



You are always welcome at....
**ST. ANDREW THE APOSTLE
 PARISH MARAYONG**

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 B: Vol.43 No.01 2nd / 3rd December, 2017

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:

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

After hours phone: 9676 7960

PRESBYTERY:

41 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: 9.00am
Novena & Mass: 7.00pm
 Thursday: 8.00am
 Friday: 9.00am
Mass: 7.00pm
 Saturday: 9.00am

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

Rosary: After 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.

FR. BYRNE CENTRE:

(Parish Meeting Rooms)
 38 Breakfast Rd, Marayong.

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

2018 Parish Pastoral Council



As we prepare to move into 2018, it is important that we start to look at organising ourselves. In this, the Parish Pastoral Council plays a very important role. This role is to promote the Churches mission to live and communicate the love and values of Christ at our world. It has the privilege of looking towards the life and development of the faith community, representing and working with all parishioners to help us all live as followers of Christ.

All ministries and groups in the parish are asked to select 2 members to be their representatives on our Parish Pastoral Council. You are asked to submit these names, with addresses and phone numbers, as well as the name of the ministry or group. It would be appreciated if these could be received in the parish office by January 1, 2018.

I would also invite those individual parishioners who feel they have a contribution to make on behalf of the parish as a member of this Council to consider their involvement as well. These people might like to contact the parish office as well with their details and their reasons for wishing to be involved.

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 ...

- ♦ CHURCH CLEANING
- ♦ FEAST OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
- ♦ THE SEASON OF ADVENT
- ♦ UPCOMING PARISH AND DIOCESAN EVENTS
- ♦ CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER 2017

From Monsignor Ron ...

A New Year in the life of the Church begins. We are preparing to welcome the coming of Jesus liturgically into our world once again. We are preparing for the end of 2017 and the start of 2018.

This season of Advent is a reminder that we are waiting for the second coming of Christ. It is also a reminder that this life we are living now is not the be all and end all of our existence. We are in fact preparing for eternal life with our God.

This is a time for reflection and action. Maybe, we have grown slack in our Christian lives during the past year or have neglected our relationship with Jesus Christ. As we await the celebration of Christ's birth, the season provides us with an opportunity to focus once more on Christ, who is the deepest meaning of Christmas. He is the gift that can bring true hope and joy to all those who want meaning and purpose in life.

Our readings this weekend are a call to refocus our lives. The prophet Isaiah reminds us how limited we are without the power of God and he compares us to clay in the hands of the Potter. This is a wonderful reminder of how dependent we are upon God. It is also a reminder of how we were individually created by God to be the unique person that each one of us is. As well it is a reminder that God is the expert on us since he is our Creator and it is only by living as he intends us to live that we will find a true purpose and meaning. Obviously, one thing we need to do during this time is to work on our relationship with God so that we seek his guidance as we journey through each day.

Our gospel further reminds us of the importance of not simply drifting along. Jesus tells us to be on our

guard and to stay awake. It is far too easy simply to drift along and be caught up in a self-centred, materialistic way of life. This is what is promoted around us all the time. I would suggest it is important to constantly reflect on where our true values in daily living lie. Each day of advent we need to measure our values and attitudes against those given to us by Jesus Christ. Like the Corinthians whom Paul mentions we need to respond as fully as we possibly can to God's gifts to us.

One of the ways of doing this is to make space and time for our God in prayer during this Advent season and we will find it will be well rewarded.

MAKING THE MOST OF THE ADVENT SEASON

Christmas is about our loving God coming to live amongst us. This is a wonderful time to reflect on who Jesus is and on what he means to each one of us. We encourage parishioners to come along to an evening of reflection on the person of Jesus. This will take place on Wednesday, December 6, at 7:45pm after the Mass and Novena. This is a wonderful part of our preparation for Christmas and it is hoped that many parishioners will avail of this opportunity.

FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Feast of the Immaculate Conception: this Friday we celebrate the feast of the Immaculate Conception which in many parts of the world is celebrated as a Holy Day of obligation which stresses the importance of this feast day and also the importance of our relationship with Mary, the Mother of Jesus and our Mother.

This Friday evening, December 8, there will be Mass followed by devotions at 7 PM. We do encourage parishioners to make an effort to be involved in the celebration.

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



MASS READINGS - YEAR B

THIS SUNDAY:

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading: Is 63:16-17; 64:1.3-8

Psalm: Ps 79:2-3. 15-16. 18-19

Second Reading: 1 Cor 1:3-9

Gospel: Mark 13:33-37

NEXT SUNDAY:

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading: Isaiah 40:1-5. 9-11

Psalm: Ps 84:9-14

Second Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-14

Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

THIS WEEK'S ROSTER: 2nd / 3rd December 2017

[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 Thong Nguyen |
| COMMENTATOR | Joyce Vincent | Mary Anne Xuereb | Charmaine Mathias | YouthWorks! |
| FIRST READER | Roshan Thomas | Anthony Culbert | 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 | | | | |

NEXT WEEK'S ROSTER: 9th / 10th December 2017

[2nd Sunday of the Month - Even Month]

| MINISTRIES | 6.00pm | 7.30am | 8.45am | 10.30am |
|--|-------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| ACOLYTE | Romy Gapud Emmanuel Tabone | Gus Kaster Edsel Paltoo | Noe Adan Mario Picart | Robert Bautista Ferdi Chin |
| COMMENTATOR | Nenette Gapud | Claire Blunt | Lita Picart | Peter Maw |
| FIRST READER | Ralph Vaz | Antonette Elogious | Roseanne Victoria | Allen Brady |
| SECOND READER | Teresita Cacadac | Belinda Elogious | Rose Rotik | Maury Villanueava |
| PROJECTOR OPERATORS | Sarah Debrincat | Derica Elogious | Jaden Victoria | Abigail Chin |
| WELCOMER | Annette Hudson | Claire Blunt Agnes Iligan | Mathias Family | Jerome Chin |
| MUSICIANS | Hearts | NO Music Mass | Couples For Christ | Dingalings |
| MINISTERS OF COMMUNION - Second Sunday of the Month | | | | |

A Blessing for this Week

You believe that the Son of God became flesh. You look for him to come again. May he find you alert and waiting in hope.

May God the Potter continue to mould you, the work of his hand, through all the days of your life.

May the Holy Spirit pour his gifts into your hearts so **that you may celebrate the Saviour's coming with joy and peace.** Amen.

Advent Wreath blessing: Let us pray . 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)

First Sunday in Advent



The word of the Lord by the prophet **Isaiah declares " Since ancient times no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides You, who acts on behalf of those who wait for him." . In this first Sunday of Advent, we declare our longing and thirst for God.**

The first candle in the Advent wreath is called the prophecy candle. It opens the period that anticipates Christmas and remembers those who first spoke the promise of the coming Christ Child. We light this candle as a symbol of expectation. May the light sent from God shine in the darkness to show us the way to salvation.

(lights first purple candle)

Reflection in preparation for the Season of Advent

Reflecting on the past year:

Jesus has called us to be a light of the world, to shine like him through the darkness.

In my words and conversations do I reflect the light of Christ? Does my talk lead people closer to Jesus?

Do I think often about God and his plans for me? Are the things of God more important than anything else?

Has Christ found a welcome in our home?

Do we pray as a family? Is prayer time a priority in my life?

Have I found time to listen prayerfully and actively to God's Word?

Have I shown my love for Christ in the past year? In what ways have I failed to do this?

Have I obeyed his commandment to love others and to serve others?

Have I worked to make my parish community shine with the light of Christ?

Have I served in one of the parish ministries?

How have I encouraged others in the past year?

Are there areas where Christ wants me to improve?

Would Jesus be satisfied that I have tried to live as a Christian in the past year?

