

Let us remember in our prayers ...

Recently deceased: Fran Stille, Bishop Emeritus Peter Elliott, Doreen Chong

Anniversaries: Elizabeth Ferrar, Fr William Durkin PP, Pat Vampion, Carmel Long, Geoff Ward,Georgia & Glenn Lewis, Antonio Gangemi

Sick: Ken Metcalf, Beula Reddy, Joan Travers, Joseph Martino, Alan, Max Baldock, Tom Brennan, Yvette Henderson, Peter McEvoy, Sr Deidre Brown IBVM, Celine Williams, Joseph Sheahan, Peter Costelloe, Catherine, Bart Welten, Marilyn Mirabella, Stephen Hill, Archbishop Barry James Hickey, Mimi Epstein, Kaja, Marie Hebble, Mal Lamond

THE COMMERCIALISATION OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH By Ohanna McDonald

Between the film *Conclave*, the Jubilee year, the death of Pope Francis and the election of Pope Leo the Catholic Church has regularly featured in mainstream media over the last 12 months. Catholicism continues to capture popular imagination, including in the world of high-end luxury fashion Italian fashion label, Dolce & Gabbana which premiered its latest couture collection in July with the collection inspired by the history of the Catholic Church and of Rome itself. Through dramatic silhouettes, rich colours, exquisite embroidery, the large jewel-studded crosses a full display of Catholic opulence sprung to life on Ponte Sant’Angelo, the bridge over the Tiber leading to Rome’s magnificent Castel Sant’Angelo. The bridge was transformed into an open-air runway for the occasion. Built between 135 and 139AD, originally as a mausoleum for the Roman Emperor Hadrian, and later used as a papal fortress, the castle and its bridge symbolically link the sacred and the profane — much like the fashion show itself.

As magnificent and otherworldly as these one-of-a-kind pieces were, D&G still managed to incorporate fashion-forward trends such as wide-leg trousers, long coats, and double-breasted blazers with pronounced lapels. In addition to the striking clerical inspired collection, there was also a procession of ‘cardinals’ and ‘altar servers’ at the start of the show. There have been differing reports on this procession, with some saying that these were real bishops from the Vatican. However, other sources reported the red-robed ‘bishops’ were actually extras from the legendary film studio Cinecittà.

Don Alberto Rocca, a priest and friend of Domenico Dolce and Stefano Gabbana, attended another Catholic-inspired show in 2022. He said: “You are on the razor, as we say in Italian, but what I like is it’s not mocking, it’s about the spirit. More often than not, you see people using religious symbols to deprive them of their symbolism, but that’s not the case with D&G; otherwise, I would not be here.” Pop stars such as Madonna, Lady Gaga, Lil Nas X, and Sabrina Carpenter have all used Catholic imagery, rituals, and venues to openly mock or degrade the faith. It’s not hard to see why Don Alberto Rocca might view D&G’s much more positive portrayal of Catholic aesthetics as refreshing, inspiring, and as something which highlights the beauty and profound mystery of this ancient institution. Unlike him, though, almost every Catholic I have spoken to has been appalled by the video clips posted online of the show, an observation confirmed by those who canvassed reactions from the faithful in response to the performance. The main objection stems from the discomfort they feel about the blending of the sacred and commercial. The use of religious vestments appearing in couture shows — events which costs millions of euros to produce — raises understandable concerns. People don’t feel right about someone, even respected artisans, seemingly using the church to sell lace-trimmed shirts. Yet it would be hard to prosecute the case that the church has nothing in common with luxury, especially as it pertains to vestments, clothing and aesthetics.

The 2025 D&G show is clearly heavily influenced by clerical garb from the Renaissance and Baroque eras — periods of the Church hardly synonymous with temperance or humility. Powerful families like the Medicis - the gangsters and bankers of that era - financed and influenced the institution during the late 15th to early 16th centuries. It is no coincidence that some of the most remarkable architecture, sculptures and paintings were produced at that time. It is worth considering if the church would have ever been able to bankroll such treasures had they not accepted the donations of the wealthy elite, despite being morally compromised.

The Sistine Chapel wasn’t painted with a theological, spur-of-the-moment inspiration, completed with only good will and the satisfaction of a job well done. Sacred art has always required funding, and you have to be intentionally naïve to pretend these sponsors do not at some level have vested commercial or political interests. That’s not to say that as a result of these multilayered motivations, the sacred art loses its reverence and capacity to inspire awe and a closeness to God. Yes, the idea of sacred imagery entering commercial spaces like fashion shows might make you uncomfortable, but this might just be the true cost of preserving theological ideals through art. A commercially-driven fashion show which respectfully pays homage to the Catholic Church should be seen as a recognition of beauty, not an endorsement of consumerism. Decadence, religious authority, and political power have a tightly woven and deeply complicated relationship - but if modern elites don’t fund art, even imperfectly - who will? And if sacred art has always required flawed artists, can we afford to reject beauty when it appears, even in the most unexpected places?

Published in Catholic Weekly on 7 August Read more at catholicweekly.com.au/

THE STORY OF ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI: A MUSICAL NARRATIVE


Peter Kearney’s musical narrative weaves music, images, songs and narration to tell the story of St Francis of Assisi. The visual presentation is made up of images drawn from medieval art and other sources chosen to illustrate various stages of St Francis’ life. It can be viewed on YouTube at [Good Morning Good People Pt 1: St Francis of Assisi](#) or [youtube.com/watch?v=5_PzS2cG2CA](#).

