

THE BARK

OUR LADY
OF FATIMA
PEAKHURST

ISSUE TWO 2014

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A RENEWAL OF LOVE AND COMMITMENT

On Friday evening, 8 August, 28 couples renewed their wedding vows at Our Lady Of Fatima, Peakhurst.

In what was a lovely, moving and yet at times, informal ceremony, the couples exchanged a renewal of vows, confirming their commitment in the Sacrament of Marriage.

Each bride was given a red rose to carry up the aisle as they walked arm-in-arm with their groom.

The couples ranged from seven to 62 years of married life together.

The ceremony was officiated by both Fr John and Fr Moses, the latter battling a heavy cold to be part of the service. And as usual, Fr John, fresh back from his long service leave, delivered a moving homily on the importance of marriage and setting an example of leadership.

Ruth Bargarey and her sister Claire provided the music for the evening. Ruth later confided that even though she performs time and time again, she was still nervous doing the music at the Marriage Renewal.

Afterwards, supper was served in the parish hall. Inez Mullen was on hand to ensure it ran smoothly, while Lynelle, our parish secretary, and some young helpers served the food to the happy couples.

A wedding cake, made and decorated by the talented Leah Vaux, was cut by Brian and Maureen Moloney, celebrating 60 years of married life.

The couples hit the dance floor for a bridal waltz to the music of, who else, Michael Buble.

The Marriage Renewal was an initiative of the Liturgy Team with chief orchestrator, John Vaux, leading proceedings beforehand as well as on the night.

Dominic Alati

See page 2 for more photos from the event.



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Photos of the Marriage Renewal on this page were taken by young parishioners, Hugh Preston and Tess Alati.



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UNITY IN THE COMMUNITY

Have you ever come across or have been involved with individuals who are looking to experience belonging to a group or a community? They are looking to be valued as an individual, thus, adding meaning and value to their lives.

Hello, my name is Paula. In my line of work, I meet these types of individuals who for several reasons feel helpless and find it difficult to communicate with others. In my everyday experience, this could be fear of being physically attacked, abused, taken advantage of or discriminated against because of ethnic background or religious belief. These individuals need to feel safe, to feel loved and to belong to a community.

The community needs to extend a helping hand to others who are new in our country, to the elderly, to the disabled, to the mentally ill and to families who are suffering in one way or another.

As human beings, we need human interaction and acceptance. This is where I am very conscious of the need for our society to UNITE as a community and show understanding and compassion whenever it is needed. Getting together for a cup of coffee or tea having a friendly chat could be a start.

I have experienced the need to belong to a group or community. I was very lucky that my church community was there to show me love, kindness, understanding and most of all ACCEPTANCE. I am grateful for the COMMUNITY SPIRIT in our church.

Let us try not to label people into categories which could divide the community instead of uniting.

Let us focus on making positive changes in our everyday life and on going out of our comfort zone to help make UNITY IN THE COMMUNITY a reality.

We must remember to make this an ongoing commitment to our fellow men.

Paula Mason

FRIENDSHIP GROUP

Friendship Group is going well. We have 24 guests at the moment and a few on the waiting list to join our happy little group. We have 10 helpers who generously bring sandwiches and cakes for lunch and biscuits to have with a cuppa at 10am.

Transport is provided if necessary between 9.30am-10am. Cards and board games are played till 12midday then lunch is served. Bingo is played every six weeks with small prizes for the winners. If interested please ring Helen on 9153 5074.

Helen Cozzi



Whether you're after a delicious coffee, a light lunch or a sweet treat, DAI café has something for you to enjoy. If you're looking for a gift, something to brighten up your home or a reward for yourself, there is much to see here as Décor-Arte Interiors has two floors of beautiful gifts and homewares.

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DID YOU KNOW

It has been a very sad few months in the parish in losing a number of well known parishioners. First of all Kevin Bargarey, husband of our beloved Ruth, passed away on Good Friday after a very long illness. Ruth and Kevin had only been married a couple of years and it would be a great loss for Ruth. Ruth bravely backed up, doing what she loves, playing the organ and singing at Easter ceremonies.

Then John Mullen, husband of Inez and father of Denise McKiernan, died suddenly in May. John was a well known personality with his joke telling, and participation in the choir. John had suffered greatly over the last five years and it was really a happy release for him but a great shock for the family.



Marie Lucas (pictured below), wife of Neil, had breast cancer about ten years ago and then three years ago it returned and Marie had been battling since then. In July, Marie was called to her eternal reward.



And only recently, Helen Knight, wife of John, passed away after suffering from a rare cancer.

I have no doubt that there are other parishioners who have lost loved ones – these I have not heard about. However, to all the spouses and families of those

mentioned and those unknown to us, please accept our deepest sympathy and we pray that the Good Lord will be gentle with you all in your sorrow.

On a brighter side, this year seems to be the year for travelling overseas. There has certainly been an exodus from the parish during our winter months and Europe's summer. Those who are known to me are Helen and Peter Cozzi, who spent two months in Europe, Kevin and Frances Greene, also in England and Europe, Robert Baker in England, Tony and Dawn Thorpe who spent two months in Europe. We hope you all had a wonderful

time. You can read about Peter and Helen's trip later in this issue. Also looking forward to a trip are Denise and Keven McKiernan who are off to Greece and Italy.

Some parishioners enjoyed an afternoon at the Beverly Hills Cinema recently when a concert celebrating Andre Rieu's tenth anniversary of his summer evening concerts in Maastricht was put on via satellite. First of all, high tea was served, then into the cinema to enjoy two hours of beautiful music put on by Andre and his orchestra.

We hear Fr John had a very enjoyable break, visiting friends and family to the north and south. Fr Paul Smithers filled in capably and we hope he enjoys his appointment at Beverly Hills.

A belated congratulations to Patrick Day, son of Dennis and Anne. Patrick was dux of St Mary's Cathedral last year. He now has his head down doing a double degree.

Congratulations to Jovina James (nee Graham) and husband Gabe on the birth of their son Maximilian. And to Tim and Robyn Martin's daughter Clare who is about to have her first baby.

Inez Mullen

CONGRATULATIONS

Dennis and Clare Day are thrilled to announce that their youngest son, Luke, was married to Sarah Colubriale, on 29 March in St Mary's Star of the Sea Catholic Church, Milton. Luke and Sarah were very pleased to have Fr Maurice Thompson celebrate their wedding at a nuptial mass. All their guests commented on how they loved the Mass.



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LITURGY LINES

Anzac Day Mass was held on 25 April providing an opportunity for our Parish to remember the fallen.

Confirmation was celebrated on 22 June with 45 children being confirmed. The celebration was very special, thanks to the work of our wonderful Sacramental Team. (See pictures on page 14).

The Liturgy Committee has endeavoured to enhance the liturgies on the various special Sundays since Easter.

We welcomed back Fr John on 1 August after his three months leave. Our thanks to Frs Maurice Thompson and Paul Smithers (pictured below) who ministered to us in such a wonderful way during Fr John's absence.

A Marriage Renewal Celebration was held on 8 August



with 28 couples renewing their marriage vows. The Mass was followed by supper including the cutting of a wedding cake. (See pages 1 and 2).

First Holy Communion was celebrated on the weekend of 23/24 August at three Masses – 5pm Vigil and 9.15am and 2pm Sunday.

The Sundays in Ordinary Time, which are devoted to celebrating the Mystery of Christ in all its aspects, continue through to 16 November. The Children's Liturgy is planning a special Father's Day Vigil Mass on Saturday, 6 September, which will be followed by the Family Trivia and Games Night.

Special Sundays over the next few months include National Day for Migrants and Refugees (31 August), The Exaltation of the Holy Cross (14 September), Social Justice Sunday (28 September), Respect Life Sunday (5 October) and World Mission Day (19 October).

A Remembrance Mass to commemorate our deceased family and friends is planned for Friday, 14 November at 7.30pm.

Certain liturgy items were recently purchased for the church including a new processional cross, holy water fonts and a set of Advent Candles at a cost of \$2,470. It is also planned to replace the altar servers' summer robes, which are well worn.

David Payne For the Liturgy Committee

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 **SNAGS PLUS**

LENDING A HAND CAKE STALL AND RAFFLE



WOW! what a great weekend. The cakes and slices kept coming and as soon as they were on the table they were sold. Your generosity was once again overwhelming as was the keeping with the Christmas in July theme.

