



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 Twenty-second Week in Ordinary Time (Year A)

Wed 5 Sep Saint Teresa of Kolkata, religious*

Fri 8 Sep The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Sat 9 Sep Saint Peter Claver, priest

We Pray For:

Our sick and injured: Fred Hailwood, 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 (32nd anniversary 9/8 (Elsy's husband)), Pat McGannon, Helen McGannon, Geoff Stevens, Philomena Smith, Frederick, Edward & Margaret M Hailwood & Margaret D Hailwood.

Our Recently Deceased: Arun Kujur ((20/8) Sr. Margritta's nephew), David Lindley ((12/8) Robyn Nicholson's friend), Edward Michael Oliver ((20/6) Terry's friend), Alan Dixon ((25/7) Brendan's father), Luxy Godfrey (11/7), Christopher Heffernan (14/7), 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

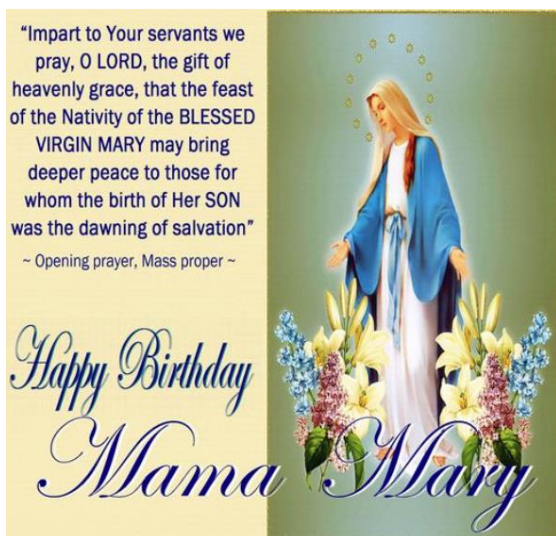
Catechesis on the Mass 2018

***Celebrated in our parish on Sat 2 Sep with 10:00am Mass followed by refreshments in the Parish Hall. The Sisters will also be showing the most recent documentary on the life of Mother Teresa titled "No Greater Love".**

Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, University of Dayton, Rev. Matthew Mauriello (Feast day 8 Sep)

September 8: Our Lady's Birthday: The feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary is celebrated each year on the eighth of September. Usually it is the custom of the church to celebrate the feast day of a saint on the date of their death as this is truly their "die natalis", the day remembered as their birth into everlasting happiness. Mary, however, entered this world sinless through the privilege of the Immaculate Conception and is the firstborn of the redeemed. Her nativity is a cause for great joy as it is considered the "dawn of our salvation" as Pope Paul VI wrote in the document, *Marialis Cultus* in 1972.

There is no reference in the Sacred Scriptures to the birth of Mary. That which is known about Mary's nativity is found in the Apocrypha, principally the *Protoevangelium of James* which has been dated by historians prior to 200 AD. This book gives us a detailed account of the birth of Mary which begins in the fifth chapter and even gives a detailed conversation between Mary's mother, St. Anne and the midwife.



The earliest document commemorating this feast comes from the sixth century. It is generally believed that this feast originated in Jerusalem since there is evidence, in the fifth century, of a church dedicated to St. Anne, located north of the Temple in the neighbourhood of the Pool of Bethesda. Sofronius, the Patriarch of Jerusalem, affirmed in the year 603 that this was the location of Mary's birth. After the Council of Ephesus in 431 AD, the cult of the Blessed Virgin Mary increased significantly. This, combined with the influence of the Apocrypha, may have been a factor in the increase of popular devotion

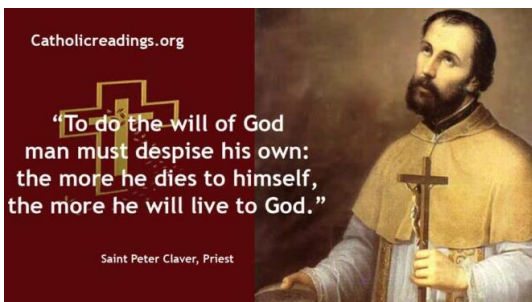
of the people toward Mary

It is generally believed that the date of September 8 was chosen to celebrate the Nativity of Mary since the civil year began in Constantinople on September 1. Scholars believe that this date was chosen since it was symbolic that the "beginning" of the work of salvation should be commemorated near to the beginning of the new year. The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of Mary was later fixed at December 8, nine months prior. This feast day was introduced in Rome from the Eastern Church in the seventh century. The Syro-Sicilian Pope St. Sergius I, who reigned from 687-701, prescribed a litany and procession be part of the liturgical celebration of this feast day. Paschasius Radbertus (d.860) wrote that this feast of Mary's Nativity was being preached throughout the universal church and it became a holy day of obligation for the west by the year 1007.

