



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR PARISH!

SEPTEMBER 2018

Introducing our new logo, which represents our parish story and our inspiration from Our Lady of Fatima. It contains the story of three poor children, living in the midst of war and conflict, to whom Mary gave the powerful message, that the heart open to God is stronger than weapons and evil. The heart is the centre of our community and Mary is our mother, as she was the Mother of her Son.

We hope this rich symbol leads you further into the Fatima story and inspires you as a member of this parish or someone connected to us on Facebook – www.facebook.com/pg/OLFPeakhurst/posts/.

The Parish thanks Chris Bounds from the Leadership Team for his work in organising our new logo.

Father's Day

On September 1st the Sunday School children presented a special **Father's Day** reflection as a way of saying thank you to all the fathers and father figures in our parish. The children made capes for their dads in Children's Liturgy with the theme '**Not all superheroes wear capes**'. A cape was made for Fr Chris, too! At the end of Mass, the children processed down to the altar wearing the capes to the song "Wind Beneath My Wings". Fr Chris said a special blessing over the capes and all the fathers and grandfathers in the church. The children then, returned to their seats, and presented their capes to their dad or grandfather. Fr Chris suggested it would be a great idea for all the dads to wear their capes to the Father's Day BBQ after Mass, which was supplied by the Welcoming Team ... and they did!

A reminder to all families that, during the 9:15am Sunday Mass, our parish hosts Sunday School in the Parish Hall/Classroom for children aged 4-13 years who have come to Mass with their family. Sunday School provides our children with prayer time, and fun and interactive activities related to the day's Gospel and Homily in easy-to-understand language. Children return to their parents during the Offertory. We would like to invite parents to come and see what Sunday School is about, and to encourage their child/children to attend.

Confirmation

On 9 September, there was a beautiful liturgy where 35 children in our Parish received the Sacrament of Confirmation. Congratulations and thanks must go to Fr Isuru, the Liturgy team, Catechists and the Sacramental Team, who prepared the children for this special celebration.

Lending A Hand

Our Lady of Fatima Parish Peakhurst has dug deep to help struggling farmers, with a **\$10,000 donation** to an innovative pilot program of the Wilcannia-Forbes diocese, which covers the worst drought-affected areas in the state. Mary Anne Gordon, a lay rural pastoral worker travels the length and breadth of the vast diocese to form a connection between isolated Catholics and their nearest parish. She said, "What this money will allow me to do, though, is to find those people who are really in need and give them cash cards for their groceries or whatever, and especially for the women, little packs of hand cream or something like that as women don't tend to buy things for themselves when money is tight." One of our Lending A Hand committee members, Paul Napier, told the Catholic Weekly, "We started to realise how serious this situation is, and we

want the people out there to know that there are people in Sydney who really care.” (Source: www.catholicweekly.com.au/peakhurst-parish-raises-10000-for-drought-stricken-farmers/)

The Lending a Hand Team recently organised the morning tea for 300 motorcycle riders in the Homicide Victims Support Group (HVSG) ‘Ride for Justice’, which is organised by Simon Bouda from Channel 9 and the HVSG to raise awareness of their work and Grace’s Place, a proposed facility to support families and especially children who are affected by homicide. The riders left Sydney through the smiling face of Luna Park and finished up at Ebony House in Waterfall where the LAH team served tea, coffee, cakes and biscuits. Gold coin donations collected were put towards fundraising for Grace’s Place.

Plenary Council 2020 – Listen to What the Spirit is Saying

Pope Francis has approved the Australian Bishops’ decision to hold a Plenary Council in Australia in 2020 and 2021. It is a significant moment for the Church in Australia to make decisions about the future and we as God’s people are invited to reflect on the question: **“What do you think God is asking of us in Australia at this time?”** Fr Chris introduced the Plenary Council to our community at masses on the weekend. An information evening to provide further details of how parishioners can be involved and have the opportunity to share their thoughts, ideas and opinions is to be held on **Wednesday, 17 October commencing at 7:30pm** in the Parish Hall.

Further information can be obtained at plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/.

Youth Mass and Social

All 35 children who were confirmed at our parish on 9 September are invited to attend a **Post-Confirmation Gathering** on Friday, **5 October from 6pm-8pm**. It will be a night of fun, faith, friendship and food.

The next Youth Mass will be held at 6pm on Sunday, 28 October. We look forward to seeing a lot of our young people there!

Save the Dates

Saturday 6 October – Catholic Women’s League Fashion Parade

Saturday 13 October – 50th Anniversary Celebration of our Parish Church

Wednesday 17 October – Plenary Council 2020 Information Evening – 7:30pm, Parish Hall

Saturday 10 November – Lending a Hand High Tea – Parish Hall

Sunday 11 November – Annual General Meeting – 10:30am, Parish Hall

Parish Office

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Deb Cummins

On behalf of OLF Parish Leadership Team

*Actively demonstrating Christ to the wider community
Providing opportunities for faith development for all
Promoting prayerful, meaningful liturgies*