on John, Luke, and the Pentateuch, treatises on dogmatic theology, and Apologia against Julian the Apostate, and letters and sermons. He was declared a doctor of the Church by Pope Leo XIII in 1882. His feast day is June 27th.

St. Irenaeus, the ‘Doctor of Unity,’ helps us breathe as Christians with both lungs, Crux
Fr Jeffrey F Kirby, 23 Jan 2022

Some years ago, while I was a student priest in Rome, a classmate and I decided to take a few days away from the Eternal City. We chose to go to France and visit some of the holy places throughout that country.

While we weren’t expecting to go through Lyons, our route inadvertently took us through the antique city. For two students of theology, the city immediately screamed out the name “Irenaeus” and brought to mind the saint’s rich contribution to the Christian intellectual and spiritual tradition.

In our zeal, we scoured the city looking for where the body of the saint rested so we could offer some prayers and ask for his intercession. In the different churches of Lyons, we were surprised that one person after another – not only did not know where Irenaeus was resting – but didn’t



even know who he was. This was Lyons.

It’s understandable, even if regrettable, that many Christians do not know this early father of our faith, but for people in Lyons – the saint’s own city – not to know who he was is just unsettling. It would be as surprising if someone working in a church in Krakow didn’t know who John Paul II was.

The experience raises some questions. Should we know who Saint Irenaeus is? Does he have something to contribute to our understanding and living out of our discipleship in our world today?

To both of these queries, Pope Francis answers with a loud and robust “yes.” This past week, the pope took the unexpected action of naming the early father a Doctor of the Church. By

giving the Church only her 37th Doctor, Pope Francis is asserting – with the highest title that can be bestowed upon a person – that Irenaeus should be known by believers today and that he has something essential to teach us.

Who, then, was Irenaeus? What are his lessons for us today?

The saint was born in Smyrna (in modern day Turkey) around 125 AD. He was raised in the city in a Christian home, which was rare at that time. He grew in his belief and love for Jesus Christ through the preaching of Saint Polycarp, a disciple of the Apostle John. Irenaeus' faith, therefore, was within the early apostolic tradition and very near to the public ministry of the Lord Jesus.

The saint's love for the Lord led him to ordination and he was eventually sent to Lyons as its second bishop, succeeding the martyred Pothinus. The need for a bishop in France at this early time in the Church's life indicates her tremendous growth and expansion. And so, while the saint was a great teacher of the faith, he was also a shepherd in the midst of the struggles and difficulties of the Church in the trenches.

In terms of his teaching, Irenaeus vigorously defended the Incarnation of Jesus Christ and his identity as true God and true man. Such a belief was held by believers throughout the Church, in both the culturally diverse East and West. While later there would be schisms and divisions, here Irenaeus shows himself a teacher of both "lungs" of the universal Church.

The saint was adamant in his instruction that the Gospel was for every man and woman. There were no elites and no esoteric groups of people within the human family. The Gospel was given through the incarnation of the Son of God. It came to us from the human experience and was, therefore, open and offered to all. In this way, Irenaeus became a voice of the impartiality of God and the all-embracing nature of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Among some of Irenaeus' most notable contributions, which can still help us to today, were his immense love for the Sacred Scriptures, the apostolic tradition, and the teachings of the Church's shepherds. The saint named the "Old" and "New" Testaments, as well as gave us one of the earliest list of the books of the New Testament. He provides us with one of the first lists of the succession of the Bishops of Rome, which he saw as the glue of the apostolic tradition. And he revered the fellow bishops of his day, who were stalwart and fierce in their preaching, with many of them – like Irenaeus himself – dying martyrs.

In all of these ways, Irenaeus is a help to us today. He has rightly been given the designation of "Doctor of Unity," as his example and intercession can help us to see what we share in common, what sources of unity we've been given, and how we are called to live as disciples of the God-Man, Jesus Christ.

(Incidentally, for anyone who's interested, the majority of Irenaeus' body was subject to sacrilege and thrown in the river of Lyons during the French Revolution.)

Sunday 10:30am Mass Readers' Roster

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| Sun 25 June: 10:00am | MC Sister and Stephen Rogers |
| Sun 2 July | Brendan and Theresa Byrne |
| Sun 9 July | James and Geneviève McCaughan |
| 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/9ebT3voEAfP7P8R9> or you can register to attend a Zoom Safeguarding Induction Training session by emailing safeguardingtraining@sydneycatholic.org for further information and dates.

