

9/10 May 2020-Year A Fifth Sunday of Easter



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.

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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
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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.

First Reading: A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles 6:1-7

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

Second Reading: A Reading from the first letter of St Peter 2:4-9

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the way, the truth and the life, says the Lord; no one comes to the
Father, except through Me.

Alleluia!

Gospel: The Gospel of John 14:1-12

**Dear Parishioners,
We celebrate the Fifth Sunday of Easter**

1. Big Small and Being Great in the Service of the Lord

The problem reported in the First Reading has to do with food for widows. The Greeks thought that their widows were being neglected and that the widows among the Jews were getting the best of things, and so the Greeks complained to the Apostles. The Apostles said, sensibly enough, that they couldn't be expected to handle food distribution. Their job was to evangelize and spread the Gospel. And so they picked some people to do the small job of supervising food handouts for them. Stephen was one of those picked.

In his witness and his martyrdom, he was not small.

Who would have wanted to be in that group with Stephen? The people in Stephen's group were chosen to do a job that was not nearly as important as the work the Apostles were doing. That's why the Apostles wanted somebody else to do it. By comparison with important things, like spreading the gospel, or anything else great and admirable, watching over food distribution is a very small job.

But Stephen didn't complain that the job was beneath his talents and abilities. He didn't insist on being given a role in the great work of the Apostles. He just took the small job he had been offered, and he served the Lord whole-heartedly in it.

Later in the book of Acts (Acts 7) we learn what came of Stephen's humility. His whole-hearted service of the Lord in food distribution attracted the attention, and the hatred, of those outside the growing Church; and they went after him. In the worst of circumstances, with his life at stake, he gave a powerful witness to the Lord he loved, and the surrounding crowd stoned him to death.

In his witness and his martyrdom, he was not small. He was glorious. His life and work for the Lord became part of Scripture itself, and for over two thousand years all Christians have honoured and admired him.

And so his whole-hearted service of the Lord in the little job of food distribution, the job that was not worthy of being compared with the job of the Apostles, made Stephen a participant in the great work the Apostles did. In the witness of his death, he became a partner in the gospel-spreading of the Apostles and more than worthy of being in their company.

2. Mother's Day

This weekend, we celebrate Mother's Day differently to other years due to "social distancing" and the number of family members who can gather at one time.

As you gather to celebrate Mother's Day, I invite families and mothers and grandmothers to pray the two blessing prayers in this weeks bulletin (they are the same as previous years) before you share the Mother's Day meal together.

3. Thank You

I thank those parishioners who have been able to support the parish while the Church is closed and sacraments unable to be celebrated with a one-off contribution or those parishioners who have been

regularly giving through "direct debit," to the parish. Your support to the parish and to myself has been able to pay the bills that keep coming even during this lockdown period of time.

Hopefully, it will not be too long before the Eucharist can be celebrated again.

Thank you,
God Bless and Stay Safe

Fr Bob

Fr Bob



All Mothers and Grandmothers

Dear God on behalf of all mothers in our community, I solemnly pledge my motherhood to You. Together with the gifts of bread and wine brought to the altar for consecration, I bring myself. I bring to You my gift of being a woman, grant that I may become more womanly, and more true to the vocation of womanhood.

I bring my pledge of love to my husband, the commitment of myself to the continuing and deepening of the Sacrament of our Marriage. I bring the gift of my motherhood, make many mothering the symbol of a loving Church.

I bring from within myself the sense of unity and purpose of freedom I have with women all over the world, especially women who are struggling for dignity and peace.

But most of all, Father, I bring to the Altar today my Christianity. The gift of myself linked to Your Son Jesus as He met the women at Calvary; and my hope for all mankind lined to the reality of His resurrection.

Hear my prayer on behalf of mothers everywhere and grant us the gift of the fruits of Your compassionate heart. AMEN.



Blessing Prayer for Mother's Day

God of Love,

Listen to this prayer.

God of Holy People,

Of Sarah, Ruth and Rebecca.

