



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

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

Please note: Tuesday mass (10May) will be at 7:30am instead of 10:00am

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

Thur 12 May	Saints Nereus and Achilleus Saint Pancras
Fri 13 May	Our Lady of Fatima
Sat 14 May	Saint Matthias

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*

Congratulations to John and Susannah McCaughan on their new bundle of joy, baby Sienna Marie

7 Powerful Messages from Our Lady of Fatima: “The Grace of God Will Be Your Comfort” by [ChurchPOP Editor](#) - May 13, 2019

May 13 is the feast of Our Lady of Fatima. She is a powerful intercessor and model, especially in a time where sins of the flesh and sins against humanity dominate the culture.



Our Lady of Fatima appeared six times to the three shepherd children (Lucia, Jacinta and Francisco) from May 13, 1917 – Oct. 13, 1917.

Throughout her apparitions, she stressed prayer, fasting and sacrifice to obtain peace for the world and the conversion of sinners. She particularly encouraged daily devotion to the rosary.

Here's seven powerful quotes from Our Lady of Fatima's Apparitions:

1) Our Lady: “Do you wish to offer yourselves to God to endure all the sufferings that He may be pleased to send you, as both an act of reparation for the sins with which He is offended and an act of supplication for the conversion of sinners?”

Lucia: Yes, we do.

Our Lady: Well then, you will have much to suffer. But the grace of God will be your comfort.

([First Apparition](#) of Our Lady of Fatima – May 13, 1917)

2) ‘Pray the rosary every day to obtain peace for the world and the end of the war.’

([First Apparition](#) of Our Lady of Fatima – May 13, 1917)

3) “[Jesus] wishes to establish devotion to my Immaculate Heart in the world. I promise salvation to those who embrace it; and these souls will be beloved of God like flowers arranged by me to adorn His throne.”

[\(Second Apparition](#) of Our Lady of Fatima – June 13, 1917)

4) “...Pray the Rosary every day in honour of Our Lady of the Rosary, in order to obtain peace for the world and the end of the war, for she alone can be of any avail.”

[\(Third Apparition](#) of Our Lady of Fatima – July 13, 1917)

5) “Sacrifice yourselves for sinners and say many times, especially when you make a sacrifice, ‘O Jesus, this is for love of Thee, for the conversion of sinners, and in reparation for the sins committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary.’”

[\(Third Apparition](#) of Our Lady of Fatima – July 13, 1917)

6) “Pray, pray much, and sacrifice for sinners, for many souls go to hell because there is no one to sacrifice and pray for them.”

[\(Fourth Apparition](#) of Our Lady of Fatima – August 19, 1917)

7) “I wish to tell you that I want a chapel built here in my honour. I am the Lady of the Rosary. Continue to pray the rosary every day. The war is going to end, and the soldiers will soon return to their homes.”

Lucia: I have many things to ask you: if you would cure some sick persons, and if you would convert some sinners...

Our Lady: “Some yes, others no. They must amend their lives and ask forgiveness for their sins.”

Becoming sadder, she added, “Let them offend Our Lord no more for He is already much offended.”

[\(Sixth and Last Apparition](#) of Our Lady of Fatima – October 13, 1917)

[Our Lady of Fatima, pray for us!](#)



Sr. Lucia stated that the central message of Our Lady of Fatima was the call for personal repentance and conversion.

While it's easy to focus on the prophetic words of Our Lady of Fatima and the [call for Russia to be consecrated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary](#), the central message of the private revelations was a call to repentance and conversion.

According to Sr. Lucia, the three children at Fatima heard the words of angel cry out, **"Penance, Penance, Penance!"**



Cardinal Ratzinger (future Pope Benedict XVI) [reflected on this aspect of the message of Our Lady of Fatima](#) and revealed a personal conversation he had with the visionary Sr. Lucia.

