



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 – Nineteenth week in Ordinary Time, Yr. B:

Mon 9 Aug	Saint Teresa Benedicta of the Cross (Edith Stein)
Tue 10 Aug	Saint Lawrence, Deacon and Martyr
Wed 11 Aug	Saint Clare of Assisi
Thu 12 Aug	Saint Jane Frances de Chantal
Fri 13 Aug	Saints Pontian and Hippolytus
Sat 14 Aug	Saint Maximilian Mary Kolbe

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 28th August 2021.

We Pray For

Our sick – Noel Allport, Louise McCann, Nerisa Williams, Nathan Essey, Mira Krcma, Josephine Finneran, Marija Barclay, John Yo-un and Dan Southee.

Our deceased – Katie Brincat (27/7), Johnny Heard (20/7), David Patrick Watson (18/7), Charles Xavier ((13/7), William Winterton (8/6), Peco Mitrevski (30/6/21), Muriel Rosemary Goddard [Tyrrell] (2/7)(Paula's mother), Helen McGuirk, George Vorlicek, Lourdes Eulalia Martinez (10/6), Anne Kelly (Deborah White's mum (14/5), Betty Harkins (12/5), Frederick, Edward & Margaret M Hailwood, Margaret D Hailwood, Joyce Hailwood & Marge Heaney, Joan McEvoy and June Veronica Hailwood.

Our house bound elderly – Anne Maria and Myra

Partaking in the Eucharist commits us to others, especially the poor, teaching us to pass from the flesh of Christ to the flesh of our brothers and sisters, in whom he waits to be recognised, served, honoured and loved by us.

Pope Francis

Catechesis on the Mass 2018



ARCHBISHOP ANTHONY'S NEWSLETTER



URGENT ACTION NEEDED!

The architect of NSW's terrible abortion laws, Independent MP Alex Greenwich, has today released a bill that would introduce euthanasia and assisted suicide in this state.

There is never a good time to introduce laws that sanction the killing of our most vulnerable human beings. However, it seems that a pandemic, which is affecting the lives and livelihoods of millions of people won't stop Mr Greenwich from introducing state-sanctioned killing in New South Wales.

The community is currently accepting significant restrictions on our personal autonomy in order to protect those most at risk.

The people of NSW have already spent a month in lockdown, with many unable to visit elderly parents at home, in hospital or in aged care facilities. Our sick and elderly are already experiencing increased isolation with no definite end in sight, small business owners are struggling, as are those with reduced working hours: a pro-suicide message is not what they need to hear.

To help stop precious parliamentary time and health resources being diverted to those with a pro-death agenda, I need you to take two important steps today.

First, please sign a petition to Premier Gladys Berejiklian, asking her to reject euthanasia and assisted suicide, and instead focus parliamentary time and precious health resources on repairing the social and economic cost of this latest outbreak.

TO SIGN THE PETITION GO TO: www.no euthanasia.org.au/protect_life_nsw

Second, please email your NSW State Member of Parliament and ask them to oppose the introduction of these dangerous laws.

FIND CONTACT DETAILS FOR YOUR STATE MP HERE:

www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/members

Contact details for Alex Greenwich

Sydney Electorate Office

A	Mr Alex Greenwich, MP Ground Floor 21 Oxford Street DARLINGHURST NSW 2010
P	(02) 9267 5999
F	(02) 9267 5955
E	sydney@parliament.nsw.gov.au
W	http://www.alexgreenwich.com

Office Hours: 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday, except public holidays
The Sydney Electorate Office building is located on Ground Floor, 21 Oxford Street Darlinghurst, on the corner of Oxford and Brisbane Street close to Hyde Park.

THE ALTERNATIVE TO EUTHANASIA (AUSTRALIAN BISHOPS) – Real care, love and compassion. Please click on this link to read what the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference published: <https://www.fiamc.org/bioethics/the-alternative-to-euthanasia/>

FEAST OF MARY MACKILLOP SUNDAY AUGUST 8



No Masses will be celebrated at Mary MacKillop Place.

