



Our Lady of Fatima Peakhurst

Ministry Reports 2018

LITURGY COMMITTEE

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

Highlights over the past 6 months include:

- Our Lenten Program commenced on 19 February with a talk by Fr. Chris on Prayer. On 5 March, Fr. Isuru gave a talk on The Spiritual Gifts.
- Our Youth Masses commenced on 25 February and are continuing at 6pm on the last Sunday of each month. Our thanks to Kathleen Kennedy.
- The Stations of the Cross was held in the church on 26 February and 12 March, as part of the Lenten Program. The Stations of the Cross on Good Friday morning was beautiful. Our thanks again to Dominic Alati.
- On Sunday, 18 March, at the 9:15am Mass Bishop Terry Brady celebrated the 50th Anniversary of St Vincent de Paul Peakhurst Conference.
- Our Lenten Reconciliation Liturgy was held on 19 March. The Liturgy was the Second Rite of Reconciliation with Fr. Chris, Fr. Isuru and Fr. Adam all involved.
- Holy Week commenced on 25 March 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 and Fr. Chris.
- The Mass of Installation as Parish Priest for Fr. Chris was celebrated by Bishop Terry Brady at the 9:15am Mass on Sunday, 22 April. The Mass was a fitting recognition of Fr. Chris as our new Parish Priest.
- Mother's Day was celebrated at the 9:15am Mass on Sunday, 13 May, with a lovely reflection by the Children's Liturgy and beautiful portraits on the church walls.
- First Communion was celebrated in the Parish on 2 & 3 June with 57 children involved. Our thanks to Fr. Chris, Fr. Isuru and the Sacramental Team.
- Our thanks to Jenni Payne for again running the Altar Servers training course.
- The new Baptismal Font was made in readiness for the Easter Vigil, at which it was blessed by Fr. Chris. It has been placed in the former Baptistry at the back of the church with the etched glass behind showing St John the Baptist baptising Jesus. This has led to the need to relocate the Offertory Table to the space near the choir. A new priest's table for the sanctuary was donated by a generous parishioner. A new credence table has also been purchased for the sanctuary.



The 50th Anniversary of the official opening of our church building will be celebrated on Saturday, 13 October, the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima. A special Mass is planned for this occasion.

New sacred vessels (two chalices, four ciboria and a paten) are required because of the deterioration of the existing light-weight ones, which appear to date back to the start of the Parish. This purchase has been under consideration by the Liturgy Committee for twelve months. Good quality, heavy sacred vessels are very expensive, but they would seem a very appropriate gift “from the Parish to the Parish” on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary.

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

St VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY Peakhurst Conference

The Peakhurst Conference of the St Vincent de Paul Society continues to carry on their outreach work, helping those in need in our area with your help and support.

In March this year, we celebrated our 50th Anniversary with a beautiful Mass celebrated by Bishop Terry and Father Chris. This was followed by a celebratory morning tea with assistance from other ministries of our parish. Presentations to John Campbell and Flora Wickham were made for their continued membership of 50 years. With great sadness, in April, we bade farewell to Flora, who will be very sadly missed from our conference.

At present we are conducting our winter appeal and we greatly appreciate all your support in this vital work.

We thank our whole parish community for their ongoing assistance to help carry out our work in helping those in need.

Camille Philips (on behalf of Mike Flanagan)



FINANCE COMMITTEE

We still have a week or so to go before accounts can be finalised for FY 2017/18, so I thought I would provide a review of this current year.

Prior to the beginning of the year, it seemed we had a challenge in front of us, financially. We had been advised in April 2017 that the 50% rebate, around \$28,000, we had been receiving since we became a parish without a resident priest, was to be withdrawn. We requested a meeting with representatives of the Clergy Remuneration Fund from where the rebate was funded, to argue the case for retaining the rebate. For a variety of reasons these meetings were protracted, and it was around September that those discussions ended, and our requests to continue the rebate were rejected. Because of this timing, we claimed the Pastoral Revenue rebate for two quarters of 2017 year, amounting to \$15,842 of income, which had not been budgeted.

The budget for 2017/18, prepared prior to July 2017, assumed no pastoral revenue rebate and indicated a **deficit** of \$1,913 for the full year. In November 2017, the finance committee conducted an appeal to the parish to increase the 2nd collection to compensate for the loss of the rebate. As reported a month or so ago, the parish responded very positively to that appeal and indications are that we will most likely replace the loss of the rebate on an annualised basis, assuming the current contributions to the 2nd collection continue.

During the year, significant improvements have been made to the balustrade in the church to make it safer, but also improve the look of it, thanks to a significant effort by Paul Moreton in organising this. Due to a generous grant of \$13,500 from Club Central the overall cost to the parish, expected to be around \$23,000, has been significantly reduced.

