



## ST ANTHONY OF PADUA CATHOLIC CHURCH

105 ELEVENTH AVE  
AUSTRAL 2179

**Pastor:** Fr Kene Onwukwe  
Administrator

**Secretary:** Natalie Valenzisi

**House Manager:** Quyen Phan

**Presbytery and Parish Office:**  
320 EDMONDSON AVENUE  
AUSTRAL

**Parish Office is open on:**  
Tuesday and Thursday

**Phone:** 9606 0206; **Fax:** 9606 0153

**Email Address:**

admin@stanthonysaustral.org

**Fr Kene**

pp@stanthonysaustral.org

**Sacraments**

sacraments@stanthonysaustral.org

**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@stapastral.catholic.edu.au

### Sacramental Life

**Celebration of the Eucharist:**

**Mass Schedule:**

Saturday Vigils: 5pm

Sunday - 7.30am, 9am & 5pm

Masses: Tuesday, Wednesday,

Thursday and - Friday 9.00am

**Reconciliation: Saturday**

4.15pm—4.45pm

**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.

## 14-15 August 2021 The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary



**Entrance Antiphon:** Let us all rejoice in the Lord, as we celebrate the feast day in honour of the Virgin Mary, at whose Assumption the Angels rejoice and praise the Son of God

**Responsorial Psalm:** The queen stands at your right hand, arrayed in gold.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! Mary is taken up to heaven and the angels of God shout for joy Alleluia!

**Communion Antiphon:** All generations will call me blessed, for he who is mighty has done great things for me.

**Dear Parishioners,**

**Today we celebrate the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

In his moving musical composition [Like Winter Waiting](#), John Foley, S.J., has Joseph sing about Mary, “Who is this woman?” For many people (and, of course, maybe for Joseph too) the question is really, “Who is this woman *to me*?” These two questions are very different in character.

Consider the first one: who is this woman? The traditional answer to this question is that Mary is the Mother of God.

This answer can be hard to understand. All Christians agree that God is without beginning. It seems that a God without beginning *can't* be born. And so it seems that God can't have a mother either. *But* Jesus is fully human *and* fully divine. As man, God *can* be born. And so, after all, God can have and did have a human mother.

The woman who was that mother is Mary.

And that is why if it is taken as the question Joseph sings in John Foley's music, “Who is this woman?,” the answer to the question is this: Mary is the Mother of God. But the more pressing question remains: “who is this woman *to me*?”

The answer to this question depends on the life and love of each person who answers it, doesn't it? Think about it this way. For every person who reads this website, John Foley is the Jesuit priest who is the editor of this website and the composer of very influential liturgical music. But the answer to the question, “who is John Foley *to me*?” depends on the person answering the question. *To me*, he is a dear friend. But that is because the history of my life includes care for him and commitment to him.

**What Mary is to you depends on you, on your own care for her and commitment to her.**

And this is how it is for each person and Mary too. What Mary is *to you* depends on you, on your own care for her and commitment to her. But, you might think, how much care and commitment *should* I have for Mary?

Isn't that a backwards way to think about relationship with any person, though, Mary included? Maybe this is a better way. Elizabeth said to Mary, “who am I that the mother of my Lord should come to me?” ([Luke 1:43](#)) Maybe what we should ask is, “what are we that the mother of our Lord should come to us?” What Mary is *to me*—or *to you*—depends on how you answer Elizabeth's question.

## 2. Mother Mary—Feast of the Assumption

The feast of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary into heaven has long been held as an important Catholic belief but it is not until 1950 that Pope Pius XII defined it as a dogma - a truth revealed by God, which the magisterium of the Church declared as binding. Assumption, as a dogma, teaches that Mary, after her life on earth and who was without sin, was taken, body and soul, into the glory of heaven.

The Gospel of today's feast recalls Mary's action after the annunciation by the Angel Gabriel. She goes to visit her kinswoman Elizabeth who is also with a child in her old age.

The meeting between Mary and Elizabeth is quite prophetic as both come to full realization of the roles they and their unborn children will play in God's plan of salvation.

