



## 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](mailto:admin@stpeterssh.org.au)

Website: [www.stpeterssurryhills.org.au](http://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 – Third Sunday of Lent (Year C/2)

Wed 23 Mar

Saint Turibius of Mogrovejo

Fri 25 Mar

The Annunciation of the Lord

**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:** Daniel Vieira, 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:** Grace Maralyn Molyneux (13/3), Lina Mangion (26/2), Moira Welch, Bennett Alexander Schwartz, Sebastian Gomes, Neville Stapleton, Damien Carroll ((31/1), Julian Ciappara (28/1), 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,



### Pope to Russian Patriarch: 'Church uses language of Jesus, not of politics' – Vatican News, 16 March 2022

Pope Francis holds a video call with Russian Orthodox Patriarch Kirill to discuss the war in Ukraine, and calls on Church leaders to use the language of Jesus, not that of politics.



Pope Francis and Patriarch Kirill speak by video call

Metropolitan Hilarion of Volokolamsk, Head of the External Relations Department of the Moscow Patriarchate, also attended the meeting.

War in Ukraine: The statement said their conversation focused “on the war in Ukraine and on the role of Christians and their pastors in doing everything to ensure that peace prevails.”

Pope Francis thanked the Patriarch for the meeting, motivated by the desire to point out, as shepherds of their people, a path to peace, to pray for the gift of peace and for a ceasefire.

The Pope said, in agreement with the Patriarch, that **"The Church must not use the language of politics, but the language of Jesus."**

Pope Francis added that “we are shepherds of the same Holy People who believe in God, in the Holy Trinity, in the Holy Mother of God: that is why we must unite in the effort to aid peace, to help those who suffer, to seek ways of peace, and to stop the fire.”

Mr. Bruni also said the Pope and the Patriarch stressed the exceptional importance of the ongoing negotiation process, because, according to the Pope, “those who pay the price for war are the people; it is Russian soldiers and common people who are bombed and die.”

Duty to aid suffering people: The statement continued quoting Pope Francis as saying that “as pastors we have the duty to be close to and help all people who are suffering from the war.”

“There was a time, even in our Churches, when people spoke of a holy war or a just war. Today we cannot speak in this manner. A Christian awareness of the importance of peace has developed.”

Pope Francis and Patriarch Kirill agreed that “the Churches are called to contribute to strengthening peace and justice.”

Pope Francis concluded the video call, lamenting the cost of war.

“Wars are always unjust, since it is the people of God who pay. Our hearts cannot but weep before the children and women killed, along with all the victims of war. War is never the way. The Spirit that unites us asks us as shepherds to help the peoples who suffer from war.”

Pope Francis’ and Patriarch Kirill’s 2016 Statement: The Pope and the Patriarch met in person in Cuba in 2016, signing a joint statement lamenting the conflict in eastern Ukraine.

“We deplore the hostility in Ukraine that has already caused many victims, inflicted innumerable wounds on peaceful inhabitants and thrown society into a deep economic and humanitarian crisis,” they wrote. “We invite all the parts involved in the conflict to prudence, to social solidarity and to action aimed at constructing peace. We invite our Churches in Ukraine to work towards social harmony, to refrain from taking part in the confrontation, and to not support any further development of the conflict.”

The 2016 joint statement went on to call on Christians to pray for an end to war.

“We exhort all Christians and all believers of God to pray fervently to the providential Creator of the world to protect His creation from destruction and not permit a new world war. In order to ensure a solid and enduring peace, specific efforts must be undertaken to rediscover the common values uniting us, based on the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

**Ukrainian Bishops welcome Pope’s consecration of Russia to Mary – Devin Watkins, Vatican News**  
**Several Ukrainian Bishops welcome Pope Francis’ decision to consecrate Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary on 25 March.**

Both Latin-rite and Byzantine-rite Catholic Bishops in Ukraine have expressed their gratitude to Pope Francis for his desire to consecrate Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. As Russia’s invasion of neighboring Ukraine grinds on leaving many dead, the Holy See Press Office announced on Tuesday evening that the Pope will perform the Act of Consecration on 25 March.

The Consecration will take place during a Penitential Celebration in St. Peter’s Basilica presided over by Pope Francis. The same Act of Consecration will be carried out on the same day by Cardinal Konrad Krajewski, the Papal Almoner, at the Marian Shrine in Fatima, Portugal.



