



St Peter's Parish, Surry Hills

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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:

Mon 28 Jun	St. Irenaus
Tue 29 Jun	Saints Peter and Paul
Sat 3 Jul	St Thomas

Saint Peter's Church - temporary COVID closure

In line with the directive of the Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Sydney, Saint Peter's Church at Surry Hills will be closed until at least the morning of Saturday 3rd July 2021.

The closure includes entry via the church pin code.

Our prayers for the Sick – Nerisa Williams, Nathan Essey, Mira Krcma, Josephine Fineran, Marija Barclay, John Yo-un and Dan Southee.

We remember our deceased – Helen McGuirk, George Vorlicek, Lourdes Eulalia Martinez (10/6), Anne Kelly (Deborah White's mum (14/5), Betty Harkins (12/5), Ken Leonhardt (18/4), Caterina Vieira (12/4), Frederick, Edward & Margaret M Hailwood, Margaret D Hailwood, Joyce Hailwood & Marge Heaney, Joan McEvoy, June Veronica Hailwood, Michelle Perez Saldivar, Garry Hansen, Rita Azzopardi, Pauline Micallef, Loreta Manawag, George Vorlicek, John Lehane, Oscar Vonwiller, Bernard Mills and John Curtin.

Holy Father's Appeal - Our parish will hold next weekend for which we ask your support. Through your gift you can help Pope Francis bring hope, opportunity and the Spirit of Jesus Christ to our less fortunate brothers and sisters around the world. Thank you.

Parishes for Mission Day – On Saturday 21 August, St Peter's Parish will host the neighbouring parish of Redfern, Rosebery and Waterloo for a “parishes for mission” day between 9:00am to 4:00pm. Fr. John is calling for expressions of interest any parishioners who would like to attend. This event which will be held in our parish Hall (1880). Program for the day will be aimed at helping to form us for the Archbishop's missionary project “Go Make Disciples”. There is no cost associated with this event.

Social Justice Sunday - we celebrate on the **29th of August**. The Australian Bishops' Social Justice Statement, *Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor*, invites us to join in responding to Pope Francis' invitation to take a seven-year journey towards total ecological sustainability guided by seven Laudato Si' Goals. The Statement provides theological foundations to ground and inspire our efforts to care for creation while responding to the needs of the disadvantaged and excluded. More information: ACBC Office for Justice, Ecology and Peace, www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au or tel. (02) 6201 9845.

Saints Peter and Paul – Feast day 29 June 2021

On June 29 the Church celebrates the feast day of Saints Peter and Paul. As early as the



year 258, there is evidence of an already lengthy tradition of celebrating the solemnities of both Saint Peter and Saint Paul on the same day. Together, the two saints are the founders of the See of Rome, through their preaching, ministry and martyrdom there.

Peter, who was named Simon, was a fisherman of Galilee and was introduced to the Lord Jesus by his brother Andrew, also a fisherman. Jesus gave him the name Cephas (Petrus in Latin), which means 'Rock,' because he was to become the rock upon which Christ would build His Church.

Peter was a bold follower of the Lord. He was the first to recognize that Jesus was "the Messiah, the Son of the living God," and eagerly pledged his fidelity until death. In his boldness, he also made many mistakes, however, such as losing faith when walking on water with Christ and betraying the Lord on the night of His passion.

Yet despite his human weaknesses, Peter was chosen to shepherd God's flock. The Acts of the Apostles illustrates his role as head of the Church after the Resurrection and Ascension of Christ. Peter led the Apostles as the first Pope and ensured that the disciples kept the true faith.

St. Peter spent his last years in Rome, leading the Church through persecution and eventually being martyred in the year 64. He was crucified upside-down at his own request, because he claimed he was not worthy to die as his Lord.

He was buried on Vatican hill, and St. Peter's Basilica is built over his tomb.

St. Paul was the Apostle of the Gentiles. His letters are included in the writings of the New Testament, and through them we learn much about his life and the faith of the early Church. Before receiving the name Paul, he was Saul, a Jewish Pharisee who zealously persecuted Christians in Jerusalem. Scripture records that Saul was present at the martyrdom of St. Stephen.

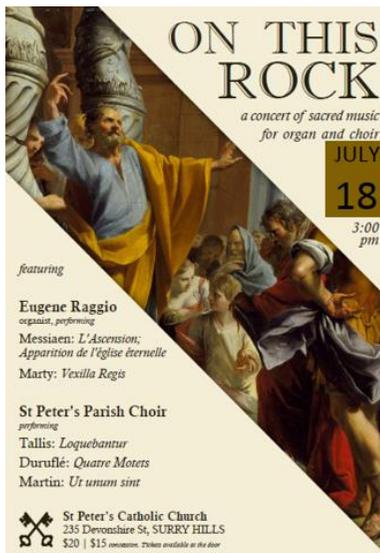
Saul's conversion took place as he was on his way to Damascus to persecute the Christian community there. As he was traveling along the road, he was suddenly surrounded by a great light from heaven. He was blinded and fell off his horse. He then heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" He answered: "Who are you, Lord?" Christ said: "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting."

