



ST PATRICK'S MORTLAKE

33 GALE STREET MORTLAKE

Parish Newsletter Spring 2018

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Message from Fr John

This is the time of the year when we begin to prepare for certain coming events and experiences. It seems that we ought to prepare for a very warm summer this year. Some of our young people are preparing to sit for their HSC exams. Then, of course, some of us are looking forward to the football grand finals. Spring seems to be a season when we live in hope that certain events will turn out to be positive experiences for us.

“Hope” can be positive experience or, on the other hand, it can give rise to worry and anxiety. Sometimes we look forward to what lies ahead with joyful expectation. Unfortunately, thoughts about what may lie ahead for us can sometimes give rise to anxiety and worry.

Our community here at St Patrick's Parish Mortlake is imbued with a spirit of “joyful expectation” most of the time. We endeavour to be very positive about the future of our community and the future of our Church.

Our Catholic Church has not fared well in the eyes of the media and other commentators in recent years because of the criminal behaviour of some men who once held positions of trust within our Church. Such behaviour has been inexcusable; but there is still a strong hope in our hearts that goodness and integrity will be victorious over evil.

As the Parish Priest here at St Patrick's, I stand in admiration of our community. Each and every member of our community seems to be imbued with joyful expectation about the future.

As Catholics we absorb the common “hope” of the Gospels. It is the “hope” revealed by Jesus that we will be part of God's life forever. There is nothing to fear.

As a famous American once said:
"We have nothing to fear except fear itself."

Mons. John Usher PP

Social Justice Ministry

There is a new Social Justice Ministry at St Patrick's Mortlake led by Sinead Kent. The group meets monthly to consider projects that will drive social justice, both locally and globally.

We're often asked the difference between social justice and the charity provided by the St Vincent de Paul Conference at Mortlake. Do we need both groups? Whilst there are significant areas of alignment, there are also key differences between social justice and charity.

Charity responds to immediate needs whilst social justice responds to long-term requirements. Whilst charity provides direct services to the needy like food, clothing and shelter, social justice strives to promote social change in institutions or political structures.

Charity provides a hand up, assisting with problems that already exist and addressing the end results and symptoms of injustice. Social Justice strives to prevent the injustice happening in the first place, and is directed at the root causes and underlying structures causing the problems. Essentially Social Justice drives through public, collective actions while charity usually works through private, individual acts.

A key example of charity is the recent Vinnie's Drought Appeal to assist farmers and their communities with their immediate and desperate needs. Social Justice works to influence structures, policies and legislation to support farming so communities are better prepared to cope with drought in the future.

So, the St Patrick's Social Justice Ministry and the Mortlake Conference of the St Vincent de Paul work closely together, but with a difference in focus. If you are interested in joining either group, just contact the Parish Office.

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.

Parish Faith Education Ministry

Our Parish Faith Education Ministry has been expanded and revitalised since the introduction of our St Patrick's Parish 2020 launch in 2017. It now has nine committee members and we have added Evangelisation into the ministry.



The main areas of activity for the ministry are:

- ✚ Catechist instruction at Mortlake Primary School where 170 Catholic children receive instruction from our 13 Catechist volunteers and assistants.
- ✚ Preparation of children to receive the sacraments of Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation.
- ✚ Instruction of new families of Baptism candidates.
- ✚ Offering opportunities for Adult Faith Education to our parishioners.
- ✚ RCIA — the Faith Education Group provides instruction and direction for people wishing to join the Catholic Church.
- ✚ Children's Liturgy — This activity involves the instruction of the children at the Sunday morning Mass & is managed by a wonderful team of volunteers.

Recent examples of our expanded ministry include the Parish day of Prayer and Reflection and the

'Introduction to Prayer' session. Upcoming presentations are a film 'Mary the Mother of God' which is to be held in the parish hall on Tuesday 21st October at 7:30pm. We have guest speaker Cathy Kennedy scheduled to make a presentation on an interesting theological topic — 'What is God's purpose for me?' on 4th September. We have also planned to host additional presentations of films and adult education sessions prior to Christmas.

