

WELCOME TO ST. ANNE'S STRATHFIELD SOUTH PARISH

Second Sunday of Advent (Year B)

9 & 10 December 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:

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11
second letter of St Peter 3:8-14
Mark 1:1-8

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, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia! Alleluia! Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!



FOR OUR DEAD
Please remember those who have gone before us:
Anthony (Tony) Grace
Tony Bou-Chahine
Patricia
Marion Kelly

ANNIVERSARY
Anthony Herbert

SICK:
Sharon Holliday

SPECIAL INTENTION:
Healing and strength and God's blessings

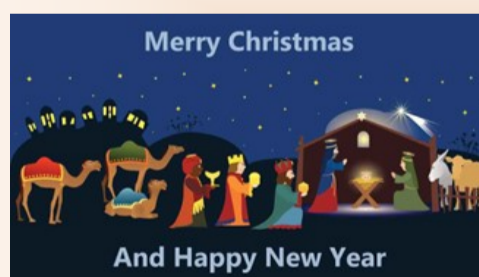


If the first Sunday of Advent serves as a bridge between Ordinary Time and Advent, then the second Sunday is a stepping stone towards the feast of Christmas. Our horizon changes. Without losing sight of the end times that lie before us, we begin to shift focus to the event that transformed human history: the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

We don't home in immediately on the story of Jesus' birth; that will come later. We first allow ourselves to be drawn into ancient Israel's deep and patient longing for the Messiah. We retell the story of John the Baptist whose preaching echoes the prophets of old and whose baptising ushers in a new era of grace. There is good news to be heard, if we can find the time and space at this busy time of the year to listen to the whisper of the Spirit in our hearts.

Source: Liturgy Brisbane

CHRISTMAS WISHES



For those parishioners who may be going away at Christmas time, may you have a safe trip and a joyous time amongst family, relatives, and friends. May the birth of the Saviour bring you and your loved ones hope, peace, and joy.

Have a Happy and Holy Christmas.

Fr. Jacek

St. Anne's Strathfield South Parish

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Deacon: Rev Mr Constantine Rodrigues
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St. Anne's Catholic Primary School

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

FROM THE PASTOR'S

DESK

RIP

We are sad to announce the passing of Anthony (Tony) Grace. A long-time parishioner of our parish, and our prayers and condolences are with his family. The funeral will be held at St Anne's Strathfield South.

Funeral Details:

Vigil Wednesday 13th December 7 pm.
Rosary Thursday 14th December 10.15 am.
Funeral Mass Thursday 14th December 11 am.



PARISH ADVENT PRAYER GROUP

The Parish Advent group meets every Tuesday night at 7 pm in the Presbytery. Consider joining the group and creating a space to prayerfully prepare for this season of hope, joy, and peace as we approach Christmas.

CHRISTMAS AT THE CATHEDRAL

Parishioners are invited to come together at St Mary's Cathedral during Advent to prepare for the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Twelve Days of Christmas at the Cathedral begins on the 14th of December and concludes on the 25th of December. Festivities begin at 5.30 pm each evening with market stalls, food, fun activities for the kids, and live entertainment. Visit the Sydney Archdiocese website at christmasatthecathedral.org.au for more information.



JESUS OUR LIGHT AND HOPE: ADVENT TWILIGHT RETREAT

Take time this Advent to pause and reflect at the Twilight Advent Retreat hosted at Joseph's Camperdown. A time to receive the peace and hope of Christmas. All welcome.

Date: Tuesday 12 December
Time: 6.30 pm – 9:30 pm (doors open at 6 pm)
Venue: St Joseph's Parish
Address: 2 Missenden Road, Camperdown

DIACONATE ORDINATION – ADRIAN SUYANTO



The Diaconate Ordination of Adrian Suyanto (Seminarist from the Good Shepherd Seminary) will take place on Saturday 16th December 2023, 10.30 am at St Mel's Church, Campsie.

Please keep Adrian in your prayers.

MASS FOR EXPECTANT MOTHERS AND THOSE HOPING TO CONCEIVE

All expectant mothers and those hoping to conceive are warmly invited to come to 10:30 Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral on Sunday, 10 December, with an opportunity to receive a special blessing from Bishop Richard Umbers with relics of St. Gerard Majella and St. Gianna Molla.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR B)

Priest:

The Priest, or an assistant, lights the second candle, which can be named the John the Baptist Candle.

John the Baptist was the one who prepared the way for the Lord.

V. Lord Jesus, your coming was proclaimed by the prophet Isaiah who described you as a 'shepherd feeding his flock, gathering the lambs in his arms' (First Reading).

R. Come, Lord Jesus.

V. Lord Jesus, you will come again. St Peter reminds us to live holy and saintly lives while we wait and long for the Day of God to come (Second Reading).

R. Come, Lord Jesus.

V. Lord Jesus, you call us to baptism in the Holy Spirit (Gospel).

R. Come, Lord Jesus.

Priest:

[Collect: Second Sunday of Advent]

Almighty and merciful God, may no earthly undertaking hinder those who set out in haste to meet your Son, but may our learning of heavenly wisdom gain us admittance to his company.

