



**25 December 2019 - Year A
Christmas Time
The Nativity of the Lord**



**ST ANTHONY'S
PARISH CHURCH
320 Edmondson Ave
Austral 2179**

Pastor:
Fr. Robert Hayes PP RFD VF

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.

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 2019.**

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 2019.

As we celebrate Christmas this year 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 we all continue in our
pilgrimage of faith and inspired by St Anthony of Padua become a
community that reflectively listens to the needs of each other.

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, in particular, has lost its Christian direction at this time forgetting that it was the Church that first established universities, schools, hospitals and hospices for the poor, sick and dying centuries ago.



We hear and read of people's isolation and loneliness becoming anxious for themselves, their family and their 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 2020 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

A community building function that is most popular with parishioners is the Pizza/Pasta nights and are well supported even though we are a little crammed in at the Parish Hall.

Woodfired Pizza continues to be a friend of St Anthony's and happy to accommodate us with a couple of weeks notice. If interested ring 0423277252.

We celebrated our Parish Feast Day of St Anthony of Padua again this year and the students from the College joined us for the special Mass in St Anthony's honour together with parishioners and parents and friends from the college.



Sacraments in the Parish

The Sacrament of Reconciliation was celebrated on Wednesday 4th December with our Year 2 students from the college and children from surrounding schools.



Preparing the candidates were some of the mothers of the children who acted as the group leaders, as well as, two of our catechists and all were supported by the college Family Educator Mrs Veronica Leva, and this was a very successful first time experiment having some of the parents and catechists leading the groups. There were 42 candidates who celebrated the Sacrament.

My thanks go to the three mothers from the college namely Mrs Mary Grima, Mrs Nicole Hext and Mrs Olivia Sangiuliano and catechists, Mrs Margaret DeVries and Mrs Natalie Valenizi.

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 liturgies are 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 especially as new families move into the parish.

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 to prepare for our weekend liturgy.

Our Liturgy Committee, 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



My thanks to the mothers and daughters who conduct the Children's Liturgy at the Vigil Mass each Saturday night for the children present. 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 in 2020.



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 coordinating secretary 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.

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 College 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 Wednesday- 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 2019 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 as new families move into the many estates springing up in the parish.

I thank God for the gift of all who make the parish their place of community and worship.

This is my last Christmas bulletin as I am moving on as well. My final Mass will be on Easter Sunday 2020. A new Pastor will give you greetings this time next year.

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 2020 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 taye
Buon Natale e Buon Anno Nuovo

Fr. Bob



READERS ROSTER

Christmas Vigil

Commentator: Children
Readers:
1st Reading:
2nd Reading:
Prayers Faithful: Children



Midnight Mass

Commentator: Nicole Hext
Readers:
1st Reading: Nicole Hext
2nd Reading & Prayers Faithful: Teresa Calarco

Christmas Day 7.30am

Commentator: Volunteer
Readers:
1st Reading: Volunteer
2nd Reading & Prayers Faithful: Volunteer

Christmas Day 9.00am

Commentator: Frances Musso
Readers:
1st Reading: Frances Musso
2nd Reading & Prayers Faithful: John-William Fisher



Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist

Christmas Vigil:

Rose Crescini, Cheryl McKell
2 Volunteers

Midnight Mass

Catherine Timpano
3 Volunteers

Christmas Day 7.30am

Pasquelina Catanzariti, Virginia Romeo

Christmas Day 9am

Faye Palamara
Phillip Gigliotti
2 Volunteers



ACOLYTES ROSTER

Christmas Vigil

Gerry Crescini

Midnight Mass

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

Plus 3 Volunteers

Christmas Day 9am

Plus 2 Volunteers



ALTAR SERVERS

Family Mass 5.30pm

Volunteers

Christmas Vigil

Midnight Mass
2 Volunteers

Christmas Day 7.30am

Volunteers

Christmas Day 9am

Volunteers



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 (30% 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 was made up of myself, Lea De Angelis (College Principal), Jim Gill (Chairperson), Anthony Mastroeni (Accountant), Olivia Sangiuliano and George Ajkay, (Members). The committee will need to be re-constituted in the New Year under the new Pastor as Jim has moved from the parish and it is in need of a few new members.