As part of our evangelisation activities, we have recently organised Family Masses which have been very successful. To encourage broader attendance of local families, we issued special invitations to our two local schools and families who have participated in our sacramental programs over the last two years. Our next Family mass is scheduled for Father's Day in September. We intend to grow this area of the ministry over the next 18 months.

As you can see it is a varied and comprehensive ministry with much opportunity for growth and new initiatives. Any parishioners who may have an interest in becoming involved in the Faith Education Ministry can contact Bob Mayor on 9736 1161 or at mayor@leasing.net.au

You don't have to work out
the home care system
on your own



Your invitation to a free presentation from CatholicCare

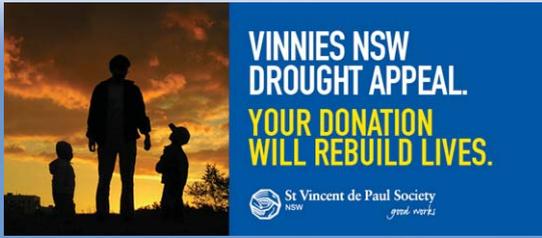
Staying independent in your own home is a priority for many Australian Seniors. CatholicCare's Home Care Specialists can guide you through the complicated government systems and help you find help while you wait for funded services.

Who should attend? Seniors (even those who don't need home care today); their friends and family; and community members who have regular contact with Seniors and may be able to help them get a start with organising home care.

Join us and find out how to access in-home support and caring services.

When: Monday 10 September 9:30am
Where: St Patrick's Parish Hall Mortlake
RSVP: Marie 0414 588 846

Drought Appeal



On the weekend of 18-19 August, the St Vincent de Paul Conference at Mortlake, in coordination with St Patrick's School 'Badges for Bales' ran a Drought Appeal to assist the farmers of NSW.

The appeal assists the work of Vinnies volunteer members living in rural areas who have been providing support to people on the brink of disaster.

Our Mortlake Conference member and Inner West Council President, Gil Vella initially contacted his counterpart Leo Woodman, the Wilcannia Forbes Central Council to find the best way to help his drought ravaged region. Because whole communities are impacted, not just farmers, it was agreed that money which could be spent locally by farmers was the best assistance.

The money collected by the Vinnies Drought Appeal will provide immediate relief through food assistance and other household bill payments. It will also fund the delivery of water and animal feed by partner organisations and support social events for rural communities to come together and find support.

Thanks go out to the Parish for their wonderful response. Once again, St Pat's parishioners proved their reputation for generosity, providing a hand up to those in need through their enthusiastic support for the drought appeal.



Family Mass

Our first evening family Mass for 2018 was held at the 6pm Vigil Mass on Saturday 28 July. It was very well attended, despite the cold evening. The Family Mass is a wonderful way for families young and old to participate in prayer and worship together. Children and adults alike are encouraged to develop an understanding and appreciation for the Mass and our Catholic traditions.

We usually have our Family Masses on a Sunday morning but we are looking to extend these special masses to other time slots.

Families are the most important units on this planet and a great gift from God — it is wonderful to celebrate our families with a holy Mass.

Our families include children, parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, brothers, sisters, cousins etc. Today there are many types of families and in our uniqueness all are welcome as part of the family of God.

Everyone is Welcome. Children from St Patrick's School were involved in special Prayers of the Faithful, the Offertory Procession and as greeters. Many thanks to all who contributed in the planning of this wonderful Mass.

When is our Next Family Mass?

- ✦ Significant dates that families usually gather have been chosen and we have tried to have a celebration at least once during every Mass time throughout the year.
- ✦ Our first for 2018 was 9am on Mother's Day in May.
- ✦ The next Family Mass will be at 9am on Father's Day, 2nd September. Our last for the year will be at 6pm on Christmas Eve.

How can YOU take part?

