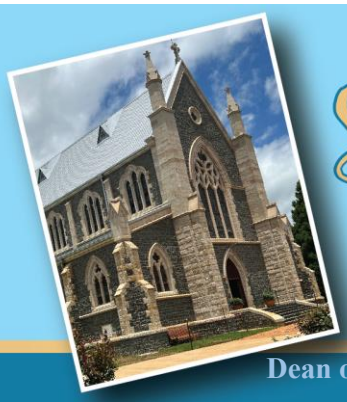


St Patrick's Cathedral Newsletter

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 Pastors: Fr. Brian Redondo and Fr BJ Perrett
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-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time 11 October 2026

First reading: Isaiah 25:6-10 The Lord will prepare a feast and will wipe away the tears from every cheek.
Responsorial Psalm: I shall live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.
Second Reading: Philippians 4:12-14,19-20 I am able to do all things in him who strengthens me.
Alleluia, Alleluia! May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our heart that we might see how great is the hope to which we are called. Alleluia!
Gospel: Matthew 22:1-14 Whomsoever you find invite to the wedding.

The Path to the Diocesan Synod 2026
OUR LIFE ~ OUR MISSION ~ OUR FUTURE

On the feast of Christ the King, 23rd November, 2025, Bishop Ken Howell convoked a Synod to be held in October this year and as that gathering draws near we are called upon to hold the Diocese in our prayers. This Synod is not simply a gathering, but rather an event that holds an important weight in the life of the Diocese. Our last official Synod in the Diocese was in 1948 and we have had significant assemblies since, however a Synod has a more formal role within the life of the church. It is the church's approach to understanding and furthering the hopes and vision of the people of the Diocese. Throughout the world this is the approach, as instructed in Canon Law, that is given to listen to the voices of all and to discern ways forward to achieve pastoral activities for the good of the Diocesan community. It becomes an accountable and openly accessible way to hear the voices of those in our parishes, schools, Diocesan agencies and those who have been on the margins for whatever reason. An opportunity to reengage in church to shape the future. A path of Synod is not lightly trod. It requires achievable outcomes and goals, it needs to have voices to shape the future, it tries to include all Catholic people within the Diocesan family. It also includes dialogue with other main stream churches as we walk a common path through baptism.

You will recall that throughout these months we have conducted listening sessions so as to try to hear all voices. On the last two pages of this bulletin you will find a synopsis of the results of those listening sessions. They were grouped under the following common ideals: *Faith Formation and Spiritual Growth; Children, Young People and Families; Welcome, Belonging and Inclusion; Prayer, Worship and Sacramental Life; Service, Outreach and Pastoral Care; Gifts, Leadership and Ministry; Connected and Sustainable Communities.*

You may resonate with some of these topics, whether you attended a listening session or not. These topics are not only about identifying areas that need attention, but areas that are existing well and need to be given focus to continue to grow and prosper. From these areas that have been identified by you, themes have emerged for the Synod itself. These are placed alongside our main theme ***Our Life, Our Mission, Our Future.***

These then become:

- **Our Life** – Formed as Disciples;
- **Our Mission** – To Make Disciples of all Nations;
- **Our Future** – Uniting for Renewal in God's Mission.

Using the "Conversations in the Spirit" method of discernment each of these topics, with appropriate expansion notes, will be used for discussion in forging a vision for the Toowoomba Diocese and to discern ways to bring these hopes to life in our communities. The "Conversations in the Spirit" method of discernment is designed and used throughout the church, even in the Synods in Rome, to allow every voice to be heard and considered and reflected upon. The gift of this method, thanks to the vision of Pope Francis, is that not only do people speak uninterruptedly, people listen gracefully, but also they are required to reflect on what others have said rather than only what their agenda might be.

Please keep the Diocesan Synod in your prayers as it draws near. Take a moment to reflect on your hopes and dreams for our Diocesan family. Prayer cards are available on the tables to include in your daily prayers.

Every Blessing as we pray, and hope together. Fr. Michael

✞ **We remember in our prayers all those who have died recently:** Sr Catherine Courtney, Sr Michaleen Ahearn, Kathleen Coonan.

✞ **We hold in our hearts the memories of those whose anniversaries occur at this time, especially:** Anthony Amalemba.

✞ **For all those who are ill in our community:** Claudia Sobey, Clive O'Kelly, Danny Fitzpatrick, Noel Cook, Mary Neylon, 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.

Reconciliation is offered in the 1st Rite on Saturday mornings from 8am to 9am. Please be aware the priests at the Cathedral may have many other commitments on Saturdays – Baptisms, Weddings and even some funerals. Please **do not** arrive after 9am due to these other calls on our priest's pastoral needs.

