



**ST ANTHONY OF
PADUA
CATHOLIC
CHURCH**
105 ELEVENTH AVE
AUSTRAL 2179

Pastor: Fr Ronnie Maree
Administrator
Secretary: Natalie Valenzisi
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Presbytery and Parish Office:
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Parish Office is open on:
Tuesday and Thursday

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Presbytery is closed on Mondays.

**St Anthony of Padua
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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:

Contact the Parish Office

Marriages:

By appointment at Presbytery
Anointing: 3rd Wednesday of
the month after the 9am mass.

Sick Calls: Any time - day/night.

Funeral Masses: In Co-operation
with Funeral Directors.

**10-11 December 2022
Third Sunday of Advent Year A**

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

Responsorial Psalm: Lord, come and save us.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.



**Dear Parishioners,
Today we celebrate the
Third Sunday of Advent Year A**



Isaiah depicts two ways in which the renewal promised by God is manifested: the barren wilderness will be filled with new life; and those who suffer physical maladies will be healed. The proclamation 'Fear not' is a common expression found in many accounts of divine revelation (cf. Gen 15:1; Josh 8:1; Isa 41:10). It is spoken by God or a messenger of God in an attempt to assuage the very natural trepidation that one experiences in the presence of a supernatural phenomenon. Here, as part of a promise of salvation, it is meant to encourage the faint-hearted. Like the transformation and rejuvenation, the release of captives is a gift from God. The responsorial psalm is a hymn of praise. Although covenant is never explicitly mentioned, themes such as divine faithfulness and graciousness to the vulnerable point to it. Widows were women who could return to their home of origin because they had married, but now had neither husbands nor adult son to care for them. They were marginal in society and needed some patron to care for them. Orphans had no extended family within whose jurisdiction they might take refuge. These were the vulnerable ones for whom God cared. The final verse praises God as sovereign and eternal ruler in Jerusalem. This God is close at hand. Patience is the controlling theme in the second reading. The author both exhorts believers to be patient in waiting for the coming of the Lord and offers examples of patient waiting. They are told not to complain about each other or judge each other, lest they themselves be judged. Christ will be the judge. Living a life in accord with Christian principles is not easy. Believers are instructed to take the prophets as their models. Calling on such witnesses as models of virtuous living served as a reminder of the unavoidable hardships of life that every person must endure and the patience required of those who in the midst of such hardships wait with excitement for the parousía of the Lord. Jesus' words to John's disciples are really intended for John himself. John had heard of the works of 'the Christ' (the Greek equivalent for messiah). That he sent disciples to find out whether or not Jesus was indeed this person, suggests that Jesus did not exhibit all the eschatological signs that John had expected. In response, Jesus links some of his own wondrous deeds with prophetic allusions to eschatological visions of fulfilment (cf. Isa 29:18; 35:6; 26:19; 61:19). Jesus then points out the excellence of John the man. Still, from an eschatological point of view, John stood on the threshold of the new age; he did not cross over into it. On the other hand, anyone who accepted Jesus' invitation into the reign of heaven belonged to the new age.

Author: Dianne Bergant CSA

2. Third week of Advent Year A – Fr Ronnie

It was a great joy to be welcomed by so many parishioners last weekend as I said my first set of Sunday Masses at the parish. My gratitude to you all for your very warm welcome and please remember to keep reminding me of your names! As I said in my homily last weekend I look forward to spending my first few months in the parish hearing from you and getting to know your story. Please feel free to reach out via my email (pp@stanthonystral.org) or give the parish office a call if you'd like to make a time to catch up. I will be available to you as I can be, especially during January.

The Third Sunday of Advent is also known as Gaudete Sunday. The word "gaudete" is derived from the Latin words "gaudium," joy, and "gaudeo," to rejoice or be glad. Gaudete is taken from the Entrance Antiphon: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near" (Phil 4:4-5). All of our prayers and readings this weekend have joy as their theme as we get closer and closer to the birth of Our Lord at Christmas.

This joyful Sunday is meant to be a small break from the penance of the Advent season. This small break is represented by the colour rose (as it is penitential purple mixed with a small drop of Christmas white) and therefore we will light the rose candle on our wreath and I will wear rose vestments. This may seem unusual to many of us but it is one of our Church's ancient liturgical traditions that has been neglected in past decades.

May Our Lord bless you and your families especially with joy this weekend and may His Mother watch over you as we walk together towards Christmas.

3. St Vincent De Paul



Our Parish will again hold a St Vincent De Paul Christmas Appeal with a box put under our Christmas Tree in the church. A list of items you may wish to donate to St Vincent De Paul is on our Bulletin board. Please leave any donated items under our Christmas tree no later than **Sunday 11th December 2022**, as all items will need to be picked up prior to Christmas for early distribution to those in need. Thank you for your generosity.

