



**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@stapastral.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.

30/31 December 2017-Year B

**The Holy Family of
Jesus, Mary & Joseph**



Entrance Antiphon: The shepherds went in haste, and found Mary and Joseph and the Infant lying in a manger.

Responsorial Psalm: The Lord remembers His covenant for ever.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia!

In the past God spoke to our fathers the prophets; now He speaks to us through His Son. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: Our God has appeared on the earth, and lived among us.

Dear Parishioners,

We celebrate the Feast of Holy Family

1. Peace, Consolation and Glory

In the Gospel Reading, Simeon is waiting in the Temple, because the Holy Spirit has revealed to him that he will meet the Messiah there. When Simeon does finally see Jesus, the Gospel tells us, Simeon had been waiting a long time.

Waiting can be so hard. Think of the young mother waiting for lab results about her cancer, or the old lady waiting for news about her son in Afghanistan. Think of the aspiring novelist waiting to hear if the press will accept his manuscript or the scientist waiting to know if his life's work will be honoured with a great prize. Peace is so often lost by such a wait. If God himself gives a person consolation, he will have God's peace as well.

While a person is waiting, he is anxious—what if the thing he is waiting for never comes? And he is sad or sorrowful, because he does not yet have the thing he wants and is waiting for. Then there's the undeniable humiliation of having to wait. A person who waits knows that what he wants depends on things outside his own control. Having to wait brings home to him his vulnerability and neediness.

And so look at what Simeon says when his wait is finally over and he sees Jesus.

Seeing this baby, Simeon says, let Simeon die in peace. This baby overturns anxiety and brings peace—not a theoretical kind of peace which has no purchase on a person's emotions, but real peace, the kind that brings with it easy breathing.

And why peace? Because, as the Holy Spirit revealed to Simeon, this baby is God's consolation for all his people. If God himself gives a person consolation, he will have God's peace as well.

And, finally, this peace is not the kind of peace that makes a person ready to accept defeat with resignation. No, on the contrary: it makes a person rise to glory. That is why Simeon says in his prayer that this baby brings glory to God's people.

And so here is the thing for us to think about at Christmas time. In our anxieties, in our sorrows, in our defeats and humiliations, can we turn and look at this baby? No matter what anxiety, sorrow, or defeat the world has given us, nothing can take this baby away from us. Our consolation, our peace, and our glory lie with him.

2. Big "thank you"

Another Christmas is here and gone!

However, what a difference 4 years makes from my first Christmas amongst you to Christmas 2017.



I do not count the number of people attending so, I can only go on the seating capacity of the Church which seats 460 people.

This Christmas had to be the biggest to date between 1200-1300 attended the four Masses.

Midnight Mass was the least attended, especially by young people. In the past (maybe distant now) Midnight mass was the Mass that families with teenagers or young adults attended. Midnight Mass heralded "Christmas—The Birth of the Saviour."

However, it seems families are happy to attend together the Christmas Day Masses and this was the experience in other parishes as well.

My thanks, once again, go to the Casha Family for the "Family Mass", that was standing room only. The Casha's did a great job with the "children's pageant" and I thank all the children involved in it. Veronica and Sarah combined for the singing of carols and the powerpoint. Anthony Casha (warden) says they were the "heaviest money bags" of any Christmas that he can remember. (makes a Parish Priest's heart good if the bags are full!!!).

Also, our Choirs at Midnight and the 9am Mass excelled once again and I thank the ladies for their ongoing support to the liturgy with music ably led by Patrizia at the piano.

Thank you to our readers, Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist, our Acolytes and Altar Servers.

We must not forget the cleaners for keeping the Church in top shape for us all and especially to Faye Palamara and her friends (Pam, Tessie & Connie) for setting up the altar and flower arrangements.

Finally, a "big thank you" to all parishioners for your support over Christmas and throughout 2017.

3. Vinnies Thanks You.

St Vincent de Paul Society in our Region thanks the parishioners for their most generous response to their Christmas Appeal, parishioners were very generous in their giving. May God bless you all.

4. New Years Day Mass

New Years Day Mass will be at 9am Monday the First of January.



May I wish you all—A Happy and Prosperous New Year 2018.

From the Parish Staff, Fr Bob, Cheryl & Catherine.

May God Bless you.

Fr Bob



CHURCH CLEANING ROSTER

15-20 January 2018

V Laferla, L Pecotich,
M Gimellaro, M DeVries



22-27 January

Volunteers

READERS ROSTER

30/31 December

Saturday Vigil: 5.30pm

Commentator: Francine Zappia

Readers:

Francine Zappia: 1st Reading

Rita Zappia: 2nd Reading & Prayers of Faithful

Sunday: 7.30am

Commentator: Margaret Pisani

Readers:

Margaret Pisani: 1st Reading

Chris Pisani: 2nd Reading & Prayers of Faithful

Sunday: 9am

Commentator: Margaret DeVries

Readers:

Margaret DeVries: 1st Reading

John-William Fisher: 2nd Reading & Prayers of Faithful

6/7 January 2018 (Feast of the Epiphany)

