

22 March 2020-Year A Fourth Sunday of Lent



Entrance Antiphon: Rejoice Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

Responsorial Psalm: The Lord is my Shepherd, there is nothing I shall want.

Gospel Acclamation:

Glory to You, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will have the light of life. **Glory to You, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!**

Communion Antiphon: The Lord anointed my eyes: I went, I washed, I saw and I believed in God.

**Dear Parishioners,
We celebrate the Fourth Sunday of Lent**

1. The Blind Man who wanted for Nothing

The Psalm says, "The Lord is my Shepherd. There is nothing I shall want." But the Gospel Reading tells the story of a man born blind. How is the Psalm supposed to be made consonant with the Gospel Reading? Doesn't the man born blind have something that he lacks?

When the story ends, he has become an icon of faith and courage.

The disciples of Jesus are anxious about this blind man too, and they try to allay their anxiety by finding some explanation for his blindness. "Why was this man born blind?" they ask Jesus. "Did this man sin or was it his parents?" If it was *anybody's* sin, then they can reasonably hope that such suffering won't come to their families, at least it won't come if they all try hard not to sin.

But this is an appalling way to think about suffering, isn't it?

It is terrible to suppose that all suffering is punishment for sin. What kind of God inflicts blindness on a newborn as a punishment for sin?

Jesus dismisses their attitude entirely. This man's blindness has nothing to do with the sins of anyone, Jesus says. It's something about the future—not something about the past—that explains his blindness. God let this man be born blind that the works of God might be manifest through him. So that is Jesus' explanation for the man's blindness, but it looks at least as bad as the thought of the disciples, doesn't it? What kind of God inflicts blindness on a newborn so that the works of God can be manifest in him later?

But think about that blind man himself.

At the outset of the story, he is an impoverished outcast, a beggar, a nobody. Then the mighty works of God are manifest in him, and he takes the Lord as his Shepherd. The result is that he himself becomes glorious. When the story ends, he has become an icon of faith and courage. He has stood up to the worldly power of the leaders of his community and witnessed to the goodness of God in very challenging circumstances. He has become an example to us all.

Who would not want to be like him? And that is why it was true for him that the Lord was his shepherd, even though he was born blind. In the end, the Lord was his Shepherd, and there was nothing the blind man lacked, just as the Psalmist says.

ST ANTHONY'S PARISH CHURCH 105 ELEVENTH AVENUE AUSTRAL 2179

Pastor:

Fr. Robert Hayes PP RFD VF

Secretary: Cheryl McKeil
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@stapaaustral.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.



St Anthony's

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Dear Parishioners,

We are obviously in an unfolding situation concerning the transmission of COVID-19 and the parish and school are monitoring the situation closely. The overriding concern for me and Lea De Angelis is the health of all college and parish families, especially the vulnerable. The Church is not immune, but in times like these it is important not to panic or to lose heart. As the Psalm says "Trust in the Lord, for He is your help and your salvation".

If this pandemic shakes us up and starts us thinking about who or what is most important to us and what we should be doing with our lives, then that could be a good thing.

What is required of us at present? Government has already indicated that there can be no mass gatherings indoors of over 100 people or outdoor gatherings of more than 500. This therefore affects our sacramental celebrations. The Archbishop of Sydney, Archbishop Anthony Fisher, has indicated to the parish the following:

- Indoor Masses can be conducted with no more than 100 people
- Outdoor Masses can be conducted with no more than 500 people

This weekend therefore, the Vigil Mass (Saturday 5.30pm) and Sunday 9am Mass will be celebrated in front of the church outdoors. Please bring chairs or a rug for your family.

Celebration of the Sacraments

We were looking forward to celebrating First Holy Communion in June, however due to government regulations, we have had no choice but to postpone the celebration of this sacrament for Year 3 children until further notice. The sacrament of Confirmation in the parish for any of your older children is also cancelled at this time. The sacrament of Reconciliation for Year 2 children which occurs later in the year, may also have to be rescheduled. Fr Kene, the new Parish Administrator, will review these decisions at an appropriate time.

