



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: **Tues – Thurs: 5 – 6:00pm**

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction: **Fri:** 5 – 6pm

Confessions: **Fri:** 5:00pm – 5:45pm; **Sat:** 9:30am - 10:00am

Holy Rosary: Daily before Mass

Feast Days – Ordinary Time Week 25 (Year C/2)

Mon 19 Sep

Saint Januarius

Tues 20 Sep

Saints Andrew Kim Tae-gon, Paul Chong Ha-Sang & Companions

Wed 21 Sep

Saint Matthew

Fri 23 Sep

Saint Pius of Pietrelcina

We Pray For:

Our sick and injured: Bernadette Hailwood, Barbara Blewden, Phillip Camilleri, 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: Chris Owens, Julian Ciappara (28/1), Myra Krcma, Wayne Maroon (15/8), 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.

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

Pope at Audience: Discernment helps us recognize God in unexpected events, by Benedict Mayaki, SJ

Pope Francis sheds light on the theme of discernment during his catechesis at the weekly General Audience by recalling the example of St. Ignatius of Loyola, and highlights how God works through unforeseen events and mishaps.

Pope Francis continued his cycle of reflections on the theme of discernment during his catechesis at the General Audience on Wednesday.

St. Ignatius of Loyola

The Holy Father recalled the example of St. Ignatius of Loyola, and the decisive episode of the saint's life when he was home convalescing after his leg was injured in battle. To chase away boredom, St. Ignatius asked for something to read and unfortunately, only the lives of saints was to be found in the house.

In the course of reading, St. Ignatius began to discover another world that captivated him and seemed to compete with that of knights, and he became fascinated by the figures of Sts. Francis and Dominic, with a desire to imitate them.

Saint Ignatius sensed within himself an alternation of thoughts, and he began to notice differences. In his autobiography, the saint notes that when he thought about the things of the world, he felt much pleasure, but afterward, he felt dry and sad. Instead, when he thought of going to Jerusalem barefoot and practicing other austerities, he found pleasure not only while thinking of them, but also when he had ceased.

Time and the end point of thoughts

Pope Francis noted that two aspects are noticeable in St. Ignatius' experience. First, time, because thoughts of the world are attractive at first but they lose their lustre and leave one empty and discontented.

"Thoughts of God, on the contrary, rouse first a certain resistance, but when they are welcomed, they bring an unknown peace that lasts over time."

The other aspect is the end point of thoughts, added the Pope. There is a development of discernment, and we understand what is good for us not in an abstract, general way, but in the journey of our life.



In fact, St. Ignatius in the rules for discernment lays out an important premise: "In the persons who go from mortal sin to mortal sin, the enemy is commonly used to propose to them apparent pleasures, making them imagine sensual delights and pleasures in order to hold them more and make them grow in their vices and sins. In these persons, the good spirit uses the opposite method, pricking them and biting their consciences through the process of reason."

"There is a history that precedes one who discerns, a history that is indispensable to know, because discernment is not a sort of oracle or fatalism, like casting one's lot on two possibilities."

Indeed, the great questions arise when we have travelled a stretch of the road in life, and it is to that journey we must return to understand what we are looking for.

Fr St. Ignatius, who was not thinking of God when he found himself injured after battle, his first experience of God was by listening to his own heart which showed him a reversal – that things

that were attractive at first sight left him disillusioned, whereas in others, less dazzling, he found lasting peace.

God works in unplanned events

Another aspect of discernment is the “apparent randomness in the events of life,” Pope Francis said.

During St. Ignatius’ convalescence, there were no books of knights, only lives of saints – a mishap that held a possible turning point - and it is only after some time that Ignatius realized this, at which point he devoted his full attention to it.

“God works through unforeseen events, and also in mishaps,” stressed the Pope, pointing at the passage from the Gospel of Matthew of the man ploughing his field and coming across a buried treasure. The man subsequently recognizes it as the windfall of his life and acts accordingly, selling everything and buying the field.

Concluding, Pope noted that discernment is the “aid in recognizing the signals with which the Lord makes Himself known in unexpected, even unpleasant situations, as the leg injury was for St. Ignatius, and a life-changing encounter can arise from them forever.”

The Council: Then and Now - Diamond Jubilee Anniversary of the Opening of the Second Vatican Council

To commemorate the Diamond Jubilee Year of the opening of the Second Ecumenical Council of the Vatican on 11 October 1962, Saint Peter’s Parish Surry Hills will host presentations on each of the Council’s four constitutions: *Sacrosanctum concilium*, *Lumen gentium*, *Dei verbum* and *Gaudium et spes*, with the theme: “The Council: Then and Now”.