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		Uthana Mission	Rod Pereira ask@uthanamission.org.au

WEEKLY HYMNS


9am & 5pm, Sunday 17 August

Lyrics are available on the Parish website via the QR code (right), or by visiting [stjosephssubiaco.org.au/lyrics](#). Hymn books are also available at Church entrances. Please return them at the conclusion of Mass.

Mass	Entrance	Offertory	Communion	Recessional	
9am	Be Not Afraid (36)	Take Our Bread (314)	Shout to the Lord (298)	Amazing Grace (23)	
5pm			The Lord is My Shepherd (328)		

ST JOSEPH’S UPCOMING EVENTS

Young Family Group 19 October	Youth Group 24 August	Faith Formation for Little Tots 17 August
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Thank you for your prayers and generous response to this year’s Catholic Mission Appeal. Your donations will support our missionaries in Zambia to help vulnerable women overcome poverty and to give birth safely. If you have missed the opportunity to support this important missionare work, please place your donation envelope in the weekend collection or visit [catholicmission.org.au/mission](#) to make a donation. Should you be keen to support the work of Catholic Mission through a bequest, as a volunteer or in other ways, please email Francis Leong at [fleong@catholicmission.org.au](#) to explore the possibilities.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT NEW NORCIA HOSTEL

Music of Einaudi & Yiruma: Popular Piano Composers 27 September	Music of Andrew Lloyd Webber: Hits from the Musicals 6 December
Performed by Fr Robert Nixon OSB, this recital will showcase the music of two contemporary composers, Ludovico Einaudi (b. 1955) and Yiruma (b. 1978). Coming from Italy and Korea respectively, these two composer-performers have become phenomenally popular in recent years. The music of both is in a style which combines classical and contemporary sensibilities and is both touching and accessible.	Andrew Lloyd-Webber, one of the most popular composers of the past century, has written innumerable hit musicals. Fr Robert Nixon OSB will present virtuosic piano arrangements of many of these beloved melodies. In what promises to be an unforgettable evening a number of special guest vocalists will also be featured. Guests are welcome to dress as a character from any of Lloyd-Webber's musicals.
Both evenings will commence at 6.30pm and be accompanied by dishes prepared by Abbot John to suit the music. Cost is \$120 per person per event including fine food and cocktails. Bookings: shop.newnoria.com.au/collections/special-items	

PILGRIMAGE: CATHOLIC TOUCH OF VIETNAM 13 to 24 November 2025

Join Monsignor Michael Keating visiting Vietnamese cities and the lovely Catholic Churches & Shrines to Our Lady and the Vietnamese Martyrs, along with a visit to the Long Tan battle site. People of all faiths are welcome. Full Board inclusive of all international and domestic flights on Scoot Airlines, 4-star accommodation, daily breakfast, some lunches and dinners is **\$4000 per person**. For the itinerary and booking form, please call Sheila on 0433 771 979 or Veronica 0402 290 827, or Email: [mail@anawimjournneys.com](#).

MASS TIMES <i>(Subject to change - refer to Parish Diary for latest information)</i>		PARISH CONTACT DETAILS	
Tuesday	5.30pm	Office	Tuesday - Friday: 9.30am to 4.30pm
Wednesday, Thursday & Friday	9am	Phone	9381 0400
Saturday Reconciliation	4.30pm	Postal	PO Box 568, Wembley 6913
Saturday Vigil	5pm	Email	enquiries@stjosephssubiaco.org.au
Sunday	9am & 5pm	Website	www.stjosephssubiaco.org.au
PARISH BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS	First Collection EFT Details		
	Account Name:	St Joseph's Presbytery Subiaco	
	BSB:	086 006	
	Account #:	887 970 525	
	Reference:	Name	
	Second Collection EFT Details		
	Account Name:	St Joseph's Church Subiaco	
	BSB:	086 006	
	Account #:	564 990 302	
	Reference:	Name	

PARISH DIARY				MONSIGNOR KEVIN
Sunday 17 August	9.45am	Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time Baptism: <i>Wallman Children</i> Upper Room: <i>Sacramental Preparation Classes</i> Baptism: <i>Aston Jaiden Pasqua</i>	<i>Monsignor Kevin</i>	
	10.30am			
	11.30am		<i>Monsignor Keating</i>	
Monday 18 August		Monday, Week 20 of Ordinary Time		
Tuesday 19 August	6pm	Tuesday, Week 20 of Ordinary Time <i>Optional: St John Eudes, Priest</i> Upper Room: <i>St Vincent de Paul Meeting</i>		<i>University of Notre Dame Australia Founders’ Day Mass</i>
		St Bernard, Abbot, Doctor, Memorial Upper Room: <i>Ladies’ Prayer Group</i> Wedding Rehearsal: <i>Tanisha Coleman & Daniel Walker</i> Upper Room: <i>First Holy Communion Parent/Child Workshop</i> Tribune Chapel: <i>Centering Prayer</i>	<i>Fr Mark Baumgarten</i>	
Wednesday 20 August	10am 3pm 4pm 5.30pm			<i>Lecturing at CEWA</i>
Thursday 21 August		St Pius X, Pope, Memorial		<i>Lecturing at CEWA</i>
Friday 22 August	1pm	The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Memorial Wedding Service: <i>Tanisha Coleman & Daniel Walker</i>	<i>Fr Mark Baumgarten</i>	
Saturday 23 August	3pm 3pm	Saturday, Week 20 of Ordinary Time <i>Optional: St Rose of Lima, Virgin</i> Wedding Rehearsal: <i>Regina Enriquez & Emman Sanqui</i> Upper Room: <i>First Holy Communion Preparation Class</i>	<i>Fr Garner Vergara</i>	