

Catholic Parish of St Patrick Guildford

Rev. Fr. Peter Blayney - Parish Priest
Rev. Fr. Treesen Silva - Sri Lankan
Chaplain and Assistant Priest
Sr. Helen Cunningham OP - Pastoral
Associate

Parish Office: 32 Calliope Street
Guildford NSW 2161
Parish Office Telephone: 9632.2672
Email:
admin@guildfordcatholicchurch.org.au
Website:
www.guildfordcatholicchurch.org.au
Manning Foundation: 0497 973 311

Est. 1933



To Live, Love and Act
Like Jesus

Parish Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday: 8:30am to 3:00pm
Friday: 8:30am to 2:00pm

Closed daily: 12:30pm to 1:00pm

St. Patrick's Primary School
Principal: Mr. Steven Jones

Phone: 8728.7300

Email:

stpatsguildford@parra.catholic.edu.au

Website:

www.stpatsguildford.catholic.edu.au

3 & 4 February 2024
5th Sunday in Ordinary Time — Year B

WEEKLY TIMETABLE

Sunday Masses:

Saturday Vigil: 5:30pm
Sunday: 8:00am and 10:00am

Weekday Masses:

Tuesday: 9:15am
Wednesday: 9:15am
Thursday: 9:15am
Friday: 9:15am

Sacrament of Penance:

Saturday: 4:30pm to 5:15pm

Eucharistic Adoration:

Friday: After the 9:15am Mass, for one hour,
concluding with Benediction



Baptisms: Please contact the Parish Office by telephone (9632.2672) to arrange a Baptism. Baptisms are held every 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month at 11:15am, or during any Sunday Mass, to be negotiated with the Parish Priest. Baptism Preparation will be explained when you contact the Parish Office.



Mass Intentions



Recently Deceased:

Karen Cartwright, Pinar Cabadag, Dana Arachchige, Maureen Murray, Ann DeCourcy

Anniversaries:

Felix Gonsalves, Matthew Joseph Lane, Piet Lie, Walfarida Tan, Lie Song Cut, Lidumina Lie, Keith McCormick, Lawrence Frois, Nunzia D'Elia, Maria Palombit, Maria Luca, Francesco Ramundi

Deceased:

Mary Jane Axiak, Rima & Bassima Hanna & Family, Peter, Janette & Eid Majed & Family, Elias Jamil & Family, Felix Gonsalves, Nayef El-Khoury, Jreige & Laila Jlalaty, George E. Majed & Family, Souls in Purgatory



PARISH PRAYER

Loving God we thank you for being with us always. Open our hearts to hear your voice.

Help us, Lord, to make this Parish a place of mercy and hope, where all feel welcomed, loved, respected, forgiven and encouraged.

In your love and wisdom, help and guide all of us to be good ambassadors for Christ, both in service to others and in proclaiming the Gospel.

Send your Holy Spirit among us Lord so that we may be filled with your grace and peace as we go about our lives in this world.

We pray in the name of Jesus.

Amen



LITURGY OF THE WORD

5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME—YEAR B



1ST READING: JOB 7:1-4, 6-7

A reading from the prophet Job

Job began to speak:

Is not man's life on earth nothing more than pressed service, his time no better than hired drudgery?

Like the slave, sighing for the shade, or the workman with no thought but his wages, months of delusion I have assigned to me, nothing for my own but nights of grief.

Lying in bed I wonder, 'When will it be day?'

Risen I think, 'How slowly evening comes!'

Restlessly I fret till twilight falls.

Swifter than a weaver's shuttle my days have passed, and vanished, leaving no hope behind.

Remember that my life is but a breath, and that my eyes will never again see joy.

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: PS 146:1-6

Response: Praise the Lord who heals the broken-hearted.

