



ANNUAL  
PARISH REPORT

2019



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## LEADERSHIP TEAM

**What is a parish community?** It is a community of communities, a sanctuary where the thirsty come to drink in the midst of their journey, and a centre of constant missionary outreach. (*Evangelii Gaudium* 28). I believe this statement, in some way, helps in reflecting and reporting on the past year in our parish community here at Peakhurst.

Our parish is definitely a community of communities. The variety of ministries we have here are made up of passionate, caring and energetic members who all contribute to the many aspects of Parish life. Whether it be a special liturgy, a Lending a Hand fundraiser, morning tea or a working bee it is a given that some or all ministries will be involved. An example of this was the recent 30year celebration for the Catholic Women's League where many ministries came together to contribute to such a beautiful and memorable occasion. On behalf of the Leadership Team I thank all ministries for their contributions over the year to our vibrant parish community.

Our parish is also 'a sanctuary where the thirsty come to drink in the midst of their journey'.

We are truly blessed to have our priests, Fr Chris, Fr Adam, Fr Tony and Fr Steve who nourish us with their deep spiritualities and who contribute to our personal and communal journeys through meaningful liturgies, sacramental programmes and celebrations and even in the day to day interactions we have with them. We thank them all for the time and energy they give to our Parish.

Earlier this year, many of our parishioners were involved in the initial stage of discussion, consultation and submission of feedback for the Plenary 2020. Through the coordination of Ruth Rawlinson, group leaders were identified and 19 listening / dialogue groups consisting of 110 parishioners and friends engaged in meaningful and personal discussions. Many thanks to Ruth Rawlinson, John Dowd and the Plenary group leaders for enabling our Parish to have its say about the future of the Church in Australia.

In June the LT and Fr Chris organised a music workshop with Steven Kirk for members of our music ministry. The purpose of the workshop was to give our choir and musicians some ideas and processes to enhance our liturgical music experiences. Thanks goes to Susie Paino, Cathy Dalby, Ruth Meagher and our music ministry for trying to implement some of the recommendations from the workshop. A consultation with parishioners is planned before the end of the year.

In addition, there has been a lengthy investigation into replacing the sound system in the church. Several recommendations and quotes have been sought and currently research into recommended systems in other churches is currently being undertaken. Thanks to Tony MacDougal who has coordinated this process with the assistance of Paul Moreton, Charles Centorrino, Peter Atkins and David Payne.

Our Parish is definitely 'a centre of constant missionary outreach'. The Lending a Hand Team continues their great work with a number of organisations such as One Meal, HVSG and St Canice's and has made significant contributions on behalf of the Parish to a number of causes. SVDP, Friendship Group and CWL also continue their wonderful outreach to the wider community. Our Sacramental Team led by Tosca Galluzzo and Catechists led by Julia Goff and David Payne are also to be commended for their outstanding work in their roles in evangelising our young people. Julia, after many years of service in coordinating the Catechists, and David who has assisted over the past few years are stepping down from this role. We thank them both for their dedication and consistent hard work. We will be employing a part-time Catechist Coordinator to commence in 2020.

This year we farewell Kathleen Kennedy from the Leadership Team. She has been a valued member of the Team and, in her role as Youth Minister, she has worked extremely hard to build up the youth presence in our Parish. She has coordinated and promoted the monthly Youth masses throughout the year and, through her dedication and persistence, she has established a Youth Team and a Youth

Group, which is now meeting on a regular basis. Congratulations Kathleen on achieving this initiative. We will continue to support Kathleen in her role as Parish Youth Minister.

As with any community there are a number of administrative matters that need regular attention. Our Parish is no exception. The Finance Team, led by Tony Thorpe, is to be commended on the way the Parish finances are being managed. We are appreciative of Government grants from our local members, Mark Couré and David Coleman, which have assisted with renovation of disabled toilet and refurbishment of meeting room. The Foodies markets continue to be a wonderful monthly event on our site and negotiations took place recently, which ensured a long-term partnership between the markets and our Parish. Our Parish Hall also contributes to our finances with regular business hirers. In addition, we do offer the facilities to a number of community groups.

Increased compliance and legislation in WHS, Safeguarding, hall hire and maintenance of our facilities are continually at the forefront of Leadership Team business. Thanks must go to Chris Bounds (Safeguarding Officer), Paul Moreton (Maintenance), Emma Williams (Hall Hire and Markets) and especially Clarissa Finan, our Parish Secretary, for all their efforts in keeping our Parish safe and compliant.

