



## 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 Twentieth Week in Ordinary Time (Year A)

Mon 21 Aug	Saint Pius X, pope
Tues 22 Aug	The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Wed 23 Aug	Saint Rose of Lima, virgin
Thur 24 Aug	Saint Bartholemew, apostle

### We Pray For:

**Our sick and injured:** Fred Hailwood, 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.

**Our deceased:** Luisa Medina Sanches (Rosa Bravo's mother), Dr EK Cheriachan (32<sup>nd</sup> anniversary 9/8 (Elsy's husband)), Pat McGannon, Helen McGannon, Geoff Stevens, Philomena Smith, John Rogers, Martin Bonke, Frederick, Edward & Margaret M Hailwood & Margaret D Hailwood.

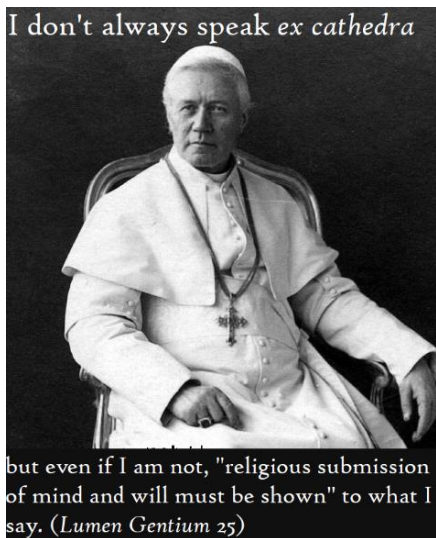
**Our Recently Deceased:** Edward Michael Oliver ((20/6) Terry's friend), Alan Dixon ((25/7) Brendan's father), Luxy Godfrey (11/7), Christopher Heffernan (14/7), Rose Ly-Schmitz (28/6), Doris White

**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*

## Saint Pius X (Feast day 21 Aug)



Pope Pius X is perhaps best remembered for his encouragement of the frequent reception of Holy Communion, especially by children.

The second of 10 children in a poor Italian family, Joseph Sarto became Pius X at age 68. He was one of the 20th century's greatest popes.

Ever mindful of his humble origin, Pope Pius stated, "**I was born poor, I lived poor, I will die poor.**" He was embarrassed by some of the pomp of the papal court. "Look how they have dressed me up," he said in tears to an old friend. To another, "It is a penance to be forced to accept all these practices. They lead me around surrounded by soldiers like Jesus when he was seized in Gethsemani."

Interested in politics, Pope Pius encouraged Italian Catholics to become more politically involved. One of his first papal acts was to end

the supposed right of governments to interfere by veto in papal elections—a practice that reduced the freedom of the 1903 conclave which had elected him.

In 1905, when France renounced its agreement with the Holy See and threatened confiscation of Church property if governmental control of Church affairs were not granted, Pius X courageously rejected the demand.

While he did not author a famous social encyclical as his predecessor had done, he denounced the ill treatment of indigenous peoples on the plantations of Peru, sent a relief commission to Messina after an earthquake, and sheltered refugees at his own expense.

On the 11th anniversary of his election as pope, Europe was plunged into World War I. Pius had foreseen it, but it killed him. "This is the last affliction the Lord will visit on me. I would gladly give my life to save my poor children from this ghastly scourge." He died a few weeks after the war began and was canonized in 1954.

**Reflection:** His humble background was no obstacle in relating to a personal God and to people whom he loved genuinely. Pius X gained his strength, his gentleness and warmth for people from the source of all gifts, the Spirit of Jesus. In contrast, we often feel embarrassed by our backgrounds. Shame makes us prefer to remain aloof from people whom we perceive as superior. If we are in a superior position, on the other hand, we often ignore simpler people. Yet we, too, have to help "restore all things in Christ," especially the wounded people of God.

## The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Memorial 22 Aug)

Pope Pius XII established this feast in 1954. But the **Blessed Virgin Mary's** queenship has roots in Scripture. At the Annunciation, Gabriel announced that Mary's Son would receive the throne of David and rule forever. At the Visitation, Elizabeth calls Mary "mother of my Lord." As



in all the mysteries of Mary's life, she is closely associated with Jesus: Her queenship is a share in Jesus' kingship. We can also recall that in the Old Testament the mother of the king has great influence in court.

