



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 & Benediction: **Fri:** 5 – 6pm
(from Fri 1 July until the beginning of daylight saving)

Church will be open: **Tues – Fri 5:00pm – 6:00pm each evening**

Confessions: **Fri:** 6:00pm – 6:45pm; **Sat:** 9:30am - 10:00am

Holy Rosary: Daily before Mass

Feast Days – Ordinary Time Week 21 (Year C/2)

Mon 22 Aug	The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Tues 23 Aug	Saint Rose of Lima
Wed 24 Aug	Saint Bartholomew
Thur 25 Aug	Saint Louis
	Saint Joseph Calasanz
Sat 27 Aug	Saint Monica

We Pray For:

Our sick and injured: Gerry Cassar, Makram Nammour, Antonios Chidiac, Camilla Pascoe, Josephine Finneran, Ana Teresa Rodrigues, Mafalda Triolo, Aimi McEwen, Louise McCann, Marija Barclay, Dan Southee.

Our deceased: Wayne Maroon (15/8), Noah Ken Herring (24/7), (Katherine (“Katie”) Brincat (27/7/21), Delia Moreno (25/7/2011), Brendan Ellison (Merita’s bro.), Tadeusz and Joanna Wolski, Maria Asumptha Medho (3/4/22), Carmen Lanegar,(6/4/22), John Micaloff, Gerard Watkins, Henrietta Pham, Frederick, Edward & Margaret M Hailwood and Margaret D Hailwood.

Our house bound elderly: Newton McMahon, Joyce Regoski, June Holt, Shirley Kennedy, Anna Maria, Patricia Wells, Myra Krcma

If you would like to add names to the ‘We pray for our deceased’ list, please contact the office. Please note that any names added for an anniversary to the pray for the deceased will remain for 4 weeks.

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*

Parish Updates:

On **Monday 22 Aug**, there will be mass at St Peter's at **10:00am** for **Our Lady Mother and Queen**.

NO MASS THIS WEDNESDAY in St Peter's Church 24 Aug

The Church in Australia marks **Social Justice Sunday on August 28**. In their Social Justice Statement, *Respect: Confronting Violence and Abuse*, the Australian bishops speak out about the scourge of domestic and family violence. They call for relationships to be marked by equality and reciprocity rather than domination and violence, respect and freedom rather than coercion and control. Access the Statement and related resources at www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au



Respect: Confronting violence and abuse points out that the roots of domestic and family violence

“lie in the abuse of power to control and dominate others” and that “this stands in contrast to the relationships to which God calls us”.

Our relationships should be “marked by equality and reciprocity rather than domination and violence,

respect and freedom rather than coercion and control”.

We support women in calling for respect in relationships; their lives and those of their children are sacred.

The statement, released on 3 August, 2022, forms the centrepiece of Social Justice Sunday celebrations on 28 August.

Catholic Social Teaching

“It is important for the whole Church that the welcome of the poor and the promotion of justice are not entrusted to ‘specialists’, but that they are the focus of attention of all the pastoral work, of formation of future priests and other religious, of the normal commitment of all parishes, movements and ecclesial groups.”

Pope Francis, at the Centro Astalli Refugee Centre, Rome, 12 September 2013.

Catholic Social Teaching draws on Scripture, tradition, reason and experience to address issues of social, economic and ecological justice. It provides principles for reflection, criteria for judgement and guidelines for action that help us to build up the

Reign of God in the world. These teachings develop in dialogue with the people, places and events of history as the Church discerns and responds to the signs of the times. In the modern period, this teaching is often communicated through encyclicals issued by Popes and Pastoral Letters by Bishops or groups of Bishops. Hence the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference teaches about social, economic and ecological issues in communion with the Pope. Their teachings address the Australian context more specifically and concretely than the international teachings could hope to do.

This year the Social Justice Statement 2022 – 23 can be viewed from this link:
<https://youtu.be/0ueP-yj4BAk>

Respect: Confronting Violence and Abuse

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We know that most often those who suffer violence and abuse in homes and families, in workplaces, and in communities, are women and children while the perpetrators are most often men. We support women in calling for respect in relationships; their lives and those of their children are sacred.

