

THE BARK

Our Lady of Fatima Peakhurst

Issue Three 2016

ourladyoffatima.com.au/bark

NEW DIRECTION AT OLF

An exciting change is coming to Our Lady Of Fatima, Peakhurst in 2017.

From February, our parish will be under the direction of the Missionaries Of God's Love (MGL) – an order of priests and brothers based in Canberra.

Incoming Parish Priest, Fr Chris Ryan, visited Peakhurst in October to meet key members of the parish. Fr Chris said four priests from the order will take residence at Peakhurst from 1 February 2017, administering both Peakhurst and Penshurst parishes.

At first, Fr Steve Fletcher from MGL will act as Parish Priest while Fr Chris completes his PhD in Theology. Fr Chris is expected to move to the residence at Penshurst in June 2017.

Fr Chris was ordained in 2002 and was responsible for the Icon and Cross Pilgrimage in Australia for World Youth Day 2008.

Who is MGL?

The following is taken from the MGL website:

The Missionaries of God's Love began within the Disciples of Jesus covenant community in Canberra in 1986, under the guidance of Fr Ken Barker.

We are Catholic priests and consecrated brothers together in mission, sharing in the work of evangelisation in a collaborative way with lay people. We always seek to empower the laity in their journey towards holiness and their mission to spread the good news. In return, we draw much strength and support from the lay community which is integral to our identity.

Our ministry always has a particular focus on bringing



Incoming Parish Priest Fr Chris Ryan

the Gospel to Young people and to those who are poor or marginalised.

We currently have missions in Canberra, Melbourne, Darwin and in Manila in the Philippines.

For more information on MGL, visit their website mglpriestsandbrothers.org or go to their Facebook page @mglpriestsandbrothers

Dominic Alati



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TIME TO SAY GOODBYE

Planning to farewell our much-loved Parish Priest, Fr John, was not a task anyone looked forward to but the committee was determined that all parishioners should have an opportunity to show their appreciation and that the events should be joyful, reflecting Fr John's positive and welcoming ministry to us all over the past 16 years.

Fresh from the big Parish 50th Anniversary gala in May, the committee decided that a similar, two-event program would enable as many parishioners as possible to attend. On Saturday 22 October, Club Rivers provided a great venue for a relaxed evening, allowing time and space for both formal tributes and informal chats and reminiscing.

As the dinner dance was also the day of Fr John's birthday, a disco party theme evoked the '60s and '70s and the jukebox selections kept many on their feet late into the night. Birthday candles were lit and a cake cut to mark his birthday.

Formal tributes to Fr John were given on behalf of the Parish by Kevin Greene and a meticulously-researched 'This Is Your Life' was prepared and presented by Craig Moran with a few carefully-chosen sound bites from Fr John's rock-and-roll career!

The presentation of a guitar and case, and a substantial gift voucher, was much appreciated by Fr John. He spoke, as always, humbly and from the heart, reflecting on his years at Peakhurst and Penshurst and his plans for 'retirement'. His commitment and compassion to our parish has always been evident; his care in looking to our future is another gift to us all.



There was also a PowerPoint presentation with pictures of Fr John taken throughout his 16 years at Peakhurst.

Those gathered were further entertained by our very own 'Sister Act' with their rendition of *I Will Follow Him* complete with habits and hilarity!

The Celebration Mass on Sunday morning, beautifully prepared by the Liturgy Group, was both prayerful and thankful. The Parish gave thanks for the 16 years that we had been blessed by the ministry of Fr John, and he gave thanks for the home and family he found with us. As always, music provided by the choir, enhanced the liturgy in a wonderful way.

All six hymns were chosen by Fr John: *Amazing Grace*, *We Come to Your Feast*, *We Remember*, *I Am the Bread of Life*, *Will You Love Me* and *How Great Thou Art*. His homily told us on how each of these beautiful hymns was

a reflection of some part of his life and ministry – an inclusive and inspiring homily. To top it all off was a special tribute from Ruth and the choir – *An Irish Blessing* during which we, the Church family, raised our hands to bless Father John – an emotion-filled moment.

A farewell message to Fr John was delivered on behalf of the Parish by Julia Goff. The same message was delivered at both





the 5pm Saturday and 9.15am Sunday Masses by Maria Vaux and Jenni Payne.

Morning tea, organised by the Welcoming Committee was, as always, a wonderful opportunity to chat and share and to take a moment for personal goodbyes. With a minimum of formality, but hearts full of emotion we said "goodbye, farewell and Amen" to our beloved Fr John.

Julia Goff

FR JOHN'S FAREWELL

The farewell masses for Fr John were all beautiful and meaningful. The heart warming thanks expressed by Maria Vaux, Julia Goff and Jenni Payne was a true representation of the feelings of the parish.

