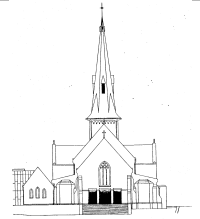


ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL PARISH, PARRAMATTA

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| | | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------|----------------------------------|
| Very Rev Robert Bossini PP | Parish Priest & Dean of the Cathedral | 8839 8420 | frbob@stpatscathedral.com.au |
| Rev George Azhakath MSFS | Assistant Priest | 8839 8423 | frgeorge@stpatscathedral.com.au |
| Rev Mr Willy Limjap | Deacon | | deacon@stpatscathedral.com.au |
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| Chris Ohlsen | Liturgy Coordinator/Sacristan | 8839 8400 | liturgy@stpatscathedral.com.au |
| Meg Gale | Sacramental Coordinator - Tues only | 8839 8416 | sacrament@stpatscathedral.com.au |
| Mindy Mercado | Youth Coordinator | | credostpats@gmail.com |



EMERGENCY CALLS
ANYTIME Ph: 0407 289 360

9 & 10 September - 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A

From the Dean's Desk

Dear friends,

The Gospels for the next two Sundays [Matthew 18:15-20 and 18:21-25], deal with the situation of community disorder that emanates from the breakdown of relationships through the occurrence and presence of sin. This section forms the fourth teaching unit in Matthew's Gospel and looks at what constitutes the ideal Christian community, in this the ability and preparedness to bring forgiveness and reconciliation into relationships that have been fractured by sinful behaviour.

In today's Gospel Jesus provides us with a blueprint for action for when we find that there has been a disturbance or trouble between community members. What should occur? Jesus tells us that we need to implement a **certain process** that should lead to the **restoration** of the original relationship through forgiveness, allowing the person being wronged to 'win back his brother':

- *The two who have fallen out should be prepared **to meet** and see if the rift can be repaired.*
- *If this fails, then the **presence, witness and assistance** of one or **two** within the community is required. This is what we call today intervention or mediation.*
- *If this fails, then the person who has been wronged needs **to report** the matter to the whole community. We would equate this with excommunication or expulsion from the community life.*
- *Again if there is no change then the perpetrator needs to be treated in the same way as tax collectors and sinners.*

It seems like an immensely complicated and detailed process, and that is the point of Jesus' discourse. We need to go to great lengths in order to win back those who have wronged us and those with whom we have fallen away.

There is however a sting to this Gospel passage. We need to take into consideration the fact that this passage follows immediately after the **parable of the Lost sheep** [Matthew 18:12-14] – a story that tells us of the shepherd who goes to great means to search for and retrieve the ONE stray sheep.

Jesus also tells us of the **power of prayer**

[Matthew 18: 19-20] in this matter – where two

or three gather in his name and ask for some-

thing, it will be granted. Prayer is an important

aspect of the process of reconciliation, simply

because to bring about forgiveness in a relation-

ship that has been fractured can take supernatural strength. To go

about seeking forgiveness for an offense given seems to run coun-

ter to the human mentality. Many people would espouse the notion

that a person who has in anyway harmed you by breaking the rela-

tionship between you should be treated as an outsider until they

seek forgiveness. It is in this aspect that Jesus' teaching is unique.

Jesus states that it is the one who is hurt – to whom the harm has

been done – is the person who seeks to bring about reconciliation.

Jesus is emphatic that the person does not wait until the culprit asks

for forgiveness, but that he initiates a process that will bring about

the restoration of the relationship.

In all this we need to bear in mind the words of the Lord's Prayer

which states: '**Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those**

who trespass against us'. The forgives we seek are determined

by the level of forgiveness we are prepared to give to those who

have wronged us. Sin will always play a part in our relationships

and in our community. Jesus tells us that its presence needs to be

fought with a determination to bring about forgiveness and restitu-

tion to broken relationships.

In this light, I can ask myself – to what means do I go to restore a

relationship that has been broken or ruptured? Do I seek the assis-

tance of others in the matter? How do I utilise prayer in the matter?

Reconciliation through forgiveness needs to be a priority within the

Christian community – at every level.



Fr Bob Bossini
Dean & Parish Priest

A place at the table...

Social Justice in an Ageing Society

In line with this publication, St Patrick's would like to celebrate and acknowledge the elderly in our community.

