

ST ANTHONY'S PARISH

Serving the communities of:

DEERAGUN / ROLLINGSTONE / BURDELL / BUSHLAND BEACH / MOUNT LOW
JENSEN / YABULU / BLUEWATER / TOOLAKEA / TOOMULLA

14th December 2025

3rd Sunday of Advent, Year A



WEEKEND MASS TIMES

SATURDAY

8.00am – St Anthony's Church

10am – 11am Reconciliation

5.00pm – St Clare's Chapel

SUNDAY

7.30am – Rollingstone

9.00am – St Anthony's Church

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES

MONDAY

7.30am – St Anthony's Church

TUESDAY

7.30am – St Anthony's Church

8.40am – St Clare's Chapel

WEDNESDAY

7.30am – St Anthony's Church

THURSDAY

8.40am St Anthony's School Mass

5.30pm – St Anthony's Church

FRIDAY

7.30am – St Anthony's Church

Baptisms & Weddings
By Appointment

RECONCILIATION

Saturday 10am to 11am

PARISH OFFICE

58 Veales Road Deeragun
4818

Ph. (07) 4751 5217

Office Time

Tuesday, Wednesday and

PASTORS PEN

Advent teaches us how to wait in active hope

Pope Leo XIV held a special Jubilee Audience on Saturday, as the Church journeys in the Advent Season toward Christmas.

In his catechesis, the Pope said Advent teaches us to pay attention to the signs of the times, since it takes preparation and effort to recognize Jesus in our world and daily lives.

Our waiting for the fulfilment of creation and its redemption is not passive, he said, noting that God always seeks to involve us in His work.

"God involves us in His story, in His dreams," he said. "To hope, then, is to participate."

He recalled the Jubilee theme—"Pilgrims of Hope"—and said that motto will not lose meaning when the Jubilee ends at Christmas.

Rather, it calls us to journey in hope throughout our lives and wait, not with our hands in our pockets but by actively taking part.

Christians, said the Pope, must "read the signs of the times," which are the signs of God in historical circumstances, according to the Second Vatican Council.

"God is not outside the world, outside this life: we have learned from the first coming of Jesus, God-with-us, to seek Him in the

realities of life," he said. "To seek Him with intelligence, with the heart and with our sleeves rolled up!"

Lay Catholics are especially called to embrace this mission, since the Incarnate God comes to meet us in daily life and the problems and beauties of this world.

He recalled the life and witness of Alberto Marvelli, a young, 20th-century Italian member of Catholic Action, who wanted to rebuild Italy after the devastation of the Second World War.

He risked his life in politics and was struck and killed by a military truck while bicycling to a rally.

"The world becomes better if we give up a little security and comfort in order to choose what is good," said the Pope. "This is participation."

In conclusion, Pope Leo XIV invited Catholics to ask ourselves if we are engaging our talents joyfully in service of others and the Kingdom of God.

"To hope is to participate: this is a gift that God gives us," he said. "No one saves the world alone. Not even God wants to save it alone: He could, but He does not want to, because together is better."

Pope Leo

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

St Anthony's Catholic Parish, Deeragun, acknowledges the Wulgurukaba group, the Traditional Owners of the land on which our parish sits. We also acknowledge and pay respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Elders, past, present and emerging.

Find us on



Saint of the Week: December 14:

SAINT JOHN OF THE CROSS (c. 1542-1591)

How beautiful the experience of love for God and neighbor, a fire deep within! How disheartening when love suddenly cools; and our souls grow dark, our prayer arid. How painful when misunderstanding, even rejection, comes our way, sometimes from those we least expect. For all such "seasons of the soul," an inspiring fellow-pilgrim is the poet and mystic, John of the Cross. As a young Carmelite, he was recruited by Teresa of Avila for her Discalced ("barefoot," evangelical poverty) Carmelite reform, striving to renew the Church from within after the Protestant Reformation had led countless religious away. John suffered unspeakably harsh abuse, even imprisonment, from friars who rejected this reform. Yet during these times of deepest suffering, John composed spiritual masterpieces that still guide souls to God, their titles reflecting his own painful yet ultimately victorious journey: from *The Dark Night of the Soul*, through *The Ascent of Mount Carmel*, to his *Spiritual Canticle* and *The Living Flame of Love*. John summarized his spirituality simply: "Put love where there is no love, and you will find love."

