



# PARISH MATTERS

The Parish of Sydney City South acknowledge the Gadigal People, the traditional custodians, who have walked upon and cared for this land for thousands of years. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to this country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of Reconciliation of this land.

Nativity of the Lord, 25 December 2023

Fr Paul Smithers  
Parish Priest  
Rector, Shrine of Our Lady of  
Mt Carmel, Waterloo  
pp@citysouthcatholic.org.au  
Presbytery: 93536310 (NEW)

St Joseph, Rosebery  
Our Lady of Mt Carmel, Waterloo  
St Vincent de Paul, Redfern

Parish Office  
74 Rosebery Ave  
Rosebery NSW 2018

Postal Address  
PO Box 1067  
Strawberry Hills NSW 2012 |  
Office 93536300  
secretary@citysouthcatholic.org.au  
www.citysouthcatholic.org.au

#### Parish Team

Michelle Davies (Secretary)  
Cristina Leontini (Secretary)  
secretary@citysouthcatholic.org.au

Ruth Rawlinson  
(Operations Manager)  
manager@citysouthcatholic.org.au

Sr Rosemary (Pastoral Associate)  
pastoral@citysouthcatholic.org.au

Elizabeth Arblaster  
(Pastoral Associate for Mission)  
mission@citysouthcatholic.org.au  
0491 939 577

#### Parish Safeguarding Officers

Ruth Rawlinson & Michelle Davies  
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The Flight Into Egypt depiction is seldom seen on panel icons but more on medieval frescoes. In this version Saint Joseph is carrying the Christ child on his shoulders. The Child wants to be united with His mother, His arms are outstretched towards her who is riding a donkey and has her own arms pointing to the Child. This is a scene of empathy, family love, togetherness, all in the midst of an uncertain road framed with an ultramarine desert sky which envelopes the protagonists.

In traditional icons everything is detailed and highlighted as it is the Divine Light which permeates and infuses all things. In Michael's rendition, he chose to make St Joseph stand out by painting the rest of the scene in a washy, almost monochromatic way giving him the primacy in this rendition.

There is an uncanny parallel of this scene with the exodus and refugee crisis of our times. In these uncertain, unsettling times the unity and togetherness of the family comes to the fore and shows its value and importance.

#### Icon by Michael Galovic

*This Icon is a gift from the Parish to St Joseph School on its opening in 2024.*



## PRAYER INTENTIONS

Parish of Sydney City South  
under the patronage of Our Lady,  
St Joseph &  
St Vincent de Paul



*This world in which we live needs beauty in order not to sink into despair. It is beauty, like truth, which brings joy to the heart of man and is that precious fruit which resists the year and tear of time, which unites generations and makes them share things in admiration. St Paul VI*

### Weekday Mass times:

Monday

St Joseph 8.30am, OLMC 10.30am

Tuesday

No Mass

Wednesday

9.00am St Joseph's Rosebery

Friday 9.00am Our Lady of Mt Carmel

Waterloo

### New Years Day Mass

Monday 1 Jan 9.00am St Joseph Rosebery

No weekday Masses Tuesday 2/1; Wed 3/1,

Fri 5/3

### Normal Sunday Mass Times:

Waterloo: 5pm Sat Vigil

Rosebery: Sunday 7.30am (Rosary at 7am) &

9.00am. Reconciliation @ Rosebery 8.30am.

Redfern: 11.00am

### Schools in Our Parish:

Our Lady of Mt Carmel, Waterloo

96991407

info@olmcwaterloo.catholic.edu.au

Principal: Mrs Marg Holles

St Joseph, Rosebery

9184 6630

info@stjrosebery.catholic.edu.au

Principal: Mr Bernard Ryan

St Joseph Preschool & Long Day Care,  
Rosebery

1A Kimberley Grove, Rosebery, NSW 2018

9030 4677/ 0457 036 456

scecs.rosebery@syd.catholic.edu.au

Director: Faye-Maree Genovezos

Jarjum School (Jesuits) Redfern

117 Redfern Street

99365450

Principal: Katherine Zerounian

### Recently Deceased: Emmanuel Said, Tim O'Brian

**Anniversary:** Fr Terence Purcell (19/12), Manuel Ramirez Jr (23/12), Mdm Thung In Hoa (24/12), Ivan Cepus (25/12), John D'Souza (26/12), Betty Margan (29/12), Dalila Quinatoa (29/12)

