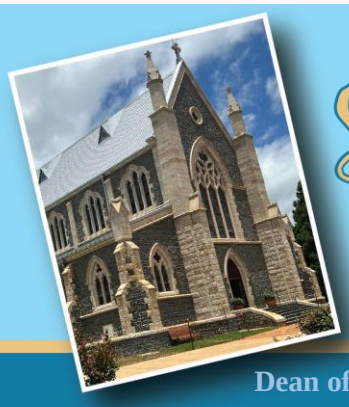

St Patrick's Cathedral Newsletter

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Office hours: 9am-4pm Mon-Thu 9am-3pm on Friday

Dean of St Patrick's Cathedral and Administrator: Fr. Michael O'Brien
Associate Pastor: Fr. Brian Redondo
Safeguarding Officer: Clinton Shearer (safeguarding@stpats.org.au)

St Patrick's, in communion with St Saviour's Primary School – Samuel Hannant (4637 1700)
St Saviour's College – Jessica Wade (4637 1600)

We Acknowledge and respect the Traditional Owners of this place, the Jarowair and Giabal Peoples

3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT 14 December 2025

First reading: Isaiah 35:1-6,10 God himself will come and save us.
Responsorial Psalm: Lord, come and save us.
Second Reading: James 5:7-10 You also must be patient; do not lose heart, the Lord's coming will be soon.
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 Are you the one who is to come, or must we wait for someone else?

The Presence of Christ

One of the approaches that I have always maintained over my 26 years of priesthood is that joyful experiences will become happy memories in the future. This is most apparent when celebrating with a school community or other celebrations such as baptism. The importance of this is evident when adults talk about their faith and the effect of certain experiences that have either encouraged or discouraged later involvement for their families and themselves. At a recent baptism I had an experience of this approach. I usually get one of the children to assist me with the carrying over of the Easter Candle to the baptismal font. I asked Maddie, who was probably in about Year 4 to assist me and she was very excited to have a little job to do. Anyway when we got to that moment as we made our way over with the candle it almost slipped from her grip, but I managed to grab it just in time and all was good. I was worried that she may have been a little upset by the incident but she was fine and informed me that *"Team work makes the Dream work!"* So after the baptism we all went out to ring the Cathedral bell and Maddie was excited about that too. Then Maddie and her brother had a little play on the organ (don't tell Vicky!) as well. As we were finishing Erin, Maddie's mother came over to me and said that Maddie just told her that when she grows up she thinks she'd like to work for the church!

During this time of the Advent journey we start to hear about John the Baptist and his public ministry and bringing to the fore, the one who is greater then he. I wonder sometimes how did John the Baptist know that Jesus was the fulfillment of the prophecy that we have also heard over these last couple of weeks? I'm pretty sure he wasn't wearing a t-shirt saying, "I am the Messiah". It can only be, as we hear today, the quality and authority of his words and the actions that brought renewed hope to everyone he met that was in need – *the blind, lame, lepers, deaf, dead and the poor in spirit.*

The way in which John the Baptist knew that Jesus was the Messiah was because of his presence, so that when the time came to proclaim the fact, he had already experienced Christ's presence in his life. When it comes to our celebration of the birth of Christ we need to see his presence <u>now</u> so that when Christmas arrives we recognise Christ most deeply.

Advent is a time unlike any other. It is a time to inwardly recognise the presence of Christ in our daily journey. It is like an examination of conscience but one that reveals not sinfulness, but rather <u>joy</u> in remembering the presence of Christ and recalling those happy memories that we hold in our hearts.

So during this week I invite you to take some time to look inwardly to embrace those joy filled experiences when Jesus -

✝ *removed your **blindness**, so you could see more clearly the path of God in your life …….*
✝ *took away your **lameness** to give you the energy and motivation to walk with another a little further in love …….*
✝ *took away your **leprosy** allowing you to stop comparing yourself to others and live as God's creation ……*
✝ *took away your **deafness**, so you could hear even the unspoken cries of those around you …….*
✝ *raised the **dead** to life when you were able to give a word of encouragement and hope ……*
✝ *helped you **share the Good News** keeping close those who need extra prayers and quiet connections through the Holy Spirit……*

O Come Emmanuel, find a home in our hearts. Fr. Michael

✞ **We remember in our prayers all those who have died recently:** Sue O'Brien, Kath Smith.

