



**ST PATRICK'S
CATHEDRAL**
PARRAMATTA

30 November 2025 - First Sunday of Advent (Year A)

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 OFM Conv, DD

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](https://www.facebook.com/credo.stpats)

Email: credo@stpatscathedral.com.au

Friends of St Patrick's Cemetery:

stpatscemeterynp.com



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Advent: An opportunity to shift focus

WANDERING around the shopping centres at present you could be forgiven for thinking that this season is concerned primarily with conspicuous consumption and little else. For some weeks now we have been assailed by posters and advertisements in shops, urging us to purchase more in readiness for the Christmas season. Displays incorporating traditional Christmas images of holly, bells, reindeer and snow, greet us unrelentingly at every turn. Even Santa Claus is placed strategically in various shopping locations to lure unsuspecting parents into purchasing more than they intended. A few more photos for the grandparents, perhaps?



Don't get me wrong, I have nothing against purchasing gifts for loved ones or as a show of appreciation to those who have given of their time and talent in some endeavour. My concern is the overwhelming pressure many people feel at this time of year to purchase excessively and the expectation that may create in the recipients of those gifts. How often have we felt a correlation between the expense of a gift given or received, and the love expressed? How often have we felt pressure to purchase something for someone when we didn't really want to? How often have we felt a subtle competitiveness in outdoing the gift-buying of another as a means of boosting our self worth? All of these pressures may come from within, but they are fed unrelentingly by businesses who have only one aim in mind - profit.

Before you start thinking I'm beginning some anti-capitalist rant, let me assure you that I'm not. I merely want to highlight at an opportune time the importance of getting the emphasis right at this time. By all means let us enjoy the purchasing of gifts and the joy we give when we bestow them on another, and final equal joy in receiving a gift from a loved one. Let us revel in the festive atmosphere at this time and take pleasure in watching the faces of children as they delight in Christmas celebrations.

But let us not allow the secular side of the season consume us, for we do so at our peril.

Advent, if taken seriously, affords us the opportunity to prepare ourselves as individuals and as a faith community, for the true meaning of Christmas. It is a season that shifts our focus from the secular and all its concomitant distractions to what, or who, really matters: Jesus, the source of our being. Advent reminds us of the hope we have as disciples and apostles of Jesus, the one who came into the world as one like us in all things but sin, the one who comes to us each day (if we only choose to recognise his presence in the unexpected), and the one who will come again at the end of time so that we may, by God's grace, dwell forever in God's eternal light and love.

This hope is highlighted this weekend as we light the first candle on our Advent wreath, the Prophet's Candle, symbolising hope, and thus commence our journey of preparation for the Nativity of Jesus.

Wishing you a blessed Advent season,

Fr Robert

THE BULLETIN

STAFF CONTACT DETAILS

Dean and Administrator

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

Assistant Priest

Rev Andrew Rooney
8839 8423 - assistantpriest@stpatscathedral.com.au

Assistant Priest

Rev Dr Vincent Ojo
8839 8400

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 coordinator@stpatscathedral.com.au

Parish Secretary: Donna Missio (Mon, Wed, Fri)
8839 8400 or enquiry@stpatscathedral.com.au

Parish Secretary: Pat Preca (Tue, Thu, Fri)
8839 8412 or secretary@stpatscathedral.com.au

Sacramental Coordinator: Parish Team
8839 8400 or secretary@stpatscathedral.com.au

Director of Music: Bernard Kirkpatrick KSS HonFGCM
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: Jorel Mateo
8839 8400 or liturgy@stpatscathedral.com.au

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 Secretaries.

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 Secretaries, Pat or Donna, by **12:00 noon on Thursday**.

Parish Bazaar – Thank You!

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who joined us for our Parish Bazaar. Your generosity and presence made it a wonderful day for our community. We are especially grateful to all the volunteers whose time and dedication made the event possible. Thank you to everyone who worked behind the scenes in the lead-up to the day — your efforts and support do not go unrecognised. May God bless you abundantly for your generosity, and may his peace and grace be with you always.

Thank you as well for helping us celebrate Fr Tom as he leaves for MQOF Parish, Blacktown. Fr Tom, St Pat's will not be the same without you. Please know of our prayers and gratitude as you begin the next chapter of your priestly vocation.



THE BULLETIN

Open Arms of St Patrick's Parish

Wonderful news. Thanks to the generous support of our parishioners, our sponsored Ethiopian family arrived in Sydney on Friday 14 November at 7:00am, after a 12 hour hold-up in Dubai. Such a long, tiring trip from Cairo, but they presented with smiles and enthusiasm for our country – now theirs as well. They were very happy to be in Australia and very grateful to the parish for offering them support for their first year here. They have given me permission to introduce them in our parish bulletin and include a picture taken at the airport. Of course, their information is generally private and we ask that you respect their privacy while celebrating their arrival.

