



**ST PATRICK'S
CATHEDRAL**
PARRAMATTA

08 March 2026 - 3rd Sunday of Lent (Year A)

1 Marist Place, Parramatta NSW 2150

(02) 8839 8400

www.stpatscathedral.com.au

Bishop of Parramatta: Most Rev Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFM Conv, DD

Mass Schedule

WEEKENDS

6:00pm (Saturday) Vigil Mass
7:30am Morning Prayer
8:00am Mass
9:30am Mass
11:00am Solemn Mass with Cathedral Choir
6:00pm Mass

MONDAY TO FRIDAY

6:10am Morning Prayer
6:30am Mass
11:15am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
11:15am Reconciliation (till 12:15pm)
Rosary after Angelus at 12:00 noon
12:30pm Mass

SATURDAY

7:30am Morning Prayer
8:00am Mass
8:30am Reconciliation (till 9:00am)
5:00pm Reconciliation (till 5:30pm)

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

8:00am Mass (No Adoration or Confessions)

WEEKLY PRAYER GROUPS

Monday 7:15pm - Legion of Mary
Tuesday 9:30am - Christian Meditation
Tuesday 7:30pm - RCIA (Sept - April)
Friday 1:00pm - Cenacle Prayers

MONTHLY PRAYER GROUPS

First Friday Devotions: 7:00pm in Chapel
True Life in God: Last Friday @ 6:00pm in the Cloister Cafe

OTHER GROUPS

Credo Youth Ministries

Contact the office or find information on

Facebook: [credo.stpats](https://www.facebook.com/credo.stpats)

Email: credo@stpatscathedral.com.au

Friends of St Patrick's Cemetery

stpatscemeterynp.com



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The Samaritan Woman at the Well

ON THIS third Sunday of Lent, Holy Mother Church begins a trilogy of liturgies dedicated to our catechumens, now called the illuminati (the enlightened ones), as they make their final preparations for full initiation into the Church during her most solemn liturgy, the Easter Vigil. During our Saturday evening Masses, our illuminati will undergo the scrutinies. These rituals aim to assist the candidates by providing them with the necessary grace as they make the final leg of their pilgrimage to the font of living water, calling them to a thorough examination of conscience and a radical response at the heart of our Gospel: REPENT! An integral part of these rituals will include an exorcism. Unfortunately for our horror film fans, you are unlikely to see rotating heads, spontaneous speaking in tongues, nor our enlightened ones crawling up the walls and ceilings of our cathedral! But rather a banishment of the darkness as they approach the purging hearth that is the *lumen Christi* (the light of Christ).



Our readings are very much engineered for the benefit of the RCIA. In our Gospel today, we are called to meditate on this very mystical encounter between the Samaritan woman at the well, whom tradition will later identify as St Photini - meaning the enlightened one - martyr and apostle to the Samaritans. Approaching our blessed Lord at noon (the sixth hour), the time He mounts the cross and when the sun is at its brightest, at Jacob's Well that is the biblical cupid's corner, He bluntly unveils what is undoubtedly one of her most distinctive characteristics: she is on her sixth husband yet has none.

This woman becomes a personification of the despised mixed-blood Israelites that are the Samaritans. After the c.7 BC Assyrian decimation in the Northern Kingdom, the conquerors resettle the land with an additional five foreign nations, bringing with them their gods (2 Kings 17:24-41), awaiting vindication and restoration from God.

St Photini for us today is the symbol of our own enlightened ones, as they, now illumined by their catechesis in Christ, bravely undertake their own spiritual and moral inventory, recognising the many ways they have unsatisfactorily attempted to quench their thirst by wedding themselves to the things of this world, recognising that it is the incarnate Bridegroom Himself for whom they are yearning.

