



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.



Fifth Sunday in Lent

17 March 2024

First reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34 The days are coming when I will make a new covenant with Israel and I will forgive their iniquity.

Responsorial Psalm: Create a clean heart in me, O God.

Second Reading: Hebrews 5:7-9 He learnt to obey and became for all the source of eternal salvation.

Gospel: Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ! If you serve me, follow me, says the Lord: and where I am, my servant will also be. Glory to You, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

A REASON TO PAUSE FOR ST PATRICK'S DAY!

The story of St Patrick is both simple and complex. It requires us to understand a man who was captured by Pirates and held captive in Ireland for a period of six years. Whereupon he tended the sheep as a slave and in doing so he discovered a deep connection to God. As he sat under the stars, as he cared for his sheep like the "Good Shepherd", as he contemplated the mysteries of creation he discovered the beginning of the yearning in his heart and soul to find Christ in all things and in all places. Later to pray those words "*Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ in every heart.....*" It was this longing that put him on the road to escape back to Britain then to the missionary life, and then back to Ireland as Bishop. Without his *alone* hours as a shepherd in the misery of slavery he may never have heard the *whisper in the wind* of the voice of the loving and ever present God calling him on.

Our Lenten journey asks us to listen for a God who speaks to us in whispers, especially in our slavery, but we don't have to be out in the wilds and weather to hear God's voice. If we take a moment *to be attentive*, we will hear God's gentle murmurings as we wait in line at the supermarket, or going for a walk, or waiting to cross the road, or for the kettle to boil, or the dinner to cook.....for every moment is sacred and every opportunity is precious. This was Patrick's life and his revelation.

David Adam has written several books which are collections of reflections on the writings of St Patrick. They are very accessible and give great meditative guides. Recently I was reading a reflection on the meaning of the Celtic cross, bringing, as St Patrick did a combination of faith in God and ancient Celtic tradition. He wrote -

"The shaft of the cross is covered with typical interlacing in a criss-cross pattern: this represents life – it looks simple, but in fact is very complex. As the line travels over the whole of the shaft, it goes over and under, under and over itself, just as life has its ups and downs: sometimes you are on top of the world and at other times things get you down. If you follow this line, it is usually endless. For the Christian, that is a strong statement about life. The criss-cross pattern also represents the weaving of life by the fates: the fact that our life is limited, our freedoms restricted. Like the stonemason, we are only able to work within fixed parameters. So much is already laid out, measured for us. Some would argue that we are in the hands of fate, predestined from the start. But the pattern is not allowed to take over. Fate does not have the last word. It is not the final explanation of life. Superimposed, bedded right into the pattern, are three figures. There is a majestically powerful figure at the top, holding up the pillars of the world. He is above all and has command. He looks like Atlas with the world, the wheeled crosshead, on his shoulders. He upholds us at all times. At the base of the cross is a squared figure of a man holding a book. Here is our guide and strengthener, the Spirit of God. Central to the shaft is an empty cross, without the pattern of the fates. It is the sign of Jesus triumphant, neither the cross nor the grave could keep Him. The message is that we are not in the hands of fate, but in the hands of the Almighty; death is not fatal."



A particularly profound reflection as we look forward to the promises encapsulated in Christ's resurrection to new life!

Saint Patrick...Pray for us.

Fr. Michael

✠ We remember in our prayers all those who have died recently: Terry McNamara.

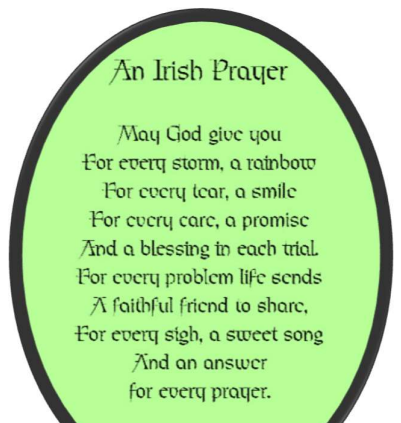
✠ We hold in our hearts the memories of those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Pat Pingel.

