



St Peter's Church, Surry Hills

235-241 Devonshire St (between Crown and Marlborough Streets),

Parish phone: (02) 9698 1948

Email: admin@stpeterssh.org.au

Website: www.stpeterssurryhills.org.au



Fr. John Macdonald, Administrator

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

Feast Days – Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time – (Year C)

Sun 27 Feb

Saint Gabriel of Our Lady of Sorrows

Wed 2 Mar

Ash Wednesday (*fast and abstinence*)

Sunday Masses: 9:00am and 10:30am (Sung Mass)

Daily Mass: **Mon:** 7:30am **Tue to Sat:** 10:00am

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction: **Fri:** 6:00pm – 7:00pm

Confessions: **Fri:** 6:00pm – 6:45pm; **Sat:** 9:30am - 10:00am

Holy Rosary: Daily before Mass

Stations of the Cross: Fridays after Mass during Lent

We Pray For:

Our sick and injured: Maria de Los Angeles ('Angelines') Agudo, Nerisa Williams, Josephine Finneran, Ana Teresa Rodrigues, Mafalda Triolo, Aimi McEwen, Louise McCann, Marija Barclay, John Yo-un, Dan Southee, Matic (baby).

Our deceased: Neville Stapleton, Damien Carroll ((31/1), Julian Ciappara (28/1), Joanna and Tadeusz Wolski (17/1), Rolando (Sr Asunta Marie's brother) (9/1)), Robert Armstrong, Alan Davidson, Peter Hanrahan, Marisa Mandelli (23/11), 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: Shirley Kennedy, Anna Maria, Myra Krcma

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

Lent begins next Wednesday (Ash Wednesday - 2 March)

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fast and abstinence. The law of fasting binds those who have completed their eighteenth year, until the beginning of their sixtieth year; the law of abstinence binds those who have completed their fourteenth (CCL 97, 1251f)

Lent is a penitential season of prayer, self-denial and helping others. In this way, the whole Church prepares for Easter with those who are to be baptised. Other celebrations in Lent (e.g. marriage) must take account of the spirit of penance: musical instruments are only used to sustain singing, and floral decorations are very simple.

Catholics are obliged to receive Holy Communion at least once a year, in Australia and New Zealand between Ash Wednesday and Trinity Sunday.

Pope Francis declares Ash Wednesday a day of fasting and prayer for peace in Ukraine

Gerard O'Connell (America Magazine) February 23, 2022

Pope Francis made a heartfelt appeal for peace in Ukraine at his public audience in the Vatican on Feb. 23 as the situation continued to deteriorate between Russia and Ukraine. He appealed to the consciences of “those with political responsibility” and “all the parties involved” to “refrain from any action that would cause even more suffering to the people, destabilizing coexistence between nations and bringing international law into disrepute.” He also appealed “to everyone, believers and nonbelievers alike” to make March 2—Ash Wednesday—“a day of prayer and fasting for peace.”

Francis looked distressed, his voice betraying emotion, as he addressed hundreds of pilgrims from around the world in the Vatican's Paul VI Audience Hall this morning. He had been briefed on the alarming crisis and the threat that Russia would invade Ukraine, a nation of 44 million people that gained its



independence in 1991 following the collapse of the Soviet Union. Ukraine is the second-largest country in Europe by area, after Russia.

On Monday, Feb. 21, Vladimir Putin, the president of the Russian Federation, announced that his country was recognizing two breakaway republics—Donetsk and Lukarsk—in the Donbas region in the south eastern part of Ukraine that shares a border with Russia. The two republics have a predominantly ethnically Russian population. President Putin's decision, in violation of international law, drew widespread condemnation from most countries in the world and risked sparking a war if, as he promised, he were to send Russian

troops into the two republics “to protect the peace.” Already more than 150,000 Russian troops, aircraft and naval vessels are amassed around Ukraine, including 30,000 in Belarus in what is now the largest gathering of the military forces in Europe since World War II. The Russian president wants Ukraine to formally agree not to join NATO nor host weapons that could be a threat to his country. He also wants Ukraine and the international community to accept that the two breakaway republics are no longer part of Ukraine.

Mr. Putin’s decision has already caused the United States, the United Kingdom and the 27 countries of the European Union to impose a first round of economic sanctions on Russia, with the promise of even stronger sanctions if Russia invades Ukraine. The crisis has caused turbulence in international markets and is provoking a rise in the price of gas, oil and other commodities.

“My heart aches greatly at the worsening situation in Ukraine,” Pope Francis remarked today. “Despite the diplomatic efforts of the last few weeks, increasingly alarming scenarios are opening up,” he said, “and like me, many people all over the world are feeling anguish and concern. Once again the peace of all is threatened by partisan interests.”

