

# ST PATRICK'S MORTLAKE

## 33 GALE STREET MORTLAKE

Parish Newsletter Winter 2018

## Message from Fr John

Winter 2018 has arrived and, unlike in other parts of the world, it is a mild climate this year in Australia.

One marvels at nature as we experience the season coming and going. We also marvel at the gifts of God as we experience the ever-changing patterns of human life around us — birth, infancy, childhood, adolescence, adulthood, married life, old age and rebirth into eternal life. I never cease giving thanks for this amazing circle of life.

Like the season, the circle of human life involves a regular pattern of renewal. What seems to be new for a short while soon becomes old — what seems to be old suddenly becomes new again. It's the great wonder of human life.

Our parish of St Patrick's Mortlake also changes over time. The Catholic population of our Parish is now 2,796 people. We Catholics represent 43% of the total population in this part of Sydney. We have the third highest percentage of Catholics among Sydney Catholic Parishes. The median age of our parishioners is 37 years of age. 21% of us are under 15 years of age and only 13% are over 65 years of age. There are 1,000 families in the Parish and 61% of women in the Parish are engaged in employment outside of the family home.

These are interesting statistics but they are constantly changing. There has been a huge increase in the number of children being baptised in our Parish in recent years. There were only 60 children baptised in 2008 and over 100 in the last 12 months. We are gradually becoming a younger Parish.

It seems that the old saying about "*everything old becoming new again*" applies to us. This amazing cycle of life means that, as a Parish, we need to recognise the signs of the times and be open to renewal. Hence, we now have a new Primary School.

We are moving into new modes of Social Communication and we will be renewing and improving our Pastoral Care, Social, Faith Education, Liturgy, Youth Ministry, Stewardship and Social Justice outreaches.

Just as the seasons renew themselves and life renews itself, so our Parish is experiencing renewal. It's an exciting time and a time to thank God for guiding us.

Mons. John Usher PP

Telephone: (02) 97431017  
Email: [parish@stpatsmortlake.org.au](mailto:parish@stpatsmortlake.org.au)  
[www.stpatsmortlake.org.au](http://www.stpatsmortlake.org.au)

## Our Parish Logo



Our new parish logo embraces the caring parish community we have at St Patrick's Mortlake. It has been designed to represent our commitment to our faith, the church and each other and also reflect our connection with the new St. Patrick's Primary School. There is also a hint to our Irish heritage with the shamrock depicted on both the school and parish logos.

## Our Parish Prayer

Lord Jesus, send your Holy Spirit on your community of St Patrick's Parish, Mortlake.

Help us to hear Your Word  
and to know Your love for all peoples.

Teach us Your will for us.

May we be alive to it – and celebrate it!!!

Give us Your wisdom to be open to Your plan,  
and respond to it in our community,  
and through

time spent in prayer and contemplation.

May Your community be a witness to the world,  
...ready to share Your care

For all peoples of all nations.

We make this prayer through Christ, our Lord.

AMEN

St Patrick, pray for us.

(This prayer was composed by our parishioners during Australia's Bicentennial Year, 1988.)

Keep up-to-date with St Pat's by visiting:  
[www.stpatsmortlake.org.au](http://www.stpatsmortlake.org.au)

## St Patrick's Annual Parish Dinner

Saint Patrick's Mortlake Parish held its annual dinner on Friday evening, 25<sup>th</sup> May, 2018, at Angelo's Cabarita. It was a happy and enjoyable occasion for the 150 who were able to attend. It was also wonderful to welcome many of the staff and parents of the new school at St Patrick's Mortlake. The MC for the night was Paul Ballesty, who performed his role with great aplomb.

Our guests of honour were Monsignor John Usher, our Parish Priest and his very good friend from seminary days, Father John Langtry. Father Langtry is also celebrating his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday in June.

Monsignor John Usher in his address reminded us that we also had good cause to celebrate on 25<sup>th</sup> May as it was on this day in 1948 that Cardinal Gilroy proclaimed that St Patrick's was now a parish in its own right. So the Parish Dinner was the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this important occasion.

Monsignor John also spoke of the many achievements of the parish and gave thanks to the parishioners who are working on the various ministries as well as new ones recently formed. Some of the statistics he quoted were: 165 children at Mortlake Public School are being instructed weekly by the volunteers under the leadership of

Bob Mayor; over the last year 130 baptisms were performed, 24 locals were married and sadly, we said goodbye to 16 parishioners who commenced Eternal Life.

One of the greatest achievements in the past year was the recent opening and blessing of the new school, St Patrick's Mortlake.

Monsignor John also gave thanks to Howard and Tony Brown, in their absence, for all their work on behalf of the parish. They will be sadly missed.

The entertainment of the night was provided by the very talented piano accordionist, Ross Maio. As well as taking requests, Ross capably and tactfully satisfied the diverse tastes of the Irish and Italian ancestry of many St Pat's parishioners. One of the star attractions of the night was the performance by the St Pat's teachers' choir, ably led by their principal, Mandy Westlake. Their rendition of *Quando Quando Quando* was a great success.

There were a number of interesting and valuable prizes won in the raffle, much to the delight of the winners. Many thanks to the donors for their generosity.

Once again, we express our thanks to Anne Manenti and her team, together with Marie Piccin, who made the evening such an enjoyable occasion.



