



# 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.



## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT – Year A Saturday 14 December/Sunday 15 December 2019

### Readings this weekend:

**First Reading:** Isaiah 35:1-6, 10

**Responsorial Psalm:** Lord, come and save us. [Psalm 145]

**Second Reading:** James 5:7-10

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;  
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor. Alleluia!

**Gospel:** Matthew 11:2-11 [Prepare the way of the Lord]

### Australian Catholic Youth Festival 2019

Upon returning to Toowoomba from Perth on Thursday, I was left with two overarching sentiments. The first and perhaps the least significant was a sense of relief. We got 20 young people home from the Australian Catholic Youth Festival in one piece and I no longer have the burden of responsibility for them! The second, and something that will stay with me far longer than the sense of relief, is a feeling of deep satisfaction, joy and hope. Over the seven days that the Toowoomba diocesan group were together, I had the blessing of witnessing a wonderful group of teenagers and young adults ask questions, attempt to answer them, enter authentic relationship with one another, pray, engage wholeheartedly in the sacraments, learn about their faith, reflect deeply upon their experiences and be inspired to become more active in the Church of Toowoomba. In short, it was everything a group leader could hope for.

The festival itself was rich with encounters and opportunities, but one of the great keys to the success of this pilgrimage for our group was the reflections we had together each night. Every evening upon our return to the accommodation, we sat together and reflected on our day. What was good about today? What was challenging about today? Where was God today for me? These three questions allowed each of us to *put things in perspective* and to see clearly what our day really consisted of. For example, if someone had a tough day, which probably happened more than once for each participant, these questions allowed us to see more than just the difficult experiences. Perhaps in fact there was a lot of positive things that really do outweigh the negative, yet somehow become obscured by it? Perhaps in fact God was at work in me through that negative experience? Whatever the case, the sure thing was that each of us were given a plethora of rich and beautiful experiences which we were better able to harvest and taste because of this daily manner of reflection and self-examination.



As we continue the daily journey towards Christ's advent, perhaps this season is an opportune time for each of us to begin the daily practice of examining ourselves in the same way our youth did in Perth. Without this kind of self-reflection, how will we be able to truly hold and taste the real depth and beauty of what Christ gives us day by day?

*God Bless, Fr Tom*

Please keep Fr. Hal in your prayers at this time. Whilst in Melbourne visiting his brother, Terry, he has aggravated a nerve in his back and is unable to do much without significant pain. He is currently wearing a back brace which means he is unable to travel for the next week or two. Please keep him in your prayers and thoughts for a quick recovery.

✠ **We remember in our prayers all those who have died recently:** Ted Donegan, Joan Bonner, Tony Tonkin (Goondiwindi), Helena Sykes (Mungindi). *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:** Barry Twidale, Fr Jack Wiemers.

✠ **For all those who are ill in our community, especially** Rita Berry, Juanita Umipig, Maria Brown, Patricia Whyte, 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.

✠ **Congratulations to these newly weds: Tristram Kajewski and Rebecca Nystrom.** *May the Holy Spirit bless their lives together.*

✠ **For all those recently baptised: Noah Justin Rix** son of Andrew and Anerty. *May the gift of the Holy Spirit grow throughout their lives.*

**Reconciliation:** 1<sup>st</sup> Rite available this Saturday, 9.00am – **10.30am** 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! (**Next: 18/12**)

**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.

**Cathedral Working Bee:** A working bee will be held on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December from 9.30am.

**Please give this some consideration, due to the wind and dust, it is desperately needed for Christmas.**

**THE SWAG:** Latest edition is now available. If you've missed out on a copy, there are a couple at the office.

**Communal Reconciliation will be on 18<sup>th</sup> 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: There is a need to dust the 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!

**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.

**New Choir Microphones** have been installed, please be patient whilst they are being fine-tuned. This will be followed by a new sound system in 2020.

