



St Anthony of Padua Parish Toongabbie

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

* Office Tel: 9631 3316 * Emergency 9631 6420 *

Website: www.stanthonychurch.org.au



FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT- YEAR A

22ND FEBRUARY 2026

**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@stanthonychurch.org.au

Rev. Deacon Charles Hyson
charles.hyson@parracatholic.org

Mrs Shanika Joseph
Parish Secretary
secretary@stanthonychurch.org.au

Mrs. Jini Chittilapilly Joy
Sacramental and SRE Co Ordinator
thesacraments@stanthonychurch.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

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 21/22 Feb 2026			Next Week 28 Feb/1 March 2026		
	5.30pm	8.00am	10.00am	5.30pm	8.00am	10.00am
Senior Server	P. Vella	T. Peiris	F. Rodrigues	F. Le Clerc	T. Dalmati	K. Steele
Commentator	Youth	A. Gomes	P. Lim	A. Lahood	F. Lette	E. Chand
Reader 1	Youth	K. Wilson	M. Hili	M. Nakhoul	C. Molloy	J. Thomas
Reader 2	Youth	J. Suresh	J. Concepcion	M. D'Souza	E. Pasikale	C. Pereira
Data Projectionist	Soballa		Geneva	Susan		Rochelle
Junior Server						
Children's Liturgy			Felice/Angelin			Stella/Annabelle

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK IN OUR PARISH:

Edmond PAUL	Angelo ALEXANDER	Gabby ABOUD	Emma NONEY	John TYNAN
Maria VELLA	Aidan ALEXANDER	Lylette MATHIEU	Joe (Joseph) BORG	Noe ISOTTEN
Peter RANEE	Adrian NOCEVSKI	Teresa GALEA	Dennis KUNDER	Sarah SHEEHAN
Carole O'HARE	Tanya AMBROSE	Geraldine HALLIWELL	Kate MORTIMER	Jan SALMON
John GAUCI	Katherine S. SHEEHAN	Mary CAMELLERI	Shanji ANTHONY	Colleen DAVAR
Rene NEMORIN	Alexsis PETRUCELLI	Alan LUMLEY	Cecilia FERRER	Richard TOOKER
Anthony AL HADDAD	Anith THURAIRATNAM	Ajith SEEMAMPILLAI	Joseph MACDERMID	Rita McCREADIE
Anna FERNANDES	Maureen HANVEY	Ranjith CHELLAPPA	Rita DAVID	
Sarah MARLIN	Rosa DI CHRISTOFORO	Simon SHERVILLE	Lesley MYERS	

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

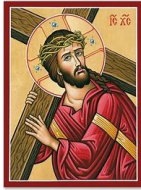
Acknowledgement of the traditional custodians of this land

As we begin our celebration of the Eucharist today, we pay our respects to the Indigenous custodians of this land on which we gather. We ask God's help as we seek new ways of journeying with them in a spirit of justice, peace, reconciliation and truth-telling.



Parish Sacramental Calendar 2026 The parish Sacramental Calendar for next year is up on the notice boards.

First Reconciliation - Lesson 2 - 28th February/1st March
Attendance is compulsory.



Friday Stations of the Cross & Mass -

Commencing Friday 20th February to Friday 27th March.

Morning: Stations of the Cross at 9.00am followed by Mass at 9.30am.

Evening: Stations of the Cross (in English) at 7.00 pm and Mass at 7.30pm followed by Stations of the Cross (in Tamil) at 8.00pm.



Washing of Feet (Holy Thursday) - We are looking for 12 people to participate in the "washing of the feet", to take place during the Holy Thursday celebration. If you are interested, please provide your details to the parish office by the 12th of March 2026. Please be aware that this will be on a first come, first served basis

Weekend reading reflection during Lent – The Liturgy committee invites parishioners who would like to write a short reflection for the weekend readings at Masses during Lent to contact Bill Ryan on 0408 613 281. The reflections will be read by volunteers at each of the weekend Masses. Submissions on or before Wednesday of the week prior to the weekend.

Parish Annual General Meeting - Sunday 22nd March, 11.15am - Parishioners, PPC Members, other parish committees and groups are invited to attend. Chairpersons and Team Leaders of various ministries or group may submit their annual report to secretary@stanthonyschurch.org.au by 5:00 PM on or before Monday 16th March 2026

Filipino Choir - The Filipino choir of our parish is looking for a choir pianist and/or a guitarist. New choir members are also welcome. For information, please speak to Erick Opena after mass, or you may leave your details at the parish office and Erick will contact you.

Project Compassion - During this Lenten season please consider taking a donation box or a one-off giving envelope and return them with your donations to the parish office on or before the 17th April. Donation Boxes and envelopes are available at the foyer of the church and the courtyard. Alternately scan the QR code here or on the posters around the church to donate online.



We are looking for youth aged from 15-28 to take part in the 10am Stations of the Cross for Good Friday.

Schedule:

- Sun, 15th march @Church hall , 11am- Introduction, assign roles & first rehearsal
- Sun, 22st march, @Church hall, 11am - Rehearsal
- Sat, 28th march, @Church hall, 6:30PM - Dress Rehearsal
- Fri, 3rd April, @Hall, 8am - Costume check & final Rehearsal
- Fri, 3rd April, @Church, 10am - Good Friday Stations of the Cross

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

Wednesday 25/03/2026	2nd Rite of Reconciliation in preparation for Holy Week	7.00pm
St Anthony's THE SACRED PASCHAL TRIDUUM Mass times 2026		
Thursday 02/04/2026	Thursday of the Lord's Supper	7.00pm
Friday 03/04/2026	Stations of the Cross	10.00am
	Friday of the Passion of the Lord	3.00pm
Saturday 04/04/2026	Holy Saturday Easter Vigil	6.00pm
Sunday 05/04/2026	Easter Sunday of the resurrection of the Lord	8.00am
		10.00am

Parishes United with Refugees: CAN YOU HELP? - A picnic in Nurragingy Park with our Syrian refugee family was a perfect way to celebrate Australia Day. Our group from Parishes United with Refugees from St Anthony's and OLOL and Blacktown Regional Uniting churches enjoyed great food, games and fun activities together with the Safour family. You might also enjoy this story from the Diocesan Catholic Outlook. <https://catholicoutlook.org/seven-parishes-recognised-for-supporting-refugee-families/>



Today, we are asking you for a little assistance to help cover the cost of specialist orthodontic treatment for one of the children in the family as they are unable to meet the cost on their own. If you are able to help, even a little, tax deductible donations can be made via Shout for Good. The QR code will take you directly to the site. Thank you for your generosity.

REFLECTION

It is Written

Jesus was offered three shortcuts for his ministry. Firstly, exceptional powers to satisfy his own needs (bread out of stones). Secondly, when he needed to take risks, angels to keep him safe. Thirdly, when he wanted to change the world, absolute political power.

These were the Temptations of Christ, but also for us. If you or I are tempted to sin, we will find the marks of this threefold pattern. We want the whole world to change to satisfy us, or we want to take stupid risks and come out unscathed, or we want to exercise total power over others.

How can we try to follow Jesus without the shortcuts of the fantasy world which the Devil may offer? Note that Jesus resisted each temptation with: 'It is written'. The forty days of Lent are a perfect opportunity to read what 'is written' in the Gospels about the episodes and pattern of the life of Jesus Christ.

We could pause for a moment to find what is written and to imitate what we find. That is how the Devil is defeated.

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

PLEASE CONSIDER ONLINE GIVING

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.



All contributions go to the maintenance and development of the Parish as does the second collection at weekend Masses.

Planned Giving (Direct Debit or Credit Card) is also an option if you wish to do cashless donation to the parish, forms are available in the parish office.

FIRST READING

GENESIS 2:7-9; 3:1-7

Creation of our first parents, and sin.

The Lord God fashioned man of dust from the soil. Then he breathed into his nostrils a breath of life, and thus man became a living being.

The Lord God planted a garden in Eden which is in the east, and there he put the man he had fashioned. The Lord God caused to spring up from the soil every kind of tree, enticing to look at and good to eat, with the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the middle of the garden.

The serpent was the most subtle of all the wild beasts that the Lord God had made. It asked the woman, 'Did God really say you were not to eat from any of the trees in the garden?' The woman answered the serpent, 'We may eat the fruit of the trees in the garden. But of the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden God said, "You must not eat it, nor touch it, under pain of death".'

Then the serpent said to the woman, 'No! You will not die! God knows in fact that on the day you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods, knowing good and evil.' The woman saw that the tree was good to eat and pleasing to the eye, and that it was desirable for the knowledge that it could give. So she took some of its fruit and ate it. She gave some also to her husband who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened and they realised that they were naked. So they sewed fig-leaves together to make themselves loin-cloths.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 50:3-6. 12-14. 17. R. SEE V.3

(R.) Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

1. Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.
In your compassion blot out my offence.
O wash me more and more from my guilt
and cleanse me from my sin. **(R.)**
2. My offences truly I know them;
my sin is always before me.
Against you, you alone, have I sinned;
what is evil in your sight I have done. **(R.)**
3. A pure heart create for me, O God,
put a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence,
nor deprive me of your holy spirit. **(R.)**
4. Give me again the joy of your help;
with a spirit of fervour sustain me.
O Lord, open my lips
and my mouth shall declare your praise. **(R.)**

SECOND READING

Romans 5:12-19

Where sin increased, there grace abounded all the more.

Sin entered the world through one man, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned. Sin existed in the world long before the Law was given. There was no law and so no one could be accused of the sin of 'law-breaking', yet death reigned over all from Adam to Moses, even though their sin, unlike that of Adam, was not a matter of breaking a law.

Adam prefigured the One to come, but the gift itself considerably outweighed the fall. If it is certain that through one man's fall so many died, it is even more certain that divine grace, coming through the one man, Jesus Christ, came to so many as an abundant free gift. The results of the gift also outweigh the results of one man's sin: for after one single fall came judgement with a verdict of condemnation, now after many falls comes grace with its verdict of acquittal. If it is certain that death reigned over everyone as the consequence of one man's fall, it is even more certain that one man, Jesus Christ, will cause everyone to reign in life who receives the free gift that he does not deserve, of being made righteous. Again, as one man's fall brought condemnation on everyone, so the good act of one man brings everyone life and makes them justified. As by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience many will be made righteous.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ,
King of endless glory!**

No one lives on bread alone,
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ,
King of endless glory!**

GOSPEL

MATTHEW 4:1-11

Jesus fasted for forty days and nights.

Jesus was led by the Spirit out into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, after which he was very hungry, and the tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to turn into loaves.' But he replied, 'Scripture says:

Man does not live on bread alone

but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'

The devil then took him to the holy city and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. 'If you are the Son of God,' he said, 'throw yourself down; for scripture says:

He will put you in his angels' charge,
and they will support you on their hands
in case you hurt your foot against a stone.'

Jesus said to him, 'Scripture also says:

You must not put the Lord your God to the test.'

Next, taking him to a very high mountain, the devil showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. 'I will give you all these', he said, 'if you fall at my feet and worship me.' Then Jesus replied, 'Be off, Satan! For scripture says:

You must worship the Lord your God,
and serve him alone.'

Then the devil left him, and angels appeared and looked after him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.



Catholic Youth Parramatta 2026 Kick-Off: 26 February

- Young people from across the Diocese are invited to an evening of celebration as we begin 2026 together. Hear testimonies from local leaders, take part in prayer, connect with others, and discover the vision for Catholic Youth Parramatta in the year ahead. Join us on Thursday 26 February from 7pm to 9.30pm at Holy Family Primary School, 11 Emert Parade, Emerton. Register today: <https://parracatholic.org/events/liftedlaunch/>

MET Natural Fertility – Natural Family Planning (NFP) - Are you looking for help to track your fertility cycle? Come and explore a natural, effective, healthy and scientific approach to achieve, space/avoid pregnancy or monitor women’s health. NFP is suitable for all situations including post-contraception, breastfeeding mothers and women experiencing peri-menopause. Express your interest at www.parracatholic.org/learn/natural-family-planning

Volunteer Cook Wanted for Catholic Care’s Houses to Homes program - Catholic Care’s Houses to Homes program is seeking a volunteer cook to lead simple, hands-on cooking sessions for a small group of women once a month. Sessions run on a Friday from 10am to 12midday, with all ingredients provided, and conclude with participants sharing the meal together. All required screening and training will be supported. For more information or to express interest, please contact enquiries@catholiccarewbsm.org.au or call (02) 8843 2500.

