



ST PATRICK'S PARISH
MORTLAKE



Parish Newsletter Summer 2022

Telephone: (02) 97431017

Email: parish@stpatsmortlake.org.au

www.stpatsmortlake.org.au

Message from Fr Tom

Thank You and Merry Christmas 2022

We again commence the celebration of Jesus Christ coming into our world, with Christmas 2022 approaching. It remains a message of Hope and Love. The message of a child born into great poverty, in the middle of profound political tensions and anxieties, into what was a frightfully 'dysfunctional family' (from a secular perspective). The situation and circumstances of the birth of Jesus gives me, with my own peculiar family, great Hope!

This child changes human history. Let us never under-estimate or gloss over how central the message of Jesus Christ is in shaping our world. But it is the 'messiness' of it all that appeals to me. Born into bewilderment, confusion and utter chaos, comes a calming influence that doesn't change the secular realities people face, but rather focuses their hearts and minds to higher, more important aspects of forgiveness, dignity and respect.

Let us always know that God speaks to us in our relationships in the ordinary and in the 'messiness'. I welcome all to our Christmas celebrations, whatever religion, faith or philosophy we might adhere.

You are all welcome at St Pat's, to come and experience the Hope and walk together in community.

I personally thank every one of you, as members of the St Pat's Parish community for your support, engagement and willingness to walk this journey together this year, seeking to follow Christ as our Light. It has been a big year indeed as we seek to emerge into a new normality and establish our community spirit again after it has been knocked about the last few years. We look forward to 2023 with profound joy and continue to confidently step out on our little peninsula community, having fun and loving one another.

Merry Christmas. Peace and Joy.

Fr Tom



ST PATRICK'S PARISH
MORTLAKE

ST PATRICK'S CHRISTMAS LITURGY TIMES

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS CAROLS & NATIVITY PLAY
15 DECEMBER 2022
6pm Thursday
If your child would like to participate
please contact Sinead on 0420 653 673
Steph on 0402 333 288 or E: steph.tse@gmail.com

CHRISTMAS MASS FOR SENIORS
23 DECEMBER 2022
10.30am Friday

CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES
24 DECEMBER 2022
6pm, 8pm & Midnight Saturday

CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES
25 DECEMBER 2022
7.30am, 9am & 10.30am Sunday



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 20th Edition of the St Pat's Newsletter

It's probably interesting and timely to look back over 20 editions and 5 years of the history of the Newsletter. From our first edition:

Welcome to this first edition of the 2017 Newsletter. At the Parish Assemblies earlier in the year, one of the key suggestions was better communication. Hence...this newsletter.

We've included a round-up of what's happening in the Parish and some interesting stories and quotes from our parishioners.

Over the 5 years our newsletter has attempted to keep you informed and engaged in the welcoming spirit of St Pat's Parish community, whilst farewelling Monsignor John Usher and welcoming Father Tom Stevens, and surviving COVID-19 together. Our 20 editions are available on the parish website <https://www.stpatsmortlake.org.au/publications/newsletters/> as a record of the major events and 'faces' of the many people who make St Pat's such a vibrant and friendly parish. COVID may have locked us down, but it pushed us into the digital age with emailed Weekly Bulletins, online Mass access, Fr Tom's You Tube presentations and QR codes to sign into the Church. These changes, together with the launch of *An Enduring Flame*, St Patrick's Mortlake, 1885-2020, written by Dr Damian Gleeson to celebrate the 125th anniversary of our parish can all be found in our back issues.

SO -What's Been Happening in 2022

Really, so much has been going on it's hard to summarise it but here goes:

- ✚ Three Fiestas plus one more to come - Christmas Markets – 8th December 2022 from 5-9pm
- ✚ Biggest Morning Tea 6th May
- ✚ Eucharistic Adoration
- ✚ Sacramental Program
- ✚ *The Mortlake Man Walks* with Father Tom setting the pace.
- ✚ Blessing of the Pets, feast of St Francis of Assisi, 9th October (our third !)
- ✚ Family Masses in association with St Patrick's Primary School
- ✚ Parish Hall Renovation and Appeal
- ✚ November Remembrance Masses



- ✚ Classical Concerts and other music recitals
- ✚ Pastoral Care Ministry Lunch, 30th November
- ✚ Parish Christmas Lunch – 14th December at Noon at Massey Park Golf Club.
- ✚ And more to come with the Christmas festivities and liturgies.