Respect: Confronting Violence and Abuse focuses in a special way on the problem of spiritual violence and abuse. It discusses how religious teachings – including our own – may be manipulated by perpetrators to excuse violence or to exert control over others. Cultural factors in the Church and in society often also play an important role in the violence and abuse suffered in families, households, communities, and workplaces. This behaviour is sinful.

We believe that respect, dignity and justice, transformation and hope are possible.

The Statement affirms the work being done by faith communities and organisations to support those who experience domestic and family violence and abuse, and to address the drivers and enablers of violence. It points to further ways in which we can all respond to spiritual violence.

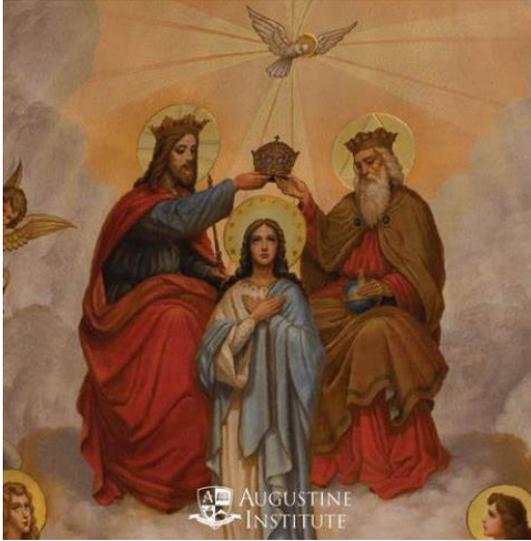
Finally, it calls for faith communities to support and believe those going through domestic and family violence and abuse, to hold perpetrators to account and work towards individual and social transformation.

Parish congratulates Dr. Michael Walker on his appointment to the role of Social Justice Facilitator for the Archdiocese of Sydney.

The Queenship of Blessed Virgin Mary (Feast day 22 Aug)

The mother of a king is a queen who receives honour in her son's realm

Mary is both a queen and a mother, but she is more mother than queen. Mary's Queenship and "mothership," or motherhood, spark to life simultaneously. In the very moment Mary becomes a mother at the Annunciation, she also becomes a queen. The Archangel Gabriel tells Mary that



her Son will sit on "the throne of his ancestor David" and that "He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end" ([Lk 1:32-33](#)). Since Jesus is a king, and since He is conceived in the womb of Mary, and since in Israel the mother of a king was always a queen, (the daughter not necessarily so), Mary becomes a queen. Some texts from the early centuries of the Church call Mary the "domina," the female of "dominus," Latin for "master" or "Lord."

It is not royal blood, but her motherly relationship, that makes Mary a queen. And since nothing is excluded from the realm of Christ the King, Mary is the Queen of that same realm, including

both heaven and earth. This realm was not earned through violent conquest or political machinations. The Kingdom of Christ the King was purchased through a blood sacrifice of the King Himself who died on the cross. Soldiers were not killed so that Christ could walk over their corpses on the battlefield in order to rule a vanquished people from a secular throne. No, of course not. Christ humbly allowed Himself to be murdered so that He could rise forty hours later and ascend into heaven to be seated, like a king, at the right hand of the Father. (Kings sit. Their audience's stand.) Christ gives the world a new form of reigning, a reinterpretation of the words "I win!"

Mary is that heavenly queen in the mysterious vision of the Book of Revelation in which appears "a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars" ([Rv 12:1-3](#)). The complex symbolism of this crowned empress encompasses Mary, Israel, and the Church Herself. Mary's coronation, the Fifth Glorious Mystery of the rosary, has not been defined dogmatically but has been celebrated liturgically and depicted in art since early medieval times. The most ancient depiction of Mary as queen is a mosaic from the 500s in a small church in the historic center of Rome! But the feast day of her Queenship was only placed in the Church's calendar in 1954. Vatican II stated unequivocally that "Mary was taken up body and soul into heavenly glory, and exalted by the Lord as Queen of the universe..." (*Lumen Gentium*, 59). After the liturgical reforms of Vatican II, the octave of Mary's Assumption was abrogated but is still recalled in her Queenship being commemorated eight days after August 15, showing the link between the two celebrations.