Saul continued to Damascus, where he was baptized and his sight was restored. He took the name Paul and spent the remainder of his life preaching the Gospel tirelessly to the Gentiles of the Mediterranean world.

Paul was imprisoned and taken to Rome, where he was beheaded in the year 67. He is buried in Rome in the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls.

In a sermon in the year 395, St. Augustine of Hippo said of Saints Peter and Paul: "Both apostles share the same feast day, for these two were one; and even though they suffered on different days, they were as one. Peter went first, and Paul followed. And so we celebrate this day made holy for us by the apostles' blood. Let us embrace what they believed, their life, their labours, their sufferings, their preaching, and their confession of faith."

Choir Concert: On this Rock - To mark our patronal feast of Saints Peter & Paul, the parish choir presents a concert of sacred music for organ and choir themed around St Peter and the foundation of the Church. With repertoire drawn primarily from the 20th and 21st centuries, this promises to be a memorable afternoon of music. The choir will be joined by Eugene Raggio, former St. Peter's choir director, on the organ. **Sunday 18 July** - 3:00pm Tickets \$20 / \$10 concession, available at the door. **Due to the current Covid restrictions, the Choir Concert has been postponed to Sunday 18 July 2021**



PARISH GROUPS activities postponed until further notice

- RCIA** – The Duffy Hall – Thursday: 6:30pm – 7:30pm (fortnightly)
- Neocatechumenal Way** – B16 - Thursday: 7:30pm – 8:30pm
- Mother's Group** – Courtyard – Friday: 2:30pm
- AA Surry Hills Group** – Duffy Hall – Tuesday: 6:00pm – 7:00pm
- Christian Life Community (CLC)** – B16 Room - Monday: 7:30pm
- Young Adults** – Sun 11:30 – 2:00pm (morning tea, Angelus, Evangelium & pub lunch)
- Marian Group** – before mass daily
- Divine Mercy Group** – before mass daily
- Cenacle** – Church – Tuesday: 10:30 am to 11:30am (Thurs 9:00am)
- Bible Group** – Church – Monday: 8:00am
- Liturgy Group** – B16 – after Sunday lunch
- Legion of Mary** – To be announced

The Toughest Prayer - The Litany of Humility

By Brennan Costello on October 06, 2020

I was first introduced to the Litany of Humility from a Priest at the Newman Centre during spiritual direction. We prayed the Litany together and as we were ending our meeting, he look intently at me and said "Good luck with whatever happens to you the rest of the day." Yikes. This prayer has consequences.

When asked what the three most important elements of the spiritual life are, St. Bernard of Clairvaux, a 12th century Monk and extensive thinker on the virtue sitting opposite of pride, was once asked to name the three most important elements of spiritual life. St. Bernard meekly responded, “humility, humility, humility.”

I would advocate that a spiritual life of any depth is unattainable without first setting your course down the wonderful challenging road of developing the virtue of humility. Jesus himself stresses in the Gospel of Matthew, “Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.” A ordered recognition of who you are, who your brothers and sisters are, and who God is the first step to growing in faith.

But learning the virtue of humility, and going through a process of peeling back our dirty pride is not an easy or comfortable task. The road to humility is long - about the length human life for most of us. But we do have a tool called the Litany of Humility to point us in the right direction.

The Litany of Humility is a wonderful, challenging prayer. **The authorship of the Litany of Humility is often credited to Cardinal Merry del Val**, who was the Secretary of State for Pope Pius X in the early 19th century. The Cardinal was known to pray the Litany of Humility every day after Mass. Christians have used litanies (which just series of 'asks') for the life of the Church. The Litany of Humility has only grown in popularity and renown in the recent years.

The prayer is not complicated or confusing to recite, but this is no easy endeavour. In it's simplest form the Litany of Humility is an ask to God, "Lord please make me humble." The Litany of Humility brings you face to face with the worldly, comfortable, sources of our pride. “That others may be praised and I unnoticed, Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.” This is just one of the striking, vivid petitions to God, asking him to take away the fuel to our pride. It's a tough statement to read, let alone pray. Just read through the full prayer below, and I think you'll understand why the Litany of Humility is one tough sucker.

The Litany of Humility

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

From the desire of being esteemed, deliver me, Jesus.

From the desire of being loved, deliver me, Jesus.

From the desire of being extolled, deliver me, Jesus.

From the desire of being honoured, deliver me, Jesus.

From the desire of being praised, deliver me, Jesus.

From the desire of being preferred to others, deliver me, Jesus.

From the desire of being consulted, deliver me, Jesus.

From the desire of being approved, deliver me, Jesus.

From the fear of being humiliated, deliver me, Jesus.

From the fear of being despised, deliver me, Jesus.

From the fear of suffering rebukes, deliver me, Jesus.

From the fear of being calumniated, deliver me, Jesus.

From the fear of being forgotten, deliver me, Jesus.

From the fear of being ridiculed, deliver me, Jesus.

