



## 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 – Second Sunday of Lent (Year C/2)

Thurs 17 Mar Saint Patrick

Fri 18 Mar Saint Cyril of Jerusalem

Sat 19 Mar Saint Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

**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 ('Angelina') 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:** Moira Welch, Bennett Alexander Schwartz, Sebastian Gomes, Neville Stapleton, Damien Carroll ((31/1), Julian Ciappara (28/1), Joanna and Tadeusz Wolski (17/1), Rolando (Sr Asunta Marie's brother) (9/1)), Frederick, Edward & Margaret M Hailwood, Margaret D Hailwood, Joyce Hailwood & Marge Heaney, Joan McEvoy and June Veronica Hailwood, Philomena Smith (11/3).

**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*

## From Archbishop Anthony

These past weeks, the world has looked on with horror at the events unfolding in Ukraine. A brave, sovereign, peaceful and democratic country is being overrun by a rapacious, imperial power that aims to decapitate its peaceful neighbour and replace its democratically-elected government with a puppet regime. Thousands have died as a result and we are currently seeing the largest movement of refugees across Europe since the Second World War.

Pope Francis has asked all Christians to pray and fast for an end to the war and for the safety of our sisters and brothers of Ukraine-and indeed of Russia. At St Mary's Cathedral and in parishes across the Archdiocese of Sydney, we have joined in prayers for peace. Last weekend, our cathedral was also lit up in Ukrainian colours, as a mark of our solidarity with the people suffering under Russia's brutal invasion. In a very tangible way, we can also support those suffering in Ukraine through the Caritas Ukraine appeal to ensure as much humanitarian aid as possible reaches those in need. I encourage you to donate to this appeal if you can and you can donate online here: <https://www.caritas.org.au/donate/ukraine-appeal/>

With my prayers for a fruitful Lent,



### **Cardinal Krajewski in Ukraine: "With prayer we can stop the war"-** (Vatican News, 10 March 2022)

Cardinal Konrad Krajewski presides at an interfaith prayer service for peace in the Cathedral of Lviv, at noon on Thursday. Amongst the participants were the representatives of different Churches and religious communities in Ukraine.

The interfaith prayer service in Lviv's Cathedral was attended by the two Catholic Archbishops of Ukraine: Metropolitan Archbishop of Lviv Mieczyslaw Mokrzycki and the head of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church Sviatoslav Shevchuk. Orthodox bishops were also present, including those who recognize the sovereignty of the Patriarchate of Moscow.

Speaking after the prayer service, Cardinal Krajewski who is in Ukraine to bring Pope Francis' closeness to the suffering people, said the Church in Ukraine is united.

"A divided Church is a scandal," he said, noting that "Today we were all united, everyone prayed together and asked God for peace, according to the Gospel."

Describing the choral prayer as rising "like the smoke of the incense," the Cardinal said "this is our strength" and he expressed his wish to "pass on this power and strength to the Ukrainian people."

"Through faith, we can move mountains. I believe in that. Even more so to stop a stupid war," he said.

**The Pope's Almoner in Ukraine** - During the afternoon, the Pope's envoy visited the Ukrainian-Polish border crossing of Rawa Ruska-Hrebenne, where he inquired about the situation there and met with volunteers who are helping refugees waiting to cross the border.

Last night he prayed with the refugees at the Parish of St. John Paul II in Lviv and had dinner with them.

**Cardinal Czerny: A Journey of Prayer, Prophecy and Denunciation** - Cardinal Michael Czerny SJ,  
(Vatican News, 8 March 2022)

The Prefect ad interim of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development departs on his journey to meet with Ukrainian refugees and displaced persons and those who assist them. In this article, published in the Jesuit publication "Aggiornamenti Sociali" he reflects on the mandate given to him by Pope Francis and on his task to bring closeness and solidarity. Mine is a journey of prayer, prophecy and denunciation. I leave Rome on March 8 to reach Budapest and I will continue by meeting refugees and displaced persons, and those who welcome and assist them. Meanwhile, Card. Konrad Krajewski, papal almoner, has already reached Poland and will do the same in the regions on the border with Ukraine. The hope is that we can cross the border in the following days and enter Ukraine, but this will depend on the evolution of the situation. The Holy See - Pope Francis said it with great force in the Angelus of Sunday, March 6 - "is ready to do everything, to put itself at the service of this peace." Of this willingness my mission in Ukraine is a sign and my task is to bring to those who suffer the presence and closeness not only of the Pope, but of all the Christian people.

