



St Peter's Church, 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-ninth week in Ordinary Time (Year B)

Mon 18 Oct	Saint Luke
Tue 19 Oct	Saints John de Brebeuf, Isaac Jogues and companions
Fri 22 Oct	Saint John Paul II
Sat 23 Oct	Saint John of Capistrano

We Pray For

Our sick – Fr Nick, Mafalda Triolo, Rose Ly-Schmitz, 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 – Philip Adam, Charles Grech (25/9), Coralie Hinkley, 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*

As we draw even closer to the reopening, I have to say that I am concerned about the potential for a disproportionate number of **unvaccinated** people (compared to the general population) coming into Saint Peter's Church and onto the Parish property **from outside of Surry Hills**. I **am not** referring to those who live in other parishes and worship here who are fully vaccinated.

My earnest request to unvaccinated people coming from outside the parish to Surry Hills is that you consider worshipping in your own parishes, that is, the parish where you have a domicile (*cf* canon 107) - at least until we get beyond the surge in COVID positive cases which has been forecast by the Premier of NSW.

Our political, public health and medical leaders continue to constantly emphasise that vaccination is the key to a safe reopening of venues, including churches, church halls and adjacent spaces. (Fr John Macdonald, Administrator)

Notwithstanding the easing of COVID restrictions from Monday 11 October, Catholic churches within the Archdiocese of Sydney will remain closed until New South Wales reaches 80% fully vaccinated – estimated date 25 October

At 80% fully vaccinated **we will open our churches and ceremonies to “mixed” congregations** (fully vaccinated, partially vaccinated and as yet unvaccinated); **the 4 sqm rule will apply, and masks must be worn indoors**. We will not be required to check a person's vaccination status. We continue to urge everyone to be vaccinated, and so to reduce their risk of serious illness or even death. We will do all that is reasonably possible to keep safe everyone who comes to church: there will **be good ventilation, social distancing, hand sanitising, no congregational singing**, etc. People who are especially vulnerable, who are vaccinated but anxious about mixing with the unvaccinated, or who are unvaccinated and do not want to risk contact with others, are free to remain at home and live-streaming of Masses from the cathedral and some parishes will continue. Although congregational singing is not permitted, we presume that a cantor or two will be allowed as before. We believe that in terms of legal liability, our compliance with the public health orders will mean that we have taken all reasonable steps to protect those who choose to gather in our churches.

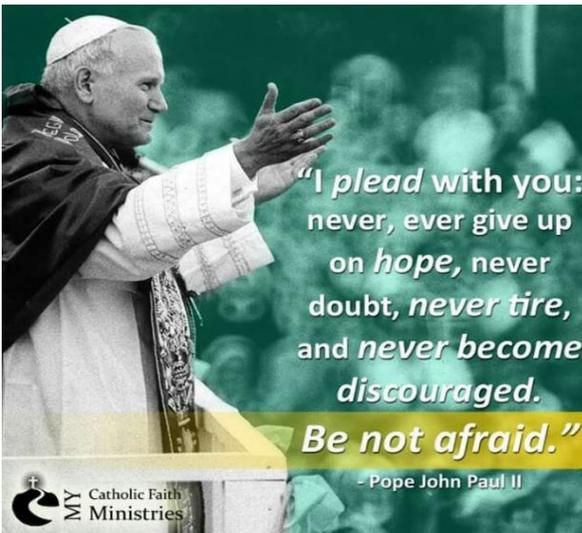
We will continue to encourage our unvaccinated faithful to be vaccinated, to provide them with good information, and to offer them particular care since they (and certain vulnerable others) will be most at risk. We will also offer particular care to those faithful who, though fully vaccinated, are anxious about congregating with a mixed congregation.

Saint Luke, Evangelist (Feast Day Monday 17 October)



Saint Luke was a Greek doctor who converted to Christianity. He was a companion of the Apostle Paul, and wrote his Gospel in accordance with Paul's teaching. He also wrote the Acts of the Apostles, which narrates the early history of the Church up to Paul's first stay in Rome. As a Greek, he takes care to explain to Gentile readers Jewish customs and the meaning of Hebrew words. Saint Luke's Greek usage is often said to be the most elegant of all the New Testament authors.

The Extraordinary and Inspiring Life of St. John Paul II (Feast Day Friday 22 October) - [Anne Stricherz](#)



Even before he was canonized, many people referred to the man who was the first Pope from Poland as St John Paul the Great. According to "[Who Were the 'Great' Popes – and Why?](#)", "only three Popes have had 'the Great' appended to their names: Pope St. Leo I (reigned 440–61), Pope St. Gregory I (590–604), and Pope St. Nicholas I (858–67). However, the Church has never officially pronounced these Popes as "great"; rather, **they have been identified as great both by popular**

acclamation at the time of their deaths and by history itself." Considering the legacy that St. John Paul II left, it's easy to understand how he too informally earned this moniker.

