



# 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 – Twenty-sixth week in Ordinary Time (Yr. B)

Mon 27 Sep	Saint Vincent de Paul
Tues 28 Sep	Saint Wenceslaus Saint Lawrence Ruiz and companions
Wed 29 Sep	Saints Michael, Gabriel and Raphael
Thur 30 Sep	Saint Jerome
Fri 1 Oct	Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus
Sat 2 Oct	The Holy Guardian Angels

### 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 further notice.

### We Pray For

**Our sick** – Mafalda Triolo, Aimi McEwen, baby Dio Onero, Noel Allport, Louise McCann, Nerisa Williams, Nathan Essey, Mira Krcma, Josephine Finneran, Marija Barclay, John Yo-un and Dan Southee.

**Our deceased** – Josephine (Maria Gracen's cousin) (1/9), 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.

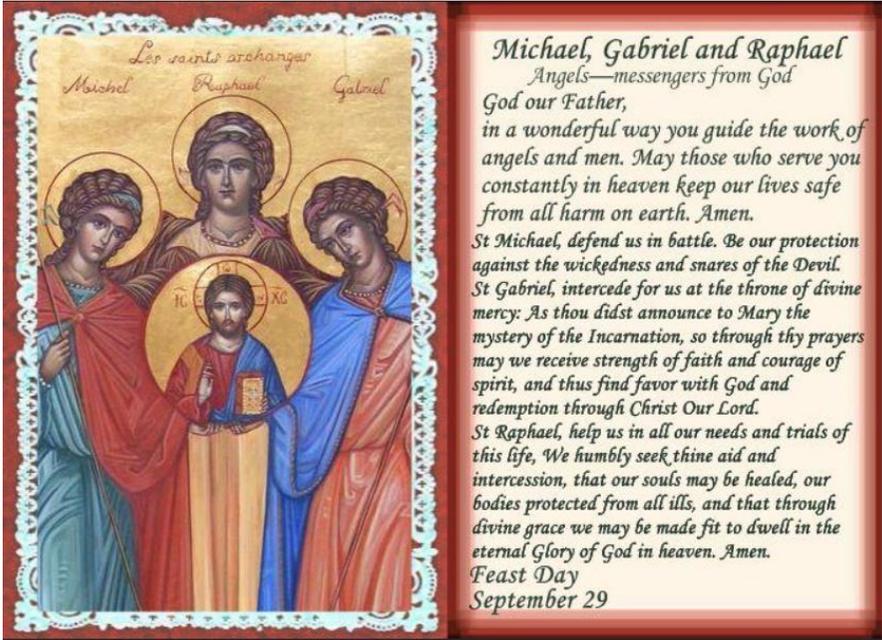
**Our house bound elderly** – Anne Maria, Myra and Robert Pearce

**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*

## Feast of the Holy Archangels (29 Sep)



## Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ (Feast of Saint Jerome 30 Sep)

*Jerome insists that ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ. A strong exhortation from a Father and Doctor of the Catholic Church urging all Christians to recognize that serious Bible study is a necessity, not an optional luxury. For Jerome's feast September 30.*

I interpret as I should, following the command of Christ: Search the Scriptures, and Seek and you shall find.

### JEROME ON IGNORANCE OF SCRIPTURE

Christ will not say to me what he said to the Jews: *You erred, not knowing the Scriptures and not knowing the power of God.* For if, as Paul says, *Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God, and if the man who does not know Scripture does not know the power and wisdom of God, then ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ.*

## JEROME ON THE PROPHET ISAIAH - (SAINT JEROME REFERRED TO ISAIAH AS A FIFTH EVANGELIST)

Therefore, I will imitate the head of a household who brings out of his storehouse things both new and old, and says to his spouse in the Song of Songs: *I have kept for you things new and old, my beloved.*

In this way permit me to explain Isaiah, showing that he was not only a prophet, but an evangelist and an apostle as well. For he says about himself and the other evangelists: How beautiful are the feet of those who preach good news, of those who announce peace. And God speaks to him as if he were an apostle: *Whom shall I send, who will go to my people?* And he answers: *Here I am; send me.*