Our St Pat's statistics for 2022

This past year was a very busy one for the Parish. During 2022, we welcomed 109 people into the Church with the sacrament of Baptism. In 2021 there were 76 baptisms. We have a record among many Sydney parishes for the number of baptisms.

We celebrated 5 weddings in the parish during the year and we farewelled 16 of our friends into life everlasting.

Many thanks to our Parish Priest, Father Tom Stevens who has steered us through another year, with more celebrations than the previous two years. The contributions of volunteers among our parishioners and in every ministry remain so significantly invaluable as well as the very important contribution of our Parish Secretary, Brenda Johnston. We thank them all with heartfelt gratitude.

Annual Pets' Blessing

What a wonderful morning of barking and joy! We celebrated the feast day of St Francis of Assisi at Sunday Mass on 9th October by also celebrating our four legged loved ones. It was great to see the beautiful pets lining up for their blessing. George

was having his 3rd blessing! He really knows how to behave, too.

As Fr Tom said "if you don't know what the chaos theory is..."



B behind the scenes of our Twilight Events - Stephanie Parker

Reflecting on our Night At The Bazaar, it seems like such a short while ago that we were planning our first Twilight Event: the Fiesta. Fr Tom had asked me to be part of a new parish 'Twilight Event Committee' aimed at bringing together not only our parish but also our surrounding community.

Emerging from COVID lockdown and braving a wild storm just before commencement time, we had planned and hoped for 250 people to attend the Fiesta and we ended up with almost 1000 people attending our first event.

Our next event was held on St Patrick's Day and, learning from our Fiesta, we had one committee member managing each area and more volunteers on deck.

Everyone was in such great spirits as we celebrated with a band, Irish dancing, stalls, lots of shamrocks to be sure, to be sure, and everyone talking a load of Blarney.

For our third event of the year, we wanted to acknowledge the cultural diversity we have in the parish, the school and the local area and we decided on a middle eastern theme.

The title "**Night At The Bazaar**" seemed exotic, promised an evening of surprises and gave us a chance to really bring the Middle Eastern culture into focus with hot food, a market place and entertainment. We were lucky to have Nazha Touma, Bernadette, Catherine, and Elisabeth Hanna (along with Natalie Quinn and Solange Obeid) guide us through the traditions of their culture and help to provide contacts for not only the hot food but also our marketplace stalls. Solange very kindly created our design work and all the event signs for the night.

Our Twilight Event Committee is made up of Fr Tom, Roberto Zegarra, Grainne Nixon, Brenda Johnston, Frances Windon, Marie Piccin, Heidi Crawford, Steph Tse, Natalie Quinn, John Borger and me. We started out as just a handful of people and now we've grown to include a great diversity of



Stephanie Tse & Stephanie Parker (left to right)

cultural backgrounds and have a representation from not only our parish but also our wider community.

Throughout the year we've been very fortunate to have local businesses sponsor the event banners and donate goods and services for our festivals and raffles. It's a true example of taking a village to raise a child.

We are so grateful and know these events could not happen without the support of the Church, the parish, the school, and the community within which we live.

We are full-on with the planning for our "**Twilight Christmas Festival**" for 8 December. There will be live music, Christmas Carols, food stalls and Laneway market stalls. You can volunteer or just come along and join in the fun.

Our October event next year will be "**A Taste Of The Orient**" and we're really excited to draw inspiration from many Asian countries. It's an opportunity to understand another cultural component of our parish community and we can't wait to have dragon dancers, dumpling trucks and lots of hanging paper lanterns.

This year COVID and La Nina have kept us on our toes and so far, we've been very fortunate (some might say everyone's prayers were heard). We've put on three amazing Twilight Events and brought our larger community into our parish to embrace and experience different cultures and their traditions in a safe and friendly environment. As a result of these events, I've experienced renewed resilience and formed new friendships and incredible memories which I know will last a lifetime. I feel very blessed to be part of such an amazing parish and a creative Twilight Event Committee.



