



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

16 February 2025 - Sixth 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](https://www.facebook.com/credo.stpats)
Email: credo@stpatscathedral.com.au



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Happy to be poor?

IF I SAID, "Hands up all the people who would like to be poor?" I don't think I'd get a lot of takers...and yet here we have Jesus giving one of his most famous sermons telling us: "Happy are the poor, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." So, is Jesus saying that we really have to be materially poor in order to participate in the kingdom of heaven? Well, no, he isn't, although as I'll mention later, it certainly can help!



Firstly, a better translation of "happy" would be "blessed". Blessed are the poor. Secondly, what Jesus is really speaking about are the people that understand that they are poor – poor spiritually. So, why would they be blessed? Well, the reason is that only someone who recognises their own spiritual poverty recognises their need for God. In fact, for someone to have that kind of insight suggests that they already have a healthy understanding of who they are, and who God is.

When we recognise our own poverty then we have no choice other than to put our trust in God, and once we put our trust in God, we become spiritually rich. Both the first reading and the psalm express beautifully what this kind of richness looks like: We are like a tree that is planted beside an abundant source of water; we do not need to fear famine or drought, God will see us through; we will yield our fruit in due season, our leaves will never fade, and all that we will do will be fruitful. What a fantastic promise! This is what it means to participate in the kingdom of heaven.

So, what has this to do with material poverty? Well, two things: Firstly, people who are materially poor are often entirely aware of their dependence on God; their situation forces that realisation on them, whereas people that are not materially poor, can easily fall into the trap that they are largely self-dependent – "I have made myself this" and "I can take care of myself." They live in a false belief in their own importance, and as a consequence, they think they have less need of God. Secondly, people that are materially comfortable, are often absorbed in material activities. These things eat up their time and their focus. They do not give due time to God and his Word. People that are materially poor tend to give more time to the things that really matter.

So, the Good News here for all those people that are materially comfortable is that, if we can truly grasp all this, it means we don't have to make ourselves materially poor. What it does mean is that we have to work harder at understanding and grasping the true extent of our poverty, we have to work harder at recognising our true need for God, and we need to work harder at giving time and focus to the Word of God, allowing it to lead, guide, and strengthen our spiritual journey.

This week let us pray for God to open our eyes to our poverty.

Wishing you a blessed week ahead,

Deacon David Dowling

THE BULLETIN

STAFF CONTACT DETAILS

Dean and Administrator

Very Rev Robert Riedling EV
8839 8420 - dean@stpatscathedral.com.au

Assistant Priest

Rev Tom Green
8839 8423 - assistantpriest@stpatscathedral.com.au

Deacon

Rev Mr David Dowling
8839 8415 - deacon@stpatscathedral.com.au

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

Sacramental Coordinator: Parish Team

8839 8400 or secretary@stpatscathedral.com.au

Director of Music: Bernard Kirkpatrick KSS

8839 8400 or music@stpatscathedral.com.au

Assistant Director of Music: Eric Grella

8839 8400 or music@stpatscathedral.com.au

Assistant Organist: Patrick Newman

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

Olive wood items for sale

This weekend, there will be handcrafted olive wood biblical items for sale before and after Masses. These items are hand crafted in Bethlehem the Holy Land by the Catholic families there. Any purchase will help support the Catholic community in the Holy Land and improve their livelihood and also support maintaining the holy sites there. Thank you for your support!

Audio system update

As you can clearly see, work has started 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. Thank you for your patience and support. *Fr Robert*

Media Ministry Teams - Thank you for answering the call!

Many thanks to all who have responded to our call for volunteers in the Media Ministry Teams! We are grateful for your enthusiasm and willingness to share your talents in storytelling, content creation, and communication.

We will be contacting you this week to confirm the date of our first meeting. We look forward to working together to bring these exciting initiatives to life and strengthen our parish community through media and outreach.

If you're interested in Social Media or St Pat's Matters Magazine, contact Mili at manager@stpatscathedral.com.au

Thank you again for your generosity in serving our parish!

Credo Young Adults Upcoming Events

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

Bushwalk

In lieu of our normal Sunday evening gathering this month, Credo will be gathering for a bushwalk on **Saturday, 22 February**. More details to follow.



Morning tea is back!

Finally we are back for 2025! Feels like an age since we have been able to congregate after Mass and enjoy a cuppa.

You may notice a lot of changes due to the construction works for the audio refit in the cathedral and the hall. So, as this impedes on our morning tea, we will be having it in the Cloister Function Room (the large hall). Look ing forward to welcoming you all back!



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

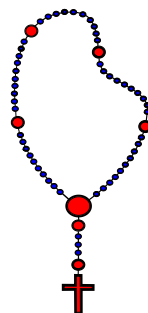
For enquiries and eligibility, secretary@stpatscathedral.com.au

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.

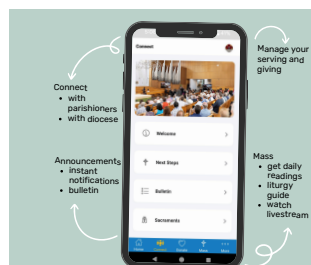
Each week, we'll be marking select items on sale, so be sure to check in regularly for discounted religious goods. We've also set up a clearance shelf with deeply discounted items. Our Lenten and Easter stock is still on its way, but in the meantime, we have special back-to-school items available.