In the Church's Liturgy for this feast, the second reading of the Office of Readings is taken from one of the four sermons written by St. Andrew of Crete (660-740) on Mary's Nativity. He, too used the image of light: "...This radiant and manifest coming of God to men needed a joyful prelude to introduce the great gift of salvation to us...Darkness yields before the coming of light." A secondary theme of joy also appears throughout the liturgical celebration. The entrance antiphon at Mass states: "Let us celebrate with joyful hearts the birth of the Virgin Mary, of whom was born the Sun of Justice, Christ our Lord." It is with these two themes of both the approach of light and joy that the faithful senses the great happiness and festive nature on this beautiful feast of Mary's birthday.

St. Peter Claver, a powerful intercessor against racism, Catholic News Agency, 11 Sep 2020

September 9 marked the Feast of St. Peter Claver, a Jesuit priest who ministered to African slaves in Colombia in the 17th century. The U.S. bishops have invited Catholics to observe the day with fasting and prayer for an end to racism in the United States.



Peter Claver was born in 1581 to a devout farming family in the Catalonia region of Spain. He attended the University of Barcelona as a young man before joining the Jesuits at the age of 20.

During his studies as a novice, Peter met and developed a friendship with Alphonsus Rodriguez, an older lay Jesuit brother who performed menial work but was renowned for his

holiness and insight. Eventually Rodriguez told Peter that he felt God was calling Peter to the colonies of New Spain in the Americas. Leo XIII would later canonize both men on the same day, almost two centuries later.

Taking the advice of Rodriguez, Peter volunteered for the new colonies, and arrived in Cartagena, a port city in present-day Colombia, in 1610. He continued his studies there and was ordained a priest in Cartagena in 1615.

By that time, the African slave trade had already been in place for several decades in the Americas, for which Cartagena was a major hub. While there, Peter witnessed the cruelty with which the slaves were treated firsthand.

Moved by their suffering, Peter resolved to work to bring both bodily and spiritual aid to the slaves, vowing to be "the slave of the slaves forever." Despite his own health problems and the language barrier between himself and the constantly-arriving slaves, Peter threw himself into this vocation with great vigour.

As soon as a slave ship would enter the port, Peter would meet it in the harbor and board the ship to care for the terrified and poorly treated passengers on board, who had made the journey from Africa in diseased and cramped conditions over the course of several months. His first priority was to tend to the sick, and to baptize those in immediate danger of death.

He would also travel the countryside from plantation to plantation, visiting the slaves and tending to both their physical and spiritual needs.

“We must speak to them with our hands,” he once said, “before we try to speak to them with our lips.”

When it came to catechesis, because of the language barrier, Peter often used pictorial representations of the truths and biblical stories he was teaching.

True to his vow of being a slave for the slaves, Peter allowed himself minimal amounts of food and sleep. His holiness led to several miraculous occurrences even while he was still alive – such as instances when he healed the sick with the touch of his cloak or appeared surrounded by a supernatural light during his hospital visits.

Some Spanish royal officials took notice and were impressed by Peter’s work, making their own contributions toward the relief and religious education of slaves. Others found his work bothersome, and many Spanish expatriates in the New World refused to enter the same church or confessional as the slaves Peter Claver was serving.

After suffering from poor health for some years, Peter was struck with a severe fever and died Sept. 8, 1654. He had baptized and taught the faith to more than 300,000 slaves during his forty years in Colombia.

St. Peter Claver was canonized in 1888 by Leo XIII, along with Alphonsus Rodriguez. He is the patron saint of Colombia, slaves, missionary work to Africans, and seafarers.

The feast day of St. Peter Claver is Sept. 9, which was also declared by Colombia as a National Day of Human Rights in his honour.

The legacy of St. Peter Claver is strong in the United States as well, where in the early 20th century the Knights of Peter Claver were founded in his honour in Mobile, Alabama.

The group was founded in 1909 as a Catholic fraternal society for men of colour at a time when racism in some parts of the South prevented them from joining the Knights of Columbus, another Catholic fraternity, although this was not an institutional policy.

The Knights of Peter Claver were founded with the goals of supporting various parish, diocesan and community objectives, including serving the poor, creating Catholic community and forming youth. They have worked alongside the National Urban League and the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People for the advancement of civil rights.

The Knights eventually opened auxiliary and junior divisions for women and for young people, and membership is open to people of all races and ethnicities. It is the largest historically African-American Catholic lay organization in the United States.

The body of St. Peter Claver is kept and venerated in the shrine of St. Peter Claver in Cartagena, Colombia. Pope Francis visited the saint’s tomb during a 2017 trip to the country.

The pope praised St. Peter Claver during that trip, saying the saint “understood, as a disciple of Jesus, that he could not remain indifferent to the suffering of the most helpless and mistreated of his time, and that he had to do something to alleviate their suffering.”

