

Welcome to ...



ST. ANDREW THE APOSTLE PARISH MARAYONG

... The Season of Advent!

Parish Vision Statement

We are an active and welcoming Catholic community,
where people of all ages draw closer to God.
His love is expressed through each one of us by prayer,
liturgy and reaching out in service to one another.



First Sunday of Advent

Please visit our Parish Website: www.standrewsmarayong.org.au Year A: Vol.42 No.01 26th / 27th November 2016

PARISH STAFF:

Monsignor Ron McFarlane
Father Joby Kadambattu MS
Father Alfonsus Nahak SVD
Maria Hyson
(Sacramental Coordinator)
Michelle Sultana &
Joe Clemson
(Office staff)

PARISH OFFICE & PRESBYTERY:

Phone: 9622 0817
Fax: 9671 7971
40 Breakfast Rd, Marayong 2148
[PO Box 4345]
Email Address:
saapm@bigpond.com

Office Hours:

Monday to Friday
9.00am to 4.00pm

FR. BYRNE CENTRE:

(Parish Meeting Rooms)
38 Breakfast Rd, Marayong.

WEEKEND MASSES:

Saturday (Vigil) 6.00pm
Sunday:
7.30am, 8.45am, 10.30am

SUNDAY SCHOOL:

Each Sunday morning
after the 8.45am Mass.

Weekday Masses:

Monday: 9.00am
Tuesday: 9.00am
Wednesday: 9.15am
Feast St Andrew Mass: 7.00pm
Thursday: 8.00am
Friday: 9.00am
Holy Hour & Mass: 7.00pm
Saturday: 9.00am

Mass for the Sick: 4th Saturday
of the month at 9.00am

Rosary: Before each morning
Mass and before the
Saturday Vigil Mass

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

- After weekday morning Masses.
- Saturday: 4.30pm - 5.30pm
- Anytime by arrangement.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Baptisms: 1st & 3rd Sunday
of each month at 11.45am

Baptismal Preparation:

2nd Wednesday of each month
at 7.30pm
in the Fr Byrne Centre.
Please book for Baptisms
with the Parish Office.

PIETY STALL:

Open after Masses on Saturday
night and Sunday morning or
by asking for an appointment
at the Parish Office.

PARISH SCHOOLS:

ST. ANDREW'S PRIMARY

Principal: Mr M. Tonnet
Phone: 9671 6622
Address: 36 Breakfast Road
Marayong 2148

ST. ANDREWS COLLEGE

College Principal: Mr N. Vidot
Phone: 9626 4000

Campus -

JUNIOR CAMPUS (YRS. 7-10)

Address: 116 Quakers Road
Marayong 2148

SENIOR CAMPUS (YRS. 11-12)

Address: 50 Breakfast Road
Marayong 2148

Feast of St Andrew the Apostle

St Andrew is the patron saint of our parish community and we should celebrate his feast day. There will be celebration of Mass at 9:15am on Wednesday, November 30 and at 7:00pm on Wednesday evening.

St. Andrew, the Apostle Andrew heard about Jesus Christ, and then followed after Him. You, too, have heard of Christ; but are you following Him? Furthermore, Andrew not only followed Christ, but found his brother and brought him to Jesus. Are you willing to be like St Andrew – willing to find and bring others to Christ? Are you willing to be like St. Peter – willing to be found and brought to Christ?

Like any of the Apostles, Andrew does not have any outstanding qualification that makes him in any way eligible to be an apostle. Yet the Lord called him into his close circle of friends and entrusted him with the noble task of proclaiming the Good News of Salvation. This is the mystery of the Apostolic calling: out of God's graciousness and kindness he called individuals not because they are the best and most worthy but rather the Lord filled them with his love and blessings. And this is open for all who are ready and willing to entrust themselves to the Lord. The only thing needed is our full cooperation say yes to the Lord and God will do the rest.

Being an apostle of the Lord does not mean doing complicated things like going to some faraway place and meeting different kind of people. The Apostle Andrew has shown us that it is simply bringing someone to Jesus.