God of Holy Elizabeth, mother of John,

Of Holy Mary, Mother of Jesus, bend down

Your ear to this request and bless the mother of our family.

Bless her with the strength of Your spirit,

She who has taught her children how to stand and how to walk.

Bless her with the melody of Your love,

She who has shared with us how to speak, how to sing and how to pray to You.

Bless her with a place to Your eternal dinner

table, she who has fed and nurtured the life

that was formed within her while still helpless but embraced in her love.

Bless her today,

Now, in this lifetime, with good things, with health.

Bless her with joy, love, laughter

And pride in her children and surround her with many good friends.

May she who carried life in her womb

Be carried one day to Your divine embrace: there for all eternity.

To rejoice with her family and friends.

This blessing and all graces, we pray,

descend upon the mother of our family: in

the name of the Father,

and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

AMEN.



POPE FRANCIS COLUMN



Pope's Morning Homily: To Be Free & Close to Christ, Don't Be Lukewarm in Faith Nor Worldly

MAY 05, POPE'S MORNING HOMILY

We cannot be lukewarm in our faith, and we must eliminate those attitudes and the worldliness, that gets in the way of a free and close relationship with Christ.

Today, May 5th, Pope Francis gave this encouragement to those watching his private daily Mass at his residence Casa Santa Marta, reported Vatican News.

At the start of the Mass, Pope Francis prayed for all victims of Coronavirus.

"Today we pray for the deceased who have died because of the pandemic," the Holy Father said, acknowledging: "They have died alone, without the caresses of their loved ones. So many did not even have a funeral."

"May the Lord welcome them in His glory," he said.

In his homily, the Holy Father reflected on today's Gospel reading according to St. John (Jn 10:22-30), in which several Jews ask Jesus to say openly whether He is the Christ. Jesus responds that He has already told them so, yet they do not believe.

This episode, the Holy Father said, is an invitation to reflect on our own faith. "Do I believe? What makes me stop outside the door that is Jesus?"

The Pope encouraged faithful to take account of stumbling blocks to their faith or take stock of the worldliness which can bog us down.

When our hearts are rigid, this impedes our faith, the Pope reminded.

"Jesus," he said, "reproached the doctors of the law for their rigidity in interpreting the law, which is not faithfulness. Faithfulness is always a gift of God; rigidity is only security for oneself."

A good woman, Francis said, came up to him once to ask his advice after she went to a wedding one Saturday afternoon, and thought that Mass would fulfill her Sunday obligation.

But later—he recalled—she realized that the Mass readings did not correspond to those for Sunday, and felt that she was in mortal sin because she had not attended "a real Sunday Mass".

That kind of rigidity, the Holy Father stated, drives us away from the "wisdom and beauty of the Lord, and robs us of our freedom."

Francis also lamented those who are "imprisoned by wealth."

"There are many of us who have entered the door of the Lord but then fail to continue because we are imprisoned by wealth. Jesus takes a hard line regarding wealth... Wealth keeps us from going ahead. Do we need to fall into poverty? No, but, we must not become slaves to wealth. Wealth is the lord of this world, and we cannot serve two masters."

The Pope named three other attitudes that create distance between us and Jesus: apathy, clericalism, and the worldly spirit.

Apathy, the Pope said, is a type of "tiredness that takes away our desire to strive forward and leaves us lukewarm."

Clericalism, the Pontiff noted, seeks to put us in Jesus' place. Instead of letting the Master lead, clericalism imposes restrictions that must be met before one enters the door of faith.

"It is a terrible sickness," he said, "that robs the faithful of freedom and impedes them from going to Jesus."

Often being worldly stops us at the door of faith.

"We can think," he said, "of how some Sacraments are celebrated in some parishes. At times it is impossible to discern the grace and presence of Jesus."

These, the Pope warned, are some of the things that stop us from becoming members of Jesus's flock.

"We are 'sheep' of all these things – wealth, apathy, rigidity, worldliness, clericalism, ideologies," he said, "But freedom is lacking and we cannot follow Jesus without freedom."

"At times freedom might go too far, and we might slip and fall. Yes, that's true. But this is slipping before becoming free."

