



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



FORTH SUNDAY OF LENT- YEAR A

15TH 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 14/15 March 2026			Next Week 21/22 March 2026		
	5.30pm	8.00am	10.00am	5.30pm	8.00am	10.00am
Senior Server	J. Ivan	M. Maclou	J. Rodrigues	P. Vella	T. Peiris	A. Prabakaran
Commentator	E. Opena	S. Benjamin	P. Lim	Youth	C. Bugeja	A. Rego
Reader 1	M. Nakhoul	K. Wilson	J. Wharton	Youth	J. Suresh	C. Bernard
Reader 2	A. Lahood	C. Molloy		Youth	M. Palmer	F. Rodrigues
Data Projectionist	Lauren	Jasmin	Sofie	Mary		Jedd
Children's Liturgy			Rochelle/Stella			Felice/Bettina

Prayer to Saint Michael the Archangel

Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in the day of battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil; May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all evil spirits who wander through the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK IN OUR PARISH:

Edmond PAUL	Angelo ALEXANDER	Gabby ABOUD	Joe (Joseph) BORG	Noe ISOTTEN
Maria VELLA	Aidan ALEXANDER	Lyllette 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 PETRUCCELLI	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

1 SAMUEL 16:1. 6-7. 10-13

In the presence of the Lord God, they anointed David king of Israel.

The Lord said to Samuel, 'Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen myself a king among his sons.' When Samuel arrived, he caught sight of Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed one stands there before him,' but the Lord said to Samuel, 'Take no notice of his appearance or his height for I have rejected him; God does not see as man sees; man looks at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart.' Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen these.' He then asked Jesse, 'Are these all the sons you have?' He answered, 'There is still one left, the youngest; he is out looking after the sheep.' Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he comes.' Jesse had him sent for, a boy of fresh complexion, with fine eyes and pleasant bearing. The Lord said, 'Come, anoint him, for this is the one.' At this, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him where he stood with his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord seized on David and stayed with him from that day on.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 22 R. v.1

(R.) The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.

1. The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit. (R.)
2. He guides me along the right path;
he is true to his name.
If I should walk in the valley of darkness
no evil would I fear.
You are there with your crook and your staff;
with these you give me comfort. (R.)
3. You have prepared a banquet for me
In the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing. (R.)
4. Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me
all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever. (R.)

SECOND READING

Ephesians 5:8-14

Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth. Try to discover what the Lord wants of you, having nothing to do with the futile works of darkness but exposing them by contrast. The things which are done in secret are things that people are ashamed even to speak of; but anything exposed by the light will be illuminated

and anything illuminated turns into light. That is why it is said:

Wake up from your sleep,
rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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

I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
whoever follows me will have the light of life.

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

GOSPEL

JOHN 9:1-41

The blind man went off and washed himself and came away with his sight restored.

As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. His disciples asked him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, for him to have been born blind?' 'Neither he nor his parents sinned,' Jesus answered, 'he was born blind so that the works of God might be displayed in him.'

'As long as the day lasts
I must carry out the work of the one who sent me;
the night will soon be here when no one can work.
As long as I am in the world
I am the light of the world.'

Having said this, he spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man and said to him, 'Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam' (a name that means 'sent'). So the blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored.

His neighbours and people who earlier had seen him begging said, 'Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'Yes, it is the same one.' Others said, 'No, he only looks like him.' The man himself said, 'I am the man.' So they said to him, 'Then how do your eyes come to be open?' 'The man called Jesus' he answered 'made a paste, daubed my eyes with it and said to me, "Go and wash at Siloam"; so I went, and when I washed I could see.' They asked, 'Where is he?' 'I don't know' he answered.

They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It had been a sabbath day when Jesus made the paste and opened the man's eyes, so when the Pharisees asked him how he had come to see, he said, 'He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see.' Then some of the Pharisees said, 'This man cannot be from God: he does not keep the sabbath.' Others said, 'How could a sinner produce signs like this?' And there was disagreement among them. So they spoke to the blind man again, 'What have you to say about him yourself, now that he has opened your eyes?' 'He is a prophet' replied the man.