4. Christmas Confession

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be celebrated in preparation for Christmas. There will be visiting priests attending to hear confessions and all are invited to take up this excellent opportunity to receive the Lord's mercy in this beautiful sacrament.

Date: Thursday 15 December 2022

Time: 6:30pm

5. Christmas Mass Times

Saturday 24th December – 5.00 pm
Children's Mass

Saturday 24th December – 7.30 pm

Sunday 25th December – Midnight

Sunday 25th December – 9.00 am

If you would like to volunteer at any of the masses as an acolyte, Lector, or eucharistic minister, please contact the Parish Office. Please note those who have completed their working with children checks and safeguarding workshops will be considered. The children's mass at 5.00 pm will only require an acolyte and eucharistic minister. A roster will be drawn and shared to all volunteers prior to the masses.

6. St Mary's Cathedral Lights

The Parish Council has organised transport for Parishioners to St Mary's Cathedral for the 'Lights of Christmas'. Last year's trip was great and we hope this year will be fabulous.

Date: Monday 12th December

Time: 5.00 pm – 9.30 pm

5.00 - Depart Austral from the Church carpark to the Cathedral. Please arrive by 4.45pm.

6.15 pm - Approximate arrival into the city where you are free to view the light show at your leisure and spend time at the Cathedral.

9.30 pm - Depart the City and return to Austral

Cost: \$22 per person, including children and pensioners

Please contact the Parish office for more information and to book your spot on the bus. Please note that to secure your seat on the bus, payment is required prior to this event. Thank you to those who have booked already.

7. Thank you Christmas Carols Picnic at St Anthony's

Thank you to all the performers and volunteers who were part of the Christmas Carol evening. We would like to especially thank Veronica Casha for all the hard work in organizing the program and ensuring our Parish had a wonderful evening.

8. Thank you – Cleaners

With a process begun by Fr Kene, the parish has recently hired a regular cleaner to clean the church on a weekly basis. On behalf of all the parishioners in the Parish, we would like to extend our gratitude and thanks to all the cleaners both past and present who have dedicated their time and wonderful talents to clean our Church. May God bless you all for all your wonderful work. If anyone would like to continue to volunteer in another ministry please contact the Parish Office. Our Parish is always looking for someone who can help with flowers and preparing the Church for all the Masses throughout the year.

9. Advent Program

The Advent Program has commenced with its first week. It is not too late to attend any week during the Advent season. This program helps you prepare ahead of time, with regard to listening and reflecting on the coming weekend's gospel reading, and with the opportunity to pray for those who need our prayers.

Time: 6:30 pm

Where: Cry room in the Church

All are welcome. Thank you to Roweena Richard for leading the program.

10. Palms Australia

You've got a lot to give beyond Christmas gifts.

In January you can prepare for mission at home or abroad. Palms Australia has trained Australians to live and work within cultures and communities overseas since 1961. Now four days of that training will be available for parishioners interested to assist harness the diverse gifts of our community and make it stronger **At Home**

Palms' **Neighbours Without Borders** program (January 7 – 11) will **“focus on building communities that are welcoming to all, with particular attention to those on the margins of society and the church”** as urged by the recent Plenary Council. **Overseas**

Completing a further four days (January 12 – 15) will prepare you to meet one of the many requests Palms has from communities in Africa, Asia and the Pacific who need educators; health professionals; administrators and others to assist build on the strengths of their people who otherwise have little opportunity for training.

Enquire about Palms Orientation for mission via www.palms.org.au or call 02 9560 533 or 0422 472 567.

11. Silence in the Church

Allow five minutes before Mass in the church to be a time of silence and quiet reflection in preparation for the celebration of the Eucharist. No group prayer at this time and, at all times, no noise in the church.

12. Parking

Please reserve the parking in the churchyard 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.

Events in the Parish

- *Every Thursday Legion of Mary after the 9am mass*
- *Every Monday (the last session for the year will be Monday 19th December 2022 then will recommence Monday 9th January 2023 at 10am) in St Anthony's Parish Hall a **Rosary Prayer group** is held at 10am. It begins with the chaplet of Divine Mercy followed by praying the decades of the Rosary in different languages. All are welcome.*
- *Third Wednesday of the month after the 9am mass **Anointing of the Sick**. The next service will be held on Wednesday 21st December 2022.*
- ***Young Children's Prayer Group** Every 2nd Saturday of the month. The next prayer group will be held on Saturday 10th December 2022 in the Parish Hall at 4pm All children are welcome*

Dates to Remember

Monday 12th December—Our Lady Guadalupe—Optional Memorial

Tuesday 13th December—St Lucy—Memorial

Wednesday 14th December—ST John of the Cross—Memorial

