



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.



FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT [Year B]

Sunday 21st February, 2021

First Reading: Genesis 9:8-15 – I will recall the covenant between myself and you .. the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. **Responsorial Psalm:** Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth, to those who keep your covenant. **Second Reading:** 1 Peter 3:18-22– The water of the flood is a type of the baptism which saves you now.

Gospel Acclamation: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Gospel: Mark 1:12-15– He was tempted by Satan, and the angels looked after him.

Walking with Jesus, each day.....

As we enter the season of Lent, I was reminded of an EXAMEN OF CONSCIOUSNESS that was made available to the priests on our retreat earlier this year. Fr. Brendan Byrne who was the director for the retreat said that this examen is derived from St Ignatius Loyola. The ultimate aim of this exercise is that it gradually permeates our day, so that not only in the moments of prayer but in all our activity, we live more consciously attuned to the promptings of God's grace.

Prelude: In a moment of quiet I place myself consciously in the presence of God.

Point 1: **Thanksgiving**

I move back through my day, recalling and identifying moments when I felt the touch of Grace. I place these within the wider context of all that I am grateful to God for: my creation, my family, my life within the faith, my vocation, my ministry, my gifts.... I let my soul expand for a moment with gratitude to God.

Point 2: **Prayer for Insight**

I ask the grace of the Holy Spirit to reveal my day to me as Jesus sees it. "Send forth your light and your truth: let these be my guide. Let them bring me to your holy mountain, to the place where you dwell." (Psalm 42)

Point 3: **Pondering**

As I review the day I take note of the feelings that arise concerning any of its events: joy, sadness, regret, guilt, anger, fear...

Point 4: **Conversion**

I bring the day's events and all these feelings that have arisen to the Lord: for acceptance, for forgiveness, for healing.

Point 5: **Outlook**

I look to what lies ahead (tomorrow or the rest of the day). I foresee any moments where I will particularly stand in need of God's grace. I review my desires for myself, for others. I place myself, and all my gifts and capacities, once more at the service of Christ, to be his companion in the mission he has from the Father, for the life of the world.

Conclusion, in union with the whole Church, I pray "Our Father....."

*"And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus,
giving thanks to God the Father through him" (Col 3:17)*

*May God bless your Lenten journey with great insight and a renewal of love.
God's blessings, Father Michael*

We remember in our prayers all those who have died recently; Denise Lindores (St George), Camillo Lanzafame, Tom Hutchinson, Jim Dawson 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: Rebecca Betros, Joan Byrnes, Mary & Robert Mertens, Catherine Rogers, Peter Kahlil, Fr Michael Cronin [1992], Fr Henry MacFarlane [1946], Fr Brian O'Dwyer [2016], Fr Michael Sheehan [1947].

✠ **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.

MAKING THE CATHEDRAL SAFE! After discussions with the Bishop and considering the falling of plaster recently from one of the side arches, it was decided to "sure up" the other areas within the Cathedral. From Monday for approximately 10 days Buckley Constructions will be working on this project. They will be using a scissor lift to achieve the required outcome. Please be aware of the cordoned off area and sit where it is appropriate so as to not need to be need the work in hand. Thank you for your patience.

UPDATE ON TRYBOOKING – The Government has approved the move for church services to be similar to Cinemas. Next week there will be a number on each seat – **CURRENTLY YOU WILL STILL NEED TO SIT AS BEFORE BEHIND A RIBBON UNTIL WE START USING THE NUMBERING SYSTEM.** In the coming weeks there will be extensive information regarding the way ahead. If you wish to be in the same seat in the future, please simply, at this stage take note of your seat number. More information and a time line will be forthcoming. **In order to implement this new system we require volunteers for the registering process at the door. If you are able to help, which is simply typing in the number on the computer and assigning a seat number, we would be very grateful – it is needed especially at the 7am and 5.30pm Masses.**

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.

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



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.

ADORATION will resume each Thursday during Lent 5.00pm – 6.00pm. (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.

