

NOVEMBER 2022

@Home Magazine

The yearly updates from Holy Family Como



Greetings from the Holy Family Committees and the Parish Pastoral Councils.

In this issue, we will walk down the path of our many volunteers who have devoted their time to make our Parish a warm and welcoming community.



Holy Family Catholic Parish
45 Thelma Street
Como W6152

Email: como@perthcatholic.org.au
www.holyfamilycomo.com

Ministry Team

Parish Priest Fr Ossie Lewis	Safeguarding Officers Breda Pires & Mark Ferroa	Finance Committee Chair Daine Burnett
Resident Priest Fr Greg Carroll	Liturgy Committee Chair Hasan Sidi	Maintenance Committee Eugene Brown & Paul Loraine
Parish Pastoral Asst Rose Hart	Sacramental Preparation Mark Ferroa	Grounds Committee Colin Howarth
Parish Pastoral Council Chair Hasan Sidi	Holy Family Care Rose Hart & Carolyn Watson	Social Committee Monika Kaur
Office Staff Joanne Zappia & Mareen Dias	St Vincent de Paul Society Leo Burke	Archivist Michael Taylor
Sacristan Joseph Muttupulle	Parish History Committee Michael Taylor	Fundraising Committee Rose Hart & team

Parish Pastoral Council

Father Ossie Lewis – Parish Priest
 Rose Hart – Parish Pastoral Assistant
 Hasan Sidi – President
 Tian Tran – Secretary
 Mark Ferroa
 Murray Rosenbergs
 Margaret Loraine
 Monica Kaur

2022 Christmas Message from your Parish Priest

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 when Matthew wanted to capture the meaning of Christmas, he pulled out an old word from the Old Testament to convey the message. The word was EMMANUEL, which means God-is-with us.

The impact of this word is incredible. When we believe this, when we accept this and when we claim this word it will absolutely change our lives. Look at Moses, caught between Pharaoh and the deep Red Sea in a seemingly hopeless situation, he believed that God was with him and he went forward and trusted God to open a way and He did.

Little David stood before Goliath. What chance could a little boy with a sling shot have against this giant warrior? But David believed that God was with him and it made all the difference. And so my Christmas wish and prayer for you is that when you are Frightened, Lonely and Burdened with Sorrow, you will not forget to Believe, Accept and Claim this Christmas Promise of Emmanuel, GOD-IS-WITH-US.

A Very Happy and Holy Christmas and a Peace-filled New Year!

Fr Ossie Lewis PP



Message from the Parish Pastoral Council Chairperson 2022/2023

By Hasan Sidi

Some of you might be aware that I have recently taken over the chairperson role of the Holy Family Parish Pastoral Council after Marie Tiley served out a maximum term. Having been in the parish since 2004, I was called to serve in the Council two years ago and to describe the role as a big shoe to fill is an understatement given the immense contribution that Marie has provided in this role. Although I have served in the Liturgy committee since 2018, I will still need the help of the other councillors and all you parishioners to fulfill my duty. I am glad that Margaret Loraine and Murray Rosenberg have taken the vice-chair roles and Tiana Tran is keen to serve as the secretary of the Council. Together with other councillors and with the guidance of Holy Spirit, I believe we can continue to build on the strong foundations created from the works of the past to help us take on the challenges of the future.

As we all know, the past couple of years have been severely impacted by the global pandemic. With our strong faith, we now emerge from it, rebuilding our world together. To borrow a common phrase: **“Start small, Think big”**. So, I urge every parishioner to work together on rebuilding the world around us, starting from the smallest community: our own family. From this fundamental unit of our society, we can then spread our influence to that of our Holy Family parish. The family unit is the fundamental pillar of a community and those who are ready to “think big” will consider the full range of possible futures that come once we start with our small circle of influence. Whether it be bringing our youth and encouraging them to get involved in parish social or liturgical activities, or supporting the rich history of our parish community and celebrating its traditions, the Council is open to any great suggestion as we start small and dare to dream big.

Fr Ossie, who will celebrate the 50th anniversary of his ordination next year, will keep on walking with us, to keep renewing of our faith, and keep all of us strong in faith, hope and love to face many uncertainties in the future. Change, being a natural or man-made disaster, is inevitably a part of our everyday life but rather than entertaining doomsday scenarios, we pray for guidance instead amongst the uncertainties of the future. May we keep our minds wide open, keep our hearts full of compassion, and good will continue to emerge.

God bless,

F. Hasan Sidi

Finance Committee

By Fr Ossie Lewis



I have often been asked, “What does the Finance Committee do?”

As the Parish Priest, I am the administrator of the assets of the Parish under Canon Law, and a Finance Committee acts in an advisory capacity.

Like all our volunteers, the members of our Finance Committee spend many hours, often unseen, helping our Parish, saving us many thousands of dollars annually.

Their activities include:

Paying wages; counting and banking the second collection money; keeping financial records; preparing financial reports; attending to taxation matters; obtaining and evaluating quotes for church work; checking that tradespeople are properly licensed, qualified, experienced and insured; researching and advising on the purchase of new computers and equipment; attending committee meetings and liaising with fellow committee members.

I am grateful for their service and commitment.

Members: Daine Burnett (Chairperson), Juliana Koh (Secretary), Mary-Jo Sieber, Peter Messer, Vincent Scanlan, Rose Hart

2022 Safeguarding Program Report

By Mark Ferroa

In 2022, the basic strategy of our Safeguarding Program was to ensure that children attending church services and religious education classes were always in locations where they were in full view of everyone present in our parish premises. Children were not allowed to be in any room unless there were other children present with them.

To ensure that children participating in church services and religious education classes did so in a safe environment, all children involved were given handouts listing best practice rules for them to follow.

Our Safeguarding Program had two objectives this year. The first was to make more parishioners aware that we have an active safeguarding program to keep children safe in our parish. To give publicity to our program this year, we continued to print our parish safeguarding commitment statement as well as our safeguarding messages for children, in our parish bulletin every weekend.

The second objective was to keep reminding our parishioners that everyone has a special responsibility to support our safeguarding measures to keep children safe. To keep safeguarding in the spotlight, we have encouraged the leaders of parish organisations to read out the Parish Safeguarding Statement at their meetings and obtain feedback from those present.

Our parish observed Safeguarding Sunday on 11 September 2022. In a message read out at all masses, Catholics were called upon to “treat all of Australia’s children fairly, and to make sure every family and community has what kids need to thrive and be healthy”.

2022 Sacramental Program Report

By Mark Ferroa



Our 2022 Sacramental Program commenced on the weekend of 26 & 27 February, when children who had enrolled in our program and their parents attended enrolment ceremonies at all the weekend masses.

The four catechists who conducted our Sacramental Program this year were Marie Tiley, Ellen Miller, Joni Wijaya and Mark Ferroa.

First Reconciliation classes were held on Sundays, during the 10.00 am mass. First Eucharist, Pre Confirmation and Confirmation lessons were held on Saturdays, from 4.45 pm to 5.45 pm.