After a very lengthy process our new Parish constitution is ready for publication and submission. We are hugely indebted to the Constitution ‘working party’ – Jenni Payne, Tony Thorpe, Tony MacDougal and Julia Goff, and in consultation with Fr Chris, who did an extraordinary amount of work to finalise the document for submission at this meeting today. This Constitution will be a valuable guide for our Parish into the future.

It is evident that 2019 has been a busy and fruitful year for our Parish. I have to acknowledge, in particular, all members of the Leadership Team – Jenni Payne, Tosca Galluzzo, John Dowd, Kathleen Kennedy and Tony MacDougal for contributing their expertise, passion and dedication to leading so efficiently our OLF Parish community. Special thanks must also go to Clarissa for all the time and hard work she puts in to keeping all aspects of the Parish running so smoothly.

So, what does the future hold for our Parish? The Leadership Team is committed to implementing an Alpha Programme in our Parish next year. A coordinator is to be employed on part-time basis in 2020.

We hope to enhance communication to the wider community through a new website design, continued social media exposure and a relaunch of the “Bark”.

We need to develop a Maintenance Committee to assist with the greater demands of this facet of Parish business.

We need to have a plan for our Parish for the next 5-10 years. Over the past few months a working party of parishioners has been looking at ways to develop a Parish Plan and Vision for our Parish. Under the direction of Fr Chris, the committee has commenced the process through discussion, reading relevant sources and looking at processes which will involve the whole Parish community in 2020.

It is an exciting time for our Parish as we continue to be a community of communities, as we remain ‘a sanctuary where the thirsty come to drink in the midst of their journey’ and as we strive to ensure that we are a centre of constant missionary outreach.

Deb Cummins  
Chairperson  
On behalf of the OLF Leadership Team

## LITURGY COMMITTEE

The Liturgy Committee, supported by other ministries, continues to strive to make our liturgies reflective and special.

Highlights over the year have been:

- As part of our Lenten Program, Fr. Tony gave two talks on “The Meaning of the Cross – Jesus’ Last Words”. The Stations of the Cross were also held on two weeks and our Lenten Reconciliation Liturgy was held on 10 April. The Liturgy was the Second Rite of Reconciliation with Fr. Chris, Fr. Tony and Fr. Adam all involved.
- Holy Week commenced on 14 April with Palm Sunday. The Easter Triduum began with the evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper on Holy Thursday, continued with the Celebration of the Passion of the Lord on Good Friday and reached its high point in the Easter Vigil. Our sincere thanks to Fr. Adam.
- Mother’s Day was celebrated at the 9:15am Mass on Sunday, 12 May, with a lovely reflection by the Children’s Liturgy and beautiful portraits on the church walls. Our thanks to the Children’s Liturgy.
- First Communion was celebrated in the Parish on 22/23 June with 46 children involved. Our thanks to Fr. Tony and the Sacramental Team.
- Our thanks to Jenni Payne for again running the Altar Servers training course.
- Father’s Day was celebrated on 1 September with a special presentation for all fathers and grandfathers. Portraits prepared by some of the children were placed on the church walls. Thank you again to the Children’s Liturgy.
- The Music Ministry has been trialling some new ideas to improve our liturgical experience based on suggestions that arose from the music workshop conducted by Stephen Kirk on 1 June. Our thanks to Susie Paino for leading this process.
- Confirmation was celebrated in the Parish on Sunday 15 September with 43 children being confirmed by Bishop Tony Randazzo. Our thanks to Fr. Chris and the Sacramental Team.
- A special Mass was held on 13 October to celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Catholic Women’s League, Peakhurst and to acknowledge the wonderful contribution of our CWL ladies over the years.
- Our Youth Masses, which commenced last year, continued on the evening of the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month. Our thanks to Kathleen Kennedy.
- In October/November, we are praying for the students from our Parish undertaking major exams.
- A special Remembrance Mass for our departed loved ones will be celebrated on Friday, 1 November.
- The Thanksgiving Mass for the children attending the Catholic Scripture Classes in our local State Schools will be celebrated at the 6pm Mass on 17 November.
- Our Advent Reconciliation Liturgy is planned for 7:00pm, Wednesday, 11 December. Similar to our Lenten Reconciliation Liturgy, the Second Rite of Reconciliation will be used.
- Our Mass times for Christmas are 6:00pm and 9:00pm on Christmas Eve and 9:15am on Christmas Day. There will be no evening Mass on Christmas Day.

A very special thank you to Fr. Chris, Fr. Tony and Fr. Adam for their wonderful ministry to us. Thank you to Clarissa for all her hard work. Also thank you to everyone involved in our liturgy for giving so generously of their time.

