



# @HOME NEWSLETTER

Holy Family Parish Como-Kensington

Issue #12

DECEMBER 2015

Also available online at: [www.holyfamily.com.au](http://www.holyfamily.com.au)

## CAROLS @ HOLY FAMILY



It was a perfect night for the annual Holy Family Parish Carols evening. About 150 parishioners attended and enjoyed a sausage sizzle which began immediately after the 6.30pm Mass. Once the sun set, the event commenced with the first choir D'Cantor, who started the evening off on a high note with an excellent performance of five carols. The Holy Family Choir continued the high standard with five carols including the beautiful "An Australian Christmas Carol". Then a change of "pace" with two duets. Firstly, Evans and Eleanor, followed by Naomi and Claudia. The voices of these performers was a joy to listen to and Evans' rendition of "What a Wonderful World" sung in the style of Louis Armstrong drew loud applause from the very appreciative audience. The Santo Pio Choir then took to the stage and continued the high performance level set by the

previous choirs. Of particular note was their performance of "The Prayer" a beautiful musical interpretation of a mother's letter to her son who was serving in the army in Iraq.

The final performance was by the Como HFP Ukulele Group. This group of 20+ players gave an impressive performance and was a great way to end the evening. Even when there was a computer failure, they stepped up by putting on a jam session.

My thanks to the large number of volunteers who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure the evening was the wonderful success it was. My thanks also to our Choirs and all the parishioners who attended and were such an appreciative audience. It was an entertaining evening and a wonderful way to prepare for our Christmas celebrations.

IAN  
SYDNEY-SMITH

## MINISTRY TEAM

**Parish Priest:** Fr Ossie Lewis  
**Resident Priest:** Fr Greg Carroll  
**Parish Pastoral Assistants:**  
 Nola Smith & Tony Pires  
**Sacristan:**  
 Joseph Muttupulle  
**Office Staff:**  
 Cecilia Bray  
 Telephone Support:  
 Rose Hart & Shiromi Ariyaratne

**Liturgy Committee:**  
 Nola Smith  
**Adult Faith Formation:**  
 Tony Pires  
**Sacramental Preparation:**  
 Nola Smith & Mark Ferroa  
**Sacred Environment:**  
 Megan Phillips  
**Holy Family Care:**  
 Tony Pires  
**St Vincent de Paul Society:**  
 Tony Abbott

**Parish Pastoral Council Chair:**  
 Tony Pires  
**Finance Committee:**  
 Mary-Jo Sieber  
**Maintenance Committee:**  
 Jim Phillips  
**Grounds Committee:**  
 Colin Howarth  
**Social Committee:**  
 Ian Sydney-Smith  
**Communications:**  
 Nola Smith

Contact details for the above parishioners are available from the Church Office Mon-Fri 9.30am-12.30pm

## WE THANK THE FOLLOWING MINISTERS FOR THEIR SERVICE THIS WEEKEND

24/25 December	Thursday 6.30pm	Thursday 11.30pm	Friday 09.00am
<b>Acolytes</b>	Carl Celedin	Hasan Sidi	Tony Bray
<b>Altar Servers</b>	MC Acolyte C Kate Pearson S1 Jedsen Monk S2 Sienna Monk S3 Georgette Morgan	Acolyte Dimitrio Sidi Jessica Sidi Raphael Afinito	Acolyte Bryan Chong Holly Smith Eliza Puzey
<b>Commentators</b>	Alex Wu	Tony Pires	Judy Priestley
<b>Readers</b>	Tim Fitzgerald Marianne Taylor	Megan Phillips Colette Shack	Jill Hatherley Jill McGimpsey-Evans
<b>Extra-Ordinary Ministers of the Eucharist</b>	Natalie Celedin Amanda Johnson Marcus Pearson Anne Quinn Peter Quinn	Shiromi Ariyaratne Christina Sidi Breda Pires Jim Phillips	Paddy Embry Jackie Embry Grace Toczykowski Katy Fuderer
<b>Children's Sunday Liturgy</b> <i>Is in recess for the School Holidays</i>			
<b>Sacred Environment</b> Megan Phillips and Sacred Environment Team			

