

ST PATRICK'S PARISH MORTLAKE

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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

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK: **Monday:** St Sava (1235 – Patron of Serbian people); **Tuesday:** St Paul the First Hermit (342); **Wednesday:** St Marcellus (309); **Thursday:** St Anthony the Abbot (356- Patron of gravediggers); **Friday:** St Prisca (270); **Saturday:** St Canute (1086 – King of Denmark).

MESSAGE FROM MONS JOHN: On this feast of the Baptism of the Lord we read the story of the Baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist, as told by St. Luke.

John the Baptist makes it clear that he is not the messiah. He says “I only baptise with water but He, the messiah, will baptise with the Holy Spirit and with fire”. This, of course, is a reference to the gift of the Spirit which St Luke writes about in his other book, The Acts of the Apostles. In this second story, St. Luke speaks about the coming of the Spirit on the disciples of Jesus in terms of “fire”.

We Australians are very familiar with the significance of fire. The recent bush fires are a powerful reminder of the power of fire. Fire spreads across our land, jumping from tree top to tree top, spreading out across the bush on a front miles wide. Fire travels where it wills. It has an energy and force that is all embracing.

This image of fire is used here in St. Luke’s gospel to help us to understand the power and strength of God’s gift to the human family. This gift is Jesus Christ. It is a powerful gift that is capable of embracing every person.

Jesus is a human person yet, at the same time, mass with anointing of the sick and He is the life of God. Hence every human being is embraced by God’s life. Symbolically this is a baptism so powerful that we are incapable of understanding it – yet we are swept up in this powerful, all-embracing gift of God’s love.

Today is a day to give thanks for our gift of faith. Our own personal baptism is all embracing and it is a baptism which has changed us forever. We pray that the flame of faith that has embraced each and every one of us will never be quenched.

THE SEASONS OF THE CHURCH’S YEAR: This week-end brings the Christmas Season of the Church’s Liturgical year to a close. As from Monday we begin the “ordinary” season. The liturgical colour becomes green. It is the colour of hope. This “ordinary” season continues until Ash Wednesday and the beginning of lent on 6th March 2019. The liturgical colour then becomes violet; the colour of expectation and penance. Lent continues until Holy Thursday on 18th April 2019. We then celebrate the great feast of Easter. The liturgical colour becomes white; the colour of joy. The Easter season continues until 9th June 2019 when we celebrate the Feast of Pentecost and the coming of the Holy Spirit. Next is Trinity Sunday followed by the feast of Corpus Christi on 23rd June 2019. The “ordinary” season then recommences and the colour green continues until the first Sunday of Advent on 1st December 2019. We then begin the preparations for Christmas 2019 with the violet colours of expectations.

As a matter of interest, the other liturgical colours are Red and Rose. Red celebrates Christ’s death on Good Friday and the feast days of martyrs. Rose colour is the colour of gladness and is only used on 3rd Week of Advent and Lent.

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.

A MESSAGE FROM GEOFF DUGGAN A PARISHIONER OF ST PATRICKS: I have got a friend who would like to talk a young person who has done the '12 months in London' trip and get some firsthand information about accommodation and working in the UK. If any parishioner has a family member or knows someone who has done the London thing and would be prepared to speak with Claire please let me know, ph. 0408 995 457. *Hope you can help.*

DIARY DATES	
Mon	BINGO will resume in the Parish Hall on Monday 28th January 2019 at 10AM
Wed	CHRISTIAN MEDIATION will resume in late January date to be advised
Sun	CHILDREN’S LITURGY at the 9AM Mass on Sundays will recommence at the beginning of the school year on Sunday 3rd February 2019

SOME OTHER DATES TO NOTE LATER IN THE YEAR ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- MASS WITH ANOINTING OF THE SICK AND LUNCHEON: SATURDAY 16TH MARCH @ 11AM
- ST PATRICK’S DAY CELEBRATIONS AFTER THE EVENING MASS: SUNDAY 17TH MARCH @7PM
- EASTER CELEBRATIONS: 18TH, 19TH, 20 & 21ST APRIL
- FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS: SUNDAY 23RD JUNE 2019 @ 10.30AM
- CONFIRMATIONS: FRIDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER @7.30PM

RECENTLY DECEASED: Peter Clark; June Murray; Gerard Whitby; Andrew McPhee.

ANNIVERSARY AND SPECIAL INTENTIONS: Michael James Gallagher; Liam Delahunty (1st Anniversary); Angelo Falgiatori; Di Giglio, Tesoriero, Lo Schiavo, Galea & Michalleg Families; Sam Ferlauto; Michele & Giuseppa Goffredo; Nancy Buonavova; Gussy Fausti; Anthony Zacca; Sue Goffredo; Grego, Pavin & Battalia Families; Ernest Peterson; Anna Lewig; Charles Davis; Kathleen Power; Paul Ridgway; Jeanette Seto; Nora Hayes; Michael Mealey; Percy Brown; Peter Cassidy; Mary Hanraham; Mary Elliott.

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; Maria; Lucy Shaw; Aurora; Mary Ridolfi; Charmaine Suria; Beverley McGriskin; Nives Tessarolo; Tony; Donald Tepeau; William Usher; 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 19 & 20 JANUARY – WEEK THREE			
	Sat. 6.00 pm	Sun. 9.00 am	Sun. 6.00 pm
Readers	Michelle McCabe Jan Holahan	Annette Cooper Rod Cooper	Sybille Morelli Charissa Puglisi
Acolytes	Kevin Nelson-Smith Julian McCarron	Peter Scicluna Gigi Pelizzari Neve Pelizzari	Alex Duck Rocco Arce
Communion at Mass	Nerina Briganti Max Briganti	Betty Flynn Connie Lasorsa	Diane Carolan Rita Kolibac Michele Couch
Communion to the Sick	Cathy Keevers and Dianne Chestney		
Children’s Liturgy	3rd February 2019 at 9.00am Mass		
Altar Society 3rd Saturday	Marie Cramsie and Barbara Granger		
Money Counters	Sandra & Stephen Ryan, Philomena and Michael Turley		
Altar Servers	Please see Mons John		