

# 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

Pastoral Associate – Music: Pamela Duane – [cathedralmusic@twb.catholic.org.au](mailto:cathedralmusic@twb.catholic.org.au)

Safeguarding Officer: Clinton Shearer ([profstandards@twb.catholic.org.au](mailto:profstandards@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



## FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

22 February 2026

**First reading:** Genesis 2:7-9;3:1-7 Creation of our first parents, and sin.

**Responsorial Psalm:** Be merciful O Lord, for we have sinned.

**Second Reading:** Romans 5:12-19 Where sin increased, there grace abounded all the more.

*Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless glory! No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless glory!*

**Gospel:** Matthew 4:1-11 Jesus fasted for forty days and nights.

### The Journey of Lent

Over the last couple of years when I burn the palms from the previous year I have noticed that the flames are a little different. There is present a strong green tinge to some of the flames as they burn. I don't think it is because they are being burnt at St Patrick's with its Irish heritage! It's because of the naturally occurring oil within the palm fronds. These are the leaves from the large palms that adorn the Cathedral each year. When I was watching them burn the other day I was reflecting on this natural phenomenon and it occurred to me that like that natural occurring oil, we come to this Lenten time with a naturally occurring instinct within us. In other words we come with a "burning" inside of us. A burning of the spirit to live a different life – a life of deeper goodness and purpose. We come to this season because maybe our inner flame has grown dim.

Today's gospel speaks of the temptations of Christ in the desert. These are very real temptations that may be also real for us. Temptations that offer pathways of living a comfortable, easy life (..stones into bread...). Then the temptation of being in total control of every situation (..if you are the Son of God...), and the temptation of power meaning we look after only ourselves (...I will give you all these...) These were real temptations for Christ also who would have been able to succeed in all he wanted had he allowed himself to give into the Evil one, but at a great cost. Our temptations may seem little when compared to this episode in the life of Jesus, however we are all tempted in different areas of our lives. This season is an inner journey to become aware of the areas that stop us from being the fullest person God desires us to be. To live a life relatively free, as we are human with a touch of divine, of slavery to sin.

So when we consider the invitation of this season we become aware of the guideposts the church and scripture invites us to use – PRAYER, GIVING AND FASTING. At the end of each day we might ask ourselves "How have I lived these this day? and How might I live them tomorrow?" We ask God to help us see inwardly the need for this journey in our lives as we seek. But what do these three guideposts really mean for us today. Maybe this is another way of seeing these areas –

When we GIVE we loosen the grip on self focus -  
*for as we give we have to consider the other person;*

When we FAST we loosen our grip on comfort -  
*for to fast means we step outside our everyday easy living;*

When we PRAY we loosen our grip on control -  
*for we listen to the direction God invites us to follow in our lives.*



*May God bless your Lenten Journey with much insight, couched in love. Fr. Michael*

✠ **We remember in our prayers all those who have died recently:** Dorothy McGrane.

✠ **We hold in our hearts the memories of those whose anniversaries occur at this time, especially:** Alan Smith, Jake Roff, Hazel Layton, Pamela Cole, Rebecca Betros, Sol and Patricia Betros.

✠ **For all those who are ill in our community:** Janet Brady, Jane Kennedy, Brenden Canning, Ted Philippa, Justin O'Donnell, Mark Betts, Kathy Bermingham, Carole Symons, Elizabeth Soutar, Patrick Eldridge, Donna Vallely, Rajender Vellore, Evandro Andrade, Antonietta Del Riccio, Mary Boland, Claire Seymour, Sharon Keats, Bernard Bartetzko, Jibran Mardini, Richard Stritzel, Rita Irwin, Kate Gibbs, Christine 'Saus' Barron, Alyshia Morris, William Garrahy, Bev Smith, Sheryl Grunke, Noel Francis, Therese Odri, Freddy Nield, Ray Frelek, Blake Cusato, Braxton, Greg Coddington, Jamal Abraham, Judy Moloney, Perlita Torrecampo, Dorothy Marsh, Teresita Pamulaklakin, Madeline Gray.

**Stations of the Cross** reflection books will also available for use while in the Cathedral. Please use them and return to the box for others to use. There are some suited to children and large print for those who need them.

**CHANGE OF TIME FOR ADORATION** – Please note that the time for adoration to pray for the Eucharistic Congress in 2028 will follow 5.30pm Mass. [6.30pm – 7.30pm].