## BAPTISM

The sacrament of Baptism is the first of the three Sacraments of Initiation of the Catholic Church; the other two Sacraments being the Eucharist and Confirmation. As it is an important commitment parents make to bring their child into the Catholic faith community, preparation to receive this Sacrament is important. Please contact the office for a Baptism Registration Form and to make an appointment with the Parish Priest. *Baptisms take place at 11.30am on 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month.*



## MARRIAGE



If you are thinking about marriage please see your parish priest before you make other arrangements. A minimum of six months notice is required to help you prepare for this important step in your life.

## RECONCILIATION

Reconciliation is available every Saturday from 5.00pm-5.45pm or any other time by appointment



## HOME COMMUNION

Do you know anyone who is house bound or new to a Nursing Home and would like to receive Holy Communion? Phone 9450 5921 or Email [como@perthcatholic.org.au](mailto:como@perthcatholic.org.au)



## WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES DECEMBER 2015

We congratulate the following parishioners celebrating their wedding anniversaries this month:

Dorothy & Bill Chin  
 David & Katherine Gan  
 June & Malcolm Young  
 Bob & Pascale Tin  
 Dot & Greg Oliver  
 Wendy & Leo Burke  
 Michael & Stella Pang  
 Alvin & Jacqueline Kang  
 Greg & Alina White  
 Roland & Cathy Ordonez  
 Shehani Alles & Kasthuriara Dixon  
 Eleanor & Julius Fernandez  
 Astrd & Coilles Ducarme  
 Brian & Sheila Walker  
 Jessica & Don Wall  
 Marisa & Colin Kwok

God bless you on your special day



## CHRISTMAS SEASON 2015-16 HOLIDAYS

- ◆ **Feast of the Holy Family**  
Sun 27 Dec (Parish Luncheon)
- ◆ **New Years Day Mass**  
Fri 1st Dec 7pm
- ◆ **Solemnity - Mary the Mother of God**  
Fri 1 Jan 10am Mass/Morning Tea
- ◆ **Solemnity - Epiphany of the Lord**  
Sun 3 Jan
- ◆ **Feast - Baptism of the Lord**  
Sun 10 Jan
- ◆ **Australia Day Ecumenical Service**  
Tues 26 Jan 10am Mass/Morning Tea

## HAVE YOU VISITED OUR PARISH WEBSITE?

Go to [www.holyfamily.com.au](http://www.holyfamily.com.au) to view this bulletin online.



## Are you new to our Parish?

If you have recently moved into the area and would like information about our Parish, please introduce yourself to Fr Ossie and complete a New Parishioner Enrolment Form which is available at the Reception



# GREETINGS FROM FR OSSIE

Christmas is here again and I have been with you for one and a half years already and for me this past eighteen months has been a time of growth both spiritually and unfortunately physically as well (getting old). I hope and pray that it has also been a time of positive growth for you. I take this opportunity to wish each and every one of you a very happy and Holy Christmas and a joyous and prosperous New Year! May Jesus, born as an infant, Bless all our children, keep them safe and give them a big heart to love with.

God Bless,  
Fr Ossie



## Preparing for Christmas

Skye Celedin, Rita Johnson, Clara Johnson and Holly Smith help Fr Ossie set up the Nativity scene in preparation for the Christmas Masses.



## Holy Family Parishioner Wins Car

Congratulations to Philip Martinz who won the first prize of a car in the 2015 raffle raising funds for the preservation of St Francis Xavier Cathedral in Geraldton. Fundraising for the Cathedral has reached the fantastic amount of \$2.4Million which is just \$600K short of the target of \$3Million.

Philip Martinz being congratulated by Bishop Justin Bianchini on winning the car. Standing with Philip is Ben Bianchini who sold Philip the winning ticket





# CONFIRMATION RETREAT

MARK  
FERROA



On Wednesday 9th September 2015, eight Confirmation candidates from the Holy Family Confirmation Sacramental Program, Mr Mark Ferroa and several parents, attended a Retreat conducted by Sr Maree Riddler at the Mary MacKillop Centre in South Perth. As part of their preparation for Confirmation as adults in the church, the Retreat introduced the candidates to the life and writings of Mary MacKillop, our first Australian saint, now known as St Mary of the Cross.



