

St Patrick's Cathedral Newsletter



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

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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.



The Ascension of our Lord

12 May 2024

First reading: Acts 1:1-11 Why are you standing here looking into the sky? Jesus has been taken to heaven.

Responsorial Psalm: God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

Second Reading: Ephesians 1:17-23 He made Jesus to sit at his right hand in heaven.

Alleluia, alleluia! Go and teach all people my gospel.

I am with you always, until the end of the world. Alleluia!

Gospel: Mark 16:15-20 The Lord Jesus was taken into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God.

Dragons and Stuff.....

The book that I have most recently completed is one that has been on the top ten list for Adult Fiction for some time now. The interest has come because the author, Rebecca Yarros has just released book two of the five book series. (What's a five book series called?...a Pentalogy). This first book is titled *Fourth Wing*. It follows the usual pattern of the fantasy genre - the person least likely to succeed proves their ability through a series of tests and challenges, both personal and in the world, to prove surprisingly, they are the perfect person needed to combat the evil forces present. Always makes me think of David, the shepherd boy and youngest in the family who is the least likely to be King, but God thinks otherwise. Ofcourse the presence of dragons in this book is also no surprise. The main character, Violet Sorrengail is the one who overcomes many obstacles to shine in her giftedness that even shocks her. The story line includes being bonded with a dragon. Violet is bonded with not only one but two – Tairn and Andarna, who see the potential within her. As the story continues the unique bonding of person to dragon allows them to communicate with each other with their minds and emotions without speaking and without being close physically. They are bonded for life.

Today's feast made me reflect a little on this story I have just finished. Whilst it is a complete writing of fiction and I attribute nothing actually comparing it to the gospel but it awoke in me a sort of reflective thought.

Through baptism we are indeed bonded to Christ in a unique and special way. *We live and die, as St Paul says, for the Lord.* So, when Jesus ascends to heaven literally leaving his disciples looking up into the sky, they encounter for the first time the absence of hearing the voice of Christ. Or do they?

As we grow and mature in our understanding of our baptism, as we continue to acknowledge the presence of Christ in our lives, do we not hear Christ speaking to us? Do we not hear Christ in the words of others? In the striving to live lives that speak of Christ? In our prayers do we not hear the gentle and calming assurances of Jesus sitting with us? Are we not driven to act on the words we hear of forgiveness, love, compassion, joy and so on? Do we not feel that bond we have?

So when the "men in white" say to the disciples, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven?" is not that a call to remember that a bond is only as good as the genuine and authentic actions that we are drawn to fulfil in our lives? Maybe, like the character in the book, Violet, and many of the disciples, we feel unable, ill equipped, disaster prone, failures when it comes to truly hearing and being bonded to our Lord, but the promise Christ makes to us is that we will never be alone. Next week we celebrate the fullness of our bondedness with God – the Advocate, the Holy Spirit who brings us the greatest hope of never being separated from the knowledge of God's love for us. We discover this especially in the liturgy. The Catechism of 1992 reminds us in article 1101 – "*...the Spirit puts both the faithful and the ministers into a living relationship with Christ...so they can live out the meaning of what they hear, contemplate, and do in the celebration*"

May this feast today direct our hearts to the wonder of the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit as promised by Christ.

May you always know the gentle presence of Christ with you! Fr. Michael



✠ **We remember in our prayers all those who have died recently:** Grant Schultz.

✠ **We hold in our hearts the memories of those whose anniversaries occur at this time:**

Vincent Stephens, Peg O'Brien, Fr Garret Murphy [1962], Fr Michael Herbert [1970], Fr Thomas Nolan [1950], Msgr Edward Concannon [1987].

✠ **For all those who are ill in our community** – Frank Marino, Christine 'Saus' Barron, Rita Irwin, Alyshia Morris, William Garrahy, Gabrielle Saide, Bev Smith, Louise O'Connor, Sheryl Grunke, Noel Roshan Francis, Kate Gibbs, Therese Odri, Kath Smith, Freddy Nield, Ray Frelek, Bob O'Sullivan, Blake Cusato, Greg Coddington, Stanley Poon, Jamal Abraham, Judy Moloney, Perlita Torrecampo, Teresita Pamulaklakin, Madeline Gray, Braxton Rayner.

