



**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

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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

**Sick Calls:** Any time - day/night.

**Funeral Masses:** In Co-operation  
with Funeral Directors.

**11-12 March 2023  
Third Sunday of Lent Year A**



**Entrance Antiphon:** My eyes are always on the Lord, for he rescues my feet from the snare. Turn to me and have mercy on me, for I am alone and poor.

**Responsorial Psalm:** If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ! Lord, you are truly the Saviour of the world; give me living water, that I may never thirst again. Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

**Communion Antiphon:** For anyone who drinks it, says the Lord, the water I shall give will become in him a spring welling up to eternal life.



**Project Compassion**



Zimbabwe is experiencing an intense drought, exacerbated by climate change. With the support of Caritas Hwange, Priscilla learnt conservation farming skills to grow drought-resistant crops and started poultry farming to support her family during the current food crisis. **Please donate to Project Compassion 2023.**

Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow ***For All Future Generations.***

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes/envelopes available from your parish, by visiting [caritas.org.au/project-compassion](http://caritas.org.au/project-compassion), or by calling 1800 024 413.

**Reflection:** All people thirst for meaning, but of what does that meaning consist? The people in the desert thirsted for water, but they misunderstood their thirst. The woman of Samaria thirsted. Her conversation with Jesus showed that she thirsted for understanding and insight as well as water. For what do we thirst in this world of such great excess and unmeasured need? Life has not become simpler with all of our advances. We still thirst for more – for the newest, the fastest and the best. How much is enough, and when do we cross the line into ‘too much’? The gospel readings for the scrutiny Sundays very clearly lay out the choices that are placed before the catechumens and the rest of the believing community as well. This Sunday it is between water that quenches thirst and water that does not. Jesus identifies himself as the source of water that guarantees eternal life. He places before the Samaritan woman a choice that requires a step of profound faith. She knows the thirst-quenching quality of the water from Jacob’s well, but she is not acquainted with the water promised by this stranger who is also an enemy of her people. The choice is not an obvious one. A similar choice is placed before us. We know the demands of our culture and the circumstances of our lives. Are we able to acknowledge the sins of which we are guilty, recognise the grace that is being offered to us, and make the right choice?

*Author: Dianne Bergant CSA*



## 1. Masses for Solemnities in March

Everyone is encouraged and welcomed to mark these solemn and important feast days by attending Mass:

Vigil Mass for the Solemnity of Saint Patrick – Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March 7pm

Mass for the Solemnity of Saint Joseph – Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March 7pm

Mass for the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord – Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March 10am

## 2. Holy Week Liturgies

### Palm Sunday

Masses with the blessing of palms

- Saturday Vigil 5.00pm
- Sunday 7.30am
- Sunday 9.00am (*with procession from the hall*)
- Sunday 5.00pm

### Holy Tuesday

Mass – 9.00am

### Holy Wednesday

Mass – 9.00am

### Holy Thursday

Mass of the Lord's Supper — 7.00pm followed by Adoration until midnight

***No morning Mass on Holy Thursday***

### Good Friday

Stations of the Cross – 10.00am

Commemoration of the Passion of the Lord – 3.00pm

### Holy Saturday

Easter Vigil – 7.00pm

***No Saturday 5pm Vigil Mass on Holy Saturday***

### Easter Sunday

Easter Mass – 7.30am

Easter Mass – 9.00am

***No Sunday 5pm Mass on Easter Day***

## 3. 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 9.45am and 7.30pm. All are welcome.

## 4. Rite of Reconciliation – Easter

An indispensable part of living Lent and properly preparing for the celebration of Holy Week and Easter is receiving the Lord's mercy in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is available **each Saturday from 4.15pm**. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will also be available from **6.30pm on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March** with visiting priests available for confession.

## 5. Reconciliation

The children of our parish continue to prepare to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time. Please pray for them, their parents and their teachers as they move closer towards this precious encounter with Our Lord's mercy.

