



## 19-20 December 2020 Fourth 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:** Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let clouds rain down the Just One: let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour

**Responsorial Psalm:** For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

**Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia!**

I am the servant of the Lord: may his will for me be done.  
**Alleluia.**

**Communion Antiphon:** Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son: and his name will be called Emmanuel.

**Dear Parishioners,**

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

1. Preparing for the last Sunday of Advent when it is so close to the celebration of the birth of Jesus takes some doing. We have a few days to experience the prayer of longing.

**We can pray for a peace of soul that accompanies our unique ways of hungering.**

In our North American culture, we don't do longing very well. Immediate gratification is our usual style. Waiting is for the "poor"; longing is a frustration to be relieved by a presumed right of purchase.

I wish I longed for the celebration of the birth of Jesus as much as I long for the semester to be over, or the ultimate victory of my favourite football team.

Perhaps I am too accustomed to the story and the reality of His birth. Perhaps I have too many comforts and warmth of clothing and nourishing food to really want! I would want the inquisitiveness of the shepherds, the searching of the Wise Men, the wondering of Joseph and Mary.

We can pray for emptiness, a place to serve as our Inn. We can prepare for this liturgy as we do for Christmas itself by allowing some experiences of "not having" as a kind of "having."

Nature abhors a vacuum, our hearts ache for completion. We can pray for a peace of soul that accompanies our unique ways of hungering.

**Advent Hints**

1. Make sure there are plenty of decorations, especially the tree, and talk about the symbolic nature of the round coloured balls and lights, the candles, the greenery and the meaning of having a tree in the house where it doesn't really belong by nature.
2. If possible, place wrapped gifts under the tree and talk about why there are gifts and why the wrapping.
3. Perhaps there could be a miniature barn or stable with little waiting animals who do not know what is about to happen.
4. Perhaps there can be some sitting in the quiet dark with one candle struggling to penetrate the dark.

## 2. Advent Program

Thank you for all those who attended the Advent Program. Thank you to Ed Maamo who led the group.

## 3. Want to Become Catholic?

Whether you are 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 interest by calling the parish office or send us an email. We look forward to sharing Jesus Christ and His life with you.



## 4. Christmas Mass Bookings

Thank you for booking for Christmas masses. The 5.30pm and 7.30pm Christmas Eve masses are booked out. Please book as soon as you can if you would like to attend mass at Christmas. There is still plenty of room for the midnight and Christmas Day masses at this stage. However bookings are required. We apologise for those who missed out

## 5. Mass times in the next two weeks.

Confirming this weekend masses will be as normal.

The weekend of 26-27 December masses will be follows:

Saturday 26 December

4.30pm and 5.30pm

Sunday 27 December

7.30am- - 9.00am.

## 6. Counters

We would like to ask for volunteers to count the money received during the masses. We need two volunteers for each mass. If you are interested please contact the Parish Office. A meeting with Father Kene will be arranged for all the money counters in the coming year prior to commencement.



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

We are pleased to announce that social distancing at places of worship has changed from the 4 square metre rule to 2 square metre rule in our church. That means we can now have up to 150 people in each mass.

Therefore, you do not need to make any bookings for the masses except the Christmas Masses. Masses will be open to the first 150 people who register their names. Provisions will be made at the church portico once capacity is met.

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-19 safe place.

## 8. From the Archdiocesan Office.

### On Covid—19

As you will have seen from the media reports earlier last week, the NSW Government has announced a significant easing of restrictions on Places of Worship which came into effect on Monday 7 December. We now know that churches will be subject to the 1 person per 2sqm rule in line with other venues and there will be no upper limit as there currently has been. Outdoor gatherings are also based on the 2sqm rule and up to 5000 people. This means we are able to at least double the number of people in your congregations.

Choirs will be able to have 50 people indoors and no limit outdoors. Congregational singing is allowed.

### 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.

## 9. 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.

#### **10. 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 will be away from 20 January to 12 February 2021 to enable him travel to Nigeria for the burial ceremony.

#### **11. 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.

#### **12. Parking for Mass**

Please reserve the parking in the church yard for the elderly seniors who find it difficult to walk a long distance from their car to the church. You may use the street parking on Eleventh Avenue or the carpark between the church and the hall. You may drop off anyone but please reserve the green grass parking area for the seniors of the church.