We would like to introduce you to Abdi Hussein Ahmed, his wife, Sukare Hussein Koji, and their daughters Sifan (aged 8) and Soumayia (aged 3). They are settling into their accommodation in Westmead and the Open Arms core group has been assisting them, on behalf of our parish, with learning about the area, the services available, and the public transport system. This included Malcolm taking the family to Parramatta Park where the girls were able to experience the joy of playing on the equipment.

The family does not yet speak English and their native language is Oromo. We would be very happy to hear from anyone in our parish who might either speak Oromo themselves or know someone who comes from Ethiopia and may speak Oromo. This cultural connection would assist them in feeling connected while learning to speak English and acclimatising to Australia. Please call Dianne on 0408 161 443 if you can help.

Abdi and Sukare have also enthusiastically agreed that they would like to learn English as much as possible. The formal TAFE classes are closing down for the holidays soon so any informal learning would be great for them and for their daughters as well. Sifan has already learned some English words and is very keen to learn more. We would like to hear from any parishioners who might be able to spend a little time teaching the family some of the basics of English so they can feel a real part of our community as soon as possible. Call Dianne and we can arrange times when this might be able to be fitted into your and their schedules. We look forward to hearing from anyone who can assist.

We would like to thank Marilyn and Graham Cook for organising the Bunnings barbecue on 15 November. The barbecue and cake stall raised \$2892.80, thanks to the work of a great group of helpers and the generosity of members of the Social Justice group who donated all of the goods for sale.

Thank you also to those parishioners who visited us on the day to buy a sausage sandwich, some cakes and/or a drink.

Diane Starkey



Credo Ministry

We have a thriving group of young adults who are enjoying the social and liturgical aspects of this ministry. Do consider joining us for...

- Faith & Fellowship - every third Sunday of the month
- Oz Tag - Wednesday evenings @ Ollie Webb Reserve. Even if you don't wish to play, spectators are very welcome.



Vinnies Christmas Food Bank Drive

The St Vincent de Paul Society is once again calling on our parish's generosity this Advent season to help bring the spirit of Christmas to many families and individuals in our community. We welcome your donations:



Festive Food Items: Small Christmas puddings, mince pies, long-life custard, and other holiday-specific treats to add a touch of festivity to our hampers.

Non-Perishable Foodstuffs: Help stock our pantry with canned goods, breakfast cereals, fruit drinks, dry foods, and other essentials that can sustain families over the holidays.

Toiletries & Bathroom Items: Donations of soaps, shampoos, conditioners, toothpaste, and toothbrushes are essential for personal care and dignity.

Cleaning Supplies: Kitchen cleaners, washing up liquids and laundry powders are vital for maintaining clean and healthy homes.

Gifts for Children: Bring smiles to young faces with toys and books suitable for ages 5-10 years, making their Christmas truly special.

It may seem early but we need all donations by **15 December**. This allows for packing and distribution to people's homes before Christmas.

Every item you donate contributes to a brighter Christmas for an individual or family in need. Let's share the warmth and love of the season through our collective efforts.

Donations can be placed adjacent to the stable in the chapel from as of this weekend.



THE BULLETIN

Christmas

Mass Times

Wednesday, 24 December - Christmas Eve

6:00pm - Vigil (Family Mass)

9:00pm - Vigil

Midnight Mass

Starts at 11:30pm with Carols Service and Readings

12:00 midnight - Solemn Pontifical Mass with Cathedral Choir

Thursday, 25 December - Christmas Day

8:00am

9:30am

11:00am

(Solemn Pontifical Mass with Cathedral Choir)

6:00pm



Last day of business: **24 December**
Reopening **Wednesday, 07 January**



We thank you for your support throughout the year and wish all our customers a holy, joyful, and blessed Christmas.

Advent Carol Service

Advent is a time of joyful preparation, leading us towards the celebration of Christ's birth. To embrace this special season, we invite you to join us for an evening of carolling and biblical readings at our **Advent Carol Festival on Friday, 05 December at 7:00pm.**

Together, we'll sing traditional carols and listen to readings that highlight the hope, peace, joy, and love of Advent. Come along, invite friends, and let's celebrate Advent together!



Seniors' Christmas Lunch

The final event for our Seniors' Ministry this year will be the Seniors' Christmas Lunch.

Date: Wednesday, 10 December

Time: 1:00pm

Location: Cloister Function Room

Entry: \$15.00 (on the day).