Whatever we do in life and wherever we are if we live out our faith and we are faithful to Christ we can be an Apostle like Andrew. Let us then be an Apostle who brings our brothers and sisters, friends and family to Christ. Let our witnessing and faithfulness to Christ also lead others to Christ. As one saying goes, "Christ lives in you, his mission continuous through you."

From Monsignor Ron ...

We begin the season of Advent by hearing God's word challenge us to wake up, to stand ready and to prepare. The whole season of Advent is a time for looking at the big picture, not just to prepare to celebrate the birth of the Saviour, but to see how ready we are to welcome him at his Second Coming, on that day when each of us will meet him face-to-face.

It is very easy for us to be caught up by the many things which claim our attention each day such as our jobs, our problems, our health, our families, our relationships, our plans and so on. One of the dangers of doing this is that we do not consider sufficiently the purpose of our life. We live as though we are going to live for ever in this world. We forget about the purpose and the meaning of life. This time of Advent is a time for slowing down and making time to reflect on these important questions.

As St Paul tells us this weekend, this is the time to put on our Lord Jesus Christ, to become the people we were intended to be in God's mind and to continue the journey that began at our Baptism. It is time to turn away from all the things that create barriers between us and our God, a time to turn back and walk as children of the light.

Most of all, we need to live in a state of expectation. We need to live as if we expect Jesus to return at any moment. By this I don't mean that we cringe in fear or ignore our daily duties and responsibilities. What is important is that we see our lives in their proper context and allow our faith to affect our daily living. It is about reminding ourselves of why we are here in this world and what our lives are for.

One of the things that we can do is to become more aware of the way that our God is present to us each day. Staying awake is a good way to describe the attitudes necessary to do this for to stay awake is to be alert. We need to be aware of what is going on and to be on the lookout for the presence of our God amongst us. By staying awake, we heighten our ability to seek the presence of the Lord in our daily lives, in the Eucharist, in his Word, and in each other.

The Season of Advent

There is a twofold aspect to Advent: it is a time of preparation for Christmas in which the first coming of Jesus Christ is recalled. As well, it directs our thoughts to the second coming of Christ.

Each Sunday of Advent has a distinctive theme. The first Sunday focuses on the Lord's coming at the end of time. The second and third Sundays focus on John the Baptist. The fourth Sunday focuses on the events that prepared for and immediately preceded the birth of the Lord.

I believe that advent helps us to appreciate God's faithful love for his people and the great blessings he has bestowed upon us in Jesus Christ. Advent is not a time for penance or sadness but rather is a time of joyful expectation. But it is also a time where we renew ourselves and prepare ourselves to welcome Jesus Christ once more liturgically into our lives.

Christmas Rehearsals for Sunday School Play

Rehearsals are on Sundays, from 9.30am to 10.20am in the Church, and these will continue until Christmas.



There will also be two extra rehearsals on Saturdays the 10th and 17th of December at 11:00am in the church.

Enquiries: Antonia on 9831-2109.

Please contact the
Parish Office, *if you are*
unavailable for your
rostered Ministry.



MASS READINGS - YEAR A

THIS SUNDAY:

First Sunday of ADVENT

First Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5
Psalm: Ps 121:1-2, 4-5, 6-9
Second Reading: Romans 13:11-14
Gospel: Matthew 24:37-44

NEXT SUNDAY:

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10
Psalm: Ps 71:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17
Second Reading: Romans 15:4-9
Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12

THIS WEEK'S ROSTER: 26th / 27th November 2016

[4th Sunday of the Month - Odd Month]

| MINISTRIES | 6.00pm | 7.30am | 8.45am | 10.30am |
|---|---|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| ACOLYTE | Rudy Rupac Ike Enriquez | Candido Velasco John Blackford | Mario Picart Joy Kakodkar | Noe Adan Robert Bautista |
| COMMENTATOR | Stephen Debrincat | Claire Blunt | Lita Picart | Maryanne Bautista |
| FIRST READER | Felecia Silva | Pauline Sultana | Felix Villamarin | Judith D'Cruz |
| SECOND READER | Lisa D'Souza | Nila Mangona | Luz Tiqui | Vicky Ilagan |
| PROJECTOR OPERATORS | Sian D'Souza | Vianney Rodrigues | Derca Elogious | |
| WELCOMER | Marian Fernandez Melville Fernandez Henryka Ogrodniczek | Linda Dessa | Mathias Family | Editha Brady Carl Republica |
| MUSICIANS | Hearts | NO Music Mass | Worship Hymn Choir | Couples For Christ |
| MINISTERS OF COMMUNION - Fourth Sunday of the Month | | | | |