It is vital that this take place in the community in which they will be baptised. Not only does this spotlight the ecclesial context of the mysteries they enter and our duty to support them, but they become models for us each year as we bask in the light of the desert in this season of Lent, preparing to renew our own baptismal promises. We too must ask the questions: what have I espoused my soul to? Where do I seek satisfaction and fulfilment? Through our Lenten discipline of fasting, our prayer should unveil for us what we truly thirst for: not water as the most basic element for life in the world but living water for eternal life, pouring forth and overflowing in our souls.

Wishing you a blessed Lenten season,

Fr Rooney

THE BULLETIN

STAFF CONTACT DETAILS

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Very Rev Robert Riedling EV
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Assistant Priest

Rev Dr Vincent Ojo
8839 8400 - assistantpriest2@stpatscathedral.com.au

Deacon

Rev Mr David Dowling
8839 8415 - deacon@stpatscathedral.com.au

Priest in Residence

Rev Dr Philip Alesin

Office Hours: 9:00am - 4:00pm Weekdays

Parish Coordinator: Pascal El-Hage (Mon - Fri)
8839 8419 or coordinator@stpatscathedral.com.au

Parish Secretary: Donna Missio (Mon, Wed, Fri)
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Parish Secretary: Pat Preca (Tue, Thu, Fri)
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Assistant MC: Blake Bano
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Youth Coordinator: TBC
8839 8400 or credo@stpatscathedral.com.au

Gift Shop Manager: Contact Parish Office
8839 8400 or giftshop@stpatscathedral.com.au

Sacraments

Baptisms are celebrated in the Cathedral on most Sundays after the 11:00am Solemn Mass, at around 12:45pm. Contact the parish office to book or fill out the form on the website.

Weddings are by appointment only.

At least six months' notice is necessary.
Contact the Parish Secretary on 8839 8412.

First Eucharist and Confirmation

Please contact the Parish Secretaries.

Hiring of Rooms

For hire of Cloister Function rooms, call the office on 8839 8400 or enquiry@stpatscathedral.com.au

Material for Bulletin

If you have something that you would like published in the bulletin, please ensure that it is conveyed to our Parish Secretaries, Pat or Donna, by **12:00 noon on Thursday**.

✿ Sunday 15 March ✿

St Patrick's Day Celebration!

Join us for a parish celebration from 9:30am.

🍖 Barbecue 🐑 Petting Zoo 11:00am-1:00pm ✿ Plants
🧁 Baked Goods ☕ Devonshire Tea
🇮🇪 Irish Dancers 12:30pm

Raising funds for St Patrick's Parish.

Bring your family and friends for a morning of fun, food, and fellowship as we celebrate St Patrick's Day together!

Volunteers: If you are able to help for an hour or so, please call Pat/Donna 8839 8412 or email secretary@stpatscathedral.com.au

What are scrutinies?

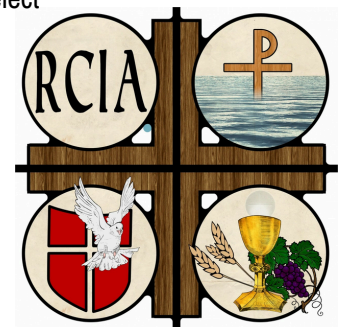
This weekend, and over the next two weekends, our nineteen elect will, at the Saturday evening Vigil Masses, undergo a series of rites known as the scrutinies, an essential part of this period of their formation known as the period of purification and enlightenment. So, what are the scrutinies, and why are they an essential part of preparation for Catholic Christian initiation? The summary below is taken from "Catholic Answers" (catholic.com)

The scrutinies are a series of rites for adults who wish to be baptised. They are celebrated in the third, fourth, and fifth weeks of the Lenten season. This is considered a period of purification and enlightenment for the elect. There are prayers of exorcism which are intended to help purify the elect from sin and sinful desires. The overall prayers and laying on of hands are to help the elect be enlightened by the Word and grace of God.