Candidates gathered at the Mary MacKillop Centre at 8.30am. Then, joined by several of their parents, they proceeded to the hall where the Retreat was to be held. There, they were able to view and handle various exhibits, books and other resources connected with the life and times of Mary MacKillop.

The candidates watched several videos which told the story of Mary MacKillop, and they were guided by Sr Maree to discuss and reflect on her life. They later produced sketches, songs and poetry to show what they had learned about her and how she would inspire them in their life as a Confirmed Catholic.

The Retreat included a visit to the Diorama Room which featured a life-size display of the important events in Mary MacKillop's life accompanied by a recorded story. It concluded in the beautiful chapel where the candidates had an opportunity to reflect and pray.

This Retreat was an integral part of the Holy Family Confirmation Sacramental Program which prepared the candidates for their Confirmation Ceremony held on 24th October 2015.



# Confirmation Retreat cont.



## SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

The Holy Family 2016 Sacramental Program, which prepares children for the reception of the Sacraments of First Reconciliation, First Eucharist and Confirmation, commences on the weekend of 20-21 February 2016. All children joining our Sacramental Program are required to attend an Enrolment Ceremony which will be held during **all** Masses over the weekend of 20-21 February. Families may choose to attend the 6.00pm Saturday Vigil Mass, or the Sunday Masses at either 8.30am or 10.00am.

Ideally, children will be in the following levels at school:

Year 3 for First Reconciliation,  
Year 4 for First Eucharist,  
Year 6 for Confirmation.

Enrolment forms are now available in the church foyer as well as on request at the following email address –  
[comocath.sacramental@ymail.com](mailto:comocath.sacramental@ymail.com)

Enrolment forms are to be submitted by placing them in the “Sacramental Program” collection box in the church foyer by Sunday 7th February 2016.

Information and the program timetables will be sent out by email in early February.

**Important dates and times for the three Sacramental programs are as follows:**

**First Reconciliation** classes commence on: Sunday 28 February. Start time is to be confirmed as either 8.30am - 9.30am or 10am - 11am. The First Reconciliation Ceremony will be held on Saturday 25 June at 5.00pm.

**First Eucharist** classes commence on: Saturday 30 April (4.45pm - 5.45pm). The First Eucharist Ceremony will be held on Sunday 21 August at 10.00am.

**Confirmation** classes commence on: Saturday 18 June (4.45pm - 5.45pm). The Confirmation Ceremony will be held on Saturday 29 October at 6.00pm.

### Sacramental Ceremony Dates 2016



**First Reconciliation**  
Saturday 25 June 2016 at 5.00pm

**First Eucharist**  
Sunday 21 August 2016 at 10.00am

**Confirmation**  
Saturday 29 October 2016 at 6.00pm



# BELONGING

## *in a Small Faith Community*

You don't need to be a talker or extrovert – a bible expert or theologian – a great cook or comedian.

No...

All you need is a desire to be part of small group, seeking

- to grow closer to God;
- to support each other in the journey of life;
- and, together, reach out as Jesus would.

In other words, to be a Small Church Community.



Four SCC's already exist in the parish, join one of these or form your own.



For more info and resources contact Tony Pires on 0418 900 046



## Holy Family Care



Early in 2016 we will resurrect this vital Parish program. Designed to reach out in very practical ways to those in need in our community, it is at the very heart of our Christian identity.

Parishioners will be asked to volunteer their time and/or talents on a regular basis. A register will be set up and Coordinators will call on volunteers as the need arises. Anyone in our community (not just parishioners) who have a temporary or on-going need will be able to access this service by contacting the Parish Office.

Support will be needed in various areas: eg, Transport to and from church, shops or medical appointments; Meals for individuals, families that are experiencing challenging situations; Temporary home help – cleaning, ironing, gardening, fixing; Visiting the house-bound; Walking a dog; Emergency babysitting and so on.