In December 2017, the floor of the parish hall was resurfaced at a cost of \$4,500, to accommodate the increased usage which has provided additional income.

The area between parish house and the church (near the sacristy) was cleared, the path concreted and plants replaced, making it more attractive. This long-overdue project cost \$5,300.

Another change affecting the finances during 2017/18 has been in the secretarial role. At the beginning of the financial year, we had a paid shared-secretary structure. In August 2017, Ruth Rawlinson, because of changed personal circumstances, accepted a full-time role in Parish Support at Polding Centre, but then became an active parishioner. Due to this change, Ruth Meagher volunteered (non-paid) to cover Tuesdays, a decision was taken to close the office on Mondays and Clarissa increased her hours to cover the finance processing. Ruth also joined the Sacramental Team and took over the admin tasks for the sacramental programs, relieving Clarissa of these. This change resulted in reduced costs for the secretarial role.

There is a week to go until the end of the financial year, but because of what I have reported earlier, there will be a surplus this year, likely better than last year. In the next year, 2018/19, we will not have the benefit of the \$15,842 from the 2017/18 1st Collection rebate, but will hopefully continue to have the increased collections. There are considerations underway for increased expenditure in 2018/19, which will consume part of a potential surplus.

The 1st Collection, none of which is retained by the parish any longer, has remained much the same as the previous year and is likely to total around \$57,000 for the year. Previously, under the rebate arrangement, we retained 50% of the 1st collection, i.e. \$28,500, with the other \$28,500 going to

the Clergy Remuneration Fund. However, since the rebate withdrawal, \$19,000 goes to support our own priests, and the balance of around \$38,000 will be going to the Clergy Remuneration Fund.

As recently announced, in 2018/19, we are able to offer a 25% tax deduction to parishioners who contribute to 2nd collection via envelopes and credit cards. We still need to meet our CWF levy conducted through three collections, which offer 100% tax deduction, and any shortfall must be met out of parish funds. We continue to encourage parishioners to join the credit card contributions, as this reduces processing, improves security through less cash handling, simplifies giving by parishioners, and ensures consistency of parish income.

THE BARK

Our editor-in-chief gave birth to a beautiful baby boy this week, so the next issue will be out in the coming months.

Congratulations to Florence, Rob and Mia on this blessed addition to their family! And welcome to the world, baby Alessandro.

FRIENDSHIP GROUP

Friendship group is going well with 22 guests and 11 helpers.

All enjoy the day, chatting away and playing board games. We also have bingo every 6 weeks.

Recently we had a wonderful sing-a-long with John Dowd playing his guitar for us. Everyone had a great time reminiscing over the great old songs.

Helen Cozzi



CATECHISTS

The Catechist Ministry continues its work to bring knowledge and understanding of our faith to our parish children in public schools.

All Catechists are authorised by the Archdiocese of Sydney and supported by the CCD (Confraternity of Christian Doctrine) which runs training programs and provides resources and support.

We currently teach 169 students from three local public primary schools – Lugarno (70), Peakhurst West (40 excluding Years 5 and 6) and Peakhurst South (59).

We have 13 Catechists (and 3 helpers) who teach children in 19 classes which means that we have to have composite classes - not an ideal situation.

From the start of the year, we have made a number of appeals for new Catechists but with only limited success. We welcomed Christine Hickey as a new Catechist teaching Peakhurst West Kinder. We also welcomed Christiane Sarraf as a new helper assisting with Years 1/2 and Years 3/4 at Peakhurst South. Our sincere thanks to Christine and Christiane.

Because we have struggled to recruit new members, Years 5/6 at Peakhurst West have been without a Catechist until recently when Eric Lumley offered to take the class. Similar to Trish Craven, Eric is now taking two composite classes, i.e. effectively four classes.

Also, Florence Bonanno, who has taught Years 3/4 at Peakhurst West is now on “maternity leave”, after welcoming the birth of baby boy Alessandro – our prayers are with Florence and her family. The children in this class are now missing important teaching.

Our team meets each term to plan upcoming events, share experiences and support each other.

A letter is sent at the start of each term to parents and carers welcoming them to the new term and outlining upcoming parish events such as special liturgies, sacramental programs and secular events such as the Foodies Markets.

During 2018 we continue to endeavour to involve our students and their families in as many parish events as possible. Mother’s Day was celebrated with a special Parish Mass, with portraits on the church walls by the children. Our students’ families are also provided with timely information to enable their enrolment in the Parish Sacramental Program at the appropriate ages.

This Ministry is the responsibility of the entire Parish. However, it falls on the shoulders of very few, which is unfair and unsustainable. The support of the Parish is needed.

We need more catechists!!!

Julia Goff and David Payne



CHILDREN'S LITURGY / SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School at our parish is thriving. Although numbers tend to fluctuate, they seem to be on the rise, with new faces coming to join us each week. Numbers range from 8 to 35 children, and we had a record high at our Mother's Day Mass earlier this year. Numbers do tend to be greater during the special-occasion Masses.

