

ST PAUL'S NEWS

JESUS CHRIST | SPIRITUALITY | COMMUNION | TRADITION

WELCOME

At St Paul's "we love because God first loved us" (1 Jn. 4:19). We believe in the inherent goodness of all people - that the divine dwells at the heart of all living things. We believe the whole world is sacred and so we seek to celebrate God's presence among us with joy.

As such, we are committed to the spiritual growth and wellbeing of all who seek a place to belong. St Paul's is an inclusive church, welcoming all and offering equal opportunities for those seeking an authentic spiritual community.

Fr Daniel Hobbs - Parish Priest

Contacts

PARISH PRIEST

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JOIN US FOR OUR LAST CHRISTMAS
AT ERNEST STREET

CHRISTMAS @ ST PAUL'S

LESSONS & CAROLS	FAMILY CAROLS
Friday 23 December	Saturday 24 December
3pm	4pm
Lota House Chapel	St Paul's Church

Plenty of drinks and nibbles to share

CHRISTMAS MASS

Sunday 25 December
8.30am
St Paul's Church

Lota House Chapel: 162 Oceana Terrace, Manly
St Paul's Church: 99 Ernest Street, Manly

Pastoral Message

It is sometimes difficult to express the depth and breadth of our experience. The gravity of a moment may feel beyond description. I have felt this way for much of 2022.

Like many of you, I have been shaped from birth by traditions and institutions. One of those has been the Church. I was baptised at two weeks of age and have been an active participant in and contributor to the church my entire life. Church schools, Sunday Services, all the sacraments, teachings and values have always just been there - I know no different. While as a child I expressed no small quarter of protest when weekly instructed to "get dressed for Church", the church, its signs and symbols, sacraments and spirituality, have been and remain a constant. Church is not just something I 'do', it is part of who I 'am'.

So to live through and be in a position of ordained leadership at this moment of unprecedented change and uncertainty is very unsettling. While the Christian Church has changed dramatically through the centuries, we have never experienced



December Readings & Services

Sunday Holy Communion 8.30am

Sunday Lota House 10.30am

Tuesday Morning Prayer 8.30am

Sunday 4th - Advent 2

Isaiah 11.1-10

Ps. 72.1-7, 18-21

Romans 15.4-13

Matthew 3.1-12

Sunday 11th - Advent 3

Isaiah 35.1-10

Ps. Song of Mary

James 5.7-10

Matthew 11.2-11

Sunday 18th - Advent 4

Isaiah 7.10-16

Ps. 80.1-7, 17-19

Romans 1.1-7

Matthew 1.18-25

Friday 23rd - Lessons & Carols

Lota House Chapel 3pm

Saturday 24th - Family Carols

St Paul's Church 4pm

Sunday 25th - Christmas Day

Isaiah 52. 7-10

Ps. 98

Hebrews 1.1-4

John 1.1-14

a situation quite like we are in today. If you speak with any priest, bishop or parish councillor and they say they know what they are doing, they are either lying, drunk or both. None of us do. Given the uniqueness of our moment, there are no 'off the shelf' responses to our current ministry context. We are essentially making it up as we go, trying to remain faithful.

At first, for much of my tenure with St Paul's, that made me quite anxious. I never wanted to let you down or dishonour my vows to God. But as I journeyed with you through the challenges and chances of parish viability, church sale and relocation I drew great strength from you - from your unwavering faith in God, unshakable love for one another and incredible courage in making decisions that most would never confront. That faith, love and courage is again on display as we cast a vision for our new model of ministry at Lota House. In addition to our existing ministries like Mothers Union and Tatters & Chatters, there are numerous opportunities to share the love of God and build community within the Lota House precinct and beyond. With some 200 residents expected in the new retirement living, it is exciting to think what is possible!

As new life in Christ dawns this Christmas, may the light of St Paul's continue to shine bright in 2023 and beyond!

Pace e bene,
Daniel+

December Ministry & Notices

5th Parish Council 7.15pm

10th Cursillo 10.30am speak with Jen

15th Tatters & Chatters Craft Group 9.30am Lota House

For Our Prayers

Please hold in your prayers: David, Elaine, Michael C, Gloria, Graham, Michael N, Gerald, Annie, Marie, Eddie, Barry, Joan, Shirley G, Glen, Shirley & Gordon, Greg, Yvette and Monique and families, Lacey, Yvonne, Gayle & Lowie, Harline, David and Jody, Kay, Roxzan and family.

Support our ministry

Bank: Anglican Financial Services

Account: Manly Anglican Parish

BSB: 704-901

Account #: 00000690

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