

# The Priestly Fraternity of St Peter

REGION OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS



## FSSP Regional House

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Dear Friends of the Fraternity.

Beginning a new liturgical year in preparation for our Saviour's birth, the Fraternity in the Southern Cross Region has much for which to thank the Divine Infant - and for which to thank you, our supporters.

In the past year, we have had joys, but also some sorrows; Father De[redacted] and Father Rehak were transferred to North America; but both Father Sypher and I have had the joy of being welcomed here. Trusting in our Lord's providence, both the sorrows and the joys can be sources of much grace and much hope. Through all these things, our priests strive to sanctify themselves in the exercise of the priesthood, firstly as men of prayer, but also in the pastoral and sacramental care of the faithful entrusted unto us.

### EZECHIEL HOUSE

The construction project of our House of Formation, Ezechiel House, is nearing completion, with three seminarians currently in studies; our apostolate at Lewisham, the Maternal Heart of Mary Chapel, has become a Parish, with Fr. D. Wong FSSP appointed as Parish Priest; and our house in Canberra, still currently being renovated, will soon give us a more stable apostolate and room for a second priest, to allow the living out of our charism as a Society of Apostolic Life.

### VOCATIONS

With regards to vocations to the Fraternity in the Southern Cross Region, in addition to our one Australian and two New Zealanders at Ezechiel House, we are also supporting two seminarians at our

seminary in Nebraska USA. We hope that their prayer life, hard work and study will soon bear much fruit. This coming May, our deacon, Rev. Mr Paul Leung (Hong Kong), will be ordained to the sacred priesthood and we look forward to having him working with us in the Southern



Cross region. As I write, we hope that our apostolates across Australia will continue to grow, and that, God willing, we will see an increase in good and holy vocations to the Priestly Fraternity of St Peter.

### ADVENT

Advent is an important time for personal spiritual growth; it is a time for offering up our prayers, penances, and charitable works for good and worthy causes. Our loving Lord has given us so much in coming as a little babe, born in Bethlehem, only to suffer and die so that we might attain eternal life with Him. He has done this for love of us; what can we

do out of love and thankfulness to Him? Thus, in thanksgiving for all that He has done and continues to do for all of us, please pray during this Advent that the Lord's harvest will bear much fruit for the Fraternity and for the whole region of the Southern Cross.

Without the priesthood, we would be without the spiritual food that keeps us from fainting on the way to our salvation, but the increase in the numbers of good and holy priests is possible only by the grace of God and your continued prayers, offered through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary. With the prayers of souls devoted to Christ, and with your charitable assistance - especially during this season of joyful expectation of our Divine Messiah's birth - we will be able to strengthen and increase our apostolic works, and continue to help prepare our seminarians for the sacred priesthood and the Traditional Latin Mass.

I will be offering a novena of Christmas Masses which will start on the 24th of December for all our benefactors and faithful of the Southern Cross Region. The priests at Ezechiel House Novitiate will also do the same for your intentions.

Wishing you a Blessed Advent and a Glorious Christmas.

Yours in Christ,

*Fr. Christopher Blust*

**Fr Christopher Blust, FSSP**

# Maternal Heart of Mary Church

ERECTED AS A  
PERSONAL PARISH

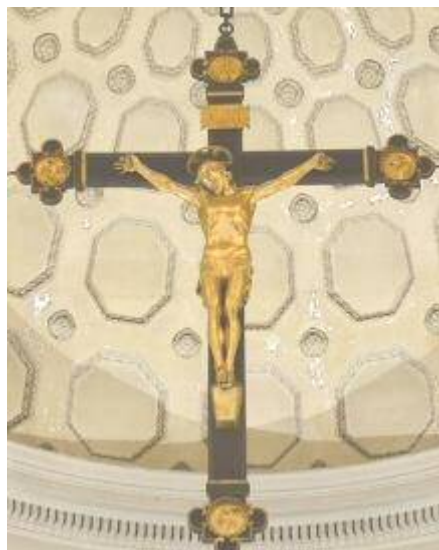
The Latin Mass community at Maternal Heart of Mary Church, Lewisham, has been graced with abundant blessings since its inception twenty years ago, to which we now add its erection to the status of a personal parish of the archdiocese of Sydney, as of the 15th of August this year.

We are grateful to His Eminence George Cardinal Pell for this generous act, which will give our chapel a guarantee of stability for the future, as well as enjoying a higher degree of juridical power accorded to parishes in canon law.