The Council Begins

These constitutional documents are the core documents of the Council.

The presentations, which will take place in the same order in which they were promulgated by Saint Paul VI during the Council, will be spaced at intervals during this sixtieth anniversary year under the banner of the Parish’s regular “Evangelium” Sunday noon forum. They will follow the usual “Evangelium” format - with the presentation lasting approximately fifty minutes, followed by fifteen to twenty minutes of “Q & A”, followed by lunch at a local Surry Hills venue for those who are interested. The venue for the presentations will be the Parish’s historic “1880 Hall”.



Pope Paul VI presides over a meeting of the Second Vatican Council in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican in 1963. (CNS photo/Catholic Press Photo) (Sept. 28, 2012)

Rev Fr Dr Stephen Hackett, MSC, General Secretary to the Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference, has accepted an invitation to open the series on Sunday 16 October with his explication

of *Sacrosanctum concilium*, the Council's Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy. Dr Hackett's title is: "This Sacred Council: Understanding the Liturgy Constitution through the lens of the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, the Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation and the Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World."



Saint Matthew (Feast day 21 Sep), CNA

Saint Matthew, the first-century tax collector turned apostle who chronicled the life and ministry of Christ in his Gospel, is celebrated by the Church today, September 21. Although relatively little is known about the life of St. Matthew, the account he wrote of Christ's ministry – traditionally considered to be the first of the four Gospels - is of inestimable value to the Church, particularly in its verification of Jesus as the Messiah.

Eastern Catholics and the Orthodox churches celebrate St. Matthew on November 16, along with St. Fulvianus, a prince who is recorded in some traditions as converting from paganism after Matthew's martyrdom.

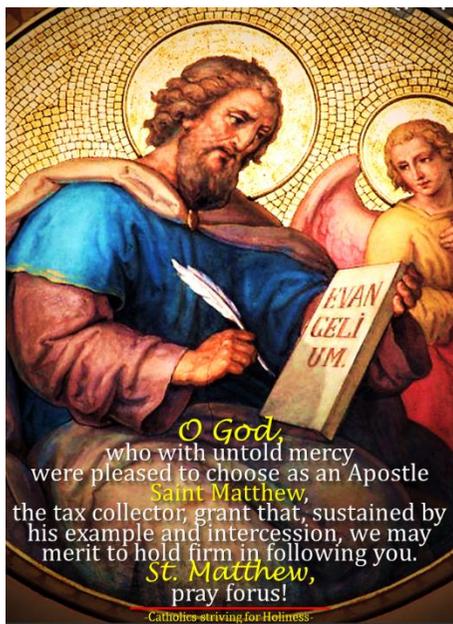
The Gospel accounts of Mark and Luke, like Matthew's own, describe the encounter between Jesus and Matthew under the surprising circumstances of Matthew's tax-collecting duties. Jewish publicans, who collected taxes on behalf of the Roman rulers of first-century Judea, were objects of scorn and even hatred among their own communities, since they worked on behalf of the occupying power and often earned their living by collecting more than the state's due.

Jesus most likely first encountered Matthew near the house of Peter, in Capernaum near the Sea of Galilee. The meeting of the two was dramatic, as Matthew's third-person account in his Gospel captured: "As Jesus passed on," the ninth chapter recounts, "he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the customs post. He said to him, 'Follow me'. And he got up and followed him."

Matthew's calling into Jesus' inner circle was a dramatic gesture of the Messiah's universal message and mission, causing some religious authorities of the Jewish community to wonder: "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" Jesus' significant response indicated a central purpose of his ministry: "I did not come to call the righteous but sinners." A witness to Christ's resurrection after death, as well as his ascension into heaven and the events of Pentecost, Matthew also recorded Jesus' instruction for the apostles to "go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you." Like 11 of the 12 apostles, St. Matthew is traditionally thought to have died as a martyr while preaching the Gospel. The Roman Martyrology describes his death as occurring in a territory near present-day Egypt.

Both the saint himself, and his Gospel narrative, have inspired important works of religious art, ranging from the ornate illuminated pages of the Book of Kells in the ninth century, to the Saint Matthew Passion of J.S. Bach. Three famous paintings of Caravaggio, depicting St. Matthew's calling, inspiration and martyrdom, hang within the Contarelli Chapel in Rome's Church of St. Louis of the French.

Reflecting on St. Matthew's calling, from the pursuit of dishonest financial gain to the heights of holiness and divine inspiration, Pope Benedict said in 2006 that "in the figure of Matthew, the Gospels present to us a true and proper paradox: those who seem to be the farthest from holiness can even become a model of the acceptance of God's mercy and offer a glimpse of its marvellous effects in their own lives."



