

Welcome to  
St. Patrick's Catholic  
Church Mortlake

Celebrating 125 Years



ST PATRICK'S PARISH  
MORTLAKE

The Nativity of the Lord  
Christmas

25 December 2020

1895 – 2020

Parish Priest: 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  
Website: www.stpatsmortlake.org.au  
Facebook: www.facebook.com/stpatsmortlake



Sunday Mass Times: Saturday Vigil: 6pm  
Sunday: 9am; 10.30am; 6pm.  
Mass Bookings: <https://www.trybooking.com/641739>

**All Parishioners are encouraged to wear face masks.  
A General Dispensation from attending Sunday Masses  
remains in place. For Online Masses please visit:**

➔ <https://www.stambrose.org.au/on-line-masses/>

**Weekday Services:**

- Communion: Monday 8am and Saturday 9am
- Mass: Tuesday to Friday 8am
- Reconciliation: Saturday 5.30pm
- Baptisms: 11.45am on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of month.  
Please call parish secretary with enquiries.

**CHRISTMAS 2020**

**A PATHWAY OF SPIRITUAL GROWTH TO  
UNDERSTAND WHO I AM**

Christmas 2020 is upon us. Amidst the trials and tribulations of the year, we now come to the celebration of quintessential Hope in our world, with the birth of Jesus Christ. This message of Hope has changed the world. Each Christmas we are asked to contemplate exactly what it means that God physically enters our world. This child is not simply a noble and good philosopher or humanitarian. We believe he is the Son of God.

We look at our year, a year that has seen us bear challenges. We may have seen signs within ourselves with which we are not happy. We may have displayed aspects of selfishness along the way. Conversely, maybe we have seen a new side of strength of character within ourselves that we may not have thought we had. I need to review how I have fared. How have I been Christ like this year in my humanity?

As followers of Jesus Christ, an essential component of our faith is that we are asked to engage with the human condition. It is not theoretical.

If I understand that Jesus Christ is human, then I first need to engage in a Spiritual Journey of discovery of Who I am? in direct relationship with Christ. This Spiritual insight into myself then allows me to empathise with my sister and brother in an emotional, spiritual, and physical capacity. I see Christ in them. This involves seeing Dignity in each human being at all stages of life. It involves understanding my Solidarity with each human being and seeking to enact the Parable of the Good Samaritan in my daily life. It involves a Justice and a pursuit of Peace in my Society and seeking to actively enact that in my community.

**THANK YOU** to the many parishioners who have worked so hard in preparing our parish for Christmas 2020. Musicians, Singers, Altar Servers, Wardens, Counters, Covid Marshalls, Readers and all the Ministry Teams and a special thank you to our parish secretary Brenda Johnston. May Christmas 2020 be a time of reflection and Spiritual growth. The start is to ask - WHO AM I IN CONNECTION TO JESUS CHRIST? May Christmas 2020 be a period of spiritual growth, love, and commitment to follow Christ in word and deed.

**Merry Christmas. Fr Tom**

**FIRST READING**

A reading from the prophet Isaiah  
**Is 9:1-7**

**A son is given to us.**

The people that walked in darkness  
has seen a great light;  
on those who live in a land of deep shadow  
a light has shone.

You have made their gladness greater,  
you have made their joy increase;  
they rejoice in your presence  
as men rejoice at harvest time,  
as men are happy when they are dividing the  
spoils.

For the yoke that was weighing on him,  
the bar across his shoulders,  
the rod of his oppressor,  
these you break as on the day of Midian.  
For all the footgear of battle,  
every cloak rolled in blood,  
is burnt

and consumed by fire.

For there is a child born for us,  
a son given to us  
and dominion is laid on his shoulders;  
and this is the name they give him:

Wonder-Counsellor, Mighty-God,  
Eternal-Father, Prince-of-Peace.  
Wide is his dominion  
in a peace that has no end,  
for the throne of David  
and for his royal power,  
which he establishes and makes secure  
in justice and integrity.

From this time onwards and for ever,  
the jealous love of the Lord of hosts will do this.

**The Word of the Lord**

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM (continued)**

2. Proclaim his help day by day,  
tell among the nations his glory  
and his wonders among all the peoples. (R.)
3. Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad,  
let the sea and all within it thunder praise,  
let the land and all it bears rejoice,  
all the trees of the wood shout for joy  
at the presence of the Lord for he comes,  
he comes to rule the earth. (R.)
4. With justice he will rule the world,  
he will judge the peoples with his truth. (R.)

**SECOND READING**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to Titus  
**Ti 2:11-14**

**God's grace has been revealed to all people.**

God's grace has been revealed, and it has made  
salvation possible for the whole human race and  
taught us that what we have to do is to give up  
everything that does not lead to God, and all our  
worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and  
live good and religious lives here in this present  
world, while we are waiting in hope for the  
blessing which will come with the Appearing of the  
glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He  
sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from  
all wickedness and to purify a people so that it  
could be his very own and would have no ambition  
except to do good.

**The Word of the Lord**

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

**Ps 95:1-3. 11-13 R. Lk 2:11**

**(R.) Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord**

1. O sing a new song to the Lord,  
the Lord all the earth.  
O sing to the Lord, bless his name. (R.)

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

Good News and great joy to all the world:  
today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord

**Alleluia**

**GOSPEL**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke  
Lk 2:1-14

**Today a saviour has been born for you.**

Caesar Augustus issued a decree for a census of the whole world to be taken. This census – the first – took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria, and everyone went to his own town to be registered. So Joseph set out from the town of Nazareth in Galilee and travelled up to Judaea, to the town of David called Bethlehem, since he was of David's House and line, in order to be registered together with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to a son, her first-born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn. In the countryside close by there were shepherds who lived in the fields and took it in turns to watch their flocks during the night. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone round them. They were terrified, but the angel said, 'Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.' And suddenly with the angel there was a great throng of the heavenly host, praising God and singing: 'Glory to God in the highest heaven and peace to men who enjoy his favour.'

