

# St Patrick's Cathedral Newsletter



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

Dean of St Patrick's Cathedral and Administrator: Fr. Michael O'Brien.

Associate Pastors: Fr. Tom Duncan and Fr. Nandana Saparamadu

Safeguarding Officer: Ann Marie Pawsey ([safeguarding@stpats.org.au](mailto:safeguarding@stpats.org.au))

St Patrick's, in communion with St Saviour's Primary School - Madonna Sleba (4637 1700)

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

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



## TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME [Year B]

Sunday 5 September, 2021

**First Reading:** Isaiah 35:4-7 Then the ears of the deaf shall be opened and the tongues of the dumb speak.

**Responsorial Psalm:** Praise the Lord, my soul!

**Second Reading:** James 2:1-5 Has not God chosen the poor of the world to inherit the kingdom?

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom and healed all who were sick.  
Alleluia!

**Gospel:** Mark 7:31-37 He makes the deaf hear and the mute speak.

### "The Shut ins"

They are called the *hikikomori* and in Japan in 2014 there were 700,000 of them. The *hikikomori* are people, sometimes younger than 25, who literally shut themselves into their bedrooms in their parents' home and refuse to face the world. "*Hikikomori is a person and a condition. One expert defines it as a coping strategy that is activated in response to the excessive pressure of social realization, typical of modern individualistic societies. It is a rejection of society by inaction, by a refusal to participate*" This book by Katherine Brabon follows the story of a family whose son, Hiromi becomes *hikikomori* and the journey of bringing him back into the world. It is heartbreaking in many ways. Leaving meals outside the door of the room, talking through the door, leaving notes and having a friend try to coax him out of his room. This leads to an attempt at intervention to a half-way house to move him back into society and the failure of this attempt. A lot of it stems from the societal pressures – real or assumed in the community – need to succeed, expectations of family and public life, sense of diminished self. The word comes from a Japanese legend. "*The sun goddess, Amaterasu, hid in a cave after arguing with her brother, the god of storms. Without her, the world had no sun. Eventually, Amaterasu was coaxed out by a dance performed by other gods, and by a mirror they hung up outside the cave. Amaterasu saw herself reflected, and that earthly image pulled her back to this side. The cave was then sealed. It was her responsibility, as the goddess of the sun, to remain in the world, otherwise it would be in darkness*"

At one stage the book describes the experience as "feeling homeless at home". There is a little bit of that sense for those people who find the world a distressing or unkind place to be in decide to "opt out" and because we don't have the same cultural practice of remaining with our parents until we marry maybe some of our homeless is the Australian version of *hikikomori*.

The extraordinary part of this journey is the completion. When the person is ready they will walk from their room, up to 10 years later in some cases, and resume their life. In the very correct mores of Japanese culture life continues as before. The person having come to terms with their life struggles and emerges to reengage with society. They open the door and walk out with new vision and new hope. When I read this book I wondered to myself, what would it feel like to walk from a room that had been your only reference point for years? How would you see the world differently? What would the experience be like to start talking with other people again?

I can only imagine what the blind and mute man experienced once healed by Christ, but it would have to have been something similar! Like opening a door he could finally engage in the world in a new way that was barred to him before. He is always valued in the eyes of God, but now within society a new world of communicating and understanding has been opened to him.

So maybe each morning as we open our doors and walk into a new day, whatever the quality of our sight may be, ask yourself, *What is the beauty I see today, whose voice and words will I hear and appreciate? Where will my journey of faith lead me? And what is the light I bring to the world that the world can not do without?*  
God Bless, Fr. Michael

✠ **We remember in our prayers all those who have died recently:** Pat Waters, Alfio Pappalardo (Brother in law to Fr. Jim and Pat) and those who have died from Covid-19. 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:** Aaron Preston, Peter Stephens, Rev Fr Sydney Kattie [2004].

✠ **For all those who are ill in our community, especially;** Terry McMahon, Addison McEwan, Jenny Werth, Regina Albion, Daniel Ligon, Rohitha Jayamanna, Ray Frelek, Patsy Quinn, Brian Machin, Graham McGovern, Madeline Gray, Loan Smith, Maria Brown, Kim Ireland, Christine [Faus] Barron, Greta Berge, Matt Vlietstra, Dr Peter Reiter, Elijah Rolls, Hayden Smith, Margaret Walker, Rita Blacker, Kristina Dawidowicz, Nora Machin, Mary Allen, Tina Hobson, Bev Boundy, 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, Teresita Pamulaklakin, and those in our nursing homes and hospitals, and those suffering from Covid-19.