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/

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.

Memorial Mass of St Josephine Bakhita: 16 February

All are welcome to attend the Memorial Mass of St Josephine Bakhita, the Patron Saint of South Sudan and Sudan, and Victims of Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking at St Patrick's Church, Blacktown on **Sunday 16 February**

at 12:30pm. We hope you will join us to commemorate the victims of Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking in Australia and worldwide and thank God for the gifts that the South Sudanese and Sudanese communities contribute to our society.



Rite of Welcome and Acceptance

This Saturday evening at the 6:00pm Vigil Mass, Bishop Vincent will formally welcome and accept 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.

Women's Lenten Retreat at Mount Schoenstatt: 21-23 February

Join us at Mount Schoenstatt for a reflective retreat inspired by 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18. The retreat runs from 7:00pm on 21 February to 4:00pm on 23 February. Costs are \$240 per person for a shared room, \$290 per person for a single room (limited availability), or \$60 per person per day for day attendance. Accommodation and meals are included, or lunch for day attendees. Register by **12 February** by contacting Sr M Elizabeth Foley at bookings@schoenstatt.org.au or 02 4773 8338.

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: 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, Fred Harb, Shirley, Patrick Slatter, Felicitas Appathurai, Martina Galea, Fr Bob Bossini, Fatima Rodricks, Ray Love, Sharon Webb

Special Intentions: Ernie Lee Law, Katie Lee, John Paul Del Mar, Tian, Emilyn & Mahar, Raveen, Ann McKee, Naleen, Stephen Sensak, Clara Cabezas, Espirita Isidro, poor & needy, Miguel Custodio, Mouzel Del Mar, all poor & sick, Franz Tito, Leonardo Close, Michael Perez, Paul Peters

Recently Deceased: 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: 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, Danny Doulub

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...

Emma Awad & Jayden Haddad

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...

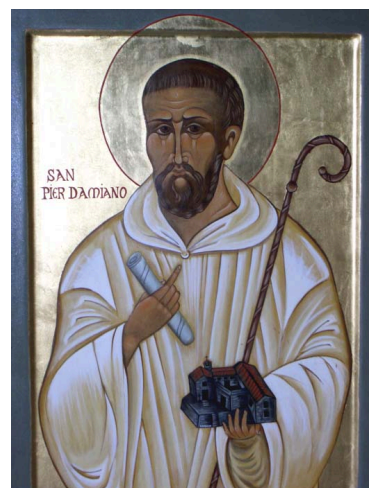
*Bluesky post dated
13 February*

"Let us ask the Lord to make our hearts humble and receptive to hear His Word and the cry of our brothers and sisters. May we recognise His presence in the weaknesses and wounds of our world."

Saint of the Week

21 February - St Peter Damian (1007-1072), Bishop, Doctor

Peter Damian was born in Ravenna in 1007 and studied theology and canon law, becoming a renowned teacher in both Parma and Ravenna. In his late twenties he abandoned all this and joined the hermitage of Fonte Avellana, near Gubbio, where he became prior in 1043: a position he held until his death. He strongly promoted the religious life in many parts of Italy. The Church at that time was in a terrible state and he supported the Popes in their efforts at reform, both by his writings and as a papal envoy. Pope Stephen IX named him a cardinal and Bishop of Ostia. He died on 21 February 1072 and was immediately acclaimed as a saint.



Information: Universalis

“Quote of the Week”

“Christ seeks from us deeds not words. Devotion to him is in the first place not sentimental but practical...If [the Christian faith] has no power to restore or recreate the human will leading one to deeds of unselfish service, then it stands self-condemned.”



C F Andrews
(1871-1940)
Anglican Priest and
Missionary

Did You Know...?

...that Luke’s counterpart to Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount in Matthew’s Gospel is popularly known as The Sermon on the Plain?

In Matthew’s Gospel, the evangelist portrays Jesus as the new Moses, hence having Jesus deliver his sermon from atop a mountain, just as Moses received the Law on top of Mount Sinai.

By contrast, Luke has Jesus come down from the mountain onto the plain to deliver his great teaching, different in style but with, of course, the same key principles!



Browse Online



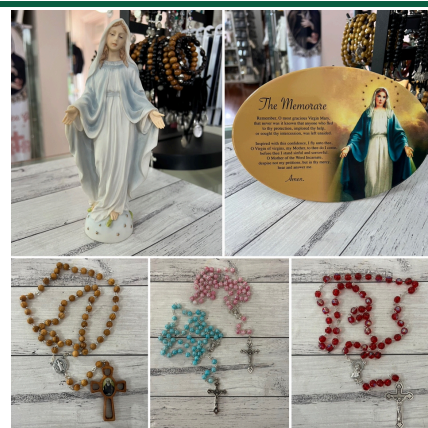
ST PATRICK'S
Giftshop

**OPENING
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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