



# ST. PADRE PIO PARISH GLENMORE PARK

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**SUNDAY 22 JANUARY 2023**

**THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**YEAR A**

## ST. PADRE PIO CHURCH PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday – Friday 8:30am – 3:30pm  
Closed 12:00pm – 12:30pm

### SUNDAY

8:00am Mass  
10:00am Mass

### MONDAY

No Mass and Office closed

### TUESDAY TO FRIDAY

9:00am Mass

### SATURDAY

9:00am Mass  
Novena to St. Padre Pio  
9:30am Sacrament of Penance  
5:30pm Saturday Vigil Mass

### BAPTISMS

11:30am 1st, 2nd, and 3rd  
Sundays. Please contact the  
Parish Office. Presentation and  
Baptism Information morning  
are held every 4th Sunday

### FIRST FRIDAY ALL-NIGHT ADORATION

8:00pm – 9:00am Saturday Mass  
3:00am Divine Mercy Chaplet

### CHILDREN'S YOUTH GROUP

**For children:** Yr. 1 to Yr. 8.  
Every 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday  
4.30pm-5.30pm in the school hall.

### FRIDAY PLAYGROUP

9:30am – 11:30am 0-6 years  
Bethany Catholic Primary School  
Hall Contact Joanne D'Agostino,  
via the Parish Office.

### SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMS

Please contact the Parish Office.

Dear Friends,

This is our first parish bulletin of the New Year 2023. Thanks be to God for all the wonderful things that we have had during the past years. There are innumerable reasons that we need to be grateful to God for. Let us pray that He continues to love, protect and guide us in the years to come.

I would like to write about the power of prayer in this bulletin. Prayer is not a monotonous process but a dialogue that will enable us to see the work of God in a marvellous way. We have experienced few miracles in our parish due to our prayers.

Firstly, we prayed for a 4 year old child, Azariah, who was born without 2 ventricles in her heart. The medical world was struggling to find a cure and there was little hope for the child to survive. People began to pray earnestly for the child. The surgery was successful and now the little one is witness to God's love.

Secondly, our own parishioner who had a massive heart attack and fought for life while in coma. Again, it is a miracle that he survived this and now he is back to his family.

Thirdly, the Sea World tragedy that killed 4 people and critically injured our little Nicholas. The prayers of thousands of people made him survive to this day. It is purely a miracle that anyone can survive that accident. He has a long way to go and in need of our constant prayers.

I am sure you are aware of such incidences wherein we can see the hand of God at work. No explanation is possible in these scenarios. One can only feel the presence of God in them.

I earnestly ask you not to give up on prayer this year. There are lots of things that we need to be grateful for and lots of things that we need to pray for.

Praying for others is a noble act. We wish them well and it shows our kindness and generosity. It makes us better human beings. God is good to us so let us be His children by loving God and our fellow human beings.

The Gospel of today speaks of Jesus' disciples leaving their 'nets and boats' and following Jesus. Sometimes, we need to leave behind our 'nets and boats' for the sake of our own salvation and the salvation of others. If we hold on to our own 'nets and boats', they are likely to entangle us and cripple us.

Jesus calls us for a better life always. Let us respond to Him generously.

God Bless..

Kind regards,  
Fr. Suresh Kumar  
Parish Priest

# The Conversion of St. Paul

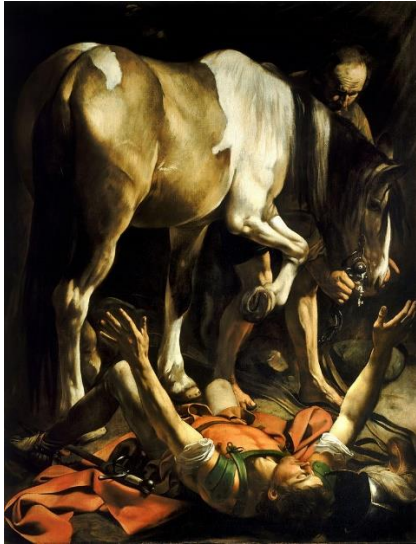


Photo is from Wikipedia.org, Painting by Caravaggio

The Below is from: [ewtn.com/catholicism/seasons-and-feast-days/conversion-of-saint-paul-23084](http://ewtn.com/catholicism/seasons-and-feast-days/conversion-of-saint-paul-23084)

## **Why do we celebrate the Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul?**

On January 25, the faithful celebrate the Conversion of Saint Paul, one of the great events of the early Church. Saul, a student of the great Pharisee rabbi Gamaliel, had persecuted Christians, but was suddenly converted on the road to Damascus when our Lord appeared to him in His resurrected glory (Acts 9:1-9). From this point, he took the name Paul, and would become the “Apostle to the Gentiles.”