David Payne

### **Celebrating the Sacraments at Our Lady of Fatima Peakhurst**

In 2019, we welcomed our candidates for each Sacrament at a Welcoming Mass and presented them to our community. At each Mass the candidates were reminded the importance of the Sacrament, why we receive this sacrament and the meaning behind each sacrament, that each sacrament is a visible sign of God's invisible presence, and to celebrate each of the Sacraments in a special way, the new life which Jesus brings us.

We continued with the new format of the lessons for the sacraments of the Eucharist and Penance. This was split into two parts: in the first part, Fr Chris, Fr Tony or Fr Adam spoke with the parents whilst the Sacramental team took the lesson with the children. In the second part, in keeping with our aim that these programs are in partnership with the parents, the children then returned to their parents afterwards to discuss their learnings from the lesson. All sessions by our priests with the parents was well received and we will continue to present the program this way.

Our candidates for Confirmation this year experienced a new program that involved Sam Clear as well as the Youth Ministry Team, and new themes – God wants all of us to experience being filled with His Holy Spirit. When the Holy Spirit fills our lives, our experience is marked by a profound sense of God's love and power, a boldness to witness, and a renewed desire to praise God. This experience is unique for everyone. It is not just an encounter, but ongoing.

These sacraments were celebrated by our children on the following days:

- The Sacrament of the Eucharist was celebrated on Saturday 22 June and Sunday 23 June, the Feast of Corpus Christi. This year we had 46 children in the program. The program included 3 lessons and began on Wednesday, 29 May where parents and children came together to talk and learn about preparing themselves to receive Holy Communion for the first time. The lessons are planned to introduce the children to the parts of the Mass.
- The Sacrament of Confirmation was celebrated on Sunday 15 September at 2pm by Bishop Tony Randazzo together with Fr Chris. This year we had 43 confirmants.
- Preparation for the Sacrament of Penance commenced on Wednesday 23 October and concludes on Wednesday 20 November with the Liturgy of the Word and on Wednesday 27 November with individual reconciliations. This year we have 47 children participating in the program.

Tosca Galluzzo  
Sacramental Co-ordinator

## CATECHISTS

### ***More than 50% of Catholic school students are educated in public schools***

2019 has been a year of blessings and challenges for the OLF Catechist team.

We have been blessed to have been able to teach the 21 classes at three local schools (Peakhurst West, Peakhurst South and Lugarno) throughout the year. This is thanks to the dedication of our catechists and helpers: their willingness to teach more than one class a week (often at two schools), to fill in for sickness and holidays and to provide support to each other in many ways.

We have been blessed by support we have received from the school staff and also from the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD) under whose auspices we work.

We have been blessed to have had two catechists awarded at the Annual Catechist Mass at St Mary's Cathedral on 29 September: Trish Craven received Life Membership of the CCD for 30 years' teaching and Christiane Sarraf received accreditation following completion of all three levels of training.

We have been blessed to have some new catechists and helpers this year who have undertaken the necessary (and very helpful) training provided by the CCD and who are now teaching with us. Their enthusiasm and faith are wonderful to see and are an inspiration to us and to the children they teach.

We have been blessed by the willingness of the Leadership Team to seek a paid co-ordinator to reduce the administrative burden of this ministry.

We have been challenged by the need to constantly recruit new catechists and helpers to replace those who are no longer able to teach for personal and family reasons.

We have been challenged to find ways to ensure that the students receiving SRE in these three public schools, and their families, know that they are valued and important members of our parish.

We have been challenged by the changing times that require increased administration and accountability.

We have been challenged by teaching composite classes and by the needs of some students.

While the work of our catechists is largely unseen by the wider parish, it is at the core of our faith and must be supported by the entire parish. We need a larger team of catechists and helpers to ensure that these children are provided with the opportunity to know God as we do.

Training, resources and support are ready... all we need is you!

David Payne and Julia Goff  
On behalf of OLF Catechists 2019

### **Our Parish Catechists**

Connie Alifano, Greg Briscoe-Hough, Trish Craven, Ruth Crowley, Rose Cutrone, Julia Goff, Joan Lo, Eric Lumley, Maria Lumley, Amal McKenny, David Payne, Edvina Prest, Lina Rehayem, Marie Ryan, Christiane Sarraf, Marie Ternel, Silvana Vassallo, Elke Videka, Mato Videka

## CHILDREN'S LITURGY / SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School allows the younger members of our parish to experience the Gospel in a child-friendly environment, while giving them opportunity to be more involved in the Mass and the parish. Numbers still tend to fluctuate, ranging from 6 up to 25 children, which can make it difficult to gauge how many worksheets, etc. to prepare. We tend to get bigger numbers on our festive Masses (Mothers' Day and Fathers' Day).

