

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 DAY THIS WEEK: Saturday: St Peter Canisius.

WAITING IT'S THE HARDEST PART!!

My father's family came to Australia as dairy farmers and settled in the Taree district. Many of my relatives still live in that region, with some still on the land as farmers. They are the patient and practical side of the Stevens family and generally don't have as many vices as their Sydney based relatives!!

The farmer knows patience and tolerance. It must be part of their lives. The farmer needs to have a detailed understanding of nature. Crops aren't instantaneous, they need preparation, care and nurturing. The second reading this Sunday comes from the letter of James. James' letter is thought to be written before 69AD. James' letter contains no references to the events in Jesus' life, but rather it really paraphrases Jesus' words and actions. The Second Readings says:

“Think of the farmer;

How patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground

until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains!

You too have to be patient;

Do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon.”

So it is for us. I need patience in understanding what is happening in my present time, to be aware of my relationships, my strengths and my shortcomings. I also need to understand the future. I do not know my future, but it is filled with goodness, when I allow a spirit of charity, compassion and hope to mould my present time, which will shape my future. I need to have the patience of the farmer as I reflect this Advent season in preparing for Christmas 2019.

Fr Tom

RECONCILIATION HERE AT ST PATRICK'S TUESDAY 17TH DECEMBER AT 7.30PM:

As is our custom here at St Patrick's Parish we will host the 2nd Rite of Reconciliation. We will be joined by parishioners from St Mary's Concord and other neighbouring parishes. The assurance of God's unconditional forgiveness prior to Christmas is what we will celebrate together on this occasion.

CHILDREN'S MASS 24TH DECEMBER AT 6.00PM: There will be rehearsals this Sunday 15 and next Sunday 22 for the children's Christmas Eve choir (children will perform at the 6pm Mass on Christmas Eve).

CHILDREN'S MASS 24TH DECEMBER AT 6.00PM: Calling all families, Christmas Eve is fast approaching. All families with children are invited to be part of our celebration. We need readers, singers, collectors, welcomers, a family for the offertory, lots of shepherds, angels and maybe if your family has had a new baby recently you might like to be part of the celebration. Please contact Sinéad Kent 0420653637 for details or for any queries or chat with any of the Children's Liturgy team after 9am Sunday Mass.

CAROLS ON THE GREEN: Thank you to Kirsty Lucas, Marie Piccin, Lauraine Muir and the team of merry helpers, musicians, cooks, etc, who did a tremendous job in organising the 2nd Annual St. Pat's Christmas Carols. It was a great success and well attended by parishioners and families of Mortlake Public School and St. Pat's School as well as surrounding community groups. Thank you to Mandy Westgate for allowing us to use the school playground, making it much more pleasant. It was a tremendous community event reminding us of the real joy of having Christ in our Christmas preparations.

"SPRING CLEAN": Thank you to Marie Piccin and the parish volunteers who assisted with the parish 'Spring Clean' on Saturday morning. It was a good opportunity to clean the hall a bit and give the church a good clean prior to our Christmas celebrations. We are now just about set to celebrate Christmas 2019!!

ADVENT PROGRAM: You are invited to the last evening of gentle reading and reflection of the Sunday gospels on Monday night 16th of December at 7:30 in the Parish Hall. 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.

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.

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: Bridie Smyth (Ireland); 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: Francesco Marrapodi; Gil Cocco; Valeria Gonnella; Johanna Puglisi: Bruna Prevedello; Francesco D'Elia; Leo Kadia "Lodzia" Raczowska; Bjarne Johansen (26th Anniversary): Glenda Rutz Francesco Bruna Prevedello; Charles Bonnici; James Worthington; Cynthia Fernandes; Alice Thompson: Patrick Gronin; Sean Prunty; Thomas Cullen; Madeline Boon; Dulcie Collins; Edna Milne: William Hawkins; Martin Gillies; Ethel Hall; Margaret Brandt: Meg Mitchell; Margaret Kerrison Emmie Coady; Henry Press; Louise Oliver.

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