

St Patrick's Parish

THE WRAP



ST PATRICK'S PARISH
MORTLAKE

Newsletter Autumn 2024

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Fearful yet overjoyed, they ran to tell the Disciples

The approaching Easter Season is one of great anticipation and excitement. It's important to remember that it's also greeted with much nervousness and bewilderment. Yet it is the greatest love story ever told, and it embraces humanity completely.

We have the women having the courage to approach the tomb, frightened at first, but that fear turns to joy. Matthew's Gospel describes the women — *"they went away quickly from the tomb, fearful yet overjoyed, and ran to announce to his disciples"* Mt 28:8. The women's first reaction is to share the joy *"quickly"*. In the Easter story we have a whole series of individuals who display our own humanity — betrayal, denial, distrust, disappointment, as well as joy, hope, celebration and faith.

Easter is the message of great Joy. Even in the midst of fear and distrust, which is real in so many regions in our world, (including the Holy Land itself, the birthplace of Christ), and can also be in our relationships, there remains Joy which must be shared. Joy in realising that adversities can be overcome with love. Joy of a loving relationship with Jesus and our fellow human being.

Each of us needs to roll away the stone of the tomb which holds us back, to have courage in facing our realities, our triumphs and complications alike. To embrace the Joy, and to embrace it quickly!

Happy Easter 2024 to you all and thank you for being part of this parish where all are welcome.

Father Tom

Inside...

Father Tom	1
Welcome to <i>The Wrap</i>	2
Faith Education Ministry	2
Gil Vella's Award	3
Faces of St Pat's — Trevor Parmenter	4
Around the Parish	5
100 years in Australia family celebration	6
What's been happening	6
Kiddie's Space	7
St Patrick's Primary School	8

Mass Information

Saturday Vigil: 6:00pm

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

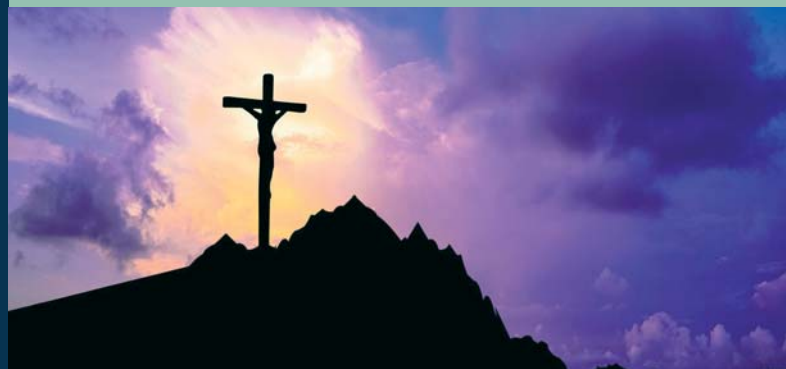
Weekday Services:

Mass: 8:00am Tuesday - Friday

Communion Services:

8:00am Monday

8:00am Saturday



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 St Pat's Mortlake Easter Edition of *The Wrap*

We have at last decided on a new name, ***The Wrap*** and thanks to all those who contributed to our request for suggestions for a new name for the quarterly St Pat's Newsletter. This is also our 25th edition, having started in late 2017. Our parish continues to be a vibrant, welcoming place where people are engaged spiritually as well as socially.

As usual, in this edition, we've included a round-up of what's happening in the Parish and more interesting stories about our parishioners. As one such parishioner said there are many in our parish who do great things quietly without any publicity. And we acknowledge them. However occasionally something special happens and it's great as a parish to congratulate these people.

This edition highlights the awards and achievements of Trevor Parmenter and Gil Vella. We also pay tribute to some of the people we have noticed have been in our St Pat's parish for over 50 years. If we have missed you, please let us know.

Our calendar of events for 2024 again promises to have many opportunities for parishioners to pray, reflect and socialise. The Communication Team wishes everyone a very blessed, joyful and peaceful year ***'where we witness Christ in our community and become a happy and holy parish family.'*** ***The St Pat's Mission Statement.'***

If you would like to contribute to ***The Wrap***, please contact one of the Communication Team at parish@stpatsmortlake.org.au

Faith Education Ministry

At St Pat's we are fortunate to have a very proactive and vital Faith Education Ministry. This is what is involved:

Catechists — Weekly lessons are provided to the Catholic school children attending classes Kindy to Year 6 at Mortlake Primary School each Friday morning during school term. We are currently blessed to have a great team of Catechists and Assistants fulfilling this ministry.

