

WELCOME TO ST. ANNE'S STRATHFIELD SOUTH PARISH

Fourth Sunday of Lent (Year C)

26 & 27 March 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.

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.



SUNDAY READINGS:

Joshua 5: 9 - 12
2 Corinthians 5: 17 - 21
Luke 15: 1 - 3, 11 - 32

Responsorial Psalm: Taste and see the goodness of the Lord .

Gospel Acclamation: Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ! I will rise and go to my Father and tell him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Today, we celebrate the fourth Sunday of Lent (2nd Scrutiny). Let us continue to pray, fast, and give alms to glorify and praise our Lord! The Church reminds us once again that **God loves us so deeply that He hopes we will follow the true light of His beloved Son.**

STATIONS OF THE CROSS



Please join us next Friday during this season of Lent at 7.00pm, Friday 1st April

PRAYER TO RECONCILIATION CANDIDATES

Help us to encourage our children to grow in love and to learn how to say sorry, knowing that you always forgive. Give us the courage to pray with our children and to share our faith with them as we journey together. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Please
Pray
for...



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.



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

Administrator: Father Jacek Cichy

11 St Anne's Square
Strathfield South NSW 2136

Email: stannesstrathfieldsouth@outlook.com

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



St. Anne's Catholic Primary School

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Strathfield South NSW 2136

Phone: (02) 9642 6149

Fax: (02) 9742 6250

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



It may not be the most well-thumbed book on the shelf, but to its credit the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* includes an appreciative reflection on the parable of the prodigal son (#1439). It concludes: “Only the heart of Christ who knows the depths of the Father’s love could reveal to us the abyss of his mercy in so simple and beautiful a way.”

What is missing, however, is any reference to the older son. Contrast that with scripture scholar Brendan Byrne’s observation: “Discussing the parable in workshops and groups, I have always been struck by the number of people who say they sympathise with the older brother and resent what the younger man gets away with” (*The Hospitality of God: A Reading of Luke’s Gospel*, p. 147, footnote 6).

It may be time to give resentment some thought before Lent gets away from us. It’s a question, not just for individuals but for the community. What would a collective examination of conscience reveal? Would it expose resentment as a powerful undercurrent in present-day social life, bred in the fertile fields of social media and fuelling unhappiness, anger and division? If so, can faith communities model a culture of appreciation and gratitude?

Liturgy Brisbane

WEEKLY REFLECTIONS
4TH SUNDAY OF LENT

One of the most beautiful expressions in the Bible comes from the prophet Ezekiel. ‘Thus says the Lord, I will take their hearts of stone and give them hearts of flesh.’ It is a call to be tender and compassionate.

You would need a heart of stone not to be affected by the stories we encounter today. Most of us have heard the story of the two sons in today’s Gospel over and over. The brilliance of the way Jesus tells stories is that it still gets under our skin. Here are two young men who think they can live on their own terms. One has a sense of entitlement and demands his share of his father’s estate which he then squanders. He is finally prepared to eat humble pie and find his way home. The other son has a different sense of entitlement. He believes that his hard work and reliability should provide him with a greater share of his father’s love. At different times in our life, we can relate more to one or other of these people. Jesus implies that they are both blind to the way God’s love works and that they both need to grow. They have both been dead and need to come to life. The story we encounter this week through Caritas Australia’s Project Compassion is also deeply moving. Rosalie, aged 37, lives in one of the most damaged countries in the world, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). From the age of fifteen, she was forced to become a child soldier, exposed to violence and heartbreak. She actually says that she was forced into combat with a baby on her back. Now she has seven children and dreams of a better future for them. Thanks to your support of Project Compassion, she has been able to start a small business, save so her children might go to school and become an inspiration to others. Recovery from the trauma of war affects people around the world.

Our second reading today reminds us that we are ‘ambassadors for Christ.’ St Paul says, ‘for anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation.’ Let us all be part of building that new creation, setting the world to rights as best we can. God wants to reconcile the world to himself. Our part in this is to reach out in compassion and love to heal the wounds of the whole human family. The theme of Project Compassion this year asks us to think and act ‘for all future generations.’ Our hearts need to be warm and strong.

LENTEN PROGRAM: REMEMBER

The Lenten program began on Tuesday 8th March and continues every Tuesday of Lent. Each session begins with a Mass at 6.30 pm followed by the Lenten program held in the church. We follow the Sydney Archdiocese Lenten program. We as a family of families will continue to grow in the knowledge and love of the Father through the season of Lent.

Strathfield School for Seniors

invites you to free morning tea and a brief wellbeing talk on
Cracking the Covid Coma: How to get your motivation and energy back

Friday 8th April 2022

10:00 am – Welcome, Wellbeing Talk and Q&A

10:30 am – Morning Tea

Strathfield Homebush Uniting Church, 11 Carrington Ave, Strathfield
All Seniors 50+ are welcome. We are a Covid safe venue.

Are you, your loved ones or friends finding it difficult, to get back to normal, to be enthusiastic and motivated? That you are not alone. Many people are just like you and don't feel focused

Parking is available in the Church grounds or there is plenty of street parking.

