

# SAINT ANTHONY OF PADUA

## Edwardstown Catholic Parish



Address: 832 South Road, Edwardstown, South Australia 5039  
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**please note change to Parish Phone Number** )

Email: [edcathpar@adam.com.au](mailto:edcathpar@adam.com.au)

Website: [www.edwardstowncatholic.net](http://www.edwardstowncatholic.net)

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16th/17th May 2020

**6th Sunday of Easter- Year A**

### Parish Priest

**Father Phillip Alstin**

### Parish staff

**Robyn Grave**  
Parish Secretary

### Parish office hours

Tuesday—1.30pm—4.15pm  
Wednesday 1.30pm—4.15pm  
Thursday 1.30pm—4.15pm  
Friday 1.30pm—4.15pm

**Weekday Mass, &  
Weekend Mass have been  
suspended until further  
notice due to COVID19.**

### Private Prayer & Devotions

Tuesdays 9.30am – 10.30am  
Thursdays 9.30am – 10.30am  
Fridays 9.30am – 10.30am

### Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Wednesdays 9.30am –  
11:30am

**IF YOU SEEK MASS  
INTENTIONS OR  
Sacrament of Reconciliation  
OR  
Sacrament of Extreme  
Unction/ Anointing of the  
dying**

Please contact the Parish  
Office on **0499 486 699**  
or email:  
[edcathpar@adam.com.au](mailto:edcathpar@adam.com.au)

At the Last Supper, Jesus spoke to his disciples so openly about his imminent sufferings that they were deeply disturbed. Thus one of his concerns on that holy night was to console them and strengthen their faith. As we read last Sunday, he told them, “Do not let your hearts be troubled.” Today we continue to ponder Jesus’ words of spiritual encouragement.

He speaks once again about his departure, after which the world will see him no more. Because this is likely to give the disciples the impression that he is abandoning them, he reassures them with a twofold promise: “I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.” This promise is also addressed to us today, for Jesus is speaking to us now through the Scriptures. His statement, “I will come to you,” fills us with *joy*, for this promise was already fulfilled on Easter Day when the Lord came back to us from the dead. The endless joy of Easter is the fruit of his triumphant return, the Resurrection. Jesus’ promise to come back to us also fills us with *hope*, for it is directed toward the future, toward his Second Coming. We know that he will come again in glory, and we look forward with hope to that day.

The other part of the promise is, “I will not leave you orphans.” This consoles us for a different reason. Here Jesus is telling us not about leaving and then returning but about remaining with us always. How can he remain with us even when he goes to the Father? By the presence and action of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit is the one who fills our hearts with the conviction that “Jesus is Lord,” and strengthens our faith-knowledge that Jesus is indeed still with us. The Spirit “communicates to us, intimately and personally, the life that originates in the Father and is offered to us in the Son” (CCC 683). Jesus promises that the Father will give us the Spirit, who will be with us always. This is why we can never truly say that we have been orphaned or abandoned by God. The Spirit we received in Baptism is both *with* us and *within* us, giving us life, filling us with divine love, empowering us to live in communion with God.

Receiving the Holy Spirit is an essential part of the Christian life. This is clear from the account of Philip’s ministry in Samaria. The people who heard Philip proclaim the Gospel “accepted the word of God.” Many were set free from evil spirits and many were cured, so that the whole town was filled with joy. But when the Apostles Peter and John arrived, they discovered that something was still missing. The people had not yet received the Holy Spirit! We learn from this an important lesson in evaluating our own experiences of rejoicing.

Rejoicing because we have received some special favor or have witnessed some astonishing sign, even if our emotional high is one of “great joy,” is not the same as living in faith. When the sign is no longer visible and the emotion subsides, we can feel quite empty – as if God has disappeared without a trace and left us orphaned. In order to persevere in the life of faith, we need the divine Gift who makes it possible, the Holy Spirit. Thus, Peter and John are not concerned with performing more miraculous signs; instead they impose hands on the people so that they can be filled with the Holy Spirit.

