



St Patrick's Cathedral Newsletter



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We acknowledge and respect the Traditional Owners of this place, the Jarowair and Giabal Peoples.



Welcome to the Cathedral Church of the Diocese of Toowoomba.

It is wonderful that you have joined in this moment that unites us as we celebrate the birth of Christ. Many have noticed and commended on the cleaning works that have been taking place on our Cathedral building in the past months. Yes, the stone has been restored to its original colour and now shines brightly, together with a restored roof that matches it's original style. Thank you to all those who have carefully worked on the building of late. Your work has brought forth a beautiful radiance that allows us to appreciate the splendor of our Cathedral. Also, thank you for your patience during this period of disruption. Often these buildings are made from carefully cut stone, all the same size and shape. However, our building is made of all sizes of stone, carefully worked together to make the external walls. Perhaps the original designer from the 1880s had in mind that the Church [God's people] is made up of very different people, with many diverse hopes and ways of living. Yet, we are united in significant ways to make the Church what it is. The coming together of people united in a common purpose is what gives the Church its strength, somewhat like the walls of our Cathedral. In a world where there seems to be so much disunity, we are intent on being united to bring God's peace and hopes to the trouble that seems all around. The One who is peace has come among us to lift every aspect of our lives to a higher purpose and goal. Let us be united this Christmas in the hopes we have for our world and for the lives of our families. May peace, love and hope reign in your minds and hearts this Christmas.

Bishop Ken Howell

Pass it on!

Recently I had the absolute privilege of holding a 2 day old baby. As I held baby Emilia I saw those beautifully perfectly formed hands with their fingerprints for a lifetime, the lovely amount of hair (jealous) and the amazing eyes to look upon the world she had now entered. I wondered and pondered, once again at the ways in which God creates and imbues all things with something of the immensity of the universe for all things are created from within the "mind of God". When we look around the world today we might question the wisdom and cleverness of God with so much conflict occurring, in nations and in people themselves, and ask ourselves, "What is God's plan here?" Yet let's consider the vastness of this task God has taken on. When we experience overpowering love, or the simple kindness of another, we recognise that it comes from a blessed heart God created in another person to keep the story of love going. God has even geared us genetically to pass on the goodness of our lives. As I'm sure we can all recognise in ourselves positive ways of living from our parents and grand parents that we find we mirror in our own daily lives. So this is why Christmas is important, we see in this baby the beginnings of God passing on the hopes for our world, and so, guess what - we are called to play "cosmic tag" - you're it! Tag someone with your love, so they can pass it on to others this Christmas time! *Fr. Michael and Saint Sasha.*



Bishop Ken, Frs Michael and Brian and all the staff at St Patrick's wish you every blessing over this Christmas and New Year time. Thank you to all who contribute to the community that is St Pat's. We greatly appreciate you and all each of you do for St Pat's parish! (Absent from photo - Fr Hal, Anthony King & Cate Power)

Maligayang Pasko! Merry Christmas!

As we draw nearer to Christmas, we recollect and remember the great message of the **Annunciation to Mary**. In the quiet of Nazareth, the Angel Gabriel said: *"Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. You will conceive and bear a son, and you are to call Him Jesus."* (Luke 1:30-31). With her "yes," Mary cooperated in the realisation of God's promise to be with His people, in the person of Jesus, our **Emmanuel – God with us**.

Mary's keenness to trust God in the face of riskiness is a powerful example for us all. In saying "yes" to God, she welcomed His presence into her life, a presence that changed fear into faith, and doubt into hope.

As we await Christmas, let us recall that Emmanuel is in our joys and our struggles, in our hopes and fears. May we, like Mary, have the courage to trust in His love and be a channel of His peace and beacon of hope. And as we reflect on this holy season, let us hear the words of Mary's fiat: *"Let it be done."* Merry Christmas to all! Blessings, *Fr Brian Redondo*

God among us in the Flesh

Every year of my life I have been part of a gathering in a Church remembering and celebrating the birth of Jesus. For the first time in nearly 60 years I will be able to celebrate Mass and spend quality time with my brother, his wife, children and grandchildren. I'm looking forward to this opportunity expressing the gift and enjoyment of human love – God's love really, shared with and by my family. I'm saddened, as I'm sure all of us are if we're able to be honest, by the "silly Season" rubbish, the takeover of Christmas by commerce and indulgence. Christmas really provides all of us with a precious opportunity to THANK God, Father and Creator of all, to thank God for all that is, the world, the universe, the whole of nature, the variety of creatures, the billions of humans today and in the past, all of this creation revealing something about God. So privately and hopefully as families and communities we get together to praise and honour God. In the words of Franciscan writer and teacher Richard Rohr – *"All of creation to the first INCARNATION of God among us."*

More than all of that, God decided to become one of us. God chose to become flesh among us in the womb of Mary, in the baby in the manger, in the poverty of Nazareth, in the need to go to a foreign country to find safety, in the carpenter's shop in Nazareth, in personally revealing and putting into practice the mercy and hope, the faithfulness and boundless LOVE that is the source and centre of everything. **That's an even more complete INCARNATION.**

I hope and pray that God, among us in the person of Jesus, takes hold of the hearts and lives of all of us and enriches the lives of every person and every creature with whom you are spending Christmas 2024. *Fr. Hal Ranger*



On behalf of everyone at St Patrick's, we say thank you to all who have given of their talents to celebrate the birth of Christ. There are many areas people are involved in that sometimes go unnoticed, so thank you! Have a wonderful Christmas and a joyfilled New Year.

LET'S CELEBRATE
ST. PATRICK'S DAY
SAVE SATURDAY
15th MARCH 2025 FOR A
PARISH CELEBRATION

Tuesday 24 December [SPC – St Patrick's] [STM – St Thomas More's]	9am, 6.00pm, 8.30pm & Midnight Live Stream Midnight	CHRISTMAS EVE
Wednesday 25 December	7am & 9am SPC Live Stream 9am	CHRISTMAS DAY NO 5.30PM MASS
Thursday 26 December St Stephen	NO 7.00am Mass SPC instead 5.30pm Mass SPC	BOXING DAY
Friday 27 December St John	7am Mass SPC	7.15pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre
Saturday 28 December The Holy Innocents	7am Mass SPC 6pm Mass SPC	6.30am Rosary at SPC 8am – 9am Reconciliation
Sunday 29 December Feast of the Holy Family	7am, 9am, 5.30pm Live Stream 9am	4.30pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre