



ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL

1 Marist Place, Parramatta NSW 2150

(02) 8839 8400 Emergency: 0407 289 360 www.stpatscathedral.com.au

Bishop of Parramatta: Most Rev Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFMConv DD

23 February 2025 - Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)

Mass Schedule

WEEKEND

6:00pm (Saturday) Vigil Mass
7:30am Morning Prayer
8:00am Mass
9:30am Mass
11:00am Solemn Mass with Cathedral Choir
6:00pm Mass

MONDAY TO FRIDAY

6:10am Morning Prayer
6:30am Mass
11:15am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
11:15am Reconciliation (till 12:15pm)
Rosary after Angelus at 12:00 noon
12:30pm Mass

SATURDAY

7:30am Morning Prayer
8:00am Mass
8:30am Reconciliation (till 9:00am)
5:00pm Reconciliation (till 5:30pm)

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

Mass at 8:00am (No Adoration or Confession)

WEEKLY PRAYER GROUPS

Monday 6:30pm - Legion of Mary
Tuesday 9:30am - Christian Meditation
Tuesday 7:30pm - RCIA (Sept - April)
Friday 1:00pm - Cenacle Prayers

MONTHLY PRAYER GROUPS

First Friday Devotions: 7:00pm in Chapel
True Life in God: Last Friday @ 6:00pm in the Cloister Cafe

OTHER GROUPS

Playgroup: Wednesdays 10:00am - 11:30am
Facebook: Parramatta St Pat's Playgroup

Credo Youth Ministries

Contact the office or find information on
Facebook: credo.stpats
Email: credo@stpatscathedral.com.au



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What real justice looks like

POPE BENEDICT XVI once observed that "the price of justice in this world is suffering." Those who would be truly just must expect to suffer in its pursuit. This is because we live in an unjust and corrupt world. Jesus, the Just One, always acted with perfect justice among people who didn't and because of this received upon himself the full measure of humanity's corruption and its consequences – suffering. Because humanity's corruption, while defeated upon the cross, is still in the process of receiving the fruits of its redemption, that there are still those who refuse to submit to the Just One, and even those who do submit, do so imperfectly, justice and injustice always clash. It stands to reason then, that those who would be like him in justice must be like him in suffering. And knowing this, those who would be like him in justice, must choose to suffer, as he himself chose. There must be a wilful acceptance on the part of the Christian that in this world one's striving for goodness will hurt, and that one will have to endure the shortcomings of others who are also only on the way.



There is something of this reality that emerges from our readings this Sunday. In the first, we have the climactic scene of King Saul's relentless and envious pursuit of the innocent David. David is given the opportunity while Saul and his cohort slumber, to avenge himself and do away with the one who has been unfairly seeking his life. Self-defence would be the plea. I think many would be with Abishai who encourages David to make the most of the opportunity presented to him. After all, his life is in danger because of Saul, and unfairly so – this would be a fair way for David to secure his protection against certain danger. But David resists. Instead, he risks the possibility of suffering at the hands of injustice, in the hope that his mercy might cause a change in his pursuer.

Jesus instructs his disciples in a similar vein in the gospel. In each of the circumstances which Christ speaks about, the disciple is encouraged to go beyond what would normally be considered just though self-preserving, and to choose to be just even if it means suffering. Yes indeed, David could have justified killing Saul in self-defence, but he is proven to be all the more just because he resisted. St Joseph didn't have to divorce Mary quietly - an action which would have caused him to suffer the loss of a good reputation - but was considered a just man because he would have preferred to suffer the loss of his own reputation than that Mary would suffer the loss of hers. The one who would be truly just in this world must realise that real justice will be difficult because one lives with imperfect people. It will mean having to deny oneself, even one's just deserts, in order to secure the good of some other. It is this kind of justice, a justice coloured red with mercy which alone saves humanity from the injustices that plague it. As St Paul teaches us, it is Christ who justifies us, who makes possible this kind of justice. So, let's stay close to him.

Wishing you a blessed week ahead,

Fr Tom

THE BULLETIN

STAFF CONTACT DETAILS

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Assistant Priest

Rev Tom Green
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Deacon

Rev Mr David Dowling
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Priests in Residence

Rev Fr Van Xua (Joseph) Nguyen
Rev Fr Chinonye Akamadu

Office Hours: 9:00am - 4:00pm weekdays

Receptionist: Donna Missio (Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri)

8839 8400 or enquiry@stpatscathedral.com.au

Parish Secretary: Pat Preca (Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri)

8839 8412 or secretary@stpatscathedral.com.au

Cathedral Parish Manager: Mili Lee (Mon-Thu)

8839 8419 or manager@stpatscathedral.com.au

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8839 8400 or secretary@stpatscathedral.com.au

Director of Music: Bernard Kirkpatrick KSS

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8839 8400 or music@stpatscathedral.com.au

Liturgy Coordinator/Sacristan: Fr Tom Green

8839 8400 or assistantpriest@stpatscathedral.com.au

Youth Coordinator: Parish Team

8839 8400 or credo@stpatscathedral.com.au

Gift Shop Manager: Minnie Harb

0419 153 195 or giftshop@stpatscathedral.com.au

Sacraments

Baptisms are celebrated in the Cathedral on most Sundays after the 11:00am Solemn Mass. Contact the parish office to book or fill out the form on the website.

Weddings are by appointment only.

At least six months' notice is necessary.

Contact the Parish Secretary on 8839 8412.

First Eucharist and Confirmation

Please contact the Parish Secretary.

Hiring of Rooms

For hire of Cloister Function rooms, call the office on 8839 8400 or enquiry@stpatscathedral.com.au

Material for Bulletin

If you have something that you would like published in the bulletin, please ensure that it is conveyed to our Parish Secretary, Pat, by **12:00 noon on Wednesday**. Please note that material must relate to the parish and its mission. Don't forget that businesses can advertise on the rear page of the bulletin too!

Project Compassion 2025

Lent is not too far away, so let us prepare ourselves for this season by praying the Lenten Prayer offered by Caritas Australia. *Fr Robert.*

LENTEN PRAYER

God of our journey
we are all pilgrims of hope
brought together by your love
and your wish that we may all be one.
We pray that in this Year of Jubilee
when we are called to greater justice
and care for our common home
that we may Unite Against Poverty.
May we work in unity for the freedom of the
oppressed
and the renewal of creation.
May our compassionate minds and generous hearts
help bring about a world where all can live in peace.
May our Lenten pilgrimage of fasting, almsgiving
and prayer
bring us closer to your loving heart.
We ask this in the name of Jesus.

Amen



Caritas
AUSTRALIA

PROJECT
COMPASSION

Reverencing the altar at the Cathedral

Regular Cathedral parishioners know that it is customary to acknowledge the altar when arriving and leaving the liturgy. In our Cathedral configuration the altar is placed in the heart of the Cathedral so that it becomes the central focus of the celebration. (In fact, the General Instruction of the Roman Missal informs that the altar is the principal symbol of Christ in a Church.) Because our seating is in choir formation it means that many people arriving for Mass do not walk in front of the altar, but enter the building either from the cloister or the Victoria Road entrance, and then take their seat in the pews. I would like to suggest that wherever you choose to sit, that before you enter your pew, that you direct your attention to the altar and then bow before entering the pew. At the end of Mass, I am suggesting that when the celebrant and the other ministers are leaving the Cathedral, and form up in front of the altar for the final reverence, that everyone in the Cathedral bows at the same time as the ministers. Thus, the altar will be properly revered both at the beginning and the end of the liturgy by all in attendance.

Fr Peter G Williams AM VG

Director of Liturgy

PARISH NOTICES

Credo Young Adults Upcoming Event

Bible Study

On **Monday, 24 February at 7:00pm**, we will be continuing our fortnightly bible study course for our young adults. We will be using the Bible Timeline series by Ascension Press. If you intend joining, please contact Fr Tom @ assistantpriest@stpatscathedral.com.au

Audio system update

Work continues on the overhaul of the cathedral audio system. As with any major physical work to a building, there will be inconveniences and disruptions as a result, but please bear with us. It is hoped that the work will be finished in a few weeks' time, depending on the usual factors that might affect a scheduled series of work. I will endeavour to provide a more specific update next week. In the meantime, thank you for your patience and support.
Fr Robert

Opening Mass for Seminary

As has been the tradition here for some time, on **Sunday 02 March at the 11:00am Solemn Mass**, we will welcome our Parramatta Diocese seminarians and seminary staff members to pray for them as they begin the academic year. Please keep them in your prayers in the weeks ahead and, of course, pray that more young men in our diocese will consider serving God's people in the Diocese of Parramatta as diocesan priests.

JRS foodbank drive

More information will be provided next weekend about the foodbank drive for the Jesuit Refugee Service. Of course, this is a developing tradition here at St Patrick's Cathedral during the season of Lent. As usual, there will be a space set up in the chapel for donations to be placed, which will be cleared regularly.

