



# St Francis of Assisi Parish

290 Childs Road, Mill Park 3082 phone: 9407 6700

web: www.cam.org.au/millpark email: millpark@cam.org.au

PARISH BULLETIN		FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME		28TH JANUARY 2024	
<b>PARISH PRIEST</b>	Fr Anthony Girolami	<b>ASSISTANT PRIEST</b>	Fr Zaher Almhnna		
<b>PASTORAL ASSOCIATE</b>	Sr Anh Tran - 9407 6720	<b>PARISH/SCHOOL LIAISON</b>	Ruth Lees - 9407 6703		
<b>OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR</b>	Bernice Quinn - 9407 6700	<b>YOUTH MINISTER</b>	Carmel Walsh - 9407 6704		
<b>SCHOOL PRINCIPAL</b>	Mark Basile - 9407 3100	<b>PARISH BOOKKEEPER</b>	Paul - 9407 6722		
<b>WEEKEND MASS TIMES</b>	Saturday vigil 5:00 pm; Sunday 9:00 am, 10:30 am & 5:00 pm				
<b>WEEKDAY MASS TIMES</b>	Monday – Saturday 9:15 am Wednesday 7:00 pm - Our Lady of Perpetual Help				
<b>RECONCILIATION</b>	Wednesday evening after Mass and Novena Saturday 9:45 am				
<b>ADORATION</b>	Saturday 9:45 am – 10:45 am concluding with Benediction				
<b>VIGIL MASS:</b>	1st Friday of the month 7:30 pm to Midnight Mass.	<b>Next Mass:</b>	2nd February		
<b>FILIPINO MASS:</b>	2nd Sunday of the month at 12 noon.	<b>Next Mass:</b>	11th February		
<b>MALTESE MASS:</b>	3rd Saturday of the month at 4 pm. Confession 3:30. Rosary 3:40.	<b>Next Mass:</b>	17th February		
<b>INDONESIAN FAMILY GROUP MASS:</b>	3rd Saturday of the month at 7pm. (None Dec or Jan)	<b>Next Mass:</b>	17th February		
<b>EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT:</b>	Wednesday 6:30 am - 7:00 pm in the chapel.				
<b>NOVENA TO ST JOSEPH:</b>	1st Wednesday of the month after 9:15 am Mass.				
<b>ANOINTING OF THE SICK:</b>	2nd Wednesday of the month after 9:15 am Mass.				
<b>ST ANTHONY'S PRAYER GROUP MASS:</b>	Resuming 6th February 2024, 7:00pm.				
<b>NOVENA TO ST ANTHONY (MALAYALAM):</b>	Resuming 6th February 2024, 6:30pm.				
<b>LEGION OF MARY:</b>	Every Thursday at 10:15 am in the church fellowship area. Contact Jackie - 0422 443 324.				
<b>WORD OF LIFE PRAYER GROUP:</b>	Every Friday at 7:00 pm in the chapel. Contact Nancy - 0434 559 352.				
<b>PASSIONIST FAMILY GROUP:</b>	Contact Regina - 0432 267 557 or Alfons and Helen Glatzel - 9404 2050.				
<b>DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET:</b>	Every Friday at 3:00 pm in the chapel and after Tuesday morning 9:15 am Mass.				
<b>AGAPE RENEWAL PRAYER MEETING:</b>	Resuming Sunday 4th February. Contact Gigimon - 0402 652 646.				
<b>LIFE TEEN:</b>	Every Sunday during school terms after 5pm Mass. Contact Carmel at millpark.youthministry@cam.org.au for further details.				
<b>JESUS YOUTH PRAYER GROUP:</b>	Every Thursday at 7 pm in the chapel. Contact Lovely - 0411 208 706.				
<b>CATECHIST R.E. CLASSES:</b>	For all enquiries contact May Park at sfranciscatechist@gmail.com.				

## PARISH NEWS

- PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS** - Contributions can be dropped off between 9am and 5pm each day at the parish office.
- THANKSGIVING ENVELOPES** - Please remember to write the amount on the front of your thanksgiving envelopes.
- PARISH FEAST DAY EXPO** - The Parish Expo slideshow featuring the Parish Groups and also the Parish Information Booklet can be viewed on the Parish Website [www.cam.org.au/millpark](http://www.cam.org.au/millpark)
- PARISH CENSUS 2023** - If you did not fill in a Parish Census Card over the last few weeks at Mass please collect one from the church foyer to fill in and return. Thank you.

## PLEASE PRAY FOR

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Peter Nelson, Colin Rosario.

## IN MEMORIAM:

**THOSE WHO ARE ILL:** Lez Meyers, David Wallace, Sharon Barber, Maeve Reardon, Greg Forrester, Anupiya Menikdiwela, Henrica Hanny, Peter Basile, Antonina Gangi, Seamus Quinn.

