

Please bring your **OLD BLESSED PALMS** from last year. These palms will be burned to create the ashes used for Ash Wednesday. A collection basket will be available at the foyer. Please drop them off by 3rd March (Mon)

Our next **MEN OF ST JOSEPH** gathering will be on Wed, March 19th, as we celebrate the Feast of St. Joseph.

Schedule
 6 PM – Rosary
 6:30 PM – Holy Mass (followed by dinner & group discussion)

Join us for an evening of prayer, fraternity, and reflection as we honor our patron!

MONTHLY COMMUNITY LUNCH will be held (TODAY)

LUNCH FOR YOUNG ADULTS (18-35) will be held **NEXT SUNDAY** at 12:15pm, @ Irish Club.

CASH & ONLINE DONATIONS
23 Feb - 1 Mar
 First Collection: \$ TBA
 Second Collection: \$ TBA
 Building fund: \$ TBA
 THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
SATURDAY CLASS
Topic: Demonology.
 Classes are currently on break. The date of resumption will be announced soon.

CATECHISM CLASS FOR ADULTS
 Classes are currently on break. It will resume 13th Mar (Thurs)
Next Chapters: 157-159
Next Topic: Sacrament of Holy Order

LEGION OF MARY
 It meets EVERY MONDAY at 6:30pm.


DONATIONS: *thanks for your support*
Cheque donations to:
 FSSP Australia
 PO Box 6241, Mawson, ACT2607

Bank Account Details:
 For online donations **ONLY**
First Collection (Apostolate)
 BSB 062 786 A/c No: 0002007
 A/c Name: Priestly Fraternity of St Peter

Second Collection (Church)
 BSB 062 786 A/c No: 00021179
 A/c Name: Priestly Fraternity of St Peter

Church Building Fund
 BSB 062 786 A/c No: 00029891
 A/c Name: Priestly Fraternity of St Peter (Building fund)

SAFEGUARDING OFFICER
 Denise Sheehan: 0401 404 539



St Michael the Archangel Latin Mass Chaplaincy, Canberra

Served by **The Priestly Fraternity of St Peter (FSSP)**

Chaplain:
 Rev. Paul Leung, FSSP
Tel: 0405 527 880

Assistant Priest:
 Rev. Brendan Boyce
Tel: 0414 055 633

Website:
<https://fssp-canberra.org>

Email:
canberra.fssp@gmail.com



Postal Address:
 PO Box 6241,
 Mawson, ACT 2607,
 Australia

Presbytery Address:
 374 Norton Rd,
 Wamboin, NSW 2620.

Prebystery Tel:
 6161 5320

Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/FSSP-Canberra-St-Michael-the-Archangel>

Mass & Confession Schedule

Sunday:	8:00am	(Low Mass)
	10:00am	(Sung Mass)
Mon - Thurs:	7:00am	(Low Mass)
Friday:	6:30pm	(Low Mass)
	followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 8:15pm	
Saturday:	9:00am	(Low Mass)

Venue: Sts. Peter and Paul Church, Garran
2 Boake Pl, Garran, ACT 2605

CONFESSION
 30 minutes before all Masses until circa 5 minutes before Mass.
 Also during Masses where two priests are available.

2nd March 2025
Quinquagesima Sunday

CALENDAR

DATE	FEAST	LOCATION / TIME
Mon, 3rd Mar	Feria	Garran, 7AM (Low)
Tue, 4th Mar	St Casimir	Garran, 7AM (Low)
Wed, 5th Mar	Ash Wednesday	Garran, 7AM (Low) 6:30PM (Sung)
Thurs, 6th Mar	Thursday after Ash Wednesday	Garran, 7AM (Low)
Fri, 7th Mar	Friday after Ash Wednesday (First Friday)	Garran, 5:45 PM (Stations) followed by 6:30PM Sung Mass, and Holy Hour until 8:30pm.
Sat, 8th Mar	Saturday after Ash Wednesday	Garran, 8AM (Rosary); 9AM (Low),
Sun, 9th Mar	First Sunday of Lent	Garran, 8AM (Low); 9:30AM (Rosary) 10AM (Sung)

ALL NIGHT ADORATION during LENT

Date: 22nd March, 2025 (FRI)

**Time: Begin after Mass
UNTIL the NEXT DAY**

Sign-up sheet will be placed at the foyer.



IS ASH WEDNESDAY UNBIBLICAL?



Do Jesus' words in Matthew 6:16-18 contradict the Catholic practice of receiving ashes on Ash Wednesday? At first glance, Jesus' command to "anoint your head and wash your face" while fasting seems to discourage outward signs of penance. However, a closer examination reveals that Jesus is not condemning visible acts of fasting but rather the hypocrisy of those who make a show of their suffering to gain admiration.

Jesus expects his disciples to fast, as seen in his words, "when you fast" (not "if you fast"). While some critics claim this contradicts accusations that Jesus' disciples did not fast like the Pharisees (Mark 2:18), scholars point out that this likely referred to additional voluntary fasts, not obligatory ones like Yom Kippur. After Jesus' ascension, fasting remained an integral Christian practice, as seen in Acts 13:2 and early Church teachings such as the Didache, which prescribed fasting on Wednesdays and Fridays.

Jesus' warning, then, is not against fasting itself but against drawing attention to it. In his time, some Pharisees exaggerated their suffering, making themselves appear weak or disfigured to gain public admiration. Jesus compares them to hypocritical actors who perform for an audience rather than practicing genuine devotion. However, wearing ashes on Ash Wednesday is not about showing off piety but about humbly acknowledging our mortality and need for repentance, as Genesis 3:19 reminds us: "You are dust, and to dust you shall return."

Furthermore, Jesus himself speaks positively of wearing sackcloth and ashes as a sign of true repentance. In Matthew 11:20-21, he reproaches Chorazin and Bethsaida, saying that if the miracles performed in them had been done in Tyre and Sidon, those cities would have repented "in sackcloth and ashes." This suggests that outward symbols of repentance are not inherently wrong but are only condemned when done for self-glorification rather than sincere conversion.

Church Fathers like St. John Chrysostom also warned against false displays of penance, condemning those who pretend to fast for public admiration rather than true spiritual growth. Similarly, Jewish traditions criticized extreme behaviors such as intentionally appearing weak or disoriented from fasting to gain sympathy.

Jesus' command to wash one's face does not mean fasting should be entirely private. He often spoke in hyperbole to emphasize key moral lessons. Just as he prayed publicly despite saying to pray in secret (Mark 14:32-35), and Paul made oaths despite Jesus' words against swearing (2 Cor. 1:23), fasting should not be done for praise but as an act of devotion to God.

Ultimately, Ash Wednesday is not about showing off Catholic identity but about humbly turning to God. If we wear ashes with a sincere heart, we fulfill Jesus' teaching to do good works for God's glory rather than human recognition (Matt. 5:16).