



@ HOME NEWSLETTER

Holy Family Parish Como-Kensington

Issue #18

DECEMBER 2017

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ALTAR SERVERS GO TO BOUNCE



The Guild of St. Stephen was founded in England in 1905 as a society of Altar Servers, and has spread throughout the world. The Australian Guild of St Stephen is an affiliate to the global organisation and strives to promote the highest standards of serving at the Church's Liturgy so as to contribute to the participation of the whole community in a more fruitful worship. The Guild endeavours to help servers achieve a greater understanding of what they are doing so they may serve in an increasingly reverent and prayerful manner.

Holy Family Parish in Como is a registered branch of the Australian Guild. We train our young altar servers to ensure they start with a basic understanding of what they need to do and why they are doing it. We then initiate their participation with an "Investiture Ceremony" in which they are presented with an Alb and invited to serve at the Altar.

As our Servers reach a level of maturity and experience, they are invited to become Members of the Guild of St Stephen. A special ceremony called an 'Enrolment Rite' is held to formally induct them into the Guild. At this ceremony, the servers are presented with a Guild of St. Stephen medal which they may subsequently wear whilst serving to show that they are members of the Guild and Senior Servers. The Australian Guild of St Stephen provides these medals and maintains a register of the names of the servers who are enrolled in the Guild.

To show our appreciation for the dedication and commitment our altar servers make to our parish, we took them to BOUNCE Inc on Saturday 16 December. A lot of fun was had by young and old, playing dodge ball, showing off tricks on the trampolines and completing the X-Park Course.

**DAVID HO &
DAN BIANCHINI**

GREETINGS FROM FR OSSIE

Dear parishioners and friends,

I am very glad to have this opportunity of sending to you my warmest and heartfelt greetings for this wonderful Feast of the Birth of our Saviour.

It's interesting to note that the Church gives us this most festive Feast to celebrate towards the end of the year. What this indicate is that throughout the year we encounter good times and bad. We enjoy the good times and endure the bad but at the end of the year the joyful feast of Christmas reminds us that no matter what took place throughout the year, God is with us and his love is everlasting.

So with family and friends, let us celebrate this festive season with joy and laughter, with sweet remembrances of the love of God and the blessings and beauty in the love that families share. A Very Happy and Holy Christmas and a Peace-filled New Year!

God bless,

Fr Ossie Lewis PP



VINNIES COMO CONFERENCE

**MIKE
COSSON**

I am pleased to present the following report summarising the assistance Vinnies has provided to clients in our Como Conference. It covers the period from 01/01/17 to 28/09/17 and includes assistance provided to clients in Como, Kensington, South Perth, Manning and Karawara. The latter two suburbs were covered by the Manning Conference until it closed down several years ago.

Over this period we have helped 252 clients of which 94 were new ie visited for the first time in 2017.

Centrelink is the main source of income for 200 of the 252 clients we assisted.

929 separate assistance services were provided to our clients. Of these 625 were for food vouchers, 150 for fuel vouchers, 38 for clothing vouchers (for use at Vinnies shops); 52 for bedding & furniture vouchers (from the Vinnie's furniture depot). The remainder covered rental assistance, utility bills, medical scripts & financial counselling services (Vinnies has four paid Financial counsellors).

The total value of the assistance provided by the Como Conference this period is \$42,567.

The visits are undertaken by Como Conference members with five teams of two operating from the beginning of February to Christmas. This enables us to visit clients five days per week.

We currently have eighteen members in the Como Conference of whom eight are new this year. Our recruiting drive was a resounding success! Fifteen of our members belong to the Holy Family Parish.

Before I finish I'd like to reiterate our sincere thanks to Fr Ossie and the Parish Pastoral Council for the generous support provided to Vinnies throughout the year, both moral and financial. The Holy Thursday Collection, Winter Appeal and Christmas Giving Tree are all exceptionally well supported and for this we are most grateful.

We are also most appreciative of the very supportive day-to-day relationship Vinnies Como Conference has with Fr Ossie, his Pastoral Assistants and the Parish Pastoral Council.

