

# 8 March 2020-Year A Second Sunday of Lent



**Entrance Antiphon:** Of you my heart has spoken: Seek His face, It is Your face, O Lord, that I seek; hide not Your face from me.

**Responsorial Psalm:** Lord, let Your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in You.

**Gospel Acclamation:**

**Glory and Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ!**

From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard: this is my beloved Son, hear Him. **Glory and Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ!**

**Communion Antiphon:** This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to Him.

**Dear Parishioners,**

**We celebrate the Second Sunday of Lent Year A**

## 1. The Promises of God

When God told Abraham to leave home, God was asking a lot of him. The world was not a global village then. Travel wasn't easy; there were no planes, taxis, or hotels. Furthermore, leaving home was a decisive break with all the good of home, because going back for a visit was difficult or just out of the question entirely. So leaving home then was a loss that we can't imagine well anymore, in our era of video calls and texting.

Still, when God told Abraham to leave, Abraham went.

**Maybe Abraham is the father of faith because he was willing to stake his life on a promise.**

Why did he go? Presumably because he wanted what God offered him. If Abraham left, God told him, then Abraham would become a great nation, and all the communities of the earth would find blessing in him. That is a fairly stunning reward.

So Abraham, who had a great desire for that reward, obeyed God, left what was familiar and beloved to him, and wandered off as a stranger in a strange land.

And then notice what happened.

Abraham lived a very long time after this promise of God's and he stayed faithful to God's commands his whole life. But by the time Abraham died, this is all Abraham had: one son to carry on his posterity under this promise and two grandchildren. By anybody's estimation, this is a very small family. Certainly, one son and two grandsons is not a great nation. Furthermore, hardly any communities knew Abraham at all, let alone found a blessing in him. The idea that all the communities of the earth would find blessing in Abraham really would have been completely laughable at that time, wouldn't it?

Of course, as we now see it, all Jews, Christians, and Muslims are the Abrahamic peoples. Many great nations are included among the Abrahamic peoples. All of them know Abraham and think that they find blessing in Abraham.

And so God's stunning promise to Abraham has been completely fulfilled. But Abraham did not live to see it. He had to take the fulfillment of God's promise to him on faith.

So maybe Abraham is the father of faith because he was willing to stake his life on a promise whose fulfillment did not come in his lifetime on earth. In this, he is not only the patriarch of the family of faith but also a pattern to follow for all those in his family.



## **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.

## 2. Ride-On Lawn mower

As mentioned previously, John Bonanno has looked after the Church and Presbytery lawns for years. We owe him a debt of gratitude for his work. Unfortunately, he is not able to continue. Joe Vella has helped out when he has been able and I thank him too. However, with the rain recently, I had to hire "Jim's Lawnmowing Service" to do the lawns and the presbytery area was \$400. He told me it would have been \$600 (he gave the parish a discount!)

Has any parishioner a ride-on lawnmower that they no longer want due to them moving to smaller property?

The parish is in need of a second hand mower. Does anyone know anyone? Let me know if you do!

Thank you.

## 3. Liturgy Committee Meeting

A reminder that the Liturgy Committee will meet on Monday week 16 March at 7.30pm in the presbytery.

The meeting is to finalise our Easter Liturgies.

## 4. Coronavirus

I am sorry to inform all parishioners that I have had an email from the Bishop's Conference regarding the following and I have to take the following actions within the weekend and weekday liturgies due to the continuing health concerns of the Coronavirus.

1. The offering of the Precious Blood at our Eucharist will cease due to the health concerns. Apparently, at last Sunday's 9am Mass the priest and acolyte had to consume both chalices as parishioners only received the Body of Christ (the Host). The faithful should be reminded that Christ is fully present under either species.

2. We have been asked that all parishioners receive Holy Communion in the hand so that the Minister is not in contact with saliva in the mouth. All Ministers of Holy Communion should take particular care to wash their hands before and after distributing. Appropriate means should be made available.

3. Parishes and other settings where liturgies are celebrated should make alcohol-based gels or rubs (or like products) available near entrances. Gels will be available as we enter the Church, and Parishioners are invited to use them.

