

CONGRATULATIONS VINCE LEMON

In March, Vince Lemon received a Premier's Award in recognition for the wonderful voluntary work he does in organising a choir to sing in hospitals, nursing homes and RSL clubs.

He has been doing this since 1978 when he'd pop out in his lunch break, do a concert, then go back to work.

Vince has also been a member of the parish choir for 19 years and loves it, saying it's the best choir he has ever been in.

Vince recalled, when he received his award, "There was a church full of people. Kevin Greene called me to the front of Mass. I didn't expect anything like this.

"I could not have done this without all these people who have stood by me and shown me this loyalty," he says when he reflects how he only needs to give people in his choir a time and place and they turn up.

Although he now lives outside Peakhurst, Vince still calls Our Lady of Fatima his parish. When his beloved wife, Avon, died in December 2005, he was overawed by the love and respect given by the parish. "The way they treated my wife, I could never leave Peakhurst," he said.

It's his music, he says, that "keeps him going". He acts as the MC and staff clerk for his weekday choir and puts the programs together. He loves doing the concerts, walking around the wards, especially when the patients, residents and the staff sing along.

We all know Vince as a true 'character' of our parish. Most parishioners would have enjoyed a personal rendition of his favourite, 'Thank Heaven For Little Girls'.



Vince is never shy in coming forward. "Once, I had the Australian Opera sing for me, just because I asked them," said Vince.

Recently, Vince was on a Manly ferry and taught a little girl to sing a Shirley Temple song. By the end of the trip, she was on her seat "singing her heart out".

Vince has a daughter and four grandchildren. His son died in 2001. "No father and son were ever closer," he fondly remembers, and they often performed together.

Vince, who is 84, is as passionate about life as he is about singing. "There is a difference between being old and being aged," he said. "I know some 20-year-olds who are old."

And those who have met Vince will know he has plenty of advice for younger people. About singing, he borrows from Placido Domingo and says, "Love the music and you'll perform it well...and have fun."

Dominic Alati



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CHANGES AT THE HALF YEARLY PARISH MEETING

The Leadership Team proposed two key changes at the Half Yearly Parish Meeting held on Sunday 6 June.

The first was to change the Parish Mission Statement. The previous Mission Statement was over ten years old and quite lengthy. It was felt that it no longer fully captured the goals and purposes of the parish.

The following Mission Statement was approved at the meeting:

The mission of the parish of Our Lady of Fatima, Peakhurst, nourished by the Word and sustained by the Eucharist, is to build and nurture a Christian community through our Catholic faith. With our gifts we create a parish that welcomes all people.

We will achieve our Mission by:

- Promoting prayerful, meaningful liturgies
- Actively demonstrating Christ to the wider community
- Providing opportunities for faith development for all.

It is believed this new Mission more accurately reflects our parish and the work of each of the various ministries. The new Mission Statement will be posted in the church.

The other change made at the meeting was to the constitution regarding the terms of service of the members of the Leadership Team, Section 6 Executive Committee, Sub-section 6.4.

The following amendment was approved at the meeting:

The members of the Executive Committee will be elected at the Annual General Meeting of the parish. Each member of the Executive Committee is elected for a three-year term, with two members retiring each year. A retiring member cannot stand again for election to the Executive Committee until after 12 months from the date he or she retired (except to fill a casual vacancy). Retiring members hold office until the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting at which they retire.

Dominic Alati

Need a Justice of the Peace?
Contact Anthony Golding
Ph 0409 840 009 after 5pm

OUR LADY OF FATIMA PLAYTIME

We have had a busy year to date. Lots of new members, the opening of a 'Baby Group' on Fridays, Mother's Day raffle and Easter Egg guessing competition.

We are currently running on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday mornings with approximately 36 carers and over 45 children attending weekly.

Our fund raising efforts to date have seen us raise over \$400 and we are hoping to use some of this money to purchase new shade sails over the children's sand pit area (as our previous sails have been damaged and badly need replacing).

