

THE ROSARY RECORD

OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY PARISH
OCTOBER 19 2025 | TWENTY-NINTH
SUNDAY IN ORD TIME | YEAR C

St Peter to Rot, Martyr of PNG and Oceania (Part two)

In 1942 the Japanese invaded Rabaul and the Island of New Britain, Papua New Guinea, fell. Foreign missionaries were arrested, and religious activities began to be monitored. Fr. Karl Laufer MSC, the parish priest of Rakunai, Peter To Rot's village, was taken to the prison camp in Vunapope near Rabaul. There, in the very large and well-equipped Mission HQ of the MSC he was interned along with over 300 mainly MSC and OLSH religious. Before leaving, he entrusted Peter with the spiritual responsibility of the Rakunai community.

From then on, Peter officially became responsible for the faith life of the people. **He visited homes, organized Sunday prayers, catechized adults and children, prepared weddings, and accompanied the sick.** He recorded everything in the parish registers. He acted with such zeal and prudence that, even under military occupation, the faith remained alive and strong in the village.

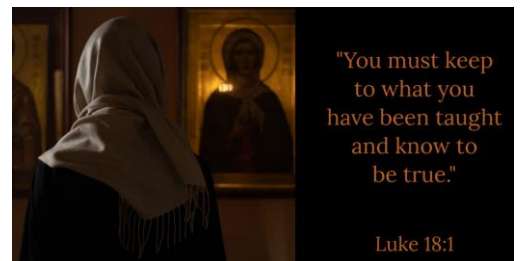
During the first months of the Japanese occupation, there was still some tolerance for religious practice. But as the war progressed and fears of defeat grew, **Japanese officials began to ban public prayers, disperse groups of worshippers, and monitor Christian leaders. Faith came to be seen as resistance. In Rakunai, Peter To Rot was at the centre of this tension.**

In 1944, the Japanese held a meeting with tribal chiefs from the region. They wanted to ensure political loyalty by offering cultural benefits. **One of the favours granted was the legalization of traditional polygamy, which had been forbidden for those wishing to become Catholics. Also, previous governments had banned the practise.** It was a calculated move: they hoped it would neutralize the influence of Christian catechists. **Peter was one of the first to openly oppose it.** As the spiritual leader of the community, he refused to bless polygamous unions. He continued to teach catechism, promote Christian marriages, organize prayers and often acted in secret. To protect the parishioners and avoid direct confrontation, **he began to hold nightly meetings in caves hidden in the forests.** There, by the light of oil lamps, he read the Bible, explained the sacraments and celebrated the faith. **He would walk up to 25 kilometres to collect consecrated hosts smuggled out of the internment camp in Vunapope. "God's work is everything," he said. His wife, Paula, worried, tried to convince him to stop. He replied: "It is my duty to die for God the Father, Son, Holy Spirit — and for my people."**

The Japanese army began to call all catechists to the police station, questioning them about their activities and warning them **that the ban on any Christian religious practice was now total.** Peter was summoned several times by the Japanese military police. Interrogated and threatened, he responded calmly to the parishioners: **"They want to take away our prayers. But I am your catechist. I will do my duty, even if it costs me my life."** He courageously defended the sanctity of marriage. He told couples: **"Fidelity is a gift from God. Our people have the right to receive the whole Gospel, undiluted."** The community supported him, but everyone knew that the risk was increasing. The guards raided his home, confiscated his books, searched the meeting places, and watched his every move. Even so, he continued. Peter confirmed that he was still doing what he was supposed to do as a catechist. He explained to them that what he and the catechists were doing had nothing to do with the war.



THIS WEEK



SATURDAY 18 OCTOBER

5:00pm-5:30pm Reconciliation

5:30pm Mass (Permanent time)

SUNDAY 19 OCTOBER

9:30am Mass, KidsChurch + Morning Tea

3:30pm Indonesian Community Mass

5:30pm-6:00pm Reconciliation

6:00pm Mass

MONDAY 20 OCTOBER – ST PAUL OF THE CROSS

9:00am Mass

6:00pm Adoration/Reconciliation

WEDNESDAY 22 OCTOBER – ST JOHN PAUL II

9:00am Mass

10:30am Funeral – Sr Duchesne OLSH

THURSDAY 23 OCTOBER - ST JOHN OF CAPISTRANO

5:00pm: Adoration | Reconciliation

6:00pm Mass

FRIDAY 24 OCTOBER – ST ANTHONY MARY CLARET

9:00am Mass

SATURDAY 25 OCTOBER – CATHOLIC MISSION APPEAL

5:00pm-5:30pm Reconciliation

5:30pm Mass (Permanent time)

SUNDAY 26 OCTOBER - CATHOLIC MISSION APPEAL

9:30am Year 2 Family Mass, KidsChurch + Morning Tea

11:00am Walk with Mary Rosary Pilgrimage

3.30pm Indonesian Community Mass

5:30pm- 6:00pm Reconciliation

6:00pm Mass

We acknowledge the traditional owners the Gadigal Clans of the Eora Nation, who cared for this land for thousands of years and their descendants who have maintained these Spiritual connections and traditions.