Our First Reconciliation program started on Sunday, 13 March 2022 and five children made their first confession on 25 June 2022.

The First Eucharist program commenced on 30 April 2022 and eleven children received holy communion for the first time on 14 August 2022.

Our Pre Confirmation classes ran for eight weeks, from 30 April to 25 June 2022.

Our Confirmation classes started on 23 July 2022 and twelve children were confirmed on Saturday, 29 October 2022.

2022 Sacramental Program Report

By Mark Ferroa



Sacrament of Confirmation - 29th October 2022



First Holy Communion - 14th August 2022

Nursing Home & Homecare Eucharistic Ministry

By Mary McMahon

Holy Family Catholic Parish has a dedicated team of generous volunteers who support several Nursing Homes in the area as well as some Home Care parishioners.

I began Nursing Home Eucharistic Ministry in 2015 when I responded to a parish request to help the small team of volunteers to the Nursing Homes within our parish. My mother had spent several years in a Nursing Home in Adelaide and I knew how much these visits meant to her at that time. As a result I always intended to be part of such a volunteer group when I retired. However, the need arose before I retired but I was convinced that this was meant for me. I fully attribute my awareness and need for this ministry to my late mother and she is thankfully still inspiring me today.

I commend Ben Bianchini for his long time commitment to this ministry and for patiently 'showing me the ropes'. To be honest, it was a bit daunting at first so it was great to have his presence and guidance until I was comfortable to 'go it alone'. It was immediately very clear that these people, who are no longer able to attend Mass at the Parish, were very grateful to be able to take part in our service and receive Communion. I always ensure them that they are valuable members of our parish and that they feel part of a religious community.

For the larger Nursing Home, Balmoral, we are able to conduct a Service as well as distribute Communion to the residents. Personally, I'm very grateful to Father Ossie for his 'down to earth' sermons which always inspire me of what to speak about to the residents. We distribute Hymn Sheets to everyone and they cheerfully sing along to a few well known Hymns.

The staff support at this facility is amazing. They bring as many residents as possible to the lounge to take part in a community Service and Communion.



Such that we can have as many as 40 people present. We are then able to visit any other residents in their rooms with Communion, a Blessing and a Prayer.

Each Nursing Home and Home Care facility is different but we are always welcome to visit the Catholic residents as well as anyone who wishes to have a visit. Prior to Covid we regularly visited Balmoral, Bethanie, Kensington Park, Collier Park Village, Regis Como, Meath Care and a few home visits. Like so many operations during Covid times and lockdowns, we have been unable to visit these homes regularly. However, we have now resumed some visits, despite intermittent lockdowns. We have been warmly welcomed back by staff and residents and I'm now in the process of resuming visits to all the Homes when and where possible.

Like so many other volunteer works, the rewards are palpable and far outweigh the input. The appreciation and gratefulness from these residents is absolutely invaluable and it's exactly what keeps us coming back. Our parish is very fortunate to have an amazing team of volunteers to share the visits to these facilities. Thank you to Geraldine and Mick Fox, Kerry Hardwick, Carl Celedin, Brother Terry, Judy Jayasekera, Vince Scanlon, Joni Wijaya and our newest volunteer Margaret Loraine for your untiring commitment.

Holy Family Care

By Rose Hart

Holy Family Care, in conjunction with Catholic Outreach, provides voluntary assistance to people in need within our parish and in the wider community.

The care services provided by our various volunteers include:

Visiting hospitals; keeping in touch with sick and vulnerable parishioners at home; visiting and providing morning tea at nursing homes; providing transport for appointments for the sick; bereavement support; follow-up welfare checks to parishioners not seen in the church for a while; reaching out to the homeless; provision of meals and delivery to homes; cooking and serving at Community Dinners; helping someone around the home; babysitting.

If you would like to participate in serving Christ through such community works, your help would be greatly appreciated.

Please contact the Holy Family Care team on 0451 191 944.

Music at Mass

By Kerry Hardwick

Our parish has made a significant investment in providing musicians and choirs with the recently published Catholic Worship Book 2 endorsed by the Australian Bishops Conference.

Because Liturgical music is sung prayer, the use of good texts is important. Ideally, hymn and song texts are grounded in the scriptures and liturgical sources providing images and metaphors that call the community to an ever-deeper commitment to the Christian life and using God's own words to sing the Lord's praise.

In addition to CWB2, we have available a wide variety of resources ranging from the rich heritage of the church and other Christian traditions e.g. Nothing but the Blood written by R Lowry in 1876 to the wealth of songs that have been produced in recent times. I recently wrote to a composer, Fay White of South Australia requesting permission to use her song, Come to the Banquet.

Archaic forms of language have been modernised, although some forms of "Thee" and "thou" have been retained because of wide acceptance, e.g. O come all Yee faithful!

It is hoped that the liturgical celebrations in our Parish are enriched by the Sacred music offered so that as we sing well, we pray twice.

Parishioners will acknowledge the efforts of our musicians who prepare the music and those who organise the slides for the computer. We particularly appreciate the talents of those who play the organ, keyboard or guitars and lead us in singing. New musicians and singers are always welcome. Please make yourself known to the group at the Mass you regularly attend.

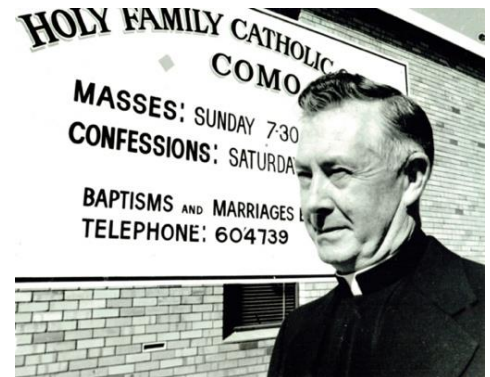
Consecration of the Holy Family Church

By Michael Taylor

On Sunday 19 June, the Parish community celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Ceremony of Consecration of Holy Family Church, Como.

The ceremony, which was performed by the then Archbishop Most Rev. Launcelot Goody, occurred on Wednesday 21st June 1972. We are fortunate in that we have copies of the booklet used for this ceremony in our archives.

As explained during a presentation by Michael Taylor, Holy Family parish was established in March 1955 with our first parish priest Fr. Linnane saying Sunday mass in the then existing school building.



Fr. Thomas Linnane

Parish Priest from March 1955 to January 1977

Following construction of a presbytery, completed in March 1956, efforts focussed on the building of church. Following fundraising and the approval of a substantial loan from the Archdiocese, in 1958 architect Mr Raymond Jones and builder Oliver Brothers were engaged to build our church. The church was officially opened and blessed on Sunday 12th April 1959. We celebrated the golden jubilee anniversary of that event in April 2009.

Between 1959 and 1972, Fr. Linnane and the parish community worked hard to raise money to pay off what was then a quite substantial parish debt for the school, presbytery and church buildings. Fortunately, the land had been purchased by the Archdiocese back in 1936.

