



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



THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT- YEAR A

08TH MARCH 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 7/8 March 2026			Next Week 14/15 March 2026		
	5.30pm	8.00am	10.00am	5.30pm	8.00am	10.00am
Senior Server	C. Bourne	E. Opena	A. Winton	J. Ivan	M. Maclou	J. Rodrigues
Commentator	V. Adams	M. Palmer	T. Sebastian	E. Opena	S. Benjamin	P. Lim
Reader 1	J. Buttigieg	J. Olivera	S. Kenny	M. Nakhoul	K. Wilson	J. Wharton
Reader 2	L. D'vine	O. Saldanha	M. Tan	A. Lahood	C. Molloy	
Data Projectionist	Nicole		Lourdes	Lauren	Jasmin	Sofie
Junior Server						
Children's Liturgy			Sofie/Felice			Rochelle/Stella

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK IN OUR PARISH:

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

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 gather to celebrate the Eucharist together, we acknowledge the Darug Nation, the Indigenous Custodians of the land on which our Parish is situated.

We pay our respects to their elders, past and present.

FIRST READING

EXODUS 17:3-7

Give us water to drink.

Tormented by thirst, the people complained against Moses. 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt?' they said. 'Was it so that I should die of thirst, my children too, and my cattle?' Moses appealed to the Lord. 'How am I to deal with this people?' he said. 'A little more and they will stone me!' The Lord said to Moses, 'Take with you some of the elders of Israel and move on to the forefront of the people; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the river, and go. I shall be standing before you there on the rock, at Horeb. You must strike the rock, and water will flow from it for the people to drink.' This is what Moses did, in the sight of the elders of Israel. The place was named Massah and Meribah because of the grumbling of the sons of Israel and because they put the Lord to the test by saying, 'Is the Lord with us, or not?'

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 94:1-2. 6-9. R. v.8

***(R.) If today you hear his voice,
harden not your hearts.***

1. Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;
hail the rock who saves us.
Let us come before him, giving thanks,
with songs let us hail the Lord. ***(R.)***
2. Come in; let us bow and bend low;
let us kneel before the God who made us
for he is our God and we
the people who belong to his pasture,
the flock that is led by his hand. ***(R.)***
3. O that today you would listen to his voice!
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your fathers put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my work.' ***(R.)***

SECOND READING

Romans 5:1-2. 5-8

The love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given to us.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ by faith we are judged righteous and at peace with God, since it is by faith and through Jesus that we have entered this state of grace in which we can boast about looking forward to God's glory. This hope is not deceptive, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us. We were still helpless when at his appointed moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not easy to die even for a good man – though of course for someone really worthy, a man might be prepared to die – but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Lord, you are truly the Saviour of the world;
give me living water, that I may never thirst again.
Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL

JOHN 4:5-42

The water that I shall give will turn into a spring of eternal life.

Jesus came to the Samaritan town called Sychar, near the land that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well is there and Jesus, tired by the journey, sat straight down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink.' His disciples had gone into the town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, 'What? You are a Jew and you ask me, a Samaritan, for a drink?' – Jews, in fact, do not associate with Samaritans. Jesus replied:

'If you only knew what God is offering and who it is that is saying to you: Give me a drink, you would have been the one to ask, and he would have given you living water.'

'You have no bucket, sir,' she answered 'and the well is deep: how could you get this living water? Are you a greater man than our father Jacob who gave us this well and drank from it himself with his sons and his cattle?' Jesus replied:

'Whoever drinks this water will get thirsty again; but anyone who drinks the water that I shall give will never be thirsty again: the water that I shall give will turn into a spring inside him, welling up to eternal life.'

