



# 17/18 February 2018-Year B First Sunday of Lent



## **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:** When He calls on me, I will answer Him;  
I will deliver Him and give Him glory, I will grant Him length of days.

**Responsorial Psalm:** Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep Your covenant.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

**Communion Antiphon:** One does not live on bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.

## **Dear Parishioners, We celebrate the First Sunday in Lent Year B**

### **1. The Rainbow and the Goodness of God**

In the First Reading, God gives Noah the rainbow as a reassuring sign of his goodness: God will never again do what he has just done. God will never again destroy everything with a flood.

But why isn't it bad enough that God did it once? God brought it about that every human being, except for Noah and his small family, died by drowning in one great natural catastrophe. Where is the goodness of God in the story of the flood?

Well, here is one way to think about God's action.

The boat is always there, in Christ, who saves all those who do not reject him.

Consider the medical treatment for certain fatal cancers. For those deadly diseases, doctors can try to save the patient with an autologous bone marrow transplant. The doctor takes bone marrow from the patient and hunts for any cells that are not cancerous. He saves those healthy cells, but he kills the cancerous ones. Then he clones the healthy cells and puts them back into the patient. By this painful measure, there is a chance that the doctor can save the life of his patient.

In the story of the flood, God tries the analogue of this same procedure on the human race, doomed to die because of sin. God takes a few morally healthy human beings and puts them into a new world, to reproduce there. The morally sick and destructive population of the old world dies in God's flood.

But, you might think, what dies in the treatment for cancer is only cells. What died in the flood is human beings!

True, but notice this other difference between the medical treatment and the flood. In the flood, the selection between the sick and the healthy people is made by the people themselves. Those who aren't on Noah's boat don't want to be on it. To get on the boat, they would have to acknowledge their sins and accept God's means to safety. They would be among the healthy, the righteous invited on the boat, if they repented. But this is what they refuse to do.

The boat is there for those who don't refuse it. And, as the Gospel reading makes plain, that boat is always there, in Christ, who saves all those who do not reject him.

And so the rainbow *is* a sign of the goodness of God, who calls everyone to salvation.

## **2. The Season of Lent**

We have begun the Season of Lent with the distribution of ashes at the Masses last Wednesday, Ash Wednesday.

Lent is a time for us to have a "change of heart" to turn around and return to the Lord who loves us. Lent is a time for repentance. Though we may not have become totally alienated from the church community, we have done things that betray our baptismal commitment to live as Christ for the world. Repentance is more than feeling guilt. The Greek word "Metanoia" (repent, change your mind) means to change direction. So, repentance must be a more radical change in our lives than merely saying, "I'm not perfect.

Lent is asking us to look closely at our lives and the influences upon me that draws me away from Jesus and the Church. We must turn from those areas that lead me away from the Lord and turn back to Him. We cannot receive "the ashes", but only attend weekend Masses, irregularly, or at Christmas and funerals.

We have to look at our attitude to our neighbour whether it be within the family, extended family or the family down the street.

We have to receive the Sacrament of Confession as a minimum yearly, but more often is recommended. We have to believe that Jesus Christ and the Church He established is my Good News and Good News for our world.

Receiving the ashes reminds us of our impermanence in this world and that life after this world is for eternity, so we change/repent for eternity. The Church during the Season of Lent is saying to us: "We don't have time to delay." Time is short so let us come back to Jesus, Our Saviour.

Lent is a time for prayer, fasting and self-denial as we prepare for the passion, suffering and death of Our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Days of Penance:

1. Abstinance from meat, and fasting, **must** be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. All who have completed their eighteenth year and have not begun their sixtieth year are bound to fast. All who have completed their fourteenth year are bound to abstain.
2. On all other Fridays of the year including Fridays of Lent, the law of the common practice of penance is fulfilled by performing **any one** of the following:

- (a) Prayer-for example, Mass attendance; family prayer; a visit to a church or chapel; reading the Bible; making the Stations of the Cross; praying the rosary.
- (b) Self-denial - for example, not eating sweets or dessert; giving up entertainment to spend time with the family; limiting food and drink so as to give to the poor of one's own country.
- (c) Helping others-for example, special attention to someone who is poor, sick, elderly, lonely or overburdened.

## **Days of Penance**

**Lent lasts from Ash Wednesday (14 February) to the Mass of the Lord's Supper (29 March). On Good Friday and, if possible, also on Holy Saturday until the Easter Vigil, the Easter Fast is observed.**

## **Paschal Precept**

Each of the faithful is obliged to receive Holy Communion at least once a year. This is to be done between Ash Wednesday, 14 February, and Trinity Sunday, 27 May 2018 unless for a good reason it is done at another time during the year. All the faithful are obliged to confess their grave sins at least once a year.

