



## St Peter's Church, Surry Hills

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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

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

**Daily Mass:** **Mon:** 7:30am; **Tue - 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

### Feast Days – Third Sunday of Easter (Year C/2)

Mon 2 May

Saint Athanasius

Tue 3 May

Saints Philip and James

### We Pray For:

***Our sick and injured:*** Fr. Bill Milsted, Bro. Max Scully, fsc, 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:*** Anthony Brien (Robert's carer), Peter Sweeney (31/3), Archbishop Michael Meier (3/4), Ana Ofelia Sierra Bustamante (22/3/2020) Indhira's mum), Robert Azzopardi (Pauline's nephew), 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*

## May, The Month of MARY



**Why is May the Month of Mary?** Marge Fenelon Blogs May 1, 2020, NCR

The ways Mary is honoured in May is as varied as the people who honour her. It's here. May, the month in which the earth springs into bloom (at least in the Northern Hemisphere) and we start thinking about planting gardens, family picnics and making vacation plans. It's also the Month of Mary.

Having gone to a Catholic grade school run by the Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary, my early childhood memories include honoring Mary during May – a practice I've continued all of my life and taught my children to do as well. It's as natural and essential to me as my morning coffee (only far, far more joy-filled if you can even imagine that). I know a number of Catholics who see May as the Month of Mary, and we all get the same question from time to time:

Why is May Mary's month?

Here's a brief explanation. For centuries, the Catholic Church has set aside the entire month of May to honor Mary, Mother of God. Not just a day *in* May, mind you, but the entire month.

The custom spans both centuries and cultures, with roots going back as far as the Ancient Greeks. In early Greece, May was dedicated to Artemis, the goddess of fecundity.

In Ancient Rome, May was dedicated to Flora, the goddess of blooms, or blossoms. They celebrated *ludi florals*, or floral games, at the end of April and asked the intercession of Flora for all that blooms.

In medieval times, similar customs abounded, all centering around the practice of expelling winter, as May 1 was considered the start of new growth.

During this period, the tradition of *Tricesimum*, or "Thirty-Day Devotion to Mary," came into being. Also called, "Lady Month," the event was held from August 15-September 14 and is still observed in some areas.

The idea of a month dedicated specifically to Mary can be traced back to baroque times. Although it wasn't always held during May, Mary Month included thirty daily spiritual exercises honoring Mary.

It was in this era that Mary's Month and May were combined, making May the Month of Mary with special devotions organized on each day throughout the month. This custom became especially widespread during the nineteenth century and remains in practice until today.

The ways Mary is honored in May is as varied as the people who honor her. It's common for parishes have a daily recitation of the Rosary during May, and many erect a special May altar with a statue or picture of Mary as a reminder of Mary's month. Additionally, it's a long-standing tradition to crown the statue of Mary during May – a custom known as May Crowning. Often, the crown is made of beautiful blossoms representing Mary's beauty and virtue. It's also a reminder to the faithful to strive to imitate our Blessed Mother's virtue in our own lives. May Crowning, in some areas, is a huge celebration and is usually done outside of Mass, although Mass may be celebrated before or after the actual crowning.

But May altars and crownings aren't just "church" things. We can and should be doing the same in our homes. When we echo the customs and traditions of the Church in our homes – our domestic churches – we participate more fully in the life of the Church. If you haven't already, I encourage you to erect a prayer corner in your home. No matter how fancy or simple it is. The main point is that it's a place designated for God, and more specifically, for spending time with him. Just as you need proper atmosphere to sleep, you also need proper atmosphere to pray.

For May, give Mary a special spot in your prayer corner. It can be a statue or picture, but place there some representation of our Blessed Mother. Make it appealing and a real tribute to her beauty and virtue.

Then, crown Mary. You can give her an actual or spiritual crown and you can make it a subtle gesture or ornate ceremony of your own device. The meaning is far more important than the action. You can do it in the beginning, at the end of May or anywhere in between.

Just do it.

Why?