Jesus calls the Holy Spirit “another Advocate” (some translations use the Greek word, “Paraclete”). The Spirit is another Advocate because Jesus himself is the first. For our sake he passed through death and rose again. In today’s second reading, St. Peter reminds us of the powerful advocacy of Jesus Christ: “For Christ also suffered for sins once, the righteous for the sake of the unrighteous, that he might lead you to God.” He is still our Advocate, interceding for us at the right hand of the Father (cf. 1 Jn 2:1). The Holy Spirit, always in perfect union with Christ and the Father, brings the power of Jesus’ sacrifice to bear fruit in our lives. The whole Christian life is “life in the Spirit.” The Spirit is “the Lord, the giver of life.”

The Holy Spirit cannot be seen, but he can be known. Jesus tells us, "You know him, because he remains with you, and will be in you." Peter describes one of the ways we can recognize the action of the Spirit. He refers to the sometimes difficult work of speaking openly about our faith. "Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope, but do it with gentleness and reverence." It is the Spirit who gives us the capacity to bear fitting witness to Christ before men. We must be ever ready to reply, but that does not mean we have to worry ahead of time about what to say, for we can rely on the power of the Spirit who dwells within us. And when, as sometimes happens, we are rejected and insulted for our way of life in Christ, it is the Spirit who gives us the strength to persevere with a clear conscience. Thus, in all circumstances, we can rejoice in the Lord because of his Spirit dwelling within us. "Let all the earth cry out to God with joy!"

*In my daily walk with the Lord, how do I experience his spiritual encouragement which consoles and strengthens my faith? Am I open to the Holy Spirit who will give me the capacity to bear fitting witness to Christ before all men? Do I always rejoice in all circumstances because I know and have experienced his Spirit dwelling within me?*

**Mary, help me to be attentive to the voice of the Holy Spirit as he guides my life.**

**The Rosary group via Messenger app** was off to a good start last Friday with 9 parishioners joining in! It's not too late to join us every Friday night at 8pm! Let us pray together as a parish community. To be part of this prayer group, simply send a message either on the St Anthony FB page or to Grace on 0413 380 833

### RECOMMENDED IN FORMED.ORG

**WATCH - Weaknesses, Sinfulness and Attachments (37mins)** Have you ever had the experience where, when it came time to pray, you found yourself dragging your feet? For instance, have you ever gone to your local parish for Eucharistic Adoration or a Rosary and found that the fliers posted on the bulletin board suddenly became irresistibly interesting? Perhaps you remember a time when you went into the church itself, knelt down to pray, and your mind raced to other plans and activities, to anything but prayer. Of course, distractions in prayer are common, but have you ever gone through those times when you actually welcomed distractions so as to avoid Jesus? Why do we do that? Why do we sometimes avoid the Lord?

**FORMED FOR KIDS WATCH** Bernadette - Princess of Lourdes This is the exciting true story of a visit by the Queen of Heaven that left the entire world a source of health for body and soul.

It's 11 February 1858. Three girls from Lourdes, France, gather firewood in front of a grotto. Suddenly, one of them, Bernadette Soubirous, 14, drops to her knees, gazes ecstatically at something beautiful that only she can see and starts to pray. Soon the town buzzes: Has Bernadette, poor, sickly and always behind in school, really seen a Lady from heaven? Then a spring bubbles up from nowhere and withered arms and sightless eyes are cured. At last, the Lady tells Bernadette her name: "I am the Immaculate Conception."

### Do you have an intention you think might be an impossible cause?

Perhaps St. Rita can be not just an intercessor but a model in how to approach God with impossible causes.

Expect failure. St. Rita's vocational journey was filled with obstacles, some of which derailed her desire for many years. Her parents married her off against her wishes, binding her to marriage for nearly two decades. When her husband died, the local convent didn't want to have anything to do with Rita because her family's political entanglements presented a danger to the peace of their community.

It's likely that you too will encounter significant obstacles that may seem insurmountable. This is especially the case when your desire is thwarted by the free will of others. For example, healing a troubled marriage very often is not entirely within your own power and depends on the conversion of heart of another person.

Keep asking. Rita didn't allow herself to be deterred from her goal. When she had fulfilled her obligations to her husband and sons, and was free to enter religious life, Rita didn't stop asking for admittance even after being turned away. It was her persistence that led the community's superior to give Rita a task to accomplish that would allow her to be admitted.

Don't take "no" for a final answer. You may have to defer your desire for a while, perhaps even for years, but persistence is essential. Perhaps you might ask if there is something you can do to either demonstrate your commitment or to resolve the issues others think are obstacles.