As it was considered contradictory to dedicate to the service of God a mortgage burdened building, the rite of solemn consecration of a church was only carried out when the building was debt-free. There is a distinction between a blessing and a consecration in that a consecration means to make holy; or to dedicate to a higher purpose. Consecration ceremonies are more solemn and elaborate than a blessing.



Exterior from Thelma Street and interior with altar rails and pulpit in 1960.

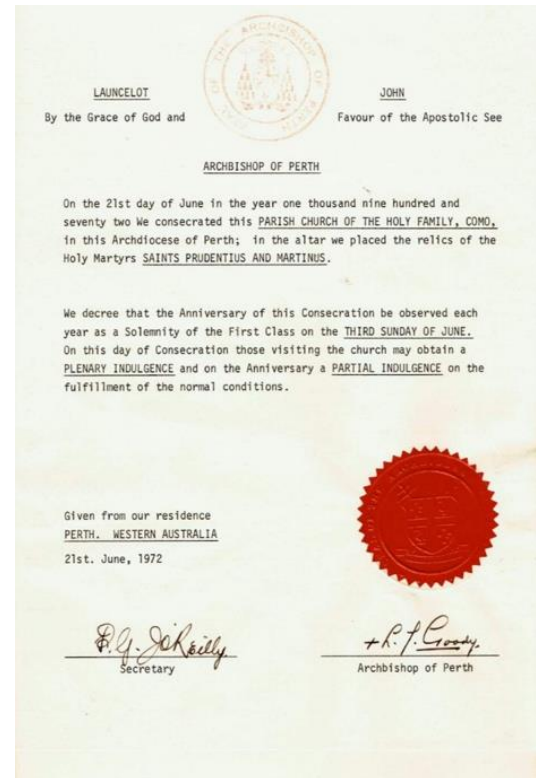
Consecration of the Holy Family Church...

By Michael Taylor

In the ceremony on 21st June 1972, after an opening prayer which was said outside the church, the Archbishop went in procession around the outside walls blessing the outside of the church. When completed, the Archbishop struck the door three times with ALL saying in a loud voice 'OPEN THE DOOR'. The door was then opened; and the congregation entered the church.

Following prayers, the Archbishop took possession of the church, dedicated it; and placed relics of the Holy Martyrs Saints Prudentius and Martinus in the altar. While there have been many changes in church layout since 1972, we still use the original altar and the relics of the Holy Martyrs are in our altar today.

The Archbishop then proceeded to twelve crosses on the walls (where the candle holders are) and anointed the walls at each of the crosses with holy chrism. After anointing the altar and burning of incense on the altar,



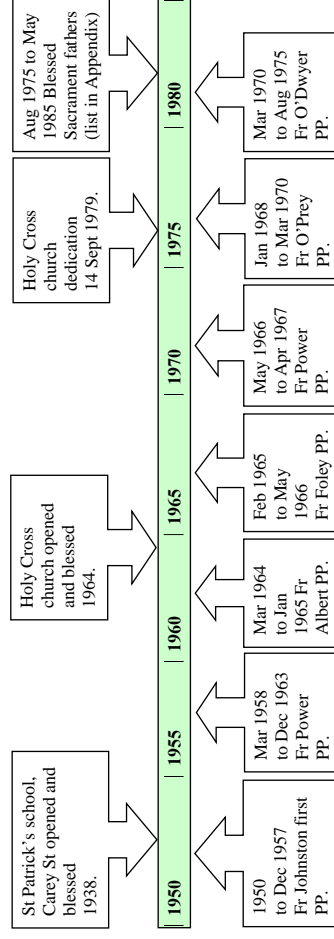
the consecration ceremony was complete and followed by mass. Shortly after the ceremony, the Archbishop provided a certificate of consecration, the original of which is in our archives.

While celebrating 50 years as a consecrated church, we should also give thanks to the original parishioners who gave generously to pay off the original loan for our church. These parishioners would be amazed at the changes that have occurred in the 50 years since its consecration, but the fundamental role of our church in supporting parish ministry remains the same.

Following the 10.00 am mass on 19 June 2022, parishioners celebrated with a morning tea in the Parish Hall. The Parish Council thanks everyone who prepared the hall, baked the goodies, served the tea and shared their wonderful company with others. May the next fifty years continue to be a united, faith filled journey for the parishioners of Holy Family Como.

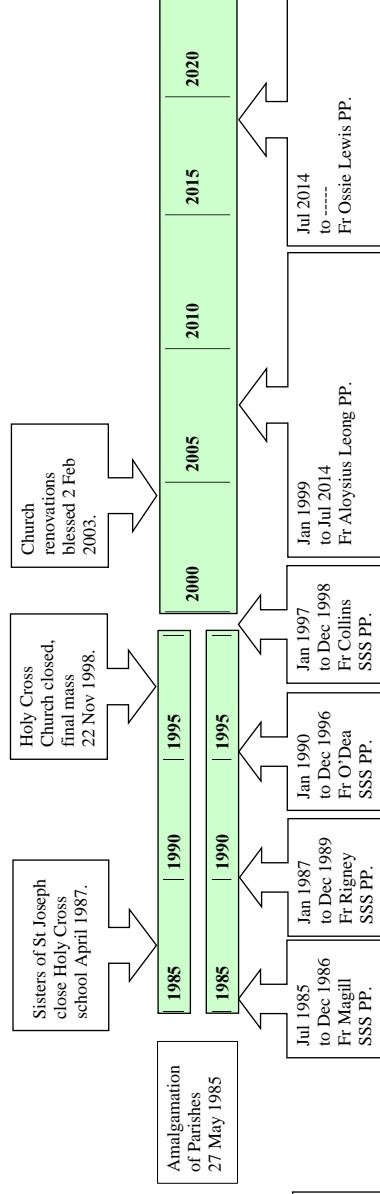
Timeline for Holy Family Como – Kensington Parish

Holy Cross Kensington

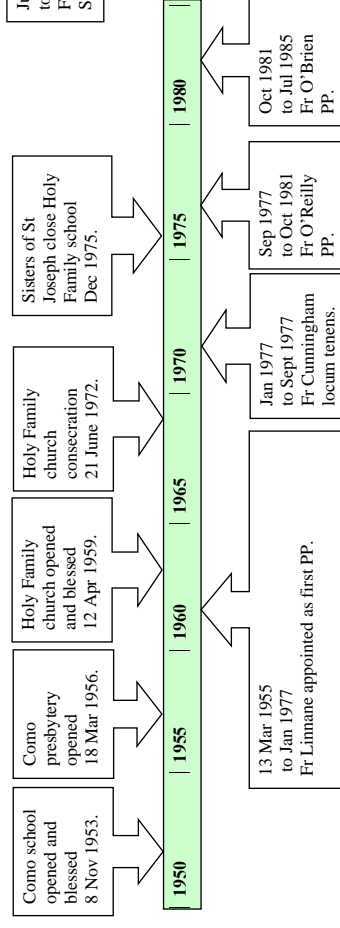


Holy Family Como – Kensington One Church

Two Churches



Holy Family Como



Laudato Si'

By Margaret Devereux

Earlier in the year brother Terry Casey gave an overview of Laudato Si at each of the three Masses. It was a great way to launch the message of Laudato si - the special initiative of Pope Francis appealing to the world to take climate change seriously. The Pope has recently premiered the film, "The Letter" to all humanity telling the story of the encyclical Laudato Si. "The Letter" can be viewed on YouTube Originals in English and is an opportunity to become more informed about this issue. A table in the porch was also set up to accommodate display books on climate change and other information.