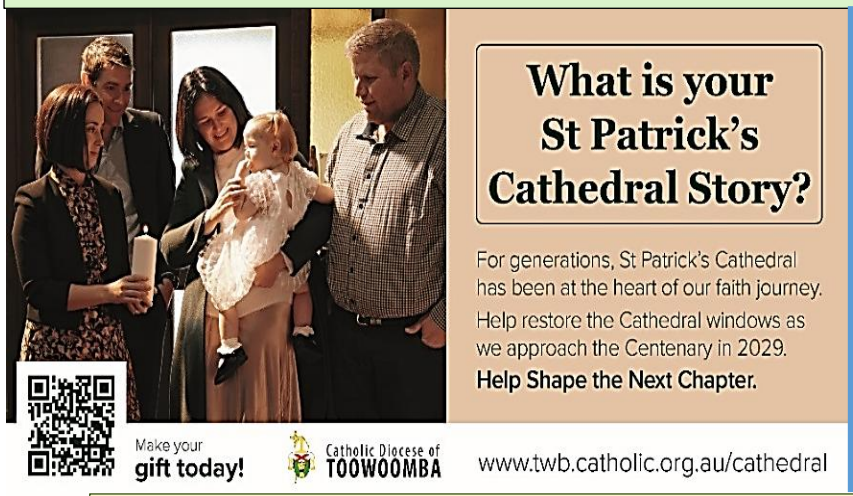
Urgent Sacristan's Duties: Volunteers to help with light cleaning duties in the Cathedral for one hour each week (preferably Friday). Two people working together is recommended. Please contact Parish Office 4637 1500 for more information.

Mass transportation – we have a parishioner that requires a left to and from mass. If anyone is able to help please contact the parish office on 46371500

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY …..

JUBILEE MASS: Wednesday 21st October at 11.00am St Patrick's Cathedral followed by refreshments in the Cathedral Centre. **All very welcome to enjoy both Mass and refreshments.**

SYNOD OPENING MASS: Thursday 22nd October at 6pm St Patrick's Cathedral. Come and pray for the fruitfulness of our first Diocesan Synod.



Congratulations to Madonna Sleba as the newly appointed Director of Catholic Education for the Toowoomba Diocese. Madonna has had over 30 years in Catholic education and most recently has been Director: Education Services at TCSO. Previous to this Madonna was the Principal of St Saviour's Primary School. Her role will begin from 2 January, 2027. This appointment has come about with the retirement of Dr Pat Coughlan, who has served as Director for 11 years and has contributed greatly to the advancement of Catholic education throughout the Diocese. We wish him every joy as he enters retirement, and we thank him for his wonderful commitment.

SAVE THE DATE - The Cathedral Cup Race Day: Saturday 15 May 2027, The Clive Berghofer Grande Atrium, Clifford Park, Toowoomba – More details to come

Sunday 11 October **28th 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 Aegon Adams Gasapos 12 Noon Baptism Vienna and Tatum Steer 4.30pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre
Monday 12 October	5.30pm Mass SPC 9.00am Mass STM	9.00am First Nations Yr 12 Graduation Mass 9.30am Rosary Group in the Parish Centre 9.30am Mass at Brodribb
Tuesday 13 October	9am Mass SPC	
Wednesday 14 October	7am Mass SPC 5.30pm Mass STM **Fr Michael Mahon**	7.15pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre
Thursday 15 October **St Teresa of Jesus**	7am Mass	7.30am-8.30am Adoration 9.30 Mass at Yukana **Office closed between 12pm – 2pm** 6pm Choir Practice
Friday 16 October	7am Mass 9.30am Mass STM	9am Friendship Group in the Parish Centre 7.15pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre
Saturday 17 October **St Ignatius of Antioch**	7am Mass 6pm Mass	6.30am Rosary in Cathedral 8-9am Reconciliation 11am Renewal of Vows Roger & Angielyn Swain 3pm Baptism Annabelle Lee Baker
Sunday 18 October **29th Sunday in Ord. Time**	7am, 9am, 5.30pm **Live Stream 9am**	4.30pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre

St Patrick's Cathedral Parish Collections

Collection for 04/10/2026 – Loose $3236 Planned Giving $796 Donation Point $1920

Money Counters this weekend: Sam & Fina Ginardi, Pio & Pam Pedernal

Money Counters next weekend: Michelle Betros, Mick Cuskelly, Karen Holtham

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.

SYNOD 2026

What We Heard

LISTENING TO THE LIFE OF OUR DIOCESE

Across the Diocese of Toowoomba, people shared openly about their experience of faith and Church — what they value, the challenges they encounter, and their hopes for the future.

Their responses reveal a deep love for our faith and communities, gratitude for those who serve, and a desire to see our Diocese continue to grow and flourish. From this listening, seven interconnected themes emerged.

Together, they reflect what is already giving life across our Diocese, where people see opportunities for growth, and what they hope we might carry forward together. These voices invite us to listen carefully as we discern how we can deepen our life as disciples, accompany others in mission, and strengthen our shared life as Church.