PARISH DIRECTORY

4 Roma Ave
Kensington NSW 2033
T: 9663 1070

E: parishoffice@olrkensington.org.au
W: <http://olrkensington.org.au>

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR

Fr Peter Hearn msc

E: parishpriest@olrkensington.org.au

PARISH SECRETARY

Maria Caetano

Mon, Wed & Fri 9:30am-3:30pm

ADMIN ASSISTANT

Amanda Janturi

Tues & Thurs 9:30am-3:30pm

PARISH SAFEGUARDING SUPPORT OFFICER

Lily Murcutt

E: safeguarding@olrkensington.org.au

SACRAMENTAL CO-ORDINATOR

Sarina Capo

E: evangelise@olrkensington.org.au

MASS TIMES

Sat 5:30pm (Vigil), Sun 9:30am, 6pm
Mon, Wed, Fri - 9am, Thurs 6pm
Indonesian Mass Sun 3:30pm

ANointing of the Sick

9:00am Mass First Friday

RECONCILIATION

Sat Vigil 5.00pm-5.30pm
Sun 5:30pm-6:00pm
Thurs 5:00pm-6pm

ROSARY

First Saturday before 5.30pm Mass

BAPTISMS | WEDDINGS | SACRAMENTS | RCIA

Contact Amanda - Parish Office

E: sacraments@olrkensington.org.au

INDONESIAN COMMUNITY

Fr Agustinus Handoko
M: 0420 347 002

OLR PRIMARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Principal: Jenny Chu - 9663 3346
<https://olrkensington.syd.catholic.edu.au>

OLSH COLLEGE PRINCIPAL

Principal: Gilda Pussich - 9662 4088
<https://olshkensington.syd.catholic.edu.au>

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE

Roy Rigotti - 0400 467 809

John Hill - 0411 315 533

Sr Pauline Richards - 0419 482 408

Nani Widarto - 0411 850 350



ALTAR SERVERS CO-ORDINATOR

Caroline: carol_thung@yahoo.com

KIDSchURCH CO-ORDINATORS

Lia: lia_tjoe@hotmail.com

Sherly: sherly.handjojo@gmail.com

YOUTH CO-ORDINATOR &

YOUNG ADULTS CO-ORDINATOR

Edo: edo.setiaprasojo@gmail.com

RESPONSES

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

To you I call; for you will surely heed me, O God; turn your ear to me; hear my words. Guard me as the apple of your eye; in the shadow of your wings protect me.

FIRST READING

Exodus 17: 8-13

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Our help is from the Lord, who made heaven and earth

SECOND READING

2 Timothy 3: 14-4:2

ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

The word of God is living and active; it probes the thoughts and motives of our heart.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Luke 18: 1-8

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Behold, the eyes of the Lord are on those who fear him, who hope in his merciful love, to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine.

OREMUS

Let us Pray

SICK

Lily Rose Parks, Bernard Fonti, Alice Gatt, Peter Haylen, Manuel Mouco

PARISHIONERS IN RESIDENTIAL CARE/HOMEBOUND

Maria Pockaj, Tom Carlton, Sr Joan Pender rscj, Frank Mifsud, Margaret Stocker, Jill Rees, John Dorahy, Brenda Longworth, Christine Moyle, Olga Nasser, Lucienne Radzynski, Nicole Chiaradia

BELOVED DECEASED

Manuel Ascencao Dias, Law Kah Hock, Jennifer O'Halloran, Thomas Wharton, Marina Medina, Patricia Irish

ANNIVERSARIES

Carlo Pengue, Alfredo Pengue, Dudley Nicol, Joachim Yap Tet Fah, Maria Lee Ee Choo, Jack Papallo, Pasquale Iovannella, Sr Margaret Rita Ellis, Nella Custorella, Frank Bowman, John Rees, Fr Gregory Hannan, Marie Jean Dunne

SACRAMENTAL DATES

First Reconciliation:

Enrolments are now closed.

