



# St Peter's Parish, Surry Hills

Clergy: Fr John Macdonald, Admn  
235 Devonshire St (near Crown Street)  
Parish ph: (02) 9698 1948  
[www.stpeterssurryhills.org.au](http://www.stpeterssurryhills.org.au)  
Email: [st61538@bigpond.net.au](mailto:st61538@bigpond.net.au)

## Calendar – Palm Sunday

### Solemnities, Feasts & Memorials

|            |                        |            |                  |
|------------|------------------------|------------|------------------|
| Mon 6 Apr  | Monday of Holy Week    | Thur 9 Apr | Maunder Thursday |
| Tues 7 Apr | Tuesday of Holy Week   | Fri 10 Apr | Good Friday      |
| Wed 8 Apr  | Wednesday of Holy Week | Sat 11 Apr | Holy Saturday    |

**Congratulations** to Donagh O'Callaghan and Laura McAlister on their marriage.

**Persons in danger of death:** For any person 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.

### Channel 7 to broadcast Easter Services from St Mary's Cathedral

We are very pleased to announce that Channel 7 will broadcast the Lord's Passion on **Good Friday (10 April) at 3pm** and the **Easter Sunday Mass (12 April) at 10:30am** live from St Mary's Cathedral. At a time when Catholic churches across Australia are closed during the COVID-19 pandemic, this is a wonderful opportunity for people across all ages and no matter where they live to participate in the Mass at the holiest time in our Church's year. Please share this exciting news with as many people as you can.

Pope Francis Extraordinary Moment of Prayer 27 March 2020 Urbi et Orbi amid coronavirus pandemic Moment of Prayer <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JcUqLrbi9Cg>

Full transcript of Pope Francis Urbi et Orbi [http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/homilies/2020/documents/papa-francesco\\_20200327\\_omelia-epidemia.html](http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/homilies/2020/documents/papa-francesco_20200327_omelia-epidemia.html)

**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.

### Pope Francis Prayer to Our Lady, Health of the Sick, during COVID-19 pandemic:

O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope.

We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick.

At the foot of the Cross you participated in Jesus' pain, with steadfast faith.

You, Salvation of the Roman People, know what we need.

We are certain that you will provide, so that, as you did at Cana of Galilee, joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the Father's will and to do what Jesus tells us:

He who took our sufferings upon Himself, and bore our sorrows to bring us, through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen.

We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God.

Do not despise our pleas – we who are put to the test – and deliver us from danger,

O glorious and Blessed Virgin.

## **Prayer to Our Lady Help of Christians** **Act of Consecration to Mary Help of Christians**

O Mary Help of Christians, Patroness of Australia, Mother of Mercy, Queen of Heaven and earth, refuge of sinners, we consecrate ourselves to your Immaculate Heart.

To you we consecrate our country, our families, our hearts, and souls and all that we have. And in order that this consecration may be truly effective and lasting, we renew today the promises of our Baptism and Confirmation; and we undertake to live as good Christians - faithful to God, the Church and the Holy Father. We desire to pray the Rosary, partake in the Holy Eucharist, attach special importance to the first Saturday of the month and to work for the conversion of sinners. Furthermore we promise, O most holy Virgin, that we will zealously spread devotion to you, so that through our consecration to your Immaculate Heart and through your own intercession the coming of the Kingdom of Christ in the world may be hastened. Amen.

### **Fr. John's Palm Sunday Reflection**

When asked to sum up the theme of his 2018 book "Reimagining Australia", the veteran social commentator Hugh Mackay replied, "Australians need to slow down, and calm down." His research for the book had revealed increasing rates of mental illness and loneliness across all age brackets of Australian society in recent times. Australia has been obliged by the present dangerous circumstances to "slow down". Perhaps not everyone is yet able to "calm down", particularly those who have lost their jobs or seen their businesses go to the wall.

It does really seem to me that because of the ongoing COVID-19 crisis, Australia is now on "retreat" in something like a national parallel to the annual retreat of our Missionaries of Charity, when they close their "soup kitchen" and cease their pastoral visitations and their teaching in the government schools and the parish Sunday school. During their retreat at the beginning of each year, they keep to themselves and God. Such a retreat affords us, individually and as a society to reflect anew on the ultimate meaning of our lives and to be reminded of what really matters. In Mandarin Chinese, the word for "crisis" is composed of two characters: the first character means "danger" and the second "opportunity". The danger in the present crisis is obvious to all. The opportunities are more subtle. The first opportunity may be the one already mentioned, one which Hugh Mackay may perceive as being long overdue, the opportunity for Australia to go on a nationwide retreat, to review our lives and indeed our very way of life so as to discern the things that really matter.

With the suspension of Masses in churches throughout Australia, another such opportunity is for Catholics to connect with their chief pastor or chief shepherd, i.e. the bishop of the diocese, a spiritual successor of the apostles, the Church's first pastors. In our case, this is Archbishop Anthony Fisher, whose Masses, and particularly the 10.30am Sunday Masses, are being live-streamed from our cathedral. The traditional Holy Week liturgies and ceremonies, at which His Grace will preside, will also



be live streamed from St. Mary's. The link to access the live-streaming of the cathedral services is supplied in this bulletin. **In addition, Channel 7 will broadcast both the 3 pm Good Friday and 10.30 Easter Sunday liturgies from St. Mary's Cathedral on its main Channel.**

The present crisis obliges us to retreat from the busyness and multiple pressures of the lives we are used to and encourages us to reconnect with Our Lord Jesus Christ, Jesus of Nazareth, the Son of God. The Good Shepherd Himself shepherds us through the pastoral ministry our bishop and his brother priests of the Archdiocese of Sydney. However, given the global nature of the "Corona" virus pandemic, the crisis also points us in the direction of the pastor of the universal Church. I refer you to the homily given by Pope Francis on the occasion of the Extraordinary Benediction *urbi et orbi* (to the city [of Rome] and to the world) last Friday 27 March in an empty *Piazza San Pietro* (for the text of the Holy Father's homily please see the link in this bulletin). I think this may prove to be an outstanding moment in his whole pontificate. Elsewhere, His Holiness has alerted us to the great opportunity presented to us when we are denied access to the Sacrament of Penance or Reconciliation. He has reminded all the faithful that our sins will be completely forgiven whenever we confess them to our Heavenly Father with the motive of "perfect" contrition, together with a firm intention not to sin again and to go to sacramental confession when we are next able to go to (which may be in several months time). To be perfectly sorry for our sins is to be sorry "because they have crucified my loving Saviour Jesus Christ and most of all because they have offended your infinite goodness to me". Francis has also recommended that we make a "spiritual communion" at those times when we would normally attend Mass, or at Communion time if we are watching Mass on an electronic device or on television. To make a spiritual communion is to say the private prayers we normally say ourselves before and after communion.

Our present "retreat" may remind us that we, the parish of St. Peter at Surry Hills are a prayerful people. A retreat also reminds us that as the Catholic Church in this small part of the world, we are also "a priestly people". We pray to come close to God who always has us in mind, but we also intercede for all the people in Surry Hills, many of whom are anxious at this time. We offer prayer and sacrifice not only for ourselves as the People of God, but for all the people. My own regular Mass intention at this time is for the people of St. Peter's Parish (and all the people of Surry Hills) for your well-being in body, mind and spirit, including for your protection from the COVID-19 virus, for your prosperity and for your eternal salvation.

Our Lady Help of Christians pray for us.

Saint Peter pray for us.

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