

SAINT PATRICK (Patron of Ireland) Feast day: March 17.

Apostle of Ireland, born at Kilpatrick, near Dumbarton, in Scotland, in the year 387; died at Saul, Downpatrick, Ireland, 17 March, 461. Along with St. Nicholas and St. Valentine, the secular world shares our love of these saints. This is also a day when everyone's Irish. There are many legends and stories of St. Patrick, but this is his story. Patrick was born around 385 in Scotland, probably Kilpatrick. His parents were Calpurnius and Conchessa, who were Romans living in Britain in charge of the colonies. As a boy of fourteen or so, he was captured during a raiding party and taken to Ireland as a slave to herd and tend sheep. Ireland at this time was a land of Druids and pagans. He learned the language and practices of the people who held him. During his captivity, he turned to God in prayer. Patrick's captivity lasted until he was twenty, when he escaped after having a dream from God in which he was told to leave Ireland by going to the coast. There he found some sailors who took him back to Britain, where he reunited with his family. He had another dream in which the people of Ireland were calling out to him. "We beg you, holy youth, to come and walk among us once more."

He began his studies for the priesthood. He was ordained by St. Germanus, the Bishop of Auxerre, whom he had studied under for years. Later, Patrick was ordained a bishop, and was sent to take the Gospel to Ireland. He arrived in Ireland March 25, 433, at Slane. One legend says that he met a chieftain of one of the tribes, who tried to kill Patrick. Patrick converted Dichu (the chieftain) after he was unable to move his arm until he became friendly to Patrick. Patrick began preaching the Gospel throughout Ireland, converting many. He and his disciples preached and converted thousands and began building churches all over the country. Kings, their families, and entire kingdoms converted to Christianity when hearing Patrick's message. Patrick by now had many disciples, among them Beningnus, Auxilius, Iserminus, and Fiac, (All later canonized as well). Patrick preached and converted all of Ireland for 40 years. He worked many miracles and wrote of his love for God in Confessions. After years of living in poverty, traveling and enduring much suffering he died March 17, 461. He died at Saul, where he had built the first church.



SACRED HEART PARISH MORUYA



36 Queen Street (PO BOX 23) Moruya NSW 2537

Phone: 4474 2024 Email: Moruya@cg.org.au

Web: <http://cg.org.au/Moruya>

Priest: Fr George Azhakath msfs

Secretary: Mrs Pat Anderson

Parish Office hours: Wed. and Fri. 10am—3pm

Mass Times:

Moruya: Sat: Vigil 6.00 pm Sun: 10.00 am

Tue: 5.30 pm. Wed, Thu & Fri: 9.15 am

Sat: Reconciliation: 10—10.30 am

Turoos Mass: Sun. 8am Bodalla: Mass: 2nd Thursday of the month 9.15am. Fifth Sunday of the month 3 pm.

Schools: St Mary's Moruya: 4474 2817

Carroll College Broulee 4471 5600

Caring Group: Turoos Head: 0497 315 534 Moruya: 0431 354 993

Devotions: Daily Rosary before mass. First Friday Adoration & Benediction. 9.45—10.45 am (Incl. 1st Friday)



4th Sunday of Lent

-YEAR B-

March 13 & 14 2021

Behold the Cross

The Cross: the symbol of God's forgiving and merciful love.

As we continue our Lenten observance in the fourth week, the Sacred Liturgy invites us to enter more deeply into the mystery of God's grace, mercy and salvation. The central theme of today's readings is that our salvation is the free gift of a merciful God given to us through Jesus, His Son. The reading stresses God's mercy and compassion, the great love, kindness and grace extended to us in Christ. As an act of love and gratitude to God who is "rich in mercy" and as an expression of our faith, we are invited to share his sufferings by doing penance during Lent so that we may inherit our eternal salvation and the glory of his resurrection in heaven.

In the first reading, from the Second Book of Chronicles, we learn the compassion and patience of God. God allowed Cyrus the Great, a pagan conqueror, to become the instrument of His mercy and salvation for His chosen people who were in exile in Babylon. In the second reading, Paul tells us that God is so rich in mercy that He has granted us eternal salvation and eternal life as a free gift through Christ Jesus. Today's gospel has a parallel theme but on a much higher level. Jesus, the Son of God, became the agent of God's salvation, not just for one sinful nation but for the sinfulness of the whole world. Through John 3:16, the gospel teaches us that God expressed His love, mercy and compassion for us by giving His only Son for our salvation.

Fr George Azhakath msfs.

Entrance Antiphon: Rejoice, Jerusalem! Be glad for her, you who love her; rejoice her, you who mourned for her, and you will find contentment at her consoling breasts.