The Chapel remains closed,

Prayer resources are available on the website -

<https://www.marymackillopplace.org.au/feast-day-resources/>



God, through the intercession of Mary MacKillop,
we pray that the fire of your compassion will ignite many hearts.
May Mary's attentiveness to your dream inspire us.
May her energy to overcome injustice empower us.
May we, like her, make manifest your Presence in our troubled world.
We pray that the beacon of her holiness shine
as a blessing for the universal Church and our world.
We make this prayer in Jesus' name. Amen.

**“Let us do the will of God, the beautiful, wise will
of God”**

Mary MacKillop 5/31870

The above prayer is one of the many prayers available from the attached link resource from Mary MacKillop Place. You may find the resource link useful for your own, your family or group reflection.



Feast of Saint Clare of Assisi – 11 August

*May you reflect the glory of the Lord. Place your heart
in the divine substance through contemplation.
Transform your being into the image that we reflect, the
Godhead Itself. Then, you will feel what love is. Then, you
will feel the sweetness that is revealed to us through the
Spirit, what no eye has seen and no ear has heard, the
love that God has for His lovers.*

**“We become what we love and who we love shapes
what we become” – St Clare of Assisi**

Kolbe Live – “Difficult Times” - by Fr. Alfonso Bruno F.I.

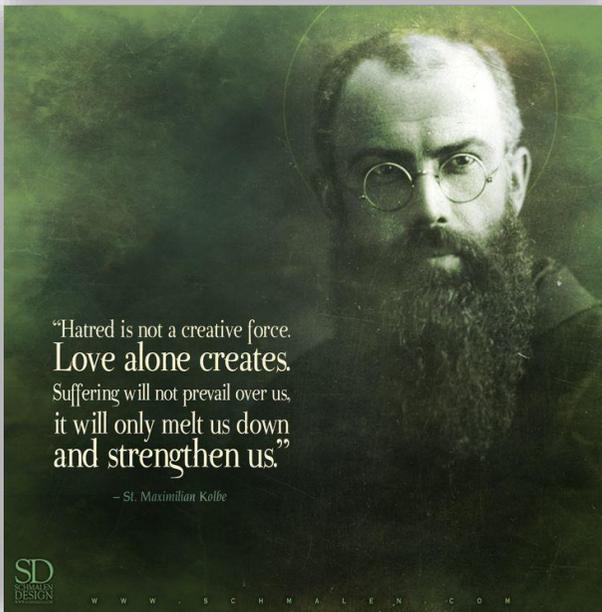
Bl. John Paul II called **St. Maximilian M. Kolbe (feast day 14 August)** “**patron of our troubled times.**” Today’s world indeed has need of such a Saint so totally the possession of Mary: all hers. Let us imagine for a moment that we are with St. Maximilian and the brothers of Niepokalanów, and that we can ask him questions about the problems of the day, discover his profound understanding of the mysteries of faith and the source of that prudence so evident throughout his holy life and death. The questions which follow are real; and the answers taken from the Saint’s writings are amazingly as fresh and relevant today as when written.

[Numbers in parentheses refer to passages in the published writings of the Saint (in Italian; SK = Scritti Kolbiani) serving as the basis for the Saint’s replies.]

Fr. Maximilian, everywhere today we hear that the times are troubled. How did this ever come about?

“The cause of the causes” of our present crisis is the lack of honesty and the shirking of responsibility. The failure to carry out our fundamental duties to God, to our neighbour and indeed to our very selves is commonplace in life today. This is simply a total

lack of genuine love, a substitution of sentiment for the reality of love and a failure to acknowledge it for what it is, an exercise in crass dishonesty. All of us, without exception, must examine our consciences and make a sincere confession and live as authentic Catholics. You would be surprised at the rapidity in the renewal of entire countries to follow on this, the stabilization of their economic-financial order



in support of all citizens and families, and their reaffirmation of the dignity of work. At the origin and core of every personal and social misery is sin. In Poland after the First World War we all began to live as lords and ladies. A great multiplication of meetings and a corresponding reduction of work-time to the level of insufficiency; all too frequent theft of public monies and little organization of work became commonplace. The Immaculate must show us the way out of the crisis. She must be present in Parliament, in Congress. Men cannot live for long if they insist on living as though God does not exist, as though Christ the Saviour has not come (SK 1119).