Congratulations to the winners of the Mother's Day raffle:
Maureen Goodier – gourmet kitchen hamper
Nancy Azzopardi – picnic hamper
Theresa – pamper hamper
Michelle Chung – teddy bear framed artwork
Lisa Monte – V-tech computer game
Rita Young – wine

We would like to take the opportunity to thank our wonderful sponsors:

All Seasons Camping & Leisure Penhurst, Tidz Café Oatley, Russo's Pizzeria Peakhurst, Short Black Café Penhurst, Aesop Newtown, Penhurst Pub Bottleshop, O8 Nails Penhurst, Craig Bashall Tupperware, Bernadette's Beautician Penhurst and Ruth (Parish Office).

Kerrie Rendina (Playtime Co-ordinator)

FRIENDSHIP GROUP

Our group is going very well. There are 20 guests ranging in age from 54 to 96.

They all enjoy the Friendship Group mornings, coming together to have a chat over a cuppa then playing board games or cards. Bingo is played every six months.

There are 13 helpers on a roster who transport guests to and from the hall and generously supply sandwiches and cakes each fortnight.

If you know any elderly guest who would like to come to our happy little group, or if you would like to be a helper, please ring me on 9153 5074.

Helen Cozzi

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DID YOU KNOW

Congratulations to two couples who have celebrated great Wedding Anniversaries recently – they are Kevin and Thelma Brailey who celebrated 60 years and Jim and Carmel North, 50 years. That number of years is a great milestone for anyone to achieve and we hope you have good health and happiness in the many years that you have ahead. (I have no doubt that other couples have celebrated similar celebrations, let me know so I can publish them. Ring me 9533 3979).

There are two ladies in our Parish who get great enjoyment in going to the ABC studios and help with the 'Wraps With Love'. These days are held a couple of times a year and they are obviously to promote the helping of people in need. The ladies are Maureen Burgess and Pat Whelan. As well as having a fun time, they help knitting or sewing together the knitted squares that are supplied, which are then sent to the people and countries that need them to keep warm. I might add that the ladies of our Catholic Women's League also make these rugs. Over the past few years we have done hundreds – only last month 13 were taken to the depot at Alexandria.

While on this subject, any donation of 8 ply wool would be very much appreciated by our knitters. Just leave at the Piety Stall. Thank you in anticipation.

We welcome Father John back from holidays.

It is very sad to think that we are losing a great family dynasty from our area. With the deaths of Tina and Frank Golding, who contributed so much to our Parish, the family has decided to sell up and move on. Anthony

is on his own at the family home and he has alternative accommodation in Lawson, so he is departing shortly for greener pastures. Good luck Anthony, we hope you are very happy and thanks to you and your family for contributing so much to our Parish Family.

Our sympathy goes to Maria Lumley, whose father Con Gavin, passed away recently.

We have some very happy grandparents in our parish (this must be the season for newborns). Firstly, our own Ruth Meagher's youngest daughter Melissa and her husband Steven, presented Ruth with grandchild number 11, a bouncing baby boy, Michael Antonio. Michael is the youngest brother to Gabrielle and Dominic.

Secondly, Maria and John Vaux, Emma and Leah, and Joan Curtis are over the moon with the birth of their first grandchild, nephew, and third great grandchild, Charlie Gregory. Son Andrew delivered Charlie who was 8lb, and from all accounts mother, Lindie and baby are doing very well, being smothered with love from both sides of the family.

Also over the moon with their first grandchild are Genevieve and Bill Porter and Maureen and Paul McQueen (a double whammy for the parish), whose son and daughter Tim and Linda had a bouncing baby boy, Jake Colin.

And another – Mike and Christine Hickey are celebrating the birth of their grandson Tyson Liam (parents David and Vicki Hickey). Congratulations to all the families involved, we trust that they all grow up to be healthy, happy little Australians.



A group of ladies from the Catholic Women's League went to a screening of Channel Ten's 'Ready Steady Cook' recently (pictured left) and found it very interesting and entertaining. It is not until you see one of these productions that we realise the staff and the work that goes into these productions. Everything is timed to the second and they make it look so easy.

If you have any news, please let me know so I can include it in *The Bark*.

God bless.

