

# SAINT ANTHONY OF PADUA

## Edwardstown Catholic Parish



Address: 832 South Road, Edwardstown, South Australia 5039  
Telephone: **0499 486 699** (message bank checked regularly—  
**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)

Facebook Page: : <https://www.facebook.com/stanthony.edwardstown>

23rd/24th May 2020

### Ascension of the Lord - 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

Phone Number: 0499 486 699

Email:

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

#### St Anthony's Parish School

Telephone: 8115 7500

Principal: Mr Stuart Baker

APRIM: Mr Matthew Harrison

**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 -

Wednesday 9.30am—  
6.30pm Rosary;  
6.35pm Vespers;  
7.00pm Benediction

Today we celebrate the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord. After his Resurrection, Jesus revealed himself to his disciples in a series of appearances. "He presented himself alive to them by many proofs after he had suffered, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God." But now these appearances come to an end. His Ascension is the definitive "last moment" of Jesus' visible presence on earth. Today's first reading describes it this way: "as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him from their sight."

It is a glorious event! Today's Psalm proclaims: "God mounts his throne to shouts of joy; a blare of trumpets for the Lord!" Jesus ascending to his heavenly throne is to be met with loud and enthusiastic praises! "For the LORD, the Most High, the awesome, is the great king over all the earth!"

Today's Gospel describes Jesus' final moments on earth in the context of an act of worship. St. Matthew notes that the eleven disciples went "to the mountain," which in the Bible represents a sacred place of encounter with God, a place of worship. He goes further by saying that when the disciples saw Jesus, "they worshiped." Jesus is the Risen and Glorious Lord, worthy of divine worship. Yet even at this glorious moment, Matthew notes a weakness in the hearts of the disciples: "they worshiped, but they doubted." The stupendousness of his Passion, Death and Resurrection is still too overwhelming to fathom, and now Jesus Christ, with his Ascension, reveals another incomprehensible action.

At the same time, he helps the disciples understand what he is doing and what he is commissioning them to do. He gives us the same message in today's feast. He assures us, "all power in heaven and on earth has been given to me," and "I am with you always, until the end of the age." By proclaiming to us that he is all-powerful and that he is always with us, he is strengthening our weak faith. The opposite of doubt is faith. With faith in him, in this awesome, great and all-powerful King, we can go forward on the mission he entrusts to us.

What is our mission? "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations." We are to cast aside our doubts and go forth, sharing with everyone the gift of faith that we have received. This gift is given in the powerful Sacrament of Baptism, "in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." This Baptism is different from the baptism of John. John used water as a symbol of repentance. In the Sacrament of Baptism, the water fills us with the power of God, "with the Holy Spirit and with fire" (Lk 3:16).

St. Paul in today's second reading speaks of the gift of "a Spirit of wisdom and revelation" resulting in knowledge of God. This knowledge leads to the enlightening of the eyes of our hearts, to strengthening our hope, and to inheriting "the riches of glory." We must not underestimate the power of the Spirit at work in us, "the surpassing greatness of his power for us who believe." The Spirit, the very Power behind Christ's Passion, Death, Resurrection and Ascension, dwells in the heart of every baptized believer. We have the power to fulfill our mission!

The proclamation of the Gospel and the grace of Baptism are to be offered to all nations, to the ends of the earth – that is, all space. This mission is also to continue until the end of the age – that is, all time. How can the disciples, mere finite human beings, possibly do this? How can we do it? What is impossible for us is not impossible for God, and he is always with us! As Pope Francis points out in this week's Spiritual Reflection, Matthew's Gospel begins and ends with this assurance from the Lord. At the beginning, like one bookend, stands the revelation that Jesus will be known as Emmanuel, which means "God is with us" (Mt 1:23); the other bookend is today's reading: "I am with you always..." Faith assures us that Jesus, ascended to the Father, continues to remain with us. When we take on our mission, we do so with his power, in his presence. This is truly amazing! "Sing praise to God, sing praise; sing praise to our King, sing praise!"

What ought to be our response to such a praiseworthy mission? Obedient faith is the key! When Jesus summoned the disciples to go to the mountain, they obeyed and received their commission. When he told them not to depart from Jerusalem, they obeyed and received the Holy Spirit, who empowered them to be witnesses to the ends of the earth.

