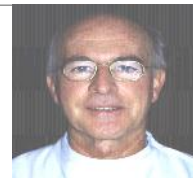




16/17 December 2017-Year B We Celebrate the Third Sunday of Advent



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:

stanthonysaustral@bigpond.com

Web Address:

www.stanthonysaustral.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: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord Is near.

Responsorial Psalm: My soul rejoices in my God.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; He sent me to bring Good News to the poor. **Alleluia!**

Communion Antiphon: Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and He will save us.

Dear Parishioners,

This Sunday is called Gaudete Sunday (meaning Joy) because the Birth of Jesus is very near and we are invited to be joyful at His Birth.

1. Joy in the Lord

"I rejoice heartily in the Lord," the prophet says in the First Reading. And why wouldn't he? He has glad tidings. The poor will be taken care of, the broken hearted will be healed, the captives will be freed, and the prisoners will be released. Who wouldn't rejoice in these things? As the winter dark and cold encroach on our days, and the birth of the baby Jesus draws near, we hear these beautiful words everywhere. But the problem is that, for many people, this is a time of depression, not of joy.

Because his love suffuses all our suffering, our souls can proclaim the greatness of the Lord.

And why? Well, because the poor are still poor; people are broken-hearted; and the captives and prisoners are not released. The bank forecloses on the house of a person who has lost his job; a friend is treacherous; a spouse succumbs to alcoholism. What has happened to the promise of the beautiful words? How is joy possible?

The answer lies in Mary's words in the Magnificat. "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Saviour," she says. Does anyone think that she took these words back when she stood by the cross as her son was crucified?

How can Mary maintain the words of the Magnificat even at the foot of the cross? The answer is that the greatest love of the Lord was there.

The words of joy that Mary spoke before the Lord was born are only more true in the suffering she bears at his cross. His love doesn't take away her suffering at his crucifixion. How could it? But her suffering is enveloped in his great love, and so it is transfigured.

Joy in the Lord is compatible with waiting for the final redemption from our suffering and our sin because Christ is Emanuel, God with us. Even now, because his love suffuses all our suffering, our souls can proclaim the greatness of the Lord, and our spirits can rejoice in God. Our Lord transfigures the suffering of our lives in his love.

2. 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



3. 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.

4. Parish Carols Wednesday 7pm-8pm

Families and parishioners are invited to come together on Wednesday evening for an hour of Carols as we move into the Christmas season. Let us pause and remember "the reason for the season" is the Birth of the Son of God. Come to the Church 7-8pm.

5. Parish Website

As mentioned previously, the parish website is up and running.

There are 5 headings, that have drop-downs to see more information.

The Christmas Mass schedule is on the home/front page for your information.

6. Tuesday Morning Mass-26 December

Mass on Boxing Day will be at 9am.

May God Bless you.

Fr Bob



CHURCH CLEANING ROSTER

18-22 December

D Gauci, J Bartolo,
M Zarb



25-30 December

V Zoric, L Eljiz,
L Lopez

READERS ROSTER

16/17 December

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

23/24 December (Fourth Sunday of Advent Year B)

Saturday Vigil: 5.30pm

Commentator: Marcelo Steimbeisser

Readers:

Marcelo Steimbeisser: 1st Reading

Natasha Steimbeisser: 2nd Reading & Prayers of Faithful

Sunday: 7.30am

Commentator: Catherine Emery

Readers:

Catherine Emery: 1st Reading

Chris Pisani: 2nd Reading & Prayers of Faithful

Sunday: 9am

Commentator: Tessie Christophers

Readers:

Tessie Christophers: 1st Reading

Mary Burton: 2nd Reading & Prayers of Faithful



Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist Roster

16/17 December

Saturday Vigil

Victoria Bugeja & Robert Gimellaro

Sunday 7.30am

Virginia Romeo & Margaret Pisani

Sunday 9am

Karen Power & Pam Ajkay



23/24 December

Saturday Vigil

David & Sarah Casha

Sunday 7.30am

Margaret Pisani & Pasqualine Catanzariti

Sunday 9am

Frances Musso & Ken O'Leary

ACOLYTES ROSTER

16/17 December

Saturday Vigil

Gerry Crescini

Sunday 7.30am

George Ajkay

Sunday 9am

Anthony Zanetic

23/24 December

Saturday Vigil

Eric Hockings

Sunday 7.30am

Matt Young

Sunday 9am

Peter Grizelj

ALTAR SERVERS ROSTER

16 December

Saturday Vigil

Sabrina Steimbesser

Leo Steimbesser

23 December

Saturday Vigil

Daniel Garzaniti

Zac & Taliyah Stepic

24 December

Lucas & Jayden LaFerla

CHILDREN'S LITURGY ROSTER

16 December

Sr Elsa, Sr Genieth R Micallef

23 December

School Holidays

9am Sunday

Nicole Hext



NURSING HOME ROSTER

24 December

Lina & Faye

POPE FRANCIS COLUMN



Worried? Fearful? Solution: Go to Sunday Mass

At General Audience, Francis Reminds Faithful That the Eucharist Is All We Need
For the strength you need to get through everyday life, go to Mass.

