



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. Nathan Webb & Fr. Brian Redondo
Safeguarding Officer: Ann Marie Pawsey (safeguarding@stpats.org.au)

St Patrick's, in communion with St Saviour's Primary School - Samuel Hannant (4637 1700)
St Saviour's College - Jessica Wade (4637 1600)

We acknowledge and respect the Traditional Owners of this place, the Jarowair and Giabal Peoples.



The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

31 December 2023

First reading: Genesis 15:1-6 Your own son shall be your heir.

Responsorial Psalm: The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.

Second Reading: Hebrews 11:8 The Faith of Abraham, Sarah, and Isaac.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia alleluia! In the past God spoke to our fathers through the prophets:
now he speaks to us through his Son Alleluia!

Gospel: Luke 2:22-40 The child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom.

WHOLEY FAMILY

The longer I live, the more complex I realised families can be or become. Sometimes this is in the most disruptive or terrifying ways; but almost always it is revealing of deep threads of love which go further than we could have initially imagined. Perhaps this is not everyone's experience of family; but it is a part of my experience and an observation that I've made often over time.

Jesus did not appear in our midst as a grown person. He didn't even appear as an adolescent or young adult. He grew up like any of us. If the Bible has anything to say about His childhood and family life, it was that it was normal and unremarkable after His birth (except for perhaps His presentation and the time He got lost in the temple) -His life at home was quite normal.

There were even some texts developed in the early Christian centuries which presented Jesus as a kind of miracle child or the like. These were all dismissed and suppressed as untrue and misrepresentative of this God-man.

Without drawing out any stereotypes or pulling some sensational examples, I doubt the family of Jesus was all that different from any family of his time or ours. In gatherings of uncles, aunts, grandparents, cousins, second cousins, etc., no doubt their interactions would have carried various joys and hopes as well as the normal mix of griefs and anxieties.

It was not naïve to these realities or with any kind of pious façade in mind that Pope Benedict XV incorporated this feast of the Holy Family into our liturgical calendar just over a hundred years ago. So, I invite you to pray for your own families and any family you know to be struggling.

This blessing is offered by the Church for parents to pray with their family:

We bless your name, O Lord, for sending your own incarnate Son to become part of a family, so that, as he lived its life, he would experience its worries and its joys.

We ask you, Lord, to protect and watch over this family, so that in the strength of your grace its members may enjoy prosperity, possess the priceless gift of your peace, and, as the Church alive in the home, bear witness in this world to your glory. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

NPW



'The Holy Family'. In *Book of Hours, use of Rome* (late 15th c.).
British Library Additional MS 18193 f. 48v.

✠ **We remember in our prayers all those who have died recently:** Gloria Collins.

✠ **We hold in our hearts the memories of those whose anniversaries occur at this time:**
Rodney Pingel, Fr James Byrne [2020] Fr. James Wiemers [1984], Fr Thomas Concannon [1948].

✠ **For all those who are ill in our community, especially:** Gabrielle Saide, Albert Loveday, Louise O'Connor, Joan Robinson, Sheryl Grunke, Noel Roshan Francis, Kate Gibbs, Therese Odri, Kath Smith, Freddy Nield, Bev Smith, Ray Frelek, Bob O'Sullivan, Blake Cusato, Greg Coddington, Stanley Poon, Jamal Abraham, Madelaine Morris, Judy Moloney, Perlita Torrecampo, Rodolfo Umipig, Madeline Gray, Braxton Rayner.

The **Sacramental program** for 2024 has been prepared. If any of your children are interested in completing Reconciliation, Confirmation and Eucharist in the coming year, please email St Patrick's office for an information letter or call in to collect a copy.

Priest retreat will be held from Sunday January 7th to January 12th. **Fr Michael Cooney will be celebrating Mass here at the Cathedral during this time.** Please keep the clergy of our Diocese in your prayers.

YOUNG ADULTS' WEEKEND: An exciting weekend '**FORGED**' is planned for young adults (18-35) at Emu Gully 27-28 January, 2024; think prayer and paintball, mud challenges and Mass... come meet some fellow young Catholics, chat all things faith and life, and get stuck into some killer experiences! Registration is open and **spots are filling fast!** Head to @Veritas or @YoungCatholicsToowoomba on Instagram or Facebook to check out further details. Registration is via the following link: www.trybooking.com/CMRAH.



**SAVE THE EVENING
OF SATURDAY
16TH MARCH 2024
FOR A PARISH
CELEBRATION**



A big thank you to all those who helped in any way to make the Christmas celebrations run smoothly and be spiritually uplifting for everyone. Thank you to our musicians, especially Vicky Coccozza, Tom Hodgson and Kathy Sternes and to our instrumentalists and those who offered their voices in song! Thank you to those who assisted with the operation of the Power Point, especially Kathy Pingel who put them together, and offered the live stream with assistance from Vince Donovan, and to the Parish Liturgy Team for all the preparation for the Masses. Also to Doug Birrell for the sound desk with Ann Maree Ford who also prepared the banner. Thank you to all those who happily volunteered and to all those who were coopted into helping on the run.

In other words thank you all for your generosity.

Thank you also to the staff in the Parish Office for all you assisted with. If I have missed anyone – thank you from all of us.

*Bishop Ken, Father Michael, Father Nathan
and Father Hal.*

P.S. Thanks to John Neylon, and the members of the grounds committee for the immaculate grounds and gardens, and to John Smith for the beautiful repaint of the Nativity statues.

Sunday 31 December [SPC – St Patrick's] [STM – St Thomas More's]	7am, 9am, 5.30pm. Live Stream 9am	4.30pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre
Monday 1 January	5.30pm Mass SPC 9.00am Mass STM	
Tuesday 2 January	9am Mass SPC 5.30pm Mass STM	NO CHOIR PRACTICE
Wednesday 3 January	7am Mass SPC	7.15pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre
Thursday 4 January	7am Mass SPC	7.30am – 8.30am Adoration at SPC
Friday 5 January	7am Mass SPC 9.30am Mass STM	7.15pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre
Saturday 6 January	7am Mass SPC 6pm Mass SPC	6.30am Rosary at SPC 8am – 9am Reconciliation
Sunday 7 January	7am, 9am, 5.30pm Live Stream 9am	4.30pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre

Planned Giving: Thank you for your generous donations.

Christmas Collection and 4th Sunday of Advent will be included in next week's bulletin.

Money Counters this weekend: Pat Power, Leo and Maureen Lunney

Money Counters next weekend: Wendy Heelan, Sam and Fina Ginardi.

Planned Giving Options: Envelopes available from parish office. For direct debit/credit card please contact Celia at the Parish Office on 4637 1500. You may simply like to do a bank transfer: St Patrick's Cathedral, BSB 064-786, Account Number 100014072, reference envelope number or name in donating. Thank you.