This is always a terrific occasion to connect with friends and enjoy a delicious 'Christmassy' meal together. An official invitation will be sent out via the parish app this week. Please note that RSVP is essential, so be sure to respond by Monday **08 December.**

Advent Reflections with Fr Robert

As we prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ this Advent, parishioners are warmly invited to join Fr Robert for a series of Advent reflections held on **Wednesday** evenings via Zoom, beginning 26 November.

Each week, Fr Robert will lead us in prayer and reflection on the Gospel for the upcoming Sunday, helping us enter more deeply into the meaning and message of Advent.

 **Dates:** Each Wednesday, 26 November - 17 December

 **Time:** 8:00pm - 9:00pm

 **Zoom:** Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87653795537?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87653795537?pwd=eaxWjssuj1mFGExlBuXfW9EhEdNiDR.1)

[pwd=eaxWjssuj1mFGExlBuXfW9EhEdNiDR.1](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87653795537?pwd=eaxWjssuj1mFGExlBuXfW9EhEdNiDR.1)

Meeting ID: 876 5379 5537 **Passcode:** 805489

Take a quiet pause in your week and journey together with our parish community in hope and anticipation of Christmas.



PARISH NOTICES

St Pat's Matters

The next issue is taking shape but we need more from you! If you've agreed to write already, please send it in. If some event or experience related to the parish or your faith has touched you recently, please share it. Send inquiries or contributions to stpatsmatters@stpatscathedral.com.au
Martin Graham

Return and Earn Cage

Support our parish by donating your eligible cans, plastic bottles, and glass containers. Place them in the Return & Earn collection cage located outside the Cloister Cafe, and all proceeds will help fund parish initiatives. Thank you for your support!



Updating Your Credit Card Details for Planned Giving

To update your credit card details, please follow these steps:

- Visit the [St Pat's website](#).
- Click Donate, then click Donate again. You will be redirected to the Pushpay website.
- Select the person icon with the padlock and log in using your mobile number.
- Once logged in, you can update your details by clicking on "Payment Methods" and then select the card details to update/change.

If you need help at any stage, please contact the parish office or coordinator for assistance where you can get a detailed "how to guide".

First Friday Devotions

Please note that due to the Advent Carols Service happening on **Friday 05 December** (see previous page), there will be NO First Friday devotions in December.

The next First Friday devotions will be held in the chapel on **06 February 2026**.

Stay connected with our Parish

Don't forget to download the St Pat's Parish App to receive the latest news, event updates, Mass times, and more - right at your fingertips. If you need help, please contact the parish office.



Volunteer at Parramatta Mission Christmas Lunch

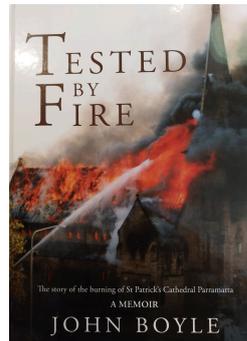
For the second year, the parish will be participating in the Parramatta Mission Christmas lunch, on Friday 19 December, 9:00am-2:00pm. Last year 1,100 meals were served to families, children and members of our community who would otherwise not have a Christmas. Parishioners will be working together in our own section, providing hospitality and fellowship to our sisters and brothers. If interested, please call or text 0476 064 973.

Mass times over Christmas & New Year

On the previous page of the bulletin you will find Mass times for Christmas Day. Please take a photo for your information!

As usual, there will be restricted Mass times and office hours between Christmas Day and the first week of January. Mass will still be offered daily and the Cathedral chapel will be open each weekday from the time of the first Mass (8:00am) until 6:00pm. There will be a security guard on site to ensure that at this quieter time of year our faithful and the buildings are kept safe!

Check the bulletin over the coming couple of weeks for more details about the Christmas/New Year operations of St Patrick's Cathedral Parish.



"Tested by Fire"

Monsignor John Boyle, former Dean of St Patrick's Cathedral, and well known to many of you, was at the Cathedral last weekend to sign and sell copies of his recent book, "Tested by Fire", launched recently here on 31 October. The book tells the story of events surrounding the fire that burnt the cathedral down in February 1996.

Copies of this hardcover book can be purchased from St Patrick's Giftshop for \$60.00. The book is a mixture of fascinating narrative and excellent photos. A great Christmas gift for yourself and those you love!

Need Help with the Parish App?

Having difficulties with the parish app? Please contact our coordinator, who will be glad to guide you through any issues.
coordinator@stpatscathedral.com.au

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...