How can I improve in my Christian living in the coming year?

In the past year have I grown in God's love and service? In what ways do I need to improve?

CHURCH CLEANING – MANY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

On Saturday, December 9 from 7:30am – 8:45am, and from 9:45am until 10:45am we need to carry out a massive clean-up of the interior and exterior of our church. If you are able to help, please sign on at the office or at the door of the church.

This is an opportunity to show our respect for our spiritual home which is our parish church.

SPECIAL EDITION OF CATHOLIC OUTLOOK

At the request of Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv, Catholic Outlook will be back in print for a special, one-off December 2017 Christmas edition. This special edition will be a beautifully bound, 40-page, A4 magazine and will showcase the work of the parishes, ministries and agencies of the Diocese of Parramatta. Look out for copies in your parishes and schools from Monday 4 December.

GRIEF TO GRACE

HEALING THE WOUNDS OF ABUSE – is a spiritual retreat for anyone who has suffered degradation or violation through physical, emotional, sexual or spiritual abuse. The retreat will be held April 8th – 13th 2018. To request an application contact Anne by emailing info@griefftograceaus.org.au or phone 0407704539. For more information visit www.griefftograce.org

STATUE OF OUR LADY OF FATIMA: 6 DECEMBER

Fr Gerard Ryan will be bringing The Statue of Our Lady of Fatima which has been on a pilgrimage all around the world to St Anthony of Padua Parish on Wednesday 6th December from 9am to 12pm. 9.00am Rosary and Litany, 9.30am Mass, 10.45am Talks and Devotion.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY: 3 DECEMBER

The International Day of People with Disability is observed annually on 3 December. In Australia, over many years, the Church has sought to take this day as an opportunity to encourage a truly pastoral view that embraces our total community as the living Body of Christ. We especially pray that we, the Church, can strive to be a people of compassion and relationship, and a sacred place where our gifts are acknowledged, received and celebrated: for then we can truly proclaim that we are 'one Body in Christ'.

ACYF – MASS IN THE DOMAIN: 9 DECEMBER

All parishioners in the Diocese of Parramatta are invited to attend the Mass in the Domain on Saturday 9 December for the Australian Catholic Youth Festival. The Mass starts at 6.30pm and will follow an afternoon of concerts and festivities beginning at 4pm, featuring Australian and international musicians and performers.

POSITIONS VACANT

Director, Catholic Earthcare Australia: Caritas is seeking an experienced Senior Manager to advocate for environmental and ecological sustainability and deliver educational programs to schools, parishes and related forums. To apply for the role, please visit www.caritas.org.au/jobs/positions-vacant and view the full Position Description. To enquire about this role, please contact David Armstrong on (02) 8306 3439. Please send your application to jobs@caritas.org.au by COB on Monday 04 December 2017.

Rehearsals for Sunday School Christmas Play

Rehearsals are on Sundays, between 9.30am & 10.20am in the Church, and will continue in the Church until Christmas. Enquiries: Antonia on 9831-2109.



Additional rehearsal will be held on Saturday, 16th December between 10:30am & 12:30pm in the Church.