There are 10 parishioners in the Laudato Si group. Several of us recently had a zoom session (thanks to Juliana, our technical person.) We hope to have further zoom sessions at regular intervals in future. We would be happy to have others to join us.

More recently a couple of us attended a multi-faith service supporting Faiths 4 Climate Justice at St Mary's Cathedral. An open letter was signed by senior faith leaders showing concern re new gas projects.

How lucky are we to be on this side of the continent! We have been spared (so far!) and blessed by not having to endure what our brothers and sisters on the East coast are enduring at the moment.

We in WA have every reason to be grateful! I feel we can show our gratitude and solidarity by praying for those going through the trauma of flooding rains, destruction and the upheaval in their lives.

Through the film "The Letter" the Pope talks about the power of humanity to stop the ecological crisis. We have the power - through praying big time and doing our bit to reduce our carbon footprint.



Watch "The Letter" here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rps9bs85BII>

Liturgy Committee Report

By Hasan Sidi

You might have learned from last past @HOME edition that the Liturgy Committee is a group composed of the different representatives of the various liturgical ministries of the Parish. Currently the committee consists of Rose Hart, Mark Ferroa, Christine Ho, Annaliese Eames, Marie Tiley, Hasan Sidi and Father Ossie Lewis.

Our responsibilities in general can be grouped into preparation, coordination, formation and evaluation of liturgical activities. You must have heard that each year Mark Ferroa with the help of others organising classes for young members of our congregation to receive Reconciliation, First Eucharist or Confirmation sacraments. Recently we also trained 9 children to replenish our altar server ministry and recruited 7 female parishioners to become Extraordinary Ministers.

We always welcome any volunteers to improve the liturgical practice in our lovely parish. This can be encouraging your children to serve at the altar, unleash your hidden talent in singing or playing instruments for the mass, or assisting in other fronts: such as children liturgy and preparation of the sacred environment.

Any bright idea for the parish liturgy is also welcome. Do not hesitate to approach one of us or simply email your interest to the secretariate (como@perthcatholic.org.au).

Lastly, be advised that Christmas is approaching. Mark your date for the carol on Saturday 3 December 2022 after the vigil mass. We plan to have sausage sizzles that evening. Come along, the more the merrier!

Social/Fundraising at Holy Family

By Marie Tiley



I have been involved with the social/fundraising at Holy Family since 2016. I have been the coordinator of this important ministry since 2017. Rose Hart and Monica Kaur have now offered to take over the positions of, respectively, Social and Fundraising into the future.

In 2016 I reported on the importance of community and the stories and friendships we share when we come together. I think the impact of COVID-19 highlighted what some took for granted pre COVID. We have surely learnt to be grateful for the freedom to gather and enjoy one another in a social setting. It is not always about raising funds for the Parish but it is about strengthening the faith community of Holy Family.

We have gathered over the past year, when possible, and enjoyed morning teas including an important one for Fr Ossie's Birthday, the Holy Family Feast Day, Volunteers Luncheon and the 50th Anniversary celebration of the Consecration of the Como church.

We have raised funds through raffles for Father's and Mother's Day and Christmas and Easter as well as having a Quiz Night in the hall. Our Parish is a generous one. People give of their time, donations and sweat to ensure any project taken on is followed through to a satisfactory end. Thank you for your relentless support which helps to keep the spirit of the Parish alive and humming. May we continue to be grateful for what we have and thank God for the freedoms we are given.

***For where two or three gather in my name,
there am I with them.***

International Lunch – 13th November 2022

We would like to thank the Fundraising Team, all the helpers, the people who contributed food, the entertainers and everyone who attended our International Lunch. We raised \$3,146.90 towards the cost of repairing the church roof.

We had received wonderful feedback, and we are looking forward to seeing you all again next year.

Rose Hart



St Vincent de Paul

By Leo Burke

Many in our area finding that buying food and paying bills is very difficult. The increased government assistance due to Covid enabled many to get by. However, with that assistance finishing St Vincent de Paul has been increasingly asked for help. Fortunately, St Vincent de Paul has been able to assist a lot of people. It has been busy, and I expect increasing requests for assistance to continue.

Our Conference provides emergency assistance for needy people in South Perth, Como, Kensington, Manning, and Karawara. The most common request for assistance is for food. However, we are also asked to assist with petrol and clothing vouchers, furniture and to contribute to the payment of bills, such as electricity and rent. We refer people who have large rental or utility bills and thus experiencing severe financial difficulty to Vinnies' full time Financial Counsellors.

So far this year (January 1 to October 30) we have provided 274 emergency relief services to over 180 people in our area. The emergency relief services were mainly for food in the form of food vouchers (66%). There were also requests for bedding & furniture (6%); clothing (8%); fuel vouchers (7%) with the remainder being for financial counselling services, car registration, whitegoods plus the growing issues of rental assistance and utility bills.

Last financial year we provided about \$45,000 worth of assistance while so far, this financial year we have provided over \$24,000.

The visits are undertaken by Conference members with 5 teams of 2 operating since the beginning of February. This enables us to visit clients 5 days per week. Although we've had some members unavailable for various periods throughout the year, we've not had to cancel visits, because other team members stepped forward to assist.



St Vincent de Paul

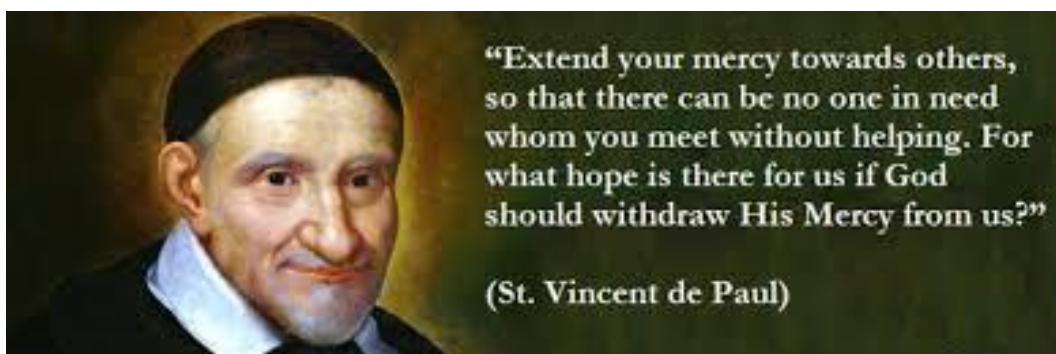
By Leo Burke

We are always looking to recruit new members to ensure that our work can continue in the years ahead. Please contact me, Leo Burke, on 0449 677468 if you would like to assist. The work is very uplifting and reminds you of your blessings without being onerous.

