



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@stpatricksparish.org.au Web: www.stpatricksparish.org.au

20th September 2009

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year B

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

We Never Pray Alone.....

There are few absolutes in life, but prayer is one of them. We need to pray. It is prayer that reminds us of God's love in coming to us in Jesus, and drawing us to share in the life of God. The divine became human in order that the human might become divine.

Prayer is something we can do naturally. We are probably already praying in our life before we are conscious of doing so. This means that we do have a personal way of praying that needs to be the foundation of the other means that we use to pray. There are important prayers that need to be said, and different ways of praying that can help us in diverse ways. But never let us surrender that personal dialogue with God that we have come to have over the years.

Teresa of Avila is one of the great saints who has written on prayer. I would like to share two of her sayings. The first is: "Remember who is praying and to whom you pray." It is to the transcendent God, who becomes a personal love to us. We do not deserve that attention, but God has bestowed it on us. It is important to appreciate the relationship. Indeed, just acknowledging the need for prayer makes it clear that we recognise the relationship that exists in prayer.

Her second saying is: "The Lord is within and we should be there with him." We are temples of the Spirit and it is the Spirit who makes Jesus present within us. To commune with him, we only have to turn within, and we can be there with him. We can do it for a definite time, or we can consistently do it through the day. Whatever we do is deepening our relationship with him. John of the Cross, her most famous follower, agrees with her when he says "O you soul...you are yourself the very tabernacle where he dwells." We really have no excuse to avoid being with him.

When we pray, we should remember that the worth of our prayer is not just how well we perform the act of prayer, but the love that is in our hearts. It is love that gives meaning to prayer. It is our relationship with the Lord that gives meaning to the act. We should perform the act of prayer as well as we can. But the real issue is how much we love. Sometimes our prayer time may seem to be distracted and unfruitful. No matter! If we have lovingly approached our prayer and done our best, it is the love in our hearts that counts. Sometimes a lack of feeling of God's presence is God's way of testing our faith.

An important way to improve your prayer is to transform your life. There needs to be continuity between your prayer and your life. We commune with God in order that we may live as disciples of Jesus in a way that shares the love of God with others. Prayer alone is not enough: we must work to keep the commandments and develop the virtues. Indeed the best proof of the quality of your prayer is the quality of your life. We can't tell what is going on in your heart at the time of prayer, but we can tell, by your life that we can see, the quality of your prayer. People can make judgments about our inner life in the light of what they see in your daily living. Remember that in your personal prayer, you are enriching the whole life of prayer of the Church. We never pray alone; we are always one with Jesus and all those who pray with Jesus. Don't undervalue your prayer! It has meaning for the whole Church. Indeed we could say that the Church runs on prayer. Always bear in mind your local Church and those who lead it. Your bishop especially needs your prayer. The life of prayer is a wonderful ministry that serves and enriches the whole Church.

Bishop David Walker, Bishop of Broken Bay

Article sourced by Margaret Cusack, St Pat's Formation Committee

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year B

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: I am the Saviour of all people, says the Lord. Whatever their troubles, I will answer their cry, and I will always be their Lord.

FIRST READING: Wisdom 2:12. 17-20

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm: Ps 53:3-6. 8

The Lord upholds my life.

O God, save me by your name;
by your power, uphold my cause.
O God, hear my prayer;
listen to the words of my mouth. R.

For proud men have risen against me,
ruthless men seek my life.
They have no regard for God. R.

But I have God for my help.
The Lord upholds my life.
I will sacrifice to you with willing heart
and praise your name for it is good. R.

SECOND READING: James 3:16 - 4:3

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Thessalonians 2:14

Alleluia! Alleluia!

God has called us with the gospel
to share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL: Mark 9:30-37

After leaving the mountain Jesus and his disciples made their way through Galilee; and he did not want anyone to know, because he was instructing his disciples; he was telling them, 'The Son of Man will be delivered into the hands of men; they will put him to death; and three days after he has been put to death he will rise again.' But they did not understand what he said and were afraid to ask him. They came to Capernaum, and when he was in the house he asked them, 'What were you arguing about on the road?' They said nothing because they had been arguing which of them was the greatest. So he sat down, called the Twelve to him and said, 'If anyone wants to be first, he must make himself last of all and servant of all.' He then took a little child, set him in front of them, put his arms round him, and said to them, 'Anyone who welcomes one of these little children in my name, welcomes me; and anyone who welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.'