Sick: Hamish Perreira, Fr Michael Attard, Mary Nissan, Nadia Nissan, Nabil Makdessi, Ghalie Koura, Tom L, Jacqueline Laguidao, Silvana Rechichi, Patrick Condon, Vincent Chan, Hamish J Pereira, Vani Jhunhunwala, Marjorie Simpson, Fr Bob Bossini, Ray Love, Sharon Webb, Pete Berg, John Gassami, Jessica Blatman, Rosette Dureza, Lusía Solomo

Special Intentions: Raveen, Naleen, Tian, Shannen Mendoza, Legion of Mary Officers, Peachy Romulo, Melanie, Magpayo, Victims of Typhoon in the Philippines, Gladys Uy, John & Aida, Freeda, Ani, Nikh, Anna & Pringles, Hilda & Gaulbert Pais, Elijah, Ryan & Ethan Walter, Y S Hsu, John & Aida, Zayne Bumactao, Averil Sampey, James Sampey, Andrea Bernabey, Cáceres, Rios, Alonso, SantaCruz families, Girish Fernandez

Anniversaries: Eddie Lai, Hans Bucher & parents, Honorato & Wilhemina Dela Cruz, Maria Lelyveld, Warlito Arciaga, Divine Grace Marigomen, Pedro Obar Morales, Edward Muller, Juan Montesco, Maximena Manlangit, Johannes Lelyveld, Frank Maccarone, Rodney Jayatilaka, Dora Kirk, Joseph Fung, Gabriel Muniandi, Jose Ramirez, Anacorita

Book of Remembrance

Throughout November each year, a 'Book of Remembrance' is displayed in the Chapel and Cathedral during the celebration of Mass. If you would like to have your deceased family and friends included, please fill in a November Mass Offering envelope and either leave on the collection plate or hand in at the office. We will update the Book of Remembrance regularly throughout November to reflect new names that are requested for inclusion.



BAPTISMS



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

Matteo Vumbaca Robin Im
Dominic Kim Chiara Missak

WEDDINGS



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

Saneeya Hussain & Jonathan Fernandes
Claudia Borg & Anthony Abi-Arrage

POPE LEO'S...



Prayer Intention for December

For Christians in areas of conflict

"Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation, and hope."

From Pope Leo...

"X" post dated
26 November

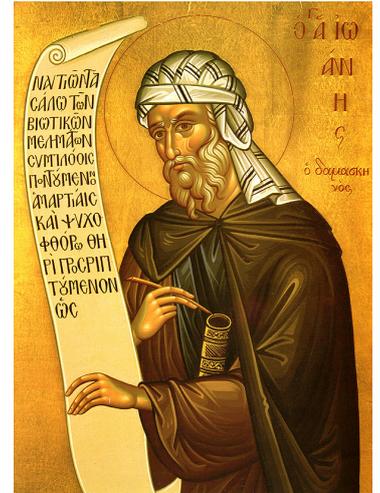
"God remains forever faithful to His plan of love and life. He does not grow weary of sustaining humanity even when, in Cain's wake, we obey the blind instinct of violence in wars, in discrimination, in racism, in the many forms of slavery."

Saint of the Week

04 December - St John Damascene (675 - 749), Priest, Doctor

He was born of a Christian family in Damascus in the second half of the seventh century, where his father was a high official under the Umayyad caliph; a post which he inherited. When the Iconoclast movement (seeking to prohibit the veneration of icons) gained acceptance in the Byzantine court, John, being under Muslim rather than Byzantine rule, was able to write effective treatises attacking Iconoclasm and attacking the emperor for supporting it. At about this time he retired to the monastery of Saint Sabas near Jerusalem, where he became a monk and was ordained. He died in the middle of the eighth century.

He wrote many theological treatises in a dangerously clear and accessible style which made the issues understandable even by non-experts. His name was reviled and execrated by the imperial Iconoclast party even after his death. Sometimes known as "the last of the Church Fathers," he was declared a Doctor of the Church by Pope Leo XIII in 1883.



Information: Universalis

“Quote of the Week”

“It is not enough for us, then, to be content with his first coming; we must wait in hope of his second coming. What we said at his first coming, ‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord’, we shall repeat at his last coming. Running out with the angels to meet the Master we shall cry out in adoration, ‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.’”



St Cyril of Jerusalem
(c.313 - 386)
Bishop and Theologian
Catecheses

Did You Know...?

...that this weekend marks the beginning of the new Church liturgical year, Year A?

“Within the cycle of a year, the Church unfolds the whole of the mystery of Christ, from the Incarnation and birth until the ascension, the day of Pentecost, and the expectation of blessed hope and of the Lord’s return...”.

Sacrosanctum Concilium (1963), n.102

The Gospel for the coming year is that of St Matthew.



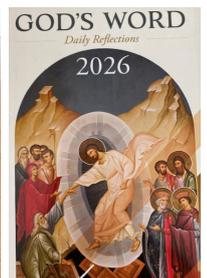
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