



# St Peter's Parish, Surry Hills

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## Calendar – Divine Mercy Sunday (2nd Sunday of Easter)

Tues 21 Apr – Saint Anslem of Canterbury  
Thur 23 Apr – Saint George and Saint Adalbert of Prague  
Fri 24 Apr – Saint Fidelis of Signaringen  
Sat 25 Apr – ANZAC Day

## LIVE STREAMING MASSES

9am Mass at St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney - 16th April 2020

Watch later Share

AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE

MASS ON DEMAND

PRAYER RESOURCES

HOW TO LIVE STREAM MASS

**Livestreaming of Parish Masses** - The Archdiocese of Sydney is regularly updating its website and social media platforms with the latest information during the Covid-19 crisis. We refer you in particular to the life streamed masses at which Archbishop Fisher is presiding, and to his homilies, pastoral letters by clicking on the link - <https://www.sydneycatholic.org/live-masses/>

**Frequently Asked Questions on COVID-19** - To help parishioners with any questions they may have around COVID-19 and its impact on sacraments such as weddings, baptisms and funerals, you may find the FAQs page on the Archdiocese of Sydney website helpful at this time by clicking – [here](#)

**Persons seriously ill or in danger of death:** For any persons seriously ill or in danger of death please contact the parish for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick and Viaticum. There is also a fulltime Catholic chaplain at St. Vincent's Hospital, should somebody be admitted to St. Vincent's.

**Rest in Peace** request envelopes should be placed on the collection plate with the usual offering of \$10.00. **We pray for** Frederick, Edward & Margaret M Hailwood, Margaret D Hailwood (21/9), Joyce Hailwood & Marge Heaney, Joan McEvoy and Henry Schmidt.

**Prayer Resources during time of Pandemic** - The Archdiocese of Sydney has a dedicated webpage with prayers and scriptural reflections to help nurture your faith during these difficult times. You'll find the webpage here- <https://www.sydneycatholic.org/coronavirus-updates/prayer-resources-for-the-coronavirus-pandemic/>

## Prayer for All

**God our merciful Father,**

Source of healing,  
Cast the light of health and well-being  
On those who have been exposed to corona virus,  
Those who have contracted the disease.  
Bless them, protect them and bring them speedily to full recovery.

**God of wisdom,**

Bless medical scientists and researchers around the world  
With insight and skill, dedication and fortitude.  
That their work yields knowledge and understanding,  
Speedily finding a vaccine, treatments and deterrents to its spread.



**Source of Life,**

grant public health and government officials,  
the strength to act swiftly and decisively  
with compassion and understanding, in service to humankind, fighting this outbreak,  
threatening the lives of our brothers and sisters,  
nations and communities, young and old.

**God of the present moment,**

Bring hope and courage to all who wait or work in uncertainty.  
Bring hope that you will make them the equal of whatever lies ahead.

We pray all this in the mighty name of Jesus through the intercession of our blessed Mother Mary. **Amen.**

## Fr. John's reflection for 2nd Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday)

On each and every morning during the octave of Easter (Easter Sunday to Divine Mercy Sunday inclusive), in her official Morning Prayer, the universal Church prays via psalm 62:

“O God, you are my God, for you I long;  
for you my soul is thirsting.  
My body pines for you  
like a dry weary land without water.

...

On my bed I remember you.  
On you I muse through the night ... ”

These sublime verses from Sacred Scripture remind us that at the heart of all our human longings is our longing for God. Since our very existence comes from God, this makes perfect sense: we long to return to the divine Father from whom we come via our human parents. This God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ is also our Father and we are his children. So says our parochial patron, Saint Peter, at the beginning of the second reading of the Mass for this Second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday):

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy has given us new birth as his children, by raising Jesus Christ from the dead ... ” (1 Peter 1:3)

In his interview with Andrew Bolt on Tuesday evening, Cardinal Pell hypothesised that the so-called “culture wars” may have been behind his being pursued by the Victorian civil authorities. On one side of the culture wars is an ideology which insists that there is really no such thing as a common human nature in which we all share from conception. Broadly speaking, this ideology insists that each of us is free to fashion our own identity, and even our own individual nature, according to our own design and fancies. This causes terrible confusion, even among people of good will. Divine revelation tells us otherwise. God reveals to us who and what we are and where our eternal destiny lies: **we are children of God**. This is our divinely revealed true identity and destiny.