**Deceased:** Warren Walker, Teresa Walker, Vlatko & Manda Cepus, Joseph & Rose Lia, Pauline & Miriam McGill, Elizabeth Elsjé Tenggara, Raymond & Dorothy Blackman, Thelma, Arthur & Janice Gray, Ethel & George Gray, Bill & Pat Clarke, John & Eileen Dennett, Arthur & Edna Dennett, Sydney & Violet Green, Hazel Holly, Arthur & Rose Dennett, John and Rosemary Cooley, Bill, Muriel, Marc & Jamie Wickert, Shirley Turner, Sr. Patricia Wilkinson, Anna, Stanley & Jim Atkins, Jay Rosenstrauss. All Souls, especially those that have no one to pray for them, All Souls of the Unborn, All souls in Purgatory.

**Those who are sick:** Oisín Gerard Bradley, Carlos Lobo, Jimmie Mallee, Bambo Zervos, Virginia Peloe, Edmund Gonzales, Paul Morgan, Mariany Hidajat, Silvana Bevilacqua, Ned Dalton, Livia Mio, John Calleja, Anne Hudson, Maria Tsiallis, Cherry Ermita Dela Cruz, Lourdes Lubrin, Emmi Moeljowati, June Elliot, Lyndall Storey, William Gonzales, Nhia Nguyen, Marina Fox, Jo-Anne Davies, Maureen Maher, Lidia Freitas, Sr Dominic Furlong OSU, Ana Lucia Solorzano, Jack, Ruby, John Gavan, Geraldine Carrington, Therese Mullaney, Manolito Agnilar.

**If you wish to be included in bulletin lists, please email the Parish Office. For Mass Intentions please email before 10am Friday [secretary@citysouthcatholic.org.au](mailto:secretary@citysouthcatholic.org.au). Donations can be made via website or given to Fr Paul directly.**

**Friendly reminder:** In accordance with the Sydney Archdiocese privacy policies and State and Federal laws, if you are wanting a living person's name to be published in the bulletin, we require their written permission.

### Financial Update

#### Week Ending 17 December

First Collection	Supports the Clergy Remuneration Fund	\$ 714
Second Collection (includes Parish Giving Program/ does not incl tap& go)	Supports the Parish	\$ 675

**Thank you to all who are supporting the parish financially.**



Please use the QR code, Tap N Go, Support Us Tab from Website or contact the Parish Office to make a donation OR be set up for a monthly donation using your credit card.

# Dates for your Diary

- ◆ The Way of the Heart Retreat (Part 2) – **Sunday, 18 February 2024**
- ◆ Retreat with the Dominican Sisters of St Cecilia – **Sunday, 7 April 2024**
- ◆ **SAVE THE DATE! Friday, 31st May 2024**  
**6:30pm Annual Parish Dinner** Tea Room, QVB



READING ROSTER		(Normal Sunday Mass Times)
Mass		Readers
<b>5:00pm</b>	This	David McConachie
	Next	Lenette Carter
<b>7:30am</b>	This	Josette Merchant
	Next	Josette Merchant
<b>9:00am</b>	This	Lisa Steel
	Next	Abbey K
<b>11:00am</b>	This	Sandra Truong
	Next	Sandra Truong

## Become a Catechist in our Parish!

Are you hearing the call to Share the Joy, Share the Hope, Share the faith?

Is God calling you to witness His love to our children in the state schools by bringing the presence of God into their lives?

Being a Catechist is both a calling and privilege. To be able to share the joy of the Gospel and the love of God to the students is what Catechists do weekly in public schools and it is something that we would like to invite others to experience.

Can you be a Catechist or a helper?

Our parish of Sydney City South visit two schools each week and with a new school being developed in Zetland, we will need to cater for the children there too.



**CONFRATERNITY OF  
CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE**

Is God calling you?

If so contact Sr Rosemary—  
pastoral@citysouthcatholic.org.au

Christmas Masses		Readers
Waterloo Christmas Eve	<b>5pm</b>	Bianca Rodrigo
	<b>9pm</b>	Lenette Carter
Waterloo Christmas Day	<b>10.30am</b>	Therese Poulton
Redfern Christmas Eve	<b>6pm</b>	Sr Esmev
Rosebery Christmas Eve	<b>7pm</b>	Terri Lumibao
Rosebery Christmas Day	<b>8.30am</b>	Jenny Jago



### A message from the Archdiocese of Sydney:

Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with crimes are the police. If you, or anyone you know, have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office at **(02) 9390 5810** or [safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org).

