



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 – Fifth Sunday of Lent (Year C/2)

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| Mon 4 Apr | Saint Isidore |
| Tue 5 Apr | Saint Vincent Ferrer |
| Thu 7 Apr | Saint John Baptist de la Salle |

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: Bro. Max Scully, fsc, 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*

HOLY WEEK LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

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| Palm Sunday Masses: | 9:00am and 10:30am (Sung Mass) |
| Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday as usual | (7:30am, 10:00am & 10:00am respectively) |
| Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper | 8:00pm |
| Good Friday | |
| Stations of the Cross | 10:00am |
| Reconciliation: 11:00am to 12noon (Good Friday and Holy Saturday) | |
| Celebration of the Passion of the Lord | 3:00pm |
| Holy Saturday | |
| The Church waits at the Lord's tomb, in prayer and fasting, for his Resurrection | |
| Easter Vigil Mass begins at 8:00pm Saturday night at the Shrine of Our Lady Help of Christians in the courtyard. | |
| Easter Sunday Mass | 10:00am |

Parish Update: COVID positive case - a parishioner had been tested positive on 30 March, attended the 9:00am Mass last Sunday (27 March). We encourage MASK wearing where social distancing is not possible.

On **Divine Mercy Sunday** this year, Sunday 24 April 2022, Saint Peter's church is blessed to have the first class relic of Saint Faustina brought to Saint Peter's by the Divine Mercy Team. The Team will also be giving out A4 size Divine Mercy pictures which will be blessed by Fr. John. Fr John will bless the congregation at both Sunday Masses (9:00am and 10:30am) after which the relic will be taken to St Ambrose Church, Concord West for the Divine Mercy devotion celebration which starts at 12:30pm. All are welcome to attend.



Pope at Audience: Old age can be a time of spiritual vitality: Thaddeus Jones, 30 March 2022, Vatican News
At the weekly General Audience, Pope Francis continues his catechesis on the lives and witness of the elderly, looking at how they can ensure our spiritual grounding and teach us the importance of discerning God's presence in our daily lives and the unfolding of His saving plan.

Presenting the **next part of his catechesis** on the meaning and value of old age, Pope Francis this week explored how the Gospel account of the elderly figures Simeon and Anna help us see how the elderly are called to offer a personal witness of faith and trust in the fulfilment of God's promises, and thus build bridges between the generations.

And while the passing of years can dull our physical senses, he said, at this precious time in life the Holy Spirit can sharpen our spiritual senses.

Fidelity of waiting: The Pope noted how in Luke's Gospel we read how Simeon and Anna await God's visit, and Simeon by premonition of the Holy Spirit knew he would not die before seeing the Messiah.

Both of them, "filled with spiritual vitality", recognize the presence of the Lord in the Child Jesus who fills them with consolation before they bid farewell to life.

This "fidelity of waiting sharpens the senses," as the Holy Spirit "enlightens the senses," despite the limits or decline of our physical senses of the body that is natural as we age. And old age dedicated to God and waiting for His visit and consolation will be even more keen and ready to sense it, he noted.

Lively spiritual senses: Pope Francis underscored how much society needs older persons capable of recognizing and welcoming Christ's presence and the gifts of his Spirit.

"Today we need this more than ever: an old age gifted with lively spiritual senses capable of recognizing the signs of God, or rather, the Sign of God, who is Jesus."

On the other hand, a society that exalts pleasure and cultivates the illusion of eternal youth can act as an "anaesthesia of the spiritual senses," he warned, and it is particularly insidious because we not even be aware this is going on.

We can lose a sense of touch or taste, he observed, but matters of the soul can be ignored causing an insensitivity to the spiritual senses related to compassion, remorse, devotion, tenderness, and responsibility for oneself and others.

Spirit of human fraternity: We need to regain a spirit of human fraternity, the Pope said, to regain our sensitivity to spiritual matters and creating a culture where social tenderness can grow.

The lives and witness of Simeon and Anna, as well as other Spirit-sensitive elderly in biblical accounts, can teach us ways to bring vitality and grounding into our own spiritual lives, as they teach us the primary importance of discerning God's presence in our daily lives and the unfolding of His saving plan from one generation to the next.

Spiritual old age unites

In conclusion, the Pope pointed out how "spiritual sensitivity of old age is capable of breaking down competition and conflict between generations in a credible and definitive way," by showing us the way to what is ultimately important in life, "for an advent of God in the generation to come, which arrives together with the departure of one's own."

"Only spiritual old age can give this witness, humble and dazzling, making it authoritative and exemplary for all."

