



St Anthony of Padua Parish Toongabbie

Established 1951

27 Aurelia Street, Toongabbie. P.O. Box 23 Toongabbie 2146

29th March 2020

* Office Tel: 9631 3316

* Emergency 9631 6420

Website: www.stanthonyschurch.org.au

email: secretary@stanthonyschurch.org.au

Parish Mission Statement

We, the Church of St Anthony of Padua, are called to a greater realisation of the Kingdom of God and to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ

Parish Staff:

Fr Joby Kadambattu MS Parish Priest
FrJoby@stanthonyschurch.org.au

Mrs Luisa Luccitti Parish Secretary
secretary@stanthonyschurch.org.au

Miss Kristin Borg Sacramental / SRE
thesacraments@stanthonyschurch.org.au

St Anthony's School: Phone: 8843 4600
School Principal: **Linda Ducksbury**

Office Hours

The Parish Office is currently closed to all visitors. Please call 9631 3316 for all enquiries.

For emergencies please call Fr Joby on 9631 6420.

Mass Times:

All Masses have been cancelled so that we can do our part to help curb the spread of COVID 19.

The Church and all Church buildings are currently closed and all Catholics within the Diocese of Parramatta have been dispensed from their Sunday Mass obligation from March 20th 2020 until further notice. We encourage you to undertake your own devotion at home during this time.

All Church rosters are suspended for the foreseeable future and the Church Hall, meeting rooms, chapel and Church building are closed until further notice. If you have keys, please drop them to the Parish Office for safe-keeping.

The Parish Sacramental Program has been suspended.

St Vincent De Paul is here to help. If you need assistance call 8861 9777

SICK IN THE PARISH:

| | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| Malia NIKO | Cecilia FERRER | Kate MORTIMER |
| Lyltte MATHIEU | Denise PRICE | Gabby ABOUD |
| Carmel FERGUSON | Adrian NOCEVSKI | Sheila ASHBY |
| Ranjit CHELLAPPA | Mary PULIS | Simon SHURVILE |
| Mary CAUCHI | Shanji ANTHONY | Aidon ALEXANDER |
| Greg WALSH | Joseph McDERMID | Leina MARCUS |
| Joan WRIGHT | Gail GREENHILL | Fay ROBERTS |
| Malia Eka | Maria VELLA | Emily HELOU |
| James BROWN | Carole O'HARA | Gerald O'CONNOR |
| Margaret MCEACHEN | Sarah MARLIN | |
| Joseph MAC DERMID | Tanya AMBROSE | |
| Anthony AL-HADDAD | Aninth THURAIRATNAM | |

Pope Francis' Prayer to Mary

during the coronavirus pandemic

O Mary,

you always shine on our path as a sign of salvation and of hope.

We entrust ourselves to you, health of the sick, who at the cross took part in Jesus' pain, keeping your faith firm.

You, salvation of all people, know what we need, and are sure you will provide so that, as in Cana of Galilee, we may return to joy and to feasting after this time of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine love, to conform to the will of the Father and to do as we are told by Jesus, who has taken upon himself our sufferings and carried our sorrows to lead us, through the cross, to the joy of the resurrection. Amen

ROSARY IN THE HOME

Rosary in the home has been suspended. Please continue to pray the rosary within your own house.

HOLY WEEK

Catholics from the Diocese of Parramatta are from 20 March 2020 dispensed from their Sunday Mass obligation

until further notice. It is anticipated that all Holy Week liturgies will be live streamed from the Cathedral with Bishop Vincent.

St Anthony of Padua Parish, Toongabbie

27 Aurelia St (PO Box 23) Toongabbie 2146 Telephone 9631 3316

E-mail: secretary@stanthonyschurch.org.au Website: www.stanthonyschurch.org.au

ABN: 59143137350

Dear Friends and Parishioners of St Anthony,

I hope and pray that you and your family are safe at this time of crisis. Our life and daily routines have changed a lot. The way church functions also has changed. We are not able to gather physically as a Parish community, but I am sure we can be united with each other through prayer from wherever we are. You all are in my prayers and specially in my daily celebration of the Holy Eucharist. Though we are not able to nourish our faith and life through our community celebration of the Eucharist there are many ways we can keep our faith alive and active. As St Paul tells the Corinthians, "Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?" (1 Corinthians 3/16). This is a time we need to reassure ourselves that God is present in each one of us. He accompanies us even in the darkest moments of our life. As the psalmist would say,

Where can I go from your Spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence?

