



9/10 December 2017-Year B Second Sunday of Advent



ST ANTHONY'S PARISH CHURCH 320 Edmondson Ave AUSTRAL 2179

Pastor:
Fr. Robert Hayes PP RFD VF
Dean of the Western Deanery

Secretary: Cheryl McKell
House Manager: Cathy Sanders

Presbytery: Parish Office is open on: Tuesday - Thursday
Closed for lunch 12.30-1.30 pm.

Phone: 9606 0206; Fax: 9606 0153
Email Address:
stanthonyaustral@bigpond.com
Web Address:
www.stanthonyaustral.org

Archdiocesan website:
www.sydney.catholic.org.au
Presbytery is closed on Mondays.

St Anthony of Padua Catholic College

School Principal:
Mrs Lea De Angelis
Phone: 9606 8600
Email: info@stapaustral.catholic.edu.au

Sacramental Life

Celebration of the Eucharist:

Mass Schedule:

Saturday - 5.30pm Vigil (Includes Children's Liturgy during School Term)
Sunday - 7.30am
Sunday - 9am (Includes Children's Liturgy during School Term)
Monday - No Mass
Tuesday - 9am
Wednesday - 9am
Thursday - 9am
Friday - 9.00am

Reconciliation: Saturday
4.30 - 5.15pm

Baptisms & Marriages:
By appointment at Presbytery

Anointing: Every 2 months -
check bulletin for dates

Sick Calls: Any time - day/night.

Funeral Masses: In co-operation
with Funeral Directors.

Entrance Antiphon: O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of His voice heard in the joy of Your heart.

Responsorial Psalm: Lord, let us see Your kindness, and grant us Your salvation.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight His paths: all people shall see the salvation of God. **Alleluia!**

Communion Antiphon: Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

Dear Parishioners,

We celebrate the Second Sunday of Advent

1. Comfort

In the First Reading, the prophet reports the command of the Lord: "Comfort, give comfort to my people says your God!" In the sorrows of life, who does not long for comfort? Who would not melt with gratitude at the tender comfort of God?

Yet what is comfort?

When we want it, sometimes what we want is just what the good shepherd gives his lost sheep. We don't want to walk along the road of our life to the Lord. We want God to carry us.

But a child that is carried all the time will never learn to walk, to leap and run. That child, weak enough already to be carried, will get only weaker as the carrying goes on.

If God is for us, even within us, who can be against us?

And comfort isn't a matter of giving weakness. It's a matter of giving strength—strength for walking, even over very rough roads.

In fact, the "-fort" in "comfort" comes from the Latin word for "strong." The "com-" in "comfort" is from the Latin word for "with." To give comfort to someone is to lend him some of your strength. He is more able to stand on his own feet and walk because you are with him.

But what is the comfort of God? Where is it? How do we find it?

The Gospel says that Christ baptizes his own with the Holy Spirit. Because of this baptism, the Holy Spirit comes to dwell within each person who comes to Christ.

And so any one who comes to Christ and receives his baptism will not walk the wild and rocky road of life alone. God is so much with him that, in the person of the Holy Spirit, God is within him. If God is for us, even within us, who can be against us? This is strength indeed.

And so no wonder that the other name for the Holy Spirit is "the Comforter."

2. The parish has Child and Young Persons Protection Policies

The Archdiocese has an agency in the Polding Centre called "The Safeguarding and Child Protection Agency." The Director, Ms Trish Larkin, is responsible to the Archbishop (and Govt Agencies) for all Child Protection and Young Persons issues. The Parishes within the Archdiocese have to ensure that all children and young persons are safe in any area of Church life. All volunteers in the various ministries have a "Working with Children" check and verified by the Parish Priest.

In the Church is a noticeboard next to the sacristy that has three (3) documents on it.

1. Chart of Archdiocesan Child Protection Roles and Responsibilities
2. Reporting Protocol for Priests and parish Staff for any child related or vulnerable adult concerns.
3. Policy on the Care, Wellbeing and Protection of children and young persons.