On the Sunday morning that feeling flowed into the hall, as parishioners expressed a collective sadness mixed with joy. Everyone was feeling sad that Fr John was leaving our parish but at the same time wished him well on his journey. Emma Williams spoke on behalf of the parish in wishing Fr John well for the future.

The dinner for Fr John on the Saturday evening was lively, exhilarating and a lot of fun. Club Rivers could not have been more accommodating. They gave us free rein to decorate the room.



The meal turned into a progressive dinner, with Fr John moving from table to table so that he could speak to as many people as possible. Craig Moran was our MC and what a great job he did. He moved the night along by first introducing Ruth Meagher and Lynelle Lymbryk and asking Fr John to present both of these ladies with flowers, as they will both be also retiring from their formal parish duties.

Following, Craig kept Fr John on the floor presenting him with a 'This Is Your Life' tribute that would have done Mike Munro proud. We were taken from schooldays to fronting INXS. We certainly learnt a lot about Fr John in the process.

Craig then introduced Kevin Greene who toasted Fr John with a wonderful story aptly named 'A Wonderful Life'. The story was wrapped around a movie starring Jimmy Stewart and Donna Reed of the same title. We toasted John while enjoying delicious desserts.

The room went dark... there was movement... and out came 'The Habits'... a wonderful collaboration of would-be nuns singing *I Will Follow Him*. I think for a moment Fr John thought we were going to follow him to his retirement, but no, we couldn't do that. To say the least it was hilarious!

Fr John was overwhelmed by the amount of affection shown him and for the gift of a Spanish guitar and generous gift card given to him by the parish. Fr John indicated on many occasions since just how grateful he feels to be a part of our parish family.

Special thanks to the organising committee for their patience, energy and care in organising such a joyous and wonderful celebration.

John Vaux

Pictured: Opposite page top: Fr John at the dinner. Bottom: The Habits.

This page top: Emma Williams speaking at the farewell morning tea. Left: The parish blesses Fr John. Above: Ruth at the dinner.

ST URSULA'S AT OLF



For 12 weeks throughout terms three and four our parish, through our Lending A Hand Team, has hosted 22 Year 10 students from St Ursula's College Kingsgrove each week for community service.

The girls are only with us for 50 minutes and it is a whirlwind of a 50 minutes but what we have achieved in that time each week has been quite remarkable.

All the girls are delightful, very respectful and willing to embrace whatever is thrown at them.

We have cleaned the pews, scrubbed the tables, washed the playtime equipment and much more.

Under the direction of Julia Goff, the girls made 10 dozen meatballs and over 100 delicious muffins for the St Canice's lunch.

We made toiletry packs for the homeless. Some of which went into St Canice's and the rest went to Orange Sky Laundry. The girls were asked to handwrite a personal message to go in these packs and these were truly thoughtful and beautiful.

The girls made rocky road and muffins then hosted two afternoon teas for the residents of local nursing home, Ferndale Gardens.

The residents arrived on their bus and shuffled into our hall for a lovely afternoon of tea, cakes and conversation. Both parties greatly enjoyed this activity.

We also cooked for and hosted an afternoon tea for our CWL, the choir and the Friendship Group organisers. The leaders of all these groups gave a little speech about the impact their community service through their ministry was able to have on others.

Along the way, when they were parked in our carpark collecting, we had a talk from the Red Cross Blood Bank about donating.

The final week was spent hand-making 200 bon bons for our Vinnies hampers. The girls also had a chat from David Payne about the amazing work that SVDP does from our parish.

Overall I think this program exposed the girls to a different side of what it means to go to church and it is hoped that some of them will be inspired by the example set by so many of our wonderful volunteers.

As the only local church in the area that ran the program, and due to its enormous success, we have already been asked to participate again next year which we look forward to doing.

Emma Williams for the Lending A Hand Team



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ANOTHER GREAT CLEAN FOR HVSG

On Saturday 26 August a group of willing helpers headed down to Waterfall to Ebony and Ivory Houses to do our annual Spring Clean.

This day is organised each year by our Lending A Hand Team. It is always a great example of people working together to achieve wonderful things.

We had helpers old and new, with everyone being touched by this special place.

There are two cottages, Ebony and Ivory, which are operated by the Homicide Victims Support Group. They are set in beautiful, safe surroundings where families have the opportunity to spend some quiet time alone or with each other.

For many experiencing the trauma of the death of a loved one through homicide, there is sometimes a need to get away from everyday things; from all the well meaning people who phone and drop in, from the media and from the reminders of the loved one in their home.

We are delighted to again spend a day painting, cleaning and gardening to make sure the properties were looking at their best for the HVSG children's Christmas party the following weekend. This job was helped by the amazing donation from the new Bunnings store at Kingsgrove.

One of the big jobs for the day was laying new carpet in the dining room, which made an enormous difference to Ivory house. A big thank you must go to Bob Barisic and his son, Christian who sourced and laid the carpet.

Another massive job was to completely empty the garage and sort through the masses of donations and re-pack the area.

