

# Welcome to St. Patrick's Catholic Church Mortlake



ST PATRICK'S PARISH  
MORTLAKE

The Ascension of  
the Lord  
24 May 2020

**Parish Administrator:** Fr. Tom Stevens  
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"Easter" by Amelia, Year 1.

## 125 YEARS - VOCATIONS from ST. PAT'S

In putting together the Parish History book, we are compiling a list of religious vocations from the parish. If you can add to the list below, please contact the parish office. **Thank you**

**Parish Vocations:** Fr Geoffrey Abdullah, Maronite Rite; Fr Bruce Bramley; Sr Marge Coulthard (Sr Eymard), RSM; Sr Maureen Heffernan, RSC; Sr Helga Neidhart, RSC; Fr William Howard (Bill) Taylor, CM (Vincentian).

## ACCESS to the CHURCH and MASS

It is important to note that:

- Access to the Church is through the SIDE DOOR only. The front doors of the Church will remain closed.
- Only 10 people are permitted in the Church at any one time.
- The 4 square metre rule applies to all activities that we engage in at all times.
- Regular hand washing using hand sanitisers is required.

Moving forward, I advise of the following:

- There remains NO PUBLIC MASSES. No public Masses will be available on Sunday.
- "Booked" Masses & Communion Services for gatherings of 10 people or less are now permitted. See below on how to register.

'Booked' Masses will now be available on Sunday and on the weekdays: Tuesday through to Friday at 8am.

- Communion Services will be held at: 8am Monday and at 9am Saturday.

Only 10 people are permitted at either a Mass or a Communion Service. To arrange to attend a liturgy, please contact Fr Tom on 9743 1017 or [thomas.stevens@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:thomas.stevens@sydneycatholic.org)

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## FIRST READING

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles  
1:1-11

*Why are you standing here looking into the sky? Jesus has been taken into heaven.*

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is' he had said, 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

**The Word of the Lord.**

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM (continued)

2. God goes up with shouts of joy;  
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.  
Sing praise for God, sing praise,  
sing praise to our king, sing praise. (R.)
3. God is king of all the earth.  
Sing praise with all your skill.  
God is king over the nations;  
God reigns on his holy throne. (R.)

## SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians  
1:17-23

*He made Jesus to sit at his right hand in heaven.*

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him, as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

**The Word of the Lord.**

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 46:2-3. 6-9. R. v.6

**R: God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.**

1. All peoples, clap your hands,  
cry to God with shouts of joy!  
For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear,  
great king over all the earth. (R.)

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Matthew 28:19. 20

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

Go and teach all people my gospel.

I am with you always, until the end of the world.

**Alleluia!**

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## GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel  
according to Matthew 28:16-20

*All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.*

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commandments I gave to you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

## PARISH FINANCES

A special thank you to all who have been able to support the parish with financial assistance during this time. It is greatly appreciated and we will come out of this a closer and stronger community I am sure.

For those wishing to make a contribution to the Parish, secure payments can be made through the website:

[www.bpoint.com.au/payments/mortlakeparish](http://www.bpoint.com.au/payments/mortlakeparish)

Or, by direct debit: **BANK TRANSFER DETAILS**  
**BSB: 062 784**  
**Account Number: 5015 0001**  
**Reference: Your name.**

'Planned Giving Envelopes', can be physically placed in the beige locked letterbox, located outside the Presbytery (35 Gale St). **Thank you.**

**At St. Patrick's Parish Mortlake, the welfare and wellbeing of our children and vulnerable members of our Parish is of utmost importance. The Safeguarding Office can be contacted on (02) 9390 5810 if you wish to speak on any issue.**

## FAITH GIVES US STRENGTH – BURYING OUR LOVED ONES IN THESE TIMES

My friends, this Sunday we celebrate the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord into Heaven. Forty days after his death and resurrection, Christ continued to appear to his disciples. The first reading today, Acts 1:2 "*and was taken up to heaven*", is the only verse in Scripture that makes reference to this glorious moment when Christ no longer appears to his disciples, but ascends into heaven. Many of us would remember it as '*Ascension Thursday*', now located on the 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter. The Ascension is an essential part of our faith. We say it in the Creed. Then on Monday in Australia we have the Solemnity of Our Lady Help of Christians, the patroness of Australia. One may say that on Sunday/ Monday of this week we've got the Daily Double!!

Over these weeks, with Covid-19 restrictions being in place, our parish community has lost many great charitable, loving individuals. Some of the images of these people are on our Church window. The pain for families has been even more difficult, in having to limit the numbers who can support us on the day of the funeral. In doing so we have missed the ability to embrace, to cry, to just sit together as family and friends and contemplate our loved one's life as a community. This has been one of the hardest parts. We have missed the ability to mourn according to our cultural customs, noting our marvellously different cultures all have slightly different manners of celebrating our loved ones Christian death (be it, Italian; Greek; Filipino, or . . . Irish . . . etc.).