First Sacraments — Children receiving the Sacraments of Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation at St Patrick's are registered and instructed by our team. The numbers have increased significantly, with the children from St Patrick's Primary School raising the overall number of children receiving these First Sacraments to over 100 each year.

Adult Education — We present, from time-to-time, sessions on interesting aspects of the Catholic Faith in our Parish Hall. In late 2023 a series of sessions on the Old Testament titled *'The Roots and History of our Salvation Story'* was presented by Hana Smit over 5 sessions. The sessions were very well researched and were really worthwhile. We are looking forward to expanding our education offerings to the parish.

Children's Liturgy — This is provided for our children at the 9am Mass each Sunday. We have a great team of instructors and the children love the sessions and sharing with the congregation what they have learned as they return to the church after the homily. Read more at <https://stpatsmortlake.org.au/our-parish/ministries/childrens-ministry/>

Baptismal Preparation — This is conducted by two of our parishioners who assist families to prepare for this major Sacrament. After a Baptism is booked, instruction is given to the families on the Sacrament and what is expected of the parents on the day and into the future.

RCIA — This ministry involves the instruction of individuals who wish to join our faith and become a Catholic. The initials stand for "The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults" and our team provides the instruction and leadership in the process of assisting them to become a Catholic.

As can be seen, there are many aspects in our Faith Education Ministry and we are always looking to welcome any parishioners who have an interest in one or more of the categories of the ministry. Anyone who may be interested in obtaining more information can contact Bob Mayor on 0418 228689 or email Bob at mayor2411@gmail.com.



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www.stpatsmortlake.org.au



www.facebook.com/stpatsmortlake



[stpatsmortlake](https://www.instagram.com/stpatsmortlake)

Parishioner Gil Vella's Award

Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice ("For Church and Pope" in Latin) is a decoration of the Holy See. It is currently conferred for distinguished service to the Catholic Church by lay people and clergy.

Congratulations to St Pat's parishioner, Gil Vella.

Gil was recently awarded the Papal Honour from Pope Francis - the decoration **Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice** ("For Church and Pope"). Archbishop Fisher bestowed the award on behalf of Pope Francis for Gil's exceptional contribution to the life of the church as a faithful Catholic layman, husband, and father, particularly through his extensive



work in his parishes and his association with the St Vincent de Paul Society.

Dr Gilbert Vella, former head of the School of Biomedical

Science at the University of Sydney, never saw a conflict between his passion for scientific research and his faith.

"Even from my uni days you'd have these discussions that science is all you need but to me science opens up what God has done," he said. "You can see the beauty of nature and how it all fits together. Every time I find some new thing, I'm just amazed and constantly surprised by the grandeur of it all.

"I see the imprint of something much bigger and can't see how people cannot believe in a God, myself."

Gil said he was humbled and grateful to receive the award of Croce pro Ecclesia et Pontifice (Cross for the Church and the Pope) from Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP on behalf of the Holy Father.

"It's my honour to have contributed to the parish life of the Strathfield and Mortlake communities and to the St Vincent de Paul Society," Dr Vella told the assembly at the award presentation. "I was blessed to have wonderful parents in

Charles and Lucia who taught me by their example the value of participating in and serving our parish community.

"And in my 40 years in Strathfield and nine years in Mortlake I was fortunate to have parish priests who encouraged me and valued lay leadership of various activities.

I found all my involvement in parish initiatives greatly rewarding — not only did it encourage me to contribute to the community in a meaningful way, it also enriched my spiritual life."

Gil also acknowledged his wife, Margaret and his family for being there for him.

From 'Varieties of service, but the same Lord'.

By Marilyn Rodrigues December 13, 2023 Copied with permission from The Catholic Weekly.





ST PATRICK'S, MORTLAKE EASTER TRIDUUM TIMES

Please note the following Service and Mass times for
Easter period of Holy Thursday to Easter Sunday.