*After pondering on Jesus' suffering, death, Resurrection and Ascension, is my faith strong or as weak as the Apostles?  
Am I able to cast aside my doubts and fears and go forth to share the gift of faith that I have received in Baptism?  
Do I understand that the power of the Spirit is at work in me to fulfill my mission?*

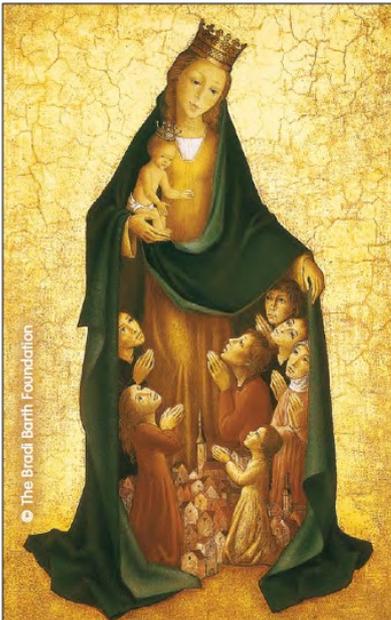
**Mary, sustain me as I witness my faith to others.**

The bishops approved the entrustment of the country to Mary Help of Christians during this week's plenary meeting, conducted using videoconference technology. The motion read: "That the Australian Bishops entrust Australia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary under the title Our Lady Help of Christians, seeking her intercession for the safety of all our people especially in this time of COVID-19 pandemic."

Mary Help of Christians has been the official patroness of Australia since 1844. Her feast day is celebrated on May 24, which this year coincides with the Feast of the Ascension. The entrustment of Australia to Mary Help of Christians can therefore take place on the 24th or the 25th, the bishops agreed.

<https://mediablog.catholic.org.au/bishops-to-entrust-australia-to-mary-help-of-christians/>

## Prayer of Entrustment of Australia to Immaculate Mary, Our Lady Help of Christians



O Immaculate Mary, Help of Christians, Queen of Heaven and Earth, and tender Mother of humanity, at this time when a pandemic threatens all of your children, we entrust to you our nation, Australia, and all who live in this country.

We commit to your intercession all the members of our community, beginning with the weakest ones, from unborn to the sick, the disabled and the elderly. We commit to you our families, our young and old, and all who are vulnerable, those who are quarantined or anxious.

We entrust to your Immaculate Heart those who have lost their livelihood or employment, our pastors and other essential service workers, and our leaders at this time.

We implore your intercession especially for the protection of nurses and doctors and those who minister to the contagious sick in this crisis. Reign over us Mother of God and teach us how to make the Heart of Jesus reign in triumph in us and around us, as it has reigned and triumphed in you! Amen.

The feast day to Mary Help of Christians has been celebrated in Australia since 1844 but the history to this day dates back to the start of the 1800's. Napoleon Bonaparte had jailed Pius VI who died in jail. When Pope Pius VII was elected he too was jailed by Bonaparte, who kept him prisoner at Fontainebleau.

The Holy Father vowed to God that if he were restored to the Roman See, he would institute a special feast in honour of Mary. The military eventually forced Bonaparte to release the Pope and on 24 May 1814, Pius VII returned in triumph to Rome.

Twelve months later the Pope decreed that the feast of Mary Help of Christians be kept on 24 May. The infant church in Australia had a special reason for turning to Mary. No priests were sent to the colony in its early days and **Mass was not allowed except for one brief year** until 1820. It was largely the **Rosary** in those early days that kept the faith alive.

Catholic Australia remained faithful to Mary and was the first nation to choose her under the title Help of Christians, as principal Patroness. The Church has traditionally focused on two aspects of Our Lady's help on this feast day. Firstly, upon the role of Our Lady's intercession in the fight against sin in the life of a believer. Secondly, Our Lady is one who assists Christians as a community, through her intercession, in fighting against anti-Christian forces.

Excerpt from <https://www.catholicweekly.com.au/24-may-our-lady-help-of-christians/>

# A PERIOD OF WAITING

The SA government is slowly lifting restrictions and as of last week has allowed churches to open their doors with a limit of 10 people at any one time while observing the usual distance and density restrictions. In response to this the Adelaide archdiocese has allowed churches to re-open for private prayer. Sadly the Australian Catholic Bishop's announcement "Words of Encouragement to the Catholic People of Australia" issued 14th May 2020 has stopped short of announcing the availability of celebration of Holy Mass in which the public are able to participate, and the Adelaide Archdiocese is still not yet permitting public or private Masses except at funerals, weddings and baptisms.

The faithful have been deeply longing and anxiously awaiting to worship and come together to attend Mass and receive our Lord in the Eucharist. The excerpt below (article from Catholic Vote) is an inspiring reminder of how the faithful from two centuries ago, came together at a time when there was no church building nor priests to celebrate the Holy Eucharist. The Catholics of the Colony persevered in their faith and did everything they could to be closer to our Lord. Their reverence and deep conviction of the presence of our Lord Jesus in the Holy Eucharist is truly evident and serves as an inspiration for us all during our period of waiting.

