

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 Pastor: 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.



FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT 6 APRIL 2025

First reading: Isaiah 43:16-21 I am doing a new thing and I will give drink to my people.

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

Second Reading: Philippians 3:8-14 Because of Christ I look upon everything else as useless in order to gain him.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! With all your heart turn to me, for I am tender and compassionate.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, King of Endless Glory!

Gospel: John 8:1-11 Let the person without sin be the first to throw a stone.

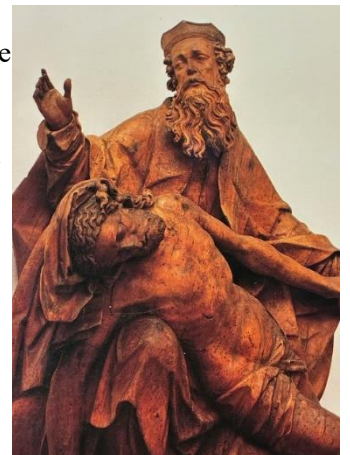
Forgiveness – the greatest gift that brings hope

Forgiveness is such a key part of our life journey especially in these days of Lent. The life giving gift that we can give to others, and to ourselves reveals a new and wonderful sense of freedom to live a life filled with positive and renewed hope for our future. Over the last two weeks we have heard stories of forgiveness in the gospels from Luke and John. These stories invite us to focus on the importance of having hope in those who have lost their path in life or been condemned by others.

So, where did we learn about forgiveness? We might say, our parents, our family, the scriptures, stories from novels, examples from others and maybe the experience given to us from someone we hold dear. The other aspect is that we have an innate desire to forgive that God has placed firmly within our souls. A desire to live a life that is at rights with those around us. I am reminded of a quote from a book I was reading – “*Not forgiving those around us is like carrying rocks in our pockets – what’s the point?*” In other words we are challenged to follow the Spirit and be prepared to live with people that have hurt us, but in a way that we can move forward unhindered by the weight of hurt and anger.

So, where did Jesus learn forgiveness? We could say in a similar way – through his parents, friends, scripture, connection to God, and personal experiences of injustice in the context of the time. Through these lens’ we can understand the innate desire that Jesus carried with him when it came to seeking peace and deep understanding through the gift of forgiveness in the parable we have heard last week, the Prodigal Son and this week the story of the woman who was to be stoned. Jesus drew on his connection with a loving God, supported by many parables to help us see that God forgives to free us to live.

So, where did God learn forgiveness? We enter now into the field of a philosophical point of view, rather than theological. When I was contemplating this perspective I remembered a beautiful sculpture from my seminary days – in fact I had to dig it out of my 1994 diary – and this picture here is the sculpture. It is in the style of a Pieta. The one of course that we are used to is that of Mary holding Jesus. This is an artist impression of God holding the lifeless body of his Son. So the question (philosophically) is ***Did God need to forgive Jesus?*** Is that the way God experienced what forgiveness really means. Taking a step back we think about what it means to be a parent. I’m not a parent, but I know that I caused by Mother and Father some pain when I was a teenager and young adult and I know they had to forgive me for that pain and the mistakes I made. If they didn’t forgive me then they could not love me unconditionally, as they did. I’m sure if you are a parent you understand what it means to forgive your children for any pain they have caused to you because you love them so deeply.



So again, ***Did God learn the depth of forgiveness by forgiving Jesus?***

Of course this question has no definite answer, and that’s the point of a philosophical approach. These questions invite us to ponder and reflect and search for deeper meanings in our spiritual journey.

To me, this gives a renewed sense of hope. That God not only experienced the human condition through the life of Jesus, but on some great level God learnt forgiveness through experiencing the need that sits in the heart/soul of us all. God ***fully*** understands forgiveness. To me, that means God also ***fully*** understands the hopes we hold in our human heart.

May this week indeed bring you a renewed hope in the gift of forgiveness. Fr. Michael

✠ **We remember in our prayers all those who have died recently:** Robert Rimmer, Barry O'Shea.

✠ **We hold in our hearts the memories of those whose anniversaries occur at this time:** Marshall Ney, Joscelyn (Power) Hjort, Nellie Brennan, Paul Hannant, Matt Dwyer.

✠ **For all those who are ill in our community:** Robert John Wilson, Gerard George, Amelene Creggy, Mary Boland, Stewart Frater, Michael Luce, Claire Seymour, Sharon Keats, Bernard Bartetzko, Vicky Coccozza, Jibrán Mardini, Richard Stritzel, Rita Irwin, Kate Gibbs, Christine 'Saus' Barron, Alyshia Morris, William Garrahy, Bev Smith, 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, Dorothy Marsh.

