



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

Sat 2 Apr

Saint Francis of Paola

**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

**Fri 25 March: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 6:00pm**

**Sat 26 March: Benediction 2:30am, followed by Mass at 3:00am with Act of Consecration at 4:30am**

### We Pray For:

***Our sick and injured:*** Bro. Max Scully, Daniel Vieira, 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:*** 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 Fisher OP**



**Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP**

20h · 🌐

Friends as you are aware, the Holy Father will consecrate Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary on Friday 25 March at 5:00pm Rome time. The Pope has asked all the Bishops of the world to unite themselves in this act of Consecration and I will do this in Sydney at St Mary's Cathedral on 26 March at 3:00am on Saturday morning.

The Cathedral will open from 2:30am and I invite you all to join with me at this time and to unite ourselves in prayer for peace in our world.

**J + M + J**



**Pope's Act of Consecration of Russia and Ukraine to Our Lady:** by Vatican News, 23 March 2022

The Holy See Press Office releases the official text of the Act of Consecration of Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, which Pope Francis will pray on Friday, 25 March.

Pope Francis—united to all the Bishops and Catholic faithful around the world—will consecrate Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary on Friday, the feast of the Annunciation. The Act of Consecration will be prayed during the "24 Hours for the Lord" Lenten penitential service in St. Peter's Basilica, which begins at 5 PM Rome time.

The Pope will pray the Act of Consecration around 6:30 PM, and has asked all Bishops and priests to join him spiritually in this prayer, which will be broadcast across our Vatican News channels - radio, website, YouTube, and Facebook - with English-language commentary.

**Here below is the official translation of the Act of Consecration:**

*O Mary, Mother of God and our Mother, in this time of trial we turn to you. As our Mother, you love us and know us: no concern of our hearts is hidden from you. Mother of mercy, how often we have experienced your watchful care and your peaceful presence! You never cease to guide us to Jesus, the Prince of Peace.*

*Yet we have strayed from that path of peace. We have forgotten the lesson learned from the tragedies of the last century, the sacrifice of the millions who fell in two world wars. We have disregarded the commitments we made as a community of nations. We have betrayed peoples'*

*dreams of peace and the hopes of the young. We grew sick with greed, we thought only of our own nations and their interests, we grew indifferent and caught up in our selfish needs and concerns. We chose to ignore God, to be satisfied with our illusions, to grow arrogant and aggressive, to suppress innocent lives and to stockpile weapons. We stopped being our neighbour's keepers and stewards of our common home. We have ravaged the garden of the earth with war and by our sins we have broken the heart of our heavenly Father, who desires us to be brothers and sisters. We grew indifferent to everyone and everything except ourselves. Now with shame we cry out: Forgive us, Lord!*

*Holy Mother, amid the misery of our sinfulness, amid our struggles and weaknesses, amid the mystery of iniquity that is evil and war, you remind us that God never abandons us, but continues to look upon us with love, ever ready to forgive us and raise us up to new life. He has given you to us and made your Immaculate Heart a refuge for the Church and for all humanity. By God's gracious will, you are ever with us; even in the most troubled moments of our history, you are there to guide us with tender love.*

*We now turn to you and knock at the door of your heart. We are your beloved children. In every age you make yourself known to us, calling us to conversion. At this dark hour, help us and grant us your comfort. Say to us once more: "Am I not here, I who am your Mother?" You are able to untie the knots of our hearts and of our times. In you we place our trust. We are confident that, especially in moments of trial, you will not be deaf to our supplication and will come to our aid.*

*That is what you did at Cana in Galilee, when you interceded with Jesus and he worked the first of his signs. To preserve the joy of the wedding feast, you said to him: "They have no wine" (Jn 2:3). Now, O Mother, repeat those words and that prayer, for in our own day we have run out of the wine of hope, joy has fled, fraternity has faded. We have forgotten our humanity and squandered the gift of peace. We opened our hearts to violence and destructiveness. How greatly we need your maternal help!*