Erin is a student at the Australian Catholic University and is currently studying a Bachelor in Early Childhood and Primary Education. *I have been a part of the St Patrick's Parish for about 4 years now and look forward to many more to come.*



On the 11<sup>th</sup> of May we had another successful youth group event! We set up our pillows and blankets in the hall and settled in for a cosy night. This time we watched *Jumanji* on the beautiful new projector, which was a hilarious movie. As well as the movie we feasted on pizza and ice-creams, the perfect snacks to accompany our viewing. Altogether we had about 15 of our Parish Youth come together to socialise and relax. It was a wonderful night overall, full of laughter and conversation, and we can't wait for the next one in 2 months or so!

Then on the 20<sup>th</sup> of May we had our Youth Mass at 6pm. Thank you to those who came to participate! It was lovely to see our Youth so involved in the Mass.

Dates for the next Youth Nights are to come so keep an ear out!

Thanks to all who helped out on the nights. You make the job so easy!

And to the young people of our Youth Group, I say to you in the words of St. Augustine

*"Hope has two beautiful daughters; their names are Anger and Courage. Anger at the way things are, and Courage to see that they do not remain as they are."*

We have the power to influence change! Together we can make a difference and this is only the start. Thank you for coming on this journey with me.

## Are you interested in becoming an Acolyte or an Altar Server?

Acolytes assist the priest at Church by preparing the altar and sacred vessels prior to Mass and carrying the cross into the Church. During the Mass they assist the priest with the Offertory gifts of bread and wine, then assist with the distribution of the Eucharist.

It is open to both women and men. Acolytes must be over 16 years of age and altar servers must have received their first Holy Communion.

Training will be provided and a roster will be set up once numbers are finalised.

Please contact the Parish Office, Kevin Nelson-Smith on 0490 119 131 or see Mons John after Mass if you would like to join this important Ministry.

## Farewell to Tony & Howard

If you go to 6pm Mass on Saturday, you will know Tony and Howard Brown. Tony is the cheerful face you see at the door and organising readers, collectors and offertory processions. Howard organises our musical liturgy and more particularly strums his guitar and leads the singing during Mass.

Howard and his stalwart group of fellow guitarists and singers have been an important presence in our Masses and have contributed to a very prayerful and reverent aspect of the liturgy. As we know, "those who sing pray twice". Many parishioners will remember serenading Fr Greg McGregor with *In the Navy* when he left the parish to become Navy chaplain or enthusiastically giving thanks on Australia Day, singing, *I am Australian*, at the end of Mass, both led by Howard.

What you may not know is that the brothers (and their two sisters) grew up in the Parish so they have been part of St Pats for almost 70 years. So it is with great sadness that Tony and Howard have recently advised us that they will soon be moving from the Parish. Not only will we miss them on Sundays but we will also miss their amazing contributors to our parish and community life.

Tony Brown has also been one of the unsung heroes of our parish life. Not only is he the public, friendly face at our Saturday evening masses and at all of our important celebrations but, most significantly, he has been the President of our local conference of the St Vincent de Paul Society. He has brought solace and material assistance to so many families and individuals both locally and in the broader community.

Howard has co-ordinated our parish liturgy and music and his own musical skills have brought joy and prayerful music to our celebrations every week. Howard has also been a key member of our Parish Pastoral Council. We must also acknowledge his other work assisting victims of crime in the broader community, generally at great personal cost but with enormous benefit to so many distressed and bereaved people.

We hope to have an opportunity to thank them formally in the near future — but for now we simply say THANK YOU and may God shower great blessings on you.

**Well done good and faithful servants**





The school has had an amazing journey so far this year, with a range of events across the whole community, culminating in the Blessing and Opening of the school on May 4.



It was a very special event, recognising the strong Catholic culture that has been in this area since Mortlake began.

Monsignor John spoke beautifully about the school, acknowledging the past and the Sisters of Charity and the staff and the children and families of the future. It was a truly memorable occasion, even with the spirit quietly unveiling the plaque moments into the ceremony! The children for their young ages were really amazing with both their great singing and their good behaviour. The old school inspector from 1896 would have been impressed.

The school is drawing many visitors from interstate and overseas to see the beautiful spaces in operation.

Best of all, enrolments for 2019 Kindergarten classes are completely full.

**Amanda Westgate**  
Principal,  
St Patrick's School  
Mortlake



Kevin has been a parishioner at St Patrick's Mortlake for over 7 years, moving into Breakfast Point from Marsfield in 2011. He is a familiar face at weekend Masses on the altar assisting Mons John as an acolyte. Recently he has taken the lead for the Liturgy Ministry which co-ordinates the lectors (readers), acolytes and altar servers, extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist, participants in the Offertory procession, those who manage the children's liturgy, parish members who welcome people to the church and act as ushers and collectors, and the musicians and singers.



Kevin Nelson-Smith

When he is not at work as an Accountant, he volunteers with the Prison Fellowship, taking prisoners on day trips and assisting with the prisoners awaiting sentencing in Downing Street. Kevin has been a member of the St Vincent de Paul for over twenty years and is currently the Mortlake conference treasurer.

Kevin is married to Catherine and they have 3 children and 4 grandchildren who he adores. He is a golf tragic, follows Manly Rugby League team and loves watching the rugby and cricket.

## First Holy Communion

On Sunday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> thirty-six children from our parish made their First Holy Communion. The children were prepared for their Communion over four weeks by Robert Mayor (parish sacramental program co-ordinator) and his team.

The Communion was as usual, a great success and it was wonderful to see so many parents, siblings, grandparents and friends supporting the children. Monsignor John made the celebration very special and spoke to the children about the importance of this day in their sacramental journey.



It was a truly happy occasion and it was lovely to see so many excited and smiling children after mass return to the parish hall for a Communion breakfast celebration. The children said a prayer and helped Monsignor John cut the Communion Cake which was later shared with parents and families who joined the children for a cup of tea.

**Congratulations to all**