The erection of Maternal Heart of Mary Chapel as a personal parish adds to its already rich history. The parish would not be where it is today without the hard work of the founding pioneers, both priests and laity alike. Now a heritage-listed building, Maternal Heart was originally built as a convent chapel for the sisters of the Little Company of Mary (“Blue nuns”), who ministered unto the sick and dying in Lewisham Hospital. The order was also renowned for its high liturgical standards and Gregorian chant. The building of the chapel commenced on the 21st of August, 1924 and it was officially opened on the 18th of September, 1927, by Archbishop Michael Kelly in the presence of ten other bishops. For the next sixty years it continued to serve as the convent chapel for the nuns, until 1988 when the hospital was closed and the land purchased by the Society of St Vincent de Paul.

Naturally, for the first four decades of its existence, it was the traditional Latin rite of Mass that was celebrated in this exquisitely designed chapel. Following the closure of the hospital, the chapel became virtually unused for five years, before it saw the return of the Latin Mass. Amongst the many priests involved in these re-pioneering years, we must make special mention of Fr Terence Mary Naughtin OFM.

In 2001, His Eminence appointed the priests of the Priestly Fraternity of St



Peter to serve the pastoral needs of the faithful at Maternal Heart, making possible a wider scope of pastoral activities including daily Mass and Confessions. We wish to recognise the hard work of these priests, especially that of Fr Laurence Gresser. We would also like to acknowledge the great kindness of the Society of St Vincent de Paul in allowing us to use the Chapel.

Today, the community at Maternal Heart parish is noteworthy for the diversity of language and culture amongst its faithful, and for the many visitors we receive each week, both from around the country and around the world. Similarly, thanks to the activity of our parishioners, we enjoy good connections with a number of Catholic works and apostolate.

At the same time, our parish apostolate has grown out of the Fraternity's commitment to the philosophy of St Thomas Aquinas; we host weekly Adult Education classes in Thomistic philosophy and theology, and weekly catechism classes for up to sixty children. Also, being mindful of the chapel's foundations, an important part of the patrimony received from the Little Company of Mary is the care of the sick and the dying at Lewisham nursing home.

The parish of the Maternal Heart of Mary is particularly distinguished for its liturgical life. From its very foundation, it has sought to preserve and foster the Church's liturgical and musical heritage, and a strong choral tradition of both Gregorian chant and sacred polyphony has continued to grow and flourish.

Our hope is that all who pass through Sydney and visit the Maternal Heart of Mary Parish may experience an encounter with God and, in their turn, share the peace and joy of this encounter with the wider Church and larger society.

*More detailed information on the Maternal Heart of Mary Church is available at: [www.MaternalHeart.org](http://www.MaternalHeart.org).*

# Feast of the Immaculate Conception

8 DECEMBER 2013



In his monumental work, *The City of God*, St Augustine tells us that the reason why there is both good and evil in our world today is because there are two kinds of love, and that each of these two loves has built its own city – the love of self that leads unto the contempt of God is the earthly city; the love of God that leads even unto the contempt of self is the heavenly city. The explanation of sin and the sinfulness that we see around us today is seen in those who love themselves so much that they eventually despise God and hold Him in contempt. Corruption and violence in all its forms, stares at us in the streets, in our newspapers, on the television and internet. Though very disturbing and a cause of much anxiety, uncertainty and insecurity, this is the reality of sinful humanity.

On the feast of the Immaculate Conception, however, the Church would like us to contemplate the other kind of love, the love of God even unto the contempt of self, and so turn our attention from looking at the reality of sin in order to contemplate the mystery of sinlessness in the Blessed Virgin Mary, conceived without sin and who lived her whole life without sin. And the secret of that singular sinlessness is precisely because she loved God so perfectly that she did not even have any regard for herself. In fact, as we all know, she always humbled herself before God in the praise of her *Magnificat* and she humbled herself before others in service. It is this perfect and absolute love of God that brought down upon her the fullness of God's favour, the fullness of grace.

Perhaps one wonders how she could have kept herself without sin unless she had surrendered the freedom of her will and allowed grace to become like some sort of clamp on her freedom of will so that she could not will anything but good. No, our Lady was not a robot, there was nothing mechanical about her sinlessness. We sin against God and find ourselves

overwhelmed by our sinfulness when we allow our free will to gravitate to things other than God, and against God himself. That is sin, sinfulness.

Conversely, like everyone of us, our Lady had choices to make in her life, but she used her free-will not to gravitate toward earthly things, but to aspire to God alone and for God alone. The sinlessness of our Lady was precisely that - she had choices to make, like every other human being, but she was different because she



always made the right choices, constantly turning herself towards God in love and obedience, until she was exalted on God in a perfect union of faith and love in this life and eternal glory even now in the splendour of heaven.

Perhaps this very sinlessness of our Lady may alienate her from us poor sinners. We see her exalted because of her sinlessness. How can she possibly

identify herself with us, be in solidarity with us poor sinners who fall so often, who have become complacent with our sinfulness, who have become indifferent even to our own sin and the sin of others?