There are still many children staying back in the church, so we are trying to work on different ways to get them involved (without appearing pushy!). Walking around the church while people are taking their seats and personally inviting the children helps on occasion, so I am not sure what else we can do to get a steady healthy number of attendees and encourage the children to come down. It might help to have the message about Sunday School also read at our Saturday and Sunday evening masses as a reminder.

We have expanded our Sunday School teacher base this year, which has now allowed us to roster on a different set of 2 teachers (a leader and a helper) each week. We currently have 9 permanent teachers and helpers on our roster as well as 3 reserves who can be called upon as required. Having our new teachers and helpers onboard has been great as they have introduced new and interesting ways to structure the lessons, keeping it engaging for the children. We have introduced the use of digital media to some of our lessons to show the Gospel via video, which really excited the children, who were keen to discuss the animations and what it meant to them.

With our larger teacher base, my next project will be to explore having the Sunday School program run during school holidays on an availability roster as those who are not away still attend Mass during this time, so why not have Sunday School running! We did run one on the last Sunday of school holidays, but the attendance was very low. However, when I returned to Mass, I saw lots of children whose parents did not think it was on. Therefore, if we are to explore having some sessions through the holidays, it would definitely require more promoting to make parishioners aware. This is something I would like to trial if numbers/availability permit.

I would like to enquire about getting a couple of small corflute signs made that could be placed outside the Sunday School room, and at the back and side entrances of the church on the days that Sunday School are running. This way, even when families are running late, they will be aware that they can send their children down to Sunday School.

I believe the Sunday School program is a vital part of the weekend Masses so it needs to be promoted to our children and of course parents and caregivers. Our main celebrations are Mothers' Day and Fathers' Day, and of course the Christmas Pageant, which I hope will be just as special and successful as in previous years. We will begin the recruitment campaign in the upcoming weeks and hope to have lots of children participate.

I would like to explore the idea of having a Children's Family Mass once each term (Terms 1-3, leaving Christmas Eve as the Family Mass for Term 4), where the children could participate in the Prayer of the Faithful and readings, as well as the Offertory, and really be a part of the celebration. This could maybe coincide with a Morning Tea that is put on by the Welcoming Team, or perhaps we could arrange a special children's morning tea after these Masses.

I have always said, we need to remember that our children play an important part of our church community – they are our future! Having a Children's Liturgy and Sunday School program is such an asset at our Parish, and I hope we will be able to sustain it for many years to come. I strongly hope that Children's Liturgy will continue to take special part in Mass celebrations.

Marissa De Marcellis

## YOUTH MINISTRY

The Youth Ministry of OLF Peakhurst has undergone some significant changes this year. We have continued running our monthly Youth Masses on the fourth Sunday of each month, which have been a great way to involve more young people in our Eucharistic celebrations. Many thanks go to everyone who has been involved in assisting with the smooth running of the Masses, particularly Susie Paino for undertaking the music ministry with her family for many of these Masses, and often helping with the organisation of the music during other times. We also welcomed a new young musician into the music ministry, which has been a great addition and blessing.

Most notably, the second half of this year saw the recommencement of “Peak Youth”, our Youth Group for students in Years 6-8, which runs every fortnight on Friday nights. This required a lot of planning and preparation in the first half of the year, including engaging with local schools to increase interest in youth group, as well as forming a Youth Group Leadership Team. This Leadership Team is made up of myself and five other young people from our parish community, and we have been working to make Youth Group nights the most enjoyable experience for our young people. Most weeks we have had 15-20 students attending and we have had a great time, playing games, sharing a meal and discussing our faith. During Term 3, we unpacked the Ten Commandments to improve our understanding of God’s plan for our lives, and this term we are “unwrapping” the real meaning of Christmas. It has been a really exciting time, building relationships with young people in our local community and making them feel welcome within our parish.

Another important note is the overwhelming support of our parish for the four girls who will be attending the Australian Catholic Youth Festival (ACYF) in December. Through the BBQs and raffles after Mass, the cost for these girls to attend this amazing festival has been covered completely. ACYF is a wonderful time of unity and celebration for young Catholics in Australia, so I would like to thank the parish for their generosity in helping the girls share in this incredible experience.

I would also like to thank our priests, Fr Chris, Fr Adam and Fr Tony for their continued support of our youth ministry in Peakhurst. I would also like to thank Br. Josh Whicker for his support and enthusiasm around our youth ministry while he has been here.

I look forward to continuing to engage young people in the life of our wonderful Parish throughout the next year, and once again thank everyone for their support.

Kathleen Kennedy  
Youth Minister

## CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE PEAKHURST BRANCH

Our branch has 25 active members and our meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesday of the month in the Parish Meeting Room commencing at 1pm.