Pope Francis stressed this during this morning's General Audience in the Vatican's Paul VI Hall, Dec. 13, 2017, as he began a new catechesis on the Eucharist, pointing out that God waits to meet us on Sundays, to give us the weekly 'nourishment' that will get us through every week, and the rest of our lives.

The Pope recalled the important place of Sunday, the Feast of the Resurrection, since the time of the Apostles.

"Brothers and sisters, the Sunday celebration of the Eucharist is the centre of the life of the Church. From the beginning, the first disciples met on the first day of the week, the day when Jesus rose from the dead, to live in communion with Him. "

The Risen Christ, the Holy Father noted, meets the baptized gathered on Sunday: "Sunday is for us, one day sanctified by the Eucharistic celebration, the living presence of the Lord among us who comes to meet us."

Participation in Sunday Mass, Francis reminded, gives the Baptized strength necessary to live as a Christian all week, until eternal life.

"Without Christ, we are dominated by the fatigue of everyday life, by fear of tomorrow.

The Sunday encounter gives us the strength to live today with confidence and courage, and to walk in hope towards Sunday when we will live fully and forever with the Lord. "

"The Mass also tells us about this blessed rest to come. It is true that the quality of our Christian life is measured, first of all, by our capacity to love. But how can we practice the Gospel without going to draw, Sunday after Sunday, from the source of the Eucharist?" the Pope stressed.

Pope Francis concluded, again asking the question: 'But how can we really practice the Gospel without going to draw, Sunday after Sunday, from the source of the Eucharist?'



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.

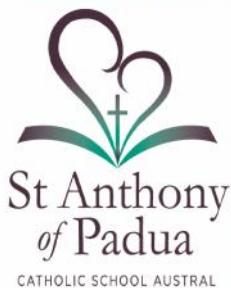
If you could help out could you please let Fr Bob know or ring the parish office on 9606 0206, and we will put you on the roster. It only takes a couple of hours and the more we get the better.

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.



New Catholic school NOW OPEN in Austral



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ENROLLING
Kindergarten -
Year 2, 2018**

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO ENROL CONTACT US

www.stapaustral.catholic.edu.au P 9606 8600

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:

Anniversaries: Vira Dimech, Margaret Muscat

Also for: Krist Vella, Mary Vella, Special Intention

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, Peter Calarco, Erminia Demasi, Anton Beuk, Dr David Catterall ((PP Oran Park), Jim Brassil.





**Catholic Weekly—Available
\$2.00**

- ACYF a smash hit
- The beauty of chant
- St Thomas Moore's 80th
- Christmas Books
- Canadian danger
- Pope's Amoris magisterium
- Fun with Faith -Kids page- P24

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

westhoxtonpharmacy

Corner Fifteenth & Edmondson Avenues,
AUSTRAL, N.S.W. 2179



Monday - Friday 8.30 am - 6.00 pm

Saturday 8.30 am - 12.30 pm

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*We will sit with you,
so you'll understand.*

The Chain of Mary Association Inc

One Decade Rosary Booklet.

Please feel free to take the Chain of Mary one decade Rosary booklet & pray it each day with faith and devotion.

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 reigns at the North Pole?
A. Reindeer.

CatholicCare's NDIS Therapy Team

We help children 0-18 years living with a disability to access the therapy they need to reach their potential.

We offer speech therapy, occupational therapy and physiotherapy at locations across Sydney.

For more information, contact our friendly **CCareline** team on **13 18 19**.

connect@catholiccare.org | catholiccare.org

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@wsmerc.org.au

FR SHORT

Fr Short has moved into Rosary Village at 1 Tara Close, Yennora (Fairfield) and is 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.

BAPTISMS AT ST ANTHONY'S

We welcomed into our Faith-Community
last weekend

Arianne Antoinette Sultana
(Child of Simon & Jessica)

Audrey Rose Sangiuliano
(Child of Paul & Olivia)



FOOTSTEPS OF ST PAUL

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28 May - 10 June 18

Early Bird Offer

\$5690

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pilgrimage@magiholidays.com.au



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 MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve– Sunday December 24

5.30pm: Family Mass

11.30pm: Carolling before Mass

Midnight: Midnight Mass