For some time, HVSG have been looking to open an op shop to help them fundraise so they have had a lot of books, clothes and household items donated for the potential store.

As this hasn't quite come off yet, the garage was a little out of control with generous donations.

Although it is still full it is now "ordered mess".

Lending A Hand is formulating a plan for the new year to help with selling off all these goods... stay tuned for further details.

Special thanks also to Faye Patterson who although she could not be there generously donated the lunch.

Overall it was a great day with much being achieved and wonderful sense of camaraderie and that very special OLF Peakhurst spirit.



A very big thank you to all those who attended and worked tirelessly throughout what was a very hot day.

Emma Williams for Lending A Hand

FRIENDSHIP GROUP

I would like to thank our generous helpers who supply transport, sandwiches, cakes and slices for our elderly guests every fortnight throughout the year. Without them the Friendship Group would not exist. Guests enjoy having a chat over a cuppa and playing a game of cards or board games. Also bingo every six weeks.

We're looking forward to our Christmas party soon with Tony Girdler and his choir from the Retirement Village who are coming to entertain us all.

Merry Christmas to all.

Helen Cozzi



OUT AND ABOUT...

Thanks Dom

As this is the last issue of *The Bark* under the editorship of Dom Alati I felt it opportune to say a few words about Dom, firstly as the editor and what a great job he has done over the past 10 years. It is hard enough to prepare one 16-page magazine, let alone 10 years' worth. However, Dom has had a lot of assistance with editorial being submitted and I know he would be the first to acknowledge that, but it takes a lot of time and patience to give those articles their full potential. His creative perseverance in pulling all the donated articles into a popular and very readable 'Bark' is to be congratulated. He also writes a number of articles himself, which are well thought out and extremely meaningful. He also plays the role of Jimmy Olsen taking all those special photographs to include in *The Bark*. I have never seen him grimace or complain... he is truly a gentleman.

What most people don't know about Dom is the behind the scenes work he does for our Church. The overheads that you see on the big screen each week are prepared by Dom, the notices that are read by the commentator at the end of Mass are prepared by Dom. He proofreads the bulletin nearly every week. The special editorials that appear in various brochures throughout the year are prepared by Dom.

Dom, I am personally very grateful for the work you do so willingly and tirelessly for our parish and I do believe your parish family echoes these sentiments. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Worthy Award winners

Congratulations to our Friendship Group and Lending A Hand for each receiving a Community Group Achievement Award this year at the 6th Annual St George Community Awards hosted by local state member and parishioner Mark Coure. The Friendship Group Award was accepted by Helen Cozzi on behalf of her team of



Pictured above: Helen Cozzi receiving her award from Mark Coure. Below left: Tony Thorpe.

helpers. Every fortnight (just about) these good folk meet to entertain the elderly of our parish, playing games, preparing lunch and often picking up the elderly from their homes and returning them home safely. A simple act of mercy in this past Year of Mercy and yet in simplicity there is greatness.

The Lending A Hand award was accepted by the 'Chief' Tony Thorpe. He is affectionately called this from time to time, due to the fact that he was dressed as a Massai warrior at an afternoon tea party for The School of St Jude, which is one of the many charities Lending A Hand supports. The Lending A Hand Team financially supports many groups but they also support in a very practical way, such as our annual cake stall and raffle, the maintenance of Ebony and Ivory Houses at the Homicide Victims Support Unit at Waterfall, the purchase of special hospital beds for cancer patients, the purchase of water tanks on the Island of Kiribati providing the people there with fresh water, providing over 200 meals for St Canice's, and the list goes on.

Without the assistance of so many parishioners Lending A Hand would not be able to carry out all the wonderful work they do on behalf of Our Lady of Fatima, Peakhurst. I think it is safe to say that Lending A Hand is rather unique in comparison with other parishes in the Archdiocese of Sydney.

At the same award ceremony, Dawn Thorpe was awarded the Senior Volunteer Achievement Award for her ongoing work with the Lionesses.

Congratulations Dawn.

Papal honour for Helen Cozzi

What an honour that one of our own will be bestowed with this special blessing. Truly it could not be awarded to a more deserving person than Helen Cozzi. I would now like to share an excerpt of the letter sent to Helen.



I am writing to you on behalf of the Archbishop of Sydney, his Grace Anthony Fisher OP to inform you that the Holy Father, Pope Francis has bestowed on you the Honour of the Benemerenti Medal for your distinguished services to the Church in the Archdiocese of Sydney.

The Archbishop would like to present this Honour to you at a formal ceremony on Thursday 22nd December. You will be presented with the Medal and formal citation.

Helen, how very proud we are of you.

Wedding Bells

Laura Dalby and Tim Faulkner were married by Fr John Crothers at Our Lady of Fatima, Peakhurst on Friday 4 November. Laura is the daughter of Peter and Cathy Dalby (Cathy is another of our quiet achievers, who adds dimension to our weekend Masses by playing the organ). Tim is the son of Ian and Dana Faulkner, also from Lugarno.



