

ST PATRICK'S MORTLAKE

33 GALE STREET MORTLAKE

Parish Newsletter Autumn 2018

Telephone: (02) 97431017

Email: parish@stpatmortlake.org.au

www.stpatmortlake.org.au

An Easter Message

Following 40 days of preparation during the season of Lent, our Church immerses us in the greatest of all Christian celebrations. The feast of the Resurrection of Jesus is the greatest and oldest feast of the Christian Church.

The precise date on which Easter is celebrated each year is always variable. It can be celebrated any time between 21st March and 25th April. The precise date is set each year depending on the date of the 'vernal equinox'. Hence Easter Sunday is always celebrated immediately after the first full moon at the beginning of each year.

The most significant word we proclaim each Easter is "Alleluia". In Hebrew it means "Praise to God".

The significant symbols we use during our Easter celebrations are 'light' and 'water'. These symbols invite us to see everyone and everything more clearly: to recognise the dignity of every human being and the beauty of God's creation. The symbol of water reminds us of the wonder of life because water is the well spring of life.

My prayer this Easter is for each and every person who worships at St Patrick's Parish, Mortlake. I hope and pray that each and every one of us will be able to shout "ALLELUIA" because we have seen, maybe for the first time, the reality of human dignity won for everyone in the wake of the resurrection of Jesus from death. I also pray that each and every one of us will shout "Alleluia" because we have discovered, maybe for the first time, the wonder and joy of life. We have nothing to fear! We have only joy to celebrate!!!

Mons. John Usher

Join us for



Passion & Holy Week

Please join our Easter celebrations:

Wednesday 28th March

7.30pm Reconciliation, St Mary's Concord

Thursday 29th March

7.30pm The celebration of the Lord's Supper

Friday 30th March

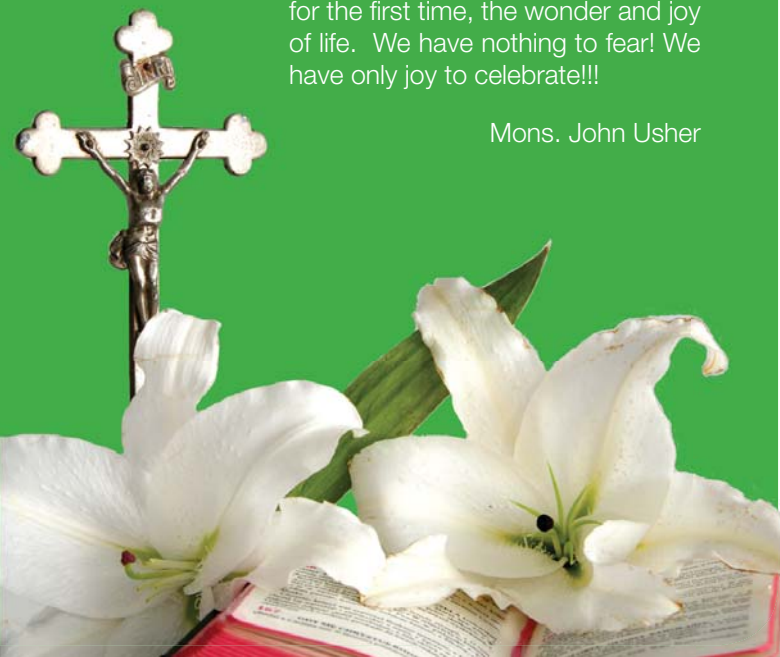
10.00am Stations of the Cross – Adults and Children
3.00pm Celebration of the Lords Passion and Death

Saturday 31st March

7.30pm Celebration of the Easter Vigil

Sunday 1st April

9.00am, 10.30am and 6pm Easter Sunday Masses



The St Pat's Parish Christmas Lunch was attended by 85 parishioners at Carmen's at Barnwell Park Golf Club. A very fun day was enjoyed by all.



47, 89 BINGO! An open invitation is extended to everyone to join the happy winners at Bingo every Monday in the Parish Hall. You are also welcome to come and just enjoy morning tea from 10.45 for a gold coin donation.

Fifty happy travellers from the Parish recently enjoyed a bus trip to Wiseman's Ferry organised by Anne Manenti. After morning tea at Swane's Nursery, the group enjoyed a delicious lunch that included a stop to purchase local fruit and vegetables. Thanks, too to Jim Hawkesford, the friendly bus driver.



Save the date

The Parish dinner this year will be held on Friday 25 May at Angelo's Cabarita. Join your friends and make some new ones by being part of this annual fiesta. More details coming soon or email Marie Piccin: mtpiccin@gmail.com

Join us too, for lunch at Carmen's at Barnwell Park Golf Club on Wednesday 13 June. It'll be here before you know it!!!

Interview with Jack and Margaret Coulson

Jack and Margaret Coulson have been parishioners of St Patrick's Mortlake for over 50 years. Jack was brought up in Enfield and Burwood, and Margaret in Lithgow. However Margaret's family later moved to the Concord area where the couple were to meet at the Mater Dei Club at St Mary's Concord. This was a Catholic club for the over 21s which provided many opportunities for young people to socialise. They were married at St Mary's Concord in 1966 and settled in as newlyweds at their present house in Mortlake. Seven children were to follow: Mary, Angelo (RIP), John, Trish, Billy and twins, Judy and Margie. Sadly one child, Angelo, was stillborn. There are now ten grandchildren, so life has always been very busy at the Coulson home. Jack developed his business as a milkman in the Mortlake area, also working as a bookmaker at the trots (horses) and the dogs (greyhounds.) As a concession to family life, he had to give up working as a bookmaker at the country venues.

