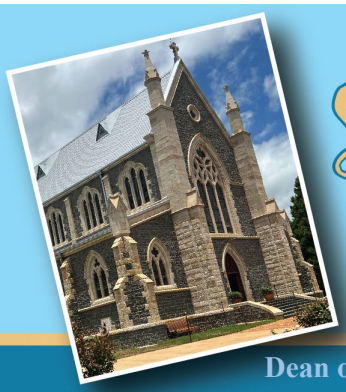

St Patrick's Cathedral Newsletter

T: 4637 1500 F: 4637 1511
Email: stpatrickscathedral@twb.catholic.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 Pastors: 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

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time 25 October 2026

First reading: Exodus 22:20-26 If you are harsh with the widow or the orphan, my anger will rage against you.
Responsorial Psalm: I love you, Lord, my strength.
Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:5-10 You turned away from idols to serve God and await his son.
Alleluia, Alleluia! All who love me will keep my words,
And my Father will love them and we will come to them. Alleluia!
Gospel: Matthew 22:34-40 You shall love the Lord your God, and your neighbour as yourself.

ILLNESS AND GOD…..

We learn most often through our experiences of life so last weekend as I spent a couple of days in bed with the flu or some virus I picked up around the place, I took a moment to reflect. It's an interesting experience being sick especially when it's been a long time since I have had aches and pains in my joints, and chest and head pains that required me to rest, doped up with as much medication as I could find! However, being ill in this way is also a reminder of a couple of things about life. It's not the cathartic, life changing time that a major and significant medical event may bring about, but rather a reminder of our frailty. Because we know we will recover once the virus has had it's day, for some the experience is a reminder of the fragility of our lives, that something like this can disrupt our plans which at the time may have seemed most important; for some it reminds them not to work so long and hard but to figure out that there is not much more important than our health; for some it a realisation of the need to adjust our work-sleep-life balance so they don't burn out and lower the resistance to disease. With all things in life there is a message for us, if we take the time to reflect and rebalance. For in it's own way, to recover from illness is a little "resurrection" for it can provide a new understanding of life, if only we take a moment to look at it in that way.

As I continue to recover and strengthen after such a feeling of weakness I am aware of the words of this weekend's gospel. These words I know well as this is the gospel I chose for my first Mass, or as Fr. Peter Schultz liked to remind us, our second Mass – our first was the ordination Mass! *I digress.* The words have always been part of my life journey. I have long believed that if we love God with all our heart, soul and strength, then it has to lead us to love our neighbour. This applies in the opposite as well. To love our neighbour must leads us to love a God made somehow deeply present through those actions.

So when I reflect on being ill in such a temporary way I am reminded that these words also work from the opposite stance as well, or in other words from the 2nd person narration to the 1st person. What I mean by this is our faith ***is*** in a God who is with us throughout all of our lives – present in every breath we take, every beat of our hearts, every physical and spiritual pain and joy we experience.

In other words when we most need God, it is God who loves us with "heart", "soul" and "strength". It is God who places a mantle of love over us to protect us and guide us. For it is this God who has taught us how to love in the same way. Illness is also an invitation to allow our neighbour to love us. In our time of need we are invited to allow others into our lives so *they* can love their neighbour – you. Sometimes that takes an effort on our part to let go of our delusional need for independence and open our hearts to allow others in, as they do what we would do for them.

When you are feeling frail in life, may you know the presence of God in your journey touching you with love, filling your heart and soul with knowledge of that love, so that you may see the goodness of those who surround you.

Every Blessing over your week. Fr. Michael

✞ **We remember in our prayers all those who have died recently:** Marie Ford, Shirley Schmidt (Moree).

✞ **We hold in our hearts the memories of those whose anniversaries occur at this time, especially:** Tom Byrne, Sr Patricia Dent, Henry Morgan, Harry Moses.

✞ **For all those who are ill in our community:** Stewart Frater, Claudia Sobey, Clive O'Kelly, Danny Fitzpatrick, Noel Cook, Mary Neylon, Anette Schaefer, Kate Gibbs, Katherine Manktelow, Therese Odri, Austin Amalemba, Brenden Canning, Ted Philippa, Justin O'Donnell, Kathy Bermingham, Carole Symons, Elizabeth Soutar, Patrick Eldridge, Donna Vallely, John Gurney.

