

25 DECEMBER 2023
THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD
YEAR B

BULLETIN



Welcome to St Patrick's Mortlake Parish



MESSAGE FROM FR TOM

BREAD, FOOD, LIFE – BETHLEHEM & CHRISTMAS

I find the advertising for food products over the Christmas period astounding. In between supermarket chains, Nigella Lawson, Curtis Stone and Jamie Oliver cooking shows advising us how to cook 'the perfect turkey', one could easily think that 25 December was a Michelin Star Food Festival!!

Of course, we know Christmas is much, much deeper. Christmas goes to the meaning of my human dignity. **God becomes human, giving humanity a profound status that no social or political system or regime can ever take away. Each human being, and all of Creation, has a dignity.**

And so, Mary gives birth to a son in the ancient royal city of Bethlehem. **The name Bethlehem literally means 'house of bread'.** From this city of Bethlehem, a city that offers food and life, will come the child that offers hope over depression, joy over suffering, love over war. It is of course with sadness that we acknowledge wars in our world and continuing and escalating hostilities in the Holy Land, the place of Jesus's birth. This Christmas please pray as a family before your Christmas lunch for peace and an end to these and all hostilities.

I know 2023 has been a tough year for many of us and we look forward with Hope to 2024. *Especially to those who have lost loved ones during the course of this year, we remember your loved ones especially this Christmas.*

Our 2024 year is bright and will provide many continuing and new opportunities for us to engage and ensure we are an outward looking parish, seeking to welcome the outsider and grow within ourselves for the good of others. **Our parish needs you and your family, you are instrumental to building on our loving and caring parish community and meeting the new challenges we face as a society and parish. I invite you to consider many of the opportunities for engagement in our parish, listed in this Bulletin.**

My prayers and friendship to each of you this Christmas 2023. May it be a time of peace, a time when we can truly give thanks for the bread of life in our lives, the living bread of Jesus Christ and of loving relationships in our charitable St. Patrick's community.

Peace and Joy.
Fr. Tom

Riddle: What do you call a disrespectful reindeer?

CONTACTS:

Parish Priest:
Fr. Tom Stevens

Parish Secretary:
Petra Nakhoul

Parish Accounts:
Emma de Barry

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33 Gale Street,
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PO Box 145, Concord NSW 2137

Parish Office:
Open
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Phone: (02) 9743 1017

Email:
parish@stpatismortlake.org.au

Accounts:
accounts@stpatismortlake.org.au

Website:
www.stpatismortlake.org.au

Facebook:
facebook.com/stpatismortlake

SUNDAY MASS TIMES:

Saturday Vigil: 6pm
Sunday: 9am; 10.30am & 6pm

WEEKDAY MASSES & SERVICES:

Monday & Saturday
8am Communion Service

Tues to Friday 8am Mass
Please note: The First Friday of the month Mass is at 9.15am

Reconciliation: Saturday 5.30pm

Baptisms: 11.45am on 2nd, 3rd & 4th Sundays of the month.

Please call parish secretary with enquires.



First Reading

A READING FROM THE PROPHET
ISAIAH IS 9:1-7

A son is given to us.

The people that walked in darkness
has seen a great light;
on those who live in a land of deep shadow
a light has shone.

You have made their gladness greater,
you have made their joy increase;
they rejoice in your presence
as men rejoice at harvest time,
as men are happy when they are dividing
the spoils.

For the yoke that was weighing on him,
the bar across his shoulders,
the rod of his oppressor,
these you break as on the day of Midian.

For all the footgear of battle,
every cloak rolled in blood,
is burnt

and consumed by fire.

For there is a child born for us,
a son given to us
and dominion is laid on his shoulders;
and this is the name they give him:
Wonder-Counsellor, Mighty-God,
Eternal-Father, Prince-of-Peace.
Wide is his dominion
in a peace that has no end,
for the throne of David
and for his royal power,
which he establishes and makes secure
in justice and integrity.
From this time onwards and for ever,
the jealous love of the Lord of hosts will do
this.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

PS 95:1-3. 11-13 R. LK 2:11

(R.) Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

1. O sing a new song to the Lord,
sing to the Lord all the earth.
O sing to the Lord, bless his name. (R.)

2. Proclaim his help day by day,
tell among the nations his glory
and his wonders among all the peoples. (R.)

3. Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad,
let the sea and all within it thunder praise,
let the land and all it bears rejoice,
all the trees of the wood shout for joy
at the presence of the Lord for he comes,
he comes to rule the earth. (R.)

4. With justice he will rule the world,
he will judge the peoples with his truth. (R.)

Second Reading

A READING FROM THE LETTER OF ST
PAUL TO TITUS TIT 2:11-14

God's grace has been revealed to all people.

God's grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own and would have no ambition except to do good.

