



ST PATRICK'S PARISH
MORTLAKE



Parish Newsletter Winter 2023

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Welcome Home Father Tom

Father Tom's recent pilgrimage was to the Holy Land and other places of significance for Australian Marists. He said the highlight was definitely visiting the Holy Land, the birthplace of Catholicism.



Mass information

Saturday Vigil: 6:00pm

Sunday Mass: 9:00am
10:30am
6:00pm

Weekday Services:

Mass: 8:00am Tuesday - Friday

Communion Services:

8:00am Monday
8:00am Saturday

Calling all creative minds

We're on a mission to find the perfect name for our quarterly newsletter and we want your input.

Share your most clever and catchy ideas with us and help us give our publication a new identity that reflects our community spirit.

Share your best ideas with us and you could be the lucky winner of a great prize. Follow the link: <https://www.stpatsmortlake.org.au/name-the-new-newsletter/> or email us at newnamestpats@gmail.com



SCAN ME

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.

Lest We Forget

A well-attended, memorable ANZAC day Communion Service was held at St Patrick's on Tuesday 25th April.

Kevin Nelson-Smith led the moving Service following the booklets developed by Geoff Duggan.



Katherine Azjan decorated the church and handed out commemorative rosemary buttonholes she made. Rosemary is an aromatic herb that grows wild on the Gallipoli peninsula where the original Anzacs served during World War 1 and is an ancient symbol of fidelity and remembrance.



A haunting rendition of the Last Post and Reveille was performed by Jayden Tse on the trumpet. Many thanks go out to all who contributed to such a beautiful and moving ceremony.



Faces of St Pats – Denise and Len Norman

Denise and Len would be very familiar faces to many parishioners at St Pat's, young and old. Parishioners of St Pat's for over 22 years, they have been very active assisting in various ministries. They have had the privilege of having Fr Peter Morrissey, Msgr John Usher and Fr Tom Stevens as Parish Priests in this time. For them, the feeling of community at St Pat's is very strong, and it is akin to being considered an extended family.



Before retiring, both Denise and Len have had interesting careers, Len working for IBM and Denise's last job was to set up the Australasian Reservation Centre for Holiday Inn in Sydney and then the Asia Pacific Reservation Centre in Singapore. Their family life is now very busy, with nine great grandchildren including twins and another on the way.

Denise has been a member of the Social Ministry, a catechist, as well as being involved in the RCIA and sacramental programs of the Parish. Len has also assisted in many ways, especially helping with the collections and reading at Mass.

Denise first became involved in the Parish by driving various parishioners to Mass on Sundays. Next was Bingo and assisting Anne Manenti with this wonderful community initiative and she is now "fluent" in Italian from zero to nine. In her other role in Faith Education, Denise says that assisting Bob Mayor with the training of the children for the sacraments and more recently assisting him in instructing adults who want to join the Catholic faith has been so rewarding. She would encourage others to think about becoming involved in this Ministry too.

Len and the Bus

Last year, Len was interviewed on the ABC News when it was announced that the City of Parramatta was acknowledging his great grandmother, Rosie

Bint Broheen, by displaying her name, one of just two, on the side of a gleaming eight-metre-tall aluminium replica of a vintage bus. The choice to add Rosie's name to the artwork celebrates the importance of her contribution to the transcultural exchange story of the City of Parramatta.

Created by Western Sydney artists Claire Healy and Sean Cordeiro, the bus is now permanently parked in Parramatta Square.

<https://www.parranews.com.au/news/eels-inspired-artwork-unveiled-in-the-heart-of-parramatta/>

Len's great-grandmother, Rosie Bint Broheen, migrated to Sydney in the late 1890s, after a three-month voyage, from her village of Kfarsghab in Lebanon, leaving her husband and children in the care of the village in a country experiencing political turmoil.

The aim was to establish a better life enabling the family to follow her. When she reached Australia, a custom's officer 'changed' her name, Rosie Bint Broheen, which means "daughter of the Abraham family" into Rosie O'Brien. She was granted a hawker's licence and eventually became one of the first Lebanese women to purchase property in Parramatta in 1922.

Len's story celebrates another rich strand of Australia's multicultural history and now we at St Pat's are further enriched by that connection.

When asked about the future of St Pat's, Denise and Len replied:

'Whilst COVID certainly hit us hard like the rest of the community, we feel the patronage of St Pat's is gaining strength even as we speak. We have been surprised on several occasions to discover attendance by many of our friends at our new 10:30 am Mass. They report the convenience of the timing and the feeling of welcome that has impressed them.'

'The future of our parish is safe in the hands of the young families involved in our new school. Encouragement from both the parish and the school is working towards a strong community. We are delighted to be part of the St Pat's community and strongly recognise the feeling of belonging.'



We at St Pat's thank you, Len and Denise, for your contribution to our Parish which has been very generous and unstinting over these many years.

Laudate Si St Pat's

The Archdiocese of Sydney has made a toolkit available for parish groups who wish to get active around Care of Creation.

Launching the kit at St Patrick's Mortlake on Sunday, May 21, Justice and Peace Promoter Fr Peter Smith said the kit helps us reflect on how we can be a part of Pope Francis's call for us to walk gently on this planet.

"The kit offers practical ways that we as individuals, as families, as parishes, as schools, can engage with Pope Francis's encyclical, the ways we can, in a sense, be co-creators with God of this planet."

The launch event was attended by parishioners from around the Archdiocese. Attendees each received a flowering plant to take back and plant in their home or parish, each including a QR code linking to the kit, which is digital-only to provide an example of using fewer resources.

Social Justice Facilitator Dr Michael Walker said, *"As these plants are taken back and take root in our home communities, hopefully the ideas set out in our new kit will also take root around the Archdiocese"*.

"The Church has given environmental concern a new focus with the Laudato Si' Action Platform. It stands in a long tradition, though, that can be found in the writings of the Saints and in the Hebrew Scriptures."

St Patrick's parishioner Maureen Casey said, *"I support Pope Francis' encyclical, Laudate Si, and yesterday's celebration of Mass at St Patrick's Mortlake enhanced the importance of each parish working actively to support the care of all creation."*

"It was a significant ceremony which marked the



the introduction of 'the Care of Creation' guide for Parish Groups. The symbol of the distribution of the seedlings was a practical demonstration of how we could begin.

"It was a special privilege to have been part of this occasion. I hope our parishes are successful in continuing this good work."

The kit is available at:

<https://justiceandpeace.org.au/laudato-si-kit/>

With thanks to The Catholic Weekly and Giovanni Portelli Photography.

It's time to party!

Friday 28 July, 6pm-9pm

The Twilight Social Group is happy to present an evening of 50's and 60's music and dancing!

Hosted in our new hall, it will be transformed into the 50's and 60's era!

Come get your groove on, on the dance floor and meet some new friends over food and drinks!

All are Welcome!



YOUTH Space

Easter with the Children's Liturgy Group

During Lent, in Children's Liturgy, we talked about what Jesus went through from the first day of Lent until he died on the cross on Good Friday and came back to life on Easter Sunday.

Before Lent started, it was Shrove Tuesday. On the Sunday before Shrove Tuesday, the Children's Liturgy group organised pancakes for us to eat with the Parish after Mass. They were delicious, especially with maple syrup!

On Good Friday, the Children's Liturgy group organised the Stations of the Cross for the children. Everyone came to remember what happened before Jesus died on the cross, but it was raining so hard that we had to evacuate into the church. Others stayed outside to fill containers with water for Fr Tom to bless.

On Easter Sunday, we celebrated Jesus rising from the dead and we got to eat Easter Eggs. We then went to celebrate with our families and friends.

Children's Liturgy is a fun way to learn about the bible stories. We read from the bible, play games and do arts and crafts. Everyone is welcome!

Ashley Chow, aged 7.5



St Vincent de Paul Annual Winter Appeal

Winter has arrived! As we turn on the heaters and electric blankets, we ask you to take a moment to consider those who are struggling with essentials at this time of year. Energy for heating and cooking is expensive, the cost of living is rising and many in our community are severely stressed at the moment. Older women have been recognised as the fastest-growing group of homeless people in Australia in recent years, and they are a particular focus for this year's appeal.

St Patrick's Parish St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal will be held on 8-9 July 2023

There are many ways to donate:

- ✠ envelopes will be on the seats in the church over the weekend for cash donations or credit card details
- ✠ bucket collections will be at the doors
- ✠ smart terminals will be available
- ✠ use the QR code on the flyer

All donations over \$2.00 are tax deductible and 100% of the money collected will go towards assisting those in need.

St Patrick's is well known for its generosity and we thank you in advance for supporting those in significant need this winter.



Donate today to provide immediate support and long-term assistance for women who are facing homelessness.

SCAN THE QR CODE TO DONATE.



Add your text here....

DONATE TO THE VINNIES WINTER APPEAL TODAY.
Please visit vinnies.org.au or call 13 18 12

St Vincent de Paul Society
your world.

First Holy Communion

A wonderful total of 64 young candidates have completed their instruction to receive their First Holy Communion at two 10:30 am services on Sundays the 11th and 18th of June. This is the highest number we have ever had with most of the candidates coming from St Patrick's Primary School and Mortlake Primary School. The families of the candidates are invited to a special thanksgiving Mass with refreshments the following Sunday 25th June also at the 10:30 am Mass.

The instruction and preparation for the Sacrament was conducted by members of our Catechist team and a big thank you to them.



Whilst Father Tom was on Pilgrimage

The Parishioners of St Pat's were very grateful that Father Geoffrey Plant was able to come as a relieving priest while Father Tom was on pilgrimage in the Holy Land and elsewhere. We benefited from Father saying the usual four Masses every weekend and listening to his learned homilies.

It was reassuring to hear that Father Geoffrey enjoyed his experience with us and the feeling was certainly mutual. When asked his impressions of St Pat's, Father Geoffrey was very enthusiastic in his response. He sees our parish as a very vibrant, dynamic one with many people engaged in fulfilling many important ministries.

'Since I retired over a year ago I have been relieving in many different parishes. It seems to me that many

parishes have been slow in recovering from COVID, whereas St Pat's seems to have recovered. So, in my opinion, Father Tom is doing a great job here. Indeed, I like it so much I think I'll be encouraging Father Tom to make more pilgrimages so I can come back and visit you.'

Congratulations Father Geoffrey on celebrating your 51 years as a priest on 13 May. We hope too that we will have you visit us again. Many thanks for your attendance at St Pat's and the opportunity for us to hear your very special homilies. Father Geoffrey's homilies may be heard each week on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/GeoffreyPlant2066>

Or type **Father Geoffrey Plant homilies** into your browser.



What's Been Happening?

Our 22nd Newsletter reports more interesting events at St Pat's, spiritual as well as social. From Family Masses, First Sacraments, Children's Liturgies, it's all happening. Then there're the Man Walks, play groups, concerts and of course Bingo.

Keep the date for these upcoming events:

- ✠ 12 July, Parish Social Lunch at Massey Park Golf Club.
- ✠ 28 July, Twilight Rock n Roll Night in the newly refurbished Parish Hall.
- ✠ 20 October, Twilight Event at St Pat's: "A Taste of the Orient".

A vibrant, stylized illustration for the 'A Taste of the Orient' event. The background features a red and yellow color scheme with silhouettes of traditional Chinese architecture, including a pagoda and a bridge. Large, glowing orange and pink lanterns hang from the top. In the foreground, a person is riding a red bicycle, and another person is seated in a red rickshaw. The text 'A TASTE OF THE ORIENT' is prominently displayed in a white, serif font on a dark red banner, with 'FRIDAY 20TH OCTOBER 2023 5PM TO 8PM' written below it in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. The event details are listed in a white, sans-serif font: 'Hot Food • Stalls • Raffle' and 'Kids Zone • Live Entertainment'. The location is 'HOSTED ON PARISH GROUNDS ST PATRICKS PARISH, 33 GALE ST MORTLAKE'. The St Patrick's Parish Mortlake logo is at the bottom left. Contact information for hosting a stall and volunteering is at the bottom right.

A TASTE OF THE ORIENT
FRIDAY 20TH OCTOBER 2023 5PM TO 8PM

Hot Food • Stalls • Raffle
Kids Zone • Live Entertainment

HOSTED ON PARISH GROUNDS
ST PATRICKS PARISH,
33 GALE ST MORTLAKE

If you would like to: Host a stall, please email
twilight@stpatmortlake.org.au. To volunteer, please email
volunteers@stpatmortlake.org.au

Congratulations

Trinity Sunday Baptism

Congratulations to Xanthia who was baptised during the Trinity Sunday Vigil Mass at 6pm at St Pat's. Xanthia was proudly attended by her parents, loving godmothers and other family members. Parishioners attending the Mass joyfully took part in the celebrations.



Well, it certainly has been a very busy return to school this term. We were involved in many events in the first few days of term including Anzac Day, our Easter Liturgy and an Easter Hat parade, followed soon afterwards by our Mothers' Day Breakfast and Liturgy.

The children always love to get involved, show their talents and enjoy life and school to the fullest. Their enthusiasm needs to be acknowledged and celebrated as it brings joy to all our lives.

The children have also been involved in Sydney Catholic Schools Eisteddfod where we have had Senior and Junior Dance ensembles, individual dance performances, Drama ensembles as well as Showcase Choir and Choir groups and finally individual instrument performances.



It is just amazing to see the involvement of so many children highlighting their talents. We are also participating in family masses and look forward to sharing the Sacrament of First Eucharist not only with our students, but many from all our neighbouring schools. It is such a special Sacrament and just such a special time in the Parish.



This term I have also completed our enrolment intake for 2024, with another group of 64 students coming forward for Kindergarten and a few others who will be joining different grades.



Finally the term will come to a close after we all wear our pyjamas to raise funds for homeless people and families as our dads with their children camp out at our Camp Cooida, on those very famous Parish Parklands. I am sure the sprinklers won't come on at midnight either!!

Amanda Westgate
Principal