I'd like to sincerely thank to Fr Ossie and to the Parish Pastoral Council for the great support you provide to Vinnies throughout the year, both moral and financial. The Holy Thursday and Winter appeals were very well supported as was last year's Christmas hamper appeal where parishioners donated food items. We and our clients are most grateful for this support. Shortly we will be embarking on compiling hampers for distribution to needy families in our area on December 17th. Besides assisting those in need they bring a lot of joy to the recipients.

Thanks to our parishioners for being so generous, we could not have assisted so many without your support. Thanks also to our previous President Mike Cosson who has helped me greatly in my first year as Conference President.

Thank You All and God Bless You



Craft Group

By Patricia Cowley

From the proceeds of our yearly craft sale, we have assisted the following:

- For the past 2 years we purchased new pillows, pillowslips, colourful cushions for the Esther Foundation for their premises in Kalamunda. They had to move from South Perth. They assist girls to transition from a troubled life to an independent one. Giving them new skills for future employment.
- We've donated new beanies, blanket throws, doona covers to the St Vincent de Paul clients in our Parish.
- Confirmation Sashes we helped stitch for the recent inductees recently.
- Every 2 or 3 weeks a member bakes muffins & takes them to "Shopfront" in Bentley. An archdiocese assisted venue serves coffee, tea, toasties to the unemployed & those in need of some sustenance 11am to 1pm Monday to Friday. Always a lift of one's spirits as you enter the premises seeing the happy clients at tables enjoying assist & which we were unexpectedly rewarded. This added to our cache to purchase more wool & raw material we need.
- We donated \$100 food vouchers a few months ago to recent arrivals of Ukrainian Refugees. Mothers with children (husbands left behind) through The Ukrainian Catholic Church in Maylands.
- For the 100 yr observance of ANZAC Day, we crocheted 100 red poppies for our local RSL.
- We purchased pyx's for Holy Family & some for St Columba's too.
- We've crocheted 50+ cotton Boobies for Fiona Stanley hospital patients who've has a mastectomy.
- We've crocheted teddy bears for a local dentists' group who go to Vietnam villages to care for the dental needs of children.

In past years, we assisted orphanages in Mongolia & Myanmar. However our Craft Group has now decided to assist deserving groups in our local community.

For many years we've distributed beanies to Manna clients who queue up for lunch in Weld Square, St Bartholomew's, & organisations that assist with the Homeless.

We've made up 10 bags of 'Leaving Needs' for the Womens' Section of St. Bartholomew's Consisting of towels, face washes, cutlery, shower mats, kitchen towels, oven mitts, some microwavable utensils. Mostly mature ladies who come in with nothing in a hurry.

We always ask what the organisation NEEDS and purchase the items for them accordingly. We do not contribute in Cash anymore, as we do not know where or on what the money is spent. In some cases, we do not even receive acknowledgement of the money received.

We'd love more parishioners to join us every Wednesday from 9:00 or 9.30am till 12:00pm in the meeting room. Learn a skill or show us a skill that you have. We were recently taught a card making session with a parishioner who volunteered to teach us bringing all the necessary card, equipment, etc needed. We went home with the beautifully finished cards we made under her instruction. Bring a friend. Everyone is welcome. Just 50c for a cuppa of GOOD tea or coffee & a sweet which is voluntarily made by members most Wednesdays. Have FUN & a friendly chat with us.

Many thanks to all our parishioners who purchase our craft every year enabling us to care for those in need. You have helped them as well.

Patricia Cowley, Coordinator 9367 1301

Como Parish Small Groups

By Kerry Hardwick

The spiritual life of our Parish is enriched by the gathering of small groups for prayer. Jesus promised that “wherever two or more are gathered then I am there”. Small groups meeting at homes and groups meeting in the church for prayer and reflection are very important.

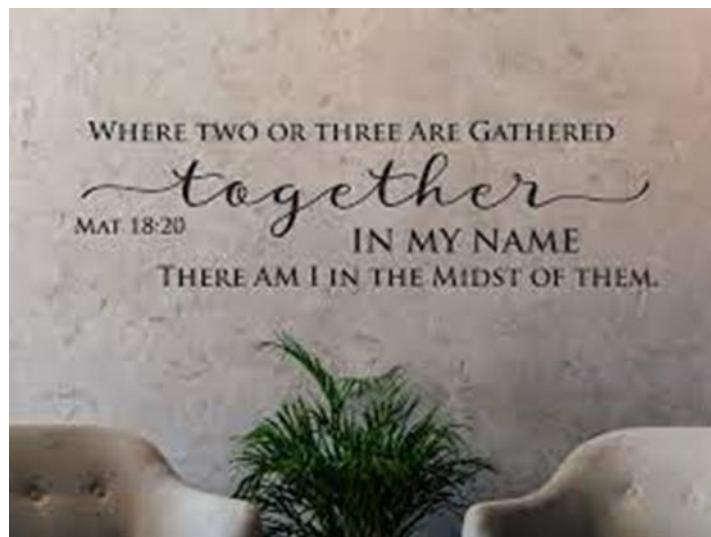
So what happens at small group meetings?

Someone asked me once: “Are they just for the “Holy Mollys” or theologians?” ABSOLUTELY NOT! A yearning to learn more about our faith and grow closer to Jesus is all that is needed.

The idea is to reflect on the Gospel for the following Sunday and connect the message to our daily life.

Our group has been meeting for many years, so the bonds are strong and the sharing of experiences and support for each other is generous and uplifting. An occasional lunch has kept us going through Covid and illness in recent times.

The coming Advent season will be a great time to renew weekly reflection groups in the Parish. Join a group or put your name in to lead or host a group.



Small Faith Communities

By Tony Bray & Cecilia Bray

Regular opportunities to reflect on living as Christians in our complicated world.

We meet in a home in the Parish every 2 or so weeks for approximately 2 ½ hours; reflecting together on life matters, from a Christian perspective.

This past year we have explored issues like:

1. Who is God - how do we describe the Infinite Being?
2. We believe in an infinitely loving and forgiving God - so what can we say of hell?
3. What does heaven look like? And what are the gifts of heaven?
4. Prayer - with words and without - are both necessary - does one lead to the other?
5. The Book of Revelation - how do we read it?
6. What is suffering all about - why is it necessary - what is God's purpose with it?
7. Fear & hatred - the evil twins of human emotion?
8. Concern for the poor - we hear the story of the rich man & Lazarus - and sermons often tell us we are like the rich man! But are we? We give 1/3 of our earnings in tax, the majority of which is spent on welfare (Pensions, unemployment benefits, Medicare etc.); we care for sick & dying relatives; give to charities like Project Compassion, Missions, Vinnies, Burma, Salvos, Red Cross, Drs without Borders, bushfire, flood, earthquake appeals, Telthon, etc. We are, in fact, a community that care for the poor - in many ways so unlike the 'rich man'.

