



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. Nathan Webb.

Safeguarding Officer: Ann Marie Pawsey (safeguarding@stpats.org.au)

St Patrick's, in communion with St Saviour's Primary School - Madonna Sleba (4637 1700)

St Saviour's College - Sharon Collins (4637 1600)

We acknowledge and respect the Traditional Owners of this place, the Jarowair and Giabal peoples.



First Sunday of Lent

26 February 2023

First reading: Genesis 2:7-9 Creation of Adam and Eve.

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.

Gospel Acclamation: 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 was led into the desert by the Spirit.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOLY FATHER FOR Lent 2023

Lenten Penance and the Synodal Journey

Dear brothers and sisters!

The Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke all recount the episode of the Transfiguration of Jesus. There we see the Lord's response to the failure of his disciples to understand him. Shortly before, there had been a real clash between the Master and Simon Peter, who, after professing his faith in Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God, rejected his prediction of the passion and the cross. Jesus had firmly rebuked him: "Get behind me, Satan! You are a scandal to me, because you do not think according to God, but according to men!" (Mt 16:23). Following this, "six days later, Jesus took with him Peter, James and John his brother and led them away to a high mountain" (Mt 17:1).



The Gospel of the Transfiguration is proclaimed every year on the **Second Sunday of Lent**. During this liturgical season, the Lord takes us with him to a place apart. While our ordinary commitments compel us to remain in our usual places and our often repetitive and sometimes boring routines, during Lent we are invited to ascend "a high mountain" in the company of Jesus and to live a particular experience of spiritual discipline – *ascesis* – as God's holy people.

Lenten penance is a commitment, sustained by grace, to overcoming our lack of faith and our resistance to following Jesus on the way of the cross. This is precisely what Peter and the other disciples needed to do. To deepen our knowledge of the Master, to fully understand and embrace the mystery of his salvation, accomplished in total self-giving inspired by love, we must allow ourselves to be taken aside by him and to detach ourselves from mediocrity and vanity. We need to set out on the journey, an uphill path that, like a mountain trek, requires effort, sacrifice and concentration. These requisites are also important for the synodal journey to which, as a Church, we are committed to making. We can benefit greatly from reflecting on the relationship between Lenten penance and the synodal experience.

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✠ **We remember in our prayers all those who have died recently:** Megsy Morris, Moya Schaefer, May perpetual light shine upon them, may they rest in peace.

✠ **We hold in our hearts the memories of those whose anniversaries occur at this time:** Catherine Rogers, Peter Saide, Joan Byrnes, Elizabeth Eiser (Betty), Rebecca Grace Betros, Pat Murphy, Fr Dominic Burke

✠ **For all those who are ill in our community, especially:** Bernadette Farrell, Greg Coddington, Gloria Hayes, Gayle Christoffel, Stanley Poon, Pat Murray, Jamal Abraham, Pam Cavalachini, Madelaine Morris, Judy Moloney, Perlita Torrecampo, Rodolfo Umipig, Bev Smith (Boodle), Addison McEwan, Daniel Ligon, Rohitha Jayamanna, Ray Frelek, Madeline Gray, Maria Brown, Christine [Faus] Barron, Greta Berge, Matt Vlietstra, Dr Peter Reiter, Elijah Rolls, Hayden Smith, Rita Blacker, Tina Hobson, Bev Boundy, Joanne Essey [Sydney], Braxton Rayner, Kate Gibbs, Max Shearer, Saturnino Bustamante, Hannah Marie Marasigan, Stephanie Shine, Andrew Supple, Mary-Ann Hine, Kathy Allan, Patricia McCracken, Reggie James, Teresita Pamulaklakin.

RECONCILIATION – 1st Rite available every Saturday morning between 8am and 9am. **(Please do not come after 9.00am or remain after this time, as there is often baptisms at 10.00am, feel free to make an appointment, or see the Priest before the beginning of Mass)**

LENTEN REFLECTION GROUPS: There will be the opportunity to be part of a Lenten Reflection Group each Tuesday during Lent following 9.00am Mass. If you would like to be part of this group, simply remain after Mass and join with Gabrielle who is coordinating the sessions.