Our income this year is from the Silver Circle, supplying sandwiches for the Grandviews Probus Club AGM and our Fashion Parade. These funds are then distributed primarily to NSW CWL Project of the year. This project is the Than Tam Special School, Da Nang City, Vietnam. We have also made donations to Catholic Care and responded to various requests from local and overseas charities.

Our members are always willing to help other Parish activities, including morning tea and functions organized in the parish. We staff the Piety Stall at weekend Masses.

Our members hosted the World Day of Prayer in March. This is a global ecumenical movement led by women, who join in prayer and action for peace and justice in disadvantaged countries. This year's focus was Slovenia. The day was attended by 50 members of the local churches.

Our members attend the monthly city meeting and lunch at Polding House. We also enjoy social outings. This year we have enjoyed lunch Sydney Parliament house and a ferry & lunch excursion to Bundeena. We support other CWL functions during the year and the Sydney CWL Christmas Party.

We held our annual Fashion Parade on 26 October in the Parish Centre.

Our current President is Maureen Burgess and she is supported by Mary Branagan and Marie Ryan (Secretaries), Pat Macks (Treasurer), and Marlene Wallace (our representative to the CWL Council in Sydney).

Marie Ryan (Secretary)

## LENDING A HAND

When Lending A Hand was initially formed around 2005, the Mission Statement of the Parish at that time included that we would “reach out to the wider community”. Lending A Hand was, in part, formed to address that goal, and that is still the objective of Lending A Hand today. Lending A Hand receives 10% of parishioners’ donations via the Planned Giving Program (Envelopes and Credit Card contributions) each year, to fund this. Our aim is to try to identify worthwhile causes that are not receiving support from elsewhere. The objective was expanded to involve parishioners where possible, by allowing them to contribute their time in assisting with identified causes. Volunteering at the St. Canice’s Kitchen is one example of this.

Over the past year, Lending A Hand has reached out to others, on behalf of the Parish, through:

- One Meal, which operates every Monday night, other than on public holidays, where Lending A Hand organises volunteers from various local parishes/Catholic schools, to provide and serve food and the opportunity for companionship, to those in need. Rostered members of Lending A Hand attend each Monday night to support the groups and ensure all goes well.
- Donating \$10,000 in July 2018 through the Wilcannia Forbes Diocese, for drought aid.
- A special One Meal “Christmas in July” with entertainment provided by the guests and special Christmas-themed food
- Continuing to support St. Canice’s kitchen, as we have done for several years, serving food, cooked and provided by parishioners, to the less fortunate at Kings Cross.
- As for previous years, supporting the Homicide Victims Support Group’s Ride for Justice where a convoy of motor bikes travelled from Luna Park to Ebony House at Waterfall headed by police motorcycle support to highlight the incidence of homicide. Members of Lending A Hand provided food and hot and cold drinks for the riders at Ebony House.
- Holding a High tea in November, attended by Mary Anne Gordon from Bourke to whom the funds were allocated by Wilcannia Forbes Diocese. Mary Anne spoke about her work as a pastoral worker and how she was using the funds we provided. This event raised a further \$2,500 that was provided to Mary Anne. Brother Pat Lynch, who we had previously supported with funds for his work creating a community garden in Goodooga in northern NSW, also attended speaking about his work.
- Providing \$1,800 to “Good Will Only”, a group in Wollongong operating a drop-in centre, where people doing it tough are assisted with a meal and other services.
- In March providing a further \$2,000 to Mary Anne Gordon in Bourke, as the drought conditions continued
- Since the end of the 2018-2019 year, in June we:
  - Held a “Christmas in July” cake stall and raffle, featuring mulled wine and Christmas cake at the 6pm Mass. The proceeds from this, together with donations from parishioners, totalled \$2,531, which was donated to the St Joseph’s Riverwood building renovations
  - Provided furniture to Mornington Island State school, at a cost of \$6,540. This is a predominantly aboriginal school, located in the Gulf of Carpentaria off the coast of Queensland. We provided Aboriginal designed furniture for library, where previously there was no furniture and children had to sit on the floor
  - Donated \$5,000 to St Teresa’s Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Catholic Community Centre in Townsville, to fund a part time administrator to enable the

doors to be open for reflection, and provide the opportunity for the 12,000 or more people of Aboriginal and Islander descent in city of Townsville to chat with Elders and Local Priest, and build St Teresa's church back up again. Fr Steve has been working in northern Queensland following the time he spent in Peakhurst Parish, and has a close association with this organisation

- Provided support for the Homicide Victims Support Group's Grace's Place. Lending A Hand provided food and drinks, which members of Lending A Hand served at the "turning of the sod", the commencement of the building of a place for children affected by homicide. \$1,600 was generated from sales, combined with generous donations from Club Rivers and a member of the parish, which was donated to Graces Place.