4. The offering of the "sign of peace" by the handshake has stopped. NSW Health advises against the shaking of hands because of the virus. At the "sign of peace" can we just turn to the person next to us or behind or in front and greet them with a "wave", "smile" or "a nod".

5. The NSW Health Minister this past week has reminded us of the regular washing of our hands and the use of "Hand Sanitiser". I ask all Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist to use the "Hand Sanitiser" as they come up to the altar. As the old saying goes: Cleanliness is next to Godliness.

## 5. Easter Ceremonies

As we prepare for the Easter Ceremonies, we need assistance from you, the parishioners.

Sheets for the various liturgies will be available next weekend.

This Weekend I am seeking our youth and young people to assist in the Good Friday afternoon liturgical action by acting out the Lord's Passion. There is a sign-up sheet on the back table of the Church. Please assist by being involved.

## 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. Funeral For Edvin Kresvan

The funeral Mass for Edvin Krsevan, from Kemp's Creek will be held at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church Mount Pritchard on Tuesday 10 March at 10.30am.

Rosary will be prayed at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church on Monday 9 March at 5.00pm. All Welcome.

May God Bless you

Fr. Bob

Fr Bob



## CHURCH CLEANING ROSTER

### 9-14 March

J Bartolo, J Camilleri,  
M Camilleri

### 16-21 March

L Simat, Y Refalo



## READERS ROSTER

### 7/8 March

#### **Saturday Vigil: 5.30pm**

Commentator: David Casha

Readers:

David Casha: 1st Reading

Sarah Casha: 2nd Reading & Prayers of Faithful

#### **Sunday: 7.30am**

Commentator: Pasqualina Catanzariti

Readers:

Pasqualina Catanzariti: 1st Reading

Margaret Cvetko: 2nd Reading & Prayers of Faithful

#### **Sunday: 9am**

Commentator: Tessie Christophers

Readers:

Tessie Christophers: 1st Reading

John-William Flsher: 2nd Reading & Prayers of Faithful

### 14/15 March (3rd Sunday of Lent)

#### **Saturday Vigil: 5.30pm**

Commentator: Veronica Casha

Readers:

Veronica Casha: 1st Reading

Vanessa Casha: 2nd Reading & Prayers of Faithful

#### **Sunday: 7.30am**

Commentator: Anne Violi

Readers:

Anne Violi: 1st Reading

Wendy Tourle: 2nd Reading & Prayers of Faithful

#### **Sunday: 9am**

Commentator: Frances Musso

Readers:

Frances Musso: 1st Reading

Nicole Hext: 2nd Reading & Prayers of Faithful

## Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist Roster

### 7/8 March

#### **Saturday Vigil**

Bonnie Szafranski & Victoria Bugeja



#### **Sunday 7.30am**

Virginia Romeo & Pasqualina Catanzariti

#### **Sunday 9am**

Jayann Montemayor & Phil Gigliotti

### 14/15 March

#### **Saturday Vigil**

David Casha & Margaret De Vries

#### **Sunday 7.30am**

Virginia Romeo & Pasqualina Catanzariti

#### **Sunday 9am**

Faye Palamara & Frances Musso

## ACOLYTES ROSTER

### 7/8 March

#### **Saturday Vigil**

Gerry Crescini

#### **Sunday 7.30am**

George Ajkay

#### **Sunday 9am**

Anthony Zanetic

### 14/15 March

#### **Saturday Vigil**

Gerry Crescini

#### **Sunday 7.30am**

George Ajkay

#### **Sunday 9am**

Anthony Zanetic

## CHILDREN'S LITURGY

### 7 March

Sarah & Veronica Casha

### 14 March

Sylvia Mercieca & Lily Camilleri

#### **9am Sunday**

Nicole Hext & Michelle Falzon



## NURSING HOME ROSTER

### 8 March

Lina & Santina

### 22 March

Faye & Frances



## POPE FRANCIS COLUMN



The Holy Land: 'Physical Place Where Jesus Lived Agony, Transforming It Into Redemptive Action Thanks to Infinite Love.'

Cardinal Sandri Explains Collection for Holy Land Helps Safeguard Christians in Middle East, Give Voice to Voiceless, & Preserve Sanctuaries on MARCH 04, 2020.