How will you be able to contribute to the cause?

Please be ready to join us in this necessary parish service.





# MESSAGE FROM THE COUNCIL |

MICHAEL  
TAYLOR

The Parish Council held its Annual General Meeting on 25 October with an attendance of over 30 parishioners. Father Ossie opened the meeting with a prayer and an overview of the last twelve months. Fr. Ossie thanked parishioners for their support in both the spiritual welfare and administration aspects of a busy year and in particular thanked the extra-ordinary ministers who assist him with visiting the sick at home and residents in Nursing Homes.

Bob Tin provided the financial report to 30 June 2015 with the Parish being in a sound financial position. During 2014/2015 costs were approximately \$7,000 (4%) less and receipts \$6,000 (3%) more than budget. The budget for 2015/2016 plans to use some of our surpluses from earlier years with nearly \$40,000 being provided for an overdue repainting of the outside of all the buildings, work that has already been completed.

The Parish Council Chairperson Michael Taylor provided a report on Council activities over the last twelve months. Council met five times with a focus on the apostolic work of the parish with financial and maintenance matters being dealt with by the Finance Committee. In the area of communication three @Home newsletters were published as well as the weekly bulletin and all this information along with contact details and rosters is available on the parish web site [www.holyfamily.com.au](http://www.holyfamily.com.au).

Anna and Randolph Francis and their supporting sub-committee maintained a busy social calendar. 2014 concluded with a Carols Evening on 20 December and Parish Lunch on 28 December. Dinners for 8 were held in April 2015 and a very successful Quiz Night was held in June. Over 70 people attended the International Lunch in July and to finish out the year the social committee organised a Spring Dance in September. Not only have these social events been very joyful, but also they have raised several thousand dollars for Parish improvements, \$2750 from the Spring Dance alone. As a separate initiative, Ian Sydney-Smith and his team organise an annual Melbourne Cup lunch which is great fun and has many prizes.

A Thank You Event for Altar Servers was held on 22 November 2014. We have a well trained, dedicated group of Altar Servers thanks to the Altar Servers Coordination Team. Acolytes, Commentators, Readers, Extra-Ordinary Ministers continue to be strong and well organised thanks to the Pastoral Assistants. In the area of liturgy there is a very active Committee formed with representatives from the various liturgical groups including the Sacred Environment and Choirs. They are especially busy when preparing for the Christmas and Easter periods. During 2015 there was a focus on the Children's Sacramental Program with First Reconciliation on 27 June, First Eucharist on 16 August and Confirmation on 24 October. Thirteen candidates received the Sacrament of Reconciliation, ten received First Eucharist and nine candidates were Confirmed. The very popular Children's Liturgy continues during the 8.30am and 10.00am Sunday Masses.

The Parish Council thanks Fr Ossie and the Pastoral Assistants for their support over the last twelve months. Also on behalf of parishioners, we need to thank all the other co-ordinators and volunteers who enable this parish to be a vital ongoing part of many people's lives. However, the average age of our many volunteers is not getting any younger and a key issue for Council in 2016 will be how to encourage younger generations to get involved. **A special thanks** to retiring Council members: Paul Sloan and Fiona Wee who have been members for five years and Judy Priestly, Anna and Randolph Francis who have been members for four years. Paul was Council's Vice Chairperson and Fiona has moved to the Finance Committee. Judy has been the Council Secretary and for the last two years Anna and Randolph have co-ordinated the Parish's social activities. On behalf of the Parish Council we thank all retiring Parish Council members for a job well done.

At the AGM six new members were elected to the Parish Council ensuring a strong and active Council for 2016. New members are Leon Hanrahan, Amanda Johnson, Jim Phillips, Tony Pires, Vincent Scanlan and Ian Sydney-Smith. Continuing members are Mark Ferroa, Colin Howarth, Adeana Khoo and Michael Taylor. At the Parish Council meeting on 1 December 2015 Tony Pires was elected as Chairperson, Leon Hanrahan as Vice-Chairperson and Amanda Johnson as Secretary.

On behalf of the Parish Council, I wish all parishioners a very happy and Holy 2015 Christmas.

**Michael Taylor** *Chairperson (2015)*



# SOCIAL COMMITTEE



A wonderful time was had by all at the "Spring Dance" held at the Masonic Hall South Perth on September 19. Approximately 200 dancers hit the dance floor to the music of Harvey & Katrina. It was extremely pleasing to see that a large proportion of those who attended were from our own Holy Family Parish.

Background music filled the hall from 7pm as the guests arrived, and the dancing commenced at 7.30pm. Dancers needed no encouragement and from the very first bracket the dance floor was packed.

Many thanks to Anna Francis and her team who worked extremely hard to organise the dance and prepare the hall on the night of the dance. The decorations turned the hall into a wonderful dance venue.

From the ticket sales and two raffles on the night \$2,700 was raised for the parish. This money has since been put toward renovations in the kitchen, much to the delight of all the wonderful volunteers who do the parish morning teas on Sundays.

A special thanks to the sponsors who assisted us with donations for the night, especially Preston Street IGA. We encourage you to support our generous sponsors.

**MAGGIE  
DOYLE**







On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of November, the Annual Holy Family Como Parish Melbourne Cup Luncheon was held. Approximately 67 guests arrived for registration dressed in the spirit of the occasion to be greeted with champagne and nibbles. Ian Sydney-Smith once again proved beyond doubt to be a terrific Parish Official Bookmaker with his skilful and professional management of the sweeps, and also a highly competent Floor Manager.

The lunch consisted of chicken schnitzel, succulent pork and freshly cooked corned silverside complimented with a variety of sauces, gravies, potato dishes and fresh garden salads. This was followed by fresh home-made sweets including trifle, apple and rhubarb crumble and a variety of others. All this was washed down with classic red and white premium wines of which Ray Jordan would be proud of.

Prior to and after lunch, great conversation and fellowship was enjoyed by all. Numerous awards and prizes including the traditional Door Prize, Best Hat and prize for any excuse was the order of the day. An event like this cannot be possible without the assistance of a hardworking, dedicated and talented organising committee who had been working on this Melbourne Cup day since July.

Special thanks to the organising committee for the catering, setting up of the venue including the audio visual; people who donated prizes; and all those who assisted on the day including the cleaning and putting away of the furniture – but most importantly, those who attended; and those who contributed to make this day the Holy Family Parish Premier Social Event of the Year.

We would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the MC Organising Committee, to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and hopefully we will see you all in the New Year.

**BOB &  
JENNY  
ALBONICO**



## AUSTRALIA DAY ECUMENICAL SERVICE

The **Australian-Irish Heritage Association** will be hosting their annual Australia Day Ecumenical Service at Holy Family Parish at 10am on Tuesday 26th January 2016. Everyone is welcome to a program of readings, music and a keynote address. The service will be concelebrated by ministers from the Catholic, Anglican and Uniting Church. The service will be preceded by traditional Irish music in the church foyer. The entrance procession will include representative symbols of the Irish contribution to Australia. It will be followed by morning tea in the parish hall.

### NEW YEARS DAY - SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

Mass will be celebrated at **7.00pm on Friday 1st January** at Holy Family Parish to celebrate New Years Day and the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God.

Mass times on Friday in surrounding parishes are:

**7.00am St Benedicts, Applecross**

**8.00am St Pius X, Manning**

**10.00am St Columbas, South Perth**



# Jubilee Year of Mercy

'I have decided to call an extraordinary Jubilee that is to have the mercy of God at its centre. It shall be a Holy Year of Mercy. We want to live this Year in the light of the Lord's words: "Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful." (Luke 6:36)'

The Jubilee Year of Mercy will run from the feast of the Immaculate Conception 8 December 2015 to the feast of Christ the King 20 November 2016.

In the special Jubilee prayer, the Holy Father entreats the Lord to make the Jubilee of Mercy a year of grace so that the Church, "with renewed enthusiasm, may bring good news to the poor, proclaim liberty to captives and the oppressed, and restore sight to the blind."