I trust you find this report interesting and informative.

May God bless you all.

On behalf of the recipients of the sixty-eight Christmas Hampers, Vinnies Como Conference wish to heartily thank the Holy Family parishioners for their generous contributions of food and toys. All the hampers were delivered during the past week to the needy living locally.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

MARK
FERROA

There will be a significant change in the way children are prepared for Confirmation from next year.

Children will need to attend a new course called the Pre Confirmation module when they are in Year 5 in school. This will be followed by the Confirmation module in year six. It is mandatory for children to attend both modules.

This change has been brought about as a result of our parish implementing the new religious education program drawn up by the Archdiocese of Perth. This program is called "Gathered in My Name".

The "Gathered in My Name" program will continue to prepare children for First Reconciliation in Year 3 and First Eucharist in Year 4. The Pre Confirmation module has been introduced for Year 5 so that, by the time these children are in Year 6, they will be better placed to prepare for Confirmation in a more meaningful way.



Children who intend to receive Confirmation in our parish in 2019 must enrol for the Pre Confirmation module in 2018. They should enrol for this class together with children who are enrolling for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation.

Important dates and times for the 2018 Sacramental Preparation program are as follows:

The **First Reconciliation** program starts on Sunday 25 February. Classes will be held on Sundays from 10.00am to 11.00am. The First Reconciliation Ceremony will be held on Saturday 23 June.

The **First Eucharist** program starts on Saturday 5 May. Classes will be held on Saturdays from 4.45pm to 5.45pm. The First Eucharist Ceremony will be held on Sunday 2 September.

The **Pre Confirmation** program starts on Saturday 5 May. Classes will be held on Saturdays from 4.45pm to 5.45pm. The module ends on Saturday 23 June.

The **Confirmation** program starts on Saturday 21 July. Classes will be held on Saturdays from 4.45pm to 5.45pm. The Confirmation Ceremony will be held on Saturday 3 November.

Enrolment forms for all four programs are now available in the church foyer, as well as on request at the following email address –

comocath.sacramental@ymail.com

Completed forms must be submitted by placing them in the collection box in the foyer Sunday 4 February 2018. All children joining our program need to attend one of the enrolment Masses on the weekend of 17/18 February.

Confirmation Ceremony 28 October 2017

Seventeen candidates received the Sacrament of Confirmation at a ceremony held on Saturday 28 October 2017. The Presiding Celebrant was Bishop Don Sproxtton.

The confirmation candidates were:

Eva Casey, Chelsea Gonzalez, Trinita Kardia, Shenaya Wijeyekoon, Owen McGlue, Henry Napoli, Michael Muttupulle, Elisha Seow, Mario Nwankwo, Melvin Nwankwo, Zara Pearson, Celeste Petrovski, Liam Rodrigues, Raegan Tanuwidjaja, Tiana Tran, Sam Le Febvre and Mikayla Miller.

To celebrate the occasion candidates and their families shared a cake after the mass. They were joined by Bishop Sproxtton and Fr Ossie.



PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

MARIE
TILEY

PPC Role

The Parish Pastoral Council is a body representative of the whole parish. It consults with Fr Ossie in developing policies and setting goals for Christian ministry within the Holy Family parish.

Common Vision

To maintain a focus in our calling as Parish Councillors and as members of our faith community it is timely to revisit key elements of the Holy Family Parish Mission Statement. Our Mission Statement says that we, the parish of Holy Family are called through Baptism and the Gospel of Jesus Christ

- To live gratefully the life God has given us
- To live in the spirit of Jesus
- To grow closer to God and one another.

Our goals highlight devotion to serving God, creating a strong faith-filled community, building a caring network, reaching out to all in need and growing strong in our knowledge and appreciation of our Catholic Faith. Strategies and actions are implemented to enact upon our Mission Statement. These include the development of parish liturgies and sacramental programmes, active Small Christian Communities, Holy Family Care and a parish office team that work with Fr Ossie and the Pastoral Assistants in managing the day to day running of the parish. Our Mission Statement is ongoing in building a parish structure that embraces each of us and enables us to work collaboratively to serve God.

Action response to community issues

Looking back over the past twelve months there are many highlights that reflect an active, energetic community working together to meet Archbishop Timothy Costelloe's vision of moving towards a more Christ-centred Church and Christ-centred Communities.

Holy Family has responded to the call of Pope Francis through Laudato Si, to care for creation. Each week there is a section allocated in the bulletin highlighting contemporary, ecological issues facing the planet. The parish has brainstormed practical ways in which we can respect creation and see it as a gift of God. Some initiatives we have undertaken include, the installation of solar panels on the roof of the Church, battery candles are now used where possible, recycling options are considered when arranging social functions and our volunteer gardeners are undergoing new planting of our Church surrounds. In June representatives from the Holy Family parish attended a weekend retreat 'Celebrating Laudato Si' hosted by Br Terry Casey and Sr Shelly Barlow. In conjunction with the Centre for Faith Enrichment the Holy Family parish hosted three sessions in August to explore Caring for our Common Home. Care for the earth is an essential part of our faith and it is up to all of us to be responsible.

Two parish councillors attended a workshop leading up to the celebration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday on 2nd July. They reported that the 2017 theme 'Anyone who welcomes you, welcomes me' resonates strongly with aboriginal people. The theme highlights the importance of keeping an open mind and heart not only to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people but anyone who faces challenges including refugees, the disabled and the impoverished. During our parish celebration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday, the commentator acknowledged traditional owners, petitions were included in the Prayers of the Faithful and an acknowledgement plaque was blessed. This plaque has been mounted in the foyer of the Church.

Close to home in our own Como Parish there are less fortunate people who are served well by the St Vincent de Paul (Vinnies) Como Conference. President, Mike Cosson, works hard with many others to ensure your wonderful donations are distributed. Their work relies on your generosity and response to those in need in our community. Outreach and advocacy are the external manifestation of our faith and part of our faith development.

Future direction

Archbishop Timothy Costello says that the greatest task and challenge that we face is to return the Church to Christ and return Christ to the Church. The Archdiocese, of which we are representative of the 426, 872 Catholics, has launched a Plan to review the Archdiocese from an organisational perspective to better facilitate the spreading of the Gospel.

...continued from Page 4

The Plan has seven priority areas;

- Professional Standards
- Effective Communications
- Support for Clergy
- Strengthening and Revitalising Parishes
- Adult Faith Formation
- Outreach to Those in Need
- Archdiocesan Growth and Development.

The Archbishop sees the Plan as more than a document. He encourages us to embrace the Plan and walk together into the future.

Our Parish has sought feedback from the working party on Strengthening and Revitalising Parishes. In January 2018 representatives from the Parish Pastoral Council will be attending a meeting with Fr Nino Vinciguerra who is the co-ordinator of the Parish Renewal Implementation group. He will explain the three stage process underway to increase the level of understanding of the role of Parish Pastoral Councillors and other parish leaders. We are seeking direction as to how we can effectively meet the needs of our community at Holy Family parish.

It is exciting times in the Catholic Church - accountability, consultation and review are high priorities. We are all called to walk faithfully in the footsteps of the Good Shepherd. Let us pray for peaceful, respectful outcomes as we negotiate the path together and accept the challenge of discipleship.

PASTORAL ASSISTANTS

TONY
PIRES

A reminder

The thinking behind Parish Pastoral Assistants:

Fr Ossie has appointed two part-time Pastoral Assistants to assist him with Parish leadership:
– Nola Smith and Tony Pires.

What is a 'Parish Pastoral Assistant'?

A Pastoral Assistant is a Lay Person, appointed by the Parish Priest to assist him in leading the mission and pastoral care of the parish community - in accordance with the precepts, teachings and practices of the Catholic Church. They meet with the Parish Priest regularly and operate always under his guidance.

They have a good understanding of pastoral theology and practice.

EMPOWERING THE
LEADER IN ALL OF US



Their role

- ◆ To bring about a greater involvement of Lay People in the management and leadership of the Parish Community.
- ◆ To facilitate deeper collaboration between Parish Priest and Parishioners.
- ◆ To enable greater responsibility for the "life and growth" of the Parish is taken on by Lay People. This is not simply 'Father's responsibility'.
- ◆ To support the Fr Ossie by assisting with the decisions he makes.
- ◆ To assist with the overall administration of the Parish, therefore enabling Fr. to spend more time on his specifically priestly ministries.
- ◆ To help develop and promote the mission of the parish.
- ◆ To help direct and support specific pastoral programs, e.g Sacramental programs for children and adults, youth programs, bereaved ministry. As well as initiating programmes/ processes that will help parishioners grow in their spiritual life.
- ◆ To seek always to draw parishioners into roles within the Parish so as to build our Holy Family Community
- ◆ By attending most Parish events, as appropriate, so as to be a regular sounding board to enable better decision making.

Known as 'The Parish Team', Fr Ossie, Nola and Tony meet regularly to discuss and review parish matters, always seeking to work collaboratively with the Parish Pastoral Council, Liturgy and Finance Committees and other Parish Leaders.

Leadership
is not wielding
authority – it is
empowering
people.

SOCIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT

The 2016-2017 Australian Bishops Social Justice Statement is entitled 'A Place at the Table: Social Justice in an ageing society'.

The statement celebrates the value, dignity and significant contributions of older people to the life of the community. At Holy Family Parish we have embarked upon an ongoing celebration of our ageing parishioners by creating a "Memories Book". We are interviewing our ageing parishioners and recording their stories which will be stored digitally and in a hard-bound book that will be available for anyone to read. Excerpts from their stories are published in our @HOME Newsletter. In this edition we will share Joan Morcombe's story.



Joan Morcombe was born on February 19th, 1933 in Albany, WA, the eldest of Olive and Bob Selby's three children. She has been a parishioner of Holy Family Como, for almost 30 years.

As a young girl, Joan's mother travelled to Albany from Bradford in England to help develop the woollen mill industry there. Joan's father Bob, was born in Cottesloe but lived in Albany for most of his life. Joan remembers her father as always 'writing, writing, writing' In addition to his job at The Albany Advertiser newspaper where Bob wrote sports reports and stories under the pen name Poitrel (a famous racehorse of an earlier era), he also had a regular column, 'Out Among The People by Bob Selby'. He sat on several community boards and made a significant contribution to the area in a number of ways.

From her parents Joan inherited the traits of an adventurous spirit, a strong work ethic and a commitment to both family and community. These sowed the seeds for and mirrored how, Joan would live her life and become who she is today.

When it was time to start school at Albany Infants' School in February 1938, Joan was deemed to be too young. Despite turning up on the first day of the new school year, she had to return the following August at the beginning of Semester Two. Joan has very clear memories of standing upright to sing the "Teddy Bears' Picnic" song and of her delight in learning to read and write. Little did Joan know that this 'starting friction' would be a regular feature of all of her educational pursuits throughout her life.

Joan's early education was

fractured due to ill health and in 1941, she left Albany to stay with relatives in Wiluna as it was warmer. It was here that Joan, as a 10 year old decided she wanted to become a teacher, but she was 53 before this decision/dream was realised. Joan defied the odds health-wise more than once and it served to develop continuous threads of patience, perseverance and great humility along with a lifelong love of reading, independent learning and empowering others.

Towards the end of the war Joan left Wiluna to board at the Sacred Heart Convent in Highgate, Perth. She remembers clearly the night the war ended and the joy she felt when she realised her father would be coming home, although it took a further 12 months for that to happen. After the war, Joan returned, to school in Albany. She continued to miss long periods of school due to ill health but has particularly fond memories of a special nun, Sr. Immaculata, who encouraged her to 'keep reading and writing.'

Joan's first job was with 'The Albany Advertiser.' She enjoyed the work here and developed secretarial skills which later gained her a job at Musgrove's music shop in Perth. When Joan was about 19, she moved to Melbourne with a friend 'to try something other than WA'. Joan's parents gave her every blessing and encouragement to live her life and as the saying goes, 'roots to grow and wings to fly.' Joan very much valued this support and in time, she was able to give her own children the same freedom to live their lives despite the personal cost to herself at times.

Joan had to come back to Perth

when she developed appendicitis and with strong support from her family, she stayed in WA and embraced her secretarial life again while working for a machinery company. By now it was 1954 and she remembers writing 'so so many reports' as this was the time of significant land development in WA.

Her decision in 1957 to take a month off and a break from the intensity of the work, coincided with an opportunity to stay with an aunt and uncle in Minengew, in the Wheatbelt area of WA, to help run their hotel there. It is here where Joan met her future husband, Don. It was a traditional meeting, at a dance on Saturday night, with a 'first date' at the open air cinema the following night. Joan and Don married at St Mary's Cathedral in Perth in 1959. Don was a farmer, and Joan became immersed in the farming life. She became very involved with 'Junior Farmers,' using her secretarial skills for the good of the local community and farming competitions and issues. Over the next seven years, Joan and Don raised their five children; Andrea, Richie, Bevan, Kingsley and Anthony. Joan was a full-time mum and also assisted on the farm with chores involving animals and crops and looking after the hired 'helping hands.'

When it came to the time for the children to start school, the family moved to the Eastern Hills to a smaller farm. Joan regularly volunteered in the local school with reading groups and library assistance and it was about this time that she was approached by the Principal Alan Sambel, about becoming a qualified Educational Assistant. Alan was a very generous and compassionate

mentor who encouraged Joan to overcome the challenges of combining family life, sickness within the family and study.

After years spent volunteering in education, then working as an Educational Assistant, Joan eventually fulfilled her lifelong ambition to become a teacher and trained at Claremont Teachers' College, with a focus on teaching children with learning difficulties. Joan graduated in 1986 at the youthful age of 53. She simply loved her new career and worked at The Sacred Heart Convent in Mundaring as a Relief Teacher.

Joan returned to Perth in 1989 for personal reasons, with her youngest child, Anthony. She moved in to her current home in Mary Street in Como and has been a parishioner at Holy Family ever since. Around this time Joan studied for a Graduate Diploma in Pastoral Care and although this was initially to support a friend doing it, when the friend abandoned the course, Joan continued as she doesn't 'like leaving things undone!'

Fr Frank O'Dea was Joan's first Parish Priest at Holy Family, followed by Fr Aloysius Leong before the current Parish Priest Fr Ossie Lewis. She has been a Parish Councillor, on the RCIA program three times, involved with Children's Liturgy and the Sacramental programs, as well as volunteering for the Cleaning, Sacred Environment rosters, and the Commentators & Reading rosters. She has also been a member of a Small Christian Community since the early 1990's. Joan has contributed much to the Holy Family and is very mindful and appreciative of the support she has received from the Church throughout her life.

Joan loved every aspect of teaching both in Mundaring and also as a part time teacher at Our Lady of Fatima, Palmyra. She has had numerous opportunities to continue studying and learning and was seconded twice to spend a term each time (in 1999 and 2000) to teach Standard English at a remote Aboriginal Community in East Kimberley,

50kms before the Northern Territory border, on the Tanami Desert. The Mercy Sisters established this school and still run it today.

Everything about these new experiences was a culture shock but Joan embraced them all in her very humble and practical way. She started with what the children in her classroom were familiar with, the store and their school. She recreated these in her classroom, weaving all learning in, out and through them. Even her reading books were made from photos. She was creative in her ways to get children to attend school and the reward for turning up Monday - Thursday was to be allowed to 'go bush' on Fridays.

One particularly lovely memory Joan has, is of being there in 2000, the year of the Sydney Olympics, and recreating the Olympic Games in the village. The children were assigned a country to represent and games were devised from all materials available. One memorable person at this time was 'Rosie.' Rosie had not long come 'in from the desert' and it was her first experience of being in a community. Rosie had fallen out of a tree as a child and broken her legs and continued for the rest of her life to walk on her knees. Rosie was the first person to arrive every day at school and because of her commitment to community, she was selected to carry the official Olympic torch when it arrived in the Northern Territory. Joan was animated when she spoke about this time and LOVED it. She described her greatest learning as being how genuine and how resourceful the people were. A priest arrived once a month for Mass with Communion services performed on other weekends. Everyone sat in the dirt with the dogs running around.

Joan 'retired' (for the first time) at 70 and spent a year travelling the world visiting family and friends. In addition to travel and

supporting her family in their various endeavours, Joan continued her passion for teaching through tutoring and mentoring; she has also been a member of a school volunteer program at several primary and secondary schools; In addition Joan has volunteered on an Adult Literacy Program aimed at teaching those for whom English is a second language.

Joan has recently embarked on a 'second retirement' which no doubt will be a very busy and selfless second retirement. Listening to Joan, one realises that she has lived all that it means to be human in terms of joys and personal struggles, including the devastating loss in 1993 of her son Bevan, to cancer, six weeks after the birth of his baby girl, Caris. But Joan is very clear that 'God has been very good to [her].'

Throughout much of her life, Joan moved around WA as family, health and personal circumstances demanded and we are reminded of the words which St. Teresa of Avila wrote 500 years ago and how Joan seemed to embrace them: "May you trust God that you are exactly where you are meant to be. May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born of faith. May you use those gifts that you have received, and pass on the love that has been given to you." (St. Teresa of Avila).

Joan has done exactly that with her 'absolute rock' being her family which now includes her remaining four children, seven grandchildren, three step grandchildren, and one great grandchild born in September 2017. She is full of stories, and each and every one underlines her energy, resourcefulness, humour and commitment to family and strangers alike. She lives her life in faith, giving of herself generously, humbly and empowering others to be the best they can be.

As told to Colette Shack.



SOCIAL EVENTS

MARIE
TILEY

Over the past twelve months, as the social team co-ordinator, I have worked to build and nurture a sense of community within the Holy Family Parish. Morning teas are held twice monthly after Sunday Masses. They are always a welcome meeting place where we spend extra time with our fellow parishioners exchanging banter and enjoying the culinary delights. Thank you to everyone who is rostered on to provide this wonderful opportunity to share and serve those who gather within the Holy Family community. Inclusivity has been a major focus for me as I have worked to reach out to all parishioners when planning events.

Looking ahead to 2018 we have some events already in the calendar, some on the back burner and others we haven't even thought up yet!

In January we will celebrate Australia Day with Mass followed by an "Aussie Morning Tea". In March we will relax under the stars and enjoy movies on the BIG screen. Our popular Pasta & Peroni Night for Singles will be held in June followed by the Quiz Night Fundraiser in July. Families can look forward to a fabulous Fun Day in the Park in August and the Melbourne Cup Luncheon will make a return in November. In December we will present Christmas Carols with the Holy Family Choirs and then finish off the year with our special Feast of the Holy Family Luncheon.

A Family Film Night has yet to be scheduled along with a Pizza Night and a Lets Catch Up Sundowner. Our very popular International Luncheon will be repeated in 2018. I look forward to continuing our work as a community serving God in the Holy Family Parish.



Dates to remember

- ◆ **January** - Australia Day Morning Tea
- ◆ **March** - Movies Under the Stars
- ◆ **April** - Easter Sunday Morning Tea
- ◆ **May** - Mother's Day Morning Tea
- ◆ **June** - Pasta & Peroni Night for Singles
- ◆ **July** - Quiz Night Fundraiser
- ◆ **August** - Family Fun Day in the Park
- ◆ **September** - Father's Day Morning Tea
- ◆ **November** - Melbourne Cup Luncheon
- ◆ **December** - Christmas Carols
- ◆ **December** - Holy Family Feast Day Luncheon

Morning Tea

**First & Third Sunday
of the month
after 8.30am & 10am Masses**

**Australia Day
January 26**

**Celebrate Mass at 9am
then join us for an
"Aussie" style
morning tea.**



Feast of the Holy Family Luncheon Sunday 31st December



Parishioners are invited to join our **FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY LUNCHEON FOLLOWING THE 10AM MASS on SUNDAY 31ST DECEMBER.**

Meat & soft drinks provided (BYO alcohol). Please bring a salad or dessert to share. Sign up sheets with suggested salad/dessert plates are available in the church foyer.

For catering purposes please add your name today!



SMALL CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES | TONY PIRES

A NEW way of BEING CHURCH

a priority of our Small Christian Communities

The Royal Commission into Institutional Sexual Abuse is now delivering its findings after five long and painful years.

Right now it's a tough time to be a Catholic, or any Christian for that matter.

Many of our younger Catholics have decided to seek God outside the Church. Many Catholics have lost confidence in our Church Leaders.

Real change is needed – a new kind of Church is emerging.



How do we live in a new way as Church people?

We, at Holy Family Parish, see the future in a new way – we are committed to:

- ♦ Seeing Jesus as a **model for living** rather than simply an object of worship.
- ♦ Seeking to affirm **people's potential** rather than making judgements about them.
- ♦ **Gracious behaviour** far more than right belief.
- ♦ Inviting **questions** more than supplying answers.
- ♦ Encouraging the **personal search** rather than group uniformity.
- ♦ Meeting **actual needs** rather than maintaining institutions.
- ♦ **Peacemaking** – as far more important than power.
- ♦ **Living well in this world** instead of working for the Afterlife (eternity is God's work anyway).

Our **Small Christian Communities** encourage members to:

- ♦ share their faith journey,
- ♦ ask and consider questions,
- ♦ listen to the Gospel as a way of life rather than a way of justifying faith,
- ♦ live like Jesus firstly, and then worship Him,
- ♦ see potential rather than criticise weaknesses,
- ♦ provide active support to one another, as well as, praying for them.



The church does not exist for us. We are the church, and we exist for the world.

Erwin McMann
PICTURE QUOTES.COM

Groups meet each fortnight, or month, in a local home; reflect on the gospel; share a cuppa; enjoy various events together; and support each other when contributing to Parish Life.

These small communities are not exclusive; any and every parishioner is welcome to join one. Come as often as you wish - maybe for a month or two; or stay for years.

For more information contact Tony Pires on 0418 900 046



ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Please note: During the summer months, hours for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be **Thursday 9.30am - 12.30pm.**

Normal hours will resume in March. Make it your New Year's Resolution to spend an hour with Jesus on Thursday.



Solemnity - Mary, Mother of God



Mass will be held at **9.00am on Monday 1st January** at Holy Family Parish to celebrate New Years Day and the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God.

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 close for Mary to have her baby.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Is in recess for the school holidays.



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.



COLOUR IN THIS BEAUTIFUL CHRISTMAS PICTURE



Christmas Word Search

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



Jesus
Mary
Joseph
Angel
Manger
Infant

Star
Shepherd
Animals
Magi
Bethlehem
Swaddling Clothes

City of David
Salvation
Israel
Savior
Good News
Great Joy

JESUS
is the REASON for the SEASON

FUNDRAISING EVENTS

VINCE
SCANLAN

International Luncheon

On Sunday 5 November we held our International Luncheon Fundraiser. This wonderful event not only successfully raised the grand sum of \$3500 toward the replacement of the parish digital piano, it also showcased the incredible ethnic diversity that exists in our parish.

The Indonesian Youth Choir led the music ministry in our liturgical celebration. This was followed by a colourful and spectacular display of Indian folk dancing. Then we sat down to an amazing array of international cuisines ranging from Irish Stew to Burmese Curry and everything in between.

Since this event a working party has been formed to carry out consultation with our parish choirs, audio visual experts and other interested parties to ensure that the digital piano purchased will meet the needs of all users.



The Lector... the Word of God - and our listening?

What goes through your mind as you listen to the Readings at Mass each weekend?

The Word of God we hear at Mass is:

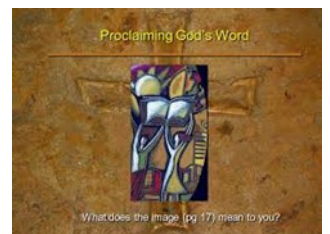
- Full of life... it teaches us of the beauty and richness of our lives... it assists us in dealing with the challenges/sadness/struggles of life.
- Powerful... providing us with the grace/strength to love generously.
- It is rich in promise... showing us those who have lived with faith in the past.
- Delivered by our God in love... carrying extraordinary messages of God's devotion for us.



God also speaks to us in 'the Lector' as well as through the words they proclaim.

The Lector prepares beforehand...

- She/he seek to dismiss the concerns that can worry them and get in the way of their proclamation... about their appearance, attire, pressing concerns, etc.
- They check that the 'physical' details are working well – eg. the microphone is adjusted properly...
- They will have read the words beforehand...
- Looked at pronunciation, grammar etc..
- Thought about the meaning of the passage...
- Prayed over the words...
- Thought about how they apply to their own lives...
- Thought over how they challenge and/or encourage them in their living out the Christian faith.



We 'listen'

- We listen to the words the Reader speaks...we put aside our distractions for a time.... Settle our minds... focus....attune to the Reader's voice..
- We make connections to our own lives.....what are these words calling me to?....
- We listen to the way they say the words... the Faith behind the words....
- The care they have for us, as they read...
- The 'colour' of their personality...

'Listening' is much more than hearing words... it is also 'hearing' the faith & love in the Reader. A little like the love we 'hear' at times in our partner's words.



CHRISTMAS REFLECTION



God becoming a human being, becoming one of us, strikes directly at the heart of evil and corruption in the world. God becoming human looks evil in the eye and takes it on without flinching. As Bruce Cockburn sang it so brilliantly,

it is God *“kicking the darkness ‘til it bleeds daylight”*.

Christmas is a time of mixed emotions for many people. For some it is a wonderful time of creating happy memories with families, while for others it is a time when, as a pastor of mine says, the poor are poorer and the lonely are lonelier.

Whatever it is for you this year, know that it is a time when the Creator of the Universe came running towards us with arms outstretched, as a helpless baby, vulnerable and defenceless. Know also that he lived a life of perfect love, and then died, once more with arms outstretched, to expose evil and to take our sin upon himself. But know especially that that wasn't the end of the story. Defeated in the eyes of the world, he then defeated death itself when he rose from the grave, inaugurating the kingdom of God into history – a kingdom in which we are invited to work with him to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with Him on the journey.



May you have a blessed, wonderful, and meaningful Christmas. May you know his love more deeply, so you can live more meekly, and share more widely in the wonderful privilege of working with the King of Kings who became the Man of Sorrows, to bring the kingdom of love, justice and peace to this ailing planet. The Author of Life is the Giver of Life. As we give gifts to each other this Christmas, enjoy them and, as Richard Rohr would say, remember above all not the presents but the Presence!

Merry Christmas



Year of Youth

BREDA PIRES &
ANDREA D'SOUZA

Open New Horizons for Spreading Joy Young People, Faith and Vocational Discernment

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference has announced a 'Year of Youth' in 2018. The theme is:

"Open New Horizons for Spreading Joy - Young People, Faith and Vocational Discernment"

The year will focus on the engagement and faith development of young people aged 12 – 30 years. Holy Family Como Parish will launch 'Year of Youth' on Sunday 4th February 2018 with a special Youth Mass at 10am followed by a social event including food & drink.

We are looking for a team of ambassadors made up of a mix of adults and young people in our community to help prepare our Year of Youth Launch Mass. We ask parishioners to invite their children and grandchildren to come forward and be involved or to get involved themselves. Our vision is to form a Youth Group where our young people can have their say, plan liturgical and social events and generally be more engaged in the good works of our church.

If you would like to be a Year of Youth Ambassador, please place your name and contact number on the form in the church foyer.

We look forward to hearing from **YOU!!**



Youth Mass 10am Sunday 4 February

To form a Youth Choir we need:

- ◆ Singers
- ◆ Musicians

We also need:-

Lectors
Extraordinary Ministers
Collectors

