

THE BARK

OUR LADY OF FATIMA PEAKHURST

Issue One 2012

ourladyoffatima.com.au/bark

KIM SAVILLE VISITS OUR LADY OF FATIMA

At the 5pm Saturday Mass on 10 March, Kim Saville spoke to the parishioners of Our Lady of Fatima about the School of St Jude in Tanzania, which she helped to establish in an effort to fight poverty through education.

The Lending A Hand Team became aware of the School of St Jude late last year. The school was started 10 years ago on the east coast of Africa by a young Australian girl from a sheep farm in country NSW.

After moving to Tanzania and marrying Richard, a local man from the province of Arusha, Gemma Sisia was given a parcel of land by her father-in-law. He asked her if she would use the land to build a school and help educate the children from the local village.

In 2002, Gemma began her dream. She opened the School of St Jude with three children and two teachers. Today, through the generous support of sponsors from around the world but particularly from Australia, the school has 1500 students and around 400 employees.

The Lending A Hand Team decided this was a great cause. The parish of Peakhurst has committed to sponsor a bus at the school for the next three years. The buses owned by the school are vital in transporting the students long distances to and from school each day.

The committee talked about how amazing it would be if we could bring this inspiring story to all the people at OLF Peakhurst. So began a long trail of emails asking to be included in Gemma's upcoming tour. Next came the news that Gemma was pregnant expecting her fourth child. Finally, it was decided that Kim Saville, the school's deputy director would embark on the tour on Gemma's behalf. Kim has been side-by-side in Tanzania with Gemma from the



Kim Saville from the School of St Jude presents Fr John with a Certificate of Appreciation for the parish's sponsorship.

beginning. Kim helped to dig ditches, build walls and find children in desperate need of an education. Eventually, we locked in a date of 10 March.

After a few weeks of publicity and a lot of meticulous planning, meeting and emailing amongst the Lending A Hand Team, we decorated the church entrances in an African theme and readied ourselves for Kim's arrival. Getting from Tanzania however proved easier that getting down the M5 to Peakhurst on a Saturday afternoon.

After a very tense half an hour and a few prayers to St Jude, Kim arrived in the nick of time to speak at the Saturday night Mass. She enthralled the congregation with the story of the birth of this school in Tanzania. What started as the dream of a young Australian girl determined to make a difference, grew into a wonderful educational institution that was changing the future of the children of Tanzania. Kim told us how they have 150 places available

Continued on next page...



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each year for which they receive 10,000 applicants. Interested families must sit an entrance exam. Only one child from the poorest of the poor families is invited to enrol.

These children are given incredible opportunities that most children in Tanzania could only dream of.

We were shown pictures of mud rooms housing families of six or more, markets where children worked all day for little reward. At St Jude's, students work on computers, study in science labs, have three meals a days and kick a ball around the oval.

Kim stayed after Mass to chat to the congregation and supporters of the school who had travelled to our parish to hear her speak. She autographed some of the books on the school and presented Fr John with a certificate of appreciation for our sponsorship and support.

At the conclusion of Mass merchandise was on sale and people were invited to learn more about how they can support the school. The Lending A Hand Team took up a gold coin collection for the school. A DVD about St Jude's was shown at the other two Masses that weekend and gold



Fr John, Kim Saville and members of the Lending a Hand Team

coin donations were also invited at the conclusion of these Masses. Many of these coins were generously of the paper variety and through the incredible generosity of the people of the parish, we collected around \$2800. We have added to this with Lending A Hand funds and are delighted to have sent a total donation onto St Jude's of \$5000 from Our Lady of Fatima Peakhurst.

On this occasion as is always the case, it is truly a pleasure to "lend a hand" on behalf of the people of our wonderful and generous parish.

If you would like to find out more about the School of St Jude in Tanzania, you can visit their website: www.schoolofstjude.org

A generous supporter of the school has just laid down a challenge: If the school can raise \$200,000 this year in donations, the sponsor will match it.

Emma Williams on behalf of the Lending a Hand Team



FR CHRIS RILEY

In May, we are expecting Fr Chris Riley from Youth Off The Streets to say Masses at our parish. Fr Chris is well known throughout Australia for the incredible job he does with homeless and disadvantaged youth. He founded Youth Off The Streets 20 years ago and it is still going strong today.

GOODBYE FROM RUTH



I would like to take this opportunity to say goodbye and thank you for all the wonderful years working in this parish.

When I first started here I was very timid, shy, uncertain of my future and hadn't been in the workforce for many years. Fr Gatt gave me a couple of days a week to help me through a very difficult time in my life. You, the parishioners gave me 23 years of very positive, growing and immensely happy time, and I have enjoyed every (nearly) minute of it.

I have met many amazing people in this time and had many very happy experiences along with the challenges (loved a challenge!). I was determined to give you all 100% of me and I hope I have achieved that goal.

I have worked with many Leadership Teams and Ministries and am amazed at the tremendous time and effort they all put in to this parish. So congratulations to you and thank you all for making my work so much easier with your patience and understanding.