EASTER CEREMONIES ROSTER We are looking for volunteers for the Easter Ceremonies. If you can assist, please add your name and details to the sheet on the table in the Eastern Transept. We need as much help as possible during this busy period.

Holy Thursday
Mass of the Last Supper
6.00pm

Good Friday
Stations of the Cross
10.00am
(followed by 1st Rite
Reconciliation)
Passion of the Lord
3.00pm

Easter Vigil Saturday
**7.00pm – note time
change**

Easter Sunday
7.00am, 9.00am, 5.30pm

Working Bee is needed on Saturday morning following Mass (12/4). This is for the setting up of the large palms throughout the Cathedral for Palm Sunday. If you have half an hour to spare after Mass it would be appreciated.

NEW EMAIL ADDRESS – The diocese has allocated new email addresses to parishes and priests, so please note the following:-

St Patrick's Cathedral Office – stpatrickscathedral@twb.catholic.org.au

Celia (Finance) – cathedralfinance@twb.catholic.org.au

Fr. Michael – mobrien@twb.catholic.org.au

Fr. Brian – bredondo@twb.catholic.org.au

Fr. Hal – hranger@twb.catholic.org.au

Fr. Francis – kksukkaphat@twb.catholic.org.au

Australian Catholic Bishops have issued a statement for reflection on the coming election on some of the key issues to keep in mind. They have highlighted that we are in the Jubilee year of HOPE and whoever we vote for should be seen in that light. For more information simply put the following into your preferred search engine - [acbc election statement](#)

Chrism Mass will be held Monday 14th April at 5.30pm. This mass celebrates the unity of God's priestly people – the baptised. Bishop Ken blesses the oils for use through the Diocese during the coming year. Please consider attending with priests of our Diocese.

Sunday 6 April Fifth Sunday of Lent [SPC St Patrick's STM St Thomas More's]	7am, 9am, 5.30pm. Live Stream 9am	10am Morning Tea – Knights of the Southern Cross 12pm Baptism Pedro & Bruno Ryan 4.30pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre
Monday 7 April St John Baptist de la Salle	5.30pm Mass SPC 9.00am Mass STM	9.30am Rosary Group – Meeting Room
Tuesday 8 April	9am Mass SPC	
Wednesday 9 April	7am Mass SPC	6.00pm SPC Parish Council Meeting - Presbytery 7.15pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre
Thursday 10 April	7am Mass SPC	7.30am – 8.30am Adoration 6pm – 7pm Choir Practice in the Cathedral
Friday 11 April St Stanislaus	7am Mass SPC 9.30am Mass STM Rev Msgr Leslie Schuhkraft	9am Friendship Group - Cancelled 7.15pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre
Saturday 12 April	7am Mass SPC 6pm Mass SPC Fr John Michael	6.30am Stations of the Cross at SPC followed by a working bee to set up the palms 8am – 9am Reconciliation SPC 11am Baptism Koa Nadela 12pm Baptism Harper Jayne Ellis McKenzie 2-4pm Altar Server Practice
Sunday 13 April Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord	7am, 9am, 5.30pm Live Stream 9am Fr Lex Herzig	11am Baptism Ava Doreen Guthrie 12.30pm Ars Cantourm Choir – Towards Easter Concert 4.30pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre

Planned Giving: *Thank you for your donations.* Loose \$3021 Planned Giving \$838 Donation Point \$1560

Money Counters this weekend: Jabour Hanna, Michelle Betros, Mick Cuskelly

Money Counters next weekend: Sandra & Peter Daly, Jan-Nell & 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.



Please keep in your prayers the following young ones as they prepare for Confirmation and First Eucharist:

Sandrine Adikari, Leona Al Masri, Julio Aragona, Zharina Balgos, Austin Beadle, Ashlyn Beard, Mary Campbell, Holly Coffison, William Fitzpatrick, Jaishan and Fivanthy Francis, Isabella and Lucia Fraser, William Freier, Cormac Hannam, Robbie Heneghan, Candace Jacinto, Kaiya Jeffrey, Ivy Land, Vance Luciano, Henry and Matilda McGaw, Evee McLoughlin, Cooper and Carter Middleton, Ashayla Mitchell, Penelope Morgan, Matilda Parker, Ewan Phillips, Alice Prust, Sophia and Noah Ragh, Zion Sumalinog, Ivan Tembo, Mahdi Valencia, Indi and Jase Wakefield, Angus Ward and Imogen Williams-Donald.