

**ST PATRICK'S PARISH MORTLAKE**

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

**PARISH ADMINISTRATOR: Fr. Tom Stevens**  
**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:** Sts Cornelius and St Cyprian;  
**Tuesday:** St Robert Bellarmine; **Thursday:** St Janarius; **Friday:** St Andrew Kim and St Paul Chong **Saturday:** St Matthew.

**AM I ANGRY AT GOD'S LOVE?**

The story of the Prodigal Son is arguably one of the most well-known parables in the Bible. If we were raised Christian, it is likely we role played the parable as a child. We know it is the story of the unbounded love of the father for the son, and that the father in the parable represents God.

Rembrant's C17<sup>th</sup> oil painting of "The Return of the Prodigal Son", is undoubtedly one of the most moving paintings ever painted, with the image of the humbled son in a wretched state kneeling before his father seeking forgiveness. As essential as the reality of understanding who the loving father is, in recent years I have found myself focusing perhaps more on the older brother.

Like many characters in the Bible, when we take the time to examine them, they can present themselves as some of the most fascinating individuals, due to the humanity they display and the emotions and questions they raise (ie: Pontius Pilate, King Herod). And so, the elder son, in today's Gospel, comes to us as the model C1st Palestinian citizen and son.

What is important to remember is that from a societal point of view, the older brother has done nothing wrong, and what he asks for not only fits in with the accepted customs of the day, but would in all likelihood be considered legal for its time. He is quite justified in what he demands of his father.

The question then arises - is it enough to follow the law of the day alone, or are we called to something greater? Being a Christian goes beyond merely following the law and customs of the time, it means forgiving and allowing opportunity which may be beyond human reason. When I see that love being displayed in my society (of refugees being given a chance at a new life; of giving convicted criminals an opportunity to start again; of allowing people suffering addictions the resources to break their life strangling habits, etc), then maybe, maybe . . . I am witnessing the forgiveness, love and opportunity that the prodigal son's father gives today. A love, forgiveness and opportunity that the socially acceptable elder son cannot see past. I then may see myself in that elder son's shortcomings. **Fr Tom**



**PRIESTS' RETIREMENT APPEAL:** This week-end we are invited to offer support for our retired priests. There are over 80 retired priests living in Sydney. Our former pastor, Fr John Usher is one of those priests. In retirement most elderly priests are living alone because their families and close friends are also elderly or deceased. They have the aged care pension but they need a place to live as well as adequate health care or, in some cases, nursing care. The truth is that they need some extra financial assistance so that they can live out their final years with some dignity. Any help you can give is greatly appreciated. **Envelopes are on the seats.**

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE YOUNG PEOPLE WHO RECEIVED THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION:** On Friday the following candidates received the Sacrament of Confirmation conferred by Monsignor John and Father Tom: Cooper Battiston, Ottavio Locantro, Portia Cashin, Matthew Lopresti, Lachlan Clancy, Massimo Luchini, Luke Craus, Anastasia Macan, Alexander Di Cristo, Lucas Miranda, Jake English, Zachary Nilsson Sienna Furfaro, Amy O'Donovan, Louis Galvin, Lachlan Richmond, Louis Gangi, Chloe Robertson, Nathaniel Giles, Melina Scarella, Archie Hall, Matthew & Samuel Soutis, Cassandra Hanna, Alex Lean, Cosmo Torreiri, Samuel Leon, Luca Triganza. **Please keep them in our prayers during this important time in their spiritual journey.**

**FAITH EDUCATION SURVEY:** This weekend at all Masses we will be issuing a survey form to get input from parishioners on the types and format of Adult Education options to be offered in our parish. **Your opinions and needs are what we need to know!**

DIARY DATES	
MON	10.00am – Bingo in the Parish Hall. Come along, have some fun!
TUE - SAT	The Rosary after morning mass
WED	11.00am - Christian Mediation in the Lady Chapel – All welcome

**PARISH BAPTISMS THIS WEEK:** Baby Owen Stinson.

**PARISH WEDDING THIS WEEK:** Jessie Moon and Jimmy Kim.

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Carmen Bonnici (**Funeral here next Tuesday 17/9/19 at 10.00am**); Matteo Di Pasquantonio; John Wallace; Francesca Parison Margaret Dix; Margaret Love; Renaldo Gabrielle di Natteo; Antonio Merlino; Brian Bowman.

**ANNIVERSARY AND SPECIAL INTENTIONS:** Mark Maguire; Charles Bonnici; Francesco Cannone; Ricchiuti Cannone; Andrea Cannone; Jim Rodda (4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary); Nata Ferraro; John Profilio (19<sup>th</sup> Anniversary); James Murray; Mary Carlson; Jessie Byrne; Mary Samuel; John Timmins; Matthew Walsh; Margaret Brannagan; Mary Sharpe; Rocco Santangelo; Gregory White; Maria Seto; Dorothy Feegarde; Michele Goffredo; Roy Peacock; Raymond Zahra; Eileen Rawling; Gladys Bourke; Joan Kerrison; Olive Kerrison.

**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; Otto Petrin; Antonietta; Mother Valeria Greguoldo; Peter Allen; George; Michael; Anne Trivia; George Cepak; Audrey and Tony Clarke; Dave Roberts; Matteo Bekes; Colin Ng; Michelle Cellar; Fr Giuseppie Cremonese; Susanna Tessarolo; Sr Celina Cavaliere; Bill Young; Don Khoury; Cameron Sue; To have your own petitions included, please see one of the group, or phone Carmel Moliterno 9736 1718.

NEXT WEEK 21 & 22 SEPTEMBER - WEEK FOUR			
	Sat. 6.00 pm	Sun. 9.00 am	Sun. 6.00 pm
Readers	Maureen Edwards Lorette Quinlan	Annett Cooper Rod Cooper	Michele Howland Sybille Morelli
Acolytes	Peter Scicluna Julian McCarron	Trevor Parmenter	Alex Duck Rocco Arce
Communion at Mass	Maureen Casey Nerina Briganti Max Briganti	Ron Vozzo Anne Manenti	Rita Kolibac Michelle Couch Laura Morelli Sinead Kent
Communion to the Sick	Mabel Bianchi and Yvonne Webster		
Children's Liturgy	Annemarie		
Altar Society Saturday 3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday	Marie Cramsie and Barbara Granger		
Money Counters	Olimpia Pirovic, Jeandera Petrossian.		

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