



# 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.



## TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – Year C Saturday 14 September/Sunday 15 September 2019

### Readings this weekend:

**First Reading:** Exodus 32:7-11, 13-14

**Responsorial Psalm:** I will rise and go to my father. [Psalm 50]

**Second Reading:** 1 Timothy 1:12-17

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself; and the Good News of reconciliation he has entrusted to us. Alleluia!

**Gospel:** Luke 15:1-32 [Three Parables, One Message]

### **Sickness Suffering Getting Old**

This weekend at the Masses in St Patrick's Cathedral we will be invited to remember and pray for the sick and/or retired priests of our Diocese. And an appeal will be made, with special envelopes available, in support of the Priests' Retirement Foundation in the Diocese. This appeal provides an opportunity to reflect a little on sickness and suffering and ageing.

A. Firstly, I want to suggest that some of the "explanations?" of our suffering and sickness, aches and pains need to be seriously questioned:

- Does a loving, faithful God really send us crosses during life to test us?
- Does a loving, faithful God really hurt us to teach us a lesson?
- Does a loving, faithful God send us pain and sickness to show us who is "boss"?
- Is suffering and getting old and experiencing pain God's punishment for our sins?

**Think about it: How could the most loving person ever deliberately allow pain, let alone inflict pain and suffering, on young and old to check out the truth of our love?**

B. I invite you secondly to look seriously and carefully at the central process taking place all the time in nature. Jesus points to the key truth that the healthy seed has to be opened up and die to produce new life. Not just in the actual physical process of giving birth but in the daily embracing of dying and rising! We humans, all of us, are part of the universe. In the midst of all the negative thoughts, the fear of dying, the pain that is real, the uncertainty that accompanies the winding down of our bodies... there is a hugely significant reason and meaning. "The earth itself, the whole universe is groaning" says St Paul in one great act of giving birth; coming from "half-life", from dying, to the fullness of life. Creation, and each one of us as part of creation, cannot survive, much less thrive, without decay and death. My destiny is to be drawn ever more fully into the dying that leads into new life.

C. Here I am quoting from an Irish priest, author Daniel O'Leary who died some months ago: *A simplistic explanation for the baffling questions of random suffering and tragedies, for "untimely" deaths of children and innocent people is the notion that we should simply take it all as a mystery. Just carry on trying to love this Creator who continually allows and even plans pain and suffering and dying. God sends the burden of suffering because we are strong enough to handle it. Why??? To prove what???*

**Well, think and talk about this: God is suffering too, God is as devastated as we are, God is weeping as we are, weeping with us. God surrendered self to suffering and dying in Jesus and holds the hands of each of us in our suffering. God calls you and me to hold the hands of each other in suffering and dying, in wearing out and falling apart, in crying and feeling unsure.** I believe – if I believe Jesus, says Daniel O'Leary – that God is suffering love. If we are created in God's image, and if there is so much suffering in the world, then God must also be suffering. How else can we understand the revelation of the cross? Why else would the central Christian logo be a naked, bleeding, suffering divine-human wretch? Let's come to realise one of the many forgotten central truths of Incarnation – that Jesus is not merely observing the pain and wounds of human beings from a distance [heaven?]; rather is he somehow at the centre of human suffering, with us, for us, through us and as us. Our own individual suffering is somehow at the heart of the co-redemption of the world as "all creation groans in one great act of giving birth" [Rom 8:22].

**Hal Ranger**

**This weekend Mayor Paul Antonio has called for a united time of prayer for the gift of rain and to remember those struggling with the harsh conditions.**

**We join with the Churches of Toowoomba in praying in these times of need.**

✠ **We remember in our prayers all those who have died recently:** Vic Wichlacz (Roma), Lillian Dwyer, Cyril Polister Lopez. *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:** Mary Florence Ranger, Irene Mitchell, Pat McGrory, Brian [Barry] Gill, Joseph & Philomena Sleba, Fr Francis Burke.