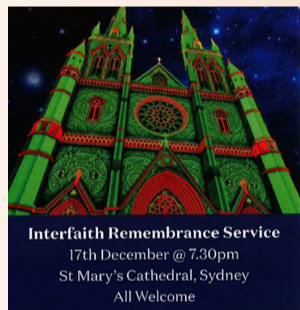
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

R. Amen



CHRISTMAS INTERFAITH REMEMBRANCE SERVICE 2023

Catholic Cemeteries + Crematoria warmly invites you and your family to join us for our special Interfaith Christmas Remembrance Service to remember those we have lost in 2023.



Interfaith Remembrance Service
17th December @ 7.30pm
St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney
All Welcome

When: 7.30pm at Sunday 17th December, 2023
Where: St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney
Presided by: Most Reverend Terence Brady Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus of Sydney

Live music performances - **ALL WELCOME**

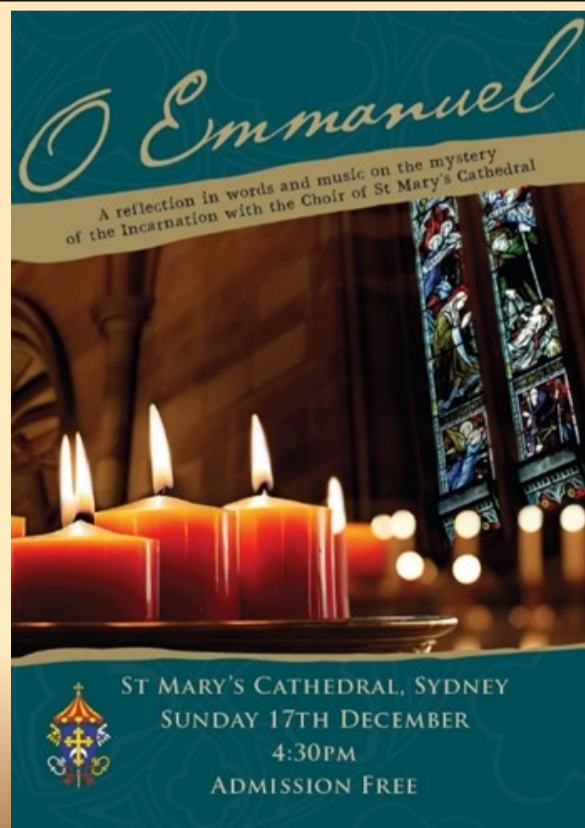


Planning for your wedding day?

Preparing couples for marriage is our specialty with our Marriage and Relationship Education Program

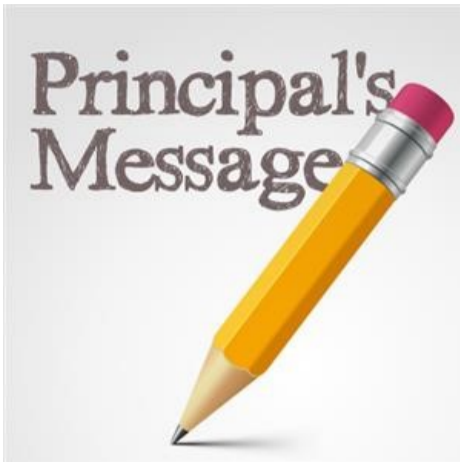
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CatholicCare
SYDNEY



Dear Parishioners, Parents and Carers,

A highlight this week was a farm incursion for Kindergarten. There were ducks, goats, lambs, and chickens that needed patting and feeding. Our Kinder farmers were in their element.



On Thursday evening our Year Two students (and one student from Year Three) made their First Reconciliation. We were very grateful to Father Jacek and Sandra and Lorraine from the Parish Sacramental team for our students' preparation and the beautiful liturgy.

On Friday evening we had our Christmas celebration. All our families contributed to a Potluck feast. This was followed by our Christmas raffle and Christmas songs and carols performed by each class with a finale performed by the whole school.

This week we are looking forward to the Year 6 Graduation, our Thanksgiving Mass, and the Year 6 Big Day out. The students last day is Friday.

Warm regards
Phil Townsend

**ST VINCENT DE PAUL
2024 COLUMBAN CALENDARS**

St Vincent de Paul 2024 Columban Calendars are now available for \$10 each. Put your money in the envelope provided and put on 2nd collection plate.

CARITAS AUSTRALIA'S - GLOBAL GIFTS CARDS

Caritas Australia's Global Gifts Christmas cards are a great way to spread joy and hope this Christmas season and to make a life-changing impact. Each gift represents a donation that will support vulnerable communities to create a brighter future. Order now to receive in time for Christmas at www.globalgifts.org.au

**LISTEN TO THE WORD: PREPARE FOR
HIS BIRTH-ADVENT COMPANION 2023**

The beautiful Season of Advent is here. Let us make the most of this precious time to gather in our parishes and communities to prepare for the coming of Jesus. This free Advent Companion contains Gospel readings for the Sundays of Advent and Christmas, and spiritual reflections by Christian Stephens, Rachel Vala, Milad Khalil, Sr Anastasia Reeves OP, and Fr Matthew Meagher. Designed for individual or group prayer, either in-person or online. Copies are available for parishioners to take home. These are available from the table at the back of the church or visit www.gomakedisciples.org.au



For those wishing to make a Christmas offering to the Parish, envelopes will be shortly available in the church. These can be returned with your offering inside on the second collection.

We thank you for your generosity.

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