## **Gentle revolution: Pope wants Year of Mercy to tenderly transform world**

By Carol Glatz Catholic News Service



Pope Francis says he wants the Year of Mercy to usher in a "revolution of tenderness."

vatican-letter-pope-mercy December 3 2015

The Pope's very first Angelus address and homily in 2013 centred on mercy, as he explained God always waits for that day of awakening and conversion, then forgives everything. The real problem is people -- not God -- who give up on forgiveness, he said. But mercy changes everything, he said; it "makes the world a little less cold and more just."

Once people realise "I'm wretched, but God loves me the way I am," then "I too, have to love others the same way," the Pope said in an interview published just a few days before the December 8 start of the Jubilee year.

"I believe this is the time for mere are all sinners, we carry burdens within us. I felt Jesus wants to open the door of his heart."



# Holy Family Parish History

MICHAEL  
TAYLOR &  
KERRY  
HARDWICK

## Stained Glass Windows

The September edition of this newsletter included an article on the Stations of the Cross. The other special items in our Holy Family Church are the four Stained Glass Windows. The idea for the four windows belongs to Father Frank O'Dea who was the parish priest from January 1990 to December 1993. Fr. O'Dea wrote the following in his recollections of his time as parish priest at Como:

*'One day when I was praying in the Como Church I realized there were no stained glass windows and resolved to have some installed. I formed a small committee and we looked at the work of a couple of artists in nearby churches. We were impressed with the work of a woman, Gerry Manson, who had installed windows at another church. Over a period of a few years she designed and installed four windows. We worked on the designs together and I found she was a wonderful person to collaborate with. She set up a workshop in what I think was the club house or change rooms of the old tennis courts on the grounds in Holy Family. The bulk of the cost was provided by a parishioner who wished to remain anonymous; another who also wished to be anonymous helped with the expense.'*

The four windows represent Jesus as the Bread of Life, the Holy Spirit, the Resurrection and the Holy Family. The windows were installed between 1993 and 1995 and were blessed on 23 July 1995. Originally the four windows were around the altar in the Western corner where the church entrance is now. As part of the refurbishment in 2002, the windows were moved to their current Northern and Southern corners.

The artist Gerry Kershaw (Manson) originally came from the United Kingdom and had trained as an illustrator. The windows feature brilliant colours, and around the central figures, intricate patterns and tiny pictures of Australian and other animals.

The use of stained glass windows in churches dates back to the 11<sup>th</sup> century. Famous examples are Chartres in France, Canterbury in England and Florence in Italy. While our windows are not as famous as these, people from within the stained glass profession have commented that our windows are impressive and unique. Stained glass windows are installed for decorative and informative purposes and ours add a beautiful touch of colour and are worth further study to appreciate the message from the artist.



# A RETREAT

THERESE  
HOWARTH



Invited to a retreat!... time to withdraw from the demands of everyday life and spend time reflecting on gaining a deepening relationship with God; to provide for growth of self-awareness, support for community and service to others, all through the love of our Creator. Well, with that in mind, how could you pass up such an amazing opportunity? So, 18 members of the 4<sup>th</sup> Ave Small Christian Community set off early Saturday morning 4<sup>th</sup> July.

Our destination was **St John of God Retreat Centre, Shoalwater Bay**, a wonderful facility catering for all our group's needs. The weekend's sessions started and there was a myriad of activities carefully planned and delivered to engage and inspire, mentally and spiritually.



Our group Leaders worked together and organised and delivered a wonderful weekend experience that began with enlightening reflections on **'Life's Journey'**. Individuals shared challenges and highlights – and we all recognised and appreciated the chance to empathise, learn and grow in our understanding of each other and our relationship with God. Next we reflected on: 'Who am I?' This began with the simple, yet touching task of selecting 'your' leaf from a basket. Each leaf is unique and the gesture of freely selecting a leaf gives a tiny insight to your uniqueness. With time to ponder on your own character and then to focus on the strengths of others, we appreciated our own amazing talents and how these can be a gift to share with community - strengthening self and others.