The ceremony was indeed a beautiful one and was blessed with glorious weather. Laura has a long history with OLF. She started out as an Altar Server who later went on to become one of our wonderful young readers and commentators.

To Laura and Tim, we wish you the traditional fairy tale ending. 'May you live happily ever after'.

Jubilation for Julia

Julia and David Goff have just returned from a month overseas enjoying the sights of England, Wales, France, Italy and a magic three days in Dubai.

The highlight for Julia was seeing the Pope in the Vatican and standing in St Peter's Square, receiving his blessing.

Talking about blessings, Julia, just before she left on her trip, received a Papal Blessing for her 20 years of dedicated service as a catechist.

Julia, we thank you for your commitment in sharing your faith and for your devotion to the children of our parish.

Cruisin' around

John and Maria Vaux are setting sail to New Zealand, three days sailing and then eight ports of call heading up the east coast, finishing with two days sailing home to Sydney. Unbeknown to them, Pat Macks is booked on the same cruise. Just when John thought he could let his hair down (if only he had hair to let down).

Kathy and Len Dennett are cruising the South Pacific at the same time. Ain't retirement grand!

Inez Mullen has just returned from a cruise around New Guinea, which she found enlightening. The highlight being the war history at Milne Bay, where she saw Japanese caves that had been dug out to hide vehicles. One cave she went in held five vehicles, which are still there. This made the experience all the more real.

Oztag rep

Following the Oztag senior Nationals tournament in Coffs Harbour in November, Madeline Williams was selected in the Australian Under 20s mixed squad. The team will compete in March in a four nations tournament. We wish Madeline and the team all the best.

John and Maria Vaux

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CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE

The objective of the Catholic Women's League is to address social and moral issues for women at different levels – parish, community, diocese, state, national and international. CWL Australia is a member of the World Union of Catholic Women's Organisation (WUCWO).

The Our Lady of Fatima, Peakhurst branch of the CWL has 20 members who meet on the third Wednesday of the month. We are also active members in other areas of the Parish.

CWL Sydney Diocese meetings are held in the Polding Centre in the city on the second Tuesday of the month and are attended by our delegates. At these meetings, the branches choose a project for the year for which they raise funds. For the past two years, the project of the year has been Catholic Schools of the Diocese in Wilcannia Forbes.

We, at Peakhurst CWL, raise funds through the Silver Circle (our main source of income), making sandwiches for a local Probus Club AGM and the occasional Fashion Parade. With the funds raised we support the CWL Project of the Year and local projects with contributions.

In March this year, we hosted the Women's World Day of Prayer for our local area. This was attended by our friends from local Christian churches. We also attend their gatherings. St Matthew's Uniting Church has an annual lunch with a guest speaker. We enjoy Mass and lunches with other local CWL branches, Oatley and Kingsgrove. We have an ongoing arrangement with Our Lady of Consolation Home, Rooty Hill, who enjoy a visit and lunch. We arranged our first excursion this year, a bus trip to Mount Annan Botanic Gardens.

We are looking for new members to join our enthusiastic group and new opportunities to carry on our objectives of promoting spiritual, cultural, intellectual and social values to all women of faiths.

For further information please contact us or come to our next meeting – see the Bulletin for details. Feel free to chat to the ladies in the Piety Stall on Sundays, as they are all members.

President - Maree Murphy 9533 4768
Vice President - Marlene Wallace 9153 0559
Secretary - Mary Branagan 9584 9379
Secretary - Marie Ryan 8519 1000



GIVING THANKS FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Thursday 24 November saw the celebration of our special Annual Thanksgiving Mass for those parish children who received Special Religious Education (SRE) during 2016 at three local public schools

SRE is more commonly known as 'scripture' and is provided at Peakhurst West, Peakhurst South and Lugarno Public Schools each week by a dedicated group of Catechists from our parish.

The Thanksgiving Mass is a significant event held towards the end of each school year. All SRE students are given a personal invitation to attend the Mass with their families. Students are involved in the entry procession, readings and Prayers of the Faithful with the younger children performing movements to a Christmas hymn which they have all rehearsed during class time in the preceding weeks. The newly-purchased Nativity scene was set up in front of the altar; the empty manger reminding us all of the importance of this Advent Season as we prepare for the coming of Our Lord at Christmas.

It is wonderful to welcome these special members of our parish and to give thanks for our opportunity to minister to them. The Prayers of the Faithful acknowledge the vital roles their school principals, parents and extended families have in providing opportunities for the children to learn about their faith. We thank Father Simon for celebrating Mass for us together with Father Vincent from Uganda. Music provided by 'the Taylor Boys' was a great start to the Christmas season, featuring many favourite hymns.