✠ For all those who are ill in our community, especially: 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.

Please find the Complete Easter Service Times on the GOLD sheets on the tables.

Parish Council membership. Thank you to all those who showed an interest in being part of the St Patrick's Parish Council. With our Parish Strategic Plan and Vision in place we hope to move forward with many initiatives driven by our desire to BELIEVE, BELONG AND BECOME into the future. We welcome our Parish Council members – Rex Miguel, Angela Travers, Anna Rees, Clinton Shearer, Hughie Boyce, Mark Betts, Pamela Hanrick, Sandra O'Kelly, Patrick Eldridge and Frs Nathan, Brian and myself. We look forward to listening and responding to the needs of the parish community. Should you have anything to talk about, please approach one of the councilors or the priests. God's blessings, Fr. Michael.

EASTER ROSTERS – If you are available for any ministry over Easter, please fill in the details required on the sheet located on the Neil St Entrance table. Thank you. As you would be aware we need extra helpers for the multitude of services over Easter. Please consider volunteering!



In typical Irish style St Patrick's Feast Day will be celebrated not on the 17th, but Monday the 18th according to the church's calendar.....

Some events to keep in mind in the coming weeks...

✠ Ecumenical Blessings of Palm branches will be at 8.00am on the 24th March at St Stephen's Uniting Church, Neil St. Afterward Mass at SPC at 9.00am.

✠ If you have rosemary growing in your garden, please consider donating some for the 3.00pm Good Friday Service. Please drop into the church anytime from Wednesday, 27th March.

✠ Mass of the Holy Oils has a long tradition within the life of the church. It is not only to bless and consecrate the holy oils used for baptism, confirmation and anointing, for the coming year but also a time for the priests of the Diocese to renew their promises and recommit to their ministry in the life of the church. There will be a light supper afterwards in the Cathedral Centre. Everyone welcome. This year it is on Monday, 25th March at St Patrick's at 5.30pm.

Sunday 17 March [SPC – St Patrick's] [STM – St Thomas More's] Fifth Sunday of Lent	7am, 9am, 5.30pm. Live Stream 9am	11am Baptism of Charlotte Kendra Cabrera Stower 4.30pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre
Monday 18 March St Patrick's Feast Day	5.30pm Mass SPC 9.00am Mass STM	9.30am Rosary Beads Making, Parish Centre (Admin Building)
Tuesday 19 March St Joseph	9am Mass SPC 5.30pm Mass STM	4pm and 5pm – Practice for 1 st Reconciliation at SPC 5.30pm Choir Practice
Wednesday 20 March	7am Mass SPC	2 nd Rite Reconciliation – 9.30am STM and 5.30pm SPC 7.15pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre
Thursday 21 March	7am Mass SPC	9.30am Mass at Yukana 7.30am – 8.30am Adoration at SPC
Friday 22 March	7am Mass SPC 9.30am Mass STM	9am Ladies Friendship Group, Parish Centre (Admin Building) 10.00am Baptism of William Albert Freier and Imogen Rose Williams-Donaldson 3pm SPC Wedding Jack Sommerfield and Abbi Gallegos 6pm Celebration of First Reconciliation 7.15pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre
Saturday 23 March	7am Mass SPC 6pm Mass SPC	6.30am Rosary at SPC 8am – 9am Reconciliation 10.00am Celebration of First Reconciliation
Sunday 24 March Palm Sunday	7am, 9am, 5.30pm Live Stream 9am	8.00am Ecumenical Blessing of Palms at Uniting Church, Neil St. 11am Baptism of Evelyn Jean Fletcher 12Noon Baptism of Kaizen Amari Lar Dizabal 2pm Baptism of Ada Ivy Lawton Hammesley-Mather 4.30pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre

Planned Giving: Thank you for your donations. Loose \$2328 Planned Giving \$970 Donation Point \$880 Money Counters this weekend: Jabour Hanna, Michelle Betros and Mick Cuskelly. Money Counters next weekend: Sandra and Peter Daly with Jan-Nell and Errol Chase.

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.