There were many highlights of the weekend and one very popular session gave the opportunity to reflect and pray quietly whilst engaged in **'a spiritual walk of the Labyrinth'**. In the beautiful gardens and surrounded by leafy green foliage, the labyrinth is set in the perfect location. In life, as in a labyrinth, the path is uncertain. The many twists and turns hold the future full of challenges and highlights; ultimately, you arrive at the centre. **We hold our creator at the centre of our lives.** This compelling experience was an immensely expressive connection with God, another step to strengthen our relationship with our Creator.



Our special guest, Fr Paschal, gave us much to think about with his session; **'A richer kind of relationship – a call to prayer'**. Using the acronym A.C.T.S. (A - Adoration, C – Contrition, T – Thanksgiving, S – Supplication / Silence) we were drawn into an inspiring experience of meditative prayer; ending in a prayer chant with movement!

On Sunday, Fr. Paschal led our **Mass** at which we shared the Eucharist – again it was a moving and deeply spiritual occasion for all.

Not all of the time was spent in reflection and prayer, there was a delightful balance of games and fun as teams vied for supremacy on Saturday night **there was some cheating and much laughter too**. The food was first class with all meals beautifully prepared, plenty of choice and more than enough servings for all. Meal times were another opportunity to socialise and enjoy the company of our Small Faith Community. There was also some 'free time'; some even swam at the beach across the road.



**It was a treasured weekend for all giving much needed time out of our busy lives to reconnect with God.**



# FINANCE COMMITTEE

JIM  
PHILLIPS

The Finance Committee has been established to assist Father Ossie in the administration of the Parish and in particular, matters which affect the Parish finances. There is a strong element of "stewardship" in this. The committee meets monthly to review the current income and expenditure figures and to plan for future needs.

There has been a strong emphasis in the past year on maintenance and up-grading. This has included the installation of solar cells, the painting of the exterior of all the buildings, and modifications and improvements made to the kitchen. Other activities include the implementation of a scheduled air-conditioning maintenance program and the contracting of professional cleaners to supplement the work done by our small volunteer group.

There are a number of other projects being looked into and they are subject to finances being available. One of these is improving or replacing the audio-visual and sound system in the church.

Bob Tin has now retired from the committee and many thanks are due to him for his long association with managing the Parish finances, keeping the records and producing reports to let us know how we are going. He has earned his rest from all these activities.

## The Gardening Group

The Gardening Group meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of each month to look after the gardens of the Holy Family Church.

The Church has extensive plantings of Roses and Australian native plants located in 8 distinct areas and large leafy lawns. The City of South Perth is very fortunate to have such a large area of greenery.

We use a bore to water the gardens, with a reticulation network of more than 200 sprinklers which require constant monitoring.

The Group meet for a few hours in the morning to do mowing, hedging, weeding, pruning and fertilising. At the end of each session we finish with a morning tea.

Our group is a small core of regular gardeners and we are always looking for new people to join us. No gardening skills or equipment is needed. We provide both. Our gardening days are lots of fun, and at the end of the day you really feel you have made a worthwhile contribution to the Parish community.

COLIN  
HOWARTH



# For our children...

## JESUS IS BORN

The Roman Emperor Augustus ordered a count to be made of all the people in the land. This meant that Joseph and Mary had to travel from Nazareth to Bethlehem because that was where Joseph had been born. The journey was long and difficult and the time was coming for Mary to have her baby.

## LET US PRAY...

Dear Lord Jesus, on this Christmas morning, may our hearts and our homes be filled with the peace and love you shared with the world



## CHRISTMAS WORD SEARCH

Find the words of Christmas in the word search and have lots of fun!

