

**OUR LADY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH
90 - 92 MONASH STREET, SUNSHINE 3020**

Tel: 94 01 63 44 Email: sunshine@cam.org.au
Web: www.pol.org.au/sunshine/Home.aspx

Parish Office Hours: Tuesday 10am-4.30pm; Wednesday & Friday 9am-12pm.
Other times - we respond when able to.

Sunday Mass Times: Saturday Vigil 5.30pm, Sunday 9am, 10.30am & 5.30pm.
Weekday Mass Times: Monday, Wednesday & Thursday 9am; Tuesday 7.30pm, Friday 11am.
Please see website or noticeboard for details of Masses in other languages.
Confessions: Saturdays 9.30am (English or Vietnamese)



MASS INTENTIONS 22-28 May 2022

Saturday 5.30pm	Olivia da Costa RIP Anniversary
Sunday 9am	John Spiteri RIP
Sunday 10.30am	Pro Populo
Sunday 5.30pm	Thanksgiving for Good Samaritan Parish Intention
Monday 9am	Parish Intention
Tuesday 7.30pm	Lewis Sciberras RIP Anniversary, Lisa Dib RIP Anniversary
Wednesday 9am	Eileen Shacklock RIP Anniversary, Mary Vassallo RIP
Thursday 9am	Parish Intention
Friday 11am	Chris Basaour RIP
Saturday 9am	Parish Intention

**Fundraiser to Support Ukraine -
Saturday 28 May 2022 at 1pm.**

**Ukrainian Catholic Church,
2 Holmes Street, Ardeer.**

Concert, sausage sizzle,
varenyky, cakes.



First Communion - We congratulate the children of Our Lady's School who made their First Holy Communion this Sunday.

Annual Mass Count this week and next weekend at all Masses.

Open Day Caroline Chisholm Catholic College - Sunday 29 May 11am-2pm

Bookings: www.trybooking.com/BYLUH

Child Safety Reminders & Important notice for Parents

- Please accompany your child if they need to leave the building
- Talk to your children about ways to stay safe
- Please ensure you know where your children are if not beside you.

Our Lady's Parish is committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children and vulnerable people.

Supporting our parish is possible online or through the weekly collections at Mass. If you're in a position to give: <https://bit.ly/CDFpaySunshine> or Scan the QR code to give to Our Lady's.

Thank you for assisting the parish.



OUR LADY, HELP OF CHRISTIANS – AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL FEAST

On 24 May we celebrate and honour Mary, the mother of Jesus, as Our Lady Help of Christians. The title can be linked to extraordinary events on 7 October, 1571. The choice of this title of "Our Lady, Help of Christians" as patron of Australia was first made in 1844, and the choice of date for the celebration on 24 May has its origins thirty years earlier in a decision made by Pope Pius VII.

At the start of the 19th Century Napoleon Bonaparte had jailed Pius VI (who later died in jail). When Pope Pius VII was elected he too was jailed by Bonaparte, who kept him prisoner at Fontainebleau, France. The Holy Father vowed to God that if he were restored to the Roman See, he would institute a special feast in honour of Mary. The military eventually forced Bonaparte to release the Pope and on May 24, 1814, Pius VII returned in triumph to Rome.

*Twelve months later the Pope decreed that the feast of Mary Help of Christians be kept on 24 May. **The infant Church in Australia had a special reason for turning to Mary.** In those early and mostly priestless days, it was largely the Rosary that kept the faith alive. Catholic Australia remained faithful to Mary, and was the first nation to choose her, under the title of Help of Christians, as Principal Patron.*

The Blessed Virgin Mary is a beautiful, beloved, essential and pervasive figure in Christian life and in the Church's calendar. She has been since the early days of the Church. Her feasts are as varied as the cultures of the world, with each having special traditions, customs, and habits of piety. For example, **the Church honours Mary every Saturday**, recalling both the one full day that Jesus spent in the tomb and the traditional belief that Mary was the disciple who best kept the faith on that day. The early Church took up the practice of keeping faith with her on that day each week. Since the Middle-Ages, the Church has devoted the **month of May to Mary**. Many Christians undertake pilgrimages during this month to shrines associated with the Blessed Virgin.

In May, there are also three Marian feasts that are celebrated which help us to understand what Mary can teach us about being disciples.

On May 13, we commemorate the Memorial of **Our Lady of Fatima** which recalls the appearance of the Blessed Virgin to three young children in Portugal in 1917. Mary encouraged penance, conversion and praying the rosary, warning the world of a Great War and suffering, but that, *"In the end, my Immaculate Heart will triumph"*.

The Feast of **Our Lady, Help of Christians**, which is celebrated on May 24, dates back to the sixteenth century, which was not a peaceful time in Europe. In 1571, Catholics throughout the continent joined in praying the rosary in hopes of prevailing over military forces that had long sought to expand into Europe. These prayers were answered at the Battle of Lepanto on October 7, 1571, which is now the feast for Our Lady of the Rosary.

Both of these feasts highlight not only the strength we find in asking Mary's intercession, joining our prayers to her intercession, but also the confidence that God continues to act in the world. God hears the cry of those who suffer and God responds.

(to be continued next week)

Cardinal Donald Wuerl
<https://www.columban.org.au/media-and-publications/the-far-east-magazine/archive/2018>

