



ST PATRICK'S PARISH
MORTLAKE



Parish Newsletter Autumn 2020

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From Fr Tom

At this time, we as Individuals are asked to consider our own health, both our potential to infect others and our susceptibility to infection. If we feel unwell or susceptible to infection — we should remain at home. As the church has been closed we are encouraged to continue prayer and reading of the Bible, on Sundays especially. Good prayer websites include — www.pray-as-you-go.org; www.thegodminute.org. There is also the ability to watch daily Mass online, via the website — <https://www.Northsydney Catholics.com/spirituality/liturgy/mass-on-demand>. Sunday Mass is on Channel 10 at 6am Sunday mornings. Family members may like to consider recording this for our seniors to watch in their homes.

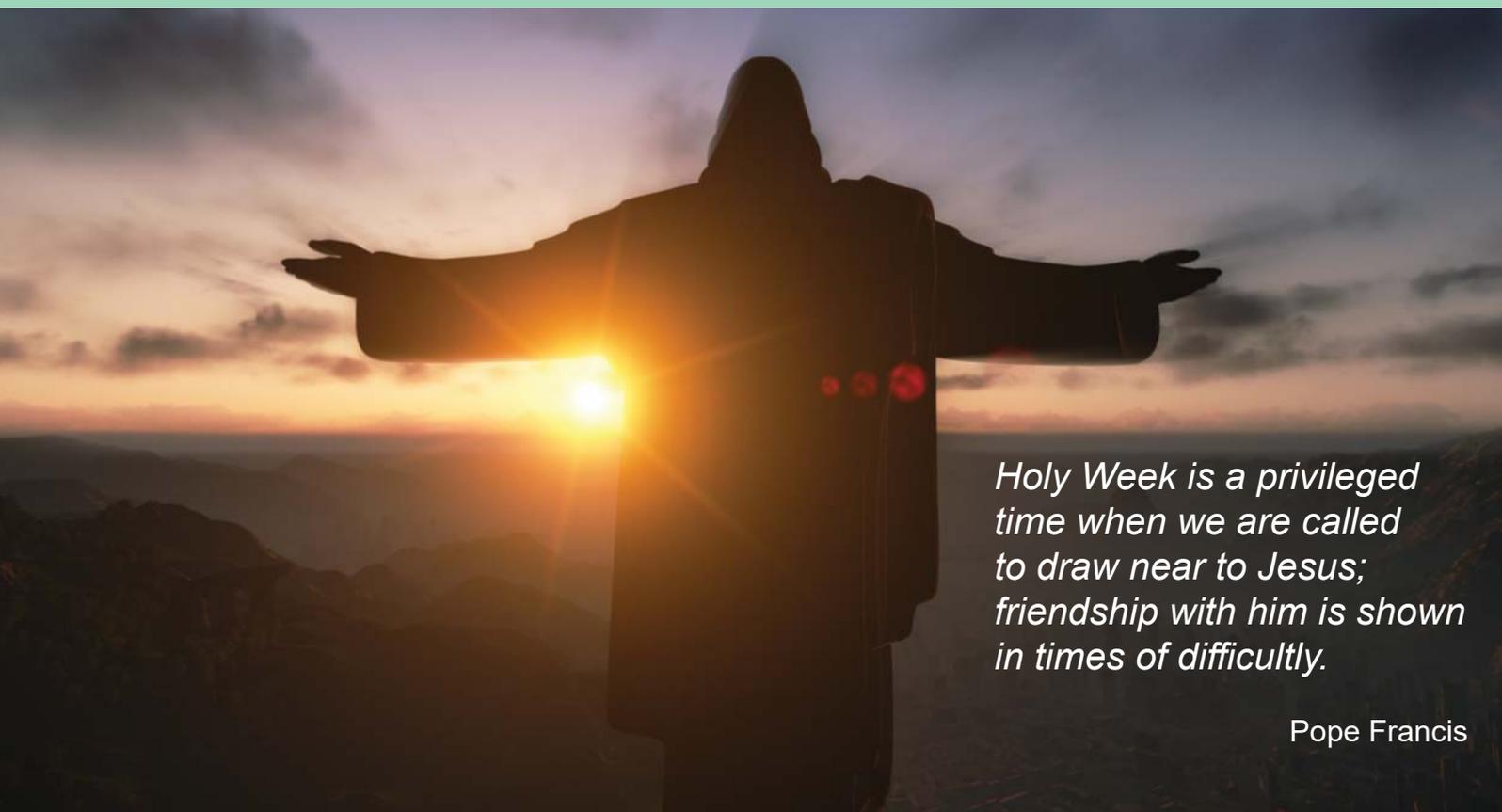
BUT WHAT IS “SOCIAL DISTANCING”? In all of this, it is vital that we maintain our Christian identity. “Social Distancing” for the Christian has very little to do with the physical elements, to which we must adhere. We need to be aware of a loving community. We

need to be calm and caring of others in our shopping patterns in times of panic and anxiety. We need to have compassion over fear. And when we may have to be in isolation because of sickness, we need to know that we do not need to be lonely, for isolation and loneliness are different. This is where Christianity and the message of Jesus Christ turns human fear, panic and distress on its head. For the Christian, “SOCIAL DISTANCING” can in fact NEVER take place, because we are a community of love that goes much deeper than physicality, which links me to Christ himself in this Christian Community of St. Pat's Mortlake.

Sadly, the church will be closed for Easter celebrations but please check the weekly bulletins for advice. <https://www.stpatsmortlake.org.au/email-details-for-receiving-the-parish-bulletin/>

Go gently, peace to you all at this time.

