



**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.

1-2 April 2023

**Palm Sunday of the Passion of the
Lord Year A**



Entrance Antiphon: Six days before the Passover, when the Lord came into the city of Jerusalem, the children ran to meet him; in their hands they carried palm branches and with a loud voice cried out: Hosanna in the highest! Blessed are you, who have come in your abundant mercy O gates, lift high your heads; grow higher, ancient doors. Let him enter, the king of glory! Who is this king of glory? He, the Lord of hosts, he is the king of glory. Hosanna in the highest! Blessed are you, who have come in your abundant mercy!

Responsorial Psalm: My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

Gospel Acclamation: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! Christ became obedient for us even to death dying on the cross. Therefore God raised him on high and gave him a name above all other names. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Communion Antiphon: Father, if this chalice cannot pass without my drinking it, your will be done.

Reflection:

It is only once in every three years that we publicly share together Matthew's full account of the arrest, trial and death of Jesus. Today is that day. Matthew's passion is rich in every sense of the word. It is the longest account of what Jesus endured and it also has the most diverse cast of characters. Only Matthew devotes time not only to the tragic fate of Judas, who was filled with remorse, but even to the thirty pieces of silver that were used to buy a cemetery for foreigners called the Field of Blood. Only Matthew tells us about the dream of Pilate's wife which leads her to send a message to her husband that he should have nothing to do with Jesus. Matthew's Gospel features a number of dreams. Joseph is told in a dream to take Mary as his wife, to flee with his family to Egypt and later to return from Egypt. Dreams are one of the many links between Matthew's Gospel and the Hebrew scriptures.

This is by no means to say that Matthew's Gospel is merely an interesting piece of literature. It is only to suggest that, in Holy Week, Matthew's Passion is a wonderful encounter to enter slowly as we spend time with the Lord, allowing the mystery of the cross to deepen within us. One commitment we might make is to take a section each day this week and stay with it for ten minutes. Monday Mt 26: 14-35, Tuesday Mt 26: 36-56, Wed Mt 26: 57-75, Thursday Mt 27: 1-26, Friday Mt 27: 27-56, Saturday: Mt 27: 57-66. The trial and death of Jesus reminds us of the tragedy of injustice that continues to this day in so many places around the world. Throughout Lent, Caritas Australia, through Project Compassion, has attempted to draw our attention to many important issues in our world. We have been invited to take up the cross and follow Jesus in our own time. We can pray, with Jesus, 'Let it be as you, not I, would have it.'

Written by Michael McGirr



1. Holy Week Liturgies

Holy Tuesday – April 4

Mass – 9.00am

Holy Wednesday – April 5

Mass – 9.00am

Holy Thursday – April 6

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

No morning Mass on Holy Thursday

Good Friday – April 7

Stations of the Cross – 10.00am

Commemoration of the Passion of the Lord – 3.00pm

Holy Saturday – April 8

Easter Vigil – 7.00pm

No Saturday 5pm Vigil Mass on Holy Saturday

Easter Sunday – April 9

Easter Mass – 7.30am

Easter Mass – 9.00am

No Sunday 5pm Mass on Easter Day

2. Crosses, statues and images covered

It seems strange that during the most sacred time of year Catholics cover everything that is beautiful in their churches, even the crucifix. Shouldn't we be looking at the painful scene at Calvary while we listen to the Passion narrative on Palm Sunday?

While it may appear counterintuitive to veil statues and images during the final weeks of Lent, the Catholic Church recommends this practice to heighten our senses and build within us a longing for Easter Sunday.

We use veils to alert us of the special time that we are in. When we walk into church and notice everything is covered, we immediately know that something is different. These last two weeks of Lent are meant to be a time of immediate preparation for the Sacred Triduum and these veils are a forceful reminder to get ready.

The Church also uses veils to produce a heightened sense of anticipation for Easter Sunday. The veiling of crosses and images is a sort of "fasting" from sacred depictions which represent the paschal glory of our salvation which is fully revealed in the Easter feast.

3. Working Bee

Many thanks to all those who gave of their time and energy at this week's working bee as we prepared palms, candles and water for our Holy Week celebrations. Your help is greatly appreciated. If anyone is able to assist with a few small jobs for a short time on Holy Saturday morning please contact the Parish office.

