



# St Anthony of Padua Parish Toongabbie

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

\* Office Tel: 9631 3316 \* Emergency 9631 6420 \*

Website: [www.stanthonyschurch.org.au](http://www.stanthonyschurch.org.au)



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR A

14TH DECEMBER 2025

## 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](mailto:frjoby@stanthonyschurch.org.au)

Rev. Deacon Charles Hyson  
[charles.hyson@parracatholic.org](mailto:charles.hyson@parracatholic.org)

Mrs Shanika Joseph  
Parish Secretary  
[secretary@stanthonyschurch.org.au](mailto:secretary@stanthonyschurch.org.au)

Mrs. Jini Chittilapilly Joy  
Sacramental and SRE Co Ordinator  
[thesacraments@stanthonyschurch.org.au](mailto:thesacraments@stanthonyschurch.org.au)

### Office Hours

Monday and Wednesday 9am - 3pm  
Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 9am - 4pm

After Hours Emergency 02 9631 6420

### Hall Hire

Charlie 0499 557 995

### St Anthony's School

School Principal: Patricia Reilly  
Phone: 8843 4600

### St Anthonys Youth

Insta ID : stay\_toongabbie1508  
email: [stanthonyyouthtoongabbie@gmail.com](mailto:stanthonyyouthtoongabbie@gmail.com)

### Mass Times

Saturday 5:30pm Vigil  
Sunday 8.00am, 10.00am  
Tuesday 7.00pm  
Wed, Thurs, Fri, Sat 9.30am

Malayalam Mass 5pm every 4th Sunday

### Baptisms & Weddings

By arrangement.  
Ring parish office for more information

### Reconciliation

Saturday 4.45pm to 5.15pm or by arrangement

### Rosary

Wednesday to Saturday – 9am

### Exposition

Friday 10am to 11am

### Mass & Novena to St Anthony

Tuesday - 7pm

### Marian Prayer Group

Tuesday 10am St Enda's Room  
(Marie: 0457 126 044)

### Tamil Prayer Group

Friday 8.00pm St Enda's Room  
(Tarcisius: 0423 699 146)

### Piety Shop

Tuesday to Saturday 10.00am - 11.15am  
Saturday after 5.30pm Vigil Mass  
Sunday 9.00am - 11.30am

### If you wish to Support the parish Via Direct Deposit:

BSB - 067 950  
Account Number - 0000 0586  
AC Name - Toongabbie Catholic Church

MASS ROSTER	This Week 13/14 December 2025			Next Week 20/21 December 2025		
	5.30pm	8.00am	10.00am	5.30pm	8.00am	10.00am
Senior Server	P. Vella	T. Dalmati	A. Prabakaran	F. Le Clerc	T. Dalmati	K. Steele
Commentator	M. Mathavan	E. Pasikale	B. Ryan	M. D'Souza	C. Bugeja	A. Prabakaran
Reader 1	M. Nakhoul	K. Wilson	J. Wharton	V. Adams	H. Menezes	C. Bernard
Reader 2	A. Lahood	S. Benjamin	T. Sebastian	J. Buttigieg	M. Palmer	F. Rodrigues
Data Projectionist	Nicole			Soballa		Sofie
Junior Server	A	C	E	B	D	F
Children's Liturgy			Stella/Sofie			School Break

### PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK IN OUR PARISH:

Edmond PAUL  
Maria VELLA  
Peter RANEE  
Carole O'HARE  
John GAUCI  
Rene NEMORIN  
Anthony AL HADDAD  
Anna FERNANDES  
Sarah MARLIN

Angelo ALEXANDER  
Aidan ALEXANDER  
Adrian NOCEVSKI  
Tanya AMBROSE  
Katherine S. SHEEHAN  
Alexsis PETRUCCELLI  
Anith THURAIRATNAM  
Maureen HANVEY  
Rosa DI CRISTOFORO

Gabby ABBODD  
Lyette MATHIEU  
Teresa GALEA  
Geraldine HALLIWELL  
Mary CAMELLERI  
Alan LUMLEY  
Ajith SEEMAMPILLAI  
Ranjith CHELLAPPA  
Simon SHERVILLE