Music has been a big part of my life since the age of seven. When I was given the task of taking on the music in this parish I was daunted to say the least, but happy to give it a go. I want to thank the choir for all the support they have given me. When asked to take on extra tasks they were always more than willing, so thank you.

What can I say about the many fantastic priests I have had the pleasure to work with. Only two Parish Priests but how lucky was I. Fr Paul Jacobs was a great man and someone I could depend on under any circumstances. And do I need to say anything about Fr John. He has been a tremendous support to me not only in the workplace but in my spiritual life. So thank you Fr John for everything.

I am saddened to leave, but go with many, many happy memories and leaving you in the hands of a wonderful lady, and I will see you in church!

Ruth Meagher

WELCOME LYNELLE

As we say goodbye to Ruth, we also welcome with open arms our new parish secretary Lynelle Lembryk.

We will let her settle into the job before we pester Lynelle and do an article about her.

In the meantime, we're pleased to welcome Lynelle into our parish family.

FRIENDSHIP GROUP

Many of you would be aware that our beautiful Peg Davidson passed away recently in her sleep and will be sadly missed by all of us. Peg and myself started the Friendship Group in 1988, 24 years ago this October. Peg was a very valuable member who also called our bingo games for us.

However as you can see from our Christmas Party photo, that except for a few of the helpers, we are all in our 70s as well as a couple in their 80s, so it may not be long before some of us will end up as guests instead of helpers.

We are asking for younger or older women or men to join our happy little group so our Friendship Group will not fold up due to insufficient helpers. We only meet each fortnight on a Thursday from 9:30am – 1pm. If you can help, please ring 9153 5074.

Many thanks to Tony Girdler for his great entertainment for us all at our Christmas Party.

Helen Cozzi



DID YOU KNOW

Congratulations to Father John who celebrated 27 years in the priesthood in January. It's also worth mentioning that Fr John's second term with us ends in October, but we're confident he will serve a third term with us and Peshurst as our Parish Priest.

Happy birthday to Fr Thu for 13 March.

Congratulations to Pat and Tom Ludlam, who celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary recently. Their celebration was a family dinner at a local restaurant. Best wishes to you both. (See article on page 10).

Maria and John Vaux have suddenly found themselves on their own. Daughters, Emma and Leah have moved to their own accommodation and with Andrew married, they are Darby and Joan again. Hope you are enjoying your time together.

David and Jenni Payne celebrated another Christmas in the United States. They went over for their son's wedding. They have another son getting married in April.

Mary and Lee Jones are very proud grandparents again. Their son Paul and his wife Karen presented them with a baby girl Anna Denise, a little sister for big brother Mitchell. This has been a big moment for the Jones family because from Lee's father right down the line there have been all boys and little Anna Denise is the first girl in the family for a long time. Congratulations, here's hoping Anna has a happy life with all those boys around her.

It is with a sad heart that I report the death of Peg Davidson. Peg was a wonderful lady, very generous with her time and always had a smile on her face. From the inception of the parish, Peg was one of the first to put her hand up to join a committee – like cleaning the Church,



counting and the first choir that was formed. She was one of the first committee members of the Catholic Women's League, which started in 1987 and, together with Helen Cozzi commenced the Friendship Group a year later and it is still going strongly. For a couple of years now, Peg has not been always well enough to perform some of her duties, but she always tried to do something to help. We thank the Good Lord that she died peacefully in her sleep and was not in pain. To her adult children, Kerry, Rick, Karen and Jan we extend our deepest sympathy.

Lauren and Bernie Holdsworth recently returned from a delightful cruise around New Zealand to celebrate their 40th Wedding Anniversary and they had a great time. When they returned from their trip they were met at the wharf by their daughter Karen who drove them home, only to walk into a surprise party put on by their family and friends at their home. What a wonderful way to finish off a great holiday – congratulations to you both, you certainly deserved the break.

Inez Mullen

OLF PLAYTIME 2012

OLF Playtime is off to a flying start for 2012. Despite a lot of our children leaving last year to start at big school, we are now back to capacity for both the Thursday and the Friday groups. The Wednesday group is also going well.

Playtime is great fun both for the children and their carers. We have quite a few grandparents who come along which is also great.

The children enjoy two hours of play (both indoors and outdoors), a craft and activity of some kind, as well as group morning tea.

The recent rain has not seemed to dampen the spirits of the children, who would gladly still ride the bikes or play in the wet sandpit if only we would let them!

Thanks to the generosity of past Playtime members, and parishioners, we have a large selection of toys and outdoor equipment for the children to use (and learn to share of course!) We are now looking forward to our annual Easter activities.

I am the new Playtime coordinator, and so if you would like to know more about Playtime, or if you are interested in attending our Wednesday group, from 10am to 12 noon, please give me a call on 9153 8834.