Ash Wednesday Masses

Ash Wednesday is not too far away, **05 March**. As usual, we will be celebrating the regular two Masses of the day at both **6:30am** and **12:30pm** as well as an additional Mass at **7:30pm**. Though not a holy day of obligation, attending Mass on Ash Wednesday is a moving and profound way to begin the season of Lent.

*Ash
wednesday*

Sacraments of Initiation

Continuing from last year, the sacramental journey for children wishing to make their First Holy Communion, has started up again.

Remaining sessions for 'Remembering Baptism' are as follows:

- Session 2 - 7:30pm **Monday 24 February** - Parents only
- Session 3 - 4:30pm **Saturday 08 March** - Parents & Children
- Ritual - 4:30pm **Saturday 22 March** - Parents & Children

For enquiries and eligibility, secretary@stpatscathedral.com.au

The Alpha pilot program

is underway with an enthusiastic and animated group of more than 20 people. That is a very good sign.

The social justice group is exploring several projects to see how they relate to local community needs and our parish capacities.

Mindful of the need for the PPC to base all we do in our faith, we look forward to a one-day retreat at Kurrajong in March with a focus on Ignatian discernment of spirits.

So much happens in our parish! Shortly we will be asking all our ministry groups how they are going and what would help develop their ministries - a chance for you and the PPC to take the parish pulse.

We have had a few suggestions via the PPC email so keep them coming. And please remember us in your prayers.

Email: ppc@stpatscathedral.com.au

Welcome Back to the Gift Shop!

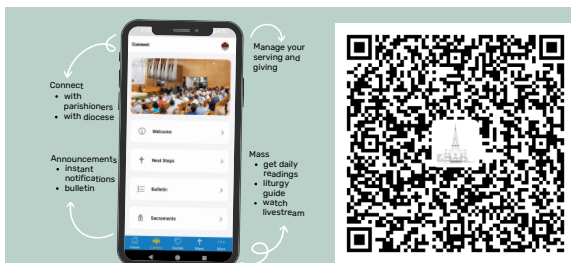
After a month of cleaning and rearranging, our Gift Shop is open for business again! We're excited to welcome you back and invite you to explore our refreshed space.

Each week, we'll be marking select items on sale, so be sure to check in regularly for discounted religious goods. We've also set up a clearance shelf with deeply discounted items. Our Lenten and Easter stock is still on its way, but in the meantime, we have special back-to-school items available.

To celebrate the Jubilee of Hope, we're also introducing a Year of Hope display, featuring meaningful devotional items to help us reflect on this special time of grace.

This is your Cathedral parish Gift Shop, and every purchase directly supports the ministries of St Patrick's Cathedral. Please consider supporting us - not just by shopping, but also by spreading the word to friends and family about where to find us.

Come in, say hello to our staff, and check out our new look. We look forward to seeing you!



How to Download the App

1. Scan QR Code to go to Google Play Store or Apple App Store on your mobile device.
2. Tap the "Install" button to download and install the app.
3. Once installed, open the app and finish setting up your profile.

The App can also be downloaded via the Cathedral website: www.stpatscathedral.com.au

PARISH & DIOCESAN NOTICES

LIFTED Launch: 27 February

Join us for LIFTED Launch on Thursday, 27 February, from 6:45pm to 9:30pm at West HQ, Rooty Hill! Get a sneak peek at exciting events we have planned for young Catholics, including the Jubilee Year Pilgrimage and Australian Catholic Youth Festival. Enjoy a night of prayer, formation, and fun with fellow young Catholics. Register now: parracatholic.org/events/liftedlaunch/

Mary and the Saints - Pilgrimage

You are invited to participate in the world's most requested Marian journey as we explore the villages of some of the Church's most renowned graces and saints. From the sacred and prayerful atmosphere of Fatima, through Avila, Santo Domingo de Silos, Loyola, Lourdes and Montserrat, this will truly be a pilgrimage so full of grace.



Commences **04 September 2025** - Eleven days.
Fr John Paul Escarlan will be accompanying the tour.
More details available from flyers around the cathedral precinct.

Toongabbie Legal Centre

Toongabbie Legal Centre (TLC) has been active since 2007 and has provided free legal help to over 14,000 people from the Western Sydney Region. TLC functions out of St Anthony's parish hall in Toongabbie and also operates from the Australian Catholic University campus in Blacktown.

TLC is holding two important events – these are free.