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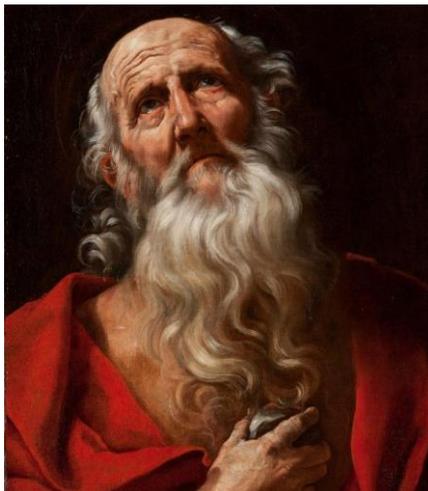
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## ALL THE MYSTERIES OF CHRIST CONTAINED IN SCRIPTURE

No one should think that I mean to explain the entire subject matter of this great book of Scripture in one brief sermon, since it contains all the mysteries of the Lord. It prophesies that Emmanuel is to be born of a virgin and accomplish marvellous works and signs. It predicts his death, burial and resurrection from the dead as the Saviour of all men. I need say nothing about the natural sciences, ethics and logic.

Whatever is proper to Holy Scripture, whatever can be expressed in human language and understood by the human mind, is contained in the book of Isaiah. Of these mysteries the author himself testifies when he writes: You will be given a vision of all things, like words in a sealed scroll. When they give the writings to a wise man, they will say: Read this. And he will reply: I cannot, for it is sealed. And when the scroll is given to an uneducated man and he is told: Read this, he will reply: I do not know how to read.  
Posted September 2020 - Crossroads Initiative



*Image by an unknown artist. Public domain.*

## **Greatness is measured by service, pope says**

Sep 20, 2021 by Cindy Wooden, NCR

**VATICAN CITY** — In God's view, human greatness is measured by how one serves or helps someone who cannot offer anything in exchange, Pope Francis said. "If we want to follow Jesus, we must follow the path he himself traced out, the path of service. Our fidelity to the Lord depends on our willingness to serve," the pope said before reciting the Angelus prayer Sept. 19 with visitors gathered in St. Peter's Square.

The day's reading from the Gospel of Mark recounted how the disciples were arguing over which of them was the greatest. Jesus admonished them and insisted, "If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all." "If you want to be first, you need to stand in line, be last and serve everyone," the pope said.

Jesus' teaching ran counter to what the disciples and most other people then and today think, he said. "The value of a person no longer depends on the role they have, the work they do, the money they have in the bank. No, no, no, it does not depend on this. Greatness and success in God's eyes are measured differently: They are measured by service. Not on what someone has, but on what someone gives."

"Do you want to be first?" the pope asked. "Serve. This is the way."

While serving another has a cost, "as our care and availability toward others grows, we become freer inside, more like Jesus," he said. "The more we serve, the more we are aware of God's presence, especially when we serve those who cannot give anything in return — the poor — embracing their difficulties and needs with tender compassion."

After reciting the Angelus, Pope Francis offered prayers for the people in Mexico's Hidalgo state, which experienced severe flooding from heavy rains in early September. He particularly remembered the 17 patients at a hospital in Tula who died when the flooding led to power outages, shutting down oxygen supplies.



### **Feast of Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus (1 Oct)**

On October 1, Catholics around the world honour the life of St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus, or St. Thérèse of Lisieux on her feast day. St. Thérèse was born January 2, 1873 in Alençon, France to pious parents, both of whom are scheduled to be canonized in October 2016. Her mother died when she was four, leaving her father and elder sisters to raise her.

On Christmas Day 1886 St. Thérèse had a profound experience of intimate union with God, which she described as a "complete conversion." Almost a year later, in a papal audience during a pilgrimage to Rome, in 1887, she asked for and obtained permission from Pope Leo XIII to enter the Carmelite Monastery at the young age of 15.

On entering, she devoted herself to living a life of holiness, doing all things with love and childlike trust in God. She struggled with life in the convent, but decided to make an effort to be charitable to all, especially those she didn't like. She performed little acts of charity always, and little sacrifices not caring how unimportant they seemed. These acts helped her come to a deeper understanding of her vocation.

She wrote in her autobiography that she had always dreamed of being a missionary, an Apostle, a martyr – yet she was a nun in a quiet cloister in France. How could she fulfil these longings?