Pope's fatherly concern: Major Archbishop Sviatoslav Shevchuk, the head of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, welcomed the news "in the midst of the tragedy of the bloody war in Ukraine".

"This is a spiritual act long awaited by the people of Ukraine. Since the beginning of Russian aggression in 2014, Ukrainian Catholics have been urgently requesting this Act to prevent the worsening of the war and the dangers coming from Russia." He added that he has frequently conveyed this request to Pope Francis' "fatherly concern."

Entrusting sufferings and hopes to Our Lady

The Major Archbishop of Kyiv-Halyč thanked the Pope for deciding to consecrate Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

In an apparition in Fatima on 13 July 1917, the Blessed Virgin Mary asked for Russia to be consecrated to her Immaculate Heart, adding in the apparition that if the request were not granted, Russia would spread "its errors throughout the world, promoting wars and persecution of the Church."

Major Archbishop Shevchuk noted that Our Lady's words have been fulfilled, when she said that "the good will be martyred; the Holy Father will have much to suffer; various nations will be destroyed."

"Let us entrust to the Immaculate Heart of Mary all our sufferings and hopes for peace in our martyred country."

Conversion to Christ: The Archbishop of Lviv, Mieczysław Mokrzycki, joined in thanking the Pope for this gesture.

He told Vatican News that Ukraine's Latin-rite Catholic Bishops had written to Pope Francis to urge him to consecrate Russia to Our Lady of Fatima.

"In 1917, Our Lady of Fatima said that, in order to stop the war and the persecution of the Church, we must pray and consecrate Russia to her Heart and also take Communion on the first five Saturdays of the month."

Archbishop Mokrzycki repeated the Virgin Mary's promise that "Russia would be converted and we would have peace" if these requests were granted.

In response, the Bishops of Ukraine are urging the country's faithful to prepare for the Act of Consecration with a prayer novena beginning on 17 March.

"We hope and believe that this Act will bring us peace and that the war will end soon," concluded Archbishop Mokrzycki.

Ancient tradition of Consecration: The Consecration to the Mother of God is an ancient tradition, according to Major Archbishop Shevchuk.

He noted that the people of Rus'-Ukraine were consecrated to the protection of Our Lady in 1037 by Prince Yaroslav the Wise.

Within Ukraine, this Act of Consecration was renewed in 1995 by Cardinal Myroslav Ivan Liubachivsky and in 2016 by Major Archbishop Shevchuk.

Pope Pius XII, on 31 October 1942, consecrated the whole world, and on 7 July 1952 he consecrated the peoples of Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary in the Apostolic Letter *Sacro vergente anno*:

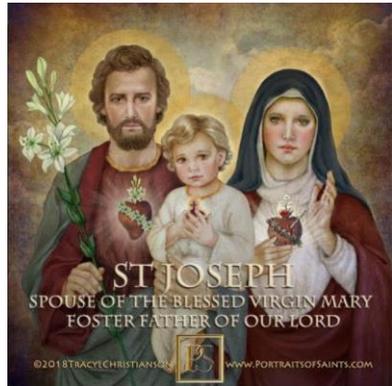
On 21 November 1964, Pope St Paul VI renewed the consecration of Russia to the Immaculate Heart in the presence of the Fathers of the Second Vatican Council.

Pope St. John Paul II also composed a prayer for what he called an 'Act of Entrustment' to be celebrated in the Basilica of St Mary Major on 7 June 1981, the Solemnity of Pentecost.

### **St. Joseph, the spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Feast day 19 Mar) – Catholic Culture**

On March 19<sup>th</sup> we celebrated the Feast of Saint Joseph, the spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the foster-father of Jesus, was probably born in Bethlehem and probably died in Nazareth. His important mission in God's plan of salvation was "to legally insert Jesus Christ into the line of David from whom, according to the prophets, the Messiah would be born, and to act as his father and guardian" ([\*Directory on Popular Piety and the Liturgy\*](#)). Most of our information about St. Joseph comes from the opening two chapters of St.

Matthew's Gospel. No words of his are recorded in the Gospels; he was the "silent" man. We find no devotion to St. Joseph in the early Church. It was the will of God that the Virgin Birth of Our Lord be first firmly impressed upon the minds of the faithful. He was later venerated by the great saints of the Middle Ages. Pius IX (1870) declared him patron and protector of the universal family of the Church.