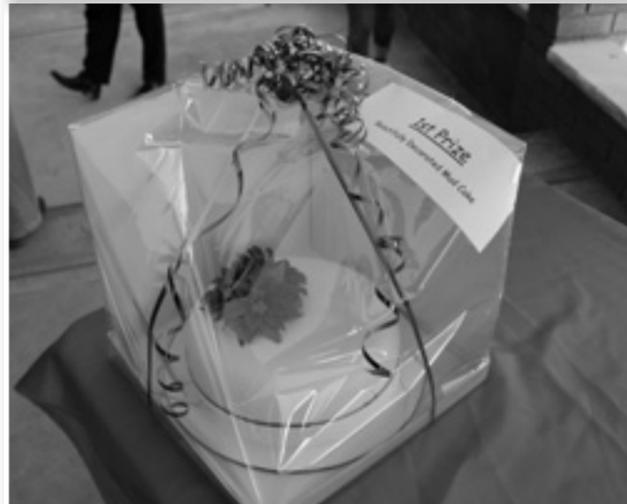
The Mulled Wine and Christmas Fruit Cake went down a treat after 5pm Mass judging by the crowd that gathered (thanks to John Horan and his great recipe).

Sunday morning was equally as good, thanks to our wonderful Welcoming Group, and once again the Christmas Fruit Cake was a hit.

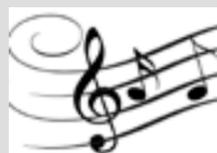
The raffle had 14 fabulous prizes and we are very thankful to the following people who made the raffle so great.... Mary Cusumano from The Gamesman (who is affiliated with the Homicide Victims), Inez Mullen, Yvonne Jarrick, Leah Vaux, the Galluzzos, and the rest of the prizes were made up by the Lending a Hand Team. Many thanks to all these people, the Welcoming Team and especially you, our parishioners. And also to our stand-in Administrator, Fr Paul Smithers who drew the names for the prizes.

Not forgetting our younger parishioners and the lolly guessing competition. The winner of the large jar of lollies was Maddison Williams and the smaller jar was won by Lachlan Martin. Good guessing!

John Vaux for the Lending A Hand Team.



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SUPPORTING YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH

Thanks to our generous parishioners, the Lending a Hand Team has been able to donate \$2000 to a wonderful local project. Funds raised through our recent Christmas in July cake stall and raffle have all been allocated to SMART: the Youth Mental Health Safety Project run by St George Youth Services.

Operating for more than 20 years, the St George Youth Service is a non-profit charity, which provides services and programs to improve the wellbeing and connections of young people, their families and communities, in both St George and Sutherland.

The service specialises in working with disadvantaged and at-risk young people (12 - 24 years of age) to relieve poverty, misfortune, helplessness and disability by providing appropriate, accessible and quality welfare services. Current key programs include:

- Reconnect Youth and Family Service
- READY Project (Resources and Education on Alcohol and other Drugs for Youth)
- Create links to learning program (for students at risk of dropping out of education)
- Cultural Diversity Community Program
- Help at Hand (Homeless Persons' program)

The SMART Project provides essential support for young people's health and wellbeing, focusing on young people with mental health issues such as anxiety, depression, self-harm, suicidal thoughts, drug and alcohol issues, eating disorders and emotional disturbances. Group support, individual mentoring, provision of information, referral to specialist treatment, family support and building connections to the local community are among the strategies used.

This project will work closely with local schools; particularly Woniara Road School at Hurstville which is a special-needs school for high school aged students. The life skills and mentoring provided to young people in this program are designed to give them life-long benefits. Connections made with local community services and support given from the project will help both the young people and their families cope with the many challenges associated with mental health issues.

In addition to the donation of \$2000, Lending a Hand has also allocated a further \$4000 to this cause. Lending a Hand is proud that Our Lady of Fatima can help support some of the most vulnerable members of our local community. We will continue to provide updates on this project.

John Vaux for the Lending A Hand Team.



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WHAT'S AHEAD? – NEWS FROM THE LEADERSHIP TEAM

Fr. John: We welcome back Fr. John from his well-earned break. He has returned at a busy time in the Parish with First Holy Communion celebrations planned for the weekend of 23/24 August.