Supper in the hall after Mass was a great opportunity for Catechists to chat to the families of their students and to see the kids 'off duty'.

Many thanks to David Payne and Susie Paino for their organisation and to Evelyn Graham, Ruth Meagher and Marie Ryan for preparing and serving supper to all.

Julia Goff

RED CROSS VISITS AGAIN AT OLF

The success of our big prominent corner block continues to bring the Red Cross Blood Bank back to our parish every quarter.

This project was organised and backed through our Lending A Hand Team and has been a raging success with up to 70 collections taking place with each visit.

This not only brings parishioners in to donate but has been a wonderful outreach with our local community with many locals booking their next appointment straight after their donation.

If you have never donated before the convenience of having the van at Peakhurst may be enough to tip you over the line.

It only takes about an hour, really doesn't hurt, you get a



yummy bag of goodies at the end and most importantly EACH DONATION SAVES THREE LIVES.

We look forward to welcoming the Blood Bank back again in 2017.

Emma Williams for the Lending A Hand Team

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SACRAMENTAL TEAM MEMBERS RETIRE



After a collective 50-plus years, the current members of the Sacramento Team have decided to retire (although there is a rumour Lynne Taylor is going to stay on for another year and Tosca is going to stay and help the new team for a while).

The out-going team is: Tosca Galluzzo (20+ years), Mary Anne Malone (13 years), Maureen Hyland (13 years), Therese Harrison (5 years), and Lynne Taylor (5 years).

We have thoroughly enjoyed our time on the Sacramento team with the children and parents but feel it is now time for new people to bring in their new ideas.

Thanks to all the people who have made our time on the Sacramento Team so enjoyable and rewarding.

Maureen Hyland for the out-going members of the Sacramento Team

Note: The new Sacramento Team is yet to be confirmed. Hopefully this will be done early in 2017. The role of the Sacramento Team is to prepare children for the rites of First Holy Communion, Confirmation and Reconciliation. If you would like to join the team, please contact the parish office.

LITURGY LINES

Confirmation was celebrated in the Parish on Sunday 14 August with 40 children being confirmed by Bishop Terry Brady. Our thanks to the Sacramento Team for their efforts in preparing the children.

Father's Day was celebrated on 4 September with a special presentation as a dedication to all fathers and grandfathers, and portraits made by some of the children were placed on the church walls. Thank you to the Children's Liturgy. The parish celebrated with a barbeque brunch after Mass.



The Father's Day barbeque in capable hands.

In October, we prayed for the students from our Parish who were undertaking major exams.

We thank and farewell Fr Allan Casquejo who was with

Fr Hoa talks with Maria Vaux after the Remembrance Mass





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us as Assistant Priest (from 19 May to 17 October). The parish community thanks Allan for his time and ministry with us and we wish him many blessings throughout his vocation and in his life. Fr Allan will continue his missionary work in Papua New Guinea.

Special Masses were celebrated on the weekend of 22/23 October as a farewell to Fr John, our much loved Parish Priest. We thank Fr John for sharing his faith and knowledge of the Gospels with us and for his wonderful pastoral work for the Parish.

We welcomed Fr Simon Kitimbo as our Administrator for November, and Fr Hoa Thai Nguyen as our assistant priest for the next three months. Fr Arthur Givney will be Administrator in December and Fr Danny Meagher will be Administrator in January. Bishop Richard Umbers is also celebrating Mass in the Parish during November and December.

A special Remembrance Mass for our departed relatives and friends was celebrated by Fr Hoa on Friday, 4 November. It included a beautiful PowerPoint presentation dedicated to our deceased relatives.

Our new nativity figures are in place for the Season of Advent. (Pictured below)



Our Advent Reconciliation Paraliturg took place on Monday, 12 December.

Our Mass times for Christmas are 5.00pm and 9.00pm Christmas Eve and 9.15am Christmas Day. There is no evening Mass on Christmas Day.

In 2017, we look forward to welcoming our new Parish Priest, Fr Chris Ryan of the Missionaries of God's Love.

David Payne for the Liturgy Committee



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THE GRANDPARENTS' THEME SONG

Jenni and I recently had our first experience of having our 14-month-old granddaughter, Kit, stay at our place for a weekend sleepover.

We picked her up from her home on the northside just after 8.00am, so we could have her home to our place for her morning sleep.

As we were driving away, with our son Matthew and his wife Jen waving to their "little treasure" from the footpath (probably thinking "my goodness, what have we done?"), Bobby Vee's hit song from the early 1960s, *Take Good Care Of My Baby*, started playing. I'd been listening to the CD in the car because Bobby Vee had recently passed away from Alzheimer's disease, aged 73.