Communion Antiphon: To Jerusalem, that binds them together in unity, the tribes of the Lord go up to give him praise.

Prayer for Australia: Lord you place deep in our hearts the love of Mary Help of Christians. Through her prayers grant wisdom to our leaders and integrity to our citizens. Under her protection may Australia be granted harmony, justice and peace. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

Prayer after Communion:

Lord, we thank you for coming into our hearts in Communion. We believe you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament. You are our life and our hope. Draw us more deeply to yourself and transform our hearts through your abiding love. May we come to know Sunday as a special day of faith, the day of our Risen Lord. May our celebration of the Eucharist on Sunday consecrate this day to you.

O Sacrament Most Holy, O Sacrament Divine, All Praise and All Thanksgiving be every moment thine.

CLAIMING THE DATE. :

21/3 'Birthday Bash' for Fr George after the 10am Mass. Please bring a plate and BYO drinks.

30/3. **5:30** Second Rite of Reconciliation and liturgy with individual confession. A guest priest will be available. A PASCHAL MEAL to follow.

TAP & GO

The Tap and Go machine in the foyer is now available for parishioners convenience.

The machine is set at \$5.00

Happy 85th Birthday David McWilliams.

11/3/2021.

From all of us parishioners.

Also we remember his late wife Margaret whose birthday was 12/3/2021.



GARDEN TABLE SETTING: Thank you for your whole hearted response to the Garden Table Setting project and donating towards it. Happy to inform you that cost towards Table 1, 2, 3, expenses towards concreting and the BBQ table top are already sponsored. The remaining items are Posts & Sails: \$3,750., Electricity & Plumbing: \$1,600. Donations large or small towards these last two expenses would be much appreciated.

DIRECT DEBIT ACCOUNT DETAILS: Account Name: Sacred Heart Moruya. BSB: 062-786. Account Number: 000014984.

YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH. Feast Day 19th March. Saint Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid....' St. Joseph, the husband of Mary and guardian of the Child Jesus, is also the guardian of the Church. We pray that we, like Joseph, may hear the voice of God in the perplexing, troubling moments of life and do what God asks of us.

NEW PARISH SECRETARY APPOINTMENT. We welcome Vickie Moore as our new parish secretary. Vickie will commence duties on 24th March. Our old secretary's last working day will be 9th April.

HOLY WEEK PROGRAM 2021: Please see the Notice Board.



LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading : 2 Chr 36:14-16. 19-23

A reading from the second book of Chronicles

All the heads of the priesthood, and the people too, added infidelity to infidelity, copying all the shameful practices of the nations and defiling the Temple that the Lord had consecrated for himself in Jerusalem. The Lord, the God of their ancestors, tirelessly sent them messenger after messenger, since he wished to spare his people and his house. But they ridiculed the messengers of God, they despised his words, they laughed at his prophets, until at last the wrath of the Lord rose so high against his people that there was no further remedy.

Their enemies burned down the Temple of God, demolished the walls of Jerusalem, set fire to all its palaces, and destroyed everything of value in it. The survivors were deported by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon; they were to serve him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power. This is how the word of the Lord was fulfilled that he spoke through Jeremiah, 'Until this land has enjoyed its sabbath rest, until seventy years have gone by, it will keep sabbath throughout the days of its desolation.'

And in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, to fulfil the word of the Lord that was spoken through Jeremiah, the Lord roused the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia to issue a proclamation and to have it publicly displayed throughout his kingdom: 'Thus speaks Cyrus king of Persia, "The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth; he has ordered me to build him a Temple in Jerusalem, in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all his people, may his God be with him! Let him go up."'

This is the Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 136. R. v.6

(R.) Let my tongue be silenced, if ever I forget you!

1. By the rivers of Babylon there we sat and wept, remembering Zion; on the poplars that grew there we hung our harps. **(R.)**
2. For it was there that they asked us, our captors, for songs, our oppressors, for joy. 'Sing to us,' they said, 'one of Zion's songs.' **(R.)**
3. O how could we sing the song of the Lord on alien soil? If I forget you, Jerusalem, let my right hand wither! **(R.)**

4. O let my tongue cleave to my mouth if I remember you not, if I prize not Jerusalem above all my joys! **(R.)**

Second Reading: Eph 2:4-10

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

God loved us with so much love that he was generous with his mercy: when we were dead through our sins, he brought us to life with Christ – it is through grace that you have been saved – and raised us up with him and gave us a place with him in heaven, in Christ Jesus.

