St Patrick's Parish Church Hill

with St Brigid's Church Millers Point

25 October 2026 Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

The Greatest Commandment: Loving God and Neighbour in a Digital Age

This Sunday, the Liturgy invites us into the heart of the Gospel: Jesus' definitive summary of the law, to love God with our whole heart, soul, and mind, and to love our neighbour as ourselves (Matthew 22:34–40). Paired with God's fierce defence of the vulnerable in Exodus and the vibrant faith of the Thessalonians, we are called away from isolation and self-absorption into a life of authentic, radical love.

The Trap of the Digital Bubble and Consumerism. How easily we fall into the trap of self-absorption! Modern consumerism and digital culture train us to treat life as an endless feed, curating our own worlds, filtering out discomfort, and reducing human beings to profiles or products. We can become so plugged into screens and hyper-focused on our own convenience that we grow numb to the real, beating hearts of the people right next to us. When we live out of a mindset of digital isolation, we treat love as a feeling to be liked rather than a sacrifice to be lived. We fall into the illusion that we can love God while ignoring the lonely, the stranger, or the overwhelmed in our actual neighbourhoods.

Yet, Blessed Carlo Acutis showed us a different way. Living in the heart of our modern technological age, Carlo did not let the internet consume him; instead, he used his computer skills to point toward the Eucharist, calling it his "highway to heaven." He proved that holiness isn't about escaping the modern world, but about infusing it with charity. He saw Christ in the poor and made his life a continuous gift.

Living the Great Commandment Today. When we allow Christ's command to come to our inner lives, our daily actions naturally overflow into genuine love:

- **In Our Personal Thoughts:** Drop the heavy burden of digital comparison and self-obsession. When you catch yourself trapped in endless scrolling or seeking validation online, choose instead to turn your mind toward God, letting His love quiet your anxieties.
- **In Our Relationships:** Release the habit of treating people as temporary distractions. Approach your interactions with real-world mercy, stepping away from screens to offer your undivided presence, patience, and kindness to the people physically in your life.
- **As a Parish Community:** Foster an atmosphere of tangible warmth. Let our communities be safe where no one feels like a stranger, welcoming every searching soul with the truth that they are deeply seen, valued, and loved by God.

This week, if you have been feeling isolated or worn out by the noise of modern life, look away from your screens and turn toward the altar. Take a step away from self-absorption, and remember Carlo Acutis's inspiring reminder: *"Always be close to Jesus; that is my life plan."*

"The second is like it: You shall love your neighbour as yourself." Matthew 22:39 How is God calling you to step out of your digital comfort zone today, so you can love Him with your whole heart and tangibly serve your neighbour **without fear**?

Fr Anderson G. R. Assistant priest

Welcoming the Major Pilgrim Relic of St Carlo Acutis and the mission team!
It is with real joy that we welcome to St Patrick's Church Hill the major pilgrim relic of St Carlo Acutis, with Msgr. Figueiredo, and the Friends of St Carlo Acutis Mission Team.

Saturday 24th of October - Day of Reflection and Prayer
8am Mass with welcome of Major Pilgrim Relic of St Carlo Acutis
8:30am First Catechesis by Msgr. Figueiredo
9am Individual veneration of the Major Pilgrim Relic
9:30am Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
12pm Mass with Major Pilgrim Relic
12:30pm Second Catechesis by Msgr. Figueiredo
1pm Individual veneration of the Major Pilgrim Relic
1:30pm Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
5:45pm Benediction with the Blessed Sacrament
6pm Vigil Mass with Major Pilgrim Relic

Sunday 25th of October
8am, 9am, 10am, 11am Mass and Blessing with Major Pilgrim Relic
12pm Sung Mass with Major Pilgrim Relic celebrated by Msgr. Figueiredo from Assisi
1pm Third Catechesis by Msgr. Figueiredo followed by Individual Veneration of the Major Pilgrim Relic
2pm Relics of St Carlo Acutis depart for St Mary's Cathedral

*St Carlo Acutis' Exhibition of the Eucharistic Miracles is open all day in the Crypt on Saturday and in the morning only on Sunday. All parishioners are encouraged to visit.This has already been a great blessing for our Parish and we are grateful for all those who have prayerfully prepared and participated in this mission.

Prayers in Reparation for blasphemous events in Sydney - Thursday the 22nd and 29th of October.
Thank you to all the faithful who joined us inside St Patrick's Church on Thursday for a peaceful and prayerful night. You are again warmly encouraged to join us inside the church this Thursday to honour our Lord and to pray for our wider community. Following the 5:30pm Mass we will have Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 6:30pm, The Most Holy Rosary, and silent prayers for all in our City. The night concludes with Benediction and Night Prayer before closing at 10:30pm.

"Walk with Christ" Annual Eucharistic Procession, November 22:
Parishioners at St Patrick's Church Hill are highly encouraged to mark this date in their diaries and be prepared to attend this wonderful witness and expression of our Catholic Faith together. Please note that this celebration may impact upon our regular Sunday afternoon schedule as the procession begins at 2:30pm - details to be confirmed.

