



# St Peter's Church, Surry Hills

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Parish phone: (02) 9698 1948

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Website: [www.stpeterssurryhills.org.au](http://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

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

Thu 20 Jul Saint Apollinaris, bishop, martyr

Fri 21 Jul Saint Lawrence of Brindisi, priest, doctor

Sat 22 Jul Saint Mary Magdalene

Sun 23 Jul World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly, Holy See

## 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 (28/6), Patrick Tomelty (26/5), Adi Soediartha (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*

**The Parish congratulates Lawrence ADAM-FIORILLO and Priscilla VALLE on their engagement. Please pray for Lawrence and Priscilla as they prepare for their wedding on a date to be announced.**

## **Pope recalls great spiritual and human wisdom of Thomas Aquinas, Vatican News, 11 Jul 2023**

Pope Francis appoints Cardinal Marcello Semeraro, prefect of the Dicastery for the Causes of Saints, as special envoy to the celebration of the 700th anniversary of the canonization of Thomas Aquinas on 18 July at Fossanova Abbey, Italy.

In a letter written in Latin, Pope Francis has recalled the legacy of Saint Thomas Aquinas, describing him as "a man of the Church," priest and doctor who shared his "great spiritual and human wisdom" through prayers and writings. Released on 11 July, the letter announces the appointment of Cardinal Marcello Semeraro, prefect of the Dicastery for the Causes of Saints, as the Pope's special envoy to the celebration of the 700th anniversary of the canonization of



Saint Thomas Aquinas, Vatican Apostolic Library, BAV Vat. lat. 797, f. 1r (© Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana)

Thomas Aquinas to be marked on 18 July at the Abbey of Fossanova, in the town of Priverno, in central Italy.

**"Never having an air of superiority from his knowledge, but always edified by charity,"** the Dominican friar whom contemporaries already called the "Angelic Doctor" was "full of astonishing

culture," the Pope points out in the letter, which bears the date 30 June and signature at Saint John Lateran. "He wrote many works and taught countless subjects, and was well qualified in the philosophical and theological disciplines. He manifested righteous intelligence and lucidity, and while reverently investigating the divine mysteries with reason, he contemplated them with fervent faith."

### **Thomistic Triennium**

As he wrote in a letter to the bishops of Latina, Sora and Frosinone, Italy, last 28 June, Pope Francis recalled the Thomistic triennium in which the 750th anniversary of his death in 2024 and the eighth centenary of his birth in 2025 will be commemorated in addition to the 700th anniversary of his canonization. "With great delight of soul and spiritual joy, we have accepted the various initiatives of the Church to honor worthily the zeal of the most illustrious Doctor of Holiness and study of sacred doctrine," the Pope writes. He adds that he accepted the request of Bishops Mariano Crociata, pastor of Latina, Terracina, Sezze, Priverno; Gerardo Antonazzo, of Sora, Cassino, Aquino, Pontecorvo; and Ambrogio Spreafico, of Frosinone, Veroli, Ferentino, and Anagni-Alatri, that a cardinal preside over the July celebration in honor of Saint Thomas and offer "words of spiritual encouragement."

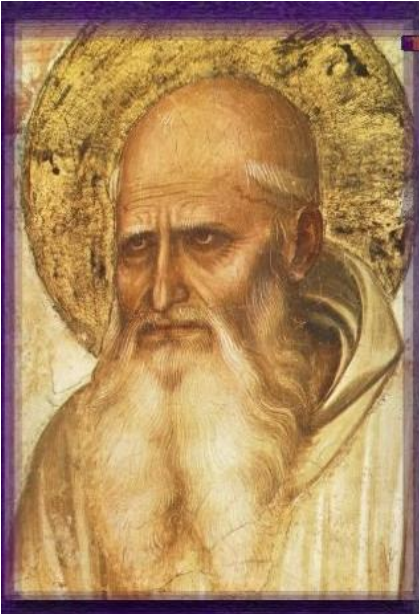
### **Fossanova Abbey celebration**

Cardinal Semeraro will celebrate the solemn Eucharist at Fossanova Abbey, the place where the saint "fell asleep in the Lord." "All participants at this event," the Pope writes, "will be encouraged to show their special love for Christ and his Gospel with renewed strength and new zeal through prayer," as well as "be ardent with the zeal of faith in daily life."