Faith Formation and Spiritual Growth

Across the Diocese of Toowoomba, people expressed a desire to know Jesus more personally and grow in understanding of their Catholic faith. Prayer, Scripture, the sacraments and the example of faithful people continue to nourish diocesan life. Participants valued opportunities to learn together and spoke of faith as something that shapes daily relationships, choices and service.

Alongside these gifts, there was a call for more accessible and consistent formation across the Diocese. People sought retreats, small groups, spiritual accompaniment and clear teaching for all stages of life. Looking ahead, the hope is for communities where growing in faith is an ongoing part of belonging, and where people are encouraged to share that faith with confidence.

"Help people to form personal relationships with God and put him first" — Diocesan listening session

Children, Young People and Families

Children, young people and families were a central concern throughout the listening. Catholic schools provide significant places of care, connection and encounter with faith in the Diocese of Toowoomba. Young people valued the Church's sense of community, its service to others and the opportunity to have their voices heard.

However, participants described gaps between school, home and parish life, and limited pathways for continuing involvement beyond school or sacramental preparation. Young people asked for meaningful spiritual experiences as well as friendship. The hope for the future is for stronger partnerships, support for parents and communities that accompany emerging generations over time, including families connected with state schools. Young people want opportunities to contribute to Church life now.

"Youth groups for spiritual connection, not just fun" — Youth listening session

Welcome, Belonging and Inclusion

Friendship, hospitality and the experience of being known are valued gifts within the Diocese. People spoke of the importance of community beyond Sunday Mass, where relationships deepen and people support one another. Migrant communities were recognised as bringing faith, energy and rich cultural traditions to parish life.

Yet belonging is not experienced equally by everyone. Responses called for ongoing welcome, personal invitations and greater understanding across cultures and generations. They also raised the experiences of First Nations people, people with disability, divorced people and LGBTQI+ people. The desire is for communities where people are listened to, their dignity is respected and their gifts are welcomed, especially those who feel disconnected or on the margins.

Prayer, Worship and Sacramental Life

The Eucharist, prayer and the sacraments hold a treasured place in the faith of people across Toowoomba's diocesan communities. Participants sought deeper understanding and fuller participation in worship. They also asked for sacramental opportunities that take account of working lives, family commitments and the distances experienced in rural communities.

Different hopes were expressed about how worship might develop. Some emphasised reverence, consistency and traditional practices; others sought more contemporary music, accessible language and greater involvement of children and young people. These differences remain part of the listening. Looking ahead, people desire prayer and worship that deepen their relationship with God and nourish their life together as a community of faith.

Service, Outreach and Pastoral Care

The Diocese's life of faith is visible in the generosity of parishioners, school communities and ministries serving others. Participants valued outreach through organisations and initiatives such as St Vincent de Paul, Rosies and Winter Shelter, alongside the quiet care offered in homes, hospitals and local communities.

There was a desire to strengthen this presence among people experiencing poverty, homelessness, illness, grief and isolation. More trained pastoral carers, supported volunteers and partnerships with other churches and community groups were suggested. Care for creation was also raised. The hope is for a Diocese that continues to move beyond its own gatherings, sharing Christ's love through practical service, personal invitation and faithful accompaniment.

"More time spent with people on the margins;" — Parish or group response

Gifts, Leadership and Ministry

Priests, religious, lay leaders and volunteers contribute generously to the life of the Diocese of Toowoomba. Their commitment was appreciated, while participants recognised that responsibilities often rest with a small number of people. There are also gifts within communities that remain unrecognised or unused.

People sought clearer invitations into ministry, formation, mentoring and shared responsibility between clergy and laity. Greater recognition of women's contributions and meaningful participation by young people were recurring hopes. Encouraging vocations and caring for those already serving were also important, including support and induction for overseas priests. For the future, participants envisaged a Church that equips people to contribute and sustains them spiritually and practically in their service.

Connected and Sustainable Communities

The Diocese of Toowoomba encompasses communities with different strengths, needs and circumstances. Participants valued their local identity and history of faith, while expressing a desire to feel more connected with the wider Diocese. Rural and remote communities sought greater contact, pastoral support and opportunities to share in diocesan life.

Ageing congregations, fewer priests, stretched volunteers and financial pressures prompted questions about the future. People called for collaboration between parishes, schools and agencies, shared resources and administration, and thoughtful planning. They wanted resources to support people and mission, with local communities involved in decisions that affect them.

Stronger communication, continued listening and healing of past diocesan hurts were also part of this hope. Participants wanted to hear about the good already happening, build trust across differences and see their contributions lead to action. The future they described is one of communities supporting one another in a shared mission.

"That the church needs to continue having listening sessions and acting upon them." — Youth listening session

FROM LISTENING TO PRIORITIES

These themes inform the three priorities for our Synod: Our Life – Formed as Disciples; Our Mission – To Make Disciples of All Nations and Our Future – Uniting for Renewal in God's Mission. Together, they provide a starting point for discerning how we respond to what has been heard.