Tony Thorpe

## **ST VINCENT DE PAUL PEAKHURST CONFERENCE**

Peakhurst Vinnies Conference with the support of our wonderful parishioners who have contributed in excess of \$25000 in the past financial year, have been able to make in excess of 100 home visits in the past year to those who are less fortunate in our community. Our 2018 Christmas Appeal raised in excess of \$8,000 and our 2019 Winter Appeal in excess of \$10,000, thanks to the generosity of our parishioners.

We thank Lugarno Lions Club who recently gave a generous donation of \$1000 to our Vinnies conference after our support of their 2018 Christmas Cakes sales.

We held a membership drive during the year in conjunction with St Declan's Penshurst, which aroused some interest in Vinnies at the time and we have managed to attract one new member (a young lady in her thirties) and she is currently 'learning the ropes'.

Again, we are most grateful to be part of such a supportive parish which allows our members to continue to carry out the Good Works of St Vincent de Paul.

May God bless you all.

Mike Flanagan  
President

## **FRIENDSHIP GROUP**

Our Lady of Fatima Friendship Group was formed on 8 September 1988 and has been running for 31 years. We currently have 20 guests and 11 helpers. Every Thursday fortnight, our helpers arrive at 8:30am to prepare the Parish Centre Meeting Room to receive our guests from 10am to 1pm.

We start with a cuppa and enjoy having a chat, we then settle down to play board games. Every 6 weeks we play Bingo with small prizes for the winners. 12pm lunch is generously supplied by our willing helpers. We have raffles for Easter, a Christmas party and a Melbourne Cup Sweep.

Our guests and helpers all enjoy each other's company and have lots of fun. Transport is available between 9:30 - 10am if required.

Helen Cozzi

## WELCOMING TEAM

A sincere thank you to all the members of the Welcoming Team, comprising Robert DeMarcellis, Dennis Day, Connie Alifano, Noelene Hammond, Careena Craven, Anita Aley, Joanna Miks and Wendy Scrymgeour.

The past 12 months have been exciting, with new members joining the team and giving it a boost of enthusiasm. It was a year of social interaction with our bi-monthly Morning Teas after the 9:15am Mass.

Name tags for each parishioner are given out before Mass so that at the Sign of Peace, each person knows who they are greeting, and hopefully the name tags encourage individuals to chat to someone new after Mass at the morning tea.

Highlights of the year include:

- the Mother's Day Morning Tea, with many staying to chat over a cuppa
- Christmas in July, where we joined with the *Lending A Hand Team* to encourage camaraderie over fruit cake and jovial conversation.
- Father's Day or "Egg & Bacon Roll" day, where the dads took over and showed their cooking skills

A special event the Welcoming Team helped with was the CWL 30-year celebration in October. This was very much a combined ministry effort and showed how seamlessly we as a parish can work together to extend our sincere thanks to a ministry that channels harmony through prayer and action. This event saw many old parishioners return and extended families filled the church.

Another area we look after is the Welcoming Book, which is kept at the back of the church for new parishioners to sign. A member of the Welcoming Team then rings them to say hello and tell them about the activities and opportunities to get involved in within the parish. We also invite them to our next morning tea, so we can introduce them, and they can build relationships with fellow parishioners.

Maria Vaux



# OPERATIONS

## FINANCE

In November 2018, we received a building maintenance assessment showing a 10-year maintenance plan that covered parish assets, excluding for the church itself. This report suggested costs of \$248,000 over the 10 years, with a significant amount required in the early years. From our internal assessment of the items included in that report, along with requirements identified for the church itself, we have included costs in the 2018-2019 for those items intended to have been addressed, but which were not completed in that year. Some of those you would have seen being worked on recently.

So, allowing for these, for the year to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019, we had a surplus of \$3,612.

The major items being addressed are to remove trip hazards around the parish property, repairs of window locks in church, installation of accessible toilet and replacement of the sound system.

Income was down by around \$4,000 compared to last year, the main reason being that we lost the 50% rebate from the 1st collection from 2017-2018. The Finance Committee appeal to increase our weekly collections to compensate for this, went part of the way but was still \$6,000 short of the goal.

The budget for the current financial year, 2019-2020, shows a surplus of around \$14,000. There are new costs in 2019-2020 of \$15,000 for the Alpha program, plus \$3,000 for a Catechist Coordinator to support the catechist program. This result depends on an increase in Collections in line with cost of living increases.

As at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019, we had \$359,000 in Term Deposits and \$93,000 in the general account & in a cash management account.