The Gospel of the Lord

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

You have laid down your precepts to be faithfully kept. May my footsteps be firm in keeping your commands.

Mass for the soul of the following: Irene Catacutan, Charlie Azzopardi, John Sultana, Joventino Borja, Leo Francis, Carl Bartley, The Schembri family, P. Camilleri, the abandoned souls and all souls.

Prayer for the sick: Peggy Giddey, Naomi Petrie, Lawrence & Lorraine Baker, Chantal Ythier.

Recently deceased: Bruno Zanon, Beatrice Dang.

Mass for special intention: Frank Vella

Daily Readings

21st Sept: Mt 9:9-13; 22nd Sept: Lk 8:19-21,
23rd Sept: Lk 9:1-6, 24th Sept: Lk 9:7-9,
25th Sept: Lk 9:18-22, 26th Sept: Lk 9:43-45.

FROM FR PETER

Our parish committees met for the September Parish Pastoral Gathering with many plans for the next few months. A few highlights from each of the teams:

Liturgy: 3 new electric candle stands have been ordered. Thank you to the many groups and individuals who have put so much effort into raising money to complete our transition from wax candles to electric candles. This is also a way to promote the safety, particularly of little children, who often roam the corridors on the weekend. Remember the spirit of safety for each other as we gather each week at St Pat's.

Formation: Thank you to the Formation team for hosting the Eucharistic Ministers reflection evening during the week. A small group met sharing thoughts and reflections on how we effectively minister to others in our Parish. The Formation group are now looking at events in preparation for Advent.

Social Justice: Next Sunday - 27th September is Social Justice Sunday. The theme for 2009 set by the Australian Bishops is "and you will be my witnesses: young people and justice". Copies of the Social Justice Statement will be available next weekend. October is Mission Month. The Social Justice group is planning events for the month so keep an eye out for those in coming weeks.

Social Committee: Plans for the Parish Christmas Party are underway. Keep the 29th of November free to celebrate Christmas with your fellow parishioners. More details to come in the next few weeks.

Grounds and Maintenance: The work of fixing the roof is just about complete and we continue to look at ways to reduce our electricity bill. Enquires are being made about energy efficient light bulbs which not only save money, but also reduce the impact on the environment, something that we must continue to be very conscious of.

As I mentioned a few weeks ago, it was crunch time for this gathering as we looked at the best way forward for our parish. The decision from the group was to meet every two months on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 7.30pm. The 5 groups will meet as they need in between these times and then again at our gathering. Remember that these committees are always open to others of all ages in our parish. Let us continue to build on the spirit of community that has been witnessed so enthusiastically through our Parish Pastoral Gatherings!

SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY

We celebrate Social Justice Sunday on 27 September. This year's Social Justice Sunday statement is titled 'And You Will Be My Witnesses'

During World Youth Day 2008, Australia saw thousands of young Christians inspired by the Holy Spirit. Yet many young people are marginalised., excluded and deprived of dignity. The Bishops recall the challenge of Pope Benedict - 'What will you leave the next generation? What difference will you make?' - and present it again to all Australians, young and old.

St Patrick's Social Justice Committee have arranged for copies of the document to be available on Social Justice Sunday (26/27 Sept) for a gold coin donation.

For further details about the Catholic Bishops' Statement, visit the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council website (www.acsjc.org.au) or call (02) 8306 3499.

RECOVERY PROGRAM FOR THOSE WHO ARE SEPARATED OR WIDOWED

Sole Ministry offers a seven weeks program that has proved to be most effective way to deal with the loss and adjust to life without your previous "soul mate". The program begin at 7.30 on Wed 21 Oct at the Diocesan Assembly Centre Marion St Blacktown. More details on the notice boards.

OCTOBER - THE MONTH OF THE ROSARY



In 3 weeks it will be October. Warmer weather, 3 months until Christmas and another thought that comes to mind is that October is the month of the rosary.

So come and join us at least 15 minutes before each mass. Anyone can lead in saying the rosary. This is a great opportunity to unite the whole community.

ALTAR SERVERS GET-TOGETHER!!!!

