

WELCOME TO ST. ANNE'S STRATHFIELD SOUTH PARISH

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

22 & 23 July 2023

Weekday/Weekend Mass Timetable:

Saturday Vigil: 5:00 pm
Sunday: 8:00 am & 10:00 am
Tuesday - Friday 9:15 am
Saturday: 9:15 am

Reconciliation - Saturdays from 9:45 am
Baptisms, marriages and funerals, by appointment only.

SUNDAY READINGS:

Wisdom 12:13, 16-19
St Paul to the Romans 8:26-27
Matthew 13:24-43

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY
We acknowledge and celebrate that this land is of the Wangal people of the Darug nation on which we are gathered. We commit ourselves to work together for reconciliation, justice and peace.



Responsorial Psalm:

Lord, you are good and forgiving.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom. Alleluia!



FOR OUR DEAD

Please remember those who have gone before us:

Mary Agnes
Arokianather
Patrick Joseph
Vannie
Beryl Fernandes
Fr Giovanni
Giampietro
Wahib, Nohad,
Marianne & Roly

FOR OUR SICK

Karen Simonet

ANNIVERSARY

Sidney Yenson



The author of the book of Wisdom muses on the God of Israel's history. For his part Paul the apostle muses on prayer. In his 2018 apostolic exhortation on the call to holiness in today's world (*Gaudete et Exultate*), Pope Francis yokes history and prayer together:

"Prayer, because it is nourished by the gift of God present and at work in our lives, must always be marked by remembrance. The memory of God's works is central to the experience of the covenant between God and his people. God wished to enter history, and so our prayer is interwoven with memories. We think back not only on his revealed Word, but also on our own lives, the lives of others, and all that the Lord has done in his Church. . . Think of your own history when you pray, and there you will find much mercy. This will also increase your awareness that the Lord is ever mindful of you; he never forgets you. So it makes sense to ask him to shed light on the smallest details of your life, for he sees them all." (#153)

Source: Liturgy Brisbane

World Day
for Grandparents
and the Elderly
2023

In 1970, Marian McQuade began a campaign to establish a special day of recognition for grandparents. Through her efforts, she reached out to the civic, business, faith, and political leaders and began a statewide campaign for Grandparents Day.

St. Anne's Strathfield South Parish

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Deacon: Rev Mr Constantine Rodrigues
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Strathfield South NSW 2136
Phone (02) 9642 1523
Email: stannesstrathfieldsouth@outlook.com
Website: <https://www.stannestrathfieldsouth.org.au/>



St. Anne's Catholic Primary School

Principal: Mr Philip Townsend
St Anne's Square
Strathfield South NSW 2136
Phone: (02) 9642 6149
Website: <https://www.stastrathfield.catholic.edu.au/>

FROM THE PASTOR'S



ST VINCENT DE PAUL RECEIPTS

Receipts for Donations made to the St Vincent de Paul appeals are available for pick up from the back table.

FEAST OF ST ANNE AND ST JOACHIM (GRANDPARENTS DAY)

Parishioners are invited to join the children from St Anne's School to celebrate the Feast of St. Anne and St. Joachim (in honour of all grandparents) on Thursday 26th July commencing with Mass at 9.15 am.

WORLD DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY 23 JULY 2023

"From the elderly, we received the gift of belonging to God's holy people"
Pope Francis

"His mercy is from age to age" (Lk 1:50). This weekend the Church celebrates the 3rd World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly. The Church observes the World Day each year on the fourth Sunday in July, close to the feast of Jesus' grandparents, Saints Joachim and Anne. Pope Francis instituted this Day in 2021 since, he believes, grandparents are often forgotten, yet they "are the link between generations, passing on the experience of life and faith to the young." Pope Francis chose as this year's theme "His mercy is from age to age" (Lk 1:50), which expresses the link with World Youth Day, 1-6 August 2023, which will take place shortly thereafter in Lisbon, Portugal.

Further information – official prayer, catechesis on old age, and message from Pope Francis – can be found on the following website sydneycatholic.org/life-marriage-and-family

Prayer for the Third World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly 2023

*Virgin Mary,
Mother of faith and hope,
an example for this humanity bent by indifference,
make me as willing as You
to accept the will of God,
to magnify and praise His Mercy.
Mary, Mother of fortitude,
you who knows my heart,
do not allow me to become discouraged.
I confidently surrender my life into your hands.
Heal my wounds.
May your tenderness accompany me on the way.
Your presence, Mother of love,
brings us to experience the joy of seeing our families united.
Help me to transmit the tenderness and Love of God
to the grandchildren and youth
so that, in addition to praying for them,
we can pray with them.
Mary, may the gift of the Holy Spirit intercede for me:
sustain my weakness;
breathe into my heart the consolation
that I may leave traces of faith among the young,
bearing witness to the beauty of life,
knowing that life has a limit
and that beyond it lies before us our Father's embrace.
Amen.*

CONFIRMATION PROGRAM

Preparations for Confirmation begin this Sunday 23rd July 2023 at 9.00 am. Children in 2023 who are enrolled in Year 6 and above, who have been Baptised in the Catholic Church, and who have received the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion are eligible to enrol in the Confirmation Program. Mass attendance during the program is required since the sacraments are an initiation into the Church and one of the basic features of our faith.

