



Ministry Reports 2018

LEADERSHIP TEAM

It's hard to believe that we are nearing the end of 2018, a year where great things have been happening in our Parish, starting with the arrival of our Parish priest, Fr Chris Ryan who joined Fr Adam and Fr Isuru in bringing the work and spirit of the Missionaries of God's Love to our parish community.

We farewelled Camille Phillips from the Leadership Team and we acknowledged her astute leadership and guidance during the transition period since Fr John Crothers' retirement. Jenni Payne came on board for a 3-year tenure, where her passion and energy for our Parish will surely be valued. Chris Bounds and Francesca Guidotto are visionaries who have initiated many projects and have been strong advocates of moving our Parish forward into the future. They finish their time on the Leadership Team this year but I'm sure they will continue to offer much within our Parish community. Florence Bonanno took some 'maternity leave' from the Team and we congratulate her on the birth of Alessandro. We look forward to having her back with us. Kathleen Kennedy is working extremely hard to build up the youth presence in our Parish and we admire her dedication in her role as Youth Minister.

A new logo for the Parish was introduced. Many people have commented on how beautiful it is with the symbol representing our parish story and our inspiration from Our Lady of Fatima. We acknowledge Chris Bounds who initiated the process and organised the graphic designer.

A new Parish constitution was drafted and presented to our Parish Council for discussion. As a result, a working party of parishioners is meeting regularly and is preparing to finalise the document for submission to the Parish in 2019.

Administrative matters due to 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 Francesca Guidotto (WHS Officer), Chris Bounds (Parish Safeguarding Support Officer), Paul Moreton (Maintenance), Emma Williams (hall hire) and especially Clarissa Finan, our Parish Secretary, for all their efforts in keeping our Parish safe and compliant.

The Finance Team, led by Tony Thorpe, is to be commended on the way the Parish finances are being managed. The Foodies Markets continues to be a wonderful monthly event on our site and negotiations are continuing to ensure a partnership between the markets and our Parish benefits all parties.

Our Parish has begun the process of contributing to the Plenary Council 2020 with Parish Ambassador Ruth Rawlinson, assisted by John Dowd and Deb Cummins, informing and publicising the Plenary 2020 to the wider parish community and organising a number of listening/dialogue groups. These groups will be working on developing an online submission to the Plenary Council website which is due before

Ash Wednesday next year. Further ideas for greater parishioner involvement through individual submissions are being developed.

It is envisaged that the open dialogue and opportunity to contribute to the future direction of the Church in Australia will have a positive impact on the mission and vision of our own Parish into the future. The Leadership Team is committed to ensuring that the Alpha programme is continued, that a Music Ministry and Youth Group are further developed and communication to the wider community is enhanced through a new website design and continued social media exposure.

We also recently celebrated the 50th Anniversary of our Parish church with a beautiful liturgy, presentation of new sacred vessels and a community BBQ. It was a collaboration of many of the wonderful Ministries in our Parish that continue to create a welcoming and spirit-filled community.

The Leadership Team thanks all Ministries for their efforts in the areas of liturgy, faith development and social justice programmes and initiatives. The Team recognises that the challenge for our Parish is to encourage more parishioners to be involved and to join the various Ministries and this will continue to be a key focus in 2019.

Deb Cummins

Chairperson

On behalf of the OLF Leadership Team

PLENARY COUNCIL 2020

Fr Chris introduced the Plenary Council 2020 at Mass in mid-September. An information meeting was held on 17 October with around 30 in attendance. The following weekend, an information video was shown at all Masses and an information flyer was included with bulletin.

As a result of the information meeting, group leaders were nominated, and they are currently being trained and their listening/dialogue groups are being organised. Ruth Rawlinson has contacted all those who attended the information meeting about their initial listening and dialogue sessions. Some groups have already conducted their first sessions.

John Dowd has been spreading the word and Paul Moreton is talking at Masses this weekend. A flyer is being included with this weekend's bulletin with invitations and details for parishioners to join or create a listening/dialogue group. Information will also be advertised on the Parish website and Facebook page.

When groups are up and running, there will be another push for parishioners to submit individually and we are looking at ways to encourage this. Another video will be shown at Masses as an impetus for this.

The Ambassadors will support groups with online submissions and are offering the opportunity for groups to share their responses with others early in 2019.

Ruth led a group of 6 through the listening/dialogue process. Wow! What an experience that was! The openness, depth and diversity of beliefs and opinions were amazing, and this gives us great confidence that the OLF community will be enriched by this whole experience.

So that's a progress report so far from your Plenary 2020 Ambassadors!

