

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

20 July 2025 - 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)

Mass Schedule

WEEKENDS

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

8:00am Mass (No Adoration or Confessions)

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: Currently in recess

Credo Youth Ministries

Contact the office or find information on

Facebook: credo.stpats

Email: credo@stpatscathedral.com.au







Scan and connect with us

A Binary Choice?

QUITE OFTEN in our lives, usually without giving it a lot of thought, we are presented with a binary choice – making a choice of one thing over another. For the most part, these choices are without dire consequences and may simply involve selecting between two goods, or between two innocuous entities.

This weekend's Gospel is the famous story of Jesus visiting the home of the two sisters of Lazarus, Mary and Martha, where we witness Mary sitting at the feet of Jesus whilst Martha concentrates on the hospitality side of things, clearly upset at her sister not assisting her to attend to the needs of their



esteemed guest and friend. In terms of a binary choice, here we see a choice to be either active (Martha) or contemplative (Mary). From the text, it appears that Jesus is making a choice for the contemplative, telling Martha that Mary has chosen "the better part".

Yet, as so often the case in studying scripture, it is not that simple! We must remember that Jesus, as was customary of his race at the time, spoke in absolutes, not comparatives. Think, for example, when Jesus spoke of gouging out one's eye or cutting off one's hand, in order to avoid sin and the consequences of eternal punishment (Matthew 5:29-30). Jesus is not expecting us to do these things but rather wants to emphasise the importance of serious discipleship.

Though less dramatic, we have a similar approach in this Sunday's Gospel. Jesus is not telling us that our lives should be dedicated solely to contemplation of the divine, like Mary in the Gospel, for such an approach does not lead to any active service of the Gospel, an essential part of true discipleship. Clearly, Mary is taking the opportunity presented by the presence of Jesus, to learn from him and bathe in his glory, but this is not to say that Martha's activity is without value or meaning. We would probably all agree that at that moment, Mary chose "the better part" and can imagine ourselves, in similar circumstances, doing the same thing.

Yet, contemplation must lead to something concrete. For hundreds of years clericalism was reinforced by putting on a pedestal those who lived the contemplative life, the educated elite, priests and religious. Hopefully, those days are behind us, (though not without a struggle, it would seem), and we understand the important priestly calling of every baptised person to a life which is both contemplative and active. For the Christian, no good and holy action can truly emerge except from prayer, and prayer cannot be divorced from an active response. In essence, prayer leads to action, which leads back to prayer, and so on. It is a holy dynamic, the aspiration of all people of faith, not least of all disciples of Jesus.

As I mentioned at the beginning of this little piece, we are often presented with a binary choice. This is not the case, however, when it comes to contemplation and action – we need to choose both. We cannot afford to bask in the luxury of contemplation without allowing the fruits of our prayer to be manifested in action. Likewise, any acts of charity divorced from prayer become social work, which presents us with the danger of burnout, disconnected as it is from the One who is the source of all charity and disinterested love.

May each of us discover, and make manifest, both the Mary and the Martha we were created to be.

Wishing you a blessed week ahead,

Fr Robert

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

Priest in Residence

Rev Dr Philip Alesin

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

Parish Coordinator: Pascarl El-Hage (Mon - Fri) 8839 8419 or manager@stpatscathedral.com.au

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

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Youth Coordinator: Fr Tom Green 8839 8400 or credo@stpatscathedral.com.au

Gift Shop Manager: Contact Parish Office 8839 8400 or giftshop@stpatscathedral.com.au

Sacraments

Baptisms are celebrated in the Cathedral on most Sundays after the 11:00am Solemn Mass, at around 12:45pm. 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 12:00noon on Thursday. 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!

Support ALPHA your local ALPHA

Alpha

ALPHA UPDATE - Postponement

Postponement - Due to a clash of events in the hall, Alpha will take a break on **Wednesday 23 July**. We will resume on **Wednesday 30 July**.



Alpha needs your support - and a note of thanks

Even if you cannot attend yourself, there are other ways to support Alpha:

Prayer! Please pray every week for all our team and guests as they take this wonderful journey.

Food! We will need to feed all these people beautiful food each week. Please consider being part of the Alpha Food Team.