If I ascend to heaven you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol you are there.

If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,

Even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast.

If I say, surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light around me become night,

Even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is bright as the day,

For darkness is as light to you. (Psalm 139/7-12)

Let the light within us shine forth within our families and may its rays reach out to our brothers and sisters who are really in need of it at this time, may be through our prayers for them, through a phone call specially to those who feel isolated and whatever ways possible and permitted at this situation.

As you are aware the Church building and Parish Hall is closed, still in case of emergency you can contact the Parish office or me over Phone or email.

Office Tel: 96313316, Emergency Tel: 96316420

Fr Joby: FrJoby@stanthonyschurch.org.au

Parish Secretary: secretary@stanthonyschurch.org.au

We had published in our Parish website www.stanthonyschurch.org.au the updates from the diocese and many other online resources for mass and other prayers. For those who find it hard to follow we are providing the Liturgy of the Word for this Sunday with Reflection from our Parish Liturgy committee.

With Prayers,

Fr Joby Kadambattu.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

(Extracted from Liturgy Help)

Fifth Sunday of Lent Year A (29/03/2020)

Sign of the Cross

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Penitential Act

(All Pause for Examination of Conscience)

I confess to almighty God
and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have greatly sinned,
in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,
(And, striking their breast, they say:)
through my fault,
through my fault,
through my most grievous fault;
therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,
all the Angels and Saints,
and you, my brothers and sisters,
to pray for me to the Lord our God.

Leader: May almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins,
and bring us to everlasting life.

All: Amen.

Opening Prayer

Leader: Let us pray.

(All pause for silent prayer.)

God our Father
Jesus is the resurrection and the life
who has come to save us.
Help us to keep faith in you
and trust in your promises.
We make this prayer through Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

Leader: Let us reflect upon God's Word.

First Reading Ezekiel 37:12-14

I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live.

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

The Lord says this: I am now going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall resettle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this – it is the Lord who speaks.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm Psalm 129. R. v.7

(R.) With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

1. Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord,
Lord, hear my voice!
O let your ears be attentive
to the voice of my pleading. (R.)
2. If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt,
Lord, who would survive?
But with you is found forgiveness:
for this we revere you. (R.)
3. My soul is waiting for the Lord,
I count on his word.
My soul is longing for the Lord
more than watchman for daybreak.
(Let the watchman count on daybreak
and Israel on the Lord.) (R.)
4. Because with the Lord there is mercy
and fullness of redemption,
Israel indeed he will redeem
from all its iniquity. (R.)

Second Reading Romans 8:8-11

*If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you,
then he will give life to your own mortal bodies.*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation See John 11:25. 26

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord;
whoever believes in me will not die for ever.
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel John 11:3-7. 17. 20-27. 33-45 (Shorter form)

I am the resurrection and the life.

Reader: From the holy Gospel according to John

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

The sisters Martha and Mary sent this message to Jesus, 'Lord, the man you love is ill.' On receiving the message, Jesus said, 'This sickness will end not in death but in God's glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified.'

Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judaea.'

On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, 'If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.' 'Your brother' said Jesus to her 'will rise again.' Martha said, 'I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said:

'I am the resurrection and the life.

If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live,
and whoever lives and believes in me
will never die.

Do you believe this?'

'Yes, Lord,' she said 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.' Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, 'Where have you put him?' They said, 'See how much he loved him!' But there were some who remarked, 'He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man's death?' Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, 'Take the stone away.' Martha said to him, 'Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day.' Jesus replied, 'Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said:

'Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer.

I knew indeed that you always hear me,
but I speak

for the sake of all these who stand round me,
so that they may believe it was you who sent me.'

When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, here! Come out!' The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, let him go free.'

Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

(see the reflection prepared by our Parish Liturgy Committee at the end)

Prayer of the Faithful

Leader: With the Lord there is mercy and redemption. Let us turn to God who hears our every prayer.

Reader: That the Church, by the power of the Spirit, will call people back to life.
(*pause*) In your mercy:

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: That those affected by disease may be strengthened by God's love and comfort. We especially remember communities affected by the spread of the coronavirus. (*pause*)

In your mercy:

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: That those in the medical profession working in difficult and uncertain circumstances will be granted courage and endurance. We pray especially for those assisting in the coronavirus outbreak. (*pause*) In your mercy:

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: That the Spirit of God will dwell in us as Easter draws near. (*pause*) In your mercy:

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: That those who grieve will be comforted by Christ who wept at the tomb of Lazarus. (*pause*) In your mercy:

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: That those who have died will rise with Christ on the last day,
(*pause*) In your mercy:

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: God of compassion, your Spirit calls all back to life in Christ. Hear our prayers and set us free from the darkness of sin. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord,

All: **Amen.**

Sign of Peace

Leader: Let us seal our prayer
with a gesture of unity and reconciliation
and offer each other a sign of peace.

(*All exchange a sign of peace.*)

The Lord's Prayer

Leader: At the Saviour's command
and formed by divine teaching,
we dare to say:

All: Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;

Closing Prayer

Leader: Lord Jesus,
You raise the dead to new life.
Bring us closer to life with you
and open our hearts to believe in your promise.
In your name we pray.

All: Amen.

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Lenten Reflection for the 5th Sunday in Lent Year A

John 11:1, 17, 20-27, 32-33, 38-44

“I am the Resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, though he dies, yet shall he live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die”.

This is the very essence of today’s Gospel when Jesus raised Lazarus back to life. Christ is not resigned to the tombs that we have built for ourselves based on our choice for evil and death, with our errors, with our sins. Jesus invites us to come out of the tomb in which our sins have buried us. It is an invitation to let ourselves be freed from the “bandages” of pride and greed. The act of raising Lazarus shows the power of God’s grace and the unlimited divine mercy offered to everyone.

The message in the Gospel is very timely especially in this recent health events affecting thousands of people around the world causing serious illness and deaths. During this time, we have seen the worst in people such as greed and selfishness. On the other hand, we see the best in those who are willing to share the essential goods, those sharing their time to address this crisis, and those helping and praying for one another.

As we journey into Lent, let us ask ourselves:

What has been our experience of trusting Jesus during these times?

Where can we find Resurrection amidst this current crisis?

Let us pause and reflect on Resurrection in the way we deal with our brothers and sisters in Christ. Let us also reflect on the spiritual Resurrection that comes from within our heart.

As Pope Francis says: Our resurrection begins here: when we decide to obey Jesus’ command by coming into the light, into life.

Online Resources

For updates from Parramatta Diocese- www.parracatholic.org/covid19

For Liturgy and Prayers- www.liturgyhelp.com/aus/parra/pray

Live Streaming Mass online

Archdiocese of Sydney: <https://www.stmaryscathedral.org.au>

Archdiocese of Melbourne: <https://melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass>

Shalom Media: <https://shalomworld.org/specialevent/daily-mass>



Most Reverend Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFM Conv DD STL
Bishop of Parramatta
Level 2, 12 Victoria Rd, Parramatta NSW 2150
PO Box 3066, North Parramatta, NSW 1750
☎ 02 8838 3400 📠 02 9630 4813
✉ bishop@parracatholic.org
🌐 parracatholic.org

Pastoral letter to the clergy, religious and people of Parramatta during the coronavirus crisis

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

Many of us feel powerless in the face of this corona virus pandemic. We see in a devastating way how widely a virus spreads person to person and the immense damage it is doing to our community.

We are indeed living in a time of great crisis locally and globally. So, it is only human that we will experience considerable fear and anxiety.

However, as people of faith in Jesus of Nazareth, we are called to place our trust in our God who promises to be present with us even in these times of great suffering and sickness.

