



Parish of St Peter and St Paul

ARCHDIOCESE OF WESTMINSTER

THE PRESBYTERY
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Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A) 22nd January 2023

SUNDAY MASS: 9:45am & 12noon

WEEKDAY MASS: Monday & Friday 12.30pm; Tuesday & Wednesday 8am

CONFESSIONS: (on request)

The **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** is observed from the 18th to the 25th of January. It was originally termed the “Church Unity Octave,” between January 18, the Feast of the Confession of Saint Peter, and January 25, the Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul. Therefore, it has a particular importance for us, being the Parish of Ss Peter and Paul.

During a recent meeting with the Ecumenical delegation from Finland, Pope Francis began his address with a reflection on the Magi: “The Magi reached the goal because they sought it. Yet they sought it because the Lord, by the sign of the star, had first set out in search of them.” Like the Magi, we too are sought by God, “and our response must surely be like that of the Magi: **a journey together.**”

“Those who are touched by God’s grace cannot turn in on themselves and live only for themselves; they are always on the march, always driven to go forward – and to go forward together.”

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

- **First Holy Communion:** The preparation is over two years. Parents & children are expected to come to Sunday Mass at 9:45am, followed by class.
- **Marriage Course** starts next month. Fridays (February 24, March 3, 10, 17, 24) and Saturday 25 March afternoon.
- **Baptism Course.** It is essential for parents to come to Sunday Mass regularly.

NOTE: the meeting scheduled on Saturday 28th Jan is cancelled. All those who wish to have their child baptise should approach fr. Ivano in person and he will set up a one-to-one meeting.

FIRE WARDENS needed

We are required to have at least one fire warden at each Sunday Mass. Training will be provided. Let Fr. Ivano know if you could help. Thanks.



SCAN to GIVE
You can scan this **QR code** for your weekly **Sunday donation.**
Thank you.

“without the shedding of blood
there is no forgiveness”



It is true, by now, most of us have put away our nativity set. The Kings and the Shepherds, the Holy Family, the animals... but before removing the lambs from the crib pause for a moment.

Above is a beautiful and large painting at the National Gallery, attributed to an anonymous Neapolitan artist. Two bound lambs are placed at the feet of the Child Jesus. Their feet tied, their necks exposed, they are ready to be sacrificed. Why?

In the Letter to the Hebrews, we read: “without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness”. To forgive it costs. To forgive someone means to cancel their debts towards us. When we forgive, we experience a real poverty. Forgiving is a process of renunciation, detachment, mourning, that consists in letting go of our nets, loosing our grip, ‘unmixing’ ourselves from others and from what is wrong, to untie, to let go, not to hold on. Through forgiveness we are freed and free others. Forgives changes the flow of evil forces. It is an act that can turn evil into good. It is a spiritual act. It can only come from God, it is the highest form of love, and God is Love, yes God is Love.

At the Funeral Mass of Pope Emeritus Benedict xvi, Pope Francis quoted a passage of his first homily: “For a shepherd to feed is to love. To love means to be ready to suffer. To love means to give the sheep the true good, the food of the truth of God...” And forgiveness is the true good, the truth about man and God.

When you pack up the lambs from your crib, look at them with tenderness. They silently announce Love: you can be forgiven and you can forgive, yes, by the blood of the Lamb of God.

fr. Ivano

Father Ivano