



ST PATRICK'S PARISH  
MORTLAKE



## Easter Greetings from Fr John

The Easter Season is upon us and we rejoice in the amazing story of the passion, death and ultimate resurrection of Jesus.

Because we understand that life has not been destroyed by death and that eternal life has been given to us, we rejoice especially at Easter time.

This year, in particular, we have good reason to rejoice because we are learning a great deal more about the wonder of death, resurrection and new life.

The Christian Churches, particularly the Catholic Church, are facing mounting public criticism, especially through certain media outlets. The Islamic faith has faced a hatred that resulted in the death of over forty of their worshippers in Christchurch, New Zealand in March this year.

The reality of misguided hatred and violence is a reality in our contemporary world. It is a reality that Jesus faced during his last days on this earth. He became a victim of political and religious violence because he spoke against violence and hatred. He identified the faults and errors that existed in his own Jewish religion and in the exploitive politics of his time. He endeavoured to call people back to more peaceful, just and loving lives. He was a man of compassion, mercy and acceptance because he believed that God embodies compassion, mercy and acceptance. Nevertheless, he was executed for saying and acting as God acts.

In spite of the criticism, hatred and violence he endured, his death was not in vain. He rose from death and, as a result, for the past 2019 years a message of compassion, mercy and acceptance has been proclaimed.

This message, though, has not always been mirrored in the way churches have acted, or failed to act. Hence, certain criticisms are warranted, but violence and hatred are unwarranted.

We are living in a New Christian era of resurrection. New ways of enacting the resurrection message of Jesus is upon us. We have every right to rejoice in the new life of our church under the leadership of Pope Francis.

May everyone associated with St Patrick's parish be full of joy this Easter season because we, as Catholics, have a new life.

Mons. John Usher PP



Parish Newsletter Autumn 2019

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## Easter Mass times...

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April**

6pm Vigil – Passion/Palm Sunday

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April**

9.00am and 6.00pm Passion/Palm Sunday

**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April**

7.30pm Reconciliation at St Mary's Concord

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April**

Holy Thursday

7.30pm Mass of the Lord's Supper

**Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April**

Good Friday

10.00am Stations of the Cross

3.00pm Commemoration  
of the Lord's Passion

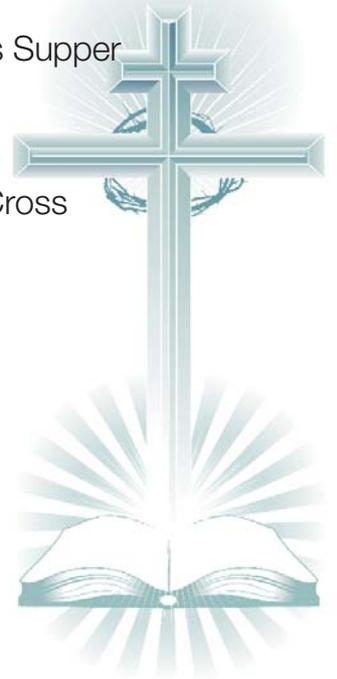
**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> April**

6.00pm Easter Vigil Mass

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April**

Easter Sunday Masses

9.00am, 10.30am and  
6.00pm



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.

## Bob Mayor

The Communications ministry aims to present profiles of the people involved in the various ministries at St Pat's each time the newsletter is produced. Bob Mayor will be a familiar face to many of the parishioners at St Pat's especially at the 6pm Vigil Mass where he assists with the music. Bob has been a parishioner of St Pat's for nearly 17 years and has been involved in our parish in many ministries. These include:

- ✠ Sacramental Program Coordinator (for First Reconciliation, First Holy Communion & Confirmation)
- ✠ Faith Education Ministry Coordinator. (Includes Adult Education, RCIA, and Catechists).
- ✠ Catechist for 27 years.
- ✠ Member of Parish Pastoral Council.
- ✠ Member of the Parish Music Ministry.

As an involved parishioner Bob has found it is very special to be invited to be part of our parish life and to be involved in the Faith Education and First Sacraments of our local children. It is wonderful to see the children, previously mainly from Mortlake Primary School but now including the children from St Patrick's Primary School, receive the sacraments. The absolute highlight is when we reach a family that for whatever reason has not had the occasion for their children to receive the sacraments and in the one year they are able to catch up. It is also a great experience when we journey with adult candidates who wish to join the church.

When asked what he is particularly proud of or happy with in his work in these ministries, Bob responded that that he feels extremely fortunate to be associated with the wonderful people in our parish. Particularly, he would like to acknowledge the spirit of the volunteers involved in the various parish ministries who are so generous with their time and expertise. It has also been a blessing to have been led by Monsignor John who is an inspiration and guide to us all. It is clear to him that the Holy Spirit is very active in our parish and responds to the needs and problems in our parish life.



### An important question was asked of Bob about how he sees the future for St Pat's as we approach 2020?

Bob's response is that we are now moving towards taking more responsibility for the management of our parish to relieve our parish priest of the parish administration. This is part of the Archdiocese plan with the Parish 2020 initiative. We will look for more involvement of parishioners in our parish life and work towards becoming a more vital parish. We do not know how long we will be blessed with the presence of Monsignor John or what the future may hold with a new priest so we need to make sure that we can 'take ownership and manage' the future of our parish.

Bob's hope for the future is that the Parish of St Patrick's continues to grow and develop the wonderful spirit that exists here. The relationship between our Church and the new Primary School promises a new era of cooperation and growth and a great opportunity for evangelisation. The Catholic Church is in a difficult time and is in a process of change. He is confident that over time the church will make the right changes and decisions so that the wider communities will recognise what a great institution we are part of.

Many thanks Bob for sharing your thoughts with us. We at St Pat's are certainly blessed with many people who are as generous and giving as Bob is. We would also like to affirm the increasing number of parishioners becoming more involved in parish life. From time to time, there are invitations and requests in the Weekly Bulletin. If you are interested in finding out any more about the many ministries operating at St Pat's the parish website is a useful source of information.

<https://www.stpatsmortlake.org.au/our-parish/ministries/>

# Parish Adult Faith Education

Our Parish Adult Faith Education Ministry has some interesting offerings planned for the next few months. This follows our successful Lenten Group gatherings led by Monsignor John, and the Padre Pio film (in Italian) which was presented in the parish hall following Bingo.

The upcoming sessions are:

- † On Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> April at 7:30pm, David Patterson will present a follow up to his popular talks on the Bible with a one-night interaction on 'Jesus' questions — 'What are you looking for?', 'Who do you say that I am?', 'Do you love me?', and 'Feed my sheep'.
- † As May is the month of Mary, we are offering a RCIA session on the Blessed Virgin Mary, plus a short film followed by the interactive praying of the Rosary. The date when finalised will be advertised in the parish bulletin and on our website.
- † Our first family Mass will be a special Mothers' Day Mass on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May. This Mass will also involve the families from St Patrick's Primary School and Mortlake Primary School. Our second family Mass will likely be on the Fathers' Day weekend on Sunday September 1.
- † We are proposing to conduct a second "Day of Prayer and Reflection" following the popular session held in 2018. This will be held in either July or August. The date will be advertised to the parish nearer to the time.

There will be other offerings, that are still being planned. The success of parish Adult Faith Education depends on the support and attendance of our parishioners and so we encourage you to attend and benefit from the sessions.



# Social Justice

Lent is a time to reflect upon Jesus Christ's sacrifice for us all. It gives us an opportunity to change, to do something good for others, especially for those less fortunate than ourselves.

So this Easter, please consider buying Easter eggs that are made from ethically sourced chocolate so not only are you giving to the recipient of the chocolate, but you are doing something good for those in countries that greatly benefit from these ethical standards.

Please look for these logos when buying your Easter chocolate:

UTZ is a non-profit organisation which is the largest program for sustainable farming of coffee and cocoa in the world. The UTZ program covers good agricultural practices, social and living conditions, farm management and the environment.



FAIRTRADE is a non-profit organisation which ensures an alternative approach to conventional trade as not all trade is fair. Farmers and workers at the beginning of the chain don't always get a fair share of the benefits of trade. FAIRTRADE enables consumers to put this right.



The FAIRTRADE mark which appears on goods, is a guarantee that producers and traders have met fair trade standards.

# Pastoral Care Ministry

The Pastoral Care Ministry met on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March. Ministers of Communion to the Sick were also invited for a light lunch, followed by the blessing of the hands, by Monsignor John. A special type of consecrated oil called Chrism was used for this blessing. Our hands hold the Blessed Sacrament when we are taking Communion to the sick or acting as Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist at Holy Mass.





