



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 IN ORDINARY TIME

9 FEBRUARY 2025

First reading: Isaiah 6:1-8 Here I am! Send me.

Responsorial Psalm: In the sight of the angels I will sing your praises, Lord.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 I preach what they preach, and this is what you believe.

Alleluia, alleluia! Come follow me, says the Lord, and I will make you fishers of my people. Alleluia!

Gospel: Luke 5:1-11 They left everything and followed him.

How Do You Respond?

This following powerful quote comes from a book titled, *Prophet Song*, written by an Irish Author, Paul Lynch which gained him the Booker Prize in 2023.

"...seeing that out of terror comes pity and out of pity comes love and out of love the world can be redeemed again, and she can see the world does not end, that it is vanity to think the world will end during your lifetime in some sudden event, that what ends is your life and only your life, that what is sung by the prophets is but the same song sung across time, the coming of the sword, the world devoured by fire, the sun gone down into the earth at noon and the world cast in darkness, the fury of some god incarnate in the mouth of the prophet raging at the wickedness that will be cast out of sight, and the prophet sings not of the end of the world but of what has been done to some but not others, that the world is always ending over and over again in one place but not another and that the end of the world is a local event, it comes to your country and visits your town and knocks on the door of your house and becomes to others but some distant warning, a brief report on the news, an echo of events that has passed into folklore."

The story is a confronting one. Although fiction, it tells the tale of what internal conflict within a country can lead to. People disappearing overnight never to be seen again, protective services being given unlimited powers of detainment etc., the forming of a rebellion army against the government of which the youth get caught up in and also never return. A reminder of the pain and absolute powerlessness that is experienced by families in this situation. The story follows one family and in particular the mother Eilish as she strives to keep her family together and alive. Powerful and confronting. This passage comes as she reflects on the broad understanding that everything will end, one way or another and it is always personal and at hand.

The interesting thing about the gospel today and the calling in particular of Peter, is his ability to self reflect. He immediately responds to Christ knowing his sinfulness. As a group of fishermen I don't believe this is the first time that they have heard of Jesus. As they sit mending their nets, sorting the catch, planning the day ahead, they would have discussed what they had heard happening in other places. They would have wondered and considered, been amazed and confused. They would have shared their thoughts and theories together. So when Jesus appears among them and performs a miracle suddenly it all becomes personal. Their minds and hearts are opened to something new – the presence of someone more powerful than they have ever known. When they are invited to follow, Peter speaks for them all, "Leave us, we are not worthy to be part of your mission."

However much like the quote above, it **is** personal. If we do not respond when Jesus "*comes to your country, visits your town, knocks on your door*" then when will we? For these disciples the time has come to bring an end to one part of their journey and be open to walking another way. They take it, for their hearts have been widened. Jesus' love and trust in them urges them forward to a new way of living this life. At the very end of *Prophet Song*, as they prepare to board a boat to leave, Eilish acts with a heart full of hope, "*...and she looks towards the sky seeing only darkness and that to stay would be to remain in the dark when she wants for them to live, and she touches her son's head and she takes Molly's hands and squeezes them as though saying she will never let go, and she says, to the sea, we must go to the sea, the sea is life.*" And so Jesus invites us to put out into the deep, to seek a challenging place that will ultimately bring us life, even as things come to an end.

What do you choose to do?

Blessings, Fr. Michael

✠ **We remember in our prayers all those who have died recently:** Wyn Southern.

✠ **We hold in our hearts the memories of those whose anniversaries occur at this time:** Betty Roll, Leigh Kennedy, Dan Shine, Vince Shine, Beryl Cordner.

✠ **For all those who are ill in our community:** Sue McGavin, Clive O’Kelly, Claire Seymour, John Evers, 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.

Holy Hour: Recommencing Friday 14th February 2.00pm and every Friday after at the Convent of the Sisters of St Peter Claver, 71 Margaret St. Everyone is welcome.



Friendship Group – Every Friday 9/9.30am in the Parish Conference Room.

For sale: Dyson Big Ball Animal Origin Upright Vacuum – retail \$396 Sale Price \$250 – like new condition – surplus to requirements at St Pat’s. Please enquire via email admin@stpats.org.au or 46 371 500.



Scan the Code to make a donation - Restoration Fund Fundraising: JOIN US TO PRESERVE THE PAST AND RESTORE FOR THE FUTURE A cathedral is never just a parish church; it belongs to everyone. St Patrick’s historical significance is not just for Catholics, it is a part of the story of Toowoomba and Queensland. Be a part of our restoration journey; donate today. Donations made through National Trust Queensland are tax-deductible; **Scroll down to select “St Patrick’s Cathedral Appeal, Toowoomba”** Please direct enquiries to the Fundraising Coordinator Ph: 46327589