I am very sorry, particularly to the Year 3 students and their families, as I know this must be a big disappointment to them. But in this challenging time, let's do our best to ensure that our faith is shaping our decisions: that we are acting with Christ's care and love for others, especially those who are suffering or are at significant risk from this virus. Let us keep in our prayers those who are sick and those who are caring for them as well as those working to find a vaccine.

Yours in Christ,

Fr Bob Hayes
Parish Priest

Fr Bob's Farewell

Due to the ongoing situation with the COVID-19 Virus and the Prime Minister, last Wednesday limiting gatherings, the farewell has been put on hold at this point in time. Also, my departure for Rome, Italy is an unknown, as well, due to Italy being in lockdown and the Prime Minister encouraging all Australians to stay at home.

Thank You

I'd like to thank John-William Fisher, a parishioner and reader at the 9am Mass for providing us the Hand Sanitisers as we entre the Church. Please avail yourself of them.

Liturgy Committee Meeting

The Liturgy meeting moved from last Monday will be held on Monday 30 April at 7.30pm. Members are asked to pencil it into their diary. Thank you.

Easter Ceremonies

At this stage I cannot indicate if they will be able to be celebrated. I am waiting on advice from the Arch Bishop, I hope in the next week or two there will be a definite answer regarding Easter Ceremonies.

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.

Day of the Unborn Child Sunday 29 March 2020

The Feast of the Annunciation is internationally recognised as the Day of the Unborn Child. It marks the day Our Lord Jesus Christ became a tiny unborn child in His mother's womb. It is a day of celebration and remembrance of the dignity of the unborn. It is also a day to remember the millions of unborn children whose lives have been ended by the violence of abortion.

St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney will have a mass at 10.30am, 12 noon Angelus, followed by a prayerful street procession led by Archbishop Fisher, Bishop Umbers and Bishop Antoine-Charbel Tarabay. Including an address at Parliament House by Rebecca Gosper.

For more information regarding the Day of the Unborn Child please contact, Life and Family Institute Ph 02 9002 0354 or lifeandfamily.com.au infor@lifeandfamily.com.au

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



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.

CHURCH CLEANING ROSTER

23-28 March

S Mercieca, M Farrugia,
T Gimellaro, M Camilleri

30 March - 4 April

V Casha, S Arcuri,
M Masini, M Cvetko



READERS ROSTER

21/22 March

Saturday Vigil: 5.30pm

Commentator: Teresa Calarco

Readers:

Teresa Calarco: 1st Reading

Rita Moro: 2nd Reading & Prayers of Faithful

Sunday: 7.30am

Commentator: Mark O'Neill

Readers:

Mark O'Neill: 1st Reading

Heidi O'Neill: 2nd Reading & Prayers of Faithful

Sunday: 9am

Commentator: Mica Pace

Readers:

Mica Pace: 1st Reading

Faye Palamara: 2nd Reading & Prayers of Faithful

28/29 March (5th Sunday of Lent)

Saturday Vigil: 5.30pm

Commentator: Julie Dimech

Readers:

Julie Dimech: 1st Reading

Margaret de Vries: 2nd Reading & Prayers of Faithful

Sunday: 7.30am

Commentator: Margaret Cvetko

Readers:

Margaret Cvetko: 1st Reading

Liz Habib: 2nd Reading & Prayers of Faithful

Sunday: 9am

Commentator: Sam Sofi

Readers:

Sam Sofi: 1st Reading

Massimo Sofi: 2nd Reading & Prayers of Faithful

Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist Roster

21/22 March

Saturday Vigil

Veronica & Sarah Casha



Sunday 7.30am

Virginia Romeo & Pasqualina Catanzariti

Sunday 9am

Karen Power & Volunteer

28/29 March

Saturday Vigil

Rose Crescini & Julie Dimech

Sunday 7.30am

Virginia Romeo & Pasqualina Catanzariti

Sunday 9am

Phil Gigliotti & Pam Ajkay

ACOLYTES ROSTER

21/22 March

Saturday Vigil

Gerry Crescini

Sunday 7.30am

George Ajkay

Sunday 9am

Anthony Zanetic

28/29 March

Saturday Vigil

Gerry Crescini

Sunday 7.30am

George Ajkay

Sunday 9am

Anthony Zanetic

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

21 March

Pauline Vassallo & Melinda Cansino



28 March

Rita & Chiara Moro

9am Sunday

Nicole Hext & Michelle Falzon

NURSING HOME ROSTER

22 March

Faye & Frances

27 March

Mass



POPE FRANCIS COLUMN



MARCH 17, 2020 13:44 DEBORAH CASTELLANO LUBOV POPE'S MORNING HOMILY

Let's pray for all the grandmas, grandpas, and all the elderly...

Pope Francis encouraged faithful worldwide to welcome his invitation, during his private daily Mass at his residence Casa Santa Marta, again offered for the victims and those affected by the Coronavirus, praying today especially the elderly who are alone and are afraid.

The Masses in Francis' chapel are now being kept private, without people attending.

Again during today's Mass, the Holy Father expressed his closeness to those suffering, the elderly, and all those working to contain and cure the virus.

"May God," the Holy Father prayed today, similar to his intention yesterday, "help families rediscover true affection in this difficult time"

In his homily, the Holy Father reflected on today's readings which spoke of forgiveness, reported Vatican News.

The Jesuit Pope stressed that we are to always forgive, even at times where it seems most challenging. Peter, Francis recalled, asks the question: "If my brother sins against me, offends me, how many times must I forgive him? Seven times?" And Jesus answers with that word that in their language means "always": "Seventy times seven."

We must always forgive, the Pontiff said, recognizing "it's not easy," because our egoistic heart is always attached to hatred, to revenge, to resentment.

"We have all witnessed," Francis lamented, "families destroyed by family hatreds that go back from one generation to another; brothers that, before the coffin of a parent, don't greet one another because they bear within old resentments."

The devil, the Argentine Pope warned, always crouches between our resentments, between our hatreds and makes them grow. Francis said he keeps them there "to destroy, to destroy everything. And many times, he destroys for little things..."

Jesus' parable today, Francis underscored, is very clear: forgive.

"Forgiveness," he said, "is the condition to enter Heaven." The Lord's generosity, the Holy Father reminded, teaches us this.

"In fact, He says to us: "Do you go to Mass?" — "Yes" — but if when you go to Mass you remember that your brother has something against you, first reconcile yourself."

"Do not come to Me," he continued, "with love for Me in one hand, and hatred for your brother in the other" — coherence of love, forgiveness, forgiveness from the heart."

The Pope prayed the Lord teach us the wisdom of forgiveness.

Moreover, he invited faithful watching the streaming Mass to do the following: "when we go to Confession, to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation, let's first ask ourselves: "Do I forgive?"

"If I feel that I don't forgive," he said, "I must not feign to ask for forgiveness, because I won't be forgiven; to ask for forgiveness means to forgive, they are both together. They can't be separated..."

Pope Francis concluded, calling on all faithful to let go of any resentment and move forward.





FAREWELL TO FR BOB



The Collection Box for Fr Bob is available on the table at the back of the Church.

Due to the Coronavirus we will be cancelling Fr Bob's farewell for March 29, as much as we would love to send him off with a lovely get together we are unable to because of numbers not being more than 100 gathered together.

We will still leave the Collection Box in the Church for any one wishing to donate.



WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

In your love and concern, please pray for:-

Recently Deceased:

Anniversaries: Oscar Morales

Also for: Charlie Vella, Holy Souls, Pietro Calarco.

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, Marie Gough, Michael Jasenko, Tomislav Juric, Ernest Rust, James Dimech, Jean Poles, Margarita Vartuli.

