

28/29 November 2020 First Sunday of Advent



ST ANTHONY'S PARISH CHURCH 105 ELEVENTH AVENUE AUSTRAL 2179

Pastor: Fr Kene Onwukwe
Administrator
Deacon Paul Naggar
Secretary: Natalie Valenzisi
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:
stanthonyaustral@bigpond.com

Web Address:
www.stanthonyaustral.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 Vigils: 4.30pm & 5.30pm
(Includes Children's Liturgy during
School Term)
Sunday - 7.30am & 9am
(Includes Children's Liturgy during
School Term)
Thursday- Communion Service
9am
Masses: Tuesday - 7.30am
Wednesday - 7.30am
Friday - 7.30am Mass

Reconciliation: Saturday
3.45 pm - 4.15 pm

Baptisms & Marriages:

By appointment at Presbytery

Anointing: Every 2 months -
check bulletin for dates

Sick Calls: Any time - day/night.

Funeral Masses: In Co-operation
with Funeral Directors.

Entrance Antiphon: To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you, I have trusted: let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me: and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

Responsorial Psalm: Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.
Alleluia.

Communion Antiphon: The Lord will bestow his bounty and our earth shall yield its increase

Dear Parishioners,

Today we celebrate the First Sunday of Advent Year B

1. As we enter the Season of Advent once again, the message of the Readings seems at odds with our modern lifestyle. We are told to wait. To wait! This is an old-fashioned idea in today's world; for the world we live in is a world of instant gratification, instant answers, instant access to information, and if we don't have instant success in what we do, many have a great sense of failure.

As God's people have always done, we wait with impatience. The prophet sees the exile of the Israelites as being abandoned by God, and he begs God to return. The disciples are concerned about when the end time will come, for the early Christian people expected the second coming of Christ soon after the resurrection. These events will occur, but in God's time, not according to our human expectations.

The prayer of the prophet was answered when the Son of God became man in the incarnation. God came to his people, but not in the way the prophet anticipated, with the rending of the heavens and the quaking of the mountains. He came instead as a baby. He did not redeem his people by overthrowing their oppressors, as the disciples anticipated, but by showing them how to live with God and with the world about them. While we wait to celebrate the great event of the incarnation, we pause to reflect on our relationship with God. Do we ignore God as the Israelites did? Do we expect too much of God, expecting God to fit in with our images and expectations? Do we see God as a God of power, as a Father, a potter. Which ever image we identify with, the key to our relationship with God is God's faithfulness. God is always there for us!

Just as God is always there for us, always faithful, so we should always be there for God, aware of his presence, letting ourselves be loved, and loving in return, not just at special moments, but all the time!

The beginning of Advent provides us with an opportunity to reflect on our faithfulness, on our commitment to God and to one another. Making sure of those things is always the proper preparation for God's coming.

2. Congratulations to first Holy Communion Candidates

Congratulations to the children who made their First Holy Communion last weekend. This weekend completes the two-week celebration with these children from our parish. 39 candidates made their first Holy Communion this year from our parish. We ask you to continue to remember them in your prayers as we look forward to having them in our weekly celebrations. And I remind you that the two additional masses this weekend are strictly for the Holy Communion candidates and their families in order to prevent COVID-19 spread.



3. Advent Program

The Parish Advent program has begun. Last Tuesday went really well and I encourage you to be part of it. The program avails you the opportunity of not only reflecting on the gospel of the coming weekend Mass celebration but also understanding the gospel in question from different points of view without relying only from the priest (preacher)'s view on a Sunday. This activity will assist you individually or as a family in preparation for the celebration of Christ's annual Birthday. Individuals, families, young people are all invited. Please contact the Parish office if you would like to attend the second week of the program.

Venue: Parish church Hall

Date: Tuesday

Time: 7.15pm (tea and biscuits) for a 7.30pm start.