10 Ways to honour Our Lady of Sorrows this September, Aleteia, Annabelle Moseley , 09/01/19

What the month of September means to Catholics, and how to honour it in your home.

Did you know that in the Catholic Church each of the 12 months of the year has a devotional theme?

For Catholics, September is the month of Our Lady of Sorrows, immediately following August’s devotion to the Immaculate Heart, and preceding October’s devotion to Our Lady of the Rosary, September is an ideal time to strengthen our connection to Our Lady. Continuing our monthly

series on ways to showcase each month's Catholic theme in your life, here are 10 ways you can honour Our Lady of Sorrows this September:

- ***DON'T RUN FROM THE SORROWS OF OTHERS.***

Be fully present to them, even when their difficulty is hard for you to think about. Really listen when someone wants to talk about a worry, a grief, a pain, or a loneliness and offer time and empathy.

- ***PUT EMPATHY INTO ACTION.***

Offer to help ease the suffering of another, carrying their cross for a bit, like Simon of Cyrene. Offer to drive a friend to the doctor, visit someone in the hospital, pray a Rosary for a friend's special intention, babysit for an overwhelmed mom or spend time with an elderly relative while their caretaker has some time to themselves.

- ***BRING AN IMAGE OF OUR LADY OF SORROWS TO SOMEONE WHO'S SUFFERING.***

It could be a painting, a prayer card, a statue, or even a computer printout. In this way you can offer them the companionship of her compassion and the opportunity to offer their sorrows up, giving their pain a greater purpose.

- ***PRAY THE POWERFUL SEVEN SORROWS ROSARY OR THE SEVEN SORROWS DEVOTION.***

The Seven Sorrows devotion involves praying seven Hail Marys a day, each one while meditating on one of Our Lady's seven sorrows, which are:

- The prophecy of Simeon.
- The flight into Egypt.
- The loss of the Child Jesus in the temple.
- The meeting of Jesus and Mary on the Way of the Cross.
- The Crucifixion and Death of Jesus.
- The taking down of the Body of Jesus from the Cross and preparation for burial.
- The burial of Jesus.

And the Seven Sorrows Rosary involves dwelling upon each of the seven sorrows as you would one of the mysteries of the rosary, with seven Hail Marys instead of a decade. Begin each sorrow with an Our Father. [Here](#) are more details on the Seven Sorrows prayers, chaplet, (little Rosary) and novenas.

- ***DONATE SOMETHING.***

Even if it is a widow's mite of the few dollars you can manage, give to a charity for those suffering. [Here's](#) one to consider.

- ***PRAY DAILY FOR SOMEONE WHO'S SUFFERING AND LET THEM KNOW.***

This is a great month for this prayer for the Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows, September 15:

O God, in Whose Passion a sword of sorrow pierced the most dear soul of the glorious Virgin-Mother, Mary, as foretold by Simeon, mercifully grant that we who reverently commemorate Her sorrows, may obtain the blessed effect of Thy Passion. Who livest and reignest, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, God, world without end. Amen.

- ***LIGHT A CANDLE AT YOUR PARISH CHURCH BEFORE A STATUE OF OUR LADY.***

Spend special time there in prayer with this [Prayer to Our Mother of Sorrows](#).

- **MAKE AN ALTAR TO OUR LADY OF SORROWS IN YOUR HOME.**



Choose an image of the Sorrowful Virgin and adorn it with flowers that you'll keep refreshing all month as a little act of tenderness, and candles that you light during prayer. Place a small box near the image and ask each member of the family to write one act of love or mercy they promise to do to console Our Sorrowful Lady this month. Place that resolution in the box as a gift of love.

- **FIND AN IMAGE OF THE "PIETA" BY MICHELANGELO.**

Meditate upon its searing beauty as it inspires you in prayer. With this sublime sculpture, Michelangelo shaped the sixth sorrow of Mary into one of the all-time greatest works of art.

- **LISTEN TO STABAT MATER FOR ALTO SOLO RV 621.**

Composed by a Catholic priest, Fr. Antonio Vivaldi, it translates as "Sorrowful Mother." It's incomparable beauty is perfect to accompany or inspire prayer.

Service widens as two new Vinnies Vans hit the road, The Catholic Weekly, 31 Aug 2023

Parishioners of Ryde-Gladesville raised more than \$160,000 to purchase and fit out two vans



Every month for years, Verbum Dei Missionary priest Fr Greg Morgan has swapped his chasuble for a hi-vis vest and got behind the wheel of one of Sydney's Vinnies Vans.

Now his parish of Ryde-Gladesville have started their very own Vinnies Van service to bring food, toiletries, clothing and conversation to people who are doing it

tough.