CONFIRMATION MASS:

The Sacrament of Confirmation at St Anne's will be celebrated on Saturday, 26th August 2023 at 5 pm by Bishop Terry Brady.

NEW PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES

The new planned giving envelopes for 2023/2024 can be collected from the back table in the church. If you have requested a receipt for Year ending 30th June 2023 they are also available for pick up from the back table. If you are not currently part of the planned giving program but would like to join, please contact the parish office. Thank you.

SAFEGUARDING UPDATE

It is important that all Parishioners are aware of the importance and responsibility of our Volunteers to meet the Child safety requirements. This week I bring your attention to the requirement of a Working with Children Check.

All Safeguarding requirements are on the Archdiocese Website and the website of the Office of the Children's Guardian. **Office of the Children's Guardian** regulates and oversees organisations in NSW because children and young people have the right to be safe.

The Archdiocese Safeguarding Office has been advised that Churches within the Archdiocese will be audited by the Office of the Children's Guardian this year.

It is the Church's obligation to participate in the audit but more importantly, we are required to meet the Regulations set down for Volunteers.

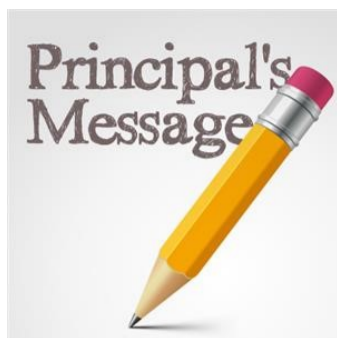
The first responsibility (among others) is to ensure that volunteers in certain Parish roles that DO require a WWCC, have one. In our Parish the following roles are required to hold a WWCC which must be verified by the Parish:

Parish Secretaries, Sacramental Group Leaders, Catechists in State Schools, Acolytes and Senior Altar Servers, Ministers of the Word/Readers/Lectors, Parish Collectors and Eucharistic Minister

If we do not meet the requirements of the Office of the Children's Guardian, the Priest and the Church will be fined and the amounts are substantial.

I urge any volunteer in the above categories that do not have a WWCC to immediately obtain one and forward a copy to the Parish Office. Please check that your WWCC has not expired, and you need to renew it. There is no cost associated with holding a WWCC and if you have any queries, please contact the Parish Office on a Tuesday and we will be able to answer your queries.

Dear Parishioners, Parents and Carers,



Another reminder that this Thursday 27 July at 9.15am we will celebrate the Feast Day of St Anne and St Joachim with our Grandparents' Day Mass. The first systemic Catholic School that I taught at was St Joachim's at Lidcombe. Consequently, I am aware of the fact that we don't know a lot about the grandparents of Jesus. However, we do know that grandparents are important. My experience as a grandfather of six weeks has reinforced that view.

After this Mass there will be the presentation of a Certificate acknowledging that St Anne's School responded to the Archbishop's Charter for Sydney Catholic Schools through the Inquiry and Review Process conducted last year. The process is designed to ensure continual improvement in our school. Importantly, there will also be a Morning Tea in the Therry Building after Mass. All parishioners are invited.

Our Year 3 and Year 5 students participated in NAPLAN (National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy) in March. The Individual Student Reports arrived on Friday. As of this year students are reported against four levels of achievement.

- Exceeding
- Developing
- Strong
- Needs additional support

I am pleased to report that our average score was in the strong level in all aspects of every assessment across Years 3 and 5 except for Year 5 Spelling where our average mark was at the exceeding level. Congratulations to our students and staff. We have a strong platform to build on.

Warm regards
Phil Townsend

ALTAR SERVERS

Girls and boys who have received their First Holy Communion are encouraged to participate as an Altar Server. Parish training for altar servers is provided.

What is required?

Altar servers serve during one of the weekend Masses.

Altar servers attend training sessions held in the Church.

If your child is interested in this program please contact Fr Jack after Mass.

OVERSHADOWED: FILLED WITH THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

18-20 AUGUST 2023

VENUE: CARMEL HOUSE, 345 ST ANDREWS RD, VARROVILLE NSW

Join the MGL Sisters in a weekend retreat exploring what happens we say yes to the Holy Spirit. Experience the life-changing power of deepening in God's love, surrendering to Jesus and living under the grace of the Holy Spirit. Booking (by 11 August):

<http://www.trybooking.com/CFBQX>

For further information, please contact Katherine (mgl sisters.sydney@gmail.com)

A MESSAGE FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY:

Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with a crime are the police. If you, or anyone you know have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding an 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. **Website:** [Archdiocese of Sydney Safeguarding and Child Protection](http://www.archdioceseofsydney.org.au/safeguarding)