## Other events

Bishops Crociata, Antonazzo and Spreafico have given news of other celebrations to be held in conjunction with honouring their patron saint. They released the information with the publication of the Pope's letter, circulated among their communities, along with an invitation to use the text for "attentive reflection and inspiration." Meetings regarding the events will be held on 11 July in Latina, while a moment of prayer is scheduled at Fossanova Abbey on Friday afternoon, 14 July. Then on 18 July at 6:30 p.m. the solemn celebration will take place with Cardinal Semeraro presiding.

## Saint Apollinaris, (Feast day 20 Jul)



**St. Apollinaris**

O suffering shepard, severely persecuted for your work of evangelization. You continued to work despite the ravenous tortures.

St Apollinaris, pray for us that we who are weak of will and so fearful of the slightest disturbance to our comfort and ease, shall learn by God's grace to give our lives as freely as you in the service of man's salvation. Amen.

**Feast Day**  
**July 20**

## Saint Lawrence of Brindisi, BENEDICT XVI, *GENERAL AUDIENCE*, St. Peter's Square, Wed, 23 March 2011 (Feast day 21 Jul)

Recalling his visit to Brindisi, Pope Benedict wrote: *Dear Brothers and Sisters*, I still remember with joy the festive welcome I was given in [Brindisi in 2008](#). It was in this city that in 1559 was born a distinguished Doctor of the Church, St Lawrence of Brindisi, the name that Julius Caesar Russo took upon entering the Capuchin Order. He had been attracted since childhood by the family of St Francis of Assisi. In fact, his father died when he was seven years old and his mother entrusted him to the care of the Friars Minor Conventual in his hometown. A few years later, however, Lawrence and his mother moved to Venice and it was precisely there that he became acquainted with the Capuchins who in that

period were generously dedicated to serving the whole Church in order to further the important spiritual reform promoted by the Council of Trent.

With his religious profession in 1575, Lawrence became a Capuchin friar and in 1582 he was ordained a priest. During his ecclesiastical studies for the priesthood he already showed the eminent intellectual qualities with which he had been endowed. He learned with ease the ancient languages, such as Greek, Hebrew and Syriac, as well as modern languages, such as French and German. He added these to his knowledge of Italian and of Latin that was once spoken fluently by all clerics and by all cultured people.

Thanks to his mastery of so many languages, Lawrence was able to carry out a busy apostolate among the different categories of people. As an effective preacher, his knowledge, not only of the Bible but also of the rabbinic literature was so profound that even the Rabbis, impressed and full of admiration, treated him with esteem and respect.

As a theologian steeped in Sacred Scripture and in the Fathers of the Church, he was also able to illustrate Catholic doctrine in an exemplary manner to Christians who, especially in Germany, had adhered to the Reformation. With his calm, clear exposition he demonstrated the biblical and patristic foundation of all the articles of faith disputed by Martin Luther. These included the primacy of St Peter and of his Successors, the divine origin of the Episcopate, justification as an inner transformation of man, and the need to do good works for salvation.

Lawrence's success helps us to realize that today too, in pursuing ecumenical dialogue with such great hope, the reference to Sacred Scripture, interpreted in accordance with the Tradition of the Church, is an indispensable element of fundamental importance. I wished to recall this in my Apostolic Exhortation *Verbum Domini* (n. 46)

Even the simplest members of the faithful, those not endowed with great culture, benefited from the convincing words of Lawrence, who addressed humble people to remind them all to make their lives consistent with the faith they professed.

This was a great merit of the Capuchins and of other religious Orders which, in the 16th and 17th centuries, contributed to the renewal of Christian life, penetrating the depths of society with their witness of life and their teaching. Today too, the new evangelization stands in need of well-trained apostles, zealous and courageous, so that the light and beauty of the Gospel may prevail over the cultural tendencies of ethical relativism and religious indifference and transform the various ways of thinking and acting into genuine Christian humanism.