Ruth, John and Deb



LITURGY COMMITTEE

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

Highlights since the Half-yearly Meeting include:

- On the weekend of 21/22 July, Marriage and Family Sunday was celebrated with a special blessing for all married couples and families.
- Father's Day was celebrated on 2 September with a special presentation as a dedication to all fathers and grandfathers. Portraits and poems prepared by some of the children were placed on the church walls. Thank you to the Children's Liturgy.
- Confirmation was celebrated in the Parish on Sunday 9 September with 35 children being confirmed by Monsignor Kerry Bayada. Our thanks to the Sacramental Team for their efforts in preparing the children.
- At 5pm Mass on Saturday, 13 October, we celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the Dedication of Our Lady of Fatima Peakhurst Church. On 13 October 1968, the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima, our church was officially opened. The Mass commenced with a procession of our Parish's statue of Our Lady of Fatima, led by three children representing the three shepherd children of Fatima and our new Parish candle with the new Parish logo. At the Mass three of our new sacred vessels were presented for blessing by Fr Chris. The remaining sacred vessels will be blessed by Fr. Chris at the 9:15am Mass on 11 November. Our thanks again to those Parish families who made donations towards the cost of purchasing the vessels.
- In October/November, we prayed for the students from our Parish undertaking major exams.
- A special Remembrance Mass for our departed relatives was celebrated on Friday, 2 November. It was a lovely liturgy. Special thanks to Clarissa for the beautiful slides of our deceased family members.
- The Thanksgiving Mass for the children attending the Catholic Scripture Classes in our local State Schools will be celebrated on 18 November.
- Our Advent Reconciliation Liturgy is planned for 7:00pm on Wednesday, 12 December. As with our Lenten Reconciliation Liturgy, the Second Rite of Reconciliation will be used.
- Our Mass times for Christmas are 6:00pm and 9:00pm Christmas Eve and 9:15am Christmas Day. There is no evening Mass on Christmas Day.

A very special thank you to Fr. Chris, Fr. Isuru and Fr. Adam for their wonderful ministry to us. 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 2018 we welcomed our candidates for each Sacrament at a Welcoming Mass and presented them to our community. At each Mass the candidates were reminded how beautiful the Sacrament is that they are receiving, 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.

This year, we changed the format of the lessons for the sacraments of the Eucharist and Penance. This was split into two parts: in the first part, Fr Chris 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. The session held by Fr Chris with the parents was well received and we will continue to present the program this way in 2019.

The three sacraments of initiation were celebrated by our children in 2018 on the following days:

- The Sacrament of the Eucharist was celebrated on Saturday 2 June and Sunday 3 June on the Feast of Corpus Christi. This year we had 57 children celebrating this sacrament. The program included 3 lessons and began on Monday 7 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 use the four main parts of the Mass.
- The Sacrament of Confirmation was celebrated on Sunday 9 September at 2pm by Monsignor Kerry Bayada together with Fr Chris and Fr Isuru. This year we had 35 candidates.
- Preparation for the Sacrament of Penance commenced on Monday 29 October and concludes on Wednesday 14 November with individual reconciliations. This year we have 39 children participating in this sacrament.

Tosca Galluzzo
Sacramental Co-ordinator

FINANCE

For the year to 30 June 2018, we had a surplus, before major renovation costs, of \$61,105, compared to last year's figure of \$45,281. After net renovations, i.e. renovation costs less grants, this year's surplus was \$51,605 vs \$14,592 for last year. Given that the expectation at the beginning of the year was a small loss, this is a good result.

The major reasons for the improvement are as follows:

- Due to the extended negotiations regarding the loss of the rebate from the first collection, we were able to receive two quarters of the rebate, which was unexpected, amounting to \$15,842.
- The appeal to the parish for increased contributions to the 2nd Collection by the finance committee in November 2017, achieved a positive response, resulting in the 2nd Collection being \$28,100 up on last year for the full year. This was in line with the objective of the appeal, which was to replace the loss of the rebate from 1st collection.
- Due to restructuring of secretarial staffing and hours, wages were down \$9,355 on the previous year
- Other expenses were greater by \$4,501 on last year
- Net renovation costs after grants was below last year by \$21,189

The renovation carried out during the year was the fixing of the balustrade, which cost \$23,000 offset by a grant from Club Central of \$13,500. The initial estimate for this repair was \$27,000 but because of excellent work by Paul Moreton, this was reduced to the \$23,000.

