

WELCOME TO ST. ANNE'S STRATHFIELD SOUTH PARISH

Third Sunday of Advent

11 & 12 December 2021

Weekday/Weekend Mass Timetable:

Saturday Vigil: 9:15 am & 6:00 pm
Sunday: 8:00 am & 10:00 am
Tuesday - Saturday: 9:15 am

Reconciliation is on Saturdays between 5:00 pm - 5:30 pm
Baptisms, marriages and funerals by appointment.

HOLY WATER

is now permitted under the lessening of restrictions.

READINGS:

Zephaniah 3:14-18
Philippians 4:4-7
Luke 3:10-18

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.



<u>Responsorial Psalm:</u>	Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.
<u>Gospel Acclamation:</u>	Alleluia! Alleluia! The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor. Alleluia!
<u>Eucharistic Acclamation:</u>	When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.

The third week of Advent we remember the gift of Joy we have in Christ. We remember the joy that Mary felt when the angel Gabriel told her that a special child would be born to her – a child who would save and deliver all people. Joy is the gift we all receive from the unconditional love Christ has for us.



(Someone lights the pink candle on the Advent Wreath.)

All: Loving God, we thank you for the joy you bring us. Help us prepare our hearts for the Lord's coming by helping us see that Christ came for every person we meet wherever we go. We ask this in the name of the one born in Bethlehem, Jesus our Lord.

All: Amen.

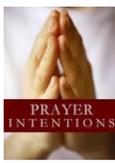
COLUMBAN ART CALENDARS 2021 are on sale for \$10 at the back of the church.

Please Pray for...



FOR OUR DEAD
Holy Souls, especially, Bridget "Breda" McKeown Please also pray for Rodrigues Family, Dennis Family, Sheila and Gerard Healy

FOR OUR SICK
especially Bill Petrie, Fr P. Maher, Peter Simon, Tony Grace, Frank Zerafa, Bishop W Wright, Mgr John Usher, Mgr Brian Raynor, Frs M Kelly, Frank Coorey, Paul Foley, David Coffey, and Don Willoughby.



Should you have any prayer requests that you would like our families of families to pray for, please send them to the Parish Office on below email address.

A very warm welcome to all who are visiting our family of families of St Anne's. It is good to have you with us.

Currently we are providing a small number of hard copies of the bulletin. While most have an opportunity to attend a weekend Mass, we will continue to offer the electronic bulletin but in a reduced form to assist you in spending some time in prayer as a family. We are considering simply providing the references for the readings and other measures. You are strongly encouraged to provide your thoughts on this and what form you prefer.



If you have any questions or would like to know more about our family of families, please contact Fr Jacek on the email address above. We welcome your suggestions and enquires, including feedback about the bulletin.

St. Anne's Strathfield South Parish

Administrator: Father Jacek Cichy

11 St Anne's Square

Strathfield South NSW 2136

Email: stannesstrathfieldsouth@outlook.com

Website: <https://www.stannesstrathfieldsouth.org.au/>



St. Anne's Catholic Primary School

Principal: Mr Mark McKeown

St Anne's Square

Strathfield South NSW 2136

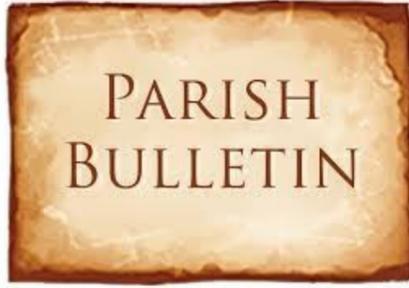
Phone: (02) 9642 6149

Fax: (02) 9742 6250

Website: <https://www.stastrathfield.catholic.edu.au/>

CONTACT WITH PARISH OFFICE

1. For matters dealing with finance, envelopes etc please address: Attention: Janelle. Janelle works on Tuesdays only.
2. For matters regarding safeguarding, working with children check etc and the bulletin, please address Attention: Rachael. Rachael works on Saturdays only
3. For all other parish matters: Attention Fr Jacek Cichy.



If you know of anyone who is not receiving the bulletin and would like to, encourage them to contact the Parish Office on :

stannesstrathfield@outlook.com with their email address and they will be included in our list for the following week.

The bulletin should arrive each Saturday from around mid to late afternoon. If it does not please contact us and we will resend it to you.

Do you have a Law Degree?

CatholicCare Sydney is seeking volunteer assistance from an experienced Legal Advisor for one day a week, to provide advice on privacy, consent matters, record keeping and conflicts of interest.

If you think you can help and would like to learn more about this volunteer opportunity please call **13 18 19** or email volunteers@catholiccare.org.

