



**ST ANTHONY'S  
PARISH**  
M A R S F I E L D

**9 DECEMBER 2018**  
**SECOND SUNDAY**  
**OF ADVENT**  
YEAR C

1<sup>st</sup> Reading **Baruch 5:1-9**

Resp Psalm **Ps 125**

***The Lord has done great  
things for us; we are filled  
with joy***

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading **Phil 1:4-6, 8-11**

Gospel **Luke 3:1-6**

**Masses This Week**

Sat 6pm **Vigil Mass**

Sun 9am & 6pm **Mass**

Mon 9am **Liturgy of  
the Word**

Tue, Wed, Fri 9am **Mass**

Thu 9.15am **School Mass**

**Parish Staff & Contacts**

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# THE GOOD OIL

## ***John the Baptist***

Today's Gospel ... speaks of John the Baptist. He ... was chosen to announce the coming of Jesus: the Messiah, the Christ, the Saviour King. "Prepare a way for the Lord," he calls out and his words are equally meant for us as for the people he directly spoke to. He comes "proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins," says Luke. There are three words there which are closely linked – baptism, repentance, and forgiveness. Baptism, of course, is not here the Sacrament of Baptism by which people are incorporated into the Christian community. But it was a sacramental or symbolic action through which people expressed by their immersion in the waters of the River Jordan their desire to have their evil past totally washed away. This washing away would not be effected automatically or magically but only by their repentance. In fact, the term Luke uses is "baptism of repentance". 'Repentance' is the common translation for the Greek word metanoia, which means not just sorrow for past sins but a total and radical change of outlook in our relationship with God and other people. It calls for a radical and genuine renewal and conversion of heart. This metanoia or conversion in turn will bring about the forgiveness of sin. The word here for forgiveness is aphesis ('a release, a letting go, a liberation from the chains of sin and evil. Forgiveness is seen as the dropping off of heavy baggage or burdens (like the space capsule dropping off its booster tanks and soaring off on its own into space). Forgiveness, too, involves a total reconciliation with our God and with all those whom we have hurt or with whom we have come in conflict. It is a healing, a making whole.

## ***Preparing a way***

This was how people were to "prepare a way for the Lord".

**READ THE FULL COMMENTARY at [livingspace.sacredspace.ie/AC021/](http://livingspace.sacredspace.ie/AC021/)  
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**SECOND RITE OF RECONCILIATION** will be celebrated at our parish on Thu 13 Dec at 7.30pm. All who have made their First Reconciliation are welcome to participate in this preparation for Christmas.

**EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION** are required for all the Christmas Masses. If you are able to assist, please put your name on the sheet on the noticeboard at the front entrance of the church.

**SACRAMENT OF FIRST RECONCILIATION 2019.** If your child is in Year 3 or above this year and is baptised a Catholic, he/she is now eligible to enrol in the First Reconciliation program. The enrolment package is available from the Parish Office or on [saintanthonys.org.au](http://saintanthonys.org.au). Enrolments close 18 Feb 2019.



**KEEP CALM AND PRAY TO ST ANTHONY!** Get your very own St Anthony's Tea Towel for just \$5 each. On sale outside the church or ring the Parish Office to pick one up.

**CHRISTMAS TREE OF JOY.** Many families in our community face hardship, especially during the Christmas Season. We can assist in a small way through our Christmas 'Tree of Joy', which is up near Our Lady of Grace. Please consider taking a card from the Tree. You may give a gift card instead of a gift. Please place your card from the Tree in a GIFT BAG (do not wrap) & drop it off at the Parish Office no later than Monday 10 Dec . **No food hampers, please, as some people have food allergies.** St Anthony's Parish & the St Vincent de Paul Society thank you for your generosity!

The Christmas season is domestic;  
and for that reason most people now prepare for it  
by struggling in tramcars,  
standing in queues,  
rushing away in trains,  
crowding despairingly into tea-shops,  
and wondering when or whether they will ever get home.  
I do not know whether some of them disappear for ever  
in the toy department  
or simply lie down and die in the tea-rooms;  
but by the look of them, it is quite likely.

**A CHORAL CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION CONCERT.** On Fri 14 Dec, St Mary's Cathedral will celebrate the annual, and much anticipated A Choral Christmas Celebration concert. There will be two performances at 11am & 7pm with tickets starting from \$20. Visit [www.cathedralchoir.sydney/acc](http://www.cathedralchoir.sydney/acc) for more information.

**AN ADVENT APP FOR CHRISTMAS! – MEET ME IN THE SILENCE.** Each day delivers a new video, podcast or written feature to assist you prepare for Christmas and meet Jesus in the silence, despite the busyness of the season. The Advent Calendar App is free on your iPhone, iPad and Android devices. Search for "Xt3 Advent" in the Google Play store or the App store, or visit [www.sydneycatholic.org/xt3advent](http://www.sydneycatholic.org/xt3advent)

**CATHOLIC CEMETERIES AND CREMATORIA – TWILIGHT CAROLS** Where: Mary, Mother of Mercy Chapel, Rookwood Catholic Cemetery When: Thu 13 Dec commencing 6:30pm. Fireworks at 9pm.

