



PARISH OF ST JOSEPH OFFICES

110 High Street
Stanthorpe, Q'nd, 4380
Phone: 4681 2157
stanthorpeparish@twb.catholic.org.au
The Rev. Nathan Webb PV
Mobile: 0468 819 725
nwebb@twb.catholic.org.au

ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL Mr Andrew Kendall OAM Principal

100 High Street, Stanthorpe
Phone: (07) 4681 5900
stanthorpe@twb.catholic.edu.au

SAFEGUARDING REP.

Mrs Jacinta Manahan
Phone: 0423 366 716

DIOCESAN PROF. STANDARDS AND SAFEGUARDING

Mr Lance Guteridge
Executive Officer
Phone: (07) 4638 1379

MASS THIS WEEKEND

(Wallangarra Sat – 16:30)
St Joseph's: Sat – 18:30
St Joseph's: Sun – 08:30
(Texas: Sun – 17:30)

LITURGIES THIS WEEK

Mon 25 Aug — 8:00am
Mass

Tue 26 Aug — No Mass

Wed 27 Aug — 7:30am

Thu 28 Aug — 7:30am

Fri 29 Aug — 7:30am

MASS NEXT WEEKEND

(Lyra Sat – 16:30)
St Joseph's: Sat – 18:30
St Joseph's: Sun – 08:30

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Thursday 4pm–Midnight;
& Friday 8.00am Holy Hour

VINNIES CONFERENCE

3rd Wednesday of the month
1:30pm – Mary Agnes Centre

KNIGHTS OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS

First Tuesday of the month
7pm – Mary Agnes Centre

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Friday 17:30 in the church.

God is treating you as His children

SUNDAY 21 IN ORDINARY TIME (C)

23–24 August 2025

CONSOLING HOPE

“Strengthen your drooping hands and your weak knees.” (Heb 12:11)

I know a good and graced woman, now in her eighties, who sometimes seems a bit queasy about the aftermath of her death. She said one day, “I hope I don’t die in my sleep; I’m not sure I’ll like where I wake up.” I may be wrong, but I detected an apprehension in her, not unlike that of other virtuous people who wonder about their eternal fate.

Most young people are said to believe in a hell where nobody goes. Many others, perhaps adults, think there is a hell largely populated by enemies. And among the old are believers who nervously wonder if hell might be populated by the likes of themselves. They, like St. Paul at some moments, consider the question of their salvation “in fear and trembling.”

They may have good reason. When someone asked Jesus whether a small number would be saved, he was not very comforting: “Try to come in through the narrow door. Many, I tell you, will try to enter and be unable.” The lord of the household seems not to acknowledge those standing outside, knocking and pleading for entry, even though they had once been in his company. What is more, there will be that horrible “wailing and grinding of teeth” by those rejected.

If this is the discipline that the Letter to the Hebrews (Second Reading) refers to, it is difficult, despite the advice, not to lose heart. After all, what comfort is there in the prospect that we might not be saved or accepted into Christ’s heavenly kingdom?

The allusion to the narrow gate is found in Luke’s thirteenth chapter, which contrasts a self-defeating hardness of heart with redemptive repentance (Gospel). Those whose faith is sterile and lifeless hurt only themselves. Those who are hypocrites fix their fate when they reject the truth. Those who hate Jesus, along with Herod, slam the door on their salvation. And those who refuse to be gathered in by Jesus as chicks are gathered by their mother are left to their own scattered journey.

The narrow gates of the old cities were wide enough for a person to get through. This gate is the size of a person because it is a person. Jesus is the narrow gate, the way by which anyone can get through to the heavenly city.

In all the debates over who and how many will be saved, in our own wonderings about our own eternal lot, it is instructive to remember a truth that is disconcerting yet calming. We all most likely deserve a fate far less glorious than heaven. After all, would not all of us be lost without him? But through him, the narrow gate, all may enter paradise, one by one in salvation’s long procession.

We do not know for sure; but perhaps there was a generous wisdom far greater than we realized in that old prayer often said amid the rosary mysteries of our redeemer’s life.

Dear Jesus, save us from the fires of hell.

Bring all souls to heaven,

especially those

most in need of your mercy.

That is a prayer to the narrow gate, wide enough, however, for all to enter, even those who die in their sleep.

© 2025, John Kavanaugh, SJ



Clip art: Steve Erspamer (1994).

Clip Art for Year C.

Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications.

© 1993, Archdiocese of Chicago.

All rights reserved.



First Reading

Isaiah 66:18-21

1. The Israelites were and remain the chosen people. God extended the same “chosenness” to others. How has this worked out through the ages? For instance, have Christians always honoured their ancestors, the Jewish people? Do you think God wants your involvement in the unity of all humankind? What are you able to do?

2. From the beginning it was God’s plan to save all humankind. Can you help others in this plan? Are people being excluded? Can you think of anything your parish or the Church as a whole could do to be more for this?

Second Reading

Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13

1. The Second Reading tells us to “strengthen our drooping hands and our weak knees.” What happens to athletes who don’t exercise? Can you yourself become spiritually “flabby”? Do you ever “work out” spiritually on your own? How?

2. From what you know of the lives of the saints, did/does God handle the saints with “kid gloves”? What about you—how does God treat you? Would you like softer treatment? What is the relationship between God’s love and hardships?

Gospel

Luke 13:22-30

1. “We ate and drank in your company.” Is a membership in a particular group an automatic “opening” of the narrow gate? Can people of all religions receive grace? If God is always creating you, moment to moment; do you think God ever stops offering you moments of grace?