Emma NONEY  
Joe (Joseph) BORG  
Dennis KUNDER  
Kate MORTIMER  
Shanji ANTHONY  
Cecilia FERRER  
Joseph MACDERMID  
Rita DAVID  
Lesley MYERS

John TYNAN  
Noe ISOTTEN  
Sarah SHEEHAN  
Jan SALMON  
Colleen DAVAR

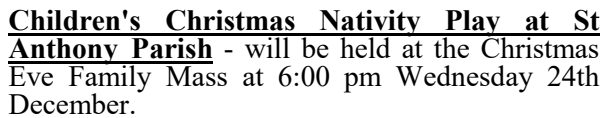
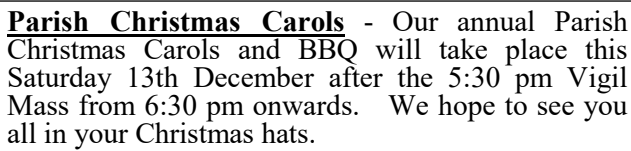
*Please advise the parish office if you know of anyone on the sick list whose name could be removed.*

### *Jubilee 2025 Pilgrims of Hope Calendar - December*

*December 14 Prisoners*

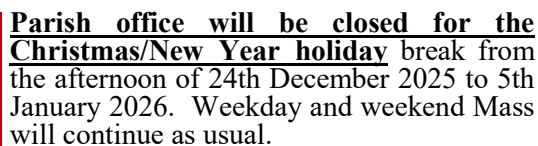
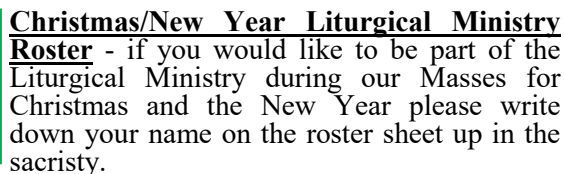
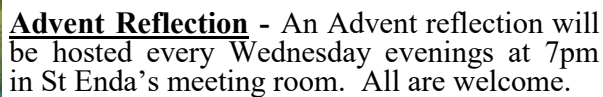
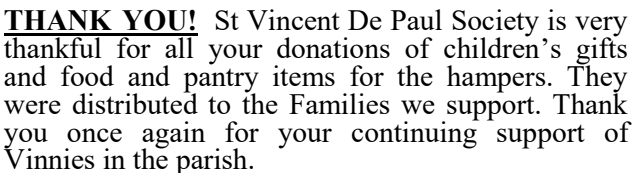
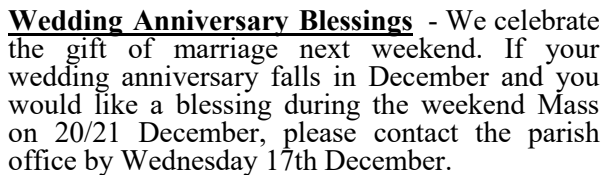
### Acknowledgement of the traditional custodians of this land

*Our Parish is located on the traditional country of the Darug Nation. We acknowledge their cultural heritage, beliefs and continuing relationship with the land and waters. We pay respect to their Elders past and present and join with them in working to build a brighter future together.*



 **Parents/Guardians and the children must attend all rehearsals and the Christmas Eve Family mass.**

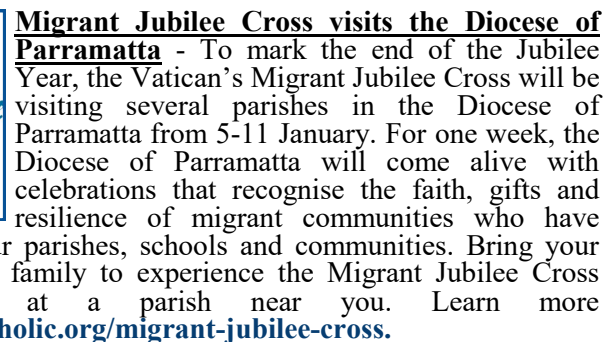
- **Rehearsal 2** - Thursday 18 December from 6:30pm - 8.00pm. Will include costume fitting.
- **Final rehearsal**, with costume - Monday 22 December from 6.30pm to 7.30pm



