



St Peter's Parish, Surry Hills

235 Devonshire St (near Crown Street),
Parish phone: (02) 9698 1948
Website: www.stpetersurryhills.org.au
Email: st61538@bigpond.net.au



Fr. John Macdonald, Administrator

Fr. Nicola Falzun OP, Priest in Residence for the *Missio ad gentes* of the Neocatechumenal Way

Feast days of the week: 3rd Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday)
Mon 14 Dec Saint John of the Cross

Mass times this week:

Tuesdays and Wednesdays: Church will open from 4:30pm, Mass at 5:15pm
Every Tuesday: Rosary at 12:00 noon
Thursdays and Fridays: Church will open from 12noon, Mass at 1:05pm
Every Thursday: Eucharistic Adoration 12noon (with Benediction before First Fridays)
Every Friday: Rosary at 12:30pm
Saturdays: 9:00am Rosary followed by Mass at 9:30am
Sundays: 9:00am (1st Sunday Singer/Organist) and 10:30am (Sung Mass)

Confessions: Before Mass Tuesday to Saturday, particularly Friday 12:30 – 1:00pm and Saturday 9 - 9:30am

.For this Sunday's 9:00am Mass, Stasia Very will be joined by her husband, Gabe Very in their Music Ministry.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES:

Christmas Eve: 8:00pm
Christmas Day: 9:00am
Octave of Christmas: Mon – Sat 10:00am daily
The Parish office will be closed from 28 Dec to 18 Jan 2021. (inclusive)



Wedding congratulations to the new couple, John McCaughan and Susannah Hoffmann who were married on Saturday, 12 December 2020 at St. Peter's Parish Surry Hills. Walk in Love. - Ephesians 5:2

Blessed are you, Father, who, in your infinite love sent us your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, that we may have life, and have it in abundance.

By the power of the Holy Spirit, renew our Eucharistic communities.

May they be places of encounter with the living Christ, centres of evangelisation and outreach to our community in love and mercy.

Grant us the gifts of faith, hope and love to be faithful disciples of Jesus and radiant witnesses to the people of Sydney.

Our Lady of Guadalupe, Star of the New Evangelisation. *Pray for us!*




Go Make Disciples - Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP launched **Go Make Disciples**, a new Archdiocesan Mission Plan on **12 December**, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Star of the New Evangelisation. The new plan is aimed at renewing our parishes as places of encounter with the living Christ and centres of evangelisation and outreach to our community in love and mercy. For more information contact Parish Renewal Team at the Sydney Centre for Evangelisation, Archdiocese of Sydney on

9390 5307 or elizabeth.arblaster@sydneycatholic.org



A Prayer for Renewal

Blessed are you, Father, who, in you infinite love sent us your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, that we may have life,

and have it in abundance.

By the power of the Holy Spirit, renew our Eucharistic communities.

May they be places of encounter with the living Christ, centres of evangelisation and outreach to our community in love and mercy.

Grant us the gifts of faith, hope and love to be faithful disciples of Jesus and radiant witness to the people of Sydney.

Our Lady, Help of Christians, *Pray for us!*

Our Lady of Guadalupe, Star of the New Evangelisation, *Pray for us!*

St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, *Pray for us!*

Launch of 2020 Lights of Christmas at St Mary's Cathedral - St

Mary's Cathedral is again hosting the magnificent lights of Christmas with the event officially being launched on 10 December with the lights display commencing at 8:30pm. The lights will be displayed each night until 11:00pm, concluding on Christmas Day



Carols from St Mary's - Friday 18th December, 11am & 7pm - Admission is FREE
An opportunity to enjoy beautiful carols and Christmas readings, with the St Mary's Cathedral Choir and Orchestra, in our stunning Cathedral.

Register at <https://sydneycatholic.eventsair.com/smcmass/carols/Site/Register>
Please spread the word about this special event with your parishioners through sharing the attached Facebook tile. Numbers are limited at the cathedral due to COVID-19 restrictions, so you should register as soon as possible to guarantee a seat.

Artes Christi Christmas Carols at St Peter's - Don't miss the 12th Annual Lessons & Carols Festival **CHRISTMAS IN THE CITY** with the Artes Christi Orchestra & Choir. This year Bishop Umbers will also be presiding at the Carols.
SUN 20 DEC (5.30pm) ~ St Peter's Surry Hills
TIX \$15 or by donation
DUE TO COVID **BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL**
AT www.christmasinthecity.org.au

WHY CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS? A series of Friday night presentations on the Sunday Mass readings during Advent, followed by questions from the audience.