In the fourth century Saint Ephrem called Mary "Lady" and "Queen." Later Church fathers and doctors continued to use the title. Hymns of the 11th to 13th centuries address Mary as queen: "Hail, Holy Queen," "Hail, Queen of Heaven," "Queen of Heaven." The Dominican rosary and the Franciscan crown as well as numerous invocations in Mary's litany celebrate her queenship.

The feast is a logical follow-up to the Assumption, and is now celebrated on the octave day of that feast. In his 1954 encyclical *To the Queen of Heaven*, Pius XII points out that Mary deserves the title because she is Mother of God, because she is closely associated as the New Eve with Jesus' redemptive work, because of her preeminent perfection, and because of her

intercessory power.

**Reflection:** As Saint Paul suggests in Romans 8:28–30, God has predestined human beings from all eternity to share the image of his Son. All the more was Mary predestined to be the mother of Jesus. As Jesus was to be king of all creation, Mary, in dependence on Jesus, was to be queen.

All other titles to queenship derive from this eternal intention of God. As Jesus exercised his kingship on earth by serving his Father and his fellow human beings, so did Mary exercise her queenship. As the glorified Jesus remains with us as our king till the end of time (Matthew 28:20), so does Mary, who was assumed into heaven and crowned queen of heaven and earth.

**Saint Rose of Lima**, Holy Hermits online, (Feast day 23 Aug)

Isabel Flores de Oliva was born to Spanish colonists on April 20, 1586, in Lima, Peru. She was said to be exceptionally beautiful, and as a child a servant had a vision of her face turning into a Rose, so she was nicknamed Rose, a name that she took at her confirmation in 1597.

From an early age Rose understood redemptive suffering, praying, fasting and performing secret penances, some of which were severe. She clearly wished to pursue a religious life, and when she started to attract male attention because of her beauty, she cut her hair and rubbed pepper on her face causing it to blister.

Her parents wanted her to marry and opposed her plan to enter a religious order, initially refusing to allow her to take a vow of chastity. Finally, Rose's father gave her a hut in the garden where she could live separate from the family. Here she remained, spending long periods in prayer, sometimes sleeping only two hours per night, and refusing to eat any meat. She helped homeless children, the elderly and the sick, bringing them to her room to care for them. Rose also took flowers that she grew to the market to sell to help her family who had

fallen into financial difficulties. She also made fine lace and embroidery which she sold to care for the poor.



Other than this, she only left her room to attend church. At the age of 20 she was allowed to join the Third Order of St Dominic, taking a vow of perpetual virginity and continuing her life of extreme prayer, fasting and penance, while living in her hut in silence and seclusion in the family garden. She wore a thick circlet of silver on her head, studded on the inside, in the way of Christ's crown of thorns.

Rose suffered from arthritis and asthma, and experienced spiritual dreams. Rose lived this way until becoming ill for the last three years of her life, ending with her death on 24 August 1617, at the age of 31. Her purported last words were: "Jesus, Jesus, Jesus, be with me always".

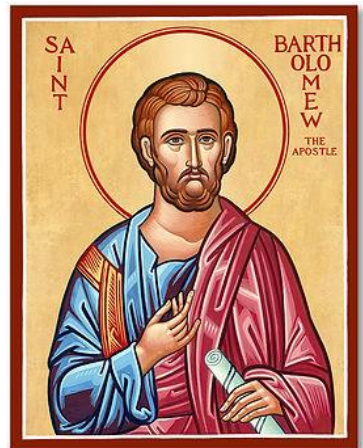
She is remembered for having a love of God so ardent that it withstood ridicule and for her asceticism. When she died, the city turned out for her funeral, and prominent men took turns carrying her coffin. Even the Spanish Inquisition Interrogators had decided that she was influenced by grace. The rich and poor of Lima alike knew and loved Rose, as did the foreigners and natives, too. She is the patron saint of embroiderers, gardeners, florists, those who suffer ridicule for their piety, and those who suffer family problems.

### **Bartholomew, the Apostle**, Catholic News Agency

Saint Bartholomew is one of the Twelve Apostles, mentioned sixth in the three Gospel lists (Matthew 10:3; Mark 3:18; Luke 6:14), and seventh in the list of Acts (1:13). The name (Bartholomaios) means "son of Talmai" which was an ancient Hebrew name.

Besides being listed as an Apostle, he is not otherwise mentioned in the New Testament, at least not under the name Bartholomew: many ancient writers, and Catholic tradition have identified Bartholomew as Nathaniel in the Gospel of John (John 1:45-51, and 21:2).

