



ST PATRICK'S PARISH
MORTLAKE



Parish Newsletter Winter 2022

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Message from Fr Tom

Dear Parishioners of St Patrick's
You might have seen flyers delivered to your letterboxes and in the church, promoting our series of Social Justice talks over the next few months. The aim of these talks is to seek to grow a greater sense of parish consciousness of what exactly Social Justice is. Social Justice is how we as individuals, and a society, can seek to change systems and circumstances which give rise to an inequality. Social Justice seeks to change the root cause of an inequality which may exist.



The Social Mission of the Church is an essential part of our Catholic faith. To live in the image of the Gospel message is to share that Social Mission.

"The joys and the hopes, the griefs and the anxieties of the men and women of this age, especially those who are poor or in any way afflicted, those too are the joys and hopes, the griefs and anxieties of the followers of Christ."

(Gaudium et Spes, Vatican II, 1965)

Depending on the response and interest in the parish, at the conclusion of our series of talks, we can examine whether we as a parish body wish to engage in a substantive way with a grouping in Sydney, seeking to put the aspects of justice and participation into play on a regular basis at a grass roots level. For this to take place, your interest in such a commitment will be required.

I invite you to take this journey with us and grow in the knowledge of the Church's profound insights and teachings in this area and think about engaging in active participation going forward. All are Welcome.

Our next Parish talk on Social Justice:

When: Tuesday, 28th June, 6.30pm-8:00pm in the Parish Hall.

Topic: *Eco-Implications. Living in a World Worth Living In. A Practical Discussion about Environmental Sustainability.*

Future parish talk details can be found at:

<https://www.stpatismortlake.org.au/faith-in-action-social-thought-discussion-series/>

Peace and Joy,

Fr Tom

Mass information

Saturday Vigil: 6:00pm

Sunday Mass: 9:00am
10:30am
6:00pm

Weekday Services:

Mass: 8:00am Tuesday - Friday

Communion Services:

8:00am Monday
9:00am Saturday



www.facebook.com/St Patrick's Mortlake



[stpatismortlake](https://www.instagram.com/stpatismortlake)

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.

In the Parish

So far in 2022 we've had special Masses, fabulous fiestas, morning teas, and charity outreach opportunities that have certainly made up for lost time when we were in lockdown due to COVID over long periods in 2020 and 2021.

There's still more to come:

- First Holy Communion: June 12 and June 19.
- First Communicants' Mass and Celebration, 10.30 Mass on Sunday June 26 followed by light refreshments.

- Social Justice Discussion Series continues: Tuesday June 28, 6.30-8pm.
- A Classical Concert in the Church, Friday July 1 at 7pm.
- Christmas in July, Wednesday July 6 at Massey Park Golf Club

For more details please refer to the Parish website, www.stpatsmortlake.org.au, weekly Bulletins or email parish@statsmortlake.org.au



Australia's Biggest Morning Tea



Easter - Celebrating the Passion, Death & Resurrection of Jesus

As a parish community the Triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday) were celebrated with beautiful and inspiring liturgies. The involvement of our parishioners as readers, having feet washed, carrying the cross, Eucharistic Ministers, acolytes, altar servers ensured that each liturgy was truly a community experience. On Holy Thursday the period of adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until midnight was at the garden altar. It was such a beautiful evening with the moon shining through the trees and the garden atmosphere created a beautiful contemplative atmosphere. On Holy Saturday night when the Easter fire was lit once again the moon shone down on us as we processed into the church with the Easter light. How fortunate are we to belong to this vibrant parish.



Children's Stations of the Cross

On a beautiful sunny Good Friday morning, the children of our St Patrick's Mortlake Parish gathered on the Parish Parklands to follow the Stations of the Cross. One child carried a cross accompanied by two children with candles. As Jesus moved between the stations, the children at each station read a description of the respective station, followed by a reflective prayer. The children then attached the significant words including honesty, accept, hope, helpful, unwavering love, kindness, strength, faithful, forgiveness, humility, selfless, repent, courage, renewed to the cross. Father Tom beautifully concluded this event with a few reflective and inspirational words.



Volunteering at St Pat's: Stephanie Tse



BMT team left to right: Stephanie Noonan, Stephanie Tse, Fr Tom and Amber Kelly- Ringrose

Stephanie Tse is one of the many volunteers at our parish, St Patrick's Mortlake who help to make our faith community a vibrant one. I first met Stephanie when she was one of my students at OLMC Parramatta. I have been delighted to meet her again as a fellow parishioner at St Pat's. Her children are students at St Patrick's School. I was interested in how she became involved with helping in the organising of Australia's Biggest Morning Tea (BMT) held recently at St Pat's on Friday 6 May 2022.

Stephanie decided to get involved in the BMT after seeing a notice in the Parish Bulletin looking for volunteers to help organise the event. She's always had a soft spot for volunteering which for a long time was put on the backburner after having kids. The BMT was also a great cause — her family had been touched by cancer many years ago with a few family members on her mother's side passing away from various forms of cancer.

Stephanie was part of a small team of three who undertook different tasks, according to what they individually could take on. She and Steph Noonan rang around to lock in who could donate to the raffles as well as food for the event. They then did the run around to pick up everything that needed picking up. Amber Kelly-Ringrose looked after the Trybooking Event, the creation of the event posters and printing needs.

A lot of planning was certainly needed! As most of the work was engaging with our local community asking them to help out with the event by donating food or services, they were on the phones a lot! Once donations and orders were confirmed, they needed to check in with the donors closer to the date to ensure they were still able to commit to the event and then

be organised to pick up any donations that were not being dropped off.

