



## 40 Days for Life

On Tuesday evening February 28th, this year's 40 Days for Life opening event was held at St. Peter's Catholic Church in Devonshire Street Sney 18th. The evening commenced with Mass at 6:00pm celebrated by Salfrey auxiliary Bishop Tony Raudonis, who then led the Rosary procession to the "Private Click" abortion mill back down Devonshire Street.

There were about 150 to 200 people present and considering the weather we have been having in Salfrey during this period, it is probably a reasonable number. The light rail roadworks in Devonshire Street and the restricted parking in the area also didn't help. We also had internationally acclaimed Catholic apologist from the USA, Mr Raymond De Souza.

Bishop Raudonis gave a very good homily, reminding all present that this evening is the beginning of a very long night, a 40 day vigil and that as Catholic Christians we are called to be the salt of the earth. Our presence at this place reminds all of the grace sin of abortion and that we are all called to be "concrete cultural" in being a witness for life from conception to natural death. We are planting seeds wherever we take the Gospel of Life and if those seeds land on fertile soil, then the harvest will be rich. God's Grace works through us, his instruments, his hands and feet.

The procession was led in the Rosary by Father Damian Sypher of the Priory Diocese of St. Peter. We recited the joyful Mysteries as we processed down to the abortion mill, the Sorrowful Mysteries while we were there and the Glorious Mysteries while we returned to the Church for Benediction. Fr Sypher gave some beautiful short meditations on each mystery as we processed and hymns were sung between the mysteries. Despite some vocal protests from some of the locals, the

procession, thanks to the strong police presence, was very peaceful.

Back at St. Peter's, Benediction was given by the parish priest, Father William Milford before we moved to the parish courtyard for the 800+ rosaries and prayers. It was peaceful Tuesday after all!

After the food and drinks were served one great speaker, Raymond De Souza gave a very stirring short talk. He spoke about a woman who was pregnant and it was discovered she had a stomach cancer. She was advised to have an abortion but refused and told the doctors to save them both.

They did manage to do just that. The woman was Raymond's mother and he was the child's Prime Goal.

Raymond also spoke about the need for Catholics to live their faith and to cultivate an active faith. It is not enough to go to Mass and pray "Faith without works is dead" as St. James points out in his epistle. These days with the attacks on marriage and family increasing more than ever, Catholics and other Christians need to be visible in the world.

After Raymond, Family Life International Australia (FLI) Executive Director, Mr Paul Hancock also gave a short address. He spoke of the number of babies he has seen saved from abortion, by the regular, all year round, "Helpers of God's Precious Infants" vigils and the intense 40 Days for Life Campaigns. At these events, prayers are offered in preparation for the grace sin of abortion and in intercession for the conversion of the hearts and souls of the mothers and fathers and the doctors and nurses who work in these places. He has seen more 500+ babies saved and also seen the closure of 5 abortion mills in the process!