As well as our reflection and discussion of such questions, we:

- Support each other when in special need
- Pray for the sick of our community
- Read, reflect & share our thoughts on words from the Bible
- Spend some time in silent prayer
- Enjoy a cuppa together
- Spend a weekend together in retreat at New Norcia
- Assist in Parish activities



Our small Christian community has helped us grow in our faith; build a real care for each other; ask questions about our faith; hear how others live with God; support the Parish Community. Everyone is welcome to join such a community.

If you and a small group of family, friends and parishioners wish to start your own Small Faith Community we have material and people to help you get going.

Contact Tony Bray - 0450 226 679 or Cecilia Bray - 0417 249 245



Como Catholic Prayer Group

By Cathy Stewart

Our Como Prayer Group has been meeting monthly for more than 27 years. We typically meet at 2pm on the second Sunday afternoon of each month, alternating between member's homes.

We have long standing members who have been with us since the beginning, as well as newer members who have joined us along our Catholic faith journey with Christ.

We range in age from 10 to 83 years of age. We have a mixture of working and retired members, those that join us each week and those that come when they can. We gather to read and discuss the upcoming gospel for the following week. We share our perspectives on what parts of the gospel most spoke to us. We then refer to a Catholic Text that further guides us. We then transition to saying the Rosary. Prior to doing so, we write and burn our prayers and petitions, where we give thanks or ask for Mother Mary's divine intervention. We then finish with fellowship time over a cup of tea.

The longevity of our prayer group is one of the shining lights of our Catholic small faith group community that began with Father Frank, our previous Parish Priest. Our group really becomes like extended family and the collective support that we have as we share in life's good and challenging times. The trust, practical and faith support for each in the group is immeasurable. It is Christ's message in action.

When asked what they enjoyed most about our prayer group, member responses included - "The lovely people that are here, the extended family they have become."

"I feel accepted, loved and supported, we are at one with each other, even if there are gaps of time between me coming."

"I love the genuine friendships with no judgement. The love and warmth of each member."

"Acceptance, non- judgements, trust between us all and support. I'm very thankful for opening our homes to each other."

We warmly invite new guests and members, everyone is most welcome to join us. The best contact is Cathy on 040 331 4285.

Bethany Prayer Group

“

In my role as the Parish Pastoral Assistant, I was approached and became aware of a desire not only for fellow parishioners to work together as volunteers but to share our prayer lives together. When we formed the Bethany Prayer Group, we never realized what God had in store for us. In sharing our faith, reflections, experiences and life struggles, we found a connection, a oneness, between all of us, not only in prayer but also in friendship. I feel blessed and grace by God for the gift of each of our Prayer Group Members.

”

– **Rose Hart**

“

Belonging to the Bethany Prayer Group has brought a new dimension to my spiritual well-being, by helping improve my understanding of the Scriptures and recognize how they speak to me personally. I have now also developed a heightened awareness and appreciation of the constant presence and positive influence of the Holy Spirit in my everyday life.

We met initially through working as volunteers in various roles for the church, but our relationships with each other have developed as we share our experiences and reflections with open hearts and minds.

”

– **Carolyn Watson**

“

Holy Family Church has expanded my family and blessed and enriched me by brining these special people into my life. Everyone is welcome. Come and be touched. By the Holy Spirit and feel God's presence

”

– **Ellen Miller**

“

On my first visit to the prayer group – I went with trepidation. I didn't know quite what to expect. My fears were totally groundless. The members of the group were not only welcoming but sincere and very uplifting. I felt inspired, blessed and was adamant that I would become a regular member. The stories shared were heartfelt and sincere and I left the church knowing that God's hand was instrumental in making the Group so blessed and special.

”

– **Anne Marie Macpherson**

Bethany Prayer Group

“ I grew up in Singapore as a Hindu, but was educated in Christian schools. I always believed in Christianity, attended church and prayed to Jesus but was unable to receive communion. I visited a few churches, then was introduced to Holy Family Church Como, where I felt welcomed, supported, encouraged and accepted without judgment by Fr Ossie and the caring people I met. My spiritual connection to God grew, and in August 2021 I was baptized, then received the sacraments of Reconciliation, the Eucharist and Confirmation.

Attending mass and becoming involved in various church and community activities has brought new meaning to my life, a sense of peace, belonging and happiness. Joining the Bethany Prayer Group has been a healing process for me, helping me to understand and forgive those who have hurt me. We share freely with each other our faith, feelings and experiences in a loving and supportive environment.

I am now an Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist, recently become a member of the Parish Pastoral Counsel, I welcome parishioners at Sunday Mass and help with fundraising and social activities, through which I have met many wonderful people. ”

– **Monica Kaur**

“ Love this group. Spiritually very uplifting knowing that you're not alone on this journey ”

– **Juliana**

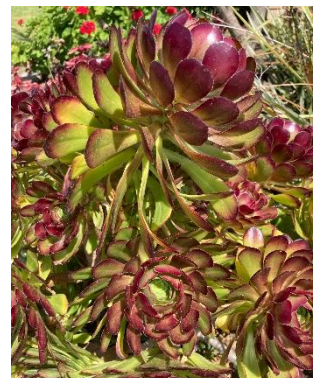
“ God works wonders in the Bethany Prayer Group we each come in usually pressed for time and racing to get on with the chores of the day. However, as we pause and reflect on the Gospel pages and share our insights and experiences, we become inspired, nourished and connected. We leave inspired and at peace. I am so thankful God has led Rose to form the group and for the fellowship of the other ladies. ”

– **Julie Yeow**



Thank you Grounds Committee

i



Even before I step into Church, my heart soars for admiring the beauty that abounds on our Parish grounds. On behalf of all the parishioners, thank you Grounds Committee for the lovely work you do - Julie Y, Parishioner

Parish Pastoral Committee Chairperson's AGM Report

*Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
Where there is hatred let me show love.
Where there is injury pardon
Where there is doubt, faith,
Where there is despair, hope,
Where there is darkness, light,
Where there is sadness, joy.
O divine master, grant that I may not
So much seek to be consoled as to console
Not so much to be understood
As to understand
Not so much to be loved, as to love;
For it is in giving that we receive,
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
It is in dying that we awake to eternal life."
St Francis of Assisi*

The words of this prayer call on us all to allow God to walk with us as we demonstrate peace that comes from living Gospel values in our daily lives. May we all attain this inner peace and trust in the Lord.