It's commonly said that agnosticism, religious indifference and moral relativism are the dominant modes and models of thought for the man of today...

We should carefully distinguish ordinary folk who seek God in sincerity of heart, who do good, struggle, work and suffer, from those who sow tares and project plans for a society based on rejection of moral values. The problem arises when these "spiritual delinquents" take control of education, of politics, of the media and shape public opinion, all in the name of an emancipation and a freedom indistinguishable from license. Many seek to convince themselves and others that God does not exist, even if they realize that all the scientists put together are incapable of giving life even to a miserable mosquito. Men may well be experts in so many areas of our culture, but as regards the purpose of their life and their relations with God, far from being advanced in philosophy they are behind everyone else. Many persons purchase books adequate to master the empirical sciences. But in regard to the things of God and of the Catholic religion they rely on totally inadequate sources, some suspect, and never do they take in hand that most reliable and clear volume: the Catechism of the Catholic Church (SK 1143).

Do you think we should get used to the triumph of error and of corruption?

No way! Heresy still exists, true enough, but by faith we recognize in the Immaculate her who has destroyed all heresies throughout the world. In our prayers to Mary Most Holy it seems as though this has already taken place. When the cavalry of his enemies made a false manoeuvre in preparing for battle, Napoleon would shout: "The enemy has lost!" Impenetrable are the ways of divine Providence through the Immaculate who will triumph (SK 1170).

In expecting this triumph how should men of good will dispose themselves?

Perhaps someone on the basis of my preceding observation might come to believe it is sufficient to sit down and relax: in the meantime the Immaculate will see to everything. Great faith in divine intervention in the affairs of men should not be used to excuse ourselves from making a personal commitment to live a Christian life. If we love our neighbours, we must introduce the Immaculate into their hearts, because she can bring them happiness with her truth, her goodness and beauty.

We must begin by opening the doors of our hearts to the Immaculate, allowing her to adorn us with virtue, with ardent love and to purify us from sin. Let us next seek to lead our neighbours to this happy and fruitful discovery by our good example, by good conversation and also—please don't think I'm taking advantage—by taking out a subscription to *Missio Immaculatae International*, or by making an offering to assist the missions and the poor. The Immaculate will surely not forget this and we, too, will gain an extra merit (SK 1170). As long as I live I will strive to reach the greatest number of souls in covering the globe with publications about Mary. After the Lord takes me, I hope others will carry on my mission and vocation as persons consecrated to the Immaculate, and some even as Franciscans like me.

Today we hear it said that rather than lead men to God, the maximum is done to conduct them to Hell, even by means of a hatred and fiery persecution of Christians, not excluding attempts to murder them.

Jesus said: "If they have persecuted me, they will persecute you also" (Jn 15: 20). We must not be afraid. There is nothing so beautiful than to give one's life for one's friends. Our first "friend" must be Jesus! Would that my ashes might be scattered to the four winds in order to bring Jesus to souls, to bring to them the cause of His Mother and our Mary! I remember when I was a missionary in Japan how I used to walk the way of the Martyrs of Nagasaki. A ten year old Japanese boy, Anthony by name, offered his life out of love for God, invoking the names of Jesus and Mary. As I recalled that heroic boy when walking on that path, I met two small children. The smallest, only four years old, screamed at me: "Christian Nero, monkey!" Who taught an innocent child such things? A baby does not understand whether his words are good or bad. But has the person who taught the child to curse Christ reflected well on the moral value of his conduct? Of what is Christ guilty in relation to this child? If there is no reason for cursing Christ, what does such language contribute to the happiness of this child? (SK 1178)

How would you reply to those who claim it is impossible to have respect for Catholicism and that its rules and regulations are too hard?

When we want to realize any project, we must necessarily give up everything contrary to that goal and use whatever advances its realization. Any other approach is doomed to failure. Experience shows that we appreciate more what we achieve with a great deal of effort rather than what is gained too easily. Were we to gain eternal salvation without any difficulties, we would not be able to enjoy it as much as when we must gain it by continuous work.