**Welcome to FR RICHARD LEONARD SJ**, who joins us for the next 6 weeks ministering at St. Patrick's. Fr. Richard has a long experience in leading retreats and giving professional development inputs. We welcome Fr. Richard and look forward to his skilled input and pastoral experience in our parish community.

**RETIRED PRIESTS APPEAL-** This weekend we invite you to make a donation to assist the retired priests that have served our Diocese for many years. This appeal helps those priests with their day-to-day needs.

**St Saviour's Primary School** will play a special role at our 9.00am Mass on the 12<sup>th</sup> September with singing and liturgical ministries. We will be offering children's liturgy during the Eucharist and a lovely morning tea to follow which you are invited to enjoy with the families from St. Saviour's.

**CELEBRATING SAINT JOSEPH:** As you would be aware this year is dedicated to the life of St Joseph and his important place in the life of Jesus. You are invited to spend some time in prayer and adoration at St. Patrick's. The day will begin with 7.00am Mass using the Votive Mass for St. Joseph. This is followed by each hour beginning with a reflection and prayers for St. Joseph, finishing at 1.00pm. Adoration will occur throughout. Come for whatever amount of time you are able to commit to. Please put the 16<sup>th</sup> October in your calendar now to celebrate this Year of St. Joseph.

**ST PATRICK AND ST SAVIOUR'S RACE DAY** The event is on the 30<sup>th</sup> October at Clifford Park beginning at 4pm with entertainment, dinner and auctions. Tickets now available from St. Saviour's School Office or via direct debit. See St Patrick's website for more details. Ticket prices: \$85 single, \$160 double.



**SOUNDS ORGAN-IC** A Festival of Organ Music, Saturday 11 September, 10.30am St Patrick's Cathedral, 2pm St Luke's Anglican Church, 3.45pm Lifeworks Uniting Church. Flyer available at the entrance.

**Australian Catholics** is available on the entrance table and the latest copy of this month's edition of the **Catholic Leader** now available. Feel free to take a copy and pay later – better in your home than sitting unread in the Cathedral!

**St Patrick's Conference of St Vincent de Paul** would like to thank parishioners for their generous donations to our Winter Appeal. With the proceeds, we were able to purchase warm jackets, track suits, blankets and towels for the homeless plus put some funds aside for emergency accommodation. Thank-you also to those who have donated to our work through the poor box. Our next meeting will be held in the Conference Room on 8<sup>th</sup> Sept at 6pm if you would like to be part of our group. Terry (0428582205)

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| <b>Sunday 5 Sept</b>  | 7am, 9am, 5.30pm Mass<br><b>9am Live Streaming SPC</b> | 11am Baptism of Andrew Michael Shevlin<br>4.30pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre  |
| <b>Monday 6 Sept</b>  | 9am Mass STM<br>5.30pm Mass SPC                        |   |
| <b>Tues 7 Sept</b>  | 7am Mass SPC<br>5.30pm Mass STM                        | <b>6.30am Rosary SPC</b><br>5.30pm Choir Practice   |
| <b>Wed 8 Sept</b><br><i>The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i> | 7am Mass SPC   | 6pm SVDP Meeting Parish Centre  |
| <b>Thursday 9 Sept</b>  | 7am Mass SPC   | <b>7.30am – 8.30am Adoration SPC</b>  |
| <b>Friday 10 Sept</b>   | 7am Mass SPC<br>9am Mass STM                           | 7.15pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre  |
| <b>Saturday 11 Sept</b>   | 7am Mass SPC<br>6pm Mass                               | <b>8am – 9am Reconciliation SPC</b><br>10.30am Sounds Organ-ic Festival SPC<br>2.30pm Wedding of Jonathon Skaines & Tayla Blake |
| <b>Sunday 12 Sept</b>   | 7am, 9am, 5.30pm Mass<br><b>9am Live Streaming SPC</b> | 11am Baptism of Harrison MacDonald & Ella Reid<br>12pm Baptism of Estelle Raccanello<br>4.30pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre    |

Planned Giving:\$781; Loose:\$703; Paypoint:\$600. Helen Hoddle, Mick Cuskelly and Joanne Meacle.  
Thank you for your generous giving to assist the works of St. Patrick's.