I pick generosity as an overarching gift that both ladies and their children received and which they did not hold only to themselves even in their situational changes. Elizabeth always wanted to have a child of her own but having passed the ripe age of giving birth, her thoughts of being a mother was quickly dissipating. Mary, in her personal choice of virginity, never anticipated having a child. However, the message of God through an Angel changed their circumstances and they were happy to offer themselves as instruments for God's salvation.

After giving her divine maternal acceptance speech (the Fiat), the Blessed Virgin Mary went straight to Elizabeth to share her joy. As the mother of God, she gave herself to God and gave God (Jesus) to the world. The perplexity of 'how can this come about since I am a virgin' did not stop her from the divine generosity which in fact, only her could give, being born through Immaculate Conception. The feast of Assumption is therefore, a meritorious gift from God to his mother as one who did the will of God by her generosity even at the time of bewilderment.

I see similar generosity from you, my parishioners at this difficult time of pandemic and lockdown. Upon the hardships that you are going through as a family and as a group, many have not stopped giving to the church and asking for the welfare of others. I want to thank those who are still supporting the church through their planned giving envelope or one-off donation. Your generosity are really appreciated. They help to pay the bills that haven't stopped coming in this lockdown. More generosity are also from those who never stop praying for our parish family members and reaching out to them.

The feast of Assumption which is a sign of Mary's victory over the effects of evil, portrays your victory over the frustrations of this pandemic. Let us keep supporting each other by our prayers and by reaching out. May the Blessed ever Virgin who was assumed into Heaven pray for us. Amen



## 3. Our Faith Our Works App

The Fundraising and Development Office of the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney has released a new app "Our Faith Our Works" that will hopefully assist us as a parish and parishioners in two ways.

Keeping the fire of faith alive amongst parishioners with spiritual formation resources (videos and podcasts) and Easy access to support our parish by setting up a monthly (or one-off) donation from the comfort of one's living room.

To download the app visit:

[www.ourfaithourworks.org/app](http://www.ourfaithourworks.org/app) or Scan the QR Code



## 4. Planned Giving Envelopes

The new financial year planned giving envelopes have been placed at the back of the church for pick up. If you are interested in joining our Planned Giving, please contact the Parish Office. All donations through the Planned Giving program are tax deductible. Thanks for your generosity throughout this financial year. This year we have facilities for credit card payments on the back of the planned giving envelope.

## **5. Working with Children Check**

It is important that you update your Working with Children Check (WWCC) once it has expired. Once you have your new Working with Children Check please send a copy to the Parish Office so we can update our records. Please note it is a requirement by the Sydney Archdiocese that certain ministers, volunteers or paid employee position held in our Parish have their current Working with Children number on our records. Those who need WWCC are:

Parish Secretaries  
Youth Ministers, Workers or Leaders  
Pastoral Associates  
Sacramental Coordinators  
Sacramental Group Leaders  
Catechists in State Schools  
Children's Liturgy Coordinators  
Children's Choir Ministry Leaders  
Acolytes and Senior Altar Servers  
Ministers of the Word/Readers/Lectors  
Parish Collectors (AKA Wardens)

Please call the Parish office if you require assistance with obtaining your check.

## **6. Sydney Archdiocese Website**

If you require any further spiritual nourishment, Sydney Archdiocese offer free seminars. Look on their website and see which one may interest you.

## **7. Safeguarding Workshop**

With further lockdowns this might be a great time to complete your Safeguarding course online. If you are interested in completing your safeguarding certificate online please email us and we will forward you a link for the online course.

## **8. Church Donations**

With the lockdown now in place for a little longer if you would like to set up direct deposits to the church straight from your bank account, please let us know. You can make a donation at any time and if you are part of the Planned Giving list just use your Planned Giving Number as a reference. Direct Debit donations are 30% tax deductible. Please call the office or email [admin@stanthonystral.org](mailto:admin@stanthonystral.org) If you would like to make a payment via credit card, please contact the Parish office who can process the payments on your behalf.

## **9. Confirmation**

The sacrament of confirmation has now been postponed. A new date will be advised in due course. In the meantime please let us know if you wish for your child your child to complete this sacrament by emailing us at [sacraments@stanthonystral.org](mailto:sacraments@stanthonystral.org) so an application form can be sent to you. Thank you to those who have made enquiries thus far.