Born Karol Józef Wojtyła on April 18, 1920 in the Polish town of Wadowice, the late Pontiff was great in his ministry, his writing, his leadership, his vision for the Church, his holiness, his devotion to the Eucharist and Our Lady. **The most travelled Pope in history, St. John Paul II was influential in the fall of Communism in the late 80's and early 90's and radically influential in areas of human rights, political freedom and more.** Poet, playwright, actor, theologian, outdoorsman, St. John Paul II spoke 19 languages. **His ability to meet the faithful in their own communities and churches and his ability to dialogue with them in their own language reemphasized that the word catholic means "universal."** He extended the Holy

See far and beyond the walls of the Vatican to small towns, tiny villages and bustling cities throughout the globe. This blog post will examine the far from ordinary life of an extraordinary Saint, a man who may one day be officially known as “St. John Paul the Great.”

His First Words as the Holy Father

Karol Wojtyła, the Archbishop of Kraków was appointed to serve as the Bishop of Rome on October 16, 1978. **Taking the name Pope John Paul II, the Holy Father's first words were "Be Not Afraid."** I was reminded of his message this past Easter when the pastor at my parish shared the first words of not only St. John Paul II, but of the Risen Lord as well. **Jesus appeared to His disciples in the locked room and said, "Peace Be with you."** The Easter homily invited the congregation to pray with and think about the relationship between those two commands.

JPII was able to give this message—one that is echoed throughout all of scripture—because he lived with the Peace that only Christ can give.

As many people know, **on May 13, 1981 Mehmet Ali Agca tried to assassinate John Paul II** "as the pope rode in an open car in St Peter's Square. The pontiff was hit in the abdomen, left hand and right arm, but the bullets missed vital organs." **The Pope met Agca in Italy's Rebibbia prison in 1983 and forgave him for the shooting.** Truly, **the Holy Father modeled for us the importance of forgiveness** and the theological virtue of love, which enables us to do so. What many of us don't know however, is the extent to which the Polish Saint preached and practiced the first three words of his papacy.

It would have been very easy for St. John Paul II to withdraw from the world and play it safe. He could have easily limited his travel and focused his efforts on writing and the ever demanding duties of administration. **Instead, the Holy Father embraced a missionary spirit that drew him to places like Zaire, the Congo, and Cuba. He prayed in a Mosque and a synagogue, a jail cell with his assassin and in front of an armless musician, Tony Melendez, in Los Angeles. He sought to bring the message of Christ to all people.** When you have the peace that Christ has given to all of us, you need not live in fear. Be Not Afraid!

His Athleticism

Quite often, the lives of the saints seem unrelatable. We see their devotion to God and the sacrifices they made as something we could never do. But when I read about St. John Paul II's athleticism, I realized he had everyday gifts and talents just like me.

It's a well-known fact that JPII was an athlete, possibly the most athletic pontiff in history. From the article "**Pope as sportsman loved to ski, swim**", we learn that while growing up in the Polish town of Wadowice, he played goalkeeper for his local football team. **'Lolek the Goalie,' as his teammates called him, also took frequent dips in the Skawa River and played ice hockey on its surface once its waters froze in winter. Karol Wojtyła, as he went by then, would hike up mountains for nearly five hours just to ski to the bottom in ten minutes.** Unlike most of us, John Paul II didn't forget what was important to him or what made him happy.

He remained active, even after becoming pope in 1978. During the first summer of his papacy, the pope had a pool built at his summer residence at Castel Gandolfo, said

biographer George Weigel. **He also took breaks during the first 15 years of his pontificate to go skiing, hitting the slopes at 72 years young.**

To read about St. John Paul II's athletic gifts and appreciation for sports makes me love and revere him ever more. **Rather than keep him as a distant spiritual hero or as some icon, I wonder what he must have been like as a teammate, or an athlete I coach.** I want to know about times he might have been challenged by rulings, limitations and loss. **I have a sense that 'Lolek the goalie' demonstrated excellence in sportsmanship and in victory.**

So conscious was St. John Paul II of the role of sport in the modern world and in the lives of individuals, communities and societies, that he established a "Section for Sport" within the Pontifical Council of the Laity.

His Love for God's Created World

Long before Pope Francis wrote his latest encyclical on the environment— *Laudato Si: On Care For Our Common Home*, St. John Paul shared *The Ecological Crisis: A Common Responsibility* for the celebration of the World Day of Peace. **Offered on New Year's Day in 1990, the Holy Father's message urged humanity to consider that peace with all of creation is peace with God the Creator.**

St. John Paul II wrote,

"Finally, the aesthetic value of creation cannot be over-looked. **Our very contact with nature has a deep restorative power; contemplation of its magnificence imparts peace and serenity.** The Bible speaks again and again of the goodness and beauty of creation, which is called to glorify God."

