

Blessed Sacrament Congregation Newsletter

St Francis' Church
Melbourne



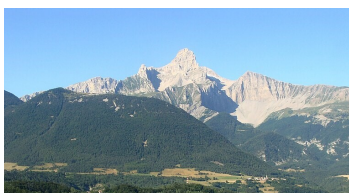
St Peter Julian's Church
Sydney

February 2024

Volume 1

Eymard's Cenacle by Jo Dirks, SSS

The room of the Last Supper in the gospel and the room used by the first disciples in Acts have different Greek words to describe them. St Jerome translated the Greek into Latin and used the same word *coenaculum* for both of them. So the tradition of the cenacle was formed for Peter Julian Eymard, whose birthday is on 4 February. This was in the French Alps in the town of La Mure d'Isere with its magnificent mountain scenery. The view is spellbinding with the central massif of the *Obiou*, which dominates the horizon on a clear day. The young Eymard lived in this setting until he entered Grenoble Seminary in 1832.



The upper room was large and furnished as recorded by Luke the Evangelist. (Luke 22:42) It was suitable and fit for the important event, the farewell of Jesus, which was to take place. This upper room is the cenacle where the Lord Jesus first gave himself in a gesture which summed up his entire life. The love and intimacy of this event is captured in the word '*cenacle*' for the young Eymard.

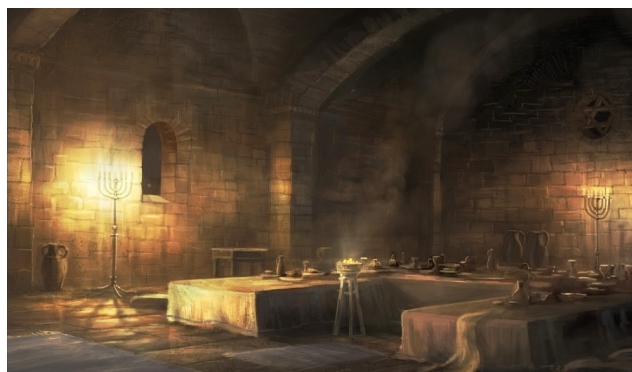
However, the combination of the Founder's early death, plus the fixed ideas of his first companion, Raymond De Cuers, with the emphasis on the royal court and the static sense of the Real Presence of the Blessed Sacrament, nullified the creative genius and the dynamic discoveries of Fr Eymard, until historical studies led to the rediscovery of the true meaning of the cenacle and its focus on communion.

The SSS meeting which took place two months ago in Vietnam in November 2023, resolved to **live the eucharistic mystery fully, in prayer, fellowship and service.** *'It is also our hope, that all those associated with us in our mission to bring Christ to the world, will share this vision and outlook.'* (37th General Chapter Message). This invitation opens the way to people, be they members of the Eucharistic Fraternity, the people of God or the men and women of good will in the world.

Fr Eymard wanted to acquire the site of the Cenacle in Jerusalem. He himself made an extended retreat in Rome whilst proceedings were taking place. When the project failed, he moved to a new understanding of the cenacle and led him to apply it wherever believers today gathered to celebrate the Lord's Supper and to his own communities founded to bring people to the Eucharist. This became the new fire which energized Fr Eymard and we who seek to follow in his footsteps.

This Cenacle Community is called to communion and intimacy with the risen Christ, but also to leave the cenacle after having been transformed as new apostles, *'It is the room of human life, the room of the Church . . . and we are all invited to enter this room. Despite ourselves, we will always find a table set and prepared with living food, together with our brothers and sisters, and the Risen Lord!'* (37th General Chapter Message). In prayer, we are seized by Christ's love. It is a life lived in God, in communion with him. *'It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me.'* (Gal 2:20)

This communion spirituality of Fr Eymard aimed to form a '*Eucharistic Cenacle*', men and women, above all lay people, who are living the Eucharistic mystery. During the days of the Great Retreat in Rome, Fr Eymard transitioned in his reflection on the passage from the Cenacle in Jerusalem to the '*inner Cenacle*', as he understood how it relates to the Gift of oneself. To give oneself totally and completely in response to the gift of Jesus in the Eucharist, that is the challenge for all who are inspired by Fr Eymard.



ST. PETER JULIAN'S CHURCH

Monday to Friday 7.30am, 12.10pm, & 5.30pm
(Public Holidays 12.10pm only)
Saturday 12.10pm, & 5.30pm (Vigil)
1st Saturday of each month
 12.10pm (*Anointing Mass*)
Sunday 9.30am, 12.30pm, & 3.30pm (English)
 Chinese Mass 11.00am
 Korean Mass 5.00pm
 Filipino Mass 1st Sunday of each month 1.30pm
 Indonesian Mass 1st & 3rd Saturdays of each month 3.30pm

NOVENA & EUCHARISTIC BENEDICTION

Wednesday 12.45pm (St Peter Julian) after the 12.10 Mass
Friday 12.45pm (Our Lady of Perpetual Help) after the 12.10 Mass)

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Monday to Friday 8.00am to 12.00pm
 12.45pm to 2.00pm
Saturday 10.30am to 12.00pm
 12.45pm to 2.00pm
Sunday 1.30pm to 3.00pm
(except on the 1st Sunday of each month)

RECONCILIATION

Thursday, Friday & Saturday 11.00am to 12.00pm

CHURCH OPENING TIMES

Monday to Friday 7.00am to 6.15pm
Saturday 10.30am to 6.45pm
Sunday 9.00am to 6.15pm

For updates, please see our website:

www.stpeterjuliansydney.com

and our Facebook page,

or call (02) 9270 6940 (24 hour information line)

ST PETER JULIAN'S BOOK STORE

New stocks of books, piety items and gifts for sacramental occasions all available. A wide selection of greeting cards, Mass Cards and Holy Cards at very reasonable prices. Come and visit us or orders can be taken by phone and posted to you. Please note a postage charge will apply.