The basic structure which takes place immediately following the homily:

- The elect (with sponsors) are invited forward
- Invitation for parish to silently pray for the elect
- Intercessions for the elect
- Prayer of exorcism
- Laying on of hands on the elect
- Prayer over the elect
- Dismissal of the elect

Please continue to keep our elect in your prayers as the day of their Baptism, Confirmation and Communion draws near.



Our Commitment to Safeguarding

At St Patrick's Cathedral Parramatta, we are dedicated to creating a safe and nurturing environment for all members of our community, especially children and vulnerable adults, in line with the "Parramatta Way."

The Parramatta Way of Safeguarding is to...

- Act with justice, and state that we have a zero tolerance for any form of abuse or harm to children or any person;
- Act with justice, and ensure that laws and obligations are upheld, and safety is paramount.

PARISH NOTICES

Stations of the Cross – A Lenten Journey

Each Friday in Lent, we invite you to walk the Way of the Cross, entering more deeply into the mystery of Christ's suffering, death, and love for us. The Stations of the Cross is a powerful devotion that allows us to reflect on Jesus' final journey, uniting our own struggles with his sacrifice.

Join us in the Cathedral each Friday at 6:00pm, as we prayerfully retrace the steps of Christ, contemplating his profound love and mercy.

We also invite families and individuals to take part in leading a Station of the Cross each Friday. This is a wonderful opportunity to engage more deeply in the prayer and to help guide our community through this sacred devotion. If you would like to participate, please let us know by emailing coordinator@stpatscathedral.com.au or contacting the parish office.

In this season of repentance and renewal, may we open our hearts to the grace of the Cross and prepare ourselves to share in the joy of the Resurrection. All are welcome!



Join a Lenten Reflection Group

This Lent, take time to deepen your faith by joining one of our Lenten Reflection Groups. These gatherings provide a welcoming space to pray, reflect on Scripture, and journey together as a faith community.

Two options are available:

- **Sunday evenings** at 8:00pm (via Zoom), commencing 22 February. Led by Fr Robert. Zoom link available on the app or contact the parish office.
- **Tuesday mornings** at 9:30am (Parish Office), commencing Tuesday 24 February. Reflection booklets will be provided for use during the session.

Whether you prefer the convenience of an online session or the fellowship of an in-person gathering, we encourage you to take this opportunity to grow spiritually this Lent.

St Pat's Matters is out!

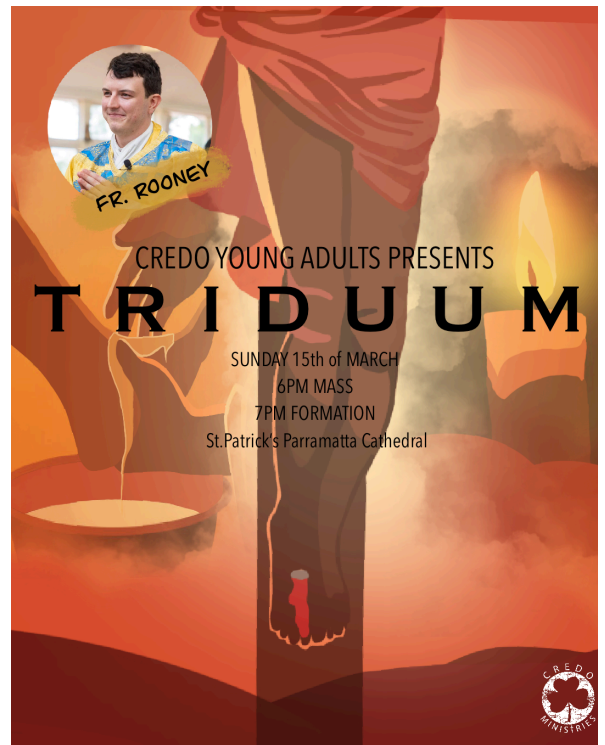
Pick up your copy and read about the fire 30 years ago and a mystery that remains. Follow the comings and goings in the music ministry, and profiles of the stayers. There are reflections from a pilgrim in Spain and a catechist in Parramatta via the Philippines. Also, who was the Irish Catholic rebel who, strangely, worked for the Anglican chaplain known as the 'flogging parson,' Rev Samuel Marsden? There's news of our refugee family, JRS and Parramatta Mission. And more! Print is best but you can find St Pat's Matters in the app and on the website too.



Lenten Food Drive for Jesuit Refugee Service

Throughout Lent there is a donation space in the chapel for non-perishable foods to support the Jesuit Refugee Services foodbank. The JRS foodbank supports over 150 local families. Please consider supporting the donation drive. We need: **cooking oil, dried red lentils, laundry detergent, canned tuna unflavoured, dishwashing detergent and long life milk.** Please note that we do NOT need rice!

Thank you for sharing the love of Christ with those in need this Lent.



Bethlehem olive wood items for sale

This weekend there will be a display of handcrafted Olivewood religious items for sale. These items are hand crafted in Bethlehem the Holy Land by the Catholic families there. Your purchase helps support these families and supports preserving the Holy Sites in Bethlehem. Over 600 families rely on this work as their main source of income, but with the ongoing conflict, hardly any pilgrims are visiting Bethlehem. By purchasing these items, you are offering much-needed support to the Christian community in Bethlehem and helping to keep the faith in the Holy Land.



PARISH NOTICES

PFC Update – 2026 Fundraising Dates

At the PFC meeting on 26 February, parish fundraising dates for 2026 were confirmed. Further details will be provided closer to each event, and additional dates will be added throughout the year.

SAVE THE DATES:

- 15 March – St Patrick's Day
- 20 March – Our Lady of Guadalupe Documentary Screening
- 19 April – St Pat's Barbecue Breakfast
- 17 May
- 21 June
- 16 August
- 20 September – Spring Bazaar
- 18 October
- December – Christmas Market (TBC)

Additional initiatives will be announced shortly. **We will be calling on parishioners to volunteer to help plan and run these events.**

We sincerely appreciate your support in helping our parish grow in 2026 in supporting our ministries and the day to day running of the parish.

SRE Commissioning Mass



All parishioners are warmly invited to our SRE (Special Religious Education) Commissioning Mass on **Sunday, 15 March at 9:30am**. During this Mass we will formally commission and pray for the dedicated catechists who share the Catholic faith with children in our local public schools. Please join us in supporting and thanking these volunteers for their generous service to our parish and community.

Special Screening “Guadalupe: Mother of Humanity”




 Friday 20 March |  7:00pm

St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta – Cloister Hall

Discover the miraculous story of Our Lady of Guadalupe: in 1531, the Virgin Mary appeared to Juan Diego, leaving her image on his tilma — a cloak that has endured nearly 500 years, surviving acid, a bomb blast, and the tests of time. Hidden messages in the image continue to inspire awe and faith.

-  **Tickets:** \$10 per person, payable on the night (cash or card)
-  **Parish Treats:** Popcorn and snacks available as part of parish fundraising.

This inspiring documentary has been shown across the Diocese of Parramatta and Archdiocese of Sydney and featured in The Catholic Weekly.

-  PG (Parental Guidance)
-  Watch the trailer: [Click Here](#)
-  Learn more: [Official Website](#)

Come and experience this story of faith, hope, and enduring miracles!

Women's Breakfast: Celebrating the Feast of St Joseph

Saturday 21 March
8:00am – 10:00am

Mary MacKillop Spirituality Ministry,
33 Barina Downs Rd, Baulkham Hills

Cost: \$20 per person (breakfast included)



All women are warmly invited to a special community breakfast celebrating the Feast of St Joseph and honouring the legacy of Mary MacKillop and the Sisters of St Joseph.

Guest speaker: Sr Virginia Bourke rsj

Bookings essential

Scan the QR code to register

All women are welcome!