Remembering Ukraine: At the conclusion of the General Audience, Pope Francis greeted Ukrainian children hosted by the Italian Associations "Aiutiamoli a vivere" and "Puer", and the Ukrainian Embassy to the Holy See. He added that our thoughts turn to the monstrosity of war, and he asked that we renew our prayers so that this savage cruelty that is war be stopped.

Theological significance of Act of Consecration explained: Fabio Colagrande and Benedetta Capelli, 25 March 2022

Pope Francis consecrates Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary on Friday afternoon. Father Stefano Cecchin, OFM, President of the International Pontifical Marian Academy, says "Peace is always born from God and therefore, conforming to the heart of She who loves Him immensely."

As children turn to their Mother, so mankind entrusts itself to Mary, Queen of Peace, in the midst of the storm, of a war unleashed a month ago between Russia and Ukraine.

"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."

These words of the Act of Consecration of Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary resound Friday at around 6:30pm, local time, in St Peter's Basilica, when the Pope presides over the Rite of Reconciliation with individual confession and absolution.

The same Act of Consecration is being prayed Friday by all the bishops of the world. At Fatima, Cardinal Konrad Krajewski, the papal almoner, performs the act as Pope Francis' special envoy.

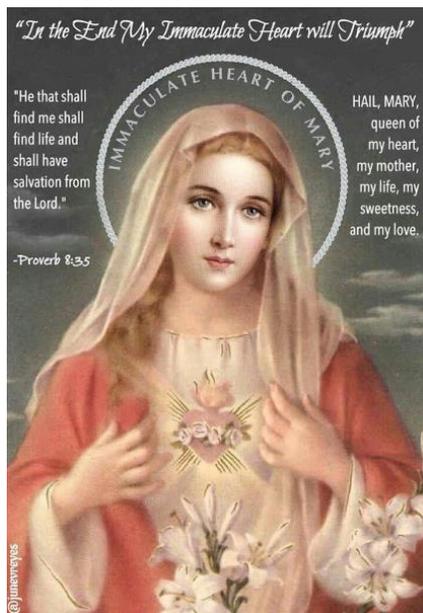


Conforming to the heart of Mary: Pope Francis' decision to consecrate Russia, Ukraine and the whole of humanity to the Immaculate Heart of Mary is in keeping with the tradition of the Church's Magisterium, which has always looked to Our Lady as the one to whom one can entrust oneself in times of trial.

In an interview with Vatican News, Mariologist Father Stefano Cecchin, OFM, President of the International Pontifical Marian Academy, underlined the theological significance of this consecration.

"To find peace we must conform to the heart of Mary, a heart that loves immensely," he said. In October 2020, when meeting the teachers and students of the Marianum Pontifical Theological Faculty in Rome, the Pope invited them to remain "always attentive to the signs of the Marian times that run through our era."

According to Father Cecchin, Pope Francis' decision to renew this act of consecration at this historic moment stems precisely from this attention: "When there are wars in a family, one entrusts oneself to the Mother."



Please find below the interview with Father Stefano Cecchin ofm, Mariologist

Q: Father Cecchin, as a Mariologist, how did you welcome the Pope's decision?

I am leaving for Fatima, where a conference is being held on the consecration of Portugal to the Immaculate Conception, which took place in 1931. It was then the first nation in the world to be consecrated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. In preparing my report, I retraced the Church's journey in the "Land of Mary", as the country of Portugal is called. I realised how this presence, in all the difficult moments of Portugal's history, culminated in the apparitions of Fatima. And it was precisely Fatima that gave us the image of Mary being concerned about the situation in Europe at that time. We were in 1917, there was the Russian revolution, the First World War, and God continued to take care of us through Mary, who, in the apparitions at Fatima, asked for the consecration of

Russia. I want to say that if we look carefully for the "signs of the Marian times", as Pope Francis has invited us to do, we will also find them in the present historical moment. So, I found the Pope's decision to renew this consecration and thus to entrust the two nations at war, Russia and Ukraine, to "Mother" truly wonderful. Pope Francis continues to tell us that the common house is a woman, and is like Mary, that the Church is like Mary and is Mother. We know very well that in a family when children do not get along and there are problems, the mother is the one who tends to bring peace. This act of entrustment is the result of the Pope's intuition and we thank him very much.

Q: What is the theological significance of this consecration?

The Heart of Mary is the heart of God. We must think that Mary is the one who shared her only Son with the Father. That Son was loved immensely by the Father and the Mother, as John Paul II and Paul VI and the whole tradition have reminded us. Mary opened up for us the way to love, who corresponded, more than any other creature, to God's immense love. So we are all called to conform ourselves to this Heart in order to be able to love Jesus in others. We are convinced that true peace does not come from the United Nations, from weapons, or from the politics of States, but only from God. Therefore, if we want to create peace, we must conform our hearts to the one who loved God and who loves the Church and our brothers and sisters, that is, to Mary. Therefore, this is the Immaculate Heart of Mary: a heart that loves immensely, giving itself to all of us. Therefore, if we really want to create peace, we must start from our hearts conformed to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Q: Pope Francis has invited the bishops of the world and their priests to join him in this Act of Consecration and entrustment. Why?