Pope Pius XII established Saint Joseph's feast day saying *"The Spirit flows to you and to all men from the heart of the God-man, Saviour of the world, but certainly, no worker was ever more completely and profoundly penetrated by it than the foster father of Jesus, who lived with Him in closest intimacy and community of family life and work."*

St. Joseph was an ordinary manual labourer although descended from the royal house of David. In the designs of Providence he was destined to become the spouse of the Mother of God. His high privilege is expressed in a single phrase, "Foster-father of Jesus." About him Sacred Scripture has little more to say than that he was a just man—an expression which indicates how faithfully he fulfilled his high trust of protecting and guarding God's greatest treasures upon earth, Jesus and Mary.

The darkest hours of his life may well have been those when he first learned of Mary's pregnancy; but precisely in this time of trial Joseph showed himself great. His suffering, which likewise formed a part of the work of the redemption, was not without great providential import: Joseph was to be, for all times, the trustworthy witness of the Messiah's virgin birth. After this, he modestly retires into the background of Holy Scripture.

Of St. Joseph's death the Bible tells us nothing. There are indications, however, that he died before the beginning of Christ's public life. His was the most beautiful death that one could have,

in the arms of Jesus and Mary. Humbly and unknown, he passed his years at Nazareth, silent and almost forgotten he remained in the background through centuries of Church history. Only in more recent times has he been accorded greater honour. Liturgical veneration of St. Joseph began in the fifteenth century, fostered by Saint Brigid of Sweden and Saint Bernadine of Siena. Saint Teresa, too, did much to further his cult.

At present there are two major feasts in his honour. On March 19 our veneration is directed to him personally and to his part in the work of redemption, while on May 1 we honour him as the patron of workmen throughout the world and as our guide in the difficult matter of establishing equitable norms regarding obligations and rights in the social order.

—Excerpted from *The Church's Year of Grace*, Pius Parsch

St. Joseph is invoked as patron for many causes. He is the patron of the Universal Church. He is the patron of the dying because Jesus and Mary were at his death-bed. He is also the patron of fathers, of carpenters, and of social justice. Many religious orders and communities are placed under his patronage.

### **The Month of March is dedicated to Saint 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



## **MARCH 19 THE FEAST DAY OF ST. JOSEPH**

**LET US MAKE ST. JOSEPH  
OUR LENTEN SAINT  
ON THE WAY TO EASTER.  
MAY WE HAVE A SEMBLANCE  
OF HIS HUMILITY, GREAT  
FAITH & TRUST IN GOD.**

**ST. JOSEPH, PRAY FOR US!**

On the feast of Saint Joseph, foster father of the child Jesus, Protector of the Universal Church, help us to be like you, in silence learn to "listen" with compassionate hearts to the cries of our brothers and sisters involved in the current conflict. Let us continue to pray that the people in Ukraine will not give up hope and remain faithful to God. May God's love touch their hearts, strengthen and fill them with courage in their struggles amidst adversity. Saint Joseph may your compassion and care surround our brothers and sisters who have lost their loved ones. Please continue to shower your blessings and strengthen the clergy and religious who have remained in Ukraine in solidarity with the people in their struggles. Saint Joseph,

may you protect our brothers and sisters as you have protected Jesus and Mary in your flight from Herod.

## Saint Turibius de Mogrovejo (Feast day 23 Mar) – Catholic News Agency

Catholics in Latin America and throughout the world will celebrate the life and ministry of St. Turibius of Mogrovejo on March 23. The 16th century bishop upheld the rights of Peru's indigenous peoples, and became one of the first canonized saints of the Americas.

Turibius was born in Spain during 1538, to a noble family in the kingdom of Leon. He frequently prayed, fasted, and gave to the poor even as a child, and eventually developed the daily habit of praying the Rosary along with the Little Office of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

He went on to study law at the University of Salamanca, and eventually served as a judge for five years in the territory of Granada. His judicial wisdom and diligence drew the attention of King Philip II, who wanted Turibius – who was still a layman – to be consecrated as a missionary archbishop for the Spanish colony of Peru.