Julie Young

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WORLD DAY OF PRAYER



Recently the World Day of Prayer was held in our Church (we have our turn every five years), and it was very successful. This is a worldwide movement of Christian people of all traditions who come together to observe a common day of prayer each year. It is a movement symbolised by an annual day of celebration (the first Friday of March) to which all people are welcome. It also brings together people of various races, cultures and tradition in closer friendship, understanding and action throughout the year.

This year the country of interest was Malaysia and was put together by Christian people from Malaysia and the Bible Society, and we learnt about their trials and tribulations. We were very honoured to have our own Julia Goff as our Guest Speaker, and Julia gave a very inspiring talk on this year's theme 'Let Justice Prevail'.

These days cannot be put on without everyone pulling together and I am very happy to say that, as well as



Official artwork for World Day of Prayer 2012



Julia, we had a lot of help from Eileen Sheehan and Agnes Webb who provided the music, and Dominic Alati who manned the overheads. All did a wonderful job, as usual. The women from our CWL, together with the women and men from the other surrounding denominations, contributed to the success of the day.

The day concluded with a delicious afternoon tea in the parish hall – which is normal for our wonderful ladies. So I say thank you to all who contributed in their own way to putting on such a successful day, as well as the parishioners who attended – I am sure you had an enjoyable time. Thank you.

Inez Mullen



MICHELLE WHITEMAN SPEECH PATHOLOGIST

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ROLE OF THE BARK - WHAT ARE THE LIMITS?

The Bark is an important part of the activities of Our Lady of Fatima Peakhurst in communicating items of interest to all parishioners.

An area though that perhaps hasn't been explored is in relation to more controversial subjects. I use the word controversial not in the extreme sense which has a negative connotation, but more from the standpoint of where there are differing views on a subject of importance. I am not suggesting for one minute that *The Bark* should be like our newspapers, covering the types of subjects that they cover, but there are opportunities in relation to subjects relevant to the Church about which not everyone agrees.

As some would know I am a regular reader of the *Catholic Weekly*. I find that this is a source of information about subjects that would not be covered elsewhere. However, I also believe that the *Catholic Weekly* provides a coverage that communicates the 'official line' and does not provide an opportunity for alternative views that could be considered legitimate (by the way, I am not suggesting that *The Bark* becomes an opposition to the *Catholic Weekly*). For most subjects there are differing views, which could be valid alternatives – there is rarely one 'right' answer. In attempting to determine what might be a 'best' decision, discussion of the alternatives should be a preferred approach, so that all ideas receive due consideration.

I believe there could be an opportunity to provide both interesting reading and broaden views on subjects around which there are differing views that are relevant to our parish. Clearly restrictions need to be in place to ensure the boundaries of what is acceptable are maintained. This suggestion might frighten some but, having grown up in a period where, from a church perspective, the teaching has been fairly autocratic, I have the view that for many of us we are poorly educated, possibly confused, in terms of what the Church is about. Fr John's talks during Lent were great, and the discussion that followed I believe highlighted this point. The attendance proves an interest in learning more, not discounting the appeal of Fr John's presentation as the reason for the great attendance.

This might be an article that begins this approach of being somewhat controversial. These are my thoughts and I invite others to share theirs. Out of discussion we can broaden our views but in a way that respects the opinions of others.

Tony Thorpe

You are welcome to submit opinions to The Bark. Articles must be accompanied by the author's full name. Anonymous articles will not be considered.

OUR SCRIPTURE CHILDREN

The Years 3 and 4 of Peakhurst West and Peakhurst South Schools have learned that Prayer is one of the good deeds they can do for Lent.

They have learned that prayer can bring them closer to God. In this context, I asked them to write their own prayers to God. Here are some of them:

*Dear God,
Please help me do well in my work. Thank you for the rain and sun. Thank you for my family and friends. Can you also forgive me for my sins? Amen.*

*Dear God,
Thank you for giving me a beautiful family. I'm sorry for being mean to them sometimes. Amen.*

*Dear God,
Thank you for the food and water you have provided us with to help us survive. Amen.*

Thank you, God for everything. I wish my dad could still be here on earth. Amen

*Dear God,
Can you bless my family, friends and teachers? Amen.*

*Dear God,
Thank you for a roof over my head, food on my table and a bed to sleep in. I would like to say sorry for fighting with my sisters and not listening to my mother and father. Amen.*

These prayers are a positive response from the children regarding their faith! This is one of the reasons why I keep teaching scripture to the children, amongst other things. Let us keep praying for these children.

Evelyn Graham

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LITURGY LINES

Christmas was a very special time in the Parish. The Christmas Masses were particularly well attended. The Children's Mass was a highlight.

As usual, January was a fairly quiet time in regard to Liturgy in the Parish with a number of Ministries having a well-earned break over the holiday period.

On the weekend of 21/22 January our Masses focused on Australia Day and we gave thanks for the wonderful country in which we live.