"The Holy Land is the physical place where Jesus lived this agony and this suffering, transforming it into redemptive action thanks to an infinite love..."

This important reminder was given in a letter regarding this year's Collection for the Holy Land, Cardinal Leonardo Sandri, Prefect of the Vatican's Congregation for Oriental Churches, dated Ash Wednesday, Feb. 26, 2020.

"The Holy Land and especially the Christian community that lives there has always occupied an important place in the heart of the universal Church," he reminds, noting that as St. Paul recalls, when the Church "expresses its solidarity with Jerusalem, including through economic support, [She] performs an act of restitution."

"Indeed," Cardinal Sandri stressed, "the whole Church has received from Jerusalem the gift and joy of the Gospel and of salvation in Christ Jesus "who, though he was rich, made himself poor for you, so that you could become rich through his poverty" (2 Cor 8:9)."

Awareness of this gift, he stressed, "still motivates us to give with joy and generosity, in fidelity to the Church's earnest request to all her children."

**Trials Not Finished**

"You know well," Cardinal Sandri pointed out, "what severe trials the Church in the Holy Land and throughout the Middle East has endured over the centuries." Saying those trials are not yet finished, he stressed: "the tragedy of the progressive reduction of the number of local faithful continues, with the consequent risk of seeing the various Christian traditions that date back to the early centuries disappear." "Long and exhausting wars continue to produce millions of refugees and strongly influence the future of entire generations.

The Argentinian prelate recognized that "they see themselves deprived of the most basic goods such as the right to a peaceful childhood, to a harmonious school education, to dedicating one's youth to looking for a job and forming a family, to discovering one's vocation, to an industrious and dignified adult life, and to a peaceful old age."

**Safeguarding, & a Voice to the Voiceless**

"The Church," he reassured, "continues to work to safeguard the Christian presence and to give voice to the voiceless." He said She does so on a pastoral and liturgical level, "fundamental for the life of our small communities," and also through continuing to work seriously to provide quality education through schools. This education, he stressed, is fundamental "for safeguarding Christian identity and for building fraternal coexistence especially with Muslims, according to the indications contained in the "Abu Dhabi Declaration".

Thanks to the generosity of the faithful around the world, the Church continues to make accommodation available to young people who wish to form a new family, as well as to facilitate their search for employment. Likewise, she continues to provide concrete material assistance where there are forms of endemic poverty, such as health needs and humanitarian emergencies linked to the flow of refugees and foreign migrant workers.

Care of the Holy Land's Sanctuaries, he also highlighted, would be impossible without the collection pro Terra Sancta. They are fundamentally important, both because "they preserve the memory of divine revelation, the mystery of the Incarnation and our Redemption," and because "in those places the local Christian community finds the foundations of its identity."

The Cardinal thanked them for anything they can do, and also on Pope Francis' behalf.





## FAREWELL TO FR BOB



**The Collection Box is available from this weekend  
It is on the table at the back of the Church.**

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:** Alfredo Pjanic, Angelo Cimone, Edvin Kresvan.

**Anniversaries:** Carmen Xerri.

**Also for:** Emmanuel and Mary Gatt, Mary Vella, William Carpenter, 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, Marie Gough, Michael Jasenko, Tomislav Juric, Ernest Rust, James Dimech, Jean Poles, Margarita Vartuli.

## Catholic Weekly—Available \$2.00

- “They’re people, not property”
- Disability Royal Commission horrors
- 7 steps to a fabulous Lent
- Journalist to give religious freedom talk
- Movie Reviews: Sonic the Hedgehog
- Mexico’s femicide shame

**Please put \$2 in the poor box**

## BAPTISMS AT ST ANTHONY’S

We welcomed into our Faith-Community last weekend

Korbyn Reid Batger  
Hudson Rhys Batger  
(Children of Matthew & Caylah)

Zak Armand Kade Nera  
(Child of Rex & Ariane)

Tobias Phillip Leto  
(Child of Phillip & Melissa)



## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 call an alligator in a vest?