Half Yearly Parish Meeting: The Half Yearly Parish Meeting was held on 10 August. Unfortunately the attendance was fairly poor with only about 20 parishioners attending. Despite this, the meeting was very productive with many good ideas being put forward. The main issues discussed were finance, maintenance, youth, communications, social events, liturgy and objectives for 2014/15 (and beyond).

Finance: The Meeting was advised that the Parish finances are in a reasonably sound position but, with the Parish's assets ageing, there will be increasing demand on funds for maintenance. New initiatives by the Leadership Team will also require funding.

Maintenance: The Meeting agreed that the Parish expected the Leadership Team to make any decisions in relation to works currently planned under the Maintenance Program.

Youth: The Meeting supported the Leadership Team's strategy for the Youth which involves forming a Youth Leadership Team and holding a Youth Forum with a view to creating a Parish Youth Group led by a paid Youth Minister. Details will be forthcoming.

Communications: The Meeting agreed that there needs to be use of social media in communications with the Parish. This would allow for more efficient communication, ease of use and inclusion of younger parishioners. Existing communications such as the Parish Bulletin would, of course, be maintained. The Leadership Team will develop a strategy for use of social media for implementation by the Communications Ministry.

Social Events: The Leadership Team advised that it was planning more social events aimed at "building community". The Family Trivia and Games Night planned for Saturday, 6 September would be followed by Carols by Candlelight planned for Sunday, 7 December. There was also discussion about having a monthly Bingo Night in the Parish Hall.

Liturgy: The Meeting agreed that there was a need for updating of several Liturgy items within the church and

that the Liturgy Ministry should pursue this. The Meeting also requested that the Liturgy Ministry investigate the recruitment and training of new acolytes and altar servers.

Objectives for 2014/15 (and beyond): The Leadership Team tabled for comment its draft objectives for 2014/15 (and beyond) as part of its proposed 5 Year Parish Plan. Initiatives from the Meeting will now be incorporated into the objectives document for distribution to the Parish.

Copies of Minutes from the Half Yearly Parish Meeting are on the Parish notice boards.

Maintenance Program: Safety improvements are being carried out to the front portico of the church.

Following the installation of a new projector, upgrade of the audio/visual system is also being completed with the installation of a new screen and cabling. Both of these works are being carried out thanks to the grant received by the Parish from Club Central Hurstville.

The new curtains have been installed in the Parish Hall. Our thanks to Lynelle for arranging this work.

Other works to be considered by the Leadership Team and the Finance Committee for the 2014/15 Maintenance Program include:

- Repair of the rust affected low-level roofs of the church at an estimated cost of \$6,800;
- Repairs to the Parish House (termite damaged internal wall and damaged ceiling in counting room) at an estimated cost of \$5,500;
- Installation of a roller shutter and shelving to the Piety Stall at an estimated cost of \$3,000; and
- Re-carpeting of the church at an estimated cost of \$25,000.

Liturgy: A Marriage Renewal Celebration was held on 8 August with 28 couples renewing their marriage vows. The Mass was followed by supper including the cutting of a wedding cake. Thank you to John Vaux for organising the evening.

First Holy Communion was celebrated on the weekend of 23/24 August at three Masses – 5pm Vigil and 9.15am and 2pm Sunday. Our thanks to the Sacramental Team for their efforts in preparing the children.

The Leadership Team

CONGRATULATIONS EILEEN SHEEHAN



Parishioner, Eileen Sheehan, was special guest at the 22nd Annual Jean Arnot Memorial Lunch, honouring ladies in their 90th year and older for service to the community. The function was held at Parliament House Sydney on Friday 9 May 2014.

A Certificate of Appreciation was presented by Hon. Robyn Parker MP to Eileen.

Eileen was supported by her grandchildren Lisa and Ben (pictured) and 18 members of the Catholic Women's League including friends from Peakhurst and Kingsgrove parishes.

Eileen was born in Marrickville, Sydney, on 8 January 1924. She was one of four children who, with her parents, lived in six country towns while their father was employed by the PMG Department. Eventually he was transferred to Sydney in 1948. When Eileen married John Sheehan in 1950 they settled in Kingsgrove and raised two boys and two girls.

