



ST. PADRE PIO PARISH GLENMORE PARK

Parish Office: 34 - 38 William Howell Drive (PO Box 8037), GLENMORE PARK NSW 2745

Telephone: (02) 4789 2232 Web: www.padrepio.org.au Email: glenmorepark@parracatholic.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/stpadrepioparish/

Fr. Suresh Kumar
Annabelle Bhandoo
Regina Rossetto
EMERGENCIES ONLY

Parish Priest
Parish Secretary
Sacramental Coordinator
0488 448 844

(02) 4789 2232 (Extn.2)
(02) 4789 2232 (Extn.3)
(02) 4789 2232 (Extn.4)

suresh.kumar@parracatholic.org
glenmorepark@parracatholic.org
sacraments@padrepio.org.au

SUNDAY 22 OCTOBER 2023

29th 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 mornings
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: Year 1 to Year 8.
Every 1st & 3rd Saturday
4.30pm-5.30pm in school hall

FRIDAY PLAYGROUP

9:30am – 11:30am 0-6 years
Bethany Catholic Primary School
Hall. Contact the Parish Office.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMS

Please contact the Parish Office.

Fr. Suresh's account of the groups' experience in the Holy Land of when the conflict broke out, as told to Monica Doumit.

Pilgrims' 'Biblical' flight from war

Written by: Monica Doumit from the Catholic Weekly October 18, 2023

An Australian pilgrimage group that managed to escape the Holy Land as conflict broke out has likened their experience to St Joseph's flight into Egypt with the child Jesus.

Fr Suresh Kumar, parish priest of St Padre Pio's Glenmore Park, was leading a group of 20 pilgrims through the Holy Land on the day Hamas launched their terrorist attacks.

The pilgrimage, which had already been delayed by the COVID pandemic, was much anticipated by the group, especially Father Kumar, who converted to Catholicism from Islam 38 years ago.

But Fr Kumar's first visit to the place where Jesus lived was cut short by the shock attacks. Father Kumar told The Catholic Weekly from Rome that on the morning of the incursion, the group was having breakfast when they heard loud sirens.

Buses that had already left the hotel for holy sites in Jerusalem began returning, and they were advised that Hamas had attacked.

A bomb had narrowly missed the home of their pilgrim tour guide.

The group stayed in the hotel and watched the news, and the enormity of the attack became apparent as the hours unfolded.

Fr Kumar called a group meeting and told the pilgrims that he had decided they would make preparations to leave.

"There was a very strong urge in me that told me 'get out,'" he said. While disappointed, the group supported Fr Kumar's decision.

It was not as easy as he thought. They were advised that Tel Aviv airport had been closed, with no flights leaving Israel.

Fr Kumar woke their Sydney-based travel agent in the middle of the night, who gave him the difficult news that given it was the Sabbath, not much could be done before Monday morning.

The pilgrims did not sleep all night. Sirens were wailing, and police going street to street. Sunday morning came and, while still confined to their hotel, Fr Kumar wanted to ensure the pilgrims were able to attend Mass.

He and the tour guide made the risky decision to leave the hotel to ask for Mass supplies from a neighbouring church.

Several of the closest churches were closed, with the closest open being the Church of All Nations, at the Garden of Gethsemane. **(continued on next page)**

A doubly-provident moment saw Fr Kumar not only provided with Mass supplies, but also the opportunity to see this holy site.

He returned to the hotel via the Church of the Holy Sepulchre and managed to stop in for three minutes, fulfilling a long-held dream.

Back at the hotel, Fr Kumar offered Mass inside the hotel's bunker.

With no Mass kit or missal, the makeshift ciborium and chalice came from the hotel kitchen and Fr Kumar prayed the Mass using an iPad.

"We offered the Mass for our safety and the safety of everyone affected, and asked God to please guide us," he said.

Immediately following Mass, the group was advised that a way to leave had opened up.

"First, we were able to get out by road and it is safe," he said.

"Second thing, they were able to accept us in Jordan. The third, there was a bus driver willing to take us, and also, we managed to get tickets to go from Jordan to Rome.

"Everything was booked out and there were 21 of us, but we managed to get tickets. So, everything fell into place after that Mass.

"It was like Joseph being warned in a dream not to remain in Nazareth but to take the child to go to Egypt. It was like that, we left in haste.

"The travel agent called us and told us the bus would be there in 15 minutes and we had to leave. We were ready in the foyer, checked out, we boarded the bus and we left."

