



# St Peter's Church, Surry Hills

235-241 Devonshire St (between Crown and Marlborough Streets),

Parish phone: (02) 9698 1948

Email: [admin@stpeterssh.org.au](mailto:admin@stpeterssh.org.au)

Website: [www.stpeterssurryhills.org.au](http://www.stpeterssurryhills.org.au)



**Most Reverend Danny J Meagher:** Bishop in Residence, Episcopal Vicar for the Northern Region

**Fr. John A 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 – Fourth week of Advent (Year A)**

Wed 21 Dec Saint Peter Canisius

Fri 23 Dec Saint John of Kanty

**Christmas Mass Times**

**Sat 24 Dec** **8:00pm, Vigil Mass (with our Regional Bishop Danny Meagher presiding) (followed by a parish supper in the 1880 Hall and the courtyard for which parishioners are requested to bring a plate to share; alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks, tea and coffee will be provided by the parish)**

**Sun 25 Dec** **10:00am**

**Octave of Christmas Daily Mass: Mon 26 Dec to 31 Sat: 10:00am**

## We Pray For:

**Our sick and injured:** Josephine Finneran, Anna Seow, Ricardo Francisco, John O'Brien, Catherine Murphy, Adi Soediarso, Gerry Cassar, Makram Nammour, Camilla Pascoe, Ana Teresa Rodrigues, Mafalda Triolo, Aimi McEwen, Louise McCann, Marija Barclay, Dan Southee.

**Our deceased:** Joachim Kerowa, Newton McMahon, Lydia Garrone (4/12 death anniversary, (Patrizia O'Brien's mother)), William Henry Lewis (26/11 death anniversary, (Florence's father)), Mackenzie Lamb, Henrietta Pham, Frederick, Edward & Margaret M Hailwood & Margaret D Hailwood.

**Recently deceased:** Grace Galea (10/11/22, (Pauline's sister))

**Our house bound elderly:** Bernadette Hailwood, Robert Pearce, Joyce Regoski, June Holt, Shirley Kennedy, Anna Maria, Patricia Wells.

**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 office will be closed over the Christmas period and re-open on Tues, 10 Jan 2023**

## Archbishop's Flood Appeal



Archbishop Fisher has emphasised “**Christmas is very much a time when we open our hearts to those in need, inspired by the unfailing love Christ shows for each of us**”.

May this appeal offer comfort and hope to flood-affected communities as they start to rebuild their lives.

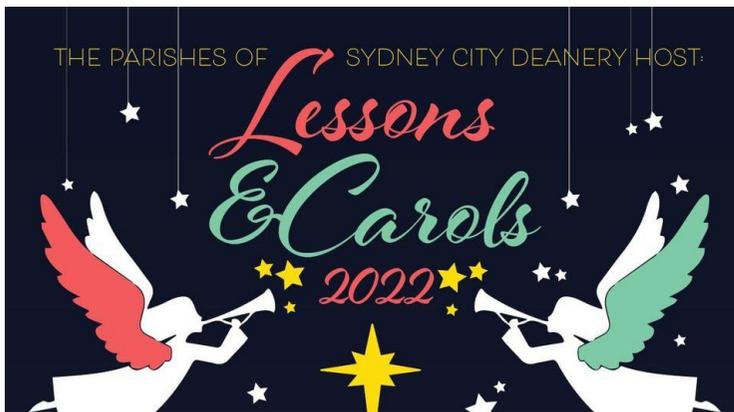
**Donations** can also be made online here: <https://www.ourfaithourworks.org/flood-appeal/>

Christmas at the Cathedral, presented by Paynter Dixon.

St Mary's Cathedral Forecourt, 8-25 December

Festivities begin at 7:00pm with Christmas market stalls, food, fun activities for the kids and live entertainment.

### **The Parishes of Sydney City Deanery host - Lessons & Carols 2022 (followed by BBQ) - from 6:30pm Friday 23 Dec 2022**



This event is hosted by the young adults of the City Deanery. It will begin with carols at 6:30pm in Saint Peter's Church followed by BBQ in the courtyard. Sign-up sheets are placed in both entrances of the church. For

catering purposes, we ask for the small contribution of \$5, to be paid on the night at the BBQ.