As a parishioner at St Patrick's Jack has a very commendable record. He has been president of the Parish Council, a member of the Finance Committee and an Acolyte, Church Warden and money counter (his former experience before his marriage as a bookmaker giving him considerable skills in this area) and also a delegate for a former Church Ecumenical Council. In addition, both Margaret and Jack were catechists, at Mortlake Public School and Concord High. Jack speaks highly of the various priests who have been at St Pat's, particularly Father Tierney and Father Morrissey, and of course Monsignor Usher.

Many of us remember Jack very fondly before his present illness, as he greeted people before Mass, especially at the 6pm Sunday Mass. He always chose, sometimes unsuspecting, young people to take the "plate" around. His bright smile, ready wit and jokes were a great welcome. He also was able to introduce people to one another, especially people he knew who had similar interests or predicaments.

Of course Jack has many memories about the parish, and some are quite amazing and humorous. He also has many comments about the changes in the Church and society. Jack and Margaret are very special parishioners at St Pat's and we have all been enriched by their friendliness and generous spirits.

There are many more stories to listen to and Jack is only too happy to share his memories and opinions, although one lesson he has learned over the years of his active participation as a member of many ministries at St Pat's is "to ponder before he speaks".

**Thank you,
Jack and Margaret:
you are true inspirations
for all of us in our parish.**



The Youth Ministry has slowly been building momentum to empower the young people of our Parish. So far we have focused on Youth and Upper Primary children to come together for Masses; Years 5 & 6 children for social activities, in an effort to engage these children in Parish events prior to High School.

Valuable input has been received from members who attended the ACYF held in December 2017 and put ideas forward for the next event or Mass to be held. It was decided to hold a Youth Mass in early February and a Movie and Pizza evening for 10-12 year olds in March. All of which has happened. We are now looking forward to holding another Youth Mass in possibly late April and a get together after Easter.

The Movie and Pizza evening held just recently on the 9th March was enjoyed by the 16 young people from the Parish and schools around the area. The movie was screened in the Church Hall with poppers, popcorn, pizza and ice-cream for pre-dinner, dinner and dessert. There were lots of chatting and socialising along with a thought provoking movie. We were asked to put on another evening, such as this, by both children and parents.

Newsflash: Ruella Petersen has stepped down from the Youth Ministry co-ordination with Erin White taking on the role. If you have something to offer Youth Ministry or are interested in being part of this enthusiastic group, please contact Erin on erin.white05@gmail.com with the subject line "Youth Ministry".

Special Event

A special event will take place at our Easter Vigil Mass with RCIA Candidate Bevan Marshall and his two children, Archie & Lulu being Baptised into our church. Bevan has been receiving instruction for the past few months from our parish RCIA team and recently visited St Mary's Cathedral for the Rite of Election Ceremony. Anyone who may be interested in joining the RCIA team is most welcome & can contact Bob Mayor on 9736 1167 or email at mayor@leasing.net.au.



Bevan Marshall at St Mary's Cathedral for the recent Rite of Elect Celebration. Left to right are Bevan, Denise Norman & Bob Mayor & sponsor Tony Patton.

Mission Statement & Goals

Our Mission is to raise awareness of social action and to undertake activities to promote Catholic Social Teaching, provide information about organisations involved in Social Justice actions and suggest ways the Parish might engage in Social Justice activities.

Our goals are to:

- ✦ Discuss relevant parts of documents produced by the Australian Catholic Bishops
- ✦ Liaise with the Justice and Peace office of our Archdiocese
- ✦ Encourage the Parish community to become involved with initiatives and to provide opportunities for everyone to become involved and to have a voice
- ✦ Highlight to the Parish community high profile Social Justice issues and offer opportunities to become part of the conversation
- ✦ Communicate outcomes from the Social Justice Mission meetings on the Parish Website/Newsletter regularly
- ✦ Celebrate Social Justice Sunday in September each year
- ✦ Encourage our Parish school and Youth Group to make known Catholic Social Teaching

Pastoral Care Ministry

Whether it's taking Communion to those who can't come to Sunday Mass or serving refreshments after Mass to those who do, the 18 members of the Parish's Pastoral Care team are there.

If you are interested in finding out more about what they do or if you would like to join them, contact Betty Flynn on 8757 3307.

Congratulations



Congratulations to Gil and Margaret Vella who celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary at the 6pm Mass on Saturday 17th February 2018. Monsignor John led the couple as they renewed their vows. On this day fifty years ago, Gil and Margaret were wed at St Canice's Church, Elizabeth Bay.

Congratulations Gil & Margaret

The new school building was opened after 9 o'clock Mass on March 4th. Older parishioners were fascinated by the open feel of the classrooms and the examples of school work that took up walls and common spaces.

Fifty four new kindergarten and six other new children have joined the school this year. Together with those already there, they have watched the completion of the new building, fascinated at break times when they can watch the builders working from the Parish Parklands.

Amanda Westgate
Principal, St Patrick's School Mortlake



Around the Parish



Congratulations to parishioner Greg Whitby who was recognised in this year's Australia Day Honours list with his appointment as a Member in the General Division of the Order of Australia (AM). Greg is the Executive Director of Catholic Education in the Diocese of Parramatta.

The award recognises Greg's outstanding contribution to education.

For more info go to:
<http://www.parra.catholic.edu.au/news-details/cedp-news/australia-day-honours-for-greg-whitby>true>



Congratulations to Kathleen Yates, whose grandson Jarryd Hughes won a silver medal at the Winter Olympic Games in Pyeong Chang. Jarryd also carried the Australian flag as the team entered the stadium for the Closing Ceremony.