



ST PATRICK'S PARISH
MORTLAKE



Parish Newsletter Spring 2023

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Message from Father Tom

The Parable of the Wheat and the Weeds affirm that God is good! This is an extract from Father Tom's homily the weekend of 23 July 2023.

At Harvest time we need to be patient awaiting a result. We should not prejudge people on face value — the results/ the fruits of our crops/ our lives will be revealed at the time of harvest.

Goodness and evil have an opportunity to live in each of us — for this reason we need to be vigilant and also to be proactive in doing good. The Church is not a place for the perfect, it is a home for the Saint and Sinner alike: the dandelion, weeds and the wheat. I personally find that somewhat consoling.

This past week of July we have lost four long standing parishioners — a great loss for their families and for our parish. It is a great privilege of ministry to journey with people and see goodness in our world, in our parish.

People ask "WHERE IS GOD"? God is present in our relationships lived well — in Otto Petrin's love of his wife and family and service in volunteering in this community over many years. In Dr Peter Coyne's service as a devoted family man and as a dedicated doctor to countless families in the area also over many years. In Elvira Grego's commitment to family and gentle presence pointing the way of charity and virtue. To 101 year-old Gladdie Northey's wise counsel and practical living faith, based not in unrealistic piety but in reality — from the early days of the gas works years ago here at Mortlake and in her experiencing so many changes over many years.



Otto Petrin



Dr Peter Coyne

We all have the option of Good or Evil — but to answer the question "WHERE IS GOD". We at St Pat's are so blessed to see the wheat flourish here. This last week of losses gives us time to reflect and look at these GOOD PEOPLE. We pray the harvest of the wheat for these people will now be great in God's gentle care and the challenge for us here in this parish here and now is to likewise choose the wheat and not the weeds. May they rest in peace.



Gladdie Northey



Elvira Grego

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 & Saturday

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.

Faces of St Pats – Lauraine and Michael Muir

We at St Pat's benefit in so many ways from the talents and generosity of so many of our parishioners. This issue of our newsletter pays tribute to the leader of the Music Ministry, Lauraine and her very supportive husband, Michael. Many thanks to Lauraine and Michael for your contributions to our parish.

Lauraine's story

My home town is Seremban, Malaysia, and I attended Holy Infant Jesus Convent which was run by Irish nuns. They were strict but great educators. After completing the HSC, I went to London and qualified as a Chartered Accountant. I moved to Sydney in 1979 to join my sister and be geographically closer to my parents who lived in Malaysia. Michael, on the other hand, is a true blue local who grew up in Cammeray and attended Marist, North Sydney. I met Michael on one of my first audit assignments and as the saying goes, the rest is history.

We have been married 42 years, have two daughters Rachel and Naomi, and four grandchildren ranging from 8 years to 18 months.

Michael and I downsized to Breakfast Point when our daughters finished school almost twenty years ago. We noticed the quaint coloured 'Pink' Church (St Pat's colour pre-renovation) when we were checking out the area not realising it would become our local parish. What we found was a warm and welcoming community led by an engaging, easygoing Parish Priest, Monsignor John Usher. There was immediate rapport between the two men when they discovered their shared interest in all-things footy and the Tigers, in particular.

Music has always been a big part of my life and I was trained in classical piano from an early age. There was a hiatus of several years when work and motherhood got in the way but I always knew I would revert to it. St Pat's gave me the opportunity to rediscover my musical background for which I am very grateful.



When I joined the Music Ministry in 2010, there were two other members, Howard Brown who played guitar and the late organist, Audrey Clarke. There was a push to expand the ministry and fortunately Anita Smith and the Kent sisters, Jane and Kate, volunteered at the same time. With no prior experience, it was a steep learning curve getting my head around liturgical hymn selections (process of selecting hymns appropriate to mass readings). No doubt some of my earlier hymn choices and contemporary arrangements raised a few eyebrows! Looking back, I am most thankful to Mons for his support, from the initial purchase of the keyboard nicknamed Paddy, to giving us latitude with hymn choices and arrangements. He was always encouraging, never critical.

Over the years we have had members come and go but there is a core group who are thoroughly committed and turn up week after week (shout out to Bob, Margaret, Louise, Howard & En Lai). Recently we welcomed a few newcomers and the Youth Strings Group who play once a month. The aim of the Music Group is to provide music at every Mass and if we had more volunteers, whether singers or musicians, it would certainly help to share the load around. No prior experience is necessary and new members are given support until they are Mass ready.

It has been very fulfilling to be involved in the music liturgy at St Pat's, meeting unsung heroes who give so much, forging friendships, watching younger members grow and flourish ('young' Jane is now a fully fledged soprano) and participating in numerous liturgies. The beauty of volunteering at St Pat's, thanks to Father Tom and his predecessor Mons John, is that one is given creative licence as long as the job gets done. I have learnt so much researching music, preparing liturgies and even arranging parts for flute and strings instruments, something I had never done before.