- ✦ **As Family:** Come along, sit with your family, pray, sing and join in the Mass together.
- ✦ **Eucharistic & Lectionary Ministers:** Eucharistic Ministers assist in Communion distribution at Mass. Lectors proclaim the Word of God. There is training for both ministries. Family members interested in becoming a Eucharistic or Liturgical Minister are welcome. Call and have a conversation.
- ✦ **Greeters & Collectors:** We always need help in welcoming people to the Family Mass, handing out bulletins or other materials, bringing the gifts to the altar, and overseeing the collection. These tasks provide a wonderful opportunity for families to minister together. We would love to have you help!
- ✦ **Altar Servers:** Altar Servers offer service to God and the community by assisting the priest during Mass. The ministry is open to all adults and youth of the parish who have made their First Holy Communion. There are training sessions for Altar Servers, please call for more details.
- ✦ **Music Ministry:** If you enjoy singing or maybe you can play an instrument, we are always seeking new singers and instrumentalists to join our music ministry. All ages are welcome! The Music Ministry would love to hear from you.

Anne Manenti

When Anne Manenti and her husband Peter moved from their Parish in Strathfield to St Patrick's, Mortlake in 2000, I'm sure they would never have thought that in 2018 they would still be so involved in Parish life.



Anne worked as a catechist for many years, and shortly after her arrival at St Pat's, she joined the Pastoral Care Ministry and the Social Committee. She is a member of the Parish Council, and since 2007 has run the Parish BINGO every Monday morning. Her contribution to the Parish does not end there.

Anne has co-ordinated the Social Ministry for the past 12 years and has been supported by a remarkable team. Numerous parish dinners and lunches, parish celebrations and farewell's and frequent bus trips are high on her agenda. Her organisational skills are second to none and Anne has always given of her time very generously.

Her work as a catechists saw Anne receive the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine Life Membership Award in 2004.

Anne has given much to our Parish, but she always maintains that the Parish has given much more to Peter and herself.

John & Nancy Walker

One of the ways we get to know about fellow parishioners is when at the end of Mass, Mons John asks: "*Does anyone have any news?*" This is when we find out about birthdays and other important happenings in the Parish. So this is how we found out a few weeks ago that parishioner, John Walker, was turning 88!



Siblings, John and Nancy Walker have been members

of St Pat's Parish for many years and they have been very happy to be part of the congregation. They are among the regulars that attend Mass on Saturday night. Of course, they too have observed many changes over the years both in the Church and society. Nancy in particular has kept up with the technological changes in society and is a keen user of the Parish Website.

Proudly, John remembers being an altar boy, in 1940 when he was ten years old. He also remembers the time before the church building was extended.

The Church extension was done in 1938; so John whilst still living at Drummoyne probably holidayed with the grandparents who lived at Mortlake at sometime before that date.

He especially remembers the sacristy was in the section which is now the side altar of Our Lady (The Lady Chapel). This was used by the Altar Boys where they changed into their robes: they had to provide their own gear including slippers. At this time the Church of St Patrick was part of St Mary's Concord until December 1943 when we became a parish in our own right.

John, who went to school at De LaSalle College Ashfield, is the second child in a family of seven, all of whom are still living. They are aged 90 to 73.

John and Nancy still live in the family home to where they moved in 1940 from Drummoyne. They, too, like many of our congregation are first generation Aussies, as their grandparents with their family migrated from Britain. They are now the proud aunt and uncle of 23 nieces and nephews. Nancy says she has lost count of how many great nieces and nephews they share. And Nancy, we await John's announcement to the congregation of your next birthday, in October.



We have had a few busy months since our last newsletter with children enjoying a variety of activities including a sports carnival, gymnastic lessons and special athletics clinics, a great whole school excursion into the Opera House for a Special play, (with a few on the bus on the way home fast asleep!!!) and celebrating the first 100 days of school in the last week of the term.

The children have just celebrated Mary Mackillop's feast day. Taking on board the motto "*seeing a need and doing something about it*" they helped our St Vincent De Paul chapter raise funds for country families in need. You may have seen them selling '*badges for a bale*' at 9.00am mass recently. It was a wonderful show of support by the children for those in need.

Amanda Westgate
Principal,
St Patrick's School Mortlake