Our parish will continue to work with the Safeguarding Agency to ensure that all children and young persons are safe when attending any activity, whether Mass or social functions in the parish.

I invite you to look at the three policies on the noticeboard and if you have any concerns talk to Fr Bob or ring the Safeguarding Agency Ph: 9390 5812.

3. Celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation

Christmas is family time. Families celebrating their faith, coming together, at grandma's house or a daughter's house (whose ever turn it is). We have children coming home to be with family - it is a Blessed time in the Christian calendar. So, we need to prepare!

As Catholics, we prepare not just for the family on the day, but we prepare ourselves and our hearts, as well, to welcome Christ, Our Lord.

*When did I last celebrate this Sacrament?

*The minimum is at least once a year that we are obliged to confess our sins acknowledging that Jesus, My Saviour, died for me on the Cross of Calvary.

To help our preparation we examine our conscience seeking the Holy Spirit to help us to know our sins and sinfulness.

My Relationship with God

*What steps am I taking to help me grow closer to God and others? Do I turn to God during the day, especially when I am tempted?

*Do I attend Mass regularly? Have I received Holy Communion when not in the state of grace? Do I give financially to the parish?

*Do I pray each day? Do we pray as a family? Do I read the Bible or Catholic Spiritual books?

*Do I use God's name in vain or Our Lady?

My Relationship with Others

*Have I set a bad example through my words or actions? Do I treat others fairly? Do I spread stories to hurt others or damage their good name?

*Am I loving to my spouse? My children?

*Do I support my family in faith by coming to Mass regularly?

*Do I respect my body? Do I avoid forms of Entertainment that do not respect God's gift of Sexuality?

*Have I stolen or damaged another's property?

*Do I drive over-indulged in drinking/gambling to the detriment of myself or my family?

*Do I quarrel to get my own way? Do I hold grudges?

We need to pray to the Holy Spirit to reveal where I need to change in order to grow in my relationship with Jesus.

"If I don't feel close to Jesus, then, guess who moved?"

Celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be on:

*Tuesday 19 December 7-8pm

*Saturdays 4.45-5.15pm

4. Christmas Day Rosters

There are sheets at the back of the Church for you to sign up for Readers etc for our Christmas Services, please put your names down for the Mass you attend.

5. Christmas Vigil Pageant

Calling all children to assist in the Christmas Vigil Pageant for the Family Mass.

Can you read? Can you dance? Come and get involved in the Christmas Liturgy.

Practices begin this week.

When: Tuesday @ 3.30pm in the Church.

Please put your name on the sheet and the information as required.

Parents assisting have their child protection numbers etc. Thank you to all who turned up last Tuesday it was great to see the support from so many families.

May God Bless you.



Fr Bob

CHURCH CLEANING ROSTER

11-16 December

F Palamara, K Vartuli,
M Pisani



18-22 December

D Gauci, J Bartolo,
M Zarb

READERS ROSTER

9/10 December

Saturday Vigil: 5.30pm

Commentator: Charlie Cilia

Readers:

Charlie Cilia: 1st Reading

Julie Dimech: 2nd Reading & Prayers of Faithful

Sunday: 7.30am

Commentator: Pasqualina Catanzariti

Readers:

Pasqualina Catanzariti: 1st Reading

Margaret Cvetko: 2nd Reading & Prayers of Faithful

Sunday: 9am

Commentator: Faye Palamara

Readers:

Faye Palamara: 1st Reading

Maria Zucco: 2nd Reading & Prayers of Faithful

16/17 December (Third Sunday of Advent Year B)

Saturday Vigil: 5.30pm

Commentator: Rita Moro

Readers:

Rita Moro: 1st Reading

Francine Zappia: 2nd Reading & Prayers of Faithful

Sunday: 7.30am

Commentator: Anne Violi

Readers:

Anne Violi: 1st Reading

James Gill: 2nd Reading & Prayers of Faithful

Sunday: 9am

Commentator: Maria Zucco

Readers:

Maria Zucco: 1st Reading

Margaret De Vries: 2nd Reading & Prayers of Faithful



Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist Roster

9/10 December

Saturday Vigil

David & Sarah Casha

Sunday 7.30am

Virginia Romeo & Pasqualine Catanzariti

Sunday 9am

Faye Palamara & Ken O'Leary



16/17 December

Saturday Vigil

Victoria Bugeja & Robert Gimellaro

Sunday 7.30am

Virginia Romeo & Margaret Pisani

Sunday 9am

Karen Power & Pam Ajkay

ACOLYTES ROSTER

9/10 December

Saturday Vigil

Eric Hockings

Sunday 7.30am

Matt Young

Sunday 9am

Peter Grizelj

16/17 December

Saturday Vigil

Gerry Crescini

Sunday 7.30am

George Ajkay

Sunday 9am

Anthony Zanetic

ALTAR SERVERS ROSTER

9 December

Saturday Vigil

Joey Grima

Lucas & Jayden Laferla

16 December

Saturday Vigil

Sabrina Steimbesser

Leo Steimbesser

CHILDREN'S LITURGY ROSTER

9 December

Pauline & Lauren Vassallo

16 December

Sr Elsa, Sr Genieth R Micallef

9am Sunday

Nicole Hext



NURSING HOME ROSTER

10 December

Santina & Frances

24 December

Lina & Faye

POPE FRANCIS COLUMN



The Holy Father's Catechesis

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Today I would like to talk about the Apostolic Journey I undertook in past days to Myanmar and Bangladesh. It was a great gift of God, and so I thank Him for everything, especially for the meetings I was able to have. I renew the expression of my gratitude to the Authorities of the two countries and to the respective Bishops, for all the work of preparation and for the welcome that was given to me and to my collaborators. I wish to give a heartfelt "thank you" to the Burmese people and to those of Bangladesh who showed me so much faith and so much affection: thank you! For the first time a Successor of Peter visited Myanmar, and this happened shortly after diplomatic relations were established between that country and the Holy See.

In this case also, I wished to express the closeness of Christ and of the Church to a people that has suffered due to conflicts and repressions, and that now is walking slowly to a new condition of freedom and peace. A people in whom the Buddhist religion is strongly rooted, with its spiritual and ethical principles, and where Christians are present as a small flock and leaven of the Kingdom of God. I had the joy of confirming in the faith and in communion this Church, alive and fervent, in the meetings with the Bishops of the country and in the two Eucharistic celebrations. The first was in the great sports area in the center of Yangon, and the Gospel of that day recalled that persecutions caused by faith in Jesus are normal for His disciples, as occasion of testimony, but not a hair of your head will perish" (Cf. Luke 21:12-19). The second Mass, last act of the visit in Myanmar, was dedicated to young people: a sign of hope and a special gift of the Virgin Mary, in the Cathedral that bears her name. In the faces of those young people, full of joy, I saw the future of Asia: a future that will not be of those that construct arms, but of those that sow fraternity. And ever in the sign of hope, I blessed the stones of 16 churches, of the Seminary and of the Nunciature: eighteen.

In addition to the Catholic community, I was able to meet the Authorities of Myanmar, encouraging the efforts for the country's pacification and hoping that all the different components of the nation, not one excluded, will be able to cooperate in this process in mutual respect. In this spirit, I wished to meet the representatives of the different religious communities in the country. In particular, I manifested to the Supreme Council of Buddhist monks, the Church's esteem for their ancient spiritual tradition, and the confidence that Christians and Buddhists will be able together to help people to love God and their neighbor, rejecting all violence and opposing evil with goodness.

