



# 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](mailto: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.



## Third Sunday of Advent

## 17 December 2023

**First reading:** Isaiah 61:1-2 I exult for joy in the Lord.

**Responsorial Psalm:** My soul rejoices in my God.

**Second Reading:** Thessalonians 5:16-24 May you all be kept blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia alleluia! **The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he send me to bring Good News to the poor. Alleluia!**

**Gospel:** There stands among you, unknown to you, the one who is coming after me.

### Two Women, God's Call, and their Sons.

For you to think about, wonder and talk about, here are some reflections on the lives of two women described in the Scripture writings as 'cousins'. They live in different parts of the country, probably see very little of each other, are something like thirty years apart in age ... but they have a lot to tell us about life. They are both central to the events we'll be remembering and celebrating during the next couple of weeks.

Both are pregnant and each has reason to believe that the child she is carrying is a boy. We are told that each of them is pregnant through an extraordinary act of God. Otherwise they knew as little as any other mother knows about the child she bears. What their children will become is as much a mystery to them – MARY and ELIZABETH – as any child is a mystery to us.

Elizabeth's child (John) 'went bush' as a young man, much no doubt to the disappointment and concern of his parents. He joined a group of students of the Hebrew Scripture who lived very simple and disciplined lives in the desert country to the south of where he was born. When he returned home to Judea he challenged the religious and civil leaders about the unfaithfulness and self-centredness of their lives and called upon them publicly to repent and 'come back to God's way'. Some listened to him, others supported the king's order to have him beheaded.



Mary's child, (Jesus), followed his father's trade as a carpenter. Later he became a wandering preacher who brought peace and forgiveness into many lives. Many women and men became his disciples – not all of them for the right reasons – and he too paid with his life for what he became and did.

Mary and Elizabeth (and, I'm quite certain, Joseph and Zachery) put very little effort into just protecting their children from the dangers of life. They did, however, raise their sons to be men for whom faithfulness to God was more important than life itself!

Christmas is, of course, much more than a Feast for children. But it is, none the less, a good time to reflect upon and to discuss together as parents and families (including cousins!) upon what ideals we are setting for our children/grandchildren, and about the gifts we offer them!

What really is the LEGACY, the LASTING gift we offer! To develop a habit of getting things – or of giving self?

**May this be a fruitful, far reaching experience for us all.**

Hal Ranger

✚ **We remember in our prayers all those who have died recently:** Theresa Walsh.

✚ **We hold in our hearts the memories of those whose anniversaries occur at this time:** Jesse Fritz, Chahira Coorey, Fr James Wiemers [1984].

✚ **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.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Rite of Reconciliation: 9.00am (SPC) and 5.30pm (STM), Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> December**

**St Pat's office will be closed from Monday 25 December to Monday 1 January, inclusive.**

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.

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.

**The Catholic Leader** is available on the table. Cost if \$4, please put in collection box, however if you don't have the money, please take a copy.

Priest retreat will be held from Sunday January 7<sup>th</sup> to January 12<sup>th</sup>. Fr Michael Cooney will be celebrating Mass here at the Cathedral during this time.

## CHRISTMAS MASSES 2023

### Saint Patrick's Cathedral

VIGIL – 6.00pm (Family Mass); 8.30pm and Midnight

MORNING – 7.00am and 9.00am (NO 5.30pm Monday Mass)

### 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 for charitable purposes.

Please note the below calendar covers both weeks as there is no bulletin for the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent.

<b>Sunday 17 December</b> [SPC – St Patrick's] [STM – St Thomas More's]	7am, 9am, 5.30pm. <b>Live Stream 9am</b>	11am Baptism of Monique Masarate 12pm Baptism of Oliver Luke Jackson and Luke Paul Jackson 4.30pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre
<b>Monday 18 December &amp; Monday 25 December</b>	9am Mass STM 5.30pm Mass SPC	<b>No Vigil Mass on Christmas Day</b>
<b>Tuesday 19 December &amp; Tuesday 26 December</b>	9am Mass SPC 5.30pm Mass STM	5.30pm Choir practice in the Cathedral ( <b>only 19/12</b> )
<b>Wednesday 20 December &amp; Wednesday 27 December</b>	7am Mass SPC	7.15pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre
<b>Thursday 21 December &amp; Thursday 28 December</b>	7am Mass SPC	7.30am – 8.30am Adoration at SPC
<b>Friday 22 December &amp; Friday 29 December</b>	7am Mass SPC 9.30am Mass STM	7.15pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre
<b>Saturday 23 December &amp; Saturday 30 December</b>	7am Mass SPC 6pm Mass SPC	6.30am Rosary at SPC 8am – 9am Reconciliation
<b>Sunday 24 December &amp; Sunday 31 December</b>	7am, 9am, 5.30pm <b>Live Stream 9am</b>	<b>No Bingo Christmas Eve</b> 4.30pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre

**Planned Giving:** Thank you for your generous donations. Loose \$1912 Planned Giving \$1747 Donation Point \$600 Money Counters this weekend: Sam and Fina Ginardi, Wendy Heelan.  
Money Counters next weekend: 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.