



25 December 2018 - Year C
Christmas Time
The Nativity of the Lord



**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.

Responsorial Psalm:

Vigil: For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

Midnight: Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

Dawn Mass: A light will shine on us this day: the Lord is born for us.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia alleluia!

Vigil: Tomorrow the wickedness of the earth will be destroyed: the Saviour of the world will be our King.

Midnight: Good News and great joy to all the world: today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

Dawn Mass: Glory to God in the highest, peace to His people on earth.

Alleluia!

**Dear Parishioners and visitors, welcome to St. Anthony's
 this Christmas 2018.**

Dear Parishioners, visitors and friends of St Anthony of Padua. Welcome to St Anthony of Padua Austral for our Christmas celebrations of the Birth of Our Saviour, Jesus Christ 2018.

As we celebrate Christmas this year 2018 and bring to memory the birth of Jesus, may our lives be deeply touched by God's love. As we contemplate on the child Jesus who is born, may our hearts be filled with joy. As your spiritual leader in the parish I pray that the Child of Bethlehem will bless each and every one of you, your families and those you celebrate Christmas with you.

I also wish that every family, every home, in our parish would live and share the memory of Jesus enshrined in peace, justice, unity, forgiveness, love and joy!

There is Christmas because God listened to the cry of every vulnerable heart longing for redemption. There is Christmas because in humble obedience Mary listened to the will of God amidst the canvass of a world in bleak uncertainty. There is Christmas for in the silence of the night in a lowly manger, God shared our humanity and made that human cry his very own, eloquently assuring us to listen to his promise of staying with us off to the road to reconciliation in relationship, hope in a reclaimed dignity and fullness of life.

Inspired by the very same spirit of listening, I hope to continue our pilgrimage of faith in 2019 by leading the Church of St Anthony of Padua to become a Church that reflectively listens to the needs of each one of us.

The memory of the love of God in Jesus which the Church keeps and safeguards is being challenged more and more today by our secular

society. We need to respond to these challenges by making the Good News of the Gospel a reality and need in people's lives today.

Our society and western society has lost its Christian direction at this time forgetting that it was the Church that established Universities, schools, hospitals and hospices for the poor, sick and dying centuries ago. We hear and read of people's isolation and loneliness today becoming anxious for themselves, their family and future. They invest in many and varied 'Self-Help' books to show them the way. But, the Way is Jesus Christ born for us to show us how to live by living in 'love, trust, faith and forgiveness' towards each other.

As members of families and as Christians and Catholics may we reach out to a loved one that is estranged from the family and welcome them home or may we turn the other cheek and come home for Christmas. This is the answer to our loneliness and isolation! We need to forgive and forget as Jesus forgives and forgets when we kneel in front of the Priest in Confession saying: 'bless me Father for I have sinned.' None of us are perfect that is why we need Jesus and each other.

We need to remember

Wishing you all and your families Christmas joy and a New Year filled with new blessings of God's goodness. Jesus is born! Let us rejoice!

Fr Bob



Major Events at St. Anthony's in 2018

Parish Functions

Pizza/Pasta nights continue to be popular with parishioners and are well supported even though we are a little cramped in at the Parish Hall. Woodfired Pizza continues to be a friend of St Anthony's and happy yo accommodate us with a couple of weeks notice. If interested ring 0423277252.

We celebrated our Parish Feast Day of St Anthony of Padua down at Austral Bowling Club, on Sunday July 1. The Club was very good to us and we filled the dining room to capacity. Another afternoon that was enjoyed by all who could attend. The Parish Council organised the luncheon and we all had a great time.



Sacraments in the Parish

The Sacrament of Confirmation was celebrated in August with Bishop Tony Randazzo, our Regional Bishop. There were 29 candidates who received the gift of the Holy Spirit. Our Liturgy Committee and Parish Choir supported the candidates in the mass. It was a packed Church for the celebration of the Sacrament and Bishop Tony happily stood with candidates for photos after the Mass. As mentioned, Sacraments are celebrated in the Parish and families wishing their daughter or son to receive one of the three Sacrament need to be attending Mass regularly.



Please Note: NO notices are given out through the schools either St Anthonys or Austral Public School. All information is given through the Church.