Peter Scagnelli

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

We make transitions along life's journey, and search for meaning. Watch an infant take those first wobbly steps. Inevitably they are toward the arms of a dear one, and the gleeful smile and wordless laughter let us know that the baby understands that the whole world is renewed in an instant. Parents may see that wide eyed smile again some years later as they flip car keys in the teenager's direction, and by God's grace at in between moments of forgiveness and affirmation. Sacraments open a window to the blessings of everyday life and help us claim their deep meaning. A voice from a fiery bush warned Moses to take off his shoes because he stood on "holy ground." Your first steps, your first word, taking your place at the family table, stirring to new love, forgiving and

being forgiven: all of this is holy, laden with meaning, full of possibilities. Sacraments are not escape pods from the realities of the everyday; rather they invest us ever more deeply in life and recruit us for the kingdom inaugurated by Jesus. We take baby steps all our life long. In the world of sacrament, they are always directed toward the arms of a loving God, and always on the common holy ground of a community's life.

Rev. James Field

Parish Prayer

O my God, I adore you, and I love you with all my heart. In your own tender love, accept us who adore You and give thanks to You. Fill us with your Holy Spirit so that our church may grow. May the Holy Spirit transform, teach and lead us in our faith. Thank you for our church and its people. You gather us as your people and have formed us into a community of faith, hope and love. We ask your blessing upon our Parish. Let our families, especially our children experience your love and your presence in their lives. St. Anthony, pray for us and help us to love Jesus.

Mary Mother of Jesus, we ask for your care and protection. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.



CHILDREN'S CORNER

Advent Wreath

Each Sunday during the season of Advent, we light a candle on the Advent Wreath.

The candle which is lit on the third Sunday of Advent is pink.

All the other candles are purple. Color in the Advent Wreath.



Jesus told John the Baptist's followers to tell him all they had seen and heard. How did Jesus help the following people?

Blind People

Deaf People

Lame People

Lepers

Anthony's Parish

Christmas Service

Wednesday, 24th

Christmas Vigil Mass: 6.30pm

Venue

St Anthony's Catholic College

San Damiano Centre

Joanne Street

25th, Christmas Day

Morning Mass: 9am

St Anthony's Church

Synod 2026: What do you think God is asking us at this time?

Over the next six months, our Diocese will enter a time of deep listening — a sacred opportunity to hear from one another and discern where the Holy Spirit is leading us next. Together, we will reflect on where there is life within our Diocese and where unmet needs still remain. You are invited to share your voice: submit a personal reflection or host your own listening session, and send your responses through our Online Listening Portal. Visit <https://tsvcath.au/Synod26>

Townsville base:

Carols @ the Cathedral - Sing the Light of Jesus: Please come and enjoy a celebration of song, prayer and reflection led by the Diocesan Choir for Sing the Light of Jesus on Tuesday, 16 December at the Sacred Heart Cathedral commencing at 6pm followed by a light supper.

Bible in a Year Reading Calendar

Day 272 Nehemiah 1–2 Zechariah 12–13 Proverbs 20:20-22
 Day 273 Nehemiah 3 Zechariah 14 Proverbs 20:23-26
 Day 274 Nehemiah 4–5 Esther 11–12 Proverbs 20:27-30
 Day 275 Nehemiah 6–7 Esther 1–2 Proverbs 21:1-4
 Day 276 Nehemiah 8 Esther 3, 13 Proverbs 21:5-8
 Day 277 Nehemiah 9 Esther 4, 14 Proverbs 21:9-12
 Day 278 Nehemiah 10 Esther 15, 6–7 Proverbs 21:13-16

Parish Notice.....

- **Advent Reflection: Thursday 6pm**
- **3rd Sunday of Advent: Parents Day – Joy**
- **4th Sunday of Advent: Grandparents Day – Love**
- **Sacramental Program 2026: Applications Invited**
- **Reconciliation: Friday 6pm-8pm, Saturday 10-12pm**

Let us Pray for.....

Emmitt, Desley, Vernon, Erin Smart and Seena Augustine for their healing.