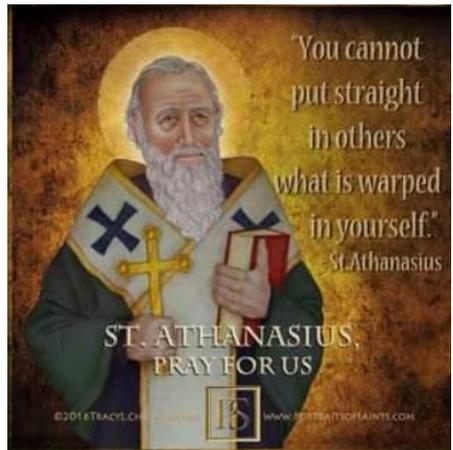
Not because it's a long-standing tradition in the Church, although it is. Not because there are any special graces connected to it, although there is.

No, do it because Mary is Mother – your mother, my mother, everyone's mother – and because she cares for all of us day-in-and-day-out without fail, interceding for us in even the tiniest matters.

For that, she deserves an entire month in her honour. *This article originally appeared May 1, 2016, at the Register.*

## Saint Athanasius (Feast day 2 May) – ‘Father of

Orthodoxy’ [Philip Kosloski](#) - published on 05/02/16  
Athanasius is also well known for his treatise *On the Incarnation (De Incarnatione)*, which even sparked the attention of British author C.S. Lewis. He wrote an introduction to [an edition of the book](#), saying, “When I first opened his *De Incarnatione*, I soon discovered I was reading a masterpiece ... for only a master mind could have written so deeply on a subject with such classical simplicity.”  
To help us appreciate the life of St. Athanasius and the masterful work of *De Incarnatione*, here are 10 inspiring quotes from a Church Father whose example of standing up for the truth still has relevance today:



- 1) “Christians, instead of arming themselves with swords, extend their hands in prayer.”
- 2) “The holy and inspired Scriptures are sufficient of themselves for the preaching of the truth.”
- 3) “Jesus became what we are that he might make us what he is.”
- 4) “You cannot put straight in others what is warped in yourself.”
- 5) “Similarly, anyone who wishes to understand the mind of the sacred writers must first cleanse his own life, and approach the saints by copying their deeds.”
- 6) “For, indeed, everything about is marvelous, and wherever a man turns his gaze he sees the Godhead of the Word and is smitten with awe.”
- 7) “The presence and love of the Word had called them into being; inevitably, therefore when they lost the knowledge of God, they lost existence with it; for it is God alone Who exists, evil is non-being, the negation and antithesis of good.”
- 8) “For of what use is existence to the creature if it cannot know its Maker?”
- 9) “The Greek philosophers have compiled many works with persuasiveness and much skill in words; but what fruit have they to show for this such as has the cross of Christ? Their wise thoughts were persuasive enough until they died.”
- 10) “Even on the cross he did not hide himself from sight; rather, he made all creation witness to the presence of its Maker.”

**J + M + J**

### **Saints Philip and James, Apostles**

*First Century, May 3—Feast*

*Patron Saint of hat makers and pastry chefs (Philip) and pharmacists (James), MyCatholicLife*

#### ***The smaller the town the bigger the man***

The popes follow one another chronologically just like the presidents of the United States. One after another, after another, each inheriting the powers and responsibilities of his office. President John F. Kennedy followed President Dwight D. Eisenhower, just as Pope Saint John Paul II followed The Venerable Pope John Paul I. But there is a difference. Jesus’ placing of Saint Peter as the symbolic and jurisdictional head of the universal Church is, of course, more significant than the popular election of a political leader. The papacy is also different in that every pope is, theologically speaking, the “direct successor” of Saint Peter, the first pope. From

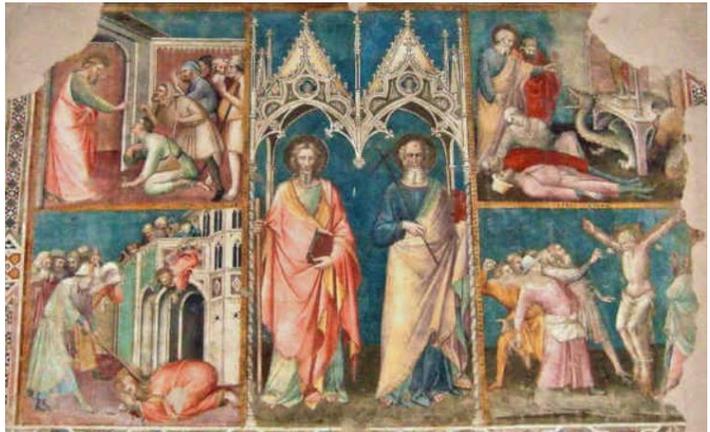
this perspective, every pope after Saint Peter is a second pope. So, for example, the two hundredth pope, chronologically, was still the second pope, theologically. No president would claim he is the direct successor of George Washington. He is the successor of his predecessor. Theological truths transcend space and time, since their source, God, exists outside of space and time.

