



St Patrick's Cathedral Newsletter



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Office hours: 9am-4pm Mon-Thu 9am-3pm on Friday

Administrator/Priest Director STM: Fr. Michael O'Brien
Associate Pastors: Fr Hal Ranger & Fr. Thomas Duncan



St Patrick's, in communion with St Saviour's Primary School - Madonna Sleba (4637 1555)

St Saviour's College - Sharon Collins (4637 1600)

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



SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT - Year A Saturday 07 March/Sunday 08 March 2020

First Reading: Genesis 12:1-4 [The call of Abraham, the father of God's people.]

Responsorial Psalm: Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you. [Psalm 32]

Second Reading: 2 Timothy 1:8-10 [God has saved us, and called us to be holy.]

Gospel Acclamation: Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ! From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him. Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel: Matthew 17:1-9 [His face shone like the sun.]

Lenten Reflections

On the front page of the bulletin during lent this year will be a number of guest writers.

They have been invited to reflect on the question "Where do I find Christ?"

Thank you to Dr. Tony Ferris who has taken time this week to ponder this question.

As I try to relate the Transfiguration to my life with all its trials & tribulations, I am brought back to what it must have been like for the human Jesus as he approached his journey to Jerusalem knowing He would meet a violent and painful death. Not unlike the Apostles at the Transfiguration I find it easy to slip into denial about the inevitable pain & disappointment that life will present, be it on the personal, community or global level. But God's words on the mountain to St Peter which echo His words at Jesus' baptism to 'listen to Jesus' as he has God's favour & authority despite his seeming vulnerability, must surely give me some strength to persevere in life particularly at times of challenge. As a family doctor I often journey with many people at difficult times of their life and am often moved by their faith in the face of adversity, a faith that will sustain them. Sadly I also see desperation & emptiness in others who seemingly are unaware of God's love for them in times of great challenge. On a more personal note, I have the pleasure of working as a locum GP in the remote Indigenous communities of Central Australia. The majority of the Arrernte people I see have freely chosen to continue in the Christian beliefs of their ancestors having first heard the word of God from the Lutheran missionaries to the west of Alice Springs & from the Catholic missionaries to the east of Alice Springs. Happily these folk have not compromised to any great extent their cultural heritage, but have been able to integrate their Christian faith with their culture.



Nevertheless despite their strength & Christian faith, they are in many ways a broken people. With Aboriginal health workers, nurses & other doctors from across Australia, our challenge is to reduce the health morbidity & close the mortality gap between Indigenous & non Indigenous Australians. This journey of health care has many disappointments, but certainly there are successes too. In addressing the burden of both acute & chronic ill health in any cohort, the need for epidemiological studies, & statistical reports may well be necessary to help maintain measurable outcomes, but this often proves very daunting for the traditional indigenous folk. The identification with 'white man medicine' is often very difficult for them, but when healthcare is given from a platform of non-judgmental love, I believe we experience better and more meaningful outcomes not only for the patient but also for the caregiver. I am greatly inspired by Pope Francis (as usual) in his message for the World Day of the Sick. This year when he says, "Jesus looks upon a wounded humanity with eyes that gaze into the heart of each person. That gaze is not one of indifference, rather it embraces people in their entirety, each person in his or her health condition, discarding no one, but rather inviting everyone to share in his life & to experience his tender love. Why does Jesus have these feelings, because He himself became frail, endured human suffering & received comfort from His Father."

This is a photo of one of the many murals that line the walls of the Santa Teresa church in Central Australia. It was painted by the local Indigenous women who live in the community and worship regularly in the church. It depicts the Baptism of Jesus.

✠ **We remember in our prayers all those who have died recently:** Peter Saide [Gabrielle's nephew], Len Wirth [Dalby], Paul Bennett, Anne Haye. *May perpetual light shine upon them, may they rest in peace.*

✠ **We hold in our hearts the memories of those whose anniversaries occur at this time:** Betty Barron, Mary Madden, Marjorie Burke, Phil Manley, Daniel Gainey, Sylvia Pedersen, Frs Joseph Skelly, Kevin Ryan, Bernard Kane, Derick Furness.

✠ **For all those who are ill in our community, especially** Archbishop John Bathersby, Christine Barron, Hughie Boyce, Greta Berge, Matt Vlietstra, Jean Denison, Jo Tuite, Dr Peter Reiter, Elijah Rolls, Hayden Smith, Rita Berry, Juanita Umipig, Maria Brown, Patricia Whyte (nee Stark), Annie Makim, Margaret Walker, Rita Blacker, Kristina Dawidowicz, Nora Machin, Mary Allen, George Pardon, Leo Ryan, Tina Hobson, Michael Cuskelly, Bev Boundy, Roslyn Pardon [nee Kearney], Joanne Essey [Sydney], Braxton Rayner, Kate Gibbs, Max Shearer, Saturnino Bustamante, Hannah Marie Marasigan, Stephanie Shine, Andrew Supple, Mary-Ann Hine, Kathy Allan, John Morgan, Patricia McCracken, Reggie James, Morgan O'Brien, Teresita Pamulaklakin.