There have been many highlights but I can't go past the first 'gig' on Sunday 17 Oct 2010, which was the Canonisation of St Mary MacKillop, an auspicious



day. Another highlight was preparing the music program and playing at Fr Tom's first Mass at St Pat's the day after his Ordination. That was a very special event and a once in a lifetime experience. My favourite liturgy is the series of Masses held in November remembering lost babies/children, loved ones who have taken their lives and the marginalised. Hosted by St Pat's in conjunction with Catholic Cemeteries and organised by Sinead Kent, these liturgies are poignant and particularly beautiful.

Going forward, I believe that the Music Ministry can only grow stronger as there is so much untapped and emerging talent in our parish school and community.

Michael and I feel so privileged to be part of St Pat's and can't think of another more vibrant, inclusive and progressive parish that has become the heart of Mortlake.



St Vincent de Paul Annual Winter Appeal Thank You

Thank you so much to the wonderful St Patrick's Parish community for your very generous response to the Vinnies Winter Appeal in July. At the four Masses over the weekend, people had the opportunity to donate through a bucket collection, envelopes, a smart terminal and a QR Code, raising a total of \$3264.75.

With the cost of living continuing to rise, these much-needed funds are gratefully received and go directly

towards assisting those experiencing severe financial distress. Older women have been recognised as the fastest-growing group of homeless people in Australia in recent years, and they have been a particular focus for this year's appeal. With your help, Vinnies continues to provide support and dignity to those in need by offering a 'hand up, not just a hand out'.

Youth Strings Group

The St Patrick's Catholic Church Youth Strings Group was established in April this year and is a group of like minded school age kids who have an interest in music and have played a string instrument for a minimum of 2 years.

We have been playing for St Pat's on the last Sunday of every month at the 9:00 am Mass.

Currently we have 3 violinists (Jasmin, Ash and Antonia) and 3 cellists (Maya, Anabel and me - Max) in the group, from the age of 6 to 17 and at different grade levels.

God has given us the gift of music, and this is an opportunity for us to share our musical passion with the parish community whilst we praise and worship our Father.

I have been playing the cello for the past 2.5 years and love playing for the parish community. I have grown up in the Parish listening to the musicians play every week at Mass and now is my chance to give back to our Church.

It has been a great experience playing in an ensemble



and we hope that you are enjoying listening to us!

Max Carroll (age 11)

If your child has a love for music, can read music notation, has been playing for at least 2 years and would like to join our group, we would love to hear from you! If you or someone you know would like to assist/lead the group, please reach out for further information! We look forward to being able to share our love of music with the St Pat's Parish community! Please contact Jenni Chan (jenni.chan@gmail.com) for more information.

Parish Hall

The Blessing of the Refurbished Dean Callaghan McCarthy Hall

On Sunday 13th August, 2023 Father Tom blessed our renovated Parish Hall after the 10.30am Mass. In his address to parishioners and visitors Father gave a very interesting and informative history of the hall.

The renovations would not have been possible without the generosity of Parishioners, the St Pat's Primary School Community, Sydney Catholic Schools and a grant from the NSW Government. Thanks to Leslie Fernandes, John and Jenni Scarfe, Leonie Young and all parishioners for your generous donations to the project.

"The renovations have opened up the hall and turned it into a lovely venue for the parishioners and the wider community. The new kitchen is now a great area to work in and makes catering so much easier and allows for all our wonderful volunteers to work in this lovely large area. Approximately 80 people attended and enjoyed looking over the new hall," Frances Windon from the Social Committee reported.

Special thanks to our Social Committee who arranged a wonderful morning tea enjoyed by all. Further information about the hall can be found in our parish history, *An Enduring Flame*, Damian Gleeson.



What's Been Happening at St Pat's

Everybody's Welcome

In the last three months, there have been baptisms, weddings, confirmations and funerals. There have been lots of celebrations, some which you can read about in this newsletter as well as the Weekly Parish Bulletins. We danced, sang, dined, walked, played Bingo, made paper cranes, rejoiced, reached out to others, served and cleaned, laughed and cried as well as prayed. We shared St Pat's hospitality and made everyone welcome, always putting our Christian faith into action.

Some of the special events:

✠ July Parish Lunch at Massey Park, 12th July.

- ✠ Fifties night in the newly refurbished Parish Hall, 28th July.
- ✠ Blessing of Parish Hall and re-opening, 13th August.
- ✠ Outreach Lunch with David's Place, 20th August
- ✠ Sacrament of Confirmation and visit from Archbishop Anthony Fisher, 7th September.
- ✠ Let's Talk About Companionship, 12th September.
- ✠ Biggest Morning Tea, 15th September at 9.00-10.30am.
- ✠ Classical Concert, Friday 22nd September 7.00pm
- ✠ A Taste of the Orient, 20th October.