Consider, the Holy Father advised, whether we are free from these temptations in order to progress in the knowledge of the Lord.

Pope Francis concluded, saying: "May the Lord enlighten us to see within ourselves if we have the freedom required to go through the door which is Jesus, to go beyond it with Jesus in order to become sheep of His flock."

The Pope ended the celebration with Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction, inviting the faithful to make a Spiritual Communion.



A Reflection

As government talks about relzxing the lockdown, we are able to mix a bit with family and friends. From the Church perspective, many parishioners and families have been able to live-stream Mass and some, live-stream Pope Francis' Morning Mass at 3pm (sydney time). Many families have spent time together in prayer following the Mass on their TV's; Many families and individuals have prayed the rosary daily, as well as, other devotions and prayers.

lin all these ways, what has happened?

It's been coming together more as a Christian and Christian family; it's about bringing Christ into our lives mor and into our families more. Some parishioners have emailed saying they feel closer to others even despite the separation. You see physical separation can express love in new ways. The challenged is not to miss this opportunity now, but also to remember these new ways once we gather again to celebrate Eucharist as the St Anthony of Padua faith family.

As a faith community may we come through this "trial" more resourceful and resolved to live more for God, our families and each other.

Fr Bob

Prayers of the Faithful

Leader: My Sisters and Brothers, the Word of God reminds us that through our baptism we are a living sign of God's presence in the world and so, we pray.....

Reader 1: We pray for Pope Francis and the Church, that together, we will be a sign of God's love in the world. **Lord, Hear us**

2. We pray as a community of St Anthony of Padua, that our families will persevere in peace with creativity and patience during this quarantine period. **Lord, Hear us**
3. We pray onthis Mother's Day for our mothers, that the Lord will watch over them, continue to bless them with all His gifts and fill their hearts with His peace. **Lord, Hear us**
4. We pray for our leaders, especially the National Council as together they bring the nation our of lock down and back to some "normal" way of living. **Lord, Hear us**
5. We pray for all Australians who are unemployed due to the coronavirus, that individually and as families they will stay strong and persever as they wait for employment opportunities to present themselves again. **Lord, Hear us**
6. We pray for all expectant Mothers and Fathers, as they await the borth of their child. May they wait in faith for the gift God has blessed them with. **Lord, Hear us**
7. We pray for our Mothers and Grandmothers who live with the Lord in His Kingdom. May they enjoy His presence as they see Him face to face. **Lord, Hear us**
8. We pause and offer our own prayer (wait 10 seconds or more). **Lord, Hear us**

Leader: God of creation hear our prayers those we have put before You and those we whisper from our heart.

We make them all through Christ our Risen Lord.

Amen.

Sunday, 10 May – Family Rosary Relay for the Archbishop's Intentions

Special Intention for 10 May: Engaged Couples

From the 1st to the 31st of May, you are invited to participate in the [Archbishop's Rosary Relay](#). Families, couples and individuals are asked to nominate and pray one decade of the rosary on a day of their choice.

Today we pray from a Scriptural Rosary the **2nd Luminous Mystery: The Miracle at the Wedding of Cana** for the intention of Engaged Couples.

Lord, grant me the grace of fidelity.

Our Father...

1. On the third day there was a wedding at Cana and the mother of Jesus was there. (Jn 2:1) - **Hail Mary....**

2. Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the wedding. (Jn 2:2) - **Hail Mary....**

3. When the wine ran short, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." (Jn 2:3) - **Hail Mary....**

4. Jesus said to her, "Woman, how does your concern affect me? My hour has not yet come." (Jn 2:4) - **Hail**

Mary....