Catechist Sunday was celebrated on 5 February. During the 9:15am Mass a 'sending forth' ceremony was held for the catechists and at all Masses on this weekend prayers were said for the catechists and their work in the local State schools.

A special Children's Mass was celebrated at 5pm on Saturday 18 February.

Our Lenten Season commenced with Ash Wednesday on 22 February. Our theme for the Sundays during Lent is the 'Tree of Life'.

Jenni Payne commenced the Altar Servers Training Course on 4 March. This is Jenni's 23rd year as 'coach' of the Altar Servers Team.

The Stations of the Cross were held in the church as a special devotion during the Lenten Season on Wednesday 29 February and 14 March.

About 70 parishioners attended Fr John's talk on 'Being Catholic in the 21st Century' in the Parish Centre on Wednesday 7 March. The talk inspired many questions and gave those who attended much to reflect on. Fr John's second talk on 'Marriage, Divorce and Annulment in the Catholic Church' was on Wednesday 21 March (occurring after this article was submitted).

Our Lenten Reconciliation Paraliturg was held on Wednesday 28 March.

Holy Week commences on the weekend of 31 March/ 1 April with Palm Sunday. The Easter Triduum begins with the evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, reaches its high point in the Easter Vigil and closes on the evening of Easter Sunday. Good Friday includes Stations of the Cross and Commemoration of the Lord's Passion. Parishioners are encouraged to attend all of the Holy Week ceremonies.

All ministers, please check your roster for the times you are on. Readers and commentators, please use your *Break Open the Word* to prepare your reading at Mass.

David Payne (for the Liturgy Committee)

ADRIAN PICCINI

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GOING TO ST CANICE'S – WHAT WE TAKE, WHAT WE LEAVE

Our twice-yearly trips to St Canice's to provide lunch for the needy are always a highlight for me. The preparation and organisation are now well established and don't require much 'tweaking'. A shopping list, a schedule and an extraordinarily generous parish are all that is needed.

Someone at my workplace asked me the other day, "What do you take to St Canice's?" So I listed the items: 20kg of meatballs (ingredients and labour donated by ten fabulous cooks); a 10kg box of instant mashed potatoes, 16kg of frozen mixed vegetables, 16kg of long life vanilla custard, 15 loaves of white and wholemeal sliced bread, an amazing array of home-made cakes, slices, loaves and other treats... and this time, a bag of dog biscuits kindly donated to feed the 'street' dogs who accompany their owners to lunch.

We take plastic bowls and spoons for dessert, plastic take-away food containers so that dinner as well as lunch can be enjoyed and recycled shopping bags to carry it in.

However, even as I listed our supplies, I was thinking that this is not all we take to St Canice's. We also take about a dozen people who are keen to give up the best part of a Sunday to get hot, grubby and tired serving up lunch in a cramped kitchen. We take the efforts of about another thirty parishioners who have given up time and money to provide the food. We take the love and care of



the whole parish to share with another community. We take our faith, our energy and our sense of humour. There is quite a lot to take to St Canice's after all.

The next question was, "Do you leave much there?" and my reply was along the lines of "Sometimes there is left-over custard or cakes and we leave that for the weekday lunches," but again I realised that what we really leave at St Canice's are our pre-conceptions and our judgments.

Nearly every 'kitchen hand' who has come along over the past six years has said almost the same thing to me... "We are not so different. There is very thin line between 'them' and 'us' and, in fact, "There, but for the grace of God, am I".

We come home lightened, knowing that we have left behind much more than we could ever take to St Canice's.

Julia Goff

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY FOR THE FINNS

On Saturday 3 March, long-time parishioners Neil and Pat Finn, along with Pat's brother Owen Patton and his wife Clare, celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary at St Peter and Paul Catholic Church Kiama, 50 years to the day of their double wedding in the original St Peter's Church at Kiama.

Sixty family and friends, including Neil and Pat's seven children, Helen, Joe, Paula, Kathy, Ann, Sean and Mick, and their 20 grand-children, joined them for the Mass, where they renewed their vows. This was followed by a reception at the Harbourside Brighton Restaurant – formerly the Brighton Hotel, where they had held the original wedding reception.

It was truly a family occasion, with both Neil and Pat,



both couples share for each other, how this bond has influenced their children's marriages and the importance of family in all their lives.

Congratulations to Neil and Pat Finn.

Melinda Finn

Pictured: Left - Neil and Pat Finn on their anniversary; Below left - Their wedding day 50 years ago; Above - Neil and Pat with their 20 grandchildren.



and Owen and Clare's children and grandchildren playing special roles in the celebration.