Storm heaven. It is said that when Rita was given the "impossible" task of negotiating peace in Cascia, she turned to her patron saints for help. Her personal cadre of heavenly intercessors were Saints John the Baptist, Augustine of Hippo (who had created the rule of life of the community she wanted to join), and Nicholas of Tolentino (a then newly minted Augustinian saint). She evidently credited their intercession to moving God to do the "impossible."

Excerpt from <https://www.catholic.com/magazine/online-edition/the-other-patron-saint-of-impossible-causes>



**Queen of Heaven, rejoice, alleluia.  
For he, whom you did merit to bear,  
alleluia.  
Has risen as he said, alleluia.  
Pray for us to God, alleluia.**

**V. Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary,  
alleluia.**

**R. For the Lord is truly risen, alleluia.**

**Let us pray: O God, who gave joy to the  
world through the resurrection of thy  
Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, grant we  
beseech thee, that through  
the intercession of the Virgin Mary, his  
Mother, we may obtain the joys of  
everlasting life. Through the same Christ  
our Lord.  
Amen.**

### SAINT OF THE WEEK - Saint Rita of Cascia, Religious - Feast Day 22 May

She is the patron saint of impossible causes, difficult marriages, abuse victims and widows.

St. Rita was born in 1386 in Cascia, Italy. She was known to be very spiritual even as a young child. She enjoyed visiting shrines and wished to become a nun. Her parents were opposed to the idea and arranged for her to be married. Her husband turned out to have a bad temper and was very difficult for her to live with. She dealt with his abuse with prayer, patience and kindness. They had twin sons. Their difficult marriage lasted 22 years.

One day while returning home from work her husband was ambushed and killed. St. Rita's sons were now teenagers and began to talk of revenging their father's death. St. Rita turned to prayer. She prayed that her sons would not be able to go through with the revenge. Her prayer was soon answered. Both her sons died from a deadly illness soon after without taking revenge on their father's killer.

After the death of her husband and sons, Rita applied to enter the Augustinian Convent. Her first attempt was denied because of the ongoing feud. Rita persisted, however. She convinced her husband's family to put aside their hostility. The two rival families embraced peace. Rita turned to St. John the Baptist, St. Nicholas of Tolentino and St. Augustine, requesting their intercession. The convent changed their decision and allowed her entry. She was 36 when she entered the monastery.

St. Rita had a great devotion for the passion of Christ. She meditated often on the crucifix. On Good Friday, 1442, St. Rita meditated on the suffering of Jesus on the crucifix. She offered to relieve Christ's suffering by sharing even the smallest part of his pain. As she was meditating, a small wound on her forehead appeared. It appeared to be a thorn from the crown that Jesus wore. St. Rita had this stigmata for 15 years.

St. Rita was confined to bed for the last four years of her life. She ate very little. The Eucharist sustained her and she remained joyful during her suffering. Before her death St. Rita requested a rose be brought to her from her parents' garden even though it was January. Surprisingly, a rose was discovered to be blooming on the rosebush and it was presented to her. St. Rita gave thanks to God for this sign of God's love.

Because this impossible request of St. Rita for a rose in January was answered she became the patron of impossible causes. It was also known that her prayers were known to obtain remarkable cures.

St. Rita died on May 29, 1456. Many miracles were recorded after her death. She was canonized by Pope Leo XIII in 1900.

<http://catholicfaithpatronsaints.com/prayers-quip-and-quotes-st-rita-of-cascia-feast-day-may-22/>

The Regina Coeli (Queen of Heaven) is one of four antiphons dedicated to Our Lady.

Traditionally, it is prayed standing, often at noon, in place of another well-known prayer, the Angelus, during the Easter Season from Holy Saturday until Pentecost.