Earthly kings, queens, and kingdoms, so present throughout the lived history of mankind, are, more cosmically, images or signs of the structure of authority that lies behind all creation.

Mankind naturally organizes its public life to ensure peaceful co-existence with others, to promote order and tranquility, and to foster the common good in a thousand ways. This secular response of establishing a structure to manage together what cannot be managed alone is universal and always includes certain leaders to represent the organized community. All of this has a religious equivalent. A sacred canopy hangs over the world. A timeless, divine mega-structure encompasses under itself all of the smaller, temporary civic structures. The man anointed as king, the woman crowned as queen, the order they impose through a just rule in a secular polity, point to something else—an underlying, and overarching, sacred polity in which God rules His creation like a fatherly king. In this timeless theological union, the feminine presence is felt. The queen mother is there, interceding with her King-Son on behalf of His subjects. She worships with them but also receives their honor. The accolades directed at her are deflected, mirror-like, to the greater One to whom she is holy daughter, holy mother, holy spouse and holy queen, our life, our sweetness, and our hope.

Mary, Queen of the Universe, in your Son's Kingdom, the faithful struggle to be faithful and to be fruitful. We are under your regal yet maternal care. May we please both our King and Father, and you, our Queen and Mother, since all parents are deserving of their children's honour.

Pope Francis: 'May Mary guide the destiny of Europe and the world', by Deborah Castellano Lubov

Pope Francis prays for Mary to guide the destiny of Europe and the world, help us put Christ and the Gospel first, and reiterates that his thoughts are always with war-torn Ukraine and its suffering people.

"May the Black Madonna help guide the destiny of Europe and the world."

The Holy Father expressed this prayer during his Wednesday General Audience in the Vatican



when addressing Polish-speaking faithful and pilgrims present.

The Pope remembered the thousands of pilgrims making a pilgrimage to the shrine of Jasna Góra in recent days, praying for peace and reconciliation in the world. He recalled that among them are many

Ukrainians "who have found in your country a hospitable home."

"We entrust the destiny of Europe and the world to the Black Madonna. I bless you from my heart."

Never forget Ukraine

Pope Francis said his thoughts always go toward war-torn Ukraine.

As the war continues to wage on after the Russian invasion of its neighbour, the Holy Father repeated his appeal not to forget that suffering people nor grow accustomed to the war.

"My thoughts, as always, go to Ukraine: let us not forget that martyred people."

The Pope has made countless appeals for the country and has offered to do anything possible to help bring an end to the war.

He has expressed repeatedly his interest in going to both Moscow and Kyiv and has reiterated the Holy See's availability to help with mediation.

Mary, helping us prioritize Christ

The Pope prayed that young people, elderly and newlyweds, let Mary actively work in their lives just days after the recently-celebrated Solemnity of the Assumption.

"May Mary help everyone to always put Christ and the Gospel first."

The Pope said Our Lady's Feast Day "invites us to live our worldly journey, with dedication, constantly oriented toward eternal goods."

After the Pope spent his Audience stressing the link between the elderly and the young having the power to save humanity, toward the end of the Audience, a little boy unexpectedly ran up to the Pope on the stage and stayed beside him a while.

Let us pray for vocations

The Holy Father greeted with particular affection the Sisters of the Immaculate Conception who are celebrating their General Chapter.

Noting they were in the Curia in Buenos Aires, Pope Francis said, "I know them well."

"Dear sisters, I invoke upon you copious gifts of the Holy Spirit and I invite you to cooperate generously for evangelisation, especially of the younger generations and the most fragile people."

"Let us pray for vocations," he said

Saint Rose of Lima (Feast day 23 Aug)

The first canonized saint of the New World has one characteristic of all saints—the suffering of opposition—and another characteristic which is more for admiration than for imitation—excessive practice of mortification.

She was born to parents of Spanish descent in Lima, Peru, at a time when South America was in its first century of evangelization. She seems to have taken Catherine of Siena as a model, in spite of the objections and ridicule of parents and friends.

The saints have so great a love of God that what seems bizarre to us, and is indeed sometimes imprudent, is simply a logical carrying out of a conviction that anything that might endanger a loving relationship with God must be rooted out. So, because her beauty was so often admired, Rose used to rub her face with pepper to produce disfiguring blotches. Later, she wore a thick circlet of silver on her head, studded on the inside, like a crown of thorns.