It seems to me that this choice is linked to the concept of synodality that Pope Francis continues to reiterate. The Pope represents the Church, the sense of unity, but unity with the Church and in the Church, which is - as he calls it - our common home. So we are not saved alone, as Pope Francis reminded us in *Fratelli Tutti* and always together we must ask God for the salvation of the world. "Where two or three are gathered in my name, I will be in the midst of them," the Gospel reminds us, and Pope Francis emphasises that the journey of saving the world we must make together, not alone. This is why at this time the whole Church must be united, as in a great Synod, a great Council, in which God is asked to intervene.

Q: The history of the Church tells us that there have been various acts of consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, made by Pope Francis' predecessors: Pius XII, Paul VI and John Paul II. How can we place the Pope's choice in the context of this tradition?

For us, it is very important that the Magisterium of the Church has always, throughout history, looked to Mary as the one who is the image of the unity of the Church, who takes care of the Church, who, in difficult moments, we must always invoke to help us find the solution. The most beautiful Marian icon, for me, is that of Mary showing us the way: Our Lady Hodigitria, the Virgin who shows us the way to Jesus. The Church with her wisdom enlightened by the Holy Spirit thus continues to reaffirm, as did also Vatican II, that Mary is a sign of sure hope. Let us remember that in the history of the Church, in the most difficult moments the name of Mary has always been invoked, as the pontifical magisterium reminds us. So Pope Francis is in continuity with the teaching of the Church.

Q: Why did the Pope want one of his envoys, Cardinal Krajewski, to make the same gesture at the Shrine of Fatima?

The apparitions of Fatima should be seen in the context of the path taken by Portugal. In the 17th century, the King of Portugal was the first to consecrate himself to the Immaculate

Conception, even removing his crown and placing it on the head of the Immaculate Conception. Since then, the Kings of Portugal have never worn the crown, leaving this privilege to the Immaculate Conception. So, we are talking about a land where Mary has always shown her care and help in the most difficult moments. Fatima, therefore, becomes the apex of this manifestation which then went beyond the borders of Portugal to become a reality, therefore an apparition, which is valid for the whole world. So, it is not just a question of entrusting Russia and Ukraine to Mary's heart, but everything that is injustice, that is against the right of the human person, that is mafia behaviour. All these realities we want to transform together through Mary to make a better world.

[Saturday 2 April 2022, the First Saturday. Mass at 12pm at Saint Dominic's Church, Flemington, Mass at 12pm](#)

To dedicate Saturday in honour of Mary is an ancient custom. And it takes a special form since the apparition of Our Lady in Fatima, 1917. It is there, she drew the attention of the whole world to the devotion of First Five Saturdays. What is the object of this devotion? How to do it? What are the benefits for those who are performing it and lastly what is the spirit Our Lady demands of us in performing these devotion? Fr. Patrick Abbet presents the solution in a simple Catechetical format (*Taken with permission from [Ite Missa est, May - June 2020, Pp. 14-19](#)*)

1. What is the First Saturdays Devotion?

The First Saturdays Devotion consists of Communions of Reparation for sins committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary, received on the first Saturdays of five consecutive months.

2. What is the origin of this devotion?

The origin of this devotion is the third apparition of Our Lady to the children of Fatima, on 13th July 1917. In this apparition, Our Blessed Mother spoke of the necessity of sacrifices for sinners. She then showed the three children hell. After this terrible vision, she said:

You have seen hell where the souls of poor sinners go. To save them, God wishes to establish in the world devotion to my Immaculate Heart. If what I say to you is done, many souls will be saved and there will be peace. The war is going to end: but if they do not stop offending God, an even worse war will begin during the reign of Pius XI. When you see a night illumined by an unknown light, know that this is a great sign God gives you that He is about to punish the world for its crimes, by means of war, famine, and persecutions of the Church and of the Holy Father.

To prevent this, I shall come to ask that Russia be consecrated to my Immaculate Heart, and I shall ask that on the First Saturday of every month Communions of reparation be made in atonement for the sins of the world. If my wishes are fulfilled, Russia will be converted and there will be peace; if not, then Russia will spread her errors throughout the world, bringing new wars and persecution of the Church; the good will be martyred and the Holy Father will have much to suffer; certain nations will be annihilated. But in the end my Immaculate Heart will triumph. The Holy Father will consecrate Russia to me, and she will be converted, and the world will enjoy a period of peace ...

