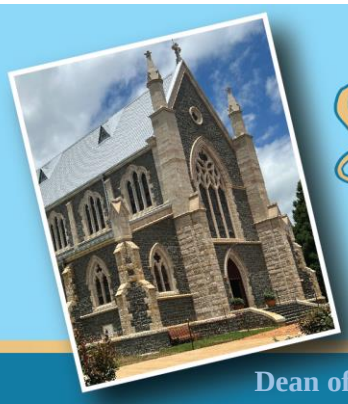

St Patrick's Cathedral Newsletter

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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
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

1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT 30 November 2025

First reading: Isaiah 2:1-5 The Lord will gather all nations in eternal peace in the kingdom of God.
Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 121:1-2,4-5,6-9 Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.
Second Reading: Romans 13:11-14 The time has come, our salvation is near.
ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA! Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.. ALLELUIA!
Gospel: Matthew 24:37-44 Stay awake, you must be ready.

Advent as Advent-ure

One of the more unusual series of books that I have begun recently is titled "On the Calculation of Volume". It is a six book series of which only 3 have been translated from the Danish. The third has just been released so that is why it is on my mind. The author Solvej Balle writes in a slightly philosophical and reflective manner. The story line revolves around Tara who awakens, as usual to a normal eighteenth day of November in the fictional town of Clairon-sous-Bois situated in Northern France. However when she awakens the next day, on what should be the nineteenth day of November it is actually a repeat of the eighteenth. Everyone relives the eighteenth as if they hadn't before. They do the same things and the weather and everything is exactly the same, except Tara remembers it and knows it should be the nineteenth. It is as she has stepped out of time. This continues for a year and Tara wonders how she can change what is happening as no one remembers anything that happens on the eighteenth as the day begins a new for them. As the story continues we discover that it is not a geographically fixed point, so Tara decides to travel and so wherever she can do in one day she can. She travels to experience winter and summer as much as she can in one day. It just means she wakes where she has travelled to and everyone around her begins the same day again. Of course that makes it interesting when she is discovered in a motel room she hasn't checked into yet and so on. Although she gets around this by being shown into a rental that has no occupants for that day and she can live there in the repeated day without interruption. So of course no one remembers her each day because they haven't met her on the eighteenth unless she makes it happen and then they forget her and the cycle continues. [With me so far?] Then at the end of the second book she finds someone who remembers her which seems to indicate that he too is trapped on the eighteenth of November…..I have ordered the third book, so I'm intrigued to see what comes next!

So what's all this got to do with Advent. Let me try to explain….. Advent is a special time for us. An opportunity to travel inwardly which makes it different to Lent. Lent involves a certain amount of outward directed action – fasting, giving, acts of charity etc. Advent invites us to travel inwardly – time in prayer, meditation on the scripture, reading reflections, slowing down and asking the deep questions of purpose and direction. We can't do this if we treat each Advent day as the same as the days of the rest of the year. We can't enter Advent repeating what we normally do. We need to travel to another place, inwardly, while outwardly it may seem we are repeating the same cycle of our lives. From this inward journey our outward lives will change and people will recognise us as someone new. Like the gospel we will indeed be AWAKE to the presence of God in our lives more deeply and ready for whatever life throws at us. In other words do not take this time for granted – the busiest time of the year in so many ways, but what would happen if you decided to slow in down and be ready for the unexpected as the gospel asks us to do.

So here is a blessing to take with you on your journey at the beginning of Advent –

• Let *your* body be the stable • Let *your* heart be the manger • Let *your* life be like the child's with the blessing of the Father upon *you* • as the Spirit goes before *you* • and Jesus lives within *you* • Amen •

Every Blessing on your Advent-ure. Fr. Michael

✞ **We remember in our prayers all those who have died recently:** Pamela Padget, Maureen 'Patsy' Quinn, Neville Sarquis.

✞ **We hold in our hearts the memories of those whose anniversaries occur at this time, especially:** Kevin O'Brien.

✞ **For all those who are ill in our community:** Sue O'Brien, Kathy Bermingham, Carole Symons, Elizabeth Soutar(age 2), Patrick Eldridge, Donna Vallely, Patrick Ryan, Rajender Vellore, Evandro Andrade, Antonietta Del Riccio, Gerard George, Amelene Creggy, 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, Kath Smith, Freddy Nield, Ray Frelek, Blake Cusato, Braxton, Greg Coddington, Jamal Abraham, Judy Moloney, Perlita Torrecampo, Dorothy Marsh, Teresita Pamulaklakin, Madeline Gray.

St Pat's Parish Pastoral Council would like to thank all volunteers of the parish with a BBQ **Tuesday 2 December** from 6pm in the Cathedral grounds. RSVP by 28/11/25 stpatrickscathedral@twb.catholic.org.au or 4637 1500.

Ministry Volunteer Sheets are available on the Neil St table. Please give some thought to how you may contribute to the life of your parish.

Invitation to an Historic Moment – Cardinal Bychok Visits Toowoomba

*This March, the Catholic Diocese of Toowoomba warmly invites parishioners to join in welcoming **His Eminence Mykola Cardinal Bychok CSsR**, our Australian Cardinal, on his **first-ever visit** to our Diocese. Celebrate this special occasion at a **breakfast** or **dinner**, with proceeds supporting the **restoration of St Patrick's Cathedral's leadlight windows**. **Tickets now available** – book at: www.twb.catholic.org.au/cathedral or use the QR code on the posters in Cathedral.*

Advent Reflection material is available from the information table. Please feel free to take a copy of the one that appeals to you. If you are able to make a donation, please place your donation in to the collection box.

CHRISTMAS Mass Roster – If you are available over Christmas to help with any of the ministries, please consider putting your name down on the roster provided near the collection box at the Neil Street entrance. It is a busy time with many people absent, so please give this serious consideration if you are able to help. Thank you, Fr. Michael

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.

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 placing them 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.

Fr Brian Redondo commences holiday leave from now until 8th January 2026.

Sunday 30 November **1st Sunday in Advent** **[SPC - St Patrick's & STM - St Thomas More's]**	7am, 9am, 5.30pm. **Live Stream 9am** **[Priest ann. in green]**	11am Baptism Hudson Jay MacMinn 4.30pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre
Monday 1 December	5.30pm Mass SPC 9.00am Mass STM	9.30am Rosary Group in Parish Centre
Tuesday 2 December	9am Mass SPC	**6pm Volunteers Christmas Party on the Cathedral Lawn**
Wednesday 3 December **St Francis Xavier**	7am Mass SPC 5.30pm Mass STM	7.15pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre
Thursday 4 December	7am Mass SPC	7.30am – 8.30am Adoration 6-7pm Choir Practice
Friday 5 December	7am Mass SPC 9.30am Mass STM	7.15pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre
Saturday 6 December	7am Mass SPC 6pm Mass SPC	6.30am Rosary at St Patrick's 8–9am Reconciliation SPC 10.30am Baptism Tess Nancy, John David & Jazmyn Thurecht
Sunday 7 December **2nd Sunday in Advent**	7am, 9am, 5.30pm **Live Stream 9am** **Msgr Michael McKenna**	11am Baptism Landon Daniel Adams 12pm Baptism Selene James & Santino Joseph Andrews 4.30pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre

Planned Giving: *Thank you for your donations*. Loose $2,632 Planned Giving $880 Donation Point $1,660

Money Counters this weekend: Parish Office Staff

Money Counters next weekend: Jabour Hanna, Michelle Betros, Mick Cuskelly

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.