This report is my last as Chairperson of the Holy Family Parish Pastoral Council. I have served six years on the Council and been the Chairperson for the past five years. Holy Family reached out to me to join the Parish Council in 2016. I was told to think about it before giving my answer. I didn't have to think any further as I knew I was being called to something that would lead to renewal of faith, healing and character building. A year later I was challenged again to step up to the role of Chair of the Pastoral Council. There are times in your life that challenges arise and growth comes from having faith, trusting in the Lord and praying to the Holy Spirit for wisdom, understanding, knowledge, counsel, fortitude, piety and reverence to God. I have served the Parish in my role as Chair and take away a considerable amount of growth and satisfaction that I have done this to the best of my ability. Marianne Taylor has served six years on the Parish Council as a very efficient Secretary.

We extend our thanks to Marianne for her time and devotion to her position on the Council. Marina Pavey has served the Council for the past five years and now with heavy work commitments is also retiring as a councillor. It is time to allow others the privilege of serving in these roles. "The fruit of silence is prayer; the fruit of prayer is faith; the fruit of faith is love; the fruit of love is service; the fruit of service is peace." (Collopy, 31)

Parish Management

For the past two years I reported on compliance with the Western Australian COVID-19 Roadmap. Here we are in 2022 emerging from a global pandemic that shook our daily lives but our faith remained strong. We found ways to celebrate the Eucharist in small gatherings, on television and in our Parish hall. It is faith that keeps us strong, it is faith that gives us meaning and faith that remains when all else seems to have disappeared. Our faith community is strong at Holy Family and our thanks to Fr Ossie for nurturing this and being an instrument of faith and peace himself. Masses have continued wherever possible thanks to Fr Ossie, Fr Carroll and Fr Donovan.

Parish Pastoral Committee

Chairperson's AGM Report ... 2

We are fortunate to have such devoted priests to celebrate the Eucharist with our community. Our thanks is also extended to Tony Pires who resigned as Pastoral Assistant throughout the year. Tony has served on the Parish Council, been Chairperson and assisted with fundraising and spiritual direction through organised faith enrichment programmes for parishioners. We thank Tony for his contributions to the Parish community and wish him well for the future. Rose Hart is a tireless Pastoral Assistant and our thanks and prayers are extended to her for continuing her work within the Parish. There was a change of office staff when Joanne Zappia finished up throughout the year. Joanne had been a keen staff member who never intended staying for six years. We were fortunate to have had her expertise for the time she worked as Parish secretary. Joanne was replaced by Fanny Sutanto and we welcome her into this role. Thanks to Julie Yeow and Schirome Diaz who helped out in the office until the position was advertised and filled.

As Chairperson I wish to also extend my thanks to all Pastoral Council members for their dedication and calling to further the mission of the Parish faith community, to the Parish finance committee who work dutifully in offering sound financial advice to Fr Ossie in relation to Parish funds and our two Safeguarding Officers Mark Ferroa and Breda Pires for ensuring the safety of children, young people and the vulnerable within our Parish.

Safeguarding Program (As reported by Mark Ferroa)

Our Parish Safeguarding Commitment Statement declares that we will provide a safe and secure environment for all children who participate in parish activities. These activities include attending mass, attending training sessions, and attending classes organised by our sacramental program and children's liturgy. To keep children safe, our approach has been to ensure that children always remain in places where they can be observed by anyone and everyone in church. Children are not allowed to be in any room or closed space unless there are other children present with them.

Our commitment statement also states that the safety of children is a collective responsibility of all parishioners. While teachers and adult church volunteers are the ones responsible for supervising children participating in various activities, other parishioners can provide a second layer of protection by being vigilant and prepared to respond to situations where children might put themselves at risk.

Parishioners with concerns about child protection are urged to contact the parish safeguarding officers, Breda Pires and Mark Ferroa, whose phone numbers can be found in our parish bulletin.

We hope that the publicity given to safeguarding in our parish, which include articles regularly printed in our parish bulletins, the display of safeguarding material in the foyer, the inclusion of safeguarding as a permanent item on meeting agendas and our participation in activities organised by the Archdiocese will encourage everyone to actively support our safeguarding program.

Parish Pastoral Committee

Chairperson's AGM Report ... 3

Evangelisation

Evangelisation is ongoing in the Catholic Church. It encompasses sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ with others so they make the decision to follow Him, become His disciple, and join His Holy Catholic Church. It is as we live our faith that our witness to even the difficult aspects of that faith shines through. It can be very hard to talk about Catholic teaching to those who do not want to hear it. However, it is entirely possible for each of us to do our best to live by that teaching. There is nothing more powerful than the witness of a faith lived well.

Fr Ossie is active within his role as Parish Priest. He offers weekday Masses as well as three weekend Masses to parishioners including special children and youth Masses offered regularly. Fr Ossie teaches and leads us to the word of God. Father also visits and says Mass at local nursing homes. Extra-Ordinary Ministers of the Eucharist from our Parish visit local nursing homes to take Communion to the elderly. Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is privately conducted by Fr Ossie. The process involves a period of reflection, prayer, instruction, discernment, and formation.

Mark Ferroa is our Sacramental Program co-ordinator. He organises and ensures that the children in our Parish are prepared for Reconciliation, First Eucharist and Confirmation. Thanks to Mark and his team for offering their time and efforts to prepare the children for these important Sacraments.

Reported by Mark Ferroa)

Our parish Sacramental program prepares children from our parish as well as children from other parishes for First Reconciliation, First Eucharist and Confirmation. The majority of children who receive the Sacraments in our church prepare for their respective Sacrament in our classes but we also include children who prepare in

Catholic schools to join our ceremonies. The program for each Sacrament runs for ten to twelve weeks and each program includes two meetings with parents and a workshop, in addition to commitment masses and ceremony rehearsals.

In 2022, a total of thirty-seven children received the Sacraments through our parish Sacramental preparation program. The breakdown of the number of children for each Sacrament is: First Reconciliation (5), First Eucharist (11), and Confirmation (11).

Four catechists conducted our Sacramental program this year. The catechists are Marie Tiley, Ellen Miller, Joni Wijaya and Mark Ferroa. We are still looking for more parishioners to come forward to become catechists, as it is our hope to have at least two catechists in each class.

First Reconciliation classes were held on Sundays, during the 10.00 am mass. First Eucharist, Pre Confirmation and Confirmation lessons were held on Saturdays, from 4.45 pm to 5.45 pm.

The First Reconciliation ceremony was held on Saturday 25 June, and the First Eucharist ceremony was held on Sunday 14 August. The Confirmation Ceremony was held on Saturday, 29 October.

Children's Liturgy classes returned over the past twelve months. Trish Candeias has worked on ensuring the material taught is streamlined to the short time frame available. The children gather, pray the Lord's prayer and unpack the Gospel of the day in a meaningful way targeted to their age group and everyday life. Children may attend from age four till the end of Year 2, as then they will undergo preparation for their First Eucharist.

