



ST PATRICK'S PARISH
MORTLAKE



Parish Newsletter Autumn 2022

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Message from Fr Tom

Dear parishioners of St Patrick's,

We now approach the Easter celebrations which announce Hope and Joy to a fractured world. We do this in the midst of what has become the almost continual tensions of the Covid pandemic, added to by the horrific sorrow and grief of the invasion of the Ukraine and the devastating effects of the flood in recent times. May the light of Easter illuminate the hearts and minds of those suffering and of world leaders, in working towards actions which are consistent in protecting the dignity of every human life.

As Christians, we pray that the Lord may never find us cold or indifferent to such incidents in our world. Jesus flung open the doors of the tomb. He now asks us to open our hearts and minds to a message of Love and Hope, responding to the plight of the disadvantaged, the marginalised and those in need of food and refuge.

We ask for a renewal of our Faith, for action and engagement with our parish community and for a greater sense of empathy towards our fellow human beings. 2022 sees many varied outreach opportunities in our parish and I encourage each one of us to seek to fling open the doors of doubt and anxiety and engage with our parish community in Faith, Hope and Love.

In engaging with our Faith and Parish community, we are then best armoured to herald the greatest message of Hope humanity has ever uttered, when we exclaim:

**"Christ is Risen,
He is Truly Risen,
Alleluia!!"**

Happy Easter!

Fr Tom



Passion & Holy Week

Passion (Palm) Sunday Mass Times:

April 9 Saturday: 6.00pm Vigil

April 10 Sunday: 9.00 am, 10.30am, 6.00pm

Holy Thursday: April 14 at 6.30pm

Mass of the Lord's supper, washing of the feet, veneration at the Altar of Repose on the Parish Green until 12 midnight

Good Friday: April 15 at 10:00am

Stations of the Cross for **Adults** in the Church; Stations of the Cross for **Children** on the Parish Green. Children wishing to take part can contact Sinead Kent: skent00@gmail.com

Good Friday: April 15 at 3:00pm

Commemoration of the Lord's Passion with Holy Communion

Saturday 16 April at 7:00pm

Easter Vigil - Festival of Light

Easter Sunday Masses: April 17

7:30am

9:00am

10:30am

**(NB: there
will be NO
6pm Sunday
night Mass)**



Acknowledgement of Country

St Patrick's Catholic Parish, Mortlake acknowledges the Wangal clan, one of 29 tribes of the Eora nation and the traditional custodians of this land.

St Patrick's Catholic Parish, Mortlake pays respect to elders past and present and extends this respect to all Aboriginal people living in or visiting the Parish.

Welcome to the 17th Edition of our Newsletter

It seems like yesterday we were celebrating Christmas and New Year. Soon it will be Easter again and a time to reflect on how 2022 has been. Despite the continuing pandemic, floods and the war in Ukraine, we at St Pat's have had the opportunity to develop our spirituality and awareness of God, celebrate the Mass, volunteer in many ways and enjoy the social activities provided by our community, ably led by our Parish Priest, Father Tom.

The **Alpha course** has provided parishioners an opportunity to understand Jesus Christ, Son of God. Whilst we have been bombarded by variants of the Covid Virus with names such as Delta and Omicron, the Alpha course has been a pleasing, enjoyable as well as very informative course. Father Tom has led us in this course, which consists of a video presentation by a very competent Nicky Gumbel and informal discussion.

Developed as a short course in London in 1990, Nicky Gumbel, an Anglican minister, took over running Alpha and found that many people outside of the church wanted to explore the Christian faith. Alpha now runs in every part of the global church, including the Catholic Church, the Orthodox Church and all mainline Protestant denominations. <https://alphausa.org/our-story>

The Alpha Course is a great way to find out more about God and learn about what having faith involves. It's also good for new Christians who want to learn more about the journey with God and gain an understanding of who is Jesus. Our informal meetings at St Pat's include discussions with Father Tom and one another in a friendly way. Thank you Father Tom for giving us this opportunity.

What's Been Happening at St Pat's:

Some Highlights

We have had so much to be thankful for. The photos in this edition provide testimony of our wonderful St Pat's community. Thank you to all involved as well as the people who came and had a most enjoyable time.

10th February: St Pat's Latin American themed Fiesta, our first for the year was so well attended, with people very pleased to be out and about.

13th March: A very successful Parish Outreach Lunch

17th March: Our St Patrick's Day Festival also so well attended. Remember, last year's was cancelled because of the pandemic.

25th March: First Reconciliation at St Pat's with 61 candidates being prepared by Bob Mayor and his assistants.

Still to come:

6th May: Biggest Morning Tea and Carnival Delight

Save the date:

13th October our next Twilight Festival

First Reconciliation

On Friday, 25th March, 2022, 60 young children received the sacrament of First Reconciliation. Many were from St Patrick's Primary School but a good number were present from Mortlake Primary and other nearby schools. Three priests, led by Fr Tom conducted the service and certificates were handed at the conclusion. There were four instruction sessions prior to the sacrament and all were concluded successfully despite some issues with Covid absentees and isolations. The next First Sacrament at St Patrick's will be First Holy Communion which will be celebrated in June. Thanks to catechists Denise Norman, Sinead Kent and Bob Mayor for preparing the candidates to receive the sacrament.

The St Pat's Community sends their prayers and best wishes to these young people as they continue

their faith journey. It is also another example of the generosity of our Parish and its volunteers to have people such as Denise, Sinead and Bob who give so much time to make all this possible.