The Word of the Lord



Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Good News and great joy to all the world:
today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

Alleluia!

Gospel

A READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL
ACCORDING TO LUKE LK 2:1-14

Today a saviour has been born for you.

Caesar Augustus issued a decree for a census of the whole world to be taken. This census – the first – took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria, and everyone went to his own town to be registered. So Joseph set out from the town of Nazareth in Galilee and travelled up to Judaea, to the town of David called Bethlehem, since he was of David's House and line, in order to be registered together with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to a son, her first-born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn. In the countryside close by there were shepherds who lived in the fields and took it in turns to watch their flocks during the night. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone round them. They were terrified, but the angel said, 'Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people.

Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.' And suddenly with the angel there was a great throng of the heavenly host, praising God and singing: 'Glory to God in the highest heaven and peace to men who enjoy his favour.'

The Word of the Lord



SAFEGUARDING

At St. Patrick's Parish Mortlake, the welfare and wellbeing of our children and vulnerable members of our Parish is of the utmost importance. The safeguarding office can be contacted on 9390 5810 if you wish to speak on any issue.

SINCERE THANKS

To each individual Parishioner of St. Patrick's as we stand in union with Our Lord, especially on Christmas Day. We say, **"THANK YOU AND HAPPY CHRISTMAS".**

Special thanks to: Fr Brian Egan for celebrating some of the Christmas Masses, Choirs and Musicians, The Altar Society, Acolytes, Servers, Special Ministers, Wardens, Counters, Children's Liturgy leaders, Readers, and members of our various ministry teams including Pastoral Care; Finance; Social; Liturgy; Faith Education; Youth; Communications; Gardening and Stewardship.

THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO HAS MADE OUR 2023 CHRISTMAS VERY SPECIAL

Christmas Riddles

What did the snowman do when he got upset?

Answer: He had a meltdown.

What did Santa use when he sprained his ankle?

Answer: A candy cane

What's the name of Santa's mother?

Answer: Mary Christmas

What Christmas carol is a favourite of parents?

Answer: "Silent Night"

Where do Santa and the elves go to swim?

Answer: The North Pool



EVERY WEDNESDAY
6.15AM
MEET AT ST PATS
CHURCH MORTLAKE
ALL WELCOME
Duration 45-60 minutes



START YOUR WEDNESDAY MORNINGS RIGHT BY JOINING THE MAN WALK

Lace up your shoes and join The Man Walk, a chance for guys to connect, chat, and enjoy some exercise in a supportive, bloke-friendly environment. Plus, it's a great opportunity to make some new mates, get some fresh air, and have a laugh!

www.themanwalk.com.au

Proudly sponsored by
Mortlake Family Medical Practice





St Patrick's Mortlake presents

FLAMENCO Music Night

Experience the captivating allure of Spanish cultural music at our upcoming concert! Immerse yourself in the unique vibes of Europe as we showcase the enchanting sounds of traditional flamenco, accompanied by the soul-stirring melodies of a beautiful violin. Let the music transport you to the heart of Spain, where the rich tapestry of cultural heritage comes alive through every note. Join us for an unforgettable evening filled with the passion and energy that define the essence of flamenco. Don't miss this opportunity to be swept away by the rhythmic beats and soulful tunes that make Spanish music truly extraordinary.

**9TH
FEBRUARY**

6pm Welcome drinks at Parish Hall

7pm concert start

**TICKETS - \$22
PER PERSON
CHILDREN FREE**

**WWW.TRYBOOKING.COM
[/COCRF](#)**





Violin Masterclass

UNLEASH YOUR CHILD'S MUSICAL POTENTIAL

Open to children of all ages

Attend a captivating Violin Master Class with renowned artist Ella Laskova on **Tuesday, January 23, 2024, from 10-12 noon at St Patrick's Parish Hall,**

33 Gale St, Mortlake. This unique opportunity is **free of charge** and offers a hands-on session for children to explore their musical abilities under expert guidance. Secure your spot now to witness the magic of the violin and ignite a passion for music in your child.



**FOR ENQUIRIES & REGISTRATION
CONTACT FR. TOM**



9743 1017



thomas.stevens@sydneycatholic.org



Recently Deceased

Elvira Alessio (Italy); Greg Smith; Anna Donato; Gillian Virginie; John Stevens; Albert Calleja; Kenneth Ooi; Severino Jugovac; Atish Sengupta; Anthony "Tony" Wilson; Eileen Boland; James Pinterics; Sylvia Violi; Maura Rossi; Eric Hufer; Fr David Halstead O.P; John Demicoli; John Birrell; Mario Gallace; Colin Kerr; Grace Dao; Eva Zin; Angelo Ninni; Lindsay Nicholl; Luca Biordi; Maria Verna; Susan Evans; Ray Anthony; Matthew Bentley; Max Quirk; Rosellina Ryan; Susan Evans; Leona Picone; Baby Rose; Merv Cross; Adrian Zulian; Annie Gock; Paul Ardill; Eddie Delahunty; Winnie Chan; Bridget Kennedy; Peter Coyne; Gladys (Gladdie) Northy; Nicola Stivaletta; Otto Petrin; Elvira Grego; Nick Travia; Betty Mayo; Sarah Cuzzner; Tim Brown; Ray Selkirk; Livia Falgiatori; Maria Palmenta.

