St Patrick's Cathedral Parramatta

Cathedral Office: 1 Marist Place Parramatta NSW 2150
Telephone 8839 8400  Web: http://www.stpatscathedral.com.au
Emergency Calls 0417 848 522
Bishop of Parramatta, Most Rev. Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFM Conv DD
Sunday 19 July  Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

From the Dean.

Dear People of St Patrick’s,

Last weekend I had the opportunity to meet quite a few parishioners after the Masses and it was very good to connect with a number of people I’ve known for many years. Several raised questions around the canonical status of the Cathedral Parish so I thought I would address some of those questions in my letter to you this week.

The Cathedral Parish, like the other forty-six parishes in the Diocese, enjoys the status of what is called in Canon Law “a juridic person.” This means that the property of the Parish of Parramatta (which includes the Cathedral, Cathedral Hall, Cloister, Murphy House and the Presbytery) belong to the Parish, rather than another Church entity. Under Australian law, the property is vested in a statutory trust known as the Trustees of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Parramatta.

When the old Cathedral burnt down in 1996, it was the responsibility of the Diocese to rebuild the Cathedral. So, the relationship of the Diocese to the Cathedral Parish is unique because in effect it is the Bishop’s Parish. By convention the Parish Priest of the Cathedral is the Bishop. For various historical reasons in the Diocese this convention has not always been followed in the Diocese.

In 1986 when the Church of St Patrick’s was designated as the Cathedral, the late Fr Brian Larkey was Parish Priest of the Parish of Parramatta. Bishop Bede asked Fr Brian to become the first Dean of the Cathedral but he remained as Parish Priest. In the years following Fr Larkey’s appointment, this pattern has not always been followed.

In contrast, when I was appointed here in 2003 by Bishop Kevin Manning I was appointed (as now) as Dean and Administrator. This meant that the Bishop entrusted me with the responsibility of running the Cathedral Parish on his behalf. However, he remained as the Pastor of the Parish, as a Bishop is indeed of every parish in the Diocese.

Since 1986 the character of Parramatta has changed dramatically. When I first came here in 1997 the Cathedral Parish still had a very substantial residential base. Whilst the Parish still has a set of boundaries that determine its geography, it has slowly become a city Church which draws people from all parts of the Diocese and beyond. We have quite a number of people who come for weekday Masses and devotions but who don’t come on Sunday but attend their local suburban Parish, and we have others who are visitors who attend on Sunday, and others again from other parishes who attend for whatever reason on the weekend. And we also have a stable group of parishioners who see themselves as belonging to Parramatta. The Cathedral Church is the Mother Church of the Diocese and in a sense belongs to every parishioner of the Local Church that is the Diocese of Parramatta. Any suggestion that the Cathedral Parish could lose its unique identity or its juridical status in Canon Law is simply erroneous.

As is the case with other city Cathedrals in Australia the local Diocese (or mainly Archdioceses) has a responsibility to support and ensure that the Cathedral Church and Parish operates and is maintained in such a way that will enhance the unique ministry that the Cathedral Parish has to everyone who comes through the door. I am committed to ensuring that we get this relationship right so that the mission of the Cathedral Parish can move forward with confidence and build on the great historical legacy which began in 1827.

With my prayers for this coming week,

Fr Peter Williams  
Dean & Administrator
Formation
Time to mark your diary for our next Formation session.

**Topic:** The Christian and Money
**Speaker:** Mili Lee
**Date:** Friday July 24
**Time:** 7.30pm-9.00pm

**Sacraments of Initiation - Preparation for Eucharist 2020**
In line with COVID-19 restrictions, the Sacraments of Initiation team has now formulated a plan for a return to sessions in preparation for the celebration of First Eucharist 2020. We are very pleased to inform you that preparation sessions for Eucharist for children 7 years or older who completed Reconciliation in 2019 will recommence in Term 3 2020 and that the celebration of First Eucharist is now planned for early August.

