



**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.**

**28-29 January 2023**  
**Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time A**

**Entrance Antiphon:** Save us, O Lord our God! And gather us from the nations, to give thanks to your holy name, and make it our glory to praise you.

**Responsorial Psalm:** Happy the poor in spirit; the kingdom of heaven is theirs!

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! Rejoice and be glad; Your reward will be great in heaven. Alleluia!

**Communion Antiphon:** Let your face shine on your servant. Save me in your merciful love. O Lord, let me never be put to shame, for I call on you.

**Reflection:** The prophet addresses the people with a threefold exhortation: Seek the Lord! Seek righteousness! Seek humility! The second part of the reading is an oracle of salvation in which God's loving words offer assurance and hope. A portion of the people will not only survive, they will faithfully conform to the dictates of the covenant. This remnant will be humbled, perhaps sobered by the suffering that it will have to undergo. Aware of their own dismal situation, these people have taken refuge in God. The path of righteousness that the remnant will follow will be the consequence of their deliverance, not the cause of it. Salvation and prosperity all come from the hand of God. Although covenant is never explicitly mentioned in the psalm response, various themes seem to point to it. There is mention of God's faithfulness and an allusion to God's deliverance of the people from the bondage of Egypt and God's providential care of them during their sojourn in the wilderness. In strict patriarchal societies, women and children are often the most vulnerable. These are the ones for whom God cares. The final verse praises God as sovereign and eternal ruler in Jerusalem, the very hill that is at the centre of the lives of the people. This is a God who has entered into their history and into the very social fabric of their existence. Such a God deserves praise. Paul speaks about honour-and-shame. Judged by the standards of society at the time, the Christians are unimportant; they are really nobodies. God chooses the nobodies of the world in order to shame those who think that they are somebodies. At the heart of Jesus' teaching was the promise of a new age when society would be reshaped so that all would gain access to the blessings that life has to offer. Promises such as these would attract people who were oppressed or who felt themselves dispossessed of the things of the world. Paul next turns from ecclesiology to Christology, insisting that every good thing that we have we have received because of Christ. The sermon of the mount was directed to Jesus' close followers, not to the broader crowds. While the teachings are all in some way directed toward the establishment of the reign of God, the type of behaviour or values that Jesus advocates is frequently the opposite of that espoused by society at large. This fact offers us a way to understand the challenges set before us in the beatitudes. Perhaps the way to interpret them is to look first at the blessings promised. We may see that the behaviour that Jesus is advocating is at odds with what society would say will guarantee the blessing that we seek. It is clear that each and every beatitude invites us to turn our standards and our way of life upside down and inside out.



Author: Dianne Bergant CSA

## 2. Pope Benedict XVI Angelus Address - St Peter's Square, Sunday, 30 January 2011

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

On this Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time, the Gospel presents the first great discourse that the Lord addresses to the people on the gentle hills encircling the Sea of Galilee. "Seeing the crowds," St Matthew writes, "he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down his disciples came to him. And he opened his mouth and taught them" (Mt 5:1-2).

Jesus, the new Moses, "takes his seat on the cathedra of the mountain" (Jesus of Nazareth, Doubleday, New York 2007, p. 65) and proclaims "blessed" the poor in spirit, those who mourn, the merciful, those who hunger for righteousness, the pure in heart, the persecuted (see Mt 5:3-10). It is not a new ideology, but a teaching that comes from on high and touches the human condition, the condition that the Lord, in becoming flesh, wished to assume in order to save it.

Therefore "the Sermon on the Mount is addressed to the entire world, the entire present and future, and yet it demands discipleship and can be understood and lived out only by following Jesus and accompanying him on his journey" (Jesus of Nazareth, p. 69).

The Beatitudes are a new programme of life, to free oneself from the false values of the world and to open oneself to the true goods, present and future. Indeed, when God comforts, he satisfies the hunger for righteousness, he wipes away the tears of those who mourn, which means that, as well as compensating each one in a practical way, he opens the Kingdom of Heaven. "The Beatitudes are the transposition of the Cross and Resurrection into discipleship" (ibid., p. 74). They mirror the life of the Son of God who let himself even be persecuted and despised until he was condemned to death so that salvation might be given to men and women.

An ancient hermit says: "The Beatitudes are gifts of God and we must say a great 'thank you' to him for them and for the rewards that derive from them, namely the Kingdom of God in the century to come and consolation here; the fullness of every good and mercy on God's part ... once we have become images of Christ on earth" (Peter of Damascus, In Filocalia, Vol. 3, Turin 1985, p. 79).

The Gospel of the Beatitudes is commented on with the actual history of the Church, the history of Christian holiness, because, as St Paul writes, "God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong, God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are" (1 Cor 1:27-28).

For this reason the Church has no fear of poverty, contempt or persecution in a society which is often attracted by material well-being and worldly power. St Augustine reminds us that "it serves nothing to suffer these evils, but rather to bear them in the Name of Jesus, not only with a serene soul but also with joy" (see De sermone Domini in monte, I, 5,13: ccl 35, 13).