Sunday 9 February 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time	7am, 9am, 5.30pm. Live Stream 9am	11am Hallie McKenna & Nash Zak O’Brien 1-4pm – Altar Server Practice 4.30pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre
Monday 10 February St Scholastica	5.30pm Mass SPC 9.00am Mass STM	9.30am Rosary Group – Parish Centre
Tuesday 11 February	9am Mass SPC Most Rev James Byrne	
Wednesday 12 February	7am Mass SPC	7.15pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre
Thursday 13 February	7am Mass SPC	7.30am – 8.30am Adoration 10am Mass at Numylo 5.30pm Liturgy Meeting SPC in Presbytery 6-7pm – Sacramental Program Parent Meeting in Cathedral
Friday 14 February St’s Cyril and Methodius	7am Mass SPC 9.30am Mass STM	9am Friendship Group – Parish Centre 7.15pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre
Saturday 15 February	7am Mass SPC 6pm Mass SPC	6.30am Rosary at St. Patrick’s 8am – 9am Reconciliation SPC
Sunday 16 February 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time	7am, 9am, 5.30pm Live Stream 9am	3pm Wedding Keem Escano & Czerina Tupas 4.30pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre

Planned Giving: Thank you for your donations. Loose \$3580 Planned Giving \$1307 Donation Point \$1660 Money Counters this weekend: Pat Power – Leo & Maureen McMahon
Money Counters next weekend: Sam & Fina Ginardi, Wendy Heelan

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.



GAZA CRISIS APPEAL

A ceasefire means more aid can assist people affected in Gaza. Your support is urgently needed.



DONATE NOW

www.caritas.org.au/gaza

1800 024 413

Archbishop Tim Costello writes on the current effects of the Middle East Situation to Australia

Opinion piece published in The Australian newspaper, February 5, 2025

The cowardly and murderous attacks by Hamas operatives on innocent Jewish people – men, women, children and babies – in northern Israel on October 7, 2023, sowed the bitter seeds of violence, destruction and untold suffering for thousands of people. The fragile ceasefire offers some hope that the worst of the violence might be behind us, but the repercussions from the horrors of October 7 will continue to play out for many years.

Nothing can compare with the torment and suffering of the victims of that terrible attack, including their families and the wider Jewish community. Nor can we minimise the horror of the death and destruction that has unfolded in Gaza.

Pope Francis is right when he says war is always a defeat for humanity. It lays bare the frightening power of evil, which can so easily take hold in people's minds and hearts, blinding us to our common humanity and leading us to treat others not as our brothers and sisters but as enemies. Tragically, manifestations of this inexplicable blindness and evil have become visible in our towns and cities. The violent and senseless attitude that goes by the name of anti-Semitism has appeared in various forms. Our nation, which prides itself on its multicultural ethos and belief in a "fair go for all", is confronted with the deeply unpalatable truth that for some in our society the notion of tolerance and respect for each other should not include our Jewish brothers and sisters.

It is a cause for shame that places of Jewish worship are being firebombed; that Jewish schools and other institutions are forced to engage security firms; that university students are afraid to be on campus in case they are verbally or physically abused; that Jewish homes and cars are defaced by vile graffiti. And all purportedly in the name of peace and justice, but in reality an expression of that senseless hatred for the Jewish people that, when once it went unchecked in Europe, resulted in the brutal horrors of the Holocaust. Hatred and the violence it breeds are at different times directed towards different groups in society. This hatred can be racially motivated, religiously motivated or directed towards other groups.

In every case, our acceptance of, or acquiescence in, such bigotry attacks the cohesion of our society and gives the lie to our claim to be the "lucky country" and "the land of the fair go". It remains true, however, that there is something particularly pernicious and destructive about anti-Semitism. Its persistence across so many centuries, its existence in so many countries, its complete irrationality, and its undeniable destructive power laid bare in the Holocaust and reinforced by the deadly attacks of October 7, make it a test case for our determination to be in reality what we claim to be in our mythology: a land and a people of tolerance and respect, of hospitality and embrace of the other. For the many Australians of Christian faith, it is particularly important we recognise the danger of anti-Semitism and do everything we can to work against it.

Certainly for Catholics, we recall the words of recent popes, including Francis and Benedict, that the Jews are our elder brothers and sisters in the faith. We know, even if some choose to forget or deny it, that Jesus Christ was a Jew, born of a Jewish mother and raised in the Jewish faith and traditions.

His first apostles and many of his early followers were Jews. He called upon the language of the Jewish scriptures in his teaching that God is a merciful Father and that we are called to love our neighbours as ourselves. In his teaching, Jesus insists that everyone is our neighbour. That is the point of his parable of the good Samaritan.

When our neighbours are in need, we do our best to come to their aid. Because of the rise of anti-Semitism in Australia today, our Jewish sisters and brothers now have a particular claim on our support and protection. I invite us all to search our hearts and ask ourselves what we can say and do in our local contexts to reassure the members of the Jewish community they are welcome, respected and safe here in Australia.

Timothy Costelloe is Archbishop of Perth and president of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference.



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St Patrick's Day Dinner Dance

Come and enjoy a great night out to celebrate the
Feast Day of St Patrick!

Saturday 15th March 6.30pm

Cathedral Centre - Neil St

Tickets will include -

- **Your meal**
- **Live Irish Band and plenty of dancing! From 7.30pm**
- **Irish Sing-A-Along - Local Band**
- **Cost: \$50/person**
- **RSVP: Trybooking Link - <https://www.trybooking.com/CYTLF>**

or

Contact the parish office to purchase your ticket - 46 371 500

or

Scan the QRCode below



**Scan the QRCode
to get your tickets!**