E F

L T

H D S L

T N U O

F R A S V V

U I C E E A

F	J	H	T	E	E	R	T	B	H	J	T	D	Y	H	P	E	S	O	J
S	A	V	I	O	U	R	E	O	C	N	A	V	E	A	O	K	M	V	Y
V	K	I	N	G	A	C	O	L	F	R	E	K	F	H	A	O	O		
N	Y	O	J	T	A	U	R	L	B	N	N	R	C	Q	Q				
G	W	I	S	E	M	A	N	E	T	O	W	C	C						
C	Y	R	P	Q	M	T	L	E	D	D	H								
D	D	W	B	E	T	H	L	E	H	E	M	R	J						
B	A	B	Y	J	U	R	V	C	E	B	E	I	A						
C	H	R	I	S	T	M	A	S	L	P	C	G	S	N	S				
G	D	G	O	C	E	K				U	O	U	O	T	G	T			
L	A	P	Y	R	A	M				H	U	D	Y	E	F	J			
Y	S	H	S	G									C	L	L	I	Y		
Q	G	Q	L													A	G	D	I
R	G																	R	H

ADVENT

BETHLEHEM

CELEBRATE

DONKEY

HOPE

JOY

MARY

STAR

ANGEL

BIRTH

CHRIST

GIFTS

JESUS

KING

PEACE

TREE

BABY

CANDLE

CHRISTMAS

GOD

JOSEPH

LOVE

SAVIOUR

WISEMAN



## COLOUR IN THIS BEAUTIFUL CHRISTMAS PICTURE



## Christmas - A Time for Giving

Members of the St Vincent de Paul Como Conference were kept busy making up and delivering Christmas hampers to the disadvantaged in our area. They delivered 60 hampers of which 25 were provided by donations from the Holy Family congregation. The Como Conference would like to express their warm appreciation and in particular, grateful thanks from the recipients of the hampers.

"It is most heart-warming that our congregation continues to support Vinnies in such a positive manner." said Como Conference President, Mr Tony Abbott.



# CHRISTMAS THOUGHT:



## The Coming of the Light

Perhaps the hardest thing to remember about Christmas is this. "It celebrates the incarnation, not just the nativity. The incarnation is an on-going process of salvation, while the nativity is the once-for-all-historical event of Bethlehem. We do not really celebrate Christ's 'birthday,' remembering something that happened long ago. We celebrate the stupendous fact of the incarnation, God entering our world so thoroughly that nothing has been the same since. And God continues to take flesh in our midst. The birth we celebrate is not just the past historical event but Christ's continuing birth in our world, accomplished by the power of the Spirit.

**What we celebrate is our redemption in Christ and the transformation of all creation by the presence of the divine in our midst.**



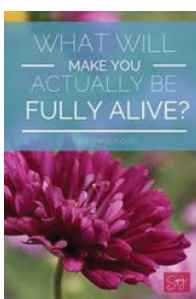
## The Christmas Woman

Luke's Gospel account of the Christmas event is full of activity...And yet, in the middle of the frenetic action, here is this woman wrapped in mystical silence...She demonstrates the necessity of a quiet place within ourselves at Christmastime—that place where we are most ourselves in relation to God.

It is a place of silence, not because it is untouched by all the activity of our lives, but because it is capable of wonder. Every prayer begins with silent wonder before it turns to words. Our first response to God is dumbstruck awe at who he is and what he has done for us.

## The Whisper of Christmas

There is no evidence of any kind regarding the date of Jesus' birth. His nativity began to be celebrated on Dec. 25 in Rome during the early part of the fourth century (AD 336) as a Christian counterpart to the pagan festival, popular among the worshipers of Mithras, called *Sol Invictis*, the *Unconquerable Sun*. At the very moment when the days are the shortest and darkness seems to have conquered light, the sun passes its nadir. Days grow longer, and although the cold will only increase for quite a long time, the ultimate conquest of winter is sure. This astronomical process is a parable of the career of the Incarnate One. At the moment when history is blackest, and, in the least expected place, the Son of God is born..."



## Christmas – God Comes So Close to Man

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI "Christmas is the feast in which God comes so close to mankind as to share the very act of being born, showing men and women their most profound dignity: that of being children of God. Humanity's dream which began in the Garden of Eden – we want to be like God – is realized in an unexpected way, not through the greatness of man, who cannot make himself God, but through the humility of God Who came down among us in His humility, raising us to the true greatness of His being."