Having left Myanmar, I went to Bangladesh, where, as the first thing, I rendered homage to the martyrs of the struggle for Independence and to the "Father of the Nation." Bangladesh's population is in very great part of Muslim religion and, therefore, my visit in the footsteps of Blessed Paul VI and of Saint John Paul II – marked a further step in favor of respect and of dialogue between Christianity and Islam.

I reminded the country's Authorities that, since the beginning, the Holy See has supported the will of the Bangladeshi people to constitute themselves as an independent nation, as well as that in it the need of religious freedom be always protected. In particular, I wished to express solidarity with Bangladesh in its commitment to help the Rohingya refugees who have flocked en masse to its territory, where the population density is already among the highest in the world.

The Mass celebrated in a historic park of Dhaka was enriched by the Ordination of sixteen priests, and this was one of the most significant and joyful events of the trip. In fact, be it in Bangladesh as well as in Myanmar and in other countries of South East Asia, thank God vocation are not lacking, a sign of living communities, where the Lord's voice resounds, who calls to follow Him. I shared this joy with the Bishops of Bangladesh, and I encouraged them in their generous work for families, for the poor, for education, for dialogue and social peace. And I shared this joy with many priests, and consecrated men and women of the country, as well as with the seminarians and men and women novices, in whom I saw seeds of the Church in that land.

At Dhaka, we lived an intense moment of inter-religious and ecumenical dialogue, which enabled me to stress the importance of openness of heart as a basis of the culture of encounter, of harmony and of peace. In addition, I visited "Mother Teresa's House," where the Saint stayed when she was in that city, and which receives very many orphans and persons with disabilities. There, in keeping with their charism, the Sisters live every day the prayer of Adoration and the service to Christ, poor and suffering. And a smile is never lacking on their lips. Sisters that pray so much, that serve the suffering continually with a smile. It's a beautiful testimony. I thank these little Sisters so much.

The last event was with the Bangladeshi young people, rich in testimonies, songs, and dances. But how well they dance, these Bengalese! They know how to dance well! A celebration that manifested the joy of the Gospel received by that culture; a joy fecundated by the sacrifices of so many missionaries, so many catechists, and Christian parents. Also present at the meeting were young Muslims and <youths> of other religions: a sign of hope for Bangladesh, for Asia and for the whole world.



Calling for Help!!

We are in desperate need of help for the Church cleaning.

The ladies do a wonderful job, but most have been doing it for many years and need to retire.

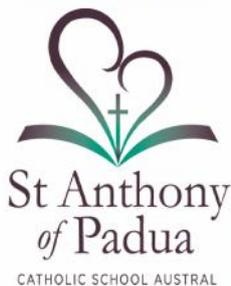
If you could help out could you please let Fr Bob know or ring the parish office on 9606 0206, and we will put you on the roster. It only takes a couple of hours and the more we get the better.

It is only about once every 6 or so weeks. Remember many hands make light work. Thanking you in advance for your help.

Parish Choir calls for help at the 9am Mass of a Sunday and to assist in helping at Christmas Masses.



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PARISH CENSUS FORM (PCF)

Have you filled in a PCF which can be found on the table behind the pews.

Why? It's important that we have your details if we need to contact you.

Please fill in the Census Form found on the table behind the pews and leave in the Census Box.

Christmas Gift-Giving Tree

Our Christmas Tree has been set-up and this year when we contacted St Vincent de Paul they have asked for food items instead of gifts.

They are in need of Cereal, milk, milo, breakfast bars, Tin - soup, veggies, tuna and meat. Spreads, 2 minute noodles, pasta, rice and pasta sauce. Some Christmas treats.

They also get requests for Cleaning products such as Dishwashing liquid, washing powder, disinfectant, shower cleaner and floor cleaner.

They will then make up gift hampers and distribute them to those in need over Christmas.

Please put your items in the box beside the Christmas tree. Thank you all in advance for your giving.

WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

In your love and concern, please pray for:-

Recently Deceased: Peter Calarco

Anniversaries: Kathleen Zanetic

Also for: Dec'd Memembers of the Vartuli Family.