It's time to arrange another altar servers get together ... BUT ... this time we would like one or two families to work together to organise the next event. If you would like to work with Lisa in planning and organising the next Altar Servers Get-together, call the parish office on 9622 1125 or email youth@stpatricksparish.org.au. It won't take lots of time and it will be lots of fun!

BETTY AND JEAN'S BUS TRIP



ATTENTION!! ATTENTION!! THE TRIP TO FLORIADIE HAS BEEN BROUGHT FORWARD TO TUESDAY 29 SEPTEMBER. Please ring and reconfirm reservation with Jean on 9920 3401 or mobile 0425 251 754 .

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST PAT'S...

- Monday 21 Sep Marian College Year 12 Mass
- Thursday 24 Sept St Pat's Primary Mercy Day Prayer Celebration
- Friday 25 Sep CCD Catechists Mass Presided by Bishop Kevin Manning
- Sat 26 Sep Youth Music Workshop
- Sun 27 Sep Justice Sunday

ARE YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW INTERESTED IN BECOMING A CATHOLIC?

Perhaps you are interested in learning more about the Catholic Church

OR

Perhaps you are just curious about what Catholics believe. Please join the RCIA Team for a cuppa and a short 30-45 minutes session to find out more about the process of becoming a Catholic

WHEN

SUNDAY 27 SEPT AFTER 8.30AM MASS (Parish Hall)

SUNDAY 27 SEPT AFTER 10AM MASS (Parish Hall)

OR

TUESDAY 29 SEPT AT 7.30PM (Parish Dining Room)

For further information contact either Sr Judith at judith@maristsisters.org or phone Claudette at the parish office

Fundraising

As Fr Peter mentioned in the bulletin last week, if anyone has any ideas on fundraising, the committee would love to hear from you. Perhaps a fundraising committee is needed! Please ring the office and we would gladly pass on your idea to the committee.

MORNING TEA

We would just like to remind those who attend the 10am mass that there is morning tea to which you are most welcomed. That invitation is also extended the new parishioners as well as all the visitors of St Pat's. What a wonderful way to meet other parishioners and make new friends. This is community building! Come along do not be shy and best of all it is FREE.



Special collection updates as at 13/09/09

Father's Day Appeal - \$1345.60

Catholic Mission (Propagation of Faith) - \$5060.30

Diocesan Works Fund - \$10,319.45

Thank you for your generosity.

Neng Pasiona

SACRAMENTAL PROCESS 2010

The time has come to commence the 2010 Sacramental Process. If you have a child who is 8yrs old in years 3-6 in 2009 AND BAPTISED, please call Claudette at the Parish Office on 9622 1125 during business hours to register your child.

There will be an Enquiry Session for PARENTS ONLY on Monday 26th October 2009 in the Church at 7.30pm. If you have registered your child, a letter will be sent out closer to the date inviting you to the session.

There will be ONLY ONE ENQUIRY SESSION and all the information regarding the process will be given on the night.

SACRAMENTAL TEAM



YOUTH BAND WORKSHOP
For those involved in Music Ministry for youth or would like to be part of the youth Band.

WHEN: Saturday 26th September
PROGRAM: 10am: Music for Youth Mass Workshop by *Julie Kelly: Liturgy Coordinator for the Parramatta Diocese*
1pm: BBQ Lunch,
2pm: Music Sharing **4pm:** Finish
WHERE: St Patrick's Parish Church
RSVP: To Lisa on 9622 1125 or youth@stpatricksparish.org.au by **Monday 21st September**
To RSVP, complete the registration form by downloading it from www.stpatricksparish.org.au and then clicking on Youth Ministry link.



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.

Pious Goods Store ... is opened after every mass on the weekend. Lots of beautiful gifts & ideas for that special occasion. It is fully stocked and Mary Mackillop items are also available. So come and browse - you may find that special gift for that special person you have been looking for! At the same time you will be supporting your parish.



LOAVES AND FISHES NEEDS YOUR HELP...

This week we would appreciate your help in providing the following food items for the homeless: Long Life Milk, Large Cereal, Biscuits, Tinned Mixed Vegetables.



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

Deanery Debate Round 3: Sunday 20th September

St Patrick's Blacktown vs St Bernadette's Lalor Park
St Pat's Primary School Library
5.30pm Mass; 7-8pm Debate
Come along & watch this event & cheer along St Pat's.



Call Lisa on 9622 1125 or email youth@stpatricksparish.org.au

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