

ST PATRICK'S PARISH MORTLAKE

33 Gale St. Mortlake 2137 (02) 9743 1017 (02) 9739 6474
 parish@stpatsmortlake.org.au stpatsmortlake.org.au

PARISH PRIEST: Mons. John Usher

MASSES: Saturday (Vigil) 6.00 pm Sunday 9.00 am and 6.00 pm
Mon: 8.00 am Communion Service Tues to Fri: 8.00 am Mass
 Rosary after Morning Mass on Fridays
RECONCILIATION: Saturday 5.30 pm to 5.45pm
PARISH ADMIN.: Tuesday and Friday 9.00am to 3.00pm – Brenda

ST PATRICK'S SCHOOL

12 Herbert Street Mortlake 2137 (02) 9736 1797
 info@stpmsmortlake.catholic.edu.au

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK: **Monday:** Our Lady of Loreto; **Tuesday:** St Damasus (384 – Pope); **Wednesday:** Our Lady of Guadalupe (1531 – Empress of Americas); **Thursday:** St Lucy (304 – Patron of blind people); **Friday:** St John of the Cross (1591); **Saturday:** St Christiana (500- Patron of Georgia).

OUR CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS THIS YEAR ARE AS FOLLOWS

WEDNESDAY 19TH DECEMBER AT 7.30PM – COMMUNITY CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF

RECONCILIATION IN

THE CHURCH

FRIDAY 21ST DECEMBER AT 6.00PM - CHRISTMAS CAROLS ON THE PARISH LAWN

MONDAY 24TH DECEMBER AT 6.00PM - CHRISTMAS VIGIL MASS ESPECIALLY FOR OUR CHILDREN

MONDAY 24TH DECEMBER AT 8.00PM - CHRISMTAS VIGIL MASS

TUESDAY 25TH DECEMBER AT MIDNIGHT – 9.00AM – 10.30AM - CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES

MESSAGE FROM MONS JOHN: Today's Gospel, written by St Luke, endeavors to locate us in a moment of time when John the Baptist asks anyone who would listen to him to "Prepare the Way of the Lord". Of course, the Church is presenting this passage from St Luke's Gospel to us today so that we might "Prepare the Way of the Lord" in these days leading up to Christmas 2018.

What is most interesting in today's Gospel passage is that St Luke doesn't give us a date when John the Baptist said "Prepare the Way of the Lord". Instead he lists the names of the various civic and religious leaders who were in power at the time. This is a list of notables who were ruling at the time when Jesus makes his first public appearance.

If we were to make such a list in 2018 we would have to say "In the first year of the prime ministership of Scott Morrison, and the third year of Gladys Berejiklian's premiership of New South Wales, and the sixth year of Archbishop Fisher's leadership of the Sydney Catholic Church, and the sixth year of the pontificate of Pope Francis, we people of St Patrick's Mortlake are 'preparing the way of the Lord' in these weeks before Christmas 2018"

No doubt, the great rulers that St Luke lists, like the names we could list today, made, and continue to make, ringing endorsements about what is good and proper for we ordinary people. Nevertheless, in St Luke's story it is a very simple nomad called John the Baptist who proclaims the importance of Christ's entry into the world.

It is the simplicity of Johns' proclamation that is important. Similarly, it is the simplicity of our faith that is important as we prepare for Christmas. Important people may say important things at Christmas time, but it is what each of us proclaims very simply in faith about the importance of Christmas that really matters.

WHAT DO YOU THINK GOD IS ASKING OF THE AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC? The Australian Catholic Bishops have called a "Plenary Council" of the Australia Catholic Church. The last such Council was held in 1937. It is an opportunity for every Catholic to make suggestions about the direction we, as a local church, should head in the immediate future. Everyone is invited to respond either by putting forward some ideas or proposals in a few words or by going to the special web-site (plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au). At all masses this week-end there will be an opportunity to make a short written response during or after Mass. (Matter worth consideration may include Youth; Priests' shortage; Women's roles; Leadership; Parish development; Child protection; etc).

| DIARY DATES | |
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| Mon | 10.00am Bingo in the Parish Hall – <i>All Welcome just come along on the day</i> |
| Wed | 11.00am Christian Meditation in the Lady Chapel – <i>Everyone is welcome!</i> |