Inez Mullen

CATECHIST MINISTRY

For where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them. Matthew 18:20

Our Lady of Fatima, Peakhurst is very fortunate to have 15 dedicated parishioners who have volunteered to be catechists. These catechists go out to the children in the three state schools in the area once a week to share their faith with them.

This year we have been able to cover 17 out of the 20 classes offered to us. We are very grateful for the time and the preparation these catechists give to their parish.

I have often been asked what motivates me to share my faith with the children year after year. I believe that the children should be given the opportunity to know and learn about their Creator and experience God's infinite goodness and unconditional love.

I know that, to most of the children, the weekly 'scripture' classes are the only chance they have to experience prayer. I hope that what they have learned in scripture classes may bear fruits in their adolescent and adult years.

The books and other resources which the Archdiocese of Sydney through the Confraternity of Christian Education makes available to the catechists are very well written with the ages of the children in mind.

The work of the catechists is supported by the Charitable Works Fund.

Our catechists need the prayers of the parish every week as they prepare and teach the children.

Please pray for Connie Alifano, Sheila Bogulski, Clare Day, Shirley Ellis, Tony Galluzzo, Julia Goff, Evelyn Graham, Tony & Randa Hallasso, Helen Hardie, Tony King, Maria Mastroianni, Bill McGlenn, Amal McKenny and Anne Maree Williams.

Evelyn Graham

IS IT ALL WORTH IT?

Tony Galluzzo teaches scripture to a group of Year 6 children at Peakhurst South Public School. The children have had Tony as their scripture teacher for four years. As you can imagine, they had formed a special relationship together.

Unfortunately, due to a fall recently, Tony has not been able to teach the children.

Naturally, the children are disappointed but did not hesitate to write 'get well messages' to Tony.

"I hope you get better soon. It's sad to see one of my favourite teachers in hospital."

"I hope you will heal quickly from your injury."

"I hope you get better soon so you can teach us again. We miss you."

"I can't wait till you come back."

Tony was genuinely touched by the wonderful messages from the children. Tony said, "Sometimes, you think 'is it worthwhile?' but the remarks from the children confirm that it is."

Take good care of yourself, Tony. Hope you get well soon. You are someone very special!

Evelyn Graham

IS YOUR CHILD MAKING THEIR FIRST HOLY COMMUNION?

Share the joy of your child's First Holy Communion by sending some pictures to *The Bark*.

If your son or daughter is making their First Holy Communion at Our Lady of Fatima this year, send a picture or two, with a few accompanying words, to *The Bark* and we'll print it in the next issue.

It's a special celebration in our parish calendar and we'd love to see the happy faces of the children.

Send your pictures with a few words to *The Bark* at domalati@hotmail.com

GALLUZZO'S RIVERWOOD PLAZA PHARMACY



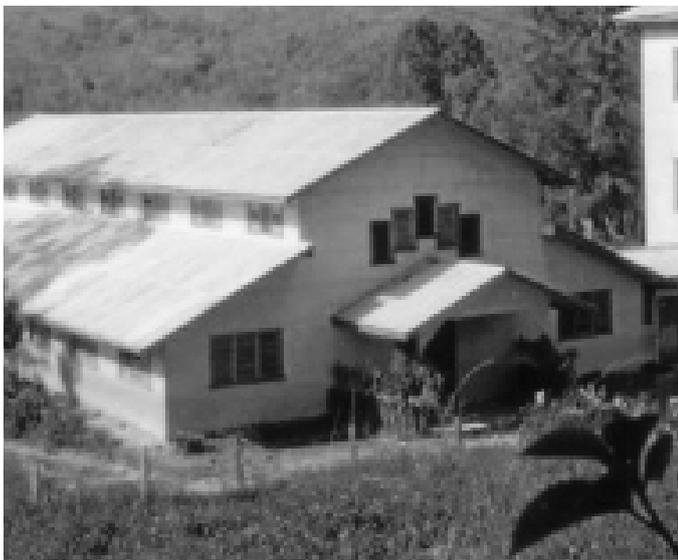
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CAN YOU PLEASE HELP

Since the last issue of *The Bark*, our shipment of goods for New Guinea has gone to the Missions.

