

# St Patrick's Cathedral Newsletter



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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 27 October 2024

**First reading:** Jeremiah 31:7-9 I shall lead them back in mercy – both the blind and the lame.

**Responsorial Psalm: The Lord had done great things for us; we are filled with joy.**

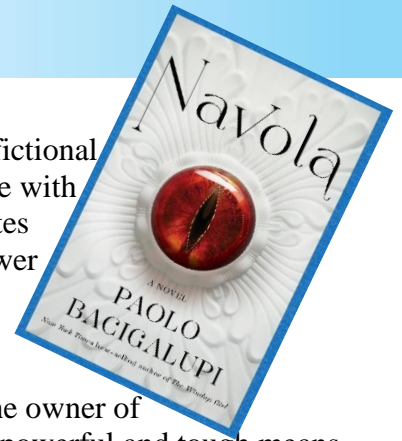
**Second Reading:** Hebrews 5:1-6 You are a priest forever, in the line of Melchizedek.

**Alleluia, alleluia Our Saviour Jesus Christ has done away with death,  
and brought us life through his gospel!! Alleluia!**

**Gospel:** Mark 10:46-52 Master, grant that I may see.

### Can Blindness Be Cured?

The novel that I have just finished was an intricate tale of intrigue in the court of the fictional place, *Navola*. The family that controlled all that happened in this place was not those with the political power, but the family that owned all the banks and issued promissory notes and the like to the neighboring kingdoms and countries. The family that held this power over the means of success or failure was the Regulai family. Their lives were filled with twists and turns, plots and shadows, deals and promises. This of course meant that there was many an enemy who would love to see their demise rather than their ascendancy. Our main character is Davico di Regulai, whose father, Devonaci was the owner of the empire that he had built over many years of dealing and seeking strength through powerful and tough means. During this time Davico became intrigued by the “eye of a dragon” that rested on his father’s desk, hence the picture on the cover of the book. It spoke to him and entranced him calling him to violence and anger, which he resisted, but could feel the power of the hunger of the dragon wanting to eat the souls of those around it. As you could imagine the tables are turned when Devonaci is betrayed and all his family and all supporters are murdered, as a result of his greed and arrogance. The new ruler, who had all the right people in his pocket didn’t kill the son, but kept him as a trophy to show what happens to those who overstep. Of course they became even more cruel than those who they overthrew. As punishment Davico is rendered blind and kept in a dungeon to waste away, only brought out once a year on the rulers birthday. At one of these celebrations he befriends Allesana who is also being treated badly by the ruler, but in a different way. In the end she helps the blind Davico to escape, but at that time the “dragons eye” tries to make him an instrument to destroy others, but he refuses to allow the feelings of revenge and desire for violence to overtake him. He remains blind, but can finally see more clearly what his life is really about and even though he is tempted by feelings of anger and hatred toward those who had hurt him, Davico decides to walk away and find a new life, leaving all behind.



So what of all of that when it comes to today’s gospel? It made me think about the blind man on the side of the road calling out to Jesus. Jesus sees him not as a blind man but as someone whom he can bring the gift of life to. Like Allesana who could have walked away from Davico Jesus chose to help him to escape the prison that his life was. It also made me think about how blind we are sometimes to the stories of others lives and would rather listen to something akin to the “dragons eye” and be drawn into self satisfying actions rather than resisting the urge to turn away from the needs of others. Perhaps, if there is a moral within these two stories it is that when we can see more clearly we can truly walk beside those people who need us in their lives. When Jesus takes away our blindness we should rejoice and not see it as a burden! We should rejoice indeed that our blindness has been cured!

*May we understand truly, when we hear Jesus calling lovingly to us, “come to me”*

*Fr. Michael*



# St Patrick's Cathedral

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Associate Pastor: Father Brian Redondo.



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## St Patrick's Cathedral Financial Report - 2023 / 2024

The 2023/2024 Financial Year has finished with a surplus and has enabled us to add to our parish reserves. With the financial stress and the increasing cost of living, we thank you sincerely for your continued support that allows us – St Patrick's Parish, to continue the life and mission of Christ in this place. We are grateful to all who volunteer their time to support our parish endeavours.