Although a love song, the initial words, at the time, seemed so very, very relevant... a real theme song for grandparents:

*My tears are falling 'cause you've taken her away
And though it really hurts me so
There's something that I've got to say
Take good care of my baby.
Please don't ever make her blue.
Just tell her that you love her.
Make sure that you're thinking of her
In everything you say and do.
Take good care of my baby.
Now don't you ever make her cry.
Just let your love surround her.
Paint rainbow all around her.
Don't let her see a cloudy sky.*

Interestingly, *The Catholic Weekly*, at the time of his passing, had an article about Bobby Vee – his music and his life as a devout Catholic.

With my musical taste still "lost in the Sixties", I knew a bit about Bobby Vee. He had a string of hits from 1960-63, songs like *Rubber Ball*, *More Than I Can Say*, *Run To Him*, *Walkin' With My Angel*, *The Night Has A Thousand Eyes* and, of course, the grandparents' theme song, *Take Good Care Of My Baby*. You'd remember the songs, if you heard them!

From *The Catholic Weekly* article, Bobby Vee was a devout Catholic and a dedicated family man, married to his wife, Karen, from 1963 until her death in 2015, and a dedicated father to his four children.

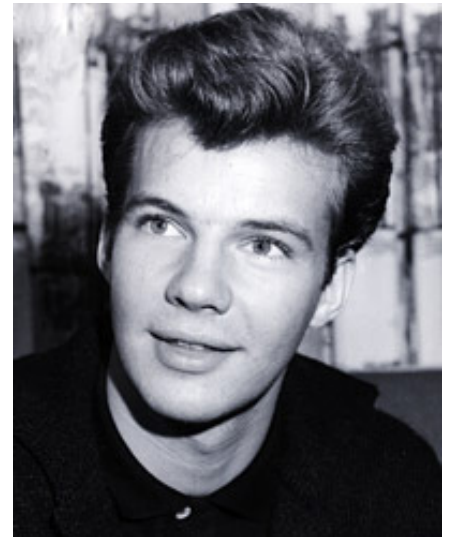
He was very involved with his local community and believed in giving back to it through active involvement and generous charitable work.

I knew that his career had started as a 15-year-old, when he and his band were asked to replace Buddy Holly for a scheduled concert after he had died in the famous plane crash – the "night the music died".

The article suggested that Bobby Vee never forgot the tragedy that paved the way to his success and that perhaps it was this that kept him so humble and down-to-earth.

Anyway, back to the weekend sleepover – we did take good care of their baby! Both baby and grandparents survived the experience and we are so looking forward to the next time.

David Payne



Bobby Vee

FOODIES MAKES PEOPLE THIRSTY

Did you know that OLF operates the drinks stall at the Foodies market?

The market operators give us the spot and marquee to use and the hugely generous and community-minded Club Rivers donate all the drinks for us to sell.

Not only do they deliver us cold drinks just before we open, but they also supply ice to use and a staff member to look after the stall for a couple of hours.

We are most grateful to the club for this generous ongoing support.

We have a faithful band of helpers who "man" the stall each month and we could not do it without them.

John Vaux is always there to help with the set-up and he has got it down pat. We could not get ready without him.

Helping out on the drinks stall at Foodies is an easy way to make a wonderful contribution to our parish.

In November the drinks stall sold nearly \$900 worth of drinks at one market, so helping out for an hour or so has a big impact.

Hope to see some new faces there in the new year.

Emma Williams

THE BARK TURNS 20

In 1996, former parishioners, Barbara and Jim Walsh put a notice in the Bulletin to see if anyone was interested in starting a parish magazine.

The notice received a handful of responses, but the responses were from the 'right' people. Jo Fitzpatrick, Jamie Kellehear and Diane St Baker, people who brought a mix of skills and passion to the spark of an idea with Barbara and Jim. Together they put their heart and soul into *The Bark*, churning out 10 issues a year.

What they may not have realised was that they were laying a platform for a humble but important communication-piece for the parish.

The Bark grew, not only in popularity but in size. People were keen to contribute. Julia Goff became involved and *The Bark* improved even more as the team 'cut and pasted' articles month after month, year after year.

At the end of 2006, after 10 years and around 100 issues, the team said goodbye and it seemed that was the end of *The Bark*. But not quite. Fate, God or good luck intervened by the name of the late Frank Golding. It was at the Martin's open house party on Christmas Eve when Frank detected my vague interest in picking up *The Bark* editorship. *The Bark* meant so much to Frank and he didn't want to see it disappear. He moved faster than he'd moved for decades in teeing me up as editor with the Leadership Team. The deal was done and another 10 years of *The Bark* was sealed.


And now *The Bark* has reached 20 years of age. A remarkable feat for a parish publication. For a parish without a resident priest, where the parishioners make such a huge and generous contribution voluntarily to its day-to-day running, it seemed necessary that a publication such as *The Bark* continues, to keep everyone informed of the work being done.

There are so many people who give of their time freely and willingly to make the parish what it is. They have been the inspiration for *The Bark*. They have kept *The Bark* going for 20 years. It is impossible to name them all. Some receive recognition and others do not.