## **3. Stations of the Cross**

During Lent, the Stations of the Cross will follow the Friday 9am Mass.

Parishioners are invited to attend Mass and Stations of the Cross as a worthy penance to perform during this season of Lent.

## **4. Liturgy News**

We are in need of readers for the Masses and I invite parishioners to consider being an Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist, to accept this ministry we do need to attend Mass on a weekly basis (unless sick etc).

We also need more Altar Servers.

Please complete forms on the back table if you are interested.

## **5. Parish Finance Committee**

Members of the Finance committee are asked to attend the first Finance Meeting for 2018 on Wednesday March 7 at 7.30 pm in the presbytery.

May God Bless you.

Fr Bob



## CHURCH CLEANING ROSTER

### 12-17 February

S Mercieca, M Farrugia, T Gimellaro,  
K Puric, J Camilleri



### 19-24 February

V Casha, S Arcuri, M Masini, M Cvetko

## READERS ROSTER

### 17/18 February

#### **Saturday Vigil: 5.30pm**

Commentator: Sarah Casha

Readers:

Sarah Casha: 1st Reading

David Casha: 2nd Reading & Prayers of Faithful

#### **Sunday: 7.30am**

Commentator: Catherine Emery

Readers:

Catherine Emery: 1st Reading

James Gill: 2nd Reading & Prayers of Faithful

#### **Sunday: 9am**

Commentator: Margaret De Vries

Readers:

Margaret De Vries: 1st Reading

Margaret Cvetko: 2nd Reading & Prayers of Faithful

### 24/25 February (2nd Sunday of Lent)

#### **Saturday Vigil: 5.30pm**

Commentator: Vanessa Casha

Readers:

Vanessa Casha: 1st Reading

Veronica Casha: 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: Frances Musso

Readers:

Frances Musso: 1st Reading

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



## Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist Roster

### 17/18 February

#### **Saturday Vigil**

David & Sarah Casha

#### **Sunday 7.30am**

Virginia Romeo & Margaret Pisani

#### **Sunday 9am**

Ken O'Leary & Faye Palamara



### 24/25 February

#### **Saturday Vigil**

Victoria Bugeja & Robert Gimellaro

#### **Sunday 7.30am**

Pasqualina Catanzariti & Margaret Pisani

#### **Sunday 9am**

Pam Ajkay & Frances Musso

## ACOLYTES ROSTER

### 17/18 February

#### **Saturday Vigil**

Eric Hockings

#### **Sunday 7.30am**

Matt Young

#### **Sunday 9am**

Peter Grizelj

### 24/25 February

#### **Saturday Vigil**

Gerry Crescini

#### **Sunday 7.30am**

George Ajkay

#### **Sunday 9am**

Anthony Zanetic

## ALTAR SERVERS ROSTER

### 17 February

#### **Saturday Vigil**

Joey Grima

Lucas & Jayden Laferla

### 24 February

#### **Saturday Vigil**

Sabrina & Leo Steimbesser

#### **February 25**

Lucas & Jayden Laferla

## CHILDREN'S LITURGY ROSTER

### 17 February

Maria Zucco & Daniela Romeo

### 24 February

S Mercieca & L Camilleri

#### **9am Sunday**

Nichole Hext



## NURSING HOME ROSTER

### 18 February

Santina & Frances

### 4 March

Lina & Faye

# POPE FRANCIS COLUMN



## Pope Francis Ash Wednesday Homily

The season of Lent is a favourable time to remedy the dissonant chords of our Christian life and to receive the ever new, joyful and hope-filled proclamation of the Lord's Passover. The Church in her maternal wisdom invites us to pay special attention to anything that could dampen or even corrode our believing heart.

We are subject to numerous temptations. Each of us knows the difficulties we have to face. And it is sad to note that, when faced with the ever-varying circumstances of our daily lives, there are voices raised that take advantage of pain and uncertainty; the only thing they aim to do is sow distrust. If the fruit of faith is charity – as Mother Teresa often used to say – then the fruit of distrust is apathy and resignation. Distrust, apathy and resignation: these are demons that deaden and paralyze the soul of a believing people.

Lent is the ideal time to unmask these and other temptations, to allow our hearts to beat once more in tune with the vibrant heart of Jesus. The whole of the Lenten season is imbued with this conviction, which we could say is echoed by three words offered to us in order to rekindle the heart of the believer: pause, see and return.

