



# St Peter's Parish, Surry Hills

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Calendar **6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter - Year A**

## LIVE STREAMING MASSES



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**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.

### The Month of May – Mense Maio

Between 1571 and 2002, the Popes have never ceased to encourage us to recite the Rosary. Pope Paul VI in his encyclical *Mense Maio*, promulgated in 1965, dedicated the whole month of May to the Blessed Virgin Mary to pray for peace. During this Mary month, we continue to pray to Our Lady for her protection for all her children in Australia and in the world against this virus. Our Lady is always here for us if only we pray to her fervently. By reciting the Rosary we meditate on the life of Christ through the loving heart of Mary. This love is so great of a Mother for her beloved Son. Following Saint John Paul II's papal motto, *Totus Tuus* we too turn to Our Lady to come into our life, "... Mary, My mother live in me, Act in me, Speak in me and through me. Think your thoughts in my mind. Love through my heart ....". We continue to pray the Rosary with



devotion and unceasingly daily to Our Mother who is full of love and mercy for all her children.

We can follow the Apostles who were gathered together in prayers for nine days 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*.

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/>

**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, Fr William Dominic Creede, CSsr 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 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)

**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 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.



**Church Doors Open** – Please refer towards the end of Fr. John's reflection for mass times.

### **Fr. John's reflection for this week**

Towards the end of this Sunday's gospel for the Sixth Sunday of Easter in Year A, Jesus says a most shocking thing to his companions at the Last Supper:

"On that day you will understand that I am in my Father and you in me and I in you."

We could readily accept that Jesus is in the Father because He is the Son of God; the three divine Persons are so perfectly united with one another that they live, as it were, inside one another. This truth is referred to as the “mutual indwelling” of the divine Persons. But then Jesus, who is the Son, the second person in the Trinity, adds that He is also in us and we are in Him! How on earth can we possibly live inside God and He live inside us, forever??

Well, this is possible because the Son of God united his divine Being, the one and only divine nature which he shares completely with the Father and the Holy Spirit, with the one human nature in which we human beings all share. He accomplished this through his conception, life, suffering, death and resurrection, for all time. Right at the end of Saint John’s account of the Last Supper discourse, John has Jesus say: “May they all be one, just as, Father, you are in me and I am in you, **so that they also may be in us** ...”

To think that we could live, as it were, inside God, sharing the mind and heart of God, experiencing and living out of the divine consciousness, should strike us as something absolutely wonderful. If it doesn’t, we are missing the whole ultimate point of our faith, which is to live forever with the very life of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, in so far as we are capable of this as human beings. St. John says this multiple times, as do the prayers of the Liturgy whenever they refer to our sharing in the divine life or the divine nature. The Fathers of the Church say similar things: St. Augustine, for example, insists that we are “capax Dei”, (literally) “capable of God”. This is astounding when we consider that, objectively speaking, our human nature is much, much closer to that of the higher animals than it is to the nature of the One True God.

We human beings are the only ones, among all God’s creatures, who are uniquely capable of actually sharing in this Divine Life; not even the angels, those beings of our spirit, are capable of this. Mysteriously, the more we share in the divine life and nature the more our own unique identities are realised.

However, the Holy Father reminded the Church during his homily on Wednesday for the memorial for Our Lady of Fatima that our union of the divine nature is not a given; it does not come about automatically if we remain passive in response to God’s initiative. Mary, in various ways, shares in the divine life and nature more than any other human person ever has or ever will. Our Blessed Mother **responded** affirmatively to the Annunciation in word (“*Fiat mihi secundum verbum tuum*”) and deed (e.g. via the Visitation).

If God is to remain **in us** and we are to remain **in Him**, if this “mutual remaining” of us in God and God in us, this mutual indwelling which is of the essence of the Christian life, is to endure and flourish we need to attend to the basics, underlined Pope Francis, of prayer and the sacraments, of fulfilling the commandments, of living the beatitudes and doing works of mercy. This is playing our part in “cultivating” our human share in the very life and nature of God, Father, Son and Spirit.

Fr. Brendan Byrne in his commentary on this Sunday's readings (in the parish bulletin accessible via the link below) takes a different tack as he observes that the readings are increasingly giving us a "heads up" for the coming glorious feast of the Pentecost on Sunday Week. Fr. Byrne's exposition of the meaning of the word Paraclete (Greek: παράκλητος, Latin: *paracletus*) is enlightening and consoling for all people of faith, hope and charity.

St. Peter's Church will reopen on Tuesday according to the following schedule:

Tuesdays Church open from 4pm to 6pm with Confessions from 4.45pm and Mass at 5.15pm

Wednesdays As for Tuesday

Thursdays Church open from Noon to 2pm with Confessions from 12.45pm and Mass at 1.05pm

Fridays As for Thursday

Saturdays Church opens at 8.15am with Mass at 8.30am and Confessions from 9am to 9.30am

For next week only, on a trial basis, because of the "ten person rule", only the first ten persons to reserve a place for any particular Mass via the parish email will be permitted to remain in the church during that particular Mass. To secure a place you will also need to supply your phone number. There has to be one entrance only. I would prefer that that entrance was the main front Devonshire Street entrance to St. Peter's to advertise the fact that the church has reopened, if only in a limited way. However, we shall use the side entrance to accommodate those who have difficulty negotiating the front stairs.

I am sorry to sound so banal about arrangements for our participation in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, but we need to somehow negotiate the current regulations published by the state and the Archdiocese. On a sublime note, please see the six hour program of the music of St. Hildegard of Bingen, Doctor of the Church and polymath, now available via the ABC Classic (serious music) website.

There is still no clear indication as to when Sunday Masses will resume, beyond the impractical limit of ten persons. The Archbishop and Vicar General have both stressed that there is to be absolutely no hint of elitism or favouritism in the allocation of the ten places at Mass, whence the "first in best dressed" rule via email, on a one week trial basis.