One point I would like to highlight is the importance that external income represents to the parish. From time to time I have heard the comment that we are a church and not a business. I am in absolute agreement that our purpose is as a church. However, many, if not most of our needs in today's environment, require funding. Gone are the days unfortunately of many of our needs being addressed by volunteers, although a few still are. In our budget for 2019-2020, around \$30,000 has been budgeted as income from the markets and hall hire. Clearly, given the budget surplus of around \$14,000, this means that without this income we would not be able to produce a surplus, or we would have to reduce some costs. As such, this could mean that we may not proceed with everything we would like to do. So, I think it is essential that parishioners understand the role that this external income plays in the church focussed issues.

As I have indicated, in order to achieve the budgeted surplus, assuming all the other inputs are correct, we need to achieve an increase in Parishioner contributions. The Planned Giving program and the weekly collections are our main source of income, being around 80% of our income. Over the past couple of years, we have been able to increase the number of credit card givers, which provides a sounder base, as these are consistent contributions. We would like to increase this going forward as envelope contributors only give on around 65% of occasions, although some do increase their contributions to compensate.

We have also included an increase in the markets site rental in the budget but with the rained-out event in August that increase may be offset.

We will be making an appeal to the Parish soon to request increased parishioner contributions.

Tony Thorpe

# COMMUNICATIONS

## Information & Technology

In the last year, the following IT issues were addressed:

- the NAS drive in the office was replaced due to port and hard drive failure;
- the laptop in the church was replaced to improve capability especially related to performance with multi-media presentations; and
- the financial software package, MYOB, was upgraded to the latest version to allow us to comply with the Single Touch Payroll requirement of the ATO

Charles Centorrino

## Updating of Parish Website

Late last year, as a result of discussions in the Leadership Team (LT), a Website Working Party (WWP) was formed. Options for website design were explored and earlier this year a decision was made to continue with our current provider. The WWP investigated a range of websites for ideas and has made decisions about the desired structure and look of the website. The developer is working on implementing the decisions of the WWP, which have been reviewed by the LT.

There is much work to be done with updating text and images to be included in the redeveloped website. The WWP, with the assistance of a local photographer from Washboard Productions, is currently determining which images of recent parish events will be included.

## The Bark

Volunteers have produced the Parish magazine, *The Bark*, since its inception. For a number of years, a team was responsible for the magazine and for over a decade a single volunteer has completed this work. This is too big a task for one person. In the process of drafting the revised Constitution, it was decided that all ministries must be the work of a team.

Over the last few years there have been a number of requests for volunteers to assist with the production of *The Bark*, with little response. Thank you to Dominic Alati who was the editor for ten years and to Florence Bonnano in the last couple of years. If *The Bark* is to be relaunched a team of five people is required.

A request for volunteers to join the team will be included in the parish bulletin throughout November. The LT has proposed that if *The Bark* is relaunched it will take two forms: as an e-magazine for parishioners with Internet access and a printed copy for those who make a written request.

Jenni Payne

# MAINTENANCE

**YEAR 4 of 5-year plan: 2019/20. Condition Survey conducted 2015.**

- MAJOR WORKS: In hand
  - Disabled Toilet: Construction commenced October 9<sup>th</sup>.
- WORKS COMPLETED:
  - Door Security:  
All door locks have been serviced & repaired. Upgraded lock barrels with Restricted Access Keys. These have been fitted in some locations to strengthen security.
  - Church Windows:  
All windows in the nave of the church have been serviced & lubricated.  
The lower level widows have been converted to winder controls to eliminate slamming shut in windy weather conditions.
- WORKS OUTSTANDING:
  - Sound System:  
PA system components aged, reliability issues apparent, choir microphones aged & inefficient. Seeking system replacement.
  - Centre Aisle Lighting:  
Fluorescent bulbs no longer available. No suitable LED lamps identified to date.  
Alternate light fittings may be required.
  - Ceiling Fans:  
Controllers becoming unreliable, have been in use longer than 25 years. Suitable replacements being sought.
- WORKS DEFERRED:  
Have now been included in the subsequent maintenance plan.
  - Parish House
    - Counting Room  
Repair ceiling damage & repaint, Repair termite damaged wall & repaint.
    - Upgrade interior lighting to LED.
  - Parish Hall:
    - Kitchen:  
Install commercial Fast Cycle Dishwasher.
    - Window Furnishings:  
Curtains deteriorated, consider blinds or block-out film?

## **YEAR 1 of 10-year plan 2019/20. Condition survey conducted 2018.**

Maintenance programme & budget allocation has been determined to undertake the works identified in the survey.

