



22/23 February 2020-Year A 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time



ST ANTHONY'S PARISH CHURCH 105 ELEVENTH AVENUE AUSTRAL 2179

Pastor:
Fr. Robert Hayes PP RFD VF

Secretary: Cheryl McKell
House Manager: Cathy Sanders

Presbytery and Parish Office:
320 EDMONDSON AVENUE
AUSTRAL

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 Mass and Adoration till 10am.

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: O Lord, I trust in Your merciful love, My heart will rejoice in Your salvation. I will sing to the Lord who has been bountiful with me.

Responsorial Psalm: The Lord is kind and merciful.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia!

Whoever keeps the Word of Christ. Grows perfect in the love of God.
Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: I will recount all Your wonders, I will rejoice in You and be glad, and sing psalms to Your name, O Most High.

Dear Parishioners,
We celebrate the Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

1. Turning the Other Cheek

In the Gospel Reading, Christ commands us to turn the other cheek. How are we to make sense of this command?

If a schoolyard bully beats up your child, are you supposed to instruct her to turn the other cheek and let him do it again? Or should you alert the principal of the school and get the bully stopped? Christ's command to turn the other cheek seems to insist on that first alternative. And so it looks as if Christ is commanding us to help people do bad things with impunity. **If we love our enemies in this way, we will want to help them be what we ourselves want to be.**

But to think this is way is to be focused only on yourself and what you take to be your virtue. It is to forget entirely about the wellbeing of the bully or of any person engaged in evil.

Think about the matter this way. In the Gospel Reading for last Sunday, Christ says that anyone who hates his brother is shut out of heaven. If mere hatred is enough to get a person excluded from heaven, how about hatred in action, like physical attack? A schoolyard bully has hate in his heart and hate in action, too. If you enable him to keep attacking, you are helping him to hell.

But in the Gospel Reading for this week Christ is asking us to *love* those who hurt us. How is love shown to a person by helping him towards hell? So in exhorting us to turn the other cheek Christ is not commanding us to be an enabler of people doing bad things. He is exhorting us to love even our enemies *as ourselves*. If we love our enemies in this way, we will want to help them be what we ourselves want to be: people trying to love and obey Christ.

So think of Christ's command to turn the other cheek this way.

Ordinarily, a person given to evil will become worse and worse if he thinks he can hurt others with impunity. That is why to threaten him with reprisal is to tug him back from his own moral destruction. But sometimes a person is so sunk in evil that no threat of punishment would deter him. And then your best bet is to let him hit you again. If he does, he may finally understand the evil in himself and hate it.

So turning the other cheek might make a schoolyard bully worse; but this attitude of turning the other cheek, expressed in large-scale non-violent resistance, did help get the British out of India.

Christ's command, then, is to do whatever it takes to *love* our enemies.

2. Caritas Australia

The readings in the liturgy this weekend anticipate the coming Lenten period. Lent invites us to reflect, pray, fast and give alms.

In Australia, Caritas Australia's Project Compassion campaign has become part of the Church's Lenten practice offering us an opportunity to go above and beyond in our alms giving to bring joy and hope to others.

Through our support to Project Compassion we seek to stand in solidarity with our neighbours as a global community.

As the Season of Lent approaches, we might consider where in our own lives do we need to go further in love and compassion?

Project Compassion boxes and envelopes are available to be collected for our using during Lent, after Mass.

3. Sacramental Programmes



Parishioners are aware, from previous years, that the Sacraments and their preparation and celebration are the responsibility of the Parish Priest and Parish Community.

The Sacraments are celebrated in the following school/college terms:

Term 2 - First Holy Communion

Term 3 - Confirmation

Term 4 - Sacrament of Reconciliation.

All information regarding the preparation and dates of Sacraments are announced at the weekend Masses. **NO** information is given out at St Anthony's College or Austral Public School.

As Catholics who desire for their child/children to participate and receive the Sacraments, need to be attending regularly at the weekend Masses.

The Third Commandment reminds us to "Keep Holy the Sabbath Day." As Catholics, we fulfill this commandment by our regular attending Mass and sharing the Eucharist with the St Anthony's community.

To miss more than two weekend Masses (other than through illness or travelling) we need to go to the Sacrament of Reconciliation before approaching to receive Holy Communion. Missing Mass is still a mortal or serious sin, as we are not putting the Lord as our first priority in our lives.

I encourage all families to examine their commitment of Christ in the Eucharist, if they desire their child/children to participate in the Sacraments.

