

Welcome to St. Patrick's Catholic Church Mortlake



ST PATRICK'S PARISH
MORTLAKE

The Nativity of the Lord Christmas Mass in Ordinary Time Year C 25 December 2021

Parish Priest: Fr. Tom Stevens
Parish Secretary: Brenda Johnston
Parish Accounts: Ruth Rawlinson
Address: 33 Gale Street
Mortlake NSW 2137

Postal Address: PO Box 145
Concord NSW 2137

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

Phone: (02) 9743 1017

Email: parish@stpatsmortlake.org.au

Accounts: accounts@stpatsmortlake.org.au

Website: www.stpatsmortlake.org.au

Facebook:  www.facebook.com/stpatsmortlake



Sunday Mass Times

Saturday Vigil: 6pm

Sunday: 9am; 10.30am; 6pm

**Please note there will be no 10.30am Mass
during the month of January 2022**

FACE MASKS MUST BE WORN INDOORS

Weekday Services

- **Communion Service:** Monday and Saturday 8am
- **Mass:** Tuesday to Friday 8am
- **Reconciliation:** Saturday 5.30pm
- **Baptisms:** 11.45am on 2nd, 3rd & 4th Sundays of month. Please call parish secretary with enquiries.

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM FR TOM

I wish you all Faith, Hope and Charity this Christmas 2021! We call these the *'Theological Virtues'*. The virtues that link the heavenly with humanity.

It's tough to see Faith, Hope and Charity at times. Especially in tough times. Sometimes we all question the reality of our Faith, Hope and Charity. Questioning is not a bad thing. This last week we have read about the horrific news in Davenport. 6 children taken from us far too soon. I recently presided over the burial of a stillborn baby. **Where is God in all of this? Jesus is actually at the centre of it all.**

The reality of the message of Jesus Christ lies not in a type of *"prosperity theology"*, where everything is going to be bright and brilliant, but it rather engages in the reality of your and my life. It is in the midst of the messiness, the vicissitudes of life, that the message of Jesus Christ takes its most engaging form. It is in the ordinary and mundane of daily life.

We find Jesus at: the mourning site of Lazarus; with the woman at the well; with the unknown children who the disciples try and send away; and importantly, **we find him this weekend with a lonely and scared young couple in a manger in Bethlehem.**

Each year we are invited to contemplate the birth of this little humble baby, and its meaning for each of us individually. This child must be part of my Identity – only then am I able to see Faith, Hope and Charity in my daily life. **Merry Christmas!**

**PLEASE NOTE THERE
WILL BE NO 10.30AM
SUNDAY MASSES IN
JANUARY**

COUNCIL ELECTION BBQ THANK YOU

A great \$2,000 donation to our parish from the **Breakfast Point Men's Shed** who ran the BBQ at St Pats during the recent Council election was raised. All money raised during the day by sales and donations was given to our parish!

Thank you to the Men's Shed for their very generous effort in giving their time and culinary skills to support St Pat's Parish.

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FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah
Is 9:1-7

A son is given to us.

The people that walked in darkness
has seen a great light;
on those who live in a land of deep shadow
a light has shone.
You have made their gladness greater,
you have made their joy increase;
they rejoice in your presence
as men rejoice at harvest time,
as men are happy when they are dividing the
spoils.
For the yoke that was weighing on him,
the bar across his shoulders,
the rod of his oppressor,
these you break as on the day of Midian.
For all the footgear of battle,
every cloak rolled in blood,
is burnt
and consumed by fire.
For there is a child born for us,
a son given to us
and dominion is laid on his shoulders;
and this is the name they give him:
Wonder-Counsellor, Mighty-God,
Eternal-Father, Prince-of-Peace.
Wide is his dominion
in a peace that has no end,
for the throne of David
and for his royal power,
which he establishes and makes secure
in justice and integrity.
From this time onwards and forever,
the jealous love of the Lord of hosts will do
this.