Parish Pastoral Council(PPC)

The PPC met monthly during the year organising many functions and building community in the parish through these activities. The PPC assists the Pastor and works with the Pastor to build up the parish. I thank our Chairperson Anthony Zanetic and members Faye Palamara, Josie Trubea, Margaret Cvetco, Francis Musso, pamAjkay, Maria Zucco, Pam and George Ajkay and Tim Hext. The members have been on the PPC for two terms so, I will leave it to the new Pastor to establish a new PPC in the parish.

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 2020? 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. menrshioners to support both priest and parish

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 in need of assistance as John Bonanno hasn't been able to do it recently. I do thank Joe Vella for mowing the lawns when the grass grows a bit too high. Also, Gerry Bugeja for spraying the weeds around the property. It is important the parish property looks its best especially for celebrations for feasts such as Christmas and Easter. Thanks Joe and Gerry.

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: \$7,500.00
 2. Lenten Project Compassion: \$6892.00
 3. Good Friday: \$773.00
 4. Easter Offerings: \$900.00
 5. Catholic Missions: \$1880.00
 6. Holy Fathers: \$315.00
 7. Priest's Retirement Appeal: \$300.00
 8. Christmas Offerings: \$2045.00
- Total Contributed:\$20605.00

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 College



It has been a busy year for our Principal Lea DeAngelis and her wonderful staff. The College welcomed Archbishop Fisher and guest for the official opening of the college on Friday November 22nd.

The College students were on their best behaviour and they did themselves proud during the ceremonies of blessing by the Archbishop and in entertaining guests, parents, grandparents and friends as well as some families looking to enrol their child in the college down the track.

In 2017, we began with a cohort of 44 students and their families. Last year, 2018, we welcomed another 62 students and in 2019 we welcomed 82 students to the college. Our Kindergarten cohort for 2020 is 107 students to date.

KID'S CORNER

Q. Why is Santa so jolly?

A. Because he knows where all the presents are hidden.



WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

In your love and concern, please pray for:-

Recently Deceased:

Anniversaries:

Also for: We remember our deceased loved ones at this time of year; Holy Souls.

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



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



Max Matosin, Antonia Lentini, Xavier Sultana, Isla Ghassibe, Kurt McKell, John Vella, Thomas Burge, William Burge, Elyssa Ripepi, Ellie Raumer, Madilyn Raumer, Lachlan Smith, Francesco Mamone, Chiara Vella, Luke Facchinelli, Romeo Macri, Aurora Ussia, Lorenzo Molluso, Sloann Coogan, Andrew Geradis Joshua Fernandez, Tao Gullo, Evie Ghannoum, Adrian Hoffman, Jack Byrnes, Siena Habib, Jonah Lawless, Jaxon Ly, Kiara Hext, Leonardo Polistena, Levi Symes, Vito Corso, Amelia John, Ariela Dzierzak, Tiana Rao, Georgia Bartolo, Max Sofi, Lucas Valleri, Leo Lautier, Julius Noiosi, Ignazio Pedavoli, Jacob Zammit, Ketsahone Ly.