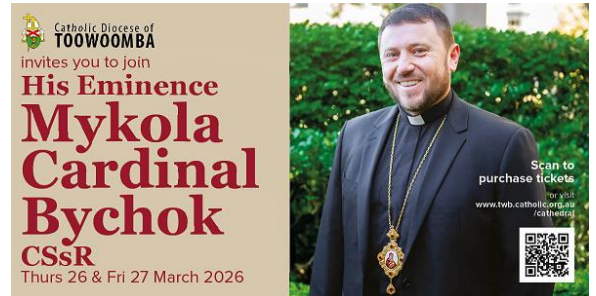
**Prayers for priests** – Please keep in your prayers Frs Jack Peard, Mick Carroll and John Maher who are all recovering from different medical conditions.

**Ongoing work in the Cathedral** – Thank you so far for your patience with the continued work in the Cathedral. As you would expect there is a lot more to do. At the end of this month the plasterer will return to continue the patch up work in the Cathedral. This will cause a lot of dust which is inevitable with the fine plaster begin cut away and then renewed with fresh material. You will have noticed he has completed the work on the western side and now will begin on the eastern side of the Cathedral. It would be wonderful if after Saturday Morning Mass, you might be available to help wipe down pews etc to remove the dust. *It would be greatly appreciated.* Please see Gabrielle after Mass to access rags etc. It would be much appreciated.

**BISHOP KEN'S PASTORAL VISIT** will occur over the weekend of the 28<sup>th</sup> Feb and 1<sup>st</sup> March. Diocesan Bishops are required to visit every parish at least every 5 years. The aim is for the Bishop to spend time meeting with those who assist the Parish Priest in the care of the parish such as the Parish Council, Finance Council and Liturgy Committee. In addition the Bishop celebrates Mass to meet the people of the parish. Bishop Ken will celebrate all the Masses over next weekend. There will be a morning tea following the 9am Mass, not only to meet with Bishop Ken, but also to farewell Fr. Francis after his year with us. We are grateful for Fr. Francis gentle and pastoral presence in our parish.

**This week's banner** invites us to imagine the hand of God resting gently and lovingly on our shoulder during times of temptation, just as it did for Christ in the desert in today's gospel reading.

**Celebrating 40 years of SPRED** St Theresa's Parish Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March @ 11am – Mass and Luncheon - RSVP for seating and catering Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March – [spred@twb.catholic.org.au](mailto:spred@twb.catholic.org.au) or Ph 46 328 427.



<b>Sunday 22 February</b> <b>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent</b> [SPC - St Patrick's & STM - St Thomas More's]	7am, 9am, 5.30pm. <b>Live Stream 9am</b> [Priest ann. in green]	11am Baptism Archer Henry Bauerle 4.30pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre
<b>Monday 23 February</b>	5.30pm Mass SPC 9.00am Mass STM	9.30am Rosary Group in Parish Centre
<b>Tuesday 24 February</b>	9am Mass SPC	5.30pm Finance Meeting in office staff room
<b>Wednesday 25 February</b>	7am Mass SPC 5.30pm Mass STM <b>Fr Michael Sheehan</b>	Council of Priests Meeting 7.15pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre
<b>Thursday 26 February</b>	7am Mass SPC	7.30 – 8.30pm Adoration SPC 9.30 Mass at Yukana 11am Board of Management Meeting 6.00 – 7.00pm Choir Practice
<b>Friday 27 February</b>	7am Mass SPC 9.30am Mass STM	9am Friendship Group in the Conference Room 7.15pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre
<b>Saturday 28 February</b>	7am Mass SPC 6pm Mass SPC	Bishop Ken's Parish Pastoral Visitation 6.30am Rosary at St Patrick's 8–9am Reconciliation SPC 10.30am Baptism Summer Leigh Cook & Oliver Andrew Gilby 12pm Confirmation Samantha Banks
<b>Sunday 1 March</b> <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent</b>	7am, 9am, 5.30pm <b>Live Stream 9am</b>	<b>After 9am Mass Morning tea to farewell Fr. Francis</b> 8.15am Baptism Macy Ellen Haslem 11am Baptism Isabelle & Charlotte Walsh 4.30pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre 6.30 – 7.30pm <b>Adoration</b> for Eucharistic Congress

**Planned Giving:** *Thank you for your donations.* Loose \$3785 Planned Giving \$1036 Donation Point \$1380  
Money Counters this weekend: Sandra & Peter Daly – Jan-Nell & Errol Chase  
Money Counters next weekend: Pat Power, Leo & Maureen McMahan

**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.