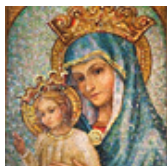


St Patrick's Parish Church Hill

Under the Pastoral Care of the Marist Fathers since 1868



3 November 2024

Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

Listen with the ear of the heart

In today's Gospel – Mark 12:28-34 – some Sadducees try to ambush Jesus on the question of the resurrection. Jesus replies: “Is not this the reason you are wrong, that you know neither the scriptures nor the power of God?” (12:24). An onlooker – a scribe – is impressed. He asks Jesus: “Which commandment is the first of all?” Jesus senses the presence of an honest searcher. He responds with the first words of a prayer that would have been said frequently by himself and the scribe: “Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, etc” The first word is critical: “Hear!” In Hebrew it is “Shema!” and lends its name to the prayer.

A Jewish scholar notes: “If one recited the Shema but cannot hear it himself, he has not fulfilled his obligation” (Bernard McGinn, ed. *The Classic Midrash: Tannaitic Commentaries on the Bible*, trans R. Hammer, Paulist Press, 1995, 310). If you do not *hear* what the Shema is saying, you will be just like the Sadducees: “You know neither the scriptures nor the power of God.” The essential thing is to let the profound truth of God's presence get into one's heart. God has entered the history of the world through this people. God is transforming all time and every place and the whole of history. Listen and *hear!*

We become hope-filled and purposeful when we hear this profound truth. When this truth gets into our hearts, our souls, our minds, it transforms us. It sets us in motion. There is therefore nothing more important for us than to *hear* this truth.

St Benedict (480-547) has a beautiful expression at the beginning of the Rule. The first word of that Rule is *obsculta* – “Listen!” He then adds, further, that we are to listen with “the ear of the heart”. This will enable us to respond and carry out the works of God with joy. The liturgy is a primary place of hearing God. But in every place, all the time God is fulfilling his promise: “I am with you!” Listen and hear and be transformed!

See www.aquinas-academy.org.au for background material on the Gospel text

Michael Whelan SM, Parish Priest

OUR SYNODAL JOURNEY

(Renewal is not) rigidly adhering to the methods adopted by the Church in the past and refusing to countenance the practical measures commonly thought to be in accord with the character of our time. These measures can be put to the test. We cannot forget Pope John XXIII's word *aggiornamento* which We have adopted as expressing the aim and object of Our own pontificate.

(Pope Paul VI, *Ecclesiam Suam*, August 6 1964, #50).

Charitable Works Fund: This weekend 2nd and 3rd November is the Archdiocesan Charitable Works Fund Appeal and we need your help. All donations from the Appeal will be spread across the six agencies CWF supports. Your tax-deductible gift changes lives! Thank you for your generosity. Click QR code for more information.



The November Book of Remembrance will be placed at the front of the church near the statue of St Patrick on Wednesday 30th October. You are invited to write the names of deceased family and friends in that Book. They will be remembered throughout the month in the prayers of the Parish. A box has been placed in front of the altar for November Mass requests. Please use the **November Mass envelopes** from the back of the church. Write the names of those for whom the Mass is requested on the envelope and place it in the box.

Sacrament of Reconciliation Schedule in November - due to several priests being away at different times in November, there will be adjustments in schedule for Reconciliation as follows: Monday - Friday: 4.45 pm - 5.20pm. Sundays: there will be no Reconciliation during the 9.00am, 12 noon and 6.00pm masses.

Legion of Mary Open Day Meet up - Sunday 3 November, 1.00pm at St Patrick's Crypt. Contact Juliana - 0438 268 739. All welcome!

The Call to Be final lecture series of 2024: Poetry's Job - Presented by Michael Griffith, PhD. Three Wednesdays from 6 November 10am-12noon in the Crypt. Cost \$90. Register at www.trybooking/CVOZY or email thecalltobe@gmail.com.

The Second Session of the Synod on Synodality is concluding in Rome. At the back of the church you will find some notes on the Synod. You are encouraged to keep abreast of this historical event.

St Pats Synodal Gathering - St Patricks Parish is on a Synodal Journey. The of synodal gatherings is praying, sharing, listening and entering into dialogue. Online gatherings via Zoom are also offered. Please check the flier at the back of the church for details or click on QR code.



PARISH DIARY THIS WEEK

4 Nov Mon St Charles Borromeo

5 Nov Tue Meditation Group 12 nn, Crypt

6 Nov Wed Our Lady of Perpetual Help
Novena; 12.30pm

7 Nov Thur Rosary Group 12.30pm, Crypt

The parish of St Patrick's acknowledges the Gadigal people of the Eora nation as the traditional custodians of this place we now call Sydney.

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy 6:2-6 (NRSV)

Moses spoke to the people: "May you and your children and your children's children fear the Lord your God all the days of your life, and keep all his decrees and his commandments that I am commanding you, so that your days may be long. "Hear therefore, O Israel, and observe them diligently, so that it may go well with you, and so that you may multiply greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, as the Lord, the God of your ancestors, has promised you. "Hear; O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart."