Having been born with a love of music, and playing the piano from the age of seven (self-taught and playing by ear), Eileen was soon sharing her gift with the people of

the Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church at Kingsgrove. As a member of the Catholic Women's League, she was able, with seven others, to go each month to Lidcombe Old Men's Home to provide a varied program of old and new songs for the men. Also, the same group of ladies visited Loreto Nursing Home in Strathfield once a month.

In 1966 Eileen formed an adult mixed choir which sang at Mass each week, as well as weddings. In 1970 with the opening of the new church, some money from the weddings was given to help with the cost of furnishings, and later on, the choir money was donated to be put towards a much needed new organ.

Each year, as part of the social events, the Parish Ball was held, and the Debutantes were trained 'for the big night' by Eileen. Since 2005, Eileen is living happily in a Sydney Retirement Village and playing the piano for her friends at 'happy hour'.

Eileen still plays the organ at Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church at Peakhurst and also continues to sing in the parish choir.

In addition to her musical talents, Eileen has for many years created beautiful handcrafted cards which she shares with her friends on special occasions.

Marlene Wallace

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THE AMAZING JACK PROGRESSES

Despite being 'given up for' on four official occasions, young Jack Ethan Atkins continues to defy the odds.

The more they said "there's nothing more we can do," the more we all said YES – find a way, and we prayed even louder.

They said there was no way that he could have a kidney transplant, but they found a way, and he had his kidney transplant on Christmas eve. Now he has three kidneys. Two normal ones that no longer work, and the donor kidney, above his heart we believe. (Heaven help any surgeon in 50 years time, operating and flabbergasted to find a kidney above the heart).

So, last Christmas saw the end of the every-other-day dialysis trips.

The end of July saw the end of all oxygen, so it appears that time has healed the collapsed lungs, occasioned after his birth. For the first time, the family is untethered from machines and places.

His liver will remain outside his tummy, until he is about aged four, when it will be reduced and sewn back inside. It's physically about the size of a margarine tub, and has a special protector to shield it from dangers.



Jack's main problem now is that there are few front tummy muscles, (because of the massive grafted hole) and so simply standing is a challenge, but he is learning and compensating.

He still has a feeding tube, which is used at night to ensure adequate nutrition is maintained, depending on what he has been able to eat normally, during the day. The feeding tube is also needed to ensure maximum fluids during the long nights, to keep that donor kidney percolating.

Jack is now a Children's Hospital Foundation Ambassador. He has been on the TV News a few times and in various newspapers around the country.

A special thanks to all whose prayers can be said to have made the difference. Thank you for caring and for sharing Jack's journey.

Our collective thoughts and prayers go to all those families who fight health issues with their own children. May God be with them, and may they know peace and ultimate joy.

Peter Atkins
Jack's grandfather

NEARY FAMILY CELEBRATES 150 YEARS IN AUSTRALIA

September 1864 saw the arrival in Australia of my great great grandfather Martin Neary from Co. Roscommon Ireland.

Some years after his arrival and good fortune, he married a fellow passenger from his voyage to Sydney, Eleanor Sharkey from a nearby village in Elphin, Co. Roscommon. They owned and lived in The Revolving Battery Hotel (now the 'Old Fitzroy') in Woolloomooloo.

My cousin Paul Neary organised an extended family gathering on Sunday, afternoon, 20 July at this hotel. There were over 80 people in attendance. Lots of



anecdotes, fun and Irish/Aussie music provided by Paul and his band enhanced the day. Richard Cootes, brother of John Cootes, is in the band.



Paul has worked as director of International Schools for 19 years in such diverse areas as Portugal, China and he recently spent three years in Eritrea, Africa.

Neary's Pub is mentioned in every book written by Mary Higgins Clark. We also have a Jesuit Priest Fr Donal Neary SJ in Dublin.

Paul's dad, my Uncle Laurie, was in the 9th Div 'Rats of Tobruk'. His sister, Aunty Nell Haddock/Neary was a member of Our Lady of Fatima Parish Peakhurst for many years. She died 11 September, 1981.

Neary Clan motto: Nil Desperandum.