### THANK YOU!!

Before we begin with the financial report for this last year, it is important to note a major change in our insurance provider and the impact that is having on all parishes. Last year our insurer, Catholic Church Insurances (CCI) discontinued its services resulting in most Dioceses, if not all having to seek a new insurer. The Dioceses of Queensland have commenced with AON which has resulted in major increases in the cost of insurance. In our case the costs of our yearly premium jumped from \$78,838 to \$226,753. The Bishop has, from the Diocese, to contribute half of the costs for the Cathedral building, currently \$155,333. We thank them for their \$77,667 contribution. The outstanding amount of \$149,086 comes from our income and reserves. This puts the following in a slightly different light.

Please see following a brief summary of the operational areas of St Patrick's Cathedral.  
*Previous years amounts will be shown in brackets.*

**Cathedral** income from planned giving, loose plate and donation point was \$280,117 (2022/2023 - \$243,178, 2021/2022 - \$197,316 and 2020/2021 - \$184,476) and \$7,700 from weddings. Through your generous support we were also able to forward \$21,142 in special collections to our various appeals throughout the year. After all the Cathedral expenses, a **deficit** of \$131,397 was recorded. This deficit includes the one off unbudgeted costs of cleaning the Sacred Vessels of \$13,675 and replacement of Fire Panel due to lightning strike of \$53,382.

In the area of the **Parish Office and Parish House**, there was a deficit of \$230,427 (2022/2023 - \$210,978, 2021/2022 - \$258,792 and 2020/2021 - \$195,222). The income areas of these two places is very limited, so a deficit is a yearly expectation. A major part of expenses goes to wages, which is spent wisely on great staff - \$240,786.07. We have been successful in leasing out office space within the Parish Office building and The Cottage building. This has provided a good income stream of \$73,084 and helps to reduce the Parish Office deficit. At this stage we have budgeted for a foreseeable income from office space for 2024/2025 at \$78,240.

The two sets of **Units** – Hill Street and Ave Maria in Ruthven Street continue to provide a good yearly income for the parish. The surplus for this financial year was \$97,879 (2022/2023 - \$78,613, 2021/2022 - \$43,468 and 2020/2021 - \$48,017). We have refurbished seven of the 14 units at Hill Street and will continue to refurbish units as they become vacant, using this and prior year's reserves.

**Bingo** continues to be the largest source of income to the Parish and this year's surplus was \$212,785 (2022/2023 - \$230,825, 2021/2022 - \$404,027 and 2020/2021 - \$278,704). Anthony King's continued careful management has again provided a much needed surplus to cover the above mentioned parish deficits. *We thank our Bingo patrons for their continued attendance and support of St Pats Bingo. We also make a special mention of thanks to Anthony King and his team of volunteers for all their hard work in making sure this occurs each year for the parish.*



Around the Bingo operations, the **Cathedral Centre** building is also hired out for functions. These functions are overseen by Anthony King and his team and have made a surplus of \$90,045 this financial year (2022/2023 - \$53,442, 2021/2022 - \$55,279 and 2020/2021 - \$21,730). We again thank Anthony and his team for the running of these events. The surplus funds are put aside to cover maintenance of the Centre and replacement of equipment.

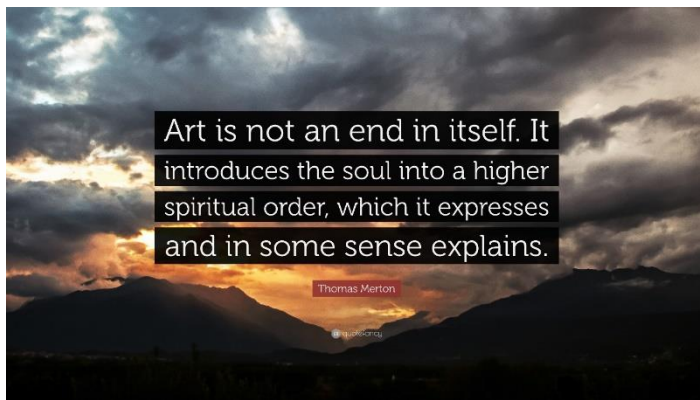
Thankfully with all this taken into account we were able to secure an overall surplus for the year of \$105,942 (2022/2023 - \$175,130, 2021/2022 - \$242,338 and 2020/2021 - \$165,180). Should you wish to be provided with a more detailed report don't hesitate to call into the office at St. Patrick's to pick up a copy. Thank you to the wonderful team on the Finance Committee – Celia Waters, Pennie Shearer, Kerry Shine, Shane Kennett, Basil Dass and Jim Whitney. Your wisdom and advice is always valued.