But importantly, it's not physical rewards that drive them. It's their enormous heart and spirit. It's their desire to give to society. The people who clean the church, the people who sing in the choir, those who form the outreach and charitable teams, the acolytes and altar

Advertise your Business
Support *The Bark*, Support the Parish.

Contact Peakhurst Parish at olpeak@bigpond.com Ph 9533 2594



NEWSLETTER OF
OUR LADY OF FATIMA
CATHOLIC CHURCH
PEAKHURST

SEPTEMBER 1996 ISSUE No1.

WHY

The winner of the naming of our newsletter is the Uzolias family. The choice of name is 'BARK' - The 'FATIMA BARK'.

You might ask, 'Why Bark?' The thoughts which come to mind from the three meanings of the word are:-


BARK - 'The short sharp sound that a dog uses to communicate'. We would like to think that our newsletter will provide many varied, interesting, yet short newsy items about our parishioners.

- The second meaning - 'The BARK of a tree'. One thinks of the beautiful gum tree which graces the entrance of our church. When a tree sheds its bark new life is the result. We would like to think that by the shedding and sharing of news in our community we are creating an environment for renewal and continued commitment to each other.

- The third meaning is that of a ship - 'A THREE MASTED VESSEL'. What comes to mind

from this image is the linking and weaving of different points of view from different cultures, different age groups and from different areas in our community. The ship is embarking on a journey to new horizons where we will hopefully share and witness growth from the coming together of the various contributions, experiences and viewpoints of our parish family.

BARK?



A Note From Fr Paul.

It is my pleasure to write these few lines for the first issue of 'The Fatima Bark'. One of the main ways we can build up a family spirit in our Parish is by keeping everyone informed of the various aspects of parish life. I feel the 'Bark' will help us to achieve the spread of information and ideas.

The fact that our Parish continues to endeavour opening up new ventures is a sign of our vitality and desire to spread our good news.

I thank the Committee for having so generously undertaken this project and wishing them every success in their endeavours.

SHARING OUR FAITH - HOW I SEE IT

Home and family is the place where we learn to love and care for one another. The model roles our parents and acquaintances give us help us to relate to our Heavenly Father, who is Divine, loves us unconditionally and is always ready to forgive.

Home is the place where we share our triumphs and griefs. It is a place where support is always there. In times of mental, physical and financial stress, it alleviates the pain to share with a loving family or friend and seek solutions.

If you were going through a rough patch, would you tell your parents/family? Would you want to worry them? How do parents/grandparents feel participating or being left out of their children's lives?

Anne-Marie
'Vinnies' Worker

The first issue of The Bark, September 1996

servers, those who turn up time and time again to contribute in one way or another. Those who come to church each week to pray for the own intention.

The Bark has been going for 20 years simply because of the people of this parish who love, who serve, who dedicate their time towards making someone else's life better than it is.

And now *The Bark* looks ahead to more years under a new direction, not just by a new editorial team, but also by a new team of priests.

And as per the last 20 years, it will be lifted onto the shoulders and carried by the faithful of Our Lady Of Fatima, Peakhurst.

Dominic Alati

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SCHOOL OF ST JUDE REPORT ON 60 MINUTES



Through the Lending A Hand Team, our parish has been a regular sponsor of the School Of St Jude in Tanzania for several years.

The school has a fascinating background story, providing free education for the country's poorest children. It also provides them with food, transport and accommodation, as well as providing employment for Tanzanians.

Australian founder, Gemma Sisia and the school were featured in a report on *60 Minutes* in October. If you missed it, you can watch it on 9Now (Channel 9's catch-up site) – see episode 38.

We were fortunate to have Gemma Sisia visit our parish in April this year.

Information about Gemma's visit to the parish is in *The Bark*, Issue One 2016.

GALLERY OFF LIMITS

Following an inspection for a WHS report, the upstairs gallery in the church must remain closed until further notice. The decision to close it is for safety reasons.

At this stage, there is no date for when the gallery will be re-opened, but it won't be until the issues have been adequately addressed.

IT'S OFFICIAL

A total of 348 pieces of chewing gum were removed from the church pews in October.

Let's hope the new garbage bins at the entrances make a difference in the future.

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NEW EDITORIAL TEAM REQUIRED

As mentioned on page 13, *The Bark* has just reached the age of 20.

Right now, a new editorial team is being assembled to ensure *The Bark* continues to keep the parish informed well into the future.

It's anticipated that the current number of three issues per year will continue to be produced.

No matter what skills you have, you can contribute to the production of *The Bark*.

If you would like to be a part of the new team that has already started to form, please contact Chris Bounds at cbounds@mac.com

ARTICLES FOR *THE BARK*

Relevant contributions for *The Bark* are welcome. All articles should have a relevance to our church.

Articles should be emailed to: olfpeak@bigpond.com or left 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.

If you would like to advertise, the rates are available upon request.