Even in his seeming absence, we still place our hope in the One who loves us tenderly and with great mercy. And so, as responsible citizens and faithful Catholics, in solidarity with our wonderful doctors and health professionals, our first rule must be: **"Do no harm."**

That means not doing anything that might spread the virus to others with whom we live in community. We need to listen to our medical experts and not to conspiracy theorists who use any crisis to profiteer or stir up hatred and division.

We must also comply with the directives of our government authorities for the sake of the common good. The gospel calls us to practice such solidarity in these difficult days.

As many of you already know I have [issued a statement](#) which involves the closure of churches and the curtailment of our regular worship practices until this crisis abates.

Please adhere strictly to these directives that I have given. Further updates can be found here: www.parracatholic.org/covid19 as the situation we are in is so fast changing and complex.

All of us in the Diocese of Parramatta must follow these guidelines without exception, so that we can be like St Joseph: 'Protectors of Life'.



Most Reverend Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFM Conv DD STL
Bishop of Parramatta

Level 2, 12 Victoria Rd, Parramatta NSW 2150
PO Box 3066, North Parramatta, NSW 1750

☎ 02 8838 3400 📠 02 9630 4813

✉ bishop@parracatholic.org
🌐 parracatholic.org

Becoming 'Protectors of Life' will certainly demand of us sacrifices. Let's especially not forget the suffering in our midst: the elderly, the weak, the disabled, the homeless, the unemployed et cetera. Let us not forget vulnerable groups and communities: the indigenous, the asylum seekers in detention, prisoners et cetera.

Then there are also those whom the Catholic Church through the traditional Lenten Project Compassion supports.

In previous ages before germs and viruses were understood, people blamed strangers, Jews and 'outsider's' for sickness. Anyone who was different could be the target of people's fear.

So, let us in these days be especially mindful of caring with compassion and charity for any persons in community who are on the 'margins': be they the aged, the chronically ill and all those living in poverty and isolation. Let our love for them be real and concrete.

May we also use these days to deepen our prayer and spiritual lives. Even as we mourn our losses, Pope Francis encourages us, "Let us call upon him today, firmly rooted in prayer, for without prayer all our activity risks being fruitless and our message empty." (*Evangelii Gaudium*, no. 259)

So please visit our diocesan website at: www.parracatholic.org/covid19 for some good and helpful information about how we can follow this path of deeper prayer. It includes online liturgy resources for personal and family prayer and various options for viewing Mass on-line and meditating on the daily scripture readings.

The coronavirus crisis strikes fear and anxiety into people across the globe. It also reveals deep cultural prejudices and divisions against the elderly, the weak and even those of certain race and ethnicity.

Our faith makes us step beyond these human boundaries. It expands our horizons and pushes the limits of our capacity to love.

Through the example of Jesus, we are called to embrace those vulnerable in our society and reach out to them. It is not the time to look after ourselves only but to care for others, through our prayers, acts of kindness and deep communion with them.

May these days of suffering and fear draw us ever close to Christ and let's all pray with Pope Francis to Mary, our mother:

Most Reverend Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFM Conv
Bishop of Parramatta

Given at Parramatta on 25 March 2020
The Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord



Most Reverend Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFM Conv DD STL
Bishop of Parramatta

Level 2, 12 Victoria Rd, Parramatta NSW 2150
PO Box 3066, North Parramatta, NSW 1750

☎ 02 8838 3400 📠 02 9630 4813

✉ bishop@parracatholic.org

🌐 parracatholic.org

Pope Francis' Prayer to Mary during the coronavirus pandemic

O Mary,
you always shine on our path
as a sign of salvation and of hope.
We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick,
who at the cross took part in Jesus' pain, keeping your faith firm.
You, Salvation of all People,
know what we need,
and we are sure you will provide
so that, as in Cana of Galilee,
we may return to joy and to feasting
after this time of trial.
Help us, Mother of Divine Love,
to conform to the will of the Father
and to do as we are told by Jesus,
who has taken upon himself our sufferings
and carried our sorrows
to lead us, through the cross,
to the joy of the resurrection. Amen.

Under your protection, we seek refuge, Holy Mother of God. Do not disdain the entreaties of we who are in trial, but deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.

Most Reverend Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFM Conv
Bishop of Parramatta

Given at Parramatta on 25 March 2020
The Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord

