



# 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

Safeguarding Officer: Clinton Shearer ([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.



## SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

## 19 January 2025

**First reading:** Isaiah 62:1-5 As the bridegroom rejoices in his bride, so will your God rejoice in you.

**Responsorial Psalm: Proclaim his marvelous deeds to all the nations.**

**Second Reading:** Corinthians 12:4-11 One and the same spirit distributes different gifts as he chooses.

**Alleluia, alleluia! God has called us with the gospel to share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. Alleluia!**

**Gospel:** John 2:1-11 The first of the signs by Jesus was at Cana in Galilee

**[Books of 2024]** The Heroines, *Laura Shepperson*; Before We Say Goodbye (Bk 4), *Shikazu Kawaguchi*; Bright Shining: How Grace Changes Everything, *Julia Baird*; Foul Play, *Fiona McIntosh*; The Atlas Six (Bk 1), *Olivie Blake*; A Knock At The Door, *T.W. Ellis*; The Escapades of Tribulation Johnson, *Karen Brooks*; The Hanging Tree; *Ben Aaronovitch*; Fourth Wing, *Rebecca Yaros*; The Red Side Story, *Jasper Fforde*, A Week on Mount Olympus, *Peter Muphy*, It Lasts Forever And Then It's Over, *Anne De Mancken*, Brooklyn, *Colm Toibin*, Long Island, *Colm Toibin*; Clear, *Carys Davis*; Table For Two, *Amor Towles*; Novala, *Paolo Bacigalupi*; Guilty, *Martina Cole*; Midnight and Blue, *Ian Rankin*; Unsinkable, *Jenni L. Walsh*; The City and It's Uncertain Walls, *Murakami*; Before We Forget Kindness (Bk 5), *Toshikazu Kawaguchi*, The Atlas Paradox (Bk 2), *Olivie Blake*.

As you know I try to read a book a fortnight during the year to keep my mind ticking over. There is always some wisdom contained between the pages of a good book - an idea, or a sense of wonder as everything falls into place, or when something unexpected occurs. It is said that every book changes us in some way!

One of the books I am nearing the completion of is not a novel, but rather a scientific approach to understanding the essence of evolution and the mysteries that every species contains in their genetic material – *The Genetic Book of the Dead* by Richard Dawkins. It's premise is that every creature on earth contains a wealth of information in regards to their history and adaptation over the centuries that is captured in their genetic profile. This is left for the scientist in the future, as we are not quite there yet in regards to being able to discover the information at this time, however there are pointers that allow us to understand evolution from environmental changes that are evident in many species. So tracking back through their genetic material we can discover the changes that have occurred which help build a picture of where they existed and who their predators were. The changes that are physical, (eg. camouflage) are mainly due to a need for survival.

For me the fascinating beauty of this book is just the wonder of creation it contains through the prism of God's presence. This is certainly not the idea of the book as it uses a scientific approach, but the examples that he gives are amazing and wonderful. It is this miraculous wonder that I bring to this reflection on today's gospel. When we read today's story of the turning of the water into wine at the wedding at Cana, it is seen as the first sign or miracle attributed to Christ. **But is it really?** When we cast our minds back to the readings of Christmas morning from the beginning of John's gospel, we hear – "*In the beginning was the Word: and the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made.*"

Richard Dawkins recounts our creation history. He speaks of a time, some 140 million years ago, where the earth was covered mainly in oceans of saline water teeming with tiny living creatures. Most probably as time went on some of these creatures ventured out on the land probably in search of food. Then as the sea receded and there were only small ponds, the land visitors spent more time moving on the ground, and as the sea ponds dried up they remained on land and dwelt thereon. And, as they say, the rest is history. That is a miracle in itself. The first signs of God's eternal presence through creation and evolution and the *Word* was present through it all.