**For any emergency please call the emergency contact number 02 9631 6420 or speak to Father Joby after any Mass.**

## Positions Vacant

- Catholic Chaplain – Catholic Care Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains
- More details at: [parracatholic.org/jobs](http://parracatholic.org/jobs)



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

## Liturgical Ministry Formation Course returns for 2026

The Liturgical Ministry Formation Course will be returning in February 2026. To avoid disappointment, please send signed enrolment forms to [ofw@parracatholic.org](mailto:ofw@parracatholic.org) before Friday 23 January. Please visit [parracatholic.org/liturgical-ministry-course](https://parracatholic.org/liturgical-ministry-course) for more information about this course. **Forms are available in the foyer.**

**ROSTERS:** Rosters for Acolyte/Senior Servers & Data Projectionist - January to June 2026 and Commentator/Lectors from January to March 2026 have now been emailed and printed copies are available in the sacristy.

## Parish Sacramental Calendar 2026

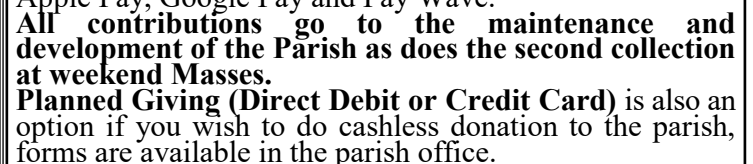
The parish Sacramental Calendar for next year is up on the notice boards. Please note date for registration for the Sacrament First of Reconciliation. Program commences on 11th February 2026 with the enquiry night.

**Australia Catholic Youth Festival 2025 - Attending ACYF** for the first time is an experience I will never forget. I walked in unsure of what to expect, but open to whatever God wanted to show me. From the music and speakers to the quiet moments of prayer, every part of the festival invited me to look deeper into my faith and purpose. The weather constantly changed, yet we felt carried by God's grace, moving forward without tiredness or discomfort. The workshops offered wisdom and humility through the stories of bishops, religious, and inspirational speakers who reminded us to listen with open hearts. A highlight was taking part in the offertory procession at the Closing Commissioning Mass, representing the Diocese of Parramatta and our parish. Carrying the gifts felt like holding the prayers of the young Church. I leave ACYF renewed, grateful, and ready to keep saying yes to God's call.

— Teresa Sebastian, StAY



You can also support the parish by using the: **Tap & Go Machine**. The machine amount is variable, please use the screen to donate the amount you wish to give. It also accepts Apple Pay, Google Pay and Pay Wave.





## FIRST READING

ISAIAH 35: 1-6,10

***God himself will come and save us.***

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult, let the wasteland rejoice and bloom, let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil, let it rejoice and sing for joy.

The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it, the splendour of Carmel and Sharon; they shall see the glory of the Lord, the splendour of our God.

Strengthen all weary hands, steady all trembling knees and say to all faint hearts, 'Courage! Do not be afraid.

'Look, your God is coming, vengeance is coming, the retribution of God; he is coming to save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy, for those the Lord has ransomed shall return.

They will come to Zion shouting for joy, everlasting joy on their faces; joy and gladness will go with them and sorrow and lament be ended.

The Word of the Lord.

***Thanks be to God.***

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 145:6-10. R. SEE IS 35:4

***(R.) Lord, come and save us.***

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,  
who is just to those who are oppressed.  
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,  
the Lord, who sets prisoners free. ***(R.)***
2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,  
who raises up those who are bowed down,  
the Lord, who protects the stranger  
and upholds the widow and orphan. ***(R.)***
3. It is the Lord who loves the just  
but thwarts the path of the wicked.  
The Lord will reign for ever,  
Zion's God, from age to age. ***(R.)***

## SECOND READING

James 5:7-10

***You also must be patient; do not lose heart, the Lord's coming will be soon.***

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

***Thanks be to God.***

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

***Alleluia, alleluia!***

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;  
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.