'Sir,' said the woman, 'give me some of that water, so that I may never get thirsty and never have to come here again to draw water.' 'Go and call your husband' said Jesus to her 'and come back here.' The woman answered, 'I have no husband.' He said to her, 'You are right to say, "I have no husband"; for although you have had five, the one you have now is not your husband. You spoke the truth there.' 'I see you are a prophet, sir' said the woman. 'Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, while you say that Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.' Jesus said:

'Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know; for salvation comes from the Jews. But the hour will come – in fact it is here already – when true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth: that is the kind of worshipper the Father wants. God is spirit, and those who worship must worship in spirit and truth.'

The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah – that is, Christ – is coming; and when he comes he will tell us everything.' 'I who am speaking to you,' said Jesus 'I am he.' At this point his disciples returned, and were surprised to find him speaking to a woman, though none of them asked, 'What do you want from her?' or, 'Why are you talking to her?' The woman put down her water jar and hurried back to the town to tell the people, 'Come and see a man who has told me everything I ever did; I wonder if he is the Christ?' This brought people out of the town and they started walking towards him.

Meanwhile, the disciples were urging him, 'Rabbi, do have something to eat'; but he said, 'I have food to eat that you do not know about.' So the disciples asked one

another, 'Has someone been bringing him food?' But Jesus said:

'My food is to do the will of the one who sent me, and to complete his work. Have you not got a saying: Four months and then the harvest? Well, I tell you: Look around you, look at the fields; already they are white, ready for harvest! Already the reaper is being paid his wages, already he is bringing in the grain for eternal life, and thus sower and reaper rejoice together. For here the proverb holds good: one sows, another reaps; I sent you to reap a harvest you had not worked for. Others worked for it; and you have come into the rewards of their trouble.'

Many Samaritans of that town had believed in him on the strength of the woman's testimony when she said, 'He told me all I have ever done', so, when the Samaritans came up to him, they begged him to stay with them. He stayed for two days, and when he spoke to them many more came to believe; and they said to the woman, 'Now we no longer believe because of what you told us; we have heard him ourselves and we know that he really is the saviour of the world.'

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

REFLECTION

Our Sacred Site

The Jewish people worshipped at the Temple in Jerusalem. The Samaritans to the north worshipped on Mount Gerizem. But Jesus says to the woman of Samaria: 'Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem . . . true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth.'

We do this by acknowledging Jesus Christ as our sacred site. Jesus is where God is to be found. In his earthly ministry this was around places like the well in Samaria. As Risen Lord, he is to be found in those in dire need, and in the Heavenly Bread. In both cases we need to incline the body as an act of worship: in the case of the needy, by doing something practical; in the case of the Heavenly Bread, by genuflecting, bowing, before the Blessed Sacrament.

We could pause for a moment to reorientate ourselves to the Sacred Site who is the Risen Christ, acknowledging him as indeed the 'Saviour of the World'.

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

Masses during the month of March



The Solemnity of St Patrick will be celebrated with Mass on Tuesday, 17th March at 9.30am and 7.00pm (Novena Mass).

The Solemnity of St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary will be celebrate with Mass on Thursday, 19th March at 9.30am

The Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord will be celebrated with Mass on Wednesday, 25th March at 9.30am

Congratulations !

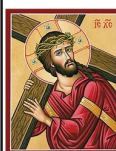
To **Mikah Aithan Chaula & Luke Nehme**, they received the sacrament of baptism on Sunday, 1st March 2026

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

Prayers of Intercession during Good Friday 3pm liturgy - if anyone would like to read an intercession please contact the Parish office or speak to Bill Ryan - 0408 613 281/after Mass.



Parish Sacramental Calendar 2026 The parish Sacramental Calendar for next year is up on the notice boards. **First Reconciliation - Lesson 4 - 14th & 15th March** Attendance is compulsory.
First Reconciliation Liturgy - Wednesday 18th March at 7.00pm



Friday Stations of the Cross & Mass - We continue with the Stations of the cross until 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



Working Bee - Please join our wonderful group of volunteers for a couple of hours and support our monthly clean up of the Church and surrounding grounds which will take place on Saturday, 14th March starting at 8am.

We will also have a special clean up in time for the Holy week & Easter on the 28th of March, all help would be most welcome at this time.