I would like to thank Natalie Valenzisi who has offered to take on the extra role of Parish Sacramental Programmes (as well as being a Catechist) Co-ordinator. Natalie will assist the Priest and parish staff in the preparation of each of the three Sacraments, we celebrate for our children. On behalf of the Parish, I thank Natalie for taking on this role.

4. Season of Lent

Ash Wednesday begins the Season of Lent. As Christians, we are called to prayer, fasting and alms giving during this season.

Prayer— Attending an extra Mass during the week, pray as a family at home, stations of the cross, pray the rosary, Read the Bible.

Fasting— give up something for Lent eg computer for a day, a week; video games one day a week in Lent; give up something we like doing as a penance.

Almsgiving— Donate to Project Compassion and help a neighbour as we meet them during Lent each weekend at Mass.



5. Ash Wednesday Masses

7am, 9.15am (with College Students) and 7pm, Kindergarten will have a liturgy at the college.

6. Stations of the Cross-Friday 9.30-10am

During Lent, the Church invites us to attend the Stations of the Cross as a preparation for Holy Week and to enter more deeply and spiritually into the passion, death and resurrection of our Saviour. Friday after 9am Mass beginning at 9.30am. All Welcome.



7. Catechist Sunday

Our Parish community celebrates Catechist Sunday at our Masses, this weekend. Our catechists, women and men, take the Good News that God loves them to the children at Austral Public School. The women and men who do this ministry are dedicated in their love of the Lord and the children they minister to in the various years. But, they look for more assistance every year. Can you help out? Talk to the catechist outside Mass. Thank you.

8. New Rosters

New Readers Rosters are available on the table at the back of the Church, please take one home.

May God Bless you



Fr Bob



CHURCH CLEANING ROSTER

24-29 February

M Gimellaro, M DeVries,
L Pecotich, S Taoum, V Laferla

2-7 March

Volunteers



READERS ROSTER

22/23 February

Saturday Vigil: 5.30pm

Commentator: Marcelo Steimeisser

Readers:

Marcelo Steimbeisser: 1st Reading

Natasha Steimbeisser: 2nd Reading & Prayers of Faithful

Sunday: 7.30am

Commentator: Liz Habib

Readers:

Liz Habib: 1st Reading

Margaret Cvetko: 2nd Reading & Prayers of Faithful

Sunday: 9am

Commentator: Nicole Hext

Readers:

Nicole Hext: 1st Reading

Frances Musso: 2nd Reading & Prayers of Faithful

29 Feb/ 1 March (First Sunday of Lent)

Saturday Vigil: 5.30pm

Commentator: Rita Zappia

Readers:

Rita Zappia: 1st Reading

Maja Simat: 2nd Reading & Prayers of Faithful

Sunday: 7.30am

Commentator: Pasqualina Catanzariti

Readers:

Pasqualina Catazarinti: 1st Reading

Wendy Tourle: 2nd Reading & Prayers of Faithful

Sunday: 9am

Commentator: Faye Palamara

Readers:

Faye Palamara: 1st Reading

Mica Pace: 2nd Reading & Prayers of Faithful

Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist Roster

22/23 February

Saturday Vigil

Rose Crescini & Margaret De Vries



Sunday 7.30am

Virginia Romeo & Pasqualina Catanzariti

Sunday 9am

Faye Palamara & Karen Power

29 Feb/ 1 March

Saturday Vigil

Catherine Florio & Julie Dimech

Sunday 7.30am

Virginia Romeo & Pasqualina Catanzariti

Sunday 9am

Olivia Tropea & Pam Ajkay

ACOLYTES ROSTER

22/23 February

Saturday Vigil

Gerry Crescini

Sunday 7.30am

George Ajkay

Sunday 9am

Anthony Zanetic

29 Feb/ 1 March

Saturday Vigil

Gerry Crescini

Sunday 7.30am

George Ajkay

Sunday 9am

Anthony Zanetic

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

22 February

Faye Hockings & Vicky Bugeja



29 February

Natalie Valenizi & Rose Micallef

9am Sunday

Nicole Hext & Michelle Falzon

NURSING HOME ROSTER

23 February

Sister Rosa & Jayann

28 February

Mass



POPE FRANCIS COLUMN



The Holy Father's Catechesis on Wednesday 19 February 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters, good morning!

In today's catechesis we focus on the third of the eight Beatitudes of Matthew's Gospel: "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth" (Matthew 5:5). The term "meek" used here means, literally, delicate, docile and gentle, devoid of violence. Meekness is manifested in moments of conflict, seen is how one reacts to a hostile situation. Anyone can sow meekness when all is calm, but how does one react "under pressure," if attacked, offended, assaulted?

