



ST PATRICK'S PARISH
MORTLAKE



Parish Newsletter Autumn 2023

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The Sense of the Sacred this Easter

As we approach Easter 2023, we reflect on the sense of the **Sacred** in our lives. What are those aspects in our lives that pertain to God, above the human condition that we can experience through our senses, to aspects of the heavenly as opposed to the earthly? Ultimately **Love** is the aspect that draws us to an understanding of God. Love of family, friends and love of God reaching out to us through our Sacraments.

I think our Catholic Tradition (and the Orthodox), through the Sacraments, predisposes us to a sense of the Sacred, the Absolute, those things which do not change. Our Sacraments are the outward physical signs of God's grace in the visible sign of the Sacraments we receive. Our Catholic understanding of the Sacred nature of the Sacraments is important to our identity.

Thankfully, our Church and our broader society, (which has in the past been largely moulded in thought through a mostly European mindset), is on a journey to a broader understanding of the Sacred in other cultures, especially for our First Nations peoples. The sense and understanding of the Sacred for Aboriginal people to our magnificent Australian land is real, in the same sense of our Catholic understanding of Sacred. For Aboriginal people, that Sacred lay in the Dreaming, pointing to an understanding of God. The two are not incompatible, for they seek to point us to God, the Absolute.

As Christians, the ultimate Graced moment of God in our lives, in our families in our relationships and through the Church, occurs at Easter when Christ suffers, dies, and rises from the dead. At this most Sacred time, we pray we can journey as a community of faith, ever seeking to have a greater understanding of the Sacred and its meaning for different cultures, seeking unity and understanding that we are all created and sustained by the same Creator Spirit. May we continue the Journey. Peace and Joy Easter 2023.

Fr Tom

Passion & Holy Week

Passion (Palm) Sunday Mass Times:

April 1 Saturday: 6:00pm Vigil

April 2 Sunday: 9:00 am, 10:30am, 6:00pm

Holy Thursday: April 6 at 7:30pm

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 7 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, please contact parish office: parish@stpatsmortlake.org.au

Good Friday: April 7 at 3:00pm

Commemoration of the Lord's Passion with Holy Communion

Saturday 8 April at 7:00pm

Easter Vigil - Festival of Light

Easter Sunday Masses: April 9

7:30am, 9:00am, 10:30am



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

f aces of St Pat's – the Yue Family

Kyoko and I have been a part of the Parish since 2009 when we moved into Breakfast Point.

Kyoko is Japanese and I am Chinese by descent. Lawrence is 9 and attended the St Patrick's Parish Catholic School from Kindergarten to Year 2. He moved to St Aloysius' College at the beginning of Year 3.

We are proud members of the Parish community which is an indispensable part of our life. Faith is what defines community and connects everyone. We are blessed to have such a loving, caring and inclusive parish at St Patrick's.

Like all other parishioners, we are trying to be involved in the parish life wherever we can. We usually attend the Mass every Saturday night. Lawrence has been an altar server since he was 8. He loves helping and making a contribution. But he is most pleased with having all the wonderful people around him at the Church, and enjoys having a chat with Father Tom occasionally.



Lawrence Yue with Lucy and accolate Kevin



Brandon, Lawrence and Kyoko Yue

The parish community at St Patrick's is one with a deep sense of commitment to God and to each other. We have been touched by everyone's warmth and generosity. Mass time is always a highlight of our weekend. A simple greeting means so much, and the spirit of the community never fades. Our favorite part is seeing everyone extending a sign of love and singing the hymns as one voice.

The Pandemic has only made it more important to have a supportive and inclusive community like ours reaching out and doing good. We are so grateful to be part of it.

Many thanks to Brandon, Kyoko and Lawrence. We at St Pat's are also grateful to have the Yue family as part of our parish.

Congratulations



Congratulations to Robyn and John Ballesty, celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary, 29th January 2023

Easter and the Holy Oils

On Maundy Thursday, Maureen and Kevin Casey will make their fourth pilgrimage from St Pat's, Mortlake to St Mary's Cathedral to collect the newly blessed and consecrated Holy Oils on behalf of our parish.

The Church makes use of three holy oils: the Oil of the Sick, the Oil of the Catechumens and the Holy Chrism Oil. The first two are blessed, and the bishop consecrates the third, during the annual Chrism Mass. Each has a distinctive purpose in the Church.