Praise the Lord for he is good; sing to our God for he is loving: to him our praise is due. **R.**

The Lord builds up Jerusalem and brings back Israel's exiles, he heals the broken-hearted, he binds up all their wounds, he fixes the number of the stars; he calls each one by its name. **R.**

Our Lord is great and almighty; his wisdom can never be measured. The Lord raises the lowly; he humbles the wicked to the dust. **R.**

2ND READING: 1 CORINTHIANS 9:16-19, 22-23

A reading from the first letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians

I do not boast of preaching the gospel, since it is a duty which has been laid on me; I should be punished if I did not preach it! If I had chosen this work myself, I might have been paid for it, but as I have not, it is a responsibility which has been put into my hands. Do you know what my reward is? It is this: in my preaching, to be able to offer the Good News free, and not insist on the rights which the gospel gives me.

So though I am not a slave of any man I have made myself the slave of everyone so as to win as many as I could. For the weak I made myself weak. I made myself all things to all men in order to save some at any cost; and I still do this, for the sake of the gospel, to have a share in its blessing.

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: MATTHEW 8:17

Alleluia, alleluia!

He bore our sickness, and endured our suffering.

Alleluia!

THE GOSPEL: MARK 1:29-39

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

On leaving the synagogue, Jesus went with James and John straight to the house of Simon and Andrew. Now Simon's mother-in-law had gone to bed with fever, and they told him about her straightaway. He went to her, took her by the hand and helped her up. And the fever left her and she began to wait on them.

That evening, after sunset, they brought to him all who were sick and those who were possessed by devils. The whole town came crowding round the door, and he cured many who were suffering from diseases of one kind or another; he also cast out many devils, but he would not allow them to speak, because they knew who he was.

In the morning, long before dawn, he got up and left the house, and went off to a lonely place and prayed there. Simon and his companions set out in search of him, and when they found him they said, 'Everybody is looking for you.' He answered, 'Let us go elsewhere, to the neighbouring country towns, so that I can preach there too, because that is why I came.' And he went all through Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out devils.

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ



**He bore our
sickness,
and
endured
our
suffering.**

***How do I
help others
who are
suffering?***

PARISH NOTICES

MORNING TEA AFTER 10:00AM MASS TODAY:

We would like to invite everyone to join us for morning tea today and on the following first Sundays. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided. Kids corner!
When: After the 10:00am Mass. **Where:** At the Parish Hall.

STRENGTHEN YOUR FAITH JOURNEY WITH ST. PATRICK'S MEN'S GROUP!

Unveil the richness of Catholic masculinity at the St. Patrick's Men's Group. Initiated in mid-2023, our monthly gatherings have fostered personal growth and spiritual exploration. Now, we would like to extend our invitation to all men parish-wide, join us for a profound experience during our first meeting of 2024 on Tuesday, 13 February at 6:30pm and begin your Lenten journey in brotherhood. Contact Antonio on 0424 629 366 if you have any questions. All ages 16+ welcome.

TAP & GO" DONATION POINT:

The opportunity is now available for parishioners and visitors to donate to St. Patrick's Parish using a credit or debit card. The majority of parishes in the Diocese now have this facility. Following advice from both the Parish Pastoral Council and the Finance Committee to install this donation point, it is available for use at the weekend Masses. The donation is pre-programmed for \$5.00 per tap of the card over the tap symbol. If you wish to donate more than \$5.00, tap again. It takes a few seconds to record your donation. The Diocese's encouragement to use this facility is a response to the trend where most people carry little, if any, cash these days. The donation point does not take the place of the First and Second collections or the weekly envelope offerings. St. Patrick's is very grateful for your donations, however you wish to make them.
~ Fr. Peter Blayney

MASS INTENTIONS: To prevent confusion and assumptions, could parishioners clearly identify if a Mass intention, for publication in the Bulletin, is either **Recently Deceased, Anniversary or Deceased.** It would also be helpful if names were printed clearly on the envelope. Printed envelopes are available at the back of the Church. Thank you for your co-operation.

