
The Cathedral Coronavirus Chronicle



St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney — 30 October 2020 — Fifteenth edition

“Saints and Souls”

Dear Cathedral Parishioners and friends all,

We are about to enter into November, traditionally the “Month of the Holy Souls” because All Saints Day and All Souls Day fall in the 1st and 2nd of that month. We customarily remember the dead in a special way in November and have Masses offered for the souls of our deceased family and friends.

The COVID-19 pandemic has thrown the mystery of life and death into a greater focus. We will all die, whether by COVID or something else. When we do, we will each face our “particular judgement” leading to entrance into the blessedness of heaven, either immediately or after a period of purification called purgatory, or immediate and everlasting damnation in hell.

Those who die in God's grace and friendship and are perfectly purified live forever with Christ. They are like God for ever, for they “see him as he is,” face to face.

All who die in God's grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified, are indeed assured of their eternal salvation; but after death they undergo purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven.

We cannot be united with God unless we freely choose to love him. To die in mortal sin without repenting and accepting God's merciful love means remaining separated from him forever by our own free choice. This state of definitive self-exclusion from communion with God and the blessed is called “hell.”

Now, we can help the souls in purgatory. “From the beginning the Church has honoured the memory of the dead and offered prayers in suffrage for them, above all the Eucharistic Sacrifice, so that, thus purified, they may attain the beatific vision of God” (Catechism of the Catholic Church n.1032)

Just as we pray for each other and share each other's burdens

now, the Christ's people on earth can offer prayers and sacrifices to help the departed souls undergoing purification, and no better prayer could be offered than that of the holy sacrifice of the Mass.

So please have Masses offered for your deceased family and friends. Send the cathedral priests their names and we will offer Masses especially for them. Join yourself in a material way to the sacrifice of the Mass by making an offering for the Mass - in this way you are also supporting the priests who offer that particular Mass.

Because of the COVID pandemic, Pope Francis has mandated some special arrangements regarding the Plenary Indulgences attached to All Souls Day, November 2nd, and to the visiting of cemeteries in the first week of November. Because of the need to restrict the numbers of people gathering in groups, the All Souls Day indulgence, which may only be

applied to a deceased person, can be gained on one of the other days during November other than the 2nd, by devoutly visiting a church and reciting the Our Father and the Creed, as well as fulfilling the other requirements for a Plenary Indulgence - confession, holy communion, and prayer for the intentions of the Holy Father within a few days of the visit.

The Plenary Indulgence usually granted for visiting a cemetery in the first week of November to pray for the dead can be gained this year throughout the whole of November, with the fulfilment of the other usual conditions of confession, holy communion and prayer for the intentions of the Holy Father.

The Missal contains some wonderful prayers for the souls of the dead, and here at the cathedral weekdays which are not Feast days, we will be working our way through the various Masses for the Dead throughout this COVID-November, to enrich our contemplation of Christ's saving death and resurrection and to better focus our remembrance of the faithful departed



Fr Don Richardson, Dean,
 Administrator of St Mary's Cathedral Parish, Sydney.
 Administrator St Philip Howard Parish, Norfolk Island, South Pacific.
 Administrator of Sacred Heart Parish, Darlinghurst.
 Liturgy Office Director, Archdiocese of Sydney.

Chronicle Notices

COVID-19 update

From Friday 23 October, restrictions on church attendance will be eased further to allow for up to 300 attendees at Masses, as long as churches follow a four square metre rule.

Churches are required to keep records of all attending Masses for contact tracing purposes and the NSW Government recommends that church-goers continue to wear face masks when attending Mass.

Go Make Disciples- Prayer for Renewal Campaign

Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP will be launching a new Archdiocesan Mission Plan Go Make Disciples on 12 December, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the Star of the New Evangelisation.

Please join us by praying the attached prayer together at the end of each Mass, in your prayer group, and in your homes. More about the campaign in this weekend's Catholic Weekly.



The Catholic Weekly has gone Digital!

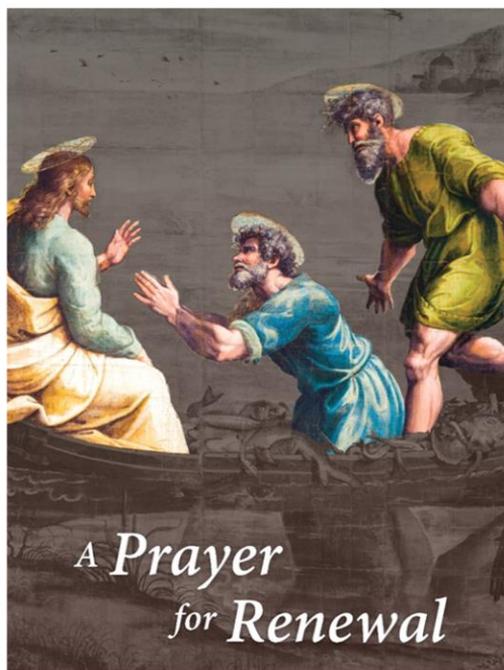
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Please keep sending us your Prayer Intentions and Petition to Our Lady

PRAYER INTENTION
prayerintentions@stmaryscathedral.org.au

PETITION TO OUR LADY
petitionstoourlady@stmaryscathedral.org.au



Blessed are you, Father, who, in your infinite love sent us your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, that we may have life, and have it in abundance.

By the power of the Holy Spirit, renew our Eucharistic communities.

May they be places of encounter with the living Christ, centres of evangelisation and outreach to our community in love and mercy.

Grant us the gifts of faith, hope and love to be faithful disciples of Jesus and radiant witnesses to the people of Sydney.

Our Lady, Help of Christians. *Pray for us!*

Our Lady of Guadalupe, Star of the New Evangelisation. *Pray for us!*

St Mary of the Cross MacKillop. *Pray for us!*

