



THE GOOD OIL

4 DECEMBER 2022

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT **YEAR A**

Readings This Sunday

1st Reading **Isaiah 11:1-10**

Resp Psalm

Ps 71:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17

Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever

2nd Reading **Romans 15:4-9**

Gospel **Matt 3:1-12**

Masses This Week

Sat 6pm

Sun 9am & 6pm

Mon 9am

Tue-Fri 9am

Vigil Mass

Mass

Liturgy of the Word

Mass

RECONCILIATION

Saturday 5.30-5.50pm
or by appointment

Parish Staff & Contacts

Pastor **Greg Walsh cm**
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Parish Secretary **Rose Goh**
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Parish Secretary **Pauline Jasudason**

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St Anthony's Catholic Primary

Principal **Kevin Turner**

info@stamarsfield.catholic.edu.au

ADVENT SECOND RITE OF RECONCILIATION, 15 DEC, 7.30PM. You are invited to take part in this. It can be helpful to celebrate Reconciliation in this way, which has both a communal and individual aspect. It can be a powerful element of our Advent preparation time. It is expected there will be a choice of priests to speak with.

PASEKA is a not-for-profit Catholic media group in Fiji. "Paseka" means "Paschal". It does very good work by livestreaming and recording Masses and other Liturgies so that a wider audience can benefit. It was and is instrumental in helping the late Fr Joseva Tuimavule CM and others heavily involved in ministry with the Deaf Community. In the Covid lockdown years and even today large international audiences would attend such Masses online. Paseka is the only platform for the Deaf Catholic Community in Fiji and the Pacific for online Masses and Catechesis. The platform used is Facebook and a search for "paseka facebook fiji" will allow you to see something of what they do. A request has come to the parish for help towards replacing worn-out gear like tripods and one iPad. **To know more or support this cause, please contact Fr Greg in person or by phone or email greg@saintanthony.org.au.**



• PARISH COLLECTIONS •

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

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

Last Sunday's readings focused on the final goal and meaning of our lives. It is the reason for the coming of Christ among us. Today we begin to look more directly at the coming of God's Son in our midst as a preparation for that final coming. The central figure in today's Gospel is John the Baptist.

But first, we need to look at the powerful passage from Isaiah in the First Reading that is in two parts.

The first, is a picture of the perfect King. He is a descendant of Jesse, who was the father of King David, and clearly points to Jesus. He is full of the Spirit of God and enjoys the special gifts of the Spirit: wisdom, insight, counsel, power, knowledge and a deep sense of reverence for God. When Jesus is baptised we will see that Spirit coming down on him in all its fullness. The second part, is a picture of the age this King will inaugurate. It is a regime of justice and peace, free from danger or fear. This is the ultimate goal of the Reign of God, a goal we have not yet realised but which, with the help of our King, we have great hope of reaching.

Strange as it may seem, God expects our co-operation in carrying it out.

A true prophet

But now to John the Baptist – a great figure in his own right and a true prophet in the Jewish tradition with a message from God. We know he had a large following of disciples and many people came out to the desert to hear him speak. He performed a ritual in water by which people expressed sorrow for their sinful lives and turned back to God. That ritual was called baptism.

In some ways the role of John was not unlike that of Jesus. Yet, in other ways, it was very different.

Like Jesus, John preached a message of repentance. 'Repentance' here, as elsewhere in the New Testament, translates the Greek word metanoia. It is much more than just being sorry for the past. It involves a deep and radical change in one's thinking and behaviour. 'Radical conversion' would be a better rendering than 'repentance', which somehow implies simply going back to one's past but without the sin.

Like Jesus, John will be rejected, persecuted, 'handed over' and finally executed for his courageous defence of truth and justice.

But there are also clear differences between John and Jesus.

Not equals

John emphasises that Jesus outranks him completely. He is not worthy to untie Jesus' sandals. He is simply preparing the way for the Messiah, the Christ, the Saviour King. Jesus, on the other hand, is the Way.