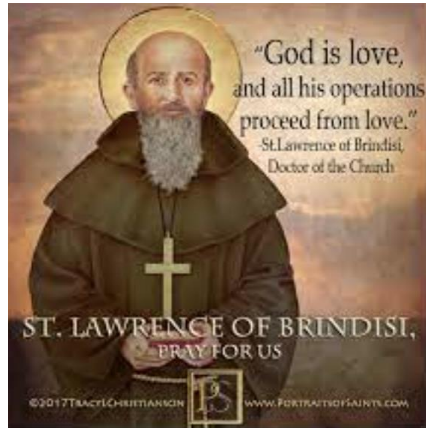
It is surprising that St Lawrence of Brindisi was able to continue without interruption his work as an appreciated and unflagging preacher in many cities of Italy and in different countries, in spite of holding other burdensome offices of great responsibility.

Indeed, within the Order of Capuchins he was professor of theology, novice master, for several mandates minister provincial and definitor general, and finally, from 1602 to 1605, minister general.

In the midst of this mountain of work, Lawrence cultivated an exceptionally fervent spiritual life. He devoted much time to prayer and, especially, to the celebration of Holy Mass — often protracted for hours — caught up in and moved by the memorial of the Passion, death and Resurrection of the Lord.

At the school of the saints, every priest, as was emphasized frequently during the recent Year for Priests, may only avoid the danger of activism — acting, that is, without remembering the profound motives of his ministry — if he attends to his own inner life.

In speaking to priests and seminarians in the Cathedral of Brindisi, St Lawrence's birthplace, I recalled that "the time he spends in prayer is the most important time in a priest's life, in which divine grace acts with greater effectiveness, making his ministry fruitful. The first service to render to the community is prayer. And, therefore, time for prayer must be given true priority in our life... if we are not interiorly in communion with God we cannot even give anything to others. Therefore, God is the first priority. We must always reserve the time necessary to be in communion of prayer with Our Lord" (*Address of Benedict XVI to priests, deacons and seminarians of the Archdiocese of Brindisi*, Cathedral of Brindisi, 15 June 2008).



Moreover, with the unmistakable ardour of his style, Lawrence urged everyone, and not only priests, to **cultivate a life of prayer, for it is through prayer that we speak to God and that God speaks to us: "Oh, if we were to consider this reality!", he exclaimed. "In other words that God is truly present to us when we speak to him in prayer; that he truly listens to our prayers, even if we pray only with our hearts and minds. And that not only is he present and hears us, indeed he willingly and with the greatest of pleasure wishes to grant our requests"**.

Another trait that characterizes the opus of this son of St Frances is his action for peace. Time and again both Supreme Pontiffs and Catholic Princes entrusted him with important diplomatic missions, to settle controversies and to encourage harmony among the European States, threatened in those days by the Ottoman Empire.

The moral authority he enjoyed made him a counsellor both sought after and listened to. Today, as in the times of St Lawrence, the world is in great need of peace, it needs peaceful and peacemaking men and women. All who believe in God must always be sources and artisans of peace.

It was precisely on the occasion of one of these diplomatic missions that Lawrence's earthly life ended, in 1619 in Lisbon, where he had gone to see King Philip iii of Spain, to plead the cause of the Neapolitan subjects oppressed by the local authorities.

He was canonized in 1881, and his vigorous and intense activity, his vast and harmonious knowledge, earned him the title of *Doctor Apostolicus*, "Apostolic Doctor". The title was conferred on him by Bl. Pope John XXIII in 1959, on the occasion of the fourth centenary of his birth. This recognition was also granted to Lawrence of Brindisi because he was the author of numerous works of biblical exegesis, theology and sermons. In them he offers an organic presentation of the history of salvation, centred on the mystery of the Incarnation, the greatest expression of divine love for humankind.

Furthermore, since he was a highly qualified Mariologist, the author of a collection of sermons on Our Lady entitled "Mariale", he highlighted the unique role of the Virgin Mary, whose

Immaculate Conception and whose role in the redemption brought about by Christ he clearly affirms.