✞ **We hold in our hearts the memories of those whose anniversaries occur at this time, especially:**
Vera Stephens, Wendell Joseph Sladen, James Moubarak.
✞ **For all those who are ill in our community:** Mark Betts, Kathy Bermingham, Carole Symons, Elizabeth Soutar (age 2), Patrick Eldridge, Donna Vallely, Patrick Ryan, Rajender Vellore, Evandro Andrade, Antonietta Del Riccio, Mary Boland, Claire Seymour, Sharon Keats, Bernard Bartetzko, Vicky Cocozza, Jibran Mardini, Richard Stritzel, Rita Irwin, Kate Gibbs, Christine 'Saus' Barron, Alyshia Morris, William Garrahy, Bev Smith, Sheryl Grunke, Noel Roshan Francis, Therese Odri, Freddy Nield, Ray Frelek, Blake Cusato, Braxton, Greg Coddington, Jamal Abraham, Judy Moloney, Perlita Torrecampo, Dorothy Marsh, Teresita Pamulaklakin, Madeline Gray.

Money Collectors are needed for the Christmas Masses. If you are able to volunteer for any of the Masses over Christmas you will find a sign up sheet on the table at the Neil Street entrance. Thank you.

Second Rite of Reconciliation will be held at St Patrick's Cathedral **16th December** at 5.30pm and St Thomas More's on the same day at 9am.

Last chance for Christmas Appeal St Vincent De Paul, St Pat's Conference Christmas appeal has commenced and will continue to run until **December 14.** Once again, we are relying on your generosity to assist us with the needs of our companions during this Holy time. Due to the varying dietary needs of each family, we are requesting supermarket gift cards if possible, we ask that you place them in an envelope clearly marked SVDP Christmas and place the envelope on the collection plate. We thank you once again for your generosity.

Unit for Rent One bedroom unit for rent, single person only, reasonable fortnightly rent. Applications are to be made in writing to the Secretary, Board of Management, St Patrick's Cathedral, PO Box 7062, Toowoomba 4350 or may be dropped in at the Parish Office. For more information please phone the parish office 46371500.

Financial Report - If you would like to read the financial report for the parish it is now available on the table.

SPRED – Date claimer SPRED 40th Anniversary - In 2026 SPRED celebrates 40 years in the Toowoomba Diocese. When: Sunday, March 15 Where: St Theresa's More details to follow.

Thank you most sincerely to Joan McKean who recently left a significant bequest to St Patrick's Cathedral Parish to continue the charitable works in this community. We thank her for her generosity and keep her family in our prayers. Should you be considering a bequest in your will please find some information on the table.

Re-plastering at St Pat's has begun this week. As you can see a number of pews have been removed to allow for the scissor lift to be put in place. We apologise for any inconvenience this causes, however you may even find a better seat!

2025 Diocesan Annual Christmas Collection Each year, part of our Christmas Collection goes towards a special need, often beyond our shores. This year the Diocesan Council of Priests have decided to support The Missionaries of St Francis de Sales' Parish of Our Lady of Mercy in Rioverde, Ecuador where many are suffering from extreme poverty. This area serves over 35,000 people across 45 rural villages in the Esmeraldas Province. Your generous support will ensure that this community, despite its many setbacks, can face the future with hope and resilience.

Parish Office Christmas hour - Closed Thursday 25th December–Thursday 1st January Reopen Friday 2nd January.

Sunday 14 December **3rd Sunday of Advent** **[SPC - St Patrick's & STM - St Thomas More's]**	7am, 9am, 5.30pm. **Live Stream 9am** **[Priest ann. in green]**	4.30pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre
Monday 15 December	5.30pm Mass SPC 9.00am Mass STM	9.30am Rosary Group in Parish Centre
Tuesday 16 December	9am Mass SPC	5.30pm 2nd Rite of Reconciliation at St Patrick's
Wednesday 17 December	7am Mass SPC 5.30pm Mass STM	7.15pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre
Thursday 18 December	7am Mass SPC **Fr James Weimers**	7.30am – 8.30am Adoration 6-7pm Choir Practice
Friday 19 December	7am Mass SPC 9.30am Mass STM	**Parish Office Closed from 12pm – reopen Monday 22nd** 7.15pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre
Saturday 20 December	7am Mass SPC 6pm Mass SPC	6.30am Rosary at St Patrick's 8–9am Reconciliation SPC
Sunday 21 December **4th Sunday of Advent**	7am, 9am, 5.30pm **Live Stream 9am**	11am Baptism Emilia Harris 12pm Baptism Juliette Eva Aston 4.30pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre

Planned Giving: *Thank you for your donations*. Loose $3474 Planned Giving $839 Donation Point $1700
Money Counters this weekend: Sandra & Peter Daly, Jan-Nell & Errol Chase
Money Counters next weekend: Pat Power, Leo & Maureen McMahon
Planned Giving Options: Envelopes available from parish office. For direct debit/credit card please contact Celia at the Parish Office on 4637 1500. You may simply like to do a bank transfer: St Patrick's Cathedral, BSB 064-786, Account Number 100014072, reference envelope number or name in donating. Thank you.