## **What was Saint Paul like before his conversion?**

Born into a well-to-do Jewish family of Tarsus, the son of a Roman citizen, Saul (as we shall call him until after his conversion) was sent to Jerusalem to be trained in the famous rabbinical school headed by Gamaliel. Here, in addition to studying the Law and the Prophets, he learned a trade, as was the custom. Young Saul chose the trade of tent-making. Although his upbringing was orthodox, while still at home in Tarsus he had come under the liberalizing Hellenic influences which at this time had permeated all levels of urban society in Asia Minor. Thus the Judaic, Roman, and Greek traditions and cultures all had a part in shaping this great Apostle, who was so different in status and temperament from the humble fishermen of Jesus' initial band of disciples. In the year 35, Saul appears as a self-righteous young Pharisee, almost fanatically anti-Christian. He believed that the trouble-making new religion should be stamped out, its adherents punished. We are told in Acts chapter 8 that he was present, although not a participator in the stoning, when Stephen, the first martyr, met his death.

## **Why was Saul on his way to Damascus?**

In fact, Acts 8 begins with the words, “And Saul approved of their killing him.”

In the fury of his zeal, he applied to the high priest and Sanhedrin for a commission to take up all Jews at Damascus who confessed Jesus Christ and bring them bound to Jerusalem, that they might serve as public examples for the terror of others. But God was pleased to show forth in him, His patience and mercy: and, moved by the prayers of St. Stephen and his other persecuted servants, for their enemies, changed him, in the very heat of his fury, into a vessel of election, and made him a greater mall in his church by the grace of the apostleship, than St. Stephen has ever been, and a more illustrious instrument of his glory

## **When was St. Paul converted to Christianity?**

St. Paul was converted to Christianity on his way to Damascus, in the 30s of the first century A.D..

On his journey to Damascus, the Resurrected Christ appeared to him (Acts 9 and Acts 22) and it was this encounter that brought about his dramatic and immediate conversion.

In commenting on the conversion of St. Paul, Pope Benedict XVI states that when Paul met Christ on the road to Damascus, “...it was not simply a conversion... but rather a death and a resurrection for Paul himself. One existence died and another, a new one was born with the Risen Christ. Thus St. Paul was not transformed by a thought but by an event, by the irresistible presence of the Risen One whom subsequently he would never be able to doubt, so powerful had been the evidence of the event, of this encounter. It radically changed Paul's life in a fundamental way; in this sense one can and must speak of a conversion.”

## **What is the importance of the disciple Paul?**

St. Paul is a great example of conversion for us. Before being called by Christ, he was a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a fervent enemy of Christ. Paul's conversion was a pure miracle of God's grace. He is a perfect example of true conversion. He dedicated himself to persecuting Christians and the moment he met Christ, his life changed radically, instantly and completely. When the Lord called him, he left behind his old ways and became a new person, fully willing to follow Christ and his precepts. Pope Francis said that this conversion story affects all of us because we all “have hardness of heart,” just as Saul did and just like Saul, we are all called to conversion.

## ST. PADRE PIO PARISH INFORMATION

### AUSTRALIA DAY

**When:** This Thursday 26 January  
Let us join in praying for our country at the **9am Mass**.

### FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

**When:** Thursday 02 February, 9am Mass  
It is a tradition in the Catholic Church for candles to be blessed on this day. **You are invited to bring candles with you to be blessed and to be used at home during prayer.** The blessing will take place prior to the Mass.

