



St. Patrick's Parish Blacktown

We acknowledge the Darug people, the traditional custodians on whose land we worship.

51-59 Allawah Street Blacktown 2148 Tel: 9622 1125 After Hours Emergency Number: 9621 3146 Fax: 9671 6425
Email: admin@stpatriksparrish.org.au Web: www.stpatriksparrish.org.au

6th December 2009

2nd Sunday of Advent

Year C

Parish Team

Fr Peter Confeggi
Parish Priest
Fr Joseph Thomas
Assistant Priest
Claudette Cheetham
Parish Secretary
Neng Passigna
Finance Officer
Lisa Bright (0419 418 547)
Youth Minister

Co-ordinators

Catechists: Mrs Colleen McCunnie
RCIA: Sr Judith Lythall
Little Miracles: Meg Stone
Social: Mrs Len Cruz
Pious Goods: Mrs Patricia Regan
Sacramental Program: Mrs Claudette Cheetham
Archives: Mrs M. Geraghty
Choir Rehearsal: 7.00 pm Thursday
Ground & Maintenance: Don McKechnie

Weekly Mass Times:

Mon - Sat 9.00am
First Friday Devotion:
9.00am Mass, 7.00pm Mass
Blacktown Hospital Mass Times:
Thursday 10am, Friday 9.30am
Saturday Vigil Mass 7pm
Sacrament of Reconciliation:
Saturdays 9.30am - 10am

Weekend Mass Times:

Saturday: Vigil 5.30pm
Sunday: 7am, 8.30am, 10am,
5.30pm (Youth Mass)
Mass for the Sick: 9.00am
2nd Saturday of the month

Baptisms, Marriages, Funerals

by appointment.
Please contact office for details

Office Closure

Mon - Fri: 1- 2pm (**Lunch**)
Thursday: 11.15am - 12.15pm (**Team meeting**)

Contacts

Hospital Chaplain
Fr Ed Kenny - 9622 1125
Loaves & Fishes
51- 59 Allawah St, Blacktown
9621 2758
Centacare
51- 59 Allawah St, Blacktown
9671 2011
admin@centabtn.ngo.org.au
St Patrick's Primary School
51-59 Allawah St, Blacktown
9621 4122
stpatsblacktown@parra.catholic.edu.au
Patrician Brothers College
100 Flushcombe Rd, Blacktown
9671 3000
Nagle Girls College
58A Orwell St, Sth Blacktown
9622 0022
nagle@parra.catholic.edu.au
Institute for Mission
1-5 Marion St, Blacktown - 9831 4911
ifm@tpg.com.au

AGAPANTHUS, BOUGAINVILLEAS AND JACARANDAS

Each Easter Eve the Church begins by proclaiming one of the creation stories from the Book of Genesis. Continuing the celebration we tell the story of God's people coming to a climax in the death and resurrection of Jesus. **We move from creation to redemption.** In the northern hemisphere which gave us the shape of the Church's year of celebration, the story of creation, redemption and new life in Christ is accompanied by the springtime eruption of new life.

People of faith have always been drawn to see something of the mystery of God in creation. With a new urgency we are called to focus on our planet, with issues of climate change and global warming confronting us almost daily. National and Church leadership can no longer avoid what is the most urgent issue of our age. For all of us, there is a pressing need to commit ourselves to care of the planet, not only for its very future but because this world of ours is in fact the work of a Creator God.

Last week we began a new year of Christian Churches. These are the days of advent leading into the days of Christmas. As the Church dons the purple of advent we are **surrounded by agapanthus, bougainvilleas and jacarandas.** It is as though our Australian landscape is accompanying the Church's Advent celebration.

If you look and listen to the cycle of creation you will notice something else that is happening. As we leave behind the former church year - *the year of Mark* - and begin a new year - *the year of Luke* - our great Australian eucalyptus are shedding their bark. The old and tired timbers of a year past are falling away revealing the vivid colours of a new year beginning.

In the next few weeks, we might reflect on the ways in which creation about us is singing an Advent song.

There are agapanthus, bougainvilleas and jacarandas. But there are also Aussie gums that remind us to let the old go and embrace the new.

Fr Peter

2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR C

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: People of Zion, the Lord will come to save all nations, and your hearts will exult to hear his majestic voice.

FIRST READING: Baruch 5:1-9

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Ps 125

**The Lord has done great things for us;
we are filled with joy.**

When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage,
it seemed like a dream.

Then was our mouth filled with laughter,
on our lips there were songs. R.

The heathens themselves said:
'What marvels the Lord worked for them!'
What marvels the Lord worked for us!
Indeed we were glad. R.

Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage
as streams in dry land.

Those who are sowing in tears
will sing when they reap. R.

They go out, they go out, full of tears
carrying seed for the sowing:
they come back, they come back, full of song,
carrying their sheaves. R.

SECOND READING: Philippians 1:3-6. 8-11

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Luke 3:4. 6

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his
paths: all people shall see the
salvation of God. Alleluia!

