Parish of St Brendan & St Michael Annandale

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR A

14 December 2025

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Entrance Antiphon:

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

First Reading: Isaiah 35:1-6, 10

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

God himself will come and save us.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 145:6-10. R. see Is 35:4

(R.) Lord, come and save us.

Second Reading: James 5:7-10

A reading from the letter of St James You also must be patient; do not lose heart, the Lord's coming will be soon.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.
Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Are you the one who is to come, or must we wait for someone else?

Stanmore

Communion Antiphon:

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

THIS WEEK'S MASS TIMES

Annandale

Sunday	9:30am 5:00pm	Sunday	8.00am
Complete	0.20	Cda	0.00
Saturday	9:00am	Saturday Vigil	5.30pm
Thursday	9:00am	Friday	9:00am
Wednesday	9:00am		
Tuesday	9:00am		

ADORATION AND RECONCILIATION TIMES:

Saturday: 8.00am-8.50am Annandale

Please Note: On Tuesday, 16 December, Mass will be celebrated as the Year 6 Graduation Mass.

Reflection

ME LOOKING AT ME

John the Baptist was expecting a Messiah of judgement, not exactly a crash and burn approach, but:

Someone who would cut down the rotten tree and burn the useless chaff (Henry Wansborough, OSB, Universalis).

He got it wrong. So might we.

We may sincerely think or believe something to be the case, but in fact it is not so.

Conscience is 'me looking at me.' A gift of God:

For we have in our hearts a law inscribed by God.... Our conscience is our most secret core and our sanctuary. There we are alone with God whose voice echoes in our depths (CCC 1776).

But of course, our conscience can be erroneous for a variety of reasons:

It can happen that moral conscience remains in ignorance and makes erroneous judgments about acts to be performed or already committed (CCC 1790).

How does my conscience get waylaid?

Indolence might be one reason. For instance:

When a man takes little trouble to find out what is true and good.

It might be the cumulative effect of sin:

When conscience is by degrees almost blinded through the habit of committing sin (CCC 1791).

We might well be wrong.

AMEN.

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Christmas Mass Times

Wednesday 24 December 2025 - Christmas Eve

Children Christmas Carols 4.30pm - Annandale 5:00 pm Family Mass - Annandale Christmas Carols 6.30pm - Stanmore 7:00 pm - Stanmore Midnight Mass - Annandale

Thursday 25 December 2025 - CHRISTMAS DAY

8.00am Mass - Stanmore 9.30am Mass - Annandale No Evening Mass on Christmas Day



In 2026, our young parishioners Emmett and Oscar will travel to Rome, England, and Scotland to sing in St Peter's Basilica and other major cathedrals as part of the St Mary's Cathedral Choir. They are raising funds to support their journey.





RECOGNIZING THE SIGNS OF THE SAVIOR

On the 3rd Sunday of Advent Year A – Gaudete Sunday, we focus on the joy that comes from knowing Jesus is the Messiah. When John the Baptist was in prison, he wanted to be sure that Jesus was the one he had been waiting for. So, he sent his followers to ask Jesus directly. Jesus didn't give a long explanation; instead, He pointed to His works. The blind see, the lame walk, and the deaf hear. These signs were not just random miracles; they were the fulfillment of the prophecies in Isaiah.

Isaiah had spoken about a time when God would come to save His people, bringing healing and new life. Jesus' miracles were proof that this time had arrived. By healing the sick and giving sight to the blind, Jesus showed that He was the one Isaiah had spoken about. This was good news, not just for the people of that time, but for all of us.

Gaudete Sunday is a reminder to look at the signs of God's presence in our own lives. Just as Jesus pointed to His works as signs of the Messiah, we too can see God's work around us. When we witness acts of kindness, healing, or forgiveness, we are seeing the same signs that Jesus spoke of. This fills us with joy and hope as we continue our Advent journey, knowing that God is truly with us.

©Young Catholics

CURIOUS GRACE - Volunteers Needed

Sponsorship assistant to canvas local businesses for donations.

Promotions assistant to spread the word about our monthly free cafe.

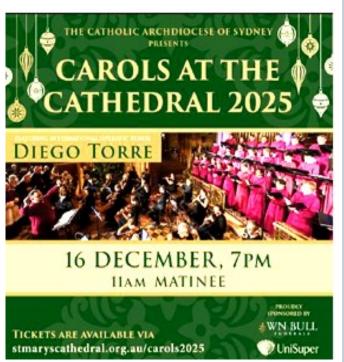
Co-ordinator to liaise with the established groups of volunteers on a monthly basis.

For more information contact Cathie Edlington 0402384168.