The group continually prayed the rosary on the bus. Coming close to the Jordan border, they were advised that they needed a different shuttle to take them through the demilitarised zone between Israel and Jordan, but no shuttles were available. They were told to return to the hotel.

"My heart just sank," Fr Kumar said.

"I said, 'God, don't do it. We are not equipped to go back. Please, change the heart of this officer.'"

Abruptly, the officer shouted, in English, "10 minutes" and they waited. Fr Kumar said he begged the Lord to protect the people in his care.

A shuttle bus arrived within five minutes. Father Kumar was the last of his pilgrims to cross the border, and ended up being the last person to cross the border into Jordan before it was shut.

The group got through the border and then moved to another bus which took them to Amman, ready for an early morning flight to Rome.

It wasn't until the plane left Jordanian airspace that Fr Kumar was able to rest. "I slept like a baby," he said. "For three hours, I slept right through."

The pilgrims could clearly see the hand of God in their escape.

"What if we were kidnapped, or if one of the bombs fell on our hotel? What if we got shot?

What if we were not able to go into Jordan by road? What if Jordan was to refuse entry because Israel was at war? What if the shuttle didn't come? What if we weren't able to get a plane ticket to leave the next day? Normally miracles happen one at a time; God has performed these miracles in bulk."

While grateful for what had happened, Fr Kumar said the group's hearts went out to all affected and the pilgrims were praying earnestly for those caught up in the escalating violence. He likened their experience to that of Moses and the Holy Family.

"On a pilgrimage, we try to get into the footsteps of Our Lord and the prophets and the apostles," he said.

"Here, we literally took the flight into Jordan and pleaded with the authorities like Moses.

We lost seeing many holy places in Jerusalem, God gave us that experience.

"Although we didn't see the places, God gave them to us in our hearts. It was a first-class pilgrimage experience."

From: https://www.catholicweekly.com.au/pilgrims-biblical-flight-from-war/?fbclid=IwAR0aLUsl4p7ib7pGC_QSuxo1ajeFffenmMwzfZfMlvAggAkpp4fLY5HrBg

ST. PADRE PIO PARISH INFORMATION

THIS SUNDAY IS WORLD MISSION DAY.

WELCOME BACK Fr Suresh and pilgrims!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FR. SURESH (22ND OCTOBER) We thank God for you and may He continue to bless, protect & guide you always.

ALL SAINTS DAY: WEDNESDAY 01 NOVEMBER

Time: 9:00am Mass.

ALL SOULS DAY: THURSDAY 02 NOVEMBER

On All Souls Day we especially remember all departed souls including our families and friends by praying for them at Mass. **Time: 9:00am Mass & 7:00pm Mass.**

NOVEMBER MASS GIVING ENVELOPES.

November is the month especially dedicated to praying for all the Holy Souls in Purgatory.

Please use the **November Mass Envelopes** found on the pews and on the Welcome Table, to offer Mass for the faithful departed. **PRINT** the names of the loved ones **CLEARLY**. \$20 donation per intention is recommended.

FIRST FRIDAY ALL-NIGHT ADORATION

Would you come and spend an hour with Jesus?

When: Friday, 03 November

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

3:00am: The Divine Mercy Chaplet

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



PARISH INCOME & EXPENSES sheet for September can be found on the Parish Noticeboards.

SAFEGUARDING FACE-TO-FACE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Every person involved in ministry is required by law to do the Safeguarding sessions. They can be done either in person or online.

- Mandatory Modules 1-3: **Saturday 28 October** at St Canice's Church, Katoomba from 10am-3pm.

Please register for these face-to-face renewal modules at: safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org. For further info, please email: maria.kervin@parracatholic.org

OCTOBER IS THE MONTH OF THE HOLY ROSARY.

PARRAMATTA DIOCESE WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS

When: Sunday 29 October at 11am at St Patrick's

Cathedral, Parramatta.

Bishop Vincent will celebrate Solemn Mass, followed by a light lunch at the Cathedral Hall. All couples celebrating a significant wedding anniversary will receive a certificate from Bishop Vincent. Family and friends are welcome. For more info, please email marriage@parracatholic.org or phone (02) 8838 3460.

MASS AND PRAYERS FOR DECEASED CLERGY

The Diocese of Parramatta invites you to its second annual Mass for our deceased clergy.

When: Friday 17 November at 10.30am.

Where: St. Aidan's Parish, 9 Adelaide St, Rooty Hill.

Mass will be followed by prayers at the gravesites of clergy buried in Pinegrove Cemetery.