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What truly captured my imagination was the quote he gave from the scientist JBS Haldane, “we pass our first nine months as aquatic animals, suspended in and protected by a salty fluid medium. We begin life as salt-water animals.” To me that is a WOW! to God’s amazing way of connecting us to our past. 140 million years of history that has brought us to be created the way we are. To know that we have the same saline in our blood stream that our ancestors had, connecting us to all creation. So generations upon generations we have encountered the wonders and signs of the presence of the *Word*, as did the people at the wedding feast at Cana. It reminds us that there are signs of the presence of the Trinity always around us in new and exciting ways. The gospel invites us to see afresh the signs in nature and the little miracles that are occurring every day in the lives of the people we walk with, **and then in humble respect we are called to pause and whisper a prayer of thanks as God breaks through to us!**

*Every blessing, Fr. Michael*

✠ **We remember in our prayers all those who have died recently:** Elaine Fuller, Joan Harding (Brisbane), Jeanette Salem (Sydney), Elaine Duggan, Ray Hodges, Rodney Sleba.

✠ **We hold in our hearts the memories of those whose anniversaries occur at this time:** John Mahon, Kathleen Mahon, Denise O’Brien, Brendan O’Brien, Jacinta Amalemba, Michelle Gulavic.

✠ **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.

**St Pat’s Sacramental program for 2025** begins on Wednesday 12 February. Enrolments are now overdue. Please email [admin@stpats.org.au](mailto:admin@stpats.org.au) or phone 4637 1500 as soon as possible if you would like your child to participate.



**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

Whilst on retreat Bishop Ken announced that Fr. Franco Filipetto will be going on long service leave between March and June this year. In his absence as Vicar General, Fr. Jim Cronin will fill the position. Bishop Ken also announced that Fr. Peter Dorfield will fill the role of Chancellor of the Diocese, previously fulfilled by Fr. Peter Schultz.

**Job Vacancy – Admin Support Officer, St Anthony’s Parish, Toowoomba**

St Anthony’s Parish Community is looking for an Admin Support Officer to work up to 20 hours per week. Days and hours are negotiable. Please submit resume to Fr. Jamie Collins ([admin@stanthonysparish.com.au](mailto:admin@stanthonysparish.com.au) ) by 10<sup>th</sup> February.

<b>Sunday 19 January</b> <b>2<sup>nd</sup> in Ordinary Time</b> [SPC – St Patrick’s] [STM – St Thomas More’s]	7am, 9am, 5.30pm. <b>Live Stream 9am</b>	11am Baptism Maeve Mackenzie 12pm Baptism Evelyn Kathryn Kirby 4.30pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre
<b>Monday 20 January</b>	5.30pm Mass SPC 9.00am Mass STM	
<b>Tuesday 21 January</b> <b>St Agnes</b>	9am Mass SPC	
<b>Wednesday 22 January</b>	7am Mass SPC	7.15pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre
<b>Thursday 23 January</b>	7am Mass SPC <b>Fr William Behm</b>	7.30am – 8.30am Adoration 9.30am Mass at Yukana
<b>Friday 24 January</b> <b>St Francis De Sales</b>	7am Mass SPC 9.30am Mass STM	7.15pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre
<b>Saturday 25 January</b> <b>The Conversation Of St Paul</b>	7am Mass SPC 6pm Mass SPC	6.30am Rosary at St. Patrick’s 8am – 9am Reconciliation SPC 11am Baptism Slade Archer Bath 12pm Baptism Hugh James & Clara Grace Schmidt
<b>Sunday 26 January</b> <b>3<sup>rd</sup> in Ordinary Time</b>	7am, 9am, 5.30pm <b>Live Stream 9am</b>	4.30pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre

**Planned Giving:** Thank you for your donations. Loose \$3066 Planned Giving \$790 Donation Point \$1440 Money Counters this weekend: NOT REQUIRED THIS WEEKEND.

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.

DUE TO REPAIRS AND NEW CARPET, THE PARISH OFFICE REOPENS ON **TUESDAY 21 JANUARY**. THE OFFICE STAFF WILL BE AVAILABLE VIA EMAIL AND PHONE. We apologise for any inconvenience.

