

ST PATRICK'S PARISH MORTLAKE
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 ✉️ parish@stpatmortlake.org.au 🌐 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

A NEW YEAR'S WISH: The recent past has been a confusing time for our world. War continues in the Middle East. Millions of people around the world are now homeless refugees. Political leadership abroad and in our own nation has been less than stable. Christian values have been seriously challenged and our Catholic Church has had to honestly and openly address its failures. There is a hope in all our hearts that 2019 will see true integrity from our international and national leaders; an end to war and violence; and a commitment to honesty, integrity, simplicity and love in all human institutions, especially our Church.

This hope is summed up in a short verse written by Fra Giovanni in the 16th Century. He wrote:

“The gloom of the world
 is but a shadow.
 Behind it, yet within reach, is joy.
 There is radiance
 and Glory in the darkness,
 Could we but see,
 and to see, we have only to look.
 I beseech you to look.”

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL

A OLD YEAR HAS ENDED AND A NEW YEAR HAS BEGUN:

During the past 12 months we were honoured here at St Patrick's Parish, to celebrate 15 marriages of couples who committed their lives to each other in love. We welcomed 82 new Christians into the Catholic Church by celebrating the Sacrament of Baptism for them in the presence of their parents, God-parents and families. We also said farewell to 14 friends when we gave thanks for their lives at their funerals. May this new year, 2019, continue to be a time to celebrate love, life and eternal life.

OUR PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL: The Parish Pastoral Council will have its first meeting for 2019 next Tuesday evening, 8th January, at 7.30pm in the presbytery

CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS: There are envelopes on the seats for “Christmas Offerings”. Once upon a time these were called “Christmas Dues”. Simply, any donation given is for the support of priests. Many parishes do not have enough income for food and household costs to support their local priests. Any donation you can give, no matter how small, will support priests in these poor parishes. **MANY THANKS FOR YOUR KINDNESS!**

READING AT MASS: Would you like to join this Ministry? The roster is being compiled at the moment so if you would like to join this ministry please leave your name and contact details with Mons John or contact the office.

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

RECENTLY DECEASED: Peter Clark (**Funeral Mass on Monday at 11.00am**); June Murray (**Funeral Mass on Tuesday at 10.30am**).

ANNIVERSARY AND SPECIAL INTENTIONS: Francesco D’Elia; Natale, Giovana, Antonio & Bruno Zappia; Giuseppe & Carmela Campagna; Alberto De Angelis; Emanuel Vasildis; Paul Papadopoulas; Grego, Pavin & Battalia Families, Sam Ferlauto; Michael & Giuseppa Goffredo; Nancy Buonanova; Gussy Fausti; Anthony Zacca; Sue Geoffredo; Catherine Thompson; John McCarthy; Arthur Collins; Anastasia Scott.

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 DECEMBER 12 & 13 JANUARY – WEEK TWO			
	Sat. 6.00 pm	Sun. 9.00 am	Sun. 6.00 pm
Readers	M a u r e e n Edwards L o r e t t a Quinlan	Dianne Manning Margaret Dix	Laura Libro T a m a r a Macgillicuddy
Acolytes	Peter Scicluna J u l i a n McCarron	Eric Kent Gigi Pelizzari Neve Pelizzari	Cristina Profilio Rocco Arce
Communion at Mass	C a r m e n Holley	James Redrup Margaret Vella Gil Vella	Sinead Kent
Communion to the Sick	Luisa Campagna and Libby Cook		
Children's Liturgy	Will resume after the holidays date to be advised		
Altar Society 2 nd Saturday	Luisa Campagna and Anne Gaul		
Money Counters	Carol Gordon, James Redrup, Allan & Christina Marshall		
Altar Servers	Please see Mons John		

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK: **Monday:** St Raymond of Penyafort (1279 – Patron of Lawyers); **Tuesday:** St Adrian (304); **Wednesday:** St Peter Claver (1654 – Patron to African Americans); **Thursday:** St Nicholas of Tolentino (1306 – Patron of Mariners); **Friday:** Sts Protus & Hyacinth (257); **Saturday:** Holy Name of Mary.

MESSAGE FROM MONS JOHN: Today we begin this new year of 2019 with the feast of the Epiphany. The word “Epiphany” means “the showing”. It is a feast based on a magic story about the discovery of Jesus by some visitors described in the Gospel of St Matthew as “wise men who came from the east”.

Who are these men Matthew is alluding to in his story? Were they actually “magi” (ie magicians)? Matthew says “they followed a star”. Were they astrologers? Over the centuries they have been described variously as kings or priests or simply nomadic desert dwellers.

No one has actually determined how many of them followed the star to Bethlehem. Tradition suggest that there were three of them; one white, one brown and one black representing all the peoples of the earth.

Over the years they have even been given then names of Casper, Melchior and Balthasar.

The gifts they are said to have brought to Jesus were gold, frankincense and myrrh. These gifts, in ancient mythology are said to have been symbolic of kingship, divinity and humanity.

What a magic story Matthew tells! But, in fact, Matthew is telling us a story that is relevant to all of us. It is about every human being's search for the divine. It is about our personal search for God.

For we humans, God is unknowable and our search will lead us down unfathomable paths unless we discover who Jesus Christ really is. He is part of the life of God who became a human being like each and every one of us. Because He is human He is knowable. He is discoverable. He is lovable.

Each of us comes to know who Jesus really is in our own personal way. Some of us discover Jesus in times of great exhilaration. Others of us discover Him during times of sadness, grief or suffering. Some of us experience His miracles through healing or peaceful resignation. It is a discovery that each of us makes in our own way and today we are invited to follow our own star to the place where we discover Jesus personally.

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