



# 16/17 May 2020-Year A Sixth 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.

**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.

**First Reading:** A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles

8:5-8, 14-17

**Responsorial Psalm:** Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

**Second Reading:** A Reading from the first letter of St Peter. 3:15-18

**Gospel Acclamation:**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

All who love me will keep my words, and my Father will love them and we  
will come to them.

**Alleluia!**

**Gospel:** The Gospel of John. 14:15-21

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

### 1. Loving the Lord and Keeping Your Conscience Clear

The Second Reading commands Christians to keep their conscience clear. But this commandment is hard to hear, isn't it? If we are honest with ourselves, we know how unclear our consciences are.

Of course, we might think confusedly, we do not need to be too worried about our unclear consciences, because, after all, no one is saved by doing good works or keeping one's conscience clear. Our contribution to our salvation is not to try to do the works of the law. Our contribution to our salvation is just to love the Lord.

**The first and great commandment is to love the Lord.**

And this thought might be comforting to us when our unclear conscience hurts us, except for this uncomfortable, nagging question: what is love of the Lord?

In the Gospel Reading, the Lord himself explains the answer to this question: "Whoever has my commandments and observes them is the one who loves me."

And now, unfortunately, we have come full circle. Christians are commanded to keep their consciences clear. To do so, they need to love the Lord. To love the Lord they need to keep his commandments. And to keep his commandments they apparently need to keep their consciences clear. What sense can be made of this?

Here it helps to consider Peter himself, who is the author of the Second Reading. Peter betrayed the Lord in the Lord's great hour of need. Is this keeping one's conscience clear? Is this keeping the commandments of the Lord?

But when, in the days after his Resurrection, the Lord asks Peter, "do you love me?" what does Peter answer? He says, "Yes, Lord, you know I love you."

In spite of his betrayal of the Lord, Peter does not let go of Christ. He is willing to affirm his commitment to Christ in spite of his own failings. So here is the thing to notice. In saying that he loves Christ, Peter is keeping the commandment of the Lord. The first and great commandment is to love the Lord.

And this is why Peter, the rock on which the church is founded, is the pattern for all Christians. The way to keep one's conscience clear is to cleave to the Lord in love when one's conscience is not clear.

## 2. Lawn Mowing of Parish Properties

My thanks to Joe Cilia who came and mowed the church and presbytery lawns, last Saturday. If a few men have trailers, maybe we could have a roster system in order to maintain the lawns, so, it doesn't fall on 1 or 2 men to look after maintaining the grounds. Let me know?!?

## 3. Opening of the Church

The NSW government has indicated that Stage 1 allows Churches to be open for Mass and private prayer. However, in stage 1 only 10 people are allowed but will increase with Stage 2 (50) and Stage 3 (100). So, for the next few weeks, I am inviting parishioners to book their place for attending Mass during the week. It would be first come, first in. As 10 are allowed at this time children would be counted in the 10 (please be aware of this).

To be able to attend Church Services at this time parishioners are asked to ring the

**Parish Office on 9606 0206**

**OR**

**Email at [stanthonysaustral@bigpond.com](mailto:stanthonysaustral@bigpond.com)**

This is to book a seat in the Church as unfortunately we are only allowed 10 people at a time. By having these extra Masses I am trying to allow parishioners the opportunity of attending Mass once or twice over several weeks. Please no walk ins as once there are 10 people in the Church the doors will be closed, sorry.

## Week days:

I am happy to celebrate two Masses a day: 9am and 4pm Tuesday & Thursday. 9am & 7pm Wednesday, to assist those who are working. 9am Mass on Friday only.

**I am trialling the afternoon Mass to gauge parishioners interest in attending.**

**Please Note:** The rosary will be recited before the 9am Masses each day.

So this gives parishioners an opportunity to return to their sacramental life. It would be a roster system if many wish to attend so that the same parishioners are not attending Mass everyday. We want to share the joy around.

