



**ST PATRICK'S
CATHEDRAL**
PARRAMATTA

22 March 2026 - 5th Sunday of Lent (Year A)

1 Marist Place, Parramatta NSW 2150

(02) 8839 8400

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 7:15pm - 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

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

stpatscemetery.np.com



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Promises, promises...

WHEN WE used to watch TV as a family, we often watched detective series. Regularly on these programmes a detective promises the relative of the victim *"We will get the person who did this."* Now, I always told my kids they should never make a promise that is not in their power to deliver. There is only one person that can absolutely promise something with complete certainty, and that is God, because God has the power to deliver whatever He promises. So, when today Jesus says: *"I am the resurrection and the life. If anyone believes in me, then if he dies, he will live,"* He is making a promise He will keep.



So let me ask you the same question that Jesus asked Martha: *"Do you believe this?"* I'm sure many of you will say: *"Of course we do. That is why we are here."* But then I need to ask a second question: *"Do you live like someone who believes this?"* In other words, does your life reflect a person who fully believes that eternal life is real, and that living as a Christian is the only way to attain it? I ask that because many people seem to live as though they can have an each-way bet. They are Christian-ish. They like the idea of entering the kingdom of heaven, but they have a pick and mix approach to Christianity: they like this bit but that bit makes them uncomfortable; they like a lot of Christ's teachings but they don't like some of His Church's moral teachings about things like intimacy outside marriage, or same-sex marriage, or voluntary assisted suicide. And this is a real problem because being a Christian is a bit like being pregnant, either you are or you are not. The promise of eternal life is offered to people who follow Christ fully and completely, people who are prepared to take up the cross that may involve accepting teachings that make them uncomfortable. Being a Christian is a radical choice – it is counter-cultural, unpopular and in some countries, dangerous, but look at the prize – eternal life!

And this is not just about eternal life, it is also about *this* life – Jesus said *"I am the resurrection and the life"*, not just the resurrection. Jesus offers us all a new life within this life. A little bit like Lazarus – we can have a second go, a new life, as St Paul describes it, *"In the Spirit."* This is a life of incredible possibility, of wonderful fruitfulness, but it is only available to people who believe in Christ and are prepared to live in a way that shows that they believe.

A few weeks ago, our Cathedral was full of adults that have chosen to become Catholics. It is a profound personal choice and they took it knowing what it entailed. Today we have many people in our Church that have been coming since they were children, people that have never consciously made that profound choice. Jesus has made an extraordinary two-fold promise to us. One part for this life, one part for the next life, but both are only available to "boots 'n' all" Christians. If either, or both, are something you truly want, then it may be time to make your own profound personal choice.

Wishing you a blessed remainder of Lent,

Deacon David

THE BULLETIN

STAFF CONTACT DETAILS

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Assistant Priest

Rev Dr Vincent Ojo
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Deacon

Rev Mr David Dowling
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Priest in Residence

Rev Dr Philip Alesin

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

Parish Coordinator: Pascal El-Hage (Mon - Fri)
8839 8419 or coordinator@stpatcathedral.com.au

Parish Secretary: Donna Missio (Mon, Wed, Fri)
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Parish Secretary: Pat Preca (Tue, Thu, Fri)
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Youth Coordinator: TBC
8839 8400 or credo@stpatcathedral.com.au

Gift Shop Manager: Contact Parish Office
8839 8400 or giftshop@stpatcathedral.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@stpatcathedral.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**.

Palm Sunday – Palms Needed!

Parishioners are invited to bring palm branches from the week beginning **Monday 23 March**. Please ensure palms are cut to a manageable size so they can be blessed and distributed among parishioners.

If you have an abundance of palms which could help decorate the Cathedral, please contact the Parish Office to arrange a suitable time to drop them off.

We are also seeking volunteers to help decorate the cloister and Cathedral for Palm Sunday. If you can spare a few hours on Saturday 28 March, please contact the Parish Office or email us.

Thank you to those who have already offered palms and assistance.

What are the scrutinies?