✠ **For all those recently baptised: Rylan James McPhee** son of Christian and Chloe and **Bentley Reginald, Kenzii Hannah and Ezra Toby Duncan** children of Reginald and Sandra. *May the gift of the Holy Spirit grow throughout their lives.*

Reconciliation: 1st Rite available this Saturday, 9.00am – 10.00am at St Patrick's Cathedral.

Holy Hour at the Cathedral: You are invited to spend an hour in quiet reflection each Wednesday of Lent between 5pm and 6pm in the Cathedral. **Please note next time of adoration is at 5pm on Wednesday 11th March.**

Holy Hour/Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: Every Friday from 2pm at the convent of Missionary Sisters of St Peter Claver, 71 Margaret Street, Toowoomba.

Hand Sanitizers: As you will read on the last page of the bulletin, Bishop Robert, mindful of our health and wellbeing, in this current climate, has made some decisions regarding some elements of our Eucharistic celebrations. You will find mounted hand sanitizers in the entry way at both the front entry and the Neil Street entry. For the middle doors there is a unit on the notice board on the Neil Street side. Please use these to help safeguard your health. Thank you.

At church without any change for the plate? You will now find a **Pay Point** located on the table at the Neil Street entrance. Simply tap your card – credit or debit – and you will donate \$10.00 to St. Patrick's Parish Community. Please consider an ongoing donation to assist us in our good works as a community.

New Issue of **Australian Catholics** is now available from the tables - please take your free copy.

Lenten Material – you will find some of the Lenten program books on the table for quiet reflection.

The Recent Pastoral Council meeting endorsed the project "The Blue Room": a place of hospitality, a place of welcome. A quiet, comfortable place for conversations, listening and sharing experiences, or simply browsing or reading. There are lots of books there already and back copies of magazines such as the Weekly Tablet, The Swag, etc. It will NOT be a place for handing out money or food: but will be a place for providing up to date information about services in Toowoomba. The room is situated to the left when you enter the Parish Centre from the doors on the southern side. There will be someone in attendance from 10am to 4pm Mondays to Fridays.

SPRED Community Mass: 9am on Sunday 29 March 2020 at St Patrick's Cathedral with Morning Tea following Mass. For further information, please phone SPRED Centre on 4632 8427.

Date Claimer St Mary's College Anzac Day Service: 8.45am Friday 24 April at Brother Rodger's Oval Hill St.

Sunday 08 Mar	7am Mass 9am Mass 5.30pm Mass	4.30pm Bingo – Cathedral Centre
Monday 09 Mar	9am Mass STM	5.30-7pm Choir Practice
Tuesday 10 Mar	7am Mass 5.30pm Mass STM	8.45am SSC Mass [HR] 12.30pm SPC Indoor Bowls
Wed 11 Mar	7am Mass	9.30am Prayer Group in Board Room [except school hols] 5.00pm – 6.00pm Lenten Weekly Adoration SPC 7.15pm Bingo – Cathedral Centre
Thursday 12 Mar	7am Mass	9am Mass at Yukana
Friday 13 Mar	7am Mass 9am Mass STM	9.30am Ladies Friendship Group in Board Room 7.15pm Bingo – Cathedral Centre
Saturday 14 Mar	7am Mass 6pm Vigil	9am-10am First Rite of Reconciliation SPC 11am Baptism of Mackenzie Clapham [FM]
Sunday 15 Mar	7am Mass 9am Mass 5.30pm Mass	4.30pm Bingo – Cathedral Centre
Planned Giving \$1438.70; Loose \$2802.05 : Jabour Hanna and Craig/Amanda Hogan		



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

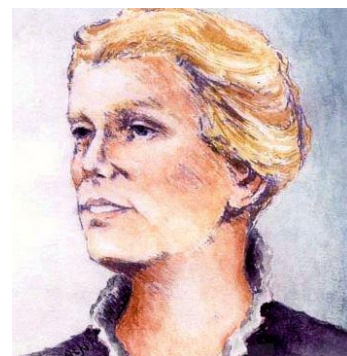
On Friday 6 March, we celebrate International Women's Day. The theme for International Women's Day 2020, is 'Let's all be each for equal'. Sadly, the news that continues to bombard our televisions and newsfeeds is testament to the fact that, while we are living in 2020, and this is a fairly unassuming, clear request, women are still subjected to violence, sexual mistreatment, inequality and gender inequality way too frequently.