4. Want to Become Catholic?

Whether you are a unbaptised, or baptised in another christian religion, we welcome you to join our Catholic Community. The RCIA program starts early next year to prepare you on becoming a Catholic christian and participate in the sacraments. Please indicate your intention by a call to the parish office or the parish email. We look forward to sharing Jesus Christ and His life with you



5. Booking for the Mass

We are still encouraging all to think ahead if you will be attending a weekend mass and book on time by ringing the parish office either Tuesday, Thursday or send email. Turning up on the day without booking and without ringing for a spot may put us into a hard decision of not allowing you inside the church for the Mass if the church has reached it maximum. If your name is already on the list, please mark off your name each time you attend the weekend Mass in order to continue maintaining your spot. If you are not coming for a particular Sunday Mass, let the parish secretary know via email or phone so someone will fill the spot. If you missed to come for a particular weekend Mass, please ring the parish office to rebook your availability for subsequent weekend Masses. Otherwise, we take it you are no longer available and we give your spot to a waiting person. In the spirit of charity, let us strive to make our parish a COVID-19 safe place.

6. Sacrament of Reconciliation

Some families have not returned due to illness or worries about COVID. Again, I encourage those families to streamline Mass either from St Mary's Cathedral at 10.30am Sunday or Wollongong at 9.30am on Sundays. In this way the family or individual is giving time to God and their own spiritual life. But TV Mass is not the answer to attending the community and joining in Sunday worship in hearing the Word of God and then, encountering Jesus in Eucharist. If families or family members have become lazy due to being away from worship then, before receiving the Eucharist in good conscience they should go to the Sacrament of Reconciliation before receiving the Eucharist.

7. November Envelopes

November is the month of the Holy Souls, we remember our deceased loved ones. There are November envelopes in the Planned Giving boxes and on the back table. Please put the envelope with your offering and put in the collection plate or give to the priest, Fr Kene.

8. Direct Debit via Giving Point Tap

Due to the COVID virus, the Archdiocese has asked that parishes include a Donation Point Tap device for use by parishioners who are not carrying cash. Many young families do not carry much cash nowadays, but use credit cards and so, this is a further reason to introduce "The Donation Point Tap." The device is set at \$5.00, so that the \$5 will be allocated to the Collections. If parishioners wish to give above this amount they either "tap again" or use the collection plate as it passes by. Parishioners wishing to claim a Tax Deduction for their giving will need to take up a set of Parish Envelopes and support the community through the envelope system.

9. From Sydney Archdiocese

Launch of 2020 Lights of Christmas at St Mary's Cathedral

St Mary's Cathedral is again hosting the magnificent lights of Christmas with the event officially being launched on 10 December with the lights display commencing at 8:30pm. The lights will be displayed each night until 11pm, concluding on Christmas Day.

Please help us spread the word about this beautiful event in the lead up to Christmas by sharing the attached banner and tile on your parish social media platforms.

COVID-19 update

In a welcome step forward for our churches in the lead up to Christmas, NSW Health has announced that up to 500 people will be allowed at outdoor Masses if fixed seating is made available from 1 December onwards. In this case, a one person per two square metre rule needs to be observed.

Up to 300 attendees are allowed at indoor Masses, as long as churches follow a four-square metre rule.

It is important to acknowledge that in practice, only St Mary's Cathedral will be allowed up to 300 attendees at indoor Masses because of its dimensions.

A small number of churches with larger dimensions will now be able to accommodate over 100 people at Masses.

You'll find more information on attendance rules for weddings, baptisms and funerals here:

<https://www.sydneycatholic.org/coronavirus-frequently-asked-questions/>

Churches are required to keep records of all attending Masses for contact tracing purposes and the NSW Government recommends that church-goers continue to wear face masks when attending Mass.

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10. Children's Christmas Pageant

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the traditional Christmas pageant that the children of the parish normally participate in on Christmas Eve, will not be occurring. Instead, we are hoping to prerecord an item to be shown at all Masses over Christmas.

Children of primary school age are invited to be involved in this, with preparation etc commencing at 3.15pm on Tuesday 1st December.

Permission forms will be available on the day and must be signed by parents/guardians prior to any filming.

For further information please speak to Vanessa, Sarah or Veronica Casha.