Saturday Vigil: 5.30pm

Commentator: Teresa Calarco

Readers:

Teresa Calarco: 1st Reading

Charlie Cilia: 2nd Reading & Prayers of Faithful

Sunday: 7.30am

Commentator: Margaret Cvetko

Readers:

Margaret Cvetko: 1st Reading

Pasqualina Catanzariti: 2nd Reading & Prayers of Faithful

Sunday: 9am

Commentator: Frances Musso

Readers:

Frances Musso: 1st Reading

Faye Palamara: 2nd Reading & Prayers of Faithful

Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist Roster

30/31 December

Saturday Vigil

Victoria Bugeja & Robert Gimellaro

Sunday 7.30am

Virginia Romeo & Pasqualina Catanzariti

Sunday 9am

Karen Power & Faye Palamara



6/7 January 2018

Saturday Vigil

David & Sarah Casha

Sunday 7.30am

Margaret Pisani & Virginia Romeo

Sunday 9am

Frances Musso & Pam Ajkay

ACOLYTES ROSTER

30/31 December

Saturday Vigil

Gerry Crescini

Sunday 7.30am

George Ajkay

Sunday 9am

Anthony Zanetic

6/7 January 2018

Saturday Vigil

Eric Hockings

Sunday 7.30am

Matt Young

Sunday 9am

Peter Grizelj

ALTAR SERVERS ROSTER

30 December

Saturday Vigil

Mark & Lauren Vassallo

Matthew Modolo

6 January 2018

Saturday Vigil

Kimberley Camilleri

Alyssa & Emily Galea

CHILDREN'S LITURGY ROSTER

30 December

School Holidays

6 January 2018

School Holidays

9am Sunday
School Holidays

NURSING HOME ROSTER

7 January 2018

Santina & Frances



POPE FRANCIS COLUMN



POPE FRANCIS: KNOW THAT JESUS IS IN YOUR MIDST

'May these be, for you and your family, days where you can enjoy the beauty of being together, knowing and feeling Jesus is in our midst.'

Pope Francis gave this advice during his address before the recitation of the Angelus prayer to the faithful gathered in St. Peter's Square Monday afternoon, on the Feast of St. Stephen.

Noting that the joy of Christmas fills our hearts also today and the Liturgy has us celebrate the martyrdom of the first martyr Saint Stephen, Francis stressed that after celebrating the birth of Jesus on earth, today we celebrate the birth of Saint Stephen in heaven. Even if at first glance, it might not seem there is a link between the two events, the Pope said, there is, and it is very strong.

Yesterday, in the liturgy of Christmas, we heard proclaimed that "The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us" (John 1:14). St Stephen, the Pope reminded, disturbed the leaders of his people because he firmly believed and professed the new presence of God among men, which later would lead to his death. "Jesus' message is uncomfortable and makes us uncomfortable, because it challenges worldly religious power and provokes consciences," the Pope said.

"After His coming, it is necessary to convert, to change mentality, to give up thinking as before." Until his death, Francis reminded, Stephen remained anchored to the message of Jesus.

The Risen Christ is the Lord, and He is the only mediator between God and men, Francis stressed, noting this is not only in the hour of our death, but also in every moment of life.

"Without Him, we can do nothing," the Pope said. "Therefore, we too, before the Child Jesus in the crib, can pray to Him like this: 'Lord Jesus, we entrust our spirit to you, welcome Him,' so that our existence may indeed be a good life in accordance with the Gospel."

Jesus, the Pope said, is our mediator and reconciles us not only with the Father, but also among ourselves. He is the source of love, which opens us to communion with our brothers, removing all conflict and resentment.

"Let us ask Jesus, born for us, to help us to take on this dual attitude of trust in the Father and love of neighbor; it is an attitude that transforms life and makes it more beautiful and fruitful."

Before preparing the midday prayer, the Pope invited everyone to pray to Mary, Mother of God and Queen of Martyrs, that she may she may help us accept Jesus as Lord of our life and become His courageous witnesses ready to pay, through our person, the price of fidelity to the Gospel.

Greeting those present, Francis reminded the faithful that this atmosphere of Christian joy springs from the Christmas of Jesus.

"To all of you, who have come from Italy and from different countries, I renew my wish for peace and serenity: may these be, for you and your family, days where you can enjoy the beauty of being together, knowing and feeling Jesus is in the midst of us."

In these weeks, he said, he has received many Christmas greetings. "Since I have not been able to respond to each one, I express my heartfelt thanks to everyone today, especially for the gift of prayer. Thank you from the heart! May the Lord reward you with His generosity!"

Pope Francis concluded, wishing those present a happy feast day, a good lunch, and reminding them to pray for him.

WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

In your love and concern, please pray for:-

Recently Deceased: Charlie Vella , Anton Beuk, Mrs To Vo.

Anniversaries: Dalma Sciuto

Also for: Emmanuel & Mary Gatt



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, Dr David Catterall ((PP Oran Park), Jim Brassil, Antonio Rudan.