### FIRST FRIDAY ALL-NIGHT ADORATION

*Would you come and spend an hour with Jesus?*

**When:** Friday 03 February to Saturday 04 February

**8:00pm:** All-night Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

**3:00am:** The Divine Mercy Chaplet

**9:00am:** Adoration will conclude with Mass & Novena to St. Padre Pio. We encourage all parishioners to add their name to the sign-up sheet on the Welcome table.



### CHILDREN YOUTH GROUP

**For children:** Yr. 1 to Yr. 8.

The first meeting for 2023 will be on 04 February

**When:** Every 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday, 4.30pm-5.30pm in the school hall.

The Sign-up sheet is found on the Welcome Table.

### SACRAMENT OF PENANCE AND RECONCILIATION FORM DUE 08 FEBRUARY

The Parent Info Letter & Enrolment Form are available on the Parish Website and the Welcome Table. Please return the forms to the parish office.

**Sunday 22 January: Third Sunday in Ordinary Time Yr. A**  
**Tuesday 24 January: St. Francis de Sales, Bishop & Doctor of the Church**

**Wednesday 25 January: The Conversion of St. Paul**

**Thursday 26 January: Australia Day**

**Friday 27 January: Sts. Timothy & Titus**

**Saturday 28 January: St. Thomas Aquinas, Priest & Doctor of the Church**

### ROSARY PRAYER GROUP

**Date:** Tuesday 24 January

**Place:** Daniel & Regina Rossetto, 121 St. Thomas Rd, Mulgoa

**Date:** Tuesday 31 January

**Place:** Dit & Mel Almer, 19 Gleneagles Way, GP

### LEGION OF MARY ROSARY MEETING

**Date:** Every Thursday, 6:00pm

**Place:** Parish meeting room. All welcome to attend.

### DIOCESAN LITURGICAL MINISTRY COURSES

The Office for Worship is running the Diocesan Liturgical Ministry Courses again in Blacktown or in Penrith, from mid-February onwards.

It is for people wishing to become a Reader, Eucharistic Minister, Give Holy Communion to the sick and dying or become a Minister of the Altar.

If you would like to be involved in any of these ministries, please speak to Fr Suresh.

*“Pray, hope, and don't worry.”*

*- St. Padre Pio*

### FROM THE DIOCESE:

**Invitation to the Ordination to the Presbyterate of Adam Carlow, Matthew Dimian and Jack Elkazzi**

**When:** Thursday 02 February, 7.30pm, at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta. Please RSVP to the Cathedral Parish Team: [secretary@stpatscathedral.com.au](mailto:secretary@stpatscathedral.com.au) if you are able to attend. We hope you will be able to join in at this joyous event for our Diocese and our faith community.

### NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS (Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Yr. A)

First Reading: Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13, Ps. 145:7-10, Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:26-31, Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12

**MASSES OFFERED FOR THESE INTENTIONS:** Holy Souls in Purgatory who have no-one to pray for them, Raymond Morabito, Gina Bezzina, Doris Bezzina, Tarcisio Cauchi, Helen Cauchi. **Prayers for the Sick:** Nicholas Tadros, Lucy Marie Ciappara, Carey Weber, Georgina Rastegorac, Waled Hana, Maryrose Vella, John Vella, Catherine Vella, Lolyn Velayo, Normie Santos. *Please contact the Parish office if you would like a Mass offered for Recently Deceased, Death Anniversary, Prayers for the Sick, Thanksgiving or Birthdays.*

**ST. PADRE PIO PARISH ROSTERS WEEK FIVE – FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE MONTH 28/29 JANUARY 2023**

**Volunteers needed**



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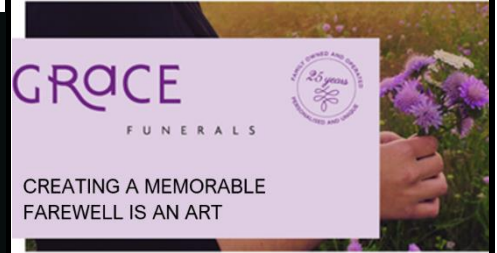
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NO SMOKING ON CHURCH  
OR SCHOOL GROUNDS**

**SMOKING PERMITTED OUTSIDE GATES ONLY**