



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

Pastoral Associate – Music: Pamela Duane – cathedralmusic@twb.catholic.org.au

Safeguarding Officer: Clinton Shearer (profstandards@twb.catholic.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 IN ORDINARY TIME

8 February 2026

First reading: Isaiah 58: 7-10 Your light will shine like the dawn.

Responsorial Psalm: A light arises in the darkness for the upright.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 2:1-5 I came to you to proclaim Christ crucified.

**ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA! I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
the man who follows me will have the light of life. ALLELUIA!**

Gospel: Matthew 5:13-16 You are the light of the world.

Today I would like to take a moment to share with you some people who have brought this gospel alive for me. I invite you to take some time to reflect on those who inspire/d you and hold them in quiet prayer this day.

You are the Salt of the Earth.....the Light of the World.

With a slightly heavy heart I knock on John's front door to spend a little time catching up on life. John is in the midst of a tough journey with cancer. After many invasive and painful operations he currently enjoys a reprieve at home with his wife and family. In some ways I am wary as I'm never sure how he will be or at what stage his cancer is at, and so I enter with some trepidation. John is having a good day, relatively pain free and happy to chat and reflect on life and the world around him. What John says next floors me! He says to me, "You know Father Michael I can not believe how much God loves me!" I'm a little lost for words and sit quietly waiting for John to expand on what he just said. He does. "Mate, God has given me this day with my wife, calls from my family, a fairly pain free moment and we can talk and chat. How could I not know that God loves me."

You are the Salt of the Earth.....the Light of the World.

Melanie was in Year 11 when, through some choices that weren't the best at the time, found she was expecting a baby. Not that she has ever regretted the beautiful boy that arrived months later. To some this seems to be the end of any chance of a career or even to finish her schooling. I remember the Principal of her Catholic School being quite adamant that that will not be happening on his watch! He encouraged and supported Melanie to complete her schooling even after having the baby. One event stays in my mind. It was the day before the Open Day for the school and Melanie, who was quite pregnant at the time suggested she stay at home for that day. The Principal assured her that she was as much part of this school as any other student and we are as proud of her as any other student. This amazing support saw Melanie finish year 12 and complete her teaching degree at USQ. I had the privilege to preside at her wedding and baptism her further three children and today she continues loving a fulfilling career in Primary School teaching.

You are the Salt of the Earth.....the Light of the World.

Doctor Tim has a thriving practice and has established himself as a trusted practitioner over many years within his community. To him faith is important. Dr Tim tries to live his faith through the genuine, faithful and caring nature of his profession. Many times patients come to him and rather than a short and quick "in and out" experience, he takes the time to listen and advise wisely the actual person he finds in front of him. At times it is in the midst of sadness and struggle with others that leads him more deeply in a faith filled with hope. With this background of his life it should be no surprise to know he spends a number of months every year amongst the indigenous communities of Central Australia. Dr Tim is amazed at the stories of these people who struggle with so many different, and often preventable health issues. They have deeply nurtured their own culture but allowed the message of hope from a loving God to form a "watermark" within their spirit. Dr Tim faces many challenges in being accepted and trusted in their community, however maintains that "healthcare given from a platform of non-judgmental love [means] we experience better and more meaningful outcomes not only for the patient but also for the caregiver."

Find the people who are the salt of the earth and light for your World **and thank them today!**

Fr. Michael

[Due to the personal nature of these stories the names have been changed]

✠ **We remember in our prayers all those who have died recently:** John Robinson, Brian Buckle, Peter Garrard, Lorraine Knauth.

✠ **We hold in our hearts the memories of those whose anniversaries occur at this time, especially:** Betty Roll.

✠ **For all those who are ill in our community:** Jane Kennedy, Brenden Canning, Ted Philippa, Justin O'Donnell, Mark Betts, Kathy Birmingham, Carole Symons, Elizabeth Soutar, Patrick Eldridge, Donna Vallely, Rajender Vellore, Evandro Andrade, Antonietta Del Riccio, Mary Boland, Claire Seymour, Sharon Keats, Bernard Bartetzko, Vicky Coccozza, Jibran Mardini, Richard Stritzel, Rita Irwin, Kate Gibbs, Christine 'Saus' Barron, Alyshia Morris, William Garrahy, Bev Smith, Sheryl Grunke, Noel Francis, Therese Odri, Freddy Nield, Ray Frelek, Blake Cusato, Braxton, Greg Coddington, Jamal Abraham, Judy Moloney, Perlita Torrecampo, Dorothy Marsh, Teresita Pamulaklakin, Madeline Gray.