Our annual IWD Breakfast is great opportunity for all of us to affirm the rightful place women have in society. We give thanks for the women in our lives. On this day, and each and every day, stand firm your ground with a great sense of pride. You have your due place. You have nursed us, nurtured us, and loved us. Through your softer side, you teach us how to love. Catherine McAuley is a great model to all of us, and I think of her fondly on International Women's Day. Her entire legacy was, and remains, a quest for equality. She was wealthy and wise, and used her good fortune to lift others up. She sought out those on the margins and gave them a purpose and identity. Through her intellect, she challenged social norms and put powerful people in their place. Catherine McAuley modelled to others in her time, and continues to do so in our time, what it means to be women who bring about social change through compassion, justice, hospitality and striving for excellence. And she encouraged other women, her Mercy sisters, to do the same.

Our Guest Presenter, Ms Melissa Taylor, is a former student of the College and a long-standing successful local businesswoman, who leads her family company, Taylor's Removals, as Managing Director. Melissa's attitude is best summed up by her own statement – "why should we be ordinary when we can be extraordinary!" ...very similar to the ideals of our very own Catherine McAuley. It is wonderful to have welcomed Melissa back and we wish her well as she embarks on a new venture, in running for Councillor in the up-and-coming Toowoomba Regional Council elections.

KINDNESS - A WORD OF MERCY

Sometimes it is useful to approach a word by its opposite. Unkindness has powerful negative connotations. It can help us appreciate the true nobility and richness of the word kindness. The word kindness probably suffers a little these days; however, having just returned from Los Angeles where I attended the 2020 Religious Education World Congress, I was enveloped with the kindness of colleagues who became friends, and the kindness of strangers. I, along with 30 000 other enthusiastic educators, parents, and academics, approached this opportunity with the same positive outlook, which is adopting a worldview centred on both mercy and kindness. The experience proved to affirm and strengthen my belief that there is ultimate "good" in the world and I experienced firsthand what it means to be Catholic. The workshops, informal conversations, knowledge sharing, prayer and song brought to life the kindness in others, celebrating diversity in age, gender, and culture. My fellow TCS travellers were a wonderful group of people with whom I shared this time. This also brought life once again, the gifts within our community and reiterated the importance of showing kindness and respect in our treatment of others. This serves as a constant reminder that the face of God is in everyone we meet.



2020 SEASON OF LENT

We are well into the Lenten period for 2020. The history and links to our values and context become stronger as we move through the forty days of Lent. It is important that on occasions during this time, surrender freely to the quiet within us, and rediscover the resources and strengths that are there. We might begin to see better and appreciate more, the value of our existence; to strive to be people of gratitude and respect, and to see others in a like manner. Lent is a journey. It is the time in which we prepare for Easter. But what does it mean to 'prepare'? First and foremost, we prepare by nurturing and growing our relationship with God. Therefore, that goal then is to ask the question, 'So how do we do that?'



During Lent we are encouraged to do three things: pray, fast and give alms. One practical way of demonstrating this is through service. We are called to re-examine our relationship with justice, as we are called to participate in charity. This week, we pray as a community that we embrace the Lenten period as an opportunity to reflect on how we demonstrate generosity in our lives. In the Old Testament, the prophets spoke constantly about the need to look after those in need; '*Care for the stranger who is in your midst*' (Leviticus 19:34).

**Sharon Collins, Principal
and**

Heather Hagemann, Assistant Principal - Mission and Student Wellbeing



4 March 2020

Letter to the Diocese of Toowoomba

Following the *National advice on liturgical implications in light of coronavirus (COVID-19)* issued today by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, I ask that parishes and communities throughout the Diocese of Toowoomba observe the following temporary protocols until further notice, effective from this weekend (7 and 8 March 2020).

- Individuals should consider their own health, including any potential to infect others with a contagious disease, before attending a public liturgical celebration.
- Holy Water should be temporarily removed from stoups at the doors of churches to reduce the possibility of transmission of the virus. Holy Water should continue to be available for people to take home.
- Parishes and other settings where liturgies are celebrated should make alcohol-based gels or rubs (or like products) available near entrances. Similar provisions should be considered for settings used for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
- When exchanging the Sign of Peace, individuals should avoid shaking hands but say "Peace be with you" and offer a smile, wave, nod or bow.
- All Ministers of Holy Communion should take particular care to wash their hands before and after distributing. Appropriate means should be made available.
- The coronavirus is easily spread through saliva. In celebrations of the Ordinary Form of the Latin Rite, it is therefore recommended that the Body of Christ only be administered in the hand because of the high risk of transmission if people continue to receive on the tongue. Ministers should also seek to avoid contact with the communicant's hands.
- Parishes should cease distributing Holy Communion from the Chalice until further notice. The faithful should be reminded that Christ is fully present under either species.

Priests and Parish Leaders are encouraged to communicate these protocols with the faithful clearly and appropriately.

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference will continue to monitor advice from health authorities and other episcopal conferences. This advice will be updated as and when appropriate.

Most Reverend Robert M McGuckin

Bishop of Toowoomba

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