

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

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.



SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME [Year B]

Sunday 14th February, 2021

First Reading: Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46 – As long as he is unclean, he must live alone, outside the camp.

Responsorial Psalm: I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble, and you fill me with the joy of salvation.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1 – Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.

Gospel Acclamation: ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA! A great prophet has appeared among us; God has visited his people. ALLELUIA!

Gospel: Mark 1: 40 - 45 – The leprosy left him and he was cured.

Beat the Drum!

If you have listened to Triple J over the years you would know that every now and again they run competitions with amazing prizes. In 2004 they ran a competition called, "Beat the Drum". The symbol of the radio station is a drum with three drumsticks beating on top. The competition was run along the lines that the person who could come up with the best way to show this symbol to as many people as possible, in a legal way would win. The prize at stake was four around the world airfares plus tickets to their choice of four of the world's best music festivals – Glastonbury, Reading, Fuji Rock, Roskilde, Low Lands and Coachella. So in other words, you were asked to "Beat the Drum for Triple J". Believe it or not the winner was not far from here – from all of Australia. A Dalby lad, who I got to know well when I was there, Michael Cook. He convinced his brother to allow him to plough up a field and put in the symbol by ploughing in the stubble from the previous crop. The result is what you can see below. To also understand the complexity of this endeavour there was no GPS instrumentation used at all. Just 44 gallon drums as markers and measurements!

Next week we begin our journey of Lent. A time for inward self-reflection and some considered outward actions. I use the story above as a gentle reminder that this is also a time to be creative in the path you choose in preparation for Easter. We are invited to enter into a time of prayer, fasting and giving. We are not invited to set ourselves unobtainable tasks. Maybe sometimes we think we must add to our already busy schedules with more prayer, more meditation, or a time to have less of food, drink, social activity. All we do is set ourselves up for failure. We all have busy lives in our own way. Now is the time to refocus on the time we have, and how best to use this time without adding more things. So for instance, when you sit to read the paper in the morning, take a moment and put the paper aside and give a little time to reflection on life and your day ahead, when you are standing in line at the shopping centre, say a prayer, when you go for a walk take that time to look around and notice God's presence through nature. It's a time to seek some balance in our eating and drinking. A time to be more purposeful and realistic in our giving, so we become attuned to the gift that living here and now is to us.

It's easy to just fall back into the same "simple" ways of journeying through lent, but what if you were to do something a little creative this year.

Take up the Triple J mantra, *"How will I beat the Drum for Christ this Lent?"*

Let the beat be inside you – let it resound in your actions and thoughts – let it become the music to your journey – let Christ become the noise you make - in your waking and sleeping, walking and talking, singing and silence.

But most of all play the unique beat that only you can play. Be creative and be open to the Spirit to guide your actions and prayers this lent.

May you know the Christ who walks with you. God Bless Fr. Michael



We remember in our prayers all those who have died recently; Sr Amy Caldwell osu, Fr. Pat Dowd (Ordained with Fr. Hal), Jim Dawson (Helidon) 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:
Pat McGrory, Mary & Robert Mertens, Msgr John Bergin [2000], Fr. Michael Hayes [1960].

✠ **For all those who are ill in our community, especially,** Rohitha Jayamanna, Ray Frelek, Patsy Quinn, Brian Machin, Graham McGovern, Madeline Gray, Richard Jones, 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.

THE TRYBOOKING SYSTEM FOR WEEKEND MASSES WILL NOT BE STARTING UNTIL MARCH, as we are waiting on labelling of seats. There have been a few queries from parishioners concerned about this system. **PLEASE DON'T PANIC**, our aim is to help everyone transition to this new system, there will be step by step instructions and we will be available to help over the phone where necessary. For now things will continue as they are, please be patient as you check in each week. **WATCH THIS SPACE, MORE INFORMATION TO COME ...**

Ash Wednesday Masses: St Patrick's Cathedral 7am and 5.30pm. St Thomas More's at 9.00am. Please be aware that due to the pandemic the recommended way to distribute the ashes is to sprinkle some ash over the head of the person. Please know that the receiving of ash on Ash Wednesday is **not** compulsory. Your prayerful entering into the season of Lent is the simple requirement for this celebration. It is up to you whether you feel comfortable receiving the ash in this way.

ADORATION will resume each Thursday during Lent 5.00pm – 6.00pm. (18/2; 25/2; 4/3; 11/3; 18/3; 25/3; 1/4); also the **Rosary** will be prayed in community before each Tuesday Morning Mass.

Lenten Programs are now available from the table. Please feel free to take a copy. Should you wish to contribute toward the cost it would be appreciated.

St Patrick's **BLUE ROOM** is a welcoming place of hospitality and friendship and quiet reflection. The welcome mat is out, so come on in and meet one of the volunteers, and connect with others over a cup of tea or coffee. Browse through books and magazines, share stories and experiences of life. The Blue Room is located within the Parish Centre, entrance in the corridor where the toilets are located. Open Monday to Friday 10am to 3pm.