Bank balances

As at 30 June 2018, balances in the various accounts were as follows:

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------|
| • General Account | \$60,624 |
| • Cash Management | \$60,625 |
| • Term Deposits | \$268,563 |

Current year

As at 30 September 2018, there was a surplus of \$118 vs \$3,467 for last year. However, last year included the \$8,653 rebate from the 1st Collection.

Therefore, a like-for-like comparison would be a surplus of \$118 vs a loss of \$5,186 for last year. Expenses are traditionally higher in the early months of the year.

There is additional expenditure planned in the current year for new sacred vessels, part of which has been covered by individual parishioner donations.

Clearly, we also won't have the benefit of the rebate from 1st Collection this year, which will show in comparison with last year for the first two quarters. However, for the second half of the year this comparison will improve due to there being no rebate in the previous year.

Tony Thorpe

FRIENDSHIP GROUP

Our Friendship Group is going well, and everyone is looking forward to our Christmas party on 6 December.

We all enjoyed our 30th birthday party and our beautiful birthday cake was made by Leah Vaux.

We currently have 19 guests and 12 helpers.

We gather in the Meeting Room once a fortnight on a Thursday from 10am to 1pm. We open with a prayer then have a chat over a cuppa then settle down to play cards or board games, such as Rummikub. Every 6 weeks, we play Bingo with small prizes for the winners.

Lunch is supplied by our helpers at 12pm then our guests are taken home 1pm.

Transport is available for those who need it.

Helen Cozzi

CATECHISTS

Did you know that over 50% of Catholic school students are being educated in public schools?

Thanks to a small team of dedicated volunteers, the majority of our Catholic children in our three local public schools (Peakhurst West, Peakhurst South and Lugarno) have received instruction in our faith during 2018.

We have been grateful to have some new catechists this year who have undertaken the necessary (and very helpful) training provided by the CCD (Confraternity of Christian Doctrine) 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.

Sadly, some classes at Peakhurst West School have not had a Catechist for the full year as we have not had sufficient volunteer teachers and have had to discontinue classes for a number of months.

As in past years, we have had the situation where we are teaching composite classes in order to reach as many students as possible, but this is far from ideal. In addition, a number of our catechists are teaching multiple classes, sometimes on different days.

Next year provides a number of challenges with some of our current catechists unable to commit to teaching due to employment and family requirements.

While the work of our catechists is largely unseen by the wider parish, it is at the core of our faith and needs to 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 2018

CHILDREN'S LITURGY / SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School at OLF is a great way to get the younger members of our parish more involved. Although numbers still tend to fluctuate, they seem to be steady with some new faces coming to join us each week. Numbers range from 8 up to 35 children, which is still our record at our Mother's Day Mass earlier this year. Father's Day followed close behind with 25 children in attendance. Numbers do tend to be greater during these special Masses. Some days we do struggle to get the numbers, and it is hard to gauge how many worksheets, etc. to prepare, so it would be nice if we could keep numbers up somehow.

We trialled a few weeks of promoting the activities at Mass to encourage more children to come down, but it did not seem to have a great impact on increasing numbers. I found that actually walking around the church while people were taking their seats and personally inviting the children helps on occasion. I have considered having a constant message read out by the commentator at the start of the 9:15am Mass, inviting and reminding parishioners about Sunday School. We may extend to have this read at our Saturday and Sunday evening Masses as well.

Although we gained a few more Sunday School teachers earlier this year, we still seem to be struggling with the number of teachers. This is becoming a greater issue with needing 2 adults at the sessions each morning. Having our helpers onboard is great - especially with a few studying in the field of childcare, etc. but we are always in need of more helpers and teachers. As mentioned earlier this year, if could get a large enough team, I would be interested in exploring having the Sunday School program run through school holidays on an availability roster as I think we all still attend Mass during this time if we're not travelling, so why not? This is something I would like to trial if numbers/availability permit.

In September we celebrated our special Father's Day Mass with superhero capes, which were such a success. I even had grandparents come up to me after Mass asking for left over fabric to take to their grandchildren at home to make. It was delightful!

Our next big celebration is our Christmas Pageant, which I hope will be just as special and successful as last year's. We will begin the recruitment campaign in the upcoming weeks and hope to have lots of children participate.

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 care givers. As I always said, our children are 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

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE Peakhurst Branch

Our branch has 22 active members and our meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesday of the month in the Parish Centre Meeting Room.

Our income this year has come from the Silver Circle and our Fashion Parade. These funds are then distributed to charities that request our help and to the NSW CWL Project of the year. This year's project is the Than Tan Special School, Da Nang, Vietnam. Our donation of \$1400 has been sent. We have also made donations to Catholic Care H.O.P.E. and The Fellowship of the Least Coin.