*Therefore, O Mother, hear our prayer.*

*Star of the Sea, do not let us be shipwrecked in the tempest of war.*

*Ark of the New Covenant, inspire projects and paths of reconciliation.*

*Queen of Heaven, restore God's peace to the world.*

*Eliminate hatred and the thirst for revenge, and teach us forgiveness.*

*Free us from war, protect our world from the menace of nuclear weapons.*

*Queen of the Rosary, make us realize our need to pray and to love.*

*Queen of the Human Family, show people the path of fraternity.*

*Queen of Peace, obtain peace for our world.*

*O Mother, may your sorrowful plea stir our hardened hearts. May the tears you shed for us make this valley parched by our hatred blossom anew. Amid the thunder of weapons, may your prayer turn our thoughts to peace. May your maternal touch soothe those who suffer and flee from the rain of bombs. May your motherly embrace comfort those forced to leave their homes and their native land. May your Sorrowful Heart move us to compassion and inspire us to open our doors and to care for our brothers and sisters who are injured and cast aside.*

*Holy Mother of God, as you stood beneath the cross, Jesus, seeing the disciple at your side, said: "Behold your son" (Jn 19:26). In this way he entrusted each of us to you. To the disciple, and to each of us, he said: "Behold, your Mother" (v. 27). Mother Mary, we now desire to welcome you into our lives and our history. At this hour, a weary and distraught humanity*

*stands with you beneath the cross, needing to entrust itself to you and, through you, to consecrate itself to Christ. The people of Ukraine and Russia, who venerate you with great love, now turn to you, even as your heart beats with compassion for them and for all those peoples decimated by war, hunger, injustice and poverty.*

*Therefore, Mother of God and our Mother, to your Immaculate Heart we solemnly entrust and consecrate ourselves, the Church and all humanity, especially Russia and Ukraine. Accept this act that we carry out with confidence and love. Grant that war may end and peace spread throughout the world. The "Fiat" that arose from your heart opened the doors of history to the Prince of Peace. We trust that, through your heart, peace will dawn once more. To you we consecrate the future of the whole human family, the needs and expectations of every people, the anxieties and hopes of the world.*

*Through your intercession, may God's mercy be poured out on the earth and the gentle rhythm of peace return to mark our days. Our Lady of the "Fiat", on whom the Holy Spirit descended, restore among us the harmony that comes from God. May you, our "living fountain of hope", water the dryness of our hearts. In your womb Jesus took flesh; help us to foster the growth of communion. You once trod the streets of our world; lead us now on the paths of peace. Amen.*

**Pope at Audience: Elderly are irreplaceable in passing on the faith** – by Vatican News Reporter, 23 March 2022  
Continuing his catechesis at the Wednesday General Audience on the meaning and value of old age, Pope Francis turns his attention to the special vocation of the elderly to hand on to new generations their personal experience of the Church's faith.

In his continuing catechesis on the meaning and value of old age, Pope Francis took inspiration from the Bible's account of the death of the elderly Moses.

**Faith and experience:** During the General Audience on Wednesday from the Paul VI Hall, the Pope told those present that, at the end of the exodus, the aged Moses hands down in a magnificent song his own long experience of faith in the Lord who remains ever faithful to his promises.

He explained that the "Song of Moses" is also "the memory of the history lived with God, of the adventures of the people formed from faith in the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob."

"Moses also remembers the bitterness and disappointments of God Himself: His faithfulness continually put to the test by the infidelities of His people," said the Pope.

**Person-to-person testimony:** He noted that even at one hundred and twenty years old, Moses possessed a clarity which enabled him "to pass on the legacy of his long experience of life and faith."

Nowadays, commented Pope Francis, the Church's efforts to evangelize, and transmit the faith takes place with the aid of books, films and other resources. Yet, he added, nothing can replace the direct person-to-person storytelling of a life-long experience of closeness to God in faith.

*"An older person, one who has lived a long time, and receives the gift of a lucid and passionate testimony of his history, is an irreplaceable blessing."*

In a personal testimony, Pope Francis recalled learning about his abhorrence and anger at war from his grandfather, who fought on the Piave in 1914.

“He passed on this anger to me,” recalled the Pope, “because he told me about the suffering of a war. And you don’t learn that in books or in other ways... you learn it this way, passing it on from grandparents to grandchildren.”

He went on to say that “today, unfortunately, this is not the case and we think that grandparents are discarded material: no! No! They are the living memory of a people, and young people and children need to hear from their grandparents.”