Maggie Mattson

Maggie is an enthusiastic and vibrant parishioner whose attendance at World Youth Day a few years ago was a very exciting and commendable achievement. She and her family have been parishioners at St Pat's since 2010, when they first moved to Concord. Maggie has been a member of the **St Pat's Parish Communications Ministry** using her skills with technology and social media to become a more actively involved member of the parish. Initially Maggie managed the parish website, but when the decision was made to start a Facebook and Instagram page, she jumped at the opportunity to manage these. Accessing the social pages as well as the weekly Parish Bulletin keeps many people connected if they can't always make Sunday Mass especially since the onset of the Covid pandemic. Items including something funny, something spiritual or just what's happening at the parish help to keep everyone connected.

Maggie is a teacher and despite the challenges encountered since the pandemic commenced in early 2020, she enjoys her work and finds seeing young people learn new skills and grow as individuals as well as gaining more independence, very rewarding.

Outside her school life, Maggie is a huge musical theatre lover. She once spent two months in New York City where she saw twelve shows. *Hamilton* has been another favourite, which Maggie was able to see in Sydney (several times). On the other hand, she loves sport and is a big West Tigers fan. She also enjoys American baseball and the Dodgers are her favourite team because her mother is originally from LA.

Maggie sees the future of St Pat's in a very positive way. She says: "I am loving the twilight events. It's so good to see so many people gathered. I love also how Father Tom brings a great sense of community to St Pat's; it's such a welcoming place. I hope we can continue to grow as a community especially when we put the pandemic behind us."

Thank you Maggie and we look forward to your next posts on Facebook and Instagram.



Don't forget to like us!
www.facebook.com/stpatsmortlake

St Patrick's Day

Our parish grounds were a sea of green on the evening of 17th March, as we celebrated the feast of our parish patron, St Patrick. The local community arrived ready to join in the festivities. Father Tom opened the proceedings, and there was plenty of entertainment that followed, including Irish singer Eddie Lalor, Irish dancing, the Breakfast Point Ukulele Band and some songs by our St Patrick's School children. There was plenty of food and drinks to choose from, including some traditional Irish fare, a well-stocked cake stall

as well as an "Irish" BBQ, which was operated by the excellent chefs from the Breakfast Point Men's Shed (who also built the outdoor stage). The kids were kept entertained with a treasure hunt, face painting, ball games and shopping at the wonderful market stalls. The evening was made possible by the very generous support of our parish volunteers as well as volunteers from our local school children — a very big thank you to all.





Vinnies Outreach Mass & Lunch

On 13th March 2022 St Patrick's Mortlake held an Outreach Mass and Lunch for many marginalised people from the local area. The lunch was hosted by Fr Tom and the Mortlake Conference of the St Vincent de Paul and was supported by a wonderful and enthusiastic group of volunteers from the Parish and beyond.

Special thanks go out to Natalie Quinn and her sisters Gihan, Jinor, Salange and Suzanne for providing and serving an amazing, restaurant-quality, Lebanese feast which was appreciated by both clients and volunteers. Gil Vella and Terry Munro cooked up a storm on the BBQ and wonderful pavlovas were provided by Wendy Ballesty and Maree Munro.



our amazing Parish for brightening up Sunday for the Vinnies clients and spreading some warmth to all the invitees. We're hoping that the wonderful welcome they received from everyone will encourage them to get out more frequently and feel more included in the local community.

It was a lovely event, with tables and chairs set up in the Presbytery and in the back garden. The sun shone and the rain stayed away until the final pack-up and the clients were delighted with the warm and inviting atmosphere.

It was heart-warming to see the efforts put in by so many to make the lunch a success. Thank you to



Congratulations and Blessings

Dianne and Walter Chestney celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Saturday night, 12 February, the actual day of their wedding in 1972. They received a blessing from Fr Tom at the 6pm Saturday Mass. Dianne and Walter have been parishioners of St Pat's for 49 years.



Nicky and Giacomo Pellegrino celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on the 6th March 2022. They also received a blessing from Fr Tom at the 10.30am Mass, the actual day of their anniversary.

Congratulations also to Nella & Angelo Tuttocuore celebrating 55 years of marriage.

ST PAT'S FIESTA





As usual it has been a very busy start to the year and we are looking forward to a very exciting 2022.

The St Patrick's Catholic Primary School community has been very generous in collecting items for the Jesuit Refugee Services Foodbank to support those who are less fortunate. We celebrated St Patrick's Day on the 17th of March which began with a virtual liturgy and then a day full of fun activities for students to learn about Saint Patrick and enjoy the day. Parents, students and staff alike enjoyed the fun and festivities at the Parish Twilight Session as we all celebrated St Patrick's day as a community. We are very happy to announce that our school cake stall raised over \$600 with the proceeds going towards helping to fund future Twilight Sessions.

On Monday 21st March we celebrated Harmony Day, to promote being accepting of others regardless of their race, religion, and social status.

The students will prepare for Holy Week by participating in a range of activities including understanding scripture through storytelling, art and prayer. We will celebrate Easter upon our return to Term 2 with a Liturgy of the Word led by Year 1 and an Easter Hat Parade following this.

We are also looking forward to supporting Australia's Biggest Morning Tea on Friday, 6th May. It's great for us all to be involved in such a caring and hardworking community.

Keep safe and well,

(On Behalf of Mandy Westgate, Principal
St Patrick's School)

h appy Birthday

Congratulations to parishioner **Felicia Bugeja** who celebrated her 90th birthday. In attendance with family, at the 6pm Saturday night Mass, 19th March, Felicia enjoyed the congregation singing "Happy Birthday" led by Fr Brian Egan.



Wishing you a
Peaceful and
Happy Easter

St Pat's Communication Team

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