NEXT WEEK'S ROSTER: 3rd / 4th December 2016

[1st Sunday of the Month-Even Month]

| MINISTRIES | 6.00pm | 7.30am | 8.45am | 10.30am |
|--|---------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| ACOLYTE | Ruben Bables Joe Doyle | Ged Oblea Rufino Oblea | Thong Nguyen Mario Spiteri | Ike Enriquez Luis Ortiz |
| COMMENTATOR | Joyce Vincent | Mary Anne Xuereb | Charmaine Mathias | YouthWorks! |
| FIRST READER | Roshan Thomas | Dianne McKinnon | Nerissa Toong | YouthWorks! |
| SECOND READER | Martin Zammit | Julie Nunez | Zoe Victoria | YouthWorks! |
| PROJECTOR OPERATORS | Delia Fernandes | | Nicholas Mathias | Shekha Raviraj |
| WELCOMER | Henryka Ogrodniczek | Annette Hudson Rita Vaughn | Dot Kaster, Des Zammit | YouthWorks! |
| MUSICIANS | Lorraine's Group | NO Music Mass | NO Music Mass | YouthWorks! |
| MINISTERS OF COMMUNION - First Sunday of the Month | | | | |

Advent Wreath Blessing and Prayer

Let us pray (*pause for silent prayer*) Father, all powerful Lord of Light, bless + our wreath. May the increasing light of these candles brighten our minds and hearts to be steadfast in faith, joyful in hope and untiring in love, so that we are ready again to receive in true peace Jesus, the Light of the World, who lives and reigns with you, for ever and ever. Amen.

Sprinkling follows.

The first candle is lit, and
the prayer for the first week is said.

Priest: Let us pray.

Stir up your might, we beg you, O Lord, and come, so that we may escape through your protection and be saved by your help from the dangers that threaten us because of our sins.

We ask this of you who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

All: Amen.



Xt3 Advent Calendar:

This year's free Xt3 Advent Calendar looks at the nativity scene through the eyes of a child. The website and app contain videos, meditations and podcasts for the Christmas season. Available on the First Sunday of Advent: www.xt3.com/advent

Jesse Tree:

Each year as Christmas approaches we can support the St Vincent DePaul Society in their work of ensuring that all families in our parish area are able to celebrate Christmas appropriately. The Jesse Tree will have gift cards on it listing items that we can purchase to help in this work. Parishioners are also encouraged to bring along non-perishable food at this time so that the St Vincent DePaul Society can provide hampers for families in our parish.

FIRST FRIDAY DEVOTIONS:

This coming Friday, December 2, marks the first Friday in the month of December and we begin this month with the opportunity to spend one hour with the Lord during the Holy Hour on Friday evening commencing at 7:00pm. This hour provides a unique opportunity to spend time praising God and dedicating ourselves to participating God's healing work in the world.

SECOND RITE OF RECONCILIATION:

Next Saturday morning, December 3, at 9:30am we will have our monthly celebration of the Sacrament of Penance. One of the gifts of the Second Rite of Reconciliation is that we support each other by our presence and by our prayers.



