



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.



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT [Year B]

Sunday 13th December 2020

First Reading: Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11 – I exult for joy in the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm: My soul rejoices in my God. [Luke 1:46-50, 53-54]

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 – May you all be kept blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel Acclamation: ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA! *The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.* ALLELUIA!

Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28 – There stands among you, unknown to you, the one who is coming after me.

3rd Sunday of Advent

As we move further into the mystery of Christ's Advent, I'd like to draw attention to one of the many little gems in our Sacred Liturgy. You would have noticed that when the priest prepares the gifts of bread and wine to be offered to the Father, the priest (or deacon) pours a little drop of water into the wine. While he does this, he quietly prays a beautiful little prayer: "By the mystery of this water and wine may we come to share in the divinity of Christ who humbled himself to share in our humanity." Think about these words and the action that accompanies it: When you pour a bit of water into wine, you can't get that water back out. The two mingle together and become one. This is not just a matter of watering down the wine! In this action, the two elements are totally united, symbolising the mystical unity that will be brought about between us and Jesus through our participation in the Eucharist.

I recall this particular part of the Mass because it names Jesus' first advent (his incarnation) as the foundation for our unity with him, and therefore sheds light on what Christmas is really about: "*May we come to share in the divinity of Christ who humbled himself to share in our humanity.*" Notice it's not just about Jesus sharing our humanity as if that were simply some kind of nice novelty for the Lord. Why did he take on our humanity? So that we might take on his divinity. Have you ever considered this? – The purpose of God embracing human nature to the radical extent of the incarnation, which Christmas commemorates, is not to leave us where we are! It is to raise us up to the true dignity of what it is to be human, beyond the sinful and fallen humanity we know, to a humanity that embraces and is embraced by the divinity. In the person of the risen Jesus, we see what we are meant to be, and who we are invited to become. The beauty and glory of Christmas, then, is that by a supreme act of humility, Jesus makes himself the bridge through whom we are welcomed us back into the garden of Paradise, so to speak, where the creature walks and talks with the creator once more.

But how can we be, in a sense, 'poured into the wine', and so "share in the divinity of Christ?" Firstly, it is primarily through our Baptism and our ongoing participation in the Sacraments, especially the Eucharist, that this union between us and Jesus is established and deepened. Confession is also essential in renewing and strengthening this bond, restoring us to that relationship time and again. But the Sacraments are not magic quick fixes. How do our lives, particularly in this season of intensified Christian living, cooperate with the Sacraments of God's grace? St Paul urges us in today's second reading, "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances." These are both distinct marks of Christian holiness and means of cooperating with God's self-gift. We are called not just to say the odd prayer, but to "pray without ceasing", to be a people characterised by prayer and gratitude in all circumstances. What changes ought we make to our lives in order to prepare more fully for what God offers us this Christmas?

God bless you in the coming week,

Fr Tom Duncan

We remember in our prayers all those who have died recently: Glenda Pascoe 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:** Fr James Wiemers [1984]

✠ **For all those who are ill in our community, especially** Patsy Quinn, 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.

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

To celebrate Fr Quinlan's 80th birthday, Our Lady of Lourdes Parish has put together a book with a selection of his much appreciated homilies, "80 of the Best". Copies available in the office \$15.

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
Monday 14 Dec <i>Saint John of the Cross</i>	5.30pm Mass SPC <i>9am Mass STM</i>	ADORATION 4.30pm – 5.30pm
Tuesday 15 Dec	7am Mass SPC <i>5.30pm Mass STM</i>	
Wed 16 Dec	7am Mass SPC	ADORATION 7.30am – 8.30am 7.15pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre
Thursday 17 Dec	7am Mass SPC	
Friday 18 Dec	7am Mass SPC 9am Mass STM	ADORATION 7.30am – 8.30am 7.15pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre
Saturday 19 Dec	7am Mass SPC 6pm Mass SPC	11am Baptism of Mia Mahon 12pm Baptism of Madeline Baguley
Sunday 20 Dec	7am, 9am, 5.30pm Mass 9am-Live stream available SPC	11am Baptism of Jax Nagle 4.30pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre
Planned Giving \$2055; Loose \$878; PayPoint :\$320 Kevin and Judy Lindores, Jim Harris		