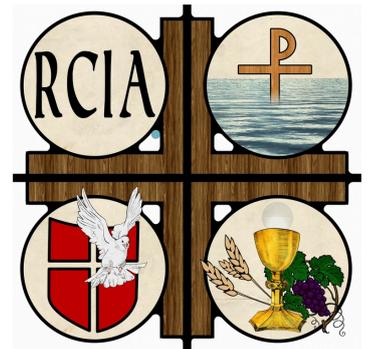
On the Third, Fourth and Fifth Sundays of Lent, our nineteen elect will, at the Saturday evening Vigil Masses, undergo a series of rites known as the scrutinies, an essential part of this period of their formation known as the period of purification and enlightenment. So, what are the scrutinies, and why are they an essential part of preparation for Catholic Christian initiation? The summary below is taken from "Catholic Answers" (catholic.com)

The scrutinies are a series of rites for adults who wish to be baptised. They are celebrated in the third, fourth, and fifth weeks of the Lenten season. This is considered a period of purification and enlightenment for the elect. There are prayers of exorcism which are intended to help purify the elect from sin and sinful desires. The overall prayers and laying on of hands are to help the elect be enlightened by the Word and grace of God.

The basic structure which takes place immediately following the homily:

- The elect (with sponsors) are invited forward
- Invitation for parish to silently pray for the elect
- Intercessions for the elect
- Prayer of exorcism
- Laying on of hands on the elect
- Prayer over the elect
- Dismissal of the elect

Please continue to keep our elect in your prayers as the day of their Baptism, Confirmation and Communion draws near.



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.

PARISH NOTICES

Celebrating St Patrick's Day together

Our St Patrick's Day parish celebration on Sunday 15 March, was a wonderful success! We were blessed with a beautiful sunny day, a delicious barbecue, a lovely plant stall, Devonshire tea, and lively Irish dancing. The petting zoo was a big hit with young and old alike!

Thank you to all our parishioners and friends who came along to celebrate and support our parish. Your presence helped make the day joyful and helped us raise valuable funds for our community.

A special thank you to our amazing volunteers - what would we do without you? The time and effort you put in before the event ensured everything ran smoothly on the day.

I would especially like to thank Donna and Pat for all their planning and organisation behind the scenes and on the day. So much of their work goes unnoticed, but I am truly grateful for their dedication.

As we celebrate this feast, may the example of Saint Patrick inspire us to continue living our faith with courage, sharing God's love with others, and building a strong and welcoming parish community. *Pascal*



Seniors' Ministry celebrates St Patrick's Day

The Seniors' Ministry held their first event of the year on Tuesday, 17 March, coinciding with the celebration of Saint Patrick. Parishioners enjoyed a delightful Devonshire Tea followed by an engaging talk led by Monsignor John Boyle.

It was a wonderful morning of fellowship, conversation, and reflection, and a lovely way to mark St Patrick's Day together as a parish community. We thank all who attended and helped make the morning so enjoyable, and we look forward to many more gatherings throughout the year.



PARISH NOTICES

Supper after the Easter Vigil: Can you help?

We are appealing for volunteers on two fronts:

1. People willing to help set up the hall, put out and serve the food and drinks and clean up afterwards. Any or all... however you choose to help would be greatly appreciated.
2. To donate food and drink: suggestions a tray of homemade sandwiches / finger savouries / small cakes or biscuits / fruit juice / fruit salad platter. Or anyone time poor might consider making a cash donation.

This year, 19 people will be initiated into the Catholic faith during the Easter Vigil. The supper afterwards affords the opportunity to congratulate and welcome the neophytes (the new converts) into parish community. Anyone interested in volunteering, please contact me, Marian Polizzi, on 0418 978 730 or by email: balmap5@bigpond.com

ALPHA 26 has begun...but we really need your help

In 2025 we had two really fruitful Alpha programs and now we have begun our latest Alpha program. Here are some ways you can help:

1. **Prayer:** Please pray for our guests and our team, every Wednesday at 7:30pm
2. **Food Providers:** If you can cook, you can help. We have a few people that volunteer to provide food but we could really use a few more.
3. **Service Team:** We like to make sure the Alpha guests can just enjoy the program, so we generally have a small team of people that support by setting up the room, serving the food and clearing up afterwards.
4. **Dollars:** Food, retreats etc. all cost money. Donations will really help.