As Masses begin to come close to the capacity mark – 200, and last weekend there were people who had to be turned away from the 9am Mass, might I suggest some consideration be given to attending the 6pm Vigil, as it has the lowest numbers of attendance. Also a reminder that arriving early will also help get a seat.

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



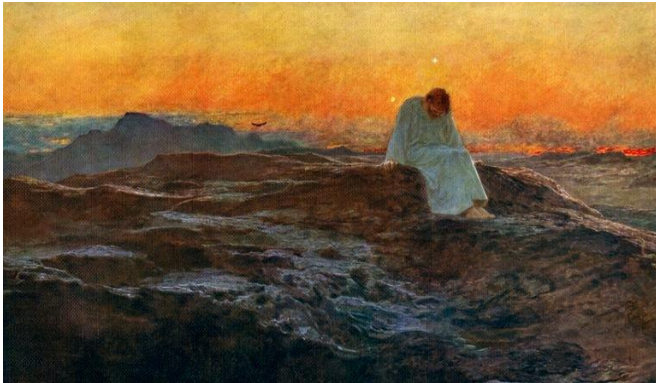
Sunday 14 Feb	7am, 9am, 5.30pm Mass 9am Live stream available SPC	4.30pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre
Monday 15 Feb	9am Mass STM 5.30pm Mass SPC	
Tuesday 16 Feb	7am Mass SPC 5.30pm Mass STM	6.30am Rosary
Wed 17 Feb	7am Mass SPC 9am Mass STM 5.30pm Mass SPC	ASH WEDNESDAY 7.15pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre
Thursday 18 Feb	7am Mass SPC	ADORATION 5pm – 6pm SPC
Friday 19 Feb	7am Mass SPC 9am Mass STM	
Saturday 20 Feb	7am Mass 6pm Mass	Enrolment Mass for Reconciliation (6.00pm) 11am Baptism of Duke Thomas Poole
Sunday 21 Feb	7am, 9am, 5.30pm Mass 9am–Live stream available SPC	11am Baptism of Hannah Anne & Sophie Maree Carr 4.30pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre
Planned Giving \$1381; Loose \$846 PayPoint \$610; Sandra & Peter Daly, Jan-Nell & Errol Chase Thank you for your generous giving to assist the works of St. Patrick's.		

Taking time to Prepare and Reflect

For next Sunday the 1st Sunday Lent

Gospel

Mark 1:12-15



The Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert, and he remained in the desert for forty days, tempted by Satan.

He was among wild beasts, and the angels looked after him.

After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the Good News of God:

"The time has come." "The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the Good News."

Reflecting on the Gospel

Upon making a commitment, how often do we start out with strong intentions, firm will, and fortitude? Perhaps nothing represents that more in our modern culture than a New Year's resolution. We see and hear ads for gym memberships and diet plans flooding the internet and the airwaves during those first few weeks of January. So many of us are resolute in those weeks. But once a hurdle is in our path we can quickly stumble.

Sometimes we can make a commitment to exercise daily, and that routine is manageable for a few days, or even a few weeks. But we also face other priorities during our goal to exercise daily. Pretty soon, exercising is a long gone wish.

Jesus faced something much more profound than a New Year's resolution or an intention to exercise daily. Upon being baptized and starting his ministry, he was immediately faced with temptation. He was driven into the desert, a place of no consolation, no respite, and no refreshment. The experience of knowing he is God's Son gives way to isolation and solitude in a harsh environment.

As a human being, Jesus knew temptation; the gospel is clear about that. But for many Christians it can be difficult to imagine that Jesus was truly tempted, for he was also divine. And yet as he was fully human, he was truly tempted. Despite these real temptations, he overcame them. Mark does not tell us much about this period, unlike Luke, for example, with the many scenes of Jesus conversing with Satan. Mark is intent to tell us in sparse text, without wasting a word, that Jesus was tempted by Satan. Jesus was fully human and experienced temptation as we do.

As Jesus was tempted, we too will be tempted. Perhaps even our profound experience of faith and trust in God is tested. But after this period of testing Jesus returns to Galilee, his home, and proclaims the Gospel. In this he is a model for us, who will not live without temptation. We might have an experience of desolation that God is not with us in our trials. But like Jesus we can undergo this experience and emerge stronger, with the courage to proclaim the Gospel.

Our lives are filled with many competing priorities. Sometimes we call these "distractions" or temptations. But it is important for us to wisely discern between distractions/temptations and merely competing priorities. Family responsibilities, for example, are hardly temptations, but they can sometimes pull us in directions we do not enjoy or that are not always life-giving.

Perhaps this is why they are called "responsibilities." Life-giving activities are from the Spirit of God. Pursuits that pull us away from who we are called to be are better called "temptations." This is where the example of Jesus can be so powerful.

Often, we know who we are called to be. Even in the midst of temptation, or desolation, we know who we are and what we ought to do. Following Christ does not mean a life on easy street without trials or perils. Quite the opposite.

What temptation do you find hardest to resist?

How can you bring a sense of stillness to your life this Lent?

What would you like to recreate and transform in your life this Lent?

