

Welcome to St. Patrick's Catholic Church Mortlake



ST PATRICK'S PARISH
MORTLAKE

6th Sunday of Lent
Palm Sunday:
5th April 2020

Parish Administrator: Fr. Tom Stevens

Parish Secretary: Brenda Johnston

Address: 33 Gale Street
Mortlake NSW 2137

Parish Office: Open Tuesdays & Fridays (9am-3pm)

Phone: (02) 9743 1017

Email: parish@stpatsmortlake.org.au

Website: www.stpatsmortlake.org.au

PALM SUNDAY

"Hosanna to the Son of David"

ALL Weekday and Weekend Masses at St. Patrick's have been cancelled as from Monday 23 March 2020. There will be no public liturgies during Holy Week. The Church is closed, even for private prayer.

On Saturday night I will bless the palms kindly provided by parishioner Dave Puckeridge. Sadly, we won't be able to distribute them due to possible health concerns. However, they will be kept in the parish and distributed once things have calmed down.

[A good way of Remembering Palm Sunday may be for each of us to place a palm or branch, or bit of 'greenery', from our own gardens on our front doors](#), as a reminder of the commencement of this the most Holy of Weeks in our Church.

PLANNED GIVING

For those of you who are able and wish to continue to assist the parish financially you can Direct Debit funds to St. Pat's until this crisis is over.

BANK TRANSFER DETAILS

BSB: 062 784

Account Number: 5015 0001

Reference: Your name.

If you wish to contribute by way of your existing 'Planned Giving Envelopes', then those envelopes can be physically **placed in the beige locked letterbox, located outside the Presbytery (35 Gale Street)**.

Thank you.

PRAYING AT HOME

We are encouraged to maintain our strong sense of a faith filled community by taking time out to pray in our homes with our loved ones - praying for our families, communities, the lonely and ill, and our world. We as a Church always pray for humanity and the deceased.

I encourage us all to make an effort to pray during this most Holy Week in our homes. Possible modes of prayer include:

[Reading the Bible](#)

If we have a copy of the Bible, I commend us to sit and read, slowly and in contemplation, chapters 18-20 of St. John's Gospel. Let us sit and reflect on this most powerful passage of Scripture.

[Watching Mass on TV or On-Line](#)

There is also the ability to watch daily Mass online, via the website –

www.sydneycatholic.org/live-masses/

[Channel 7 will be televising Archbishop Fisher's Good Friday liturgy at 3pm, and Easter Sunday Mass at 10.30am on free to air tv from St. Mary's Cathedral.](#) Sunday Mass can also be viewed on channel 10 at 6am Sunday mornings.

The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

Jesus was brought before Pontius Pilate, the governor, and the governor put to him this question, 'Are you the king of the Jews?' Jesus replied, 'It is you who say it.' But when he was accused by the chief priests and the elders he refused to answer at all. Pilate then said to him, 'Do you not hear how many charges they have brought against you?' But to the governor's complete amazement, he offered no reply to any of the charges.

At festival time it was the governor's practice to release a prisoner for the people, anyone they chose. Now there was at that time a notorious prisoner whose name was Barabbas. So when the crowd gathered, Pilate said to them, 'Which do you want me to release for you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?' For Pilate knew it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over.

Now as he was seated in the chair of judgement, his wife sent him a message, 'Have nothing to do with that man; I have been upset all day by a dream I had about him.'

The chief priests and the elders, however, had persuaded the crowd to demand the release of Barabbas and the execution of Jesus. So when the governor spoke and asked them, 'Which of the two do you want me to release for you?' they said 'Barabbas'. 'But in that case,' Pilate said to them 'what am I to do with Jesus who is called Christ?' They all said, 'Let him be crucified!' 'Why?' he asked 'What harm has he done?' But they shouted all the louder, 'Let him be crucified!' Then Pilate saw that he was making no impression, that in fact a riot was imminent. So he took some water, washed his hands in front of the crowd and said, 'I am innocent of this man's blood. It is your concern.' And the people, to a man, shouted back, 'His blood be on us and on our children!' Then he released Barabbas for them. He ordered Jesus to be first scourged and then handed over to be crucified.

The governor's soldiers took Jesus with them into the Praetorium and collected the whole cohort around him. Then they stripped him and made him wear a scarlet cloak, and having twisted some

...thorns into a crown they put this on his head and placed a reed in his right hand. To make fun of him they knelt to him saying, 'Hail, king of the Jews!' And they spat on him and took the reed and struck him on the head with it. And when they had finished making fun of him, they took off the cloak and dressed him in his own clothes and led him away to crucify him.

On their way out, they came across a man from Cyrene, Simon by name, and enlisted him to carry his cross. When they had reached a place called Golgotha, that is, the place of the skull, they gave him wine to drink mixed with gall, which he tasted but refused to drink. When they had finished crucifying him they shared out his clothing by casting lots, and then sat down and stayed there keeping guard over him.

Above his head was placed the charge against him; it read: 'This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.' At the same time two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left.