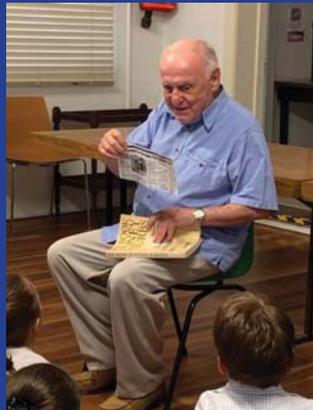
# St Patrick's School

We have had a wonderful start to school this year, welcoming 70 new children and their families into our community with 60 new



kindergarten children and 10 other students across our different grades. It is amazing to think in our third year we have a little school of 170 children.

As you can see, we have begun to demolish the blocks in Herbert Street close to the school to begin the process of creating a green space for our growing school. Everyone is very excited about the prospect of more play area.



The children have also enjoyed lots of wonderful experiences already this year including excursions for history together with walking excursions of the area, a special cricket clinic and pancakes for Shrove Tuesday. They have participated in beautiful liturgies for Ash Wednesday, Harmony Day and of course our favourite ... St Patrick's Day!

**Amanda Westgate**  
Principal,  
St Patrick's School Mortlake



## SAVE THE DATE

### St Pat's Parish Dinner

#### FRIDAY 14TH JUNE 2019

Canada Bay Club  
Five Dock



ST PATRICK'S PARISH  
MORTLAKE



## Get social with us...



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## Energy and Housing March Assembly 2019

Several parishioners from the Social Justice and St Vincent de Paul groups at St Patrick's attended the Energy and Housing March Assembly at the Sydney Town Hall on Thursday evening 15 March. Organised by the Sydney Alliance, St Vincent de Paul and Everybody's Home, the Assembly demanded urgent action to alleviate housing and energy costs for Australian households.

NSW and Federal politicians from major parties were invited to the Assembly, ahead of the NSW and Federal elections, to outline their plans to improve rental affordability and security, and make clean household energy affordable for households.

Over 2,100 people from over 400 different community groups and charities came together in a joint action and demonstrated the power of diverse, well – organised communities committed to addressing these critical issues.

Huge real estate price increases in Sydney have resulted in many groups of key city workers, including nurses, teachers and police, being locked out of home ownership and struggling to afford ever – increasing rents.



Over 2 million people rent in NSW, close to a third of all households across the state. Lack of affordable and secure rental housing is the most significant challenge for low to middle income individuals and families. Homelessness has jumped by 37% in NSW and over three quarters of lower income renters in NSW pay unaffordable rents, with over 270,000 households going without food at least once a week.

The energy performance of Australia's residential buildings is low by world standards. Combined with soaring energy prices, many lower income earners are struggling to heat and cool their homes and stressed trying to pay their energy bills while attempting to provide for basic necessities.

Politicians from the State Liberal, Labor and the Greens parties and the Federal Labor and Green parties attended. There was not a Federal Coalition representative in attendance. The commitments provided by the attending State and Federal politicians will be tracked by the Assembly organisers post - election to ensure they are fulfilled. More details can be found at:

<https://www.everybodyshome.com.au>,  
<http://www.sydneyalliance.org.au/housing> or  
<https://www.vinnies.org.au>



# World Youth Day 2019



From 22<sup>nd</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> January I was fortunate to travel to Panama for the World Youth Day 2019. I travelled as a staff member of Sydney Catholic Schools. I kept telling people that I was going to “party with the Pope.” I would say this in jest but was taken by great surprise on the first day after the opening Mass, that this was the message that was being spread. Leaders were announcing “Are you ready to party with the Pope?” What joy and laughter this brought me.

It really was a party, a celebration of what it means to be Catholic, to be loved by God and by others in our Catholic Community. I held hands with people from Mexico, Costa Rica, Ireland and of course Panama as we celebrated Mass and said the Our Father. This was an amazing and powerful experience. To acknowledge the joy of the Catholic Faith with young people (of all ages) from all over the world, participate in Masses, catechesis sessions, sing, dance and enjoy Panamanian food was truly a blessing.

One of the main joys of World Youth Day was being able to experience Mass, Adoration and all these festivities with Pope Francis. He spoke to young



people about saying “Yes” to opportunities even if they are new, challenging, tough or easy. Next World Youth Day is in 2022 and will be in Portugal. I would highly recommend this experience for anyone of any age. I cannot wait to attend again!

Maggie Matson