Please contact us if you need transport to this event. We will do our best to arrange transport for you.

Please RSVP to Helen McLucas
at helen@nyhsydney.com.au or 0410 689 641

We welcome your attendance and support of this event.

PROJECT COMPASSION:

Please take home a Project Compassion box and or a set of donation envelopes to support Caritas Australia this Lenten season and help support vulnerable people around the world, now and For All Future Generations. With your support, Caritas Australia has been able to support vulnerable communities around the world to tackle poverty, food security, education, water and sanitation, and disaster risk reduction. Project Compassion 2022 reminds us that the good that we do today will extend and impact the lives of generations to come to build a better future for all.



A PRODIGAL



The brown enormous odor he lived by was too close, with its breathing and thick hair, for him to judge. The floor was rotten; the sty was plastered halfway up with glass-smooth dung. Light-lashed, self-righteous, above moving snouts, the pigs' eyes followed him, a cheerful stare--even to the sow that always ate her young-- till, sickening, he leaned to scratch her head. But sometimes mornings after drinking bouts (he hid the pints behind the two-by-fours), the sunrise glazed the barnyard mud with red the burning puddles seemed to reassure.

And then he thought he almost might endure his exile yet another year or more. But evenings the first star came to warn. The farmer whom he worked for came at dark to shut the cows and horses in the barn beneath their overhanging clouds of hay, with pitchforks, faint forked lightnings, catching light, safe and companionable as in the Ark. The pigs stuck out their little feet and snored. The lantern--like the sun, going away-- laid on the mud a pacing aureole.

Carrying a bucket along a slimy board, he felt the bats' uncertain staggering flight, his shuddering insights, beyond his control, touching him. But it took him a long time finally to make up his mind to go home.

Elizabeth Bishop 1911-1979

ENTERING INTO HOLY WEEK RETREAT

The Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia are hosting a Lenten Retreat Day for all women on Saturday April 9th at St. Peter Chanel Parish in Berala. Doors open at 9:30am. Cost is \$30.

For questions, email sydney@op-tn.org. Register at: <https://www.trybooking.com/BXLBZ>

CAMINO OF ST JOSEPH: AN OVERNIGHT PILGRIMAGE FOR MEN

Friday 29-Saturday 30 April.

Join in this challenge in honour of our Spiritual Father for the Feast of St Joseph the Worker! The Camino will begin with 9pm Mass on Friday April 29 at St Jerome's, Punchbowl with Bishop Richard Umbers and conclude on Saturday April 30 with 5.30am Mass at St Michael's, Meadowbank followed by a hearty bbq breakfast. The entire walk from start to finish will include 7 locations with 6 churches: from St Jerome's – Punchbowl, to St Felix – Bankstown, Immaculate Heart of Mary – Sefton, St Peter Chanel – Berala, St Joachim's – Lidcombe, Sydney Olympic Park and St Michael's, Meadowbank. Each location will feature a reflection on St Joseph and a short time in Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

Register Here - <https://www.trybooking.com/BXRIT> - Cost is \$15!

Sign up and share the Facebook event: <https://www.facebook.com/events/528752638482107>

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



The beautiful Season of Lent is here. 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.

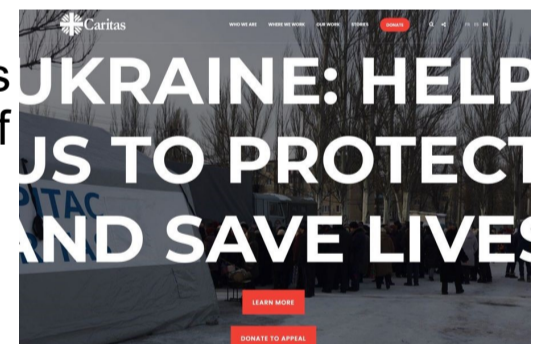
Designed for individual or group prayer, either in-person or online. The resource has been distributed among the parishes and will also be available for download on the *Go Make Disciples* website at www.gomakedisciples.org.au.

SUPPORT CARITAS UKRAINE APPEAL

As millions of people are likely to be displaced due to Russia's invasion, your support is more important than ever for the people of Ukraine.

Donate generously to the Caritas Ukraine Appeal:

<https://www.caritas.org.au/donate/ukraine-appeal/>



DAY OF THE UNBORN CHILD, SUNDAY 27 MARCH

Remembering the lives of unborn children lost to the grave injustice of abortion. Held to coincide with the Feast of the Annunciation, marking the day of Our Lord's conception in the womb of His Blessed Mother. Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP will celebrate at a Mass at St Mary's Cathedral at 10.30am. A rosary procession will follow which will make its way past the NSW Parliament House. It will conclude with Benediction at 1:30pm.. For more event details: <https://fb.me/e/2gекw7yQ8>

COVID UPDATE:

Signing in by either QR code or manually is no longer required. It is no longer compulsory to wear masks in Church, however, all parishioners are free to do so if they wish.

Density limits within the Church have now been removed however social distancing where possible is encouraged.

Hand sanitisers will remain in the Church to assist with good hand hygiene practice.

We kindly ask that you do not visit the Church if you are unwell.