Saint Paul recalls in a passage "the meekness and gentleness of Christ" (2 Corinthians 10:1). And Saint Peter in turn recalls Jesus' attitude in the Passion: He did not respond or threaten because "He trusted to Him who judges justly" (1 Peter 2:23). And Jesus' meekness is seen strongly in His Passion. In Scripture the word "meek" also indicates one who does not have earthly property; therefore, we are struck by the fact that the third Beatitude says, in fact, that the meek "shall inherit the earth." In reality, this Beatitude quotes Psalm 37, which we heard at the beginning of the catechesis. There, also, meekness and possession of the earth are related. On second thought, these two things seem incompatible. In fact, possession of the earth is the typical ambit of conflict: often there are combats for a territory, to have hegemony over a certain area. In wars, the strongest prevails and conquers other lands. However, let's look well at the verb used to indicate the possession of the meek: they don't conquer the earth. No, it doesn't say "blessed are the meek because they will conquer the earth," <but> they will "inherit" it. Blessed are the meek because they will "inherit" the earth. In the Scriptures the verb "inherit" has an even greater meaning. In fact, the People of God call "inheritance" the land of Israel, which is the Promised Land. That land is a promise and a gift for the People of God, and it becomes a sign of something much greater than a simple territory. There is a "land" — allow me the play on words — that is Heaven, namely, the land towards which we are walking: the new Heavens and the new earth towards which we are going (Cf. Isaiah 65:17; 66:22; 2 Peter 3:13; Revelation 21:1). So, the meek is he who "inherits" the most sublime of territories. He isn't a coward, a "weak" person who finds an expedient morality to remain outside of problems. Quite the contrary! He is a person that has received an inheritance and doesn't want to squander it. The meek person isn't accommodating, but is a disciple of Christ who has learned to defend another land. He defends his peace; he defends his relationship with God; he defends his gifts, God's gifts, guarding mercy, fraternity, confidence and persons with hope. Here we must make reference to the sin of anger, a violent motion, whose impulse we all know. Who hasn't been angry sometime? All. We must reverse the Beatitude and ask ourselves a question: how many things have we destroyed with anger? How many things have we lost? A moment of anger can destroy so many things; one loses control and one doesn't value what is really important, and one can ruin the relationship with a brother, sometimes without a remedy. So many brothers don't talk to one another any longer because of anger; they distance themselves from each other. It's the opposite of meekness. Meekness, gathers, anger, separates. Meekness is the conquest of so many things. Meekness is capable of winning the heart, of saving friendships, and so many other things, because people get angry but then they calm down, they think again and retrace their steps, and so one can reconstruct with meekness. The "earth" to be won with meekness is the salvation of that brother of whom Matthew's Gospel itself speaks: "If he listens to you, you have gained your brother" (Matthew 18:15). There is no land more beautiful than the heart of others; there is not territory more beautiful to gain than peace found again with a brother. And that's the earth to inherit with meekness!





FAREWELL TO FR BOB



Sadly, Fr Bob is moving on and leaving St Anthony's, as much as we wish him well, he will be sorely missed.

Catherine and I have organised a committee to help us with a Farewell Morning Tea for Fr Bob on Sunday March 29 in the hall, after the 9am Mass.

I am putting out a sheet for parishioners to sign up to come, for catering purposes. Please put your name and number of Adults and Children in the space provided.

As Fr Bob is leaving us to travel to Italy, he will be travelling very light, so, a collection box will be set up in the Church after Masses on the Sundays before Fr Bob leaves.

Collection dates are 7/8, 14/15, 21/22 and 28/29 March. The box will also be in the Hall the day of his farewell.



WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

In your love and concern, please pray for:-

Recently Deceased: Salvatore Villarosa, Herman Chelliah, Sr Emmanuel Grenfield.

Anniversaries: Rosario (Ross) Cavallaro, Teresa Brassil.

Also for: Holy Souls.

We remember those who are sick in the community that the Lord will be their comforter and healer as we pray for:

Ian & Shirley Farrell, Ken O'Leary, Paul Farnsworth, Fred Pjanic, Marie Gough, Michael Jasenko, Tomislav Juric, Ernest Rust, James Dimech, Jean Poles.

Catholic Weekly—Available \$2.00

- Meet the Philosopher Chef
- From India with love-and faith
- Love on the Camino
- Rural aged care crisis
- Movie Reviews: Parasite
- Monica Doumit

Please put \$2 in the poor box

Banns of Marriage

The Banns of Marriage are announced for:

Anthony Raso (Lurnea)
and
Vanessa Mitroff (Lurnea)

Sam Rigitano (Lurnea)
and
Meghan Leah Bissett (Austral)

Anyone knowing any reason why these couples should not be bound in the Sacrament of Marriage is asked to inform the Parish Priest.
(Canon Law Nos 1066 and 1069)



Parish Hall for Hire

The Parish Hall has had a make-over, as those who have worked in it can testify.

