



**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

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admin@stanthonysaustral.org

Fr Ronnie
pp@stanthonysaustral.org

Sacraments
sacraments@stanthonysaustral.org

Web Address:
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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.

4-5 February 2023
Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time A

Entrance Antiphon: O come, let us worship God and bow low before the God who made us, for he is the Lord our God.

Responsorial Psalm: A light rises in the darkness for the upright.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! I am the light of the world, says the Lord; the man who follows me will have the light of life. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: Let them thank the Lord for his mercy, his wonders for the children of men, for he satisfies the thirsty soul, and the hungry he fills with good things.

Reflection: It is very clear from this passage from the prophet that communion with God is dependent upon the fulfilment of social responsibility. Those who have been admitted into the embrace of the covenant are expected to care for the needs of their covenant sisters and brothers in both body and soul. The blessings that follow this kind of selfless living all suggest some form of deliverance. They will be drawn from the darkness of night or fear or suffering into the dawn of hope or happiness; their wounds will be healed; their righteousness (vindication) will be known to all; and they will be under the protection of God. In the responsorial psalm the image of the righteous person is placed before us for our imitation. This image is grounded in the theology of retribution. Although reward is promised to the upright, these blessings/rewards do not come without a price. The psalm itself suggests that a righteous person has been repudiated. This is a very serious situation in a society that holds to a strict honour/shame code. However, the righteous one does not submit to the fear of disgrace, but relies on the power of God. Even in the face of trouble, the righteous one is filled with trust in the Lord. Paul maintains that there is nothing extraordinary about himself. Rather than hamper the spread of the gospel, his lowliness will advance the manifestation of the power of God. He did not try to impress his hearers with his intelligence or his clever speech. He wanted the faith of the community to be grounded in God and not in the cleverness of some preacher. He was more concerned that they be touched by the power of the gospel itself. From the outset, he was committed to the crucified Jesus Christ and this became the hallmark of his preaching. The proclamation of Christ crucified was the most scandalous feature of the Christian message for Jew and Greek alike, and yet it was the heart of Paul's teaching. His message was bold but his ministerial approach was humble and unassuming. Jesus employs two metaphors to characterise the essence of discipleship: salt and light. These metaphors point to what the disciples do for others rather than to what discipleship does for the disciples themselves. Salt is not only essential for life, but it is also valuable for preserving, seasoning, and purifying food and for fertilising. In a sense, its value resides in the way it acts on another substance. The same is true about light. True disciples are the light that shines forth in the darkness of ignorance or faithlessness. They enlighten others not by words but by their manner of living. It is this manner of living that declares to the world that the reign of God has indeed been established in their midst, and that the age of fulfilment has dawned.

Author: Dianne Bergant CSA



2. Pope Francis Message to Catechists 2022

I beg you: never tire of being catechists. Not of “giving a lesson” of catechesis. Catechesis cannot be like an hour at school, but rather a living experience of the faith that each one of us feels the desire to transmit to the new generations. Certainly, we must find the best ways to ensure that the communication of faith is adequate to the age and preparation of the people who are listening to us; yet the personal encounter we have with each one of them is decisive. Only the interpersonal encounter opens the heart to receive the first proclamation and to desire to grow in the Christian life with the proper dynamism that catechesis allows.

Never forget the purpose of catechesis, which is a privileged stage in evangelization, that of meeting Jesus Christ and allowing him to grow in us. There is a passage in the Catechism that I think is important to offer to you regarding your being “Witnesses of the new life”. It says: “When we believe in Jesus Christ, partake of his mysteries, and keep his commandments, the Saviour himself comes to love, in us, his Father and his brethren, our Father and our brethren. His person becomes, through the Spirit, the living and interior rule of our activity” (2074).

We understand why Jesus told us that his commandment is this: That you love one another as I have loved. True love is that which comes from God and which Jesus revealed by the mystery of his presence among us, by his preaching, his miracles and above all by his death and resurrection. The love of Christ remains as the true and only commandment of the new life, which the Christian, with the help of the Holy Spirit, makes his own day by day in a journey that knows no rest.