When her parents fell into financial trouble, she worked in the garden all day and sewed at night. Ten years of struggle against her parents began when they tried to make Rose marry. They refused to let her enter a convent, and out of obedience she continued her life of penance and solitude at home as a member of the Third Order of Saint Dominic. So deep was her desire to live the life of Christ that she spent most of her time at home in solitude.

During the last few years of her life, Rose set up a room in the house where she cared for homeless children, the elderly, and the sick. This was a beginning of social services in Peru. Though secluded in life and activity, she was brought to the attention of Inquisition interrogators, who could only say that she was influenced by grace.



What might have been a merely eccentric life was transfigured from the inside. If we remember some unusual penances, we should also remember the greatest thing about Rose: a love of God so ardent that it withstood ridicule from without, violent temptation, and lengthy periods of sickness. When she died at 31, the city turned out for her funeral. Prominent men took turns carrying her coffin.

Reflection

It is easy to dismiss excessive penances of the saints as the expression of a certain culture or temperament. But a woman wearing a crown of thorns may at least prod our consciences. We enjoy the most comfort-oriented life in human history. We eat too much, drink too much, use a million gadgets, fill our eyes and ears with everything imaginable. Commerce thrives on creating useless needs on which to spend our money. It seems that when we have become most like slaves, there is the greatest talk of “freedom.” Are we willing to discipline ourselves in such an atmosphere?

Saint Monica (Feast Day 27Aug)

Born in the 4th century, St. Monica is recognized as the patron saint of mothers. Her faith and dedication to motherhood played a pivotal role in the spiritual formation of one of the most brilliant philosophers and well-known saints of all time – [Saint Augustine](#), her son.

Dedicated to Motherhood

After her husband’s premature death, St. Monica dedicated her life to raising her children. As a single mother of three, she persevered in the face of many difficulties. Her greatest desire was for her children to follow Christ. Although later in life he was known as a fervent man of God, St. Augustine did not easily come to see God’s truth. As a child, he proved to be quite difficult, causing Monica much grief, and as a young adult he remained uninterested in Christianity. But St. Monica never stopped praying for his eternal soul, in spite of the circumstances. On one particular occasion, when she was discussing the matter with a priest, he urged her to remain steadfast in her prayers, stating that it was “not possible that the son of so many tears should perish.”

A Testament to the Power of Prayer

After many years of prayer, Saint Monica finally saw her son give his life to the service of God. St. Augustine declared that his mother’s resilience and dedication to prayer is what led him to become the man of God he was meant to be. [He stated](#) that St. Monica was not only his mother, but “the source of his Christianity.” [According to Pope Benedict XVI:](#)

Augustine himself was to say, his mother gave birth to him twice; the second time required a lengthy spiritual travail of prayers and tears, but it was crowned at last with the joy of seeing him not only embrace the faith and receive Baptism, but also dedicate himself without reserve to the service of Christ.

St. Monica passed away in A.D. 387, shortly after St. Augustine was baptized. Her legacy serves as a reminder for all Christians to never stop praying for those who do not yet know Christ. As [Pope Benedict XVI has related:](#)



St. Monica and St. Augustine invite us to turn confidently to Mary, Seat of Wisdom. Let us entrust Christian parents to her so that, like Monica, they may accompany their children's progress with their own example and prayers. Let us commend youth to the Virgin Mother of God so that, like Augustine, they may always strive for the fullness of Truth and Love which is Christ: he alone can satisfy the deepest desires of the human heart.



Parishioners at St. Peter's Parish Surry Hills were blessed to have Fr Adrian Simmons celebrate his first for them.

Sunday 10.30am Mass Readers' Roster

First Sunday: 7 Aug	Alex Leech and Alexandra Vella
Second Sunday: 14 Aug	Brendan Byrne and Theresa Coyle
Third Sunday: 21 Aug	David Larkin and Sarah Moody
Fourth Sunday: 28 Aug	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.

Safeguarding our Parish

Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with crimes are the police. If you, or anyone you know, have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding Office at 93905810 or safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.