Dear brothers and sisters, let us invoke the Virgin Mary, the Blessed par excellence, asking her for the strength to seek the Lord (see Zeph 2:3) and to follow him always, with joy, on the path of the Beatitudes.

## 3. Funeral Rites for the repose of the soul of His Eminence George Cardinal Pell AC St Mary's Cathedral, College St, Sydney

Wednesday 1 February 2023

9.30am Reception of the Body and commencement of Lying in State - Cardinal's body to lie in state all day for people to visit and pray.

1.10pm Mass for the Dead

5.30pm Evening Prayer and Vigil

8.00pm Mass for the Dead

Thursday 2 February 2023

6.45am Mass for the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord

**11.00am Pontifical Funeral Mass followed by Interment in the Cathedral Crypt**

Archbishop Fisher has invited all members of our Archdiocese and anyone who would wish to take part in the funeral rites for our late Archbishop, Cardinal George Pell. The events planned at the cathedral this week are to pray for the repose of the Cardinal's soul and also honour his towering contribution to the Church in Sydney, Australia and indeed the whole world. I encourage you to take the opportunity to take part in these historic ceremonies

#### 4. Reconciliation Information Evening

We have an information evening for any child who is in year 3 or older who wishes to make their First Confession. Please note that it is compulsory for a parent/care giver to attend this evening. The meeting will be held in the Church on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2023 at 6.30pm. If you have any enquiries please contact the Sacramental Co-Ordinator by calling the parish office or email her at [sacraements@stanthonystral.org](mailto:sacraements@stanthonystral.org)

#### 5. Catechist Sunday –

Our Parish will celebrate Catechist Sunday on 5 February 2023. This is an opportunity to acknowledge and thank your catechists for their work in our Public Schools. If you are thinking of volunteering one hour per week to spread the word to our children from non-Catholic schools please contact the Parish office for further information.

#### 6. The Holy Land Pilgrimage

Trace the journey of Jesus from the land of his birth to the way he carried his cross and gave the eternal sacrifice in this 14-day Holy Land pilgrimage to Jordan & Israel led by Fr Salas Muttathukattil MSFS. This pilgrimage features places from the Old & New Testament and includes Petra, Mt Nebo, Bethlehem, Nazareth, Sea of Galilee, Mt Sinai and Jerusalem for an all-inclusive offer of \$6,940 AUD. The fare includes Airfare + Local Transfers in Deluxe Coaches + Stay in Premium Hotels + All Breakfasts & Dinners + English speaking professional guides. Departure from Sydney and Melbourne on 21st May 2023. For inquiries & bookings call 1300 721 561 or email us [info@magiholidays.com.au](mailto:info@magiholidays.com.au)

#### 7. Position Available

St Joseph's Parish Riverwood is seeking a part time Parish Secretary. Hours are 9:30am to 3:30pm every Thursday and Friday. The role is shared with the Parish Finance Secretary. Responsibilities include general administration, phone enquiries and maintenance of sacramental registers. Experience preferred. MYOB experience an advantage. For any enquiries or to request a job description or send your application, including a one-page cover letter and CV, please email [stjosephriverwood@outlook.com](mailto:stjosephriverwood@outlook.com) or phone the Parish on 0490 754 963 . Applications close Tuesday 31 January 2023.

#### 8. 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.

#### 9. 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.

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 15th February 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

Tuesday 31st January 2023—St John Bosco—Optional Memorial

Thursday 2nd February 2023 - The Presentation of the Lord—Feast

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

**In your love and concern, please pray for:-**

**Recently Deceased:** Vincent Vella, His Emmercie Cardinal George Pell, Carmen Muscat, Angie Casha, Johny Bezzino

### **Anniversaries:**

Giuseppe Catanea, Vincenzo Camera, Antonio Armando Dicembre, Emilio Dicembre, Marianglea Pelle, Theresa Bonanno, Ferdinando Grotto, Sharon Ajkay, Anka and Frank Banicevic, Ben Xerri, Maria Caterina Siciliano, Mary Agostino, Maria Giuseppa Simone, Joe Fiorenza, Charlie Vella,

### **Also for:**

Michael Sammut, Christine Grixti and Joesephine Casha, Deceased members of the Pisano and Maiolo Families, Michael Gauci, James Dimech, Femia Gatt, and Gesu (Jesi) Lustri, Salvatore Santarosa, Giuseppe Santarosa

**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, Hanee 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***

On Fire for Love. Christopher West visits Sydney

- Thousands expected. Preparations underway for Cardinal Pell's Funeral
- Cardiologist examines Jesus
- Face of Mystery. Author to unpack Riddles of the Shroud
- Ben Conolly: No faith for wimps
- Philippa Martyr: Aussie faith by the numbers



Facebook:



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