



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@stpatrikparish.org.au Web: www.stpatrikparish.org.au

25 December 2011

CHRISTMAS

Year B

Parish Team

Fr Peter Confeggi
Parish Priest
Fr Dénes Lédeczi
(Part Time Hungarian Chaplain)
Owen Rogers
Deacon
Claudette Cheetham
Parish Secretary
Jacqueline Anchique
Finance Officer
Sr Judith Lythall
Pastoral Associate

Co-ordinators

Catechists: Christina Rodricks
RCIA: Sr Judith Lythall
Children's Liturgy: Alex Clark
Hospitality Committee: Sandra Baker
Pious Goods: Mrs Patricia Regan
Sacramental Program: Mrs Claudette Cheetham
10am Choir Rehearsal: 7.00 pm Thursday
Grounds & Maintenance: Don McKechnie

Weekly Mass Times:

Mon - Sat 9.00am
First Friday Mass:
9.00am **St Pat's,**
8am & 7.30pm **Mass St Michael's Sth Blacktown**
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)

Contacts

Hospital Chaplain
Fr Ed Kenny - 0425 241 497
Loaves & Fishes
51- 59 Allawah St, Blacktown
9621 2758
Catholic Care
51- 59 Allawah St, Blacktown
8822 2222
Blacktown@ccss.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
mb@instituteformission.com.au



CHRISTMAS IN A SECULAR SOCIETY

Christmas is a multifaceted time of the year. There are those end-of-year work parties that act as a preamble for the summer holidays. Cars seem to stout reindeer horns, while people visit the aged and frail. Devout agnostics and angry atheists even exchange Christmas gifts! Something of the Christian spirit lives in our secular bones. For many, life at this time of the year sits somewhere between *silly season* and *Christmas spirit*. And then when we reach the 25th day of the month in this most secular of cultures, Churches are full and carols are sung.

Whether you are making an annual pilgrimage to your Church or you are someone who comes weekly or even daily, you are equally a part of the community of the Church. I trust that you have received a warm St Pat's welcome in a community that is noted for its hospitality. Being together and hearing anew the Christmas story provides a wonderful opportunity to reflect on our lives individually, as a community and as a nation. **What demands your best time and energy and what do we understand to be the foundation of our lives?**

One of the extraordinary ironies of our Australian secular culture is that we have never been so wealthy and yet complaints abound. It is as though we are **caught between affluence and anxiety!** With an economy the envy of the world and Christmas tables groaning under the weight of calorie laden goodies, you are bound to find some classic wingers at you Christmas gatherings. So we may well ask: **is the secular vision enough? What is missing?** Pope Benedict recently commented, **"we know that, ultimately, Christian faith provides a surer basis for life than the secular vision; for it is only in the mystery of the Word made flesh that the mystery of humanity truly becomes clear."** Perhaps the restless anxiety of our affluent secular culture lies in the fact that it is in search of surer basis for our secular society. Of course that is what has brought you to St Pat's this Christmas!

When the writer of St John's Gospel came to speak of the birth of Jesus, he used the expression "the Word became flesh". Scholars tell us that in the original Greek of the next expression – *and dwelt among us* - is literally *"he pitched his tent among us."* Despite the present *la Niña* and the summer that we are not having, I imagine that there will be people who will pitch the odd tent in camping grounds across the nation. When you do that, you live close to the ordinariness of life. Come the southerly buster and your accommodation can be pretty fragile.

Our God has become flesh in Jesus Christ and has *pitched his tent among us*. The Church too has pitched its tent in a very secular Australian society. As we celebrate this Christmas, let us name all that is good in this multifaceted season. When our celebration is grounded in faith, all the trimmings of this season can be lots of fun. However, as Christians we also know that our faith provides a surer foundation than our secular culture, which without faith, seems more and more given to anxiety despite our affluence.

Fr Peter

CHRISTMAS—Year B

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Let us all rejoice in the Lord, for our Saviour is born to the world. True peace has descended from heaven.

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 9:1-7

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

SECOND READING: TITUS 2:11-14

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Good News and great joy to all the world: today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord. Alleluia!



GOSPEL: LUKE 2:1-14

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Today a Saviour has been born for you.

Caesar Augustus issued a decree for a census of the whole world to be taken. This census - the first - took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria, and everyone went to his own town to be registered. So Joseph set out from the town of Nazareth in Galilee and travelled up to Judaea, to the town of David called Bethlehem, since he was of David's House and line, in order to be registered together with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there the time came for

her to have her child, and she gave birth to a son, her first-born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn. In the countryside close by there were shepherds who lived in the fields and took it in turns to watch their flocks during the night. The angel of the

Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone round them. They were terrified, but the angel said, 'Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.' And suddenly with the angel there was a great throng of the heavenly host, praising God and singing:

God to God in the highest heaven,
and peace to men who enjoy his favour'.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

The Word of God became man; we have seen his glory.