<https://www.simplycatholic.com/what-are-holy-oils/>

Attendance at this Mass at St Mary's is a special privilege and a reverent sensual treat. Prayer is offered

in many forms. The bells ring, the censers are swung by the altar servers and priests and the aromatic scent of incense explodes as the choir's voices rise up and the beautiful sounds of the big organ echoes throughout the vast cathedral. The procession of the attendants bearing big urns which hold the special oils is very majestic. After the blessing, representatives of the archdiocese parishes collect enough of the oils to take 'home'. Symbolically, our bishop is present at every ceremony or occasion these oils are used, for us, specifically, Baptism, Confirmation and the anointing of the sick.

World Day of Prayer

The World Day of Prayer is an international ecumenical Christian lay women's initiative. It is run under the motto "Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action," and is celebrated annually in over 170 countries on the first Friday in March. The movement aims to bring together women of various races, cultures and traditions in a yearly Common Day of Prayer, as well as in closer fellowship, understanding and action throughout the year.

This year, St. Patrick's hosted the World Day of Prayer in this area. The theme this year was TAIWAN. The prayer was led by the organising committee and St. Patrick's Liturgy Ministry and the Social Ministry provided hospitality. It was good to be able to celebrate with people of other faiths to pray with and for Taiwan.

Information about the World Day of Prayer can be found at: www.worlddayofprayeraustralia.org



World Day of Prayer Morning Tea



St Patrick's Day

What a fantastic way to celebrate our Parish's Patron Saint's Day.

The sun was shining and the parish grounds were a sea of green. Green hats, dresses, pants, shamrocks aplenty. People jostled and queued for the delicious food and other treats and everyone was in great spirits. It was surely great craic and grand. The music played, the choirs sang and the Irish dancers impressed us once more.

A HUGE THANK YOU to all our volunteers who came to help out, our amazing stall holders and entertainment providers! You were all incredible! Thank you for helping us make it such a wonderful evening for all!

Lá fhéile Pádraig sona dhuit!





Sacramental Program for 2023

The Parish Sacramental Program dates for 2023 are:

Reconciliation will be celebrated on Friday 24th March at 7pm. Instruction sessions will be held each Monday from 27th February up to and including 20th March, at 4:15pm in the Parish hall.

First Holy Communion will be offered on two Sundays – 11th June at 10:30am and on 18th June at 10:30am. Instruction sessions for First Holy Communion will be held on Mondays at 4:15pm from 15th May up to and including 5th June, and will be held

in the Parish hall.

Confirmation will be held on Thursday, 8th September in two sessions – one at 5:00pm and the second at 07:00 pm. Instruction sessions will be held on Mondays at 4:15pm from 14th August up to and including 4th September, and will be held in the Parish hall.

Please direct enquiries to parish@stpatsmortlake.org.au or Telephone (02)97431017.

Jesus Takes His Place in our Parish Garden, 17th March 2023



The blessing of the new Statue of Jesus & Jubilee Commemoration began with an introduction and welcome from Father Tom Stevens, Parish Priest. Special guests included Ms Sally Sitou, MP, member for Reid, the sculptor, Ms Linda Klarfeld and Mr Leslie Fernandes, who donated the statue. Councillors from Canada Bay Council

also attended: Ms Stephanie Di Pasqua, and Ms Julia Little. Many members of the parish were in attendance, including a contingent of students from St Patrick's School together with their Principal, Ms Amanda Westgate. Members of the Social Ministry provided the refreshments.

The statue was unveiled by Father Tom, Ms Linda Klarfeld, sculptor and benefactor, Mr Leslie Fernandes. Father Tom blessed the statue and unveiled the plaque in recognition of the Planting of Trees for the Queen's Jubilee Program.

It was very special to be part of such an impressive ceremony and hear from Linda Klarfeld her inspiration for sculpting such a beautiful, handsome Jesus who personifies love, warmth, comfort and caring. The sculpture is made of bronze and should last hundreds of years. Its



Sculptor, Linda Klarfeld and Donor, Leslie Fernandes with the Statue of Jesus

position beside the stone altar in the Parish Parklands is very significant as Jesus looks as if he's inviting us to come and sit with him. The quote on the plaque aptly sums up this idea of the welcoming neighbour.