**The Gospel of the Lord**

**PARISH FINANCES**

For Parishioners who wish to commence Planned Giving (PG) or transfer to credit card/direct debit, please email [parish@stpatismortlake.org.au](mailto:parish@stpatismortlake.org.au)

For those who wish to make contributions by EFT transfer – details are:

Bank Transfer BSB: 062 784

Account Number: 100 000 520

Account Name: Mortlake Parish

Reference: < your name or PG Number >

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS!**

*All the candles on our Christmas Wreath are lighting – a little bit like a birthday Cake for Jesus! The candles helped us as we waited for Jesus: One candle for the people who waited for hundreds of years for God's Messiah. One for Mary and Joseph who waited for Jesus to be born. One for all the waiting we have done getting ready for the birth of Jesus. One for all the people who are still waiting tonight for God's love and justice and peace. And finally, the Christ Candle. Jesus is born! The Messiah has come! So, let us all say, "Happy Christmas and Happy Birthday, Jesus!"*

Let's listen to Fr Tom as he reads the Gospel of Luke for us: <https://youtu.be/i8qdNDakEYE>

**We all love Jesus and are loved by Jesus.**

All over the world people will gather to celebrate the birthday of Jesus, some in cold countries with snow and some like us in a hot season. We all worship the newborn Jesus in different languages. We are all worshipping the same King, Jesus, who is Lord of the whole world. **As A Family:** Say Happy Birthday to Jesus. Celebrate the 'Birthday Party' with your family and remember Jesus is the 'Birthday Boy', so keep him in the centre of your celebration.

The Birthday Song: <https://youtu.be/JyiVsMOBv24>



**PARISH HISTORY BOOK NOW  
AVAILABLE FOR SALE – COST \$25**

The book celebrating our parish history is now available and can be purchased from the parish office Tuesday & Friday 9-3pm 9743 1017 or email [parish@stpatismortlake.org.au](mailto:parish@stpatismortlake.org.au)

**PARISH SUPPORT SURVEY**

If you would like to fill in the survey, there are hard copies at the entrances to the Church. Please place it underneath the collection boxes at the Church entry points. Online survey can be completed via the link:

<https://www.stpatismortlake.org.au/census>



**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Micheal Galluccia; Rosemary Rumble; Anna Anastasi (Italy); Vincenza Calabrese; Rose Awaness; Audrey Clark; Joseph Triganza; Bernard Trinco; Ersilia Miracola; Franco Calligaro; Gaetana Salvaggio.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** June Patricia Murray (2 anniv); Antonino & Grazia Di Giglio; Members of the Di Giglio, Tesoriero, Lo Schiavo Galea & Michallef; Sam Ferlauto; Michele & Giuseppa Goffredo; Nancy Buonanova; Sue Goffredo; Gus Fausti; Filippo Scardullo; Anthony Zacca; Antonino Pallmas (11 anniv); Families Gerald Gleeson (3rd anniv); Glenda Rutz (7<sup>th</sup> anniv); Domenica Musumeci; Cynthia Fernandes.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY:** Frank Ng; Anthony Cocco; Rene Schmitt; Magda Cassis; Nico Relton; Barbara & Barrie Clark; Billy Brandt; Sandra Riley; Jean Morton; Robert McAdam; Felicia Bugeja; Kevin Walker; Cecilia Kramar; Patrick Carey (Ireland); Sr Judith Clark; Jill; Edward Azjan; Marie.

(To have your petitions included, please phone Carmel Moliterno 9736 1718)

### INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING? OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

If you are interested in outreach and volunteering, St Pat's has several groups and exciting new opportunities for engagement in 2021. Volunteering and outreach opportunities within the parish include:

- **Social Justice Group**, understanding the rich history of Catholic Social Teaching as the spiritual formation and basis of action.
- **St. Vincent de Paul Society**, attending to the needs of locals who have fallen on tough times.
- **New opportunities in 2021** to assist in outreach lunches, hosted by the parish for various local groups in our community.
- **Pastoral Care Group**, who take a hands-on role in supporting those in our community that need company, companionship and attending to their practical daily needs (i.e., shopping, home visits).
- **Social Committee** assist with running weekly bingo on Mondays for our senior community members, help organise bus excursion trips and arrange celebratory functions for events such as children's reception of their first Sacraments.
- **Children's Liturgy** and engaging with the parish youth needs.

- **Liturgy**, including participating in Music, Reading, Altar Serving and being a Eucharistic Minister within the parish.
- **Faith Education**, includes teaching in our local public schools as a catechist; involved in preparation of students in the Sacraments; as well as Adult Faith formation opportunities.
- **Assist with Communications and IT Support** requirements of the parish.
- **Gardening** group in the parish - help in creating our blossoming parish garden and community vegetable garden.
- **Stewardship** - assist with governance requirements and obligations.

As you can see, there are many varied opportunities to engage with your parish and community. Please contact the parish to find out more or visit our website below.

<https://www.stpatsmortlake.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Volunteers-booklet.pdf>

### REGISTER FOR SUNDAY MASS ONLINE

An online booking system is available for Sunday Masses: <https://www.trybooking.com/641739> or call the parish office on 9743 1017 (Tues & Friday)

**Collections** will be reintroduced at Masses this weekend. Collections will be made using a bag at the end of a pole thus avoiding close contact with parishioners. **Thank you for your support.**