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Response to the Psalm

R. I love you, Lord, my strength

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews 7:23-28 (NRSV)

The priests of the first covenant were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office; but Jesus holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever. Consequently he is able for all time to save those who approach God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them. For it was fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, blameless, undefiled, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. Unlike the other high priests, he has no need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for those of the people; this he did once for all when he offered himself. For the law appoints as high priests those who are subject to weakness, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect forever.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! All who love me will keep my words, and my Father will love them and we will come to them.
Alleluia!

A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark 12:28-34 (NRSV)

One of the scribes came near and heard the religious authorities disputing with one another; and seeing that Jesus answered them well, he asked him, "Which commandment is the first of all?" Jesus answered, "The first is, 'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' "The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." Then the scribe said to him, "You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that 'he is one, and besides him there is no other'; and 'to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength,' and 'to love one's neighbour as oneself,' - this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices." When Jesus saw that the scribe answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." After that no one dared to ask Jesus any question.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

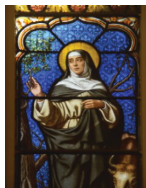
WISDOM FROM TRADITION

"Let us open our eyes to the light that comes from God, and our hearts to the voice from heaven that every day calls out this charge: 'If you hear his voice today, do not harden your hearts' (Ps. 94:8)."

(From the Prologue to *The Rule of St Benedict* - The Benedictine Center of St. Paul's Monastery, <http://www.stpaulsmonastery>.)

**St Brigid's Church,
14-16 Kent Street, Millers Point**

Did you know - St Brigid's, designed by colonial architect Ambrose Hallen, is the oldest surviving place of Catholic worship in Australia? Governor Richard Bourke approved the site and building plan in 1833.



**Join our community
for Mass - Sundays at 9.00am**

Visit our **Piety Store and Book Store** in the William Davis Courtyard every Sunday from 10 am. Discover good finds pre-loved books, prayer cards and gift items

Electronic Donations: We have two tap machines for electronic donations near the entry to the church. For regular donations from your credit card, please contact the Parish Office.

RECONCILIATION PROGRAM

MONDAY - FRIDAY:

7.30 - 7.55 am; 10.00am - 11.00am;
12.00 noon - 1.00pm; 5.00 - 6.00pm

SATURDAY: 7.30am - 7.55am; 10.30am -
12.30pm; 5.30pm - 5.55pm

SUNDAY: 7.45am - 8.30am; 8.45 am -12.45
pm; 2.45 pm - 4.45 pm; 5.30 pm - 5.55 pm.

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS: 7.30am - 7.55am;
11.30 am - 11.55am; 4.45pm - 5.20 pm

PARISH OFFICE

Address: 141 Harrington Street, Sydney
Office hours: Monday to Friday,
10.00 am - 2.00 pm

Telephone: 9254 9855 Fax: 9252 3431
Email: office@stpatschurchhill.org
Website: www.stpatschurchhill.org

St Patrick's
Church: 20 Grosvenor Street,
Sydney, NSW 2000

**A MESSAGE FROM THE
ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY**

Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with a crime are the police. If you – or anyone you know – have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office at (02) 9390 5810 or safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org. You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.

ST. PATRICK'S COFFEE SHOP
Open Tuesday - Friday 11.00 am - 2.00 pm
Sunday 10.00 am - 2.00 pm

Sunday First Collection: Support of the Marist Community at St Patrick's
Sunday Second Collection: General Parish Expenses and Maintenance.

MASS PROGRAM

MONDAY - FRIDAY: 8.00am, 10.30am,
12.00noon & 5.30pm.
**Church open from 7.30am - 6pm*

SATURDAY: 8.00am, 12.00 noon
Vigil Mass at 6.00pm.
**Church open from 7.30am - 6.45pm*

SUNDAY: 8.00am, 9.00am, 10.00am,
11.00am, 12 noon, 3.00pm, 4.00pm, 6.00pm
**Church open from 7.45am - 6.45pm*
St. Brigid's, Millers Point: 9.00am Mass

PUBLIC HOLIDAY: 8.00 am, 12 noon, 5.30
pm **Church open from 7.30am - 6.00pm*

St Patricks Parish

Fr. Michael Whelan, SM <i>Parish Priest</i>	Cindy Kurniadi, <i>Business Manager</i>
Fr. Peter McMurrich, SM	Mona Redito, <i>Office Manager</i>
Fr. Paul Mahony, SM	Andrew Carter, <i>Maintenance Manager</i>
Fr. Paul Hachey, SM	Michael Borromeo, <i>Coffee Shop Manager</i>
Fr. Michael Carroll SM	Tereza Seric, Karen Larkman <i>Safeguarding</i>
Sr. Fidelis McTeigue, SM <i>Pastoral work</i>	Helen Nejaim, <i>Sacristan</i>
Br. Terry Garrett, SM	

The church is fitted with an audio loop for the hearing impaired