You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance.

The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.

## Hospitality

Our community has monthly gatherings after Mass at Waterloo, Rosebery and Redfern. We need more volunteers to help provide food, help set up and pack up, and help serve food and drinks. Can you join our roster once or twice in 2024? Dates and times of gatherings are:

**Waterloo:** 6pm first Saturday of the month

**Rosebery:** 10am first Sunday of the month

**Redfern:** 12pm last Sunday of the month

For more information, contact Elizabeth Arblaster, Pastoral Associate for Mission, on 0491 939 577 or [mission@citysouthcatholic.org.au](mailto:mission@citysouthcatholic.org.au)



*Waterloo gathering 2023*

## Lenten Series

During Lent we will offer a biblical series to assist you in your intellectual and spiritual growth.

Group 1 on Tuesdays 7.00-8.00pm (Zoom):

20 & 27 February, 5, 12, & 19 March 2024

Group 2 on Thursdays 2.00-3.00pm (St Joseph's):

22 & 29 February, 7, 14 & 21 March 2024

Group 3 on Thursdays 6.30-7.30pm (St Joseph's):

22 & 29 February, 7, 14 & 21 March 2024

For more information, contact Elizabeth Arblaster, Pastoral Associate for Mission, on 0491 939 577 or [mission@citysouthcatholic.org.au](mailto:mission@citysouthcatholic.org.au)



*2023 Lenten daytime group*

## The Way of the Heart Retreat Day Sunday, 18 February 2024

Set aside a day to attend a retreat at our parish with Anne and John Gray. There we will spend time getting to know the heart of God and his special plan for our lives. For more information, contact Elizabeth Arblaster, Pastoral Associate for Mission, on 0491 939 577 or [mission@citysouthcatholic.org.au](mailto:mission@citysouthcatholic.org.au)



*Way of the Heart Retreat Day 2023*

## Retreat with the Dominican Sisters of St Cecilia Sunday, 8 April 2024 (Divine Mercy Sunday)

Keep the date free for a beautiful retreat day with the Dominican Sisters. Following the retreat, we will offer Divine Mercy devotions at 3pm. Location TBC. For more information, contact Elizabeth Arblaster, Pastoral Associate for Mission, on 0491 939 577 or [mission@citysouthcatholic.org.au](mailto:mission@citysouthcatholic.org.au)



*Dominican Sisters of St Cecilia*

## Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

In 2024 our parish is establishing a Children's Atrium of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. This will be for children aged 3 years old to 6 years old.

An atrium is a beautiful space which fosters a child's relationship with God. Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, which is offered in our Atrium, was created by Maria Montessori, who was Catholic.

A unique characteristic of the method she developed is the use of beautiful materials to help the child to encounter God and the Church through experiential activities undertaken with these materials. You can see some of the materials below.



*Materials to tell the story of the birth of Jesus and the adoration of the shepherds*



*Model vestments to teach the children more about the meaning of the Mass*

If your child falls into this age group and you would like to know more, please contact Elizabeth Arblaster, Pastoral Associate for Mission, on 0491 939 577 or [mission@citysouthcatholic.org.au](mailto:mission@citysouthcatholic.org.au)

## Prayer for Mission

Jesus taught us that the Father is loving and will provide all that we need. He also told us to pray constantly. Therefore, we gather for 30 minutes once a month to ask God to help us carry out our mission to worship God, to care for the poor and to share the good news of Jesus Christ with others. Dates for these gatherings will be in future bulletins. For more information, contact Elizabeth Arblaster, Pastoral Associate for Mission, on 0491 939 577 or [mission@citysouthcatholic.org.au](mailto:mission@citysouthcatholic.org.au)

### **DO YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW NEED PRAYERS?**

Our WhatsApp prayer group would like to pray for you.

**Text your intentions to 0491 939 577.**



## A Message from the Parish Office

The Parish Office will be closing for the January period so our administrative staff can take a well deserved break! Standard hours will resume on Monday, 29 January.

During this period, emails and phone messages will be monitored however there may be some delay in response times.

To contact us: [secretary@citysouthcatholic.org.au](mailto:secretary@citysouthcatholic.org.au) or call (02) 9353 6300.