CALLING FOR VOLUNTEERS: Attached to the bulletin this weekend is an invitation for you to be more involved then maybe you are presently. **WE NEED YOUR ASSISTANCE!** We want you to be involved in the life of the parish. We earnestly implore you to give this opportunity some consideration. Know that, even if you do not feel fully equipped to take on a particular ministry, we will offer assistance and training, and trusting in God your gifts will shine. Do not be afraid to give a ministry a go! I thank you for taking the time to give this some consideration. *God Bless, Fr. Michael*

PALM SUNDAY – If you, or your neighbor, or friend are willing to allow us to cut some palms from your large palm trees could you please let us know. Usually we get them from the Bishop's backyard, but the supply is pretty low. So please call the office with details if you are able to help – 4637 1500 or email admin@stpats.org.au Thanks!

World Day of Prayer for Taiwan will be hosted at St Patrick's Cathedral on **Friday, 3rd March, at 10.00am.** Please come along if to celebrate this ecumenical event. There will be a cuppa to follow. All welcome.

SOME DATES TO NOTE:

- St Patrick's Cathedral **Anointing Mass** will be combined with St Thomas More's on Friday, 17th March at 9.30am, at St Thomas More's.
- **2ND Rite of Reconciliation** – St Thomas More's on 22/03 at 9.00am and St. Patrick's Cathedral on 22/03 at 5.30pm.
- Ecumenical **Blessings of Palms** on 02/04 at 8.15am, followed by Mass at St Patrick's at 9.00am.
- **Chrism Mass** on Monday, 03/04 at 5.30pm at St Patrick's.

Sunday 26 February [SPC – St. Patrick's] [STM – St. Thomas More's]	7am, 9am, 5.30pm. Live Stream 9am	9.00am Mass – Enrolment for Sacrament of Reconciliation. 4.30pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre Fr. Michael will be away until Friday, 3 rd March.
Monday 27 February	9am Mass STM 5.30pm Mass SPC	10am Rosary making group in Parish Centre
Tuesday 28 February	9am Mass SPC 5.30pm Mass STM	5.30pm Choir Practice in the Cathedral
Wednesday 1 March	7am Mass SPC 9am Mass STM 5.30pm Mass SPC	7.15pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre
Thursday 2 March	7am Mass SPC	Adoration SPC 7.30am – 8.30am
Friday 3 March	7am Mass SPC 9am Mass STM	7.15pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre
Saturday 4 March	7am Mass SPC 6pm Mass SPC	6.30am Rosary at St. Pat's 8.00am – 9.00am Reconciliation (Please do not come after 9.00am or remain after this time, as there is often baptisms at 10.00am, feel free to make an appointment, or see the Priest before the beginning of Mass) 11am Baptism of Hugh Percy Lamb
Sunday 5 March	7am, 9am, 5.30pm. 9am Live Streaming	11am Baptism of Fleur Whyatt Rogers 12pm Baptism of Dontae Alexander Frid, Harper Faith Page, Roman Douglas John Frid and Mackenzie Kay Frid 4.30pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre

Planned Giving: Thank you for your generous donations. Planned Giving \$759 Loose \$2089 Donation Point \$610 Money Counters this weekend: Sandra and Peter Daly with Jan-Nell and Errol Chase.

Money Counters next weekend: Pat Power with Leo and Maureen McMahon.

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. Thank you.

In his “retreat” on Mount Tabor, Jesus takes with him three disciples, chosen to be witnesses of a unique event. He wants that experience of grace to be shared, not solitary, just as our whole life of faith is an experience that is shared. For it is in togetherness that we follow Jesus. Together too, as a pilgrim Church in time, we experience the liturgical year and Lent within it, walking alongside those whom the Lord has placed among us as fellow travellers. Like the ascent of Jesus and the disciples to Mount Tabor, we can say that our Lenten journey is “synodal”, since we make it together along the same path, as disciples of the one Master. For we know that Jesus is himself the Way, and therefore, both in the liturgical journey and in the journey of the Synod, the Church does nothing other than enter ever more deeply and fully into the mystery of Christ the Saviour.

And so we come to its culmination. The Gospel relates that Jesus “was transfigured before them; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became white as light” (*Mt 17:2*). This is the “summit”, the goal of the journey. At the end of their ascent, as they stand on the mountain heights with Jesus, the three disciples are given the grace of seeing him in his glory, resplendent in supernatural light. That light did not come from without, but radiated from the Lord himself. The divine beauty of this vision was incomparably greater than all the efforts the disciples had made in the ascent of Tabor. During any strenuous mountain trek, we must keep our eyes firmly fixed on the path; yet the panorama that opens up at the end amazes us and rewards us by its grandeur. So too, the synodal process may often seem arduous, and at times we may become discouraged. Yet what awaits us at the end is undoubtedly something wondrous and amazing, which will help us to understand better God’s will and our mission in the service of his kingdom.