St. Francis gave up his palatial birthplace to embrace voluntary poverty. St. Teresa of Avila said: "Either suffer or die." She considered an existence without suffering for

love of God void of meaning. Contemplate what strength and interior consolation God offers those who, out of love for Him, do not hesitate to walk in the footsteps of Christ crucified and to crucify their natural inclinations by observing the prescriptions of His holy religion. Jesus expressly teaches that **“His yoke is sweet and His burden light”** (Mt 11: 30), thus encouraging timid souls to yoke themselves to Him and to bear the burden of His religion.

Vale Katie Brincat

(Born: Rabat, Malta, 14 February 1925 - Died: Sydney, Australia, 27 July, 2021)

Katerina/Catherine (“Katie”) Brincat arrived in Australia as a young woman from Malta in 1950. She lived at 20 Steel Street Surry Hills for over seventy years. Her husband Lawrence died in 2009. She was an involved, highly respected and well-loved parishioner of Saint Peter’s. Carrie Luke sent me the following brief tribute to Katie which I included in the homily for Katie’s Requiem Mass on Thursday 5 August: (Fr. John)

“St Peter’s was very fortunate to have Lawrie and Katie and their family (eight children) in Surry Hills. The family were very involved in the Parish: whatever the Parish Priest needed they put their hands up. They were here and participated and helped in most things when I came along to the Parish and was getting to know people and who did what in the Parish, whether it was Parish repairs, Xmas decorations and the Crib etc. They really helped with whatever the Parish Priest needed or required. Even the (Mercy) nuns got Katie to clean the convent in return for a reduction in the school fees for her eight children. Katie loved the priests and often had them dropping by to have dinners and long chats and “cuppas”. I know from my own experience that she welcomed anyone into her home over those many years she lived in Surry Hills. Dan and I came to know the family well and we send our sincere condolences to Vincent and the Brincat family (Katie has fifty-three direct descendents with her first great great grandchild being born recently, let alone her own original family and all her other relatives both here and in Malta).”

Our prayers and thoughts are with you all.
God’s blessings. Carrie Luke

Our parishioner Estela Ponce, who was in the Legion of Mary with Carrie when they would visit Katie, described Katie as “a lovely, lovely lady”. Because of the limit of ten mourners, which excluded many close relatives and friends, quite apart from anyone else, Estela stood outside the church during the Requiem Mass and prayed the Rosary for Katie on behalf of the Parish.

Act of Perfect Contrition:

O my God, I am sorry
and beg pardon for all my sins
because they have crucified my loving Saviour Jesus Christ
and most of all because they have offended your infinite goodness to me.
I firmly resolve by the help of your grace
never to offend you again
and to avoid the occasions of sin. Amen.

(This is the standard of Contrition which, together with our intention to go to the sacrament of reconciliation when we are next able to do so, ensures forgiveness for our sins. During the pandemic Pope Francis has encouraged those Catholics unable to go to the sacrament of confession to make a perfect act of contrition for the forgiveness of their sins.)

Spiritual Holy Communion:

As Fr. John mentioned in his Sunday's homily, Jesus Christ comes to us in Word and Sacrament: We always have access to Jesus as the Word of God via Sacred Scripture (see the attachment to this email or the parish website for this Sunday's readings). Moreover, when we do not have access to the Sacraments, we can make an act of perfect contrition (see homily) and a "spiritual communion".



Communion Prayers

The following prayers before and after Holy Communion may be helpful in normal times, and currently in the form of a "**spiritual communion**".

Prayers before Communion

Heavenly Father, you offer me the living and life-giving food that is Christ your Son. Humbly, I accept and I pray that this divine food may deepen, strengthen and make flourish the supernatural life in me and in all who receive Him at this Mass.

Jesus, you became the Lamb of God, the victim for our sins. May I receive you with gratitude and love. May I absorb something of your love for the Father and of your love for all; and may all of us who receive you be filled with your Spirit and become more like you.