The people of the highlands are poor and live in very poor conditions. These people live in grass huts and grow their own food, mainly sweet potatoes. In most areas there is no electricity or running water. They have little or no access to medical supplies. The infant mortality rate is high and the rate of HIV infection is growing.



The Michaelite priests help support several schools in each of their parishes and a small Catholic hospital near Mt. Hagen run by the good sister that sent the letter of thanks in the last issue of *The Bark*.

As I mentioned before people have been most generous. Our own Peter Atkins was there for us. I had been able to get a very good reconditioned washing machine. It had a little problem. Peter came to our aid and fixed it. A few days later Peter rang me and asked if we wanted another large washing machine. He had restored this one



and also gave us spare parts. Thank you again Peter.

Now I am working towards the next shipment and we do require many items if you can help me in any way with the following or have some contacts. Please ring me on 9533 2500. If we are not at home please leave a message. I look forward to your calls.

This is what is required:

Linen, blankets, a chip stove, a gas oven with LPG gas, knitting yarn, fabrics, metal roofing for the new Church, sewing machine (even the old style, non electric, stationery, musical instruments (no pianos), confectionery, a large marquee/tent than can accommodate a large number of people, generator, laptop computer for seminarians, sporting equipment (no cricket). Plus Medical supplies, first aid, baby formula.

Thank you.

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY PHYLLIS PETERSEN

When people meet Phyllis Petersen, they are normally surprised to learn that she has just recently celebrated her 97th birthday.

For a woman her age, she has the sprightly get up and go of a woman many years her junior. This is evident every weekend at 9:15am Mass when she happily jumps up and takes the collection.

Always with a smile on her face and a laugh in her voice, Phyllis is a living reminder that age can often be little more than a state of mind.



For a person of 97 years, it's obvious Phyllis has lived through things we only read about in history books. So, what is the most significant thing Phyllis has lived through? Without a moment's hesitation she says World War II, which had quite an impact on her life.

Her father served in World War I and sustained a wound. This didn't stop him from joining up when the Second World War hit – he had to put his age down so he could be accepted.

Phyllis was born in Melbourne in 1913. In her teens, her family moved to Sydney and then to Brisbane.

She married at just 19 years of age. Her husband joined the Air Force and they moved to Sydney. He was in the Spitfire Squadron. In WWII he fought in the Pacific and returned from service with bad nerves. He was in charge of the parachute section. Many said he was the best parachute packer.

Phyllis worked for a Russian Jew who made timber furniture. Her job was to check the timber as it came in, which at first wasn't easy for a person who knew nothing



about timber. Phyllis soon learnt and developed a keen eye for the product.

Phyllis and her husband moved to Peakhurst over 50 years ago when houses in the area were quite new. They lived there for almost 40 years before her husband died.

You would think that a person who is happy and healthy at 97 must have led a vice-free life. However, she confesses that she did smoke a bit; that was until she went to the doctor at 39 years of age (her two children by this stage were young adults) and found out that she was once again pregnant.

That is a long time ago and now Phyllis has 10 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren, all of whom live in Sydney.

At 89, Phyllis did the Harbour Bridge Climb. And Phyllis was given the honour of cutting the cake when our parish celebrated its 40th anniversary (see picture left). Unfortunately Phyllis is allergic to eggs and couldn't eat any of that wonderful cake.

Phyllis lives with her daughter and granddaughter in Peakhurst. She happily gets the bus to and from Mass every week.

She enjoys her gardening, and every Wednesday, Phyllis goes to Legacy where she knits and runs the raffle.

So how did Phyllis celebrate her 97th birthday? Just quietly with her son and his wife.

What about plans for a big 100th birthday celebration? She says she'll have to get there first. Her great-grandchildren often insist she has to make it to 100. We all agree.

Dominic Alati

JOVINA CALLS ALL YOUTH TO BECOME TODAY'S SAINTS

The following is an extract from an article about Jovina Graham that appeared in 'The Catholic Leader' in April this year after Jovina was a guest speaker at 'Faith On Tap' in Brisbane.