When the priest adds a little water to the wine in the chalice at the offertory during Mass, he says a brief prayer: “By the mystery of this water and wine, may we come to share in the divine life of Christ, who humbled himself to share in our human life.” This is our true destiny, to share in the divine life of Christ to the extent that we also become (“adopted”) sons and daughters of the Father. We create this identity for ourselves to the extent that we accept what God is offering us - a share in his very nature and life forever. We begin our human sharing in the divine life of Father, Son and Holy Spirit by our praise and thanks to God in response to his Word and Sacraments and by our co-operation with the divine natural laws for our behaviour as individuals and as whole societies. In short we respond to the Father's offer of divine sonship by living a life of “prayer and good works”. This is how we come to realise the wonder of who we really are - **children of God**. In this way we will come, in fits and starts, to the incredible awareness that we are all “first born children of God and citizens of heaven”. (Hebrews 12:23)

Some of you may justifiably protest that you are presently denied essential elements of Catholic Christian prayer, i.e. the sacraments. As far as I know, Cardinal Pell in his prison cell was denied the sacraments for over four hundred days. Yet he continued to cultivate the life of the Spirit within himself by prayer and a disciplined daily routine, to the extent that Andrew Bolt, himself not a Christian, observed that the cardinal's obvious well-being was a great advertisement for his Catholic faith, prayer and daily routine. Throughout his confinement, and notwithstanding all the restrictions placed on his normal lifestyle, God remained present with the cardinal "in Spirit".

Given the albeit considerably less onerous restrictions placed on us at this time, and absent our own reception of the sacraments, we still have the great consolation of our own belief that God remains with us in Spirit and that Jesus Christ is present in our midst in his Blessed Sacrament. The photo of the St. Peter's tabernacle, together with the Divine Mercy icon, included in this week's bulletin, reminds us of this. Florence, our sacristan, continues to ensure that the red sanctuary lamp and the gold tabernacle door shine brightly as symbols of the presence of the Body and Blood of the Risen Christ in our parish. Nor has our presence as the Body of Christ, i.e. our physical and personal presence as the Church in Surry Hills, ceased at this time: every weekday a number of the women of the parish, in co-operation with the St. Vincent de Paul Society, have been serving a take-away lunch to up to forty local people a day from a stall beside the "Mission House" in Marlborough Street.

I encourage you to continue making acts of perfect contrition and spiritual communion, and to access the Cathedral masses via the parish or archdiocesan websites. I would also mention again the superb daily access to the liturgy of Holy Mother Church offered by the Universalis "app". Just to mention a few of the features of Universalis for each day of the year: the Readings at Mass, Morning Prayer (Lauds), Prayer During the Day, Evening Prayer (Vespers), Night Prayer (Compline), the Angelus, the Rosary. Universalis: just Google it!

Apart from the Mass itself, the prayers of intercession at Morning and Evening Prayer are two of the principal ways in which I continue to pray for you.

Please feel free to contact me via phone or e-mail.

With every best wish, prayers and Masses,  
(Fr.) John Macdonald  
Administrator  
St. Peter's Surry Hills.

**Parishioner Email addresses** – The present crisis has prompted us to update our list of parishioner email addresses. We would be most grateful to receive the email addresses of any parishioner who has not been receiving electronically the parish bulletin.

**St Peter's/ Vinnie's lunch station** – The parish was approached by the St Vincent de Paul society to take on serving lunch for the vulnerable during this time of isolation, as the usual night pa-



trol van had been suspended following the government Covid-19 regulations for social distancing/ social isolation. Snack packs are also distributed. It is hosted by parishioners from 12 to 12:30pm daily from Monday to Friday on Marlborough Street beside the Mission house. This is well attended by our local community. The Gift of Bread has also been donating bread and milk. Canned food and other treats were also donated by individuals. We had coloured eggs donated on Easter Tuesday from a generous and compassionate individual from Vinnies. Please keep this work in your prayers. Let us know if you are able to help out at all either via email or call the parish office.

**Congratulations to the Missionaries of Charity** on the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of their arrival at Surry Hills. Because of the present restrictions on social gatherings, the Sisters celebrated the occasion in private, notwithstanding a congratulatory visit by Archbishop Anthony Fisher, O.P.