#### **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 and 2021 Volunteers**

Please let us know for this year's Christmas celebrations if you would like to be a Reader, Eucharist Minister, Acolyte or Warden.

Thank you to all the parishioners who have volunteered their time throughout the year. We would love to see more involved next year. At the back of the church is a list to be filled out if you would like to volunteer in any of the Masses for next year. Jobs required are listed on the sheet.

Moving into the new year we plan to set up a roster on a month by month basis for all the volunteer jobs in the church. The roster will be emailed at the beginning of the month. Printed copies will also be available in the presbytery. Could everyone please fill in the form or call the Parish Office even though you are a volunteer already so everyone is accounted for.

Further please note that all volunteers need a valid Working with Children Check and are required to attend a Safe Guarding Workshop with our safeguarding Officer Natasha Steimbessier.

#### **16. Christmas Confession**

If you missed out last Wednesday for the Christmas confession and still would like to receive the sacrament, I will be available for the sacrament on Tuesday 22 December at 5pm.

#### **17. Youth Group 2021**

We are looking forward to starting a youth group in 2021 and we want your input! We are hoping to start youth groups in the 13-18 and 18-30 age ranges, but do not be disheartened if you fall outside of these ranges- we want to hear from everyone!

Please take a form from the back table or email the parish office to express your interest and share your thoughts. If you have any questions, please speak to Veronica Casha or call the Parish Office.

God Bless



Fr Kene



## **New website and social platforms to promote the cause for sainthood of Eileen O'Connor**

Visit the new website at this address: [www.eileenconnor.com.au](http://www.eileenconnor.com.au) and follow the new Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/SoGEileenOConnor> and Instagram page at this address: [www.instagram.com/theeileenconnor/](http://www.instagram.com/theeileenconnor/)

A special Mass will also be livestreamed on this site on January 10, 2021, to be celebrated by Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP at St Brigid's Church in Coogee, marking the centenary of Eileen's death. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, attendance at this Mass is by invitation only.

As we approach the centenary of Eileen's death in January, let us unite in a prayer that the Little Mother, as she was affectionately known, may soon be counted amongst the saints in heaven.

## **The 2021 Archdiocesan Marriage Preparation course, Of Life and Love, will be held on the following dates:**

1. Saturday 27 February commencing at 10am and then Thursday evenings 4, 11, 18 March 2021  
Saturday 14 August commencing at 10am and then Thursday evenings 19, 26 August & 02 September 2021

To Book Online - <https://www.trybooking.com/BMTLF>

For further information, please contact - The Life, Marriage and Family team on (02) 9307 8480 or e-mail [steven.buhagiar@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:steven.buhagiar@sydneycatholic.org)

## **Parish Missionary Internship for young Catholics: Seattle, USA**

Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish, on the outskirts of the US city of Seattle is seeking young adult Catholics (10-30) who wish to spend a one year internship spreading the gospel to youth and young adults, while gaining valuable experience serving in a vibrant parish environment.

Missionary interns will live and work in a team setting with other parish interns participating in daily prayer, Mass and evangelization efforts in the parish and greater community. If you're interested in the program, please contact Sr Maria Caeli OP- Director of Missionary Internship Program at Our Lady Star of the Sea, Email: [smcparmeter@starofthesea.net](mailto:smcparmeter@starofthesea.net)

## **Go Make Disciples**

Thank you to all our parishes and Eucharistic communities for your support following last week's successful launch of our new Archdiocesan Mission Plan, Go Make Disciples.

Visit the Go Make Disciples website ([www.gomakedisciples.org.au](http://www.gomakedisciples.org.au)) where you'll find a downloadable copy of the full plan and a summary version.

Please also help us promote the plan more broadly by sharing the attached social media tiles on your parish Facebook and Instagram platforms.

CatholicCare's Home Care Services for seniors can support you or a loved one to live at home independently with comfort and confidence and to remain connected to your parish community.