Liturgy.

As Catholics, our liturgy is most important in the life of a Parish as we gather to worship our God, and creator and Jesus, Our Saviour. I am grateful to our parish choirs who assist in leading us in worship at the 5.30pm Vigil Mass and the 9.00am Sunday morning Mass.

But we do need more help with singers and musicians. We have invested in a "new organ" so, as to improve the variety of music that can be played and the community sing. If you are musical the choirs would love to hear from you. Many hands make light work, as the saying goes.

My thanks for all their effort and the week night practices they do in preparation for our weekend liturgy.

Our Acolytes, Eucharistic Ministers, Readers and Altar Servers have assisted in our Sunday celebration, by their commitment and dedication to the ministry they undertake. They play no small part like so many others to enhance our celebration and assist in our worship.

Children's Liturgy

Rose Micallef has coordinated Children's Liturgy since I have been here and I thank her. She has been supported by other mothers who attend the Vigil Mass each week.

The children go out to the sacristy for the first half of Mass and have their own Liturgy of the Word. They return at the Offertory and at the Our Father gather around the altar with Fr. Bob.



Nicole Hext has taken the role on at the 9.00am Mass for those children who attend. Children's Liturgy helps the children to enjoy Mass at their level and to enjoy coming to Mass with their families. Again, thanks to all involved. I and the children appreciate your support.

Children's Liturgy Sign Up Sheet

There is a sign up sheet at the back of the Church for Children's Liturgy for next year, please think about helping out next year.

Ministry groups

Catechists

Our catechists are our special people in our community who take the Good News into the Austral Primary School each week. The good work they do is inestimable. Our thanks go to Margaret Cvetko our coordinator and all our catechists. We are in need of more volunteers to do this very important ministry in the Church for catholic children in our state school.



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Nursing Home and Home visits

Visiting the sick is an important ministry in any parish. Our parish is like an extended family. The main recipients of visits are the folk at Tobruk Village, John Edmondson VC gardens and in their homes. Fr. Bob assisted by Mrs Frances Musso celebrates Mass at the John Edmondson VC Gardens fortnightly and parishioners take Holy Communion on the alternate Sundays and Fr Bob takes Holy Communion to parishioners in their homes fortnightly.

Please remember our elderly and sick in your prayers.

Parish Choir

There are two parish choirs who support the Vigil and 9am Masses. I thank them for all they do to enhance our liturgies.

Led by Patrizia Morandin who has assisted us with the playing of the piano/organ and helping the choir in building up our repertoire of music for our worship.



St Vincent De Paul Society

St Vincent de Paul Society in our area visits families in need throughout the year. The children in our Catholic Primary Schools donated toys to fill Christmas stockings to bring joy to many.

As Parishioners, we are asked to assist with tin foods that can be given to families post the Christmas period. Please drop them under the Christmas tree when you come to Mass. Thank you.

Parish Staff



Behind the scenes are those that support and affirm me. Our parish secretary Cheryl McKell who looks after the day to day running of the office from Tuesday- Thursday and who produces our bulletin each week and attends to all parishioners concerns or questions either at the door or on the phone.

In the engine room is Catherine Sanders who manages the presbytery and keeps body and soul together for myself. Both their families have supported me over 25 or so years and I appreciate their friendship and support.

They are the team that you encounter at the door or on the phone. I thank them for their loyalty and friendship to me.

As we look at the crib, glean a glimpse of the immensity of God's gift to us. The scene tells us Emmanuel: **God is with us!** Our deepest yearnings are addressed as we reflect on the mystery that is before us in the crib. The shepherds left the scene praising God. May each one of us this Christmas 2017 praise God for His goodness that we receive and pray that, like the shepherds, we may see things in a deeper, richer light, by being more attuned to God's presence in our life and in the world around us.

May we strive to be more faithful in our commitment to Him and more regular to Sunday Mass, individually and as families.

St. Anthony of Padua is a changing parish and will be in the next few years but I thank God for the gift of all who make the parish their place of community and worship.

May Christmas be a special time for each of you, your families and those you celebrate with over these days. Drive carefully, enjoy the holiday break and may God bless you all abundantly and may 2018 bring new hope and blessings to your families and loved ones and to St. Anthony of Padua Parish Austral.

