

**ST PATRICK'S PARISH MORTLAKE**  
 33 Gale St. Mortlake 2137 ☎(02) 9743 1017 ☎(02) 9739 6474  
 ✉ [parish@stpatmortlake.org.au](mailto:parish@stpatmortlake.org.au) 🌐 [stpatmortlake.org.au](http://stpatmortlake.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@stpmortlake.catholic.edu.au](mailto:info@stpmortlake.catholic.edu.au)

**PLEASE NOTE - THERE WILL BE NO COMMUNION SERVICES ON MONDAY THE 24<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2018**

**OUR CHRISTMAS MASSESS ARE AS FOLLOWS:**

**CHRISTMAS EVE: 6PM & 8PM**

**CHRISTMAS DAY: MIDNIGHT, 9AM & 10.30AM**

**PLEASE NOTE - THERE IS NO MASS IN THE EVENING CHRISTMAS DAY**

**FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK:** **Monday:** Vigil of Christmas: **Tuesday:** The Nativity of the Lord: **Wednesday:** St Stephen (35AD – Patron of Stonemasons); **Thursday:** St John (Apostle 60AD – Patron of Publishing); **Friday:** The Holy Innocents (1AD); **Saturday:** St Thomas Becket (1170).

**MESSAGE FROM MONS JOHN:** In the ancient Jewish Book of Micah there is a significant prediction. The prophet Micah in chapter five of his book said that someone would come from Bethlehem to “shepherd his flock by the strength of the Lord” (Micah 5:4). Over many centuries the Jewish people considered Bethlehem, the city of David, to be a place of hope and peace.

How unlike the Bethlehem of today! The city that once held the promise of hope for a peaceful world is now a place where violence and bloodshed are witnessed almost daily. It is the site of violent incursions of Israelis against Palestinians and Palestinians against Israelis.

Whereas Bethlehem was once a symbol of hope it is now a symbol of despair. The juxtaposition between hope and despair is a reality that we all live with from time to time. It is the “bipolar” reality of life but, because of the Christmas event we are about to celebrate, we know that hope always triumphs over despair.

This triumph was experienced by that wonderful Australian woman Mary Mackillop. She believed that undereducated children, living in rural and remote places throughout this country, could have a better life. That was for her a great hope. Nevertheless her despair for those children, like her despair for disadvantaged and abandoned women, was very real. At first no one, not even the hierarchy of the Church to which she belonged and believed in, would embrace her hope for a more dignified life for thousands of women and children throughout Australia

In spite of her despair, her belief that Jesus became a human being, enabled her hope ultimately to triumph.

Mary Mackillop is a person to think of this Sunday before Christmas 2018. Her life teaches us that the birth of Jesus means that dreams can come true

and that hope always triumphs over despair for we who believe that God actually became **one of us in Bethlehem.**

**OUR CHRISTMAS CAROLS:** Thanks to our liturgy and music ministry for organising the wonderful evening of Carols last Friday evening. Special thanks are due to Mike & Helena Bailey, the Kent family, Lauraine Muir, the Celtic Women’s Choir, Bob Mayor, Anita Smith Marie Piccin, Kevin Nelson – Smith and all who participated.

**PASTORAL CARE MINISTRY:** The members of the Pastoral Care Ministry wish all a happy and holy Christmas. We look forward to offering support to those in need during 2019.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO LEONIE & BILL YOUNG:** Leonie and Bill will celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary (the golden one!) on 28<sup>th</sup> December 2018. **CONGRATULATIONS TO THEM BOTH!**

**CONGRATULATIONS TO MARGARET & JOHN CULLEN:** Margaret and John will celebrate their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2019 **CONGRATULATIONS TO THEM BOTH!**

**ST THOMAS BECKETT (1118-1170):** Next Saturday is the feast of St Thomas Becket. He had been made the Chancellor in England, appointed by King Henry II. He was a priest and the second most powerful person in England. Although an extravagant and wealthy cleric he was required to abandon his life-style when the Pope appointed him as the Archbishop of Canterbury in 1162. He became a stoic critic of King Henry and the corruption that surrounded him and his court. For of King Henry’s knights overheard him say “I wish I could get rid of that troublesome priest”. Without the King knowing they raced off and slaughtered Thomas Becket in his own Cathedral. King Henry was divested by the slaying of St Thomas and spent the remainder of his life doing public penance. The tomb of St Thomas Becket (St Thomas of Canterbury) became a great pilgrimage site from the Middle Ages.

**CHRISTMAS HAMPERS:** The St Vincent de Paul Society would like to sincerely thank the parishioners and School community of St Patrick’s for the wonderful Christmas fare and gifts you kindly donated. A special thanks to Kirsty Lucas and the St Patrick’s School Mothers who helped pack 25 well-filled Christmas hampers for the needy people in our area. Members of our Vinnies Conference have delivered the hampers and all who received them were very appreciative and happy. **Your generosity was truly overwhelming!**

**CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR CATHOLIC CARE:** All the wonderful gifts have been collected and will all reach the children for Christmas. Catholic Care has expressed their deep appreciation to you all for your generosity and the smiles that these gifts will bring to the faces of the receivers. They would also like to take this opportunity to wish all the parishioners of St Patrick’s a Safe and Holy Christmas.

DIARY DATES	
Mon	<b>BINGO</b> will resume in late January date to be advised
Wed	<b>CHRISTIAN MEDIATION</b> will resume in late January date to be advised

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Sheila Poole; Raylene Harrison; Amelia Modigliani; Damien De Martino; Sister Marie Duffy R.S.M.; Peter Beer; Patricia Gallagher; Joan Antill; Queenie Menso.

**ANNIVERSARY AND SPECIAL INTENTIONS:** Gil Cocco; Cynthia Fernandes; Francesco & Maria Cannone; Loretta Ricchiuti; Andrea & Angela Ricchiuti; Charlie Bonneci; Antonino & Grazia Di Giglio; Mary Galea; Deceased members of the Di Giglio, Tesoriero, Lo Schiavo and Galea & Michalief Families.

**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 Bob Hawke; 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 29 & 30 DECEMBER – WEEK FIVE			
	Sat. 6.00 pm	Sun. 9.00 am	Sun. 6.00 pm
Readers	Kerry Harfield Greg Whitby	Margaret McCarthy Jack Gordon	Michael Smith Kate Kent
Acolytes	Kevin Nelson- Smith Julian McCarron	Eric Kent Gigi Pelizzari Neve Pelizzari	Peter Scicluna Rocco Arce
Communion at Mass	Lorette Quinlan	Philomena Turley Ron Vozzo	Diane Carolan Sinead Kent
Communion to the Sick	Helen O’Connor and Margaret & Gil Vella		
Children’s Liturgy	Will resume after the holidays		
Altar Society 5 <sup>th</sup> Saturday	Pam Kubyk, Patricia Roach and Lorraine O’Young		
Money Counters	The Kent Family		
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**