The passers-by jeered at him; they shook their heads and said 'So you would destroy the Temple and rebuild it in three days! Then save yourself! If you are God's son, come down from the cross!' The chief priests with the scribes and elders mocked him in the same way. 'He saved others,' they said 'he cannot save himself. He is the king of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He put his trust in God; now let God rescue him if he wants him. For he did say, "I am the son of God."' Even the robbers who were crucified with him taunted him in the same way.

From the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour, Jesus cried out in a loud voice, 'Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?' that is, 'My God, my God, why have you deserted me?' When some of those who stood there heard this, they said, 'The man is calling on Elijah,' and one of them quickly ran to get a sponge which he dipped in vinegar and putting it on a reed, gave it him to drink. 'Wait!' said the rest of them 'and see if Elijah will come to save him.' But Jesus again crying out in a loud voice, yielded up his spirit.

Gospel – continued

At that, the veil of the Temple was torn in two from top to bottom; the earth quaked; the rocks were split; the tombs opened and the bodies of many holy men rose from the dead, and these, after his resurrection, came out of the tombs, entered the Holy City and appeared to a number of people. Meanwhile the centurion, together with the others guarding Jesus, had seen the earthquake and all that was taking place, and they were terrified and said, 'In truth this was a son of God.'



Prayer Resources

The below prayer websites are useful and I commend them to you:

- pray-as-you-go.org
- reonline.sydcatholicschools.nsw.edu.au/2020/03/31/pandemic-prayers

The below website may be useful for children's prayers and activities:

- loyolapress.com/our-catholic-faith/liturgical-year

Message from Fr. Tom

Good times are Coming!!

That's the pathway or Journey to the Resurrection of Jesus we are currently on. We are people of the Resurrection, we are people of Hope.

True, times get tough, and our society has changed significantly in the last two weeks. We might question and ask - Why? Who is to Blame? Why can't I continue to go to my favourite restaurant or pub? In short – I have to turn my mind to the Catholic social teaching of ensuring I work for 'the common good' of society. I'm here not for myself alone, but in service of my sister and brother. It is then that I am in the image of Christ.

At Palm Sunday we can see the fickle nature of humanity. One-week lauding Jesus as King, yet a week later demanding he be put to death. We need to see the true principles by which we stand as a community when faced with adversity and uncertainty.

We now enter this most Holy of Weeks in our Liturgical Calendar with great excitement and anticipation, whilst facing the uncertainty that surrounds us. Let us contemplate the strength which we have as a loving, caring community.

Liturgically, during the Holy Week, we go through all of the human emotions, of praise and jubilation (Palm Sunday), anxiety and confusion (the Last Supper), numbness and mourning (Good Friday), to the Joy of true freedom and love (the Resurrection). We walk on through these times in Faith, Hope and Love. May God grant each one of us a peaceful and faith filled Holy Week.

Let us pray for each other.

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. [Please call the Parish on 9743 1017 if you require ANY assistance.](#)

The distribution of the Sacraments (anointing of the Sick/ Baptism/ etc), will still be available in emergencies only.

[“Phone Buddy Network”](#)- Parishioners who may like to be part of a program can register. Parishioners will be paired up with one another and become ‘Phone Buddies’. Buddies will then contact each other (via phone) a couple of times a week to have a chat, share a story, pray, etc. This is in order to help people stay connected during this period. If you would like to register, please call the parish on 9743 1017 or email parish@stpatmortlake.org.au

Individual and Government/ Corporate Aid

It is important we are aware of the support being offered by government agencies, companies and individuals, to ensure the welfare of our community. The below contacts are useful in these times and I commend them to you and your loved ones, for consideration:

- [LOCAL FRESH FRUIT & VEGGIES](#) – Local individuals wanting fresh fruit and vegetables can contact parishioner John Borger on 0418 119 569. John sells organic ‘fruit and veggies’ here in the St. Pat’s parish hall every Saturday between 8am and 12 noon.
- For the aged and isolated, John is happy to take your order and arrange delivery of his seasonal fresh fruit and vegetables to you.
 - ***As the saying goes - “Think Global, Drink Local!!” Thank you, John, for offering this service to our locals. Fr. Tom***
- Australian Taxation Office’s [‘Jobkeeper’ registration](#) link:
- <https://www.ato.gov.au/Individuals/Dealing-with-disasters/In-detail/Specific-disasters/COVID-19/>
- Australia Post have partnered with Woolworths to deliver [“Woolworths Basics Box”](#), consisting of groceries. Each box contains “meals, snacks and essential items for those in genuine need”. You or family members can find out more by visiting:
 - <https://www.woolworths.com.au/shop/page/woolworths-basics-box>
- Australia Post is also teaming up with local pharmacies to support vulnerable Australians who may be isolated at home, allowing them to [receive medication and essential supplies](#) through Australia Post’s Express Post Network. Details can be found through email:
 - pharmacysupport@auspost.com.au or website:
 - <https://auspost.com.au/pharmacy-home-deliveries>

RECENTLY DECEASED: John Walker: George Cepak: Michael Geoghegan; Raffaele Melizza (Italy): Maureen Johnson: John McAnelly: Gerard Lopez; Dovidio Favero; Brian Clarke.

JOY !!!!! PARISH WEDDING, 4 April 2020: Alicia Aldini & Matthew Bentley