Like many 'Generation Y' Catholics, Jovina Graham's faith was ignited in young adulthood. And it came from an obvious but unlikely source.

"I never thought being somewhere with the Pope would mean something to me but it did," she said of attending World Youth Day in Cologne in 2005. Since then the 25-year-old Sydneysider hasn't looked back. "His words really touched me and I remember a lot of what he said."

The guest speaker for April's Faith on Tap said that when she was on pilgrimage in France, preparing for Cologne, she "really thought about the Eucharist and what it meant".

"In France, in adoration, my heart really got shattered and I encountered something I wish I had known all my life," Jovina said.

The final-year medical student was raised in a faith-filled home – her Catholic Filipino mum a certain influence – but admitted to Mass attendance out of obligation.

"Not a lot of formation in school 'stuck'," Jovina said. "I kept going to Mass because I was a 'nerdy-goody-two-shoes'."

"Discovering a new uni life" after school, Jovina's time was more spent at parties and in bars. "I got a bit carried away (with the party scene)," she said. "(But) I came across a poster of Catholic chaplaincy at uni.

"It said 'Sex: A revolutionary idea' and I thought, 'What? They can't talk about sex!'"

The university had asked well-known speaker Christopher West to address a gathering about purity and morality. "I went to that talk and it really threw me," Jovina said.

"I knew it was all true but I didn't want to change things in my life. The change was agreeing to go to Cologne."

Since Cologne Jovina "took a year off medicine" as a World Youth Day volunteer before Sydney's event in 2008.

She eventually found herself with microphone in hand in the crowds and in the commentary box with journalist Ray Martin.

"It was such a thrilling opportunity," she said of WYD08 adventures. The live reports from the crowd were amazing."

Helping also with the "Love and Life" site with the New York Sisters of Life at World Youth Day, Jovina said she enjoyed contributing to the "bigger picture".

"Fifty of the sisters came out and I spent a month with them," Jovina said. "When I met them I thought, 'I could do this'. They were so full of joy."

"Still discerning" a call to marriage or religious life, Jovina said she "just needs to finish university at this point".

Currently undertaking a clinical placement in Dubbo, New South Wales, her medical degree will be completed this year.

She has recognised a call to paediatrics.

"A very high expectation" of a future partner is also part of the picture.

Before, Jovina said she would have agreed to date "someone who loves travel, with a fairly good profession, is good looking and sporty and loves the movies". Nowadays "holiness" is on top of the list.

"If I'm called to marriage then my spouse's highest priority is my holiness and my highest priority (should be) his holiness," Jovina said.

"At Faith on Tap I'm going to say that our vocation brings us to holiness.

"I'm no theologian, but my experience tells me that the lives of the saints are relevant to us today.

"We are all called to be saints, that's what we're designed for.

"The saints are our friends and they offer us friendship, example and prayer and these are the reasons why they are indispensable for a life of faith."

Farewelling Jovina and wishing her all the best for the bright future ahead, she happened to add, "He has to make me laugh, too."



LITURGY LINES

We welcome to the Liturgy Committee Tosca Galluzzo who joins John Vaux, Dominic Alati, Charles Centorrino (Leadership Team representative) and myself. The Liturgy Committee, as with all ministries in the Parish, is always looking for new members, so if you have an interest in liturgy, contact me on ph. 9533 1149.

The theme for the Sundays during Lent was The Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary. The Stations of the Cross were held each Wednesday night during Lent with a different version of the Stations each week. Thanks to Dominic Alati for his efforts with the presentation of the Stations and to the readers involved.

Matthew and Andrew Kennedy and Mitchell O'Loughlin were welcomed as new Altar Servers. Congratulations to the boys and thanks to Jenni Payne for her commitment to the training of the Altar Servers over many years.

The Lenten Reconciliation Paraliturguy was held on 22 March and was well attended.

The Holy Week and Easter ceremonies, the highlight of the Church Year, were very special. Thank you to everyone involved for the wonderful effort.

The Anzac Day Remembrance Masses were held on the weekend of 24/25 April.

The Children's Liturgy had a special celebration for mums and grandmothers at the 9:15am Mass on Mother's Day.

