



**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.

**18-19 February 2023**  
**Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time A**

**Entrance Antiphon:** O Lord, I trust in your merciful love. My heart will rejoice in your salvation. I will sing to the Lord who has been bountiful with me.

**Responsorial Psalm:** The Lord is kind and merciful.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! Whoever keeps the word of Christ, grows perfect in the love of God. Alleluia!

**Communion Antiphon:** I will recount all your wonders, I will rejoice in you and be glad, and sing psalms to your name, O Most High.

**Reflection:**

The command to love is the second of a two-part passage that serves as the first reading for today. The first part is an injunction to be holy as God is holy. The holiness of God is the ground of all religious living. God is holy, and the people with whom God is in covenant are required to be holy as well. Holiness is much broader in scope than mere goodness. It might best be understood as 'godness'. The life of holiness to which we are called requires integrity, honesty, and faithfulness to one another. These are very demanding values, but they give us a glimpse of what the holiness of God is like. The responsorial psalm begins with a summons to bless or praise God. The reason for praising God is God's willingness to pardon, to heal, and to redeem or save. These are all acts that flow from God's loving kindness and compassion, two attributes closely associated with covenantal commitment. God's compassion is immeasurable, extending from 'east to west'. It is much more than empathy. It comes from the Hebrew word for 'womb', suggesting that God's compassion love is like the love a mother has for the children of her womb. In other words, God's compassion might be called 'womb-love'. Paul insists that the temple of God is no longer a material building. Rather, it is the collection of people gathered in God's name. According to him, the Corinthians are this temple. Paul then contrasts the wisdom of the world with the wisdom of God. He argues that the standards the world uses to determine wisdom are frequently diametrically opposed to the standards of God. Therefore, those who wish to be wise with God's wisdom will have to choose a path that may be judged foolish by the standards of the world. The reading ends with a discussion about boasting, that false pride the Corinthians took in identifying with various religious leaders. Such boasting is evidence of the wisdom of the world, a wisdom which must be overturned 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth', known as *lex talionis*, was really a moral advance over the common custom of blood vengeance, that is, exacting a price that far exceeds the wrong that was done. Jesus instructs his disciples to offer no resistance at all when someone tries to take advantage of them. He then reinterprets the law of love in an even more radical manner, insisting that his disciples' love must be patterned after God's love, which is given unquestioningly to the just and the unjust alike. If they only love those who love them, but harm those who harm them, they are merely fulfilling the *lex talionis* admonition. Those who would be known as children of God are expected to love as God does.



*Author: Dianne Bergant CSA*

## 2. Lenten Season – From Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP

In this season of Lent, we seek to experience the mercy of God the Father, and to practice it in our daily lives. But first we must experience *our need for mercy*, that is, our brokenness and, indeed, our sinfulness, insofar as we have failed to love God above all, and to love our fellow men and women as ourselves. This is why the Church's Canon Law reaffirms the obligation to do penance – to interrupt the usual comforts of life, to rediscover in prayer the merciful love of God, and to practice charity and justice towards those in need. The special times of penance are all Fridays throughout the year and the season of Lent.

We recall that St John the Baptist prepared for the coming of the Lord by “preaching a baptism of repentance”. Jesus began his ministry with the exhortation: “Repent and believe the Gospel” (Mk 1:15). Repentance means the rejection of sin. It implies conversion to, and reconciliation with, God. Prayer, self-denial, and works of charity are the concrete expressions of repentance. Each of these identifies us more closely with our Saviour. By penance we make satisfaction for our sins, and take real steps in the renewal of our lives. Repentance and conversion are central, on-going, and even daily practices of Christian living.

In nominating special times of penance, the Church encourages and promotes in all of us the *habit* of penance. Furthermore, observance of these special times by all Catholics throughout the universal Church emphasises what we call “the social dimension of sin”. The sin of the individual member always in some measure infects the whole body. Therefore during Lent and on every Friday throughout the year, we do penance, not only on our own account, but also in the name of the Church and of the world. We must take very seriously our penitential obligations and be sure to carry them out. We should carefully select the form of penance that we consider most appropriate for our own circumstances and growth in the Christian life.

### PASCHAL PRECEPT

**Each of the faithful is obliged to receive Holy Communion at least once a year.** This is to be done between Ash Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> February, and Trinity Sunday, 4th June, unless for a good reason it is done at another time during the year. **All the faithful are obliged to confess their grave sins at least once a year.**

## DAYS OF PENANCE

**Abstinence from meat, and fasting, must be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.** All who have completed their eighteenth year and have not yet begun their sixtieth year are bound to fast. All who have completed their fourteenth year are bound to abstain. (Fasting = one large meal, and two smaller meals which when combined are not greater than the large meal)

**On all other Fridays of the year including the Fridays of Lent, the law of the common practice of penance is fulfilled by performing any one of the following:**

(a) prayer – for example, Mass attendance; family prayer; a visit to a church or chapel; reading the Bible; making the Stations of the Cross; praying the rosary.