St. John Paul II's loved the way that his passions of skiing, hiking and kayaking availed himself of the restorative powers of nature. **He found majesty in nature's diversity.** He said, "I write of flowers, but nature is evidenced in seascapes and mountaintops, majestic trees, flora and fauna." He named the most popular saint in the world, St. Francis of Assisi to be the patron saint of Ecology. **Indeed, St. John Paul II's life and legacy point to the gift of the creation, a reflection of the Creator.**

His Writing: In Defence of Life

St John Paul II was an outspoken voice for the unborn. **In fact he referred to abortion as an act so grave that it ought to be deemed an unspeakable crime.** The philosopher in him knew that it was important not to couch the choice of abortion as anything less than it is "the deliberate and direct killing, by whatever means it is carried out, of a human being in the initial phase of his or her existence, extending from conception to birth." **It bothered the Holy Father that our society referred to the time that a woman carries a child in her womb as "interruption of pregnancy," rather than the gift of life.**

In the 1995 Encyclical: *Human Vitae*—on Human Life, the Holy Father "**condemned a growing and widespread 'culture of death' in which moral 'crimes' such as abortion and euthanasia are viewed as individual rights.**"

St. John Paul II said, “What is urgently called for is a general mobilization of consciences and a united ethical effort to activate a great campaign in support of life. **All together, we must build a new culture of life....**”

One of the most important questions we can ask in our hearts, homes, parishes, cities, states and nation is one he urged us to answer: **How can we promote the Gospel of Life in the midst of a culture of death?**

St. John Paul II’s defence of human life was at the heart of his prodigious magisterium in the domain of Catholic Social Teaching, which considerably exceeds that of any of other pope. It is no exaggeration to say that he is the all time champion of the Church’s social magisterium. His great tome, *Centesimus annus*, reviews all the papal social encyclicals since 1891, including his own.

A Great Saint, A Great Life

The canonization of St. John Paul II took place one week after Easter—on Divine Mercy Sunday 2014. He was honoured on this great day with Saint John XXIII—the Pope who commissioned Vatican II. **Saint John Paul II’s feast day is October 22, the day he became the Holy Father, thirty-six years earlier.**

Named TIME Magazine’s Person of the Year in 1994, with time we will only gain more insight on the profound personal, spiritual, political, and historical impact one great man had on not only the Catholic Church, but the world at large. **St. John Paul II was no stranger to grief, tragedy and loss. And yet, he loved life—God’s magnificent creation in both humanity and the beauty of this world.** The world will never see another person like him, I feel blessed to have been a witness to his leadership, his message and his love.



nb: Our celebration next Friday of the feast of Saint John Paul II reminds us of the plaque in honour of his 1986 visit to Sydney, which is located to the right of our shrine of Mary Help of Christians.

[This Catholic Life podcast on euthanasia with Archbishop Fisher](#)

As one of the world's leading bioethicists, Archbishop Fisher is widely respected for his contribution to public debate on pro-life issues such as euthanasia.

Archbishop Fisher will speak specifically about some of his deep concerns about the proposed euthanasia laws in NSW in an episode of the popular podcast, *This Catholic Life*, which will be available from Thursday 14 October

here: <https://www.catholicweekly.com.au/category/podcasts/>

Please share this news with your parishioners. A social tile to promote the episode is available [here](#).

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 – This Sunday **Jacqui Carias** will be presenting on ‘**The life of Saint Oscar Romero, Archbishop of San Salvador**’.

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=SC9UQnk2eIEvWEkwKzZoM3dtRks0Zz09>

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 – 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 (Thur 9:00am)

Liturgy Group – B16 – after Sunday lunch

Legion of Mary – To be announced

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

We continue to pray that the contentious Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill actively promoted by NSW MP Alex Greenwich will not be supported by the Lower House. We ask Our Lady of Guadalupe to intercede for us.

Baby Dio's grandmother is grateful for our prayers as she had received positive news from the paediatrician.

We continue to pray for Larissa who is suffering from pressure on her lungs and heart which could result in cardiac arrest anytime.

Gabriella is very grateful for our continued prayers for Noel. Noel has received good news from his oncologist. Noel still suffers constant pain but is very appreciative of our prayers. Please remember Noel in your prayers.

We continue to keep Aimi and Louise in our prayer for their recovery and healing.

Our prayers for David's place community that the Lord will bless and comfort those who are isolated will experience Christ love.

For all mothers to be, we pray they will carry their baby to full term.

For all the special intentions in our hearts, we ask Our Lady of the Rosary to intercede for us and pray our continual healing and conversion. May we always turn to Christ as our light.

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.

OCTOBER MONTH OF ROSARY

To recite the rosary
is nothing other than
to contemplate with
Mary the face of
Christ.

- Saint John Paul II



St. Therese of Lisieux's Prayer for Priests

O Jesus, eternal Priest,
keep your priests within the shelter of Your Sacred Heart,
where none may touch them.
Keep unstained their anointed hands,
which daily touch Your Sacred Body.
Keep unsullied their lips,
daily purpled with your Precious Blood.
Keep pure and unearthly their hearts,
sealed with the sublime mark of the priesthood.
Let Your holy love surround them and
shield them from the world's contagion.
Bless their labours wit abundant fruit and
may the souls to whom they minister be their joy and
consolation here and in heaven their beautiful and
everlasting crown.



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. 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.