With a fine theological sensitivity, Lawrence of Brindisi also pointed out the Holy Spirit's action in the believer's life. He reminds us that the Third Person of the Most Holy Trinity illumines and assists us with his gifts in our commitment to live joyously the Gospel message.

"The Holy Spirit", St Lawrence wrote, "sweetens the yoke of the divine law and lightens its weight, so that we may observe God's commandments with the greatest of ease and even with pleasure".

I would like to complete this brief presentation of the life and doctrine of St Lawrence of Brindisi by underlining that the whole of his activity was inspired by great love for Sacred Scripture, which he knew thoroughly and by heart, and by the conviction that listening to and the reception of the word of God produces an inner transformation that leads us to holiness.

"The word of the Lord", he said, "is a light for the mind and a fire for the will, so that man may know and love God. For the inner man, who lives through the living grace of God's Spirit, it is bread and water, but bread sweeter than honey and water better than wine or milk.... It is a weapon against a heart stubbornly entrenched in vice. It is a sword against the flesh, the world and the devil, to destroy every sin".

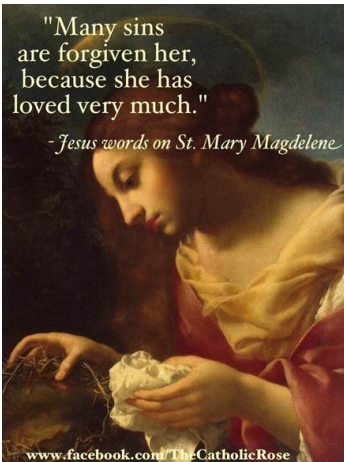
St Lawrence of Brindisi teaches us to love Sacred Scripture, to increase in familiarity with it, to cultivate daily relations of friendship with the Lord in prayer, so that our every action, our every activity, may have its beginning and its fulfilment in him. This is the source from which to draw so that our Christian witness may be luminous and able to lead the people of our time to God.

**Saint Mary Magdalene and the gift of deep friendship**, Melbourne Catholic, Fr Andrew Hamilton, SJ, 18 Jul 2022

In the Gospels we meet a crowd of Marys, whom Christian readers combine in different ways. Mary was the most common female name at the time. These Marys include Mary the mother of Jesus, Mary the mother of James, Mary of Bethany and her sister Martha, Mary Magdalene, Mary the wife of Cleopas, who supported Jesus on his preaching rounds and who with Jesus' mother and Mary Magdalene are described as standing by Jesus on the cross, and a variety of women, most notably the sinful woman who anointed Jesus' feet with her tears, who are identified with Mary Magdalene. It sometimes makes us ask: Would the real Mary Magdalene please stand up?

In Catholic devotion, Mary Magdalene was long seen as the sinful woman who anointed Jesus' feet. That gave her a dramatic history and inspired much great art and literature. She is now seen through the lens of John's Gospel as Jesus' faithful disciple and companion, and perhaps as the sister of Martha and Lazarus, who lived at Bethany and whom Jesus loved. That link brings into her life the moving and feeling-charged scenes of Jesus coming to Bethany after Lazarus' death. There he shared the grief and bewilderment of the sisters before raising Lazarus to life. As Jesus prepares to enter Jerusalem, Mary anoints his feet with costly ointment in anticipation of his burial. Later, with the other Marys, she stands by Jesus' cross as he dies.





"Many sins are forgiven her, because she has loved very much."

- Jesus words on St. Mary Magdalene

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One of the most touching scenes in her story—painted by Fra Angelico on the wall of a monk’s cell—is when Mary Magdalene comes to the tomb early in the morning after Jesus’ death, only to find the stone rolled away. She runs to tell John and Peter, who enter the tomb, find it empty and then leave. Mary then looks inside to see two angels, who ask her why she is weeping. She explains that the body of Jesus has been removed, looks around and sees Jesus. She mistakes him for the gardener until Jesus calls her by name. She embraces him until he tells her not to cling to him but to tell the disciples he has risen. This exquisite story tells of a love tested by the absence and desolation of death and by the added horror of the loss of Jesus’ body. It tells also of the delicacy of the moment of renewed presence and the ecstatic

rediscovery of Jesus’ presence and love. It speaks to us, too, of a friendship that is also discipleship, a friendship that passes easily into a call to act within a community.