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

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.



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

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

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 day: **Tuesday 10th March** at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown, from 7.00pm. Costs are \$5 per person – payable on arrival (includes all materials). To register and for more information, please visit parracatholic.org/rosary-workshops


Blacktown Parish presents 'The Witness' - The community of Mary Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown, are bringing to life the musical "The Witness" – telling the story of the life of Jesus through the eyes of St Peter. We encourage anyone interested in being part of The Witness experience to register. For vocal auditions, contact our Music Director, Marianne Fernandes, at music@bethewitness.com.au. To learn more, visit Be The Witness – The Musical or email info@bethewitness.com.au.

2026 ACBC Social Justice Statement on the cost of living - The Australian Bishops have released the first of two Social Justice Statements for 2026, titled "The Cost of our Living: Economic and Social Justice for the Common Good". The new statement and accompanying resources can be found at socialjustice.catholic.org.au. Printed copies and prayer cards can be ordered directly from the ACBC at shop.catholic.au

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, 22nd 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 Patrick's Primary Parramatta Centenary Celebration: 14 March - The St Patrick's Parramatta School Community warmly invites all former staff, students, and families to join us in celebrating 100 years of faith, learning and community on Saturday 14 March at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta. Mass begins at 1:30pm, with an afternoon tea to follow. Let us come together in Eucharist to share memories and celebrate companionship across generations. RSVP via <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfZCpRA1DLrNEICkwClItsabrOw4315RYq3LiRTzvAlkOFmA/viewform>

Annual 24 Hours For The Lord at Mount Schoenstatt - You are warmly invited to take part in 24 Hours for the Lord, at the Schoenstatt Shrine in Mulgoa. Commencing with mass and confession from **Friday 13 March at 6:30 pm to mass at 5:30 pm on Saturday 14th March**. The Shrine will remain open all night for 24 hours of prayer, adoration, and quiet reflection. Whether you come for a few minutes or stay longer, this is a beautiful opportunity to step away from the busyness of life and spend time in the gentle presence of the Lord. All parishioners, families, and visitors are welcome to drop in.

Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary Celebrations: 6 April - You are invited to celebrate with us the 75 years of the arrival of the first Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary to Australia AND 60 years of the Schoenstatt Movement in Australia. Join us on Easter Monday, 6th April 2026 from 1:30pm – 5:30pm at Mount Schoenstatt – 230 Fairlight Road, Mulgoa 2745. Please bring a plate to share for afternoon tea. Parallel children's program will also be available. RSVP Shirley Hall 0417 153 930 movtooffice@schoenstatt.org.au



THE 54TH INTERNATIONAL
EUCCHARISTIC CONGRESS 2028
SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA



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

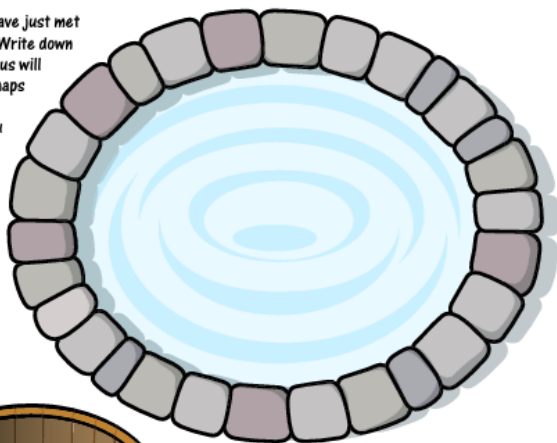
Theme:
"St Joseph: Guardian of the Holy Family, United in the Mission of Christ"

NOVENA MASSES



Imagine that you have just met Jesus at the well. Write down what you think Jesus will ask of you, or perhaps share with him something that you are really in need of in your life right now.

Unscramble the letters in the bucket to reveal who the Samaritan woman discovered Jesus to really be.



The Samaritan woman led many people to believe in Jesus. How can we share our faith with others?

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