Monday to Friday 9.30am to 4.30pm

Sunday 9.00am to 5.00pm

Ph: (02) 9270 6900 E: haymarket@blessedsacrament.com.au

Caritas Australia : Gaza Crisis After 100 days of conflict, Gaza is suffering from the worst current hunger crisis with the growing risk of famine, as it is home to **80 per cent** of the global population at catastrophic risk of starvation and death. Since the conflict began, over 23,000 Palestinians and 1,200 Israelis have been killed, with over two-thirds of casualties being women and children. Sally Thomas, Humanitarian Emergencies Lead at Caritas Australia said, "Food deprivation in Gaza has reached extreme levels with the entire population at imminent risk of famine. The need across the region is extensive, with the ongoing compassion and support of the international community set to become increasingly essential as conflict displaces people in other areas of the Middle East". You can donate online at www.caritas.org.au/gaza or phone **1800 024 413**.

Of Life and Love Marriage Preparation Weekend

Engagement is a beautiful time to intentionally prepare for your vocation. The 'Of Life and Love' Marriage Preparation Weekend will help you to understand more deeply the sacramental nature of marriage, offer practical wisdom from married couples and provide opportunity for discussion and prayer. Of Life and Love is a recognised marriage preparation course.

DATE: Saturday, 24th and Sunday, 25th February 2024 (no overnight stay)

VENUE: at St Luke the Evangelist, Revesby. 1 Beaconsfield Street, Revesby
 More information and registration at www.trybooking.com/CMGTS_



ASH WEDNESDAY

14 FEBRUARY, 2024

MASS TIMES (with imposition of ashes)

7.30am, 11.10am, 12.10pm, 5.30pm

A Lenten Retreat Day with the Dominican Sisters of Saint Cecilia

Women of all ages are invited to join the Dominican Sisters of Saint Cecilia for a Lenten Retreat Day. This day will focus on renewing the foundations of the spiritual life as we strive to live the Paschal Mystery throughout the year. The retreat day will include all day Eucharistic Adoration and Confessions, talks by the Sisters, personal testimony, a Holy Hour, and discussion groups. Morning tea and lunch are included. A **\$20 fee assists** with covering retreat expenses. Women who have attended previous retreat days with the Sisters are encouraged to bring a friend to this event.

DATE: Saturday, 16 March 2024

VENUE: St Mary's Cathedral Hall

TIME: 10am to 4pm, with doors to open at 9-9:30am – morning tea and lunch included.

PRICE: A \$20 fee assists with covering retreat expenses

For more information and to register to attend, visit: <https://bit.ly/3RRAKfa>. For questions, please contact the Dominican Sisters of Saint Cecilia at sydney@op-tn.org

Pope Francis' Prayer for Peace

Lord God of peace, hear our prayer!

We have tried so many times and over so many years to resolve our conflicts by our own powers and by the force of our arms. How many moments of hostility and darkness have we experienced; how much blood has been shed; how many lives have been shattered; how many hopes have been buried... But our efforts have been in vain.

Now, Lord, come to our aid! Grant us peace, teach us peace; guide our steps in the way of peace. Open our eyes and our hearts and give us the courage to say: "Never again war!"; "With war everything is lost". Instil in our hearts the courage to take concrete steps to achieve peace.

Lord, God of Abraham, God of the Prophets, God of Love, you created us and you call us to live as brothers and sisters. Give us the strength daily to be instruments of peace; enable us to see everyone who crosses our path as our brother or sister. Make us sensitive to the plea of our citizens who entreat us to turn our weapons of war into implements of peace, our trepidation into confident trust, and our quarrelling into forgiveness.

Keep alive within us the flame of hope, so that with patience and perseverance we may opt for dialogue and reconciliation. In this way may peace triumph at last, and may the words "division", "hatred" and "war" be banished from the heart of every man and woman.

Lord, defuse the violence of our tongues and our hands. Renew our hearts and minds, so that the word which always brings us together will be "sister, and brother", and our way of life will always be that of: Shalom, Peace, Salaam! Amen.

(Sourced from www.majellan.media)

St Peter Julian's Church

641 George Street, Sydney NSW 2000

Phone:

(02) 9270 6900

(02) 9270 6940 (24-hour church information line)

Fax:

(02) 9270 6933

Postal Address:

PO Box K334, Haymarket NSW 1240

Email:

haymarket@blessedsacrament.com.au

Website:

www.stpeterjuliansydney.com