*(From time to time we will modify the sick list. If you prefer a person to remain on the list please contact the parish office.)*

*The newsletter will be available each week on our website [www.cam.org.au/millpark](http://www.cam.org.au/millpark)*

## Dear Parishioners,

We are welcoming back many familiar faces who have been away during the holiday period. I hope everyone has come back well rested. Furthermore, our school children will be returning with a staggered start beginning Tuesday 30th January. Please be mindful of increased traffic round the parish.

**Building Projects:** We have two building project underway—a very large one behind the library—more details to follow; and a smaller one adjacent to the community room which will be a most welcomed facility.

**Fr Zaher:** Fr Zaher will be going on holiday for a few weeks. He is deserving of a break considering he has largely shouldered the workload single handedly since last October. Enjoy the sunshine.

Our last life of Holy People features today, I hope you enjoyed reading about these great Christian figures.

*God bless, Fr Anthony.*

## GREAT CONVERSION STORIES

### *Paul Xu Guangqi*

The collaboration of Matteo Ricci and his brother Jesuit missionaries with Chinese scholars near the end of the Ming Dynasty (early 17 century) is rightly regarded as the first extensive exchange between the intellectual traditions of European and East Asian civilisations. Though their remarkable accomplishments are still recognised today, we often forget the profound animating motives of the original collaborators.

We know that Ricci and the Jesuits came as Catholic missionaries, moved by the love of Jesus Christ to share the truth of the Gospel with the whole world. Only the grace of God and a profound missionary vocation can account for the ardour, sacrifice, and perseverance of a man like Ricci. Born in Italy in 1552, he spent the final three decades of his life in China, speaking and writing in Chinese, wearing Chinese garb, extending himself tirelessly in warm friendship with Chinese scholars and officials, and sharing all that he knew of European knowledge of this world—from the ancient Greeks to the emerging discoveries of modern science—in order to build rich human bonds with the people to whom he had been sent and thereby introduce them to the humanity of Christ. For Ricci, there was profound coherence in all his activity, because he knew that Christ gives meaning and vitality to everything that exists, to everything human, to everything that is true in this world in philosophy, science, and the most diverse linguistic and cultural traditions—because the longing of Christ's heart is to reach every human person and to redeem and fulfil all things. This is the conviction that moved Ricci and his confreres so that they were willing to make China their home, to "become Chinese" as much as possible—because the Word became flesh to make the whole world his home and every person his brother or sister.

The Chinese scholars who befriended the early Jesuits also had a deep and encompassing motivation that gave context to their various interests, education, and political work: their search for ultimate wisdom—the "way of heaven". The Holy Spirit was undoubtedly at work in the hearts of the Chinese people throughout their history, preparing them to receive the Gospel (even though mostly in ways hidden from our sight). Since God became human in order to be known and loved, to be our friend and our brother, he wants to share his saving love as a human presence in history, through his Church. At the dawn of the 17 century, the humanity of Jesus found welcoming hearts among a few Chinese who had dedicated their lives to following wisdom. We see this especially in the conversions of the "Three Pillars" of the Chinese Church. We have already met Li Zhizao (June 2015) and Yang Tingyun (October 2019), and it remains only for us to introduce the most revered of the three: Xu Guangqi (1562-1633).

Born in Shanghai, Xu had a great love for his people and desire to serve them during the often perilous waning years of the Ming Dynasty, and this sustained him on the long path through the examinations necessary to become an imperial official. During this time, Xu encountered the Jesuit Father Lazzaro Cattaneo. In 1603, after studying Ricci's Chinese text on The True Meaning of the Doctrine of the Lord of Heaven, Xu was baptised Paul. Soon after, he was called to the imperial court in Beijing, which allowed him to work closely with Ricci on translations; he published the first Chinese translation of Euclid, among others. Xu's deep friendship with Ricci led to the conversion of his whole family, and after Ricci's death he continued his official service. He helped organise China's military defence forces and introduced important agricultural techniques, while also brilliantly defending the Catholic faith against its opponents in the government.

## CELLS LAUNCH 2024

### Sunday 11th February

All Cell groups, families, and friends are invited to Get Together for this New Year of Cells in St Francis Hall on Sunday 11th February, starting at 12.00 pm

- \* Inspirational Talk & Discussion! Theme for 2024!
- \* Bring your own Lunch / Social time!
- \* Bring your friends!

If you are interested in finding out about Cell Groups – Come & see!!  
Enquiries contact: 9407 6700

## PARISH CELLS OF EVANGELISATION

Our Parish Cell Groups will resume NEXT WEEK, starting on Monday 5th February.