We have increased our number of Sunday School teachers as well, with a few new recruits earlier this year. However, we always welcome more helpers and teachers, so I am always on the lookout for any new faces and I will speak to the parents to see if they would be keen to join the team. If our team becomes large enough, I would be keen to explore running the Sunday School program throughout school holidays on an availability roster. We all still attend mass during this time, if we're not away, so why not have Sunday School throughout the year? This is something I would like to trial if numbers/availability permit.

I believe the Sunday School program is a vital part of the weekend Masses as it gives the children an opportunity to hear the scriptures and readings in a language they understand, while taking part in enjoyable activities. I believe it is important to introduce our young to the church this way to engage and interest them, so that coming to church is something they look forward to. It also gives the parents some time to reflect and listen and engage in the Homily without the distraction of their young children. The honour of bringing the gifts to the altar through the Offertory procession is a hit with the children, with so many hands raised when we ask, 'Who would like to do the Offertory today?'. The children really feel proud to be a part of the service. Walking the banner also, following the Offertory, really integrates the children into the ceremony. I think this tradition needs to continue.

In the 2017-18 year, we celebrated special Father's Day and Mother's Day Masses, where the children got a chance to present and give thanks for their mother and father figures during the reflection time in the Mass. These opportunities for the children to participate add a real personal touch to our Sunday services and I feel should continue as it brings a sense of community for all.

Our 2017 Christmas Pageant was a great success. It was a struggle at first to get volunteers, but by the end we struggled to find parts for all the children! Hopefully this year will be just as special and successful. The children really enjoy the pageant and I believe from the responses received from parishioners - both young and old alike - that the church community enjoyed it too! I sincerely hope that Children's Liturgy will continue to take special part in Mass celebrations.

We must never underestimate the importance that our children play as 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 here at Our Lady of Fatima, and I hope we can sustain it for many years to come.

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 Meeting Room.

Our income this year has come from the Silver Circle, supplying sandwiches for the Grandviews Probus AGM 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 was the refurbishment of St Francis Xavier's Church at Enngonia. We have also made donations to Catholic Care and Bega Vinnies for the victims of the Tathra bushfires.

We staff the Piety Stall at weekend Masses. Our members are always willing to help other Parish activities, including providing salads for the Alpha program and serving morning tea for the Vinnies 50th anniversary morning tea.

Our members participated in the World Day of Prayer at Lugarno Peakhurst Uniting Church this year. We will be hosting this in 2019.

Every month, several members attend the city meeting and lunch at Polding Centre. These meetings are themed for the time of year and have a guest speaker. We also enjoy social outings for all members. This year we have enjoyed lunch at Loftus TAFE Embark Restaurant and are looking forward to a harbour cruise in July. On 6 October we will be holding a Fashion Parade in the Parish Centre and invite all parishioners to join us.

Although we are not many in number, we will offer our help to any other parish group.

Maree Murphy (President) & Marie Ryan (Secretary)



LENDING A HAND

The focus of Lending A Hand in recent times has been One Meal at the Riverwood Community Centre on Monday nights. This commenced at the beginning of March and we have just recently completed the first round of thirteen groups who provide, cook and serve meals to people in the community housing and surrounding area. On the first night, catered for by the Lending A Hand team, we only had 4 people attend, but the last service had 56 people on a cold, wintery night. Emma Williams has done a fabulous job of cajoling volunteers from neighbouring parishes/schools to form the groups who will be rostered for service 4 times a year, including four groups from Our Lady of Fatima. It is honestly a wonderful experience for the people providing the food and serving it, who get as much, if not more, enjoyment in giving as those who receive.

One Meal is a not-for-profit, community organisation that helps to feed, clothe and support homeless and underprivileged individuals and families. They operate in several locations throughout Sydney and Lending A Hand has volunteered to provide the service in our local area. The Riverwood Community Service has been very supportive, providing the facility and cooperating in every way to make this a success. It will no doubt grow bigger as it becomes better known and the weather gets warmer.

Julia Goff and her ever-ready support team continue to man (maybe woman, or both) the St Canice kitchen, three times a year. Due to a generous donation from one of our parishioners, who wishes to remain anonymous, we are looking to provide some addition equipment at St. Canice: we are just waiting on advice as to what they would prefer.

A new initiative, which is in the planning stages for Lending A Hand, is to provide financial support, out of funds provided by the parish, to farmers dramatically affected by the drought in the western area of NSW. We have made contact via the parish in Forbes and will be moving on this in the very near future. No doubt, parishioners would be aware of the dire circumstances they are experiencing in this part of the state of NSW. Advice we have received is that this is the 2nd worst drought in the memory of people who have been on the land for some time in that part of Australia. One area identified is to provide funding for a specific pastoral care worker who operates out of Bourke, visiting families in remote areas (often a 5-hour drive in her ute). She takes communion and a message of hope to those isolated farmers. It is a great frustration that she does not have a budget to take a hamper for the ladies, plus some items for the children and a box of beer for the men (wow imagine a woman showing up with a box of beer in her ute, what a woman). We hope to be able to remove that frustration with funding to allow this to happen.

