



St Patrick's Cathedral Newsletter



T: 4637 1500 F: 4637 1511
Email: admin@stpats.org.au
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

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.



THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT 23 MARCH 2025

First reading: Exodus 3:1-8, 13-15 This is what you must say to the children of Israel: I Am has sent me to you.

Responsorial Psalm: The Lord is kind and merciful

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12 All this that happened to the people of Moses in the desert was written for our benefit

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ! Repent, says the Lord; the Kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel: Luke 13:1-9 Unless you repent you will all perish as they did.

The Barren Fig Tree

It's a simple story found and shared this weekend in Luke's Gospel.

The owner of a vineyard comes looking for fruit from his investment – grapes from his vines and figs from his fig tree. The seasoned fig tree has no fruit on it, so, understandably, he says to the vineyard manager; "cut it down – its taking up good ground and yielding no fruit". That sounds like good management. But the manager responds (he has come to value this old tree) : "Give it another chance! I'll continue to look after it. *I've got a real life story – an experience like that to share with you! I'm going to change the person's name – for obvious reasons – but the facts are true!*

Nearly thirty years ago I met a young girl – we'll call her Robyn. Robyn was just 15, pregnant, told to leave home (which was a very violent place anyway) in a small town in Western Queensland. On the face of it there was little chance of Robyn ever producing good fruit, like the fig tree in the story Jesus shares!

Robyn had very little going for her – very little formal education, "lessons" she had picked up like telling lies, avoiding difficult conversations, a speech difficulty connected to teeth and gums troubles, anger and frustration ... all of which combined to produce a young girl going nowhere – and expecting her own baby as well!

I'll leave the details of her story over the next 25 years to your imagination – Here are some of the facts: her first child, a little boy, was taken from her by the child welfare authorities. She managed to find him and had a few good contacts with him but he was killed in a road accident about 10 years ago.

Many awful things happened to Robyn (and some good things). There have been 8 more children born from a relationship that still continues despite the violence of the first 15 years. The children's father has served time in jail a number of times but, incredibly, Robyn loves him. He's been violent often, they've lurched from dwelling to dwelling – never a permanent home: on a number of occasions the welfare authorities have "moved" them to other accommodation, other towns, other suburbs. Money has flowed in and out - thousands upon thousands of dollars; generous, kind friends have done their best – I've been one of those friends (often to my shame feeling and speaking like the vineyard manager in Jesus's story ... "Cut it down", it's useless: a waste of time and money and energy Thanks to God I have never given up!)

The family, Robyn and her man and 8 children have lived peacefully (and very simply of course) in a home in a Brisbane suburb for the past 3 years.

The two eldest children, both girls, have just completed year 12. They have part-time jobs and are preparing for training and employment in nursing and child care – still at home helping Mum, providing a valuable model to the other kids in "responsible" living and loving

I've been to their home a dozens of times, we speak frequently on the phone.

God does wonderful things in and through people – and we can all be part of that if we keep "watering the tree rather than cutting it down as in Jesus's story."

Hal Ranger

✠ **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:** Amelene Creggy, John George, Mary Boland, Stewart Frater, Michael Luce, Clive O'Kelly, Claire Seymour, Sharon Keats, Bernard Bartetzko, Vicky Cocozza, 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, Dorothy Marsh.

MASS TIME CHANGE: Please note that on Tuesday, 1st April, there will be a St Saviour's Harmony Day Mass at 9am, which you are welcome to attend, however there will also be a **7.00am Mass** that morning for those who are unable to come at 9.

EASTER CEREMONIES ROSTER We are looking for volunteers for the Easter Ceremonies. If you can assist, please add your name and details to the sheet on the table in the Eastern Transept. We need as much help as possible during this busy period.

SECOND RITE OF RECONCILIATION in preparation for Easter will be celebrated at St Patrick's Cathedral on Wednesday, 2nd April at 5.30pm and at St Thomas More's on the same day at 9.30am.

MEN SEEKING WISDOM: *Date: Thursdays_Time: 7:00pm - 8:30pm_Where: Sychar House of Spirituality, 69 Margaret St Toowoomba, Cost: Free* Since the middle of 2022, a group of men has gathered weekly in Toowoomba to encourage each other in their Christian journey. The size and membership of the group have varied. All men (18+) are very welcome to take part. The members know they often stumble in following Christ but they find this time together assists them on that road. **Interested?** Contact Robie: 0437 737 779.

Sunday 23 March Third Sunday of Lent [SPC St Patrick's STM St Thomas More's]	7am, 9am, 5.30pm. Live Stream 9am	11am Baptism Aurelia Anne Stewart 12pm Baptism Mila Mae Dawson 4.30pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre
Monday 24 March	5.30pm Mass SPC 9.00am Mass STM	9.30am Rosary Group – Cathedral grounds
Tuesday 25 March The Annunciation of the Lord	9am Mass SPC Fr Patrick Brady	
Wednesday 26 March	7am Mass SPC	6pm Parent Information Evening Confirmation & 1 st Eucharist 7.15pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre
Thursday 27 March	7am Mass SPC	7.30am – 8.30am Adoration 6pm – 7pm Choir Practice in the Cathedral
Friday 28 March SHOW HOLIDAY	7am Mass SPC 9.30am Mass STM	9am Friendship Group – Cancelled Show Holiday 7.15pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre
Saturday 29 March	7am Mass SPC 6pm Mass SPC	6.30am Stations of the Cross at SPC 8am – 9am Reconciliation SPC 10am Baptism Annabella Joy Falzon 12pm Baptism Amarlia Leilani Harman 2pm-4pm Altar Servers Practice
Sunday 30 March Forth Sunday of Lent	7am, 9am, 5.30pm Live Stream 9am	9am Commissioning & Investiture of Altar Servers 11am Baptism Heidi Joan & Stella Grace Winton 2pm-4pm Altar Servers Practice 4.30pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre

Planned Giving: Thank you for your donations. Loose \$3665 Planned Giving \$1281 Donation Point \$1340

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

Money Counters next weekend: Parish Office Staff

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.



Friday 4th April 10am
South Toowoomba Baptist Church
(279 Geddes St)
Friday 4th April 6.30pm
Lifeworks Uniting Church
(615 Boundary St, Glendale)
All are welcome

World Day of Prayer written by Cook Islands



'I Made You Wonderful'

This Lent, we are called to Unite Against Poverty through Caritas Australia's Project Compassion. Your generous support this Lenten Season will enable Caritas Australia to provide life-changing support to vulnerable communities in need. You can support Project Compassion 2025 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning this QR code.

Or online at: caritas.org.au/project-compassion

Or by calling: 1800 024 413.

Thank you for standing with us, as we
Unite Against Poverty this Lent.

UNITE
AGAINST
POVERTY

this Lent

