



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.



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT – Year A Saturday 30 November/Sunday 01 December 2019

Readings this weekend:

First Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5

Responsorial Psalm: Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord. [Psalm 121]

Second Reading: Romans 13:11-14

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation. Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 24:37-44 [Stay Awake!]

Preparing to begin another year

Across the world we accept the idea of organising our lives according to a weekly, monthly and yearly calendar – twenty four hours each day, seven days each week, four weeks each month and twelve months each year: that's the accepted pattern. Our lives as Christians merge into this pattern with traditional practices such as beginning and ending each day with a time of awareness of God through the listening and speaking that we call prayer. We set aside the beginning of each week to gather together as families with our fellow Christians to listen and pray and renew our communion with God and each other and our commitment as God's agents of mercy, love and peace; and we organise our lives as believers in Jesus around a year by year recalling and reliving of the life and teaching of Jesus.

So it is that this weekend we start preparing for another year which we'll try to live in union with Jesus. We live in an "IN-BETWEEN" time: In between

- ❖ the coming of God among us in the person of Jesus; and
- ❖ the final emergence of God's Kingdom on earth, the transformation of His world and universe into what God wants it to be.

The next three and a half weeks will offer

- ❖ through passages from the Scriptures
- ❖ through our participation in end of year functions
- ❖ through exchanges of greetings and invitations
- ❖ through various usual and additional gatherings in the Cathedral
- lots of encouragement
- some warnings about distractions and obstacles in our way
- some obvious [and sometimes hidden or unrecognised] opportunities to launch us into a productive year of Christian living.

A few things jump at us out of this weekend's readings from the Scriptures:

- every day, quietly like a thief who enters without our knowing [because we aren't awake], God will be calling. In the midst of planning and enjoying holidays, of eating and drinking, of doing our work, paying bills, spending money, giving and receiving presents and greetings...God will be depending on each of us to focus on the things that really matter.
- Let's take to heart Paul's words to the first century Church community in Rome, inject light not darkness into our gatherings and to avoid the drinking orgies, the wrangling, the jealousy, the irresponsible "letting our hair down".
- Let's do our bit to hammer the swords of war into ploughshares, to generously support projects that offer food, housing, health care, education, rather than violence and destruction that is over-running God's world.
- Let's plan our family celebrations, our neighbourhood parties, our end of work year festivities to
 - ❖ repair hurts and divisions
 - ❖ re-establish friendships
 - ❖ re-enliven connections that might have lapsed.

God is depending on us to make His/Her presence felt at the beginning and throughout 2020.

Hal Ranger

✠ **We remember in our prayers all those who have died recently:** Fr Joe Flannery [Brisbane], Ted Donegan, Cyril Hale, Justin Dwyer. *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:** Kenneth William Fox, Msgr Michael McKenna, Fr Justin King.

✠ **For all those who are ill in our community, especially** 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:** **Aurora Leigh Linke** daughter of Matthew and Kenisha. *May the gift of the Holy Spirit grow throughout their lives.*

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

WEEKLY ADVENT Holy Hour at the Cathedral: During Advent there will be adoration at St. Patrick's each Wednesday from 5.00pm to 6.00pm. **Make** time to prepare for the celebration of Christmas! **(from 4/12)**

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.

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.

Limited copies of the **2020 Columban Calendar** are available in the Parish Office at a cost of \$10 each.

Blue books containing **Advent Reflections** are now available. Please use the Pay Point to make a donation or place a donation on the collection plate. If money is difficult for you at this time, please take one.

Each year the St Patrick's community takes a moment to say **thank you** to all those who contribute on a volunteer basis to the life of the parish. So, whether you helped at Carnival of Flowers, or read at Mass, or sing in the choir, YOU are invited to a dinner on 2nd December at 6.00pm in the Cathedral Centre.

Communal Reconciliation will be on 18th December, 9.00am at St. Thomas More's Parish and **6.00pm at St. Patrick's Cathedral (following Adoration)**. A wonderful way to prepare for Christmas.

St Patrick's conference of SVdP is seeking the generous support of parishioners for our Christmas hamper appeal. We are seeking non-perishable items such as canned hams, Christmas puddings and cakes, canned fruit and sweets. Collection boxes will be left at the front of the church **from 30th November to 15th December**.

Ministers' Christmas Roster: Blank sheets are available in the Sacristy and both doors so please indicate your availability or if you will be absent. If you don't feel able to read etc. please feel free to put your name down to help out between Masses. This year there is also a need for those who would be able to help with the operating of the PowerPoint. A little training will be happily provided!

Church Cleaning: A working bee will be held before Christmas – more on that soon! **More urgently though, is the need to dust the side seats in the Cathedral. You will find some dusters and cloths on the pew in the Choir area. If you have 5 minutes before Mass, please dust off a couple of seats and anything else you see that is a little dusty!** Thank you for your help, it is much appreciated!

The Missionary Sisters of St Peter Claver Christmas Cent Sale from 12.30pm on Saturday, 7 December at All Seasons Function Hall, North & Tor Sts Toowoomba. Entry fee of \$5 – Contact Sisters on 4632 1818.

Singers required for Midnight and 9am Christmas Masses: Practices will be 9th, 16th and 23rd December. from 5.30pm until 7pm. Any queries, contact Vicky on 0428 781 209.

Sunday 01 Dec	7am Mass 9am Mass 5.30pm Mass	First Sunday of Advent – Year A 11am Baptism of Lucy Dowie [TD] 4.30pm Bingo – Cathedral Centre
Monday 02 Dec	9am Mass STM	10.30am Mass at Brodribb 5.30-7pm Choir Practice
Tuesday 03 Dec	7am Mass 5.30pm Mass STM	12.15pm SPC Indoor Bowls – Last for year! 11am Funeral Ministry meeting, Parish Centre
Wed 04 Dec	7am Mass	9.30am SPC Prayer Group in Board Room [except school hols] 9.30am St Saviour's End of Year Mass in the Cathedral Centre 5-6pm Holy Hour SPC 7.15pm Bingo – Cathedral Centre
Thursday 05 Dec	7am Mass	10am Mass at Numylo 11am Nursing Home Ministry meeting
Friday 06 Dec	7am Mass 9am Mass STM	End of School Year / Friendship Group in Recess until 7 Feb '20 3pm Wedding of Sophie Gibson and Daniel Kilmartin [Fr B Noonan] 7.15pm Bingo – Cathedral Centre
Saturday 07 Dec	7am Mass 6pm Vigil	9am-10am First Rite of Reconciliation
Sunday 08 Dec	7am Mass 9am Mass 5.30pm Mass	4.30pm Bingo – Cathedral Centre
Planned Giving \$1363.00; Loose \$2527.65 : Sam and Fina Ginardi and Wendy Heelan		