Readers required for Holy Week

For those who regularly read at the **Cathedral**, we require Readers for our various liturgies during Holy Week including the Office of Readings, Lauds and the Triduum. If you are available, please fill in the link which can be accessed via the QR Code below. Thank you so much for your continued service at the Cathedral. The form will close on 18 March 2026.



102 years young - A milestone birthday!

Longtime parishioner FELICITAS APPATHURAI celebrated her 102nd birthday on 05 March (last Thursday).

Which leads us to question: is there any other St Pat's parishioner who can rival her longevity?

It was her wish to visit her husband's grave in the morning and then attend 12:30pm Mass at her beloved St Patrick's Cathedral.

Felicitas achieved her birthday wishes of visiting her husband's grave in the morning and then attended 12:30pm Mass at her beloved St Patrick's Cathedral, during which she received an unexpected gift – a blessing by Bishop Vincent!



CONGRATULATIONS, Felicitas, from the Parish Community!

Legion of Mary Recruitment

The Legion of Mary is a Catholic lay apostolate that seeks holiness through prayer and active service to the Church, inspired by devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Parishioners interested in joining the group here at St Patrick's Cathedral are asked to contact the Parish Office.



PARISH NOTICES

ALPHA 26 has begun... but we really need your help

In 2025 we had 2 really fruitful Alpha programs and now we have begun our latest Alpha program. Here are some ways you can help:

- 1. Prayer:** Please pray for our guests and our team, every Wed at 7:30pm
- 2. Food Providers:** If you can cook, you can help. We have a few people that volunteer to provide food but we could really use a few more.
- 3. Service Team:** We like to make sure the Alpha guests can just enjoy the program, so we generally have a small team of people that support by setting up the room, serving the food and clearing up afterwards.
- 4. Dollars:** Food, retreats etc. all cost money. Donations will really help.

Just click this QR code and fill in which way you would like to help. Alternatively contact the parish office and let them know.

Volunteer

SCAN ME!



Donate

SCAN ME!



Project Compassion

Project Compassion boxes are available for you to take home or to your workplace, as a reminder of the work of this international Catholic aid agency. Though most people choose to donate online these days, the "old fashioned" boxes are a visual reminder to us of the command to care for those in need, so please take one with you this weekend!



Supper after the Easter Vigil: Can you help?

We are appealing for volunteers on two fronts:

- 1. People willing to help set up the hall, put out and serve the food and drinks and clean up afterwards. Any or all... however you choose to help would be greatly appreciated.**
- 2. To donate food and drink: suggestions a tray of homemade sandwiches / finger savouries /small cakes or biscuits / fruit juice / fruit salad platter. Or anyone time poor might consider making a cash donation.**

This year, 19 people will be initiated into the Catholic Faith during the Easter Vigil. The supper afterwards affords the opportunity to congratulate and welcome the neophytes (the new converts) into parish community. Anyone interested in volunteering, please contact me, Marian Polizzi on 0418 978 730 or by email: balmapp5@bigpond.com

Open Arms of St Patrick's Parish

Much has been happening with our refugee family, Abdi, Sukare, Sifan (9 yrs) and Somayia (3 yrs) since our last update to the parish bulletin. The core support group has continued to assist with technological, medical and educational issues for the family. Sifan has turned 9 and is now in Year 3 at school. She is enjoying school very much and has started to make friends. Somayia is going to attend childcare/preschool in the near future. Abdi and Sukare are attending a once a week English conversation class in Parramatta, as well as learning English independently as much as they can. They have also been enrolled in TAFE to further their English knowledge once the course begins.

On Sunday 01 February, the family visited St Patrick's parish, giving the parish community the opportunity to say hello, welcome them to Australia and get to know them a little. Many parishioners took advantage of this opportunity and Sukare said she felt very happy about the welcome they received. The children enjoyed it so much they did not want to go home (as is common for children their ages). Our thanks to the parish community for making them feel welcome.