To learn more call our

**Home Care Team**

**13 18 19**

[connect@catholiccare.org](mailto:connect@catholiccare.org)



## Baptisms at St Anthony's

We welcome into our faith– community

Valencia May Rouco  
(daughter of Jonathan and Ana)

Alessio Saverio Laria  
(son of Anthony and Marisa)

Juliana Penelope Thorpe  
(daughter of Matthew and Lucia)



## Catholic Weekly—Available Please put \$2.00 in the poor box.

- Winning hearts & minds. Hugely successful new religious education curriculum
- It could happen to anyone. New book outlines Pell justice travesty
- The priest our spies framed
- Transgender reality check
- Movie review: *The Hardy Boys*
- Vatican's worrying China silence

## **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.



## **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

## A message from Father Bob

Dear Parishioners,

It is 9 weeks that I have been here in Rome, at Domus Australia. Time passes quickly! On my arrival I had to quarantine for 10 days in a room here in the hotel. All meals were bought up to me.

Once out, Monsignor John Boyle, who I was replacing sat me down and explained a little of life in the Eternal City. The Italians love paperwork and getting registered and that is what I began and it's still not completed.

To be registered in Rome takes time and I guess I am a third of the way through the process. I have an appointment on 10 Jan 2021 for the final part. So about 3 months it will take. had to get faculties of the archdiocese of Rome and that was more visits to the Chancery at The Basilica of St John Lateran and more fill in forms. The Priest was ok and helpful as the forms were in Italian so, he sat and translated while I filled in the required info.

I also, have a pass into St Peter's so, don't have to line up! Fr Robert McCulloch a Columban Father helped me in this matter as well as helping me get registered as Mgr Boyle left a few days after I got out of isolation. There are quite a few Aussies here both Priests (doing further studies for their doctorates) and seminarians(studying for the Priesthood).

Part of my role is to keep in touch with them. How? We have a Wednesday night dinner and due to COVID we can only have 6 come at a time. Priests can attend a little more easily than the seminarians.

I had the Sydney seminarians over on last Sunday week for pizza and beer and everyone has to be home by 10pm. There is a curfew!!

Domus is a retreat for Aussie clergy as well as pilgrims (tourists) to feel right at home in Aussie surroundings here at Domus. They have vegemite on the breakfast menu!!

Reception staff speak good English so, for visitors to Domus are 60% Aussie before COVID can speak and understand staff speaking to them.

Tourists?? There are none!! Rome is a ghost city!!! Due to the virus people wear masks and go about their business and go home. There are not many people wandering around on the street.

The virus in Rome isn't too bad. People wear masks so, we don't have a lot of people with the virus, so we are "yellow!" Around Milan and Venice it's Red and in Calabria and Sicily it's red.

So, how am I filling in my time? I am doing Italian!! I have an Italian teacher two days a week, Monday and Wednesday, for 90 minutes. She just speaks Italian to me and it's tough at the moment as I don't know many words etc. she gives me homework and so, I am getting to know verbs, adverbs and adjectives etc. I hope after a while I will be able to speak short sentences in Italian. It isn't easy and staff say it's a tough language to learn. My teacher, her name is Livia just says "slowly, slowly!"

I have celebrated one Saturday Vigil Mass in Italian and gave the homily (which I read) and I am up again this Saturday Night again. The Italian Bishops have just updated the Altar Missal so the text for the Eucharistic Prayers are a little different so, I have to learn Eucharistic Prayer 2 over again!!

The Chapel is lovely but it isn't a parish Church so, the numbers we get at the Vigil average 16 ladies and men. No families as I guess they go to the parish church around the corner.

So, that is what I am up to and due to rain in Rome I haven't been out much and the days are getting colder.Well, I hope you enjoyed my short story.

God Bless to you all and have a Blessed Christmas. I miss you all at this time.

Buon Natale to all at Austral.

Fr Bob

## **CHURCH CLEANING ROSTER**

### **21-24 December**

Brianna, Raquel, Olivia



### **28 December—1 January**

Volunteers

## **READERS ROSTER**

### **19-20 December**

4.30pm—Volunteers

5.30pm—Volunteers

7.30am Paaqualina Cantanzariti  
Margaret Cvetko

9:00am—Maria Zucco  
Faye Palamara

## **Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist Roster**

Volunteers at all Masses



## **ACOLYTES ROSTER**

### **19-20 December**

#### **Saturday Vigil**

Gerry Crescini

#### **Sunday 7.30am**

George Ajkay

#### **Sunday 9.00am**

Anthony Zanetic