Wishing all parishioners and visitors a very Happy and Holy Christmas.

Il-Milied it-tajjeb tayeb
Buon Natale e Buon Anno Nuovo

Fr. Bob



Fr Bob (Cheryl & Catherine)

Parish Finance Committee (PFC)

The PFC assists me in the guidance they give to me as I manage the financial side of this parish. The first collection supports the Priest in the parish.

The second collection funds the repairs and maintenance of the property and pays the bills and staff wages.

There has been a brochure in the church that explains where your giving goes. If you would like another pamphlet look on the back table or ask Fr. Bob for a copy.

Our main source of income is **the parish envelopes system (25% tax deductible)** that some parishioners commit to each week. I thank them for their support and ask every family to consider supporting the parish through the parish envelope system. This is the only way we have of having a steady income and being able to plan for the future needs and expenses of the parish. If parishioners do not support the parish, no one else will come to our rescue. If you can help please fill in a census form on the back table or ring the secretary and ask for a set of envelopes. Your giving is your gift to support the Parish.

The Finance Committee is made up of Myself, Lea De Angelis (Principal), Jim Gill (Chairperson), Anthony Mastroeni (Accountant), George Ajkay. They are happy to talk about the parish finances to you and the Financial Return is printed on the bulletin each year for parishioners to read.

Piety Stall



The Piety Table is there to assist parishioners with putting religious objects in our homes or to assist in ones private devotion. If you are looking for a particular religious object etc see Fr. Bob and he will attempt to get it for you.

Church Cleaners

As you come to Church each week the tidiness and cleanliness of the Church is evident. A band of parishioners lovingly attend to the vacuuming and cleaning of the Church on a weekly basis. These parishioners volunteer to be placed on a church cleaning roster and attend to their duties with love and devotion. But, many hands make light work! Can a few men form a group and help out? How about YOU helping during 2017? Give your name to Fr. Bob.

Wardens

Our wardens do a great job each weekend at our Masses and again a labour of love from them as they invite all parishioners to support both priest and parish through the two collections.

Altar Society

Another area of care is the Sanctuary. The cleaning ladies attend to it but the altar linen and changing of the festive colours and altar cloths Faye Palamara looks after it with great devotion, I thank her for what she does. If you would like to join and assist Faye ring the parish office.

Other Helpers

Lawn mowing around the church and presbytery grounds is attended to by John Bonanno who is happy to bring his ride on and spends a few hours as a labour of love making the grounds look good especially leading up to parish celebrations or feasts such as Christmas and Easter. Thanks John.

Kerry DeVries is very generous with the care of the flowerbed in front of the Church. He lovingly nurtured the flowers you see in the hot weather, so our Church would shine for all who come to worship this Christmas. Thank you Kerry.

Social Justice



As a parish community we strive to reach out and help others less fortunate than ourselves. During the year parishioners attending the weekend Masses have contributed to the following:

1. Charitable Works Fund: \$4991.00
 2. Lenten Project Compassion: \$5006.50
 3. Good Friday: \$790.00
 4. Easter Offerings: \$770.00
 5. Catholic Missions: \$1,650.00
 6. Holy Fathers: \$262.00
 7. Priest's Retirement Appeal: \$200.00
 8. Christmas Offerings: \$2,045.00
 9. Drought Appeal: \$2,980.00
 10. Military Diocese Appeal
- Total Contributed: \$18,694.50

A great effort for which many people are helped by this generosity.

Around the Parish.

During the year we welcomed children into the community through the waters of Baptism. On the other end of life we farewelled parishioners into Eternal Life. They are now "our saints" before the throne of God. "Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord..." Names are mentioned elsewhere in this bulletin and in the November deceased Book. Every two months, on the second Thursday at the 9am Mass we invite parishioners to receive the Anointing of the Sick. Our seniors appreciate the anointing.

ST ANTHONY OF PADUA CATHOLIC SCHOOL



It has been a busy year for our Principal Lea DeAngelis and her wonderful staff. The school welcomed its second year of students into Kindergarten. In 2017, we began with a cohort of 44 students and their families. This year, 2018, we welcomed another 62 students and families into the school for a total enrolment of 106 students. Our Kindergarten cohort for 2019 is 82 students, plus siblings going into years 1 and 2.