Fifty-three children who received their First Holy Communion on 19/20 June were presented to the Parish Community on the Feast of Pentecost.

On the Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ, communion was offered at the Masses under both kinds.

There are a number of special Sundays in the coming months, as follows:

- National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday (4 July);
- Bible Sunday (25 July);
- Assumption of the Virgin Mary (15 August); and
- National Day for Migrants and Refugees (29 August).

All ministers, please check your roster each week for the times you are on. If you are unavailable for your rostered time, please make arrangements with someone else.

Readers and commentators, please use your 'Break Open the Word' to prepare for your reading at Mass.

David Payne for the Liturgy Team

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FROM UGANDA TO PEAKHURST AND BACK

The role of the Lending A Hand Ministry is to each year allocate funds to worthwhile causes on behalf of the Parish. Lending A Hand addresses one part of the mission of the Parish: "Actively demonstrating Christ to the wider community". Each year 10% of the envelope collections are allocated to this cause.

This year has been a busy one for the Lending A Hand Team. The following are highlights of our activities.

Support Fund for medical student in Uganda

Earlier in the year we reported on our decision to assist a young man (Denis) in Uganda in his studies in Kampala to qualify as a Clinical Officer. This qualification will allow Denis to treat children and adults in most of the tropical diseases such as malaria, diarrhoea etc., diseases that are responsible for most deaths in 0 to 4-year-old children in Uganda, but all of which are treatable.

Without this assistance Denis's father (Francis) was contemplating taking another child out of school as he could not afford to support both, and Denis's study was considered the more important. We have made an initial contribution of \$800 to cover the first semester of his studies and books and have set aside an amount of \$5,000 which will cover the remaining costs of his education over coming years. We will provide feedback on Denis's progress as information becomes available.



Mother's Day Cake Stall & Raffle

As previously reported in the Bulletin, this was a fantastic Parish activity in combination with the morning tea provided by the Welcoming Group. The day started out with fog but by the end of Mass the sun was shining and resulted in a beautiful day. A large gathering of parishioners stayed to have tea and coffee and see the raffle drawn. There were 14 prizes in all and congratulations to the winners. The competition for the young people to guess how many jelly beans were in the jar was again a great success.



We raised \$2,778 which is to go towards assisting Marian Villa, a local crisis centre for women and children in the St George area. The centre is part of St Vincent de Paul and for security reasons the address of the refuge is never divulged. It is a 24/7 service accommodating six families, up to six mothers and 19 children. We are currently discussing with them as to what the funds will

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provide and will update this in the next issue of *The Bark*. They are very appreciative of our financial support and the interest of our Parish family in their work.

A special thanks to the many parishioners who provided the cakes and to those who bought the cakes and raffle tickets. Thanks also to those who helped the team selling the cakes and raffle tickets and to the Welcoming Team who provided refreshments.

St Canice's Kitchen, Elizabeth Bay

The last visit to St Canice's was in February. Apart from providing a welcomed meal for those people who attend, this is a great opportunity for members of the Parish to be physically involved in 'lending a hand', via either the preparation of the meals, or the many people who give their time in serving the meals to the people at Kings Cross. In the early days of Lending A Hand, we developed guidelines for the way we would operate and one such guideline was that, apart from financial assistance, it would be good to provide assistance through giving of time. The St Canice's activity fulfills that objective twice each year. It would be great to have new people come forward for the next visit on 8 August. Those involved say that it is a very rewarding experience and it can be a whole of Parish activity.

Barmedman mineral pool

As you are aware, Lending a Hand funds various projects on your behalf. The policy of the team has always been to fund projects which will benefit in an ongoing manner e.g. 2008 the palliative care mattress overlays to both country and city hospitals which would benefit many patients for years to come.

In 2006, Our Lady of Fatima, via Lending A Hand, along with other supporters, part-funded some shade sails over a pool in the country town of Barmedman, south west NSW. At that time the country areas were in drought and those on the land were "doing it tough". The mineral pool is the main asset of the town and attracts town and farm members of the community and surrounding areas as well as tourists.