<b>Sunday 15 Dec</b>	7am Mass 9am Mass 5.30pm Mass	4.30pm Bingo – Cathedral Centre
<b>Monday 15 Dec</b>	9am Mass STM	5.30-7pm Choir Practice
<b>Tuesday 17 Dec</b>	7am Mass 5.30pm Mass STM	
<b>Wed 18 Dec</b>	7am Mass	9am Communal Reconciliation STM <b>5-6pm Holy Hour SPC</b> 6pm Communal Reconciliation SPC 7.15pm Bingo – Cathedral Centre
<b>Thursday 19 Dec</b>	7am Mass	6pm SVdP meeting in Parish Centre
<b>Friday 20 Dec</b>	7am Mass 9am Mass STM	2.30pm Wedding of Jessica Smoothy and Thomas Nelson 7.15pm Bingo – Cathedral Centre
<b>Saturday 21 Dec</b>	7am Mass 6pm Vigil	<b>9am-10.30am</b> First Rite of Reconciliation SPC 11am Baptism of William and Vincent Hannant
<b>Sunday 22 Dec</b>	7am Mass 9am Mass 5.30pm Mass	11am Baptism of Lillian Thompson [FM] 4.30pm Bingo – Cathedral Centre

Planned Giving \$1770.00; Loose \$2209.95 : Jabour Hanna, Kate Gilloway and Craig/Amanda Hogan



## GOSPEL

MATTHEW 11:2-11

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.'

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

## A REFLECTION BY POPE FRANCIS

Today we celebrate the Third Sunday of Advent, which is characterized by Saint Paul's invitation: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.... The Lord is at hand" (Phil 4:4-5). It is not a superficial or purely emotional cheerfulness that the Apostle exhorts, nor is it the cheerfulness of worldliness or of consumerism. No, it is not that, but rather, it entails a more authentic joy, the taste of which we are called to rediscover. The taste of true joy. It is a joy that touches our innermost being, as we await Jesus, who has already come to bring salvation to the world, the promised Messiah, born in Bethlehem of the Virgin Mary. The liturgy of the Word offers us the appropriate context for understanding and living out this joy. Isaiah speaks of wilderness, of dry land, of plains (cf. 35:1); the Prophet has

before him weak hands, feeble knees, fearful hearts, people who are blind, deaf and dumb (cf. vv. 3-6). The context of this situation is desolation, an inexorable fate without God.

But finally salvation is proclaimed: "Be strong, fear not!" — the Prophet says — "Behold, your God.... He will come and save you" (cf. Is 35:4). And straight away everything is transformed: the desert blooms, comfort and joy permeate hearts (cf. vv. 5-6).

These signs proclaimed by Isaiah as signs of salvation which is already present; they are fulfilled in Jesus. He himself affirms it by responding to the messengers sent by John the Baptist — what does Jesus say to these messengers? "The blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up" (Mt 11:5). They are not words, but are facts which demonstrate how salvation, brought by Jesus, seizes the human being and regenerates him. God has entered history in order to free us from the slavery of sin; he set his tent in our midst in order to share our existence, to heal our lesions, to bind our wounds and to give us new life. Joy is the fruit of this intervention of God's salvation and love.

We are called to let ourselves be drawn in by the feeling of exultation. This exultation, this joy... But a Christian who isn't joyful is a Christian who is lacking something, or else is not a Christian! It is heartfelt joy, the joy within which leads us forth and gives us courage. The Lord comes, he comes into our life as a liberator; he comes to free us from all forms of interior and exterior slavery. It is he who shows us the path of faithfulness, of patience and of perseverance because, upon his return, our joy will be overflowing. Christmas is near, the signs of his approach are evident along our streets and in our houses; here too, in Saint Peter's Square, the Nativity scene has been placed with the tree beside it. These outward signs invite us to welcome the Lord who always comes and knocks at our door, knocks at our heart, in order to draw near to us; he invites us to recognize his footsteps among the brothers and sisters who pass beside us, especially the weakest and most needy.