Our second classroom was handed over by the builders and our children are enjoying the two buildings and a great playground.

As you can see from the photos, the parish and school held a combined "Carols Evening," last Monday 17 December. The Church was packed as families and children sang their hearts out as we prepared to welcome "the Child of Bethlehem."

KID'S CORNER

Q. Who delivers Christmas presents to dogs?

A. Santa Paws.



WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

in your love and concern, please pray for:-

Recently Deceased: Concetta Gismondo

Anniversaries:

Also for: Dec'd members of the Vartuli Families, Special Intention, Emmanuel & Mary Gatt, Bessy Mifsud

We remember those who are sick in the community that the Lord will be their comforter and healer as we pray for: Ian Farrell, Paul Farnsworth, Erminia Demasi.



READERS ROSTER

Christmas Vigil

Commentator: Children

Readers:

1st Reading:

2nd Reading:

Prayers Faithful: Children



Midnight Mass

Commentator: Julie Dimech

Readers:

1st Reading: Julie Dimech

2nd Reading & Prayers Faithful: Volunteer

Christmas Day 7.30am

Commentator: Chris Pisani

Readers:

1st Reading: Chris Pisani

2nd Reading & Prayers Faithful: Margaret Pisani

Christmas Day 9.00am

Commentator: Maria Zucco

Readers:

1st Reading: Maria Zucco

2nd Reading & Prayers Faithful: Frances Musso



Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist

Christmas Vigil:

David Casha, Cheryl McKell

2 Volunteers

Midnight Mass

Frances Musso

Christmas Day 7.30am

Pasquelina Catanzariti, Virginia Romeo

Christmas Day 9am

Ken O'Leary,



ACOLYTES ROSTER

Christmas Vigil

Midnight Mass

Gerry Crescini/George Ajkay

Christmas Day 7.30am

George Ajkay

Christmas Day 9am

Anthony Zanetic



WARDENS

Christmas Vigil

Anthony Casha

Plus 3 Volunteers

Midnight Mass

4 Volunteers

Christmas Day 7.30am

Jim Gill

Plus 3 Volunteers

Christmas Day 9am

Tony Rudan

George Ajkay

Plus 2 Volunteers



ALTAR SERVERS

Christmas Vigil

Midnight Mass

2 Volunteers

Christmas Day 7.30am

2 Volunteers

Christmas Day 9am

4 Volunteers



POPE FRANCIS' COLUMN



Santa Marta: 'To Dream is to Open the Door to the Future:' Like Joseph, Accompany in Silence
December 18, 2018 Pope Francis Morning Homily

"To dream is to open doors to the future," said Pope Francis at the Mass on December 18, 2018, at Casa Santa Marta in the Vatican.

In his homily reported by Vatican News, the Pope meditated on the figure of St. Joseph, presented in the Scriptures as "a righteous man, an observant of the law, a worker, humble, lover of Mary... God reveals to him his mission, Joseph embraces his role and accompanies the growth of the Son of God "in silence, without judging, without speaking, without repeating".

Saint Joseph helped Jesus "to grow, to grow," continued the pope: "He sought thus a place for his son to be born; he took care of him; he helped him grow up; he taught him his charge: so many things ... In silence. He never saw his son as a property: he let him grow in silence. He lets him grow: that would be the word that would help us a lot, we who by nature always want to put our noses everywhere, especially in the lives of others. And why is he doing this? Why the other ...? And we start to behave ... And he lets him grow. He protects. He helps but in silence. "

The pope also pointed out that St Joseph is "the man of dreams... The dream is a privileged place to seek the truth because there we do not defend ourselves against the truth ... And God also speaks in dreams. Not always, because usually, it's our unconscious, but God often chooses to speak in dreams ... it shows in the Bible, does not it? Through dreams "

"Joseph was the man the man of dreams, but he was not a dreamer, eh? He was not a fancier. A dreamer is something else: he who believes ... come, he is in the clouds, he does not have eyes on earth ... Joseph had his feet on the ground. But he was open," assured the pope.