Just click this QR code and fill in which way you would like to help. Alternatively contact the parish office and let them know.

Volunteer

SCAN ME!



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SCAN ME!



Project Compassion

Project Compassion boxes are available for you to take home or to your workplace, as a reminder of the work of this international Catholic aid agency. Though most people choose to donate online these days, the "old fashioned" boxes are a visual reminder to us of the command to care for those in need, so please take one with you this weekend!



Lenten Food Drive for Jesuit Refugee Service

The last day to drop off food donations in the chapel will be next Sunday 29 March. Please consider supporting the donation drive. They need: **cooking oil, dried red lentils, laundry detergent, canned tuna (unflavoured), dishwashing detergent and long-life milk.** *Please note that we do NOT need rice!*

Thank you for sharing the love of Christ with those in need this Lent.

Catholic Youth – Egg Drive

The Catholic Youth of the Diocese of Parramatta are preparing for the Good Friday Walk and the Holy Saturday Bacon & Egg breakfast, which last year welcomed over 1000 participants at St Pat's.

An Egg Drive will be held on **Sunday 29 March**. Parishioners are invited to donate one dozen eggs after Mass, with volunteers available to collect donations. **Please do not bring in eggs until 29 March or after.**

With such large numbers attending, every dozen makes a difference. Thank you for supporting the young people of our Diocese and these special Holy Week events.



Parish Pastoral Council Update

On Monday 02 March about 45 people attended the parish meeting on the proposed trial of providing overnight accommodation for local homeless people in the hall. This was an opportunity to better understand what is proposed and to ask questions, which have been noted. Responses to questions will be forthcoming soon. A beautiful spirit marked the occasion with strong support for the initiative. This meeting was the culmination of several weeks of engaging parishioners through talks at the end of Masses, table conversations in the cloister, and written information. Thank you to everyone who contributed questions and to those who have already volunteered to assist. No decision has been made yet on whether to proceed.

At the PPC meeting we received updates on the great work occurring in the Alpha experience, the RCIA, the Open Arms refugee family support group, and sacraments of initiation group. We continue taking steps to improve synodal cooperation between the PPC and Parish Finance Committee (PFC) so that the pastoral and financial priorities of the parish are well aligned.

Many extra people attend the Cathedral at Easter and there may be a request soon for volunteers to be welcoming faces for visitors and those who come only occasionally. This is such a simple way to be good news for others.

Since our last meeting Anne Stanton has withdrawn from the PPC and a vote of thanks expressed our gratitude for her contributions. Soon there will be a call out for parishioners to nominate for an 18-month appointment to the Council.

Martin Graham - Secretary

PRAYER INTENTIONS

We pray for...

Sick: Felixberto de la Pena, Hamish J Pereira, Catherine Ramos, Betty Patinglag, Linda Popic, Charles Dickens, Ghalie Koura, Sebastiao Bugo, Linda Passaro, Ravi Prakash, Rosie Rezk, Mark A Mirando, Adriana Villada, Joana Blandon, Mary Grace Manubay, Vickram & Vasvi Arcot, Rodolfo Manalo, Gretta D'Souza, Sharon Webb, Silvana Rechichi

Special Intentions: Aaron Bugo, Esther Lopez, Raveen, Naleen, Tian, Rajesh Kumar, Juan Charles, Hope & Michael Pace, Maxmillian Lovett, Blang, Jane, Regina, Hazel, Mary Grace Landizabal, Bianca Yousif, Chryslyn Pinto & family, Archie Thorbani & family, Unnati Patel & family, Michael Harper, Rohan Britto, Casilda Britto, Hiong, Aida Marnar, John & Aida