Come and join the 25th Anniversary
Thanksgiving Celebration of the
Hearts of Jesus & Mary Prayer Community

Saturday, December 3, 2016 after 6pm Mass

St. Andrew's School Hall

Supper and Program | Lots of Door Prizes

Dancing | HJM Live Band

Attire: Christmas Colours

Sunday

27

1st Sunday of Advent

Jesse Tree

Rosary BEFORE Masses

Counters: Group 4

08:45 Marriage Blessing

Installation of

Liturgical Ministers

09:30 Sunday School

Monday

28

09:00 Mass

09:30 Rosary

18:00 Legion of Mary

19:15 RCIA 6

Tuesday

29

09:00 Mass

09:30 Rosary

Wednesday

30

Saint Andrew, Apostle

09:15 Mass SAP

10:00 Rosary

19:00 Mass of our Patron Saint

Thursday

1-Dec

08:00 Mass

08:30 Rosary

19:00 SVPD Meeting

Friday

2

First Friday

09:00 Mass

09:30 Rosary

16:00 Junior Legion of Mary

19:00 Holy Hour & Mass

Saturday

3

Saint Francis Xavier, Priest

09:00 Mass

09:30 Parish Reconciliation

09:40 Jnr Legion of Mary

10:00 Church Cleaning HJM

10:00 Rosary

16:15 Legion of Mary

18:00 HJM Pastoral

Ministry Commissioning

19:00 HJM Anniversary

ONGOING FORMATION — Are you interested?

As is our custom we would like to send a few people to this course which begins in autumn of 2017. If you would like to be considered, please contact the parish office. If you would like to enhance your ministry and spiritual life this course has great potential.

Applications close 11 December. Details: <http://www.ifm.org.au/themesoffaith>

Course 1

2017 Formation for Reflective Ministry

- Pastoral theology for those serving in and through Catholic communities

The Formation for Reflective Ministry program combines 18 enjoyable Tuesday evenings with a few half Saturdays and some enriching reading, journaling, processing and sharing.

Course 2

Formation in Themes of Faith

The process followed for this program helps the participants in their competency and on-going growth regarding several key areas of life in faith:

- ♦ God (themes of Spirituality and Trinity)
- ♦ Word of God (themes of Scripture, Old and New)
- ♦ People of God (themes of Church, Sacrament and Spirit)
- ♦ Living in God's Love (themes of Catholic teaching and living)

STEPPING BEYOND: SUPPORT FOR THOSE SEPARATED OR DIVORCED

CCSS Solo Parent Services "Stepping Beyond" Support Group, is held on the last Tuesday of the month for those struggling through a separation or divorce.

Last Gathering for this year: 29th November Venue: CCSS centre, 38 Prince St, Blacktown. Time: 7.30 – 9.30.

Cost: \$5.00. Registration: Rita Ph. 8822 2222 or soloparentservices@ccss.org.au

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN:

The United Nations (UN) International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women on 25 November, raises public awareness of violence against women in all countries around the world and at all levels of society. The costs and consequence of violence against women last for generations. We can help through prayer and increasing public awareness.

Globally 35% of women and girls experience some form of physical and or sexual violence in their lifetime, with up to 7 in 10 women facing this abuse in some countries. An estimated 133 million girls and women have experienced some form of female genital mutilation. Worldwide, more than 700 million women alive today were married as children, 250 million of whom were married before the age of 15. Girls who marry before the age of 18 are less likely to complete their education and more likely to experience domestic violence and complications in childbirth.

The Australian domestic and family violence statistics are alarming:

- 1 in 5 Australian women have experienced sexual violence;
- 1 in 4 Australian women have experienced physical or sexual violence by an intimate partner; and
- 1 in 3 Australian women have experienced physical violence.

HOME VISIT

Would you like a visit from a priest or parishioner?

Name

phone

SICK OR HOUSEBOUND

Do you know someone who would like Holy Communion or a visit?

Name

phone

PLANNED GIVING

Would you like to support our parish?

Name

phone

PLEASE PLACE ON COLLECTION PLATE AND YOU WILL BE CONTACTED

PARISH REGISTRATION

If you have not filled out a Registration Form, please do so as soon as possible and return it to the Church or Parish Office. Forms are available at the back of the Church.

If you are a new parishioner, we ask you to complete a Registration Form, and return it to the Parish Office.

Bulletin Highlights ...

- ♦ FEAST OF ST ANDREW THE APOSTLE
- ♦ SEASON OF ADVENT
- ♦ 25TH ANNIVERSARY — HEARTS OF JESUS & MARY
- ♦ ONGOING FORMATION IN 2017
- ♦ UPCOMING PARISH AND DIOCESAN EVENTS