



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 Pastor: Fr. Brian Redondo
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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.



Third Sunday of Advent

15 December 2024

First reading: Zephaniah 3:14-18 With gladness the Lord will rejoice over you.

Responsorial Psalm: Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

Second Reading: Philippians 4:4-7 The Lord is near.

Alleluia, alleluia!! The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor. Alleluia!

Gospel: Luke 3:10-18 What, then, must we do?.

Gaudete Sunday

On the third Sunday of Advent, also known as **Gaudete Sunday**, we are called to be happy and rejoice as we wait for the coming of the Lord. We use the **rose coloured candle** on the Advent wreath as this Sunday is a **time of rejoicing**. The colour rose is a symbol of a break in the season of Advent which shows that he who is expected is almost here. Although Advent is normally a time of waiting and penance, the third week introduces a note of joy and calls us to lift our hearts in anticipation of the Lord's coming. **The term "Gaudete" is the Latin word meaning "rejoice," calling on believers to be joyful because God is near.**

It is also a joyful occasion by the recent creation of **21 new cardinals** by Pope Francis, one of whom is **Bishop Mykola Bychok from Melbourne**. At 44, Cardinal Bychok is Australia's youngest cardinal. A missionary from Ukraine, he adds the colour of the Eastern Catholic Church to the College of Cardinals. This is a happy occasion not only for Australia but for the whole Church, as it is a reminder of the missionary nature of the Church.

On a personal note, the promotion of **Cardinal Pablo David, or "Ambo,"** the Bishop of Caloocan in the Philippines, has a special meaning for me. Cardinal Ambo was my professor when I was a seminarian in Manila, and it was through his encouragement that many of my classmates, myself included, were inspired to **test the waters** and explore the call to be missionaries. His challenges pushed us to step out of our comfort zones and live out the Gospel beyond the familiar. My mere presence here, in Toowoomba, is a testament to that call.

The **Nativity scene during Advent** is an important reminder that the practice was introduced by **St. Francis of Assisi in 1223** with a living Nativity scene in **Greccio, Italy**. St. Francis was moved by his visit to the Holy Land and wanted people to feel the reality of the birth of Jesus. This tradition of the Nativity scene reminds us to remember that the love of God is sometimes shown in the most mundane way. It challenges us to see Christ in our day-to-day lives and is a personal and spiritual call to find God in All things.

This Christmas, do not miss coming to the **Children's Mass on the 24th of December at 6 pm**, during which our **children will present the Nativity scene pageantry**. Everyone is most welcome to this joyous event as we remember the birth of Christ, which is depicted in the reenactment of the nativity scene by the children.

Fr Brian Redondo



✠ **We remember in our prayers all those who have died recently and their families as they turn to God for strength and peace for their loved ones.**

✠ **We hold in our hearts the memories of those whose anniversaries occur at this time:** O'Brien, Mahon and Washington families.

✠ **For all those who are ill in our community:** Clive O'Kelly, Win Southern, Claire Seymour, John Evers, Sharon Keats, Bernard Bartetzko, Vicky Coccozza, Jibrán 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, Teresita Pamulaklakin, Madeline Gray.

Information packs for **St Pat's Sacramental program for 2025** are now available from the office. Please email admin@stpats.org.au or phone 4637 1500. Enrolments close on 20 December 2024.

Christmas Ministry Rosters: All ministers and parishioners are invited to advise of their availability for Christmas Masses by adding their names and phone numbers to the Christmas Roster on the table in the Eastern Transept.

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING "ONE OFF" MASS TIME CHANGES:

26/12 Boxing Day SPC 5.30pm (not 7am); 01/01/25 New Year's Day 5.30pm (not 7am) Please mark these on your calendars NOW!

Rosary Beads & Booklets: Please find some **FREE** rosary beads and booklets on the table at the side door in the middle of the Cathedral. Thank you to Theresa Blatchly for donating both the beads and the books.



Scan the Code to make a donation - Restoration Fund Fundraising: JOIN US TO PRESERVE THE PAST AND RESTORE FOR THE FUTURE A cathedral is never just a parish church; it belongs to everyone. St Patrick's historical significance is not just for Catholics, it is a part of the story of Toowoomba and Queensland. Be a part of our restoration journey; donate today. Donations made through National Trust Queensland are tax-deductible; **Scroll down to select "St Patrick's Cathedral Appeal, Toowoomba"** Please direct enquiries to the Fundraising Coordinator Ph: 46327589

FOR CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR MASSES, PLEASE TAKE A LEAFLET FROM CATHEDRAL TABLES or visit our Facebook page – St Patrick's Cathedral Toowoomba, or website - stpats.org.au

CHRISTMAS COLLECTION: As many would be aware each year, half of the Christmas Collection throughout the Diocese goes to a targeted cause. This year it has been decided to reach out to our brothers and sisters in need in Lebanon. Caritas Australia is aiming to provide immediate relief to displaced families and individuals facing severe hardship in the Middle East. Please consider giving generously to the collection during any of the Christmas Masses. Blessings.

CHRISTMAS WORKING BEE – If anyone is available to help with general cleaning of the Cathedral as we approach the celebration of Christmas it would be wonderful if you could come to the Cathedral on Tuesday, 17th December at 10.00am to assist in making our Cathedral sparkle for the coming celebrations.

ROSTERS – Please place your name on the rosters for Christmas if you can help – last chance to volunteer, we need you!

Sunday 15 December 3rd Sunday of Advent [SPC – St Patrick's] [STM – St Thomas More's]	7am, 9am, 5.30pm. Live Stream 9am	11am-12pm Nativity Scene Practice 1pm-4pm Altar Servers Practice 4.30pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre
Monday 16 December	5.30pm Mass SPC 9.00am Mass STM	
Tuesday 17 December	9am Mass SPC	10.00am Working Bee to clean the Cathedral
Wednesday 18 December	7am Mass SPC Fr James Wiemers	9.00am 2nd Rite of Reconciliation at SPC 5.30pm 2 nd Rite of Reconciliation at STM 7.15pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre
Thursday 19 December	7am Mass SPC	7.30am – 8.30am Adoration 9.30am Mass at Yukana 5.30pm – 7.30pm Choir practice
Friday 20 December	7am Mass SPC 9.30am Mass STM	Parish Office closed from 12pm, reopens 9am Monday 7.15pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre
Saturday 21 December	7am Mass SPC 6pm Mass SPC	6.30am Rosary at St. Patrick's 8am – 9am Reconciliation SPC 10am-12pm Nativity Scene Practice 1pm-3pm Altar Server Practice
Sunday 22 December 4th Sunday of Advent	7am, 9am, 5.30pm Live Stream 9am	9.00am Initiation into Catholic Church of Roslyn Marsh 11am Baptism Henry James Laugaland 4.30pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre

Planned Giving: Thank you for your donations. Loose \$3351 Planned Giving \$927 Donation Point \$1120 Money Counters this weekend: Kevin and Judy Lindores, Jim Harris

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.