GOSPEL: Luke 3:1- 6

In the fifteenth year of Tiberius
Caesar's reign, when Pontius Pilate
was governor of Judaea, Herod tetrarch
of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of
the lands of Ituraea and Trachonitis,
Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the pontificate
of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to
John son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. He went
through the whole Jordan district proclaiming a
baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as
it is written in the book of the sayings of the prophet
Isaiah:

A voice cries in the wilderness:

Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths
straight. Every valley will be filled in,
every mountain and hill be laid low,
winding ways will be straightened
and rough roads made smooth.

And all mankind shall see the salvation of God.

The Gospel of the Lord

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

Rise up, Jerusalem, stand on the heights, and
see the joy that is coming to you from God.



Mass for the soul of the following: Franco Brocchetti, Carl Bartley, The Schembri family, P. Camilleri, June O'Hara, the abandoned souls and all souls in purgatory.

Prayer for the sick: Kerry Bush, Peggy Giddey, Kim Baker, Naomi Petrie, Jesus Boy Bernido, Mary Toohey, Coral McLean, Frank Vella.

Recently Deceased: Stanley Stokes

Special Intention: Frank Vella

Daily Readings

7th Dec: Lk 5:17-26; 8th Dec: Lk 1:26-38, 9th Dec: Mt 11:28-30, 10th Dec: Mt 11:11-15, 11th Dec: Mt 11:16-19, 12th Nov: Mt 17:10-13

A WORD OF THANKS...to Brian McCunnie for his exceptional commitment to the often hidden tasks around St Pats. Brian was one of the first two people that I met when I found I had been appointed to St Pats. In the time since my arrival, he has been a wonderful support. I often say that Brian knows every brick in the place!

For health reasons Brian has had to give up his physical work around the Church but has offered to work with Don McKechnie in the tedious - but less physically demanding - work of getting quotes, etc.

Brian has diligently prepared a list of all the things that he has been doing. It may well be that there might be a few people who would like to job-share in these tasks. If there are a few people who could help - perhaps just one hour each week - I would appreciate if they could contact Claudette at the parish office.

On behalf of the parish I thank Brian for his exceptional dedication and pray for his good health.

Fr Peter

TIME AND TALENT 2010

Thanks again for all the patience and generosity that people showed during the census month of November. Last weekend 131 people filled out cards for ministry in the coming year. There are many new people who have come forward. In the coming weeks they will be contacted so that their generosity can be picked up in various ministries in the new year.

Fr Peter

YOUTH MASS CHRISTMAS EVE

If you are in Year 7 or over and would like to be part of the Christmas Gospel Dramatisation for the Youth Mass, 9PM on Christmas Eve, then please leave your name at the parish office, 9622 1125, or email Lisa at youth@stpatricksparish.org.au

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS MASS

Inviting children aged 5-12 yrs to participate in the Christmas play at the children's Christmas Mass (6.30pm Christmas Eve). Rehearsal for the play will be in the Church on Tuesday, 22nd December at 9.30am (after the morning mass). If you have costumes, please bring them on the rehearsal. Please call the parish office to register.



DAWN MASS

In preparation for Christmas, there will be a novena of dawn masses (Rooster Mass) from Wednesday, 16th December till 24th December at 5am. If you wish you could bring a plate to share for breakfast.

PARISH BASED, FAMILY CENTERED

As the Sacramental Process is parish based and family centered, the children preparing for the Sacrament of Initiation will be making their First Reconciliation on Monday 14 and Tuesday 15 December at 7.30pm. All parishioners are welcome to attend. The involvement and support of the community are a vital part of the process.

Gaudette Sunday

Next week begins the third week of Advent, Gaudette Sunday or otherwise known as Rose Sunday. Why not wear something pink or rose coloured to rejoice in the fact that we are halfway through our Advent journey?

SACRAMENTAL PROCESS 2010

Just a reminder to parents and candidates, session on Sacrament of Penance on Sunday 6 and Monday 7 December. The sessions are for Parents and Candidates. You can attend either session whichever one suits you best. The Sacrament of Penance will be on Tuesday 14 and Wednesday 15 December.

RECONCILIATION

7.30pm	Monday 14th December
7.30pm	Tuesday 15th December
9.30 - 11.00am	Saturday 19th December
4.00 - 5.00pm	Saturday 19th December

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

6.30pm	Children mass
9.00pm	Youth Mass
11.30pm	Christmas Carols
12.00am	Midnight Mass

25th DECEMBER CHRISTMAS DAY

7.00am
8.30am
10.00am

**PLEASE NOTE THERE WILL BE
NO
EVENING MASS
ON CHRISTMAS DAY**

POSITIONS VACANT

1. Campion College is looking to appoint a Reception/ Administrative Assistant. It is a full-time position at Old Toongabbie campus. Application close on 18 December. Interested applicants should call Paul Abela, Deputy Registrar, tel 9896 9300 or go to www.campion.edu.au

2. Applications are open for the position of Co-ordinator of Parish Services. Applications close on 11 December. Details on the "Employment" page at www.parra.catholic.org.au

FROM FR PETER.....

