



17/18 March 2018-Year B Fifth 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:
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: Give me justice, O God, and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless. From the deceitful and cunning rescue me, for You O God, are my strength.

Responsorial Psalm: Create a clean heart in me, O God.

Gospel Acclamation: Glory to You, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ! If you serve me, follow me, says the Lord; and where I am, my servant will also be. Glory to You, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Communion Antiphon: Amen, Amen I say to you: Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains a single grain. But if it dies, it bears much fruit.

Dear Parishioners, We celebrate the Fifth Sunday of Lent Year B

1. Glory, Glory, Hallelujah

In the Gospel, some Greeks ask to see Jesus. Jesus responds by saying that anyone who loves his life will lose it; to gain your life, you have to be like a grain of wheat which brings forth much fruit only by falling into the earth and dying.

The Greeks must have been baffled. What has this speech of Jesus' got to do with their request to see him?

See the true Lord, and with the true Lord the pattern for going for glory in our lives, too.

But consider those Greeks. They accord Jesus rock star status. They don't even ask to *talk* to the great man. They want only to see him. And they don't dare come to Jesus directly. They just approach one of his friends, Philip, and they call Philip "Sir"—"Kyrie." Even Lady Gaga's groupies wouldn't call one of her friends, "Lord," would they?

Jesus' response helps those Greeks to see him—the true Lord, not the rock star the Greeks were looking for. The true Lord did not come to get status and power. He came to lose his life, to fall and die, like a grain of wheat.

The point is made emphatically at the end of Jesus' response to the Greeks. He ends with a prayer: "Father," he prays, "glorify your name." Jesus, the true Lord—and not the rock star—came to seek God's glory. He did not come to seek his own.

The final part of this lesson for the Greeks, and for us, comes in God's response to Jesus' prayer. God honors Jesus by answering his prayer out loud: "I have glorified My name, and I will glorify it again!"

"This voice didn't come for my sake, but for yours," Jesus tells the awed bystanders. God's voice came to finish the lesson:

God honors those who seek to honor him.

True glory lies not in rock star status, then, but, on the contrary, in being willing to fall and die like a grain of wheat. It lies in being willing to let go, to lose one's life in this world in love for the glory of God's name.

And so the Greeks do get what they asked for. In the response of Jesus to them, they, and we, see the true Lord, and with the true Lord the pattern for going for glory in our lives, too.

Glory, glory, hallelujah!

2. Sacramental Programme for First Eucharist

Those families whose children have celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation are invited to begin preparation for First Eucharist, their First Holy Communion.

Please collect the form from Fr Bob.



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. Palm Sunday: 25 March

Parishioners attending Mass on Palm Sunday are asked to bring their own palm or olive branches as our source for palms is no longer available.

5. Easter Ceremonies Involvement Sheet

Please check the sheets on the table at the back of the Church to assist in the ceremonies over Easter.

6. Chocolate Easter Lambs

Chocolate lambs are back this year some white chocolate and some milk chocolate price is \$10 per lamb.



7. Report from the Finance Committee

The Parish Finance Committee met last Wednesday week March 7, with members Chairperson: Jim Gill, Accountant: Anthony Mastroeni, School Principal: Lea De Angelis and members: George Ajkay, Cherie & Brendan Esposito and Parish Priest: Fr Bob.

Brendan Esposito was an apology.

General Business:

It was agreed to enlarge the cameras in the Church so that School Masses, Church Liturgies and Weddings will be seen better by enlarging the altar area as new lenses are available.

A man who works at the Scalabrini Village is renting the old presbytery.

OH& S issues need to be looked at eg: broken concrete around the Church. Also, broken concrete at the street on the driveway lips.

Parish will continue to support the school with their needs due to monies in the School Building Fund, that due to tax deductions given to parishioners can only be spent on the School.

Parish Finance Statement

The statement of Parish finances will be posted on the inside Church noticeboard for parishioners. Any parishioners wishing to have a copy are asked to see Fr Bob. They are not added to the bulletin as in the past presbytery's were robbed and clergy assaulted.

First Collection Masses

Fr Bob presented the First Collection monies for the period July-Sept: a deficit of \$5,426; Oct-Dec: a deficit of \$775 (Christmas Dues are an important income to decrease deficit).

Unfortunately, the parish has never run a surplus in the First Collection so that the central fund supports the wage and living expenses etc, as well as, housekeepers wages etc from the central fund.

If parishioners could look at their support to looking after their priest it would be appreciated.

8. Acolyte Rosters

Rosters are available for the Acolytes in the Sacristy.