Mass for the soul of the following: Joseph Tabone, Nell Saville, Mick Waters, Peter Hickson, William & Doeothy Grosset, Stanley Stokes, Joaquin Sumera, Carlisle Bartley, The Schembri family, P. Camilleri, Maggie Fernandes, Edgardo Clemente, Paulina Clemente, the abandoned souls and all souls in purgatory.

Special Intentions: Brian Roberts, Virginia Duspara, Carmen Galea, Louis Cassar, Angelo Vella, Grace Vella, Loreta Cassar, Laurance Cassar

Mass for the Sick: Sr Judith Lythall, Sharon & Adam Kennedy, Noej Jupp, Joan McCabe, Jan Mossfield, Jean Maclean, Santino Granturco, Terry Nolan, Wal Corrigan, Cath Sullivan, Louis Vassello, Mary Cariente, Teresa McCann, Brian Lees, Joyce Vella, Anna Hillman, Naomi Petrie, Mary Toohey, Frank Vella, Ray Reid, Val Lehne, Henry Hass, Walter and Amy Marston, Ernie Brown

Daily Readings

M 26 Dec: (St Stephen) Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59, Mt 10:17-22;

T 27 Dec: (St John) 1 Jn 1:1-4, Jn 20:2-8;

W 28 Dec (Holy Innocents) 1 Jn 1:5-2:2, Mt 2:13-18;

T 29 Dec: 1 Jn 2:3-11; Lk 2:22-35;

F 30 Dec: (Holy Family) Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14, Col 3:12-21, Lk 2:22-40;

S 31 Dec: 1 Jn 2:18-21, Jn 1:1-8

LOAVES AND FISHES

Loaves & Fishes is closed and will reopen Monday 23 Jan 2012. Thank you to all the parishioners who supported those less fortunate in our community this year.



Fr Wim's Pilgrimage to the Holy Land - Sept 2012

Fr Wim Hoekstra, Dean of St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta, will be leading a 14 day pilgrimage to Jordan and Israel leaving on Sat 22nd Sept and returning Sat 6th Oct 2012. Come and see places associated with the life and ministry of Jesus - walk where Jesus walked, pray where Jesus prayed...Jerusalem, Galilee, Bethlehem, Nazareth, Cana and many other places, including marvellous Petra in Jordan.

There will be an information evening at 7.30pm on Thursday, 16th February 2012 at St Patrick's Cathedral Hall.

For brochure and information, check the Israel 2012 link at www.stpatscathedral.com.au or contact Fr Wim on (02) 8839 8420 or wim@stpatscathedral.com.au for any enquiries.

Church Cleaning Roster

Week Commencing:

26/12/11 Couples for Christ

02/01/12 **Vacant**

09/01/12 Roanne Enriquez, Elvie and Bob Reys

16/01/12 Youth

Can you help out? Contact Claudette at Parish Office on 9622 1125 ... We need at least two more teams so that people will clean once every eight weeks.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS OVER CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR

The Parish Office will be closed from Monday 27 Dec till Monday 2 Jan. It will reopen on Tuesday 3 Jan till Friday 6 Jan 9-12noon ONLY. The office hours will return to normal on Monday 9 Jan 2012.

ST PATRICK'S PRIMARY CLASS REUNION

A class reunion is being planned for St Patrick's Primary Kindergarten class of 1972 finishing primary in 1978 on 24 February, 2012 at 7.30pm (venue to be advised later). Come along and make contact with your old class mates. Contact Simone McKechnie on 0418 296 279 or on Facebook or Leigh McLean on 0424 231 080 or on Facebook.

Baptism Preparation

We have Baptism preparation which is held on the first Wednesday of each month at 7pm in the church. We also extend our invitation to the godparents to attend the preparation. The session lasts for about 1 hour and it is an interactive session involving parents and godparents. If you want or know of someone who wants their child baptised please contact the parish office for more information.



Please note there is no baptism during Lent. Next year Lent starts from 22 Feb and finishes on Good Friday 6 April.

SACRAMENTAL PROCESS 2012

If you have a child at school in years 2-5 and BAPTISED, please call Claudette during office hours for more information. You can also obtain a registration form from both foyers or from the parish website www.stpatricksparish.org.au. Please pass on this information if you know parents who are interested in having their child fully initiated. We are currently finalising enrolments for the Sacraments of Reconciliation (Confession), First Communion and

THANK YOU

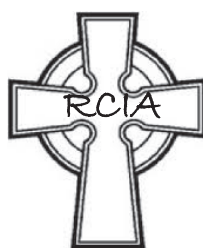
The Parish staff would like to thank all the parishioners for their wishes for Christmas and New Year. As always it has been a busy year but without the help and support of the volunteers from the different ministries it wouldn't have been possible. We look forward to work with you next year and we wish you and your family a safe and Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year. Take care of each other and God bless.