The Gospel passage read at Mass on the feast of Saint Bartholomew is precisely this passage from John (1:45-51) where Nathaniel is introduced to Jesus by his friend Phillip, and Jesus says of him "Here is a true child of Israel. There is no duplicity in him (1:47)."



We are presented with the Apostle's character in this brief and beautiful dialogue with the Lord Jesus. He is a good Jew, honest and innocent, a just man, who devotes much time to quiet reflection and prayer - "under the fig tree (1:48)" - and has been awaiting the Messiah, the Holy One of God.

At Jesus' mention that "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you (1:48)," Nathaniel responded "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel (1:49)!" Being "a true child of Israel," Nathaniel was a man well-read in the Scriptures and knew what they said of the Messiah and where he would come from. This is why he is skeptical of Phillip's claim that Jesus is the Messiah, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth (1:46)?"

But Nathaniel was lacking "duplicity" - that is, his heart was undivided, his intentions pure - his openness to reality was always ready to recognize and surrender to the truth when he encountered it. He remained open to his friend Phillip's invitation to "Come and see (1:46)." In encountering Jesus and hearing His words, he found himself face to face with the Truth Himself, and, like John the Baptist's leap in his mother's womb at the Lord's presence, Nathaniel's words leapt out of his own heart in a clear and simple confession of faith, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!"

Jesus, in Matthew 5:8, says, "Blessed are the pure of heart, for they shall see God." In Nathaniel we have an example of the pure man who sees - recognizes - God when confronted with Him, and on seeing Him believes in Him, and upon believing in Him, follows Him. Nothing is known for sure about the life of Nathaniel/Bartholomew after the Ascension of Jesus, but tradition holds that he preached in the East and died a martyr's death in Armenia, being flayed alive for having won converts to the Lord Jesus.

### **Australian Bishops visit Ukraine to show concrete solidarity**, *Vatican News, Deborah Castellano Lubov, 14 Aug 23*

Several Australian Bishops have made a pastoral visit to war-torn Ukraine's cities of Lviv, Kyiv, Irpin, and Bucha, to bring their closeness to the nation's suffering people, meet with Church leaders, families, soldiers, and civic leaders, and see firsthand, where future humanitarian support is most needed.

A delegation of Australian Bishops has travelled to war-torn Ukraine, to bring their closeness to the nation's suffering people.

According to the **Bishops' Conference website's media blog**, the delegation from the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference (ACBC) made the pastoral visit to several Ukrainian cities on 8-11 August in an expression of solidarity with the country's people.

The delegation consisted of Archbishop Peter A. Comensoli of Melbourne; Archbishop Julian Porteous of Hobart; Bishop Karol Kulczycki SDS of Port Pirie; Father Simon Cjuk, vicar general of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Australia; Annie Carrett, chancellor of the Archdiocese of Melbourne; and was guided and accompanied by Father Adam Ziolkowski SDS.

The delegation visited Lviv, Kyiv, Bucha and Irpin, the last two having been sites of horrendous destruction and atrocities against human life, and met with Church leaders, families, civil leaders, and soldiers.



## **Understanding first-hand where support most needed**

"This was an important opportunity to witness first-hand the human experience of this ongoing war, and to hear from Church leaders and civilians where future humanitarian support might be best directed," according to an ACBC statement.

Since Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022, Australia's Bishops have strongly encouraged Catholic dioceses, eparchies, parishes, schools and other ministries, to focus support towards the most vulnerable in Ukraine.

Last year, an Advent appeal raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for the country.

Archbishop Comensoli observed the difference between watching from a distance, and seeing with your own eyes.

"Watching this tragedy from afar, and offering financial support is one thing," he said, "but it is important that we hear and share the voices of those directly affected. This visit was about caring for our neighbour; and personally offering a strength in friendship and prayer to the Ukrainian people."

"It was key for us to bring dimensions of faith, friendship and solidarity to this trip. Wherever we went, we heard how important it was for the people to know of our own prayers from afar. But, significantly," he recalled, "we repeatedly heard of their acknowledgment of the 'courage' to physically travel to the country and show that Ukrainians are not alone."

## **Closeness of the Ukrainian priests, Bishops to the people**

Archbishop Porteous also was moved by the closeness of the country's pastors to their flock.

"Of the many experiences that we had, one that particularly touched me was the closeness of the priests and Bishops to their people. Not only were they active in providing physical assistance but they were pastorally and spiritually present to the people. Again and again I noted their personal concern and witnessed the warmth of the people's gratitude to their pastors."