To learn more:

CatholicCare

131819

volunteers@catholiccare.org

catholiccare.org



COVID-19 UPDATE

The NSW Government recommends that church-goers continue to wear face masks when attending Mass as a safeguard to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Churches will be able to have unlimited numbers at all religious services, as long as a two square metre rule is observed. You'll find more information here: <https://www.sydneycatholic.org/coronavirusfrequently-asked-questions>.

Up to 300 people are now allowed to attend church weddings.

This means that the capacity of St Anne's has increased to 110.

Churches are required to keep written records with names and contact details of everyone who attends Mass for contact tracing purposes. These records must be kept for at least 4 weeks. Parishes are advised to designate specific people to monitor the sign-in process and to make sure all people attending Masses are registering (at least one person from each family group). Parishioners must not mingle before, during or after Mass since social distancing rules cannot be easily observed.

COVID-19

QR codes are now compulsory for churches to ensure there is a record kept for all attendees. However in cases where you have parishioners unable to use a QR code, the parish must keep an electronic record of that person's name and contact details.

All are encouraged to download Services NSW App to your phone prior to coming to the church. When the download completed, scroll down to Tools and you will find the COVID app. Prior to entering the church, please do the following:

1. Open the app at the appropriate page.
2. Place your phone over the QR sign. A page will open with all your details.
3. Sanitised your hands (take a mask if necessary) and you are welcome to contribute to the collections
4. Show your open app to the person who is marking off names.
5. Go to your seat and ensure your phone is in silent mode.



PLEASE REMEMBER AFTER MASS: Open the app and scroll to Tools, tap on COVID and then on last place visited; tick the circle to log off. Otherwise, you will be marked as being in the church until you follow this procedure.

QR CODE

for St Anne's Catholic Church,
Strathfield South

Don't forget to Check Out afterwards.





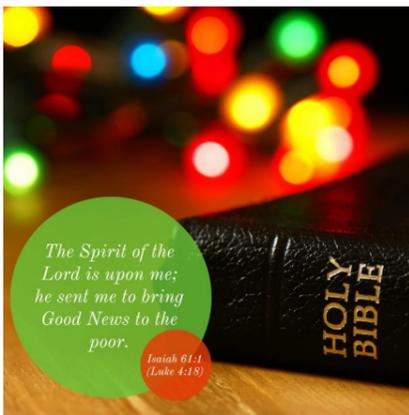
Not every presider takes up the option of wearing rose-coloured vestments today. The lighter shade is meant to signal a gentler spirit in the celebration, harking back to a time when Advent was considered more penitential than it is now. The traditional name for the day, “Gaudete Sunday,” comes from the Latin verb “to rejoice.”

That’s what Paul wanted his beloved community at Philippi to do. Even though he’s writing to them from prison, he bids them: “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice” (4:4, NRSV). The prophet Zephaniah had an even more exuberant message for his people centuries before: “Shout for joy, daughter of Jerusalem, Israel, shout aloud!”

These are timely words, coming as they do in mid-December when we can be caught up in a frantic whirlwind of activities. If we’re not engaged in end-of-year celebrations, we’re busy preparing for Christmas and the summer holiday season. Today we’re offered a circuit-breaker, an opportunity to be bathed in the joy that only God can bestow upon us.

Source: Liturgy Brisbane

THROW AWAY FEAR, TRUST IN THE LORD



For the third Sunday of Advent, *Gaudete Sunday*, we are encouraged to cry out with joy. The birth of the Saviour is not far away. A passage from Isaiah 12 is used as the responsorial psalm and we are to throw away our fear, trust in the Lord, give thanks, sing psalms. Such exultant emotion belies what is really required. To be like that we must totally trust, as demonstrated in Luke’s Gospel. We have to share what we have with the poor; we have to be happy with our pay, give away what we don’t need. Then we will be able to trust completely in God’s care for us. Sounds a bit tough . . . Thinking about it in this COVID-19 time. Can we be happy with what we have, with how we must live with restrictions, with the fear of disease? Or can we do with joy what is required of us and live simply within our created world?

Source: pray.com.au

THE SHEPHERD'S CANDLE

The third candle which is pink or rose, represents **Gaudette Sunday and the joy that the birth of Christ brought to the world.** Traditionally, on Gaudette Sunday one takes a break from Advent fasting to experience the joy of the day.

Source: candles.lovetoknow



CATHEDRAL CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

17 December 2021 - 11am and 7pm

The St Mary’s Cathedral Choir and the Sydney Youth Orchestra perform some of the most loved Christmas music at two concerts that have become an annual tradition.