DIACONATE ORDINATION – LAWRENCE ZIMBE

Join us at St Brendan's Church on Saturday, 14 February 2026 at 6:00pm for the Diaconate Ordination of Lawrence Zimbe.

Everyone's welcome to be part of this special moment as we celebrate the joy of ordination and the call to serve.



ST BRENDAN'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

34 Collins Street, Annandale

ST MICHAEL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

69 Clarendon Road, Stanmore

(Postal address: 34 Collins Street, Annandale NSW 2038)

Email: admin@stbrendan.org.au **Website:** www.stbrendan.org.au

Telephone: 9550 3707

PARISH STAFF

Parish Priest - Fr Matthew Meagher Parish Secretary - Zina Pappalardo Pastoral Associate - Angelique Mackenzie

Catechist coordinator - Mary Cain marycain5@hotmail.com

PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 8:30am to 3.00pm

St Brendan's School

Principal: Ms Hayley de Vries Telephone: 9519 3974

St Michael's School

Principal: Mr Sean White Telephone: 9569 7479

BAPTISM BOOKINGS

Please contact Angelique for all Baptism enquiries at

pastoral@stbrendan.org.au

MARRIAGE

By appointment only. Six months notice required.

ROSARY: The Rosary is recited at St Brendan's on the last Sunday of the

month, at 9:10am, before Mass.

CRAFT GROUP:

The craft group meets meets on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 6.30 pm and the 1st Saturday at 2pm. The meetings are now held in the Hall. Contact Anne Allen– 0487 500 951.

PARISH LIBRARY

The Parish Library is in the bookcase in the room at the back of St Brendan's church.

Parishioners may borrow books at any time the church is open (except during mass and other services and confession times (Saturday 8:00-8:50am), entering their name, email address and the title of the book on the borrowing sheet which is on top of the bookcase.

Returned books are to be placed in the Returned Books tray on the top of the bookcase.

PLAYGROUP AT ST MICHAEL'S SCHOOL HALL

—Every second Tuesday from 9am to 10.30am during school Terms Each child must be supervised by parents or carer.

PLAYGROUP AT ST BRENDAN'S SCHOOL UPPER ROOM

Every Thursday 8:50-9:50am during school Terms.

Please contact Fiona McGrath for further information

- Fiona.mcgrath@syd.catholic.edu.au

Each child must be supervised by parents or carer.

CHILDREN SUNDAY SCHOOL

Children are invited to join Adriel in the parish hall for Sunday school sessions each week following the 9:30am Mass.

No registration needed—just come along! We look forward to seeing you there.

CURIOS GRACE DROP IN CENTRE

Last Sunday of every month, from 11.00am to 1.00pm, St Brendan's Hall, 49 Johnston Street, Annandale.

Learn or rediscover creative skills, reconnect with community and nurture new friendships.

INTERESTED IN BECOMING CATHOLIC?

If you're curious about the Catholic faith or feel drawn to explore it more deeply, please contact the Pastoral Associate at pastoral@stbrendan.org.au.

ROSTERS - ANNANDALE				
	Week (2) 14 December, 2025 This week	Week (3) 21December, 2025 Next Week		
	Sunday	Sunday		
Acolyte	P Pace	F Green		
Readers	P Cook, J McGrath	M Gibbs, H Paton		
Welcomers	J Young			
Altar Group				
Counters	N Francis, J McGrath	D Lee, J McNamara		

Please remember in Your Prayers

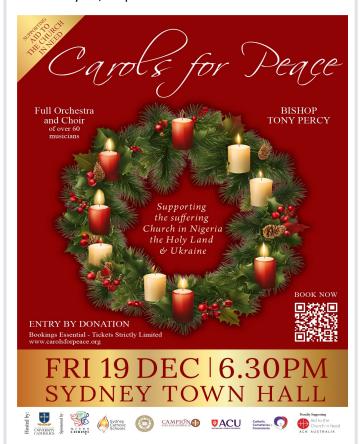
Our dead - Lord grant them eternal peace and joy and to their families and friends strength and comfort."

Recently deceased: Lorraine Hartley, Isla Scott, Caterina Severino

Anniversaries: Juana Cabasal.

Our sick: Lord, grant them and their carers strength and courage.

Cynthia (Cindy) Doolan, Margot Harrington, Rosie Marzouk, Helen Scott, Claire West, C & J Rayner, Michael Tannous, John Emerald O'Brien, Mary Patricia O'Brien, Simon Myers, Stephanie McNamara.



Catholic Weekly

On Sale at the Church Entrance for \$2.00!



A MESSAGE FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY

Abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with a crime are the police. If you – or anyone you know – have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office at (02) 93905810 or safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org. You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.