A separate budget allocation has been established for all the regular repetitive maintenance works, such as cleaning, lawn mowing, gardening, plumbing, electrical, minor repairs, etc.

Items identified by the survey as WH&S risks were brought forward for urgent attention.

Lists of works were compiled under trade disciplines, which are to be handed out when seeking quotes for the works to be performed.

### **TRADES LISTS**

- **CONCRETE PAVING: COMPLETED.**

Some minor trip hazards have been identified, rectification now being sought.

- Remove sunken concrete, lay new concrete at the following locations:

- Driveway in front of church
    - Footpath behind Parish House (4 slabs)
    - Remove old clothesline and footpath
    - Driveway behind hall was cracked and sunken, behind vehicle layback, behind kerbing & area around drain gate

- Construct wheelchair ramp access at:

- Entry to Parish House veranda
    - Entry to Hall via wrought iron gate

- **PLUMBING WORKS: COMPLETED.**

Other blockages and damaged pipes in stormwater & sewer lines were located & repaired.

- Investigate stormwater held in the roof gutters of the church, high & low levels, parish hall verandas

- Possible causes: blocked downpipes, blocked stormwater pipeline.
    - If appropriate, engage services of plumber for high height works & Tony Maude to inspect & clear pipeline.
    - Reseal all gutter joints at joins, downpipes, ends, etc.
    - Repair & reconnect downpipes located at courtyard veranda.

- Reinstall gully trap located at side of Parish House.

- TRIP HAZARDS: Lower 2 gully traps: one located at rear corner of Parish House, one outside toilets behind the church.

- Replace tap indicators or knob sets, as required, on all toilet handbasins, kitchen sinks.

- Inspect flexible water supply hoses at all toilet & sink locations, have experienced recent burst. Replace as required.

- Locate & reposition carpark garden tap located behind kerb line, in Forest Rd border garden. May require use of pipe locating device.

- ELECTRICAL WORKS: Quotes to be sought.
  - Parish Hall:
    - TV Antenna cable coil up & secure at suitable height.
    - Wall Light: Repair & adjust as necessary.
    - Table storeroom: Light switches – repair/replace missing control knobs.
    - Veranda: Lighting – replace missing covers/diffusers; install alternative fitting
  - Meeting Room
    - Speaker cables: coil up & secure at suitable height.
  - Parish House:
    - Vinnies Room: Reposition cover on Ceiling fan
    - TV Antenna – raise lower wall bracket, secure lead-in cable as required.
  - Carpark Lighting:
    - Alternative external control switching
    - Investigate restoring hall breezeway switch with key control switch
    - Restrict issue of key to Hall Hirers & Markets; refundable deposit on issue, repaid on return of key.
- CARPENTER/HANDYMAN: Quote to be sought from regular parish handyman.
  - Playground cubby house:
    - Repair veranda roof & handrail, fit new side window, other repairs as necessary.
  - Parish House
    - Laundry: Repair base of door & repaint as required.
    - Meeting room: Repair side entry door inside, stain/seal as required.
    - Kitchen: Reseal splashback as required.
    - Veranda: External support Beam – repair water damage, seal & paint as required.
    - All steps: install non-slip zebra tape to steps/stairs in all locations.
    - Exit Sign: Install Fire Exit sign above rear/side doorway.
    - Fire Equipment: Wall-mount fire extinguisher & signage in rear office.
  - Parish Hall
    - Servery/Bar: Minor repairs to wall, fill holes, paint as required.
    - Kitchen: Minor repairs to wall above refrigerator, fill holes, paint as required.
    - Ladies Toilet: Reseal splashback as required.
    - Male Toilet: Replace broken wall tile.
    - All steps: install non-slip zebra tape to steps/stairs in all locations.
  - Church
    - Pews: Fit brackets to legs of pews where missing.
    - Steps: install non-slip zebra tape to steps/stairs in all locations.
    - Toilets under church: Replace broken wall tiles.

Paul Moreton



# MISSION STATEMENT

THE MISSION OF THE PARISH OF  
OUR LADY OF FATIMA, PEAKHURST,  
NOURISHED BY THE WORD  
AND SUSTAINED BY THE EUCHARIST,  
IS TO BUILD AND NURTURE  
A CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY  
THROUGH OUR CATHOLIC FAITH.  
WITH OUR GIFTS,  
WE CREATE A PARISH  
THAT WELCOMES ALL PEOPLE.

WE WILL ACHIEVE OUR MISSION BY:  
PROMOTING PRAYERFUL, MEANINGFUL LITURGIES;  
ACTIVELY DEMONSTRATING CHRIST  
TO THE WIDER COMMUNITY;  
PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES  
FOR FAITH DEVELOPMENT FOR ALL