I go to see directly what the situation is, and I hope to be able to bring some material help, but I go above all to meet people, to be with them. This is the prophecy of a presence and a closeness that may appear weak, even insignificant according to the logic of the world and the force of arms. However, this is not the case; being close to his people, to his children who suffer, is the way that God has chosen to enter into the history of the world, even at the cost of ending up on the cross. A symbol of this style of God is the great wooden crucifix that in recent days - we have all seen the images with emotion - was moved from the Armenian Cathedral of Lviv and taken to a bunker in the hope of saving it from the fury and madness of war. Just as in bunkers, cellars and even improvised shelters there are many people who address their prayers to that crucified Lord.

For this reason I am sure that mine will be a journey of prayer: the Pope's, mine and that of my two companions, one from the Dicastery for Communication and the other from the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, that of all those who will accompany us in this way, but above all the prayer of the people we will meet, a prayer that - as the book of Sirach teaches - "pierces the clouds", because God "hears the grievance of the oppressed. He does not forsake the cry of the orphan, nor the widow when she pours out her complaint." These people share the gift of their closeness to God with those who meet them, with those who are willing to live the sacrament of their presence, bringing the word of the Gospel and concrete support. The gesture of charity of those who welcome them becomes an opportunity to corroborate the faith that unites us and nourish the common hope that a world without war is possible, that violence and death do not have the last word. This is the mystery of Easter for which we are preparing this Lent.

For this reason, I will meet and bring the closeness of the Pope and the Church also to the people engaged, in so many different ways, in actions of welcome: a silent and unarmed army, committed to rebuilding that humanity which weapons try to destroy. Their hands are the hands of the whole Christian people, indeed the very hands of God.

Faith is not absent from the tragedy Ukraine is experiencing, because it is in the hearts of the people fleeing the war: most of them are believers, as are many who welcome them, and it is important that all those who wish to receive religious assistance should be able to do so, while

respecting the differences between the various confessions and religions. In my journey I will also strive for this.

Finally, mine will also be a journey of denunciation. The story of the Ukrainian refugees is well known, unfolding according to the dramatic script of too many conflicts that bloody our world, often forgotten. With the same rapidity with which in a few days millions of people have had to abandon their homes, news is already coming in that the machine of human trafficking and smuggling of migrants has been set in motion at the borders and in the countries of first reception. To the drama of war and displacement is added that of slavery. In the mission that our small delegation will carry out, we will pay great attention to this issue, as well as to another equally painful point: the marginalization and sometimes rejection suffered by Africans and Asians who lived in Ukraine and are now fleeing together with the rest of the population. This is a difficult issue to address at such a tense time, yet extremely urgent. We are all children of one Father and brotherhood knows no borders: this is the meaning of the embrace of the Pope and of the Church that I bring to all those I will meet.

**Ukrainian priest in Kyiv: 'We will not leave our people'** – Devin Watkins (Vatican News, 8 March 2022)

As Russian troops continue their devastating invasion of Ukraine, a missionary Catholic priest describes his community's efforts to carry on offering spiritual and material assistance to parishioners in Kyiv.

**"Oblates do not leave people, even until the end."**

As Russian artillery pounds Ukrainian cities in hopes of softening up resistance, Fr. Pavlo Vyshkovskiy, OMI refuses to entertain the notion of abandoning the faithful entrusted to his care. The missionary now serves as the parish priest of St. Nicholas Catholic Church in the capital, Kyiv. Speaking to Vatican News from his parish in Kyiv, Fr. Pavlo said his community is helping people with basic necessities like food, as well as providing them spiritual comfort in the face of

the horrors of war.

***"We see that many, many people who did not believe before are now searching for God. They come to us, and receive the Sacraments for the first time."***

Spiritual strength

Life in Ukraine has obviously been turned upside down. Fr. Pavlo pointed to an awareness that "each night could be your last."



Fr. Pavlo Vyshkovskiy with a load of supplies for distribution

***"People are losing their parents, their children, their mums, their dads, everyday."***

Fr. Pavlo said he and his brother Oblates have begun broadcasting daily Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, and the Liturgy of the Hours on Facebook for parishioners holed up in their homes around Kyiv. "They are very grateful, because for them these are difficult times, especially those who cannot go out," he said.

Catholic men from the parish, he added, often come briefly to Mass to receive Holy Communion, before returning to their posts "to defend our country."

Food assistance: The Ukrainian-born Oblate priest said that getting food was hardest at the outbreak of the war on 24 February, but that some supplies have come through recently.

Having received some aid from abroad, Fr. Pavlo shares whatever foodstuffs are available, with some parishioners taking from their own meagre supplies to help others. As of Tuesday, he was awaiting a shipment of potatoes and vegetables from the western city of Lviv, which would then distribute.

Serving until the end: Many people have fled Ukrainian cities, with the UN saying Tuesday that over 2 million have left the country. The Oblates have even given some parishioners car rides out of Kyiv. But for those who remain, the missionary priests will continue their service, as they have in cities like Chernihiv, near Chernobyl, and Mariupol, which have been taken by Russian forces. Oblates in Chernihiv are hosting around 19 people in their community house.

There are 10 Oblate communities around Ukraine with 30 Missionaries total, according to Fr. Pavlo, who recently finished his term as the Superior of the Oblate Delegation in Ukraine.

Appeal for prayers for Ukraine: Fr. Pavlo concluded with a heartfelt appeal for everyone to pray for peace in Ukraine, saying that people have recounted miracles, such as bombs not exploding and people with “extraordinary power” despite not having slept for 11 days.

***“We feel the support of God. We need your prayer and support for peace in Ukraine. I hope that this peace which Jesus said He would give us will console us.”***



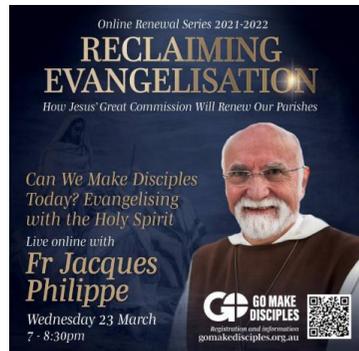
**Fr. Jacques Philippe to Address the Archdiocese of Sydney | Live**

**Online | Wednesday 23 March 2022 | 7 – 8:30pm**

The renowned author, international speaker and spiritual director will address the faithful of Sydney on the topic, ‘Can we make disciples? Evangelising with the Holy Spirit.’

This third event in the *reclaiming evangelisation* series will explore the relationship between prayer, reliance on the Holy Spirit and living as disciples within our parishes.

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



**Prepare for St. Patrick's Day with this powerful novena (Feast day 17 Mar):** Philip Kosloski - published on 03/08/18

Don't forget to invoke the great intercessory power of St. Patrick on March 17.

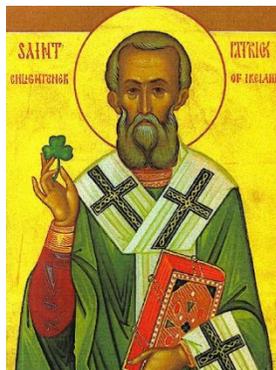
St. Patrick's Day is one of the most widely celebrated feast days for both secular and religious reasons. Unfortunately, among all the shamrocks and green beer, it is easy to forget the spiritual powerhouse behind March 17.

St. Patrick was a great saint, highly revered for his holiness and humility. While many know him as the one who “banished snakes” from Ireland, he did much more than that. St. Patrick cast out darkness from Ireland and set the Emerald Isle on fire with the light of Jesus Christ. It is not surprising that since then Ireland has been called the “land of saints and scholars,” for the great number of saints who came from the small country.

