



St Patrick's Cathedral Newsletter



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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 Pastor: 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



ST SAVIOUR'S
Primary School
TOOWOOMBA



Ascension Sunday

17 May 2026

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

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

Second Reading: Ephesians 1:17-23 He made Jesus to sit at the 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: Matthew 28:16-20 Akk authority un heaven and on earth has been given to me.



Experience the Holy Spirit!

The gospel this weekend reminds of the ultimate mission of Christ – to make His love known to the whole world. All of us do this in our daily lives by the example of the gospel we show in our interactions with others – family, friends and those we meet only for a moment. As we approach Pentecost we know that it is the Holy Spirit working through us that gives us the gifts to be Christ to one another – BOLDLY!

Today's first reading tells the story of the final farewell of Christ after his resurrection. The *undercurrent* of the scene is one of deep sadness of the final moment of knowing that the risen Christ is no longer spiritually present with them. Their lives have moved to a new moment in their journey with God. Yet they also know that the Holy Spirit – the Advocate – has been promised and is present with them. It's like so much of our life journey – a moment of realisation – a sudden clearer view of what is happening – even a moment of acceptance of what has happened, and a desire to move to a place that is beyond the weight of the past.

These disciples realised that the time had come to move forward knowing the Holy Spirit will invigorate their hearts into action. This is symbolised in the question the angel offers – “*Why are you men looking up into the sky?*” In other words it is time to “seize the day”, to put into action everything you have heard from Christ and take Christ into the world. Leave your past behind, be renewed in the Spirit and LIVE.

On the last two pages of the bulletin this week you will find some reflections from the 15 women and men who entered fully in the Catholic family at Easter time. These reflections can help us remember what it means to be part of this great mission of Christ – read them and reflect on your own journey and be renewed in the mission, as they were at Easter.

Every Blessing, Fr. Michael



✠ **We remember in our prayers all those who have died recently:** Wendi Evers.

✠ **We hold in our hearts the memories of those whose anniversaries occur at this time, especially:**
Mary O'Brien, Fr Tom Isaac.

✠ **For all those who are ill in our community:** Helen Hoddle, Katherine Manktelow, Therese Odri, Lynne Anderson, David Cattel, Austin Amalemba, Janet Brady, Brenden Canning, Ted Philippa, Justin O'Donnell, Kathy Birmingham, Carole Symons, Elizabeth Soutar, Patrick Eldridge, Donna Vallely, Claire Seymour.

BULLETIN EMAIL: Please note that we have transferred to the "cloud" for our computer system here at St Patrick's, so during that upgrade the list of people on our list to receive the bulletin each week has been lost. If you would like the bulletin sent to you each week please email your request to stpatrickscathedral@twb.catholic.org.au and you will be added to our regular mailout list.



The Synod Listening Sessions are an integral part of the Synod process. These sessions enable us to gather as a diocese, share our joys and sorrows, pray together, and discern where the Holy Spirit is encouraging us to take action for our future. This is an opportunity for each person in the diocese to contribute to our Synod, with the information gathered at these sessions being directly fed back to the Bishop for his discernment and deliberation for the Synod assembly which will be held 23-24 Oct 2026.

QR code:



Listening Sessions: Please register via QR, Website below or call our office for assistance.

Tuesday 16 June, 6-8pm at Micah Centre, Toowoomba Catholic Schools Office, Toowoomba.

Online: Tuesday 26 May, 10-11.30am via Teams

Registration: www.trybooking.com/eventlist/toowoombasynodlisteningessions

Money Counters are needed to count one Sunday per month after 5.30pm Mass, it's not an onerous task. If you can help with this important ministry, please email stpatrickscathedral@twb.catholic.org.au or phone the office 4637 1500.

Garden Committee Members needed – Why not think of Joining our gardening committee to help beautify our church grounds, making them a place of reflection and peace. Please contact Christine on 0408 784 253.

Mass for the Promotion and Renewal of Altar Servers – Sunday 17 May, 9:00 am

Join us at the Cathedral as we give thanks for the dedication of our altar servers and celebrate those being formally promoted in their ministry. Those interested in becoming altar servers are welcome to contact Fr Brian Redondo bredondo@twb.catholic.org.au.

Sunday 17 May Ascension Sunday [SPC - St Patrick's & STM - St Thomas More's]	7am, 9am, 5.30pm. Live Stream 9am [Priest ann. in green] Msgr Edward Concannon	9am Mass for Renewal of Altar Servers 11am Baptism Jamie Amari Yco 2-4pm Big Band on the Green 4.30pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre
Monday 18 May	5.30pm Mass SPC 9.00am Mass STM	9.30am Rosary Group in the Parish Centre Parish Council postponed to next meeting
Tuesday 19 May	9am Mass SPC	
Wednesday 20 May	7am Mass SPC 5.30pm Mass STM	7.15pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre 4-6pm Sacrament of Confirmation Practice 5.30pm SPC Liturgy Committee meeting in Staff room
Thursday 21 May	7am Mass	7.30am-8.30am Adoration 9.30am Mass at Yukana 6pm Celebration of Confirmation NO CHOIR PRACTICE
Friday 22 May	7am Mass 9.30am Mass STM	9am Friendship Group in the Parish Centre 2pm Wedding Jessica Patteron & Brett Virgen 5.30pm Altar Server Practice 7.15pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre
Saturday 23 May	7am Mass 6pm Mass	6.30am Rosary in Cathedral 8-9am Reconciliation 9.30am Baptism Rafael Finlay 10.30am Baptism Lucia Grace, Lylah Eve & Jedd Leo Kenny 1.30pm Wedding Samantha Banks & Damian Burgess
Sunday 24 May PENTECOST SUNDAY	7am, 9am, 5.30pm Live Stream 9am	MULTICULTURAL MASS 11am Baptism Arthur Todd & Maggie Robyn Stewart 12pm Baptism Michael James Fitzgerald 1pm Baptism Levi William & Gianna Mae Ghirardello 4.30pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre

St Patrick's Cathedral Parish Collections

Collection for 10/5/26 – Loose \$3472 Planned Giving \$863 Donation Point \$1420

Money Counters this weekend: Sam & Fina Ginardi – Wendy Heelan

Money Counters next weekend: Parish Office

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.