While speeches were marked with humour, they ultimately touched on the love



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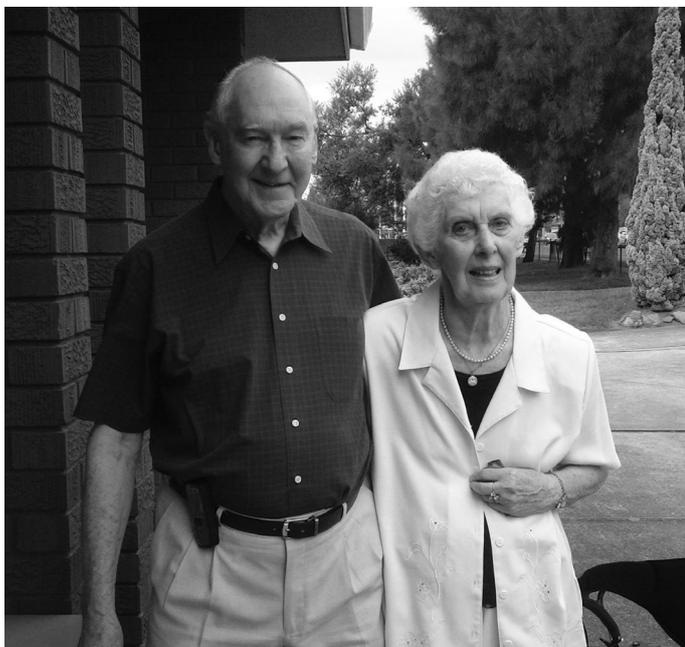
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LUDLAMs CELEBRATE 60TH ANNIVERSARY

Tom and Pat Ludlam celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on 9 February. Judging by their spirit, wit and character, they must have married at quite a young age. Perhaps it's their lifelong devotion to the church and each other that has kept them sprightly.

Both Tom and Pat were born and baptised at Hurstville. They met at the tennis courts that used to be on Regent Street in Hurstville.

After they married, they lived at Mortlake for 18 months before moving to Riverwood, which was called Hern Bay at the time. Galluzzo's chemist had just opened.

They moved to Bexley right behind the school now known as Bethany College, where they lived for 40 years.

As devout Catholics, they were a significant part of the parish at Hurstville for a long time. While Fr Hardin was Parish Priest, they were both readers and welcomed new parishioners.

Tom was on the Social Committee, did counting and was often volunteering for odd jobs that cropped up. Pat joined the choir and encouraged Tom to join her.

Living so close to the church and school, they found their house was like a 'second home' for the nuns, priests and Bishop Cremin. They would come for a swim in the Ludlam's pool or were often invited for a meal.

The school children would also come over to spend time with their daughter Lynn during lunch breaks, listening for the bell to tell them to race back to school.

Tom worked at Fairfax as a photo-engraver. His father and uncle also worked there.



Pat did secretarial and accounts work at NRMA and O'Keefe's Furniture (owned by Johnny O'Keefe's father).

When they retired, they kept themselves busy by running tours for the Fairfax Retired Employees Association to destinations such as New Zealand and Tasmania, and did many day trips as well. This gave them a great opportunity not only to travel, but enjoy the friendships they made along the way.

Tom and Pat moved to Peakhurst Parish about 15 years ago, and quickly immersed themselves in parish life. They joined the choir, took up collections, became welcomers and Pat worked in the piety stall, only recently retiring from these duties. They have always been highly supportive of any parish activity.

Pat has always loved singing and gained entry into the Sydney Symphony Choir.

And they have enjoyed a great love of photography and filmmaking, and were in the Cronulla Movie Makers Club for many years. Pat won an award for a movie she made in 1992.

They enjoyed playing tennis and squash for many years, playing until they were about 65.

Visit their house and you'll be in for an entertaining journey as they recount their memories while playing their sharp wits off each other.

Tom and Pat have a son Ian, who is the licensee at Sanders Noonan at Lugarno. They have three grandchildren, Sophie (15), Anna (13) and Dominic (10).

They sadly lost their daughter, Lynn, when she was just 16 years old. They fondly remember Lynn and the strength and courage she displayed when she was ill. Although having to miss a lot of school, she was always one of the top students. A picture of her as a beautiful smiling teenage girl sits proudly in Tom and Pat's living room.

Tom and Pat love being part of the Peakhurst parish. "We have had great priests", said Pat.

We wish them a happy 60th anniversary and hope they enjoy many more.

Dominic Alati

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Our Lady of Fatima Peakhurst provides an exceptional place of worship within the church itself, the parish grounds and other parish assets such as the parish house and hall.

The facilities throughout are modern and well maintained. This has been the result of regular maintenance and constant reviews of the needs of the Parish. To achieve this, our Parish, like any home or other institution, needs funds.

The second collection as Mass each week is the primary source of income for our Parish. Envelopes, as can be seen in the weekly Bulletin, represent in excess of 75% of the second collection each week. The first collection is not income for the parish, although at present we are fortunate in that we do receive a contribution back from the first collection to assist with the parish secretary's wages, due to our unique situation of not having a resident Parish Priest.

How is the revenue from the envelopes used?

- 10% of the envelope collections each year goes to our Lending A Hand Ministry which donates those funds to needy causes.
- Insurance of church assets and potential liabilities costs around \$14,000 per year.