This isn't just a regular swimming pool; it is about one hectare in size and is situated within a large reserve featuring barbecues and change rooms. The pool has its origins in the flooding of the Barmedman goldfields by an underground stream. With 7% more salt than sea water, the pool is said to have health giving properties.

Barmedman, like many smaller country towns, has suffered the loss of shops, facilities etc to the larger towns. For Barmedman, this mineral pool provides a unique asset. The shades were able to provide much needed protection from the sun and add to the attraction of the pool complex.

In 2009 a city swim club at Oatley visited the town and enjoyed some country hospitality and forged a city-country connection with the town and its community. In 2010, because the club members had enjoyed themselves so much, they returned for another visit. There were swimming competitions and a fiercely competitive cricket match between the city and country teams. All in all it was lots of fun and led to the formation of the annual City Country Connect Sports Festival. Needless to say the city will be returning next year to regain the cricket trophy proudly won and displayed by the country team.

This year Club Central (previously Illawarra Catholic Club) was also generous in its donation of monies to provide trophies for the various competitions, which added to the sport and the fun.



Georges River Lioness Club

Invite You and Friends to

The Illawarra Machine Knitters Fashion Parade

at Oatley Uniting Church Hall, Letitia Street, Oatley.

Saturday 3rd July 2010

Parade starts at 1:30pm

Purchasing and viewing is followed by afternoon tea.

Cheque or cash only.

Cost \$10 including:

Afternoon tea (wonderful homemade goodies)
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Proceeds go to the **Children's Hospital Oncology**.

For further details contact
Jeanette Smith 9534 5853
Diane Whittaker 9543 7893





The combination of the success of the shades, the visit of the city people and the latest kind donation of Club Central has encouraged the town community to work towards providing a camping ground for tourists adjacent to the pool adding further to the economy of the town and community.

Shades over a pool probably don't mean much to us city folk, but because of your generosity it has meant an ongoing benefit to a country community.

Peakhurst Nursing Home run by Sisters of Our Lady of China

On 18 May this year a cheque from Our Lady of Fatima was presented to the Sisters and the Director of Nursing (Esther Tsang) for \$5,000 to purchase four air mattresses and three wheelchairs for frail residents, which will make life a little more comfortable for patients. This gift was very much appreciated.

The Sisters have three Nursing Homes in Sydney; Peakhurst Lodge with 110 beds, Pembroke Lodge at Minto with 108 and Ruby Manor at Carramar with 90.

The Order was founded in Shantung Province in mainland China in 1940 and the Sisters resettled to Taiwan in 1952. Sister Helen said they are in need of young women to commit to the religious life. They have a novitiate in



Taipei and had four novices enter last year and have had three enter this year. Sister Helen has been 53 years in the Convent. Sister Agnes normally goes to the 9:15am Mass at our Church and Sister Helen goes to Mass at Riverwood, as she

has to drive another nun who does not have a licence and who is an Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist at that Church.

Esther thanked us for our support of their 1 May Fete which we advertised in our Sunday Bulletin.

Can you lend a hand?

In response to our question to the Sisters as to where else we might be able to assist, we were advised that patients would really enjoy some entertainment, and if there are people in the Parish who could spare a little time to sing, provide music or other entertainment, it would be greatly appreciated by the patients.

So, if there are parishioners with such skills we ask that you might contact Ruth in the Parish House (9533 2594) and leave your contact details and a member of the Lending A Hand Team will contact you to discuss how we might be able to assist.

Finally, we would like to thank the sponsors who enabled us to provide the 15 prizes for the Mothers Day Raffle. These people provided these gifts willingly without any expectation of benefit to them. However, the Lending A Hand Team would encourage parishioners, if they have a need for the services or products offered by these organisations, to give your support to them for their generosity.

Tony Thorpe for the Lending A Hand Team

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MOTHER'S DAY

It's one of those special days each year, Mother's Day, where we celebrate the joy our mothers bring to us.

To reflect on the Masses of the Mother's Day weekend, below is the song a handful of children sang at the 9:15am Mass, and on the next few pages photos of some of the parish mums and their children.