The Office of St. Peter is theologically guaranteed by the easy-to-find, on-the-surface-of-the-text words of Christ telling Saint Peter that he is the rock upon which He will build His Church. Today's Pope, and every pope, occupies that same office, is protected by that same divine guarantee, and immediately succeeds Saint Peter when he is chosen by the Holy Spirit to occupy his chair.

What pertains to the Office of the Bishop of Rome also pertains to the Office of the Twelve Apostles. Today's saints, Philip and James, were called by name by Christ Himself. And after being called, they took the step that many who are called never take. They followed! The Twelve walked at Christ's side on dusty trails during His years of public ministry.

They ate and drank with Him by the fire. They slept under the cold desert sky with Him. And Jesus looked right into their eyes, and only their eyes, and spoke directly to their faces, and only their faces,

when He said on a Thursday night that was deeply holy, "Do this in memory of me." And then they did that, and many other things besides, in memory of Him, for the rest of their lives. The four marks of the true Church are proof of its authenticity. "One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic" are the trademark stamp of the true Church, proving it is *the* Church founded by Jesus Christ. No other ecclesial community bears this trademark, and none except the Orthodox even claims to bear it. The mark of "One" means the Church is visibly one in spite of its many tongues, nations, classes, and races. The Church is one in her doctrine, her Sacraments, and her hierarchy. This oneness is not theoretical. It is tangible, real, and identifiable even to those without a doctorate in theology. This one, Christ-founded Church began with twelve followers who gathered as one around Jesus. These Twelve eventually appointed their own successors, who then, in turn, appointed successors, and so on through the centuries down to the present. The universal college of bishops, the successor body to the Twelve Apostles, is the means by which the Oneness, or unity, of the Church is expressed, protected, and guaranteed. Bishops are not a secondary attribute or development of Christianity. They are embedded into and conjoined with the Word of God in one complex reality. They are not an outside source of authority external to Scripture. There simply would be no Scripture without that pre-existing authority which nurtured and developed it. The Church was the incubator of the New Testament.



Not much is known with certainty about the Apostles Philip and James, apart from their names and some few references in the New Testament. Saint James, commonly called the “Less” due perhaps to his short stature, was probably the cousin of Jesus. He was the first Bishop of Jerusalem, likely elected to that post by his fellow Apostles, and was stoned to death by resentful Jews. Saint Philip was from tiny Bethsaida in Galilee. After he received the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, he descended the stairs of the Upper Room and just kept walking into the darkness, his later life and labors unknown to history. More than having specific details about their later Christian exploits, it is more critical to know that Philip and James, and all the Apostles, are the sheet of bedrock into which the nascent Church sunk her deepest pillars and upon whose sturdy foundation the Church’s great weight still rests. Philip and James’ theological legacy continues today in every Bishop who teaches, sanctifies, and governs the baptized people of God.

*Saints Philip and James, your hidden witness to Christ is less well-known than that of other Apostles, but is eloquent testimony to your quiet fidelity to building the Church after the Ascension. From your exalted place in Heaven, intercede for all who seek your assistance.*

## A Prayer of Praise to the Blessed Virgin Mary



*This beautiful prayer was composed by Saint Ephrem the Syrian. His feast day is June 9th. He was a Syrian deacon, a prolific writer, and a poet, who instructed the faithful against the heresies of his day by writing hymns with solid theology and setting the lyrics to the tunes of songs that were then popular. He entered Eternal Life in 373, having died of the plague after lovingly tending plague victims.*

O pure and immaculate and likewise blessed Virgin, who art the sinless Mother of thy Son, the mighty Lord of the universe, thou who art inviolate and altogether holy, the hope of the hopeless and sinful, we sing thy praises.

We bless thee, as full of every grace, thou who didst bear the God-Man: we all bow low before thee; we invoke thee and implore thine aid.