Yet over these weeks the privilege of my ministry as your pastor has been in seeing your faith, the faith of these tremendously faith filled people who mourn and grieve, yet still find strength to carry on. *Strength in: the spouses who have lost their partners after 20-30++ years of marriage or partnership; the strength of older siblings to celebrate a remarkable lifetime parishioner of this parish; the strength of teenage children of a mother to sing and read poetry at her funeral this week.*

***This is the strength of faith*** – to see hope in times of great adversity and bewilderment. Your faith over this time has shown me a path, a message of what an aspect of 'holiness' truly is. Thank you. **Fr Tom**



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**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Maddalena Ciacciarelli; John Healy; Lynette Monaro; Pamela Ryan; Maria Luisa Segui; Fr. Peter Morrissey; Matthew Speers; Anita Johnson; Sr Sybille Colborne RSM; Andrew Deans; Audrey Vertannes; Jennifer McAfee; Gary Traill; Samira Hanna; John Walker; George Cepak; Michael Geoghegan; Raffaele Melizza (Italy); Maureen Johnson; John McAnelly; Gerard Lopez; Dovilio Favero; Brian Clark.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Patricia McLennan (7 year anniv); Ante Cindric; Giuseppa Profilio (4 year anniv); Ciaran Phelan (1<sup>st</sup> Anniv - England); Simon-Peter Kolibac (14<sup>th</sup> anniv); Frances Gleeson (4 yrs); Renzo Trinco (1st Anniv); Carmelo Puglisi (14th anniv); Antonio Musolino (1st anniv); Vince Garcia (1st anniv); Rose Harrigan; Eva Brown; Louise McMahon; John Stewart; Antonio Radice; Rosario Barros; Mary Maloney; Richard Parnell; Ellena Alfano; Santana Alvares; Giuseppina Morelli; Lindsay Beckingham; Louise Minna; William Weir; Lawrance Berry; Alma Naylor; Angela Pittorino.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY:** Damian King; Magda Cassis; Bill Young; Robert McAdam; Felicia Bugeja; Paul Dovico; Kevin Walker; Cecilia Kramar; Patrick Casey (Ireland); Sr Judith Clark; Nanette; George; Jill; Edward Azjan; Tony P; Marie; Loretta; Antonietta; Don Khoury.

*To have your petitions included, please phone Carmel Moliterno 9736 1718.*

## JESUIT REFUGEE SERVICE FOOD APPEAL

JRS would be most grateful if you could assist in providing items such as shampoo, deodorant, cooking oil, basmati rice (or other), instant coffee, tins of corn kernels/ tins of tomatoes. Items can be dropped off in the boxes located in the Church (access Church through side door) and in the parish hall on Saturday's from 8am till 12. Thank you.

## PRAYING THE ROSARY IN MAY

In the Catholic tradition, May has been a month of special devotions to Mary the Mother of God. Your family may like to pray the Rosary this month. Rosary beads and leaflets are available in the basket outside the parish hall.

## JUNE ONLINE FAITH FORMATION

During the month of June the Wollongong Diocese is hosting a four-part online series of talks seeking to deepen our understanding of the Eucharist, and what it means in our faith (especially in these times when we miss its reception). Using materials from Bishop Robert Barron, for more information and to register please visit:

<https://dow.sh/exploringeucharist>

## ONLINE MASSES

**St Ambrose Parish, Concord West** have an online Mass every Saturday at 5pm celebrated by Fr Brian or Fr Chaminda which can be viewed at that time or at any time afterwards. The Mass can be viewed from the safety of your home, please go to [www.stambrose.org.au](http://www.stambrose.org.au)

## PARISH GREEN SPACE REMEDATION WORKS

**GREEN SPACE:** Remediation is essential to the green space adjacent to the Presbytery to allow for school use, parking and church community use. Sketches are being produced for a proposal for the remediation of the green space. We have had discussions with a landscape designer, Catholic Education Office and their architect on the basis of remediating the space focusing on Parish longer term needs including a meeting and celebratory space. The Architect costs are being paid by the CEO.

The Architect has also looked at the hall and been asked to provide some thoughts on its potential if upgraded. He has made an observation that the hall kitchen could be opened up allowing integration into the green space plans, thus increasing its value to our community. This is early stages with possible costs yet to be received and evaluated in conjunction with broader discussion to decide its place in the Parish financial plans.

Should you have any thoughts on this project please contact Fr Tom.