ST PATRICK'S SCHOOL AND ST VINCENT DE PAUL – HAMPERS AND GIFTS WILL BE PACKED THIS COMING MONDAY 10TH DECEMBER FOR DELIVERY TO THOSE IN NEED: This is the last week-end for donations of non-perishable food items, if needed there are some suggestions listed on the appeal notice in the Narthex. Please place your donation in the plastic tubs in the Narthex. *Many thanks*

CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR CATHOLIC CARE – COLLECTION DATE WILL BE MONDAY 17/12/18: Once again this Christmas there is an invitation to donate gifts for the disadvantaged children living in Sydney. Please just bring a long a wrapped gift for a boy/child with the age displayed. This is an opportunity to give a little joy to others who might not have any gift at all this Christmas. *Many Thanks*

CHILDREN'S CHOIR: An invitation is extend to all children if they would like to be involved at their Mass at 6pm on Christmas Eve. There will be three 45 min rehearsals -10am Saturday 15th Dec, 6pm Thursday 20th Dec and 10am Sunday 23rd Dec. This is a very special way for your child to be involved and this will be Erin's third year conducting this choir so please just RSVP directly to erin.white05@gmail.com

COMMUNAL CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Once again this year, on the Wednesday evening before Christmas we will celebrate together the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The celebration will take place at 7.30pm in our Church and we will be joined by parishioners from St Mary's Concord and St Ambrose Concord West. *The date of this celebration is Wednesday 19th December at 7.30pm.*

CHRISTMAS CAROLS ON ST PATRICK'S GREEN: You are warmly invited to Carols which will be hosted by Mike and Helena Bailey on Friday 21 December 2018 from 6pm to 8pm. Please join our parish community for some of your favourite Christmas carols. Bring a picnic, chairs, blanket, family and friends to enjoy in a relaxed atmosphere. All Enquiries: Lauraine 0414 743 076.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS CARDS AND COLUMBAN CALENDARS: As many families prepare to celebrate the festive season with their loved ones, others are experiencing disadvantage or homelessness and may be suffering in silence this Christmas. The sales from these cards and calendars will go towards the funding of our Good Works and the services that will support them during this time. **The price for a pack of 10 cards is \$6.** The new 2019 Columban Calendar (an ideal Christmas gift) **costs \$10.** The cards and calendars are available in the Narthex.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Paul Beer; Patricia Gallagher; Joan Antill; Queenie Menso; Amelia Modigliani (Italy).

ANNIVERSARY AND SPECIAL INTENTIONS: Andrew Manenti; Glenda Rutz; Bruna Prevedello; Bjarne Johansen; Michael & Barbara Sheehan; Frank & Eileen Dutton; Angelo Falgiatori; Charles Bonnici.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY: Join the Prayer Group after Sunday's 9am Mass to say one decade of the Rosary and the Memorare for petitions received Raylene; Mary Ridolfi; Charmaine Suria; Beverley McGriskin; Margaret Dix; Zac; Fr Davino; Maria; Maria Pia Rampin; Nives Tessarolo; Ade Barton; Tony; Donald Tepeau; William Usher; Anthony; Tony Brezlin; Bernadette; Michael; Nina McNamara; Rod; Kaitlyn Toohey; Kane Petersen; John Coulson; Margaret Love; Domenica; Dannie; Diane. To have your own petitions included, please see one of the group, or phone Carmel Moliterno 9736 1718.



| NEXT WEEK 15 & 16 DECEMBER – WEEK THREE | | | |
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| | Sat. 6.00 pm | Sun. 9.00 am | Sun. 6.00 pm |
| Readers | Amanda Gierek Barbara Bolster | Wendy Ballesty Paul Ballesty | James Duck Kate Kent |
| Acolytes | Cristina Profilio Julian McCarron | Eric Kent Gigi Pelizzari Neve Pelizzari | Kevin Nelson- Smith Rocco Arce |
| Communion at Mass | Nerina Briganti Max Briganti | Betty Flynn Connie Lasorsa | Diane Carolan Rita Kolibe Michele Couch |
| Communion to the Sick | Kevin Casey and Frank O'Young | | |
| Children's Liturgy | Rebecca | | |
| Altar Society 3 rd Saturday | Marie Cramsie and Barbara Granger | | |
| Money Counters | Sandra & Stephen Ryan and Philomena and Michael Turley | | |
| Altar Servers | Please see Mons John | | |

PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL ST VINCENT DE PAUL CONFERENCE BY PURCHASING A CATHOLIC WEEKLY TODAY FOR ONLY \$2.00 - MANY THANKS