Where? Right here! 1880 Hall, Saint Peter's Parish Surry Hills

When? Friday night - 18 Dec from 6.00pm to 7.00pm

For whom? Everyone is welcome

By whom? Dr. Ken Brimaud, BA/ LLB (Sydney), STL (Angelicum), Ph. D (Gregorian) of the Catholic Institute of Sydney.



Christmas CD titled “**I believe It’s Christmas**” with a selection of Christmas hymns and even a track on the traditional Maltese lullaby. This CD is one of Stasia Very’s many other CDs produced in her Music Ministry. Stasia Very and her daughters, Gabrielle and Angeline have graced us with their beautiful

singing. This CD will bring their angelic voices to your homes and is available at a special price of \$8.

Our prayers for the Sick – Ettore Pelewzick (*Dominic’s father*), Mira Krcma, Josephine Finneran, Bro. Kevin Guthrie, Gian Pagani Pietro and Flavio Fornasier..

We remember our deceased - Frederick, Edward & Margaret M Hailwood, Margaret D Hailwood (21/9), Joyce Hailwood & Marge Heaney, Joan McEvoy, June Veronica Hailwood, Robin Bridgewater, Marie La Brooy (24/9), Charles Grech (25/9), Ethel & Des Fitzgerald, Brian McFadden, Giles Auty, Bernard Saddler, Jeanne MacPherson (née La Brooy, 20/10, 1st anniversary), Jane Ann Ryan (24/10), Sylvia Abela (née Lewis, 28/10, 1st anniversary), Josphine Bugeja (16/11), William Lewis (1/12), Lydia Garrone (1st Anniversary 4/12) and Elaine Buchhorn.

New website and social platforms to promote the cause for sainthood of Eileen O’Connor

The Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney has launched a new website, Facebook and Instagram pages today, aimed at promoting the pathway to sainthood for the Co-Founder of Our Lady’s Nurses for the Poor, Servant of God, Eileen O’Connor.

Eileen’s great courage in serving the sick poor, despite enduring great personal illness herself is a truly remarkable example to us all.

Visit the new website at this address: www.eileenconnor.com.au and follow the new Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/SoGEileenOConnor> and Instagram page at this address: www.instagram.com/theeileenconnor/



The new website features prayers through the intercession of Eileen O’Connor, details on upcoming events to honour her memory, videos and photo galleries.

As we approach the centenary of Eileen's death in January, let us unite in a prayer that the Little Mother, as she was affectionately known, may soon be counted amongst the saints in heaven.

Prayer for Eileen O'Connor

Great and Merciful God through the maternal love of the Blessed Virgin Mary, you inspired your servant Eileen O'Connor, to care for the sick and dying poor and to serve your Church through spiritual and corporal works of mercy. Listen graciously to our prayers, and grant that Eileen may be raised to the glory of your altar. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



Third Sunday of Advent (Year B) – Reflection – Recognizing the Almighty

(Sunday, December 13, 2020) – from My Catholic Life

“I baptize with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie.” [John 1:26-27](#)

These are words of true humility and wisdom. John the Baptist had quite a following. Many were coming to him to be baptized, and he was gaining much notoriety. But his notoriety did not go to his head. Instead, he understood his role of preparing the way for “the one who is coming.” He understood that he needed to decrease as Jesus began His public ministry. And, thus, he humbly points others to Jesus.

In this passage, John was speaking to the Pharisees. They were clearly envious of John’s popularity and questioned him about who he was. Was he the Christ? Or Elijah? Or the Prophet? John denied all of that and identified himself as one who is not worthy to even untie the sandal straps of the one who is coming after him. Thus, John sees himself as the “unworthy one.”

But it is this humility that makes John truly great. Greatness does not come by self-elevation, or self-promotion. Greatness comes solely by fulfilling the will of God. And, for John, the will of God was to baptize and to point others to Him Who was coming after him.

It’s also important to note that John said to the Pharisees that they “do not recognize” the one who is coming after him. In other words, those who are filled with pride and self-righteousness are blind to the truth. They cannot see beyond themselves, which is an incredible lack of wisdom.

Reflect, today, upon your calling to imitate these virtues of St. John the Baptist. Do you see your duty in life as one that is singularly focused upon putting your eyes on

Christ and pointing others to Him? Do you humbly recognize that it is Jesus Who must increase and that you are nothing more than His unworthy servant? If you can seek to serve the will of God with complete humility, you also will be truly wise. And like through John, many will come to know Christ because of your holy service.