“Charity gave me the key to my vocation. I understood that the Church had a Heart and that this Heart was burning with love. I knew that one love drove the members of the Church to action, that if this love were extinguished, the apostles would have proclaimed the Gospel no longer, the martyrs would have shed their blood no more. I understood that Love comprised all vocations, that Love was everything, that it embraced all times and places...in a word, that it was eternal! Then in the excess of my delirious joy, I cried out: O Jesus, my Love...my vocation, at last I have found it...My vocation is Love!”



Thérèse offered herself as a sacrificial victim to the merciful Love of God on June 9, 1895, the feast of the Most Holy Trinity and the following year, on the night between Holy Thursday and Good Friday, she noticed the first symptoms of Tuberculosis, the illness which would lead to her death.

Thérèse recognized in her illness the mysterious visitation of the divine Spouse and welcomed the suffering as an answer to her offering the previous year. She also began to undergo a terrible trial of faith which lasted until her death a year and a half later. “Her last words, ‘My God, I love you,’ are the seal of her life,” said Pope John Paul II.

Since her death, millions have been inspired by her ‘little way’ of loving God and neighbour. Many miracles have been attributed to her intercession. She had predicted during her earthly life that “My Heaven will be spent doing good on Earth.”

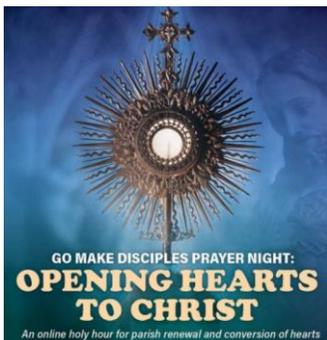
Saint Thérèse was proclaimed a Doctor of the Church by Pope John Paul II in 1997 - 100 years after her death at the age of 24. She is only the third woman to be so proclaimed, after Saint Catherine of Siena and Saint Teresa of Avila.

St. Thérèse wrote once, ‘You know well enough that Our Lord does not look so much at the greatness of our actions, nor even at their difficulty, but at the love with which we do them.’”

# FEAST OF THE HOLY GUARDIAN ANGELS (Oct 2)



## Online Holy Hour for the needs of Sydney Catholics: Thursday 30 September



The Parish Renewal Team in the Sydney Centre for Evangelisation is inviting Sydney Catholics to an online Holy Hour on Thursday 30 September, the eve of the first Friday in honour of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Feast Day of St Therese, patron saint of missionaries. St Therese knew that her daily union with Christ in prayer was the most effective help she could offer for the Church's proclamation of the Gospel.

As we await the end of lockdown, let us unite ourselves with Christ and pray that many hearts will be open to his love and granted the grace to encounter Him in this time

of challenge and to live ever more deeply as his disciples. [Registrations essential](#). -

### Online Holy Hour

Date: Thursday 30 September

Time: 7:00pm – 8:30pm

Venue: Online at [www.gomakedisciples.org.au/cas-events](http://www.gomakedisciples.org.au/cas-events)

### **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 has mentioned in an earlier 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.

**Evangelium** – Topic for this Sunday is “**The Life and Mission of the Servant of God Dorothy Day ObISB (‘Revolution of the Heart’)**” by **Jess Gereis**. Zoom details as follows:

When: Sunday 12:00 noon Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89589677354?pwd=SC9UQnk2eEVWEkwKz-ZoM3dtRks0Zz09>

Meeting ID: 895 8967 7354

Password: 793676

**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** – Sun11:30 – 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 (Thur 9:00am)

**Liturgy Group** – B16 – after Sunday lunch

Legion of Mary – To be announced

## Catholic Apps

**Youcat Daily** App: <https://www.youcat.org/>

**Pray As You Go**: <https://pray-as-you-go.org/>

Both are available for iOS and Android

**Home visits during COVID** - Fr John is available to visit parishioners in their homes in Surry Hills. This is allowable according to the lockdown regulations. If anybody would like to be visited by Fr John, or would like to recommend that he visits somebody else, please contact the Parish. Fr John also invites anybody to request a phone conversation with him. Again, simply contact the Parish and Fr John will be in touch with you.

## Special Prayer intentions requested by parishioners

The family of baby Dio is grateful for all your prayers. Baby Dio has been discharged from hospital and enjoying his warm bed at home. Please continue to keep baby Dio in your prayers for his continued healing and especially the Our Father.

Larissa is in desperate need for prayers. Larissa is suffering from pressure on her lungs and heart which could result in cardiac arrest anytime. Please remember Larissa in your prayers.