(b) self-denial – for example, not eating meat; not eating sweets or dessert; giving up entertainment to spend time with the family; limiting food and drink so as to give to the poor of one's own country; limiting use of social media, smart phones or television.

(c) helping others – for example, special attention to someone who is poor, sick, elderly, lonely or overburdened.

### 3. Ash Wednesday Masses

The Lenten Season commences with our Ash Wednesday Masses on 22 February 2023. Mass will be said at 9.00am and 7.00pm.

### 4. Stations of the Cross

Each week during our Lenten season, commencing Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2023, we will pray the Stations of the Cross at 10.00am and 7.30pm. All are welcome.

### 5. Turkey-Syria Earthquake Disaster

A 7.8 magnitude earthquake has unleashed devastation on Turkey and Syria, leaving thousands of people dead with this number expected to rise dramatically. After 12 years of war, Syria is at breaking point and desperately needs assistance. **We must act NOW and help those affected by this catastrophe.** Your generous donation means our partners in Turkey and Syria can respond swiftly to support the survivors of this unimaginable tragedy.

**Visit: [www.caritas.org.au/syria-turkey](http://www.caritas.org.au/syria-turkey) or call 1800 024 413 toll free to donate now.**

## 6. 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 21st 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

[sacraments@stanthonystral.org](mailto:sacraments@stanthonystral.org). Please use the following link to or QR code to register your child for reconciliation. Attendance at the meeting is still compulsory.  
<https://forms.gle/LaAAPTvgnwPA5KU99>



## 7. Candelabra Offering

New candle stands arrived this week which have now been placed near the statues of Our Lady and St Anthony at the back of the church Please take note of the following safety protocols when lighting a candle:

Please place your candle on any of the available cylinders on the stand. Do not place a candle on top of a candle that is still burning.

Use the lighter located on the side of the stand to light up your candle.

Do not attempt to light your candle from an existing lit candle. This is quite dangerous.

Children are more than welcome to light a candle but must be accompanied by an adult.

Please do not blow out any of the candles. They are safe to leave burning.

Thank you for your understanding.

## 8. Parking - Please Take Note

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. Safety for all is our priority. **Please do not drive through the Portico following any of the masses.**

## 9. Suggestion Box

We remind all parishioners that our Suggestion box is still available. This serves as a platform for your concern, suggestion, input, and support in parish affairs. For authenticity and to make sure the response is duly dispatched, please include your details.



God Bless,



**Fr Ronnie Maree**

### **Events in the Parish**

- *Every Thursday **Legion of Mary** after the 9am mass*
- *Every Monday at 10am in St Anthony's Parish Hall a **Rosary Prayer Group** It begins with the chaplet of Divine Mercy followed by praying the decades of the Rosary in different languages. All are welcome.*
- ***Young Children's Prayer Group** Every 2nd Saturday of the month. The next prayer group will be held on **Saturday 11th March 2023** in the Parish Hall at 4pm All children are welcome*

### **Dates to Remember**

Tuesday 21st February 2023—St Peter Damian—Optional Memorial.

Wednesday 22nd February 2023—Ash Wednesday

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

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

**Recently Deceased:** Joe Privitera, Michael Imbert, Vincent Vella, Carmen Muscat, Angie Casha

**Anniversaries:**

Ignatius Bartolo, Frank, Connie, Emanuel, Femia and Mary Grace Gatt, Rocco Pelle, Joseph Szafranski, Antonio Pisano, Constantina Cascio, Ermes(Amos) Valleri, Giuseppe Catanea, Vincenzo Camera, Antonio Armando Dicembre, Emilio Dicembre, Marianglea Pelle, Theresa Bonanno, Ferdinando Grotto, Sharon Ajkay, Ben Xerri, Maria Caterina Siciliano, Maria Giuseppa Simone

**Also for:**

Deceased members of the Szafranski families, Michael Sammut, Christine Gixti and Joesephine Casha, James Dimech, 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***

- Religious Education changes. Faiths confront Attorney General.
- Renovation that's Divine. Sydney conference a big success.
- Archbishop Fisher OP Homily: Education for Life.
- University Chaplaincies are key.
- Love overcomes time. Remarkable nursing home experiment.
- Maronites mark 50 years.



***Baptisms in th Parish—Welcome to our Faith Community***



*Mateo Joseph Paul Camileri  
Son of Brian and Shantelle*

*Joseph Emanuel Camilleri  
Son of Andrew-Paul and Corrine*



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