

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

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PARISH PRIEST

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Pastoral Message

The seasons of the church reflect and give shape to human experience. Life is not linear, nor, as my first spiritual director once quipped, is balance possible. Rather, rhythm is what we should strive to bring to our lives. Patterns, seasons, high and lows, joy and grief, life and death and new life again all belong. The Easter Triduum of Good Friday, Saturday and Easter Sunday capture and express this very human reality.

Sometimes the seasons of the church can feel distant or abstract. They are times when we listen to stories, attend services and try to participate but perhaps it can be difficult if they feel theoretical, something experienced by someone else thousands of years ago in distant lands.

Lent 2023 for St Paul's will be very tangible, personal, travelling the path to our own Golgotha. After decades of faithful service and years of fighting the good fight, it was clear the time had come to finish this particular race. Long before my commissioning in January 2019, St Paul's was acutely aware that something needed to give, that perhaps a season was coming to an end. While there was grief associated with that, the deeper sadness came from not knowing if something new might emerge in its place. For something new to emerge, the parish needed to be open to God's call, create space and with courage embark upon the next journey, a journey whose steps and destination were unclear. If there was ever a parish with the fortitude to pull that off, it's St Paul's Manly!



March Readings & Services

Sunday Holy Communion 8.30am

Sunday Lota House 10.30am

Tuesday Morning Prayer 8.30am

Sunday 5th - Lent 2

Genesis 12.1-4a

Ps. 121

Romans 4.1-5

John 3.1-17

Sunday 12th - Lent 3

Exodus 17.1-7

Ps. 95

Romans 5.1-11

John 4.5-42

Sunday 19th - Lent 4

1 Samuel 16.1-13

Ps. 23

Ephesians 5.8-14

John 9.1-41

Sunday 26th - Lent 5

Ezekiel 37.1-14

Ps. 130

Romans 8.6-11

John 11.1-45

The Way of St Paul's

Jesus
Spirituality
Communion
Tradition

To remain a community and to be able to continue to give glory to God, we needed to let go of old ways, to die our own sacrificial death, and forge forward in faith trusting solely in the faithfulness of God. This was never going to be easy or simple, but we did it anyway as our common union with God and each other were our only priorities.

Unlike the Apostles who knew nothing of what was to come on that first Easter Sunday, we now know that something has emerged in place of the old. We are blessed and comforted by what God has brought into our shared lives and we look forward to celebrating that come Easter Sunday. But we nonetheless must not get ahead of ourselves. Our hearts and spirits need and deserve time to grieve, to reflect, to give thanks for all we have shared by God's grace and the faithfulness of those who have come before us.

Take a moment this Lent. Find even a simple way to sink deeper into our God, rest on the breast of Christ and, if needed, weep, sleep, mourn. It is safe and natural to do so. But unlike the Apostles, do so in the knowledge that our God is eternally faithful and our community will itself rise again as a result of your selfless sacrifice and service.

Pace e bene,
Daniel+

March Ministry & Notices

6th Parish Council 7.15pm

11th Cursillo 10.30am

16th Tatters and Chatters Craft Group 9.30am

28th MU Eucharist and Meeting 9.30am

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.

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