Baptism

Let us welcome Alexander William

SAFEGUARDING: The Diocesan Safeguarding webpage is online at www.tsv.catholic.org.au/safeguarding. For more information contact Craig Brereton on 4726 3264 cbrereton@tsv.catholic.org.au.

St Anthony's and St Clare's Rosters - Reading

Date	First Reader	Second Reader
3 rd Sunday in Advent, Year A	Sandra	Kavina
4 th Sunday in Advent, Year A	Volunteer	Aileen

St Anthony's Rosters - Cleaning

Fortnight Starting – 14/12	Mena	Rosalina	Emie & Mel
Fortnight Starting – 28/12	Sandra	Christine	Edna & Myrna

Weekly Collections

	St C	RoS	St A
Envelopes	145	50	155
Loose	55	20	422.90

St Anthony's Catholic College

Principal: Barry Horner

Website: www.sacc.catholic.edu.au

St Clare's Catholic School

Principal: Helen Wade

Website:

www.stclaretsv.catholic.edu.au

Our Web page Address: <https://www.tsv.catholic.org.au/st-anthony-s-parish-deeragun/>

Follow us on Facebook: St Anthony's Parish, Deeragun

First Reading Is 35:1-6, 10

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult, let the wasteland rejoice and bloom, let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil, let it rejoice and sing for joy. The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it, the splendour of Carmel and Sharon; they shall see the glory of the Lord, the splendour of our God. Strengthen all weary hands, steady all trembling knees and say to all faint hearts, 'Courage! Do not be afraid. 'Look, your God is coming, vengeance is coming, the retribution of God; he is coming to save you.' Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy, for those the Lord has ransomed shall return. They will come to Zion shouting for joy, everlasting joy on their faces; joy and gladness will go with them and sorrow and lament be ended.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 145:6

(R.) Lord, come and save us.

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever, who is just to those who are oppressed. It is he who gives bread to the hungry, the Lord, who sets prisoners free. (R.)
2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, who raises up those who are bowed down, the Lord, who protects the stranger and upholds the widow and orphan. (R.)
3. It is the Lord who loves the just but thwarts the path of the wicked. The Lord will reign for ever, Zion's God, from age to age. (R.)

Second Reading Jas 5:7-10

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation Is 61:1 (Lk 4:18)

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Alleluia!

Gospel Mt 11:2-11

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.'

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

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Finding Joy Amid Pain

The third Sunday of Advent is called Gaudete (Rejoice) Sunday. I find the Gospel reading of the day particularly fitting, but especially the second half. Jesus asks His disciples who they went into the desert to see, namely, the messenger that He sent ahead of Himself, to prepare the way for His coming. I believe that the call of John the Baptist is also the call of all Christians, especially in this time when the world is so focused on creating division and sadness. There is a noticeable darkness spreading in the world. People are hurting and that hurt makes them sad, and the sadness makes them lonely and the cycle continues.

You may have heard the term "trauma dumping", that is, sharing every negative thing that has happened in your life in hopes that someone will relate to you and help fix the hurt. But this has had an adverse effect where people try to 'one up' each other's trauma experiences,

which ultimately widens the void of loneliness when everyone realizes that no one will truly understand their personal hurt. I believe that this is a major contributor to the darkness that seems to loom over the world these days. John the Baptist undoubtedly had difficulties in life: he lived uncomfortably, he experienced loneliness in the desert, away from anything easy, yet people flocked to him. This leads me to believe that although his life remained difficult, he never sought to preach to people about his hardship, instead he had the joy of God and was excited to share His coming with everyone who listened.

I don't want to discredit anyone who may have experienced particularly difficult things in life; those wounds are real and necessary in our fallen states, and sometimes the hurt never goes away. However, we can turn to the Lord for strength - the joy of the Lord is our strength. I'm the first to admit that sometimes wallowing in and holding on to our pain like a vice grip seems like the only safe thing to do when you're in the midst of it. But when we turn to Him, place our pain into his pierced hands and let Him strengthen us, we cannot help but rejoice and share the joy of His word with everyone who listens.

This is how we can dispel the darkness that is taking over our world. Our wounds are what make us human, but through His strength, Christ heals, and the joy that follows helps us grow in holiness.

Lily Hooper

Prayer and Action: Prayer is described as the "primary missionary activity" and the first strength of hope, which should inspire concrete actions and gestures of consolation towards those who are wounded.



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