



# St Patrick's Cathedral Newsletter



T: 4637 1500 F: 4637 1511  
Email: [admin@stpats.org.au](mailto:admin@stpats.org.au)  
[www.stpats.org.au](http://www.stpats.org.au)

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.



## FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT [Year B] Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2020

**First Reading:** Isaiah 63:16-17, 64:1,3-8 – Oh, that you would tear the heavens apart and come down.

**Responsorial Psalm:** Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved. [Psalm 79]

**Second Reading:** 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 – The revelation we looked for, Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Gospel Acclamation: ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA! Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation. ALLELUIA!**

**Gospel:** Mark 12:33-37 – Stay awake! You never know when the Lord will come.

### “I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS”

#### Jesus really present in us and among us

I want to share some of my personal experiences over the last few weeks and a dream as we make plans to celebrate Christmas.

The marvellous truth that we embrace as Christians is that God is among us in a very special way in and through Jesus. We are created in the image of God – so like every other creature, especially every other human being we are the face of God to the world, showing and accepting God's presence. Then through Baptism and the ongoing power of God's Spirit we become members of the Body of Christ: if that means anything it surely affirms an intimate connection, ongoing relationship, with Jesus and with each other. That ongoing relationship is the foundation, the basis, for all we say, do and experience.

Last weekend, when we gathered to celebrate Eucharist, we listened to the crystal clear, comforting, re-assuring and challenging words of Jesus recorded in Matthew's Gospel. Our relationship with God will be nurtured and maintained and brought to fulfilment in so far as we feed the Jesus who is in that hungry person, visit the Jesus in the prisoner, welcome the Jesus among us in the stranger and the refugee, **comfort and heal the Jesus present in those who are sick and alone**. That attitude and those daily actions sustain our connection with Jesus and, while making His merciful love available to others, they heal and transform us!

I experienced that twice in recent weeks:

A man in his 40's received a diagnosis of terminal cancer a year ago. I've known him for many years, years of frequent breakdowns, alcohol and drug abuse, and very strained relationships with his mother, sister and brother, his wife and their two daughters. Thank God we were all able to begin again, leaving past hurts and disappointments behind. Listening, allowing room for God's healing presence brought about a wonderful peace among us all as we laid his body to rest and in the weeks since then.

I also experienced, with many other people a very special peace and uplift of spirit when a person who struggles with delusions and depression, suffered a meltdown while we were celebrating Mass. Thankfully we were able to recognise the presence of Jesus in him and leave aside our particular praying and focus on the altar to comfort our new friend. God touched us all through him. Our celebration of God's presence in the Eucharist was enhanced by our new found friend.

Central to your faith-life and mine is regular celebration of Eucharist: being together as respectful and loved sisters and brothers listening attentively to God's Word, entering into Communion with Jesus and with each other, committed to emptying self for others.

The tone (and reality) of God's presence among us is of familiarity, intimacy, gentleness, removing all fear; complete acceptance of our ordinariness and weakness, embracing us to heal and transform.

So in contrast to what God is doing in the family I mentioned earlier and to the gentle calming of our special friend I am struggling with these other encounters, one especially.

My heart broke when a member of Christ's Body came to receive Holy Communion with the words "I can never touch the Host" – asking me instead to place the Body of Christ on the tongue. I was confronted by fear, an exaggerated (I think) sense of unworthiness. Our God loves us! unconditionally, wants to be with us, in us!

And, let's be aware in these challenging times, a request that ignores the medical advice about avoiding the transfer of the COVID virus through saliva. *Hal Ranger*

**We remember in our prayers all those who have died recently:** Gerry Ryan, Richard Butler, John Orford, Austin Peters 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:** Ted Donegan.

✠ **For all those who are ill in our community, especially** 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.

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT CHRISTMAS THIS YEAR!!

