

## RUTH ANNOUNCES HER RETIREMENT

Our much-loved parish secretary, Ruth Meagher, has announced her retirement, and will finish in March 2012 after 23 years in the job.

Ruth's departure will be a sad loss for our parish. However, for Ruth it is the start of a new beginning, one she truly deserves after such loving and dedicated service to the parish – not just as secretary, but also choirmaster and all those other roles she performs that don't fit under her job description.

Many people have expressed their admiration for Ruth, including our priests who work with her every day.

"As Parish Priest, I have had the pleasure of working closely with Ruth over the past 11 years, and have seen her dedication and competency in the parish at many levels," said Fr John. "But more importantly I have had the privilege of developing a friendship with a caring, humble and very special woman."

Fr Thu describes Ruth as "An unassuming, friendly and talented lady who will never let you down if you ask her to do something for you."

Ruth started as Parish Secretary full time in February 1989 having already served 12 months doing two days a week.

John Vaux said, "I was around in those days when she was offered the position of Parish Secretary and I was also there when she gingerly accepted the role. Good people always ask themselves and others if they are worthy to accept a role like this within the church. Ruth need not have worried as she has fulfilled her role extraordinarily well and lived up to every expectation."

One of Ruth's first jobs was to type a thesis for the priest



who at the time was preparing the parish for life without a resident parish priest. "I was given an electric typewriter," said Ruth. "I'd never used one before and it scared the life out of me!"

In 1992 Ruth was given a computer to use. Then came computer programs such as Word, Publisher and PowerPoint, as well as email and the internet, and music programs such as Finale.

Tony Thorpe said, "It would be great to look back at what Ruth was able to do when she first started at Peakhurst and compare with her capabilities today. Her role is as an all-rounder requiring multiple skills to address the needs asked of her, and she does them all extremely well, despite sometimes questioning her own talents."

Ruth has made an indelible impression on the parish as well as on the people around her with her compassionate nature, unwavering patience and willingness to help.

*Continued on next page...*



GUARDIAN  
FUNERALS

INCORPORATING J&C HARDY FUNERALS

To embrace a lifetime, **we give you time.**

HURSTVILLE

Cnr Forest Rd & Carrington Ave  
9580 1554

Funeral Home and Chapel. Parking available.  
Prepaid funerals available. Australian owned.

"There's nothing in the Parish that Ruth doesn't know about. Big shoes to fill. She will be missed!" said Deb Cummins.

"Creative, clever, capable, constant, compassionate, caring and committed," said Julia Goff.

"Ruth is a true friend, reliable and simply the best!" said Charles Centorrino.

There is no ministry in the parish that she has not helped on a regular basis.

"Liturgy is at the heart of our Parish life. Without Ruth's support, the Liturgy in our Parish would not be the same," said David Payne of the Liturgy Committee.

"Ruth is always ready to assist with a smile and has helped the Catholic Women's League many times and she has helped me no end with the computer when I first commenced using same," said Inez Mullen.

"The catechists appreciate the helping hand Ruth has been giving them over the years; in particular, the creative invitations she puts together for the Thanksgiving Mass and the Home Mass," said Evelyn Graham.

John Vaux added: "Over the years I have made some unusual requests of Ruth and not once has she said No. It is always 'Let me see what I can do' and she always comes up trumps! Here's a recent example. When we came up with the idea of the 'Tree of Remembrance', I said to Ruth that we needed a leaf to write names on to be placed on the tree. She went to her trusty computer and came up with several concepts before we decided on the best. The result, in my opinion of course is amazing. Ruth has always given me her total support and I am but one of many. She is the cement between the bricks that binds us together."

Many know Ruth as organist and conductor (the latter of which she does not really enjoy). "Music has been my life since I was seven years old," she said. "It's been a passion."

Lynne Taylor said: "I first got to know Ruth through St Declan's parish and the impression that has always stayed with me is that she is such a passionate and accomplished musician."

Ruth was organist at Peshurst parish for many years (length of years not specified by request), and took the role of conductor at Peakhurst because no one else would do it.

Ruth hopes in her retirement that she can come back and play the organ when needed. We're sure she will be welcomed with open arms.