***Alleluia!***



## GOSPEL

MATTHEW 11:2-11

***Are you the one who is to come, or must we wait for someone else?***

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.'

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

***Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.***

## REFLECTION

***The Right Question***

John was languishing in prison, held captive by the local agent of the Roman Empire. Perhaps he was looking for evidence that Jesus was the One who would throw off Roman despotism. In answer to his questing, Jesus replied that John should rather look at what was happening on the ground in His healing ministry and orientation to the poor. Those are the signs that the reign of God has begun.

I admire John the Baptist because he was prepared to seek and accept the answer to the question which was crucial to him, even though the answer might upset his preconceptions. He was a true seeker after Truth.

All our activities as a parish in building community, forming faith, serving the poor, participating in the liturgy, should be undertaken so that a seeker after Truth might see and hear the evidence of the presence and mission of the risen Lord Jesus Christ amongst us.

We could pause for a moment to simply pray in the spirit of Advent: 'Come, Lord Jesus' to satisfy the restlessness of the questing heart.

© Fr Michael Tate; [mtate@bigpond.com](mailto:mtate@bigpond.com)  
(Extract from Liturgy Help.com)

**The Christmas Mass time flyers for post box drop** - is available in the foyer. Please take a bundle of 25 and distribute in your area. Thank you.

## St Anthony of Padua Parish, Toongabbie

27 Aurelia St (PO Box 25) Toongabbie 2146 Telephone 9631 3316  
E-mail: [secretary@stanthonychurch.org.au](mailto:secretary@stanthonychurch.org.au)  
Website: [www.stanthonychurch.org.au](http://www.stanthonychurch.org.au)  
ABN: 59143137350

### CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES 2025



Wednesday 24/12/25	Christmas Eve Family Mass (with Children's nativity play)	6.00pm
Thursday 25/12/25	Midnight Mass	12.00am
	Christmas Day Mass	9.30am
Thursday 01/01/25	New Years Day Mass (Mary, the Holy Mother of God)	9.30am



### 3rd Week of Advent

Candle Name : **Shepherd's Candle**

Candle Symbolizes : **Joy**

Reminds us : **The joy the world experienced at the coming birth of Jesus**

### Lighting of Advent Wreath

Dear Jesus, help us focus on you during this busy season. May we stay aware of the joy you bring into our lives. We want to find you in the everyday moments and come with hearts of gratitude to your manger on Christmas. We ask this through Christ Our Lord. Amen.



**Catholic Outlook** - the Christmas Edition of the Catholic Outlook Magazine is now available at the foyer. Please take your free copy.



### COLUMBAN ART CALENDAR

Columban Art Calendar 2026 - is now available for purchase at the Piety Stall, priced at \$11.00 each. Please purchase your copy before it runs out. We also have many Christmas items at very reasonable prices that can be purchased for gift giving this season.



Jesus told John the Baptist's followers to tell him all they had seen and heard. How did Jesus help the following people?

Blind People

Deaf People

Lame People

Lepers

## Advent Wreath

Each Sunday during the season of Advent, we light a candle on the Advent Wreath. The candle which is lit on the third Sunday of Advent is pink. All the other candles are purple. Colour in the Advent Wreath.



### Jubilee Prayer by Pope Francis

Father in heaven,  
may the *faith* you have given us  
in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,  
and the flame of *charity* enkindled  
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,  
reawaken in us the blessed *hope*  
for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us  
into tireless cultivators  
of the seeds of the Gospel.  
May those seeds transform from within  
both humanity and the whole cosmos  
in the sure expectation  
of a new heaven and a new earth,  
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,  
your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee  
reawaken in us, *Pilgrims of Hope*,  
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.

May that same grace spread  
the joy and peace of our Redeemer  
throughout the earth.

To you our God, eternally blessed,  
be glory and praise for ever.

Amen

