

# WELCOME TO ST. ANNE'S STRATHFIELD SOUTH PARISH

Fifth Sunday of Lent (Year B)

16 & 17 March 2024

## 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.

## 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.




## READINGS:

Jeremiah: 31: 31 – 34  
Hebrews: 5: 7 – 9  
John: 12: 20 – 33

Responsorial Psalm: Create a clean heart in me, O God

Gospel Acclamation: Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ! If you serve me, follow me, says the Lord; and where I am, my servant will also be. Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!



**FOR OUR DEAD**  
Please remember those who have gone before us:  
Damian Wong  
Peter Rühl  
Beth Tudehope  
Tony & Laura Bou-Chahine  
Tom Riemer  
Teresa Ku

**Anniversary**  
John Walshe

## WHAT IS THE PASCHAL MYSTERY?

The Paschal Mystery, central to our faith and highlighted during the 5th Sunday of Lent Year B, encapsulates God's profound plan for humanity's redemption through Jesus Christ's passion, death, resurrection, and ascension. This mystery assures us that death is not the end but a passage to a more glorious existence. The readings for this Sunday, especially the Gospel, reflect this promise, teaching us that through death comes new life. Jesus' analogy of the grain of wheat dying to produce abundant fruit serves as a powerful reminder that our own sacrifices and trials can lead to spiritual growth and eternal life, echoing the hope and victory of the Paschal Mystery.

## MASS OFFERINGS

If you would like to offer a Mass Intention, please complete an envelope available in the church foyer with details clearly written to avoid any misread names. Please nominate which day. If requesting a Mass Intention for a Saturday or Sunday, kindly write on the envelope, the time you would like the intention mentioned.

Please leave your contact number, should we need any clarification.



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](mailto: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



### **LENTEN PROGRAM 2024 – REPENT AND BELIEVE**

Be Filled with the Love of God - Lenten Companion 2024. The Parish Lenten group meets every Tuesday during Lent at 7.00 pm in the Parish House.

The Sydney Archdiocese Lenten program is being followed.



### **ST PATRICK'S DAY MASS**

Bishop Terry Brady, Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus warmly invites you to the celebration of the St Patrick's Feast Day Mass.

**DATE:** Monday, 18th March 2024

**TIME:** 10:00am

**VENUE:** St Mary's Cathedral

### **2024 EASTER CEREMONIES**

A Flyer setting out the dates and times of the Easter ceremonies has been included in the bulletin. Extra copies are also available on the back table. Please take the flyer home so you are aware of what is happening in the Parish this Easter.



### **FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT 16 & 17 MARCH**



### **Partnership in action**

The work of Caritas Australia is only possible with the dedication, passion and tenacity of our local partners who implement the programs. They are the heroes on the ground, working tirelessly behind-the-scenes every day to create a better future for their communities.

Caritas Australia partners with the Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ) to support communities living in urban slums in the Philippines. FCJ runs a number of programs that include house renovating, food processing, basic literacy skills, urban gardening, upcycling and income generating activities. They also have a clinic visited weekly by a doctor and community nurse.

Caritas Australia partners with Caritas Samoa to assist communities to have increased access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene to ensure human health and well-being by providing water tanks and sanitation facilities.

Caritas Australia partners with the Catholic Development Commission in Malawi through the A+ program. Since 2016, the A+ program has helped 7,397 families across Malawi improve their food security, access to basic water and sanitation, boost women's income generation and strengthen child protection.

### **Please donate to Project Compassion.**



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 and envelopes available from your parish, by visiting [caritas.org.au/project-compassion](https://caritas.org.au/project-compassion) or by calling 1800 024 413.



## PALMS

As Palm Sunday is fast approaching, does anyone have any large palm branches that they would like to donate? These would be used to decorate the church for Palm Sunday. Please contact Fr Jacek for further details.



