



ST PATRICK'S PARISH  
MORTLAKE

## **PRINCIPLES GUIDING ST PATRICK'S PARISH PRIEST SCHOOL REFERENCES & INVITATION FOR PARISH ENGAGEMENT**

***"The pilgrim Church is missionary by her very nature, since it is from the mission of the Son and the mission of the Holy Spirit that she draws her origin, in accordance with the decree of God the Father."** AD GENTES (On the Missionary Activity of the Church) 1965.2*

I am often asked to provide references for students to assist with applications into Catholic Schools. In order to provide a genuine reference of substance, it is of great benefit to me if I am able to get to know families through an established pattern of involvement in parish life, be it through attendance at weekend Masses and/or involvement in one of our parish ministries listed below.

An intrinsic role of each Christian is to Work Together in Mission. Our role as a Parish Church is to support one another. This involves all members of the community. We all have beautifully different skills, talents, and dispositions that make up our Church. All of these talents have a distinctive role to play, because we, the Faithful, are The Church.

From the moment of birth, we all seek to belong. To know the faces, voices and touch of those we call mother and father is essential in the development of a child. The family home is the domestic church and is the first school of Christian living and human enrichment, but the need to belong is not limited to our family.

**In our Catholic tradition, the Church has always been at its best when local Parishes are active, inclusive in diversity and faithful to the teachings of Jesus Christ.** Apart from the love and forgiveness experienced in the family unit, our local Parish is essential in its role of exposing each of us to a pathway of prayer, learning, and engagement in Living our faith.

**In this regard I strongly encourage each one of us to commit to our Parish as a means of growing in Faith and learning how to live a life of Charity and Love. One way we can express our desire to belong to a parish community is by actively engaging with its activities.**

As your parish priest I invite you to become involved in the many parish activities which may suit your gifts and talents. Volunteering opportunities are set out in the link below, but some options for parish engagement include:

- Joining us at Sunday and/or weekday Masses;
- Involvement in the Parish Planned Financial Giving Program;

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- Helping with Sunday Children's Liturgy and Youth Ministry;
- Assisting as an Altar Server; Acolyte; Reader; Minister of Communion at Masses;
- Assistance with Parish Sacramental and Public School catechetical programmes;
- Pastoral care visitation and assisting with weekly Bingo groups;
- St Vincent de Paul Society;
- Gardening and maintenance;
- Social committee;
- Communications/ IT support;
- Social Justice Group;
- Stewardship, assisting with parish regulatory and legal requirements;
- Parish Finance Committee, assisting with management of parish financials;
- Parish Pastoral Council, assists in guiding the vision and mission of the parish.

<https://www.stpatsmortlake.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/St.Pats-Volunteer-Groups.pdf>

I hope the wide diversity of activities offered in our Parish will ensure that we all have the opportunity to participate, journey and grow together in a community of Faith.

You are all most welcome to engage with our St Pat's parish community and I warmly encourage you to formally register as a member of the St Pat's parish.

Peace and Joy,

**Fr Thomas Stevens**  
**Parish Priest**