



St Peter's Parish, Surry Hills

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

Calendar: **The Ascension of the Lord - Year A**

LIVE STREAMING MASSES



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, O.P. 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.



Month of May, dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary

A timely motion approved recently by the Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference (ACBC) read: *"That the Australian Bishops entrust Australia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary under the title Our Lady Help of Christians, seeking her intercession for the safety of all our people especially in this time of COVID-19 pandemic."*

Mary Help of Christians has been the official patroness of Australia since 1844. Her feast day is celebrated on May 24, which this year coincides with the Feast of the Ascension. Therefore, for this year the Solemnity of Our Lady Help of Christians has been translated to the following day Monday 25 May. On Monday the ACBC will re-consecrate Australia to the care of Our Lady Help of Christians.

Follow this link - <https://www.catholicweekly.com.au/bishops-to-entrust-australia-to-our-lady/> to read the full text and Our Lady Help of

Christians prayer card.



On May 13 the Philippine Bishops consecrated their country to the Immaculate Heart of Mary and asked the people to pray the rosary for 3 days in preparation, so as to involve everyone in this consecration. Likewise, in preparation for the consecration, we pray the rosary leading up to Monday 25th.

In his Apostolic letter '*Rosarium Virginis Mariae*' of 2002 on the Most Holy Rosary, Pope John Paul II strongly encouraged the rediscovery of the rosary for our times. He writes in his letter "...though the rosary is clearly Marian in character, it is at heart a Christocentric prayer. A spiritual journey mediating on the sacred "mysteries" of the life of Christ through and with

the eyes of Our Blessed Mother.

We can follow the Apostles who were gathered together in prayer for nine days in the Upper Room (Cenacle), with Mary the Mother of the Church, from the time of Our Lord's Ascension to Pentecost Sunday. The practice of saying the Rosary nine times in the form of a Rosary Novena in petition or thanksgiving is a way of listening to Our Lady of Fatima's advice to "Pray the Rosary". During this month, we participate with Archbishop Fisher's Rosary Relay for his intentions.

Please follow the link to this beautiful article published on 2 May 2020 in The Catholic Weekly on ***Thirty-One ways to love Our Lady more throughout the month of May*** - <https://www.catholic-weekly.com.au/thirty-one-ways-to-love-our-lady-more-throughout-the-month-of-may/>

COMMON PRAYER
for the 5th anniversary of
Laudato Si'

Loving God,
Creator of heaven and earth and all that is in them,
You created us in your own image and made us
stewards of all your creation.
You blessed us with the sun, water and bountiful land
so that all might be nourished.

Open our minds and touch our hearts,
so that we may attend to your gift of creation.
Help us to be conscious that our common home belongs
not only to us, but to all of your creatures and to all future
generations, and that it is our responsibility to preserve it.
May we help each person secure the food and resources
that they need.

Be present to those in need in these trying times,
especially the poorest and those most at risk of being
left behind.

Transform our fear and feelings of isolation into
hope and fraternity so that we may experience a true
conversion of the heart.

Help us to show creative solidarity in addressing the
consequences of this global pandemic.
Make us courageous to embrace the changes that
are needed in search of the common good.
Now more than ever may we feel that we are all
interconnected and interdependent.
Enable us to listen and respond to the cry of the earth
and the cry of the poor.

May the present sufferings be the birth pangs of
a more fraternal and sustainable world.

Under the loving gaze of Mary Help of Christians,
we make this prayer through Christ our Lord.

Amen

Laudato Si' (Praise be to you) – This Sunday marks the 5th anniversary of Pope Francis' *Laudato Si'* encyclical. From 16 – 24 May 2020, Pope Francis formally inaugurated *Laudato Si'* week and the beginning of an entire year of activities which runs till May 2021. We unite with the Universal Church in the journey towards better care of God's creation.

Courtesy of the Vatican Dicastery for Integral Human Development

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, Fr William Dominic Creede, CSsR, Mary Lewis (7/5), Stella Cauci (20/5) and Robert May.

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 the parish bulletin electronically. 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

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**".

SUPPORT US

By 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.



First Phase of the re-opening of our churches – Please refer towards the end of Fr. John's reflection for mass times and the parish website.

Fr. John's reflection for this week

The Solemnity of the Ascension marks the physical departure of Jesus Christ from his disciples. However, this is not so much a "good-bye" as an "until we meet again".

There is an air of anticipation about the celebration of the Ascension. Although a Solemnity in its own right, the feast of the Ascension is also a prelude to the great feast next Sunday of the Pentecost, when the Risen Lord Jesus returns from his brief heavenly "sojourn", albeit he comes again "in Spirit". We have lost sight of the Christian origins of so many of our western world sayings. We are familiar with the saying at a social gathering, when a friend or relative is unable to attend or even if they have gone to the next life: "Oh, I'm sure (so and so) is here in spirit." I can't help believing that this colloquialism is derived from our fundamental Catholic Christian belief that Jesus is truly at all times present with us **in Spirit**. This unique Spirit, the Spirit of Our Saviour Jesus Christ the Son of God, and the Spirit of God the Father is the Holy Spirit, who comes at the Pentecost, the day on which the Church is born

Back to the Ascension itself: Unlike in the conclusions to the other two synoptic gospels, in this Sunday's gospel St. Matthew actually makes no mention of Jesus leaving the disciples! Matthew's gospel concludes with the so called "Great Commission of the Lord":

"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time."

We continue to live in the world of “time”, in the era of the Church. In various ways we are fulfilling this great missionary command of the Lord Jesus, at all times and in all circumstances believing that He is with us. And by the way, although the Church always seeks to co-operate with the civil authorities, she does not need the permission of any civil authority to fulfil the divine command of her founder to “make disciples of all nations.” The Church exists by divine institution “to the end of time” to teach the nations to observe “all the commands I gave you”.

Please consult the parish bulletin attached below:

- concerning the Solemnity of Our Lady Help of Christians, Patroness of Australia, which has particular relevance for our parish because of our shrine honouring Our Lady under this title, and
- the celebrations marking the fifth anniversary of the encyclical Laudatory si' of Pope Francis concerning the care of our common (temporary) home

For those wishing to attend any of the weekday Masses this week, because of the ten person limit, please book a place at Mass by emailing the parish:

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday - 5.15pm, church open from 4 to 6pm

Thursday, Friday - 1.05pm, church open from noon to 2pm