PROTECTING OUR PARISH RESOURCES ...*alert but not alarmed.*

Last Sunday afternoon, just before the 5.30pm Mass, Gemma Borg from our youth band alerted me to the fact that someone had come into the Church and broken into the several money boxes near the devotional candles. Fortunately no other damage was done. However the event is a timely reminder that we are in my experience moving into the *high season* for petty robbery and vandalism. All sorts of factors seem to come into play: pre-Christmas need for cash, holidays when some seem to get bored and a general spirit of being more relaxed and less attentive. Come January when there are not so many people around, the chances of being caught or even seen are more remote.

After some discussion there are a couple of things that we need to do:

1. When we use the Church, Hall or other facilities, we **need to be sure that buildings are locked when we leave**. If you are using a space in the church, **lock the doors that are not in use**.

2. After using buildings, data projection, musical instruments, etc, **can we make sure they are secure and as we found them**.

3. Can we also **be sure that lights are turned off**.

4. **In handling collections and monies - no one is to do this alone**. This is both to protect people physically and to be sure that no one can be open to any suspicion. I have been concerned with people carrying bags of money across to the offices or removing it from the boxes in the Church and taking to the sacristy by themselves. Arrangements are being put in place to both protect monies temporarily held in the Church and to ensure that money is not held in the parish offices over the Christmas and January holiday periods.

One of the things our census showed was that a lot of our planned giving was from the older members of the parish. I am sure that there are many people living on pensions and limited income who contribute to the life of the parish. This past year has seen great generosity which has made possible a number of improvements at St Pats. Our resources are tight but let's be sure to protect the Church and other resources.

Thank you, Gemma, for being alert - *but not alarmed*. Let us take up her spirit in caring for a sacred place that is our home.

Fr Peter

YOUTH GROUP CHRISTMAS PARTY

"Vita" Christmas party

(Students in Yrs 7-10)

Sunday 13th December

6.30pm - 8.30pm in the parish Hall

COME DRESSED UP IN YOUR FAVOURITE COSTUME!!!!

Year 6 students welcome!

Please bring a plate of food to share with each other.

For more information email Lisa youth@stparicksparish.org.au

CHILDREN'S LITURGY 2010

We are looking for volunteers to assist with Children's Liturgy at 10am Mass on the 4th Sunday of each month. Children's Liturgy is a great way to get involved in a ministry in the Parish. The children hear the Gospel and discuss the meaning at their level. You have teacher's notes and worksheets to assist you. If you are interested in volunteering in 2010, please leave your name at the parish office, 9622 1125.

In Our Parish ...

Housie ... Held every **Saturday** evening, in the Parish Hall commencing at **7.45pm**. **Come along and join in the fun!**

Church Cleaning ... This ministry is very important. Extra helpers can contact the office to be placed in one of the teams. **Volunteers sought...**

The Legion of Mary ... meets every Wednesday at 7.00pm in the **St Patrick's Dining Room**. Your support is welcome and all are invited.

LOAVES AND FISHES NEEDS YOUR HELP... This week we would appreciate your help in providing the following food items for the homeless: Raw Sugar, Medium Size Tuna, Packet Spaghetti, Tinned Tomatoes. Thank you for your generosity.

MORE NOTICES and information can be found on the notice board in both foyers.

Pray 2010: The power of Prayer

The Archdiocese of Brisbane is hosting a 3 day event or provide practical teaching and experiences of different prayer forms and encourage Catholics to deepen their relationship with Jesus through prayer. The dates are from 7-10 July 2010. Details of the program and individual & group registrations at www.pray2010.org.au/register.

CLOSURE FOR CHRISTMAS

Please note Loaves and fishes will close from Tuesday 22nd December and reopen on Monday 18th January 2010. Thanks to all parishioners who supported us during 2009. Wishing everyone a safe and joyful Christmas and a happy New Year from all the volunteers.



Pious Goods Store ... NATIVITY SETS AVAILABLE NOW

Plus other gift ideas for Christmas. Visit the Piety stall over the weekend



Community Announcement

The St Nicolas Festa Committee have organized an 18-day tour of France and Italy with stopovers in Paris, Bordeaux, Lourdes, Marseilles, Turin, Venice, Assisi, San Giovanni - place of St Padre Pio, Bari - St Nicolas resting place, Naples, Rome and the Vatican and then Malta. Buffet breakfast and dinner included daily. Tour commences when we fly to Paris on 18th May 2010.

Contacts: *Jim Borg* 02 9636 7767 or 0418 825 591
Bill Schembri 02 9896 1415 or 0416 261

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Members of the St. Patrick's Blacktown Youth Band/Choir

EILEEN MCCANN ENTERTAINER
An experienced vocalist, violinist & guitarist, she is available to organise your special occasion be it wedding, birthday, funeral etc.
If you would like services of an organist or addition of other instrument this can be arranged also. Please ring **0412 136 771** or visit her website www.funeralsinger.com.au

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