



## 12-13 December 2020 Third 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:**  
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 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

**Entrance Antiphon:** Rejoice in the Lord always, I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

**Responsorial Psalm:** My soul rejoices in my God

**Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia!**

The spirit of the Lord is upon me: he sent me to bring me Good News to the poor.

**Alleluia.**

**Communion Antiphon:** Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behind the joy which comes to you from God.

**Dear Parishioners,**

**Today we celebrate the  
Third Sunday of Advent Year B**

#### **Joy in the Lord**

"I rejoice heartily in the Lord," the prophet says in the [First Reading](#). And why wouldn't he? He has glad tidings. The poor will be taken care of, the brokenhearted will be healed, the captives will be freed, and the prisoners will be released. Who wouldn't rejoice in these things?

#### **How can Mary maintain the words of the Magnificat even at the foot of the cross?**

As the winter dark and cold encroach on our days, and the birth of the baby Jesus draws near, we hear these beautiful words everywhere. But the problem is that, for many people, this is a time of depression, not of joy. And why? Well, because the poor are still poor; people are brokenhearted; and the captives and prisoners are not released. The bank forecloses on the house of a person who has lost his job; a friend is treacherous; a spouse succumbs to alcoholism. What has happened to the promise of the beautiful words? How is joy possible?

The answer lies in Mary's words in the Magnificat. "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior," she says. Does anyone think that she took these words back when she stood by the cross as her son was crucified?

How can Mary maintain the words of the Magnificat even at the foot of the cross? The answer is that the greatest love of the Lord was there. The words of joy that Mary spoke, before the Lord was born, are only more true in the suffering she bears at his cross. His love doesn't take away her suffering at his crucifixion. How could it? But her suffering is enveloped in his great love, and so it is transfigured.

Joy in the Lord is compatible with waiting for the final redemption from our suffering and our sin because Christ is Emanuel, God with us. Even now, because his love suffuses all our suffering, our souls can proclaim the greatness of the Lord, and our spirits can rejoice in God.

Our Lord transfigures the suffering of our lives in his love

## 2. Advent Program

This is an opportunity to reflect on the gospel of the following Sunday from different points of view and how they apply to your daily lives. Members also join in prayer for individual and community intentions. Please invite your friends.

**Venue: Parish church Hall**

**Date: Tuesday**

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

## 3. 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

## 4. Christmas Mass Bookings

Christmas is less than 3 weeks and this year will be unique and different due to COVID-19. To accommodate all worshipers who would like to attend, mass we are having five masses over Christmas . Mass times are Vigil 24th December 5.30pm, 7.30pm and 12 midnight. On Christmas day, 8.30am and 10.30am. Please ring the parish office from **15 December 2020**. It is important that you book for your family only.. We would be disappointed if too many people miss out.. If you would like extended family members to attend they will need to call or email themselves. There will be a maximum of 6 people per booking for the 5.30pm mass.

## 5. Booking for the Mass (Excluding Christmas masses)

We are pleased to announce from 7 December places of worship will change from the 4 square metre rule to 2 square metre rule in our church. That means we can now have up to 150 people at each mass.

Therefore you will not need to make any bookings for the masses prior to Christmas which are the weekends of 12-13 and 19,20 December 2020. Masses will be open to the first 150 people who attend.

You will still need to write your name and contact details on the papers provided. Could you please write one name only on each line and once the booking sheet reaches its capacity please use the next page. Please inform others especially those who have not been coming to church due to previous restrictions of this change and invite them to church.

Our priority is making our parish a covid 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. Fr Kene to attend burial of his brother

The burial/funeral of Fr Kene's brother Gerald Chukwuemeka Onwukwe has been scheduled to be held on 28/29 January 2021. He is looking forward to taking an annual leave from 18 January to 15 February 2021 to enable him travel to Nigeria for the burial ceremony. Details of travel to be communicated.

## 8. Parish Hall for Hire

With covid restrictions easing the Hall is open for Hire. Please contact the Parish office if you would like to book the Hall for your next function.

## **9. 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.

## **10. 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.

## **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. Parking for Mass**

It has come to my attention that parishioners are parking on the grass around the church. Could we please ask that you may drop off anyone but please park either on the road on Eleventh Ave or the carpark between the church and the hall.

## **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.

## **14. Can you play tennis?**

If you can play tennis (intermediate), Fr Kene is looking for a partner to play with. Contact the parish office if you would like to have a hit

## **15. Christmas Volunteers**

In the Christmas celebrations please let us know if you would like to be a Reader, Eucharist Minister, Acolyte or Warden. Please let the Parish office know.



**Dates to Remember**

**Monday 14 December 2020**

St John of the Cross

God Bless



Fr Kene



**Catholic Weekly—Available**  
**\$2.00**

**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, Alfina Torrisi , Geyta Bugeya

**Anniversaries:** Charlie Vella, Adolfo Steimbeisser, Anka Banicevic, Frano Banicevic, Kristie Scibilia, Agata Emmi

**Also for:** Franco Mosca, Guiseppe Catenea, All Souls of Purgatory, All Souls, Tresa Rappai, Sijo Jose,

**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 Manon, Anastacio Swing, Irene Norris, Natalie Biro, Carmela Garzanti, Renzo Martignago, Renee D'Silva , Mrs Mary Vella, Jocelyn Baclor, Connie Bianchi

## CHURCH CLEANING ROSTER

### 14-18 December

M Patolo, Julianna, Lila, Beka

### 21-24 December

Brianna, Raquel, Olivia



## Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist Roster

Volunteers all Masses



## READERS ROSTER

### 12-13 December

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

Commentator: Vanessa Casha

Vanessa Casha: First Reading

David Casha: Second Reading and Prayers of the Faithful

#### **Sunday: 7:30am**

Commentator: Wendy Tourle

Wendy Tourle: First Reading

Wendy Tourle: Second Reading and Prayers of the Faithful

#### **Sunday: 9:00am**

Commentator: John-William Fisher

John-William Fisher: First Reading

Tessie Christophers: Second Reading and Prayers of the Faithful

### 19-20 December

Volunteers for all masses



## ACOLYTES ROSTER

### 12-13 December

#### **Saturday Vigil**

Gerry Crescini

#### **Sunday 7.30am**

George Ajkay

#### **Sunday 9am**

Anthony Zanetic

### 19-20 December

#### **Saturday Vigil**

Gerry Crescini

#### **Sunday 7.30am**

George Ajkay

#### **Sunday 9am**

Anthony Zanetic