Email: mililee176@gmail.com

Money... Things cost money. If God has provided for you, please consider donating towards the Alpha costs by using the QR code.

And a note of thanks...

to the helpers who have heeded our call and for the generous donations that have been made. This all goes hand in hand with delivering a heartfelt meal each week. God bless you for your abundant generosity.

OPEN ARMS OF ST PATRICK'S PARISH

Our parish community is trying to do just one small thing to help one family, to offer not just material support and some stability, but also to be Christ to them, to offer them acceptance, a warm welcome, and the dignity the Church teaches us should be afforded to every human being, regardless of who they are.

May we remember Christ's words in Matthew 25: "I was hungry...thirsty...a stranger...naked...sick...in prison...". May our response be always to alleviate the suffering of our sisters and brothers.

The fundraising is well underway: nearly 30% achieved in two weeks. The international refugee situation is urgent: every day counts for people in a desperate situation. Please support the parish's efforts through the QR code.

Dianne Starkey (Group Co-ordinator, 0408161443), Sebastian Villafarna (Deputy Co-ordinator), Angela Hansford, Macnos Mutano and Malcolm Freame.



Trivia Night - Book a table now!

The Cathedral Social Justice Group is organising a parish trivia night to be held in the cathedral hall on **Saturday 26 July, 7:00 for 7:30pm.**



Ticket sales and funds raised on the night will be used for the current community refugee family sponsorship project led by **Open Arms of St Patrick's Parish** (see above).

https://www.trybooking.com/1419677

Have you booked? Only a few spots left!

PARISH NOTICES

Seniors' Ministry - Monday 04 August

We can now confirm our next gathering will be held at Mary MacKillop Spirituality Centre, Norwest.

The day will include morning tea and lunch. Cost: \$10.00 Itinerary as follows:-

- 10:30am Arrival and morning tea
- 11:00am 12:00pm A one-hour reflection on St Mary MacKillop
- 12:00noon Mass in the chapel
- · Lunch will follow after Mass

How do we get there?

For those who drive, it will take approximately 20 minutes from the cathedral - shorter if you live closer. For those who do not have a means of getting there, the parish will ask attendees if they can offer a lift to others from the cathedral. Details later.

We very much look forward to you joining us. If you have a friend, make sure to invite them! Please rsvp to Donna or Pat in the parish office by **30 July**.

A message from our Parish Coordinator

Dear St Pat's community,

I am honoured to join the Cathedral as Parish Coordinator. As a Maronite Catholic, it is a blessing to be part of this vibrant and faith-filled parish. As an experienced educational leader and teacher, I bring a deep commitment to nurturing growth, building relationships, and fostering community spirit.



I would like to thank the St Pat's community for the warm welcome I've already received. Please come past and say 'hello'! I am truly looking forward to working alongside you as we continue to grow in faith and serve the mission of the Church together.

With gratitude and hope, Pascarl El-Hage

MET - Formation

There will be a formation session on 'Boundaries in healthcare - what they are and what they are not' at St. Paul the Apostle parish, Winston Hills on Saturday 02 August from 10:00 am - 2:30pm. Registrations met@parracatholic.org
Enquiries michael.tan@parracatholic.org

Sacraments of Initiation - Confirmation

We invite children aged 10 years and older, who have made their Reconciliation and First Eucharist, to prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation - the final step in their initiation into the Church. This important sacrament deepens their bond with Christ and fully integrates them into our faith community.

There is no maximum age for completing this initiation for children baptised as infants. We welcome all eligible individuals to join in this significant journey of faith and spiritual growth.

Register via the App, Cathedral website or click on link below. https://stpatscathedral.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/80/responses/new

- Confirmation 1: Monday 28 July, 7:30pm Parent Session
- Confirmation 2: Monday 04 August 7:30pm Parent Session
- Confirmation 3: Saturday 16 August, 4:30pm Parent and Children Session
- Confirmation 4: Saturday 23 August, 4.30pm Parent and Children Session
- Practice for Confirmation: Saturday 30 August, 4:30pm followed by the 6:00pm Vigil Mass - Parents and Children

The Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated at St. Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta on Saturday, 06 September at 11:00am.