All are welcome to attend and give your gift of prayer to those whose lives were dedicated to bringing us all closer to Christ.

DONATE TO CARITAS AUSTRALIA'S GAZA APPEAL

Following a series of surprise attacks against Israel by Hamas in early October, Caritas Australia is supporting partner agencies on the ground to provide emergency cash, shelter, and psychosocial support to those affected by the violence.

The efforts of these partner agencies are expected to support 17,000 displaced families, representing around 100,000 of the 1 million people displaced.

To support Caritas Australia's Gaza Appeal, visit www.caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/gaza-crisis/ or call 1800 024 413 toll free.

ROSARY PRAYER GROUP

Date: Tuesday 24 October.

Place: Fr. Suresh Kumar in the Presbytery.

Date: Tuesday 31 October.

Place: Cecil & Michael Aldama, 8 Warrawong St, GP.

Sunday 22 October: 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time Yr. A

Monday 23 October: St. John of Capistrano, *Priest*

Tuesday 24 October: St. Anthony Claret, *Bishop*

Saturday 28 October: Sts. Simon & Jude, *Apostles*

NEXT SUNDAY is the 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time: *Ex 22:20-26. Ps 17:2-4, 47, 51. 1Thess 1:5-10, Mt 22:34-40*

THIS WEEK'S MASSES AND PRAYERS WERE OFFERED FOR THE FOLLOWING INTENTIONS: Marriage Anniversary: Rodney & Alison Meilak. **Prayers for the Sick:** Maribelle Harina, Joselito Canaria, Kyla Aggar, Angelo Ninni, Georgina Rastegorac, Maryrose Vella, Catherine Vella. *Please contact the Parish office if you would like a Mass offered.*

ST. PADRE PIO PARISH ROSTERS WEEK FIVE - FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE MONTH 28/29 OCTOBER 2023

Volunteers needed



Traditional Care with Dignity & Respect



Tel: 4722 8222

Local family owned
and operated.

24hrs / 7 days

Shop 4, 2-6 Castlereagh St, Penrith



Catholic Cemeteries
& Crematoria
Care, Compassion, Choice

PREFERRED
PARTNER



HAND WASH - CAR DETAIL - INTERIOR DETAIL -
WHEEL TREATMENT - CLAY BAR

CALL OR SMS

0411 282 608

**SPACE AVAILABLE
FOR ADVERTISING**
*Contact the Parish Office
for more information*

**SPACE AVAILABLE
FOR ADVERTISING**
*Contact the Parish Office
for more information*

**SPACE AVAILABLE
FOR ADVERTISING**
*Contact the Parish Office
for more information*

**SPACE AVAILABLE
FOR ADVERTISING**
*Contact the Parish Office
for more information*

**SPACE AVAILABLE
FOR ADVERTISING**
*Contact the Parish Office
for more information*

THE AUSTRALIAN LAW FIRM

Litigation | Criminal Law | Family Law | Compensation Law
Conveyancing | Estate Planning | Wills & Estates

Call Us for Conveyancing Offers! | Estate Planning Offers! | Legal Aid accepted!

Estate Planning Offers!

Legal Will, Enduring Power of Attorney and Enduring Guardian
Only \$330.00 for all senior pensioners!

Only \$550.00 for aged 18 years to 59 years!

*T&C apply. Price quoted is for Professional fees only. Disbursements additionally incurred.

FOR ALL YOUR LEGAL NEEDS | BY APPOINTMENT ONLY
SYDNEY | BLACKTOWN | EDENSOR PARK | LIVERPOOL
HOME VISITS | MOBILE LEGAL SERVICE ALL OVER SYDNEY

(02) 9604 9637 | 0422 704 357

FAIRFIELD CITY LOCAL BUSINESS AWARDS FINALIST
4 YEARS RUNNING 2018, 2019, 2020 AND 2021

**SPACE AVAILABLE
FOR ADVERTISING**
*Contact the Parish Office
for more information*

**SPACE AVAILABLE
FOR ADVERTISING**
*Contact the Parish Office
for more information*

**SPACE AVAILABLE
FOR ADVERTISING**
*Contact the Parish Office
for more information*

**SPACE AVAILABLE
FOR ADVERTISING**
*Contact the Parish Office
for more information*



THIS IS A SMOKE FREE ZONE
NO SMOKING ON CHURCH
OR SCHOOL GROUNDS

SMOKING PERMITTED OUTSIDE GATES ONLY