Anniversaries

Michael Vogt 10th; Gerald Gleeson 6th; Sylvia Violi 1mth; Bjarne Johansen 30th; Anne Breen 5th; Maurice Casey; Bill Posavec 24th; Glenda Rutz 10th; Francey Bagala 2nd; Diana Falgiatori 1st; Ian Geoghegan 20th; Patsy Boggs 2nd; Patricia Reilly 6th; Alvaro Bianchi 21st; Vassall Family; Connie Piccin 6th; Aldo Guarino 10th; Sam Ferlauto; Giuseppa & Michele Goffredo; Nancy Buonanova; Sue Goffredo; Antonio Mandile 22nd; Silvana Criscione 4th; Joseph Triganza 3rd; Maria & Frank Juranic; Luca Cindric 19th; Kevin McGettigan; Peter Delahunty 2nd; Giovanna Caldaroni 5th; Ellen (Nell) Peak 26th; Ron Peak 16; Michael Harfield 27th; Francesco & Maria Cremona; John Roach 9th.

Please pray for

Ness Wallace; Mary Lou Bolster; Cheryl Costigan; Damian Gleeson; Nick Severino; Cameron & Damian Sue; Colleen Gibson; Bill Yeates; Ted & Denise Cramsie; Katrina; Beth; Rosa Andreacchio; Eugenio Alessio; Robyn; Marie Dulihanty; Dale; Brian; Tony & Vitoria C; Nance Walker; Diane Shore; Renee; Rod Jeffrey.

To have your petition included, phone Carmel Moliterno 9736 1718

WEDDING JOY AT ST PAT'S



We congratulate **CLAUDIA PETRUCCO and WILLIAM HAVELLAS** on recently celebrating the Sacrament of Marriage at St Patrick's Mortlake. May the Lord bless your union now and always.

ALL GROUPS RECOMMENCING FEBRUARY 2024

FRIDAY CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUP

Held on **Fridays** in the **Parish Hall** from **9.15-10.30am**.

An opportunity for young babies and children aged 0-5 years to play and parents/ guardians to mix and make new contacts.

No booking or donation required. **All welcome**

BINGO

Mondays 9.30 TO 11.30
FOR ALL ENQUIRIES
PLEASE CONTACT
ANNE MANENTI ON
8765 8260

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ST PAT'S SINGING GROUP

This group meets every **Thursday** in the parish hall from **10.15 to 12.00** just for FUN. Just come along on the day.
Resuming in February 2024.

Volunteer Power: Join Our Community and Make an Impact!

Discover the joy of giving back - volunteer at our parish and make a difference today! St Pat's has many fantastic groups and exciting opportunities for you to be engaged in our community. Everyone is Welcome of ALL AGES. Opportunities for volunteering include:

Social Justice Group	Gain a deeper understanding of the rich history of Catholic Social Teaching as the spiritual formation and basis of action.
St. Vincent de Paul Society	Attends to the needs of locals who have fallen on tough times.
Twilight Team	Join our team who organise our successful community Twilight Evenings, 3-4 times a year. A great way of social and community engagement.
Pastoral Care Group	Take a hands-on role in supporting those in our community that need company, companionship and attending to their practical daily needs (i.e., shopping, home visits).
Social Committee	Assist with running weekly bingo on Mondays for our senior community members, help organise bus excursion trips and arrange celebratory functions for events such as children's reception of their first Sacraments.
Children's Liturgy	Engage with the parish youth needs at Sunday 9am Masses
Liturgy	Participate in Music, Reading, Altar Serving and being a Eucharistic Minister within the parish.
Faith Education	Teach in our local public schools as a catechist, preparing students for the Sacraments as well as Adult Faith Formation.
Communications Team	Assist with Communications and IT Support requirements of the parish. Have fun and enjoy a good laugh!
Gardening	Help in creating our beautiful blossoming parish garden.
Stewardship	Assist with governance requirements and obligations.

As you can see, there are many varied opportunities to engage with your parish and community. Please contact Fr Tom on 9743 1017 or thomas.stevens@sydneycatholic.org or the visit our website below to find out more
<https://www.stpatsmortlake.org.au/volunteering-opportunities/>

Answer: Rude-olph