Marlene Wallace (nee NEARY)

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LENDING A HAND

On the 4 May 2014, members of Lending A Hand with some parishioners provided breakfast for the motor bike riders taking part in the annual Ride for Justice that the Homicide Victims Support Group organise each year, to focus attention on people whose lives have been impacted by homicide. A large number of riders took part in this event that leaves from Ivory House in the grounds of Garrawarra Private Hospital near Waterfall, and they travel in convoy to Sydney accompanied by police escort. Prior to them leaving, the Lending A Hand group provided a BBQ breakfast of egg and bacon or sausage sandwiches with tea or coffee.

It is an impressive site to see a hundred or more motor cyclists taking off with the accompanying noise of their vehicles. This is the second time that Lending A Hand has catered for this event as we were invited back this year.

Later this year, Lending A Hand will be inviting parishioners to take part in a working bee at Ivory and Ebony House. Similar to our commitment to provide food for the less well-off in the Kings Cross area at the St Canice's kitchen, the working bee is an opportunity for us as a parish to share our time in assisting worthwhile causes. Those who attended this event last year commented that they got more out of the day than the effort they made. It is an enjoyable event socialising with other parishioners while providing a significant benefit to a worthwhile cause which has some difficulty attracting support from other areas.

Ivory and Ebony Houses provide accommodation for people that have been affected by homicide. They provide a location away from the crime scene, and are used when people are attending court. They are of great help particularly for those who do not live in Sydney.

Emma Williams

RED CROSS UPDATE

Lending A Hand decided that giving our community the opportunity to save lives through giving blood would be an ambitious but very worthwhile project. We thought that our site would be the perfect venue for a mobile blood bank visit.

After some lengthy discussions with the Red Cross, they told us that to even consider a visit we would need to obtain at least 80 signatures from people interested in giving blood. To give blood you must be between the ages of 16 and 70, weigh more than 45kg and be relatively fit and healthy.

You can be certain that when you give blood, you are really making a difference to someone's life.

For many people, blood donors are their lifeline. Currently, only 1 in 30 Australians gives blood, but 1 in 3 Australians will need blood in their lifetime.

So, we put the call out and asked for parishioners to sign the form and register their interest. We were blown away to end up with nearly 150 signatures on the Red Cross interest forms.

So, we have moved onto the next stage in the process which is to have a site visit by the transport co-ordinator and the mobile van manager. When this is all complete we hope to host the van in our car park for two days. If this is successful, we will be considered for visits every 12 weeks.

For those of you who have already registered their interest...a big thank you. You WILL be Lending A Hand and you will be saving lives. The Red Cross will contact you to try to make an appointment as soon as we have the final approval. For those of you who may have missed signing but would still like the opportunity to Lend A Hand, stay tuned. When we have a date, you will be able to phone the Red Cross for an appointment.

Emma Williams

COOBER PEDY'S UNDERGROUND CHURCH



As part of our recent trip to South Australia, Jenni and I did the 2,000km return drive from Adelaide to Coober Pedy via the Flinders Ranges. Outback South Australia was beautiful and we'd recommend a visit to anyone.

Coober Pedy, of course, is the Opal Capital of the World but is also famous for its underground living – including underground churches!

The soldiers who returned from the trenches of France



during the First World War introduced the idea of living underground to escape the heat of summer and winter's cool desert nights. The underground temperature is about 23°C day and night throughout the year.

The underground Catholic Church is Sts Peter and Paul. Construction of the church, which began in the early 1960s, was carried out by voluntary labour. It was slow work, digging by hand with jack picks, explosives, wheelbarrows and hand winches. The church was officially opened on 25 June 1967 and dedicated to Sts Peter and Paul on the 1900th Anniversary of their martyrdom. The church is an amazing structure.

At Mass we met the Parish Priest and the priest from the neighbouring Parish – 700kms away!

Other underground churches in Coober Pedy include the Serbian Orthodox, the Revival Fellowship and Catacomb Church – all worth a visit.

David Payne

COZZI TRAVEL DIARY

We left Sydney on 24 April for Singapore and on to Zurich and Istanbul to meet up with our Scenic tour. We spent the next three days touring around the city visiting Palaces, Mosques and Parliament House.