## Weekend Masses:

Saturday Vigil: 5.30pm  
Sunday: 7.30am and 9am

**As you can appreciate only 10 people can attend each Mass, at present.**

God Bless and Stay Safe



Fr Bob



## POPE FRANCIS COLUMN



### Pope's Focus on Prayer During General Audience: May 13

Prayer belongs to all: to men of all religions, and probably also to those that don't profess any.

Dear Brothers and Sisters, good morning!

Today we take the second step in the course of catecheses on prayer, initiated last week.

Prayer belongs to all: to men of all religions, and probably also to those that don't profess any. Prayer is born in the secret of ourselves, in that interior place that spiritual authors often call "heart" (Cf. Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2562-2563), Therefore, to pray is not something peripheral in us; it's not something secondary and marginal in us, but it is the most intimate mystery in us. It is this mystery that prays. The emotions pray, but it can't be said that prayer is only emotion. The intelligence prays, but to pray isn't only an intellectual act. The body prays, but one can speak with God even in the gravest disability. Therefore, it's the whole man that prays, if his "heart" prays.

Prayer is a surge, it's an invocation that goes beyond us, something that is born in the intimacy of our person and reaches out because it feels the nostalgia of an encounter. That nostalgia that is more than a need, more than a necessity: it is a way. Prayer is the voice of an "I" that is groping, which proceeds tentatively, in search of a "You." The encounter between "me" and "You" can't be done with calculators: it's a human encounter and it often proceeds tentatively to find the "You" that my "I" is seeking. Instead, a Christian's prayer is born of a revelation: the "You" did not remain enveloped in mystery, but entered into relationship with us. Christianity is the religion that celebrates continually God's "manifestation," namely His epiphany. The first feasts of the Liturgical Year are the celebration of this God who doesn't remain hidden, but who offers His friendship to men. God reveals His glory in the poverty of Bethlehem, in the contemplation of the Magi, in the Baptism at the Jordan, in the miracle of the wedding of Cana. John's Gospel ends the great hymn of the Prologue with a synthetic affirmation: "No one has ever seen God; the only Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has made Him known" (1:18). It was Jesus who revealed God to us.

A Christian's prayer enters in relationship with the God of the most tender face, who doesn't want to strike fear in men. This is the first characteristic of Christian prayer. If men were always accustomed to approaching God somewhat intimidated, somewhat scared by this fascinating and tremendous mystery, if they were used to venerate Him with a servile attitude, similar to that of a subject who doesn't want to lack respect for his lord, Christians, instead, turn to Him, daring to call Him confidently with the name of "Father." In fact, Jesus uses the other word: "Papa."

God is the friend, the ally, the spouse. One can establish in prayer a relationship of confidence with Him, so true is this that in the "Our Father" Jesus has taught us to address a series of questions to Him. We can ask God for everything, everything: to explain everything, to recount everything. It doesn't matter if we feel at fault in the relationship with God: we aren't good friends, we aren't grateful children; we aren't faithful spouses. He continues to love us. It's what Jesus demonstrates definitively in the Last Supper when He says: "This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant of my blood" (Luke 22:20). In that gesture, Jesus anticipates in the Cenacle the mystery of the Cross. God is a faithful ally: if men stop loving, He, however, continues to love, even if love leads Him to Calvary. God is always close to the door of our heart and He waits for us to open to Him. And sometimes He knocks at our heart, but He is not invasive: He waits. God's patience with us is the patience of a Papa, of one who loves us so much. I would say, it's the patience of both a father and a mother — always close to our heart. When He knocks, He does so with tenderness and much love.

Let us all try to pray like this, entering in the mystery of the Covenant. To put ourselves in prayer in the merciful arms of God, to feel ourselves enveloped in that mystery of happiness that the Trinitarian life is, to feel ourselves as guests that do not merit so much honor. And to respect God, in the wonder of prayer: is it possible that You only know love? He doesn't know hatred. He is hated but He doesn't know hatred. He only knows love. This is the God to whom we pray. This is the incandescent nucleus of all Christian prayer, the God of love, our Father, who waits for us and accompanies us.