"To save souls" has emerged as the key word of the first and second parts of the "secret," and the key word of this third part is the threefold cry: **"Penance, Penance, Penance!"**

The beginning of the Gospel comes

to mind: **"Repent and believe the Good News"** (Mk 1:15). To understand the signs of the times means to accept **the urgency of penance — of conversion — of faith**. This is the correct response to this moment of history, characterized by the grave perils outlined in the images that follow. Allow me to add here a personal recollection: **in a conversation with me Sister Lucia** said that it appeared ever more clearly to her that the purpose of all the apparitions was **to help people to grow more and more in faith, hope and love** — everything else was intended to lead to this.

St. John Paul II also pointed this out as a common theme among many private revelations of Our Lady in his message on the [World Day of the Sick in 1997](#).

At **Fatima** she echoed a specific word pronounced by her Son at the outset of his public mission: **"The time is fulfilled...; repent and believe in the Gospel"** (Mk 1:15). The insistent invitation of Mary Most Holy to penance is nothing but the manifestation of her **maternal concern for the fate of the human family, in need of conversion and forgiveness**.

This is one of the reasons why Our Lady of Fatima asked for the First Saturday Devotion, which includes **monthly confession**.

If we truly want the world to change, we must not only pray for a faraway country, but look inside our own hearts.

World wars will continue, as Our Lady of Fatima said, until each one of us repents of our wrongdoings, recognizes our own personal weaknesses and relies on God for all of our needs.

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.

Saints Nereus, Achilleus, and Pancras, Martyrs (12 May – Feast day)

May 12 marks the feast of Saints Nereus, Achilleus, and Pancras, martyrs. Each was martyred for his faith in Christ, in the same year during the persecution of Christians under the order of Emperor Diocletian.

Nereus and Achilleus were soldiers in the Praetorian Guard, who became Christians--baptized by Saint Peter, it is said--and decided that they must give up fighting. They escaped from the guard, but were discovered and sent into exile first to the island of Pontia with Saint Flavia Domitilla and then to Terracina. There during the reign of Emperor Trajan in 100 A.D. both saints were



beheaded. Their sepulcher is preserved in the cemetery on the Ardeatine Way, where a basilica has been built in their honour.

Toward the end of the 4th century, Pope Saint Damasus inscribed a tombstone in honour of the saints. It read: "Nereus and Achilleus the martyrs joined the army and carried out the cruel orders of the tyrant, obeying his will continually out of fear. Then came a miracle of faith. They suddenly gave up their savagery, they were converted, and they fled the camp of their evil leader, throwing away their shields, armour, and bloody spears. Professing the faith of Christ, they are happy to witness to its triumph. From these words of Damasus understand what great deeds can be brought about by Christ's glory."

Saint Pancras (also known as Pancratius; San Pancrazio) was born in Syria or Phrygia and died in Rome, Italy, c. 304. All that is known of Saint Pancras is that he was buried in the cemetery of Calepodius on the Aurelian Way, which was later named after him. According to tradition, Pancras was orphaned and brought to Rome by an uncle, where both were converted to Christianity. His name is Greek and literally means "the one that holds everything". As a boy of fourteen, he was beheaded in Rome for his faith. Pope Saint Symmachus, c. 500, built a church to mark his grave. Saint Pancras is the patron saint of fidelity to oaths, particularly the oaths of faith taken during baptism and confirmation. Oaths taken in Saint Pancras's church at Rome were esteemed to have a special sacredness.

Saint Matthias the Apostle (May 14—Feast day)

First Century, Patron Saint of alcoholics and tailors

The Twelve were deeply biblical, so Judas had to be replaced

Conservative Muslims believe that any territory that was once settled and governed by the adherents of Mohammed pertains forever and always to the Caliphate. Once Islamic, always Islamic. To illustrate, it took many generations for the Islamic fist to finally loosen its grip on Spain. Yet despite the Muslim armies being pushed back into the waters of the Mediterranean in 1492, some strict followers of Mohammed still dream of former glories and hope that Al-Andalus (Muslim Spain) will one day re-emerge.