When asked how she felt after the two events on the 6th June raising so much money for the Cancer Council of Australia (over \$6,500.00) Stephanie said:

"It was an amazing feeling but nothing beats the feeling of seeing everyone enjoy themselves at the events. Whilst it was a fundraiser, it was also about bringing the school, community and parish together for a great cause so it was really good to see everyone together."



As an attendee at the Biggest Morning Tea, I can definitely agree with Stephanie. It was an enjoyable, well organised morning tea with scrumptious cakes, good coffee, wonderful entertainment and fantastic company. I was very impressed with the helpfulness and courtesy of the senior students at St Pat's School who served and assisted with the morning tea. Sadly, I did not win the tennis lessons or the gym class in the raffle. Thank you, Stephanie Tse, Steph Noonan and Amber Kelly-Ringrose, for making this all possible.

Maureen Casey

Healing Mass – Sunday 15th May

The ministry of healing is among the central works of the Church, as it was for Jesus himself, and this well attended event is always a highlight on our Parish Calendar.



Yvonne Webster , left and Pauline Cepak

Those of us that attended the Healing Mass at 10.30 on Sunday 15th May were given a special blessing and anointing by Father Tom, as we prayed together for the sick and those in need of healing both physically and spiritually.

A light luncheon was served by our Social Ministry, with parishioners enjoying the warm sunshine, which in itself was a healing tonic after a week of rain. Thanks to Father Tom and the Social Committee for all your effort.

Adult Education

Over a period of 11 weeks, several parishioners availed themselves of the video series of the Alpha Course, which is conducted by Nicky Gumbel. These sessions were led by Father Tom. For many

of us this was a wonderful opportunity to engage in adult education and learn more about this person, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. The last formal religious education for many of us was years ago at school, where the catechism was the main teaching tool. As we listened to Nicky Gumbel we were able to question and discuss some of the core principles of our Christian faith. Some of the sessions were: Who is Jesus? Why did Jesus die? Why and how can I pray? Our small group engaged in some interesting discussions with Father Tom there ready to put us on the right track. Many thanks Father Tom for offering us this opportunity to delve further into our faith and make us realise it's never too late to learn. What was interesting about this course is that our core Christian beliefs are shared by all other Christian denominations and "what unites us is infinitely greater than what divides us." <https://alpha.org/about/>

Holy Cross College Ryde Back to Parish Mass

Some the students in our parish that attend Holy Cross College were welcomed recently to our 8.00am Mass, Wednesday, 25th May.

The boys attended with their teachers and they joined some of our Parishioners on the Parish Greenspace afterwards for breakfast. Warm ham and cheese croissants were a great drawcard especially on a cold morning. It was also a wonderful opportunity for Father Tom to speak to the boys about our continuing Social Justice talks and ways they may like to volunteer in the Parish.

Thanks for coming gentlemen, you are a credit to your school.



Playgroup

A little secret you might not have discovered yet, is St Pat's Playgroup. It's the newest parish initiative and it has generated an ever growing group of babies and toddlers and mums, grans and carers each week.

As always the playgroup has been enthusiastically supported by our parish priest, Fr Tom Stevens, who often calls in to say hello.



Whenever playgroups pop up, the gratitude of those who attend is built from the opportunity to share experiences of all that goes with childhood early years' experience — fussy eaters, teething, sleepless nights and so much more. As for the little people — any new space or toy is an adventure when it's away from home. Happy babies and toddlers, happy mums, dads and carers!

Fr Tom knows that building community has to begin with creating opportunities to connect. We have all been starved of connection over the past two years, so if you find yourself at home with your own children or children you look after as Nan and Pop, or Grandma, carer or nanny, come along on Friday mornings to this warm and inviting group and join the community of St Patrick's Mortlake, where there is always a WELCOME on the mat. Everyone in the community of Mortlake is invited! For further information contact Fr. Tom on 9743 1017 or thomas.stevens@sydneycatholic.org



Blessings

Blessing for baby Tadhg

On the 22nd May, 2022 a blessing was given to Tadhg as he is going to Ireland to be Baptised with his Irish relatives. Tadhg is the Great Grandson of Denise and Len Norman.



Congratulations and safe travels and also to Denise and Len who hope to accompany them.



Congratulations and Special Blessings: Wedding Anniversaries Robert and Ivanka Rancic recently celebrated their **30th wedding anniversary**, and had a special blessing on Saturday evening at the Vigil Mass, 4th June.

Eric and Sybille Morelli celebrated their **40th wedding anniversary**, Sunday 5th June and had a special blessing on Sunday at the 10.30am Mass.

Peace & Joy



Well, it certainly has been a very busy return to school this term. We were involved in five events in the first eight days of term, including, Anzac Day, our Easter Liturgy and an Easter Hat parade during the first week, followed quickly by our Mothers' Day Breakfast and Liturgy and The Biggest Morning Tea where our choir sang beautifully and our School Leaders served the delicious food. These events herald that we are slowly moving towards 'normality' even though we still have COVID lurking and an increase of influenza. The children always love to get involved, show their talents and enjoy life and school to the fullest.

Their enthusiasm needs to be acknowledged and celebrated as it brings joy to all our lives.

We are also participating in family Masses and look forward to sharing the Sacrament of First Eucharist not only with our students, but many children from all our neighbouring schools.

We all also look forward to a great end to term and more special events in the near future.

Amanda Westgate
Principal, St Patrick's School Mortlake