## 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](http://www.catholicweekly.com.au)

### **What is a digital edition?**

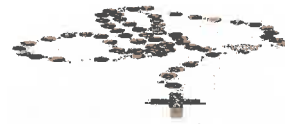
It is the current paper delivered on our website and which is formatted identically to the print edition.

## 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.

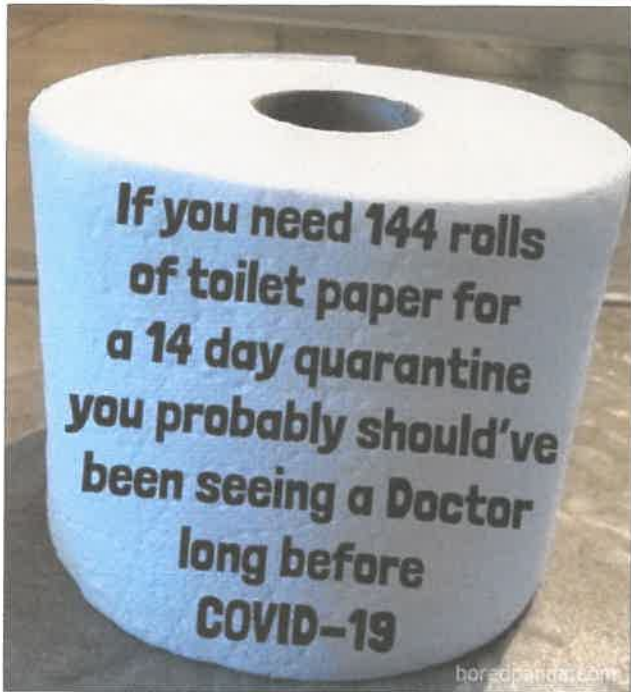
## Using the Parish Toilets

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

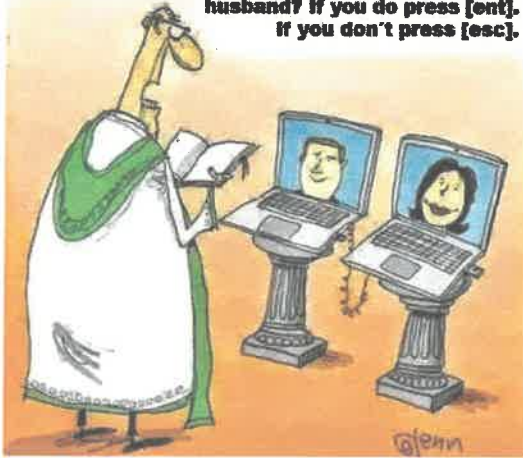
**Please** use the bags provided and the bin.

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.

## JUST A FEW FUNNIES TO HELP KEEP US SANE



Mary, do you accept John as your lawfully wedded husband? If you do press [ent]. If you don't press [esc].



## WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

In your love and concern, please pray for:-

Recently Deceased: Albert Anthony Perish (late of Leppington)

Anniversaries: Lawrence "Laurie" Macri, Francesca Monaco, Stephen Vella.

Also for: All who have died due to COVID-19, May they rest in the arms of our loving Mother.

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,



## Living Sacramentally

### Helen Carboon

When we hear the word 'sacrament' we might think of those rituals and ceremonies, rich in symbolism and deep in meaning, that happen in a church or occasionally by a bedside. These rituals mark in word and symbol significant moments in our lives when we want to name and celebrate God's presence with us.

For most of us though most of our lives is lived outside such significant moments. It could be said that most of our lives is the 'living out' of these very moments in the ordinary experiences of our every day.

"God comes to us disguised as our lives" wrote the late Daniel O'Leary. It is within the sacrament of our everyday experience that our God is revealed to us.

We baptise our babies, welcoming them into the loving and life-giving community of family and church. And the loving and the giving of life happens at the bath-times and the bed-times and the getting the homework done right through to the testing-the-boundaries teenagers.