## 6. Holy Communion

If you would like your child to make their First Holy Communion this year, please note that our compulsory information evening will be held in the Church on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2023 at 6.30pm. This is open to all children who have celebrated their First Reconciliation and are in year 3 or older. This date is followed by the commitment ceremony on the weekend of 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> April held over the usual four weekend Masses.

Please note that attendance at the information evening and commitment ceremony is compulsory. Your failure to attend on these dates will render you ineligible to register your child for Holy Communion in this year's program. We hope to celebrate the sacrament in early June.

## 7. 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.**

## 8. 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.

## 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**

**Pope Benedict XVI - St Peter's Square, Third Sunday of Lent, 27 March 2011**

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This third Sunday of Lent is characterized by the Jesus' famous conversation with the Samaritan woman, recounted by the Evangelist John. The woman went every day to draw water from an ancient well that dated back to the Patriarch Jacob and on that day she found Jesus sitting beside the well, "wearied from his journey" (Jn 4:6). St Augustine comments: "Not for nothing was Jesus tried.... The strength of Christ created you, the weakness of Christ recreated you.... With his strength he created us, with his weakness he came to seek us out" (In Ioh. Ev., 15, 2).

Jesus' weariness, a sign of his true humanity, can be seen as a prelude to the Passion with which he brought to fulfilment the work of our redemption. In the encounter with the Samaritan woman at the well, the topic of Christ's "thirst" stands out in particular. It culminated in his cry on the Cross "I thirst" (Jn 19:28). This thirst, like his weariness, had a physical basis. Yet Jesus, as St Augustine says further, "thirsted for the faith of that woman" (In Ioh. Ev. 15,11), as he thirsted for the faith of us all.

God the Father sent him to quench our thirst for eternal life, giving us his love, but to give us this gift Jesus asks for our faith. The omnipotence of Love always respects human freedom; it knocks at the door of man's heart and waits patiently for his answer.

In the encounter with the Samaritan woman the symbol of water stands out in the foreground, alluding clearly to the sacrament of Baptism, the source of new life for faith in God's Grace. This Gospel, in fact — as I recalled in my Catechesis on Ash Wednesday — is part of the ancient journey of the catechumen's preparation for Christian Initiation, which took place at the great Easter Vigil. "Whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him", Jesus said, "will never thirst; the water that I shall give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life" (Jn 4:14).

This water represents the Holy Spirit, the "gift" par excellence that Jesus came to bring on the part of God the Father. Whoever is reborn by water and by the Holy Spirit, that is, in Baptism, enters into a real relationship with God, a filial relationship, and can worship him "in spirit and in truth" (Jn 4:23, 24), as Jesus went on to reveal to the Samaritan woman. Thanks to the meeting with Jesus Christ and to the gift of the Holy Spirit, the human being's faith attains fulfilment, as a response to the fullness of God's revelation.

Each one of us can identify himself with the Samaritan woman: Jesus is waiting for us, especially in this Season of Lent, to speak to our hearts, to my heart. Let us pause a moment in silence, in our room or in a church or in a separate place. Let us listen to his voice which tells us "If you knew the gift of God...". May the Virgin Mary help us not to miss this appointment, on which our true happiness depends.

## Dates to Remember

Friday 17th March 2023—Feast of St Patrick

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

In your love and concern, please pray for:-

**Recently Deceased:** Robert Hurst, Marija Marusic

**Anniversaries:**

Maria Ieroianni, Donald Low, Sr Pasqualina Tozzi, Isidoro Bianchi, James Dimech, Alfredo Pjanic, 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:**

Andrew William Melton, Alyssa Abella who recently graduated, Edgardo Ocampo, Luciana Abella, Deceased members of the Szafranski families, Michael Sammut, Christine Gixti and Joesephine Casha, 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:** Levi Van Ong, 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.

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- Hollywood star's supernatural story
- Catholic Weekly cartoonist wins bravery medal
- The Project slur outrage
- The minor parties seeking the Catholic vote
- Nun run back on pace post-COVID



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



Nico Mario Vella  
Son of Christopher and Irene

Bruno Matteo Timpano  
Son of Patrick and Caterine

Hazel Eleanora Trifiro  
Daughter of Glen and Clarisse



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