- To maintain church, parish house, hall and surrounds. As assets age, increased maintenance is required. We are also constantly upgrading where necessary, as can be seen with recent work done on gardens in the carpark area. Already for the seven months of the current financial year we have spent in excess of \$20,000.
- To provide for future significant costs like the replacement of the car-park surface. Estimated to cost around \$42,000.
- To clean the church and maintain parish hall.
- For utility costs such as electricity, water, garbage collection etc.
- Part of the wages of parish secretary.
- For office supplies to produce weekly bulletin and other parish needs.

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Tony Thorpe for the Finance Committee



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AFTER THE INTRODUCTION OF THE NEW TRANSLATION OF THE ROMAN MISSAL

The new responses at Mass have essentially been set in place at Our Lady of Fatima, Peakhurst. I was not an enthusiast prior to their implementation but, probably like everyone else, I am now compliant and respond with the new language. My lack of enthusiasm prior to it being introduced was that there was little discussion leading up to the changes, and very little about the benefits of the changes. We were told that it was richer language, whatever that means. My other objections were that I was not able to perceive any tangible benefits from the proposed changes and, as compared to other significant issues in the Church, this did not appear to rate as a priority.

A month or so ago I attended Mass in western Sydney where the responses at Mass were a combination of no responses at all, some of the new language and some of the old. Unfortunately, though there were modern TV screens in the church, they were not operating which may have contributed to this. I felt the quality of the Mass was negatively impacted by unintelligible responses. What hit home to me came from the priest's homily which indicated that Jesus' message from the readings that day was that responding to the intent of

words was the important issue, not the literal meaning of the words. The combination of the garbled responses and the message from the readings made me think about the new language. Has the new translation made any difference to my appreciation of the Mass? I guess I have paid a bit more attention in trying to respond in the new way. However, from my perspective, at best they are just different words conveying much the same message.

I feel that I fit the picture of an average church-attending Catholic of 2012, and so feel that many would have the same feelings on this matter as I do. I also recognise that others think differently, as is their right, and would be interested if they could share what they genuinely feel the new language has done for them. The changes, at least in terms of what has been implemented at Peakhurst, may seem insignificant, but it is more about why were they necessary and, in comparison to other things which the Church could focus on, where does it rate in terms of priority? Also, are these changes part of another agenda?

So, as I don't feel alone on this, I borrowed a quote from the internet from a Rev Michael G Ryan, who has been pastor of St James Cathedral in Seattle US since 1988, and serves on the board of the national Cathedral Ministry Conference. As part of an article on this subject Fr Ryan said:

"One person ventured the opinion that with all that the church has on its plate today – global challenges with regard to justice, peace and the environment; nagging scandals; a severe priest shortage; the growing disenchantment of many women; seriously lagging church attendance – it seems almost ludicrous to push ahead with an agenda that will seem at best trivial, and at worst, hopelessly out-of-touch."

In another part of Fr Ryan's article he mentions that he was in St Peter's Square in 1963 when Pope Paul VI, who with the world's bishops, presented Vatican II (Fr Ryan calls it "that great Magna Carta") to the church. Fr Ryan then says that "never in my wildest dreams would it have occurred to me then that I would live to witness what seems more and more like the systematic dismantling of the great vision of the council's decree. But I have. We Catholics have".

I feel it is healthy to have a considered opinion, rather than just go along with what is dictated to us.

Tony Thorpe

Reference: www.americamagazine.org

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HOLY WEEK IN SPAIN

Holy Week last year found us in Saville, Spain. What an amazing experience. Because the Cathedral was once a Mosque it is built with large doors on the north and south of the building, this makes processions easy.

After Mass on Palm Sunday everyone processed out the back door around the Cathedral and back to the front. All the clergy carried the most amazing dried palms twisted into intricate patterns but the congregation brought their own branches to be blessed. Because olive trees are plentiful in the area most of the branches were of this tree.

After the procession everyone has a break for lunch and a siesta. Families of several generations gather in restaurants spilling onto most streets to eat and drink together dressed in their 'Sunday Best'. It is wonderful to see teenagers in suits attending to grandparents. The crowds are immense but all is good natured.

The whole city seems to close down for this week, with balconies decorated with plush red and gold banners.

After lunch the main procession takes place. Each of the seven churches of Saville brings a Tableau which is carried through the narrow streets and all of their congregations line the streets. Each of the tableaux is richly carved and decorated with scenes from the



life of Christ and Mary. They each weigh more than a ton and are carried on the shoulders of bearers who change places every hundred yards or so. These massive platforms are particularly hard to manoeuvre around the narrow corners and when they make it successfully the crowd cheers.

The platforms are preceded by a mostly brass band which helps the bearers stay in step. They are preceded by a brotherhood, a large number of the congregation in robes and hoods and barefoot known as penitents and carrying a wooden cross or a metre long candle; this will light their way after dark. The robes are different colours, one is black and this brotherhood is silent. As they pass, those lining the streets go silent with them. They are supposed to be anonymous, known only to God.