Dear catechists, you are required to make visible and tangible the person of Jesus Christ, who loves each one of you, and therefore becomes the rule of our life and the criterion of judgement for our moral action. Never stray from this source of love, because it is the condition for being happy and full of joy, always and despite everything. This is the new life that sprung forth in us on the day of our Baptism, and which we have the responsibility to share with everyone, so that it may grow in everyone and bear fruit.

Do not be afraid: if the Lord calls you to this ministry, follow him! You will be participants in the same mission of Jesus of proclaiming his Gospel and introducing others to the filial relationship with God the Father.

And I would not like to end – I consider it good and right – without remembering my catechists. There is a religious sister who leads a group of catechists; sometimes she taught, sometimes two good women, both called Alicia, I always remember. And this religious sister laid down the foundation of my Christian life, preparing me for First Communion, in the years 1943 to 1944. I don't think any of you were born at that time. The Lord also gave me a very great grace. She was very elderly, I was a student, I was studying abroad, in Germany, and after I finished my studies I returned to Argentina, and the day after she died. I was able to accompany her that day. And when I was there, praying before her coffin, I thanked the Lord for the witness of that sister who passed her life almost entirely in giving catechesis, preparing children and youngsters for the First Communion. She was called Dolores. I let myself say this to bear witness that a good catechist leaves a trace; not only the trace of what he or she sows, but the trace of the person who has sown. I hope that your young people, your children, your adults, those you accompany in catechesis, will always remember you before the Lord as a person who sowed good and beautiful things in their heart.

I accompany you all with my blessing. I entrust you to the intercession of the Virgin Mary and the martyr catechists – there are many of them, it is important – even in our times, there are many of them! And I ask you, please, not to forget to pray for me.

Thank you!

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. Next Week's Catholic Weekly

On the weekend of 11-12 February the Catholic Weekly will include a special commemorative magazine devoted to remembering Cardinal George Pell. It will feature contributions from a stellar lineup of contributors including Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP, journalist Tess Livingstone, Hayden Ramsay, religious, clergy and many others paying tribute to the life and achievements of the late cardinal.

5. 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. *(please disregard the mistake made in last week's bulletin about the date.)* If you have any enquiries please contact the Sacramental Co-Ordinator by calling the parish office or email her at 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>



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

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. Volunteers

Our Parish is always looking for volunteers. If you can assist in any way from lectors, preparing the church for events, joining the choir, becoming an acolyte or assisting general maintenance such as mowing lawns please contact the Parish Office.

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 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

Monday 6 February 2023—St Paul Miki—Optional Memorial

Friday 10 February 2023—St Scholastica—Optional Memorial

Saturday 11 February 2023—World Day of Prayer for the Sick

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:

Constantina Cascio, Ermes(Amos) Valleri, 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 Gixti 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

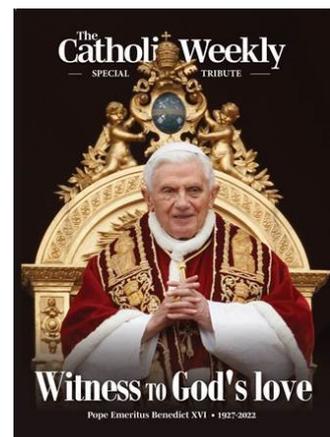
We remember those who are sick in the community that the Lord will be their comforter and healer as we pray for: Claudio Ribeiro, Herbet Herrman, Marija Rados, Saint Lucia, Doris and Joe Gauci, Fr Noel Short, Shirley Farrell, Ken O'Leary, Paul Farnsworth, Michael Jasenko, Tomislav Juric, Jean Poles, 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

- Elizabeth Tabish: Playing the Apostle to the Apostles
- The face on the Shroud. Author to speak.
- Gender dysphoria. Sensitivity and fidelity
- Giving young marriages strong foundations
- The Cardinal who loved Lebanon
- A Bible that's beautiful



Baptisms in th Parish—Welcome to our Faith Community

- *Munachimso Mikayla Iwuoha
Daughter of Ebuka and Amara*



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