Over the course of 23 years, a lot can happen. She has seen the parish transform to a model of a parish without a resident Parish Priest, and been lucky to work with two wonderful Parish Priests in Fr Jacobs and Fr John, two men whom she greatly admires.



In 2000, Ruth and her sister Clare were involved in a serious road accident while travelling to Clare's son's wedding. While fortunate to survive, the accident left Ruth severely injured, with many broken bones. She was in hospital for two months and endured a long period of rehab. She is grateful for the help Laureen Holdsworth gave her during that time.

Ruth plans to spend her retirement travelling with her fiancé Kevin, whom she is soon marrying. "I'll have 12 months off and see what happens," she said. They plan to remain living in the area.

In her typically humble way, Ruth asked that there was no grand announcement of her retirement. However, as word spread, many people were happy to send tributes.

"I admire Ruth for all the parish work she does," said Noreen Nicholls, Peshurst Parish Secretary. "As a fellow parish secretary, I know how varied and challenging the work can be. We both started our positions over 20 years ago and I remember Ruth had no knowledge of computers but she mastered it very quickly and became a whiz in no time. Thanks for your friendship Ruth."

"Ruth had been a huge part of St Declan's parish for many years and her contribution towards the choir and liturgical celebrations through her gift of music was immense," said Paulineke Nolan, Peshurst Parish Pastoral Care. "Ruth has continued to support St Declan's parishioners by offering her time and gifts with funerals through music and booklet production. We wish Ruth abundant blessings for the future."

Ruth wants to thank the priests and everybody in the parish for their support and friendship. "I have had a wonderful time working here," she said, "and I'd like the people of the parish to know how wonderful I think they are".

We are indebted to Ruth for her generosity of heart and the loving nature with which she has served our Parish Family for 23 years.

We wish her all the best in her closing months as our Parish Secretary, and trust she enjoys a well-deserved retirement and a whole new adventure in life.

*Dominic Alati*

# A FAREWELL FROM THE PLAYTIME CO-ORDINATOR

After six years at OLF Playtime as member, secretary and co-ordinator I would like to say farewell to all carers and children who have been part of the Playtime Family over the years.

Playtime has been running for about 25 years now and has been an important part of local family life both within and beyond our parish. I would like to thank the parish for their ongoing support of our ministry, and in particular to Ruth who has been an invaluable support to me and our group.

I leave Playtime in good hands and feel confident that the new executive and co-ordinator Julie Young will carry on in providing support and friendship to all members and their children. We currently have over 40 families attending each week, which is a testament to the welcoming and inclusive nature of our group. We are open three days each week and will have some vacancies in 2012 as some of our little ones are off to Kindergarten next year.

Finally thank you to the 2011 executive for their support and dedication to our group. I thank you and all members for the support and friendship you have extended to me over the years. I will miss you all and wish you the best of luck for the future.

*Kerrie Rendina (outgoing co-ordinator)*



## CHRISTMAS MASSES

<b>Christmas Vigil</b>	5pm Sat 24 December
<b>Christmas Eve</b>	9pm Sat 24 December
	Carols start at 8.30pm
<b>Christmas Morning</b>	9.15am Sun 25 Dec
	Carols start at 8.45am

No Mass at Peakhurst on Christmas Evening (Mass will be celebrated at Penshurst at 6pm)

## DID YOU KNOW

Well, here we are again at the end of another year and I will endeavour to keep you up to date with happenings within the Parish.

We were saddened to hear of the sudden death of Keith Shanahan, a long-time parishioner who was 97 years old (Keith wanted to reach 100 so that he could receive a letter from the Queen). Keith died peacefully in his sleep just three years after his beloved wife – he was well known to the people who went to the 9.15 Mass on Sundays – he did his own shopping and would walk to Mass if his good friends, Judy and Kevin Eldridge, could not pick him up. We know that he is at peace – our sympathy goes to his family.

On a brighter note, two well known parishioners, Bernie Holdsworth and Lee Jones won the Minor Pairs for 2011 at the local Grandviews Bowling Club. They had some very strong opposition and came through to win. Congratulations to you both – keep up the good bowling.