May God Bless you.

Fr Bob



CHURCH CLEANING ROSTER

19-24 March

L Simat, I Gasperic,
L Eljiz, L Lopez

26-31 March

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



READERS ROSTER

17/18 March

Saturday Vigil: 5.30pm

Commentator: Natasha Steimbeisser

Readers:

Natasha Steimbeisser: 1st Reading

Marcelo Steimbeisser: 2nd Reading & Prayers of Faithful

Sunday: 7.30am

Commentator: Chris Pisani

Readers:

Chris Pisani: 1st Reading

Volunteer: 2nd Reading & Prayers of Faithful

Sunday: 9am

Commentator: Margaret Cvetko

Readers:

Margaret Cvetko: 1st Reading

Tessie Christophers: 2nd Reading & Prayers of Faithful

24/25 March (Palm Sunday)

Saturday Vigil: 5.30pm

Commentator: Rita Zappia

Readers:

Rita Zappia: 1st Reading

Francine Zappia: 2nd Reading & Prayers of Faithful

Sunday: 7.30am

Commentator: Chris Pisani

Readers:

Chris Pisani: 1st Reading

Margaret Pisani: 2nd Reading & Prayers of Faithful

Sunday: 9am

Commentator: John-William Fisher

Readers:

John-William Fisher: 1st Reading

Margaret De Vries: 2nd Reading & Prayers of Faithful



Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist Roster

17/18 March

Saturday Vigil

David & Sarah Casha

Sunday 7.30am

Margaret Pisani & Pasqualina Catanzariti

Sunday 9am

Ken O'Leary & Frances Musso



24/25 March

Saturday Vigil

Victoria Bugeja & Robert Gimellaro

Sunday 7.30am

Virginia Romeo & Pasqualina Catanzariti

Sunday 9am

Faye Palamara & Karen Power

ACOLYTES ROSTER

17/18 March

Saturday Vigil

Gerry Crisini

Sunday 7.30am

George Ajkay

Sunday 9am

Peter Grizelj

24/25 March

Saturday Vigil

Gerry Crescini

Sunday 7.30am

George Ajkay

Sunday 9am

Anthony Zanetic

ALTAR SERVERS ROSTER

17 March

Saturday Vigil

Kimberley Camilleri

Alyssa & Emily Galea

18 March

Lucas & Jayden Laferla

24 March

Saturday Vigil

Joey Grima

Lucas & Jayden Laferla

CHILDREN'S LITURGY ROSTER

17 March

Sarah & V Casha

24 March

Sr Jenieth & R Micallef

9am Sunday

Nichole Hext



NURSING HOME ROSTER

9 March

Mass Fr Bob &

Frances

18 March

Sister Rosa &

Jayann

POPE FRANCIS COLUMN



Why pray if God knows what you're going to say?

Prayer doesn't change God, it changes us.

By Heidi Russell

The movie *Shadowlands* is the story of C. S. Lewis and his wife Joy. At one point in the film, after finding out Joy's cancer has gone into remission, one of Lewis' friends says to him, "I know how hard you have been praying, and now God is answering your prayer." Lewis, brilliantly played by Anthony Hopkins, replies, "That's not why I pray, Harry. I pray because I can't help myself. I pray because I'm helpless. I pray because the need flows out of me all the time, waking and sleeping. It doesn't change God. It changes me."

Lewis is speaking of petitionary prayer, which requests something from God. He points out that we don't pray to change God's mind. God doesn't grant prayer because we pray or because of how hard we pray; such a God would be either arbitrary or cruel. Why would God grant one person's heartfelt prayer and not another's?

Some might answer that question by pointing to God's omniscience. God knows something we don't know, or God sees a bigger picture. But I don't find that answer satisfactory; in my experience in ministry and friendship, it is not comforting to those who suffer or who feel their prayer has not been answered. God does not wave a magic wand and make everything turn out alright. The person who has cancer still dies. The car accident cannot be undone. The person who breaks your heart doesn't come back. Prayer is about participating in the relationship God offers us. We pray because part of being in relationship is sharing the things that are weighing heaviest on our hearts. Friends or family may already know what I am going through, but I still want to talk about it. They listen and are present to my experience. The same is true of God in prayer.