The Word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 95:1-3. 11-13 R. Lk 2:11

(R.) Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

1. O sing a new song to the Lord,
sing to the Lord all the earth.
O sing to the Lord, bless his name. **(R.)**
2. Proclaim his help day by day,
tell among the nations his glory
and his wonders among all the peoples. **(R.)**
3. Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad,
let the sea and all within it thunder praise,
let the land and all it bears rejoice,
all the trees of the wood shout for joy
at the presence of the Lord for he comes,
he comes to rule the earth. **(R.)**
4. With justice he will rule the world he will
judge the peoples with his truth. **(R.)**

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to Titus
Ti 2:11-14

God's grace has been revealed to all people.

God's grace has been revealed, and it has made
salvation possible for the whole human race and
taught us that what we have to do is to give up
everything that does not lead to God, and all our
worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained
and live good and religious lives here in this
present world, while we are waiting in hope for
the blessing which will come with the Appearing
of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ
Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to set
us free from all wickedness and to purify a
people so that it could be his very own and
would have no ambition except to do good.

The Word of the Lord

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GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Good News and great joy to all the world:
today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Luke
Lk 2:1-14

Today a saviour has been born for you.

Caesar Augustus issued a decree for a census of the whole world to be taken. This census – the first – took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria, and everyone went to his own town to be registered. So Joseph set out from the town of Nazareth in Galilee and travelled up to Judaea, to the town of David called Bethlehem, since he was of David's House and line, in order to be registered together with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to a son, her first-born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn. In the countryside close by there were shepherds who lived in the fields and took it in turns to watch their flocks during the night. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone round them. They were terrified, but the angel said, 'Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.' And suddenly with the angel there was a great throng of the heavenly host, praising God and singing:

'Glory to God in the highest heaven
and peace to men who enjoy his favour.'

The Gospel of the Lord

CHILDRENS LITURGY

Happy Christmas to everyone, our period of preparation and waiting has come to an end and we now celebrate the Season of Christmas. Our Christmas morning is filled with a great sense of joy as we receive the great gift that God has sent to the whole world, the gift of forgiveness, inclusion, and a new way of working together to make a better world, a more loving world and a more caring world.

As we enjoy gathering together as family, relations, and friends, let us make room to remember the less fortunate people in our community. Jesus is born, let us welcome Him!

Let's listen to Fr Tom read today's Gospel from Luke (2:1-14) <https://youtu.be/-Nxwx6TgcFQ>

The great message of hope, peace, joy and love that we hear in the Christmas message, is a message that can change the world. Through this humble, defenceless little baby and his family, Mary and Joseph, we see how powerful family is, more powerful than any army, because Jesus offers us the message of love as the way to change hearts, minds, actions and behaviours. Jesus brings hope to all of us.

Family Christmas Conversation and Craft:

- Jesus is the reason for the Season – it's His BIRTHDAY! As a family make a card for Jesus and add it to your Christmas nativity scene
- When Jesus Was Born Christmas Story - https://youtu.be/t_iudvmMLgk

St Patrick's Children's Liturgy Ministry thank you for supporting our group, for bringing your children and especially for the new help we have had this year. ***This group is open to new members all the time, we value your contribution and the more people we have the richer the experience your children will receive.*** A big thank you to all parishioners for joining in with our prayer window. It is a delight for the children to engage with you at the end of Mass. From Sonia, Jenni, Annemarie, Chiara, Steph, Lisa and Sinead, ***we wish you a happy, joyful Christ centred Christmas.***

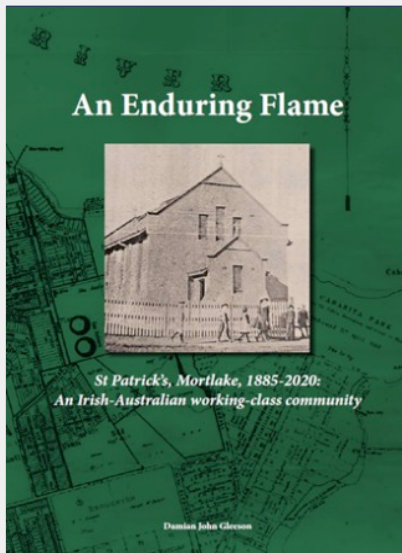


ST PATRICK'S PARISH
MORTLAKE

Celebrating 125 Years 1895-2020

2020 marks 125 years since the beginning of St Patrick's Parish Mortlake. Since our earliest days, we have been blessed and enriched by priests, religious sisters and families who have made their home in Mortlake, and have made St Patrick's their parish. The faith, energy and commitment of the early Irish settlers has flourished, and successive generations of people from many different cultures and nationalities have contributed to the wonderfully diverse and vibrant parish community we share today.