The Thanksgiving Mass for the State school children was held recently and was a huge success. The church was crowded with parents and friends and during Mass the children from Kindergarten sang *If I Were A Butterfly*. This was followed by supper in the hall. A big thank you goes to Evelyn and Julia for the hard work they do in the Catechetical department. This is your reward and thank you for your efforts.

Laureen and Bernie are happy grandparents. Baby Jordan James Suttor was born to Karen, Laureen and Bernie's daughter, and Chris. This is their third grandchild, but their first grandson and they are over the moon. Jordan was a bouncing 10lb 3ozs – what a good start in life. Congratulations to the proud parents and grandparents.

Carmel and Jim North have just returned from another extensive trip, this time they went to Vietnam. They started off with two nights in Hong Kong then on to Hanoi and then travelled down the coastline to Ho Chi Minh City. Needless to say they had a wonderful time with great weather and companionship. Carmel and Jim have travelled extensively – Russia, Europe, Africa, England, New Zealand, Canada, Vietnam and China, and the country, they say, that stands out in their memories is Canada. I think a lot of people would agree with that decision. Welcome home to the two of you and we are glad you had a wonderful time.

David and Jenni Payne are off to Texas for their son's wedding, spending another Christmas in the USA.

As this is the last edition for the year, may I extend to you all a very happy and holy Christmas and may 2012 be a happy and healthy one. God bless.

*Inez Mullen*

# MY JOURNEY!

On the 25 November 2011 I celebrated my 16th Anniversary of Priestly Ordination and on that day I have been in Peakhurst and Penshurst for seven months. I would like to write something in this article about myself, my journey and how I have come here in this OLOF community.

I came to Australia as a refugee under the Australian Humanitarian Program for Refugees in 1984. My journey to Australia was very long and full of trials and difficulties. Actually I escaped from Vietnam on a little boat with another 13 people on 6 March 1982. The boat was 2m wide and 9m long.

After five days and five nights we crossed the Gulf of Siam and landed safely in Thailand after a near-to-death journey. The reason I escaped my homeland was because of the persecutions caused by the Vietnamese Communist Government. In April 1975 the northern Vietnamese Communists took over South Vietnam, ending the bloodshed civil war between the north and the south for over 20 years.

Not long after that the Communist Government closed all the minor and major seminaries and religious colleges. They confiscated these Churches' properties and used them to train their officials and political party members. Until then I had been in a minor seminary for four years and finished Year 9. The Communist soldiers came to my seminary and confiscated the building and commanded us to go home immediately. Next day I went home to live with my family. I continued my schooling from Year 10 to Year 12.

In 1978 after I finished my HSC I was called to join the army, fighting in Cambodia. But I did not want to do it because it was dangerous and against my will. Since then I continued to hide myself somewhere until I could organise to escape the country in March 1982 with a group of friends whom I had known and who lived not far from my family in the next village.

I was in refugees' camps in Thailand for more than two and a half years. There were about 8,000 Vietnamese boat people at that time, plus many thousands of Laotian and Cambodian people there too. We lived on the assistances of UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) and of overseas friends and relatives.



Australia was among many countries such as the USA, Canada, France, Germany, United Kingdom and Northern European countries who received the boat people as the political refugees to be resettled in their countries.

For the first two years in Australia I worked in a printing factory to earn some money to support myself and family before I decided to go back to the seminary to become a priest. In the meantime my brother also escaped Vietnam and landed in Thailand. He lived there for more than two years.

In 1987 I made a decision to go back to study for the priesthood. I was in the pre-formation house at the MacKillop House Revesby for two years. During this time I was taught English by two Irish-Australian Josephite Sisters. At the beginning of 1989 I was accepted to study for the priesthood for the Archdiocese of Sydney. We began our group at St Patrick's College Manly with 13 students: four Vietnamese, two Lebanese, two Maltese, and five Irish Australian-born Aussies.

I finished my training at the middle of 1994 and was sent to do a pastoral placement at St Michael's Lane Cove. I was ordained to the Diaconate at the beginning of 1995 there. After that I was transferred to Our Lady

Star of the Sea Parish Miranda and ordained as a priest there at the end of that year. I was then appointed as an assistant priest at St Jerome's Punchbowl, St Charles Ryde and St Brendan's Central Bankstown.