Welcome Pamela Duane to the role of **Pastoral Associate – Music**. You may know Pam from playing the pipe organ over the last year or so assisting Vicky during her recent illness. Pam comes to us with much experience in the musical world, having studied at the Qld Conservatorium of Music and holds the qualifications of a Diploma of Music and an Associate Music Australia qualification. This role is a new addition to the music ministry in the Cathedral, and aims to have an overarching responsibility for *strengthening, broadening and deepening* our current musical repertoire. For many years the coordinating of the music program at St Pat's has been expertly overseen by Vicky Coccozza, and we have very much appreciated and benefitted from her commitment to this place – over 40 years infact! Vicky remains as an integral part of the music ministry and together with all involved – choir and musicians – to assist Pam in her role. We look forward with Pam to building on the foundation that has been so wonderfully established over many years. I am sure you will make Pam welcome in this new role at St Pat's.

"This is My Body, Given for You" is the theme chosen for the International Eucharistic Congress to be held in Sydney in 2028. We are called to begin preparing for this event. This year you are invited to prepare through a CALL TO PRAYER. Throughout 2026 there will be many opportunities to keep the Eucharistic Congress in your prayers so that it truly becomes a "A Time For Eucharistic Renewal" in the life of the Australian church. Every parish in Australia is called to have an Holy Hour on Sunday, 1st March – we will spend this time between 4.15pm and 5.15pm before 5.30pm Mass. Please put this time in your diaries so we can come together in prayer. For more information you are invited to visit the Congress website –

www.eucharist28.org

Fr Francis came to the Parish last year for 12 months to improve his English so he could return to Thailand to run an orphanage, sadly that time is rapidly coming to an end. You are invited to come to a morning tea following the 9am Mass on 1st March to farewell Fr. Francis.

Masses for Ash Wednesday, 18th February will be:
St Patrick's Cathedral – 7am and 5.30pm
St Thomas More's – 9.30am and 5.30pm.

Catholic Diocese of TOOWOOMBA invites you to join His Eminence Mykola Cardinal Bychok CSSR Thurs 26 & Fri 27 March 2026

Scan to purchase tickets for visit www.tbw.catholic.org.au/cathedral

Sunday 8 February 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time [SPC - St Patrick's & STM - St Thomas More's]	7am, 9am, 5.30pm. Live Stream 9am [Priest ann. in green]	4.30pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre
Monday 9 February	5.30pm Mass SPC 9.00am Mass STM	9.30am Rosary Group in Parish Centre
Tuesday 10 February St Scholastica	9am Mass SPC	1.00pm Commissioning of Pastoral Carers - SPC
Wednesday 11 February	7am Mass SPC 5.30pm Mass STM Most Rev James Byrne DD	9.00am School Commencement Mass for SSPS 5.30pm SPC Liturgy Committee meeting in Staffroom 7.15pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre
Thursday 12 February	7am Mass SPC	7.30 – 8.30pm Adoration SPC 9.30am Mass at Numylo 6.00 – 7.00pm Choir Practice
Friday 13 February	7am Mass SPC 9.30am Mass STM	9am Friendship Group in the Conference Room 7.15pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre
Saturday 14 February St's Cyril & Methodius	7am Mass SPC 6pm Mass SPC	6.30am Rosary at St Patrick's 8–9am Reconciliation SPC 10.30am Baptism Sunny Andrews
Sunday 15 February 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time	7am, 9am, 5.30pm Live Stream 9am	Project Compassion Launch Mass – Bishop Ken followed by morning tea in Cathedral grounds 11am Baptism Abigail Sienna Hood 12pm Baptism Feyre Cotter 4.30pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre

Planned Giving: Thank you for your donations. Loose \$3391 Planned Giving \$1353 Donation Point \$1790
Money Counters this weekend: Parish Office Staff

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

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.