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
Monday 22 Feb <small>The Chair of St Peter</small>	9am Mass STM 5.30pm Mass SPC	
Tuesday 23 Feb	7am Mass SPC 5.30pm Mass STM	6.30am Rosary
Wed 24 Feb	7am Mass SPC	7.15pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre
Thursday 25 Feb	7am Mass SPC	ADORATION 5pm – 6pm SPC
Friday 26 Feb	7am Mass SPC 9am Mass STM	
Saturday 27 Feb	7am Mass 6pm Mass	
Sunday 28 Feb	7am, 9am, 5.30pm Mass 9am–Live stream available SPC	11am Baptism of Olivia Jane Haaijer 4.30pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre
Planned Giving \$853; Loose \$663; PayPoint \$520; Pat Power, Leo & Maureen McMahon, Eileen Stephen Thank you for your generous giving to assist the works of St. Patrick's.		

Taking time to Prepare and Reflect

For next Sunday the 2nd Sunday Lent

Gospel

Mk 9:2-10



Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone.... There in their presence he was transfigured: his clothes became dazzlingly white.... Elijah appeared to them with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus..... a cloud came covering them in shadow and there came a voice from the cloud, 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.' Then suddenly when they looked round, they saw no one, but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain he warned them to tell no one what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. They observed the warning faithfully, though among themselves they discussed what 'rising from the dead' could mean.

Reflecting on the Gospel

Mountains have always been a place for human beings to seek the transcendent. Mountains were considered the realm of the gods from antiquity. We recall the ancient Greeks and Mount Olympus, the home of Zeus. In the Old Testament we know of Mount Sinai and Moses' encounter with God there. In today's gospel we hear of another encounter with the divine on a mountain, the place of the transcendent. This encounter takes place not in front of the crowds, the disciples, or even the Twelve. This encounter is special; it is unique. For this special event, Jesus takes Peter and the sons of Zebedee. The language of this encounter is steeped in symbolism, beginning with the mountain itself, but including the white garments, the cloud, the voice from heaven, and the figures alongside Jesus. The garments Jesus wears are turned "dazzling white, such as no fuller on earth could bleach them." Modern ears may wonder about the word "fuller," which is not commonly used today. The word comes from Latin, via Old English, and refers to one who cleans cloth, especially wool. In any case, Jesus' garments were made *really* white. The symbolism should be clear. He is pure.

Moses and Elijah, appearing alongside Jesus, represent the Law and the Prophets. Jesus fulfills both; his ministry is in continuity with Moses and Elijah. He is not doing anything contrary to either.

Rather than rest in the moment, and simply take in the wonderment of it all, Peter breaks into the scene with an idea to make three tents, which would be places of worship, commemorating this event. His response is so often typical of our own. He wants to preserve the occasion, mark it in some way. But no sooner had he voiced this proposal than God himself, the voice from heaven, speaks in a way reminiscent of Jesus' baptism. At Jesus' baptism the voice from heaven was heard by Jesus alone: "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased" (Mark 1:11). Now the three disciples, not present at Jesus' baptism, hear the voice too.

And with that, the episode ends. The three disciples are left alone with Jesus to come down from the mountain, struggling to understand what this experience and Jesus' own admonition meant.

When considering the symbolism associated with this mountaintop experience, we can relate it to our own lives when we have an experience of the transcendent.

Mountaintop experiences are rare, and we cannot stay there, as much as we would like. The Scriptures give us a glimpse into that reality. Without warning Jesus was transfigured. The encounter with the divine often happens that way, without warning. And it seems that as soon as we have the encounter, it is over, and we are left to descend the mountain. We can share Peter's desire to commemorate the event. It seems natural to erect a monument or some marker so that we may return to this place of encounter again and again. But that is not to be. The three are left wondering what the experience means, and what Jesus' saying about rising from the dead might mean. Of course, this experience and Jesus' saying will become clear in hindsight, after the crucifixion and exaltation.

And this is a model for us of how the paschal mystery is lived. We have peak experiences followed by moments of wonder and discernment. The Christian life is not one grand, never-ending peak experience. In fact, such experiences may be rare, even as they were for the disciples. And the Christian life is not all wonder and discernment, as meaning develops gradually and in light of unfolding events. We stay faithful to Jesus and accompany him in the peak experiences, and also in the struggle to discern meaning.

Can you recall your own mountaintop experience/s with God?

In what ways can the "divinity" that exists within us make a difference to others?

What have you learned from your own experiences of suffering, anguish, and pain that had a profound and lasting effect on your life?



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