

## **ST PATRICK'S PARISH MORTLAKE**

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**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](mailto:info@stpmortlake.catholic.edu.au)

**PLEASE NOTE: COMMUNION SERVICE ONLY ON  
TUESDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2020**

**FEAST DAY THIS WEEK: Wednesday: Ash Wednesday – Day of  
Fast and Abstinence**

### **A “COSMIC-CHRIST” - GOD TRULY IN ALL CREATION**

Some years back, I recall reading an article that spoke of the then recent ‘Whanganui settlement’, signed in 2014 and enacted into law in New Zealand. This settlement established two guardians who were appointed to act on behalf of the Whanganui River. The settlement provided financial compensation to the Whanganui iwi (people/ nation) and established a legal framework which recognised the legal rights of the river. A year later India’s Uttarakhand high court, in citing the Whanganui decision, afforded the Ganges and Yamuna rivers legal protection.

The effect of both of these decisions was that the rivers were given the legal status of a person. At the time I thought – ‘What a ridiculous notion – who can represent a river, or define a river’s damages to a court?’

These decisions of course, merely seek to formally recognise what indigenous peoples have long believed, that the earth and all its contents (land and water), have a sacredness to them. This sacredness is linked to our humanity.

My mind has changed since then. If companies and corporations are afforded rights as separate legal entities, why not a mountain or river? I’ve probably mellowed a bit I suppose. Perhaps I’ve envisaged a broader God. A God that isn’t limited to humanity.

If I consider the “Cosmic-Christ” (as the philosopher Fr. Teilhard de Chardin re-coined the term, and now used by Pope Francis), in that “Cosmic-Christ”, I need to see God in all aspects of Creation. Humans, flora and fauna have to be afforded dignity and respect as a matter of justice. If we are to understand and truly marvel at a God that creates all things in

this universe, why shouldn’t a river or a mountain be afforded legal rights and protections?

As Pope Francis has written in his 2015 Encyclical, *Laudato Si’ - On Care For Our Common Home*:

“The ultimate purpose of other creatures is not to be found in us. Rather, all creatures are moving forward with us and through us towards a common point of arrival, which is God, in that transcendent fullness where the risen Christ embraces and illumines all things.” (LS #83)

**Fr Tom**

**ASH WEDNESDAY 26TH FEBRUARY 2020:** Ashes will be distributed at the Morning Mass at 8.00am and then there will be an evening Mass at 7.30pm.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS AND THE ROSARY DURING LENT:** This will take place after the 8.00am morning Mass on Friday’s.

**EUTHANASIA -** Euthanasia legislation is likely to raise its head again this year in the NSW Parliament, with a working group already established to draft euthanasia legislation. You are invited to sign a petition at the back of the Church, sending a message of support to State MP’s to seek to prevent euthanasia legislation from entering the floor of parliament for debate. Please pray on this issue and pray for our legislators.

**SACRAMENT OF FIRST RECONCILIATION:** Will be conducted at St Patrick’s Mortlake on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm. The Sacrament will be preceded by four instruction sessions on Monday afternoons with the first to commence on **Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March** in the parish hall at 4:15pm. Only requirement is that participants need to have been Baptised and to be a student in year 2 or above. To register a candidate please email Bob Mayor at [mayer2411@gmail.com](mailto:mayer2411@gmail.com) or call him on 0418 228679.

**BISHOP’S VISITATION:** Next weekend (29 Feb/ 1 March), Bishop Brady (Auxiliary Bishop of Sydney) will be visiting St. Pat’s as part of the regular parish visitation. Bishop Brady will be celebrating all Masses next weekend. We look forward to welcoming him.

**ST PATRICK’S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL:** Warmly invites parishioners to come through and have a look at our school on Sunday March 1st. We will be having a morning tea straight after the 9.00 Mass and everyone is welcome to our Open Day (10.00am -12.00pm).

**LENTEN PROGRAMME:** You are invited to participate in a Lenten series, listening prayerfully and reflecting on the Sunday Gospels during the 6 weeks of lent. Tuesday nights, 7pm, in the parish hall, first session on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February. If you need more information contact Susan Neylan 0400195350

**PROCLAIMING THE WORD AT OUR WEEKEND LITURGIES:** Are you interested in being a reader at our

weekend liturgies, if so please email [parish@stpatmortlake.org.au](mailto:parish@stpatmortlake.org.au) or 9743 1017 with your details and the Mass you usually attend.

**INVITATION:** Members of the Pastoral Care Ministry and those who take Communion to the sick, are invited to lunch and blessing of the hands on Wednesday March 11<sup>th</sup>, more details later. Bishop Brady will be attending.

**KEY REGISTER:** Do you have a key to the Church, Hall, Office, or Presbytery? If so would you please email ([parish@stpatmortlake.org.au](mailto:parish@stpatmortlake.org.au)) with your name and details as to what you have key/s too. Or ring 9743 1017 and leave your details. All keys have to be registered on our system. Many Thanks. **Fr Tom.**

<b>DIARY DATES</b>	
Monday	10.00am Bingo in the Parish Hall – Everyone Welcome
Monday - Saturday	Rosary after Morning Mass
Wednesday	11.00 Christian Mediation in the Lady Chapel
Sunday	After the 9.00am Mass, prayer group to say prayers in front of the statue of Mary

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Gerard Lopez (**Funeral here on Friday 28/2/20 at 10.00am**): Brian Clarke; Ciaran Reilly (Ireland); Denis Klein; (Ireland); David Roberts; Assunta Cerra; Elizabeth Clare Bond; John Costigan; Valerie Mordaunt NZ).

**ANNIVERSARY AND SPECIAL INTENTIONS:** Concetta Cataldi (8<sup>th</sup> Anniversary); Gil Cocco; Francesco, Vincenzo & Maria Cannone; Andrea, Angela, Loreta Ricchiuti; Douglas Vincent Kelly; John Douglas Kelly; Natale Pelle (10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary); John Carmody; Deborah Russell; Mary McNeeve; Joan Peacock; William Ryder; Claire Johnston; Gladys Gibbons; Giovanni Giusto; Elizabeth O’Rourke; Charles Hornery; John Conna; Henry Malouf; William Samuel; John Gusman; Antonio Scavo; John O’Mara; Florence Ryan; Genevieve Unwin.

**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; John Walker; Magda Cassis; Ken & Nora Lai; John McAnalley; Patrizia Facchin; Roberto Galorielli; Marco & Annalisa; Jill; Edward Azjan; Maryellen Partlin; Tony P; Marie; Loretta; Antonietta; Connie Calvisi; George; Michael; George Cepak; 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**