Holy Spirit of God, abiding in me, help me to receive with great reverence and love of this gift of the Father. Help me to surrender myself to Jesus and through him to the Father, and make stronger and more conscious the bond that unites us to one another in Christ Jesus.

Prayers after Communion: Thanksgiving

Heavenly Father, You have given me this divine gift under the form of bread because you intend Him to be food for me. May, then, this living Bread give me life, his divine strength replace my weakness, his nourishment promote my spiritual health, his perfection transform me into the likeness of Jesus, Himself..

In You, Jesus, we are all united. Sharing your life, we are made one with you and with one another. How wonderful the bond that invites, how wonderful the charity that should animate us. Make my love for others a reflection of your love for us all.

May the Holy Spirit, the soul of the Mystical Body, dwell in my soul and enkindle it with the flame of true love.

Mary, Mother of Jesus and my mother, at this moment when I am so closely united with him help me to give him the love and worship that are his due. You knew him so intimately in his earthly life; you know him so wonderfully in glory: teach me to know him better:

Help me to become more like him in my thinking, in my imagining, in my desiring and in my living.

Sunday Mass collections – The parish kindly asks that we keep in mind the ongoing costs and expenses of the parish in the absence of the Sunday Mass collections. Please consider donating via i) a direct transfer to the parish church account **BSB No: 062 784 Acc. No: 100000281** or ii) by clicking on the yellow **“Support us”** button on the top right hand corner of the Homepage of the parish website.

Evangelium – This Sunday’s topic on **“Catholicism and Mental Health”** will be presented by Dr. Joanna Blades. Here are the Zoom details:

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85429524136?pwd=WUhJVlFvZ2pCZzhjMTFwQVJNZC9udz09>

Meeting ID: 854 2952 4136

Passcode: 175175

Christian Life Community (CLC) – The CLC parish group would like to invite parishioners who may like to join at 7:30 pm – 9:00pm on Tuesday 17 Aug. At this meeting the group will be led through an exercise in imaginative prayer based on a Gospel scene. Here are the Zoom details:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81252954631?pwd=TW1YdnBOVDZHWHN6UjIS-MkFsZFIyQT09>

Or to join by phone: Dial: +61 2 8015 6011

Enter meeting ID: **812 5295 4631**

Passcode: **634101**

Parishes for Mission Day – This has been postponed. 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 and lunch will be supplied.

PARISH GROUPS should meet online 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 - Tuesday: 7:30pm (fortnightly)

Young Adults – Sun 11:30 – 2:00pm (morning tea, Angelus, Evangelium & pub lunch)

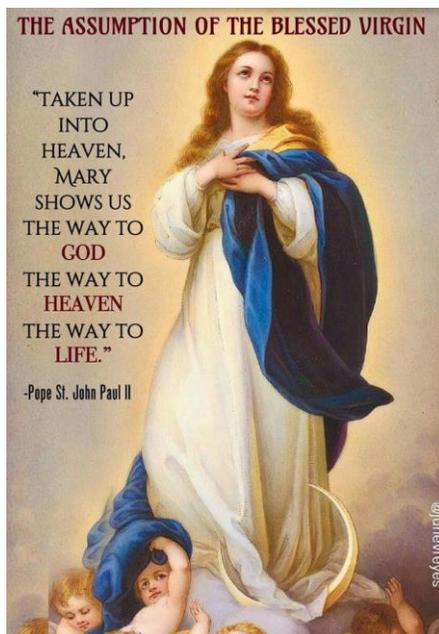
Marian Group – before mass daily

Divine Mercy Group – before mass daily

Cenacle – Church – Tuesday: 10:30 am

Liturgy Group – B16 – after Sunday lunch
Legion of Mary – To be announced

As we prepare for the **Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary** next Sunday, we pray to our Blessed Mother to keep us safe under her blue mantle and pray for her intercession to **strengthen** us in our **faith** and look to her Son with **hope** in these times of tribulation.



Safeguarding our Parish

Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with crimes are the police. If you, or anyone you know, have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding Office at 93905810 or safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.