ADULT CONFIRMATION

If you are 18 years or older and have been baptised Catholic, received your first Holy Communion but never confirmed....there is an opportunity for you to prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation and be confirmed with other adults throughout the diocese.

For further information contact Sr Judith at the parish office on 9622 1125 or judith@stpatricksparish.org.au

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA)



COME AND SEE!

When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, 'What are you looking for?' They said to him, 'Rabbi' (which translated means Teacher), 'where are you staying?' He said to them, 'Come and see.'

John 1:38-39

St Patrick's Parish is a community united by its faith in God. Often people move into our community or hear about it elsewhere, and decide that they want to part of our family. Sometimes people have an experience of our community or someone is calling them to take a new direction in their lives.

People wonder whether this is God working in their life and whether just sense that something or they want to become a part of our community and the wider Catholic Church.

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is a process by which adults are initiated into the Catholic Church. It is a gradual process that takes place with the support of the parish community. The parish has an RCIA team which is committed to supporting you along the journey. Regular gatherings allow you to pray and reflect on God's word and to learn about the Catholic faith.

If you would like to know more about becoming part of our RCIA Process contact our Parish Office 9622 1125 or judith@stpatricksparish.org.au

A New Year, New Friends and The Same Great Lord

Vita Youth Group 15th Jan after 5.30pm Mass yrs. 7-10 welcome.

Vita + All other youth are heading to Bondi Beach Thurs 19th of January. Start praying for sunny weather

Check out Facebook: St Patricks Youth Blacktown for all other news. If interested in any youth activities please email youth@stpatricksparish.org.au

Information about the various groups and ministries at St Patrick's can be found in the Parish Directory available in the foyers or from the Parish Website

www.stpatricksparish.org.au



***Is the stress of the Christmas period getting you down?
Would you like someone to talk to?***

CatholicCare may be able to provide you with some assistance. We have counselling programs designed at improving and enriching family relationships, building skills to manage finances, and improving the ability to manage problematic gambling behaviour.

There are programs that work directly with children and families with a counselling/ case management model where the aim is to support families through difficult times.

Our Blacktown Neighbour Aid service supports the frail aged and younger people with a disability living in the Blacktown area, this program offers companionship with home visitation and help with shopping and medical appointments.

These services are all available from our Blacktown office located within the church building.

For a more information contact us on 02 8822 2222.

All phone calls are considered confidential.

<p>Glen Murray Plumbing</p> <p>Lic.No.L11984 0419 294 030 OR (02) 9621 5676</p> <p><i>Domestic & Commercial Maintenance & Renewals Sewer Blockages & Gas Installations</i></p>	<p>www.guardianfunerals.com.au Australian owned 24 hours All areas Prearranged Funerals</p> <p>Blacktown 9622 1284 Cnr Sunnholt Rd and First Ave</p> <p>GUARDIAN FUNERALS To embrace a lifetime, we give you time. Chapel, catering and DVD facilities at this location.</p>	<p>W. WRIGHT & SON'S TILING PTY LTD</p> <p>9 Browning Place, Seven Hills Email: wwtiles@bigpond.net.au</p> <p>Phone/Fax 9624 1638</p> <p>Bathroom renovations Wall & floor tiles supplied & fixed or fixed only</p>
<p>Piazzetta Bella Italian Restaurant Open Tuesday - Sunday Lunch & Dinner</p> <p><i>Functions for: Birthdays, Baptism, confirmations, engagements, weddings, baby showers & farewells</i></p> <p>Group menus available starting from \$25, as well as a High Tea menu.</p> <p>502 Great Western Highway, Pendle Hill 9636 4088</p>	<p>CAS CHARLES SANT TAX PREPARATION & LODGEMENT</p> <p>BOOKKEEPING PAYROLL & BAS ACCOUNTING SERVICES COACHING AND MENTORING</p> <p>9920 5690 0410 662 591</p>	<p>Family Pet Minding <i>Quality pet care while you're away</i> Phone: Sonia on 0425 254 610 E-Mail: info@familypetminding.com.au</p> <p><i>Services Include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Airport Transfers - Pet Sitting - Doggy Day Care - Dog Grooming - Hydrobath - Micro chipping - Quarantine Care - Dog Walking - Pet Transport
<p>Adams Tavern BLACKTOWN Enjoy a meal with family and friends</p> <p>\$5 Pizza on Tuesday nights 61 Richmond Road, Blacktown Ph 9831 1171 Open til late – free courtesy bus</p>	<p>Monaghan & Gleeson Funeral Directors 02 9896 3299 Servicing the Parish of Blacktown</p> <p><i>"Caring is our Duty"</i></p>	<p>SGS AIR CONDITIONING</p> <p>All your air conditioning needs Office: (02) 9838 4028 M: 0411 794 999 John McGrath</p>