The room has been painted, splash tiles around the sink area, a new oven and the cupboards have been repaired.

Parishioners are welcome to hire the hall for family celebrations, baptism parties, wedding anniversaries and birthday parties for children up to age 10.

Teenage parties may be an issue so the parish will NOT hire out to these events.

The cost of hire is: \$450 plus a bond of \$100 that will be returned as long as the Hall is left clean & tidy with no damages.

Anyone interested in hiring the hall should contact the parish secretary for the rental agreement and the hirer's responsibility using the hall.

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.

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT MORNINGS

This service is for family and friends who grieve the loss of a loved one and the changes that loss makes in one's life.

Morning tea is provided in a relaxed and caring setting.

For further information contact:

Bereavement support Ph: 02 9646 6908 or email: bereavementsupport@catholiccemeteries.com.au

If you or a friend are in need of such support please ring and attend the session

Sessions held: Every Third Wednesday of the Month from 10am-1pm.

KID'S CORNER

Q. Why do bees have sticky hair?

A. Because they use honey combs.



BAPTISMS AT ST ANTHONY'S

We welcomed into our Faith-Community
last weekend

Chiara Antonina Morris
(Child of Gavin & Maria)



The Chain of Mary Association Inc

The Chain of Mary Association Inc One Decade
Rosary Booklets.

Please feel free to take the Chain of Mary one
decade Rosary booklet and 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 the book provided on the table at the
back of the church and once a week Mass will be
offered for you and your intentions.

For any enquiries please call
Sr-in-Christ Rosa
Ph: 96067571



Lenten Discussion Programme

The Liturgy Committee meeting held last Tuesday evening suggested that we re-introduce the Lenten Discussion Programme during the Season of Lent.

Lent is a time to make sacrifices and time for God. Instead of not putting sugar in your tea or giving up watching TV one night a week, instead deepen your faith through listening and sharing with other parishioners.

We are following the Wollongong Diocese programme entitled "Grace." The programme has reflections, prayers and discussion questions.

Two members of the Liturgy Committee invite you to join them.

Edward—Thursday Evening at 7pm

Faye—Tuesday Morning at 9.30am

The Programme looks at about 1 1/4 hours in duration.

Please put your names on sheets at the back of the Church.



Using the Parish Toilets

A bin has been placed in the Ladies toilets for soiled nappies and sanitary napkins.

Please use the bags provided and the bin.

Please **DO NOT** throw them in the toilet, we have had to get the plumber out too many times, and this is a big cost to the parish.

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.

Pastoral Support Safe-Guarding Officer (PSSO)



Recently, I met with our PSSO, Mrs Natasha Steimbeisser. As mentioned late last year after Natasha offered to be the PSSO, I said that the Archbishop has mandated that all parishioners involved in any ministry or group in the parish community is asked to attend a training session.

The sessions will cover areas of interest regarding the safety of children, young people and vulnerable adults.

At this time, Natasha is offering Sessions both evening and morning. I ask all parishioners to look at the three sessions on offer, choose the session that suits you and come along. The sessions will be held in the hall.

Safeguarding Sessions:

Thursday 27 February	7-9.30pm
Friday 6 March	9.30-12 noon
Thursday 2 April	7-9.30pm

All sessions will be held in the Parish Hall.
Tea/Coffee will be available during the session.



Visit Of The Relics Of St Thérèse Of Lisieux and Her Parents

The National Pilgrimage of the Relics of Saints Thérèse, and her parents, Louis and Zélie, will visit the Archdiocese of Sydney in February and March. Attached to this email is the full itinerary, which we ask you to print in A3 and post up on your parish noticeboard so that parishioners are aware of where and when they can take this opportunity to venerate the relics of one of the Catholic Church's most popular saints and her parents who helped nurture her faith.

Women's Lenten Retreat

This is an invitation to all women to attend a Lenten Retreat to be held at Mt Schoenstatt, Mulgoa from 6 pm, Friday 28th February – 4 pm Sunday 1st March, 2020

Venue: Mount Schoenstatt Spirituality Centre, 230 Fairlight Road, Mulgoa 2745

Cost: \$170 – twin-share, \$210 – single room (when available)

Day Participation: 9am – 5pm - \$60 Registration.

For Booking Form & Payment contact: info@schoenstatt.org.au or Phone: 4773 8338

Essential by 14 February.