

#### THE ANNUNCIATION of the LORD

Usually celebrated on March 25, but because it fell during Holy Week, the Annunciation was observed last Monday, April 8.



Picture is from: clipart-library.com/annunciation-cliparts.html. The Below is from: ewtn.com/catholicism/seasons-and-feast-days/annunciation-20873

## Why is the Annunciation celebrated on March 25?

The Solemnity of the Annunciation is celebrated nine months before the Nativity of the Lord, a feast which came about earlier historically. The Annunciation recalls the day when the Archangel Gabriel appeared to Mary and revealed God's will that she become the Mother of the Son of God, and she accepted. At that moment, the "Word became Flesh and dwelt among us" (John 1:14).

# What were the five things that the archangel told Mary about her Son?

Luke 1:32-33: He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; The Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, He will reign over the house of Jacob forever; His kingdom there will be no end.

#### What does the word "fiat" mean in the Bible?

The word "fiat" is Latin, and it means "let it be done." Mary's fiat was when she said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be done to me according to your word" (Luke 1:38).

#### What does Mary's fiat mean?

Pope St. John Paul II said, 'Mary's words at the Annunciation "I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word" (Lk 1:38), indicate an attitude characteristic of Jewish piety. At the beginning of the Old Covenant, Moses, in response to the Lord's call, proclaims himself his servant (cf. Ex 4:10; 14:31).

With the coming of the New Covenant, Mary also responds to God with an act of free submission and conscious abandonment to his will, showing her complete availability to be the "handmaid of the Lord" She commits herself to fulfil personally and in a perfect manner the service God expects of all his people.

# Why is Mary's yes to God so important to us? Through Mary's fiat, her "yes" to God, she made the Divine Plan of salvation effective in history. As Eve disobeyed and set humanity on a path of sin, Mary was perfectly obedient and set us on the path of grace. As Eve was the "Mother of All the Living" (Gen. 3:20), Mary is the Mother of All those Living "in Christ." We owe her a debt of justice, and a filial obligation of love. Mary responded with the most perfect faith and obedience.

### What is the role of Mary in our life?

First, Mary is truly our mother. In Revelation 12:17, we see that the offspring of Mary are "those who keep the commandments of God and bear testimony to Jesus." Thus, as Christians, we become the sons and daughters of Mary.

Second, Mary is our perfect example of following Jesus in everything we do. For example, at the Wedding Feast at Cana, she said to the servants, "Do whatever [Jesus] tells you." This was the running theme throughout Mary's life: continually pointing to her Son. Also, Mary shows us how to truly obey God. At the Annunciation, Mary was a young teenager, a virgin. Instead of saying "no" to the Lord because of the enormity of the request, she put total trust in the Lord. In our daily lives, we should follow her example as we trust God in all large and small issues.

#### How did the Virgin Mary pray?

The Virgin Mary prayed with great faith and trust in the Lord. In Sacred Scripture, we see glimpses of the Blessed Mother's deep interior life. For example, when she visits St. Elizabeth, we see this

beautiful prayer: The Magnificat (Luke 1:46-55):

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has regarded the low estate of his handmaiden. For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed; for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. And his mercy is on those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm, he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts, he has put down the mighty from their thrones, and exalted those of low degree; he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his posterity for ever.

ST. PADRE PIO PARISH INFORMATION				
MASSES THIS WEEK All Weekday and Weekend Masses are as usual. NEXT WEEKEND: BISHOP'S GOOD SHEPHERD APPEAL Will you support our seminarians to "go out into the deep" and serve?	ROSARY PRAYER GROUP Date: Tuesday 16 April Place: Orlan & Chris Nugpo Date: Tuesday 23 April Place: Rosie & Farley Bartholomeusz			
Your compassionate generosity and prayers will help our future priests cast their nets wide to nurture faith and meet the spiritual and pastoral needs of our community.	<b>NEXT SUNDAY is the Fourth Sunday of Easter Year B</b> Acts 4:8-12. Ps 117:1, 8-9, 21-23, 26, 28-29. 1Jn 3:1-2 Jn 10:11-18.			
Please give generously to the Bishop's Good Shepherd Appeal at yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal or scan the QR code found on the envelopes. Thank you.	<b>SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION</b> The Parent Letter and the Enrollment Form are available on the Welcome Table and on the Parish Website. Please let others know about it.			
We are in the process of updating the rosters for the weekend Masses. Please check the sheet on the Welcome Table to update your present roles or to	<b>NEW TIME FOR THE LEGION OF MARY MEETING</b> Every Thursday, 5.30pm in the meeting room.			
register interest in volunteering for any of the Masses. Training is needed for some of the roles. Please contact Lynn Young for further information. <u>litugy@padrepio.org.au</u>	SAFEGUARDING FACE-TO-FACE TRAINING OPPORTUNITES The next session of face-to-face Mandatory Safeguarding Training will be on:			
<b>PIETY</b> In the piety shop, you will find candles with the image of the Risen Lord. These will be a beautiful addition to include on the prayer table especially during the Easter season.	When: Saturday 27 April Place: Our Lady of the Way Parish, Emu Plains, for Modules 4 and 5. More training opportunities will be available throughout May. Please register directly for this training or for other			
HOLY HOURS FOR VOCATIONS There will be monthly Holy Hours for Vocations, held across different parishes in Parramatta Diocese, starting from 19 April. Please refer to the posters found on the Parish Noticeboards for more information.	convenient dates and locations by clicking on the training event at: <u>https://parracatholic.org/connect/events/?series=safes</u> <u>uarding-training</u> For more information, please email: <u>safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org</u>			

#### MASSES OFFERED FOR THESE INTENTIONS:

**Deceased:** Leonila Varca, Roger Varca, Holy Souls in Purgatory.

**Prayers for the Sick**: Trent Moore, Bernadette Tecson, Ernesto Modelo, Joselito Canaria, Lynn Navarro, Kim Baluyot, Jasmine Arada, Maricris Palencia, Yvonne Videla, Alejandra Modelo, Emily & Danilo Rosales, Georgina Rastegorac, Maryrose Vella, Catherine Vella. **Please contact the Parish office if you would like a Mass offered.** 

ST PADRE PIO PARISH ROSTERS WEEK THREE – THIRD SUNDAY OF THE MONTH 20/21 APRIL				
MASS TIME	5:30PM	8:00AM	10:00AM	
COORDINATOR	Trudi Almeida	Lynn Young	Regina Rossetto	
ACOLYTE SENIOR SERVER	Billy Layug Lya Layug Kylie Sultana Tracy Amituanai	Khalid Younan Gilbert Grech Brady Fisher	Chris Hersey	
READER	<ol> <li>Rolaine Vibar</li> <li>help needed</li> </ol>	1. Sue Guy 2. Ajumol Alexander	1. Jason Ball 2. Noel Xavier	
MUSIC	Our Daily Bread			
HOSPITALITY		Sue Guy	Connie Hyland	
BAPTISM			Tracy Amituanai	
CLEANING TEAM	Susan Guy, Anna Roberts, Aiman & Maria Jajo, Johan, Melissa Bowden.			



NO SMOKING ON CHURCH OR SCHOOL GROUNDS

SMOKING PERMITTED OUTSIDE GATES ONLY