The Mary Magdalene of John’s Gospel is a woman above all of deep faith and with a gift of deep friendship that is expressed in the domestic setting of Bethany, in the confronting setting of a public execution and in the reflective space of a burial place. Each of these places provides a test of the depth of her friendship. At Bethany, she has to reckon with a Jesus who allows Lazarus to die; at Calvary with a Jesus whose message and life end in humiliation; at the tomb with a Jesus whose body has been stolen. Yet despite all this, she keeps trusting, keeps hoping, keeps believing, and above all keeps loving as she has been loved.

### Seasons of Renewal: Ordinary Time

Ordinary Time is an extraordinary opportunity to invite others into friendship with Christ in the midst of the everyday. Be equipped to welcome family, friends, colleagues, and neighbours to your parish, by joining the Parish Renewal Team online for a practical and encouraging presentation and discussion. All welcome!

#### Dates and Times:

- Thursday 20 July, 2 – 3 pm
- Thursday 27 July, 7:30 – 8:30 pm
- Tuesday 1 August, 10 – 11 am

To register, visit the [events page](#)

2023

## SEASONS OF RENEWAL

How to evangelise throughout the year

**Ordinary Time**  
Ordinary Time is an extraordinary opportunity to invite others into friendship with Christ. Join us online for one of these practical sessions on welcoming family and friends to your parish. All welcome!

**JULY AND AUGUST 2023**  
1 hour online sessions  
Register for a time that suits you.

EVANGELISATION

GO HOME MISSIONS

Scan to register

### World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly, 23 July 2023

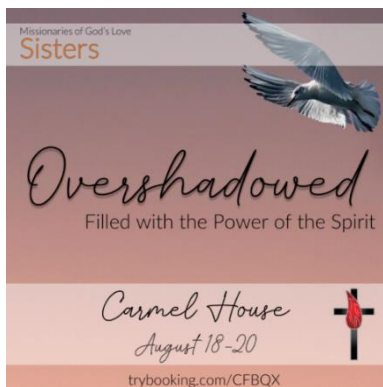
“From the elderly, we received the gift of belonging to God’s holy people” – Pope Francis

The upcoming World Day for Grandparents and Elderly will take place on Sunday, the 23rd of July. Pope Francis has provided an exhortation on the invaluable presence that our grandparents and elderly provide in the life of the Church. [Download the PDF booklet](#).

For the upcoming Sunday Mass celebrations on the 23rd of July, the Sydney Centre for Evangelisation recommends the following activities as a means to be especially attentive, affirming and affectionate towards the grandparents and elderly in our parishes:

- Homilies that exhort them and their efforts of handing on the faith in their families;
- The importance and need for our current generation to foster deeper relationships and spend more time in their presence;
- Including them and their intentions in the prayers to the faithful;
- Printing out the message from Pope Francis as a gift to families at the end of the Mass notices;
- Praying the official prayer at the end of Mass with the entire congregation; and
- Coffee and tea following Mass to celebrate their presence in the parish community.

Further information – official prayer, catechesis on old age, and message from Pope Francis – can be found on the [sydneycatholic.org/life-marriage-and-family](http://sydneycatholic.org/life-marriage-and-family) page.



### Overshadowed: Filled with the Power of the Holy Spirit, 18-20 August 2023

Join the MGL Sisters in a weekend retreat exploring what happens we say yes to the Holy Spirit.

Experience the life-changing power of deepening in God's love, surrendering to Jesus and living under the grace of the Holy Spirit.

**Venue:** Carmel House, 345 St Andrews Rd, Varroville NSW

**Booking:** <http://www.trybooking.com/CFBQX> (by 11 August)

**Contact:** Katherine - [mgl sisters.sydney@gmail.com](mailto:mgl sisters.sydney@gmail.com)

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

|             |                                       |
|-------------|---------------------------------------|
| Sun 16 July | <b>Fiorella Vayda and Annalouisse</b> |
| Sun 23 July | Alex Leach and Grant Jones            |
| Sun 30 July | John O'Brien and Patrizia 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/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.