Today we are called to rejoice for the imminent coming of our Redeemer; and we are called to share this joy with others, giving comfort and hope to the poor, the sick, and to people who are lonely and unhappy. May the Virgin Mary, the "handmaid of the Lord", help us to hear God's voice in prayer and to serve him with compassion in our brothers, so as to be prepared for the Christmas appointment, preparing our hearts to welcome Jesus.

## REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Who or what are you looking for in life, for your life — even John was looking for someone? Where do you find this presence, how do you experience its reality?
2. Jesus is saying that the evidence of the coming kingdom and of him being the Son of God can be found in new life springing from the wilderness — deaf hear, blind see, lame walk! What signs of transformation have you seen around you that tell you the 'kingdom is close at hand' and that Jesus 'is the one who is to come'?
3. Where do you find joy and hope in your life — as Pope Francis asks — are you a person of deep joy because of your relationship with Jesus?

## PRAYER

*Spend some time in prayer with one another*

1. Conscious of what has just been shared, members briefly name/ describe their prayer needs.
2. Intentionally call on the Holy Spirit to be present (e.g. "Come Holy Spirit, please be present as we pray")
3. Move to prayers of thanks and praise to God.
4. Pray for each others' prayer needs. Where appropriate, you may like to encourage the group to place a hand on the shoulder of the individual that you are currently praying for.
5. Conclude your prayer time with another prayer of praise, perhaps reciting the 'Glory Be' or similar prayer.

Jesus is  
coming to  
save us



3rd Sunday of Advent, Year A

Jesus told John the Baptist's followers to tell him all they had seen and heard. How did Jesus help the following people?

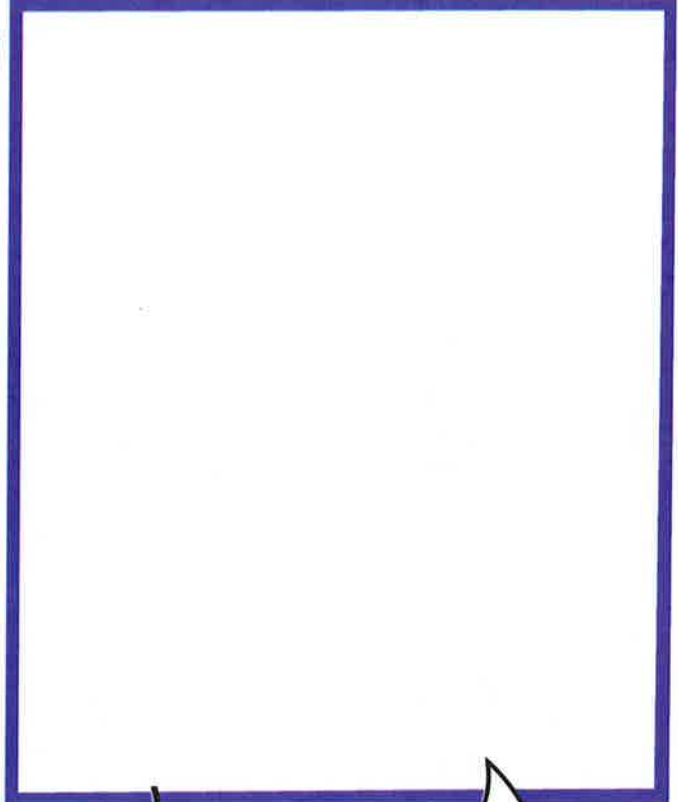
Draw Jesus bringing the good news to the poor

Blind People

Deaf People

Lame People

Lepers



# Advent Wreath

Each Sunday during the season of Advent, we light a candle on the Advent Wreath. The candle which is lit on the third Sunday of Advent is pink. All the other candles are purple. Colour in the Advent Wreath.