The great "Apostle of Ireland" is also known for his powerful intercession over the centuries. He continues to intercede for the world and is ready to take our petitions straight to our Heavenly Father.

Below is a beautiful novena to St. Patrick, prayed with faith on the nine days preceding March 17. As you pray, entrust your petitions to St. Patrick and open your heart to God's will.

*O great apostle of Ireland, glorious Saint Patrick, to whom under God so many are indebted for the most precious of all treasures, the great gift of faith, receive our fervent thanks for the zeal and charity that have been to thousands the blessings so invaluable. We ask your intervention in receiving [Mention your intentions here] Ask for all who dwell in this land and the land of thy labours the precious light of Faith, and beg for us on whom its glorious rays have long since beamed, the grace to regulate our lives by its sacred maxims. Amen.*



**Why is the Feast of Saint Joseph on 19 March?** (Feast day 19 Mar), Philip Kosloski, Aleteia, March 18, 2019

Devotion to St. Joseph, husband of Mary, can be traced back to the beginning of the Church, with a local feast dedicated to St. Joseph confirmed in Egypt as early as the 4th century. One of the earliest dates for honouring St. Joseph was July 20.

However, a commemoration of St. Joseph was soon added to the Byzantine calendar on December 26. Many Eastern Churches continue this celebration, mentioning Joseph as "Holy Righteous Joseph the Betrothed." According to the [Orthodox Church](#), "Saint Joseph is commemorated on the Sunday after the Nativity. If there is no Sunday between December 25 and January 1, his Feast is moved to December 26." This celebration of Joseph puts him near the



feast of Christ's birth, December 25, an event he was present for, according to the Gospel accounts.

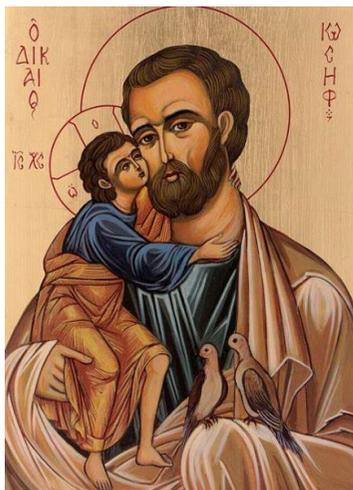
In the Western Church, the feast of St. Joseph wasn't fixed until the 15th century. According to some traditions, March 19 was the day of

Joseph's death, though there is little evidence to support it, as it is unclear when Joseph died. It is certain that he was present when Jesus was 12 and "lost in the Temple" but there is no mention of him at the beginning of Jesus' ministry, say at the wedding in Cana, when Our Lord turned the water to wine.

The Bible is entirely silent about his death and as a result, the Church relies on oral traditions passed down over the centuries.

This placement of St. Joseph in March puts him in proximity to another biblical episode where he is directly mentioned. On March 25 the Church commemorates the Annunciation of the Lord, when the angel Gabriel visited the Blessed Virgin Mary. As the Gospel of Matthew narrates, “before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to send her away quietly” (Matthew 1:18-19).

While this biblical event happened after the Annunciation, other biblical characters associated with the Annunciation are similarly commemorated before March 25, such as St. Gabriel on March 24. In any case, the primary focus of the feast on March 19 is revealed in the liturgical title, “Joseph, Husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary.” **This solemnity — with the highest liturgical ranking accorded to saints — honour his commitment to Mary and dedication as a faithful and devoted husband. St. Joseph’s Day is a beautiful feast, one that is beloved and cherished by Catholics around the world.**



## Month of March is dedicated to Saint Joseph

### Prayer to St. Joseph

Oh St. Joseph whose protection is so great, so strong, so prompt before the Throne of God, I place in you all my interests and desires.

Oh St. Joseph do assist me by your powerful intercession and obtain for me from your Divine Son all spiritual blessings through Jesus Christ, Our Lord; so that having engaged here below your Heavenly power I may offer my Thanksgiving and Homage to the most Loving of Fathers. Oh St. Joseph, I never weary contemplating you and Jesus asleep in your arms. I dare not approach while He reposes near your heart.

