

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Bulletin is Downloadable from our website at <https://fssp-canberra.org/bulletin/>

A GENTLE HEALTHY REMINDER

As we experience this heatwave, please be mindful that the church can become quite warm. We encourage everyone, especially the elderly and those who are more vulnerable, to stay hydrated before Mass and perhaps have a light snack, while still observing the Eucharistic fast. Your health and safety are a priority.

WORKING BEE AT THE CHURCH

The Men of St. Joseph are hosting a working bee to help maintain our church grounds and facilities. All men are welcome to join us!

When: Saturday, 17th January

Time: Starting around 10:15 am

Breakfast, light refreshments, coffee, and tea provided!

Please let Fr Leung know if you are coming.

Although the regular **MEN OF ST JOSEPH MEETING** isn't scheduled for this month, several members are planning an informal gathering this Wednesday, Jan. 14th, at 6PM. We will begin with the Rosary and follow it with a social catch-up. If you'd like to join us, please let Fr. Leung know.

MEN'S RETREAT

Date: **March 2 (Sun) – March 6 (Fri)**
Topic: 'Spirituality of Edith Stein a.k.a. St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross.'
Registrations please contact Fr. Wee at: theoudoulos@gmail.com
Location: Hartzler Park Conference and Retreat Centre, 25 Eridge Park Rd, Burradoo NSW 2576.

CASH & ONLINE DONATIONS

4th Jan - 10th Jan, 26

First Collection: \$ 2741.95

Second Collection: \$ 1965.8

Building fund: \$ 573

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Please note that both the **THURSDAY ONLINE CLASS**

and the **SATURDAY BIBLE CLASS** are

currently on break. The dates for their resumption will be announced next year. Thank you for your understanding.

LEGION OF MARY meeting will be held **EVERY MONDAY** at 6:30pm.

DONATIONS:

Cheque donations to:

FSSP Australia

PO Box 6241, Mawson, ACT2607

thanks
for your
support

Bank Account Details:

For online donations **ONLY**

First Collection (Apostolate)

BSB 062 786 A/c No: 00020007

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)

The FSSP District of Oceania has a zero tolerance policy towards abuse in any form.

SAFEGUARDING OFFICER

Denise Sheehan: 0401 404 539

Latinmass.safeguarding@cg.org.au



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

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

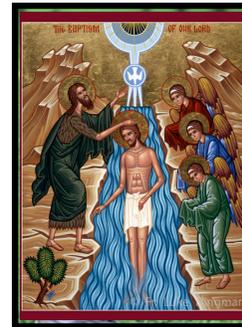
30 minutes before all Masses until circa 5 minutes before Mass.
Also during Masses where two priests are available.

**11th January 2026
Feast of the Holy Family**

CALENDAR

DATE	FEAST	LOCATION / TIME
Mon, 12 th Jan	Votive Mass of the Trinity	7AM (Low)
Tue, 13 th Jan	Baptism of Our Lord	7AM (Low)
Wed, 14 th Jan	St Hilary	7AM (Low)
Thurs, 15 th Jan	St Paul the First Hermit	7AM (Low), followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 8:30am
Fri, 16 th Jan	St Marcellus I	6:30PM (Low) followed by Holy Hour until 8:15pm
Sat, 17 th Jan	St Anthony	8:30AM (Rosary), 9AM (Low)
Sun, 18 th Jan	2 nd Sunday after Epiphany	8AM (Low); 9:30AM (Rosary) 10AM (Sung)

Why Jesus Was Baptized



At first glance, the baptism of Jesus raises an obvious question. If He is the sinless and divine Son of God, why would He submit to a baptism that John explicitly described as “a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins” (Mark 1:4)? Jesus had no sins to confess, no guilt to wash away. Yet He freely entered the waters of the Jordan. This act, far from being unnecessary, reveals the very heart of His mission.

Christian baptism is far greater than the baptism of John, just as Jesus Himself is infinitely greater than the Baptist (cf. Matt. 3:14; John 3:30). John’s baptism was a sign of repentance; Christian baptism actually forgives sins and infuses divine life into the soul, making us children of God. Its origin lies precisely in Christ’s own baptism. Jesus did not enter the water to be cleansed; rather, He entered it to cleanse. By His descent, He sanctified the waters and prepared them to become instruments of salvation.

Pope Benedict XVI, writing as Joseph Ratzinger in *Jesus of Nazareth*, offers profound insight into this mystery. In the ancient world, water carried a double symbolism: death and life. Immersion evoked the terrifying power of the sea, capable of destruction and chaos, while flowing water symbolized fertility, renewal, and life. Baptism holds both meanings together. The descent into the water signifies death and burial; the rising again signifies new life and resurrection.

Seen in light of the Cross and Resurrection, Jesus’ baptism becomes even clearer. As Benedict explains, Christ stepped deliberately into the place of sinners, shouldering the burden of humanity’s guilt and carrying it into the depths of the Jordan. This moment anticipates Calvary. Like Jonah, who asked to be thrown into the sea for the sake of others, Jesus accepts death for the salvation of the world. The Father’s voice “This is my beloved Son” already points beyond the waters toward Easter morning. For this reason, Jesus later refers to His Passion as a “baptism” He must undergo.

Eastern Christian iconography captures this theology vividly. Icons of the Baptism depict the Jordan as a dark, cavern-like tomb, symbolizing Hades itself. Christ’s descent into these waters foreshadows His descent into the realm of the dead, while His rising prefigures the Resurrection. As St. John Chrysostom taught, going down into the water and emerging again is the image of death and rising to new life. The Baptism of the Lord also reveals Jesus as the new and greater Moses. Just as Moses stretched out his staff and God parted the Red Sea to free Israel from slavery, Christ opens a new passage through the waters, this time freeing humanity from sin and death. St. Paul explicitly calls this event a prefigurement of Christian baptism (1 Cor. 10:2).

Finally, the Lord’s baptism turns our attention to our own. Through baptism, we share in Christ’s victory and receive a call to holiness and mission. To be a saint - hagios, a “holy one”, simply means becoming, by God’s grace, who we were created to be. Scripture reminds us that “without holiness no one will see the Lord” (Heb. 12:14). This is why the Church cares less about titles after our names and far more about the one we hope will precede them: Saint. Christ was baptized to make this possible—and we are baptized to live it.

NEW YEAR COMMUNITY LUNCH

Date: 1st Feb 2026

Time: After 10am Mass

Bring a plate to share with the community!