3. **Did Our Lady come back for the consecration of Russia and the Communions of Reparation?**

Yes, Our Lady kept her promise and returned on 10th December 1925 at Pontevedra to request the practice of the Communions of Reparation. And she came back on 13th June 1929 at Tuy to ask for the consecration of Russia to her Immaculate Heart.

4. **What happened at Pontevedra?**

On 10th December 1925, Our Blessed Mother appeared to Lucy at Pontevedra, Spain. Sr. Lucy, while Dorothean postulant, was in her cell when Our Lady appeared to her, placing one hand on Sr. Lucy's shoulder and with the other hand showing her a heart surrounded by thorns. Next to the Blessed Virgin was the Child Jesus borne by a luminous cloud and He said to her:

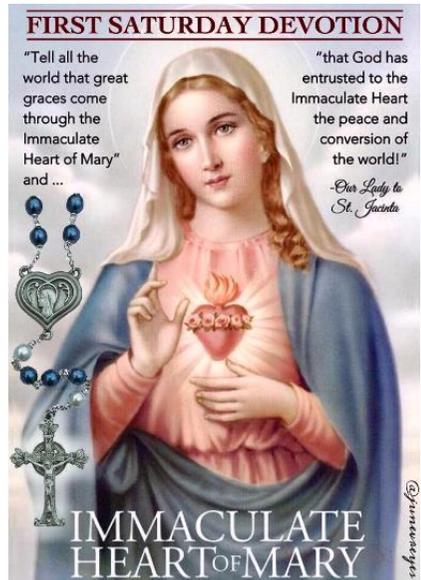
Have compassion on the Heart of your Most Holy Mother, covered with thorns with which ungrateful men pierce it at every moment, and there is no one to make an act of reparation to remove them.

Then the Most Blessed Virgin said:

Look, my daughter, at my Heart, surrounded with thorns with which ungrateful men pierce me at every moment by their blasphemies and ingratitude. You at least try to console me and say that I promise to assist at the hour of death, with the graces necessary for salvation, all those who, on the first Saturday of five consecutive months, shall confess, receive Holy Communion, recite five decades of the rosary, and keep me company for 15 minutes while meditating on the 15 mysteries of the rosary, with the intention of making reparation to me.

5. **Is this devotion a new devotion?**

This is not a new devotion. Saturdays have been associated with devotion to the Blessed Virgin for many centuries. In 1889, Pope Leo XIII granted a plenary indulgence to those who devoted fifteen Saturdays in honour of Our Lady of the Rosary. In 1905, Pope St. Pius X granted a plenary indulgence to all who would perform the twelve First Saturdays in honour of the Immaculate Conception. Lastly on 13th June 1912 – five years before the great manifestation of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in Fatima – the same Pope granted an indulgence to the faithful who, on the First Saturday of each month, perform some special exercise of devotion in honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary Immaculate, in order to make atonement for the blasphemies whereby the name and prerogatives of the same Blessed Virgin are reviled. This last devotion is very similar to our Five First Saturdays devotion.



6. **What makes this devotion so special?**

Without doubt, it is the promise attached to the devotion which makes it so special. This is not an indulgence anymore which is promised, but the Grace of all graces, the promise of Salvation: 'I promise to assist at the hour of death, with the graces necessary for salvation'. This promise shows the quasi-infinite power granted by the Holy Trinity to Our Lady.

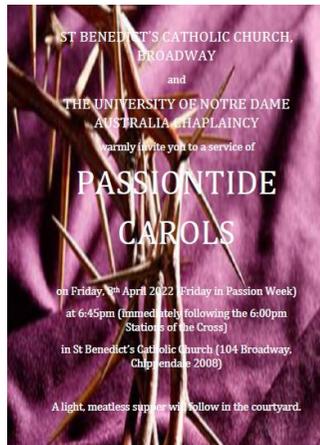


REMINDER: First Sunday of the month BBQ and cold drinks at 12 noon on Marlborough Street side of the parish property as part of our outreach to the Surry Hills community. Come along and be part of this parish community event.

Passiontide Carols

The choir will be participating in a service of readings and carols for Passiontide at **St Benedict's Catholic Church, Broadway 6:45pm on Friday 8 April (immediately following Stations of the Cross)**. It is an open event, hosted by St Benedict's Catholic Church, Broadway and the University of Notre Dame Australia Chaplaincy (UNDA chaplaincy).

A light meatless supper will follow in the Courtyard. All are welcome.



Sunday 10.30am Mass Readers' Roster

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| 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.