2. “And people will come from the east and the west and from the north and the south.” Is Pope Leo’s regular calls for peace an invitation to everyone from everywhere, especially the broken, to come into the Church to be God’s brothers and sisters?

© 2025, Anne Osdieck

JUNIOR SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

First Holy Communion classes resume Sun 31 August.
Contact Dorothy at the office for details.

TEEN RETREAT IN THE BUNYAS 22–24 SEPTEMBER

Nathan will be leading a retreat for teens in the first week of the school holidays. Offered in the Storm King Youth Camp series; details at stormkingyouthcamp.org. Promising formation, fun, and friends a plenty!

IGNITE CONFERENCE BRISBANE

The biggest youth gathering in Queensland with rallies, talks, and festival vibes; for highschoolers and young adults. **Thu 25 to Sun 28 September**. For more info, see Nathan or Mary <mary.roberts@twb.catholic.edu.au>. Travel options and subsidies possible on application.

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF MARY MACKILLOP

A pilgrimage of hope. In conjunction with the Year of Jubilee, beginning with Mass on **Saturday 30 August at 9:30am** at St Joseph’s Parish **Helidon**. Bishop Ken will preside. Mass will be followed by a Pilgrimage in Saint Mary MacKillop’s honour. As ‘Pilgrims of Hope’ we remember Australia’s first saint who visited the town of Helidon in September 1875 and again in August 1879. Link to book via the parish QR code.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL CENTENARY JUBILEE

Friday 22 – Sunday 24 August 2025 St Vincent de Paul Stanthorpe will celebrate their 100-year Jubilee. To honour this a *Year of Hope Retreat* was held at the RSL Meeting Room on Saturday 23 August. At the 8.30am Sunday Mass this 24 August we will commemorate this jubilee in a special way, followed by Morning Tea in the Mary Agnes Centre. We acknowledge the efforts and contributions of the Society over 10 years. All welcome.

IN OUR PRAYERS

RECENT DEATH: **Salvatore (Sam) Grammatico** (30.07.2025 Husband of Michelina (Lina), Father of Josephine (Pina) Mangifesta, Christine (Chrissy) Mattiazzi, Michael, Father-in-Law of Marco, Raymond & Kate), **Therese ‘Tere’ Bonner, Ray Adams, Noela Mattiazzi, Fr Chris Riley, (Dr) Greg Yap**

TO REMEMBER: Rosaria & Salvatore Scalia, Sebastiano, Carmelo, Giuseppa & Maria Cala & DFM, Salvatore & Maria Cardillo & DFM, Dec of Pozzebon Family, Francesca Moxham, Fr Charles McDonald, Msgr Patrick Doyle, Fr Bryan Nolan, Msgr Stanley Skehan

FOR THE SICK: Robert Ebenestelli, John Morrison, Greg Fletcher, Lucy Targato, Nick Brac, Nancy Hickey, Renee Simpson, Con Torrisi, Paul Russell, Tina Ryan, Iva Baxter, Grace Marini, Catherine, Elizabeth & Monika, Terry Hopgood, Jack Lawson, Margaret Doro, Hayden Smith, Nalda Sciuto, Graham (Gossie) Vale, Liz Billings, Sr Cecelia OCD, Alan Colyer, Amanda Boardman, Bron Larner, Sr Therese Margaret OCD, Russell Fahey, Norma Bertinazzi, Lesley Robbins, Wayne Jackson, Angela Gannon, Glen Slater, Cassie May, Sam Leonardi, Josie Torrisi, Barry Driscoll, Steven Campbell, Paul Voss, Des Fossey, Kate Sturgeon, Anne Black, and all the sick and elderly of Parish & families.

FOR VOCATIONS: For Anthony and Martina who celebrated their marriage at St Joseph’s on Friday. All the young in our parish; Rev. Fr. BJ Perrett, Sister Teresa Gasparin, and Sister Marie Tania as they continue their vocation journeys. For an increase in vocations to priesthood and religious life from our own communities.

| NEXT WEEKEND | SATURDAY 30 August 2025 | SUNDAY 31 August 2025 |
|---|---|---|
| READERS | Norm Steele Bernice Steele | Fern Ausland Tony Hynes |
| EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION | Clelia Patti Bernice Steele Norm Steele | Mary McLucas Dan Manahan Trish McCosker |
| COUNTERS | | Lance Guteridge Nell Guteridge |

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

Mon 25 Aug – St Louis | St Joseph Calasanz, priest

Wed 27 Aug – St Monica

Thu 28 August – St Augustine, bishop, doctor

Fri 29 Aug – The Passion of St John the Baptist, martyr

WEEKDAY MASS: TIMES AND LOCATIONS

Feedback is being sought on the following:

1. What time would you attend a weekday Mass?
2. Are there any objections to using the Mary Agnes Centre chapel space (especially on cold mornings)?
3. What do you seek at a Mass? (e.g. Reflection time, daily Holy Communion, scriptural meditations, &c.)

UPCOMING ABSENCE

Nathan will be away most of September between conferences, retreats, and two weeks leave. Masses will be supplied by faces familiar and new.

PARISH COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Wed. 27 August at 6:30pm in the Mary Agnes Centre. Two representatives from the Diocesan Personnel Board will be present with representatives of our adjourned Pastoral Council. They will run a process of guided discussion to understand the strengths of the various communities and the challenges that you face now and into the future. A report is then brought to the Board and the Bishop, who then determine appointment of the next Pastor. All are welcome.

Those unable to attend are welcome to email the Chancellor (Fr Peter) at chancellor@twb.catholic.org.au with comments speaking to the following two points:

1. What are the strengths of your communities; and
2. What challenges do you face now and into the future.