Rosary Making Workshops - Come along for a fun evening of community and crafting rosary beads that will then be donated to the sick and dying in hospitals across our Diocese. The craft evening will be held on the following days: **Thursday 26 February** at St Nicholas of Myra Parish, Penrith, from 7pm. Costs are \$5 per person – payable on arrival (includes all materials). To register and for more information, please visit parracatholic.org/rosary-workshops



Be renewed. Be transformed. Be sent.
In 2028, Australia will host the 54th International Eucharistic Congress, an extraordinary global encounter with Jesus Christ in the Eucharist. Pilgrims from around the world will come together in worship, reflection, and celebration, united by a shared faith and a mission to carry Christ into the world.

The Congress offers a rich spiritual and cultural program designed to inspire, uplift, and unite. Pilgrims will have the opportunity to enter into moving Eucharistic celebrations and moments of communal prayer, inspiring catechesis and keynote sessions, and exhibitions and opportunities for encounter.

Eucharist28 is for the whole church! There will be youth and family activities, as well as cultural performances and artistic expressions of faith, ensuring the event is a moving pilgrimage experience for all who join this journey.

“As the source and summit of the Christian life, the Eucharist has the power to convert hearts and stir fervour. The God who dwells among us, Emmanuel, gifts us with his permanent presence through the Eucharist and calls us to follow him so that we might be the salt of the earth and the light of the world (Matthew 5:13).

To mark the official commencement of the time of preparation for the International Eucharistic conference (IEC) there will be a nationwide Holy Hour on Sunday 1st March 2026. **Our parish will hold an hour of Eucharistic Adoration following the 8 am mass on 1st March the second Sunday of Lent.** Hearing the gospel of the Transfiguration proclaimed on that Sunday, it's an opportunity to seek a Eucharistic transfiguration of our own lives and within our community.

Jesus is tempted in the desert

1st Sunday of Lent, Year A

In the desert, Jesus faced some tough choices but was able to make the right ones. What are some of the tough choices that we face in our day to day lives?

How did Jesus respond to temptation?

Hey Jesus! If you're so hungry, why don't you turn these stones here into bread?

Hey Jesus! I bet that if you jump off the temple, God will send some angels to catch you!

Hey Jesus! See all those kingdoms? They're yours! And all you have to do is bow down and worship ME! Too easy!

Join up the fruit to complete the text maze: "Lead us not into temptation."

Matthew 4:1-11

© Creative Ministry Resources

THE FILIPINO CHAPLAINCY
DIOCESE OF PARRAMATTA

FEAST OF ST JOSEPH

Saturday, 14 March 2026
St Patrick's Church
Mary Queen of the Family Parish
51-59 Allawah St, Blacktown 2148
Solemn High Mass @ 10:30 am
Followed by Lunch & Entertainment

Theme:
"St Joseph: Guardian of the Holy Family, United in the Mission of Christ"

NOVENA MASSES

04 March 2026	Wednesday	7:00 PM	MARY IMMACULATE CATHOLIC CHURCH 125 Barnier Drive, Quakers Hill 2763
05 March 2026	Thursday	7:00 PM	ST JOHN XXIII CHURCH 160 Perfection Avenue, Stanhope Gardens 2768
06 March 2026	Friday	7:00 PM	ST BERNADETTE'S CATHOLIC CHURCH 10 Gardenia Grove, Lalor Park 2147
07 March 2026	Saturday	7:00 PM	ST PAUL THE APOSTLE CHURCH 40 Buckleys Road, Winston Hill 2153
08 March 2026	Sunday	7:00 PM	ST PADRE PIO CHURCH 34-38 William Howell Drive, Glenmore Park 2745
09 March 2026	Monday	7:00 PM	ST NICHOLAS OF MYRA CHURCH 326 High Street, Penrith 2750
10 March 2026	Tuesday	7:00 PM	ST. AIDAN'S CHURCH 9 Adelaide Sreet., Rooty Hill 2766
11 March 2026	Wednesday	7:00 PM	ST ANDREW'S CHURCH 36-40 Breakfast Road, Marayong 2148
12 March 2026	Thursday	7:00 PM	ST PATRICK'S CHURCH 51-59 Allawah St, Blacktown 2148