Press Him in my name and kiss His fine Head for me, and ask Him to return the kiss when I draw my dying breath.

St. Joseph, Patron of departing souls, pray for us. Amen

## Saint Cyril of Jerusalem (Feast day 18 Mar) – Franciscan Media

The crises that the Church faces today may seem minor when compared with the threat posed by the Arian heresy, which denied the divinity of Christ and almost overcame Christianity in the fourth century. Cyril was to be caught up in the controversy, accused of Arianism by Saint Jerome, and ultimately vindicated both by the men of his own time and by being declared a Doctor of the Church in 1822.

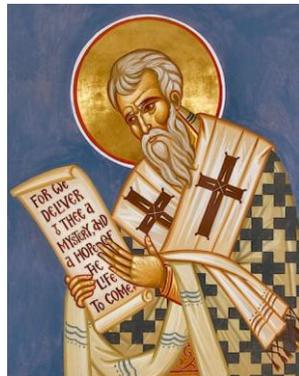
Raised in Jerusalem and well-educated, especially in the Scriptures, he was ordained a priest by the bishop of Jerusalem and given the task during Lent of catechizing those preparing for Baptism and catechizing the newly baptized during the Easter season. His *Catecheses* remain valuable as examples of the ritual and theology of the Church in the mid-fourth century.

There are conflicting reports about the circumstances of his becoming bishop of Jerusalem. It is certain that he was validly consecrated by bishops of the province. Since one of them was an Arian, Acacius, it may have been expected that his “cooperation” would follow. Conflict soon rose between Cyril and Acacius, bishop of the rival nearby see of Caesarea. Cyril was summoned to a council, accused of insubordination and of selling Church property to relieve the

poor. Probably, however, a theological difference was also involved. He was condemned, driven from Jerusalem, and later vindicated, not without some association with and help from Semi-Arians. Half his episcopate was spent in exile; his first experience was repeated twice. He finally returned to find Jerusalem torn with heresy, schism and strife, and wracked with crime. Even Saint Gregory of Nyssa, who was sent to help, left in despair.

They both went to the Council of Constantinople, where the amended form of the Nicene Creed was promulgated in 381. Cyril accepted the word *consubstantial*—that is, Christ is of the same substance or nature as the Father. Some said it was an act of repentance, but the bishops of the Council praised him as a champion of orthodoxy against the Arians. Though not friendly with the greatest defender of orthodoxy against the Arians, Cyril may be counted among those whom Athanasius called “brothers, who mean what we mean, and differ only about the word *consubstantial*.”

**Reflection:** Those who imagine that the lives of saints are simple and placid, untouched by the vulgar breath of controversy, are rudely shocked by history. Yet, it should be no surprise that saints, indeed all Christians, will experience the same difficulties as their Master. The definition of truth is an endless, complex pursuit, and good men and women have suffered the pain of both controversy and error. Intellectual, emotional, and political roadblocks may slow up people like Cyril for a time. But their lives taken as a whole are monuments to honesty and courage.



### Sunday 10.30am Mass Readers' Roster

First Sunday: 6 March	Michael and Gloria Walker
Second Sunday: 13 March	James and Geneviève McCaughan
Third Sunday: 20 March	Jessica Gereis and Fiorella Vayda
Fourth Sunday: 27 March	John and Patricia O'Brien

First Sunday: 3 April	Alex Leech and Alexandra Vella
Second Sunday: 10 April	Brendan Byrne and Theresa Coyle
Third Sunday: 17 April	David Larkin and Sarah Moody
Fourth Sunday: 24 April	John and Susannah McCaughan

(If there is a fifth Sunday of the month, readers will be arranged *ad hoc* for that day.)

**NB** If you are unable to read on your rostered Sunday, and you have been unable to find a replacement, please contact the parish office.

Other parishioners are welcome to contact the office if they wish to read at either of the Sunday Masses.