Just as 2020 is a year we will never forget, 1895 is a focal point in the life of St Patrick's Parish. It is when we began, and the passing of time weaves the threads of our story across the years – the highs and lows, opportunities and challenges, joys and sorrows. These significant personal, spiritual and communal events in our history have been captured beautifully in Damian Gleeson's new book:



A book celebrating the
125th anniversary of St
Patrick's, Mortlake.

Cost - \$25

A great read!

A wonderful gift idea!

St Patrick's Catholic Church
33 Gale Street
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An Enduring Flame

St Patrick's Mortlake 1885-2020
An Irish-Australian working class community

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: *Damian John Gleeson specialises in Irish-Australian historical research. Damian has written a number of parish histories including the 2017 award winning publication, The Rock of St George. Damian is a past president of the Australian Catholic Historical Society and an active member of the Silvermines Historical Journal, County Tipperary, Ireland.*

TO ORDER A COPY

Please contact the parish on

9743 1017 or email : parish@stpatismortlake.org.au

Welcome to St. Patrick's Catholic Church Mortlake

THANK YOU

To the many parishioners who have worked so hard in preparing our parish for Christmas 2021.

Musicians, Singers, Altar Servers, Wardens, Counters, Covid Marshalls, Readers and all the Ministry Teams.

May Christmas 2021 be a time of reflection and Spiritual growth. The start is to ask- **WHO AM I IN CONNECTION TO JESUS CHRIST?**

May Christmas 2021 be a period of spiritual growth and love and commitment to follow Christ in word and deed.

Merry Christmas. Fr Tom

THE NARTHEX FOR CHRISTMAS

Thank you to the various people who have worked hard in decoration our church narthex for Christmas.

Special thanks to **Eric Kent** for building the stable. **The Children and families** for setting up the Nativity scene. **Philomena and Bernadette** for the monthly beautiful window displays.

Special thanks to **Gian Luca Derrico** for allowing the beautiful traditional Italian Nativity scene (Presepe), which he has personally made, to be displayed.

Thank you for contributing to the beauty of our parish in this most sacred Christmas period

PARISH REGISTRATION AND DATABASE UPDATE

Dear Parishioners, as a part of updating the parish records, I ask if parishioners **could take the time to update their family records by completing the attached Parish Registration form.**

Our records **need significant updating to ensure we are best able to meet the needs of our parishioners.** Forms are in the church and can be downloaded per the link below. They can be dropped off to the office, emailed, or left in the box at the back of the church.

Thank you. Fr Tom

<https://www.stpatsmortlake.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Parish-Welcome-Pack.pdf>



ST PAT'S FIESTA

TWILIGHT EVENING
THURSDAY
FEB 10TH
5PM - 8PM

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

If you would like to volunteer for the event, please contact Fr Tom on 9743 1017 or email parish@stpatsmortlake.org.au
Thank you

ST PATRICK'S PARISH MORTLAKE

Next year we will be holding a series of fun community **Twilight Evenings** in the parish. Our first one will be held on **Thursday, 10 February** and will be a South American Fiesta theme with stalls, singers and food. **If you would like to volunteer to assist, please contact Fr Tom in the parish on 9743 1017 or Email: parish@stpatsmortlake.org.au**

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RECENTLY DECEASED: Baby Rose; Josie Lopez; Elsie Andrezza; Edna Rumore; Alan Butler; Francey Bagala; Assunta Favero; Teresa Cama; Sr Judy Quirk; John Hughes; Michael John Veloso Patsy Boggs; Ania Krzanowski; Mary Di Bernardo; Adele Abraham; Don Khoury; Luw Kan; Lorraine Grace; Les Boland; Sr Judith Clarke; Peter Delahunty; Anna Faraone; Robert Rago; Ralph Wadley; Ruth Lawlor (Ireland); Carmela Tomarchio; June Roebuck; Oliver Coleman; Margaret Hickey; Robert Gonano.