An invitation is extended to parishioners, 65 years and over to attend the **11am Mass on Sunday 8 October** followed by a light lunch in the parish hall.

As this is a catered event, you will need to rsvp (form in narthex). A bus will be available to pick you up from your home if required (contact parish office). If you need to be accompanied by a companion/carer, they are most welcome to attend the lunch.

For more information on the Social Justice Statement, go to:- www.catholic.org.au/bishops-statements

Sacraments of Initiation Information

Evening:

Reconciliation and First Communion

The next program for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist for children already Baptised will commence in School Term 4. There will be an **INFORMATION evening on Tuesday 19th September at 7.30pm in the Cathedral hall** for parents who are interested in registering their child/ren for the upcoming program and would like to learn more about the process in St Patrick's Cathedral parish. Please note that children must be 7 years or older to be eligible for the program at this time. For more information regarding the upcoming program for Reconciliation and Eucharist or any other enquires about the Sacraments of Initiation at St Patrick's Cathedral, please contact Meg Gale - sacrament@stpatscathedral.com.au

Formation -Christian Life Seminar

proudly organised by:-

St Patrick's Cathedral Parish and

Couples for Christ Foundation for Family and Life.

Date: Sat 23 Sept 2017

Time 9am - 5pm

Venue Cathedral Parish Hall



This seminar is for:-

married couples; single parents; those living alone and widows and widowers.

Lunch, refreshments and child minding provided. Please RSVP.

All enquiries to Parish office 8839 8400 or

enquiry@stpatscathedral.com.au

Donations welcome at door.

Wedding Anniversary Mass: 24 September

All married couples are invited to celebrate their Wedding Anniversary with other couples and family members at the **11am Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral Parish, Parramatta on Sunday, 24th September, 2017.**

Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv will celebrate the Mass and will host a light lunch following Mass. Please contact your Parish Secretary to register your names by 18th September, 2017; or call the Life Marriage & Family Office on 02 8838 3460 or

lmf@parra.catholic.org.au.

CREDO MINISTRIES

Connecting with our Youth - credostpats@gmail.com



Junior Credo: EDGE

Yrs 4-6

Every Friday in school terms-5pm



Teen Credo

High School Students

2nd & 4th Sun of the month - 7pm



Credo St Pats

18-35 Years of Age

1st Fri of the month - 6.30pm



Advance Warning

Time AGAIN to write for St Pat's Matters

Last week, children in our parish made their Confirmation. We would love parents and children to write about what this special sacrament means to them.

A little girl who made her First Holy Communion this year has already submitted her article.

There's so much parishioners can share: how the Catholic Faith shapes your daily life; about serving God and community, just to name two. More suggestions as to what to share in next week's bulletin.

Email submissions to M Polizzi: balmap5@bigpond.com or leave at the parish office in an envelope marked "for St Pat's Matters".

Enquiries: Marian Polizzi Ph: 9630 4019 or 0418 978730

Parish Car Park

Thank you to our parishioners who have taken notice of our request not to park illegally in the parish car park.



Australian Catholic Youth Festival (ACYF)

Bishop Vincent & Catholic Youth Parramatta invite young people from Year 9 to 30 years of age to celebrate the young heart of the Church, with 15,000 others, at this year's triennial ACYF being hosted by the Archdiocese of Sydney (December 7-9) at Sydney Olympic Park.

Here's how to register:

Over 18 years of age – register as an individual

Visit www.acyf.org.au for full details. All enquiries contact Director of Catholic Youth Parramatta, James Camden, 8838 3428.

Our Lady of Mercy College, Parramatta - Year 10 1970 and Year 12 1972 Reunion

When: 11:30am, Sunday, 24 September 2017,

Where: Lily's Restaurant, 5 Quinn Ave, Seven Hills

Cost: \$65 per head includes 3 course buffet lunch.

If you would like to attend please go to:-

<https://www.trybooking.com/300153>

RSVP: Thursday, 14 September Contact: Sharon McLean sharonmclean45@hotmail.com or 0419402095.

Feast of Our Lady of Penafrancia

Date: Sat 16th Sept

Venue: St Nicholas of Myra Church, Penrith

Main Celebrant: Papal Nuncio to Australia

Archbishop Adolfo Tito Yllana

For enquiries, please contact Jun Relunia on 0419-233-643.



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