Padre Pio (Feast day 23 Sep) Miracles and What He Wants You To Know About Them, Jessica Cunningham, Good Catholic, Jul 5, 2022

St. Padre Pio, whose feast we celebrate on September 23rd, is one of the most famous and beloved saints of the 20th century.

As a humble Capuchin priest, he was the recipient of some of the most astonishing spiritual gifts: the stigmata, bilocation, healing, prophecy, and the ability to read souls.

He quickly gained the attention of thousands due to the countless miracles attributed to him.

Crowds travelled from all over the world to meet him or to have him hear their Confession.

To this day, the stories about his miracles continue to inspire belief in those who were previously skeptical. Before we read about some of Padre Pio's most incredible miracles, let's remind ourselves what the purpose of miracles is in the first place.

Padre Pio's Miracles Witness to Christ

The Catechism of the Catholic Church defines miracles as “a sign or wonder such as a healing, or control of nature, which can only be attributed to God.”

Jesus performed countless miracles—by His own power—throughout His public ministry to demonstrate His divinity and to point us to His Heavenly Kingdom.

While reading through stories of Padre Pio's miracles, what struck me most was how similar the miracles performed by Padre Pio were compared with those performed by Christ!

Of course, the saints do not perform miracles by their own power, but are channels of God's power. He works through them and through the conformity of their will to His.

Still, we can see that Padre Pio and his miracles were a humble reflection of Christ Himself.

1. The Healing of a Crippled Man: “Rise, take up your pallet, and walk.” John 5:8

Francesco Santaraello was a crippled man with club feet, dubbed the village idiot of San Giovanni Rotondo. Unable to walk, he would drag himself along the ground on his knees with the assistance of small crutches. He frequently stationed himself outside of St. Padre Pio's friary to beg for money among the crowds of people who came to see the famous capuchin.

One day, as Padre Pio was walking by, Francesco cried out, “Padre Pio, give me a blessing!”

Padre Pio looked at the man and said, “Throw away your crutches!”

Francesco was stunned and did not move. Padre Pio shouted again, “I said, ‘Throw away your crutches!’” and left the man, walking into the church to say Mass.

The crowds watched in amazement as Francesco threw his crutches away and, for the first time in his life, walked on his deformed feet.

Francesco would never use his crutches again.

2. Healing the Blind: And Jesus said to him, “Go your way; your faith has made you well.”

Mark 10:52

One of the most beautiful miracles of Padre Pio is the cure of Lello Pegna.

Lello was a Jewish man who had suddenly become blind. He was brought to Padre Pio by a priest in hopes of a cure.

Upon meeting him, Padre Pio was kind to Lello, but told him, “The Lord will not grant you the grace of physical sight unless you first receive sight for your soul. After you are baptized, then the Lord will grant you the gift of sight.”

Months went by before Lello would return to Padre Pio with his sight fully restored.

In spite of strong family opposition, Lello had converted to Christianity and was baptized. His miracle had not been immediate—his faith was tested when his blindness persisted.

Gradually, however, Lello's sight returned, and the doctor who had once pronounced him blind was astonished to discover that his patient's eyes were now in perfect condition!

3. Miracles Through an Object: She said to herself, “If I only touch his garment, I shall be made well.” Matthew 9:21

Most of the miracles attributed to Padre Pio occurred when he was *physically distant* from those who sought his intercession, such as the miracle experienced by Sister Teresa Salvadores:

“Sister Teresa became bed-ridden at 58 years old. She suffered from gastric disorders (suspected to be caused by stomach cancer) and a painful abnormality of her aorta. The nun suffered from extreme pain, weakness, and vertigo, and her condition deteriorated until she was near death. Her fellow sisters were distraught. Many of them had heard stories about Padre Pio's holiness and miracles. They wrote to Padre Pio, asking for his intercession for a cure.

About one month after the sisters wrote to Padre Pio, a priest arrived at her convent bringing with him a glove that had been used by Padre Pio. The priest asked if he could touch the garment to the tumour in the nun's side and to her throat.

Shortly afterwards, Sister Teresa fell asleep. Padre Pio appeared to her in a dream, touching the side where her tumour was causing her pain, blew into her mouth, and spoke to her about heaven. When Sister Teresa woke up, all of the physical sufferings caused by her conditions were relieved, though the tumours remained. The nun lived years without suffering from the effects of her abnormalities.

