



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 Sixteenth Week in Ordinary Time (Year A)

Mon 24 Jul Saint Charbel Makhlof, priest

Tues 25 Jul Saint James, apostle

Wed 26 Jul Saints Joachim and Anne, parents of Blessed Virgin Mary

Sat 29 Jul Saints Martha, Mary and Lazarus

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: Christopher Heffeman (14/7), Rose Ly-Schmitz (28/6)

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*

Lebanese St. Charbel Makhlouf, known for miraculous healings, unites Christians and Muslims

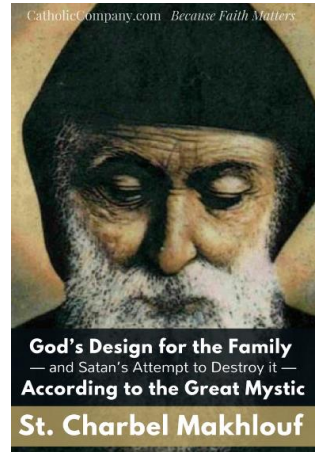
Hannah Brockhaus, Catholic News Agency, Jan 10, 2019

St. Charbel Makhlouf is known in Lebanon for the miraculous healings of those who visit his tomb to seek his intercession – both Christians and Muslims.

“St. Charbel has no geographic or confessional limits. Nothing is impossible for [his intercession] and when people ask [for something], he answers,” Rev. Louis Matar, coordinator of the Shrine of St. Charbel in Annaya, Lebanon, told CNA.

Speaking in Arabic with the help of an interpreter, Matar said the shrine, which encompasses the monastery where the Maronite Catholic priest, monk, and hermit lived for nearly 20 years, receives around four million visitors a year, including both Christians and Muslims.

Matar, who is responsible for archiving the thousands of medically-verified healings attributed to the intercession of the Maronite priest-monk, said that many miraculous cures have been obtained by Muslims.



St. Charbel Makhlouf

A family in Edmonton has also attributed [their son's medical recovery](#) to the intercession of St. Charbel.

Since 1950, the year the monastery began to formally record the miraculous healings, they have archived more than 29,000 miracles, Matar said.

Prior to 1950, miracles were verified only through the witness of a priest. Now, with more advanced medical technology available, alleged miracles require medical documents demonstrating the person's initial illness and later, their unexplainable good health.

One of the miracles documented by Matar at the end of December, when he spoke to CNA, was that of a 45-year-old Italian woman. Suffering from a neurological disease, she was hospitalized after it was discovered she had tried to commit suicide by consuming acid.

In the hospital, the doctors discovered that the damage to her esophagus and intestines was so extensive, “the last way possible to cure her was believing in God and praying,” Matar commented.

The woman's parents began to pray, inviting others to pray with them. A religious sister of the Maronite rite heard about the prayer request and gave them holy oil from St. Charbel. After they spread the oil on the suffering woman's stomach, chest, and head, she was cured.

This was just one of seven miracles archived in December, Matar said, calling each one “a phenomenon.”

“St. Charbel is a tool to reach God,” he said.

The Shrine of St. Charbel is composed of the Monastery of St. Maron, where the saint lived for 19 years with great devotion to prayer, manual labour, and contemplative silence; and the nearby hermitage where he lived a rigorous asceticism and profound union with God for the last 23 years of his life.

At the monastery, pilgrims can visit a church built in 1840, a small museum with artifacts and relics from the saint, and the site of his first grave. St. Charbel's tomb, since 1952, is located inside a special cave-like chapel built into the property.

Even while he was alive, Charbel's superiors observed God's "supernatural power" at work in his life, and even some Muslims knew him as a wonder-worker.

Deeply devoted to God's Eucharistic presence, he suffered a stroke while celebrating the Divine Liturgy of the Maronite Catholic Church on December 16, 1898, dying on Christmas Eve of that year. He was canonized in 1977 by St. Pope Paul VI.

Saint James, (the son of Zebedee) apostle (Feast day 25 Jul)

James, the brother of John the Evangelist, was the first Apostle to be martyred. He was beheaded by order of Herod of Agrippa. The Gospels tell us that the two brothers left their father, Zebedee, and followed Jesus as soon as He called out to them.

James was one of the three Apostles who were particularly close to the Lord. He was there with the Lord and his brother, John, and Peter at the Transfiguration and in the Garden of Gethsemane.

He is known as James "the Greater" to distinguish him from the other Apostle by the same name. The title has little to do with his function or the people's regard for him. Rather, it was a term indicating that he was the elder of the two.

