



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

Pastor: Fr Ronnie Maree
Administrator
Secretary: Natalie Valenzisi
House Manager: Teresa Rowland

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

Parish Office is open on:
Tuesday and Thursday

Phone: 9606 0206

Email Addresses:

admin@stanthonysaustral.org

Fr Ronnie

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@stapaustral.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:

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.**

**24-25 December 2022
The Nativity of the Lord
(Christmas Day)**



Entrance Antiphon: A child is born for us, and a son is given to us; his sceptre of power rests upon his shoulder, and his name will be called Messenger of great counsel.

Responsorial Psalm: All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! A holy day has dawned upon us. Come you nations and adore the Lord. Today a great light has come upon the earth. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

**Dear Parishioners,
Today we celebrate
The Nativity of the Lord Christmas Day**



Today the Christmas celebration gains a new depth of theological meaning. At midnight, the birth in history was proclaimed. At dawn, the initiative of God's gift was declared and the community's joyful gratitude was announced. In this third celebration, the identity of Christ and the new way of life that he brings is announced.

If our eyes are open and alert, we can see that God has won a victory for us, one that is tangible and realised in our midst. It is an overwhelming victory, one that permanently conquers the enemy. This victory has a profound impact on every place, every time and every people. The birth of the infant, the king in David's line, promises salvation to all who long for it. This salvation is a new vision of wisdom, one that has been realised in Christ, God's agent of grace in the world. It is a new world, one of inclusivity and of righteous honour. It is a new age, one that is ushered in by the child who is leading a victory procession.

Ultimately, only eyes of faith allow us to see the fullness of God's revelation. The glory of the infant king is the very presence of God made flesh. Jesus is the eternal incarnate Word who has pitched his tent among us. Ours is not a distant God; the incarnate wisdom of God is among us, and we are called to a change of heart that will allow us to see this wonder.

Author: Dianne Bergant CSA



2. The Nativity of the Lord – Christmas Day

And the angel said to them, “Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord. Luke 2:10-11

As we celebrate the Solemnity of Our Lord’s Nativity, I echo the angel’s message of joy and salvation. It is my earnest prayer that the newborn Christ, His Blessed Mother and Saint Joseph bless you all abundantly and fill your families with peace and joy.

Our Lord chose to share our human nature and to be born for us to know Him and love Him. He chose to be born so that none of us will ever have to be denied the opportunity to experience His salvation; to experience His light which overcomes the darkness, His peace which calms the turmoil in our souls and in our world and His life which destroys death. His birth is once again another invitation from Him (an invitation that He never tires in offering) for us to draw near to Him as He draws near to us.

I would especially like to welcome all those celebrating the Christmas festivities this weekend who have been away from God and away from His power and presence in the Sacraments for a long while. Always know that St Anthony’s parish exists for you to hear God’s loving truth spoken in His Word and experience His saving love given to us in the Sacraments. Always know that this is a place where you can draw near to the one who draws so near to us in His Incarnation.

It has been a real honour for me to begin my first few weeks here as Parish Administrator at Austral. I have been blessed with such a great welcome and I am very excited about building up the Kingdom of God with you all here at Austral. Please know of my continued prayers and my availability (especially in the next few quiet weeks of January) if there is anything I can do for you. I am very interested to continue to meet you and hear from you as we move into 2023.

3. Coming Feasts

Due to Christmas falling on a Sunday this year, some of the Christmas solemnities and feasts are celebrated outside their usual times. Please note the dates of these special days and especially take note of the extra Masses on Monday 26th and Monday 9th.

Monday 26th December 2022 – Boxing Day – The Feast of St Stephen – Mass at **10am**

Friday 30th December 2022 – The Holy Family of Jesus, Joseph and Mary – Mass at 9am followed by Adoration.

Sunday 1st January 2023 – The Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God – [celebrated during our normal weekend Mass times](#).

Sunday 8th January 2023 – The Epiphany of the Lord – celebrated during our normal weekend Mass times.

Monday 9th January 2023 – The Baptism of the Lord – Mass at 6.30pm.

4. House Blessings

The weeks following the Feast of the Epiphany have for centuries in our Catholic faith been a traditional time for the blessing of our homes. There is special Holy Water blessed specifically for this feast as well as chalk. The water is used to bless the house and the chalk is used to “chalk the door”. This involves writing the letters C, M and B and the numbers of the year, for example 2023, at the top of the front door with chalk. The letters stand for the names of the three Magi: Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar. They also represent the Latin blessing *Christus mansionem benedicat*, which means “May Christ bless this house.”