On Saturday 14 February, the family attended a gathering of support groups and families who are part of the CRISP (Community Refugee Sponsorship Pilot) programme in Sydney. This gathering took place at our St Patrick's Parramatta Cloister Hall and everyone who attended brought a plate of food to share. The day was very successful and the family enjoyed interacting with the members of the support group and others from the CRISP programme who attended. Sifan and Somayia enjoyed playing in the Cloister with other children who are part of the CRISP programme.

Abdi, Sukare and the family are becoming more independent, and this independence will increase as time goes on. But Open Arms will continue to offer them emotional support, as well as guidance through the maze of things they need to navigate, as newcomers to our community. Some parishioners have volunteered to spend some time with the family to take them places or assist them with conversational English. If you are interested in having some involvement with the family directly, call or message Dianne on 0408 161 443. We will keep you updated through the parish bulletin about how your generous support is helping our family settle into our community in Australia, but feel free to contact Dianne or any of the Open Arms team if you have any questions or suggestions.

Dianne Starkey (Coordinator – 0408161443), Sebastian Villafana (Deputy Coordinator), Malcolm Freame, Angela Hansford and Macnos Mutano.



Community
Refugee
Sponsorship
Australia

PRAYER INTENTIONS

We pray for...

Sick: Linda Popic, Charles Dickens, Hamish J Pereira, Ghalie Koura, Sebastiao Bugo, Linda Passaro, Ravi Prakash, Rosie Rezk, Mark A Mirando, Adriana Villada, Joana Blandon, Elias Safadi, Mary Grace Manubay, Vickram & Vasvi Arcot, Rodolfo Manalo, Gretta D'Souza, Sharon Webb, Jessica Blatman, Valentyna, Fr Michael Attard, Silvana Rechichi

Special Intentions: Hope & Michael Pace, Raveen, Naleen, Tian, Maxmillian Lovett, Blang, Jane, Regina, Hazel, Mary Grace Landizabal, Bianca Yousif, Chryslyn Pinto & family, Archie Thorbani & family, Unnati Patel & family, Michael Harper, Rohan Britto, Casilda Britto, Hiong, Aida Marner, John & Aida, Bart & Clara Cabezas, Ernesto & Riza Angeles, David Ibella, Ping Hsu, Daniel Pinto, Stephen Senjak, Romeo D'Souza, Romeo Esteves, Marianno De Arrogante

Anniversaries: Aloma Pospischil, Dr C. O. Sioson, Juan & Maria Valdez & family, Juan Montesco, Constance C. Valdez, Victor Dominquez, Erwin Mendoza, John Doolub, Danny Doolub, Pasquale Altamore, Bernard Rodricks, Gracie Rodricks, Irima Muller, Agapito Antonio, Dionisia Antonio, Soosai Villava Rayen, Watson Lee, Nida De Noronha

Recently Deceased: Helga Brightenburg, Reggie Court, Doreen Robinson, David Magick, Giuseppe Barbagallo, Brian Climpson, Terry Cook, Stalin Tiongco, Juanita P. Reyes, Lucy Avila, Miguel Diaz, Marcus Ojo

Deceased: Rufino Soriano, Elsa Soriano, Elias Koura, Maria Megale, Youssef & amira Chaaya, Reginaldo Bugo, Ligoury Pinto, YT & Deanna Hsu, Lucy D'Mello, Rose Mendonza, Sr Regis, Daniel Kek Teng Kiong, Danny Doolub, John Doolub

Anniversaries: Teresa Van Tilburg, Pedro Obar Morales, Edward Muller, Juan Montesco, Maximena Manlangit