Turibius became greatly dismayed, protesting to the king and Church authorities that he was not even a priest and could not possibly accept the charge. In a series of letters, he pled that he was not personally capable of serving as the Archbishop of Lima – nor, he reminded them, did canon law permit a layman to become an archbishop. Eventually, however, he had little choice but to comply. He was consecrated as a bishop in 1581, at the age of 43, and immediately left for Lima, Peru.

The new archbishop undertook to travel throughout the rugged and mountainous diocese, where he observed many of the worst effects of colonialism – both upon the enslaved and oppressed natives, and on many of the colonists who seemed to have lost their souls in the pursuit of wealth.

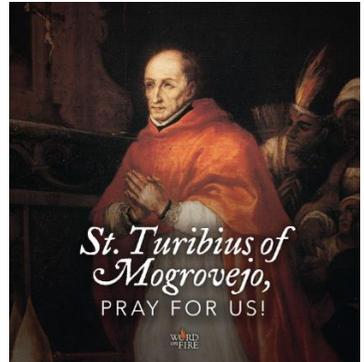
He responded with constant prayer and penance, as he traveled throughout his territory administering the sacraments, teaching the Catholic faith, and establishing schools, seminaries and hospitals.

To the indigenous Peruvians, the archbishop was a herald of the Gospel who held their lives as more precious than their country's supplies of gold and silver. But to the many colonists whose behavior showed no sign of their Catholic origins, he was a prophetic scourge – whose efforts to awaken the public conscience earned him rebukes and opposition.

Turibius ultimately managed to make three visitations of his diocese, under rugged and dangerous conditions, which occupied about half of his 25 years as Archbishop of Lima. He united the Peruvian Church at an administrative level by holding several local councils of its clergy, but was also known to spend days traveling to reach a single individual with the message of Christ. The archbishop became seriously ill in 1606. He sensed that his death was imminent, and decreed that his possessions should be distributed to the poor. St. Turibius died on March 23, and his body was found to be incorrupt the next year. He was declared a saint in 1726, and is now regarded as the patron of native peoples' rights and Latin American bishops.

## The Story of the Annunciation of the Lord (Feast day 25 March)

The feast of the Annunciation, now recognized as a solemnity, was first celebrated in the fourth or fifth century. Its central focus is the Incarnation: God has become one of us. From all eternity God had decided that the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity should become human. Now, as



Luke 1:26-38 tells us, the decision is being realized. The God-Man embraces all humanity, indeed all creation, to bring it to God in one great act of love. Because human beings have rejected God, Jesus will accept a life of suffering and an agonizing death: “No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends” (John 15:13).

Mary has an important role to play in God’s plan. From all eternity, God destined her to be the mother of Jesus and closely related to him in the creation and redemption of the world. We could say that God’s decrees of creation and redemption are joined in the decree of Incarnation. Because Mary is God’s instrument in the Incarnation, she has a role to play with Jesus in creation and redemption. It is a God-given role. It is God’s grace from beginning to end. Mary becomes the eminent figure she is only by God’s grace. She is the empty space where God could act. Everything she is she owes to the Trinity. Mary is the virgin-mother who fulfills Isaiah 7:14 in a way that Isaiah could not have imagined. She is united with her son in carrying out the will of God (Psalm 40:8-9; Hebrews 10:7-9; Luke 1:38). Together with Jesus, the privileged and graced Mary is the link between heaven and earth. She is the human being who best, after Jesus, exemplifies the possibilities of human existence. She received into her lowliness the infinite love of God. She shows how an ordinary human being can reflect God in the ordinary circumstances of life. She exemplifies what the Church and every member of the Church is meant to become. She is the ultimate product of the creative and redemptive power of God. She manifests what the Incarnation is meant to accomplish for all of us.

**Reflection:** Sometimes spiritual writers are accused of putting Mary on a pedestal and thereby, discouraging ordinary humans from imitating her. Perhaps such an observation is misguided. God did put Mary on a pedestal and has put all human beings on a pedestal. We have scarcely begun to realize the magnificence of divine grace, the wonder of God’s freely given love. The marvel of Mary—even in the midst of her very ordinary life—is God’s shout to us to wake up to the marvelous creatures that we all are by divine design.



**Sunday 10.30am Mass Readers' Roster**

First Sunday: 6 March	Michael and Gloria Walker
Second Sunday: 13 March	James and Geneviève McCaughan
<b>Third Sunday: 20 March</b>	<b>Jessica Gereis and Fiorella Vayda</b>
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.