

Welcome to  
St. Patrick's Catholic  
Church Mortlake

Celebrating 125 Years



ST PATRICK'S PARISH  
MORTLAKE

Fifteenth Sunday in  
Ordinary Time  
12 July 2020

1895 – 2020

**Parish Administrator:** Fr. Tom Stevens  
**Parish Secretary:** Brenda Johnston

**Address:** 33 Gale Street  
Mortlake NSW 2137

**Postal Address:** PO Box 145  
Concord NSW 2137

**Parish Office:** Open Tuesdays & Fridays (9am-3pm)  
**Phone:** (02) 9743 1017  
**Email:** [parish@stpatsmortlake.org.au](mailto:parish@stpatsmortlake.org.au)  
**Website:** [www.stpatsmortlake.org.au](http://www.stpatsmortlake.org.au)

**Sunday Mass Times:** Sunday 9am and 10.30am.  
Limit of 50 people. (See note in bulletin on how to register).

**Weekday Services:**

- Communion Services this week: Monday to Friday at 8am and Saturday at 9am.

**Reconciliation:** By appointment.

**Baptisms:** 11.45am on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month. Please call parish secretary with enquiries. Limit of 15 people per family.

**Facebook:**  [www.facebook.com/stpatsmortlake](https://www.facebook.com/stpatsmortlake)

**ACCESS TO MASSES – St. Pat's still  
limited to 50 people maximum**

*Even with relaxed restrictions in NSW now in place – due to the limited floor space of our Church, we will remain at a maximum of 50 people. This will remain in place until the distancing restrictions are lifted.*

**Process for attending Masses:**

- **WEEKDAY PUBLIC MASSES & COMMUNION SERVICES.** Register on sheet upon entry.
- **LIMITED CAPACITY SUNDAY PUBLIC MASSES.** You will have to **Register** to attend the Sunday Mass, as these will be limited to **50 people**. Sunday Masses will be held at 9am and 10.30am (there will be no Saturday night or Sunday night Masses).

**To 'Register' for a Sunday Mass**  
please contact Fr Tom on 9743 1017  
[thomas.stevens@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:thomas.stevens@sydneycatholic.org)

- **A General Dispensation** from attending Sunday Masses remains in place.
- **Online Masses:**  
<https://www.stambrose.org.au/on-line-masses/>

**WEEKDAY COMMUNION SERVICES  
13 – 18 July**

This week, 13-18 July, all weekday Masses will be replaced by Communion Services. Communion Services will be at 8am on Monday to Friday, and a 9am Communion Service on Saturday.

Thank you to Kevin Nelson-Smith, the Eucharistic Ministers and Acolytes for conducting the services this week.

**VINNIES WINTER APPEAL**

The annual St Vincent de Paul Annual Winter Appeal is asking for your assistance for those in need. Due to restrictions we are unable to run the regular envelope and bucket collection this year and we are asking you to support those in need by donating to the [Appeal on the St Vincent de Paul website](#). **For those unable to access the website or uncomfortable donating online, there will be envelopes at the back of the church at St Patrick's. You can deposit your envelope into the Poor Box at the back of the church, at the parish office, or place it in the beige locked letterbox outside the Presbytery.**

**Winter Appeal Link:** [donate.vinnies.org.au/appeals-nsw/covid-19-emergency-appeal-nsw](https://donate.vinnies.org.au/appeals-nsw/covid-19-emergency-appeal-nsw) **Thank you.**

**FIRST READING**

A reading from the prophet Isaiah  
Is 55:10-11

*The rain makes the earth fruitful.*

Thus says the Lord: 'As the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do.'

**The Word of the Lord.**

**SECOND READING**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans  
Rom 8:18-23

*All creation is waiting for the revelation of the children of God.*

I think that what we suffer in this life can never be compared to the glory, as yet unrevealed, which is waiting for us. The whole creation is eagerly waiting for God to reveal his sons. It was not for any fault on the part of creation that it was made unable to attain its purpose, it was made so by God; but creation still retains the hope of being freed, like us, from its slavery to decadence, to enjoy the same freedom and glory as the children of God. From the beginning till now the entire creation, as we know, has been groaning in one great act of giving birth; and not only creation, but all of us who possess the first-fruits of the Spirit, we too groan inwardly as we wait for our bodies to be set free

**The Word of the Lord.**

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

**Ps 64:10-14. R. Lk 8:8**

(R.) The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.

1. You care for the earth, give it water,  
you fill it with riches.  
Your river in heaven brims over  
to provide its grain. (R.)
2. And thus you provide for the earth;  
you drench its furrows,  
you level it, soften it with showers,  
you bless its growth. (R.)
3. You crown the year with your goodness.  
Abundance flows in your steps,  
in the pastures of the wilderness it flows. (R.)
4. The hills are girded with joy,  
the meadows covered with flocks,  
the valleys are decked with wheat.  
They shout for joy, yes, they sing. (R.)

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower;  
all who come to him will live for ever.

**Alleluia**

**GOSPEL**

**Mt 13:1-9**

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew*

*A sower went out to sow.*

Jesus left the house and sat by the lakeside, but such crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat there. The people all stood on the beach, and he told them many things in parables.

He said, 'Imagine a sower going out to sow. As he sowed, some seeds fell on the edge of the path, and the birds came and ate them up.

**GOSPEL (continued)**

Others fell on patches of rock where they found little soil and sprang up straight away, because there was no depth of earth; but as soon as the sun came up they were scorched and, not having any roots, they withered away. Others fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Others fell on rich soil and produced their crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Listen, anyone who has ears!