ANNIVERSARIES: Gerry Gleeson (4th anniv); Giuseppe De Meio; Natalina & Antonino Di Giglio; Mary Galea & Deceased Members of the Di Giglio, Galea, Michallef, Lo Shiavo & Tesoriero Families; Maurizia Xuereb; Bjarne Johansen (28th anniv); Glenda Rutz (8th anniv); Jose Teran; Jacob Nabiha; Ray Elias; Michael Saliba Patricia Reilly (4th anniv); Anthony Geoghegan (18th anniv); Joseph Triganza (1st anniv); Domenico Ardillo (8th anniv); Jayden Clarke; Frank Arcella Snr; Frank Arcella Jnr; Rosa Arcella; Farone Family; Tony Neylan (6th anniv); John Roach (7th anniv); Adrian Moore; Carmelo Puglisi; Giovanni (John) Profilio (21st anniv).

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY: Nance Walker; Ethan Aflak; Archie Finn; Anthony Davis; Mary Beth; John O'Dea; Pam White; Helen Behan; Evelyn McVeigh (Ireland); Diane Shore; Renee; Michael Ratinie; Charbel; Irene; Nikko; Gina Cocco; Lillo Prevedello; Kevin Walker.

To have your petition included, please phone Carmel Moliterno 9736 1718

INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING? OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

If you are interested in outreach and volunteering, St Pat's has several groups and exciting new opportunities for engagement in 2022. [Volunteering and outreach opportunities within the parish include:](#)

- **Social Justice Group**, understanding the rich history of Catholic Social Teaching as the spiritual formation and basis of action.
- **St. Vincent de Paul Society**, attending to the needs of locals who have fallen on tough times.
- **New opportunities in 2022** to assist PlayGroup and outreach lunches.
- **Pastoral Care Group**, who take a hands-on role in supporting those in our community that need company, companionship and attending to their practical daily needs (i.e., shopping, home visits).
- **Social Committee** assist with running weekly bingo on Mondays for our senior community members, help organise bus excursion trips and arrange celebratory functions for events such as children's reception of their first Sacraments.

INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING? (cont'd)

- **Children's Liturgy** and engaging with the parish youth needs.
- **Liturgy**, including participating in Music, Reading, Altar Serving and being a Eucharistic Minister within the parish.
- **Faith Education**, includes teaching in our local public schools as a catechist; involved in preparation of students in the Sacraments; as well as Adult Faith formation opportunities.
- **Assist with Communications and IT Support** requirements of the parish.
- **Gardening** group in the parish - help in creating our blossoming parish garden and community vegetable garden.
- **Stewardship** - assist with governance requirements and obligations.

Please contact the parish on 9743 1017 or parish@stpatmortlake.org.au or visit our [website below](#).

<https://www.stpatmortlake.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Volunteers-booklet.pdf>

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LOOKING AHEAD TO 2022

SAVE THE DATES

Some dates for 2022 special Masses and hospitality functions you can be involved with

Sunday, 13 March 2022

10.30am Mass and luncheon for Vinnies' clients serviced by the local Conference.

Wednesday, 4 May 2022

11am Mass and light luncheon for Carers in the Parish.

Thursday, 26 May 2022

9am-12 noon. Cancer Council — Australia's Biggest Morning Tea community function on the Parish Green.

- 9am Mass followed by morning tea
- 2-5pm Afternoon Delight on the Parish Green.