I (Fr Ronnie) will be available to bless any parishioners’ homes in the weeks following the Feast of the Epiphany on Sunday 8th January. It will also be a great opportunity for me to get to know the parish more and more and hear from you about our parish community.

If you would like to have your home blessed, please contact the parish office or send me an email at pp@stanthonysaustral.org

5. Parish Office closed

The parish office will change its hours over Christmas time. Please note that the Parish Secretary will only be available on Wednesday 28th December 2022, therefore please contact her on this day if you require anything from the office. There will also be no parish bulletin next week.

As always, for all emergency sick calls please call the parish at anytime and if nobody answers please ensure to leave a very clear message with your name and number.

6. St Vincent De Paul

St Vincent de Paul have picked up donated items left under our Christmas Tree to pass onto those in need over this Christmas period. Thank you to our wonderful Parish community for your generosity. We ask that you keep those less fortunate in your prayers during the Christmas season.



7. 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.

8. A message from Caritas Australia

If you would like to give the gift of hope this Christmas, why not buy a Global Gift? Global Gifts are Caritas Australia's charitable Christmas cards. The funds raised from these cards go towards supporting vulnerable communities around the globe, including right here in Australia. Whether you purchase your Global Gift for a family member, friend or colleague, each gift reflects real items that will help assist the world's most vulnerable people in their fight against poverty and injustice.

Gifts of Education. Gifts of Health. Gifts of Empowerment. The beauty of these Global Gifts is that they bring joy to their recipient and provide someone in need the chance to build a better future. **This Christmas, please consider buying a gift that changes lives. Visit www.globalgifts.org.au or call 1800 024 413 toll free to browse our range of Global Gifts cards today.**

9. 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.

God Bless,

Fr Ronnie Maree

Events in the Parish

- Every Thursday **Legion of Mary** after the 9am mass
- Every Monday from 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 18th January 2023
- **Young Children's Prayer Group** Every 2nd Saturday of the month. The next prayer group will be held on **Saturday 11th February 2023** in the Parish Hall at 4pm All children are welcome

Dates to Remember

Monday 26th December 2022—Feast of St Stephen

Tuesday 27th December 2022—Feast of St John, apostle

Wednesday 28th December 2022—Feast of The Holy Innocents

Friday 30th December 2022—Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Sunday 1st January 2023—Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

Monday 2nd January 2023—Sts Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen—optional memorial

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

In your love and concern, please pray for:-

Recently Deceased: Johny Bezzino, Raffaele Bagnarol, Ilario Carillo, Carmela Bugeja

Anniversaries:

Charlie Vella, Veronica Sese, George Velso, Helen Argyle,

Also for:

Michael Gauci, James Dimech, Femia Gatt, and Gesu (Jesi) Lustri

We remember those who are sick in the community that the Lord will be their comforter and healer as we pray for: Claudio Ribeiro, Herbet Herrman, Marija Rados, Saint Lucia, Doris and Joe Gauci, Fr Noel Short, Shirley Farrell, Ken O'Leary, Paul Farnsworth, Michael Jasenko, Tomislav Juric, Jean Poles, Hane Abe Rached, Rhodora Manon, Anastacio Swing, Irene Norris, Natalie Biro, Carmela Garzaniti, Rene D'Silva, Mrs Mary Vella, Lena Xerri, Charito San Jose, Flossy Lobo, Linda and Family; Romeo San Jose

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 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.

This Week's Edition of the Catholic Weekly— Thank you for you supporting this publication. Please place \$2.00 in the Poor Box



- Prue Car: MP. Believer in bigger things
- Lambs among Wolves: Aussie Catholics take their faith to the streets
- Darkness at Christmas
- Anna Walsh: Start a spiritual reading book club
- Ladies! Go on retreat!
- When dying is about living

Baptisms in the Parish Welcome to our Faith Community



- *Deanne Louise Literato*
Daughter of David and She-Lamie
- *Kiara Isabella and Charlize Alma Aguilar*
Daughters of Damian and Gabriella

Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/St-Anthonyof-Padua-Catholic-Church_Austral- 584855168825581](https://www.facebook.com/St-Anthonyof-Padua-Catholic-Church-Austral-584855168825581)

