



# 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  
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**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.**



## THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT [Year B]

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2021**

**First Reading:** Exodus 20 1-17 – The law was given through Moses.

**Responsorial Psalm:** Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

**Second Reading:** 1 Corinthians 1:22-25 We are preaching a crucified Christ, a scandal to many,  
but to those who have been called, the wisdom of God.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son,  
that all who believe in him might have eternal life. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

**Gospel:** John 2:13-25 Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up.

***“I am the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery”***

These are the first words of today's reading from Exodus which then proceeds to the proclamation of the ten commandments. This first line is a powerful statement in itself as it opens up the true reason for the commandments leading us toward freedom from slavery. God addresses this plan to a free people, and thus the commands are instructions about how to maintain their freedom and protect their community and their relationship with God. We can walk our journey through life without ever breaking any of the commandments in a serious way, so maybe it's time to reflect on an interpretation that walks *with us* through life. Let's look from the point of view that brings freedom rather than slavery.

- Ψ **You shall have no other gods except me.** An invitation to think about what we give priority to in our lives. What are the ways we acknowledge God's love and mercy for us in our daily living?
- Ψ **You shall not take the Lord's name in vain.** Do our words proclaim the good news? Are they such that reveal the wonder of resurrection or are we stuck at Good Friday? Do we build up or tear down as the voice of Christ?
- Ψ **Remember the Sabbath and keep it holy.** Going to Mass is only one way of keeping the Sabbath holy. Do we take time to breath in the gift of the day. To pause and allow the gift of 24 hours to seep into our bones – to choose to live mindfully, thoughtfully, and in gratitude.
- Ψ **Honour your father and mother.** We are wonderfully made – a combination of both of our parents. In remembering the gifts that have been handed on to us do we acknowledge the goodness of our heritage? What lessons – for positive growth – have we learnt from our parents. Some lessons of life come from learning to choose other paths than our parents.
- Ψ **You shall not kill.** What does it mean though to “kill” another's reputation by talking about them in a judgmental or criticising way...or... choosing to “kill” someone from being in our lives because of their viewpoint or their lifestyle choices?
- Ψ **You shall not commit adultery.** What does it mean to spend more time with mates at the pub then with family? To not include the people who love us in our lives, or only when we choose to.
- Ψ **You shall not steal.** Maybe at times we steal the happiness from another. By this I mean we refuse to allow people to celebrate their good fortune. Someone once said that a true definition of being humble is when we are as happy for someone else who achieves success as if it had happened to us.
- Ψ **You shall not bear false witness.** Do we stand up for others, or do we simply agree, and add to the opinions of those we are with?
- Ψ **You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or goods?** Jealousy can be a difficult thing to control. Do we covet the opinion that people have of others that seems to be a better opinion than about ourselves?

Maybe this could be another way of examining our conscience as we journey through lent leading us to a new way of living and understanding freedom.

**May God bless you on your Lenten walk with God. Fr. Michael**



**We remember in our prayers all those who have died recently** Pat Kamler (Brodrribb), Patricia Suey, Emma Montgomery (Talwood), Fr Peter Gillam (Brisbane) 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:** Mary Jane Theuma, Fr Joseph Skelly [1970], Fr Kevin Ryan [2011], Fr Tom Sheeran [2017]

✠ **For all those who are ill in our community, especially,** Ruby Hanna Smith, Levi Smith, Eileen Hanna, 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, Patricia Whyte (nee Stark), 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.

**MASS IN THE MARONITE RITE:** Fr Fadi Salame will be celebrating Mass in the Maronite Rite on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> March at 12 noon in St Patrick's Cathedral. A warm invitation is extended to all parishioners to attend this Mass. Father would like people to come at 11.45am for a 12 noon start.

**Anointing Mass** will be held on the 17<sup>th</sup> March at St Patrick's on 17<sup>th</sup> March at 5.30pm. Another opportunity is available on the same day at St Thomas More's at 9.30am.

**Second Rite of Reconciliation** will be celebrated at St. Patrick's on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March at 5.30pm. Another opportunity is available on the same day at St Thomas More's at 9.30am.

Please make sure you have a **GREEN** sheet to explain the process of TryBooking and the other options that are available. Extra copies are available on the table. Thank you for your cooperation. A huge thank you to Celia and Melissa in the office for all their work on this future approach! Much appreciated. Fr. Michael

**YEAR OF ST JOSEPH** was declared by Pope Francis at the end of last year – 8<sup>th</sup> December 2020 to 8<sup>th</sup> December 2021. The invitation is to spend a little time this year reflecting on the role of St. Joseph and his loving influence on Mary and Jesus. The prayer that is included in the Pope's letter prays: **"Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. To you God entrusted his only Son; in you Mary placed her trust; with you Christ became man. Blessed Joseph, to us too, show yourself a father and guide us in the path of life. Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage, and defend us from every evil."** For more resources and weekly reflections please access the following webpage - <https://catholic.org.au/yearofstjoseph>

**Celebrating 50 Years of St Pat's Bingo: Wednesday 17 March – Sunday 21 March 2021**

Part of our 50 year Celebrations is a **Reunion Lunch** for our current and former Bingo volunteers. If you have been involved with St Pat's Bingo over the past 50 years I would love to hear from you. Please email [anthony@stpats.org.au](mailto:anthony@stpats.org.au)



**Unit for Rent:** One bedroom unit for an elderly person at St Patrick's Community Village is available for rent. Applications are to be made in writing to the Secretary, Board of Management, St Patrick's Cathedral, PO Box 7062, Toowoomba 4350 or may be dropped in at the Parish Office.