5. His mother instructed those waiting on table, "Do whatever he tells you." (Jn 2:5) - **Hail Mary....**

6. Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them to the brim. (Jn 2:7) - **Hail Mary....**

7. Then he told them, "Draw some out now and take it to the headwaiter." (Jn 2:8) - **Hail Mary....**

8. And when the headwaiter tasted the water that had become wine without knowing where it had come from, he called the bridegroom. (Jn 2:9) - **Hail Mary....**

9. And said to him, "Every man serves good wine first; and when men have drunk freely, an inferior one, but you have kept the good wine until now." (Jn 2:9-10) - **Hail Mary....**

10. Jesus did this as the beginning of his signs in Cana of Galilee, and so revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him. (Jn 2:11) - **Hail Mary....**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

O my Jesus, forgive us our sins. Save us from the fires of Hell; lead all souls into Heaven, especially those in most need of Thy mercy. Amen.



READ THE DIGITAL EDITION OF THE CATHOLIC WEEKLY

The Catholic Weekly has temporarily transitioned to a digital presence only due to the government's decision to close all Churches during the COVID-19 pandemic.

I am pleased to inform you that has been adapted extremely well and they are continuing to produce the paper in a **digital form** making it available to everyone online at www.catholicweekly.com.au

What is a digital edition?

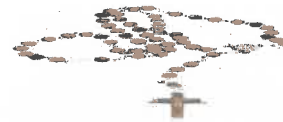
It is the current paper delivered on our website and which is formatted identically to the print edition.

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



We continue to need your support

We understand the difficulty some families are facing, however if you are able to continue your support of the parish this would be greatly appreciated as we still have much work to continue within our community and Church at this time, especially with those in need and the vulnerable of society.

Perhaps you might consider replacing the envelope contributions with a new direct debit at this time—either weekly, monthly or as a once only. Please contact our office and speak to Cheryl. Any assistance parishioners can give during the shut-down of the Church will be greatly appreciated.

We thank you for your support of the Church and your Faith Community.

Direct Debit:

Account Name: St Anthony's Austral Church Account

BSB: 062 784

Account No: 0492 5002



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.

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.

Livestreaming of Parish Masses

The Archdiocese of Sydney is regularly updating its website and social media platforms with the latest information on parishes that are offering their Masses online for parishioners to watch. Please contact Michael Kenny via email to share any of these updates that can be posted online- Email: michael.kenny@sydneycatholic.org

Viewing numbers across the archdiocese with those streaming Masses are continuing to increase which is great. More than one million people across the country watched the Good Friday and Easter Sunday services live from St Mary's Cathedral last weekend on Channel 7.

The Passion of Our Lord on Good Friday reached 545,000 broadcast viewers with an additional 86,000 live-streaming and social media viewers reaching a total audience of 631,000, 42.4 per cent of the available audience. The Easter Sunday 10.30am Mass reached a whopping 568,000 broadcast viewers with a further 113,000 live-streaming and social media viewers reaching a total of 681,000 viewers – attracting a 46.3 per cent audience share.

Overwhelmingly, the audiences were highest in the Sydney metropolitan area, followed by NSW, the ACT, Western Australia and Queensland.

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KID'S CORNER

Q. Where do you find a dog with no legs?

A. Where you left him.



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.

JUST A FEW FUNNIES TO HELP KEEP US SANE

A Kiwi and an Aussie go to a pastry shop.
The Kiwi whisks three biscuits into his pocket with such speed the baker doesn't notice.
The Kiwi says to the Aussie: "You'll never beat that!"
The Aussie says to the Kiwi: "Watch and learn!"
He says to the baker "Give me a biscuit, I'll show you a magic trick!"
The baker gives him the biscuit which the Aussie promptly eats.
Then he says to the baker: "Give me another biscuit for my magic trick."
The baker is getting suspicious but he gives it to him. He eats this one too.
Then he says again: "Give me one more biscuit."
The baker is getting angry now but gives him one anyway.
The Australian eats this one too.
Now the baker is really mad, and yells: "Where's your famous magic trick?"
The Australian says: "Look in the Kiwi's pocket! "

How to tell if a Catholic is driving too fast



WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

In your love and concern, please pray for:-

Recently Deceased: Albert Anthony Peish

Anniversaries: Francesca Monaco, Stephen Vella.

Also for: The Faithful Departed

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, James Dimech, Jean Poles, Margarita Vartuli, Pasquale Catanzariti.