Rescue us, O holy and inviolate Virgin, from every necessity that presses upon us and from all the temptations of the devil.

Be our intercessor and advocate at the hour of death and judgement; deliver us from the fire that is not extinguished and from the outer darkness; make us worthy of the glory of thy Son, O dearest and most clement Virgin Mother.

Thou indeed art our only hope, most sure and sacred in God's sight, to whom be honor and glory, majesty and dominion, for ever and ever, world without end. Amen.

PROCESSION FOR THE FEAST OF  
**MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS**  
PATRONESS OF AUSTRALIA  
*Praying for Peace in the World*  
**SATURDAY 21 MAY 2022**

10:30AM | ST PETER'S SURRY HILLS  
*Pilgrims Blessing and start of procession.*

12PM | ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL  
*Mass in Honour of Mary Help of Christians*  
- Praying for World Peace  
with Bishop Daniel Meagher

SUPPORTED BY

**Mary Help of Christians** (Feast day 24 May) Patroness of Australia. There will be a procession to honour Our Lady Help of Christians on **Saturday 21 May starting at 10:30am** from Ward Park in the heart of St Peter's Parish Surry Hills, with a Pilgrims blessing. The procession will end at **St Mary's Cathedral** and will be followed immediately by a Mass for **World Peace with Bishop Danny Meagher** presiding.

As part of the **Reclaiming Evangelisation** series, parishioners are warmly invited to watch **Fr Mike Schmitz's** live, online address to the Sydney Archdiocese on **Saturday 28 May from 10:00am – 11:30am**. Please scan this QR Code to attend the Live online with Fr Schmitz his address to the Archdiocese of Sydney.



Fr Schmitz is known to many Catholics as the host of the [Bible in a Year podcast](#) and as a frequent presenter with Ascension Press.

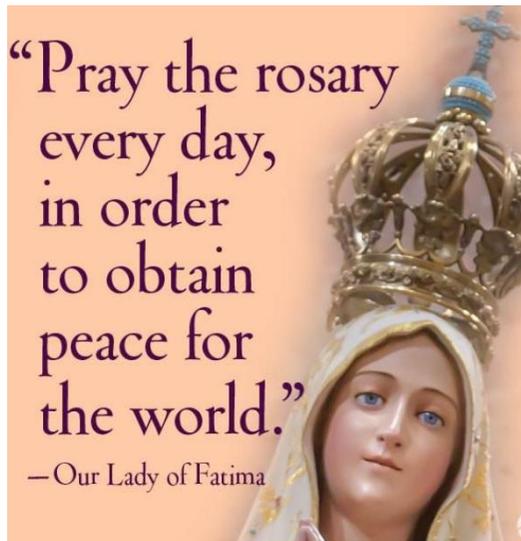
Online Renewal Series 2021-2022  
**RECLAIMING EVANGELISATION**  
*How Jesus' Great Commission Will Renew Our Parishes*

Live online with  
**Fr Mike Schmitz**

Saturday 28 May 2022,  
Live Online, 10 - 11:30 am  
*Why Make Disciples?  
What our Tradition tells us about  
calling and forming disciples.*  
The event will include Q&A and  
small group discussions.

Register: [gomakedisciples.org.au](http://gomakedisciples.org.au)  
Enquiries: [parishrenewal@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:parishrenewal@sydneycatholic.org)

GO MAKE DISCIPLES



### Sydney Fleadh: Irish Music Festival

For further information please contact Marion O'Reilly on [marionmartina3@gmail.com](mailto:marionmartina3@gmail.com)



For those who missed out on the ANZAC day tribute *Lest We Forget* on Channel 7, courtesy of Artes Christi Team, [arteschristisydney@gmail.com](mailto:arteschristisydney@gmail.com) you can watch this online [HERE](#)

This "**incredibly moving**" Anzac Day Tribute features the Artes Christi Choir & Orchestra alongside: **Normie Rowe, Mark Vincent, Amelia Farrugia, Jane Rutter, John Schumann, Simon Tedeschi, Judy Nunn, Bruce Venables** and 101 Year Old Dennis Davis, one of Australia's last remaining veterans from World War II

**PLUS** The Royal Australian Navy Band, Lancer Band (Army), a Full Orchestra & Choir also featuring musicians from Artes Christi, the Sydney Youth Orchestra and the Australian Military Wives Choir.