Commitment Mass: 26 October, 5:30pm

Ceremony: Wednesday 19 November, 6:30pm

MAINTENANCE

- Defibrillator to be installed
- Replacement downpipes (Church) have been installed
- Security cameras needed before we can leave the church open.
- Leaks caused by plastic & leaves blocking rain-heads

ROSTERS

18/19 OCT	SATURDAY 5:30PM	SUNDAY 9:30AM	SUNDAY 6PM
Acolyte	Danny Tjahjadi	Yosep Rizal	Gunawan Gunawan
Readers	Cathy Shiner Sr Helen Hearn	Nani Widarto Jeff Kildea	Felicia Ang Patricia Reyes
E. Ministers	Vien Suhadi	Robyn Kildea Ana Corpuz	Geraldine Marcellino
Kids Church	ME & Ratna		
Counters	Inge Sutanto, Bob Brenac, Jan Nicholas		
Comm to Sick	Robyn Kildea		
25/26 OCT	SATURDAY 5:30PM	SUNDAY 9:30AM	SUNDAY 6PM
Acolyte	John Ryan	Gus Alimhamzah	John Allen
Readers	Simona Wong Bernadine Lavender	Michelle Alimhamzah Ana Corpuz	Marieann Duncan Marissa Meyn
E. Ministers	Shilla Azalea	Dewi Suryani Margaret Rigotti	Patricia Reyes
Kids Church	Lily & Eka		
Counters	Helen Liew, Arief Suhadi		
Comm to Sick	Jan Nicholas		

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Peter's open crusade against polygamy led him **to confront certain powerful local people**, policemen, judges, etc., who wanted to have already married women as wives. **A policeman, already married, had kidnapped a married woman and assaulted her husband. To Rot and the father of the woman found her and returned her to her husband. Infuriated, the policeman and others reported Peter to the Japanese authorities.**

In January 1945, soldiers came to take him away. His cell was small, stuffy, and windowless. The soldiers only took him out of there from time to time to tend to the pigs. He prayed constantly and showed no fear. He was grateful for the food brought by his mother and Paula, his wife. When the people visited him, he would simply say: **"Pray. Our faith cannot be bought. I am in prison for those who break their marriage vows and for those who do not want to see God's work go forward. That is all. I must die. I have already been condemned to death."**

One day, Paula, his wife, went to visit him accompanied by their two young children. **Pregnant with their third child, she asked Peter to accept the Japanese request, to say that he would stop being a catechist, just to be released. Peter made the sign of the cross and replied: "I must glorify the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit and thus help my people."** He asked her to bring him his **catechist's cross**. On the day which turned out to be the day of his martyrdom, he asked his mother to bring him **his catechist's clothes**. He told his mother that he had been informed that a Japanese doctor would visit him later. He said he was not sick, and that he knew what would happen to him.

At dusk, Peter washed, shaved, and put on clean clothes. He sat in front of the cell entrance and prayed. He had come down with a cold. A formal trial was not held. **Instead, taking advantage of his cold, the Japanese doctor gave him an injection and made him take a so-called medicine. He stuffed Peter's ears and nose with cotton wool. As the poison took too long to activate the doctor held his mouth closed, while a soldier struck him on the neck with a wooden beam. He died of a combination of poisoning and asphyxiation.** Despite efforts to hide everything, a prisoner witnessed the injection being administered. What followed was a long and painful agony.

The policeman, To Metapa, who was responsible for his arrest, came from the scene and said: **'He, the "mission boy", was very sick and has died'**. This occurred a mere six weeks before the end of the war in the Pacific which ended on August 15th, 1945.

His funeral, well attended, was held in silence out of fear of the soldiers. The people already venerated him as a martyr. The news of his death spread. His fidelity spoke louder than any decree and bore fruit. In his village in the following years vocations arose — all formed in the witness of the catechist who preferred to die rather than deny his faith and the integrity and holiness of the Sacrament of Marriage which he courageously affirmed.

Pope Leo XIV will proclaim Peter To Rot a Saint in St Peter's, Rome, this Sunday, 19th October 2025. "St Peter To Rot, pray that we will have the clear-sighted faith and courage to proclaim the truth, beauty and love of Christ Jesus in our daily lives and to serve others as your servant Peter To Rot did so consistently."

Thanks to the Communications Desk of the MSC and Fr. Tomas Ravaioli, IVE;
To *Vatican News* and Javier Trapero for much of this material.
Peter Hearn MSC



Sacred Heart Cathedral, Vunapope (near Rabaul, PNG Built in the shape of a clam shell). The site of the interment camp for missionaries WWII & near the location of martyrdom of Peter To Rot.

