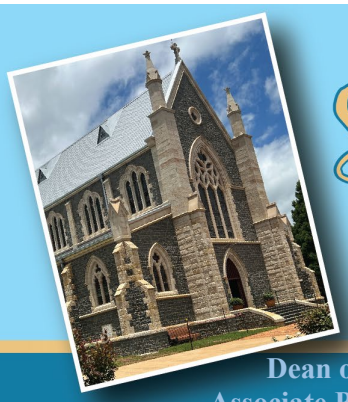


St Patrick's Cathedral Newsletter

T: 4637 1500 F: 4637 1511
Email: stpatrickscathedral@twb.catholic.org.au
www.stpats.org.au
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, with Fr BJ Perrett and Fr. Praveen Varkey
Pastoral Associate – Music: Pamela Duane – cathedralmusic@twb.catholic.org.au
Safeguarding Officer: Clinton Shearer – professionalstandards@twb.catholic.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

Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time 23 August 2026

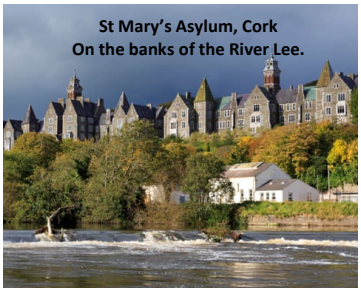
First reading: Isaiah 22:19-23 I place the key of the House of David upon his shoulder.
Responsorial Psalm: Lord, your love is eternal; do not forget the work of your hands.
Second Reading: Romans 11:33-36 From him, through him, and in him are all things.
Alleluia, Alleluia! You are Peter, the rock on which I will build my Church;
the gates of hell will not hold out against it. Alleluia!
Gospel: Matthew 16:13-20 You are Peter, to you I will give the keys of the kingdom of heaven.

But…..Who do you say I am?

"Said the Dead" is a fascinating book written by an Irish author, Doireann Ni Ghriofa and concerns the life within an asylum in Cork which began in 1791 and continued until early 1990's. Throughout it's long history many different voices, experiences and life came and went. Some happy stories, but many sad ones as well. We enter the history of this place with the appointment of Dr. Lucia Strangman, the first woman qualified as a psychiatrist in the British Isles. Doireann comes across the Asylum's gothic building as the last of it's wings are being converted into apartments. As Doireann walks through the building she has a great sense of presence of those from the past who have been totally forgotten and in some cases never mourned or acknowledged even though their life was a strange and difficult struggle. The author captures the story of Dr Strangman telling it in a kind and thoughtful way as the Doctor brings great gentleness and kindness to her role which in many cases succeeded in giving new hope to those imprisoned in such a place. When Dr Strangman first arrived in 1896 the doctor she worked with simply wrote on everyone's file "no change". Through great and lengthy research Doireann was able to access the case notes for many of the patients during Dr Strangman's time. During this time something changed. Dr Lucia began writing more in the patient's notes, even the smallest of changes, or signs of hope when the patient's were able to trust her, even enough to take some sepia photos of them. Dr Lucia married and had 2 children who lived in a house on the property. They even had one of the "patients" looking after their children to help with their rehabilitation. The government of Ireland only allows research to go back 100 years and will not release anything earlier.

There is a beautiful and poignant moment in the book when through her persistence with the archive librarian, she is granted permission to use the first names of the people she had been researching. She describes it as a powerful moment that allowed her, in the using of their first names not only to give them back their lost lives, but also to give them dignity and an awareness of just who they were when they lived. It was if she somehow brought them to life again. No longer an ambiguous title, like Miss or Sir, but their actual name, and with that came a certain sense of profound personal knowing.

Then I encounter those words today of Jesus, *"Who do you say I am?"* So, when the Jesus in another asks this question of us, it struck me that the answer can be as simple as using someone's name. In a response that identifies someone *by name* we are actually saying, *You are someone who I respect enough to call by name.* **That's who I say you are.** *When we stop to listen to someone quietly and attentively we are saying that you are someone I treat with dignity and understanding.* **That's who I say you are.** *When I speak in positive terms and share joy with you, then I am saying you are someone who deserves hope in your life.* **That's who I say you are.** *When I take a moment to stop and see the presence of Christ within you – the love you share, the gift you are, the way you walk with others.* **That's who I say you are.**



You see you need not use a lot of words to answer the question,
Who do you say I am?
You can answer merely by being present to people.