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|---|--|---|---|---|
| 3 1st Sunday of Advent Counters: Group 5 09:30 Sunday School 10:30 Youth Mass 11:45 Baptism | 4 Saint John Damascene, Priest, Doctor 09:00 Mass 09:30 Rosary 19:00 Legion of Mary 19:15 RCIA | 5 09:00 Mass SAP yr5 09:30 Rosary | 6 Saint Nicholas, Bishop 09:00 Mass 09:30 Rosary 19:00 Novena & Mass 19:45 Advent Faith Education | 7 Saint Ambrose, Bishop, Doctor 08:00 Mass 08:30 Rosary 19:00 SVDP Meeting | 8 The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary 09:00 Mass 09:30 Rosary 16:00 Junior Legion of Mary 19:00 Mass 20:00 Choir Practice HJM | 9 Saint Juan Diego Cuahtlatotzin Church Cleaning Day 09:00 Mass 09:30 Rosary 09:40 Jnr Legion of Mary 10:00 Church Cleaning CFC 16:15 Legion of Mary 19:30 Prayer Meeting HJM |
| 10 2nd Sunday of Advent Counters: Group 6 09:30 Sunday School | 11 Saint Damasus I, Pope 09:00 Mass 09:30 Rosary 19:00 Legion of Mary 19:15 RCIA | 12 Our Lady of Guadalupe 09:00 Mass 09:30 Rosary | 13 Saint Lucy, Virgin, Martyr 09:00 Mass 09:30 Rosary 19:00 Mass Graduation SAP Yr6 19:30 Baptism Preparation 20:00 Combined Christmas Choir & Music Practice | 14 Saint John of the Cross, Priest, Doctor 08:00 Mass 08:30 Rosary 10:00 Life Ascending Australia Group Meeting - FBC | 15 SAC Last Day for Students 09:00 Mass 09:30 Rosary 16:00 Junior Legion of Mary | 16 09:00 Mass 09:30 Rosary 09:40 Jnr Legion of Mary 10:00 Church Cleaning LoM 16:15 Legion of Mary |
| 17 3rd Sunday of Advent Counters: Group 7 Fr Byrne - Anniversary of Death 08:45 Marriage Blessing 09:30 Sunday School 11:45 Baptism | 18 09:00 Mass 09:30 Rosary 19:00 Legion of Mary 19:15 RCIA | 19 09:00 Mass 09:30 Rosary | 20 School Holidays 09:00 Mass 09:30 Rosary 19:00 Novena & Mass 20:00 Combined Christmas Choir & Music Practice | 21 Commemoration of Saint Peter Canisius, Priest, Doctor 08:00 Mass 08:30 Rosary | 22 09:00 Mass 09:30 Rosary 16:00 Junior Legion of Mary | 23 Commemoration of Saint Saint John of Káty, Priest 09:00 Mass for the Sick 09:30 Reconciliation 09:40 Jnr Legion of Mary 10:00 Rosary 16:15 Legion of Mary 19:30 Prayer Meeting HJM |
| 24 4th Sunday of Advent Counters: Group 8 18:00 Family Mass 20:00 Vigil Mass 23:15 Carols - Midnight Mass | 25 The NATIVITY of the LORD Public Holiday 07:30 Mass 08:45 Mass 10:30 Mass | 26 Saint Stephen, the first Martyr 09:00 Mass 09:30 Rosary | 27 Saint John, Apostle, Evangelist 09:00 Mass 09:30 Rosary 19:00 Novena & Mass | 28 The Holy Innocents, Martyrs 08:00 Mass 08:30 Rosary 14:00 Church Cleaning Group 4 19:30 Music Practice CFC | 29 Commemoration of Saint Thomas Becket, Bishop, Martyr 09:00 Mass 09:30 Rosary 16:00 Junior Legion of Mary | 30 09:00 Mass 09:30 Rosary 09:40 Jnr Legion of Mary 16:15 Legion of Mary |
| 31-Dec The Holy Family 18:00 Vigil Mass 19:00 Holy Hour | 1-Jan Mary, Mother of God OFFICE CLOSED 09:00 Mass 09:30 Rosary 19:00 Legion of Mary | 2-Jan Saints Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops, Doctors 09:00 Mass 09:30 Rosary | 3-Jan The Most Holy Name of Jesus 09:00 Mass 09:30 Rosary 19:00 Novena & Mass | 4-Jan 08:00 Mass 08:30 Rosary | 5-Jan First Friday 09:00 Mass 09:30 Rosary 16:00 Junior Legion of Mary 19:00 Holy Hour & Mass | 6-Jan 09:00 Mass 09:30 Reconciliation 09:40 Jnr Legion of Mary 10:00 Church Cleaning HJM 10:00 Rosary 16:15 Legion of Mary |