Nevertheless, no matter how high the pedestal on which our Lady stands, she is the Refuge of Sinners who wants to bridge the gap and the dichotomy between herself and us by inviting us to consecrate ourselves and belong to her, so that what is hers can also become ours. That is the beauty of consecrating oneself to our Lady.

We not only give her what is ours but she also gives us what is hers, and therefore she enriches us in our spiritual impoverishment and sanctifies us in spite of our sinfulness. This was the wish of St Louis Marie Grignon de Montfort, who embodied it in a beautiful prayer he composed to be recited by all those who prepare themselves for Consecration to our Lady:

*May the light of thy faith dispel the darkness of my mind,*

*May thy profound humility take the place of my pride,*

*May thy sublime contemplation check the distractions of my wandering imagination.*

*May thy continuous sight of God fill my memory with his presence.*

*May the burning love of thy heart inflame the lukewarmness of mine,*

*May thy virtues take the place of my sins,  
May thy merits be my only adornment  
in the sight of God and make up for all  
that is wanting in me.*

We are so strongly aware of the evil that surrounds us but we need to be even more aware of the goodness and beauty of the holiness of our Lady and instead of being upset, anxious, fearful and insecure, let us make an effort to fall in love with the beauty of her holiness, mindful of her promise that in the end her Immaculate Heart will triumph.

**Fr Adrian Wee, FSSP**

# Ezechiel House

HOUSE OF FORMATION OF THE  
SOUTHERN CROSS REGION

On June 8th 2004, His Eminence George Cardinal Pell canonically erected Ezechiel House as a house of formation for the Priestly Fraternity of St Peter in Sydney. This followed the prior approval of our former Superior General, Fr Arnaud Devillers, and his council, who recognised the need for an FSSP novitiate in Australasia.

At Ezechiel House, we strive to realise the object of the FSSP, which is "...the sanctification of priests through the exercise of the priesthood, and in particular, to turn the life of the priest towards that which is his *raison d'être*, the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, with all that it signifies, all that flows from it, all that goes with it". (Constitutions, c. 8)

The year-long novitiate at Ezechiel House enables men to be formed in the spirit of the Priestly Fraternity of St Peter before further testing their vocations at one of the international seminaries.

During that year – known as the Year of Spirituality – candidates are introduced to the study of ascetical theology, Scripture, Constitutions, Latin, Catechism and the fundamentals of philosophy. Ascetical

theology is combined with a schedule of prayer and study to inculcate that deep spiritual life which is so important to the priesthood today. We form men in a spirit of prayer and compassion, so that the priests of the future may be true fathers to the ecclesial communities that come under their pastoral care.

Ezechiel House has something of an international atmosphere about it, having received candidates from Singapore, Malaysia, Hong Kong, New Zealand and Nigeria. Three of our former novices have completed their studies and received the grace of ordination in the community of the Priestly Fraternity of St Peter.

At present, we have three young men at the House, while two more of our recent candidates have progressed to the major seminary at Denton, Nebraska.

We could not have supported so many men in formation without the generosity of our benefactors. The formation of priests is both labour intensive and expensive, for the average seminarian can expect a further six years of formation after his Year of Spirituality at Ezechiel House. Similarly, Ezechiel House has needed extensive renovation, and is still mortgaged.

Please consider supporting Ezechiel House and helping us to form traditional priests for the future. We are grateful for every donation, and our seminarians and priests remember all our benefactors in the daily Office, Rosary and in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.



Minor orders and subdeaconate at Our Lady of Guadalupe Seminary, Nebraska, 23rd of November. Daniel Mould and Charles Ike received the minor orders of exorcist and acolyte.



Cardinal Pell with our novices of Ezechiel House, Thomas Sofatzis, Roger Gilbride and Brendan Boyce.

*For any young men interested in a vocation with the Fraternity of St Peter, please write to:*

Ezechiel House Novitiate  
PO Box 917  
Petersham, NSW 2049

**Fr Duncan Wong, FSSP**

# Donations

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Please tell us what your donation is intended for:  **General expenses of the FSSP**, or  **Ezechiel House, formation of seminarians**

## OPTION 1 Direct Deposit Single Donation

To make a single **Direct Deposit using online banking**, please use the following bank details. Once you have made the deposit, please inform us of your donation so that it can be acknowledged.

**Bank Name:** National Australia Bank, Melbourne  
**Acc't Name:** FSSP Australia  
**Description:** Your name – donation (eg. M. Smith – donation)  
**BSB Number:** 083 347 **Account:** 49089 9150

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Please make out cheques to FSSP Australia and post to the above address.

You have received this newsletter because you are registered on our benefactors' list. Every endeavour has been made to keep this list up to date for those who do and do not wish to receive correspondence from the FSSP.

If you do not wish to receive information from us, we apologise for any inconvenience. Please make this known by email: [sydney@fssp.net](mailto:sydney@fssp.net).