Noel Allport who has been singing at the 9:00am mass on each third Sunday continues to receive treatment. Your prayers are requested for his healing in the name of Jesus. Lord Jesus please give Noel strength, courage and comfort so as not to lose faith in your Holy name. Keep him in your heart always dear Jesus.

Please remember Aimi in your prayers as Aimi will be receiving treatment in the coming weeks.

Lord we pray that you will keep Louise in your protective hands as you are the great healer. May Louise recover well with her chemotherapy. Please continue to keep Louise in your prayers.

Please also remember David's place community in your prayers that God will bless them with peace and that they continue to trust in their faith for the Lord.

We also pray for all the mothers to be, that they will carry their baby to full term.

**Inaugural March for Life Mass: Sunday 26 September** - Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP is inviting Catholics across Sydney to demonstrate their support for a culture of life in NSW at the inaugural March for Life Mass.

Organised by the Life, Marriage and Family team, the Mass coincides with the same date two years ago when the NSW Parliament passed the Abortion Reform Act, allowing for abortion up to birth in NSW.

The Mass will be livestreamed on the St Mary's Cathedral You Tube channel here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=omSVSNtdIrg>

**Charitable Works Fund Appeal: 26 September** - Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP is inviting Catholics across Sydney to donate what you can to support the Charitable Works Fund appeal.

The appeal helps support important works for the needy including Catholic Care, Aboriginal Catholic Ministry and hospital and prison chaplaincies.

Donations can be made online here: <https://www.ourfaithourworks.org/give-to-cwf/>

### MEDIA RELEASE - **Afghan Refugee Appeal**

Sydney Catholic Archbishop, Anthony Fisher OP, has launched the Archbishop's Afghan Refugee Appeal. The appeal will raise desperately needed funds and commit the Archdiocese resources of education, health and welfare to Afghan families and individuals fleeing their homeland in the wake of the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan.

Twenty years ago Australia was one of the first nations to join the US-led intervention in Afghanistan to remove the Taliban. Over the last two decades Australia made promises to protect and promote democratic freedoms, human rights, the rule of law, the rights of women, and minority groups. Australia's commitment contributed to an education for millions of Afghan girls, women being able to work, a vibrant and free press, and improved protection for minority groups.

As the Taliban tightens its grip on the nation, these achievements are being laid to waste in plain view of the watching world.

"We are grateful the Morrison government has described its initial commitment to take 3000 friends and allies from Taliban-controlled Afghanistan as a floor and not a ceiling," Archbishop Anthony Fisher of Sydney said. "We pray that all those who need to flee to safety do make it out of the country before all avenues are closed and do find a safe haven.

"Those lucky enough to make it to Australia seeking protection will need all the support that we can give. So today I am launching the Archbishop's Afghan Asylum Appeal and committing the resources of our Catholic schools, health and welfare agencies to support our Afghan friends when they get to Australia," concluded Archbishop Anthony Fisher

"We have all watched over the last few weeks as the situation in Afghanistan and around Kabul collapsed into total chaos," said Fr Peter Smith, Promoter of Peace and Justice, Sydney Archdiocese. "And all of us have had the same

thought, 'what can I do to help?' This appeal will not only raise needed funds but will also give those who need it access to healthcare, education and welfare support as they make their home among us.

"I have been inundated by requests from people across our community to do something to help. This is that something right now. The Justice and Peace Office will work to ensure the money gets to those who need as quickly and directly as possible," concluded Fr Peter Smith.

The UN and aid agencies are preparing for a Syria scale refugee crisis. The appeal means that those who find their way to Australia will have support and resources waiting for them. These dark times remind all of us that we really are our brother and our sisters' keeper.

For further information contact Fr Peter Smith Justice and Peace Office 0408 613 709. For your donations please click here: [Archbishop's Afghan Refugee Appeal](#) For further information go to: <http://justiceandpeace.org.au/> Thank you on behalf of the Archbishop and those most vulnerable people for your support.



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**Room for rent** - Parishioner looking for a flatmate in Surry Hills which will be available from November 15. An awesome flat with its own bathroom, north facing sunny balcony, with gym in a lovely neighbourhood. \$360 weekly rent. Anthony can be contacted on 0411 098 300 for queries.



### **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](mailto:safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org). You may also want to speak with your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.