On 29 April we left by coach for Canakkale on the Gallipoli Peninsular and a tour in the afternoon of the ruins of Troy.



On 30 April we spent the day touring Gallipoli, visiting Anzac Cove, Lone Pine and the beach cemetery where placed a poppy on the graves.

We travelled along the Black Sea coast to Bucharest, Romania for two days visiting the Palace of Parliament (the biggest building in Europe) then on to Cernavoda on the Danube to board our Scenic 'Space-Ship' for our 21 day cruise to Amsterdam.

We visited many towns along the river in Bulgaria and through the Iron Gate gorge then to Belgrade, Croatia and Hungary. Among the passengers who joined the cruise were John and Sharran Horan our fellow parishioners, for the leg to Amsterdam visiting Austria, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Germany and the Netherlands.

We drove to Dunkirk to visit Helen's grandfather's grave who died in WWI in France but buried 400m down the road in Belgium.

We then drove to Venice airport to pick up Veronica and Bob Omara (ex-parishioners) and toured Croatia and the Friuli region of north east of Italy where I was born.

We picked up my sister Lilliana and our friend Anna Fratta and drove down the east coast of Italy to visit relatives in Macerata, then to Assisi and Rome.

In Rome we had the pleasure of seeing the Pope in St Peters Square (and took the photo above). We also visited Naples, Sorrento and Pompeii.

We travelled to Pisa and then back to the Friuli region to visit the remainder of our relatives before dropping off my sister and Anna to a town near the Slovenia border called Gorizia. We then picked up our granddaughter Annalise Stewart.

In total we visited 14 countries and travelled 6100km by car in our eight-week tour of Eastern and Western Europe.

Peter Cozzi

CONFIRMATIONS 2014



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 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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FUNNIES

Darlene was sitting on her grandfather's lap as he read her a bedtime story.

From time to time, she would take her eyes off the book and reach up to touch his wrinkled cheek. She was alternately stroking her own cheek, then his again. Finally she spoke up, "Grandpa, did God make you?"

"Yes," he answered, "God made me a long time ago."

"Oh," Darlene paused, "Grandpa, did God make me too?"

"Yes, indeed, poppet," he said, "God made you just a little while ago."

Feeling their respective faces again, Darlene observed, "God's getting better at it, isn't he?"

The Reverend Francis Norton woke up Sunday morning and, realising it was an exceptionally beautiful and sunny early spring day, decided he just had to play golf. So, he told the Associate Pastor that he was feeling sick and convinced him to say Mass for him that day. As soon as the Associate Pastor left the room, Father Norton headed out of town to a golf course about forty miles away. This way he knew he wouldn't accidentally meet anyone he knew from his parish.

Setting up on the first tee, he was alone. After all, it was Sunday morning and everyone else was in church!

At about this time, St Peter leaned over to the Lord while looking down from the heavens and exclaimed, "You're not going to let him get away with this, are you?" The Lord sighed, and said, "No, I guess not."

Just then Father Norton hit the ball and it shot straight towards the pin, dropping just short of it, rolled up and fell into the hole. It was a 420-yard hole in one! St Peter was astonished. He looked at the Lord and asked, "Why did you let him do that?"

The Lord smiled and replied, "Who's he going to tell?"

There is the allegedly true story of Father George who began his sermon early one Sunday morning by announcing to his congregation at St John's, Newbury, England, "I have good news and bad news. The good news is, we have enough money to pay for our new building program. The bad news is, it's still out there in your pockets."



A woman decides to post the old family Holy Bible to her brother. The postal worker enquires as to whether there is anything breakable in the parcel.

"Only the Ten Commandments," she replied.

If you don't pay your exocist, do you get repossessed?

"I do benefits for all religions – I'd hate to blow the hereafter on a technicality." Bob Hope, comedian.

Shouldn't the patron saint of poverty be St Nickeless?



CATHOLIC CHURCH PEAKHURST PARISH OF OUR LADY OF FATIMA

825 FOREST ROAD PEAKHURST 2210

Parish Priest: Fr John Crothers **Assistant:** Fr Moses Kim
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.

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Robert De Marcellis (Chair), Frances Finch, Ronny Martinovic, David Payne, Agnes Webb, Emma Williams.

THE BARK

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