We staff the Piety Stall at weekend Masses.

Our members are always willing to help other Parish activities, including serving tea, coffee and cakes for the 50th anniversary of the parish church, and cakes for the upcoming Lending A Hand High Tea.

CWL Peakhurst will be hosting the World Day of Prayer in 2019, and we invite all parishioners to attend.

Every month several members attend the city meeting and lunch at Polding Centre with Marlene Wallace as our representative on the committee. These meetings are themed for the time of year and have a guest speaker.

Our Christmas Function will be held on 21st November, as there are no meetings in December or January.

Our elections were held at our October meeting. We welcome our incoming President, Maureen Burgess, and thank Maree Murphy for her leadership over her term as President.

Although we are not many in number, we will always offer our help to all the other parish ministries.

Marie Ryan (Secretary)

LENDING A HAND

The One Meal operation, organised by Lending A Hand out of Riverwood Community Centre each Monday night, has picked up from five participants on the first night in March this year to a regular 60 each Monday now. We have at least 13 groups from surrounding parishes, schools etc who take their turn providing food and serving to appreciative participants each week. A member of Lending A Hand attends each Monday to ensure the night runs smoothly. In July we had a special "Christmas in July" event where many of the guests and friends formed a choir and performed carols for the other guests and member of Lending A Hand. There was an above average attendance at the night enjoying the festive atmosphere.

In August, on behalf of the parish of Our Lady of Fatima, we donated \$10,000 to assist people affected by what is now considered one of the worst droughts in history. We chose the diocese of Wilcannia-Forbes to be the conduit through which this money could be dispersed, and we have had regular contact with both the diocese and the pastoral worker operating out of Bourke, who visits people in surrounding areas in both supporting the religious and practical needs these people.

Lending A Hand, through the volunteering of parishioners, continues to attend the St. Canice's kitchen around three times per year supplying and serving food to the less fortunate in the Kings Cross area.

In August, our members supported the Homicide Victims Support Group's *Ride For Justice* by providing morning tea for the motor bike riders who participated. This has been an ongoing event that we have been involved in.

We have had additional members join the team this year and now have ten people, split fairly evenly between males and females.

Tony Thorpe

MAINTENANCE

Year 2 of 5-year plan: 2017/18

Major Works

- Repair rusted metal sheets on lower sections of roof of Church *(as part of government-funded project)* COMPLETED
- Sand and stain timber floor in Parish Hall COMPLETED
- Replace existing switches with circuit breakers incorporating residual current devices *(as part of electrical works project)* COMPLETED
- Repair kerb cracked by tree roots in car park
To be carried out in conjunction with future asphalt resurfacing.
- Clean all stormwater pits (included in Annual Maintenance Program)
- New Baptismal Font COMPLETED

Minor Works

- Remove unwanted and excessive materials from the Church subfloor space adjacent to the Playtime/Children's Liturgy Room; remove materials that breach the lead damp course; improve cross ventilation by creating openings in the continuous subfloor structural walls where possible. Establish a routine program of inspections aimed at eliminating any source of ground damp that may impact on the Church and its surroundings.
Accesses to church subfloor space blocked off; ventilation issue in adjacent Playtime storage area no longer evident. Will continue to be monitored. COMPLETED
- Refurbish Parish House counselling room COMPLETED
- Replace sandstone capping to masonry wall outside Church COMPLETED
- Fit more robust door stops to church porch doors COMPLETED

Year 3 of 5-year plan: 2018/19

Major Works

- Gallery balustrade upgrade COMPLETED
(Financial grant from Club Central)
- Investigate disabled toilet upgrade *(pending State Govt grant)*
- Install and replace worn door lock cylinders & keys - all buildings
- Replace hall tables – (negotiations with Foodies Markets)
- Repair ceiling damage & repaint – Parish House Counting Room
- Repair termite damaged wall & repaint – Parish House Counting Room
- Investigate electronic sign / power options
- Investigate PA system in church / maintenance options

Minor Works

- Repair Boundary Fence – Vehicle accident damage COMPLETED
- Cleanout roof gutters, valleys & downpipes – All buildings COMPLETED
- Purchase commercial catering trolley – Hall Kitchen COMPLETED
- Purchase portable tables for hall meeting room COMPLETED
- Replace chair trolley – Hall COMPLETED
- Garden weeding and mulching COMPLETED
- Grind off pavement trip hazards
- Service high-level window controls – Church
- Service low-level windows, locks & stays – Church
- Fit missing mounting brackets to church pews
- Repair fairy lights, LED upgrade – Hall (repair or remove?)
- Replace hall window furnishings – Hall
- Replace chairs – Hall meeting room
- Purchase commercial dishwasher with *fast wash* cycle - Hall Kitchen
- Purchase small refrigerator – Playtime Room
- Replace hot water heater – Playtime Room
- Upgrade interior lighting to LED – Parish House

