



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 Pastors: Fr. Nathan Webb & Fr. Brian Redondo
Safeguarding Officer: Ann Marie Pawsey (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.



Second Sunday of Advent

10 December 2023

First reading: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11 Prepare the way for the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm: Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

Second Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-14 We wait for new heavens and a new earth.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia alleluia! Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight paths:
all the people shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!

Gospel: Mark 1:1-8 Make straight the paths of the Lord.

Every once and a while you come across a book that has a profound impact. This book came from a reference in the new book by Julia Baird as she quoted a particular poem. Fascinated by that poem I managed to source the poetry book to read more. The book is called "The Weight of a Soul" by Laura Gilpin. Like much of poetry it is based upon her own experience and reflections of life. Laura Gilpin was born in 1950 in Winconsin, USA and completed an Arts degree followed by a Nursing degree which became her career. During her time as mainly a palliative nurse she created this beautiful book of poetry plumbing the mysterious depths of illness, family and dying. Laura herself sadly experienced much of this first hand as she succumbed to a brain tumour dying at the age of 56. Her poetry lives on as a wonderful memory of her connection to the gift of life itself. One of the poems I read yesterday was titled, "Father". It begins, "*Once I tried to measure your shadow. We were standing in a field in early evening and our shadows lay quietly at our feet: mine, the small shapeless shadow of a child and yours, tall and definitive, stretching out into the field ahead.*"

When I read this I wondered is that how John the Baptist felt as he stood with Jesus as the sun faded behind them. That great sense of inequality between them. Did John the Baptist wonder, "*What could I possibly do that would come close to measuring up to your shadow? That shadow you cast upon the world bringing hope and new life to so many?*"

The poem continues, "*Don't move, I called to you, I'm measuring your shadow and one foot in front of the other I began to count step by step but my feet were so small*"

Advent is an opportunity for us to welcome the presence of Christ in a deeper way. It is a time to find the "new born" child that lives within us – urging us on to be kind, thoughtful, not self centred, but spirited and spontaneous, prayerful and reflective, gracious and thoughtful....

Maybe its time to step out of the shadow of Christ and experience him face to face. No longer living in the shadow but allowing Christ to draw us forth into a world filled with life. A time to embrace the real presence of Jesus who is born in us again at this time, so we walk in the light with him. Don't live in the shadow of Christ, but let Christ live in you! John the Baptist did. As we light each candle on our Advent wreath we illuminate a little more, we remove a little more of the shadows – we bring the light into the world once again.

We are that light!

The ending to this beautiful poem, I first read as a negative. But if we consider it an invitation to walk in the light, it is seen differently....

"Finally I stopped and turned around to look at you far across the wide field: a small smudge on the other horizon. Walking back now across the field I begin to count again one foot in front of the other, but all I can measure now is the distance between us."

COME OUT OF THE SHADOWS AND BE THE CHRIST LIGHT!

God Bless, Fr. Michael

✠ **We remember in our prayers all those who have died recently:** Josip Skrtic, Eileen Finlay, Patricia Gregory.

✠ **We hold in our hearts the memories of those whose anniversaries occur at this time:** Kev O'Neill, Vera Stephens, Fr Joseph Callaghan [1989], Fr James Byrne [2020].

✠ **For all those who are ill in our community, especially:** Gabrielle Saide, Albert Loveday, Louise O'Connor, Joan Robinson, Sheryl Grunke, Noel Roshan Francis, Kate Gibbs, Therese Odri, Kath Smith, Freddy Nield, Bev Smith, Ray Frelek, Bob O'Sullivan, Blake Cusato, Greg Coddington, Stanley Poon, Jamal Abraham, Madelaine Morris, Judy Moloney, Perlita Torrecampo, Rodolfo Umipig, Madeline Gray, Braxton Rayner.

Some dates for your calendar.....please RSVP to the parish office where needed

6.00pm, Tuesday, 12th December - Volunteers Thank you Dinner in the Neil Street gardens. Please bring a chair to sit on. For safety and ease of movement there will be **NO** parking in that area on the night. Please make use of the car parking behind the Cathedral or the TCSO carpark. Thank you.

9.00am (SPC) and 5.30pm (STM), Thursday, 21st December – 2nd Rite of Reconciliation

The **Sacramental program** for 2024 has been prepared. If any of your children are interested in completing Reconciliation, Confirmation and Eucharist in the coming year, please email St Patrick's office for an information letter or call in to collect a copy. We would like to finalise the participants before the end of the year.

Christmas Hamper Appeal: St Patrick's conference of St Vincent de Paul will be giving Christmas hampers to assist needy people in our area. We are seeking the generous support of parishioners to donate non-perishable items such as canned hams, Christmas cakes and puddings, drinks etc to fill the hampers. There will be collection boxes at the front of the church from Saturday 11th November until Sunday 10th December.

Next year we will be using the same **Holy Souls** banner, so if you supplied a photo this year it will be placed on next year's banner. If you want to keep your photo please call into St Pat's office to collect your picture.

Horizons December issue out now, please collect your free copy from the table.

CHRISTMAS MASSES 2023

Saint Patrick's Cathedral

VIGIL – 6.00pm (Family Mass); 8.30pm and Midnight
MORNING – 7.00am and 9.00am

St Thomas More's

VIGIL – **5.00pm; 7.00pm**
MORNING – 8.30am

Christmas collection this year will be divided between relief for the Tara and district communities impacted by the recent fires, and the remaining half to the Parish and SVDP for charitable purposes.

Sunday 10 December [SPC – St Patrick's] [STM – St Thomas More's]	7am, 9am, 5.30pm. Live Stream 9am	4.30pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre
Monday 11 December	9am Mass STM 5.30pm Mass SPC	
Tuesday 12 December	9am Mass SPC 5.30pm Mass STM	10am Construction of Nativity Scene NO CHOIR PRACTICE 6pm Volunteers thank you dinner SPC in Cathedral grounds.
Wednesday 13 December <i>Saint Lucy</i>	7am Mass SPC	6pm SVDP Meeting in the Parish Centre 7.15pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre
Thursday 14 December <i>Saint John of the Cross</i>	7am Mass SPC	7.30am – 8.30am Adoration at SPC 5.30pm – Liturgy Committee Meeting in Presbytery
Friday 15 December	7am Mass SPC 9.30am Mass STM	Office Closed from 12.30pm 7.15pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre
Saturday 16 December	7am Mass SPC 6pm Mass SPC	6.30am Rosary at SPC 8am – 9am Reconciliation
Sunday 17 December	7am, 9am, 5.30pm Live Stream 9am	11am Baptism of Monique Masarate 12pm Baptism of Oliver Luke Jackson and Luke Paul Jackson 4.30pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre

Planned Giving: Thank you for your generous donations. Loose \$2335 Planned Giving \$768 Donation Point \$770.
Money Counters this weekend: Pat Power, Leo and Maureen McMahon.
Money Counters next weekend: Sam and Fina Ginardi, Wendy Heelan.

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.