Any questions, please reach out to Gerard Horsfall or Sarah Birch.

We look forward to seeing you!

## Mass to honour Servant of God Eileen O'Connor

Our Lady's Nurses for the Poor invite you to an annual Mass to mark the anniversary of the death of Eileen O'Connor who is on the path to becoming Australia's next saint.

**Date:** Tuesday 10 January 2023

**Time:** 11am

**Where:** St Brigid's Church (Cnr Brook and Waltham Streets, Coogee)



## PURPOSE RETREAT 2023

Inviting all young adults and youth leaders (18-35) to come along to a new archdiocesan retreat centred on the theme KNOW, LOVE, SERVE.

**Dates:** 22-25 January

**Location:** Benedict XVI Retreat Centre

**Speakers include:** Bishop Richard Umbers, Fr. Ben Saliba, Kristin Barlow, Sr Kathryn Kingsley MGL, Kevin and Helen Wagner, Fr Chris Desousa and Fr Dan McCaughan,

The retreat will offer fellowship, social time, free time, food, sacraments, prayer, and more, all at the beautiful Benedict XVI Retreat Centre near Richmond.

Places are limited so register today for an incredible experience <https://www.trybooking.com/CDXCV>

For more information contact [info@sydneycatholicyouth.org](mailto:info@sydneycatholicyouth.org)



## 3 Powerful quotes from St. Peter Canisius on Christmas, Philip Kosloski, 12/21/17 (Feast day 21 Dec)

### ***The Jesuit saint has some wise words about the upcoming celebration.***

As Christmas day quickly approaches, the Church celebrates the memory of St. Peter Canisius, a Jesuit saint from the Netherlands. He was a powerful orator, who defended the Church during a volatile time in her history.

Yet, he approached his ministry with great compassion and charity, seeking to convert rather than attack.

Of note are his words on Christmas, particularly relevant as his feast day occurs during the final days of Advent. Below are three quotes from St. Peter Canisius that feature his unique reflections on Christmas.

*In the light of all this approval from Sacred Scripture, let me ask my listeners once more: "Has anybody the right to criticize us even if we seem to be beside ourselves with joy to-day over the birthday of our King?" If the princes and rulers of this world are privileged to make merry over the sons of their flesh, what a mountain of reasons we have for exulting over the birth of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, our Saviour! Never was a whimpering bit of humanity so powerful that, while lying on His bed of straw, He could command the very stars to direct whom He wished to visit Him.*

*Never a child so wise or so rich as this little Infant who was full of grace and incarnate truth. Never anyone so marvellous as to be at once so small and so great, true God and true Man, the*



*Uncreated Word and weak human flesh, mighty King and a lowly slave. Never had any child so emptied himself of all that he really was in order to become a*

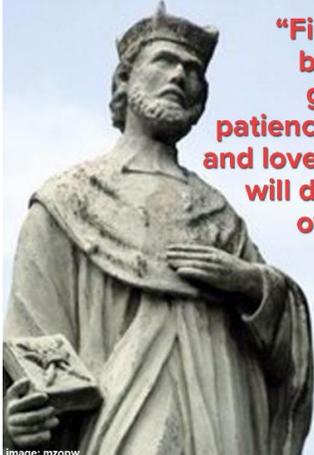
*tiny, speechless, naked, unknown babe. Christmas Day is nothing if not a day of universal joy. Children should rejoice because on this day God Himself became as one of them; virgins, because a Virgin brought forth and remained unstained even after giving birth; wives, because one of their number became the Mother of God; sinners, because their Mediator and Saviour and Healer has come to redeem them; the just, because their Reward exceeding great has been born into the world. In fine, all faithful Christians should rejoice that their Creator and Lord has taken on human flesh and begun His reign over the hearts of men, not only as God, but also as the Son of Man among the children of men.*

**"If you have too much to do, with God's help you will find time to do it all."**

### **Saint John of Kanty** (Feast day 23 Dec)

John was a country lad who made good in the big city and the big university of Kraków, Poland. After brilliant studies he was ordained a priest and became a professor of theology. The inevitable opposition which saints encounter led to his being ousted by rivals and sent to be a parish priest at Olkusz. An extremely humble man, he did his best, but his best was not to the liking of his parishioners. Besides, he was afraid of the responsibilities of his position. But in the end he won his people's hearts. After some time he returned to Kraków and taught Scripture for the remainder of his life.