These processions go on for about twelve hours, many of the penitents go barefoot, they commence in the early afternoon until the early hours except on Holy Thursday and Good Friday when they go all night. The only thing that stops them is the weather and it poured rain on Thursday and Friday so all was cancelled.

Amazing to see a city closed down for a religious event.

Noelene Hammond



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OLF SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2012

All applications can be collected from the Piety Stall or Parish House.

SACRAMENT of EUCHARIST

For children in Year 3 and above.

Parent Information Night Monday 7 May 7:30pm

Welcoming Masses Saturday 12 May 5pm OR

Sunday 13 May 9:15am OR Sunday 13 May 6pm

Lesson 1 Monday 21 May 7:30pm

Lesson 2 Monday 28 May 7:30pm

Lesson 3 Monday 4 June 7:30pm

Rehearsal Nights

Wednesday 13 June 5:30pm for 5pm First Holy Communion Mass OR

Thursday 14 June 5pm for 9:15am First Holy Communion Mass OR

Thursday 14 June 6:15pm for 2pm First Holy Communion Mass

Reconciliation for preparation for First Holy Communion Saturday 9 June 3:30pm - 4:30pm

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Saturday 16 June 5pm OR

Sunday 17 June 9:15am OR

Sunday 17 June 2pm

SACRAMENT of CONFIRMATION

For children in Year 6 and above

Parent and Candidates Information Night

Monday 30 July 7:30pm

Lesson 1 Monday 13 August 7:30pm

Lesson 2 Monday 20 August 7:30pm

Confirmation Spirituality Day

Sunday 26 August 2pm - 7pm (includes Reconciliation, activities with CYS, pizza and evening Mass)

Rehearsal Wednesday 5 September 5:30pm

CONFIRMATION Sunday 9 September 2:30pm

SACRAMENT of RECONCILIATION

There are four parts to this Sacrament, all four parts must be attended.

Part 1 Parent Information Night

Monday 15 October 7:30pm

Part 2 Lesson 1 Monday 29 October 7:30pm

Lesson 2 Monday 5 November 7:30pm

Part 3 Liturgy of the Word

Monday 12 November 7:30pm

Part 4 INDIVIDUAL RECONCILIATION

Saturday 17 November 3:15pm - 4:30pm

ARTICLES FOR *THE BARK*

Relevant contributions for *The Bark* are welcome. All articles should have a spiritual relevance to our church. Preference is for articles and pictures to be emailed to: domalati@hotmail.com Otherwise, leave at the Parish House with your name and contact details. Articles left anonymously will not be accepted.

We prefer articles you have written yourself, and they will receive priority. Reprinting articles from other publications and the internet is a breach of copyright and cannot be used unless you have received approval. Likewise, articles in *The Bark* are not to be used elsewhere without permission from the editor or author.

Articles should be no more than 300 words. Pictures help your article and make it more likely to be read. We encourage you to send articles and/or pictures of events directly related to our parish, or key events in the lives of our parishioners.

Articles are published and edited at the editor's discretion and no guarantee can be given that an article will appear.

Opinions on church issues are welcome. Opinions expressed in articles are those of the author and not necessarily those of *The Bark*, Our Lady of Fatima, Peakhurst or the Catholic Church.

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THE GATES ARE CLOSED

The battle to thwart the illegal dumpers has so far proved successful with the closure of the Isaac Street gates. It seems to be just a minor inconvenience to parishioners, with the gates opened early before weekend Masses.

Other maintenance has recently taken place with the resurfacing of the car park.



FUNNIES

Things you don't want to hear in a Confessional:

You won't tell the Police, will you?

Hey mate, how come these cubicles have windows?

Hang on, I've got to take this call.

Ssshhh. My mum's outside and she's really cranky.

Forgive me Father for I have sinned. In fact I just hit your car.

How many Hail Marys?!

I am so going to Tweet that.

Can I get a second opinion?

You told me that last time.

How did *that* get in here?

My next sin is... all that stuff I just told you, it's not true.

One Sunday, a young child was 'acting up' during Mass. The parents did their best to maintain some sense of order in the pew but were losing the battle.

Finally, the father picked the little fellow up and walked sternly up the aisle on his way out.

Just before reaching the safety of the foyer, the child called loudly to the congregation, "Pray for me! Pray for me!"



Moses' first and last day as a lifeguard.



"How much do you know and how much do you just suspect?"

A priest has a standard liturgy for funerals. To personalise each service, he uses the Find and Replace command on his computer to replace the name of the deceased from the previous funeral with the new name.

One morning, the funeral was going smoothly until the Apostle's Creed. "Jesus Christ," the congregation read from the program, "born of the Virgin Edna..."

A man was coming out of church one day, and the priest was standing at the door as he always is to shake hands. He grabbed the man by the hand and pulled him aside. The priest said, "You need to join the Army of the Lord!"

The man replied, "But Father, I'm already in the Army of the Lord."

