

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.

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

LOURDES & TRADITIONAL PILGRIMAGE IN SPAIN

From July 20 - 27 this year, Fr Roger Gilbride FSSP will be making a pilgrimage to Lourdes then to Oviedo in northern Spain from where a three-day traditional walking pilgrimage begins (similar to the Paris-Chartres & Christus Rex pilgrimages). The walking pilgrimage destination is the sanctuary of Covadonga. Details of the pilgrimage can be found at nscristiandad.es/en/peregrinacion. If you are interested in joining, please contact Fr Gilbride at fr.gilbride@gmail.com.

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 11th Jan - 17th Jan, 26

First Collection: \$ TBA
 Second Collection: \$ TBA
 Building fund: \$ TBA
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

THURSDAY ONLINE CLASS

The next series of our online classes on Eschatology will focus on the topic of **JUDGMENT**. It will begin on **5 Feb** at 7pm.

To register, please visit our website, click on Activities, then select Thursday Online Class and complete the registration form.

The login details will be sent directly to you by email.

SATURDAY BIBLE CLASS

is currently on break. The date of resumption will be announced soon.

Thank you for your understanding.

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

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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**

CONFESION

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

**18th January 2026
 2nd Sunday after Epiphany**

CALENDAR

DATE	FEAST	LOCATION / TIME
Mon, 19 th Jan	Comm. of Sts Marius, Martha	7AM (Low)
Tue, 20 th Jan	Sts Fabian and Sebastian	7AM (Low)
Wed, 21 st Jan	St Agnes	7AM (Low)
Thurs, 22 nd Jan	Sts Vincent and Anastasius	7AM (Low), followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 8:30am
Fri, 23 rd Jan	St Raymond of Penafort	6:30PM (Low) followed by Holy Hour until 8:15pm
Sat, 24 th Jan	St Timothy	8:30AM (Rosary), 9AM (Low)
Sun, 25 th Jan	3 rd Sunday after Epiphany	8AM (Low); 9:30AM (Rosary) 10AM (Sung)

Happy New Year 2026

NEW YEAR COMMUNITY LUNCH

Date: 1st Feb 2026

Time: After 10am Mass

Bring a plate to share with the community!

The lambs of St Agnes



On the feast of Saint Agnes, the Roman Church preserves one of her most evocative and ancient customs: the blessing of two lambs at the Basilica of St Agnes Outside the Walls, traditionally identified as the site of the young martyr's burial. This simple yet profoundly symbolic rite links martyrdom, virginity, pastoral authority, and apostolic continuity in a single, living tradition that stretches back more than a millennium.

The earliest references to the blessing of lambs at the tomb of St Agnes appear as early as the sixth century. The practice is rooted both in legend and in history. According to ancient tradition, after Agnes' martyrdom in the early fourth century, she appeared to her grieving parents at her tomb, radiant and surrounded by a choir of virgins, holding a pure white lamb in her arms. The lamb thus became a lasting symbol of her innocence, her consecration to Christ, and her witness unto death. Over time, this imagery found ritual expression in the annual blessing of lambs on her feast day.

Historical records also reveal a more concrete origin. For centuries, two lambs formed part of the annual "rent" paid by the monks of the Basilica of St Agnes Outside the Walls to the Basilica of St John Lateran, the cathedral of the Bishop of Rome. These lambs were presented to the pope for blessing, a practice documented in detail in a sixteenth-century chronicle preserved at the Basilica of St Peter in Chains. The chronicle traces the custom to endowments made by St Constantina, daughter of Emperor Constantine, who founded the church and monastery of St Agnes and placed them under the authority of the Lateran. During a solemn Mass, the lambs were blessed, formally handed over, and recorded by a notary—an indication of how deeply this ritual was woven into the life of the Church.

Over the centuries, the symbolism of the lambs became inseparably linked to the pallium, the woolen vestment worn by metropolitan archbishops as a sign of communion with the See of Peter and of their role as shepherds of Christ's flock. Traditionally, lambs raised by the Trappists at the Abbey of Tre Fontane were brought to the pope, blessed, and later entrusted to the Benedictine nuns of St Cecilia in Trastevere. After several months, the nuns sheared the lambs and wove their wool into palliums for newly appointed archbishops.

While some practical details have changed in recent years—the Trappists no longer maintain the sheep farm, and the pope no longer blesses the lambs personally in the Vatican—the heart of the tradition remains intact. The lambs are still entrusted to the Benedictine nuns, who shear them during Holy Week, and their wool continues to be used for palliums.

A particularly beautiful aspect of this custom is the hidden care given to the lambs by the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth, who have prepared them for the blessing for over 140 years. On the eve of St Agnes' feast, the sisters wash, feed, and tend the lambs overnight, placing them the next morning in baskets adorned with red roses for martyrdom and white roses for virginity. As the sisters themselves note, this quiet, unseen service reflects the hidden life of the Holy Family in Nazareth—simple, faithful, and entirely given to God—through which the Church continues to draw life, grace, and meaning from an ancient and living tradition.