Tony Thorpe



MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME 2018

ITEMS IN HAND:

- Gallery balustrade upgrade COMPLETED
- New Baptismal Font COMPLETED
- Repair boundary fence damage due to vehicle accident COMPLETED
- Repair fairy lights, LED upgrade – Hall
- Investigate disabled toilet upgrade IN HAND

PRIORITY REPAIR ITEMS:

- Grind off pavement trip hazards
- Service HI level window controls – Church IN HAND
- Service LO level windows, locks & stays – Church IN HAND
- Fit more robust door stops – Church porch doors COMPLETED
- Replace worn door lock cylinders & keys – All buildings
- Fit missing mounting brackets to Church pews IN HAND
- Cleanout roof gutters, valleys & downpipes – All buildings IN HAND

ITEMS IDENTIFIED NEEDING ATTENTION:

- Hall window furnishings – Curtains or blinds
- Fit light diffusers – Hall
- Purchase commercial dishwasher (fast wash cycle) – Hall kitchen
- Purchase commercial catering trolley – Hall kitchen
- Purchase small refrigerator – Playtime Room
- Replace hot water heater – Playtime Room
- Review condition of hall tables – extensive Foodies Market use
- Repair ceiling damage & re-paint – House Counting Room
- Repair termite damaged wall & re-paint – House Counting Room
- Upgrade house interior lighting to LED
- Migrate our telephone and internet service to a more stable carrier and to be NBN-ready.

Paul Moreton & Charles Centorrino

WELCOMING TEAM

The Welcoming Team encourages camaraderie amongst parishioners and welcomes visitors to our parish.

We organise a Morning Tea at the front of the church bi-monthly, which gives individuals the opportunity to mix and mingle over a cup of freshly brewed coffee or tea.

We also have a Welcoming Book that visitors to the parish are encouraged to sign. A member of the team will then ring the visitor and invite them to our next Morning Tea. This is an opportunity to introduce the visitor to other parishioners and talk about the many ministries operating in the parish. There is always an opportunity to be involved in some way, which can give a sense of ownership and accomplishment, as we work together to either make that coffee, carry down the Offertory Gifts or become more involved in some area we love.

Our next Morning Tea will be on Sunday, 15 July to say 'Hello' to Fr Steve Fletcher, who will be celebrating the 9:15am Mass.

We have run a very successful Father's Day barbecue the past 2 years and we are in full flight to make egg and bacon rolls as long as the demand is there. Hope to see you on Sunday, 2 September!

Maria Vaux



YOUTH MINISTRY

Our Youth Ministry at Peakhurst has experienced a few changes throughout the start of this year. 2018 is the Year of Youth in the Catholic Church so we are placing a significant focus on understanding the needs and interests of young people in our community in order to engage them in our Parish life in the most suitable way. We have not run our fortnightly youth group on Friday nights so far, instead focussing on Youth Masses at Sunday 6pm, each month. We have had four Youth Masses so far which have been a great success, with many of our young people attending and being involved in the Mass in various ways. Many thanks go to David Payne and the Liturgy team for their support in organising these Masses and for helping arrange a sacred space where our new youth candle is placed during the Masses.

Another focus has been on the development and formation of young people's leadership development within our community. We had a "youth table" at our Alpha program this year, which has been a great way to deepen the faith of some local young people. Whilst our numbers have been low, it was a very worthwhile and valuable experience for those young people who have attended the course.

Over the course of the last 12 months, 2 youth camps have been run for local students in years 5-9. These camps are the combined works of youth ministers from OLF Kingsgrove, St. Declan's Penshurst, St. Joseph's Riverwood and of course OLF Peakhurst. These camps provide a fun and friendly environment for youth to make friends and learn more about their faith over the course of 3 days. In the lead up to the camps, we have been able to hold a disco for local high school students and a BBQ after weekend Masses to raise funds for the camp and engage with young people in our community.

I would like to thank the Parish for their continued support of the youth ministry here at Peakhurst, which was made evident through the generosity shown over the weekend of the fundraising BBQs. Our young people are very blessed to benefit from the incredible generosity of our parishioners and we thank you. It is very much appreciated!

I would also like to thank our incredible priests, Fr. Chris, Fr. Adam and Fr. Isuru for their continued support of our youth ministry. The arrival of Fr. Chris as Parish Priest has been fundamental to the development of the direction of youth ministry in our Parish, as has the constant support from all three priests.

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

Kathleen Kennedy

