

WELCOME TO ST. ANNE'S STRATHFIELD SOUTH PARISH

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

12 & 13 February 2022

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:

Jeremiah 17:5-8
1 Corinthians 15:12, 16-20
Luke 6:17, 20-26

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: Happy are they who hope in the Lord. .
Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia! Alleluia! Rejoice and be glad; your reward is great in heaven. Alleluia!

Ash Wednesday



17 Days 14 Hours 44 Minutes 23 Seconds

Days until: Wednesday, 2nd of March 2022

LENT 2022:

The season of Lent is almost upon us once again!
Ash Wednesday – 2nd March

MASS TIMES AND DISTRIBUTION OF ASHES.

9.15am,
10.15am School Mass and
7pm.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS:

Stations of the Cross every
Friday during Lent at 7.00pm.

FOR OUR DEAD

Holy Souls, Fr Michael Butler

FOR OUR SICK

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

Please
Pray
for...



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; we will continue to offer the electronic bulletin. Please continue to provide your thoughts on the Bulletin, its content and what form you prefer. If you know of anyone who is not receiving the bulletin and would like to, encourage them to contact the Parish Office via the email address below.

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 all suggestions and enquires.

St. Anne's Strathfield South Parish

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Email: stannesstrathfieldsouth@outlook.com

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



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Trust in human beings versus trust in God, sin and death versus resurrection, blessedness versus woe. These are the choices put before us in turn by Jeremiah, the psalmist, Paul the apostle and finally Jesus himself.



Each is cast as an either-or option with no middle ground. Immediately we object that this isn't fair, life is too complex to be reduced to such clear-cut alternatives. We want to say it's often quite unclear to us what the right or best decision may be, and even if it is, circumstances usually constrain our freedom to act.

True enough, life is busy, complicated and conflicted these days. All the more reason to step back from the hurlyburly of everyday life and scrutinise our decision-making through these sharply focussed lenses. It's a process of discernment. In the balance, are we choosing what is life-giving or are we putting our faith in transitory and insubstantial things? Surely in our heart of hearts we want to flourish, to be fully alive, and to know the joy of being blessed. Away with excuses, choose life. **Source: Liturgy Brisbane**

WHERE DID ST VALENTINE COME FROM?

According to the Catholic Church, there were several saints in the ancient world called Valentine. The Saint Valentine with whom we associate Valentine's Day was a Catholic priest who lived in the 3rd Century in Rome. At this time Rome was the most powerful nation in the world and was ruled by Emperor Claudius II. Claudius and most Romans were pagans, but more and more citizens were converting to Christianity, much to the dismay of the Emperor.

The various legends of St Valentine

There are several legends associated with St Valentine and how he came to be sainted. One story says that Valentine was called before Emperor Claudius and refused to give up his Christianity to become a pagan. Another story is that Valentine was secretly marrying Christian couples, a practice which had been outlawed by the Emperor. Whatever the reason, Saint Valentine was executed on 14 February in the year 270. It is said that prior to his execution, St Valentine had cured the blindness of his jailor's daughter and his final act was to write her a love message signed 'from your valentine'.

St Valentine is established as a Saint

Whatever the legends, we can be certain that St Valentine did exist as archaeologists have uncovered a Roman church dedicated to him. St Valentine is on the Catholic Church's official list of saints, although because of the uncertainty about who St Valentine really was, he no longer appears on the General Catholic Calendar of Saints.

Where is St Valentine Buried?

St Valentine is the patron of love, young people and happy marriages. Legend has it that Valentine's body was buried just north of Rome, however there are many places around the world which claim to have St Valentine's relics. His skull is on display in Rome and in Dublin; a casket is said to contain holy relics of the saint. At this church each year on 14 February, a special mass is held dedicated to young people and all those in love. Pictures of St Valentine generally show him as a kindly figure, often surrounded by birds and roses.

14 February - Saint Valentine's Feast Day & Saint Valentine in the 21st Century

St Valentine's official feast day was first held on 14 February in the year 496. At the time this feast day was chosen to replace a pagan practice which the Christian Church was trying to stamp out. It wasn't until the Middle Ages that St Valentine was connected with courtly love. Poets such as Geoffrey Chaucer built on the legends surrounding St Valentine and began the tradition of associating Saint Valentine with romantic love that we celebrate today.



Prayers are still said to St Valentine as the patron saint of love. Catholics offer prayers and thanks for loving families and friends and couples ask for the saint's blessing of their lives together. **Source: Roses only**



You're invited to join the webinar launch of Joy of Love, a project initiated by the Archdiocese of Sydney and facilitated by CatholicCare Sydney, to be held at 11am via webinar on 17 February 2022.