Parish Pastoral Committee

Chairperson's AGM Report ... 4

Volunteers

We are all called to proclaim the Good News. In fact, it may even be said that lay Catholics are the Church's frontline when it comes to the evangelisation of the world. Our role is primary. We are to be in the world, witnessing to our faith and our personal relationship with Jesus Christ in everything we say and do. The Parish operates with many workers who willingly give of their time to prepare rosters, clean, teach sacramental programs, conduct children's liturgy classes, serve as acolytes and altar servers, take on the sacristan role, read at Masses, be choir members, do maintenance and gardening, provide care services through Holy Family Care, fundraise and provide and serve at our morning teas. Volunteers keep our Parish alive and vibrant as they live Gospel values.

Our pastoral assistant, PPC members, Finance committee, sacristan, acolytes, altar servers, lectors, readers, extraordinary ministers, children's liturgy team, liturgy committee, choirs and small Christian communities, Sacred Heart Sodality, gardeners, technical support, cleaners and St Vincent de Paul members, are all a visible sign of commitment to their Catholic Faith as they carry out their volunteer work for the Holy Family Parish. The role of the laity may not be to lead the community liturgically and pastorally, but each of us has a unique role that only we can fill.

Social Outreach Services

The St Vincent de Paul Society is the largest volunteer welfare network in the country. It is an international voluntary organisation in the Catholic Church, founded in 1833 for the sanctification of its members by personal service of the poor. Our Vinnies Como Conference services people in need in Como, Kensington, South Perth, Manning and Karawara.

They offer assistance to their clients through food, fuel, clothing, bedding and furniture vouchers. Assistance is also given for utility bills, rent, medical scripts and financial counselling. The Holy Family Parish give generously to the Winter appeal for the Vinnies and support the Christmas Giving Tree.

The Holy Family Parish operates Holy Family Care. Assistance is offered to parishioners for short term home help, handyman jobs, transport, gardening and emergency meals. A contact list of organisations that can lend assistance to those in need is also available at the Office. Outreach and advocacy are a beautiful sign of God working in us and an important part of our faith development.

The Parish supports appeals locally, nationally and internationally through Caritas, the Archbishops Christmas Lifelink Appeal, the Good Friday Holy Land Collection and the Catholic Missions Propagation of the Faith appeal. Support is also given by parishioners through the sale of Josephite and St Columba's Calendars.

Social activities and fundraising

Social and fundraising events are offered within the Parish where both monetary and organisational support is given to ensure success. Fundraising has been active over the past year with \$9,281.60 being raised for the Parish. The monies raised are used for ongoing maintenance and repairs around the Church. Sunday morning teas are held monthly since COVID restrictions were eased.

Parish Pastoral Committee

Chairperson's AGM Report ... 5

Our future

The First Assembly of Australia's Fifth Plenary Council of Australia ran from 3-10th October 2021. The second assembly ran from 3- 9 July 2022. Much consultation, prayer and discernment has gone into gathering decrees to be placed before the Holy See for review. Canon law prescribes, for Plenary Councils, only that the bishops cast a decisive vote. Anyone else casts a consultative vote. Under this law bishops can overturn what the others have previously decided.

Francis Sullivan AO is the Chair of the Catholic Social Services Australia (CSSA) and was a representative at the Plenary Council. He blogged on the 6th July that the bishops voted down motions related to the equality of dignity between men and women in the Church. These motions included the possibility of women becoming deacons if Pope Francis paves the way. The reaction from the Assembly saw many of the women members stage an open protest against the decision of the bishops. The day's work schedule was postponed and the bishops convened a meeting to revisit the previous days motions. The following day, Francis reported that there was an acknowledgement that the injustice experienced by women in the Church has been rooted in structure, attitude and behaviour.

The reading of the Assembly for the 7th July was from Acts 2:2-4a: 'And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit.'

The lay members voted for the proposals, but there were not enough votes from the bishops to pass the measures. After controversy, the council passed a motion to reconsider proposed language on women in the Church, which latter passed in a slightly modified form.

The final decrees to be presented to the Holy See include:

- Apologies and commitments to Indigenous and Torres Strait Islander people and those harmed by sexual abuse of children in Church settings
- Initiatives relating to governance, liturgy, the environment, education, social justice and Catholic social teaching, faith formation and mission
- Commitments to foster a culture of synodality
- Should the universal law of the Church be changed to authorise the diaconate for women, a recommendation that the bishops examine how best to implement it in Australia
- A call for the defence of human life from conception to natural death, "especially those who are most vulnerable, and to care for all forms of life on Earth"
- A request for a new English translation of the Roman Missal "that is both faithful to the original text and sensitive to the call for language that communicates clearly and includes all in the assembly"
- A request that Pope Francis approve a wider use of the Third Rite of the Sacrament of Penance

A motion in favour of laity preaching at Mass was not passed, and so will not be included in the proposed decrees presented to the Pope.

Parish Pastoral Committee

Chairperson's AGM Report ... 6

After the November meeting of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference the decrees will be sent to the Holy See for review. If affirmed, they will be implemented and become the law of the Church in Australia six months later. I have witnessed a shift in my lifetime to allowing women to be present on the altar to read, serve and be Eucharistic Ministers. I have been fortunate to experience a degree of long awaited inclusion of women in the Church. However going forward, it is women who will drive change in the Church as we seek equality of dignity for all in the inclusive Church that God sent his only son to show us the way.

Change is a part of every day life. The global pandemic has forced change, natural disasters have forced change, war is eroding communities and forcing change

. If we pray for guidance, keep our minds open and our hearts full of love and compassion then good will emerge. The Catholic Church has undergone many changes since it's inception. As Catholics we are led to pray and listen to the word of God. Archbishop Timothy Costello stated at the closing Mass of the second assembly in St Mary's Cathedral, "We have tried, and at times struggled, and perhaps occasionally failed, to listen carefully to each other." "The Lord never promised that discipleship would be without its challenges." May we be ready for the changes that lie ahead and mindful of inclusion, fairness and equality as these changes come to light.

Peace and love

Marie Tiley

Chair Holy Family Parish Pastoral Council

TESTIMONY

“ I started working in Holy Family Como in January 2022. I was given lots of help and guidance from Rose Hart. I have always admired all the work Rose does for the Parish. Also, Carolyn Watson, Julie Yeow, Mary-Jo, David Pereira, Adeline Bird and Shiromi are always there to help. Thanks to Fr Ossie for his support & encouragement

It has been a wonderful journey working here at Holy Family & I have enjoyed getting more chance to know other parishioners. I will still be around the parish volunteering and doing other activities. I also like to welcome Joanne Zappia who is returning to work in the office again & Mareen Diaz. I wish them all the best.

- Fanny Sutanto

IN LOVING MEMORY



Peter Jones,
Winfred Klomp,
Alan Khoo,
Sister Angela Hynes,
Kerry Messer,
Peter Cox,
Gwen Woodruff,
Francois Rousset,
Guy D'Souza,

Giulio Azzalini,
Brian Power,
Julius Graham,
John Loughnan,
Holly Kyte,
Maureen Menagh,
Marguerita Pawle,
and all our deceased family
and friends

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and perpetual light shine upon them.
May they rest in peace. Amen

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W: milleniumcapital.com