



# 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?*

#### 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

#### Stanmore

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

#### 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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### CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS CAROLS AND MASS

24 DEC 2025

All children are invited to dress as a Nativity character and sing Christmas carols before the 5pm Christmas mass at St Brendan's Catholic Church. For further information email Angie: [pastoral@stbrendan.org](mailto:pastoral@stbrendan.org)

REGISTER YOUR CHILDREN VIA THE QR CODE:



## 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

## 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 Mary's Cathedral Choir Tour FUNDRAISER**

St Brendan's Church  
 SUNDAY  
 21st DECEMBER  
 10:30am – 12:30pm

BBQ, Raffle Tickets,  
 Christmas Cards & Ornaments,  
 Cakes, Drinks & more...

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.




Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP invites you to

**CHRISTMAS at the Cathedral**  
*a festival evening at St Mary's*

**17-25 DECEMBER**

Celebrate the season with market stalls, delicious food, live entertainment and projections illuminating the cathedral.

CHRISTMASATTHECATHEDRAL.ORG.AU

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THE CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY PRESENTS

**CAROLS AT THE CATHEDRAL 2025**

FEATURING INTERNATIONAL CELEBRITY SINGER  
**DIEGO TORRE**

**16 DECEMBER, 7PM**  
 11AM MATINEE

TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE VIA  
[stmaryscathedral.org.au/carols2025](http://stmaryscathedral.org.au/carols2025)

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**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](mailto:admin@stbrendan.org.au)Website: [www.stbrendan.org.au](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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 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](mailto: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](mailto:pastoral@stbrendan.org.au).**ROSTERS - ANNANDALE**

	Week (2) 14 December, 2025 This week	Week (3) 21 December, 2025 Next Week
	Sunday	Sunday
<b>Acolyte</b>	P Pace	F Green
<b>Readers</b>	P Cook, J McGrath	M Gibbs, H Paton
<b>Welcomers</b>	J Young	
<b>Altar Group</b>		
<b>Counters</b>	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 &amp; J Rayner, Michael Tannous, John Emerald O'Brien, Mary Patricia O'Brien, Simon Myers, Stephanie McNamara.

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Bookings Essential - Tickets Strictly Limited  
[www.carolsforpeace.org](http://www.carolsforpeace.org)

BOOK NOW

**FRI 19 DEC | 6.30PM**  
**SYDNEY TOWN HALL**

**The 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](mailto: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.