Thank you once again for your thoughtfulness toward the continued stability of our parish.

On the previous page are some suggestions for ways to give, should you wish to consider an alternative system, such as direct debit. Thank you to all the staff and volunteers at St. Patrick's for their wonderful sense of teamwork, especially during these trying financial times.

*God Bless, and may your gift be returned to you in life's many varied surprises! Father Michael.*

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## What is Pray and Paint?

Pray and Paint is a wonderful opportunity to bring together visual art and a reflective heart. You are invited to reflect upon your best loved scripture scene and to listen for the interpretation that comes from that reflection. Then you will be guided in painting a representation of what that scene stirs in your heart. For example, you may bring with you a picture of the scene from the Prodigal Son, perhaps the father and son embracing. We begin by entering that scene and taking a little quiet time to reflect on the feelings and thoughts that are evoked by that scene, led by Meryl Tracey and Sr Di Phillips. What is Jesus saying to you? You will then be invited, with the guidance of two experienced painters, to quietly and reflectively paint what has stirred in you. It could be as simple as the road on which the two met. A symbol of the road we are all upon seeking the forgiveness of God.

The day would look something like this:

**10.00am** Gather in the Cathedral for quiet reflection on your chosen biblical scene (Bring a picture with you)

**11.00am** Walk to the Cathedral Centre to begin the guided sketching and painting that is your interpretation.

**1.00pm** Finish with **BYO** lunch and sharing of each painting and the way that God has spoken to you.

Tea/Coffee etc will be available throughout. Art supplies are included, please wear or bring appropriate clothing to change into or bring an apron.

To make the best availability of the artists each group is limited to 25 people. There are 2 opportunities to be part of this unique experience – **Saturday, 23<sup>rd</sup> November and Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December**. **The cost is \$25**. The QR code above is the easiest way to book in, or please call into the office should you prefer. Don't miss out on this wonderful and joyful experience!

✠ **We remember in our prayers all those who have died recently:** John Boyce, Barbara Morad Carruthers.  
 ✠ **We hold in our hearts the memories of those whose anniversaries occur at this time:** Maria Vuthi Kim Loan, Kevin Murray, Bob Watson, Carmel Tulloch.  
 ✠ **For all those who are ill in our community:** John Evers, Sharon Keats, Bernard Bartetzko, Vicky Coccozza, Jibran Mardini, Richard Stritzel, Rita Irwin, Kate Gibbs, Christine 'Saus' Barron, Alyshia Morris, William Garrahy, Bev Smith, Louise O'Connor, 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.

**PLEASE NOTE:** As you can see the only two surfaces not cleaned on the Cathedral is the Neil St and James St entrances. Access will be effected for **weekday Masses only** as follows:

- **Tues 29/10 – Fri 1/11** - Entrance will only be available from James St, as they clean the Neil St entrance;
- **Fri 1/11 – Thurs 7/11** - Entrance will only be available from Neil St as they clean the front entrance.

Access will be via back carpark through the Marian garden walkway. While the cleaning of the front is occurring there will be **NO** parking in the Neil St driveway of the Cathedral. Times may vary due to weather.

**REMEMBER THESE RESTRICTIONS ONLY APPLY DURING THE WEEK.  
 ACCESS AND PARKING ON WEEKENDS WILL BE AS IT HAS BEEN DURING THIS TIME.**

**2025 Columban Art Calendar: \$10** - available for purchase from the Parish Office Monday-Thursday 9am-4pm, Friday 9am-3pm. **Australian Catholic Magazine:** Please feel free to take a copy home to read.

