



40 Days for Life

On Tuesday evening February 28th, this year's 40 Days for Life opening event was held at St. Peters Catholic Church in Devonshire Street Surry Hills. The evening commenced with Mass at 6.00pm celebrated by Sydney auxiliary Bishop Tony Randazzo, who then led the Rosary procession to the "Private Clinic" abortion mill back down Devonshire Street.

There were about 150 to 200 people present and considering the weather we have been having in Sydney 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 Randazzo gave a very good homily, reminding all present that this evening is the beginning of a very long vigil, 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 grave sin of abortion and that we are all called to be "counter 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 Damon Sypher of the Priestly Fraternity 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. Peters, Benediction was given by the parish priest, Father William Milsted before we moved to the parish courtyard for the BBQ sausages and pancakes. It was pancake Tuesday after all!

After the food and drinks were served our guest 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! Praise God.

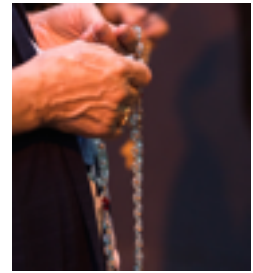
Raymond also spoke about the need for Catholics to live their faith and to cultivate an active faith. It is not enough to go to Mass and pray. "Faith without works is dead" as St. James points out in his epistle. These days with the attacks on marriage and family increasing, more than ever, Catholics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

world.

After Raymond, Family Life International Australia (FLI) Executive Director, Mr Paul Hanrahan 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 reparation for the grave sin of abortion and as 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 some 500+ babies saved and also seen the closure of 3 abortion mills in the process!

The endurance to continue in this most difficult of apostolates comes from the Grace of God, through the many babies he has held in his arms, who were destined for abortion. When you see a young mother with tears in her eyes saying “thank you for my baby” you don’t care how much abuse you have to put up with and how many hours you have to stand there. One of these in a lifetime would be worth the effort, but Hanrahan has seen many and has the photos to prove it.

Reverend Anthony Fisher. See further details also on the FLI website.



The 40 Days for life regular daily vigils continue through to Palm Sunday on the 9th of April and will conclude with another Rosary procession from St. Peters Surry Hills at 6.00pm that evening. You can get involved with 40 Days for Life via the Family Life International website - www.fli.org.au and follow the links.



Don’t miss the Day of the Unborn Child procession which begins after the 10.30am Mass at St. Mary’s Cathedral on the 26th March. This will be led by His Grace, the Archbishop of Sydney, Most

Vigils

Join us in person, or by prayer as the Helpers of God’s Precious Infants step up to the front lines in the battle for Life.

Sydney:

Tuesday 8:00am - 10:00am, Friday 8:00am - 10:00am, Saturday 8:00am - 10:00am.
120 Devonshire Street, Surry Hills.

Albury:

Thursday 9:00am – 5:00pm.
586 Englehardt St, Albury.
More at Melbourne, Townsville, Adelaide, Perth and Brisbane. Full details are at fli.org.au.

Day of the Unborn Child

26th March, we will be holding the annual Day of the Unborn Child. It is the Sunday closest to the Feast of the Annunciation! The Most Reverend Archbishop Anthony Fisher will be saying the Mass and leading the procession this year. Let’s get behind our Archbishop and show Sydney that all life matters not just the one’s that society deems fit. We should be able to get thousands to this procession. Let us be a voice to the voiceless. There is a genocide taking place here in Australia, let us march in defence of life! Let us be actively pro-life!

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