

## 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 9:00 am Communion Service and Vigil 6.00 pm  
Sunday 9.00 am and 6.00 pm Monday: 8.00 am Communion Service  
Tuesday to Friday: 8.00 am Mass

Rosary after Morning Mass - Tuesday to Saturday

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: The Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary; Wednesday: St Damasus; Thursday: Our Lady of Guadalupe; Friday: St Lucy; Saturday: St John of the Cross.

### THE NATIVITY SCENE

#### Where are the Aussie crabs and wombats?

One of the highlights of my time spent in Rome as part of my studies was the anticipation of seeing the various Nativity scenes unveiled around the city this time of the year. Coming from Sydney, I was amazed at the accepted public display of faith through the Nativity Scene in: public squares; shop windows; shopping centre forecourts; apartment foyers; etc. It was such an open and natural part of the Italian culture. I was especially fond of the personalised local touches the nativity scenes included. I recall one Nativity scene having crabs, a Mediterranean seal, and the famous swarming starlings of Rome.

The story of Christmas is the story that God lives amongst us. Yet, in most of the Nativity scenes, the Holy Family would still be dressed in C1st Palestinian clothing, but it was the local animals that somehow made it more tangible. I think we need to include a platypus, wombat and kangaroo in our own nativity scene. Or perhaps Nativity scene characters that symbolise a refugee, a widow(er), a lonely husband or wife, an addict, a cancer patient, a corrupt official, etc. God is in the midst of all of this anxiety and messiness.

Pope Francis has this week written a letter encouraging us to reflect on the Nativity scene and its meaning. He writes:

“The enchanting image of the Christmas crèche, so dear to the Christian people, never ceases to arouse amazement and wonder. The depiction of Jesus’ birth is itself a simple and joyful proclamation of the mystery of the Incarnation of the Son of God. The nativity scene is like a living Gospel rising up from the pages of sacred Scripture.

With this Letter, I wish to encourage the beautiful family tradition of preparing the nativity scene in the days before Christmas, but also the custom of setting it up in the workplace, in schools, hospitals, prisons and town squares. Great imagination and creativity is always shown in employing the most diverse materials to create

small masterpieces of beauty. It is my hope that this custom will never be lost and that, wherever it has fallen into disuse, it can be rediscovered and revived.”

([http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost\\_letters/documents/papa-francesco-lettera-ap\\_20191201\\_admirabile-signum.html](http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_letters/documents/papa-francesco-lettera-ap_20191201_admirabile-signum.html))

### CAROLS ON THE GREEN FRIDAY 13TH DECEMBER

**6pm - 7.30pm:** Please come along and enjoy a wonderful evening of entertainment, sausage sizzle and craft stalls. **ALL WELCOME**

**ADVENT PROGRAM:** You are invited to join in a program of gentle reading and reflection of the Sunday gospels leading up to Christmas. Monday nights the 9th and the 16th of December at 7:30 in the Parish Hall. It is a beautiful way to prepare for Christmas. Inquiries to Susan Neylan 0400 195 350.

**MINISTRIES FOR CHRISTMAS MASSES:** There are still a number of vacancies for our Christmas Masses. Please have a look at the list in the Narthex and see if you are able to help, it would be greatly appreciated by our St Patrick’s Community.

**MORTLAKE PUBLIC SCHOOL CHRISTMAS MASS:** Thank you to the students, parents, Bob Mayor and parish catechists for arranging the Christmas Mass on Wednesday night and the Social Sub Committee for the supper afterwards. It was a lovely evening heralding the excitement of the Christmas Season !!

**CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR CATHOLIC CARE:** Thank you to all who have taken a name, there are still a few names left. If all the gifts could be return by **Sunday the 15th December** as Catholic Care are collecting on **Monday the 16th December**. **Your generosity is very much appreciated.**

**TAP AND GO DONATIONS:** With the shift towards a cashless society our parish, consistent with many other parishes, is moving towards installing a Tap Donation facility. The unit will accept donations electronically and securely using contactless card/phone/watch payments. **It is not intended to replace traditional collections.** It will be located in the Narthex and, subject to necessary banking approvals, be here by year end. There will be a preset amount (\$5) and donors simply tap and GO. All contributions will go towards our second collection. Any inquiries to Fr Tom or John Clarke 0419437474. **For a visual of the device, see the Noticeboard.**

**NOTICES FOR SAFETY EXITS:** Please note the laminated notices around the church indicating the safety exits and gathering points in our parish in the event of an emergency.

### PARISH 'SPRING' CLEAN: SATURDAY 14 DECEMBER

**9-11AM:** Calling on volunteers to assist with a parish 'Spring' clean of the Church and Hall. If you are able to assist, please advise our parish secretary Brenda on 97431017 or via email [parish@stpatsmortlake.org.au](mailto:parish@stpatsmortlake.org.au)

**PARISH ROSTERS ARE ON THE NOTICE BOARD IN THE NARTHEX AND ALSO ON OUR PARISH WEBSITE**

### DIARY DATES

MON	10am-Bingo in the Parish Hall. Come along, have some fun
MON - SAT	The Rosary after morning mass
WED	11am-Christian Mediation in the Lady Chapel-All welcome
SUN	After 9am Mass, prayer group in front of statue of Mary

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Fr Paul Stenhouse; David Kirkman; John Aquilina; Di Stewart; Francesco (Frank) Marrapodi; Pat Paniane; Betty Stevens; Paul Whelan; Eutimia Madrid; Maria Mandato (Italy); Carmela Tropea.

**ANNIVERSARY AND SPECIAL INTENTIONS:** Glenda Rutz (6<sup>th</sup> Anniversary); Francesco Marrapodi (1 month Anniversary); Bruna Prevedello; Charles Bonnici; Michael & Victor Donato; Frances & Bob Natoli; Maria & George Dolanitis; Natoli & Ferlazzo Families; All members of Rutherford & McAdam Families; Marco, Benito & Mary De Angelis; Antonio Diego Palmas (10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary); Samuel & Suzie Louis; Andrew Manenti; The Harris & King Families; Jacque Koselski; Nancy Thompson; Joan Harris; Alex Cozis; Palmas, Enna, Demartis, Fara & Salaris Families; Caterina, Giovanni, Giuseppe, Frank, Fiora, Stephano, Angela, & Maria Palumbo; Grace Saliba; John Donohue; David Borowitzka; Francis Morgan; Paola Lenzi; Joan Bailey; Teresa O’Shea; Frederick Mealey; George Kettly; Leanna Butcher; Patricia May; Joseph Moloney; John Johnson.

### PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY:

Please join the Prayer Group after Sunday’s 9am Mass to say one decade of the Rosary and the Memorare for petitions received; Maryellen Partlin; Tony P; Marie; Nancy; Denis Klein; Tina Torrisi; Loretta; Antonietta; Connie Calvisi; Theresa Tan; Billy Brandt; Peter Allen; George; Michael; Anne Trivia; George Cepak; Dave Roberts; Bill Young; Don Khoury. To have your own petitions included, please see one of the group, or phone Carmel Moliterno 9736 1718.



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