He urged "not to lose the ability to dream the future", encouraging: "Each of us: dream for our family, for our children, for our parents. Look how I would like their life to go. Priests too: to dream for our faithful, to what we want. To dream as young people dream, who are 'shamed' in the dream, and they find a way. "

This, he concluded, "does not lose the ability to dream, because to dream is to open the doors in the future. It's to be fruitful in the future. "

During the celebration, the Pope specially prayed for the handicapped children of Slovakia who made the ornaments of the Christmas tree installed near the altar.



**THIS YEAR AT ST ANTHONY'S WE WELCOMED INTO OUR PARISH
COMMUNITY IN BAPTISM**



Antonio Accoto, Amalia Accoto, Cooper Coridas, Olivia Bartolo, Saige Mittiga, Mia Zerafa, Portia Pietersen, Rafael Mangano, Kayley Mrony, Amelia Balcon, Sienna Rao, Aria Hurdle. Flynn Tanti, Liana Geracitano, Callum Treuer, Milia Groube, Thomas Cullimore, Thomas McLeod, Elsie Potts, Rosalie Ripepi, Megan Bissett, I aria Pedavoli, Valentina Antonelli, Noah Borg, Florence Sciuto, Ryker Burns, Isla Burns, Brydon Lindsay, Alessia Camilleri, Isaiah Wakim, Ariana Vertley, Rocco Genova, Katelyn Khoury, Linda Dnkha, Zoe Pintabona, Sophia Benforte, Dante Inzitari, Ariana Bianco, Pasquale Multari, Georgio Multari.

**THIS YEAR AT ST ANTHONY'S THE FOLLOWING RECEIVED THE SACRAMENT
OF RECONCILIATION**

Vince Tripodi, Layla Farnsworth, Sebastian Georges, Renato Gimellaro, Antony Lattouf, Sophia Magri, Andrew Mastroeni, Vincent Minnici, Francesco Mosca, Antonio Oliverio, Erin O'Neill, Lily O'Neill, Patrick O'Neill, Emma Pecotich, Isabella Ripepi, Pasquale Stivala, Luke Szoszkiewicz.



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION



Samuela Camera, Sienna Herd, Marcus Mastroeni, Sam Matosevic, Olivia Pecotic, Francesco Piscioneri, Chloe Portolesi, Christina Ripepi, Joshua Scott, Leo Steimbeisser, Vince Tripodi, Meghan Bissett, Brydon Bonar.

CONFIRMATION



Meghan Bissett, Luca Bonello, Alex Calo, Isaac Camera, Kimberly Camilleri, Samuel Cilia, Isabella Cordi, Katie Crisafulli, Thomas DiBartolo, Emilia Firriolo, Maria Galan, Daniel Garzaniti, Jett Ghersinich, Joseph Grima, Annika Groube, Lucas Laferla, Jamie McCarlie, Alex Matosevic, Sophia oliverio, Domenic Pace, Kyjana Portolesi, Jorja Simat, Massimo Sofi, Sam Sofi, Tomas Szoszkiewicz, Mitchell Temple, Emilia Trueba, Vince Vaccaro, Andrew Vassallo, Sebastian Wakim, Brydon Lindsay.

THIS YEAR AT ST ANTHONY'S WE CELEBRATED MARRIAGES



Luke Vella & Emma Heuving, Alessandro Tilocca & Diandra Clemente, Samuel Lautier & Doris Banjavcic, Shane Fernandez & Linda Wisolith, Brandon Zezovski & Jessica Azzopardi, Mark O'Neill & Heidi Powter, David Inzitari & Francesca Zappia, Iupeli Teofilo & Juliana Patolo.

THIS YEAR AT ST ANTHONY'S WENT TO ETERNAL LIFE



Fortunato Crocono, Carmen Freund, Jasna Stipicic, John Garard, Anna Spada, Anna Stella, Bartolomeo Cascio, Domenica Costa, Isidoro Bianchi, Lenny Musumeci, Josephine Azzopardi, Mary Serovich, Carl Harmer, Elsa Rigato, Charles Camilleri, Peter Hawrysko. Umberto Paduano, Maximilliano Pesce, Concetta Gismondo.