**A.** An investigator.





**Trying for a baby?**  
**Having trouble conceiving?**

There -is a real alternative to IVF – **Billings LIFE**  
Ring for a friendly chat on 1800 335 860 or 03  
9802 2022 Website: [www.billings.life](http://www.billings.life)

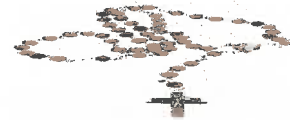
If you have been trying to have a baby without success, our tutors can provide essential information, which will give you the best chance to achieve your pregnancy naturally.

**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



**Relics Of St Thérèse Of Lisieux Excursion**

Many of you may have seen recent media coverage of the St Therese and Sts Louis and Zelig Relics that are currently visiting Parishes in the Sydney diocese and may wonder what this is all about. This excursion may help to answer some of your questions surrounding Relics and Saints. We have the opportunity to journey to St Therese Sadlier/Miller to venerate the Relics of St Therese and her Parents on Wednesday 11 March. We will begin at 8:50am with a Rose inspired prayer service at our Parish Church then car pool and drive to St Therese where Mass will begin at 9:15am then there will be an opportunity for us to spend some time with the relics before they leave St Therese at 11am. If you are interested please Email me at [veronica.leva@syd.catholic.edu.au](mailto:veronica.leva@syd.catholic.edu.au)

A relic is a piece of the body of a saint, an item owned or used by the saint, or an object which has been touched to the tomb of a saint. As Catholics we venerate relics of saints as a profession of belief in several doctrines of the Catholic faith.

1. The belief of eternal life for those who lived exceptional lives while on earth
2. The truth of the resurrection of the body for all on the last day
3. The doctrine of respect for all human life living or deceased
4. The belief that Saints have intercessory powers in Heaven
5. The truth of our connection to Saints as part of the communion of saints

For more detailed information on relic visit

<https://www.catholiceducation.org/en/culture/catholic-contributions/church-teaching-on-relics.html>

**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.

## 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 2 April 7-9.30pm

All sessions will be held in the Parish Hall.

Tea/Coffee will be available during the session.

Safeguarding God's Children



### **NEW Child Protection Reporting Obligations**

On 1 March 2020 amendments to the *Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998* will commence to expand mandatory reporter groups. These amendments are part of the NSW Government's response to recommendations made by the Royal Commission. Mandatory reporting is a legislative requirement to make a report to certain government authorities, in NSW, mandatory reporting is primarily regulated by sections 27 and 27A of the *Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998*. Mandatory reporter groups in NSW will be expanded to include:

- Persons in religious ministry or persons providing religion-based activities to children (e.g. minister of religion, priest, deacon, pastor, rabbi, religious brother or sister)
- Registered psychologists providing a professional service as a psychologist.

### **What does this mean for the Archdiocese of Sydney?**

This means that any of our **clergy, deacons, religious brothers and religious sisters** are **legally** required to make a report when they have reasonable grounds to suspect that a child is at risk of significant harm. It also means that **volunteers and paid employees in Agencies and Parishes of the Archdiocese** who provide activities to children such as Children's Liturgy, Youth Ministry groups, Sacramental programs are also legally required to make a report when they have reasonable grounds to suspect that a child is at risk of significant harm. A reporter has a duty to report, as soon as practicable, the name or a description of the child and the grounds for suspecting that the child is at risk of significant harm.

### **What is Risk of Significant Harm?**

Risk of significant harm is any one or more of the following circumstances

- a) the child's or young person's basic physical or psychological needs are not being met or are at risk of not being met,
- b) the parents or other caregivers have not arranged and are unable or unwilling to arrange for the child or young person to receive necessary medical care
- c) the child or young person has been, or is at risk of being, physically or sexually abused or ill-treated
- d) the child or young person is living in a household where there have been incidents of domestic violence and, as a consequence, the child or young person is at risk of serious physical or psychological harm,
- e) a parent or other caregiver has behaved in such a way towards the child or young person that the child or young person has suffered or is at risk of suffering serious psychological harm.

### **How to make a report?**

Before making a report to the Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ), please contact the Safeguarding Office on **9390 5810**. The Safeguarding Office will help you determine whether the report needs to be made directly to the DCJ or another government authority. Reports to the DCJ are made by calling the NSW Child Protection Helpline on 132 111.

### **Further information**

The Safeguarding Office will be providing further information and training about Reporting Obligations.