He is the patron saint of Spain and of pilgrims. In northwestern Spain, he is venerated at Santiago de Compostela, a mediaeval pilgrimage site that is still very popular today.

Saints Joachim and Anne: the Patron Saints of Grandparents (Feast day 26 Jul), Savelli Religious **Who are St. Joachim and St. Anne?**

They are two very special Catholic Saints, famous for being the **parents of the Blessed Virgin**



Mary. Unfortunately, there is not much information in the Bible and Gospels about these two Saints. All we know about them comes from Catholic legend and the Gospel of James, which is unsanctioned, apocryphal writing from the second century AD. Both are considered the **Patron Saints of grandparents** and are celebrated on **26 July**. Let's discover some basic information about the **grandparents of Jesus.**

Representation of St. Anne and St. Joachim with the Blessed Virgin.

Who is St. Anne?

Saint Anne was the **mother of the Holy Virgin** and is considered the **Patron Saint of Mothers, Pregnancy, Grandmothers and safe childbirth.** She was born in **Bethlehem** (like her grandson Jesus) and she was a descendant of a priestly lineage.

She immediately distinguished herself for her extreme obedience, modesty and sweetness.

Although many of that era wanted to marry her, it was eventually **Joachim** who married her, a man from **Nazareth** who came directly from **King David's royal family**.

In addition to being the biological mother of Mary, she was the nurse and educator of the Holy Virgin. She was the teacher of She who was elected to be the Mother of the Savior and the center of **wisdom**, one of the most important virtues ever.

If you are **devoted to Saint Anne**, here is a **hand-carved wooden statue** representing the grandmother of Jesus.

Who is St. Joachim?

Saint Joachim was a noble man from Nazareth who came directly from King David's royal family. He was the father of the Virgin Mary, mother of Jesus, and according to tradition, he was a retired Priest of Holy man of his time. He is considered the **Patron Saint of fathers, grandfathers, grandparents, married couples and cabinet makers**. In the iconography, he is usually represented as an old man and he does not have a feast day for himself only. In fact, he is celebrated together with St. Anne on **26 July**.

According to tradition, he was deeply devoted to the Lord just like his wife Anne. One day, when he was away from home, an angel of God appeared in his dreams, saying that he and Anne would bear a child who would be blessed through the ages. After waking up, he rushed home to share this fact with Anne, who revealed to him the same good thing.

If you want to recite a prayer to Saint Joachim and dedicate it to your grandfathers, here it is!

Prayer to Saint Joachim, Father of the Holy Virgin Mary

*O great and glorious Patriarch, Saint Joachim,
what joy is mine when I consider that thou wast chosen among
all God's holy ones to assist in the fulfillment of the mysteries of God,
and to enrich our earth with the great Mother of God, Mary most holy.*

*By this singular privilege,
thou hast become most powerful with both the Mother and her Son,
so as to be able to obtain for us the graces that are needful to us;
with great confidence I have recourse to thy mighty protection and
I commend to thee all my needs and those of my family,
both spiritual and temporal;
and especially do I entrust to thy keeping the particular favour that
I desire and look for thy fatherly intercession.*

*And since thou wast a perfect pattern of the interior life,
obtain for me the grace of interior recollection and
a spirit of detachment from the transitory goods of this life,
together with a lively and enduring love for Jesus and Mary.*

*Obtain for me in like manner a sincere devotion and obedience
to the Holy Church and the sovereign pontiff who rules over her:
to the end that I may live and die in faith and hope and perfect charity,
ever invoking the holy names of Jesus and Mary, and may I thus be saved.*

Amen.

The Marriage of St. Anne and Joachim

Because of this happy kinship, the priestly lineage of Anne found itself united in the same family with royal blood (Joachim), which was absolutely necessary for the fruit of that marriage to one day be the **mother of the Saviour**.

After their marriage, both spouses lived many years in heavenly peace and harmony, serving the Lord with great zeal, but heaven had not blessed their union.

So, hoping no more offspring, by mutual agreement they took all their riches and distributed them to the poor, considering for themselves only what was purely necessary to survive.

According to tradition, it was precisely after having thus stripped themselves of earthly goods, that heaven answered their pleas and gave them the greatest good ever, superior to all human riches: **the incomparable heavenly gift that is Mary, their daughter**. Mary, in fact, was the greatest reward of **voluntary poverty**, of **enlightened charity**, of **resigned pain** and **persevering prayers**.