I invite you to keep in your prayers the priests of the Diocese as we gather with our Bishop in the coming week. On the 15th and 16th May, Sr Monica Cavanaugh will facilitate the exploration of the priorities and key areas for discussion in relation to the clergy in our Diocese. Bishop Ken is keen to deepen his understanding of the Diocese and listen to the needs of the different places within our vast territory. Discussion will follow the Synodality model which insists on hearing everyone's voice. After this time together as a presbyterate there may be further opportunity to look towards a more inclusive gathering of parishioners to gain a broader understanding of the Diocese. The Plenary Council has recommended there be regular synods in every diocese to form a vision and direction on a Diocesan level. Please keep Bishop Ken and the priests of the Diocese in your prayers. Fr. Michael.

Upcoming save the dates for St Saviour's College, Toowoomba. **YEAR 7 2025 SCHOLARSHIPS** Expressions of Interest close Friday, 3 May 2024. **PRINCIPAL'S TOUR** Wednesday, 8 May 2024. **MERCY GIRL FOR A MORNING** Friday, 24 May 2024 – 8.30am to 11.00am.


Register for any of these events online: www.ssctwb.catholic.edu.au

Winter Shelter – This year St Thomas More's has been allocated three evenings to host the homeless on June 24 July 22 and August 19. Jacinta, Parish Coordinator invites you to volunteer during this time to assist in feeding and providing a safe supervised space for people to rest for the night. If you are interested in giving your time please contact Jacinta at parishoffice@stthomasmores.org.au for more information.

HAPPY MOTHERS DAY Recently when I was at Brodrribb Nursing Home, I came across this poem which I thought was lovely for today – *My Mother kept a garden · A garden of the heart · She planted all the good things that gave my life its start · She turned me to the sunshine and encouraged me to dream · Fostering and nurturing the seeds of self-esteem · And when the wind and rain came she protected me enough · but not too much because she knew I'd need to stand up strong and tough · Her constant good example always taught me right from wrong · Markers for my pathway that will last a lifetime long · I am my Mother's garden · I am her legacy · And I hope today she feels the love reflected back from me. (Unknown)*

AUSTRALIA CATHOLICS MAGAZINE'S latest edition now available on the information table.

2 New TAP 'N PAY have been placed in St Patrick's, with the new feature that will allow for the selection of a number of different amounts. You may have to tap the screen first to "wake it up" before you choose the amount you wish to donate. *Thank you to all who give generously to assist St Pat's.*

Sunday 12 May [SPC – St Patrick's] [STM – St Thomas More's] Ascension of the Lord	7am, 9am, 5.30pm. Live Stream 9am	 4.30pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre
Monday 13 May	5.30pm Mass SPC 9.00am Mass STM	9.30am Rosary Making in Parish Conference Room 9.30am Mass at Brodrribb Nursing Home
Tuesday 14 May Saint Matthias	9am Mass SPC 5.30pm Mass STM	NO Choir Practice 6pm Celebration of Confirmation
Wednesday 15 May	7am Mass SPC	7.15pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre Diocesan Clergy Gathering
Thursday 16 May	7am Mass SPC	7.30am-8.30am Adoration at St Patrick's
Friday 17 May	7am Mass SPC 9.30am Mass STM	9am Ladies Friendship Group in Parish Conference Room 7.15pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre
Saturday 18 May	7am Mass SPC 6pm Mass SPC Live Stream 6pm	6.30am Rosary at St. Patrick's 8am – 9am Reconciliation SPC
Sunday 19 May PENTECOST SUNDAY	7am, 9am, 5.30pm	4.30pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre



Planned Giving: Thank you for your donations. Loose \$1956 Planned Giving \$1095 Donation Point \$890 Money Counters this weekend: Sam and Fina Ginardi with Wendy Heelan.
Money Counters next weekend: Jim Harris with Kevin and Judy Lindores.

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.