Returning to Lewis' quote in *Shadowlands*, prayer neither changes what God knows, nor does it change what God does. Instead, prayer changes us. Prayer is about being in relationship with God and pouring out our hearts to God. Prayer is about God receiving all that is in our hearts in love. Prayer is about not being alone. Prayer is about God Emmanuel, God who is with us in our darkest and hardest moments. Prayer is about Jesus crying out on the cross, "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?" God is with us in those moments of feeling abandoned. As Lewis says later in the movie, "We pray to know we are not alone." We pray because God created us to be in relationship, and relationship requires communication and communion. We pray to be with God.

This article also appears in the February 2018 issue of *U.S. Catholic* (Vol. 83, No. 2, page 49).



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.



Palms
Australia

Volunteer with Palms Australia

Get out there and be the Church, "bruised, hurting and dirty"

Communities in Myanmar, PNG, Samoa, Timor Leste, Kiribati and Kenya seek volunteers to mentor locals and build capacity. Palms volunteers don't do quick fixes, but immerse themselves in overseas communities for long-term skill exchange. If you have teaching, medical, business, admin or trade skills, share them with our global family!

Contact Christine at Palms on 02 9560 5333 or go to www.palms.org.au/volunteer/

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: Bartolomeo Cascio.

Anniversaries: Sam Marino, Danica Blazincic, Ian McKellar.

Also for: Mary Vella, Dec'd Members of the Vartuli Family, Special Intention.

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, Domenic Zucco.





**Catholic Weekly—Available
\$2.00**

- Papal awards for 7
- Little school with a big agenda
- Downtown Abbey actor plays Paul
- Francis at five-Pope hits 5th Anniversary
- Movie Review: Red Sparrow
- Interview with the exorcist

Please put \$2 in the poor box

**A Mass & Blessing for People with
Autism**

In celebration of Autism Awareness Month and to honour all those in our community with autism, the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney invites you to the annual Mass and Blessing for People with Autism, to be celebrated by Bishop Anthony Randazzo.

Where: St Benedict's Church, Broadway.

When: Sunday April 8 2018 at 2pm.

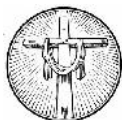
For inquiries or to RSVP by Tuesday April 3 please contact LMFevents@sydneycatholic.org or Phone 02 9307 8404.

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.



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



KID'S CORNER

Q. What do you call a cow on a trampoline?

A. A milkshake.

Leave

Blank

**Easter
Schedule**

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

Sydney ranked Australia's top Catholic city

Published: 09 March 2018

Mass in Bossley Park, the city's most Catholic suburb (Giovanni Portelli)

Sydney is the most Catholic city in the country according to figures based on the 2016 Census. Source: The Catholic Weekly.

Market demographers McCrindle recently conducted the Faith and Belief study using the latest Australian Bureau of Statistics Census figures, which showed that while "no religion" was the most popular response when it came to the question of faith around the country, Sydney is the only capital city where Catholicism is still the number one religion.

The figures reveal that of the 650 Sydney suburbs, Bossley Park is Australia's most Christian and Catholic, with 7288 Catholics accounting for a whopping 49.9 per cent of residents – almost half the entire 14,585 population.

Located 36 kilometres southwest of the CBD, its residents are more faithful than Sydney's traditional Bible-belt district of The Hills, highlighting the growing trend of Catholics heading out west.

Study author Mark McCrindle said: "Religion in Australia is certainly not dead. Our study shows that two thirds of Australians (68 per cent) currently follow a religion or have some spiritual beliefs.

"And Sydney is undoubtedly the last bastion of Catholicism in Australia and it should be proud."

In breaking down the Census data, the study found Australia-wide there are about 5.3 million Catholics – 22.6 per cent of the country's population with 1.8 million living in NSW (24.7per cent) and of those 1,213,126 live in Sydney, giving the NSW capital the top spot.

In Sydney, no religion came in second with 1,188,280 (24.6per cent) and Anglican third with 580,341 followers (12per cent) of the population.

The capital city with the second strongest Catholic response was Canberra (23.8 per cent) while Hobart ranked last (17per cent).

Mr McCrindle said the findings were a great opportunity for Sydney Catholics to identify what its congregations wanted from their parishes and priests and build on that to retain its numbers and potentially grow.

Tony Farley, recently appointed Director of Parish 2020 – an initiative aiming to renew and strengthen Catholic communities – acknowledged the challenges but said it was an "exciting time to be a Catholic".

"We're being challenged in so many ways and our capacity to respond positively to those challenges is limitless."

Details: www.mccrindle.com.au



Ditosa in Mozambique is cared for by her grandmother, after her parents died of AIDS-related illnesses. Featured in Project Compassion 2013, aged 12, thanks to Caritas Australia's support, Ditosa has now graduated from school, with plans for university.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2018.