Parishioners raised more than \$160,000 to purchase and fit out two vans, one for the parish and another for a neighbouring conference, with the encouragement of Gladesville St Vincent de Paul conference president Anna Alessi and Fr Morgan.

Fr Morgan said he was thrilled at the interest among parishioners from children to the elderly, whether in preparing the food or toiletries packs, or driving and spending time with the people who access the service at the designated stops.

"More than the food or blankets and beanies we give out, it's about the conversation we make time for at each stop," he explained.

"Many people need to feel that we want to be there for them."

Vinnies Van manager Josie Charbel said the Ryde-Gladesville service will be one of many new Vinnies Vans runs across New South Wales.

Previously only providing meals for the homeless and disadvantaged at several locations across the Sydney and Broken Bay metropolitan regions, the service has added six new runs in regional areas such as Coffs Harbour, Lismore and Bathurst.

Vinnies Vans may also now offer much more than a meal — including GP, dental, podiatry and mental health services, crisis accommodation and advocacy —and some also operate during the day, effectively doubling the much-needed outreach.

In Sydney they have also been requested in richer suburbs, like Hunters Hill and Balmain, showing how deep the cost-of-living crisis is biting.

NATSICC Statement on the Voice to Parliament



The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has announced 14 October 2023 as the day Australians will be asked to vote on the 'Voice'. At this time, the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council (NATSICC) wish to reiterate our stance contained within the 2023 Social Justice Statement Listen, Learn, Love – A New Engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples:

Australians have an opportunity to begin a new chapter this year with the referendum on the Voice to Parliament. We in NATSICC know there are criticisms, even from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, but most Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people support the referendum.

Just as the churches strongly supported the 1967 referendum, we hope that Catholics, along with other people of faith, will support the Yes campaign.

It is a commitment to recognising Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the Constitution and promoting healing and unity. It will be the next step in a process of empowering us to participate in the decisions that will make a difference for the better for our people.

We, NATSICC, feel that the referendum is too important to fail. The consequences for our people and the whole nation would be devastating.



The **One Journey, Together** website (www.indigenousvoice.church) is a joint project between NATSICC, Caritas Australia and Catholic Social Services Victoria to help Catholics access information on the 14 October 2023 Voice Referendum.

It contains the voices of First Australian Catholics and our Catholic Leaders and organisations.

We encourage all Catholics to use the site as part of their own discernment.

Attached is a video link featuring Archbishop Timothy Costello, SVD, President of the ACBC and John Lochowiak, Chair of NATSICC (National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council) reading the Foreword from the Australian Bishops' 2023-24 Social Justice Statement:

https://youtu.be/1rTnovNplmM?si=uXeaHQ_DUp3BYpN4

Pope Francis: Update of Laudato si' to be published on 4 October, Vatican News, 30 Aug23

Pope Francis looks ahead to the Season of Creation, which begins on 1 September with the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation and concludes on the feast of St Francis of Assisi, 4 October, and announces the publication of his eagerly awaited follow-up to "Laudato si'."



Pope Francis' appeal from the Paul VI Hall on Wednesday looked ahead to the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, which takes place each year on 1 September. The theme of this year's

observance is "Let Justice and Peace Flow."

The Pope recalled that this day marks the beginning of the Season of Creation that will last until 4 October, the feast of St. Francis of Assisi.

As he had announced on 21 August when he received a delegation of lawyers from member countries of the Council of Europe, the Pope revealed that the second part of his encyclical *Laudato si'* will be published on 4 October.

Siding with the victims of environmental injustice

"On that date, I plan on publishing an exhortation, a second *Laudato si'*," the Pope said. "Let us join our Christian brothers and sisters in the commitment to care for creation as a sacred gift from the Creator."

The Pope's remarks on Wednesday summarized the core of his **Message** for the World Day, which was made public in May:

"It is necessary to stand with the victims of environmental and climate injustice, striving to end the senseless war on our common home which is a terrible world war. I urge all of you to work and pray for it to abound with life once again."

Transforming public policy

In the Message, the Pope says we must resolve "to transform our hearts, our lifestyles, and the public policies ruling our societies."

He also returned to the topic of ecological conversion and the need to no longer consider creation as an object to be exploited, but as a reality to be safeguarded "as a sacred gift from our Creator."

The Pope's message for the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation insisted on the need to "transform the public policies that govern our societies and shape the lives of young people today and tomorrow." Pope Francis emphasized the importance of synodality and expressed his hopes that "in this Season of Creation, as followers of Christ on our shared synodal journey, we may live, work, and pray so that our common home will teem with life once again."

Sunday 10:30am Mass Readers' Roster

Sun 3 Sep	Rebecca Lerve and Jessica Gereis
Sun 10 Sep	Grant Jones and Michael Kenny

(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.

The Parish congratulates Amy Smith and Luke Fitzgerald on the announcement of their engagement.