4. Stations of the Cross

Stations of the Cross are prayed every Friday in Lent at 9.45am and 7.30pm. All are welcome.

5. Project Compassion

Thank you to all who have given so generously to the Project Compassion appeal this Lent. If you are yet to return your box or envelope please do so as soon as possible. There is a box at the doors of the church.

6. First Reconciliation

The First Reconciliation program for 2023 concluded this week with the celebration of the Sacrament on Tuesday and Wednesday night. We pray that this was a grace-filled time for these children and their families and that they may continue to grow deeper in their faith. Many thanks to our sacramental co-ordinator, Natalie Valenzisi, as well as Anna Tozzi, Sr Rosa and all those who volunteered their time to in preparing the children. If you would like to be part of the sacramental team and assist in forming our children for the receiving of the sacraments, please let Fr Ronnie know or contact the parish office.

7. Holy Week

Thanks to all those parishioners who have advised of their availabilities to help over Holy Week. The rosters will be finalized soon and emailed to you.

8. Confirmation

The Sacrament of Confirmation for our parish will take place at St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney on Sunday 12th November 2023 at 12.30pm. The Sacrament of Confirmation is open to children in year 6 or older who have completed their First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. Further information will be provided in the coming months.

9. Holy Land Appeal – Good Friday

The annual collection for the support of the church in the Holy Land will take place on Good Friday, April 7th. This collection promotes the missionary work of the Church in the Holy Land by providing welfare assistance to local Christians in areas such as health, education, employment, housing. Parishes, and orphanages. It is also used to maintain over 70 churches and shrines associated with the life of Jesus. Whilst life in the Holy Land is returning to some new sense of normality (as is the rest of the world) the Church and people of the Holy Land are still struggling with reduced income due to fewer pilgrims and lower church attendance around the world. In 2022 Australian Catholics were extremely generous and we were able to send to the Holy Land \$1.4 million [compared to \$1,126,098 (2021) \$406,023 (2020) and \$1.3 million (2019)]. The reality for the Holy Land mission is that they will continue to face challenges financial and spiritual and so we again ask Catholics around the world again to be as generous as possible, with their financial support as well as the spiritual support. Please remember the Christians of the Holy Land on Good Friday. Thank you.

10. 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 26th 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 29th and 30th 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.

11. 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.**

12. 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.

13. Thank you

Many thanks to Jim and Denise Cassidy for the images of St Anthony which now hang in the back room of the church. Jim and Denise bought these from Padua on a recent trip and had them blessed by the Holy Father shortly afterwards when they visited Rome.

14. The Parish Office

The parish office will be closed the week following Easter Sunday. Please feel free to call for emergencies but hold off on any other enquires until the following week.

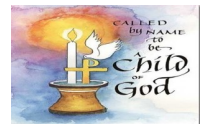
God Bless,



Fr Ronnie Maree

Baptisms in the Parish Welcome to our Faith Community

Portia Caterina Maria Szady
Daughter of Robert and Fiona



Weddings in the Parish May God bless the happy couple.

Sam Privitera and Katerina Assiouras



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

In your love and concern, please pray for:-

Recently Deceased: Pasquale Origlia, Antonia Sarcella

Anniversaries:

Joe Privitera, Raffaella Pelli, Ian Farrell, Maria Ieroianni, Donald Low, Sr Pasqualina Tozzi, Isidoro Bianchi,

Also for:

Anna Vartuli who celebrated her 100th birthday on 23 March 2023, Pietro Calarco, Members of the Dimech Family, Andrew William Melton, Michael Sammut, 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, 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 supporting this publication. Please place \$2.00 in the Poor Box

- Faith groups respond to Labor win in NSW
- Monica Doumit: What to expect from the Minns government
- Sherry Wadell to explore the power of the Holy Spirit
- The blessing of a dog's breakfast
- Reflections for Palm Sunday
- Day of the Unborn Child draws record numbers



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— Perfumed Roses consecrated in the garden of Mary The next prayer group will be held on Saturday 15th April 2023 in the Parish Hall at 4pm All children are welcome***



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