



St Patrick's Cathedral Newsletter



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

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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.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT [Year B]

Sunday 14th March, 2021

First Reading: 2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23 The wrath and the mercy of the Lord are revealed in the exile and liberation of his people.

Responsorial Psalm: Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!.

Second Reading: Ephesians 2: 4-10 When we were dead through sins, he brought us to life.

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

Gospel: John 3: 14-21 God sent his Son into the world that we might be saved through him.

"The Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert"

These words have the double meaning of Jesus being lifted up onto the cross to die to bring us life, and a parallel with Moses in the desert who placed the serpent on a standard and all who looked upon it was healed. It's a very powerful image. ***But is it the cross that brings life?***

Two weeks ago I received a phone call from a resident in one of our retirement villages, asking if I could call over for a chat. This lady is in her 80's and lives in one of the units, very capably caring for herself and anyone who comes to visit. We sat and yarned for a while, then she dropped a bombshell. She said that she has been on dialysis for the last nine and half years and other things are starting to fail, so it was time for her to stop dialysis. She said after consultation with her doctor she would probably go on living for another two weeks. Shocked, I was a little speechless. She said part of the reason is that with her declining health she didn't want to end up in a hospital bed unable to communicate with anyone, so the time has come to let go. Her husband of many years passed away last October, so having spent significant time with her children and her sisters, the decision had been made. Barbara completed her last dialysis on Friday evening. Mary, Barbara's daughter rang on Monday to ask if I could come and pray with Barbara, as that is what she wanted. Barbara had spoken to me about celebrating Mass with her family, so I arranged to go out on Wednesday afternoon, which I did. We joined together in prayer, Barbara sadly unable to communicate at this stage but still very present and listening we are sure, as we celebrated Eucharist and prayed quietly together for Barbara and each other at this difficult time. After Mass we remained around her bed talking of family and Barbara's life. As we spoke Barbara's breathing changed and shortly after, she took her last breath, and became one with God. Peacefully and lovingly Barbara journeyed from this world to the next, whilst surrounded by those she loved. It was a deep privilege to be present for such a loving and caring moment.

It makes me think even more so, that there was more to Barbara's decision than just saving her family the difficulty of the last stages of her life. Today's gospel is at the depth of her decision, and the question – ***Is it the cross that brings life?*** We are a people who do not look to the cross for the gift of healing – we look beyond. As the gospel says, "*....the person who lives by the truth comes out into the light....*" That light is the light of the resurrection. The direction in which we all gaze. Many, if not all of us carry a cross of some kind, but focussing on the cross only makes it heavier to bear, but when we look beyond the cross to the light of hope – of promise – of love – of peace – of God's presence and ultimately our own resurrection into new life – then we recognise a God who sent his only Son into the world "*not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved.*"

And so let us pray that we have the courage to look beyond the cross to see and embrace the light of Christ's love.

O God, where hearts are fearful and limited.....***Grant freedom and daring;***

Where anxiety is infectious and widening.....***Grant peace and reassurance;***

Where impossibilities close every door and window.....***Grant imagination and resilience;***

Where distrust reshapes every understanding.....***Grant healing and transformation;***

Where spirits are daunted and dimmed.....***Grant soaring wings and strengthened dreams.***

Rest in God's loving embrace Barbara. May we be touched with God's grace on our Lenten walk with God. Fr. Michael

We remember in our prayers all those who have died recently Barbara MacKillop, Darryl Spies, Gregory Vincent Brady 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: Fr Bernard Kane [2011], Fr Derick Furness [2013], Fr Ronald Walton [1970]

✠ **For all those who are ill in our community, especially,** 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 14th 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 17th March at St Patrick's on 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 23rd March at 5.30pm.
Another opportunity is available on the same day at St Thomas More's at 9.30am.

URGENT: EASTER ROSTERS: READERS, WELCOMERS, MUSICIANS AND SINGERS are invited to be part of the Liturgies during Holy Week and Easter. There are folders with blank rosters on a table in the Eastern transept. If you are available please put your name on one of the forms this weekend. Please note extra Readers will be needed for Palm Sunday. Readers will be required to attend a practice session beforehand. Please indicate if you will be away at Easter.

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

TRY BOOKING: As from this Monday 15th March on the parish website (www.stpats.org.au) you will find TryBooking available for the following events: **Masses** 20th/21 March; **Masses** 27th/28th March; Mass of the **Chrism** 5.30pm 29th March; **Holy Thursday** 6.00pm 1st April; Good Friday **Stations** 2nd April 10.00am; Good Friday **Solemn Service** 2nd April 3.00pm; **Easter Vigil** 3rd April 7.00pm; **Easter Sunday** Masses 7am, 9am and 5.30 4th April; **Masses** 10th/11th April.
YOU MAY BOOK ALL OF THESE EVENTS USING THE TRYBOOKING SITE AS INDICATED ON THE PARISH WEBSITE. Any queries please phone St Pat's office on 4637 1500.

Ecumenical Palm Sunday Everyone is invited to participate in an ecumenical service for the blessing of palms on Palm Sunday, 28th March at St Stephen's Uniting Church in Neil Street at 8.15am. This allows enough time to walk back to St Patrick's for the 9.00am Mass.