Every Blessing for the week discovering God. Fr. Michael

✞ **We remember in our prayers all those who have died recently:** Reginold Francis Swampillai, Vince Lester.

✞ **We hold in our hearts the memories of those whose anniversaries occur at this time, especially:** Patrick, Lucy & Jacinta Amalemba, Christina Woodward.

✞ **For all those who are ill in our community:** Mary Neylon, Bernie Reis, Anette Schaefer, Kate Gibbs, Katherine Manktelow, Therese Odri, Austin Amalemba, Brenden Canning, Ted Philippa, Justin O'Donnell, Kathy Bermingham, Carole Symons, Elizabeth Soutar, Patrick Eldridge, Donna Vallely, John Gurney.

OUR LADY OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS FEAST DAY will be celebrated on the 1st September at 10.00am in St Patrick's. Everyone is invited to come together to pray to our Diocesan patron on this day. Please note there will not be a 9.00am Mass that day. Bishop Ken will preside.

St Patrick's Floral Display 19th – 22nd September 2026 – HELP NEEDED

We would love your help with Carnival of Flowers. There are two sign-up sheets on the tables, one for helping during set up and pack up, the other is to welcome visitors to the Cathedral during the display. Please consider adding your name to the sheet we will be in touch once the roster has been created. Any help is most welcomed. If you have any questions, please contact the office on 46 371 500.

Priests' Retirement Foundation Appeal (6/9/26)
Our retired priests have given their lives in faithful service - supporting our communities, celebrating the sacraments, and being present in times of joy and sorrow. In retirement, many rely on the Priests' Retirement Foundation for essential care, including accommodation, healthcare, and daily living support. We ask you to keep our retired priests in your prayers during this appeal. If you would like to learn more or offer your support, please visit: https://www.twb.catholic.org.au/ways-to-give-prf/
Local cash appeal on weekend of 5/6th September.

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is the process through which interested adults and older children are gradually introduced to the Roman Catholic faith and way of life. We have already received a number of requests from people wanting to become Catholic. The process of learning and praying will commence soon. If you believe the Spirit is calling you to learn more about the Catholic Faith, please contact the St Patrick's Parish on 4637 1500.

Sunday 23 August **21st Sunday in Ord. Time** **[SPC - St Patrick's & STM - St Thomas More's]**	7am, 9am, 5.30pm. **Live Stream 9am** **[Priest ann. in green]**	11am Baptism Michael Thomas Feldhahn 2-3pm One Equal Music Concert 4.30pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre
Monday 24 August **St Bartholomew**	5.30pm Mass SPC 9.00am Mass STM **Fr Charles McDonald**	9.30am Rosary Making Group in the Parish Centre
Tuesday 25 August	9am Mass SPC	
Wednesday 26 August	7am Mass SPC 5.30pm Mass STM	***Council of Priests meeting in Roma*** 7.15pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre
Thursday 27 August **St Monica**	7am Mass **Msgr Patrick Doyle**	7.30am-8.30am Adoration 6pm Choir Practice
Friday 28 August **St Augustine**	7am Mass 9.30am Mass STM **Fr Bryan Nolan**	9am Friendship Group in the Parish Centre 7.15pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre
Saturday 29 August **The Passion of John the Baptist**	7am Mass 6pm Mass **Msgr Stanley Skehan**	6.30am Rosary in Cathedral 8-9am Reconciliation 10.30am Baptism Eleanor Morrissey 2pm Wedding Hung Bang Ngo & Le Quyen Vu
Sunday 30 August **22nd Sunday in Ord. Time**	7am, 9am, 5.30pm **Live Stream 9am**	11am Baptism Wilfred Winter 4.30pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre

St Patrick's Cathedral Parish Collections
Collection for 16/08/2026 – Loose $3611 Planned Giving $881 Donation Point $1970
Money Counters this weekend: Wendy Heelan, Jabour Hanna, Rod Slater
Money Counters next weekend: Parish Staff
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.