Perpetuals: Thanh Hung Le, June Schembri, Antoine Morvan, Leo Bardetta, Carmen Train, Joan Brady, Rudy Rupac, Frank Agostino, Wendy A Smith, Louisa & Arthur Baxter, Paul Mahoney, Nat Fedyk, Robert Dearie, Norm Hector, Bokeyar family, David family, Japour family, Paula Loto'aniu, Peter, Teresa & Annette Van Tilburg, Margaret Angela Roberts, Sally & Frank Martlew, Sherwood family, Pat & Jim Hartman, John Ryan, Mark Fletcher, Royan & Andrews families, Don & Pat Andrews, Juliet & Peter Noronha, Vijaya Sawant, Dr Joseph Malouf, Abel Moses, Jimmy, Anna & Frank Grainda, Jack & June Barrett, Ann O'Brien, Watson Lee, Ian & Pat Sanders, Bill & Alice Kendall, Allan Kendall, Maria Patterson & Ellen Bancan, Hooper family, Giuseppina & Giovanni Rechichi, Mary Coady, Mary & Jack White, Vincent & Rebecca Vella, Walter Townsend, Ferris Grugeon, McInherny, White, McWilliam & McGuckin families, Mary Abela, Robert Andrews, Sylvester family, Rogan family, Adcock & McMillan families, Love family, Gabrielle Baker, Paula Cowling, McDermott & Starr families, Repose of the Souls in Purgatory and all deceased parishioners of St Patrick's and St Monica's

BAPTISMS



We welcome into our Catholic Christian family the following children recently baptised here...

Kian & Ciara Carter

WEDDINGS



We pray for the following couple recently married here...

Lorrae Johnston & Sean Pender

POPE LEO'S...



Prayer Intention for March

For disarmament and peace

“Let us pray that nations move toward effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence.”

From Pope Leo...

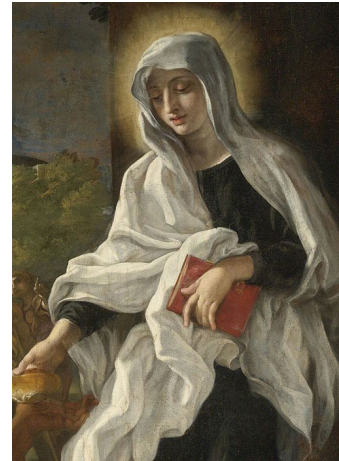
“X” post dated
03 March

“Every path towards conversion begins when we allow the Word of God to touch our hearts and welcome it with a docile spirit. The Lenten journey is a welcome opportunity to heed the voice of the Lord and renew our commitment to follow Christ.”

Saint of the Week

09 March - Saint Frances of Rome (1384 - 1440), Religious

Frances was born in Rome in 1384 and was married at the age of 13. Although she had wanted to be a nun, she was happily married for 40 years and had three sons. She distributed gifts to the poor and ministered to the sick. She was remarkable for her humility and detachment, her obedience and patience in adversity (including her husband's banishment, the death of two of her sons from plague, and the loss of all her property). She was a mystic and contemplative, part of the great flourishing of mysticism in that period, and after her husband's death she retired to a convent she had founded, where she died on 09 March 1440.



Information: Universalis

“Quote of the Week”

“The Holy Spirit writes no more Gospels except in our hearts. All we do from moment to moment is live this new gospel of the Holy Spirit. We, if we are holy, are the paper; our sufferings and our actions are the ink. The workings of the Holy Spirit are his pen, and with it he writes a living gospel.”

Jean-Pierre de Caussade
(1675 - 1751)
Priest and Spiritual Director



Did You Know...?

...that the Gospels we hear during the Third, Fourth and Fifth Sundays of Lent have a special significance for the Elect, who are preparing for Christian initiation as adults?

This period is known as the period of purification and enlightenment for those adults who have been preparing for many months, or longer, for initiation as Catholic Christians. These Gospels assist them greatly as they witness Jesus transforming the lives of those in need of his healing and purifying powers.



Tuesday to Friday 10:00am to 3:00pm Sunday 9:00am to 1:00pm
Monday & Saturday Closed

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