The calendar of sessions of preparation is as follows:
- **Eucharist 1 & 2** Tuesday 21st July 2020, 7:30 pm Parent Session
- **Eucharist 3:** Saturday 1st August 2020, 4:30 pm Parent and Chd Session
- **Practice:** Saturday 8th August 2020, 4pm - Parent and Children Session
- **First Eucharist:** Sun 9th August 2020 (two afternoon ceremonies - 1pm & 3.30pm)

*Please keep in mind that all sessions are mandatory.*

For any other information regarding the Sacramental Program please contact Meg Gale: sacrament@stpatscathedral.com.au

**PLEASE HELP US KEEP OUR PARISHIONERS AND VISITORS TO THE CATHEDRAL SAFE.**
As COVID-19 cases are escalating, we need to be very mindful of how we can eliminate risk.

Please follow instructions upon entry to the Cathedral/Chapel.
1. When entering Church, sign in;
2. Use hand sanitizer;
3. Take Liturgy Guide/Bulletin home with you - do not recycle;
4. Keep your distance when lining up for Holy Communion and
5. If you are unwell, stay home as the dispensation from Sunday Mass is still current. *(Live streaming of 11am Mass is still available).*

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**Please Pray For...**

**Sick:** Beverly Horne, Peter Horne, Danny Dingle, Sharon Web (Patti M’s daughter), Michael Gittany.

**Rec Dec:** Arlene Rentuza, Vittoria Teuma (Pauline Pace’s mother), Louise Nikolakopoulos

**Deceased:** John Stojfimed, Kevin Taylor, Karin Mueller

**Anniversary:** Emy & Fe Masogkgay, Alban Fonseca, Jaime Simon, Victorina Dela Pena

**Special Intentions:** Rohan Rodricks, Warren Pimenta

Supporting St Pat’s - Planned Giving
This week, the wardens will pass through the empty pews and collect your donations at the usual times. They will hold the plate therefore eliminating the need for you to make contact with the plate. If you would rather use the Tap ‘n’ Go simply tap your debit/credit card once to make a $5 donation. If you would like to donate more, tap again. No receipts are given at this point. Our sincere thanks for your continued support.

Planned Giving Envelopes for 2020/2021
These are now available for pick up. They are located at Murphy House (St Patrick’s Gift Shop). If you plan to pick up your envelopes outside of opening times, please contact the office and we will help you with other arrangements.

CLOISTER CAFÉ Reopening - On Hold
While we are very keen to get going again, it has been decided to wait a little longer due to the developments of COVID-19. But, if you would like to add your name to the roster, Marian Polizzi is happily taking any offers. Please send her an email on balmap5@bigpond.com with your preferences and availability.

St Pat’s Matters gets going again.
Life in our cathedral parish was certainly turned topsy turvy with the outbreak of COVID-19. Easing of restrictions allowed a return to communal worship, albeit still with limited numbers. So it’s time for parishioners to think about penning articles for the next issue of St Pat’s Matters.

What to write about?
♦ Ways in which the Corona virus has impacted - negatively and/or positively - on the practice of your faith and your family/work life.
♦ Tributes to Fr Bob Bossini. What it meant to have had him as Parish Priest of St Pat’s.
♦ What “Good Sam” acts did you witness or experience personally during this altered way of life?
♦ Always keen to receive stories from anyone who has converted to the Catholic Faith.
♦ Articles and archival photos relating to longstanding history of our remarkable parish — its priests, people and events.

REMEMBER - SHARING MATTERS. Email to balmap5@bigpond.com or leave it at the parish office.

The Catholic Toolbox, Radio Show and Podcast
Host: Fr Bob Bossini
Time: Tuesdays 8pm-9pm
Network: 1701AM and cradio.org.au
Topic: True Church Leadership
Date: Tuesday 21 July

St Patrick’s Gift Shop
Mobile 0419 153 195 / 8839 8430
giftshop@stpatscathedral.com.au

The Gift Shop is now open to a maximum of three customers. Only Credit card and eftpos facilities will be accepted for the time being.

Feel free to come in and have a browse around. We stock Religious goods, Ethical products, Sacramental gifts and many more items to celebrate a time in your life or someone special.

Please note varied shop days/hours till further notice.
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