**Feast of St. John of Kanty**



**"Fight all error, but do it with good humor, patience, kindness, and love. Harshness will damage your own soul and spoil the best cause."**

- St. John Kanty

Pray for us!



Faith in Action

Image: mzpov

John was a serious man, and humble, but known to all the poor of Kraków for his kindness. His goods and his money were always at their disposal, and time and again they took advantage of him. He kept only the money and clothes absolutely needed to support himself. He slept little, ate sparingly, and took no meat. He made a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, hoping to be martyred by the Turks. Later John made four subsequent pilgrimages to Rome, carrying his luggage on his back. When he was warned to look after his health, he was quick to point out that, for all their austerity, the fathers of the desert lived remarkably long lives.

## Reflection

John of Kanty is a typical saint: He was kind, humble, and generous, he suffered opposition and led an austere, penitential life. Most Christians in an affluent society can understand all the ingredients except the last: Anything more than mild self-discipline seems reserved for athletes and ballet dancers. Christmas at least is a good time to reject self-indulgence.

**Pope Francis: With war we all lose**, Lisa Zengarini

The Italian newspaper “Il Fatto Quotidiano” anticipates the release of Pope Francis’ preface to the book “Un’enciclica sulla pace in Ucraina” (“An Encyclical on Peace in Ukraine”) in which he reiterates the senselessness of war, which, he says “offends the most holy Name of God”.

Pope Francis has penned the preface to a new book by Italian Vaticanist journalist Francesco Grana of “Il Fatto Quotidiano” newspaper, gathering his countless appeals for peace in Ukraine. Entitled *Un’enciclica sulla pace in Ucraina* (“An Encyclical on Peace in Ukraine”), the book is published by Edizioni Terra Santa.

## The book

It will be officially launched on December 6 at the Basilica of Santa Maria in Montesanto in Rome, in the presence of Archbishop Rino Fisichella, pro-prefect of the Dicastery for Evangelization, together with the rector of the Basilica, Mgr Walter Insero; Fr. Ruslan Mykhalkiv, rector of the Seminary of Vorzel, in Ukraine; and of Ukrainian artists Oleksandr Klymenko and Sonia Atlanova.

In the preface, published on Monday by “Il Fatto Quotidiano”, Pope Francis reflects on hope in the Christian perspective, on the unjustifiability and senselessness of war, and on the duty of everybody to actively uphold peace.

## Hope in the Christian perspective

The Pope significantly starts with a quote from the famous Italian novel “I Promessi Sposi” (“The Betrothed”), by Italian writer Alessandro Manzoni: “I have never found the Lord to begin a miracle without finishing it.” He said this sentence inspired the motto he has chosen for the 2025 Jubilee Year: “Pilgrims of hope”.

He notes in this regard that Benedict XVI has offered us a marvellous encyclical on hope, *Spe salvi*, in which the Pope emeritus highlights the power of Christian hope amid adversities based on the confidence in the redemption of Christ, and on the “certainty that the Lord takes us by hand and lifts us up because He doesn’t want us to remain on the ground”.

*“Christians must have the gaze of Christ, who embraces from below, who seeks those who are lost, with compassion. This is, and must be, the gaze of the Church, always, the gaze of Christ, not the condemning gaze.”*

## War offends the name of God

In light of this, Pope Francis insists that no Christian can give a moral or religious justification to the "senseless and blasphemous" war in Ukraine, and of every war, which "offends the most holy name of God".