**Thank you** to all those who wished me a happy Jubilee! I appreciate all those who were able to attend the Mass, it touched my heart to see many of you there. A special thank you to the musicians and choir on the day. I know some choir members and musicians came from other parishes to assist on the day. A large part of being a priest is the fraternity of fellow priests, so I am grateful for all the priests and Bishops in attendance. God Bless, Fr. Michael.



**SVDP:** will not be collecting produce for hampers this year, due to the fact many have differing needs. Instead we are requesting donations of supermarket gift cards or cash donations which will be given to those in need. Donations of cash/cards are to be placed in an envelope marked **VINNIES**. Please leave these in the collection plate or box or alternatively St Pat's office. Donations will continue until 15/12/2024. Thank you for your generosity.

**Our annual Anointing Mass with lunch** will be held in the Cathedral Centre at 11.00am on Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> November, 2024. Please pass this invitation onto anyone who you feel would like to attend. For catering purposes please let the office know on 4637 1500 or [admin@stpat.org.au](mailto:admin@stpat.org.au) before Tuesday, 26<sup>th</sup> November.

**Parking Alternatives** – Please remember there are 3 parking opportunities over the weekend – Firstly our carpark at the rear of the Cathedral, secondly parking in the Toowoomba Catholic Schools carpark with access to the Cathedral via the path near the bell tower, and thirdly the designated carpark opposite the tennis courts on the corner of Lawrence and Neil, with a short walk to St Patrick's. **At all times please be aware of safety and the keeping clear driveways, entrances and exits for everyone. There are plenty of parks in all these areas, so there is no need for any double parking or parking on footpaths.**

**HOLY SOULS MONTH**, as you are aware is during the month of November and it provides an opportunity for us to remember our loved ones who have passed from this world to the next. As we did last year we invite you to bring a photo to place on our memory banner. If you don't have a photo a remembrance book will be below the banner. Please feel free to bring any photo into the parish office to make a copy of and then take a quiet moment to place them onto the banner, from the beginning of November. *May they rest in peace.*

<b>Sunday 27 October</b> <b>30<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> [SPC – St Patrick's] [STM – St Thomas More's]	7am, 9am, 5.30pm. <b>Live Stream 9am</b>	11am Baptism Hazel Louise Langerak 4.30pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre
<b>Monday 28 October</b> <b>Saint Simon and Jude</b>	5.30pm Mass SPC 9.00am Mass STM	9.30am Rosary Beads making in Parish Conference Room Fr Michael away until 2 <sup>nd</sup> November
<b>Tuesday 29 October</b>	9am Mass SPC <b>Fr Edmund O'Donnell</b>	5.30pm – 6.30pm CHOIR PRACTICE
<b>Wednesday 30 October</b>	7am Mass SPC	7.15pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre
<b>Thursday 31 October</b>	7am Mass SPC	<b>Due to external works on the Cathedral, Adoration will be suspended until Advent – Thurs, 5/12.</b>
<b>Friday 1 November</b> <b>All Saints</b>	7am Mass SPC 9.30am Mass STM	9am Friendship Group in Parish Conf. Room – all welcome 2.30pm Wedding Daniel Gruhl & Casey Ferguson 7.15pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre
<b>Saturday 2 November</b> <b>The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed</b>	7am Mass SPC 6pm Mass SPC	6.30am Rosary at St. Patrick's 8am – 9am Reconciliation SPC
<b>Sunday 3 November</b> <b>31<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	7am, 9am, 5.30pm <b>Live Stream 9am</b> <b>Fr William McCormack</b>	4.30pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre 11am Baptism Harlow Matilda Diedrich

**Planned Giving:** Thank you for your donations. Loose \$2754 Planned Giving \$978 Donation Point \$1600 Money Counters this weekend: Pat Power, Leo and Maureen McMahon  
 Money Counters next weekend: Sam and Fina Ginardi, Wendy Heelan

**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.