If your query is **urgent** contact Ruth Rawlinson at: [manager@citysouthcatholic.org.au](mailto:manager@citysouthcatholic.org.au) or at 0410470678.

We appreciate your understanding and wish you a joyful and peaceful Christmas season. Thank you for a great year we will see you in 2024!

Ruth Rawlinson & Michelle Davies





**Sydney City South Parish  
Safeguarding: 2023**

In 2022 we welcomed Michelle Davies as a Parish Safeguarding Support Officer. Michelle has taken on this position in addition to her existing responsibilities as our Parish Secretary. Many of our parishioners will have spoken to Michelle during the year as she tackled the mammoth project of ensuring all Safeguarding training, Working with Children Checks and compliance was up to date for each volunteer on our rosters. On a personal note I would like to thank Michelle for her exemplary work on this project. I also want to thank all our volunteers for your assistance as we enquired about WWCCs and training.

This year we were also selected as one of the forty Parishes/Church Agencies to be audited by the Australian Catholic Safeguarding Ltd (ACSL). This audit comes in two parts, a written document addressing the ten National Catholic Safeguarding Standards and an in person audit which will review our parish in light of the responses provided. In 2023 your PSSOs and Fr Paul completed the written audit and we look forward to the on site audit in 2024. The audit provided a great opportunity to review our own practices and consider ways to improve them going forward. As always if you have suggestions regarding Safeguarding in our Parish please share your ideas at the email below.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and all the best for the new year. —*Ruth Rawlinson*

Your current PSSOs are:

**Michelle Davies** and **Ruth Rawlinson**.

**Do you have questions about Safeguarding?**

Email us at:

**[safeguarding@citysouthcatholic.org.au](mailto:safeguarding@citysouthcatholic.org.au)**

**From the Parish Priest**

During the week the Vatican released a Declaration *On the Pastoral Meaning of Blessings*. Pope Francis describes what a blessing is on a catechises in December 2020 “It is God who blesses. In the first pages of the Bible, there is a continual repetition of blessings. God blesses, but humans also give blessings, and soon it turns out that the blessing possesses a special power, which accompanies those who receive it throughout their lives, and disposes man’s heart to be changed by God. [...] So we are more important to God than all the sins we can commit because he is father, he is mother, he is pure love, he has blessed us forever. And he will never stop blessing us. It is a powerful experience to read these biblical texts of blessing in a prison or in a rehabilitation group. To make those people feel that they are still blessed, notwithstanding their serious mistakes, that their heavenly Father continues to will their good and to hope that they will ultimately open themselves to the good. Even if their closest relatives have abandoned them, because they now judge them to be irredeemable, God always sees them as his children.”

In our lives we can ask God to invoke on us his blessing. We can also offer God a blessing in the form of praising God for all the wonders he has done. These two forms of blessing are called invocation or petition and ascending blessing. The second type of blessing we give in praise of God when we become “aware of the Lord’s gifts and his unconditional love, even in sinful situations—particularly when a prayer finds a hearing—the believer’s heart lifts its praise to God and blesses him.”

Many people ask me for a blessing. This type of spontaneous blessing is given without question. “When people ask for a blessing, an exhaustive moral analysis should not be placed as a precondition for conferring it. For, those seeking a blessing should not be required to have prior moral perfection.” (25)

The type of blessing the Pope is talking about are spontaneous blessings, not ritual or sacramental blessings. These spontaneous blessing I can give to you anywhere any time. These blessings seek to “open one’s life to God, to ask for his help to live better, and also to invoke the Holy Spirit so that the values of the Gospel may be lived with greater faithfulness.” (40)

As we are drawn to worship the infant Saviour, may we seek His blessing and praise God for all he does in our lives, despite our weakness and difficulties.

This world needs blessings, and we can give blessings and receive blessings. The Father loves us, and the only thing that remains for us is the joy of blessing him, and the joy of thanking him, and of learning from him [...] to bless.”[31] In this way, every brother and every sister will be able to feel that, in the Church, they are always pilgrims, always beggars, always loved, and, despite everything, always blessed. A Blessed Christmas!

Fr Paul A Smithers

## Parts of the Mass

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### Entrance Antiphon

Let us all rejoice in the Lord, for our Saviour has been born in the world.

Today true peace has come down to us from heaven.

### Penitential Rite

Lord Jesus, you became flesh. Lord have mercy.

You offer us salvation. Christ have mercy.

You lead us rejoicing to the Father. Lord have mercy.