Please support our advertisers without whose generous assistance *The Bark* would not be printed.

FUNNIES

Quotes

I asked God to protect me from my enemies, and then I started losing friends.

Anon

If God dwells inside us, I sure hope He likes pizza, because that's what He's getting.

Jack Handey

I hope God speaks English. If I get up to heaven and have to point at a menu, I'm not gonna be happy.

Daniel Tosh

In the beginning there was nothing. God said, "Let there be light!" And there was light. There was still nothing, but you could see it a whole lot better.

Ellen DeGeneres

It seems to me that the good Lord on his infinite wisdom gave us three things to make life bearable – hope, jokes and dogs, but the greatest of these was dogs.

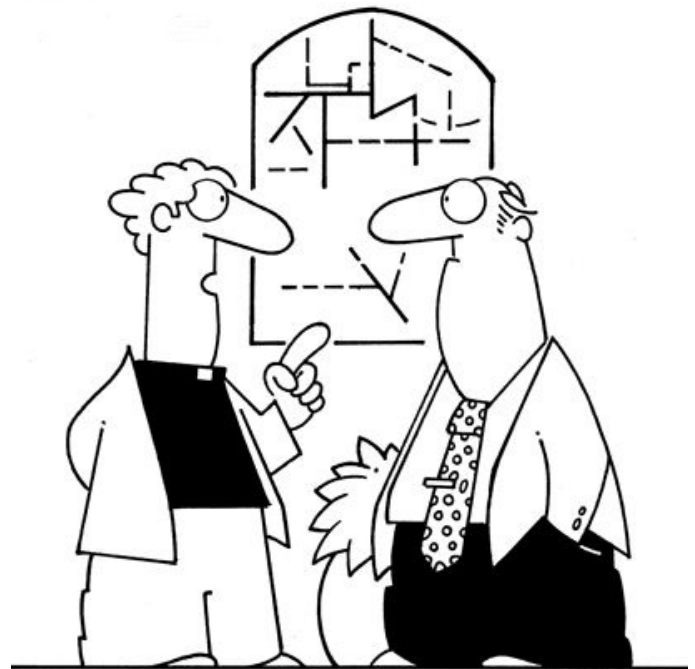
Robyn Davidson, Tracks

I am ready to meet my Maker. Whether God is prepared for the great test of meeting me is another question.

Winston Churchill

I fear one day I'll meet God, he'll sneeze and I won't know what to say.

Ronnie Shakes



**"Give a man a fish and he'll eat for a day.
Teach a man to fish and you can sell
him all of your old gear on eBay!"**

The woman hurried to the pharmacy to get medication, got back to her car and found that she had locked her keys inside.

The woman found an old rusty coat hanger left on the ground.

She looked at it and said, "I don't know how to use this."

She bowed her head and solemnly asked God to send her some help.

Within five minutes a beat-up old motorcycle pulled up, driven by a bearded man who was wearing an old biker skull rag. He climbed off of his cycle and asked if he could help.

She said: "Yes, my daughter is sick. I've locked my keys in my car. I must get home. Please, can you use this hanger to unlock my car?"

He said, "Sure."

He walked over to the car, and in less than a minute, the car door was open.

She hugged the man and through tears, softly said, "Thank you, God, for sending me such a very nice man."

The man heard her little prayer and replied, "Lady, I am not a nice man. I just got out of prison yesterday; I was in prison for stealing cars."

The woman hugged the man again, sobbing, "Oh, thank you, God! You even sent me a professional."



CATHOLIC CHURCH PEAKHURST PARISH OF OUR LADY OF FATIMA

825 FOREST ROAD PEAKHURST 2210

Administrator: Fr Arthur Givney **Assistant:** Fr Hoa Thai Nguyen

Parish Secretary: Ruth Meagher – Ph: 9533 2594 – Fax: 9533 5908

Email: olfpeak@bigpond.com – 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.

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Camille Philips (Chairperson), Bob Barisic, Francesca Guidotto, Chris Bounds, Florence Bonnanno, Kathleen Kennedy.

THE BARK

Out-going editor: Dominic Alati 0402 131 072 domalati@hotmail.com

Thanks to the following people who help produce *The Bark*: John Vaux, Donna Ryan-Alati, Lynelle Lembryk, Ruth Meagher, the Leadership Team, the Finance Team, those who contributes articles, advertisers and supporters.

Christmas Mass times at Our Lady of Fatima Peakhurst

Christmas Eve Vigil: 5pm Saturday 24 December

This is the Children's Mass and features the Children's Pageant

Music by the Taylor Boys

Carols start at 4.30pm

Christmas Eve: 9pm Saturday 24 December

Music by the Parish Choir. Carols start at 8.30pm

Christmas Day: 9.15am Sunday 25 December

Music by the Parish Choir. Carols start at 8.45am.

Note: there is no evening Mass at Peakhurst on Christmas Day