The Patron Saints of Grandparents

Since they were the **parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary** and the grandparents of Jesus, St. Anne and Joachim are considered the Patron Saints of Grandparents. To celebrate these two important characters of Christianity, **Pope Francis established** the fourth Sunday of July as the **Christian World Day of Grandparents and Elderly**.

St. Joachim and Anne serve as role models for parents and grandparents and both deserve to be honoured and emulated for their strong devotion to God and Our Lady Mary, the Mother of God. So, if you want to honour your grandparents, dedicate a prayer to these two Saints. Here is a prayer you can recite for your grandparents to St. Anne and Joachim.

*Saint Anne and Saint Joachim,
you were ever faithful to God, trusting in Him
in your lives and while you prayed for a child.
Your patience and perseverance in prayer
are an example to me.*

*I ask that you pray for me,
that I may be ever faithful and trusting in God.
May I always keep my focus on Him and trust in His timing in my life.
May my love for God and my faith in Him never waiver,
no matter what happens in my life.*

*May I appreciate the faith of others (like you two)
and be inspired to a deeper faith.
May my life of faith in God be richly blessed.*

*May I know, love, and serve God with all of my heart.
Saints Anne and Joachim, thank you for your example of faith.
Thank you for your wonderful daughter, my spiritual mother Mary.
Thank you for the love of God and the faith you inspire in me.*

*Grandparents of Jesus, pray for me.
Amen.*

Saints Martha, Mary and Lazarus, (Feast day 29 Jul), Franciscan Media



Martha, Mary, and their brother Lazarus were evidently close friends of Jesus. He came to their home simply as a welcomed guest, rather than as one celebrating the conversion of a sinner like Zacchaeus or one unceremoniously received by a suspicious Pharisee. The sisters felt free to call on Jesus at their brother's death, even

though a return to Judea at that time seemed to spell almost certain death.

Martha's great glory is her simple and strong statement of faith in Jesus after her brother's death. "Jesus told her, 'I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?' She said to him, 'Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world'" (John 11:25-27).

No doubt Martha was an active sort of person. On one occasion, she prepares the meal for Jesus and possibly his fellow guests and forthrightly states the obvious: All hands should pitch in to help with the dinner. The Lord recognizes that Martha is "worried about many things," also noting that Mary, who has spent the preparation time at Jesus' feet listening to his words "has chosen the better part." John 12:1-8 describes Mary's anointing of Jesus' feet at Bethany, an act which he praised highly.

Immediately after we are told that the chief priests plotted to kill Lazarus "because many of the Jews were turning away and believing in Jesus because of him." Lazarus was the one of whom the Jews said, "See how much he loved him." In their sight Jesus raised his friend Lazarus from the dead.

Legends abound about the life of Lazarus after the death and resurrection of Jesus. He is supposed to have left a written account of what he saw in the next world before he was called back to life. Some say he followed Peter into Syria. Another story is that despite being put into a leaking boat by the Jews at Jaffa, he, his sisters, and others landed safely in Cyprus. There he died peacefully after serving as bishop for 30 years.

It is certain there was early devotion to the saint. Around the year 390, the pilgrim lady Etheria talks of the procession that took place on the Saturday before Palm Sunday at the tomb where Lazarus had been raised from the dead. In the West, Passion Sunday was called *Dominica de Lazaro*, and Augustine tells us that in Africa the Gospel of the raising of Lazarus was read at the office of Palm Sunday.

Reflection: In its 2021 decree on combining veneration of Mary and Lazarus with Martha, the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments said, "In the household of Bethany, the Lord Jesus experienced the family spirit and friendship of Martha, Mary and Lazarus, and for this reason the Gospel of John states that he loved them. Martha generously offered him

hospitality, Mary listened attentively to his words and Lazarus promptly emerged from the tomb at the command of the one who humiliated death.”


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.

Scan to register

EVANGELISATION TO MASS INCUBATOR

World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly, 23 July 2023

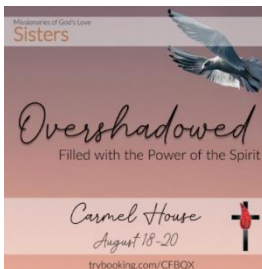
“From the elderly, we received the gift of belonging to God’s holy people” – Pope Francis

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 page.



Measures of God's Love
Sisters

Overshadowed
Filled with the Power of the Spirit

Carmel House
August 18-20

trybooking.com/CFBQX

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

Sunday 10:30am Mass Readers' Roster

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 for further information and dates.