**SHORT TERM FOSTER CARE.** Could you provide short-term help for long-term memories? As a new agency combining the strengths of Marist180 and CatholicCare Sydney, Family Spirit urgently need compassionate people to provide short-term foster care. To learn more, come to our information night: Tuesday 11th December 2018, 5.30-8pm Marist180, 36 First Avenue, Blacktown NSW 2148 Call CCareline on 13 18 19 to secure your place.

**CONFESSIONE IN ITALIANO**—Gruppo Del Rosario Madonna Delle Grazie invita a tutti gli Italiani della zona a partecipare a questi funzioni Natalizie. Lunedì 17 Dicembre, 7.30pm, Padre Pasquale Pizzoferro vieni a confessare. Confessione 6.15pm. Rosario 7pm. Messa 7.30pm. Quella sera se volete ricordare i vostri cari defunti Padre Pasquale prende le intenzione. Dopo la Santa Messa andiamo fuori per un rinfresco siete pregate di portare un piatto. Tutto il ricavato va per i poveri. In questa Chiesa ogni Lunedì sera alle 7.30pm si recita il Santo Rosario siete tutti benvenuti a fare parte a questo gruppo.

**A BIG “THANK YOU!” TO ALL THOSE WHO HELPED AT THE PARISH BBQ LAST SUNDAY.** We hope everyone who came enjoyed the food and fellowship.

**CHANGES IN PARISH OFFICE HOURS.** Please note that the Parish Office will be closed for the school holidays, from Christmas eve—then limited hours from Monday 7 January 2019. For sick calls or funerals, please leave a message on voicemail (follow the prompts) when you ring. Normal office hours resume Monday 29 January 2019.

# PARISH DIARY

9 DEC — 16 DEC 2018

<b>St Anthony's Catholic Primary School Graduation Mass</b>	Thu 13 Dec	9.15am
<b>Second Rite of Reconciliation</b>	Thu 13 Dec	7.30pm

## PASTORAL SESSIONS

Mon: Rosary in Italian 7.30pm.

Tue: Cenacle 9.30am. Cenacle & Adoration 4pm.

Wed: Adoration 9.30am. Meditation 10am Parish Centre.

Fri: Rosary 9.30am. Adoration 6pm.

Reconciliation by appointment or Sat 5.30-5.50pm

## THE CATHOLIC WEEKLY

is available at the church doors.

Please put \$2 in the Poor Box.

### Parish Collections

**1st collection** supports the needs of the Parish Priest, presbytery upkeep, food, utilities, support of the Archdiocese, care of elderly priests.

**2nd collection** supports maintenance & upkeep of Parish buildings & grounds, pastoral works, Parish administration, insurance, utilities, salaries, priest car expenses & Charitable Works Fund shortfall.

## COUNTERS ROSTER SEP/OCT

16/12 - Team 3; 23/12 - Team 4; 30/12 - Team 5;

6/1 - Team 6; 13/1 - Team 7; 20/1 - Team 8

## COMMUNION UNDER BOTH KINDS

- If you have a cold or flu symptoms (or any other communicable disease, cold sores, etc.) you **MUST NOT** receive communion from the Chalice.
- In accordance with the General Instruction, we **DO NOT** **DIP** the Host in the Chalice.

Please turn off your mobile phone in Church. Thank you.

## THE CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY SAFEGUARDING OFFICE.

If you or a person close to you has been abused by someone working or ministering within the Archdiocese of Sydney we invite you to contact us. We will listen to you respectfully, offer support & discuss the options you have available to you. Contact the Safeguarding & Ministerial Integrity Office on 02 9390 5812.

# PRAYER MINISTRY

PLEASE KEEP IN PRAYER:

Those who are sick, especially-

Kenny Hee Teck Lim, Irene Tija,  
Fr Michael Walsh CM,  
Ambrose Hee Chong Lim,  
Phillip Hopson, Eddie Yap,  
Chris South, Konrad Wrzesinski,  
Bishop Geoffrey Robinson,  
Janet Godsell, Barbaro family,  
Fr David Catterall, Victor Galea,  
Terry Wallace, Moonki Nam,  
Joe Mesiti.

## The recently deceased

### Fr Jim Maloney

(fParish Priest of St Anthony's,  
Marsfield 1978-1984)

### Tony Youssef

(grandfather of Christine Ianello)

### May Grech

(sister & sister-in-law of Lilian &  
Michael Brincat)

### Sr Marie O'Connor SGS

And those with anniversaries  
around this time.

### Josephine Galea

(7th anniversary 8 Dec)

Due to privacy laws, if you would like the name of a family member or friend printed in the Good Oil, please contact the Parish Office.