Anniversaries: Frere Alexandre Anh, Aloma Pospischil, Dr C. O. Sioson, Juan & Maria Valdez & family, Juan Montesco, Constance C. Valdez, Victor Dominquez, Erwin Mendoza, John Doolub, Danny Doolub, Pasquale Altamore, Bernard Rodricks, Gracie Rodricks, Irima Muller, Agapito Antonio, Dionisia Antonio, Soosai Villava Rayen, Watson Lee, Nida De Noronha

Recently Deceased: Romula Romy Pena, Elias Safadi, Gloria Bryant, Paloma Escarlan, Elisa Escarlan, Lorna Low, Amanda Villada, Helga Brightenburg, Reggie Court, Doreen Robinson, David Magick, Giuseppe Barbagallo, Brian Climpson, Terry Cook

Deceased: Shierly Tan Lorenzo, Danny Doolub, John Doolub, Mathew Sieders, YT & Deanna Hsu, Lucy D'Mello, Philip Vas, Leti Vas, Charles Vas, Rufino Soriano, Elsa Soriano, Elias Koura, Maria Megale, Youssef & amira Chaaya, Reginaldo Bugo

Anniversaries: Rafaela de la Pena, Teresa Van Tilburg, Pedro Obar Morales, Edward Muller, Juan Montesco

Perpetuals: Thanh Hung Le, June Schembri, Antoine Morvan, 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, Teresa & 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 children recently baptised here...

Kai Oliver

Marcus Santos

Azrai Fredericks

WEDDINGS



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

Lorrae Johnston & Sean Pender

POPE LEO'S...



Prayer Intention for March

For disarmament and peace

"Let us pray that nations move toward effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence."

From Pope Leo...

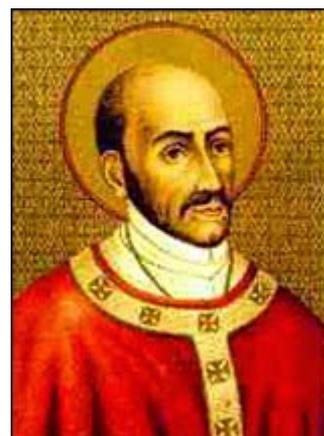
*"X" post dated
17 March*

"In the dramatic circumstances of war, information must guard against the risk of turning into propaganda. It is every journalist's duty to verify the news, so as not to become a megaphone for power. They must show the suffering that war always brings to populations, which entails showing the face of war and recounting it through the eyes of victims."

Saint of the Week

23 March - Saint Turibius of Mongrovejo (1538 - 1606), Bishop

He was born in Spain in about 1538 and studied law at the University of Salamanca. He was named bishop of Lima in 1580 and sailed to America. Full of apostolic zeal, he traversed his gigantic diocese three times, generally on foot, baptising, teaching and confirming the natives. He assembled many synods and councils to make the Church strong, organised, and above all holy; and he strongly defended the rights of the natives, who were Spanish citizens according to the law but who were nevertheless being oppressed by the colonists and the provincial governors. He died in Lima on 23 March 1606.

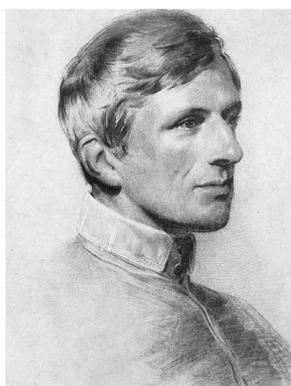


Information: Universalis

“Quote of the Week”

“Growth is the only evidence of life.”

St John Henry Newman
(1801 - 1890)
Doctor of the Church
Apologia pro Vita Sua



Did You Know...?

...that resurrection and rising from the dead is a phenomenon also found in other religious traditions?

In other religions the idea of death, rebirth and subsequent immortality is not uncommon. In ancient Greek religion there were a number of ordinary people who died, were raised from the dead and then became immortal gods. Resurrection is also known in Hinduism and Buddhism. The idea of a day of resurrection is central to Islam too. The Jewish scriptures feature a number of people being raised from the dead, most notably in 1 and 2 Kings.



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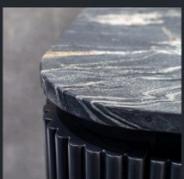
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