We make our commitments – for better and for worse – and spend the rest of our lives living these every day, through all the joys and sorrows, the giving and receiving that come with being given to another. From the occasions of celebration, to the testing of trust, to the stresses and strains that come with every dynamic relationship – this is where a commitment is 'made flesh'.

We celebrate God's forgiveness and live this in the patient forbearance and humble apologies we experience every day. In the seemingly mundane ordinary moments, the irritations and annoyances, the "rubs" of relating – this is where the accepting and forgiving become real.

We are fed from the Eucharistic table and go out to live lives of Eucharist. We give ourselves to be broken and shared in our love and living for and with our families, our friends, the world outside ourselves. When we cook yet another meal, hang out one more load of washing, get up in the night to a sleepless child – this is our self-giving. The grand gestures may be all very well, but it's in the warp and the weft of every Sunday right through to the next Saturday that the real and constant giving, the real 'eucharisting' happens.

We take a walk in the park and delight in the magpies' carolling and the tossing branches of the graceful gum trees; we are greeted with a smile from our neighbour or receive an unexpected email from an old friend; a courteous driver stops to let us into the stream of traffic; we are greeted with kindness and care when we join the queue in the doctor's waiting room... A myriad of 'small' moments such as these can be moments of revelation for us wherein we glimpse, however fleetingly, that there is a depth, a mysterious life, within and beyond such seemingly ordinary encounters. And we can be grateful.

Perhaps "sacrament" should be a verb whereby we are "sacrament-ing" in each of those moments where we meet this God at the heart of all life. Where, as the poet E E Cummings expresses it

"the ears of my ears awake and  
[and] the eyes of my eyes are opened".



## Are you struggling in this time of crisis?

You are not alone.

CCareline **13 18 19** is a free and confidential helpline that can connect you with a local volunteer from your community.

 **CCareline 131819**  
by CatholicCare

### During this time of uncertainty it can be difficult to know where to turn to for help.

CCareline **13 18 19** is a free and confidential\* helpline for counselling, relationships, parenting, ageing, disabilities, addictions and mental health (\*unless there is a risk of harm to you or others).

We can also connect you with a local volunteer from your community. They can help with your shopping and errands or even just call you for a regular friendly chat over the phone.



**CCareline**  
**131819**  
CCareline.org

- ✉ [connect@catholiccare.org](mailto:connect@catholiccare.org)
- 📍 [CCareline.org](http://CCareline.org)
- 🕒 8am – 6pm Monday – Friday

# **PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL**

## **Prayers of Intercession**

**Leader:** My Sisters and Brothers, we come before our merciful Father pleading that our prayers be heard and answered.....

**Reader 1.** We pray for Pope Francis as he continues to guide the Church with his words of encouragement and his example of trust in God. **Lord, hear us**

**Response: Lord Hear Our Prayer**

2. We pray for our parish community of St Anthony of Padua, that as a community of faith, we will continue to be faithful to our God and our community. **Lord, hear us**

**Response**

3. We pray for St Anthony of Padua College as students attend classes once more, that they will settle back into normal college life. **Lord, hear us**

**Response**

4. We pray for those families in our community who are struggling economically, that God will calm their fears and that necessary resources will be given them. **Lord, hear us**

**Response**

5. We pray for our state as we move to Stage I, that we will all work together to achieve the goals that have been set to get us through this crisis. **Lord, hear us**

**Response**

6. We pray for our seniors in the community, who are isolated from family and friends, that they will find consolation and comfort in their daily prayers they offer to God. **Lord, hear us**

**Response**

7. We pause and offer up our own prayer intention to our merciful God. **Lord, hear us**

**Response**

**Leader:** Let us place all our needs and prayers before our Mother and that she will put them before Her Son as we say together....Hail Mary.....



## 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](mailto: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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Ph: 0415 123 807

E: [teresa@calarcolegal.com.au](mailto:teresa@calarcolegal.com.au)

## KID'S CORNER

**Q.** Where do fish keep their money?

**A.** In the River Bank.



## 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.