Catholic Weekly—Available \$2.00

- Out of dark, Faith shines
- State-ordered death
- Francis walks Rome's deserted streets to pray
- Dad deacon assists son's consecration
- Movie Reviews: Hunters (Amazon)
- The Catholics who don't believe in God

Please put \$2 in the poor box

BAPTISMS AT ST ANTHONY'S

We welcomed into our Faith-Community last weekend

Emilia Svalina
(Children of Ivan & Olivia)

Hunter Scalici
(Child of Vincent & Belinda)

Ariana Stribl
(Child of Duro & Lesly)



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. What do you get when you cross a snowman with a vampire?

A. Frostbite.





Pastoral Letter to the Pastors and People of the Archdiocese of Sydney in a Time of Pandemic 18 March 2020

Apocalypse now?

Drought, fires, storms and now plague. It can feel like the end of the world is coming.

In a sense it is. The world as we know it is being turned upside down – at least temporarily – as many get sick and some die from COVID-19, and so much of ordinary life is put on hold.

The Church is not immune. I was recently tested for COVID-19 and put into self-isolation myself and, though happily I tested negative, I know the disruption and anxiety people are experiencing.

But in times like these it's important not to panic or lose heart. If this pandemic shakes us up and starts us thinking about who or what's most important to us and what we should be doing with our lives, that can be a good thing.

Worshipping in spirit and in truth

One of the great Lent gospels is the story of the woman at the well. The woman asked some questions about worship. 'The hour is coming,' Jesus answered her, 'indeed it is here already, when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth.' (*Jn 4:23*)

What does that require of us at present? Several instructions have already come from health authorities and the Church. Outside gatherings of more than 500 people and indoors gatherings of 100 have been forbidden; in due course the public celebration of Mass may have to be suspended. Individuals have already been asked, before attending liturgical celebrations, to consider their own health – both their potential to infect others and their susceptibility to infection. Parishioners or clergy who feel unwell or have flu-like symptoms should remain at home. Please be assured that the rest of us will be praying for you.

With this letter I am today issuing some new directives for the celebration of the sacraments and pastoral care in the Archdiocese during this pandemic.

The Church in Australia was founded at a time when the Mass could not be celebrated on these shores and our forefathers and mothers waited for years to receive the Holy Eucharist. For us it will be at worst a matter of weeks or months. But just as prayer sustained them through those times, so can it for us today.

We are now all going on retreat together

Our enforced retreat from the world can be an opportunity to grow closer to God and more prayerful.

Continued pastoral care of the sick

Please be assured that any Catholic who contracts COVID-19 will as far as possible be assisted by our clergy with the sacraments and other pastoral care. It's at times like these that our pastors really shine.

Clergy will continue attending the sick, elderly and incarcerated to provide Confession, Anointing of the Sick, Holy Communion and other pastoral care, unless they are themselves at risk of transmitting the virus. All ministers should follow precautions recommended by health authorities when visiting people's homes, aged care facilities, hospitals, prisons and detention centres.

Where a priest tests positive for COVID-19 or is required to self-isolate, every effort will be made to find a supply priest to take his place. In some places the cancellation of Masses may be required and/or provision of a Liturgy of the Word with distribution of Holy Communion.

Even if physical distancing is sometimes desirable, 'social distancing' is never so. We all need human company. So in addition to the sacramental care provided by parishes, healthy young volunteers and others should consider prudent ways to check in with the sick, frail elderly or otherwise isolated to inquire whether they have particular needs – for groceries, medicine, pastoral care or simple company. Individuals could cook meals and deliver them to the doorsteps of those in isolation.

Modern technologies can also assist in overcoming some people's sense of isolation.

To help people maintain their physical health and spiritual life through this crisis, we have a page on our archdiocesan website. For latest updates, prayers and spiritual resources, and to watch Mass online visit <https://www.sydneycatholic.org/coronavirus-updates/>.

In this difficult time I entrust our Archdiocese and our nation to the intercession of Our Lady, Help of Christians, of Lourdes, and of Good Health. God bless you all.

Yours sincerely in Christ

(Most Rev.) Anthony Fisher OP