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

**TO GROW IN FERTILE SOIL, TO GROW IN THE IMAGE OF CHRIST**

Over the next three weeks in our Sunday Gospel readings, taken from Matthew's Gospel, Jesus will use agricultural parables, talking of the importance of healthy soil in order to effect growth. Jesus uses a language that people can understand. Today in his description of the Sower and the preparedness of the 'soil', he is referring to the preparedness of people's hearts to the message of Love, Forgiveness and Compassion.

People living in C1st Palestine knew this. I think they had a greater sense of 'connectedness' to the land with their own identity, than perhaps many of us do today. Indeed, their notion of 'connectedness' to the land may be thought to have been closer to that of a sense of Aboriginal spirituality and connection to the beauty of the land.

I know many parishioners here at St. Pat's of Italian heritage have this noble understanding of beauty in growing fruits and vegetables at home. This is precisely the same sense of connectivity that Jesus is tapping into in today's Gospel.

**Jesus is asking the question – 'How will you allow this message of Love to bloom in your lives?'**

**How will you reap the benefits of this harvest of Forgiveness?'**

Yet, Jesus doesn't pretend that this is going to be easy. There are human frailties and temptations making the pathway difficult. He mentions the 'seed': falling on the side of the path; being eaten by birds; being in rocky soil and in earth with no depth for moisture.

These are not obscure rural terms – but references to the human struggles we face. These are the: resentments and lack of forgiveness in my relationships; my dishonesty in my workplace; my addictions I struggle to overcome which hurt myself and those around me; my lack of empathy for the young, old and vulnerable; my desire to put myself first before others; etc. These obstacles are real for each and every one of us, in different ways, every day. Yet the seed has to take shape in the middle of all this human 'messiness'.

***We are not called to live: divine charity; divine prudence, divine chastity; divine fortitude. We are called to live: human charity; human prudence; human chastity; human fortitude, with Christ as our masthead in that task. The divine aspects, we pray, will come after a life well lived.***

I need to understand that some 2,500 Scriptural verses that refer to love, justice, care for the poor and vulnerable – are meant to challenge me personally. I need to see this as a direct challenge to support and care for my world, and to grow 'seeds' that stimulate a culture of life here in my community, a culture which advocates for the love and justice of Christ living in my daily reality.

**Fr Tom**



**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Noeleen Smith; Maria Ow; Denise Kazanuk; Baby Pasquale Romeo; Jose Teran; Josephine Grech; Marion Edwards; Annette Sidgreaves; Bill Young; Carrie Gatt; Michael Gay; Patrick Noone; Thorcuato Herrero; 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; Gary Traill; Samira Hanna; John Walker; George Cepak; Michael Geoghegan; Raffaele Melizza (Italy); Maureen Johnson; John McAnelly; Gerard Lopez.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Joe Dennis; Angelo Falgiatori; Eyvonne Hurrell; Giuseppe De Meio; : Gil Cocco (13<sup>th</sup> anniv); John Coulson (1<sup>st</sup> anniv); Angelo Piccin; Alexis & Walter Goh; George, Gregory & Brian Clarke; John Abrahams; Frank Snr 8<sup>th</sup> anniv); Frank Jnr Arcella (8<sup>th</sup> anniv); Maria Gioello (19<sup>th</sup> anniv).

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY:** Sandra Riley; Damian King; Mihael Novacic; Magda Cassis; Jean Morton; Robert McAdam; Felicia Bugeja; Kevin Walker; Cecilia Kramar; Patrick Casey (Ireland); Sr Judith Clark; Jill; Edward Azjan; Marie; Loretta; Antonietta.

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

### BAPTISM BOOKINGS

Parish Baptisms will re-commence from Sunday 9 August at 11.45am. Baptisms will be limited to 15 people in each family, including the child, parents and godparents. Baptisms will be at 11.45am in either the Church or in the parish gardens. Please contact the Parish Secretary for all enquiries.

### ZOOM REFLECTION ON THE GOSPELS

You are invited to join in weekly short sessions listening prayerfully and reflecting on the Sunday Gospels. Sessions are emailed to you prior and go for 40 minutes, Tuesday nights at 7pm. Please email: [thejourney.smn@gmail.com](mailto:thejourney.smn@gmail.com) or contact Susan Neylan on 0400 195 350.

### PARISH GREEN SPACE

**GREEN SPACE:** Sketches have now been produced for the remediation of the green space. I attach the architect's and landscaper's initial Concept Design. I welcome your comments on it. Should you have any thoughts on this project please contact Fr Tom on 9743 1017 or

[thomas.stevens@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:thomas.stevens@sydneycatholic.org)

**Concept Design:** [www.stpatsmortlake.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/St.Pats-Mortlake-Parish-](http://www.stpatsmortlake.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/St.Pats-Mortlake-Parish-)

### THANK YOU - PARISH FINANCES

Thank you to all Parishioners who have supported our Parish during the **2019-2020** financial year.

Parishioners who contribute through the **planned giving envelopes, the 2020/2021 envelopes are now available from the Narthex of the Church.**

Receipts for the **2019-2020** Planned Giving will be available from the Narthex **Monday 13 July 2020.**

For Parishioners who wish to commence Planned Giving, please email [parish@stpatsmortlake.org.au](mailto:parish@stpatsmortlake.org.au) and envelopes will be supplied to you or the credit card/direct debit process will be advised. Receipts are issued at the end of each Financial Year with Parishioners able to claim 30% of their planned giving contribution as a tax deduction. Giving by Direct Debit can be effected through:

#### BANK TRANSFER DETAILS:

**BSB: 062 784**

**Account Number: 5015 001**

**Reference: <your name>**

*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 9390 5810 if you wish to speak on any issue.*

**Safeguarding Support Officers:** Brenda Johnson  
Marie Piccin

**Sacramental Program Facilitator:** Bob Mayor

**Children's Liturgy Facilitator:** Sinead Kent