11. Christmas Reconciliation

I plan to devote an afternoon/evening from 5pm to 7pm on Wednesday 16th December 2020 for all Parishioners who would like to attend confession for Christmas. There is no booking necessary but I will open the church to anyone who would like to attend.

12. Christmas Celebrations in our parish

Watch out on next week's bulletin for Christmas programs and what might be added to give everyone the opportunity to participate and worship with us while observing the pandemic restrictions. We welcome your suggestion towards this.

13. Temporary Closure and detour at Eleventh Avenue from 18 December to 26 January, 2021

Due to construction works to the existing Eleventh Avenue and drainage works in front of St. Anthony of Padua Catholic School, access to Eleventh Avenue including the church, hall and St. Anthony of Padua Catholic College will be via Edmondson Avenue.

Dates to Remember

30 November
Saint Andrew (apostle)

1 December
Second Week of Advent Discussion Group

3 November
Saint Francis Xavier (priest)

God Bless
Fr  Kene



Catholic Weekly—Available \$2.00

- Mums invited for special blessing
- Parish honours beloved Padre Pio
- Mission in a land Down Under
- The persecution of George Pell
- Movie review: *Come Away*
- One cruel Papal encyclical



WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED OR ARE IN NEED OUR PRAYERS

In your love and concern, please pray for:-

Recently Deceased: Antonia Romeo, Sylvia Wells, George Velso

Anniversaries: Abella Family, Maria Camilleri, Charlie Vella,

Also for: Franco Mosca, Guiseppe Catenea, All Souls of Purgatory

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, Hanee Abe Rached, Rhodora Man-on, Anastacio Swing, Irene Norris, Natalie Biro, Carmela Garzanti, Renzo Martignago, Renee D'Silva, Mrs Mary Vella, Jocelyn Baclor

CHURCH CLEANING ROSTER

30 November—4 December

S Mercieca, M Farrugia,
T Gimerllaro, K Puric, R Breen

7-11 December

V Casha, S Arcuri, M Cvetko



READERS ROSTER

28-29 November (First Sunday of Advent)

Saturday Vigil: 5.30pm

Commentator: Rita Moro

Readers:

Rita Moro : 1st Reading

Maja Simat: 2nd Reading & Prayers of Faithful

Sunday: 7.30am

Commentator: Liz Habib

Readers:

Liz Habib 1st Reading

Linda Katsibras : 2nd Reading &

Prayers of the Faithful

Sunday 9am

Commentator: Nicole Hext

Readers:

Niole Hext 1st Reading

Frances Musso: 2nd Reading

& Prayers of Faithful

5-6 December (Second Sunday of Advent)

Saturday Vigil: 5.30pm

Commentator: Maja Simat

Readers:

Maja Simat: First Reading

Maja Simat: Second Reading and Prayers of the Faithful

Sunday: 7.30am

Commentator: Patrick O'Neill

Readers:

Patrick O'Neill First Reading

Mark O'Neill: Second Reading and Prayers of the Faithfull

Sunday 9:00am

Commentator: Faye Palamara

Readers:

Faye Palamara: First Reading

Mica Pace: Second Reading and Prayers of the Faithful



Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist Roster

28-29 November

Saturday Vigil

Rose Crescini & Margaret De Vries

Sunday 7.30am

Virginia Romeo & Pasqualina Catanzariti

Sunday 9am

Faye Palamara & Karen Power



5-9 December

Saturday Vigil

Julie Dimech & Victoria Bugeja

Sunday 7:30am

Virginia Romeo & Pasqualina Catanzariti

ACOLYTES ROSTER

28-29 November

Saturday Vigil

Gerry Crescini

Sunday 7.30am

George Ajkay

Sunday 9am

Anthony Zanetic

5-6 December

Saturday Vigil

Gerry Crescini

Sunday 7.30am

George Ajkay

Sunday 9am

Anthony Zanetic

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

ON HOLD DUE TO COVID 19

NURSING HOME ROSTER

November

TBA

December

TBA