Sunday 14 March	7am, 9am, 5.30pm Mass 9am Live stream available SPC	11am Baptism of Thomas Samuel Hyytinen 12pm Mass in the Maronite Rite 4.30pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre
Monday 15 March	9am Mass STM 5.30pm Mass SPC	
Tuesday 16 March	7am Mass SPC 5.30pm Mass STM	6.30am Rosary
Wed 17 March <i>Saint Patrick</i>	7am Mass SPC	5.30pm Anointing Mass 6pm SVdP Meeting Parish Centre 7.15pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre
Thurs 18 March	7am Mass SPC	ADORATION 5pm – 6pm SPC
Friday 19 March <i>Saint Joseph</i>	7am Mass SPC 9am Mass STM	7.15pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre
Saturday 20 March	7am Mass 6pm Mass	11am Baptism of Estelle Lorraine Phillips
Sunday 21 March	7am, 9am, 5.30pm Mass 9am–Live stream available SPC	11am Baptism of Syklah Marie Wallace 12pm Baptism of Rylie Faith Cannavo 2pm Wedding of Jacob Thurgood & Lara Ritchie 4.30pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre
Planned Giving \$1785; Loose \$631; PayPoint \$580; Jabour Hanna, Craig or Amanda Hogan Thank you for your generous giving to assist the works of St. Patrick's.		

Taking time to Prepare and Reflect

For next Sunday..... the 5th Sunday Lent

Gospel

Jn 12:20-33

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. These approached Philip, who came from Bethsaida in Galilee, and put this request to him, 'Sir, we should like to see Jesus.' Philip went to tell Andrew, and Andrew and Philip together went to tell Jesus.

Jesus replied to them:



***'Now the hour has come
for the Son of Man to be glorified.
I tell you most solemnly,
unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies,
it remains only a single grain;
but if it dies,
it yields a rich harvest.
Anyone who loves his life loses it;
anyone who hates his life in this world
will keep it for the eternal life.
If a man serves me, he must follow me,
wherever I am, my servant will be there too.
If anyone serves me, my Father will honour him.***

Now my soul is troubled.

What shall I say:

Father, save me from this hour?

But it was for this very reason that I have come to this hour.

Father, glorify your name!'

A voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.'

Reflecting on the Gospel

"The end is near!" says the placard held by the one who firmly believes in the approaching apocalypse. Many claim to know when a disaster will strike, or when God will send his judgment upon the earth. Some look for signs and discern meaning from natural events. An earthquake might mean the foundations of the world are being shaken, in preparation for God's judgment. Terrible and violent storms are understood as God's anger poured out on an unrepentant people. God's activity is often discerned (rightly or wrongly) by interpreting events in daily life.

In today's gospel two Greeks (certainly not Jews) approach not Jesus but Philip, which, by the way, is a Greek name. Up to this point in Jesus' ministry, according to the Gospel of John, Jesus has never, not once, interacted with a Gentile. Luke, of course, paints a different picture, but today we are reading from the Gospel of John.

Philip listens to the request of these two Greeks who want to see Jesus and, in turn, goes to Andrew (another Greek name!) to enlist his help with this unorthodox request. Together the disciples intercede for the Greek enquirers. If Greeks (that is, Gentiles) are now coming to see him, Jesus rightly perceives this to be the conclusion of his ministry. The end is near!

Jesus then begins an eloquent teaching on the necessity of death for bearing fruit, and no mention is made that the Greeks ever met Jesus. Instead, they serve merely as a narrative tool to usher in the final days of Jesus. It's true that the ancients did not have the knowledge about biology that we have today. Upon hearing the metaphor of a seed dying to produce much fruit, many in a modern audience might dispute the analogy. For we know that a seed does not truly die, but the soil, moisture, and light cause an organic change. Still we do not want to lose the message in spite of the metaphor.

Only by his death will Jesus' ministry truly bear fruit. That is the necessary next step. His death is necessary because this is the purpose for which Jesus came. There is no sidestepping or dodging this inevitable end, which is ratified by a voice from heaven. The end is near.

As our Lenten journey draws us closer to Palm Sunday, we share a sense of impending doom. But we are also reminded of the necessity of death for something to bear fruit. If the seed stays on the countertop, it will never bear fruit. But once "dead" and planted in the ground, the seed produces. The paschal mystery is presented for us in a simple, agrarian, even if scientifically outdated, image.

Do we allow ourselves to die to our own desires, wants, and agenda? From today's gospel reading, it seems Jesus was not quite ready for this moment. But the arrival of the Greeks was a clarion signal that the end was near. Even for Jesus there was no fighting this eternal purpose. This was the reason he came into the world. His example of letting go serves as a model for us. We are not the masters of our own fate. We are not in ultimate control of our own destiny. The illusion that we are somehow planning our own destiny is simply that, an illusion. There are greater forces at work. We are called to discern those forces so we can recognize them when they face us. When we die to ourselves we will see fruit that bears eternal life.

How have you experienced the dying and the harvest of the grain of wheat in your life?

What are the signs that encourage us to let go of our own desires and submit to something greater?

When have you lost something that, in time, turned out to be a gain?

Have you ever experienced the presence of Jesus in the love and support of someone?