We look forward to journeying with you and your children as they take this significant step in their faith.

Registration closes 28 July.

Bible Study

The Credo Young Adults group gathers fortnightly on a Monday evening with the next meeting on **Monday**, **21 July** at **7:00pm**.

CREDO Young Adults - June Social Night!

This month's **CREDO** young adults gathering is set to be a great one! Join us on **Sunday, 20 June,** the 3rd Sunday of the month, **after the 6:00pm Mass** in the parish hall.

We're putting on a chilled-out social night packed with:

Karaoke

Board & Card Games

Food and Drinks

Plenty of laughs and good company

Bring: Yourself and a friend

Expect: Fr Tom to sing Country Road

Cost: Absolutely FREE

This event is open to everyone aged 18–35, whether you're a regular or it's your first time, don't be shy, come through!

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.

NOTICES

Jubilee Youth Pilgrimage

Please pray for the young adults in our Diocese who will embark on the Jubilee of Youth Pilgrimage from **19 July to 05 August**. May God bless their journey, deepen their faith, and guide their steps as they follow in the footsteps of St Paul and join the celebrations in Rome.

Let's ask the Holy Spirit to inspire and protect them throughout this transformative experience.



Deacon David Dowling

Some of you have noticed that Deacon David has been absent from Friday and weekend Masses over the past couple of weeks. Deacon David had to return to Ireland suddeny for some family business but will be returning later this week and will be with us next weekend.

Mary MacKillop Spirituality Centre - Norwest

Reflection Day: Time to Rejuvenate

Take this time as an opportunity to expand your sense of peace and to restore your well-being and personal connection to your inner experiences as potential for healing, calming a busy mind and easing emotional tension.



Invitational gentling experiences will be offered through calming movements, deep relaxation and guided meditation. Personal refreshment and re-energising will be evoked through movement, vision boarding and story.

Price: \$198 includes morning tea and lunch

Book via this QR code.

Contact 9634 2317 for more information.





Pre-Sale Now Open Noël! Noël! at St Patrick's Cathedral

We are delighted to share that 'early pre-sale access' is now available for the Australian Brandenburg Orchestra's much-loved Noël! Noël! concert at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta.

Join us for an unforgettable evening of festive music in our beautiful church on **Tuesday**, **16 December at 7:30pm**. Last year's concert sold out quickly, so don't miss your chance to secure tickets before they're released to the general public.

Pre-sale access is open **NOW** until 9:00am on Monday 28 July when tickets become available to the general public. BOOKING LINK: https://www.brandenburg.com.au/live-concerts/events/noel-noel-2025/
We look forward to welcoming you!

Nagasaki Peace Day

The Japanese Catholic Community of Sydney invites you to join us in commemorating the 80th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Nagasaki and praying for world peace through the celebration of Mass.

Saturday 09 August - email Michi: jpcathsyd@outlook.com

You're Invited... St Mary of the Cross MacKillop Feast Day

Join us in celebrating the Feast Day of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, Australia's first saint and a woman of deep faith, courage, and service.

Mass: Thursday, 08 August at 10:00am Morning Tea to follow

Mary MacKillop Spirituality Centre 33 Barina Downs Road, Norwest

All are warmly welcome.

RSVP for catering purposes: bookings.sjc@sosjspirit.org.au

"Never see a need without doing something about it." — St Mary MacKillop





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:wwwstpatscathedral.com.au

PRAYER INTENTIONS

We pray for...

Sick: Hamish J Pereira, Nelka Popic, Trish & Jenny Bowe, Papani Loto'anui, Margery Simpson, Hamish J Pereira, Edward Gutierrius, Pedro Romulo, Ryan I Limlingan, Sonia Villada, Fr Bob Bossini, Ray Love, Sharon Webb

Special Intentions: Dan Rodricks, Rohan rodricks, Naleen, Tian, Ken Munda Cruz, Raveen, Yi Chuien Hsu, Miguel Custodio, Raveen, Shannon & Erwin Mendoza, Bernadette, Sarah & Clare, Louis J Vella, Haydee Rehak, Nigel Goncalves, Maria Perugini, Miguel Custodio, Melissa Dsouza, Liana, Liam & Eric, Shannen Mendoza, Namaan, Xavier Holgado, Frederick Fisher, Teodulo Sarreal, Melissa, Glenda, AJ & Casey, Ping Hsu, Jamel Saba, Paul Peters