4. Casting Out Demons: Soon afterward [Jesus] went on through cities and villages, preaching and bringing the good news of the kingdom of God. And the twelve were with him, and also some women who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities: Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out. Luke 8:1-2

Padre Pio cast demons out of several people—and had physical altercations with Satan himself. People often turned to Pio when they suspected that demonic possession had overtaken their loved ones, as in the case of a young wife who had lain in a coma for a year. Her family brought the woman to Padre Pio's friary one evening during Vespers.

While Padre Pio was blessing the congregation with the Blessed Sacrament, the woman suddenly awoke and began snorting like a bull while her body swelled like a balloon.

Once the service was over, Padre Pio quickly brought the woman and her husband into the sacristy, where he performed a formal rite of exorcism. During the prayers, the woman continued to snort, swell, and claw at Padre Pio. She became calm once Padre Pio had finished the prayers, and her normal appearance returned. Taking her husband's hand, she quickly became aware of (and appalled by) her disheveled appearance, asked for a comb, and left the friary.

5. Defying the Laws of Nature: On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord.

John 20:19-20

Perhaps Padre Pio's most surprising spiritual gift was the gift of bilocation. Padre Carmelo of Sessano, who was the superior of Padre Pio's friary between 1953-1959, tells an amusing account of one of these occasions:

He was with Padre Pio and some other friars attending a show at a concert hall that adjoined the friary. Padre Pio followed along during the show with great interest and enthusiasm.

During the intermission, Padre Carmelo recalls seeing Padre Pio leaned forward and rested his head and arms on the back of the chair in front of him, silent and motionless. The friars assumed that he was tired and did not disturb him while he rested in this position for about five minutes. As the intermission ended, Padre Pio sat back up, and spoke with his fellow friars.

Padre Carmelo thought nothing of the incident until the next day. He was visiting a sick man in town, and the man thanked Father Carmelo for allowing Padre Pio to visit him the previous evening.

Father Carmelo was perplexed. He had been *with* Padre Pio at the concert hall—and he Pio had gone straight back to the friary once the show ended. Pio hadn't left to visit anyone that evening. When Father Carmelo explained this to the man, he and his entire family continued to insist that Padre Pio had *physically* been in the house. When Padre Carmelo asked the precise time of this

visit, the answer was the exact time of the show's intermission—during which Padre Pio had appeared to be napping!

Padre Pio's Message: Turn to God

Padre Pio was once asked by a sick woman, whom he had cured, if he was a saint. "No," he replied. "I am a creature who serves the Lord through his mercies." Padre Pio did not like the attention he received from being a miracle worker. Whenever a person came to him for a cure, he usually gave a quick reply such as, "Let us pray to God." He always made sure to point people *back to the source of the miracles*: God. Padre Pio referred to himself as a poor sinner who prayed, and encouraged others to do likewise. When people thanked him for performing a miracle, he would reply with embarrassment, "Don't thank me. Thank God."

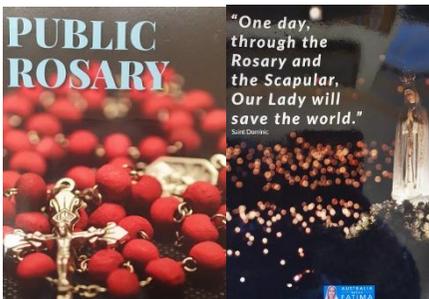
The Most Incredible Padre Pio Experience? His Mass.

It's hard not to look at Padre Pio's resume of miracles without a sense of wonder. And yet, what impressed his visitors most deeply was not the cures, bilocations, or ability to read souls in the confessional; rather, it was his celebration of the Holy Mass. Not because Padre Pio was a great showman performing astonishing miracles at the altar. No, those who attended his Mass truly experienced the presence of God in a way that was deep, genuine, and uniquely direct.

One parishioner describes his attendance at Padre Pio's celebration of the Mass as follows: **"At the beginning of Mass, his face was really pale, just as if he were carrying our suffering, our pain, and our sin. After the consecration his face underwent an amazing change. It seemed to be transfigured with radiant light. From the very first time I went to Mass, I realized that the Spirit of God was there."**



When we reflect on Padre Pio's fascinating life—with its miracles and profound offering of the Sacred Liturgy—let it be an invitation to deeper faith, prayer, and a stronger relationship with the God who loves us. **St. Padre Pio, pray for us!**



The parish will be holding a public Rosary organised by Australia Needs Fatima on Saturday 15 Oct 2022 at 9:00am on the steps of the Parish, before the 10:00am mass. Please help spread the word around. Let us all come together to pray the Rosary for World peace and for conversion of the World.