Fr. Tom



Holy Week is a privileged time when we are called to draw near to Jesus; friendship with him is shown in times of difficulty.

Pope Francis

Around the Parish

What's been happening at St Pat's so far in 2020.

After the disastrous bush fires, there was a period of joy and optimism. We were preparing to celebrate our 125th Anniversary year with gusto. Unfortunately, we did not anticipate the arrival of the Coronavirus, which has led to the cancellation of many of our programs, both spiritual and social.

Some of the highlights.

- ✚ All were invited to a catch up in the parish presbytery on Thursday, 13 February to celebrate the New Year.
- ✚ We acknowledged and blessed our parish Catechists and Assistants who provide the children at Mortlake Primary School with lessons and information on our Catholic Faith.
- ✚ We welcomed a newcomer with profound joy, Laura Karam, into our Church.
- ✚ We welcomed new families to our Parish, including those with a student starting in kindergarten or other years at Mortlake Public or St. Pat's Primary Schools.
- ✚ Many Baptisms, Weddings and renewal of wedding vows were celebrated.
- ✚ Bingo began again but now sadly has to be suspended because of COVID-19

- ✚ Christian Meditation in The Lady Chapel, also began and now is likewise suspended.
- ✚ Weekend visitation by Bishop Terry Brady.
- ✚ Lenten program
- ✚ Pastoral care lunch and Blessing of our hands
- ✚ Celebration of St Patrick's Day with a parish morning tea - our last social event for a while.
- ✚ HOWEVER - The writing of our history is still proceeding.

A history of our parish of St. Pat's Mortlake is to be collated and presented to us in time for the church's 125th anniversary celebrations later this year. We aim to produce an easy-to-read yet scholarly book, which will be inclusive of the different stages in the parish's history and supported by a wide range of photos that reflect the parish's development from the 1890s to recent events, including the impressive new school. This publication will be available for purchase.

We hope everyone stays safe and well during this difficult period. As Father Tom has reiterated if anyone needs assistance in any way, please let the Parish know. We have volunteers and resources to help. Phone: 97431017



Bishop Terry Brady at St Pat's

Over the weekend of February 29 and March 1 Bishop Terry Brady visited St. Patrick's parish on official parish visitation. This period of visitation is about assisting the parish to widen its focus on supporting and deepening the Gospel message among parishioners. Bishop Terry took time to meet with parishioners, to learn about groups operating in the parish, to understand how parishioners are being invited to respond to their call to ministry and to ascertain how he can be of assistance to Father Tom as he carries out his ministry.

Bishop Terry celebrated all Masses over the weekend. He will return later in the year to engage further with parishioners.



Communication in these troubled times

Unfortunately due to the Pandemic, our church at St. Patrick's has been closed and all weekday and weekend masses cancelled. All Parish Baptisms and sacramental programs have been cancelled or put on hold to resume at a later date. The church will also be closed during the day for private prayer.

We have set up an email database so that we can continue to communicate for the next weeks or months. Bulletins and newsletters will be emailed to you and are also available weekly on the Parish Website: <https://www.stpatsmortlake.org.au>

Please email parish@stpatsmortlake.org.au with your details to add to our data base or contact the Parish office on: 9743 1017 to speak to Father Tom if you have any queries or require any pastoral assistance

Go gently in these difficult times and may the spirit of Easter be with you.

Many thanks, St Pat's Communication Ministry





St Patrick's School

It has been a very busy and rewarding start back to school this year. The children were excited about returning into their new classes for 2020 and catching up with their friends. We warmly welcomed our new Kindergarten children into the school with two full classes. They have already been learning many amazing new things along with new routines and new friends. It is always a very big start for the Kindy children and their parents. We also welcomed many new families across the different grades into our school this year as well and it has been lovely to see how welcomed they have been made to feel by the children.

We have already had liturgies begin and the children were very reverent during Ash Wednesday. Our Open Morning on March 1st was well attended by new families for 2021 and many parishioners too. It was a great day with Morning Tea organised and served by our new Kindy parents. We are looking forward to celebrating St Patrick's Day before we move into Reconciliation for our Year 2 students. Sadly, there will not be Holy Week ceremonies this year and the athletic carnival will be held later in the year.

Amanda Westgate
Principal, St Patrick's School Mortlake



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.

St Vincent de Paul Update

The Parish support for the St Vincent de Paul (SVDP) Hardest Hit Christmas Appeal was sensational!

Thank you one and all for your wonderful generosity. 27 Christmas hampers and gifts were donated and handed out to local people in need, 40 vouchers for \$30 each were provided to adolescents from the Jesuit Refugee Service and a phenomenal \$13,966 was donated from envelopes, bucket collections and Carols on the Green.

This money was distributed to Forbes - Wilcannia SVDP conference, St Patrick's Brewarrina and the Parish of Gunnedah.

With the massive impact of the coronavirus, the Mortlake Conference of SVDP is already preparing to support our vulnerable clients through these difficult times. It is highly likely that the Conference will get many new requests for assistance following the shutdown of many workplaces. If there is anyone requiring help through this crisis you can contact Fr Tom on 9743 1017 or contact Burwood St Vincent de Paul on 9745 3744 to get assistance.

Pastoral Help

In these times especially, please let the parish know if you, or anyone you know, needs assistance with food, a prepared meal, shopping, or general welfare. We have volunteers and resources to help. Phone 9743 1017.

Get social with us...



www.stpatismortlake.org.au



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