



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.



FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY

7th January, 2024

First reading: Isaiah 60:1-6 The glory of the Lord shines upon you.

Responsorial Psalm: Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

Second Reading: Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6 The revelation means that we all share the same inheritance.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia alleluia! We have seen his star in the East;
and have come to adore the Lord. Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12 We have come from the East to worship the King.

Epiph•a•ny (n) - *moment of sudden and great revelation or realisation.*

When the Wise Men arrived to pay homage to the new born child, was it then that they had an epiphany? Or was it when they saw the star arising and everything that had been prophesied fell into place? Or was it when they spoke to the shepherds with their flocks in the fields that they realised what was happening?

The gift of a sudden insight or epiphany is often something we cannot control, it is something that happens even when we least expect it. It is when our eyes are opened to a new and perhaps life changing understanding of ourselves or others in our lives. Often when I read a book I will come across a certain perspective that I have not thought about before, and that is why I often share it with you on this front page! Sometimes it doesn't occur to me until later when I experience something in my life journey that takes me back and an epiphany occurs when I relate it to my experience. Speaking of books.....

Over the last 12 months I have exceeded my target of 26 books per year ending up having read a total of 35 books. *Granted some were only 200 odd pages.* Here is the list of the top 26 – *Double or Nothing* (Kim Sherwood); *The Memory Artist* (Katherine Brabon); *Toyko Express* (Seichō Matsumoto); *Bark to the Future* (Spencer Quinn); *Before the Coffee Gets Cold + Tales from the Café + Before Your Memory Fades* (Toshirazu Kawaguchi); *Dead Tide* (Fiona McIntosh); *Verbal* (Peter Murphy); *Babel: An Arcane History* (R.F. Kuang); *Circe* (Madeline Miller); *The Wind Knows My Name* (Isabel Allende); *To Become An Outlaw* (Peter Murphy); *The Ferryman* (Justin Cronin); *Cuddy* (Benjamin Myers); *Small Things Like These* (Claire Keegan); *The Other Eden* (Paul Harding); *Old God's Time* (Sebastian Barry); *Yellowface* (Rebecca F. Kuang); *The Secret of the Huon Wren* (Claire Van Ryn); *The Invisible Hour* (Alice Hoffman); *Bright Shining: How Grace Changes Everything* (Julia Baird); *The Invisible life of Addie La Rue* (V.E. Schwab); *The Armour of Light* (Ken Follett); *Daughters of Nantucket* (Julie Gerstenblatt); *Prima Facie* (Suzie Miller).

Amongst many insights I will share just two. Firstly the quote of the year for me is –

"Holding on to bad memories is like having a pocket full of stones – why carry them?"

Taken from "Cuddy" – reflections on the life of St Cuthbert.

The second epiphany in my reading, amongst many others is the book by Julia Baird, "Bright Shining". Her book is all about the gift of grace. Grace is defined as the giving unconditionally of love and kindness expecting nothing in return. As she drills down investigating the presence of so much grace that is happening around us all the time, she reflects on the regrets some people have when they come to the end of their lives. My question is not IF we may have these regrets, but WHEN! Maybe as you reflect on the following you may recognise something present in your life and have an epiphany about change in this New Year.

From Julia Baird, "Australian nurse Bronnie Ware's suggests, after interviewing people at the end of their lives, these were the regrets they harboured. 1. I wish I'd had the courage to live a life true to myself, not the life others expected of me. 2. I wish I hadn't worked so hard. 3. I wish I'd had the courage to express my feelings. 4. I wish I had stayed in touch with my friends. 5. I wish I had let myself be happier, rather than worry about what people think of me."

May your epiphanies in 2024 bring you life, happiness and love.

God Bless, Fr. Michael

✠ **We remember in our prayers all those who have died recently:** Rita Collins (Fr. Jamie's mother), Joan Robinson, Fr. Edward (Don) Murray, Norma Fitzgerald, Lola Collins.

✠ **We hold in our hearts the memories of those whose anniversaries occur at this time:** Lyla Saide, Jan Klimkowicz, Gladys Norris.

✠ **For all those who are ill in our community, especially:** Gabrielle Saide, Albert Loveday, Louise O'Connor, 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.

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.

Priest retreat will be held from Sunday January 7th to January 12th. **Fr Michael Cooney will be celebrating Mass here at the Cathedral during this time.** Please keep the clergy of our Diocese in your prayers.

YOUNG ADULTS' WEEKEND: An exciting weekend '**FORGED**' is planned for young adults (18-35) at Emu Gully 27-28 January, 2024; think prayer and paintball, mud challenges and Mass... come meet some fellow young Catholics, chat all things faith and life, and get stuck into some killer experiences! Registration is open and **spots are filling fast!** Head to @Veritas or @YoungCatholicsToowoomba on Instagram or Facebook to check out further details. Registration is via the following link: www.trybooking.com/CMRAH.



This coming Friday we farewell our oldest priest of the Diocese, Fr. Edward Vivian "Don" Murray. Fr. Don has been a wonderful presence to many in our Diocese for over 63 years. He has ministered in Chinchilla, Stanthorpe, Dalby, Miles, Augathella, Wallumbilla/Surat and Allora. Fr. Don had a great ability to connect with people of all ages sharing his down to earth wisdom and knowledge of the world and church events. Using his sharp intellect his Seminary Studies took him to Rome and was ordained by Cardinal Agagianian in 1960. As we remember his generous ministry amongst us we keep his family in our prayers. Fr. Don's funeral will be at **St Patrick's Cathedral on Friday 12th January at 2pm.** Also available as live stream via www.twb.catholic.org.au, and clicking on live stream in top right corner. This photo shows Fr. Don on his travels accompanied by a youthful past Administrator of St Pat's.

A sincere thank you to all who were able to give so generously to the Christmas Collection to assist those in need. The collection totaled \$7,810.65. Half of this amount will be sent to Fr. Jack MacGinley, Parish Priest of Tara to go toward assisting those in need in the areas effected by the recent bushfires. \$2,000 will go to contribute toward the charitable works of the St Vincent De Paul local conference. The remainder will be used by the St Patrick's Parish Council to assist those within our local community. Thank you on behalf of all who will benefit!



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| Sunday 7 January [SPC - St Patrick's] [STM - St Thomas More's] | 7am, 9am, 5.30pm. Live Stream 9am | 4.30pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre |
| Monday 8 January The Baptism of the Lord | 5.30pm Mass SPC 9.00am Mass STM | |
| Tuesday 9 January | 9am Mass SPC 5.30pm Mass STM | NO CHOIR PRACTICE |
| Wednesday 10 January | 7am Mass SPC | 6pm SVdP Meeting in Parish Centre Staff Room 7.15pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre |
| Thursday 11 January | 7am Mass SPC | NO ADORATION THIS WEEK |
| Friday 12 January | 7am Mass SPC 9.30am Mass STM | 7.15pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre 2pm Funeral Mass of Fr Don Murray Ladies Friendship Group resumes on January 19 |
| Saturday 13 January | 7am Mass SPC 6pm Mass SPC | 6.30am Rosary at SPC 8am - 9am Reconciliation |
| Sunday 14 January | 7am, 9am, 5.30pm Live Stream 9am | 4.30pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre |

Planned Giving: Thank you for your donations. **31/12** Loose \$2604, Planned Giving \$731 Donation Point \$1200
4th Sunday of Advent: total \$3673 (incl. L, PG and DP)

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.