



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. Tom Duncan and Fr. Nandana Saparamadu

St Patrick's, in communion with St Saviour's Primary School - Madonna Sleba (4637 1555)
St Saviour's College - Sharon Collins (4637 1600)

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



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT [Year B]

Sunday 6th December 2020

First Reading: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11 – Prepare the way for the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm: Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation. [Psalm 84]

Second Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-14 – We wait for new heavens and a new earth.

Gospel Acclamation: ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA! Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God. ALLELUIA!

Gospel: Mark 1:1-8 – Make straight the paths of the Lord.

Seeing ADVENT through new eyes..... John Briffa



Advent comes around every year and for many it is an indicator that the Christmas holidays are only weeks away. Advent signals the school year is almost over, and for parents, students, and teachers alike there is an audible sigh of relief. I am one of those who look forward to the annual migration to the beach once the school year ends. Being married to a teacher, school holidays are precious. From a liturgical perspective, you could say that Advent doesn't really serve its purpose in Australia, as it is hard to align the origins and sentiments of the Advent tradition with the mood and mind set of a culture fixated on enjoying a long summer holiday.

This year I have had a chance to see Advent through new eyes. Earlier in the year, after 23 years in a place that was safe and comfortable, we sold our farm and moved. We left behind the sanctuary of what we knew and moved into the unknown. The purchase of a new home, in a new town, was full of hope, expectation and joy. Then comes adjusting to suburban living; the neighbour one house up with the barking dogs; the boys two doors down tuning V8 motors in the backyard shed. Moving into a new neighbourhood requires building new relationships, accepting new norms, and finding Christ in all these new situations.

Finding an incarnation of God in the people you love and know well is easy. Finding Christ at your local parish Mass on Christmas Day is a given. But when faced with change and challenge, sometimes remembering that everybody is made in the image of God takes faith.

Moving out of my comfort zone has given me a chance to re-engage with the purpose of Advent. Advent isn't just a countdown to commemorating the one-off occurrence of the birth of Jesus. Advent is a means to remind us that the Incarnation event is an ongoing experience. The purpose of Christmas is to acknowledge the Incarnation, God becoming one of us, but as John's Gospel reminds us, that event has been going on since the beginning of time (*Jn1: 1-3*).

Change in my life has challenged me anew to acknowledge the presence of Christ in all these new situations and different people. In a sense, I have had an Advent and Christmas already this year. As we continue to settle into the neighbourhood, I also hope that they will acknowledge the Christ who is present in me.

John Briffa is the Liturgy Officer for the Diocese of Toowoomba and St Patrick's Cathedral.



We remember in our prayers all those who have died recently: Lesley Green, Mary Patricia Cooney and those who have died from Covid-19. 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:** Nick Renehan, Msgr Michael McKenna [1974], Fr Justin King [1992], Fr Joseph Callaghan [1989]

✠ **For all those who are ill in our community, especially** Brian Machin, Graham McGovern, Madeline Gray, Richard Jones, Loan Smith, Maria Brown, Kim Ireland, Christine [Faus] Barron, Greta Berge, Matt Vlietstra, Dr Peter Reiter, Elijah Rolls, Hayden Smith, Patricia Whyte (nee Stark), Margaret Walker, Rita Blacker, Kristina Dawidowicz, Nora Machin, Mary Allen, 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, John Morgan, Patricia McCracken, Reggie James, Teresita Pamulaklakin, and those in our nursing homes and hospitals, and those suffering from Covid-19.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT CHRISTMAS THIS YEAR!!

Due to a limited amount of places for Christmas Masses this year – Cathedral (200) and Cathedral Centre (400)

YOU MUST BOOK YOUR SEAT ASAP!!

Should you find this difficult to do, please call the office on
4637 1500 and they will book you in for Mass over Christmas.

GO TO www.trybooking.com/BNEEA or the parish Website stpats.org.au

There will be two venues for the Masses over Christmas – the Cathedral and the Cathedral Centre.

Masses will be at both - Eve 6.00pm and 8.30pm; Morning 7am and 9.00am. Midnight in the Cathedral only.

PRIOR BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL!! PLEASE LET YOUR VISITORS KNOW!!

PLEASE NOTE THERE WILL BE NO ADORATION DURING JANUARY.

As there is a surplus of Advent reflection books, please take one at no cost!

Sisters of St. Peter Claver of 71 Margaret St, have items for sale that would make wonderful Christmas gifts. They have many beautiful gifts available as their usual Cent Sales had to be cancelled due to Covid. All sales will benefit the missions. Any enquiries, please contact the Sisters on 4632 1818

Any questions you may have regarding financial giving, please contact Celia on 4637 1500 or find further information on the parish website – www.stpats.org.au Thank you for your kind contribution.

MINISTERS' CHRISTMAS ROSTER: To assist with the preparation of the Christmas Roster blank sheets are available in the Sacristy and in the Eastern transept for the next few weekends. As there will be extra Masses in the Cathedral Centre more Ministers will be needed. Please indicate if you are available or if you will be away at Christmas or in January. Extra helpers are needed to operate the PowerPoint and cameras. Training will be happily provided for this.

St. Vincent De Paul Hampers please consider giving to the hampers for those in need over this time. The baskets are located near the altar rails and will be there until 6/12 – non perishables only, please.

BUS TRIP MARIAN VALLEY Tuesday 8th December bus departs 7:30am Neil St, outside St. Pats. Cost \$30, BYO food. Bookings contact Theresa on 0434 528 904.

As Christmas falls on Friday this year, there will be the usual Mass on Saturday morning (Boxing Day) and weekend Masses will be as they usually are.

Sunday 6 Dec	7am, 9am, 5.30pm Mass 9am-Live stream available SPC	11am Baptism of Mia O'Kane 12pm Baptism of Arthur Dekruyf 4.30pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre
Monday 7 Dec <i>Saint Ambrose</i>	5.30pm Mass SPC <i>9am Mass STM</i>	ADORATION 4.30pm – 5.30pm
Tuesday 8 Dec <i>The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>	7am Mass SPC <i>5.30pm Mass STM</i>	
Wednesday 9 Dec	7am Mass SPC	ADORATION 7.30am – 8.30am 6pm SVdP Meeting Parish Centre 7.15pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre
Thursday 10 Dec	7am Mass SPC	
Friday 11 Dec	7am Mass SPC 9am Mass STM	ADORATION 7.30am – 8.30am 7.15pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre
Saturday 12 Dec	7am Mass SPC 6pm Mass SPC	11am Baptism of Flynn Ryals 12pm Baptism of Riley Laurie and Savannah Laurie
Sunday 13 Dec	7am, 9am, 5.30pm Mass 9am-Live stream available SPC	11am Baptism of Archie Lawson 12pm Baptism of Nathalia Bation 4.30pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre
Planned Giving \$700; Loose \$687; PayPoint :\$330 Sam and Fina Ginardi, Wendy Heelan		