Wisdom of the elderly

“In our culture, which is so ‘politically correct,’ he noted, “this path seems to be hindered in many ways.”

Therefore, the Pope added, we greatly need the wisdom and experience of the elderly to help new generations know the Church from the inside, to live lives of fidelity to God’s word, to persevere in hope amid trials, and to show compassionate love for all our brothers and sisters.

**Look to the Gospels:** Pope Francis lamented that what is often lacking today, “is a knowledge of the Church that comes from listening to and witnessing the real history of the faith and the life of the Church community, from the beginning to the present day.

“As children we learn the Word of God in catechism classes; but as young people we ‘learn’ the Church in classrooms and in the global information media,” he said

Looking to the Gospels, the Pope described how they “honestly tell the blessed story of Jesus without hiding the mistakes, misunderstandings, and even betrayals of the disciples.”

**Valuing the elderly:** In conclusion, the Pope said, “the narration of the history of faith should be like the Canticle of Moses, like the testimony of the Gospels and the Acts of the Apostles.”

In other words, he continued, “a story capable of recalling God’s blessings with emotion and our failings with sincerity.

Finally, Pope Francis encouraged the faithful to value the precious vocation that is the elderly as we cherish the gifts of the past and look forward to the fulfilment of God’s promises in the coming of his Kingdom.

### **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



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.

**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!**

**Is fasting difficult for you? Look at Jesus on the Cross:** Philip Kosloski 15 Mar 2021

St. Claude de la Colombière *compares the little suffering we undertake each Lent to the suffering Jesus experienced on the cross.*

During Lent the Church sets aside specific days where the Christian faithful are encouraged to fast from food and abstain from meat. The fasting is only on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, while abstaining from meat is on each Friday of Lent.

**Yet, we still complain!**

The Church has lowered the bar over the centuries and eased the restrictions to the point that it



is relatively easy to complete these basic bodily mortifications. Despite these modifications, we are weak human beings and balk at any type of penance.

St. Claude de la Colombière gave a reflection on this topic in his book *The Sufferings of Our Lord Jesus Christ*, and **encourages us to look at Jesus** to see how little our suffering are compared to his.

***[!]In what manner did [Jesus] endure torment and humiliation? In every part of His body, in all His senses and in every possible way though...It is strange that after this people should find fault with corporal mortification...true penitence includes also the humiliation of the body. That of Jesus was boundless, not only because all His sufferings were accompanied with shame and ignominy especially the smiting on the face, the flagellation and the crucifixion, but also because He was spit upon, dragged in the mud, dressed up as a lunatic as a mock king for the punishment of luxury and vanity and to give a public testimony to the pain He endured on account of them. If you contemplate Jesus in this condition, you will certainly be deeply moved and if you consider yourselves, you will perhaps be ashamed to find that you bear so little resemblance to penitent sinners.***

Furthermore, **when we keep this image of Jesus in our minds**, what the Church asks of us in terms of fasting is minuscule.

*Let us begin by **fasting**, which is a matter of necessity. **Nothing shows more clearly how little real penitence we have, than disobedience in this respect.** Alas we have committed sins which forty years fasting on bread and water would not expiate, and the Church, our good mother, reduces it to forty days! **And to what kind of fasting? So slight and so easy in our time and yet we cannot make up our minds to it.***

There are certainly **many just health reasons** that **dispense** someone from fasting and abstinence. However, this doesn't mean everyone is dispensed from such a practice.

If you ever think the Church's guidelines about fasting and abstinence are too strict and difficult to endure, meditate on Jesus' suffering on the cross.

**A prayer from the heart of the great Marian tradition** – Andrea Tomielli (Vatican News) March 23, 2022

Ahead of the March 25 Consecration of Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, the Vatican has released the text of the Act of Consecration, which Pope Francis will pray together with the People of God, led by the bishops and priests of the whole world.



A public, choral prayer, uniting the entire Church, to implore peace and consecrate the whole of humanity, and in a special way Russia and Ukraine, to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, will take place while the fighting and bombings that claim victims among Ukrainian civilians are still raging. A simple, humble gesture of those who believe and trust in the power of prayer rather than the power of weapons. The text of the Act of Consecration and Entrustment that Pope Francis will pray has now been released.