A few members of the Twilight Event Committee

Gale Street Mortlake and the Transfiguration!

Assailed by the smells of the barbecue, the sounds of Arabic music, the laughter of children and the young at heart, the sights of the colourful costumes of the dancers, the jostling of the happy crowds, one would be forgiven for wondering that a transformation had occurred at our usually quiet St Pat's and its surrounds. What a delight to be present at our October Twilight Festival, A Night at the Bazaar.

We feasted on kebabs dribbling with hummus, indulged in gozlemes dripping with cheese or huge plates of chips. The kids enjoyed having their faces painted with colourful designs and licked ice-creams, their reward after completing the passport puzzles. The various market stalls were an enticement for the bargain hunter until lured away by the sound of the

rhythmic Arabic music and the swaying of the hips of the dancers. When the solo belly dancer performed, she encouraged everyone to join in and so many did! What a wonderful experience. If this was not enough, then soon we were all stamping our feet in time to the traditional Lebanese orchestra (tablah /drums and other traditional instruments).

There was also the chance of winning one of the fantastic prizes in the raffle.

Our St Pat's Night at the Bazaar was a wonderful kaleidoscope of sensory experiences. Exhausted but happy we departed as the night grew darker, wondering what the Twilight Committee could come up with next time, in December.



Faces of St Pats – Amber Kelly- Ringrose

Amber Kelly-Ringrose is St Patrick's Parish's very own professional photographer! Many of us have seen her behind her lens at one of our wonderful community events. Moreover, she is actively doing so much more behind the scenes.

Amber was born in nearby Camperdown and is a 4th generation Australian with ancestry from Ireland. With her family and three brothers, she moved around Sydney a lot whilst growing up.

Now Amber, her husband and her 8-year-old daughter, 2 toy poodles, 3 cats, 2 ragdolls, their kittens, bees, and worms have settled in our beautiful community. Needless to say, Amber loves good company, nature and animals.



The hugely popular 'Biggest Morning Tea' is only one of the events Amber has helped to host.

It is her goal to raise more money every year for a great cause. The Parish choir is also a great source of joy for Amber.

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought on challenges for all of us in many unexpected ways.

However the fiestas held this year have helped bring the community back together and Amber would

like to do her part in making these events successful for everyone.

Amber is looking forward to the new Parish hall upgrade as well as many more events that will bring the community closer together.

We are glad you have joined our parish, Amber, and look forward to enjoying more of your skilful photography in the future.



Amber and her family have been St Patrick's parishioners for about three years. "From the moment my family began attending Mass at St Pat's Mortlake we were welcomed with open arms. I actually have never felt more included in any other parish before." She described Father Tom's magical sense of humour, which allows you to 'enjoy' the services in unexpected ways.

Father Tom has that unique ability to make you feel comfortable and his open attitude is incredibly humbling. Furthermore, all the other parishioners including the office staff are wonderful and our parish is a very warm parish that she and her family truly enjoy.

Amber has become very involved in our parish life from taking wonderful photographs at special events, capturing the Parish Parklands and garden and even snapping portraits of Father Tom. You might have noticed this on our Parish website and other various publications.

<https://www.stpatsmortlake.org.au>

<https://www.akrphotography.com.au/>

What's Been Happening

Golden Wedding Congratulations

Maree and Terry Munro on the occasion of their 50th Wedding Anniversary received a special blessing from Father Tom at the Vigil Mass, 22nd October.

Maree and Terry were married at All Hallows', Five Dock. Their family proudly attended and Father Tom invited their 11 grandchildren to join them at the altar.



Congratulations on Papal Award

On Friday 18th November, 2022, one of our St Pat's parishioners, Paul Zammit, was awarded a Papal Honour from Pope Francis — Knight of the Order of St Gregory the Great, for his distinguished services to the church and community over many years. Archbishop Fisher bestowed the award on behalf of the Pope. It was a magnificent day hearing the remarkable stories of 10 ordinary Catholics who were awarded various Papal Awards for the work in their local parishes and communities, sharing love and compassion in our society.

