



**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.

**6/7 January 2018-Year B  
The Epiphany of the Lord**



**Entrance Antiphon: Vigil:** Arise, Jerusalem, and look to the East and see your children gathered from the rising to the setting of the sun.  
**7.30/9am:** Behold, the Lord, the Mighty One, has come; and kingship is in His grasp, and power and dominion.

**Responsorial Psalm:** Lord, every nation on earth will adore You.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, Alleluia!

We have seen His star in the East; and have come to adore the Lord.  
Alleluia!

**Communion Antiphon: Vigil:** The brightness of God illumined the holy city Jerusalem, and nations will walk by its light.

**7.30/9am:** We have seen His star in the East, and have come with gifts to adore the Lord.

**Dear Parishioners,**

**We celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord**

**1. Who Knew?**

Who knew the Messiah was born as the baby Jesus in Bethlehem in that wintertime?

In this Gospel Reading, a lot of people came to figure it out.

The chief priests and scribes knew where the Messiah would be born because they could interpret the parts in the Old Testament that predicted the Messiah's birth. The magi from the East knew that the Messiah had been born because they could interpret the presence of the star in the sky. When the magi followed the star to Bethlehem to see for themselves, Herod the King ordered them to come back and tell him too. The shepherds may have been poor and simple, but they were trusting and open-hearted.

For all these people, there was a way to know the birth of the Messiah. The priests could interpret Scripture, and the magi could read the stars. King Herod had the political power to command their knowledge and wisdom for his own purposes.

But what about people who lack the advantages of the priests and magi and who have no power to command others? How are they to know? Does God make provision only for the fortunate?

Consider the shepherds. They lacked the money needed for education, and so they lacked the ability to use Scripture or stars to know the birth of the Messiah. They had no power to command others to share the fruits of their education with them either.

But it isn't powerlessness or poverty that keeps a person from knowing the birth of the Messiah. In the end, it was not the shepherds but the powerful and wealthy King Herod, with his evil-hearted intentions, who did not know the baby Jesus was the Messiah. The magi didn't tell him, because God warned them in a dream not to. And so Herod the King didn't know.

In spite of their lack of all worldly advantages, the shepherds in fact outranked the king and all the others. They were by the side of the Messiah first, and they didn't have to figure out for themselves where his birth place was either.

The shepherds may have been poor and simple, but they were trusting and open-hearted. And so they knew Christ Jesus was born in a manger in Bethlehem that cold winter night because they heard the angels sing.

## **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. Readers: Please Note:**



My thanks to George Ajkay for the Gospel stand attached to the lectern.

We can now give greater emphasis and importance to the Word of God.

The Gospel Book will now be carried into each weekend Mass, reminding us of the importance of God's Word, speaking to each one of us.

The Reader who proclaims the Second Reading will process in with the Gospel Book ahead of the Ministers.

The Reader proclaiming the Second Reading should come to the sacristy about 3 minutes before Mass begins, collect the Gospel Book and prepare to walk into the Church at the Start of Mass.

The Gospel Book is placed on the altar on the side Father Bob stands. Place the Gospel Book on the Altar, come back to the front of the Altar, bow with the Priest and Minister and return to your seat.

## **5. Communion Services**

There will be Communion Services this week at 9am no Weekday Masses this week.

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

**6/7 January 2018**

**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

**13/14 January** (2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time)

**Saturday Vigil: 5.30pm**

Commentator: Sarah Casha

Readers:

Sarah Casha: 1st Reading

David Casha: 2nd Reading & Prayers of Faithful

**Sunday: 7.30am**

Commentator: James Gill

Readers:

James Gill: 1st Reading

Catherine Emery: 2nd Reading & Prayers of Faithful

**Sunday: 9am**

Commentator: John-William Fisher

Readers:

John-William Fisher: 1st Reading

Maria Zucco: 2nd Reading & Prayers of Faithful



## Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist Roster

**6/7 January 2018**

**Saturday Vigil**

David & Sarah Casha

**Sunday 7.30am**

Margaret Pisani & Virginia Romeo

**Sunday 9am**

Frances Musso & Pam Ajkay



**13/14 January**

**Saturday Vigil**

Victoria Bugeja & Robert Gimellaro

**Sunday 7.30am**

Margaret Pisani & Pasqualina Catanzariti

**Sunday 9am**

Ken O'Leary & Faye Palamara

## ACOLYTES ROSTER

**6/7 January 2018**

**Saturday Vigil**

Eric Hockings

**13/14 January**

**Saturday Vigil**

Gerry Crescini

**Sunday 7.30am**

Matt Young

**Sunday 7.30am**

George Ajkay

**Sunday 9am**

Peter Grizelj

**Sunday 9am**

Anthony Zanetic

## ALTAR SERVERS ROSTER

**6 January 2018**

**Saturday Vigil**

Kimberley Camilleri

Alyssa & Emily Galea

**13 January**

**Saturday Vigil**

Joey Grima

Lucas & Jayden Laferla

## CHILDREN'S LITURGY ROSTER

**6 January 2018**

School Holidays

**13 January 2018**

School Holidays

**9am Sunday**

School Holidays



## NURSING HOME ROSTER

**7 January 2018**

Santina & Frances

**21 January**

Lina & Faye

## POPE FRANCIS COLUMN



### POPE FRANCIS: FIX YOUR EYES ON MARY

Dear Brothers and Sisters, good morning!

On the first page of the calendar of the New Year, which the Lord gives us, the Church puts as stupendous miniature the liturgical solemnity of Mary Most Holy, Mother of God. On this first day of the solar year, let us fix our gaze on her, to take up again, under her maternal protection, the journey along the paths of time.

Today's Gospel (Cf. Luke 2:16-21) takes us back to the stable of Bethlehem. The shepherds arrive in haste and find Mary, Joseph, and the Child, and refer to the proclamation given to them by the Angels, namely, that that Newborn is the Saviour. All are astonished, while "Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart" (v. 19). The Virgin makes us understand how the event of Christmas is to be received: not superficially but in the heart. She indicates the true way to receive God's gift: to keep it in the heart and ponder it. It's an invitation addressed to each one of us to pray, contemplating and enjoying this gift that is Jesus Himself.

It's through Mary that the Son of God assumes corporeity. However, Mary's maternity isn't reduced to this: thanks to her faith, she is the first disciple of Jesus and this "dilates" her maternity. It was Mary's faith that at Cana caused the first miraculous "sign," which contributed to arouse the disciples' faith. Mary is present with the same faith at the foot of the cross and receives as son the Apostle John. And, finally, after the Resurrection, she becomes the praying Mother of the Church, on which the Holy Spirit descends powerfully on the Day of Pentecost.

As Mother, Mary carries out a very special function: she puts herself between her Son Jesus and men in the reality of their privations, indigence, and sufferings. Mary intercedes, as at Cana, aware that, as Mother, she can, rather, must make present to her Son the needs of men, especially the weakest and most disadvantaged. It's in fact to these persons that the theme is dedicated of the World Day of Peace that we celebrate today: "Migrants and Refugees: Men and Women in Search of Peace," so is the motto of this Day. Once again, I wish to make myself a voice of these our brothers and sisters, who invoke for their future a horizon of peace. For this peace, which is a right of all, many of them are prepared to risk their life in a journey that in most cases is long and dangerous; they are willing to face toils and sufferings (Cf. Message for the 2018 World Day of Peace, 1).

Please, let's not extinguish the hope in their heart; let's not suffocate their expectations of peace! It's important that, on the part of all — civil institutions, educational, welfare, and ecclesial realities, there is the commitment to ensure to refugees, to migrants and to all a future of peace. May the Lord grant us to work in this New Year with generosity, with generosity, to bring about a more solidary and hospitable world. I invite you to pray for this, while together with you I entrust to Mary, Mother of God and our Mother, the <year> 2018 that has just begun. The old Russian monks, mystics, said that in times of spiritual turbulence it is necessary to recollect oneself under the mantle of the Holy Mother of God. Thinking of the many turbulences of today, and especially of migrants and refugees, we pray as they taught us to pray: "We seek refuge under your protection, Holy Mother of God: do not disdain the entreaties of us who are in trial, but deliver us from every danger, O glorious and Blessed Virgin. "

### WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

In your love and concern, please pray for:-

Recently Deceased: Charles Vella, Anton Beuk, Fr Tim O'Toole PP (Marrickville)

Anniversaries: Kevin Hayes

Also for: Deceased members 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:

Paul Farnsworth, Erminia Demasi.