



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)

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.



Fourth Sunday of Advent

22 December 2024

First reading: Micah 5:1-4 Out of you will be born the one who is to rule over Israel.

Responsorial Psalm: Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

Second Reading: Hebrews 10:5-10 I am coming to do your will.

Alleluia, alleluia!! I am the servant of the Lord: may his will for me be done.. Alleluia!

Gospel: Luke 1:39-44 Why should it happen that I am honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord?



When I had the privilege of travelling to the Holy Land in 2010 one of the places we visited was the supposed place that Mary and Elizabeth met, up in the hill country of Judah. I created this prayer card from some of the photos that I took whilst there. The one you can see that has the words "The Holy Land" is of the statues of Mary and Elizabeth, both obviously pregnant and filled with joy to see each other and the babies they were carrying. In the background you can see the wall with plaques on them. Each of the framed mosaics on the wall behind contain the words of the Magnificat in many of the world's languages.

The visitation story has a place in my heart from my childhood. The praying of the Rosary was an important part of my faith journey as a child, and still remains as a key part of my prayer life. When I was growing up in Roma, my mother and a number of ladies would meet in different homes in town to pray the Rosary together on a Thursday morning, then all would head to Mass at 11.00am at All Saints. The CWL was an instrumental part of making this part of the life of the parishioners in Roma.

As a school child they asked me to write a little prayer dedication for each of the mysteries of the Rosary to help them focus on the petitions related to that decade of the Rosary. I remember the Visitation particularly because the focus was for the unborn child to be protected from harm before birth as, like Mary and Elizabeth, mothers need time to discern the promise of God's presence in their challenging and hidden future.

So, this reading means a lot to me as I reflect on my journey of life as a priest. Each time I make a visitation to spend time with people I am reminded that just like with Mary and Elizabeth, *Jesus is present*. As I also reflect on the presence of John the Baptist I wonder at the ways he prepares us to proclaim the presence of Christ. In other words I wonder in what way is this gathering preparing those with me for Christ to be amongst us – the Emmanuel.

As we enter the final few days of Advent we are called to consider the ways in which Christ is present in our days of visitation. In what ways do we honour the presence of Christ when speaking or sharing our lives with others. A prayer I sometimes pray to ask God for the right words is the following. Before the prayer you are invited to - *Firstly gently lay your fingers upon your lips, longing for the grace to speak only words that are helpful today. Remember the words that you have already spoken. You cannot take them back. Bless them and let them go. And now we pray:*

O Word Made Flesh, stand guard at the gate of my mouth. Be my voice this day that the words I speak will be healing, affirming, true, and gentle. Give me wisdom to think before I speak. Bless the words in me that are waiting to be spoken. Live and abide in my words so that others will feel safe in my presence. Surprise me with words that have come from you. Oh, place my words in the furnace of your heart that they may be enduring and strong, tempered and seasoned with love and resilience. Give me a well-trained tongue that has been borne out of silent listening in the sanctuary of my heart. May my words become love in the lives of others AMEN.

God's blessings as we near the incarnation. Fr. Michael

✠ **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.** Wendell Joseph Sladen, Helene Green, Marc De Smet, Patricia Fillery, Ann Webster.

✠ **We hold in our hearts the memories of those whose anniversaries occur at this time:** Yousef Saba, Ray Power, Chahira Coorey.

✠ **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 Information packs are now available from the office. Please email admin@stpats.org.au or phone 4637 1500. Enrolments close on 20 December 2024.

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!

Winners of the Rosary Making raffle: Veronica O'Reilly, Bev Doherty, Veronica Hughes (Chinchilla), Celia Smith (Helidon) Theresa and all the members wish to thank everyone for their continued support. \$1155 was raised and all proceeds will go towards new beads and other supplies.



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

2024 Christmas Collection: This year the Diocesan Council of Priests have decided that the Annual Christmas Collection will be distributed evenly amongst our local St Vincent de Paul Conferences and the Caritas Appeal in support of those suffering from the devastating conflicts in Lebanon, with the aim to bring immediate relief to displaced families and individuals facing severe hardship. The diocesan office will oversee the distribution of these funds to ensure that they go to those most impacted. Please consider giving generously to the collection during any of the Christmas Masses. Blessings.



Vanuatu Earthquake Appeal: Donate today via the website or please use the QR Code <http://www.caritas.org.au/vanuatu>



Employment opportunity's Catholic Diocese of Toowoomba: Fundraising Development Manager, Diocesan Archivist. **Applications close 6th January 2025 –**

Enquiries via - <https://www.seek.com.au/Catholic-Diocese-of-Toowoomba-jobs/at-this-company>

Parish Office Hours: Closed from 4pm 24th December and will reopen Thursday 2nd January 2025 at 9am.

Sunday 22 December 4th Sunday of Advent [SPC – St Patrick's] [STM – St Thomas More's]	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
Monday 23 December	5.30pm Mass SPC 9.00am Mass STM	2pm Wedding Eduardo Buitrago & Antonette Sy
Tuesday 24 December	9am Mass SPC 6pm Family Mass SPC 8.30pm Vigil Mass SPC 12pm Midnight mass SPC	Parish Office closes at 4pm
Wednesday 25 December THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD	7am Christmas Mass SPC 9am Christmas Mass SPC NO 5.30pm Mass	Parish Office Closed until Thursday 2nd January
Thursday 26 December Saint Stephen	5.30pm Mass SPC	No Adoration
Friday 27 December Saint John	7am Mass SPC 9.30am Mass STM	7.15pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre
Saturday 28 December The Holy Innocents	7am Mass SPC 6pm Mass SPC	6.30am Rosary at St. Patrick's 8am – 9am Reconciliation SPC 4pm Wedding Gener Valerio & Sheena Quiles
Sunday 29 December THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH	7am, 9am, 5.30pm Live Stream 9am	4.30pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre

Planned Giving: Thank you for your donations. Loose \$2856 Planned Giving \$986 Donation Point \$1260 Money Counters this weekend: Jabour Hanna, Michelle Betros, Mick Cuskelly
Money Counters next weekend: Sandra & Peter Daly, Jan-Nell & 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.