The disciples’ experience on Mount Tabor was further enriched when, alongside the transfigured Jesus, Moses and Elijah appeared, signifying respectively the Law and the Prophets (cf. *Mt 17:3*). The newness of Christ is at the same time the fulfilment of the ancient covenant and promises; it is inseparable from God’s history with his people and discloses its deeper meaning. In a similar way, the synodal journey is rooted in the Church’s tradition and at the same time open to newness. Tradition is a source of inspiration for seeking new paths and for avoiding the opposed temptations of immobility and improvised experimentation.

The Lenten journey of penance and the journey of the Synod alike have as their goal a transfiguration, both personal and ecclesial. A transformation that, in both cases, has its model in the Transfiguration of Jesus and is achieved by the grace of his paschal mystery. So that this transfiguration may become a reality in us this year, I would like to propose two “paths” to follow in order to ascend the mountain together with Jesus and, with him, to attain the goal.

The first path has to do with the command that God the Father addresses to the disciples on Mount Tabor as they contemplate Jesus transfigured. The voice from the cloud says: “Listen to him” (*Mt 17:5*). The first proposal, then, is very clear: we need to listen to Jesus. Lent is a time of grace to the extent that we listen to him as he speaks to us. And how does he speak to us? First, in the word of God, which the Church offers us in the liturgy. May that word not fall on deaf ears; if we cannot always attend Mass, let us study its daily biblical readings, even with the help of the internet. In addition to the Scriptures, the Lord speaks to us through our brothers and sisters, especially in the faces and the stories of those who are in need. Let me say something else, which is quite important for the synodal process: listening to Christ often takes place in listening to our brothers and sisters in the Church. Such mutual listening in some phases is the primary goal, but it remains always indispensable in the method and style of a synodal Church.

On hearing the Father's voice, the disciples "fell prostrate and were very much afraid. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, 'Rise, and do not be afraid.' And when the disciples raised their eyes, they saw no one else but Jesus alone" (Mt 17:6-8). Here is the second proposal for this Lent do not take refuge in a religiosity made up of extraordinary events and dramatic experiences, out of fear of facing reality and its daily struggles, its hardships and contradictions. The light that Jesus shows the disciples is an anticipation of Easter glory, and that must be the goal of our own journey, as we follow "him alone". Lent leads to Easter: the "retreat" is not an end in itself, but a means of preparing us to experience the Lord's passion and cross with faith, hope and love, and thus to arrive at the resurrection. Also on the synodal journey, when God gives us the grace of certain powerful experiences of communion, we should not imagine that we have arrived – for there too, the Lord repeats to us: "Rise, and do not be afraid". Let us go down, then, to the plain, and may the grace we have experienced strengthen us to be "artisans of synodality" in the ordinary life of our communities.

Dear brothers and sisters, may the Holy Spirit inspire and sustain us this Lent in our ascent with Jesus, so that we may experience his divine splendour and thus, confirmed in faith, persevere in our journey together with him, glory of his people and light of the nations.

Rome, Saint John Lateran, 25 January, Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul



Last weekend was the launch of Project Compassion for 2023 for Caritas at St Patrick's Cathedral. Thank you to Dan Skehan, Programs Director for Australia (third from left) who drew our focus to the theme of this year's campaign – ***For All Future Generations***. Dan highlighted how your gift this year sets in motion a goodness for many years to come that brings hope to many now, and in the future. We also commissioned the Ambassadors for Caritas in our Diocesan Schools. We thank the following schools for being present for the celebration: Mary Mackillop Catholic College, St Thomas More's, Holy Name Primary School, Our Lady of Lourdes, St Saviour's Primary School, St Stephens Pittsworth, St Mary's College, St Joseph's College, St Ursula's College, Sacred Heart Primary School, St Patrick's Allora, Mater Dei, St Joseph's Stanthorpe, St Saviour's College and Downlands College.

Don't forget to collect your envelopes and money box as you leave today. The future thanks you!