The priest questioned, "How come I don't see you except at Christmas and Easter?"

He whispered back, "I'm in the secret service."

Random thoughts:

Some people are kind, polite and sweet-spirited, until you sit in their pews.

Opportunity may knock once, but temptation bangs on the front door forever.

Don't put a question mark where God put a full stop.

The task ahead of us is never as great as the Power behind us.

Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass. It's about learning to dance in the rain.

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Parish Secretary: Lynelle Lembryk – PH: 9533 2594 – Fax: 9533 5908
Email: olfpeakhurst@atu.com.au – Web: www.ourladyoffatima.com.au

LITURGIES

Saturday Vigil: 5pm **Sunday:** 9:15am and 6pm. **Wednesday and Friday:** 9:30am Mass followed by Rosary.

SACRAMENTAL SCHEDULE

Baptism: 10:30am 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month. Contact Parish House for details.

Marriage: Six months notice required. Contact Parish House for details.

Anointing: Any time day 9533 2594 or night 9580 1310.

Reconciliation: Saturday 4:30pm.

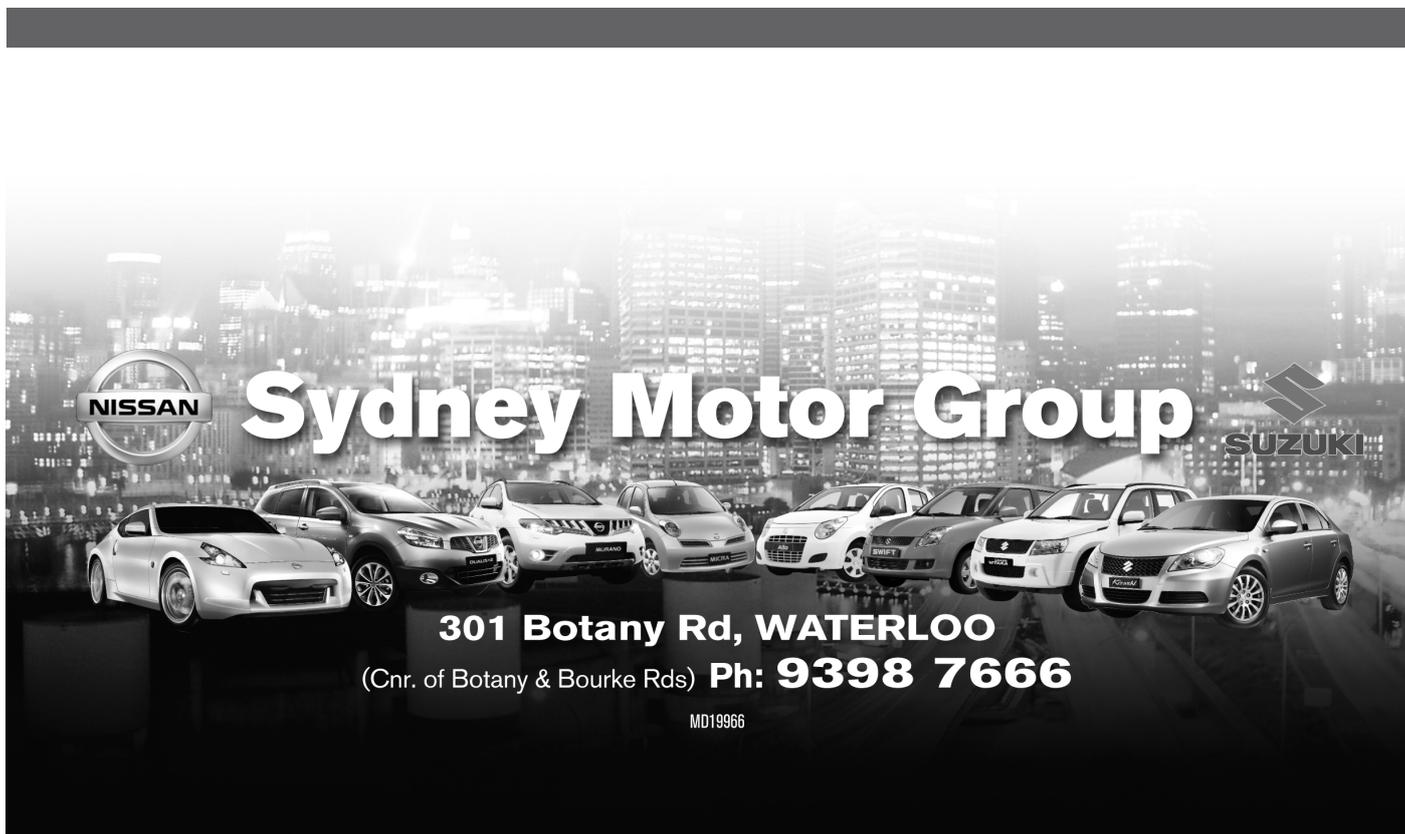
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THE BARK

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