Due to a limited amount of places for Christmas Masses this year – Cathedral (200) and Cathedral Centre (400)

### **YOU MUST BOOK YOUR SEAT ASAP!!**

Should you find this difficult to do, please call the office on  
4637 1500 and they will book you in for Mass over Christmas.

GO TO [www.trybooking.com/BNEEA](http://www.trybooking.com/BNEEA) or the parish Website [stpats.org.au](http://stpats.org.au)

There will be two venues for the Masses over Christmas – the Cathedral and the Cathedral Centre.

Masses will be at both - Eve 6.00pm and 8.30pm; Morning 7am and 9.00am. Midnight in the Cathedral only.

**PRIOR BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL!! PLEASE LET YOUR VISITORS KNOW!!**

**Due to the increase in numbers allowed in churches, there will no longer be a 7.15am Mass offered at St. Thomas More's on a Sunday morning. Thank you.**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Rite of Reconciliation (Communal)** will be offered at St Patrick's Cathedral on 2<sup>nd</sup> December at 5.30pm. St. Thomas More's will be offering the same service on the 2<sup>nd</sup> December at 9.30am.

**Sisters of St. Peter Claver** of 71 Margaret St, have items for sale that would make wonderful Christmas gifts. They have many beautiful gifts available as their usual Cent Sales had to be cancelled due to Covid. All sales will benefit the missions. Any enquiries, please contact the Sisters on 4632 1818

**Advent Anointing Mass** will be held in the Cathedral Centre on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> December at 10am. Due to Covid 19 restrictions there will be no Christmas Lunch. RSVP by phone or email [admin@stpats.org.au](mailto:admin@stpats.org.au).

Any questions you may have regarding financial giving, please contact Celia on 4637 1500 or find further information on the parish website – [www.stpats.org.au](http://www.stpats.org.au) Thank you for your kind contribution.

**MINISTERS' CHRISTMAS ROSTER:** To assist with the preparation of the Christmas Roster blank sheets are available in the Sacristy and in the Eastern transept for the next few weekends. As there will be extra Masses in the Cathedral Centre more Ministers will be needed. Please indicate if you are available or if you will be away at Christmas or in January. Extra helpers are needed to operate the PowerPoint and cameras. Training will be happily provided for this.

**St. Vincent De Paul Hampers** please consider giving to the hampers for those in need over this time. The baskets are located near the altar rails and will be there until 6/12 – non perishables only, please.

**BUS TRIP MARIAN VALLEY** Tuesday 8th December bus departs 7:30am Neil St, outside St. Pats. Cost \$30, BYO food. Bookings contact Theresa on 0434 528 904.

<b>Sunday 29 Nov</b>	7am, 9am, 5.30pm Mass <b>9am-Live stream available SPC</b>	11am Baptism of Aubrey Althaus 4.30pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre
<b>Monday 30 Nov</b> <i>Saint Andrew</i>	<b>5.30pm Mass SPC</b> 9am Mass STM	<b>ADORATION 4.30pm – 5.30pm</b>
<b>Tuesday 1 Dec</b>	7am Mass SPC 5.30pm Mass STM	
<b>Wed 2 Dec</b>	7am Mass SPC	<b>ADORATION 7.30am – 8.30am</b> 7.15pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre
<b>Thurs 3 Dec</b> <i>Saint Francis Xavier</i>	7am Mass SPC	
<b>Friday 4 Dec</b>	7am Mass SPC 9am Mass STM	<b>ADORATION 7.30am – 8.30am</b> 7.15pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre
<b>Saturday 5 Dec</b>	7am Mass SPC 6pm Mass SPC	11am Baptism of Heath and Lorelei Gillmore and Orlaith Nugent
<b>Sunday 6 Dec</b>	7am, 9am, 5.30pm Mass <b>9am-Live stream available SPC</b>	11am Baptism of Mia O'Kane 12pm Baptism of Arthur Dekruyf 4.30pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre
Planned Giving \$955; Loose \$542; PayPoint :\$430 Pat Power, Leo and Maureen McMahon, Eileen Stephen		