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE: Will be held in the Confessional Room every Saturday from 4:30pm to 5:15pm.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Will be held on Fridays, after the 9:15am Mass, for one hour, concluding with Benediction. This hour will be a quiet time of prayer and reflection.

ST. PATRICK'S SENIOR CITIZEN'S CLUB is for anyone over 55. We meet every two weeks in the Parish Hall at 9:30am. All welcome. For more information, please contact Keith on 9632.5379.

CHURCH CLEANLINESS: A friendly reminder to keep the house of the Lord clean by taking all your rubbish with you at the conclusion of Holy Mass — this includes all used tissues. Thank you for your co-operation.

DIOCESAN NOTICES

DIOCESAN MASS AND FORMATION SESSION FOR THE 2024 WORLD DAY OF THE SICK:

Mary Queen of the Family Parish, St. Patrick's Church, Blacktown will be hosting a Formation Session as well as the Diocesan Mass for the World Day of the Sick, 2024 on Saturday, 10 February 2024. **Formation Session:** Reflection on Pope Francis' Message for the World Day of the Sick 2024 led by Deacon Dr. Michael Tan – 9:30am-10:30am. An Invitation to anyone interested in the care of the sick and the dying. (Carers, aged care workers, medical students, medical practitioners, disability services, extraordinary ministers of communion).

RSVPs are required by 6 February 2024

to: marisa.vanderhout@parracatholic.org. Mass, including the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick - 11:00am-12:30pm. Principal Celebrant: Most Reverend Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFM Conv DD STL. Those who may be elderly, sick, and those who care for the sick and dying and health care professionals. This will also suit families with loved ones in Aged Care who can take their loved ones on an outing to the Mass, receive the Anointing of the Sick, and then have lunch together. All welcome to join us for the Mass. **RSVPs are required by 6 February 2024 to:** mary.gale@parracatholic.org.

****NEW DATE** MUSIC FOR LENT WORKSHOP -**

8 FEBRUARY: Musicians and Liturgy Planners are invited to attend an evening exploring Music for Lent on **Thursday, 8 February 2024** from 7:00pm to 8:30pm at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown. The session will be presented by Eric Grella, Music Formation Facilitator, Mission Enhancement Team. To RSVP, please contact lucy.woodbury@parracatholic.org or telephone 0460 037 795 by 6 February 2024.

DIOCESAN MEMORIAL MASS OF ST. JOSEPHINE

BAKHITA - 11 FEBRUARY: Join Bishop Vincent for the annual Diocesan Memorial Mass of St. Josephine Bakhita, Patron Saint of South Sudan and Sudan, and Victims of Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking. It will be held at St. Patrick's Church, Mary, Queen of the Family Parish, Sunday, 11 February at 12:30pm, followed by fellowship, food, and community entertainment. All are welcome to attend.

BISHOP VINCENT PRESENTS A CONVERSATION WITH MONSIGNOR TOMAS HALIK -

12 FEBRUARY: Diocese of Parramatta invites you to a conversation with Czech priest and theologian Monsignor Tomas Halik on Monday, 12 February at 6:00pm at St. Patrick's Cathedral Hall, Parramatta. Join the waitlist now or register for the livestream by visiting <https://parracatholic.org/events/tomashalik/>.



MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS XXXII WORLD DAY OF THE SICK

11 February 2024

“It is not good that man should be alone”. Healing the Sick by Healing Relationships

“It is not good that man should be alone” (cf. *Gen 2:18*). From the beginning, God, who is love, created us for communion and endowed us with an innate capacity to enter into relationship with others. Our lives, reflecting in the image of the Trinity, are meant to attain fulfilment through a network of relationships, friendships and love, both given and received. We were created to be together, not alone. Precisely because this project of communion is so deeply rooted in the human heart, we see the experience of abandonment and solitude as something frightening, painful and even inhuman. This is all the more the case at times of vulnerability, uncertainty and insecurity, caused often by the onset of a serious illness.

In this regard, I think of all those who found themselves terribly alone during the Covid-19 pandemic: the patients who could not receive visitors, but also the many nurses, physicians and support personnel overwhelmed by work and enclosed in isolation wards. Naturally, we cannot fail to recall all those persons who had to face the hour of their death alone, assisted by healthcare personnel, but far from their own families.

I share too in the pain, suffering and isolation felt by those who, because of war and its tragic consequences, are left without support and assistance. War is the most terrible of social diseases, and it takes its greatest toll on those who are most vulnerable.

At the same time, it needs to be said that even in countries that enjoy peace and greater resources, old age and sickness are frequently experienced in solitude and, at times, even in abandonment. This grim reality is mainly a consequence of the culture of individualism that exalts productivity at all costs, cultivates the myth of efficiency, and proves indifferent, even callous, when individuals no longer have the strength needed to keep pace. It then becomes a throwaway culture, in which “persons are no longer seen as a paramount value to be cared for and respected, especially when they are poor or disabled, ‘not yet useful’ – like the unborn, or ‘no longer needed’ – like the elderly” (*Fratelli Tutti*, 18). Sadly, this way of thinking also guides certain political decisions that are not focused on the dignity of the human person and his or her needs, and do not always promote the strategies and resources needed to ensure that every human being enjoys the fundamental right to health and access to healthcare. The abandonment of the vulnerable and their isolation is favoured also by the reduction of healthcare merely to a provision of services, without these being accompanied by a “therapeutic covenant” between physicians, patients and family members.

We do well to listen once more to the words of the Bible: “It is not good for man to be alone!” God spoke those words at the beginning of creation and thus revealed to us the profound meaning of his project for humanity, but at the same time, the mortal wound of sin, which creeps in by generating suspicions, fractures, divisions and consequently isolation. Sin attacks persons and all their relationships: with God, with themselves, with others, with creation. Such isolation causes us to miss the meaning of our lives; it takes away the joy of love and makes us experience an oppressive sense of being alone at all the crucial passages of life.

Brothers and sisters, the first form of care needed in any illness is compassionate and loving closeness. To care for the sick thus means above all to care for their relationships, all of them: with God, with others – family members, friends, healthcare workers – , with creation and with themselves. Can this be done? Yes, it can be done and all of us are called to ensure that it happens. Let us look to the icon of the Good Samaritan (cf. *Lk 10:25-37*), to his ability to slow down and draw near to another person, to the tender love with which he cares for the wounds of a suffering brother.

Let us remember this central truth in life: we came into the world because someone welcomed us; we were made for love; and we are called to communion and fraternity. This aspect of our lives is what sustains us, above all at times of illness and vulnerability. It is also the first therapy that we must all adopt in order to heal the diseases of the society in which we live.

To those of you who experience illness, whether temporary or chronic, I would say this: Do not be ashamed of your longing for closeness and tenderness! Do not conceal it, and never think that you are a burden on others. The condition of the sick urges all of us to step back from the hectic pace of our lives in order to rediscover ourselves.

At this time of epochal change, we Christians in particular are called to adopt the compassion-filled gaze of Jesus. Let us care for those who suffer and are alone, perhaps marginalized and cast aside. With the love for one another that Christ the Lord bestows on us in prayer, especially in the Eucharist, let us tend the wounds of solitude and isolation. In this way, we will co-operate in combating the culture of individualism, indifference and waste, and enable the growth of a culture of tenderness and compassion.

The sick, the vulnerable and the poor are at the heart of the Church; they must also be at the heart of our human concern and pastoral attention. May we never forget this! And let us commend ourselves to Mary Most Holy, Health of the Sick, that she may intercede for us and help us to be artisans of closeness and fraternal relationships.

Rome, Saint John Lateran, 10 January 2024

FRANCIS