According to The Golden Legend, a famous 13th century work about the saints, Pope St. Gregory the Great heard angels singing the first three verses from the Regina Coeli during a procession in the 6th century and was inspired to add the fourth line "Ora pro nobis deum" ("pray for us to God" in Latin). This prayer reminds us at Easter, and throughout the year for that matter, of how much we have to be thankful for, even in the midst of our daily trials. When our Lord conquered death in His resurrection he opened the gates of Heaven for us to be able to share Eternal Life with Him there, along with his Mother, the saints, and our loved ones! Although she is Queen of Heaven, the Blessed Virgin Mary is by no means aloof! St. Alphonsus Liguori, in his famous work The Glories of Mary, quotes Blessed Amadeus as saying "our Queen is constantly before the Divine Majesty, interceding for us with her most powerful prayers." Keep in mind that in our prayers to Mary, we are not worshipping her *instead* of our Lord but rather worshipping Him *through* her, as many theologians, such as St. Alphonsus and St. Louis de Montfort have stressed in their writings.

<https://www.ourcatholicprayers.com/regina-coeli.html>



Already have an Account? 1. Visit FORMED.org 2. Click Sign in 3. Enter your email 4. Click the link in your email 5. You're in! No more Passwords!

Want to create a New FORMED account with St Anthony of Padua Edwardstown Parish? 1. Visit FORMED.org 2. Click Sign Up 3. Select "I Belong to a Parish/Organisation" 4. Find St Anthony's Parish by entering "Edwardstown" or postcode "5039" 5. Enter your email—and you're in!

# Notices

## Your prayers are requested for:

**SICK:** Pasquale, Mary Mabarrack, Dominic Gosling, Lyn Eaton, Giuseppina & Leanne Perugini, Joseph Mohanraj, Maureen Marshall, Bethany Marsh, Luke Nussio, Jesse Frick, Teresa Donnellan,

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Henryk Knapik

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Maria Bassi, Joe Schinella, Colin Moses, Michele Colagrossi, Adamo & Maria Ricci, Eleonora Kouwen, Bruce McAuliffe, Ian Ninonuevo, Angelo Ditroia, Catherine Stewart, Angelo Composto, Dean Castle, Pat McClure, Glenn Freeborn, Daphne & Kevin Penglase

## PRAYER REQUESTS:

*If you wish the names of your loved ones to be included in the Prayers for the Sick, Recently Deceased or Anniversaries, then please contact the Parish Office. These will be listed for 4 consecutive Sundays in the Parish Newsletter. Names can be re-listed on request from the family to the Parish Office. Names are also placed on the Altar for Mass intentions.*

**Decade a Day in May**—"Decade a Day in May" - Pray a decade of the Rosary each day in May for vocations to the priesthood and the religious life. When you sign up to the email list you'll receive a short reflection each day during May. To subscribe go to [vocationsadelaide.catholic.org.au](http://vocationsadelaide.catholic.org.au)



**Live steaming from St Anthony of Padua—Edwardstown Catholic Parish—9.30am Sunday Mass —**  
<https://www.facebook.com/stanthony.edwardstown/live/> or the short URL version might be easier to type:  
<https://bit.ly/2RHJPZL>

**THE CATHOLIC WEEKLY**— The new digital edition of the Catholic Weekly is formatted identically to the print edition and is available for FREE via *The Catholic Weekly website* at this link: <https://www.catholicweekly.com.au/catholic-weekly-newspaper-online/>

**Live streaming and broadcasting of the installation of Archbishop-designate Patrick O'Regan**—The installation will be held in St Francis Xavier's Cathedral at 10.30am on Monday May 25 with only a small number of clergy and representatives of the Archdiocese in attendance due to the coronavirus restrictions. The installation ceremony and Mass will be live streamed via the Archdiocesan website [www.adelaide.catholic.org.au](http://www.adelaide.catholic.org.au) and on YouTube and Facebook. It will be replayed on Channel 44 the same day at 5.30pm.

## CHURCH OPEN TIMES

**For private prayer**

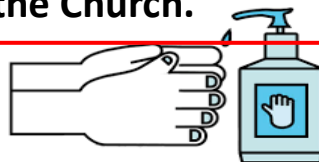
**maximum 10 people  
inside the church**

Tuesdays 9.30am – 10.30am

Thursdays 9.30am – 10.30am

Fridays 9.30am – 10.30am

Please use **hand  
sanitiser** before  
you enter and exit  
the Church.



**For private prayer and  
Adoration of the Blessed  
Sacrament**

**maximum 10 people  
inside the church**

Wednesdays 9.30am – 11:30am

**Register your name and contact details on the sheets  
provided every time you attend Church..**



**We are seeking donations of disinfectant wipes—please drop off at the Parish Office.**