Prayers for our Priests: We pray that Fr Anderson enjoys a happy holiday as he heads to Colombia this week to be reunited with his family. May he enjoy a well deserved rest over the next month. We look forward to welcoming Fr Anthony and his wonderful presence back with us next weekend! Thank you for all the prayers and support you offer our priests.

A reading from the book of Exodus 22:20-26 (JB)

The Lord said to Moses, 'Tell the sons of Israel this, "You must not molest the stranger or oppress him, for you lived as strangers in the land of Egypt. You must not be harsh with the widow, or with the orphan; if you are harsh with them, they will surely cry out to me, and be sure I shall hear their cry; my anger will flare and I shall kill you with the sword, your own wives will be widows, your own children orphans.

"If you lend money to any of my people, to any poor man among you, you must not play the usurer with him: you must not demand interest from him. "If you take another's cloak as a pledge, you must give it back to him before sunset. It is all the covering he has; it is the cloak he wraps his body in; what else would he sleep in? If he cries to me, I will listen, for I am full of pity."'

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

R I love you, Lord, my strength.

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians 1:5-10 (JB)

You observed the sort of life we lived when we were with you, which was for your instruction, and you were led to become imitators of us, and of the Lord; and it was with the joy of the Holy Spirit that you took to the gospel, in spite of the great opposition all round you. This has made you the great example to all believers in Macedonia and Achaia since it was from you that the word of the Lord started to spread - and not only throughout Macedonia and Achaia, for the news of your faith in God has spread everywhere. We do not need to tell other people about it: other people tell us how we started the work among you, how you broke with idolatry when you were converted to God and became servants of the real, living God; and how you are now waiting for Jesus, his Son, whom he raised from the dead, to come from heaven to save us from the retribution which is coming.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! All who love me will keep my words, and my Father will love them and we will come to them. **Alleluia!**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 22:34-40 (JB)

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees they got together and, to disconcert him, one of them put a question, 'Master, which is the greatest commandment of the Law?' Jesus said, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second resembles it: You must love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang the whole Law, and the Prophets also.'

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

RECONCILIATION PROGRAM

MONDAY - FRIDAY:
7.30 - 7.55 am; 10.00am - 11.00am;
12.00 noon - 1.00pm: 4.30pm - 5.20pm

SATURDAY: 7.30am - 7.55am;
10.30am - 12.30pm; 5.30pm - 5.55pm

SUNDAY: 7.45am - 8.30am;
9.45 am - 11.45am; 3.45 pm - 4.45 pm

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS: 7.30am - 7.55am;
11.30am - 11.55am; 4.30pm - 5.20pm

MASS PROGRAM

MONDAY - FRIDAY: 8.00am, 10.30am, 12.00noon & 5.30pm.
*Church open from 7.30am - 6pm
SATURDAY: 8.00am, 12.00 noon
Vigil Mass at 6.00pm.
*Church open from 7.30am - 6.45pm
SUNDAY: 8.00am, 9.00am, 10.00am, 11.00am, 12 noon *(with choir)*, 3.00pm, 4.00pm, 6.00pm
*Church open from 7.45am - 6.45pm

St. Brigid's, Millers Point: Sunday 9.00am

PUBLIC HOLIDAY: 8.00 am, 12 nn, 5.30 pm
*Church open from 7.30am - 6.00pm

A MESSAGE FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY

Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with a crime are the police. If you or anyone you know – have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding & Ministerial Integrity Office (02) 9390 5810 or safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org. You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.

St Brigid's Church,
14-16 Kent Street, Millers Point

Did you know - St Brigid's, designed by colonial architect Ambrose Hallen, is the oldest surviving place of Catholic worship in Australia? Governor Richard Bourke approved the site and building plan in 1833.

Join our community for Mass - Sundays at 9.00am

Please Support our Parish

Electronic Donations: We have a tap machine for electronic donations near the entry to the church or click on the QR code. For regular donations from your credit card, please contact the Parish Office.

Sunday First Collection:
Support of the Priests at St Patrick's and St Brigid's
Sunday Second Collection:
Church expenses and parish mission.

PARISH OFFICE

Address: 141 Harrington Street, Sydney
Office hours: Monday - Wednesday, Friday
9.30 am - 12.00 pm
1.00 pm - 4.00 pm

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St Patrick's Church: 20 Grosvenor Street, Sydney, NSW 2000

St Patricks Parish

Parish Priest
Fr. Lewi Barakat

Assistant Priests
Fr. Anthony Mifsud
Fr. Anderson Gallego Rodas
Fr. Matthew Lukaszewicz

Mona Redito,
Office Manager
Andrew Carter,
Maintenance Manager
Helen Nejaim,
Sacristan
Tereza Seric
Safeguarding

The parish of St Patrick's acknowledges the Gadigal people of the Eora nation as the traditional custodians of this place we now call Sydney.

The church is fitted with an audio loop for the hearing impaired