Multicultural Pentecost Mass – Sunday 24 May, 9:00 am

Join us as we celebrate the feast of Pentecost and the rich diversity of our parish community. Different multicultural groups will take part throughout the liturgy as a sign of the Church's unity in the Holy Spirit. Parishioners are warmly invited to participate in the Parade of the Nations by representing their country with flags. For enquiries or to be involved, please contact Fr Brian Redondo at bredondo@twb.catholic.org.au.

The RCIA journey has had a profound personal effect on me as it allowed me to pursue a greater and closer connection to God and his creation, while also having the pleasure and experience to take upon this journey with a great number of other amazing people.

The RCIA process has been a great process and that has been very helpful for me when converting to Catholicism and strengthening my faith.

The RCIA process has been an eye opener into the Catholic faith. Going through this process has been truly educational and has strengthened my faith. I feel a huge pressure lifted off my shoulders knowing my daughters, Elizabeth and Victoria chose to go through this journey freely.

My experience with the RCIA gatherings was that it was so welcoming. It truly expressed how sincere Jesus was in his promise that in the resurrection we all will have a home waiting for us (John 14:3).

This RCIA meeting is accessible to all and allows everyone to meet God.

I'm sure Jesus would be glad. Another verse that sits personally with me is Matthew 18:20, "For where two or three gather in my name, there I am with them." I believe this program truly helped other fellow catechumens to feel the presence of God and find him on a personal level.

I am incredibly grateful for what the RCIA program has done for myself and my family. I am so blessed to be a part of the Catholic Church.

I liken the RCIA programme to that of annual flu injections in that, it improves immunity from sin, decreases apathy and increases one's knowledge and ability to improve spiritual well-being in the love of God's family. [Catechist]

It was heartwarming to see how devoted to learning and enriching their lives the new candidates have been in their faith journey. [Sponsor]

As a sponsor, I was reminded that accompaniment is a ministry of presence more than expertise. Sometimes the most important thing I can offer is to simply walk with someone as they encounter Christ in their own way.

Being baptised and this continuing journey made me feel a deeper sense of belonging and I felt closer to my Lord. It felt freeing to make that public declaration and recognition I felt inwardly for many years.

I pray now that I become more loving, forgiving and wiser and that others can really feel that I came to be a sister in Christ.

What a privilege it was to be asked to witness and be part of the RCIA journey. Watching and hearing everyone's faith grow each week you certainly feel the Holy Spirit working through each person. You knew the Holy Spirit was certainly present. [Sponsor]

I loved the enthusiasm and hunger for the faith that was shown [Sponsor]

This RCIA journey has been truly the best experience in my life. The last few months has taught me so much about the Catholic faith, and I would love to invite my family and friends to join the journey.

It has been truly an honour and privilege to support and witness the process of coming into the faith. Hearing the testimonies, listening to the perspectives, and watching the “light bulb moments” in people’s journey in real time has given me a renewed appreciation for how our universal Christian faith interacts with the lives of each individual. No amount of books, Youtube lectures or theology study can every much the very human elements of the RCIA journey. [Catechist]

This has been an enlightening journey that has increased my thirst to know more about God and what it really means to be a catholic. Thank you for all the fruitful conversations and guidance along the way. We love you Gabrielle.

You know something is good when you never want something to end – that’s exactly how I’ve felt about the RCIA course. Huge thank you to Gabrielle our fearless and wonderfully organised leader for the effort she pours into this. To everyone in our group thank you for sharing your insights, for your honesty and your eagerness to grow in faith. Being part of this group has been something special.

Attending weekly meetings on a Friday initially concerned me, as I have always felt tired and fatigued after a long work week. The reality was the opposite. The sense of brother/sisterhood felt with fulfilling conversation left me feeling refreshed in body and soul every time. This perfectly set me up for a reflective and prayerful weekend. I have learnt much, but most importantly grown in love for God. I feel I have returned home for the first time.

I was pleasantly surprised to find that God was able to speak to me throughout this process in a way that I would understand to the core of me. I thought Catholicism was far more prohibitive and exclusive. I was so encouraged to learn that there is a culture of acceptance. It opened my eyes to how God has been guiding me and working through me before I even heard the Spirit. I feel more whole, more loved, more understood than I ever have.

In my thirty years of searching, I can honestly say that I have always felt like I was missing something. I was not only visiting Catholic churches but also other protestant churches, but while I learnt a lot, I don’t feel like I learned enough. I described this to a friend recently, that I felt like I have been on a path, trekking through fog, not quite sure where my feet are taking me, even though I know the destination. Now the path has become that much brighter, the fog has thinned and the features of my journey, those landmarks and waypoints that we rely upon most of the time on a journey are now visible to me. What a privilege it will be to stop on the way and take in those features, to discover more about why the journey is going in the direction set for me, who has walked the path before me, and what has been left there to guide me on my way. Becoming Catholic has for me felt like I have picked up that thread and found my way out to a place where the real journey begins.