Congratulations on the recent Confirmation of Lucy Anderson who is an Altar Server at St Pat's Vigil Mass here photographed with her sister Ava and her mum Anna. Archbishop Anthony Fisher and Father Tom officiated at the Confirmation Ceremony with 39 being confirmed.



Danielle Ottaway and Dylan Fish celebrated their marriage recently at St Pat's. Danielle's mother Maryellen is a parishioner at St Pat's.



Paula Patterson and family came together for Mass on the occasion of the first anniversary of Bill.



Baptism Kenneth and Kaiden Kee

Let's Play: St Pat's Play Group

It's exciting to see and hear the little ones playing in the Parish hall on Fridays. The toddlers and preschoolers are accompanied by proud mums and dads as well as grandparents. The playgroup is supervised by volunteers Angela LaSpina and Sonia Falgiatori. Lots of activities are prepared for the kids: painting, playing musical instruments, making patterns with play dough, building with lego to name just a few. The parents and grandparents are pleased to be able to attend, to enjoy a cuppa with one another and watch their little ones play happily in the bright sunny space in the hall. Another wonderful St Pat's Parish initiative, made possible by the generous contributions of our volunteers.



Details:

- ✦ For all babies and children 0-5 years!
- ✦ The Playgroup is a great place for parents and carers with young ones to chat over a tea/coffee whilst the little ones play.
- ✦ 9.15-10.30am, during the school terms.
- ✦ Location: Parish Hall (33 Gale street, Mortlake)
- ✦ Everyone is welcome!

For more details, please reach out to parish@stpatmortlake.org.au or come along and see.





ST PAT'S

PLAYGROUP

For all babies and children 0-5 years!

The Playgroup is a great place for parents and carers with young ones to chat over a tea/coffee whilst the little ones play!

Re-opens on Friday (16 June 2023)
9.15-10.30am, during the school terms.
 Location: Parish Hall (33 Gale street, Mortlake)

Everyone is welcome!
 See you there!

For details, please reach out to parish@stpatmortlake.org.au

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L et's Rock at St Pat's

What better way to end the week (and for some, bring back very fond memories!) than to eat, chat and jive the night away! On Friday 28th July, St Pat's hosted our first Twilight Social Event- a 50s and 60s Dance!

Guests were transported back to the 50s and 60s era with our new Parish Hall decked out with posters and records from the time and a jukebox for a finishing touch that played old favourites all evening!

We were well fed by our friends from Fritz's Wiener and American BBQ Kitchen and hydrated by Eastcoast Juices' generous donation.

Following the drawing of a lucky door prize for 2x Intro Dance packs generously donated by the Inner West Arthur Murray Dance Studio, guests danced the night away until the Jukebox played its last tune at 9pm.

Special thanks also to the following businesses for their support in making it such a fun evening for everyone who attended: Paper Boy cafe, JukeBox Australia, Smith & Smith Electrical Services and Old King Cole Antiques.

A huge thank you to Steph Parker for sparking the idea and making it happen! As well as a special thank you to the Parish Social Committee and everyone who helped out with the event.

Our next Twilight Event "A Taste of the Orient" is on Friday 20th October 5pm to 8pm. See you there!"

Stephanie Tse



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 PATRICK'S 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

There have been many happenings at the school over the last few months. Camp Cooida on the Parish Parklands was a special event, and we do thank the Parish and Father Tom for allowing this to happen. The dads and their children always have a meaningful and fun time at these camps.

We have had more excursions, fundraising, Family Masses and other Masses and liturgies for different year groups. Father Tom always manages to welcome and involve the children in such a special way.

We also have an acting Religious Education Coordinator, Michael Whitfield, organising the family Masses this term as well as quite a lot of planning for Religious Education, with a new Religious Education syllabus being implemented.

Our amazing school leaders and our senior classes have led the school in many different ways: carefully looking after our younger students, raising awareness of our special values of kindness and respect and encouraging our colour houses to raise money. They look forward to sending a donation to help with the great work our local St. Vincent de Paul group does across our community.



"Term 3 has certainly been yet another busy term for St Patrick's, showcasing the wide variety of learning, extra curricular activities and many talents of the students and staff. For parishioners of St Pat's, it's edifying to see the younger generation sharing in many of the parish Masses, liturgies and social events. Many thanks to staff, parents and students for your visible, positive contributions to our parish."

Amanda Westgate
Principal



Finally we celebrated Father's Day in early September as we acknowledged the wonderful men in the children's lives, and we looked forward to a number of our students receiving their Confirmation in September.