Paul Moreton

St VINCENT de PAUL Peakhurst Conference

Our conference celebrated 50 years of service to the parish on 18 March this year with an Anniversary Mass, which was concelebrated by Bishop Terry Brady along with Fr Chris Ryan. The Mass was well attended by St Vincent de Paul members past and present, along with visitors from other conferences in the St George Region, and, most importantly, many of our parishioners who continue to support St Vincent de Paul.

Our Regional President, Geoffrey O'Loughlin, announced awards to two members who had both served our conference for 50 years and Bishop Brady presented plaques to John Campbell and to Laura Wickham, on behalf of her mother, Flora (who sadly passed away on 19 April).

Members of our Conference visited 46 families last financial year to 30 June 2018. We have experienced a large increase in calls for assistance during the first four months of the current financial year having made 25 visits to 31 October 2018.

Our conference is currently 'gearing up' for our Christmas Hampers and annual Vinnies Christmas Appeal.

We are truly grateful for the continued support given by our generous parishioners which allows us to carry out *The Good Works of St Vincent de Paul*.

Mike Flanagan

WORK, HEALTH & SAFETY

Earlier in the year, Fr Chris, Clarissa and I met a few times to review the latest WHS documentation from the Archdiocese. Whilst there is always a lot of work to do in WHS compliance, the parish is, for the most part, compliant. Referring to previously collated documents, as well as the Building Condition Report (BCR) from 2016, many of the issues that needed attendance have been resolved. It is now mostly a matter of maintaining documentation and compliance on things such as electrical “test and tag” and fire equipment testing as well as contractor management such as insurance certificates.

In a perfect environment, with a full time WHS co-ordinator, we could have more diligence on WHS matters, however we are in a pretty decent position, because we have addressed all major issues from the 2016 BCR and we are keeping appropriate records.

A Hazardous Materials (HazMat) inspection was carried out for the church, parish office and Parish Centre (hall, meeting room, kitchen) in February 2013 and the report is valid for 5 years. Therefore, another inspection was made on 7 November 2018.

A general WHS site inspection via the Archdiocese for the Parish House and Parish Centre was carried out on 7 November from which a Building Condition Report will be prepared and sent to us.

A special thanks goes to Deb Cummins who prepared and delivered the WHS training recently to our volunteers. It is important for all our volunteers to be aware of their own safety. Please do not hesitate to ask any questions, raise any issues or report any hazards or incidents. Please inform Clarissa in the office first and this will be passed on to Fr Chris, the Leadership Team and/or myself as required for further action.

Francesca Guidotto

YOUTH MINISTRY

The Year of Youth has led to a few new initiatives in our Parish Youth Ministry this year. The 6pm Mass on the last Sunday of every month has been celebrated as a Youth Mass. These have been very successful with plenty of young people attending and participating in the Mass. A special thanks must go to Susie Paino and her daughters, who have been providing the beautiful music at these Masses.

We have also started joining in Youth Group at St Declan's this term, mostly with our parishioners who made their Confirmation this year. It has been great fun joining with Penshurst and getting to know other young people in the area. Anyone in Years 6-12 is welcome to attend. I will provide you with the details of you are interested.

Two more youth camps were run this year, with young people from Peakhurst, Penshurst, Kingsgrove and Riverwood. These camps have been a great way to build relationships with other youth ministries within our deanery. The children who have attended the camps so far have made lasting friendships with other young people from the local community. We have had one parishioner attend all three camps so far and she has had a great time making friends and growing in her faith. We were fortunate enough to have each of our priests attend the last camp at different points, to celebrate Mass and the Sacrament of Reconciliation, which we were very grateful for.

While the build-up of youth involvement in our Parish has been a little slow, I am hopeful that more young people will continue to want to get involved in the life of our Parish. I am always willing and open to suggestions as to how this could happen and what the young people in our community would like to be involved in.

I would like to thank our incredible Parish community for their continued encouragement and support of the youth ministry here at Peakhurst. I am very blessed to be a part of such a generous and supportive Parish, as are all the young people in our community.

I would also like to thank our ever-supportive priests, Fr Chris, Fr Adam and Fr Isuru, for all their support and efforts in engaging the youth in our Parish.

Kathleen Kennedy

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