## PALM SUNDAY

Palm Sunday falls next weekend. The 10 am Mass on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2024 will commence with a Procession with Palms beginning from the school grounds. All children, their parents, and parishioners are welcome to join this procession. Please gather in the designated area 10 minutes before Mass starts. Palm Sunday is also called Passion Sunday, the first day of Holy Week and the Sunday before Easter, commemorating Jesus Christ's

triumphal entry into Jerusalem. It is associated with the blessing and procession of palms.

## WHY DO CATHOLICS COVER CRUCIFIXES AND STATUES DURING LENT?

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? The rubrics can guide us. In the Roman Missal, we find the instruction, "the practice of covering crosses and images throughout the church from [the fifth] Sunday [of Lent] may be observed. Crosses remain covered until the end of the Celebration of the Lord's Passion on Good Friday, but images remain covered until the beginning of the Easter Vigil." But why go through such lengths to cover up images that are designed to raise our hearts and minds toward heaven? First of all, 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.

Secondly, the veils focus our attention on the words being said at Mass. When we listen to the Passion narrative, our senses are allowed to focus on the striking words from the Gospel and truly enter into the scene.

Third, the Church uses veils to produce a heightened sense of anticipation for Easter Sunday. This is further actualized when you attend daily Mass and see the veils each day. You don't want them to be there because they are hiding some very beautiful images. And therein lies the whole point: the veils are not meant to be there forever. The images need to be unveiled; it is unnatural for them to be covered. The unveiling before the Easter Vigil is a great reminder of our own life on earth. We live in a "veiled" world, in exile from our true home. It is only through our own death that the veil is lifted.



Taken from [aleteia.org](http://aleteia.org) Philip Kosloski

Dear Parishioners, Parents and Carers,

## Principal's Message



Our NAPLAN program in Years 3 and 5 is in full swing for 2024, The Writing Tests were completed on Wednesday this week followed by Reading on Friday. Our Assistant Principal, Mrs Melissa Hall, posted the St Anne's efforts in the Year 3 Writing Test to the NAPLAN marking authorities from Strathfield South Post Office on Friday afternoon. This is the only postage stamp required by NAPLAN for the year as every other test is completed in an online environment.

Our Year 3 and Year 5 students will complete Conventions of Language on Monday while the Numeracy assessments on Wednesday will bring NAPLAN to a conclusion for 2024.

At the same time our Project Compassion efforts have continued. This week's efforts revolved around a Lolly Guessing Competition. At this stage in Lent the various activities have taken the money raised to over \$800. Our students are delighted to know that this money will make a difference to families in need. Next, we are looking forward to Harmony Day on Thursday 21 March. On Harmony Day we celebrate unity and diversity. Year 3 and 5 (and their teachers) can also celebrate the end of NAPLAN!

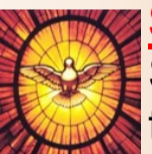
Warm regards  
Phil Townsend

## ST ANNE'S PARISH SACRAMENTAL DETAILS



### Sacrament of First Holy Communion

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2024 at 12 noon.



### Sacrament of Confirmation

Saturday 31st August at 5.00 pm during the Vigil Mass.



### Sacrament of First Reconciliation

Thursday 14th November at 6.30 pm for First Holy Communion in 2025.

## STATIONS OF THE CROSS

During Lent, the Stations of the Cross will be held every Friday at 6.30 pm followed by Adoration and Benediction in the church.



## DIDASKŌ ADULT FAITH FORMATION

We cannot love what we do not know (St Augustine) God is forever revealing Himself to us. Have you ever been curious to find out more? Join Chris Wolter online for a thought-provoking short course titled God the Beautiful: An Introduction to Theology that will make learning about God both enjoyable and accessible.

**DATES:** Monday 18 March 2024

**TIME:** 7:30 pm – 8:45 pm

**MODE:** Online via Zoom

**COST PER COURSE:** \$35 for individuals

To find out more and to register, visit <https://gomakedisciples.org.au/didasko/>.

## 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 and Ministerial Integrity Office at (02) 9390 5810 or [safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org](mailto: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](https://www.archdioceseofsydney.org.au/safeguarding)