



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.stpatricksparrish.org.au

13th December 2009

3rd Sunday of Advent

Year C

Parish Team

Fr Peter Confeggi
Parish Priest
Fr Joseph Thomas
Assistant Priest
Owen Rogers
Deacon
Claudette Cheetham
Parish Secretary
Neng Pasigna
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

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

The Land of the Southern Cross

Living in this wonderful land we can easily adapt the Southern Cross constellation to 'countdown' the four weeks of Advent as well as the traditional Advent wreath with the candles. It is a fact that the Southern Cross, being a southern circumpolar constellation, is not visible in the northern hemisphere. The Southern Cross constellation contains four very bright stars so situated that they depict the extremities of a Latin cross. Thousands of years ago these four stars were an object of reverence in the Near East. In Biblical days these were just visible at the horizon. The constellation was last seen from the latitude of Jerusalem at the time of Christ's Crucifixion. Today it is no longer visible at latitude north of 25 degrees. The constellation was used in the early sixteenth century by European navigators and explorers to steer by and also calculate the time of day.

The Indigenous Australians have many legends using the stars of the Southern Cross. One of these is about Mirrabooka, who is the Southern Cross and watches forever over the tribe he loves. He is also regarded as the protector of humanity.

The Southern Cross constellation is a uniquely Southern Hemisphere symbol. It allows for the use of light as a symbol. It is also a pointer of direction. If one draws a line down the long axis of the constellation and another line bisecting the first line midway between the two points, the South Pole is at the intersection of the two points. This suggests using the Southern Cross as a symbol of Christ who is both the Light and the Way.

As we journey through the weeks of Advent, each week adding another star, the readings will all point to Christ's coming and that we should take it seriously and 'prepare the way of the Lord'. As Luke's reading suggests from the 1st week of Advent, "There will be signs in the sun, the moon and the stars and earth nations will be in dismay ... Be vigilant at all times and pray."
The Liturgy Team

Adopt sober and responsible lifestyle to care for creation:

Benedict

*Monday 7th December
www.cathnews.com*

As world leaders gathered for the UN's climate summit in Copenhagen from today, Pope Benedict is urging for an attitude of respect and responsibility for creation.

Benedict said Sunday he hoped the meeting would outline actions that respect creation and promote development while respecting human dignity and the common good, the Associated Press reported.

For the safeguarding all of creation, Benedict urged the adoption of "sober and responsible lifestyles, above all towards the poor and future generations," according to the Catholic News Agency.

The Vatican will attend the UN conference opening Monday through December 18.

Benedict has spoken out frequently about the need to care for the planet, dedicating a good part of his last encyclical to the issue, the AP report said. Under his pontificate, the Vatican has also installed photovoltaic cells on the roof of its auditorium and begun a reforestation project aimed at offsetting its CO2 emissions.

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR C

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice! The Lord is near.

FIRST READING: Zephaniah 3:14-18

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Isaiah 12:2-6

**Cry out with joy and gladness:
for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.**

Truly, God is my salvation,
I trust, I shall not fear.

For the Lord is my strength, my song,
he became my saviour.

With joy you will draw water
from the wells of salvation. R.

Give thanks to the Lord,

give praise to his name!

make his mighty deeds known to the peoples!

Declare the greatness of his name. R.

Sing a psalm to the Lord

for he has done glorious deeds,

make them known to all the earth!

People of Zion, sing and shout for joy

for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. R.

SECOND READING: Philippians 4:4-7

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Isaiah 61:1

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to
bring Good News to the poor. Alleluia!

GOSPEL: Luke 3:10-18

When all the people asked John. 'What must we do?' he answered, 'If anyone has two tunics he must share with the man who has none, and the one with something to eat must do the same.' There were tax collectors too who came for baptism, and these said to him, 'Master, what must we do?' He said to them, 'Exact no more than your rate.' Some soldiers asked him in their turn, 'What about us? What must we do?' He said to them, 'No intimidation! No extortion! Be content with your pay!'

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.' As well as this, there were many other things he said to exhort the people and to announce the Good News to them.

The Gospel of the Lord

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

Say to the anxious: be strong and fear not, our
God will come to save us.

Mass for the soul of the following: Felipe Bacalla, Juliana Bacalla, Thelma Bacala, Daniel Bacalla, Alejandro Bacalla, Arnold Bacalla, Stanley Stokes, 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: Dr Alois Babicka, Ronald Adalia

Special Intention: Baby Roxanne McKenzie, Lyndelle Recchia, Maria Tran, Marica Kresic, Simon Vun.

