

WELCOME TO ST. ANNE'S STRATHFIELD SOUTH PARISH

Third Sunday of Advent (Year B)

16 & 17 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 61:1-2A, 10-11
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
John 1:6 - 8, 19 - 28

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:

My soul rejoices in my God.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia! Alleluia! The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor. Alleluia!

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - REJOICE / JOY

The third Sunday of Advent is called "Gaudete" Sunday. Gaudete is the Latin word for Rejoice! Each Sunday in the season of Advent is supposed to be a feast day, a celebration, but this week is especially so. The third week of Advent is a time of joy, a time of being thankful for all that has been given—the promise of the Saviour who has come, who is present, and who promises a return. The colour of this Sunday is rose – a celebratory colour – and it is reflected in the vestments worn by the priest and in the colour of the third candle used in Advent wreaths.



FOR OUR DEAD

Please remember those who have gone before us:

Anthony (Tony) Grace
John Boram Kim
Tony Bou-Chahine
Patricia
Marion Kelly

ANNIVERSARY

Anthony Herbert

SICK:

Sharon Holliday

SPECIAL INTENTION:

Healing and strength and God's blessings

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

VOLUNTEER NEEDED



Volunteer needed for washing of the altar linen from time to time. If you would like to help please see Fr Jacek after Mass and he will give you the necessary instructions.

St. Anne's Strathfield South Parish

Administrator: Father Jacek Cichy
Deacon: Rev Mr Constantine Rodrigues
11 St Anne's Square
Strathfield South NSW 2136
Phone (02) 9642 1523
Email: stannesstrathfieldsouth@outlook.com



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 DESK

SUNDAY AND CHRISTMAS MASS OBLIGATIONS

Some people have asked whether, because Christmas is on a Monday this year, they can just go to Mass on Sunday evening, the 24th, Christmas Eve, to cover both their Sunday and Christmas Mass obligations. The answer is NO! Two obligations (Sunday and Christmas), two Masses! You could, if you chose, go to Mass on the evening of Sunday the 24th to fulfil your Sunday obligation, and on the morning of the 25th to fulfil your Christmas obligation. Or you could go to Mass on the morning of Sunday to fulfil your Sunday obligation, and to another Mass on Sunday evening celebrated as a Christmas Vigil to fulfil your Christmas obligation.

END OF THE SCHOOL YEAR

As another school year finishes, we would like to wish the St Anne's Primary School principal, teachers, administration staff, students and their families a very happy and holy Christmas and a safe and joyful new year!

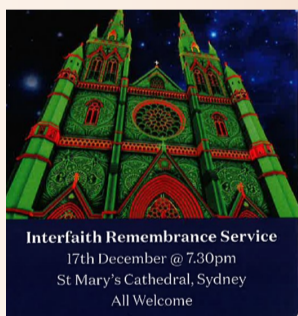
CHRISTMAS AT THE CATHEDRAL

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.



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.



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**

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.

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.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR B)

Priest:

The Priest, or an assistant, lights the third candle, which can be named the Saints' Candle to call to mind all the saints who share the life of Christ by being baptised into his Body the Church.

V. Lord Jesus, your coming was foretold by the prophet Isaiah who cried with joy for God clothes us in the garments of salvation (First Reading).

R. Come, Lord Jesus.

V. Lord Jesus, you come among us now as the light of the world. St Paul urges us to be happy at all times and to pray constantly (Second Reading).

R. Come, Lord Jesus.

V. Lord Jesus, you sent John the Baptist to be a witness for the light (Gospel).

R. Come, Lord Jesus.

Priest:

[Collect: Third Sunday of Advent]

O God, who sees how your people Faithfully await the feast of the Lord's nativity,

enable us, we pray, to attain the joys of so great a salvation and to celebrate them always with solemn worship and glad rejoicing.

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.**



CONGRATULATIONS TO A VERY DEDICATED PARISHIONER

At the Annual Catechist Mass on 19 November this year, Maureen received a Life Member Award for 30 Years service as a Catechist. Maureen has been a parishioner here at St Anne's Strathfield South for over 30 years and during that period has taken on many volunteer roles. For a little over 20 years, Maureen was the Catechist Coordinator. The Catechist role often seems like a thankless job and sometimes you wonder if you have inspired the children you teach. Being caught up in the teaching, one often forgets how important the role of the Catechist is and whether or not a difference has been made to a single individual child's life.