THIS YEAR AT ST ANTHONY'S THE FOLLOWING RECEIVED:

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION



Rueben El-Khoury, Andrew Cilia, Jasmine Grima, Lauren Grima, Sofie Carroll, Levi Sangiuliano, Levi Le-Nguyen, Ariana Abella, Ariella Antonelli, Clarita Baz. Gabriella Bugarija, Jarryd Crescini, Jonathon Djodan, Oscar Eljiz-Mifsud, Charlotte Eljiz-Mifsud, benson El-Khoury, Alysha Falzon, Marissa Fischer, Tierra Fredic, Savannah Graves, Charlotte Hext, Xavier Lopez, Analeise Luttuga, Lucas Luttuga, Laila McLeod, Monica Montibeler, Mason Morizzi, Anthony Nad, Daniel Odisho, Christlyn Palackal, Cosimo Piscioneri, Summer power, Jayme-Elyse Quinnell, Alexis Stivala, Lily Stivala, Chiara Taranto, Porscha Vitale, Leonardo Zappavigna, Marcus Zoric, Anthony Webhe.

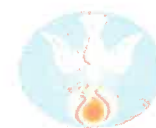
THE SACRAMENT OF FIRST HOLY COMMUNION



Reuben El-Khoury, Layla Farnsworth, Renato Gimellaro, Sophia Magri, Andrew Mastroeni, Vincent Minnici, Francesco Mosca, Antonio Oliverio, Patrick O'Neill, Erin O'Neill, Lily O'Neill, Emma Pecotich, Isabella Ripepi, Sofija Simat, Pasquale Stivala, Luke Szoszkiewicz, Ketsahone Ly.

THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Ketsahone Ly.



THIS YEAR AT ST ANTHONY'S WE CELEBRATED MARRIAGES

Daniel Ramirez and Lauren Mercuri; Matthew Holden and Renee Jakovich; Patrick Timpano and Catherine Florio; Louis Eljiz and Rachel Stephenson; Danny and Melissa Campisi.



ETERNAL REST GRANT TO THESE PARISHIONERS O LORD

Ryan Anderson, Carmen Xerri, Anthony Macri, Francis Kenwright-Dennis, Reginald Robinson, Santo Grasso, Maria Campisi, Mary Rose Monaghan, Denise DeVries, Robert Bidner, Lucia Ippolito, Maria Squillacioti, Michele Bono, Alicia O'Leary, Yvonne Nugent, Agata Emmi.



The Parish Safeguarding Support Officer (PSSO)



I am happy to report that the parish has a volunteer PSSO, Mrs Natasha Steimbeisser. Each parish has been mandated to have a PSSO as the Church continues to fulfill the recommendations of the Royal Commission.

St Anthony's community, and I as Pastor, all have to be aware and take responsibility that our parish is a safe environment for all children, our youth and vulnerable adults.

I thank Natasha for accepting this role as she comes to us well qualified spending years in Hospitals and Community Health, as a Social Worker.

In the first quarter of 2020, all parishioners involved in any parish ministry will be obliged to undergo a short training programme taking just a couple of hours.

Again, this is required as part of the Church following recommendations from the Royal Commission.

What does the PSSO do?

The role is to provide safeguarding induction and training to volunteers within the parish based on the resources provided by the Safeguarding Office at the Spreading the Message training

The role is a volunteer/supportive role only

She will assist Father Bob with proactive measures to safeguard children, young people and vulnerable adults in the Parish environment.

She will support the Parish and Father Bob in coordinating safeguarding self-assessment reviews and audits within the parish as and when requested by the Archdiocese or on behalf of the Archdiocese.

Report on any issues or concerns that come to my attention.

Assist Father Bob with Safe guarding Induction of all staff and volunteers, training policy, protocol and code of conduct

Assist Father Bob to ensure Safeguarding with current legislation, policy and protocols within the archdiocese

Training of staff and volunteers

Assist Father Bob with the signing of the Code of Conduct for all staff and volunteers

As Parish Priest, and the Pastor who follows me after Easter, have the responsibility to ensure that St Anthony's is a safe community that safeguards all members when involved in any parish activity. It is a role that every parishioner should take responsibility for as well as we support Natasha in her role..

Fr Bob Hayes PP

A Message from the Archdiocese of Sydney

Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with crimes are the police. If you, or anyone you know, have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office at (02) 9390 5810 or safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org. You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.