



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 Pastors: Fr. Nathan Webb & 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.



The Most Holy Trinity

26 May 2024

First reading: Deuteronomy 4:32-34, 39-40. The Lord himself is God in heaven above and on earth below: there is no other.

Responsorial Psalm: Happy the people the Lord has chosen to be his own.

Second Reading: Romans 8:14-17 You have received the Spirit that makes you God's own children, and in that Spirit we call God.

**Alleluia, alleluia! Glory to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit:
to God who is, who was, and who is to come. Alleluia!**

Gospel: Matthew 28: 16-20. Baptise them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

A wise and holy Carmelite once explained that a priest's ministry is shaped by two things: Their relationship with God, and their relationship with God's people.

I think this has been true of my appointments to St. Pat's Cathedral and St. Thomas More. So, I am indebted to you all. My life and ministry will always be shaped in some way by these first appointments.

Rather than speak in abstract, here are some statistics of my time here¹: 912 days [2 years, 6 months]; 845 Masses; 114 Baptisms; 10 Weddings (+3); 9 RCIA journeys; 27 funerals (+4); no ordinations (+12); >103 hours in the confessional (+>6); 2,663 emails sent; 6,376 emails received; and 12 'last rites' calls. Each of these have been opportunities for encounter and for me to be shaped as a person and a minister. And these are only the formal engagements; there have been innumerable informal encounters too.

If you are somehow tempted to think that you are not part of the community that has formed me here, I invite you to think again. Even something as simple as distributing Holy Communion has been encounter. I estimate to have distributed communion some 42,500 times. It is in moments like these, proclaiming belief in the body of Christ, that I have met many of you.

Thank you for your direct and indirect guidance, examples, and inspiration. My Christian life and presbyteral ministry have certainly been shaped and molded here.

This notwithstanding, I do not want to present an illusion that my time here has been a walk in the park. In fact, the months immediately following ordination in June 2022 were quite personally and professionally challenging. Thank you for gently bearing with me as I found my feet. And thank you for walking with me into a more flourishing and fulfilling life of ministry.

Particular thanks go out to Fr Michael, Dean and administrator here but fundamentally pastor. I remember attending him at his Masses and when he first got Sr Rosie in Goondiwindi. Both in different capacities here, I owe a debt of gratitude to him. I have learned that Fr Michael is especially well-read, quite perceptive, deeply caring about hospitality and inclusion, and pastorally both sensitive and innovative.

Thank you to all the staff of the parishes and the core volunteers who gift so much to this community and their fellow parishioners. As you have shaped me, I do not doubt you have shaped each other. The greatest blessing has been the gift of ministering to and with so many that are far greater than me in spiritual stature.

Remember in your prayers the Church of Toowoomba. That I may ever let God take the place of its shepherd. I am the least in the Church, like a foetus born before its time. My one hope is to reach God, then I shall have received true mercy, and I shall have become a human being fully alive.

NPW

¹ Key: [elaboration or alternative count]; (ministry outside the parish).

✠ **We remember in our prayers all those who have died recently:** John Death, Krystyna Batorowicz, Sylvia Andreatta, Gerri Hancox, Iskandar Jadi.

✠ **We hold in our hearts the memories of those whose anniversaries occur at this time:** Fr Pat McAnany [2014], Sadie Moses.

✠ **For all those who are ill in our community** – Bill Thygesen, Rae Blinco, Frank Marino, Christine 'Saus' Barron, Rita Irwin, Alyshia Morris, William Garrahy, Gabrielle Saide, Bev Smith, Louise O'Connor, Sheryl Grunke, Noel Roshan Francis, Kate Gibbs, Therese Odri, Kath Smith, Freddy Nield, Ray Frelek, Bob O'Sullivan, Blake Cusato, Greg Coddington, Stanley Poon, Jamal Abraham, Judy Moloney, Perlita Torrecampo, Teresita Pamulaklakin, Madeline Gray, Braxton Rayner.

Winter Shelter – This year St Thomas More's has been allocated three evenings to host the homeless on June 24, July 22 and August 19. If you are interested in giving your time please contact Jacinta at parishoffice@stthomasmores.org.au for more information.

St Vincent de Paul Society Recycle the Warmth Blanket Drive is now on. Please bring donations of clean or new blankets to Mass or drop them off to the parish office. Winter appeal envelopes are also available on the table in the eastern transept, which can be returned to the poor box, or placed on the collection plate.

Next weekend, 2 June, is the feast of Corpus Christi, also known as the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ. St Patrick's Parish Council invite you to be part of the Eucharistic Procession as we celebrate this feast day. Directly after 9:00am Mass, the Blessed Sacrament will be placed in the Monstrance and we will process outside, around the church, making our way over to the Micah Centre building at the Catholic Schools Office precinct next door. We will then have a Holy Hour of Adoration at the Micah Centre. We warmly invite one and all to join us in this celebration next Sunday.



At St Patrick's Cathedral, where he is Associate Pastor, Father Hal, 88, leads mass, or "meetings of the team" as he calls it. "The game is out there in the world," he said. "You get the team together to kind of re-align yourself with the spirit of the team, listen to the word of God and talk about it a bit. Then you go out the door to live that out in the nitty-gritty of the real world." In these words Fr. Hal considers his 65 years of priesthood, which he will celebrate at the end of June. Anyone who knows Fr. Hal is aware of his great faith and personal commitment to experiencing the Christ in everyone he meets. Whilst he nears retirement at the end of June he will still be in Toowoomba, and there is no doubt you will see him and enjoy his wonderful worldly wisdom! Please put in your diary now a retirement farewell from St Patrick's with a morning tea on

Sunday, 14th July after the 9am Mass. To acknowledge his work in the parish of St Thomas More's there will be a supper after the 5pm Mass on the 13th July.

Thank you Fr. Hal for the many ways you continue to give!

Sunday 26 May [SPC – St Patrick's] [STM – St Thomas More's] The Most Holy Trinity	7am, 9am, 5.30pm. Live Stream 9am	10.30am Baptism of Henrietta Josephine Rose, Edward Louis John and Joanna Dorothy Hazel Stokes 12pm Baptism of Scarlett Jane Louise Pobar 4.30pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre
Monday 27 May	5.30pm Mass SPC 9.00am Mass STM	9.30am Rosary Making in Parish Conference Room
Tuesday 28 May	9am Mass SPC 5.30pm Mass STM	5.30pm Choir Practice
Wednesday 29 May	7am Mass SPC	7.15pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre
Thursday 30 May	7am Mass SPC	7.30am-8.30am Adoration at St Patrick's
Friday 31 May The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary	7am Mass SPC 9.30am Mass STM	9am Ladies Friendship Group in Parish Conference Room 7.15pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre
Saturday 1 June Saint Justin	7am Mass SPC 6pm Mass SPC	6.30am Rosary at St. Patrick's 8am – 9am Reconciliation SPC 11am Baptism of Queenie-Mae Sterling Federoff-Munn
Sunday 2 June The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ	7am, 9am, 5.30pm Live Stream 9am	11am Baptism of Mitchell Kenny 4.30pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre

Planned Giving: Thank you for your donations. Loose \$1979 Planned Giving \$882 Donation Point \$860 Money Counters this weekend: Jabour Hanna, Michelle Betros, Mick Cuskelly
Money Counters next weekend: Sandra and Peter Daly, Jan-Nell and 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.