*Lord, fill me with true humility. May I know and believe with all my heart that I am unworthy of the incredible life of grace You have given to me. But in that humble realization, give me the grace I need to serve You with all my heart so that others may come to know You through me. **Jesus, I trust in You.***



Mary's Dream – Christmas Birth of our Lord Jesus Christ

I had a dream Joseph. I don't understand it, not really, but I think it was about a birthday celebration for our Son. I think that was what it was all about. The people had been preparing for it for about six weeks. They had decorated their house and bought elaborate gifts. It was peculiar, though because the presents weren't for our Son. They wrapped them in beautiful paper and tied them with lovely bows and stacked them under a tree. Yes, a tree Joseph, right in their house. They'd decorated the tree also. The branches were full of glowing balls and sparkling ornaments. There was a figure on top of the tree. It looked like an Angel might look. Oh it was beautiful. Everyone was laughing and happy. They were all excited about the gifts. They gave the gifts to each other, Joseph, not to our Son. I don't think they even knew Him. They never mentioned His name. Doesn't it seem odd for people to go to all that trouble to celebrate someone's birthday if they don't know Him. I had the strangest feeling that if our Son had gone to this celebration, He would have been intruding. Everything was so beautiful, Joseph, and everyone so full of cheer, but it made me want to cry. How sad for Jesus not to be wanted at His own birthday celebration. I'm glad it was only a dream. How terrible, Joseph, if it had been real!

Author unknown (Say a prayer for him or her)

The Litany of Humility (by Merry Cardinal de Val, Secretary of State to Pope Saint Pius X from the prayer book of Jesuits, 1963)

O Jesus! meek and humble of heart, hear me.

Deliver me Jesus

From the desire of being esteemed,
From the desire of being loved,
From the desire of being extolled,
From the desire of being honoured,
From the desire of being praised,
From the desire of being preferred to others,
From the desire of being consulted,
From the desire of being approved,
From the fear of being humiliated,
From the fear of being despised,
From the fear of suffering rebukes,
From the fear of being calumniated,
From the fear of being forgotten,
From the fear of being ridiculed,
From the fear of being wronged,
From the fear of being suspected,

Jesus grant me the grace to desire it

That others may be loved more than I,
That others may be esteemed more than I,
That, in the opinion of the world, others may increase and I may decrease,
That others may be chosen and I set aside,
That others may be praised and I unnoticed,
That others may be preferred to me in everything,
That others may become holier than I, provided that I may become as holy as I should,

The **Christian Life Community (CLC)** is an international association of lay Christians who have adopted an Ignatian model of spiritual life. The 'Community' is present in almost sixty countries.

The CLC traces its foundation to 1563, when the Jesuit John Leunis gathered a group of lay students at the Roman College to form the Sodality of Our Lady. The Sodality grew and was confirmed by Pope Gregory XIII in 1584. When the Second Vatican Council urged groups like the Sodality to rediscover their original roots, some sodalities continued as before, while others became Christian Life Communities. The main difference is in the size (6 to 12) and the regularity of meeting (weekly or biweekly).

The CLC draws its inspiration from the teachings of St. Ignatius of Loyola, and receives spiritual guidance from the Jesuits. The experience of making the Spiritual Exercises of St Ignatius is of paramount importance to the members of the CLC. Members are encouraged to adhere to a lifestyle which is gospel-based and simple, to serve the poor and to integrate contemplation and action. As Ignatian spirituality has an essential apostolic dimension, members of the CLC do reflect also on how to bring Gospel values into all aspects of life in today's world.

The Christian Life Community (CLC) way of life invites us to encounter God in all the various aspects of our everyday life, reflect on these experiences, become more aware of God's activity in these experiences, and respond in ever more authentic ways to God's desire within our individual lives and our communal lives.

The CLC adopted its current name in 1967.

The CLC's General Principles were approved in 1971 and revised in 1990.

The World Christian Life Community is governed by the General Assembly, which determines norms and policies, and by the Executive Council which is responsible for their ordinary implementation.

CLC was established in Australia in 1976. The website address is clcaustralia.org.au

Saint Peter's Parish contact Dr. Michael Walker: <gloriamichael@bigpond.com>

Prayer to Our Lady of Guadalupe

“O Our Lady of Guadalupe, mystical rose, make intercession for the Holy Church, protect the Sovereign Pontiff, help all those who invoke you in their necessities, and since you are the ever Virgin Mary and Mother of the true God, obtain for us from your most Holy Son the grace of keeping our faith, sweet hope in the midst of bitterness of life, burning charity and the precious gift of final perseverance. Amen.”