Tickets available online: www.cathedralchoir.sydney/concerts

LIGHTS OF CHRISTMAS 2021, - ST MARY’S CATHEDRAL FORECOURT, 9-25 DECEMBER

Join in Sydney’s favourite free Christmas tradition, uniting families, locals and tourists with a display of digital storytelling projected onto St Mary’s Cathedral.



Find out more: <https://lightsofchristmas.com.au/>

Truth is always in danger of being sacrificed on the altars of good taste and social stability. **William Sloan Coffin**

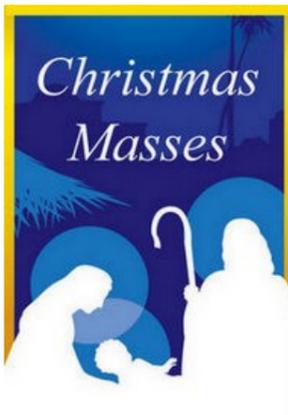


13 December **Saint Lucy** (Died at Syracuse in Sicily, probably in the persecution of the emperor Diocletian in 304. Widely venerated from the earliest times, her memorial has long been kept on this day. Probably because her name is suggestive of light, her intercession has been sought for eyesight problems. Named in Eucharistic Prayer 1 [The Roman Canon] and remembered as a youth, radiant with Christian faith and courage).

Source: Liturgy Brisbane

14 December **Saint John of The Cross** (Born in 1542 at Fontiveros [Spain]. Died on this day in Ubeda. A Carmelite priest who joined Saint Teresa of Jesus [15 October] in the work of Carmelite reform and, despite opposition and imprisonment, organised the disalced Carmelites. Remembered for his mystical writings, which combine theology and poetry to describe the spiritual journey through darkness to union with God.)

Source: Liturgy Brisbane



Friday, 24 December Christmas Eve	5:00 pm	Christmas Eve Children & Family Mass
	12:00 am	Christmas Midnight Mass
Saturday 25 December Christmas Day	8:00 am	Christmas Mass
	10:00 am	Christmas Mass
Sunday 26 December Boxing Day	8:00 am	Feast of the Holy Family Mass
	10:00 am	(there will be no vigil Mass)



Saturday Vigil Mass will change from 2nd January 2022 to 5.00 pm Mass



**CHRISTMAS EVE
CHILDREN & FAMILY MASS**

Children are encouraged to come dressed as an Angel, Wise Man, Shepherd, Joseph or Mary.



The bread in your cupboard belongs to the hungry person; the coat hanging unused in your closet belongs to the person who needs it; the shoes rotting in your closet belong to the person with no shoes; the money you put in the bank belongs to the poor.

Basil the Great



**Support for our Parishes as they reopen
Advent Companion Available Now – Prepare to Join or Lead a Group in your Parish**

Churches have reopened, and Advent is here. With gratitude in our hearts, let us gather in our parishes to prepare a welcome for the newborn Jesus at Christmas and to be channels of His peace and joy to those around us. Joining or leading an Advent group is a great way to do this.



'Rejoice! Receiving and Sharing the Gift of the Good News' contains Gospel readings for Sundays and Christmas Day, spiritual reflections, and other resources for Advent. For individual or group prayer, in-person or online gatherings. Available for download on the Go Make Disciples website. The third reflection in the series for the 3rd Sunday of Advent features a Gospel Reflection from Parish Renewal Manager, Elizabeth Arblaster.

**Reclaiming Evangelisation Series Continues with Dr Mary Healy
Live Online, Saturday 12 February 2022, 10 – 11:30 AM**

You are invited to attend Dr Mary Healy's live online address to the faithful of Sydney on the topic 'Why Make Disciples? What Scripture tells us about calling and forming disciples.' Dr Mary Healy is a professor of Scripture at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit, member of the Pontifical Biblical Commission and the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, as well as an accomplished author and international speaker. Places limited. Registrations essential via www.gomakedisciples.org.au

John the Baptist's preaching hardly echoes today's consultants on church growth and congregational development. There is a church that meets the needs and aspirations of its members. There is a church whose yoke is so light as to be no burden at all. For Luke, the good news, the gospel, is not warm and fuzzy; it is not about our needs, but rather about the needs of God and the needs of a hurting world. It is about repentance and forgiveness, which bring about God's healing. It is in relationships that this good-news healing is revealed. The Baptist describes in detail the character of our healed relationships with one another. Once we understand Luke's image of the good news as the healing of relationships, we can more easily see how the good news is also about repentance and forgiveness; they are neither onerous duties laid on us by an angry God, nor something we must do to earn God's love. Rather, they are gifts to us from God and the means by which relationships are healed. Yes, it is hard to repent. When we repent, we are admitting that we have failed, that we are imperfect, but when we repent and receive forgiveness, our relationships with ourselves, with others, and with God are healed. That is the Advent hope.

United Church of Canada