**The consecration will take place at around 6:30 PM Rome time, on Friday, 25 March, the Feast of the Annunciation, at the end of the Penitential Celebration in St. Peter's Basilica.**

The text, interwoven with quotations from the great Marian tradition, will be pronounced throughout the world by the people of God, led by their bishops and priests. Here are some of the references contained in the prayer:

*Mother of God* is the title by which Our Lady is venerated in the East and in the West, proclaimed as a dogma by the Council of Ephesus. *Mother of Mercy* is an expression that also recurs in the prayer "*Salve Regina*."

*He has given you to us and made your Immaculate Heart a refuge for the Church and for all humanity.* These words evoke the message of Fatima: "God has decided to establish devotion to my Immaculate Heart..." and "my Immaculate Heart will be your refuge." Although the dogma of Mary's Immaculate Conception, proclaimed by Blessed Pius IX in 1854, pertains to the Catholic Church, the Orthodox Churches share the same faith. Russian Orthodox theologian Sergei Bulgakov, for example, argues that "in Orthodoxy, faith in the absence of the personal sin of the Mother of God is like incense, like a cloud of prayer which the veneration and piety of the Church concentrate and causes to rise." Moreover, the mention of "refuge" resonates with the ancient Marian prayer "*Sub tuum praesidium*".

*We now turn to you and knock at the door of your heart. We are your beloved children. In every age you make yourself known to us, calling us to conversion.* Here we can see a reference to

Marian apparitions. *Say to us once more: "Am I not here, I who am your Mother?"* This is what Mary revealed to the indigenous man, St Juan Diego, in the apparition at Guadalupe. *You know how to untie the tangles of our hearts and the knots of our time.* One can read here a reference to "Our Lady, Untier of Knots," a Marian image to which Pope Francis is famously devoted.

*You, "Earth of Heaven," restore God's peace to the world.* The expression "Earth of Heaven" is taken from a Byzantine-Slavic monastic hymn, and it poetically signifies the union of heaven and earth that we can contemplate in Mary assumed bodily into Heaven.

*May the tears you shed for us make this valley, parched by our hatred, blossom anew.* Here we can read another allusion to the *Salve Regina*, where it speaks of the "valley of tears."

*The "Fiat" that arose from your heart opened the doors of history to the Prince of Peace; we trust that, through your heart, peace will dawn once more.* We find in these words a veiled allusion to the beginning of the "Treatise on True Devotion" of Saint Louis de Montfort, who explained that, just as God entered the world through Mary, so too now He desires to continue to reign in the world through her.

*May you, our "living fountain of hope", water the dryness of our hearts.* This is a quotation from St. Bernard's prayer, "Virgin Mother, Daughter of your Son," found in the last canticle (XXXIII) of Dante Alighieri's *Divine Comedy*.

*You have woven the humanity of Jesus.* This is an expression inspired by some of the Eastern fathers (for example, St. Ephrem the Syrian); the image of Mary as a "weaver" is present in Christian iconography from the mosaic of the triumphal arch of St. Mary Major and throughout the first millennium.

The entrustment to Mary also has an evangelical reference. In the Gospel of St John, we read that Jesus, from the Cross, entrusts the only apostle present on Calvary to His Mother: "Woman, behold your son!" And immediately afterward, addressing John, he adds: "Behold your mother!" We find traces of the act of consecration or entrustment to Mary at least as early as the 8th century, with St John Damascene, an Arab theologian of Christian faith and a Doctor of the Church, originally from Damascus. It was he who formulated the first prayer of consecration to Our Lady: "We, too, remain close to you today, O Sovereign Lady. Yes, I repeat, O Sovereign Lady, Mother of God and Virgin. Let us bind our souls to your hope, as a firm and unbreakable anchor, consecrating to you our mind, soul, body, and our whole being, and honouring you, as far as we can, with 'psalms, hymns and spiritual songs' (Eph 5:19)."

### **Sunday 10.30am Mass Readers' Roster**

|                                |                                  |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>Fourth Sunday: 27 March</b> | <b>John and Patricia O'Brien</b> |
| 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.