



# St Peter's Parish, Surry Hills

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## Calendar 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter - Year A

Mon 27Apr	<b>Saint Louis Marie Grignon de Montfort</b>
Tues 28 Apr	Saint Peter Chanel
Wed 29 Apr	Saint Catherine of Siena
Thur 30 Apr	Saint Pius V
Fri 1 May	<b>Saint Joseph the Worker</b>
Sat 2 May	Saint Athanasius

## LIVE STREAMING MASSES



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 live 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/>. The crisis is also affording the people and clergy alike an opportunity to get to know better our chief pastor and his mind on various issues and topics.

**Parish Evangelisation Guide** to assist parishes and the lay faithful during the Covid-19 pandemic - <https://www.sydneycatholic.org/parish-evangelisation-guide/>. There is an interesting article in the Catholic Weekly by Daniel Ang titled "Big questions: the pandemic, our Mission and the New Evangelisation" <https://www.catholicweekly.com.au/big-questions-the-pandemic-our-mission-and-the-new-evangelisation/> which touches on evangelisation and how during this pandemic much will change but rather we learn to adapt to new ways of evangelisation. A time to go into an interior reflection "As St. Augustine intimated long ago, into our restlessness invite a pilgrimage deeper, divine sources of itself." From St Augustine's masterpiece "Confessions" quoted "You have made us for yourself and our hearts are restless until they rest in you."

**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/>

**Financial support of St. Peter’s Parish** - Parishioners regularly comment that because they no longer carry cash, they are not able to put money on the collection plate. Cashless financial support of the parish is now very easy via the parish website. The very top line on the website contains a yellow box



which says “**SUPPORT US**”. By simply clicking on this yellow coloured box at the right end of the website’s headline, and following the prompts, one may donate and immediately receive an electronic or hard copy receipt. Of course, your parish still has ongoing costs and bills to pay during this time when the Sunday Mass collections are not happening.



Another new way of donating electronically is to scan the following QR Code with your mobile and then follow the prompts.

### **Fr. John’s reflection for the Third Sunday of Easter 2020**

The patron saint of our parish, Saint Peter, features prominently in the both the first and second readings from Sacred Scripture for this Third Sunday of Easter. He is quoted prolifically in the first reading from the Acts of the Apostles and is the author, or at least the dictator, of the second reading. The first reading, which has Peter speaking “On the day of Pentecost”, sees the Church getting a little ahead of herself liturgically speaking, since Pentecost Sunday is still five weeks away!

However, it is the beginning of the second reading which really captured my attention as Peter says in his First Letter: “If you are acknowledging as your Father one who has no favourites and judges everyone according to what he has done, you must be scrupulously careful as long as you are living away from your home.” In what sense are we in Sydney Australia living “away from (our) home” during the Corona virus crisis? I think the answer is obvious: we are living away from our true home which is the Kingdom of Heaven. The great irony is that the sooner we accept this divinely revealed truth, the happier we shall be living in this our temporary home.

In the gospel for Divine Mercy Sunday (last Sunday), Saint John recalls that eight days after the Resurrection the Risen Jesus appeared for a second time and said to Thomas and the other disciples present, "You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe." Obviously we are among those "who have not seen and yet believe." During this Easter season, Mother Church helps us to focus our prayer on the worship of this same Risen Lord, who is simultaneously the God we worship and the brother in human solidarity with us, because He shares fully in our common human nature.

In this Sunday's gospel for the Third Sunday of Easter, the two disciples recognise the Risen Jesus "in the breaking of Bread" whilst they were at table in the village of Emmaus. "Did not our hearts burn within us," they ask each other rhetorically, "as he explained the scriptures to us." Currently without this Eucharistic experience ourselves, do we experience a "**Eucharistic hunger**?" If so, this is not altogether a bad thing. We are led to realise and appreciate, perhaps more than ever, what we are missing: absence makes the heart grow fonder. That said, we can rest assured that the chief pastor of our Archdiocese of Sydney, Archbishop Anthony Fisher, is making every possible representation to government concerning the re-opening of the sacred spaces which are our church buildings and the resumption of Mass and the sacraments, under appropriate social distancing and hygiene rules.

In the meantime, in the middle of this wonderful season of Easter, we focus on giving thanks and praise for the glory of the Risen Christ. In this life, in various ways we catch glimpses of this divine glory. During this time "For as long as (we) are living away from (our) home", we look forward in great faith and hope not only to a continuous, conscious, explicit awareness of this same divine glory, but also our own participation in it. In the short term, we look forward to the resumption of our ultimate sharing, in this life, in the life of the Risen Jesus, for it is the Body and Blood of the RISEN CHRIST that we receive in the Eucharist.

**Parishioner Email addresses** – The present crisis has prompted us to update our parishioners email list. We would be most grateful to receive the email addresses of any parishioner who has not been receiving electronically the parish bulletin. Please encourage anyone you know in the parish who is not receiving this bulletin to send their e-mail address to [st61538@bigpond.net.au](mailto:st61538@bigpond.net.au)