In Lviv, the Australian Bishops met with Mayor Andrij Sadovyi, and visited the Unbroken rehabilitation centre where they talked with doctors, wounded soldiers and their families.

Bishop Kulczycki shared his emotion to meet these young wounded.

"Centres, such as the Unbroken, are critical in rebuilding lives," he said. "They take wounded of every age through a whole cycle of care from surgery, prosthesis, rehabilitation and, most importantly, psychological and social care," he said. "So much has been lost and damaged. These young lives and young families need to re-learn how to live an everyday life full of meaning and purpose."

The Bishops also accepted the invitation to join in the funeral liturgy for a fallen soldier at the Garrison Church of Saints Peter and Paul, a funeral that represented one, of what can be, a dozen or more funerals, a day, at that church alone.

## **The protection of Kyiv's Cathedral of the Resurrection**

In Kyiv, the delegation met with Bishop Andriy Khimyak, Auxiliary Bishop of the Kyiv Archeparchy Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church (UGCC) at the Cathedral of the Resurrection, which despite still being under construction, has become an important centre for both sacramental and pastoral life.

In the first hours and days of the war, the Bishops recalled, more than 300 people gathered in its underground areas for protection. Today it remains a shelter, a place for prayer and divine liturgy, and a place to organise support and care.

Each day, its kitchens provide up to 800 meals to those in need in outlying villages and communities.

### **Terror-afflicted Bucha and Irpin**

Just outside of the main centre of Kyiv, is where the towns of the terror-stricken Irpin and Bucha are found, where indiscriminate destruction plagued civilian people and families.

Irpin reclaimed its hold from Russian forces in early 2022. It lost up to 70 percent of its houses and buildings. The Bishops met with Greek Catholic priest Fr Vitali Kolesnyk, who leads a small community in Irpin.

Bucha, nearby, suffered horrific loss and injury to its people. The delegation visited a cemetery for fallen local soldiers and the site of a mass grave for civilians. In each place, prayer was offered for those lost and those left behind.

The report of the travel offered on the ACBC media blog, concludes by saying that the visit to Ukraine, though brief, has confirmed the fraternal commitment of the Church in Australia to supporting the people of Ukraine.

The Bishops, upon their return, it notes "plan to build on the connections made and urge the faithful in Australia to continue to hold those suffering the close in prayer."

This year, 2023, marks the **70th anniversary of the commencement of Dr John Billings' research** in finding a natural, reliable method of Fertility Awareness for couples. During Natural Fertility Awareness Week, in August, a special, free webinar in recognition of Dr John Billings' work, entitled "*Understanding Couple Fertility: the Male Perspective*" will be held on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> August 2023 at 7.30pm AEST.

As well as highlighting the male perspective in using the Billings Ovulation Method®, couples will reflect on how it has helped them in understanding their joint fertility, as well as benefiting their relationships and family life.

Please follow the link to register for the Webinar on Eventbrite.

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/understanding-couple-fertility-the-male-perspective-webinar-tickets-678382479257?aff=oddttdcreator>

### **Raising Fathers Events 2023**

Join us for the RAISING FATHERS Evening as we unpack practical advice and share powerful, impactful, informative and instructional stories for fathering in today's world.

This is a partnership with Robert Falzon and MenAlive on the following dates:

Tuesday, 29 August - Marist College Eastwood - 44 Hillview Rd, Eastwood

Wednesday, 30 August - Patrician Brothers' College: 268 The Horsley Drive, Fairfield

Thursday, 31 August - St Patrick's College: Francis St, Strathfield

[Visit the event website](#) to attend one of the evenings.

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

Sun 20 Aug	<b>Fiorella Vayda and Grant Jones</b>
Sun 27 Aug	<b>Alex Leach and Rebecca Lerve</b>

(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.

## August is the month dedicated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary

In the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I Trust  
Look to the Star  
Call upon Mary!  
In danger, in difficulty  
or in doubt,  
think of Mary,  
call upon Mary,

Keep her name on your lips,  
Never let it pass out of your heart.  
Following in her footsteps,  
you will not go astray:  
praying to her,  
you will not  
fall into despair:  
thinking of her you will not err.

While she keeps hold of your hand,  
you will not fall ...  
you will not grow weary ...  
you will have no fear ...  
Enjoying her protection,  
you will reach the goal.

(Saint Bernard of Clairvaux)



### **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](mailto:safeguardingtraining@sydneycatholic.org) for further information and dates.