*(James Demspey arrived in Australia in 1802 after being transported for life for his part in the ill-fated 1798 uprising in Ireland. He left behind in Ireland a young wife he never saw again and four young children. James Demspey was a stonemason, and as such, was in great demand in the young colony. He was granted an absolute pardon on March 16, 1811.*

*There is documentary evidence that James Demspey (a lay Carmelite) practiced his religion very publicly, even during his term of sentence, when he accompanied the condemned to the scaffold praying with them to the end. James also opened his home in Kent Street (Sydney) as a 'prayer and communications centre for the Irish and a base for a pious confraternity which he established. About **25 men** with Demspey at the head gathered for **daily Rosary**. He also opened his home to the sick and needy, and on Sundays travelled from as far as Parramatta and Campbelltown to take part in a para-liturgy based on **the Mass**, and also for prayers at times when the colony was **priestless**. Mass, Confessions and other religious ceremonies were conducted by Fr Therry and Fr O'Flynn in James Demspey's house before Australia had a church. When Fr Jeremiah O'Flynn, the first free Catholic priest in Australia was deported in 1818 at short notice, **he left behind the Blessed Sacrament**.*

*Demspey oral family history says that Fr O'Flynn was in the process of **ministering to the sick** when he was advised of his imminent arrest. He went quickly to the nearest house (James Demspey's Kent St residence) and **left the pyx and its precious contents** there before moving to a more public place where he was arrested.*

*Demspey oral family history then stated that the Blessed Sacrament was moved from house to house to ensure that it was undiscovered by the authorities.)<sup>1</sup>*

*Tradition has it that after losing their only priest, and therefore access to the sacraments, the Catholics of the colony would congregate together, in these houses, to pray before the <sup>2</sup> Blessed Sacrament.*

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.catholicvoice.org.au/200-years-of-eucharistic-adoration/>

**"The true way to advance in holy virtues is to persevere in holy cheerfulness."**

**Saint Philip Neri**

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## RECOMMENDED IN FORMED.ORG

### FOR CHILDREN - HE IS RISEN!

#### THE POWER OF THE RESURRECTION

An animated presentation of key points in the life of Jesus Christ, His Death on the Cross, triumph over death, and Ascension to the Father. A visual representation of how we celebrate Holy Week and the Easter Triduum "He Is Risen!"—a joyful, visualized song that fills our hearts with praise to God. Steeped in Scripture and instruction, Brother Francis: He Is Risen! is a wonderful reminder of the reality of God's power and presence!

### THE GLORIOUS MYSTERIES OF THE ROSARY

Discover and be led in the Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary with this spoken Rosary set to music. Enter into some of the most triumphant moments in the lives of our Lord Jesus Christ and the Blessed Virgin through this devotional prayer, accompanying Scripture passages, and beautiful sacred images from masterpieces of Catholic art.

### SAINT OF THE WEEK – ST PHILIP NERI

#### THE APOSTLE OF JOY (33 mins)

To a Rome ravaged by war and wearied by the decadence of the Renaissance popes, Saint Philip Neri came as an unlikely reformer. Mystic, hermit, prankster and effortless leader of men, Neri had a great sense of humor and an even greater heart. His creative response to the challenge of reformation era made him the Apostle of Rome.

# Notices

## Your prayers are requested for:

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

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Frances Beckmann, Henryk Knapik

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Catherine Donnellan, Mary Howie, Maria Bassi, Joe Schinella, Colin Moses, Michele Colagrossi, Adamo & Maria Ricci, Eleonora Kouwen, Bruce McAuliffe, Ian Ross Ninonuevo, Angelo Ditroia, Catherine Stewart, Angelo Composto, Dean Castle, Pat McClure, Glenn Freeborn, Daphne & Kevin Penglase. Relatives and friends of the Burns, Hill, Murphy, McNulty families.

## 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)



**The Rosary group via Messenger app** continues to pray the Rosary on Friday evenings at 8pm. The Rosary will take around 20 minutes. Let us pray together as a parish community. It is a good way to keep in touch and feel connected with other parishioners. To be part of this prayer group, simply send a message either on the St Anthony FaceBook page or to Grace on 0413 380 833.

**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.

**St Vincent de Paul Appeal** The St Vincent de Paul Society has launched its COVID-19 Winter Appeal to help people experiencing disadvantage. As the impact of job losses due to COVID-19 are realised and more people reach out for assistance, the organisation needs your help to ensure local Conference members and volunteers can continue their work supporting the disadvantaged in our community. Donations can be made online at [www.vinnies.org.au/donate](http://www.vinnies.org.au/donate), by calling 13 18 12 or by sending a cheque or money order to St Vincent de Paul Society, GPO Box 1804 Adelaide, SA, 5001. If you are unable to donate in this manner, the parish office has a number of donation envelopes for the Vinnies COVID-19 Winter Appeal.

## 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 – 7.00pm

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