However, the Jews would not believe that the man had been blind and had gained his sight, without first sending for his parents and asking them, 'Is this man really your son who you say was born blind? If so, how is it that he is now able to see?' His parents answered, 'We know he is our son and we know he was born blind, but we don't know how it is that he can see now, or who opened his eyes. He is old enough: let him speak for himself.' His parents spoke like this out of fear of the Jews, who had already agreed to expel from the synagogue anyone who

should acknowledge Jesus as the Christ. This was why his parents said, 'He is old enough; ask him.' So the Jews again sent for the man and said to him, 'Give glory to God! For our part, we know that this man is a sinner.' The man answered, 'I don't know if he is a sinner; I only know that I was blind and now I can see.' They said to him, 'What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?' He replied, 'I have told you once and you wouldn't listen. Why do you want to hear it all again? Do you want to become his disciples too?' At this they hurled abuse at him: 'You can be his disciple,' they said 'we are disciples of Moses: we know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this man, we don't know where he comes from.' The man replied, 'Now here is an astonishing thing! He has opened my eyes, and you don't know where he comes from! We know that God doesn't listen to sinners, but God does listen to men who are devout and do his will. Ever since the world began it is unheard of for anyone to open the eyes of a man who was born blind; if this man were not from God, he couldn't do a thing.' 'Are you trying to teach us,' they replied 'and you a sinner through and through, since you were born!' And they drove him away.

Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him he said to him, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' 'Sir,' the man replied 'tell me who he is so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said, 'You are looking at him; he is speaking to you.' The man said, 'Lord, I believe', and worshipped him.

Jesus said:
 'It is for judgement that I have come into this world, so that those without sight may see and those with sight turn blind.'

Hearing this, some Pharisees who were present said to him, 'We are not blind, surely?' Jesus replied:

'Blind? If you were, you would not be guilty, but since you say, "We see", your guilt remains.'

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

REFLECTION

Spittle and Mud



Our Lord, by the power of his word alone, could have healed the dis-ease of this man, blind since birth. Yet, he made a paste with spittle and put it over the eyes of the blind man. Just as God would have moistened the dust of the earth to shape the first human being, for the blind man, it was as though he had been created anew.

God rarely works by telepathy but has a preferred way of working through the elements of creation, especially in the Sacraments. So, with the Anointing of the Sick, pressing olive oil onto the forehead and hands of the sick or dying symbolises the Holy Spirit entering the very pores of the sick person, relieving that person of undue anxiety and giving strength for the next stage of life.

This sacrament is a formal ritual of healing by the Church. But there are a million informal ways, such as putting one's arm around someone who is lonely or unwell, which are sacramental to the world.

We could pause for a moment that we might go into the world like the man healed by Jesus, eyes wide open to see where we might exercise the healing power of the Lord of the Gospel.

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

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

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 celebrated 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

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

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.



First Reconciliation Liturgy - Wednesday 18th March at 7.00pm. Please keep the candidates in your prayers.



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.**



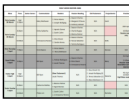
Special Working Bee - We will have a special clean up in time for the Holy week & Easter on the 28th of March, all help would be most welcome at this time.



Palms for Palm Sunday - If you can donate palms to be used on Palm Sunday please drop them at the office by Thursday 26th March before 3pm or alternately you are welcome to bring your own palms on Palm Sunday.



Catholic Outlook - Free copies of the Catholic Outlook Magazine is now available in the foyer and courtyard. Please take one.



Holy Week Roster - has been emailed to the commentator/readers/data projectionist. Printed copies are available in the sacristy pigeon holder.

**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

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

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

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



PLEASE CONSIDER ONLINE GIVING

You can 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.



4th Sunday of Lent, Year A
 Draw the story of Jesus healing the blind man
Jesus heals the blind man



Jesus smears mud on the eyes of a man who was born blind.



The blind man washes in Siloam pool and is able to see.



The man is happy how he can see. Many people could not believe what had happened.



Help the blind man find Siloam Pool

When he met Jesus again, the man who had been blind put his faith in Jesus and worshipped him. What can we do to show that we believe in Jesus?