Recently Deceased: Sheila Kelleher, Rev Tim Hogan, Phyllis Cross, Rosemarie Walker-Lelyveld, Piera Bigna, Patrick Slatter, Fr Tim Hogan, Grga Vulic, Maria Mung Thi Nguyen, Helga Britenburg, Maria Thi Nguyen

Deceased: Domenic & Lina coluccio, YT & Deanna Hsu, Terry stanley, James Brassil, Lucy D'Mello, Kristian Moon, Lily Morales, Kirk family, Benedicta, Leema, Raji Gracy, Family of Romauldo Goncalves & Maria Dacruz, family of Priscilla Dias & Victor Dias; Philip & Leti Vas, Lucy D'mello, Lilly Cruz, Maryelsy Pereira, Jamez, Jent & Benedict Pereira

Anniversaries: Emy & Fe Masangkay, Deanna Hsu, Joseta Manubctanol, Moises & Maria Villadelgado, Josie Phelps, Vittoria Teuma, Alban Fonseca, Bernard Fonseca, Sofia Calo Sumagi, Leo Bardetta, Juliet & Peter Noronho

Perpetuals: Leo Bardetta, Carmen Train, Joan Brady, Rudy Rupac, Frank Agostino, 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 & Peter Noronha, Vijaya Sawant, 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 child recently baptised here...

Veronika Gorkovski Cyrus Seisan

WEDDINGS



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

Paris Jabbour & Siosifa Fatai

POPE LEO'S

Prayer Intention for July



For formation in discernment

"Let us pray that we might again learn how to discern, to know how to choose paths of life, and reject everything that leads us away from Christ and the Gospel."

From Pope Leo...
"X" post dated
13 July

"Looking without walking by, halting the frantic pace of our lives, allowing the lives of others, whoever they may be, with their needs and troubles, to touch our heart. That is what makes us neighbours to one another, what generates true fraternity and breaks down walls and barriers."

Saint of the Week

24 July - Blessed Maria Mercedes Prat (1880 - 1936), Martyr

Mercedes Prat was born on 06 March, 1880, in Barcelona, baptised on the following day, and made her First Holy Communion on 30 June, 1890. From her childhood she gave herself completely to God, whom she received every day in Communion. She displayed a great love for her neighbour and tried to foster this kind of love in others. During her years in school, she was known for her goodness and her dedication to school work, excelling especially in painting and needlework, which were areas in which she had a natural talent. Entering the novitiate of the Society of Saint Teresa of Jesus in 1904, in Tortosa, she made her temporary profession in 1907. She was a religious according to the heart of God: prudent and truthful, calm and gentle in her reactions, having a natural goodness in all her dealing with others, but firm in character. God was her one love, and her love for God kept growing to the point where she would give her life for him. In 1920 she was assigned to the motherhouse in Barcelona. From there the path to martyrdom began on 19 July, 1936, when the community was forced to give up the school and flee. On 23 July, because she was a religious, Sr Mercedes was arrested and shot; she died in the early morning of 24 July.



Information: Universalis

"Quote of the Week"

"Let us also arm our right hand with the sword of the Spirit, so that it may bravely reject the sacrifices of death; so that this right hand which receives the body of the Lord, may, mindful of the eucharist, embrace him, and afterwards may receive the prize of the heavenly crown from the Lord."



St Cyprian of Carthage (c.210 - 258) Bishop, Theologian and Martyr

Did You Know...?

...that the?name Mary (Mariam) was a popular name for Palestinian women at the time of Jesus?

According to Wikipedia, "A common Roman Catholic tradition includes six New Testament saints called Mary: Mary, mother of Jesus; Mary Magdalene; Mary, mother of James and Joses;

(Mary) Salome (who is also identified as the mother of James and John, the sons of Zebedee); Mary of Clopas; and, Mary of Bethany, sister of Martha and Lazarus."







SI PATRICK'S Giftshop

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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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