When we look back on the years, Maureen has taught many children about God's love, prayer and how Jesus taught us to live good lives.

The St Anne's parish and community congratulates you Maureen on your dedication and devotion in teaching the children at Strathfield South Public School over the last 30 years.

CAROLS FOR PEACE

Join Archbishop Fisher and a Choir and orchestra of 70 musicians for this very special ceremony "Carols for Peace". FRIDAY 22nd December commencing at 7.00 pm at St Mary's Cathedral. ENTRY BY DONATION: All funds raised support Aid to the Church in Need and its charity works in The Holy Land and Ukraine. Tickets are strictly limited BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL www.carolsforpeace.org

Dear Parishioners, Parents and Carers,



During Friday's morning assembly we acknowledged the students in Year 3 and Year 5 who came 1st in the various aspects of NAPLAN. As I have previously stated we had some amazing results in NAPLAN this year. Our Year 5 class came 4th out of all the Sydney Catholic Schools in Writing and 1st when compared to similar schools. In Spelling Year 5 were 3rd out of all the schools and 3rd compared to similar schools. We achieved these results out of the 112 primary schools in Sydney Catholic Schools.

On Wednesday we celebrated our Thanksgiving Mass with Father Jacek. The School Captains, SRC and Liturgy Leaders for 2024 were presented with their badges by the class of 2023. The Pope Francis awards were presented by Father Jacek. The Mayor of Strathfield, Cr Karen Pensabene was our guest of honour. Cr Pensabene presented a Citizenship Award to Scarlett from Year 6. This award was kindly sponsored by the Rotary Club of Strathfield and was in recognition of Scarlett's generous contributions to many aspects of the life of the school.

Friday was the last day at St Anne's for some students after up to seven years and some families who have been part of this special community for many years. We sadly said farewell, but it is not goodbye. You always belong to St Anne's.

"Our community knows that the joy of Christmas is to be found in a spirit of generosity. Add another seat or two at your table this Christmas... Sing the carols at the top of your voice. Wrap every present in love.

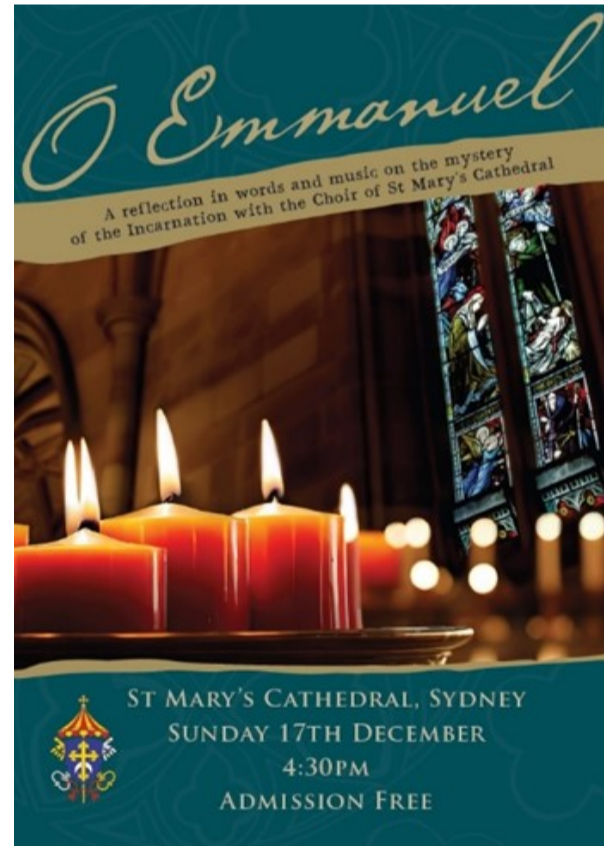
You are the reason Jesus came. No one has more cause to celebrate than you!"

Wishing you a Happy and Holy Christmas

Warm regards
Phil Townsend

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



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 safeguarding-enquiries@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