Blessings and Congratulations to Paul and his wife Rita. Well done, good and faithful servant. We are blessed to have you as an example of service in our parish. Peace and Joy, Fr Tom.



Left to right, Father Tom, Rita Zammit, Archbishop Anthony Fisher, Paul Zammit.

A Happy and Safe Christmas,
from the
Communications Ministry



Congratulations and Welcome to our RCIA Candidates

On 25th September at the 10.30am Sunday Mass we welcomed three women into our Catholic faith.

Jing Zheng, Renee Chong and Veronica Van Der Kooi were baptised and received the Sacraments of the Eucharist and Confirmation.

Their entry into the church follows several months of instruction from our parish RCIA team.

In addition to the three adult baptisms, Renee's two children, Audrey and Amelia, and Jing's son, Aidan were also baptised at the same Mass.

It was a wonderful occasion to be celebrated by their families and all our parishioners. Thank you to the dedicated RCIA team who volunteer so much of their time .



Vinnies Christmas Appeal Thank You

Our thanks go out to St Patrick's Parish and school for their generous support of the Annual St Vincent de Paul 2022 Christmas Appeal.

While we have been truly grateful for the donations of hams, puddings, cakes, bonbons and all things festive, we are especially delighted to receive the supermarket vouchers. As mentioned in the Bulletin, a significant number of our clients were impacted by an explosion in a building in Concord and have been moved out of their units to a local lodge with only a bedroom and share kitchen.

Obviously, they can't utilise the regular Christmas hampers. The vouchers mean they can visit the local supermarkets in Burwood and get food or whatever they need, as they need it, this Christmas.

Because of your generosity, local children will receive beautifully wrapped gifts to ensure a very happy Christmas. Donations in excess will be sent

to Catholic Care, the social services arm of the Archdiocese of Sydney who assists needy families across Sydney, and the Jesuit Refugee Service who support refugees and their families, a group that have been particularly hard hit with rising prices.

Thanks also to the St Patrick's community for their wonderful support for the Christmas envelope appeal and bucket collection on the weekend of 3-4 December. These financial contributions will allow our Mortlake Conference to support struggling individuals and families across this holiday season and into 2023.

As always, the members of the St Patrick's Mortlake Conference of the St Vincent de Paul are extremely grateful for the Parish and School assistance in 2022. Your help will allow the St Vincent de Paul to offer a dignified hand up to these families that will support them getting back on their feet.



Children's
NATIVITY PLAY &
CHRISTMAS CAROLS

THURSDAY 15TH DECEMBER 6.00PM
IN THE ST PAT'S PARISH CARPARK

OUR ANNUAL CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS LITURGY IS A SPECIAL EVENING FOR ALL TO CELEBRATE THE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS WITH OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY. COME AND ENJOY A CASUAL EVENING OF THE NATIVITY STORY COME-TO-LIFE PERFORMED BY OUR PARISH CHILDREN AND SINGING OF CHRISTMAS CAROLS.

IF YOUR CHILD WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE EVENT, PLEASE CONTACT SINEAD (0420 653 637) OR STEPH (0402 333 288) BY COB FRIDAY 18TH NOVEMBER. THANK YOU!





As we approach the end of school for 2022, we can truly be grateful for all the wonderful community, parish and school events and celebrations that have been able to happen as this year has progressed.

There have been swimming lessons and a carnival, the first in three years for our school, excursions, a showcase of the arts (music and dance performances) and an art show, family masses, liturgies and a great celebration of our wonderful grandparents.

This year we farewell our first little group of very tall Year 6 children, who arrived in Year 1 at our school back in 2017... (I think they are all taller than me!!). It has been wonderful to see them grow and mature into young people ready to go to high school for their next learning journey.

We have just welcomed our new kindergarten children for 2023. To see our new little learners arrive and be welcomed by our Year 5 and Year 6 children was indeed special and to see the older children looking after and interacting with them in their rooms so they felt safe and secure was a special moment to witness. It is a great privilege to be an educator in a Catholic School.

Amanda Westgate

Principal

St Patrick's School Mortlake



Get social with us....



www.stpatsmortlake.org.au



Search Facebook -
St Patrick's Mortlake



Search Instagram -
stpatsmortlake