From the fear of being wronged, deliver me, Jesus.

From the fear of being suspected, deliver me, Jesus.

That others may be loved more than I, Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.

That others may be esteemed more than I, Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.

That, in the opinion of the world, others may increase and I may decrease, Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.

That others may be chosen and I set aside, Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.

That others may be praised and I go unnoticed, Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.

That others may be preferred to me in everything, Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.

That others may become holier than I, provided that I may become as holy as I should, Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.

I feel like I'm getting hit with a 2X4 when I read this prayer. Each line feels like its putting pressure on my tender, weak, and silly worldly desires. I think I could take any single line in the Litany, and pray on it for a week. This prayer forces my eyes to look up to heaven and rails against the silly, selfish motivations I walk around with most of the day.

But the real reason this is such a challenging prayer, is that it's not simple meant to be a personal reflection on your pride. The Litany of Humility is a series of 'asks' - we are asking out Lord to make us radically humble.

We are asking, that in the eyes of the world, that we might be unnoticed, be set aside, to be decreased, to be humiliated, to be rebuked, to be suspected, to be wronged, to be forgotten. And when we ask, God acts.

To pray intentionally for these things is a radical form of humility. That's why this is such a tough prayer.

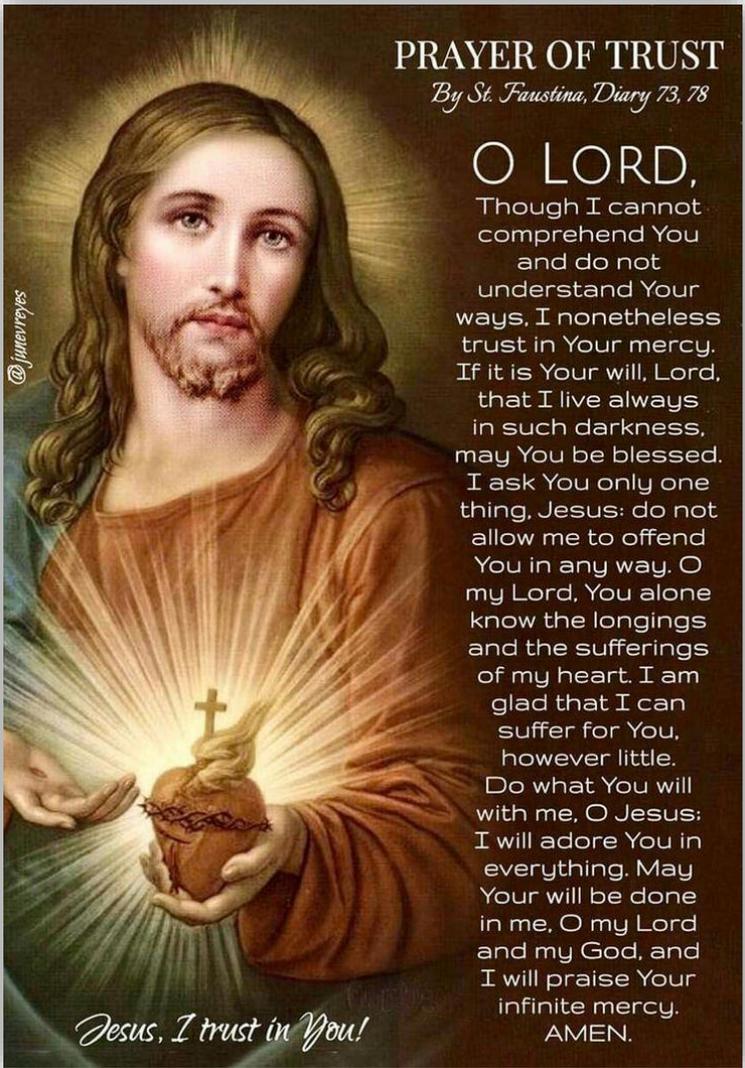
But, I want Jesus. I want to learn to be a humble follower of him. I want to walk down that road of humility to him. And I pray that God creates that same desire in your heart. So be daring! Dare to pray the wonderfully challenging Litany of Humility. But let this post serve as a warning. When you pray the Litany of Humility with real intention, expect God to act. Expect the Lord to bring about the sometimes painful, but always good opportunity to learn humility.

Expect to eat some humble pie real quick.

Litany of Humility



"He humbled Himself, becoming obedient unto death, even to the death of the cross." (Phil. 2, 8)



PRAYER OF TRUST

By St. Faustina, Diary 73, 78

O LORD,

Though I cannot comprehend You and do not understand Your ways, I nonetheless trust in Your mercy. If it is Your will, Lord, that I live always in such darkness, may You be blessed. I ask You only one thing, Jesus: do not allow me to offend You in any way. O my Lord, You alone know the longings and the sufferings of my heart. I am glad that I can suffer for You, however little. Do what You will with me, O Jesus; I will adore You in everything. May Your will be done in me, O my Lord and my God, and I will praise Your infinite mercy.

AMEN.

Jesus, I trust in You!