This was to show for all ages to come, through his goodness towards us in Christ Jesus, how infinitely rich he is in grace. Because it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith; not by anything of your own, but by a gift from God; not by anything that you have done, so that nobody can claim the credit. We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he had meant us to live it.

This is the Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: Jn 3:16

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son, that all who believe in him might have eternal life. **Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

Gospel: Jn 3:14-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to Nicodemus:

'The Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.

Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost

but may have eternal life. For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved.

No one who believes in him will be condemned; but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already,

because he has refused to believe in the name of God's only Son.

On these grounds is sentence pronounced: that though the light has come into the world men have shown they prefer darkness to the light because their deeds were evil.

And indeed, everybody who does wrong hates the light and avoids it, for fear his actions should be exposed; but the man who lives by the truth comes out into the light, so that it may be plainly seen that what he does is done in God.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

ALL: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

WORD AND LIFE this week...

1. **We need to love the cross, the symbol of God's forgiving and merciful love:** The crucifix—the symbol of the 'lifted up' Jesus—holds a central place in our churches because it is a forceful reminder not only of God's love and mercy, but also of the price of our salvation. Hence, no Christian home should be without this symbol of God's love. It invites us to more than generosity and compassion. It inspires us to remove the suffering of other people's misery. It encourages us not only to feel deep sorrow for another's suffering, but also to try our best to remove that suffering. Hence, let us love the cross, wear its image and carry our own daily cross with joy.

2. We need to reciprocate God's love by loving others. God's love is unconditional, universal, forgiving and merciful. Let us try, with His help, to make an earnest attempt to include these qualities as we share our love with others during Lent.

3. Let us be bearers of Jesus' light and carry it to other people. When we allow the light of God's forgiveness to shine in our lives, it brightens up every corner, forgives every sin, restores our relationship with God and renews our lives. Whoever follows Jesus will not walk in darkness. We will experience the joy and peace of sins forgiven of new attitudes and of new relationships with family and friends.



St Vincent de Paul "Knock on Effect" Appeal

On the weekend of the 27th and 28th March there will be a collection to support the work of St Vincent de Paul in our community. In 2020 the far south coast spent \$214,837 assisting those in need (not including bushfire victims). As well as providing physical assistance, Companions are given contacts for professionals who can support their road to recovery eg. Financial counselors, housing advocates. We urge you to assist our endeavours to continue this work through your generous donation.

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK AND HOUSE BOUND.

We continue to pray and extend our support to those who are in near lock down at Banksia Village, IRT Moruya; and the sick members of our Parish:

John Gerber, Ben Pollock, Catherine Hulse, Kathleen Ebbelaar, Carmel Trenholme, Dale Moore, Gerry Ebbelaar, Kylie Leplaw, Jean Marrion, Monique Driver, Andy McCosker, Paul Croese, Pauline & Peter Morgan, Trish Tarlington, Elizabeth Martin-Yates, John Nader & John Moore. **A more ardent prayer request is made for a speedy recovery of Anthony Morris and Gerry Ebbelaar who are in intensive care in the hospital.**

THANKS FOR PRAYERS:

* Pauline and Peter Morgan are currently at home in Tuross and want to thank parishioners for their prayers.

Thank you!

* Sr Marie O'Shea thanks us for our prayers for Sr Mary Howard who died peacefully on Monday 1st March. Her Funeral was held on 10th March, 2021. Sr Marie thought some Moruya parishioners would like to view the Livestreaming of Sr Mary Howard's Vigil and Funeral Mass which can be viewed : <https://livestream.com/accounts/8710393/events/9557128>

PRAYERS FOR THE DECEASED.

Your prayers are asked for the soul of Lorraine Moore late of Tuross Head who died in Moruya hospital on Sunday 7th March and whose funeral was held in the Sacred Heart church on Thursday 11th March. We extend our sympathy and prayers to her family and friends.



PROJECT COMPASSION:



Arshad, an Indonesian farmer, had no toilet at home and was often sick due to the practice of open defecation. Through Caritas Australia's support, Arshad and his community improved hygiene and sanitation, and funded their own toilets. **Please donate to Project Compassion**



2021 and help improve health and wellbeing of communities in Indonesia so they can work towards eradicating poverty, providing a better future for all.

FRIDGE & FREEZER DONATIONS. The Kennedy Meeting Room requires new self defrosting fridge/freezer for the Caring Group of the parish to store food that is given to those in need. The Hospitality group also need a fridge to keep food in especially for our Sunday morning gathering after Mass. We are looking to purchase a combined fridge/freezer to the value of \$1,000.00. **Donations would be welcome.**

Welcome to our friends from the Order of Malta, attending the 6pm Vigil Mass 13/3/21.