On GambleAware – the impact of gambling on individuals and families on **Saturday 22 February** at Hudson Hotel, Seven Hills.
Time: 7:30am to 9:30am
Hot breakfast served.
Registration link: <https://events.humanitix.com/tlc-volunteer-gambleaware-training-v2v3b8aq>
Heading



On Coercive Control – new law – relating to domestic violence on **Saturday 08 March** at Toongabbie Community Centre.
Time: 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm
Hot breakfast served.

Rite of Welcome and Acceptance

Last Saturday evening at the 6:00pm Vigil Mass, Bishop Vincent formally welcomed and accepted those people in the Cathedral parish who are seeking to be initiated into the Catholic faith, both those who have yet to be baptised and those baptised into another Christian tradition seeking Confirmation. Please keep this group of people in your prayers over the coming months, that they may know the joy of following Christ.



St Gabriel's School, Castle Hill

St Gabriel's School, Castle Hill, are holding two Open Days in March:

Kindergarten 2026 enrolments on **Thursday, 6 March** from 9:30am-11:00am;

Year 7 2026 enrolments on **Thursday, 13 March** from 9:30am-11:00am.

Parents can register for the Open Day using the links displayed on the notice boards.

Ph: 9634 2367 www.stgabriels.nsw.edu.au
190 Old Northern Road, Castle Hill, NSW 2154

Diocese of Parramatta Tribunal Office

The Tribunal of the Catholic Church in the Diocese of Parramatta is open Monday to Friday, 9:00am to 5:00pm, to offer advice and assistance regarding marriage annulments and dissolution of marriages. Interviews are preferably conducted in person with Zoom and telephone interviews in special circumstances. Please contact the Tribunal Office on (02) 8838 3480 or email tribunal@parracatholic.org.

Our Commitment to Safeguarding

At St Patrick's Cathedral Parramatta, we are dedicated to creating a safe and nurturing environment for all members of our community, especially children and vulnerable adults, in line with the "Parramatta Way."

The Parramatta Way of Safeguarding is to...

- Act with justice, and state that we have a zero tolerance for any form of abuse or harm to children or any person;
- Act with justice, and ensure that laws and obligations are upheld, and safety is paramount.

PRAYER INTENTIONS

We pray for...

RCIA team and enquirers

Sick: Greg Dunn, Joshua & Andrea Nealy, Pat Phelan, Gabriel, Fr Paul Gurr, Rosana Lee, Pedro Romulo, Ryan I Limlingan, Gareth Huynh, George Abela, Susan Jhun Jhun Uwala, Emerlinda Sarreal, Bernardo Dado, Monica, Sam Galea, A J Thomas, Apo Policarpio, Michael Lilley, Felicitas Appathurai, Martina Galea, Fr Bob Bossini, Ray Love, Sharon Webb

Special Intentions: Raveen, Miguel Custodio, Cresilda Gantuangco, Rebecca Carson, Ernie Lee Law, Katie Lee, John Paul Del Mar, Tian, Emilyn & Mahar, Ann McKee, Naleen, Stephen Sensak, Clara Cabezas, Espirita Isidro, Paul Peters

Recently Deceased: R.V. George, Leila Farah Ghasempour

Deceased: YT Hsu & Deanna Hsu, Danny & Chantal, Beatriz Morales, Kathleen Donovan, Elias Koura, Nancye Benzie, Jose Barredo, D Herft, Lucy D'Mello, Jose Barredo, all souls, Michael Phong Huynh, Karam Karam, Houda Chehade

Anniversaries: Leonor Quinalayo, Kanayo Dibia, Marcelina Rasalan, Leonardo Revilla, John & Danny Doolub, Rachael Sumcall, Watson Lee, Bernard & Gracie Rodricks, Judy Gallagher, Thuy Huynh, Paul So Nguyen, Marie Saldanha

Perpetuals: Wendy A Smith, Louisa & Arthur Baxter, Paul Mahoney, Nat Fedyk, Robert Dearie, Norm Hector, Bokeyar family, David family, Japour family, Paula Loto'aniu, Peter & Annette Van Tilburg, Margaret Angela Roberts, Sally & Frank Martlew, Sherwood family, Pat & Jim Hartman, John Ryan, Mark Fletcher, Royan & Andrews families, Don & Pat Andrews, Juliet Noronha, Dr Joseph Malouf, Abel Moses, Jimmy, Anna & Frank Grainda, Jack & June Barrett, Ann O'Brien, Watson Lee, Ian & Pat Sanders, Bill & Alice Kendall, Allan Kendall, Maria Patterson & Ellen Bancan, Hooper family, Giuseppina & Giovanni Rechichi, Mary Coady, Mary & Jack White, Vincent & Rebecca Vella, Walter Townsend, Ferris Grugeon, McInherny, White, McWilliam & McGuckin families, Mary Abela, Robert Andrews, Sylvester family, Rogan family, Adcock & McMillan families, Love family, Gabrielle Baker, Paula Cowling, McDermott & Starr families, Repose of the Souls in Purgatory and all deceased parishioners of St Patrick's and St Monica's