'Come to me... I will give you rest'

Matthew 11:28).

After the blessing, the children of St Pat's school took their place around Jesus, just as they would have if he had spoken to them in his time.

Hearing the story of Mr Leslie Fernandes, the benefactor, who donated the statue in honour of his wife, Cynthia, was also very moving.

Ms Sally Sitou, MP, also gave a speech which was full of praise for our parish and its support of community, especially during the early stages of the COVID pandemic.

Many thanks to everyone who helped in so many ways. Another special occasion for St Pat's.



Ann and Bill Johnston with sculptor, Linda Klarfeld

What's Been Happening?

Once again, since our last newsletter, our parish has been a very Happening Place. We are so fortunate to belong to such a vibrant, busy parish where there are so many opportunities to experience spiritual as well as social sustenance.

- ✠ From Lunar New Year, Pancakes on Shrove Tuesday to our big St Pat's Festival on our patron's feast day, we celebrate it. Thanks to Father Tom, Brenda and everyone who has contributed in so many ways.
- ✠ Many thanks to the loyal group of people responsible for the beautiful flower arrangement on our altars at St Pat's. A great team, previously led by Marie Cramsie who has now handed over the reins to Philomena Turley after more than 16 - 18 years.



Marie Cramsie



Philomena Turley

- ✠ The Social Ministry has been very busy these last few months. In December, 60 parishioners celebrated the annual St. Patrick's Christmas Luncheon. It was held at Massey Park Golf Club and monies raised from the very generous raffle went towards the hall renovations. A very big



Congratulations Carmen Holley celebrating 5 years as a Catechist



Bingo Group, Valentine's Day

thank you to Anne Manenti for all her work with this function.

- ✠ Blessing of our 12 Catechists, at the beginning of the 2023 school year, who give lessons to the Catholic students at Mortlake Public School.
- ✠ Valentine's Day was celebrated with the Bingo Group at The Family Brasserie, Massey Park. All enjoyed a delicious "seniors' special" lunch. If you would like to join us at Bingo on a Monday please get in touch with Ann Manenti by emailing parish@stpatsmortlake.org.au or 97431017. Everyone is welcome.
- ✠ March was a busy month as well. Friday 10th March was World Day of Prayer – 10.30am Mass, followed by light refreshments. Friday 17th March – 9.30am Blessing of the new Sculpture and Jubilee Commemoration Plantings. Light refreshments also following. Later in the year, there's the Hospitality Mass and Morning Tea for Carers. Thanks to Frances Windon and members of this important ministry.
- ✠ Baptismal Anniversary Masses and Morning Tea on the Green, hosted by the various ministries.
- ✠ Adoration, every Wednesday morning, 8.25 - 8.50am.
- ✠ Stations of the Cross every Friday in Lent.
- ✠ Acknowledgement and blessings to all those celebrating a 'big Wedding Anniversary'.
- ✠ Continuing The Man Walk every Wednesday, with Father Tom.
- ✠ Parish Hall Renovations and Buy a Brick appeal.
- ✠ Our new Bronze Statue Blessing & Commemoration on the Parish Green at 9.30am on St Patrick's Day, Friday, 17th March
- ✠ St Patrick's Day Festival.
- ✠ Social Justice Evening, 20th March, for the purpose of discussing how our parish can engage in meaningful social justice initiatives.



It has been a very busy and enjoyable start to the new school year, moreover, it has also been wonderful to return to all our activities without restrictions this year. We have welcomed in a new cohort of beautiful kindergarten children who have engaged in school life very quickly with smiles on their faces.

We have had visitors from AFL and WestTigers and children have participated in many different sporting events and excursions already. We had a Welcome to School Opening Mass; Family Masses have begun and recently Ash Wednesday Liturgies.

Our oldest members of the school went on an inner city pilgrimage and we are just beginning to get involved for the first time with Sydney Catholic Schools' Pope Francis awards. We look forward to many special combined Masses and liturgies as well as sharing in the different parish events such as the St Patrick's Festival.

We are all looking forward to a really positive year ahead.

Amanda Westgate,
Principal



REJOICE!

Christ has risen

Wishing you a Peaceful and
Happy Easter

from the

St Pat's Communication Team



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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.