Sunday, 21 August 2022

10.30am Mass and luncheon for a yet to be specified group

November Remember Memorial Masses

Twilight 'festival' functions on Green Space

2nd Thursday of the month mostly during daylight saving, 5-8pm:

- Thursday 10 February 2022
- Thursday 17 March 2022 - St Patrick's Day
- Thursday 13 October 2022
- Thursday 10 November 2022
- Thursday 8 December 2022

Parish 'Spring' Clean Dates

- Saturday 2 April 2022
- Saturday 3 September 2022

2022 St PAT's ALPHA PROGRAMME

In February we will be running a 10 week ALPHA Programme here in the parish. **Alpha is course that creates a space, where people are excited to bring their friends for a conversation about meaning and happiness in life**, the story of who Jesus Christ is in that story, the importance of Faith and the Church and how we engage in communities of faith.

The Alpha talks are designed to engage people from all walks of life and inspire conversation. **They explore the big issues of life and faith and unpack the basics of Christian belief**, addressing questions like "Who is Jesus?", "Why and how do I pray?" and "How does God guide us?" **The talks involve interesting videos which facilitate discussion and allow members to respond to the talk, hear from others and contribute their own perspective in an honest, friendly and open environment.**

The Programme will run from **2.00pm until 2.50pm on Tuesday's in the parish Hall and will be led by Fr Tom.**

The dates for the sessions will be:

- Tuesday, 22 Feb - 1;
- Tuesday, 1 March - 2;
- Tuesday, 8 March - 3;
- Tuesday, 15 March - 4;
- Tuesday, 22 March - 5;
- Tuesday, 29 March - 6;
- TERM 1 HOLIDAYS BREAK
- Tuesday, 3 May - 7;
- Tuesday, 10 May - 8;
- Tuesday, 17 May - 9;
- Tuesday, 24 May - 10 and FINAL.

It is open to everyone, either people wanting to learn about Christianity and Catholicism for the first time, or people perhaps returning to the Church. Old and young welcome.

I do hope you will join us and feel free to contact Fr Tom on 9743 1017 or thomas.stevens@sydneycatholic.org to register your interest. **Fr Tom**

Get social with us....



www.stpatmortlake.org.au



Search Facebook - St Patrick's Mortlake



Search Instagram - stpatmortlake

Welcome to St. Patrick's Catholic Church Mortlake

WHAT'S PLANNED AT ST PAT'S in 2022?

As we approach Christmas 2021, we have this period to reflect and look forward to 2022 with great enthusiasm. **Part of next years activities will involve many exciting areas of engagement** as a parish with our local community. Some of these areas of engagement include:

- establishment of a **Playgroup** in the parish hall on a weekly basis, to allow pre-school age parents and children to gather;
- proposed **renovation and modernisation** works on the hall, to enable greater parish and community usage and open it up for interaction with the greenspace;
- introduction of parish **'Twilight Evenings'**, starting in February, creating a fun series of parish and community evening festivals on the parish green;
- parish subsidised **musical classes** (see below), taught by professional Russian trained violinist Elizaveta Laskova, for children and adults people wanting to learn a musical instrument and engage in the beauty of music;

WHAT'S PLANNED AT ST PAT'S in 2022?

- regular classical **musical evenings** held in the parish by professional musicians;
- maintenance of the parish church;
- hosting the parish's **Biggest Morning Tea** in aid of the Cancer Council in May;
- hosting quarterly **'Outreach Lunches'** in the parish, providing a quality dining experience for those in our community who need it.

We invite you to register your interest and engagement in the parish, and maybe offer your services as volunteers for these events, by registering your details per the below Parish Registration details.

We look forward to a bright and exciting 2022!

<https://www.stpatsmortlake.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Parish-Welcome-Pack.pdf>

BUY A BRICK – ALL SOLD!

The Buy a Brick program has been fully subscribed and the feedback has been **'they look fabulous'!**

With the assistance of the Architects who designed the build on the Parish Green we are looking at other opportunities to expand the program in 2022.

For those people who missed out, you are on an **Expressions of Interest list**. If you are interested in participating in this program in 2022 please send an email to parish@stpatsmortlake.org.au.

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

- Monday:** St John Apostle & Evangelist
Tuesday: The Holy Innocents Martyres
Wednesday: Fr Thomas Becket