For weeks now, diplomatic efforts involving European leaders from Germany, France and Britain, as well as from the United States, have failed to work out a diplomatic solution to the crisis. Yesterday, diplomatic efforts seemed to collapse with the decision of U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and President Joe Biden not to meet with their Russian counterparts.

Today, Pope Francis made a personal plea to political leaders, saying, “I would like to appeal to those with political responsibility to examine their consciences seriously before God, who is the God of peace and not of war; who is the Father of all, not just of some, who wants us to be brothers and not enemies.”

Pope Francis called on all people, “believers and nonbelievers alike,” to pray and fast for peace next Wednesday, March 2, which for most Christians is also Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent. “Jesus taught us that the diabolical senselessness of violence is answered with God’s weapons, with prayer and fasting,” the pope said. “I encourage believers in a special way to dedicate themselves intensely to prayer and fasting on that day.”

He concluded with a prayer: “May the Queen of Peace preserve the world from the madness of war.”

Meanwhile in Kyiv, the capital of Ukraine, a city of 2.8 million people, the Major Archbishop of the country’s Greek-Catholic Church, His Beatitude Sviatoslav Shevchuk, in a message made public today, denounced Russia’s violation of international law by recognizing the two breakaway republics and called on his fellow Ukrainian citizens to defend their country. He said: “To defend our fatherland is our natural right and our civic duty. We are strong when we stand together. The moment has now arrived to unite our forces to defend the independence, the territorial integrity and the sovereignty of the [Ukrainian] state. It is the duty and responsibility of all humanity to commit itself today to prevent the war and [to] protect a just peace.”

The president of the German bishops' conference, Bishop Georg Baetzing, also expressed today the German bishops' solidarity with Ukraine and criticized the "aggression" by Russia, "which wants to expand its sphere of rule," KNA, the German Catholic news agency, reported. Bishop Baetzing called for prayers for peace and for all people suffering the consequences of this aggression.

The president of the Polish bishops' conference, Archbishop Stanislaw Gadeckis, sent a letter to Christian leaders in Russia and Ukraine calling on them to join in prayer for peace. He recalled that Poland, Russia and Ukraine have "a common history and Christian faith" and should "tend not to hatred, but to mutual respect and friendship."

Archbishop Gadeckis also called on Catholics and people of goodwill in Poland to welcome Ukrainian refugees seeking shelter in the country. "Everyone has the right to live in peace and security," the archbishop wrote. "Everyone has the right to seek, for themselves and their loved ones, safe living conditions."

Saint Gabriel of Our Lady of Sorrows' Story (Feast day – 27 Feb)

Born in Italy into a large family and baptized Francis, Saint Gabriel lost his mother when he was only four years old. He was educated by the Jesuits and, having been cured twice of serious illnesses, came to believe that God was calling him to the religious life. Young Francis wished to join the Jesuits but was turned down, probably because of his age, not yet 17. Following the death of a sister to cholera, his resolve to enter religious life became even stronger and he was accepted by the Passionists. Upon entering the novitiate he was given the name Gabriel of Our Lady of Sorrows.

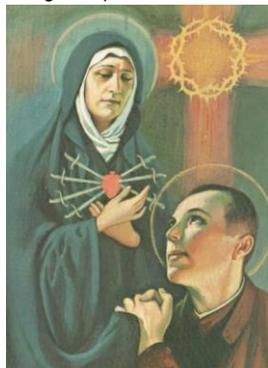
Ever popular and cheerful, Gabriel quickly was successful in his effort to be faithful in little things. His spirit of prayer, love for the poor, consideration of the feelings of others, exact observance of the Passionist Rule as well as his bodily penances—always subject to the will of his wise superiors—made a deep impression on everyone.

His superiors had great expectations of Gabriel as he prepared for the priesthood, but after only four years of religious life symptoms of tuberculosis appeared. Ever obedient, he patiently bore the painful effects of the disease and the restrictions it required, seeking no special notice. He died peacefully on February 27, 1862, at age 24, having been an example to both young and old.

Saint Gabriel of Our Lady of Sorrows was canonized in 1920.

Reflection

When we think of achieving great holiness by doing little things with love and grace, Therese of Lisieux comes first to mind. Like her, Gabriel died painfully from tuberculosis. Together they urge us to tend to the small details of daily life, to be considerate of others' feelings every day. Our path to sanctity, like theirs, probably lies not in heroic doings but in performing small acts of kindness every day.



Saint Gabriel of Our Lady of Sorrows is a Patron Saint of: Clergy, Students, Young People