**OR**

I confess to almighty God  
and to you, my brothers and sisters,  
that I have greatly sinned,  
in my thoughts and in my words,  
in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,

*And, striking their breast, they say:*

through my fault, through my fault,  
through my most grievous fault;

Then they continue:

therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,  
all the Angels and Saints,  
and you, my brothers and sisters,  
to pray for me to the Lord our God.

### Gloria

Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,

we bless you,

we adore you,

we glorify you,

we give you thanks for your great glory,

Lord God, heavenly King,

O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,

Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,

you take away the sins of the world,

have mercy on us;

you take away the sins of the world,

receive our prayer;

you are seated at the right hand of the Father,

have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,

you alone are the Lord,

you alone are the Most High,

Jesus Christ,

with the Holy Spirit,

in the glory of God the Father.

Amen.

### Nicaean Creed

I believe in one God,

the Father almighty,

maker of heaven and earth,

of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,

the Only Begotten Son of God,

born of the Father before all ages.

God from God, Light from Light,

true God from true God,

begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;

through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven,

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,

and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,

he suffered death and was buried,

and rose again on the third day

in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory

to judge the living and the dead

and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,

who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.

I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins

and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

### Holy Holy (Sanctus) Vigil Mass

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus Dominus Deus Sabaoth.

Pleni sunt caeli et terra gloria tua. Hosanna in excelsis.

Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini.

Hosanna in excelsis.

### Lamb of God (Agnus Dei) Vigil Mass

Agnus Dei,

quitollis peccata mundi: miserere nobis.

Agnus Dei,

quitollis peccata mundi: miserere nobis.

Agnus Dei,

quitollis peccata mundi: dona nobis pacem.

### Communion Antiphon

The Word became flesh, and we have seen his glory.

## PRAYER TO ST. MICHAEL, THE ARCHANGEL

(Promulgated by Pope Leo XIII)

St. Michael the Archangel defend us in battle; be our safeguard against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do Thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host, by the power of God, cast into Hell, Satan and all the other evil spirits who prowl through the world, seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

# Liturgy of the Word

## A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The people that walked in darkness  
has seen a great light;  
on those who live in a land of deep shadow  
a light has shone.  
You have made their gladness greater,  
you have made their joy increase;  
they rejoice in your presence  
as men rejoice at harvest time,  
as men are happy when they are dividing the spoils.  
For the yoke that was weighing on him,  
the bar across his shoulders,  
the rod of his oppressor,  
these you break as on the day of Midian.  
For all the footgear of battle,  
every cloak rolled in blood,  
is burnt  
and consumed by fire.  
For there is a child born for us,  
a son given to us  
and dominion is laid on his shoulders;  
and this is the name they give him:  
Wonder-Counsellor, Mighty-God,  
Eternal-Father, Prince-of-Peace.  
Wide is his dominion  
in a peace that has no end,  
for the throne of David  
and for his royal power,  
which he establishes and makes secure  
in justice and integrity.  
From this time onwards and for ever,  
the jealous love of the Lord of hosts will do this.

## Responsorial Psalm

**R Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.**

O sing a new song to the Lord,  
sing to the Lord all the earth.  
O sing to the Lord, bless his name. **R**  
Proclaim his help day by day,  
tell among the nations his glory  
and his wonders among all the peoples. **R**  
Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad,  
let the sea and all within it thunder praise,  
let the land and all it bears rejoice,  
all the trees of the wood shout for joy  
at the presence of the Lord for he comes,  
he comes to rule the earth. **R**

With justice he will rule the world,

he will judge the peoples with his truth. **R**

## A reading from the letter of St Paul to Titus

God's grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own and would have no ambition except to do good.

## Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Good News and great joy to all the world:  
today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

Alleluia!

## A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Caesar Augustus issued a decree for a census of the whole world to be taken. This census – the first – took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria, and everyone went to his own town to be registered. So Joseph set out from the town of Nazareth in Galilee and travelled up to Judaea, to the town of David called Bethlehem, since he was of David's House and line, in order to be registered together with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to a son, her first-born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn. In the countryside close by there were shepherds who lived in the fields and took it in turns to watch their flocks during the night. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone round them. They were terrified, but the angel said, 'Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.' And suddenly with the angel there was a great throng of the heavenly host, praising God and singing: 'Glory to God in the highest heaven and peace to men who enjoy his favour.'