Reconciliation is offered in the 1st Rite on Saturday mornings from 8am to 9am. Please be aware the priests at the Cathedral may have many other commitments on Saturdays – Baptisms, Weddings and even some funerals. Please **do not** arrive after 9am due to these other calls on our priest's pastoral needs.

Urgent Sacristan's Duties: Volunteers to help with light cleaning duties in the Cathedral for **one hour each month** (preferably Friday). Two people working together is recommended. Please contact Parish Office 4637 1500 for more information.

2027 Sacramental Program Information packs for **St Pat's Sacramental program for 2027** are now available from the office. Please email stpatrickscathedral@twb.catholic.org.au or phone 4637 1500. Enrolments close on Thursday 17th December 2026.

Donations of Cotton Fabric Needed The Women's Friendship Group is seeking donations of cotton fabric to support their community projects. Meeting three times each month, the group brings together women from refugee and asylum-seeker backgrounds, offering friendship, connection and an opportunity to develop sewing and craft skills. The ladies use donated materials to create quilts for St Vincent de Paul and care bags provided to people accessing the Winter Shelter program. If you have clean cotton fabric that you no longer need, we would be grateful for your donation. Please deliver fabric donations to the parish office.
Thank you for helping create connection, dignity and practical support for people in our community

Melbourne Cup Fundraiser dignity project– St Anthony's Parish Centre 1st November 2pm
Contact the Social Justice Commission 07 4613 0895 ***or*** justice@twb.catholic.org.au ***or*** St Anthony's Parish Office on 0407 758 988 or 07 4636 1737 **RSVP by 27 October 2026.**

DUE TO OUR DIOCESAN SYNOD WE APOLOGISE AS THERE WILL BE **NO RECONCILIATION OFFERED ON SATURDAY, 24TH OCTOBER.** Please see your local priest before Mass if you require confession.

Unit for Rent: One bedroom unit for rent, a single person only. Applications are to be made in writing to the Secretary, Board of Management, St Patrick's Cathedral, PO Box 7062, Toowoomba 4350 or may be dropped in at the Parish Office. For more information, please phone the parish office 46371 500.

Some future events to be mindful of……

Month of November: Please bring a photo to place onto the banner commemorating our loved ones who have gone before us into eternal life. Come into the office or email a photo if you need assistance.

Tuesday **10th November** – Renewal of Ecumenical Covenant (as framed at Cathedral Entrance) at 11am in SPC.
Thursday **26 November** Anointing Mass 11am - in the Cathedral Centre followed by lunch, RSVP to the office.
Tuesday **1 December** Volunteers BBQ 6pm – in the Cathedral grounds (weather permitting, with fire pit).
Thursday **10th December**– 78th Anniversary of the Declaration on Human Rights at 7pm Cathedral Centre.

2027 SAVE THE DATE - The Cathedral Cup Race Day: Saturday 15 May 2027,
The Clive Berghofer Grande Atrium, Clifford Park, Toowoomba – More details to come

Sunday 25 October **30th Sunday in Ord. Time** **[SPC – St Patrick's & STM – St Thomas More's]**	7am, 9am, 5.30pm. **Live Stream 9am** **[Priest ann. In green]**	1pm Baptism Marigold Jayne Morsch 4.30pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre
Monday 26 October	5.30pm Mass SPC 9.00am Mass STM	9.30am Rosary Group in the Parish Centre
Tuesday 27 October	9am Mass SPC	
Wednesday 28 October **St's Simon & Jude**	7am Mass SPC 5.30pm Mass STM	7.15pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre
Thursday 29 October	7am Mass **Fr Edmund O'Donnell**	7.30am-8.30am Adoration 6pm Choir Practice
Friday 30 October	7am Mass 9.30am Mass STM	7.15pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre
Saturday 31 October	7am Mass 6pm Mass	6.30am Rosary in Cathedral 8-9am Reconciliation 10am Baptism Nzinga Kit Gilmour Vieira Lopes 11am Baptism Luca John Twidale 2pm Wedding Rohan Daniel & Georgia Schmidt
Sunday 1 November **All Saints**	7am, 9am, 5.30pm **Live Stream 9am**	4.30pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre

St Patrick's Cathedral Parish Collections

Collection for 18/10/2026 – Loose $3128 Planned Giving $718 Donation Point $1870
Money Counters this weekend: Wendy Heelan, Jabour Hanna, Rod Slater
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.