Daily Readings

14th Dec: Mt 21:23-27; 15th Dec: Mt 21:28-32, 16th Dec: Lk 7:18-23, 17th Dec Mt 1:1-17, 11th Dec: Mt 1:18-24, 19th Nov: Lk 1:5-25

HOUSIE/BINGO



Every Saturday: 7.40 - 10.30pm

St Patrick's Hall,

51-59 Allawah St, BLACKTOWN

- \$70 - \$100 prize money every game**
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- 55 Games - \$8 to play all night - or you can purchase additional tickets

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HOUSIE

Thanks to Reg Burns and forty years of faithful followers for the continued support of House/Bingo!

A FEW SPARE PLACES AT ST PATRICKS PRIMARY.

One of the delights in my time at St Pats has been working with the primary school. We are blessed to have a wonderful principal in Kevin Mills and great staff. I often say that the communities take on the personality of their leaders. It is certainly true of St Pats Primary.

Sadly there exists a perception among some that they can not afford Catholic Education. Bishop Kevin has often said that no child whose parents desire it will be denied a Catholic Education. If there are parents in our worshipping community who would like their children at St Pats Primary but have been left feeling that they can not afford to send them to the St Pats ... I URGE THEM TO THINK AGAIN. Please speak with our principal Kevin Mills or talk to me.

WELCOME TO OWEN

We welcome Owen Rogers to our Parish as Deacon. Owen along with two other men were ordained to the Deaconate last weekend. Please join me in making Owen feel at home at St Patrick's.

Fr Peter

SACRAMENTAL PROCESS 2010

Just a reminder to **parents and candidates**
Sacrament of Reconciliation will be on Monday 14
and Tuesday 15 December at 7.30pm.
You can attend either one.

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.

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**

Advertising in Parish Bulletin

There is a space available in the Parish Bulletin for anyone who wishes to advertise their business. Cost is \$150 per quarter. The bulletin reaches approx. 700 families per weekend. Contact Neng at the parish office for more information.

Christmas Party - THANKS!!!

 A big thank you to our Social Committee who organised the Christmas Party on the 29th November. A great deal of time and planning was put into the event and resulted in a wonderful occasion for our community at St Patrick's. Thanks Social Committee!!! We look forward to more parish family events in 2010!

Christmas Letter Box Drop

The time of year has come again for our Christmas Letter Box Drop to welcome people to St Patrick's Parish for Christmas. It would be a great help if you could take a bundle of 100 and cross out the streets that you may be able to drop these pamphlets to. Maybe you could deliver them whilst out for your morning or afternoon walk. Pamphlets and list of streets are available in the carpark foyer. Please return any undelivered pamphlets next weekend. Thanks for your help.



Thanks ...

Thank you, Betty, for your prayers and the unexpected wonderful gift.

Andreana Cassar, Sacramental Process candidate

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.

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.

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



A Word of Thanks!

On behalf of my husband Keith and my daughter Emma, I would like to say a huge thank you to the parishioners and staff of St Patrick's Parish for their well wishes on the birth of our little girl, Claire Louise. All is going well and we look forward to the wonderful times that a new baby brings!

Lisa Bright

In Our Parish ...

Housie ... Held every **Saturday** evening, in the Parish Hall commencing at **7.40pm**. **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: Tinned pineapple, tinned fruit salad, tinned beetroot, jellies, wheatbix. 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.

AROUND THE DIOCESE ...

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* 9636 7767 or 0418 825 591
Bill Schembri 9896 1415 or 0416 261 415

Fertility Educators Needed!

Natural Fertility Services is looking for suitable applicants in the Parramatta and greater Sydney area to train as Fertility Educators. Training provided. Some prior experience of Natural Family Planning desirable but not essential. Sessional work available to those who complete the training and become accredited Educators. Details: Manager, NFS (02) 9390 5156.

Noel! Noel!

Celebrate Christmas with the sacred songs of Latin America and traditional European carols. This concert features the Brandenburg Choir and musicians on period instruments. St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta, on Thursday 17 December at 7pm. Bookings essential: tel (02) 9328 7581.

Catalyst for Renewal Dinner

Speaker: Geraldine Doogue. Topic: Spirituality – making connections in our world. Friday 12 February 2010, 7pm for 7.30pm. St Bernadette's Parish Hall, 367 Old Northern Rd, Castle Hill. Cost: \$45 for 2-course dinner (BYOG). RSVP: 3 February 2010. Limited numbers. Book by mail: Catalyst for Renewal, PO Box 139, Gladesville, NSW, 1675, Telephone Message Bank: (02) 9990 7003 or email: catalyst-for-renewal@tpg.com.au

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

EILEEN MCCANN ENTERTAINER

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