HOLY HOURS

Join us for Adoration **every Monday, 6-7pm** (call in for a few minutes or stay the whole hour) and on Thursdays before 6:00pm Mass. **Reconciliation is also available.**

ENROLMENTS FOR 2026

Give your child the gift of a Catholic Education. Our Lady of the Rosary, Kensington, has places available in **Kindergarten for 2026.**

To enrol, or for more information, go to:-
www.olrkensington.syd.catholic.edu.au/enrolment/enrol-now or phone 9663 3346.

FIVE FIRST SATURDAYS DEVOTION

You are invited to join us at OLR Church on the **first Saturday of each month** for the *"5 first Saturdays Devotion"* associated with Our Lady of Fatima. **5.00pm Rosary with confessions available followed by 5.30pm Mass.**

CATHOLIC JOURNEY

Are you or someone you know interested in finding out more about the Catholic faith? Our parish offers RCIA for adults. Please contact us on 9663 1070 or at olrkensoevangelise@gmail.com for more information. All parishioners welcomed to attend any or all of the sessions.

PARISH COLLECTIONS 11/12 OCT

First Collection	\$1,063
Second Collection	\$456
Envelope Collection	\$495

Hospitality Seminar

PRINCIPLES FOR AUTHENTIC WELCOME

More people are knocking on our church doors... are we ready to welcome them?

Wednesday 26 November
7:00 - 9:00 PM
St Peter Chanel Parish Hall
62 Kingsland Road, Berala



SISTERS OF LIFE - ADVENT RETREAT

Catholic Women's Network are delighted to be hosting the Sisters of Life for an Advent retreat. Join us for an afternoon of reflection and quiet prayer time in preparation for the Advent season under the theme 'No longer forsaken: the Lord delights in you' (Isaiah 62). The mini-retreat will include input from the Sisters of Life, quiet time, access to the Sacrament of Confession and a Holy Hour. Set aside an afternoon to enter into the stillness and quiet and deepen your relationship with the Lord. Limited spaces available. Light refreshments included.

Saturday, 29 November 2025, 1pm – 5pm
St Joachim's Catholic Church, Lidcombe
\$25 per person. Group discounts available.
Register here

<https://www.trybooking.com/DFBJT>

MESSAGE FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY

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 and Ministerial Integrity Office at on 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.

Walk With Mary

OLR Parish Feast Day Celebration

Please join our walking Rosary pilgrimage visiting Mary's statues at the OLSH convent Cloister, Chapel and grounds (lift available).



Sunday, 26 October 2025
Commences 11:00am
Meet inside OLR Church



The walk is approximately 1 KM roundtrip and concludes on OLR School playground for a sausage sizzle



To RSVP, scan the QR code on the left or click the link below.

<https://forms.gle/qzbtuhJZkLjLgDo6>

Link - <https://forms.gle/qzbtuhJZkLjLgDo6>

MISSIONARIES OF HOPE

among all peoples



For women like Sharon, who must choose between feeding their children or selling their crops to survive, and Grace, who risked her life traveling 180km for safe childbirth, hope comes through Sr Jane and Kayula. Through sustainable farming, Sr Jane helps women provide for their families. At the Chilonga Mission Hospital, Kayula ensures mothers and babies receive the dignity and care they deserve.

This World Mission Month, we invite you to extend your generosity to help enhance the vital work of the Church. Your support can make a significant difference to the lives of many, offering hope to the people of Zambia.



Freecall: 1800 257 296
catholicmission.org.au/mission



CATHOLICCARE SERVICES - HOME CARE SERVICES

CatholicCare Sydney offers a range of services to help you or a loved one remain happy and safe at home for longer. Our qualified and caring team can help you with:

Domestic assistance | Day-to-day tasks like shopping | Connecting with others |
In-home respite care | Personal care | Health and wellness activities |
Allied Health & Clinical Support.

To learn more, please call 13 18 19 or [visit catholiccare.org](http://visit.catholiccare.org)

FINDING HEARTFELT SOLACE AND SUPPORT

In times of grief, finding a compassionate and understanding community can make all the difference. Heartfelt is based on Catholic teachings and offers online gatherings, support groups, and events, accessible to anyone navigating their grief journey. For more information, visit <https://heartfelt.community>

CATHOLIC BUSHWALKING CLUB

The Catholic Bushwalking Club holds at least one walk each weekend, with other activities including abseiling, cross-country skiing, caving, canyoning and cycling. For more information, go to www.cbcsnw.org.au or phone Robert on 0478 919 427.