Joy of Love is a framework for the preparation, formation and support of marriage and relationships across the life-long continuum. It is a strategic approach that encompasses the formation of people of different ages and stages of life in a Christian approach to relationships, marriage, family, and sexual intimacy. It is based on the understanding that marriage is a lifelong commitment and relationship that requires preparation and ongoing support, beginning at Baptism and continuing for the years that follow the reception of the Marriage Sacrament.

Joy of Love includes extensive programs, courses and resources for young children, teenagers, parents/carers, post-school, engaged and married couples, with *Healthy Friendship Week on 21-25 February* the first program to commence for children 5 to 12 years.

It would be wonderful for your parish families to get involved in *Healthy Friendship Week* and share the fun and engaging activities with their children to help them learn more about positive friendships.

Healthy Friendship Week is on 21-25 February!



There are loads of fun and engaging activities online to share with children 5 to 12 years, to help them learn more about developing positive friendships.

FIND OUT MORE AT catholiccare.org/joyoflove

FIND OUT MORE

AND

REGISTER AT

catholiccare.org/joyoflove

THE 2021 NATIONAL CHURCH LIFE SURVEY HAS BEGUN AND WILL CONTINUE INTO EARLY 2022

Due to restrictions caused by COVID-19, churches can complete their surveys until February 2022. Information on ordering surveys, why churches participate and how to sign up can be found at 2021ncls.org.au



National Church Life Survey Research, is a world leader in research focused on connecting churches and their communities. This is a voluntary and anonymous survey. Do not write your name on the survey form. Our parish would appreciate if **everyone** could participate in this survey as the information gathered could impact on the viability of St Anne's. There is also a child survey for 8 to 14 year olds. Please take a survey home complete the details and return to the parish next week

LENTEN PROGRAMME: REMEMBER

Lent is not far away so our attention turns to our Lenten programme. In past years, there has been significant numbers of participants. The current COVID regulations will restrict home meetings, but that not a reason not to continue the programme. The title of the programme is Remember which will prove to be helpful in these times. It is suggested that those who want to participate consider ordering the booklet, following it alone, or perhaps join with two or three others, conscious of social distancing and hand washing, to mutually support each other. Our bulletin will try to support all with weekly messages so the programme continues appropriately. This means that we as a family of families will continue to grow in the knowledge and love of the Father through the season of Lent.



...whoever walks a furlong without sympathy walks to his own funeral, dressed in a shroud....
Walt Whitman [1819-1892] American poet.

COME BACK TO ME: MERCY AND HEALING AWAIT LENTEN COMPANION 2022



The beautiful Season of Lent is approaching. Let us make the most of this precious time to gather in our parishes and communities to reflect on the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus, using the Lenten companion *Come Back to Me*. This free booklet contains Gospel readings for the Sundays of Lent until Easter Sunday, and spiritual reflections on the Gospels by Dr Peter McGregor, Professor Renee Kohler-Ryan, Mother Hilda Scott and Fr James Baxter OP and others.

Designed for individual or group prayer, either in-person or online. The resource will be distributed among the parishes in early February, and will also be available for download on the *Go Make Disciples* website at www.gomakedisciples.org.au. The Parish Renewal Team, which developed the Companion, is also providing training for those keen to lead a group in their parish – click [here](#) for dates and registration.

NEWS FROM THE PLENARY COUNCIL

Have you taken up Pope Francis' invitation to participate in a global conversation about the Catholic Church? You still have three weeks to make a submission to your local consultation for the international Synod on Synodality, calling the People of God to walk together in our mission as Christians. Submissions close on February 27. Find out more [here](#)

The theme for this month is on Pope Francis' third theme for the Synod: *Mission*

The Mass kits for the Sundays in February will be uploaded to [the Diocesan Synod of Bishops page](#)

The Archdiocese of Sydney has also produced a [video](#), interlinking the Plenary Council, the 2023 Synod and the Archdiocese's Go Make Disciples program.

Plenary Reflection Day:

A day of prayer and reflection in support of the Plenary Council and the Synod is planned for Saturday February 26 at Mary MacKillop Place, 7 Mount Street, North Sydney from 9.30am to 3pm. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. Those wishing to do so are asked to respond to jo.brady@sydneycatholic.org

MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION:

St Anne's is looking for volunteers who are interested in becoming Ministers of Holy Communion for the sick and housebound. If you are interested please see me after Mass or leave you details at the Parish Office.