<p>THURSDAY, 28 MARCH AT 7:30PM Mass of the Lord's Supper, washing of the feet, veneration at the Altar of Repose on the Parish Green until 10pm</p>	<p>FRIDAY, 29 MARCH AT 3PM Good Friday Commemoration of the Lord's Passion with Holy Communion</p>
<p>FRIDAY, 29 MARCH AT 10AM Stations of the Cross for Adults in the Church</p>	<p>SATURDAY, 30 MARCH AT 7PM Easter Vigil - Festival of Light</p>
<p>FRIDAY, 29 MARCH AT 10AM Stations of the Cross for Children on the Parish Green</p>	<p>EASTER SUNDAY, 31 MARCH 7:30am, 9am & 10:30am Masses (NB: There will be <u>No 6pm Sunday</u> <u>night Mass</u>)</p>

3

Faces of St Pat's — Trevor Parmenter



Trevor Parmenter, parishioner and acolyte at St Pat's has recently been conferred the award of an Honorary Doctorate of Letters (honoris causa) by the University of New England (UNE). He has achieved this prestigious award considering his outstanding national and international pioneering work and contribution to the field of intellectual disability.

Professor Trevor Parmenter has dedicated his life to the support of people with intellectual disability and has been recognised for his pioneering work in this field for over 70 years with at least 20 different significant awards and commendations, including an Order of Australia.

He is currently Professor Emeritus at the University of Sydney Medical School and has been an adjunct Professor at the School of Rural Medicine at UNE since 2011.

Trevor has maintained a long-standing and ongoing relationship with both Armidale and UNE following the initial completion of his first qualification — a 2-year teacher training course — at Armidale Teachers' College in 1952. Trevor worked for twenty-one years in schools across both rural and metropolitan locations in NSW. In 1974 he joined the foundation staff at Macquarie University's Special Education Centre, and, following this career change, he completed his PhD in special education.

Trevor, who turns 90 this year, very generously gave us some of his personal story. He and his wife Marie moved from Castle Hill where he had lived since 1964 to Breakfast Point in 2016. Sadly, Trevor's first wife of 29 years died in 1984.

On arrival as a new parishioner at St Pat's he, fortuitously, found Mons John Usher, who had been a friend of many years, was now St Pat's Parish Priest. John urged him to join the acolyte team and also to join the fledgling Social Justice Ministry.

Trevor retired from the University of Sydney Medical School and Director of the Centre for Disability Studies at the end of 2009. As Professor Emeritus he still continues some teaching, supervision of doctoral students, active research and involvement in disability advocacy activities nationally and internationally.

Trevor has summed up the highlights of his long and impressive career: *"It was my one-teacher school experience (plus having attended one in my primary years) which convinced me about the importance of community, the theme of my Occasional Address at the graduation ceremony."*

I rate my 7 years at Sunny Corner as the most rewarding in my whole career. In those years I helped to reinvigorate the small community which was the remnant of a once bustling silver mine of the 1880s to the 1920s. Those seven years took up considerable space in my Life Story." Trevor also wrote a history of Sunny Corner, in the Bathurst region, for its centenary in 1961.

Well done, Trevor. We at St Pat's are proud of you.

St Patrick's Day



Around the Parish

Celebrations and Congratulations

There have been many occasions for thanksgiving and celebrations since our last newsletter. There have been weddings, baptisms, special birthdays, wedding anniversaries as well as sad times when a dearly loved family member or friend has returned to God.

Our hearty congratulations are offered to Luisa Campagna, Diane Chestney, Mabel Bianchi and Ilma Mansford, all members of the Pastoral Care Ministry who have been parishioners at St Pat's for 50 or more years. Diane has recently retired as minutes secretary to the Parish Pastoral Council. Her assistance in this valuable role has been very much appreciated.

Birthday Celebrations.

Congratulations to Marie Dulihamy on her 95th birthday last December. She has been in the St Pat's Parish since 1948. Marie is a regular attendant at Mass, accompanied by one of her children. She has 7 children, one deceased, 10 grandchildren, and 4 great grandchildren. You are a great example to us all, Marie.



Above: Diane, Mabel, Ilma. Insert photo: Luisa



Marie Dulihamy and her daughter Vicki Comerford



Yvonne Webster and Philomena Delahunty's 87th Birthday



Claudia Petrucco and William Havellas Wedding at St Pat's

Congratulations also to Paula Patterson and her family. Paula's family, the Alice Family (originally from Italy) recently celebrated 100 years in Australia. Paula, and her husband, Bill (deceased), also have been in the St Pat's Parish for more than 50 years.