<b>Sunday 7 March</b>	7am, 9am, 5.30pm Mass <b>9am Live stream available SPC</b>	4.30pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre
<b>Monday 8 March</b>	9am Mass STM 5.30pm Mass SPC	
<b>Tuesday 9 March</b>	7am Mass SPC 5.30pm Mass STM	6.30am <b>Rosary</b>
<b>Wed 10 March</b>	7am Mass SPC	7.15pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre
<b>Thurs 11 March</b>	7am Mass SPC	<b>ADORATION</b> 5pm – 6pm SPC
<b>Friday 12 March</b>	7am Mass SPC 9am Mass STM	6pm 1 <sup>st</sup> Reconciliation – Sacramental Program 7.15pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre
<b>Saturday 13 March</b>	7am Mass 6pm Mass	9am 1 <sup>st</sup> Reconciliation – Sacramental Program 11am Baptism of Alexandra Bea Hughes 1pm Baptism of Henley Matthew Neowhouse
<b>Sunday 14 March</b>	7am, 9am, 5.30pm Mass <b>9am–Live stream available SPC</b>	11am Baptism of Thomas Samuel Hyytinen 12pm Mass in the Maronite Rite 4.30pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre
Planned Giving \$902; Loose \$716; PayPoint \$480; Kevin and Judy Lindores, Jim Harris. Thank you for your generous giving to assist the works of St. Patrick's.		

## *Taking time to Prepare and Reflect*

*For next Sunday..... the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Lent*

**Gospel**      **Jn 3:14-21**



***Jesus said to Nicodemus:***

***'The Son of Man must be lifted up  
as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert,  
so that everyone who believes may have eternal life  
in him.***

***Yes, God loved the world so much  
that he gave his only Son,  
so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost  
but may have eternal life.***

***For God sent his Son into the world  
not to condemn the world,  
but so that through him the world might be saved.***

***No one who believes in him will be condemned;  
but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already,  
because he has refused to believe in the name of God's only Son.***

***On these grounds is sentence pronounced:  
that though the light has come into the world  
men have shown they prefer darkness to the light because their deeds were evil.***

***And indeed, everybody who does wrong  
hates the light and avoids it  
for fear his actions should be exposed;  
but the man who lives by the truth  
comes out into the light,  
so that it may be plainly seen that what he does is done in God.'***

### ***Reflecting on the Gospel***

In modern culture, Sundays are often punctuated with football games. We know that Mass attendance can be influenced by the time and location of big game days, and that even the best-intentioned Mass-goers can become distracted by the excitement, joy, and anticipation of the game.

This Fourth Sunday of Lent is traditionally called "*Laetare* Sunday," from the Latin meaning "to rejoice" or "to be joyful." It might seem odd to "rejoice" in Lent, but that exhortation is a reminder, or rather a foreshadowing, of Easter. It is as though Easter itself is breaking into the Lenten season this Sunday.

The gospel continues from last week with another reading from John that includes the famous passage often cited in football game end zones and roadside billboards (John 3:16). The first two Sundays of Lent we heard Mark (the temptation of Jesus, and the transfiguration of Jesus). Last week was John's version of Jesus overturning the money changers in the temple. Today we have Jesus and Nicodemus, a story unique to this gospel.

The passage that many use to sum up the gospel is simply this: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son." The profundity of this statement can be lost by its pithiness. We proclaim a God of love, not a God of condemnation. And this love results in God sending his only Son, Jesus. The starting point of our theology then, is, love. Though many today and throughout history seem to prefer a God of judgment, a God of condemnation, today we are reminded that our God is love. And God's love is eternal, expressed in a never-ending life he wants for each of us, where the relationships and bonds we create in this life are never broken.

On this Laetare Sunday, where we read John 3:16, may the joy experienced by those at a football game remind us of the joy we have at Easter, when the promise of eternal life is fulfilled.

The gospel addresses eternal life quite clearly as God's intention for us. But prior to that famous passage (John 3:16), we hear Jesus tell Nicodemus that the Son of Man must be lifted up (crucified). Only by means of death is eternal life opened. Unique to this gospel, Jesus' death is often referred to in metaphorical ways, like "lifted up" or even "glorified." For the Gospel of John, Jesus on the cross was a moment of glory, almost devoid of explicit suffering. For example, John never mentions the scourging of Jesus. Even Jesus' final words from the cross, "I thirst," can be taken more as metaphorical or symbolic than a literal expression of suffering.

Ultimately John does not focus on Jesus' pain. Instead, the cross is glory and the path to eternal life. For his followers, belief in Jesus is the means by which they receive eternal life. As we journey through Lent, it might be fruitful for us too to focus on Jesus and our belief in him. He represents and is himself the incarnation of God's love for the world.

*How does living a faith based on love and trust differ from living a faith based on condemnation and fear?*

*As followers of Jesus, how do we represent God's love for the world?*

*How have you unexpectedly experienced the grace and mercy of God?*