BAPTISMS



We welcome into our Catholic Christian family the following children who were recently baptised here...

**Lucas Jefferson
Jorjette Abat**

WEDDINGS



We also pray for the following couple recently married here...

Rebecca Saab & Luca Colasuonno

POPE FRANCIS'



Prayer Intention for February

***For vocations to the priesthood and
religious life***

"Let us pray that the ecclesial community might welcome the desires and doubts of those young people who feel a call to serve Christ's mission in the priesthood and religious life."

From Pope Francis...

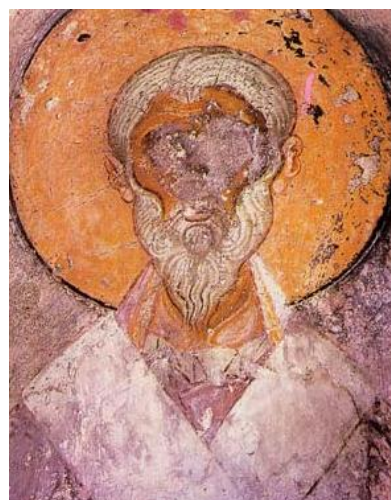
*Bluesky post dated
16 February*

**"Thank you for the affection, prayer and closeness with
which you are accompanying me in these days."**

Saint of the Week

26 February - St Alexander of Alexandria (250-328), Bishop

Alexander played an important role in the growth of the catechetical school at Alexandria. When he was made bishop, he continued in his efforts to educate the faithful in the faith. He encountered serious challenges especially from Arius, a priest who was teaching that Jesus was only human and not divine. Alexander called bishops together to deal with Arius, who remained incorrigible in his position even after being excommunicated. Alexander died in 328, at the age of seventy-eight.



Information: Universalis

“Quote of the Week”

“The first characteristic of Christian love is that it reaches out ‘to all’. This way of loving requires that we love everyone, as God does, without distinction. We do not choose between who is nice or unpleasant, old or young, countryman or foreigner, black, white or yellow, European or American, African or Asian, Christian or Jew, Muslim or Hindu... In today’s terminology we could say that this kind of love avoids every form of discrimination.”



Chiara Lubich
(1920-2008)
Founder of the Focolare Movement
and Servant of God
The Art of Loving

Did You Know...?

...that the Second Reading at Sunday Masses in Ordinary Time usually has no thematic link to the First Reading or the Gospel?

At Sunday Mass we hear three readings in addition to the Responsorial Psalm. There is a link between the First Reading and the Gospel but the Second Reading is ordinarily a continuous reading through one of the letters of Paul, such as we have over the past few weeks from the First Letter to the Corinthians, or another letter such as Hebrews.



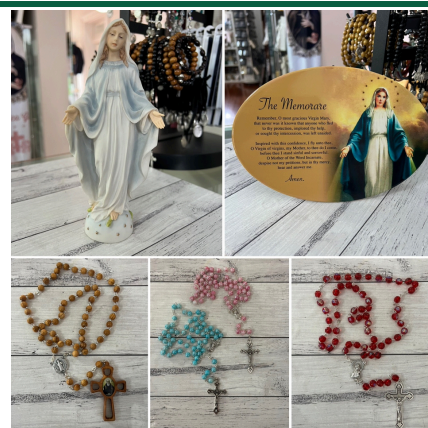
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HOURS

TUESDAY TO FRIDAY - 10:00AM TO 3:00PM
SUNDAY - 9:00AM TO 1:00PM
MONDAY & SATURDAY - CLOSED

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'Showing The Way'

TOONGABBIE LEGAL CENTRE INC.
 Since 13 October 2007, Toongabbie Legal Centre Inc. has been providing free legal assistance to vulnerable and disadvantaged persons from Parish Hall at St Anthony's Church.
With no recurring government financial assistance, this free legal service relies on your generous support.
 www.tlc.asn.au

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