Read the full commentary: livingspace.sacredspace.ie/AA021

MESSAGE FROM FR GREG REGARDING ST ANTHONY'S PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL. The PPC is an advisory body whose task is to listen and respond to the hopes, ideas, needs and concerns of parishioners, to set realistic pastoral goals for our faith community and to help with making decisions for the pastoral good of the parish. Usually, the term of membership for this group is two years with the expectation that about half would continue for a second term, but we have been in unusual times. Our current Council began their service on 6 Nov 2019. Many church activities were suspended during the pandemic of 2020 and 2021 and now need to be re-started prudently. I have been in my role as Parish Priest for less than a year. Given this context, more continuity seems best and therefore I have asked the current PPC members if they would be willing to have their terms extended. They have all kindly agreed to complete a term of four years which will end on 6 Nov 2023. At that point I will ask half the members to retire.

At the moment there is some room for rejuvenation of the PPC since there are two casual vacancies. If you would like to nominate a fellow parishioner to join the PPC, please fill in the form by 20 December (available at church doors). Please note that greater diversity would be a plus. The current PPC members are: Paul Burke, Robin Dosoruth, Roseanna Gallo, Anthony Gorman, Joe Orland, Christine Robertson, Margaret Turner, Simon Turner (Chair). Ex-officio members are Rachel Murphy (Pastoral Associate) and Kevin Turner (St Anthony's Primary School Principal) I take this opportunity to thank every member and request your prayers for the PPC.

NATIVITY PAGEANT. The 6pm Children's Mass on Christmas Eve 2022 will include a Nativity Pageant. Children wishing to participate will need to attend rehearsals in Church. Rehearsal times will be advised by the coordinators. Please complete and return the slip below to the Parish Office by **Fri 9 Dec** to indicate your interest. Queries to office@saintanthony.org.au. **A parent/guardian must attend each rehearsal, and be responsible for the supervision of their child(ren).**



NATIVITY PAGEANT CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS EVE MASS 2022

Child's Name : _____ Age: ___ Class: ___

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Child's Name : _____ Age: ___ Class: ___

Parent Name & Phone no. : _____

PRAYER MINISTRY PLEASE KEEP IN PRAYER:

Those who are sick

Frank Walsh,

Angelica Owczarek,

Jac Smits, Moonki Nam,

Barbaro family,

Victoria Cook,

Margaret Cusack,

Valda Newman,

Murreal O'Connor,

Ambrosio "Jing" Feleo

The recently deceased

Sr Patricia Lodge DC

Those with anniversaries around this time

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.

ST ANTHONY'S PARISH, MARSFIELD EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Wednesdays
after 9am Mass

Fridays
5-6 pm



ALL ARE WELCOME

PASTORAL SESSIONS

Mondays: **Rosary in Italian** 7pm. Tuesdays: **Cenacle** 2.30pm. Wednesdays: **Adoration** 9.30am. **Meditation** 10am Parish Centre. Fridays: **Adoration** 5pm.

THE CATHOLIC WEEKLY is available in Church. Please put \$2 in the Poor Box.

HOUR OF GRACE. Everyone is welcome to church on Thu 8 Dec, 12-1pm, to mark the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

TAGS FROM THE CHRISTMAS TREE OF JOY can be placed in an envelope together with a **gift card** (instead of a gift) and dropped off at the Parish Office no later than **Monday 12 December**.

CAPTAINS, PLEASE REMIND YOUR TEAM: COUNTERS ROSTER DEC-JAN

4/12-Team 10 11/12-Team 1; 18/12-Team 2; 25/12-Team 3; 1/1-Team 4

CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE IS A CRIME. The appropriate people to deal with a crime are the police. If you or anyone you know have been abused, **please contact the police**. Alternatively, contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org or at (02) 9390 5810. You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.