## **10. Rosary Prayer Group via Zoom**

Each week we will be holding a Rosary prayer group via zoom for all Parishioners. This will be held each Thursday at 5.30pm.  
Zoom links:

<https://us05web.zoom.us/j/87979047248?pwd=NTFoR005OHJnY28yWm1sSmViaENuUT09>

Meeting ID: 879 7904 7248  
Passcode: 90pfig

## **11. Catholic Weekly**

For those of you who are missing the edition of The Catholic Weekly please note a digital version can be obtained by visiting their website on [www.catholicweekly.com.au](http://www.catholicweekly.com.au)

## **12. COVID-19 update—the current rules**

The extension means that our church is still closed for public worship. We will continue to livestream our 5pm Saturday vigil mass and our 9.00am Sunday mass through our Parish Facebook account: [www.facebook.com/St-Anthony-of-Padua-Catholic-Church-Austral-584855168825581](https://www.facebook.com/St-Anthony-of-Padua-Catholic-Church-Austral-584855168825581). We will keep you updated of any further advice received from the Government. In the meantime, please keep safe.

## **13. Office Hours**

The office is closed and all administration work is undertaken off site in accordance with Archdiocesan instructions. If you require any assistance, please continue to email our office or call and leave a message on the answering machine. We will get back to you soon as we can.

## 14. Mass Intentions

We are still accepting all mass intentions for each weekend mass. Please email the office at [admin@stanthonystral.org](mailto:admin@stanthonystral.org) if you have an intention. The secretary will return your email to confirm details.

## 15. Baptisms

All baptisms are on hold. Once churches open, we will reschedule in accordance with the current church rules.

## 16. Aid to the Church in Need | ACN Australia

**Please consider leaving an eternal legacy.** By remembering ACN in your will you leave a lasting legacy of faith, hope and love. Your offering assists us to keep the light of faith shining brightly in a world which cries out for the peace that only Christ can offer. Visit [www.aidtochurch.org/legacies](http://www.aidtochurch.org/legacies)

God Bless,



Fr Kene Onwukwe

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

In your love and concern, please pray for:-

#### **Recently Deceased:**

Melvin Corpuz, Mary Lyons, Anthony Cantanzariti, Grace Cilia, Raffaella Cicino

#### **Anniversaries:**

Giuseppina Carbone, Vera and Angelina Najdek, Lucija Beuk, Gerald Onwukwe, Mary Low, Carmel Ferraro, Marc Arcuri, Caterina Vocisano, Arthur Mitchell, Irene Pendlebury, Silvester & Joann Oros

#### **Also for:**

Antonio Pisano, The Dimech Family, The Pace Family & The Bonanno Family, Paolo Politio

**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, Michael Jasenko, Tomislav Juric, James Dimech, Jean Poles, Hane Abe Rached, Rhodora Manon, Anastacio Swing, Irene Norris, Natalie Biro, Carmela Garzanti, Rene D'Silva, Mrs Mary Vella, Lena Xerri, Anita and Anthony Zappia, Charito San Jose, Flossy Lobo

## The Paduans Prayer during the Pandemic

*Merciful God of hope and life, during this time of pandemic, May we hold to attitudes and behaviours that profess our faith in Jesus Christ, May we act with care and responsibility to keep our community safe, May we be beacons of hope to those feeling overwhelmed and fearful. Heal those who are infected by the virus, Guide healthcare professionals and researchers in their work, Inspire politicians, business and community leaders by your wisdom, Bring those who have died to yourself and comfort their loved ones. We make this prayer through Our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen Mary, Mother of God: pray for us. All Saints: pray for us*

### **A Message from the Archdiocese of Sydney**

Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with the 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.



**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/St-Anthony-of-Padua-Catholic-Church-Austral-584855168825581](https://www.facebook.com/St-Anthony-of-Padua-Catholic-Church-Austral-584855168825581)

### **Dates to Remember**

Sunday 15 August—The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Thursday 20 August—St Bernard

Saturday 21 August—St Pius X, Pope