Catholicism harbours no such illusions of glory for formerly Catholic lands, but it does practice a theological form of "Once Catholic, Always Catholic." Many Bishops who serve in the Roman Curia exercise no authority over a diocese. Auxiliary bishops likewise lack a territory. These two categories of bishops are thus given a "titular" episcopal see. It is a see in name, or title, only. The see is normally that of an ancient diocese whose existence ceased due to, typically, Muslim invasion. The custom of assigning "titular" sees to some bishops not only preserves the memory of lost peoples and dioceses, it also has some theological support. A bishop and his diocese are united, like spouses, in a marriage arranged in Rome. That's why a bishop wears a ring. And a diocese, once created, cannot remain a widow. A new bishop is always appointed to be wedded to it. A diocese must have a spouse, even if he is a long way from home in distance and time. Titular bishops succeed in the present, if only in name, the past bishops of now defunct dioceses. The tradition that all bishops, beginning with the Apostles, must have successors is rooted not just in the early Church but in Judaism. The Twelve Apostles are more often referred to in the New Testament by their number than their names. They are, simply, "The Twelve." This custom is rooted in the twelve tribes who settled the land of Canaan after the Exodus from Egypt. These tribes were founded by the twelve sons of the Patriarch Jacob, later renamed Israel. It was inside of this Old Testament Jewish tradition that Jesus Christ acted when He chose twelve men upon whom to found His Church. Jesus specifically states that His followers will sit on twelve thrones

judging the twelve tribes of Israel (Mt. 19:28, Lk. 22:30). And the Book of Revelation states that the names of the twelve tribes of Israel will be written on the gates of the Heavenly Jerusalem (Rev. 21:12 ff).

It was fitting, then, when “The Twelve” were reduced to “The Eleven” after Judas’ self murder, that the fullness of the biblical number had to be restored. And this is where today’s saint steps out from the shadows to play his role in Christian history. The first chapter of the Acts of the Apostles, the great history book of the early Church, tells us that, after the Ascension, the eleven Apostles returned to Jerusalem. There, Peter “stood up among the believers” to tell them that someone who had “accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us... must become a witness with us to his resurrection.” Two names were proposed to replace Judas: Matthias and Joseph called Barsabbas. Then the Eleven prayed to the Lord to show them the way. They cast lots. Matthias was chosen. An Apostle, for the first time, had a successor. And, of equal significance, the appointment came from the group, or college, of Apostles, led by



Peter. Thus was established, just days after Christ left the earth, a form of Church preservation and growth which would be repeated, and is still repeated, tens of thousands of times in Christian history.

The Church has placed the Feast of St. Matthias purposefully close to the Feast of the Ascension, just as his election in Acts occurred so soon after that event in the Bible. The Holy Spirit had yet to descend at Pentecost, and still the Church performed the will of God with authority in selecting Matthias. It was all there in the beginning. It is still here all around us. The miracle of the Church and her Apostles continues. It will always continue.

Saint Matthias, we beg your intercession from your powerful throne in the Heavenly Jerusalem, that you fortify all who govern your Church to emulate “The Twelve” in their wisdom, trust, prudence, and daring in leading and spreading the Faith.

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.

Sydney Fleadh: Irish Music Festival – 29 May

For further information please contact Marion O'Reilly on marionmartina3@gmail.com

Sunday 10.30am Mass Readers' Roster

First Sunday: 24 April	Michael and Gloria Walker
Second Sunday: 1 May	James and Geneviève McCaughan
Third Sunday: 8 May	Jessica Gereis and Fiorella Vayda
Fourth Sunday: 15 May	John and Patricia O'Brien

First Sunday: 22 May	Alex Leech and Alexandra Vella
Second Sunday: 29 May	Brendan Byrne and Theresa Coyle
Third Sunday: 5 June	David Larkin and Sarah Moody
Fourth Sunday: 12 June	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.