A SONG FOR MUM

Mum I want to tell you just how much you mean to me
Your loving touch, your gentle ways
They're never far from me
You are my greatest friend on whom I can depend
You know I'll always really love you mum.

When I'm sick and lying in my bed all alone
You stay with me you talk with me
No safer place while you gently hold my hand
Until the night has gone, when morning shines
I know you'll be right there beside me mum.

And when I hurt and things don't go the way
I thought they would I can run to you, I can talk to you
I don't even need to say a single word
You know what I feel inside
No need to cry, I really want to thank you mum.

When times are good and the sun it shines
So bright up in the sky We laugh we play, we celebrate
The many things in life that we all share
I know I don't always say but deep inside
You know there's no one else like you my mum.







FUNNIES

Mary Clancy goes up to Father O'Grady after his Sunday morning service. She's in tears.

He asks, "So what's troubling you, my dear?"

She says, "Oh, Father, I have terrible news. My husband passed away last night."

The priest says, "Oh, Mary, that's terrible. Tell me, Mary, did he have any last requests?"

She says, "That he did, Father..."

The priest says, "What did he ask, Mary?"

"He said, 'Please, Mary, put down that gun...'"

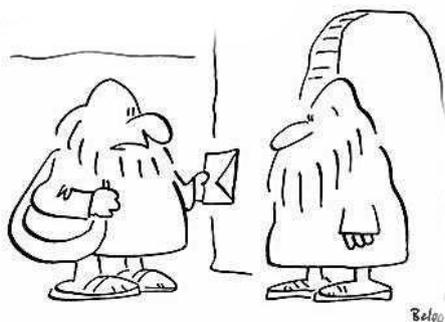
The Sunday School teacher was describing that when Lot's wife looked back at Sodom she turned into a pillar of salt, when Bobby interrupted. "My mummy looked back once while she was driving," he announced, "and she turned into a telephone pole."

Another Sunday School teacher said to her children, "We have been learning about how powerful the kings and queens were in Biblical times. But there is a higher power. Who can tell me what it is?" Tommy blurted out, "I know, Aces."

Teacher: Now, Simon, tell me frankly, do you say prayers before eating?

Simon: No Sir, I don't have to. My mum is a good cook.

A father was at the beach with his children when the son ran up to him, grabbed his hand, and led him to the shore where a seagull lay dead in the sand. "Daddy, what happened to him?" the son asked. "He died and went to Heaven," the Dad replied. The boy thought a moment and then said, "Did God throw him back down?"



"I've got an epistle to the Corinthians, ten shekels postage due."

JUDGE NOT

I was shocked, confused, bewildered
As I entered Heaven's door,
Not by the beauty of it all,
Nor the lights or its decor.

But it was the folks in Heaven
Who made me sputter and gasp,
The thieves, the liars, the sinners,
The alcoholics and the trash.

There stood the kid from seventh grade
Who stole my lunch money twice.
Next to him was my old neighbour
Who never said anything nice.

Herb, who I always thought
Was rotting away in hell,
Was sitting pretty on cloud nine,
Looking incredibly well.

I nudged Jesus, 'What's the deal?
I would love to hear your take.
How'd all these sinners get up here?
God must've made a mistake.

'And why is everyone so quiet,
So sombre – give me a clue.'
'Hush, child,' He said, 'they're all in shock.
No one thought they'd be seeing you.'

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.

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

When submitting articles keep them brief. Articles should be no more than 300 words. The shorter they are, the more likely they are to be read. Articles are published and edited at the editor's discretion and no guarantee can be given that an article will appear.

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

God bless.

CATHOLIC CHURCH PEAKHURST PARISH OF OUR LADY OF FATIMA

825 FOREST ROAD PEAKHURST 2210

Priest (non-resident) Parish Priest: Fr John Crothers **Assistant:** Fr Van Nguyen
Parish Secretary: Ruth Meagher – PH: 9533 2594 – Fax: 9533 5908 – Email: olfpeakhurst@atu.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

Mary Anne Malone (Chair), Garry McSweeney, Paul Moreton, Deb Cummins, Richard Allison, Charles Centorrino.

THE BARK

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