*"We, men of God who proclaim the Gospel of the Risen One, have the duty to cry out this truth of faith: God is a God of peace, love, and hope. A God who wants us all to be brothers, as His Son Jesus Christ taught us. The horrors of war, of every war, offend the most holy name of God. And they offend Him even more if His name is abused to justify such unspeakable carnage."*

## With war, everyone loses

Citing Pope Pius XII's words on the eve of the outbreak of the Second World War, Pope Francis once again warns that "in war, everyone loses", even "those who did not take part in it and who, in cowardly indifference, stood by and watched this horror without intervening to bring peace". Indeed, he says, "all of us, in whatever role, have the duty to be beacons of peace" and "no one is entitled to look the other way"

Pope Francis then thanks Francesco Antonio Grana for collecting his appeals and also ifattoquotidiano.it for giving wide resonance to his words in these over nine months of war.

## We must not become accustomed to this piecemeal third world war

He concludes the preface by reiterating his prayers for peace in Ukraine, and by once again urging everyone "not to get accustomed" to this piecemeal third world war, which, he says "is becoming a full-fledged third world war under our eyes".

## Russian pensioner Vladimir Ovchinnikov using street art to protest against war in Ukraine,

ABC News 15 Dec 2022

There are still some very brave and righteous people in Russia.

Over 20 years, Russian pensioner Vladimir Ovchinnikov gained a following for his street murals in the small town of Borovsk, 115 kilometres south-west of Moscow, many of which depicted the plight of victims of Stalinist-era repressions.

But on March 25, just over a month after Russia sent tens of thousands of troops into Ukraine, Ovchinnikov created a new work, one that would place him in serious legal jeopardy.

He painted a girl, in a blue and yellow dress — the colours of the Ukrainian flag — with a bomb falling onto her from above. Beneath her, in block capitals, he wrote: "STOP".



The mural fell afoul of new laws passed by the Russian government effectively criminalising opposition to the military campaign in Ukraine.

"The police said that this piece discredited our army," Ovchinnikov, 85, said.

The mural was painted over and Ovchinnikov was ordered to pay a 35,000 rouble (\$805) fine for the new offence of "discrediting the Russian army", which carries a maximum penalty of five years in prison.

In response, he painted a new piece, writing the word "bezumiye" ("craziness" in Russian), spelt with a Latin letter Z, which has become a symbol of what Moscow calls its special military operation in Ukraine. The police promptly painted over it. It triggered a game of cat and mouse between Ovchinnikov and police in Borovsk, a town of 12,000 people

In place of the painted-over mural, he drew the words "pozor" (shame), "fiasco", and "basta"

(enough), each with a Latin Z. Each in turn was painted over by the police.

The Borovsk local administration did not respond to a request for comment.



For Ovchinnikov, opposition to the conflict in Ukraine is underpinned by a family history of Soviet-era repression. His grandfather was shot by Lenin's Bolsheviks in 1919 and his father was arrested during Stalin's purges in 1937.

Drawing attention to Russia's history of political repression is a recurring theme in his art.

In 2017, he persuaded local authorities to erect a monument to its victims — a stone taken from the Solovetsky islands in Russia's far north, the site of

the Soviet Union's first Gulag prison camp.

"This topic of political repression and the closed nature of this topic, the wiping of historical memory, is one and the same thing as what is happening with Ukraine," Ovchinnikov said.

### Wake us up Lord!

God of Salvation,

Wake us up Lord!

The night is nearly over.

Let us begin our Advent journey.

Move us from our lives

Of greed and selfishness,

From our globalised world

Of inequality and exploitation,

To your kingdom

Of righteousness and mercy.

To a transformed world,

Where peace is built on understanding not weapons,

The poor are empowered to live their lives to the full,

Businesses are built on need not greed

And your Creation is nurtured not abused.

Wake us up Lord!

Let us live as people of the light.

Amen.



Sue Cooper/CAFOD

**"ADVENT IS, SO TO SPEAK, AN INTENSE TRAINING THAT DIRECTS US DECISIVELY TOWARD HIM WHO ALREADY CAME, WHO WILL COME, AND WHO COMES CONTINUOUSLY."**

**POPE SAINT JOHN PAUL II**



### **A Prayer for the Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Mother Mary, pray for us, that we might be inspired by the way you received your life and God's. Draw us close to your Son, that we might trust Him with our lives, as He learned to trust His Father by His trust in you. Help us open our hearts to you. Teach us how to love, to wait in hope, to remain awake in preparation for the coming of the child Jesus, a light to the world. Amen.

