



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
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Safeguarding Officer: Ann Marie Pawsey (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.



First Sunday of Advent

3 December 2023

First reading: Isaiah 63:16-17 Oh, that you would tear the heavens apart and come down.
Responsorial Psalm: Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.
Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 The revelation we looked for, Christ Jesus our Lord.
Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia alleluia! Lord, show us your mercy and love,
and grant us your salvation. Alleluia!
Gospel: Mark 13:33-37 Stay awake! You never know when the Lord will come.

A Prisoner's Hope

By Fhear Brian Redondo

Praise be Jesus and Mary!

One thing I like about Australia is the magnificent purple blooms of the Jacaranda Tree. Purple is the colour of the first week of Advent. The colour purple represents penance, preparation, and sacrifice. Last time, when I went back to the Philippines, I had the privilege to visit again the infamous Bilibid National Prison in Manila (thanks to the Jesuit Prison ministry) to say my thanksgiving mass inside the jail with the notorious inmates in the maximum facility. I had journeyed with them for a year as a seminarian giving liturgy of the word and listening to them. **In the Jail, I realise that freedom is one of the most precious things in life that I can enjoy and live.**

If there is one inspirational person that I can think about in prison, it would be **Cardinal François Xavier Nguyễn Văn Thuận**. His journey beautifully showcases the connection, between waiting, hope and faith.

Cardinal Nguyễn Văn Thuận, a Vietnamese Cardinal, endured 13 years of imprisonment where he faced isolation and uncertainty because of being a Christian. In his book titled "**The Gospel of Hope; A Gospel from Prison**" he shares his experiences of waiting, clinging to hope, and finding solace in the teachings of the Gospel during the darkest moments in jail.

Like us, he waited for freedom for justice for an end to his confinement. His story echoes the theme of Advent as expressed by **Isaiah's plea; "Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down!"** In his isolation Cardinal Nguyễn Văn Thuận experienced moments of despair when waiting felt almost unbearable. However his unwavering faith transformed this waiting period into an encounter with God Himself.

In our Reading today we are reminded by St. Paul that it is, through Christ Jesus that we receive God's grace.

Cardinal Nguyễn Văn Thuận despite facing challenges acknowledged the presence of grace even, within the confines of his prison cell. His book stands as a testament to how the Lord enriches and sustains us while we await the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Cardinal Nguyễn Văn Thuận's **life teaches us that waiting doesn't have to be passive; it can be a transformative process.** His profound reflections from prison remind us that like clay in the hands of a potter, we are constantly being molded by God. When we feel lost or uncertain God is at work guiding us towards ourselves.

As we journey through this season of Advent let us carry Cardinal Nguyễn Văn Thuận's spirit, within us. We should patiently wait with a sense of purpose, hope and faith trusting that as a potter molds clay, God is shaping us into vessels of His grace.

✠ **We remember in our prayers all those who have died recently:** Jenny Packer.

✠ **We hold in our hearts the memories of those whose anniversaries occur at this time:** Ken Fox, Msg Michael McKenna [1974], Fr Justin King [1992].

✠ **For all those who are ill in our community, especially:** Albert Loveday, Louise O'Connor, Joan Robinson, Sheryl Grunke, Noel Roshan Francis, Kate Gibbs, Therese Odri, Kath Smith, Freddy Nield, Bev Smith, Ray Frelek, Bob O'Sullivan, Blake Cusato, Greg Coddington, Stanley Poon, Jamal Abraham, Madelaine Morris, Judy Moloney, Perlita Torrecampo, Rodolfo Umipig, Madeline Gray, Braxton Rayner.

Some dates for your calendar.....please RSVP to the parish office where needed

6.00pm, Tuesday, 12th December - Volunteers Thank you Dinner in the Neil Street gardens. Please bring a chair to sit on. For safety and ease of movement there will be **NO** parking in that area on the night. Please make use of the car parking behind the Cathedral or the TCSO carpark. Thank you.

9.00am (SPC) and 5.30pm (STM), Thursday, 21st December – 2nd Rite of Reconciliation

CHRISTMAS MASSES 2023

Saint Patrick's Cathedral

VIGIL – 6.00pm (Family Mass); 8.30pm and Midnight

MORNING – 7.00am and 9.00am

St Thomas More's

VIGIL – 5.00pm; 7.00pm

MORNING – 8.30am

Christmas Hamper Appeal: St Patrick's conference of St Vincent de Paul will be giving Christmas hampers to assist needy people in our area. We are seeking the generous support of parishioners to donate non-perishable items such as canned hams, Christmas cakes and puddings, drinks etc to fill the hampers. There will be collection boxes at the front of the church from Saturday 11th November until Sunday 10th December.

Congratulations and thank you to the group who took part in the Toowoomba hub of Brisbane's *Archdiocesan Centre for Catholic Formation* scripture series. The ten-week series wrapped up last week. This coming year, some adult faith opportunities will line up with our RCIA program. ***If you or someone you know is interest in walking this journey of exploring faith or helping others to do so, please email <life@stpats.org.au>.*** The process will likely begin in Advent and culminate at Easter.

The **Sacramental program** for 2024 has been prepared. If any of your children are interested in completing Reconciliation, Confirmation and Eucharist in the coming year, please email St Patrick's office for an information letter or call in to collect a copy. We would like to finalise the participants before the end of the year.

MARIAN VALLEY bus trip Friday 8th December, feast of the Immaculate Conception. Bus departs 7:30am Neil St. outside Cathedral. Cost \$40. For bookings contact Theresa on 0434528904.

Maronite Mass with Fr Fadi Salami Sunday 10 December 11am at St Anthony's all welcome.

Next year we will be using the same **Holy Souls** banner, so if you supplied a photo this year it will be placed on next year's banner. If you want to keep your photo please call into St Pat's office to collect your picture.

Sunday 3 December [SPC – St Patrick's] [STM – St Thomas More's]	7am, 9am, 5.30pm. Live Stream 9am	11am Baptism of Lachlan Robert Flynn 4.30pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre
Monday 4 December	9am Mass STM 5.30pm Mass SPC	9.30am Rosary Making in Parish Centre
Tuesday 5 December	9am Mass SPC 5.30pm Mass STM	5.30pm Choir Practice in the Cathedral
Wednesday 6 December	7am Mass SPC	7.15pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre
Thursday 7 December Saint Ambrose	7am Mass SPC	7.30am – 8.30am Adoration at SPC
Friday 8 December The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary	7am Mass SPC 9.30am Mass STM	9.30am Friday Friendship Group in Parish Centre 7.15pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre
Saturday 9 December	7am Mass SPC 6pm Mass SPC	6.30am Rosary at SPC 8am – 9am Reconciliation 12pm Baptism of Melisha Weerasinghe Patirage
Sunday 10 December	7am, 9am, 5.30pm Live Stream 9am	4.30pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre

Planned Giving: Thank you for your generous donations. Loose \$1613 Planned Giving \$896 Donation Point \$780 Money Counters this weekend: Sandra and Peter Daly with Jan-Nell and Errol Chase.

Money Counters next weekend: Pat Power, 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 or name in donating. Thank you.