✠ **For all those who are ill in our community, especially** Margaret Walker, Rita Blacker, Kristina Dawidowicz, Nora Machin, Mary Allen, George Pardon, Leo Ryan, Tina Hobson, Michael Cuskelly, Vince Stephens, Bev Boundy, Roslyn Pardon [nee Kearney], Joanne Essey [Sydney], Mr Rene Perla, 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:** **Chester Theodore Blinco** son of Trevor and Crysten, **Raphael Jensen Appleby** son of Anthony and Claire, **Jaylee Juliet Ridley** daughter of Joel and Janelle, **Layla Veronica Flory** daughter of Adam and Carla, **Henry Francis Martin Bauer** son of Russell and Stephanie and **Pacita Racquel Quiroga** daughter of Marcelo and Catherine. *May the gift of the Holy Spirit grow throughout their lives.*

**Reconciliation:** 1<sup>st</sup> Rite available every Saturday, 9.00am – 10.00am at St Patrick's Cathedral.

**Holy Hour at the Cathedral:** Each third Wednesday between 5pm and 6pm there will be adoration at St Patrick's Cathedral. Consider some quiet time each month to reflect on life and faith. **Next Time: 16/10.**

**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.

**Carnival of Flowers Display:** Once again St Patrick's will host the annual Floral Display Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September. Please assist generously with the cost using the envelopes available on the tables. Kindly place these envelopes on the Collection Plate. Thank you for your kind donation!

**Carnival of Flowers – Welcomers:** If you have some time to offer, you will find the roster sheets on the tables.

**St Patrick's and St Saviour's Race Day** – Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> November – *Derby Day* at Clifford Park, 3pm to 10pm. Tickets available from St Saviour's Primary School office. \$75 each or two for \$140.

**St Mary's College Old Boys Dinner.** Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> October. Contact the College on 4631 7333.

**Are you interested in learning more about the scriptures and reflecting more deeply on God's Word?**

St Patrick's will be forming a Bible Study group, meeting fortnightly on Sunday evenings after Mass, beginning on 29 September at 6.45pm in the Parish Centre. **The program is an approved Catholic Bible Study.**

If you are interested, please email Anna Rees on [annamariarees@gmail.com](mailto:annamariarees@gmail.com).

**Do you know anyone interested in becoming a Catholic?** Each year people are invited to be part of a program that introduces them to the Catholic faith, leading to Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. Please encourage anyone you know that is interested to call the parish office on 4637 1500.

**Did you know** that Muslim Aid Australia gave 196,000 litres of drinking water, 9,600 – 10 litre bottles of water and 100 – 1,000 litre pods of water recently to help Stanthorpe in their desperate time of need?

**Thank you** to Heritage Funerals for their kind donation each year to support the Floral Display at St Patrick's.

**Police Remembrance Day Service:** St Patrick's Cathedral at 10am on Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> September 2019.

<b>Sunday 15 Sept</b>	7am Mass 9am Mass 5.30pm Mass	Regional Day of Prayer for Rain 11am Baptism of Alex McInnerney and Scarlett Russon [TD] 12noon-4.30pm Formation Retreat for Parish Council 4.30pm Bingo – Cathedral Centre
<b>Monday 16 Sept</b>	9am Mass STM	5.15pm SSPS Board meeting 5.30-7pm Choir Practice
<b>Tuesday 17 Sept</b>	7am Mass 5.30pm Mass STM	12.15pm SPC Indoor Bowls
<b>Wednesday 18 Sept</b>	7am Mass	9.30am St Patrick's Prayer Group in Board Room 5.30pm Liturgy meeting 7.15pm Bingo – Cathedral Centre
<b>Thursday 19 Sept</b>	7am Mass	10am Launch of the Cathedral Floral Display – Bishop McGuckin. All Welcome!
<b>Friday 20 Sept</b>	7am Mass 9am Mass STM	9.30am Ladies Friendship Group in Board Room 7.15pm Bingo – Cathedral Centre
<b>Saturday 21 Sept</b>	7am Mass 6pm Vigil	9am-10am First Rite of Reconciliation
<b>Sunday 22 Sept</b>	7am Mass 9am Mass 5.30pm Mass	4.30pm Bingo – Cathedral Centre
Planned Giving \$1331.00; Loose \$1922.25 : Kevin and Judy Lindores, Jim Harris		