Pause a little, leave behind the unrest and commotion that fill the soul with bitter feelings which never get us anywhere. Pause from this compulsion to a fast-paced life that scatters, divides and ultimately destroys time with family, with friends, with children, with grandparents, and time as a gift... time with God.

Pause for a little while, refrain from the need to show off and be seen by all, to continually appear on the "noticeboard" that makes us forget the value of intimacy and recollection.

Pause for a little while, refrain from haughty looks, from fleeting and pejorative comments that arise from forgetting tenderness, compassion and reverence for the encounter with others, particularly those who are vulnerable, hurt and even immersed in sin and error.

Pause for a little while, refrain from the urge to want to control everything, know everything, destroy everything; this comes from overlooking gratitude for the gift of life and all the good we receive. Pause for a little while, refrain from the deafening noise that weakens and confuses our hearing, that makes us forget the fruitful and creative power of silence.

Pause for a little while, refrain from the attitude which promotes sterile and unproductive thoughts that arise from isolation and self-pity, and that cause us to forget going out to encounter others to share their burdens and suffering.

Pause for a little while, refrain from the emptiness of everything that is instantaneous, momentary and fleeting, that deprives us of our roots, our ties, of the value of continuity and the awareness of our ongoing journey.

Pause in order to look and contemplate!



## 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.



## New Catholic school NOW OPEN in Austral



**NOW  
ENROLLING**  
Kindergarten -  
Year 2, 2018

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO ENROL CONTACT US

[www.stapaustral.catholic.edu.au](http://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.

## 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, so parents please dispose of your nappies appropriately. As you would in your own homes.

## WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

**In your love and concern, please pray for:-**

**Recently Deceased:** Father Peter Neville, Carmen Mariana Freund, Jasna Stipicic, John Patrick Garard, Anna Spada, Anna Stella.

**Anniversaries:** Genoveffa Vivoda, Constance Mary Fallon, Teresa Carmel Brassil.

**Also for:** Charlie Vella, Anton Beuk, Dec'd of the Vartuli Families.

**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.





**Catholic Weekly—Available  
\$2.00**

- Wealthy church? Look again. Archbishop Fisher
- Combating slavery
- Miracles, prayers: All in a day's work for Chaplain
- Schools just want a fair go: Dan White
- Movie Review: The Shape of Water
- Reining in mad bioethicists
- Fun with Faith kids page-Pg 23

**MT SHOENSTATT RETREATS**

**25th February, 2018 - Lenten Retreat Afternoon for Families of all ages and constellations**

2pm: Talk for Adults: JOY in SUFFERING including Testimonies (Children's Programme and Baby sitting)

3pm: Prayer, Adoration, Confession and Benediction

4pm: Afternoon Tea

**Where:** Mount Schoenstatt Spirituality Centre, 230 Fairlight Road, Mulgoa 2745

**Cost:** Free

**Contact:** Sr M Julie Bracar - 0408 738 334 or [juliebracar@gmail.com](mailto:juliebracar@gmail.com)

**THE BISHOPS BLEND**

**The Bishop's Blend:** Looking to network with other young Catholic professionals and learn how to live your faith in the workplace? Then join the Most Reverend Bishop Richard Umbers, Auxiliary Bishop of Sydney on **Tuesday, 27<sup>th</sup> February 2018 at 7:00am at the Radisson Blu Plaza Hotel Sydney** for The Bishop's Blend, a quarterly breakfast series for young professionals. Online booking is essential. For more information and to purchase tickets go to <https://thebishopsblendthirdedition.eventbrite.com> or contact us at [bishopsblend@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:bishopsblend@sydneycatholic.org)

**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



**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](mailto:rosaria@wsmerc.org.au)



**KID'S CORNER**

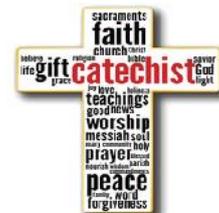
**Q.** What animal is best at hitting a baseball?

**A.** A Bat.

## CATECHIST NEWS

The Safeguarding Children Course will be held in the Parish Hall this Tuesday February 20. The course will be run by Vincent Haber who is the Regional Catechist Co Ordinator.

**Date: 20 February**  
**Time: 11.15am to 1pm**  
**Where: Parish Hall Austral**



At this time Scripture Classes may begin on February 27.

### Grief to Grace

– **Healing the Wounds of Abuse** – is a spiritual retreat for anyone who has suffered degradation or violation through physical, emotional, sexual or spiritual abuse. The retreat will be held April 8th – 13th 2018. To request an application contact Anne by emailing [info@griegtograceaus.org.au](mailto:info@griegtograceaus.org.au) or phone 0407 704 539. For more information visit [www.griegtograce.org](http://www.griegtograce.org)

### CatholicCare

Are families in your community struggling or experiencing a crisis?  
Call CatholicCare's CCareline Team on 13 18 19: helping Sydney families with relationships, parenting, in-home ageing services, disability, addictions and mental health concerns.

### FOOTSTEPS OF ST PAUL - PILGRIMAGE TO GREECE

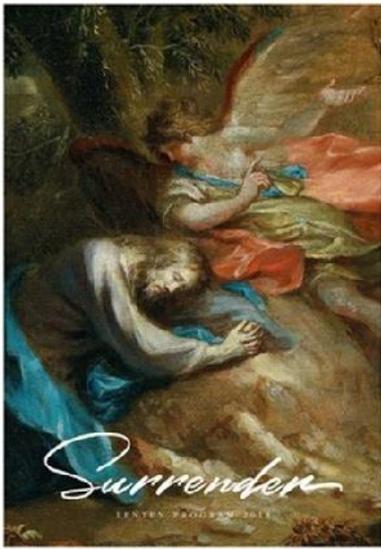
Fr. Peter De Souza from Hornsby Cathedral, would like to invite you for a 14-day pilgrimage to Greece. The group departs on 28th of May, 2018, featuring Athens, Corinth, Ephesus, Patmos, Crete, Santorini, Thessaloniki, Philippi, Meteora for an all-inclusive early-bird offer of \$5,690. This fare includes a 3 Night Cruise with all meals + Return Airfares + Local Transfers + Stay in 4 Star Hotels + All Breakfasts & Dinners. For enquiries & bookings call 0385 622 246 or email [pilgrimage@magiholidays.com.au](mailto:pilgrimage@magiholidays.com.au)

### Bereavement Support Reflections Mornings

Third Wednesday of Every Month 10.00am – 1.00pm. For family and friends who grieve and their companions. Understanding and managing life's changes in Loss, Grief & Bereavement. Morning tea provided. For further information please contact Bereavement Support Ph: (02) 9646 6908 / [bereavementsupport@catholiccemeteries.com.au](mailto:bereavementsupport@catholiccemeteries.com.au)

### Days of Fasting and Reparation

The Australian Catholic bishops have proclaimed the days from Ash Wednesday until the following Saturday (14-17 February) Days of Fasting and Reparation in sorrow for child sexual abuse and the healing of victims. In addition to the work that has been undertaken in the area of the protection of children and vulnerable adults, the Days of Fasting and Reparation are an authentically Catholic response to supplement those efforts. Resources can be accessed at [www.catholic.org.au/ fastingandreparation](http://www.catholic.org.au/ fastingandreparation)



## **SURRENDER LENTEN PROGRAMME**

The Season of Lent begins on 14 February, again early in the year.

What do we do for Lent?

I invite parishioners to a Lenten Discussion/Reflection programme.

The programme is called "Surrender" presented by the Wollongong Diocese.

The programme would run on a Thursday after the 9am Mass.

Location depends on the number of parishioners involved.

The starting date: 15 February @ 9.30am

Then the Thursdays following:-

22 February  
1 March  
8 March  
15 March  
22 March

Please put your name on the sheet on the table at the back of the Church.

## **PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL (PPC)**

At the Parish Council held last Monday night it was agreed to hold two functions in the coming weeks.

(a) Youth Movie Night-Saturday March 3

We will have a movie night after the Saturday Vigil Mass in the Parish Hall.

Date: Saturday March 3

Time: 6.30pm-9pm

Cost: \$15 includes food & drink (Pizza and slushie).

Tickets: Available from this weekend.

Age: Year 3 students-Year 9 students.

(b) Seniors Bus Trip—Friday March 9

Where: Mt Annan Gardens

When: Friday March 9

Time: 10.30am pick-up at the Church (morning tea etc provided).

Please indicate your intentions to join us by filling in the sheet next weekend.

Cost: Your presence and time together.

## **ARMY CONFERENCE**

Fr Bob will be in Canberra this week at the Staff Chaplains Conference.

I am Staff Chaplain for NSW or as it's called Eastern Region. My role is the recruitment of Ministers of the Christian denominations into the Army Reserve.

Our Conference is held annually.

Due to being away Holy Communion services will be conducted in my absence.