We remember those who are sick in the community that the Lord will be their comforter and healer as we pray for:

Tony Pustahija, Paul Farnsworth, Levi Rolands, Olga Del Vescono, Erminia Demasi, Anton Beuk, Jim Brassil, Antonio Rudan.





**Catholic Weekly—Available
\$2.00**

- Maronite nuns for Bennelong
- Silent Night gets a new lease of life
- Help the Rohingya with Caritas
- Cathedral Christmas services
- New Bishop for Wollongong
- Order of Malta share Lourdes blessings with the ill
- Fun with Faith -Kids page- P30

Please put \$2 in the poor box

We hope our Parishioners will support the businesses that support our Parish of St Anthony's by advertising in our weekly Bulletin

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Ask for any grace you need and Mother Mary will listen to you.

Write your name and intentions in this book & once a week Mass will be offered for you.

For any enquiries please call

Sr-in-Christ Rosa

Ph: 96067571



KID'S CORNER.



Q. What do monkeys sing at Christmas?
A. Jungle Bells, Jungle Bells.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT AT ST MARYS CATHEDRAL

The Cathedral Choir together with The Orchestra of the Antipodes will perform some of your most loved Christmas music including pieces by J S Bach, John Rutter and Tallis. And of course we will all join together with the audience to sing carols such as "O Come, all ye Faithful" "Hark the Herald Angels Sing", "Once in Royal David's City" and more.

Friday 15 December
11am and 7pm

FR SHORT

Fr Short has moved into Rosary Village at 1 Tara Close, Yennora (Fairfield) Unit 42. His phone number is 8790 0442. He is celebrating Mass on weekday mornings at the Village and that means a lot to him.

His health is not 100% but he is jovial. If anyone in the Parish would like to visit him he would be happy to catch up with you or give him a ring.

Using the Parish Toilets

Anyone using the Church toilets are asked to **PLEASE DO NOT** place nappies, hand towels, wet ones or anything other than toilet paper in the toilets.

We have had some problems with nappies in the toilets previously, but a few weeks ago it was so blocked we couldn't fix it ourselves (which is never pleasant) and we had to get an Emergency Plumber to unblock the toilet as we had not only our weekend masses but also First Holy Communion and it didn't come cheap it cost the parish \$350.00.

Parents please dispose of your nappies appropriately. As you would in your own homes.

WESTERN SYDNEY MRC AGED CARE SUPPORT

If you are caring for a relative or a friend and would like help to allow you time out from your caring role, Western Sydney MRC are here to help.

We can assist in the following areas:

Flexible in-home respite

Support to access services and the community including transport to appointments and shopping

Centre-based respite including arts and crafts

Social outings

For more information, please contact Rosaria on 8778 1240 or email rosaria@wsmrc.org.au

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

Kemps Creek Cemetery will host our first ever **Carols by Candlelight** on Friday 15 December at 6pm.

The band Christmas Crackers will play all your favourite carols, horse and sleigh rides for the children, face painting, sausage sizzle and the Rural Fire Brigade will be there. We hope as many families as possible bring a rug and make a donation for a candle, as we gather to sing under the stars at Kemps Creek. There will also be a guest appearance from Santa.



CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT
ST ANTHONY'S AUSTRAL 2017

CELEBRATE THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

We are invited to gather and prepare for the celebration of the Birth of Jesus by a sincere conversion of mind and heart through the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession).

Come back and be reconciled to God!

Tuesday 19 December 2017
7.00pm-8.00 PM
Saturday's leading up to Christmas 4.45 – 5.15pm

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Wednesday 20 December
7pm-8pm
Come prepare as a family for the birth of the Lord

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve– Sunday December 24

5.30pm: Family Mass

11.30pm: Carolling before Mass

Midnight: Midnight Mass

Christmas Day Monday December 25

7.30am—Mass in the Morning

9.00am—Mass in the Morning