A Century's Remarkable Achievement

On Saturday 6th January 2024, the Alice, Patterson and del Zotto families celebrated the 100th anniversary of the arrival of the family in Australia. Over 75 descendants and their partners, descendants of Giovanni and Santina Alice gathered at the St Pat's Parish Hall to commemorate the milestone.

In November 1923, Giovanni and Santina, recently married and in their early 20s, left Serravalle Scrivia in Piedmont, Italy, to begin a new life in Australia. They had been enticed by Giovanni's brother, Domenico, who had come out some ten years prior. Domenico often wrote letters home always talking up the idyllic life and boundless opportunity to be had in Australia.

Originally a cobbler, Giovanni joined his brother who ran the first continental delicatessen in Ramsay Road, Haberfield. Later in the 1950s, he would open a deli with his son, also named Dom, on Concord Road, North Strathfield.

No doubt life was challenging in those early years

having to negotiate a new language, culture, and climate. Two things sustained them: faith and family. Many who gathered didn't have the opportunity to meet Giovanni and Santina, Nonno and Nonna, with their passing in 1967 and 1989, respectively. However, with stories told and photos shared, all could appreciate their goodness and fidelity to faith and family.

The St Pat's Parish Hall was such a perfect venue. It was well equipped and large enough to accommodate the small crowd, but it also afforded an intimate space for the gathering. And, as nice as it was to gather, the Mass that was offered for Giovanni and Santina that night was the most meaningful celebration.

Giovanni and Santina's son, Dom, aged 97, is father to Maria Alice, a long-time parishioner at St Pat's, and their daughter, Paula Patterson, has been a parishioner since 1966. We're happy to share our celebration in these pages with our St Pat's family.



What's Happening

As our sometime visiting priest, Father Brian Egan says, there's always something happening at St Pat's. A quick look at the weekly Bulletins of the parish website is a reminder of this. See [St Patrick's Catholic Parish Mortlake \(stpatsmortlake.org.au\)](http://St Patrick's Catholic Parish Mortlake (stpatsmortlake.org.au)).

This edition of **The Wrap** shares some of these events in photos and stories. Shrove Tuesday pancakes, Youth Masses, Monday Bingo, the Friday Play group, the St Patrick's Day Festival (15 March, 2024) are but a few of the examples of what our parishioners and friends are involved in. Of course, many volunteers enable all of this to happen. For this we are grateful.

Right: St Pat's Twilight Evening



Kiddies' Space: The Importance of Christmas past

I played Mary in the Christmas Liturgy at St Patrick's Church. I was very excited because I was the mother of Jesus and Mary is a very important part of Christmas. The cow is also important because he kept Jesus warm with his breath.

I enjoy being a part of the Church because everyone is always nice and giving. I feel safe and I learn a lot about Jesus.

Linda Tran (7 years old) - St Patrick's Primary School Mortlake



Shrove Tuesday on a Sunday





St Patrick's School

It has been a very busy and positive start back to school. Sydney Catholic Schools has a special theme each year and in 2024 it is:

"Those who hope in the Lord will run and not be weary" (cf. Is 40:31) "We Journey together as joyful witnesses to hope."

The children have all settled in well and we have welcomed children across all our grades this year and we are hope filled that they will 'run' through the year.

We have celebrated our Usher, Charity and Patrick Houses at family Masses over the last few weeks. A big thanks to the wonderful supporters of Children's Liturgy, who help the children make meaning of the readings at Mass. It is a great sight to see the children gathered round the altar and so engaged in the Mass. The welcoming presence of the parish is such a special part of this whole community.

We have also had our Opening School Mass on a beautiful sunny and hot day and our year 5 buddies sat with our Kindergarten children, our year 6s with their Year 1 children, which is a great way to quietly introduce some positive role modelling for our youngest church members. Our buddies are very responsible and love looking after our younger students and our younger students are in awe of their buddies!

Moving forward we will be looking to work with the parish through the Social justice Ministry, St Vincent de Paul and of course our Masses and Sacraments.

All in all a joyful start back to school and the St Patrick's Community and we pray that this journey will remain hope filled.

Amanda Westgate
Principal



Right: School Shrove
Tuesday pancakes

Below: School Leaders