In September 2001 I was appointed as an Administrator of St Therese Parish, Denistone and Parish Priest in the following year. I served there for a full term of six years plus one year of Administrator. In 2009 I was appointed Parish Priest of Regina Coeli, Beverly Hills and was there until July 2010. Before I came to this parish I had a break from the ministry for nine months.

All of my 14 boat people are now resettled in Australia. They have been settling successfully in this country. They have done very well to contribute to building up our society and enriching the multiculturalism of Australia. We are contributing in various ways: in medical, legal, accountancy, production, building and religious fields. We are also the members of the Australian Church and playing many parts of the Body of Christ.

Actually I have enjoyed to be and working in this parish. I think we are very lucky to live in this country because Australia is a very multicultural country and the home for many people who have chosen it as their second homeland. In my personal view as a nation we need to

assist the asylum seekers who have tried to come to our shores. Many of them are the people who are crying for help. Like many previous political refugees including myself, they might be those seeking freedom, justice and peace in our land. In the Gospel of the Feast of Christ the King this year it mentions that at the end of our lives, the Son of Man-Jesus will question us about our care, love and concerns that we have given to those who were hungry, thirsty, naked, strangers, prisoners and sufferers. If we have done that then Jesus will say: "In so far you did this to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine you did it to me." If we did not do it he will say: "In so far as you neglected to do this to one of the least of these, you neglected to do it to me." (Matt 25:40,45).

In reflecting on my life and experiences I must say I firstly thank God the providence and love that God has led me to this point of my life. Secondly I would like to thank many good people who are the parishioners and friends of OLOF Peakhurst who have been significant parts of my life journey. I sincerely thank you for your warm hospitalities and friendships. You are really special people whom I admire, love, enjoy to journey with and pray with and for every day of my life.

*Fr Thu Nguyen*



821 Forest Road, Peakhurst NSW 2210, Ph: 9533 2255



**SCHOOL HOLIDAY  
KIDS BINGO**  
**Thursday 12 January  
and Thursday 19 January**  
**10am - 12 noon**  
**\$5 includes kid's marker,  
chips, soft drinks  
and bingo tickets.**  
**Prizes include Big W and  
Video Ezy vouchers.**

## WHY NOT JOIN US?

Grandviews has so much to offer. The clubhouse, function rooms and sports lounge have been refurbished. The beverages from the bar are unsurpassed and our wines will enhance the wonderful meals served in our restaurant.

Regular features are Thursday night Members' Badge Draw, Friday Monster Meat Raffle and Sunday Meat Raffle.

The Club Grandviews courtesy bus takes away the worry of getting to and from the club. Now operating Thursday to Sunday.

Representative Players have pronounced Grandviews Greens the best in the metropolitan area, so why not join up for membership now. Free coaching is available.

Social Membership is \$7 for one year,  
Social Membership \$14 for three years  
or Bowling Membership is \$60 per year.

– For the information of members and guests –

# ST MARY'S OUTDOOR NATIVITY BLESSING

The Blessing of the Outdoor Nativity Scene at St Mary's Cathedral by Cardinal George Pell was held on 27 November being the first Sunday of Advent. After the 10.30am Solemn Choral Mass, the St Mary's Cathedral Choir led the approximately 1500 strong congregation to the magnificent twelve-piece life size Nativity Scene in Cathedral Square.

Three Art Students from St Ursula's College, Kingsgrove including our very own altar server Ivana Martinovic, were chosen to represent their school along with girls from three other schools from across Sydney in painting the backdrop to the nativity scene.

These Art students, together with professional artist Wanda Grein, were given the task to come up with a theme and a design for the backdrop. The young visual artists all agreed the theme should be 'Light of Hope'.

With this in mind the young artists had a vision and began painting the plywood backdrop measuring 7 metres wide by 6 metres in height. A hall in Caringbah had to be used; the 11-piece plywood backdrop had to be laid out on the floor. The young artists worked school days and weekends to meet their deadline – the project had to be finished, transported and erected in place, ready by the first Sunday of Advent, and thankfully it made the deadline.

After the Blessing of the Nativity Scene, the students all received medallions in recognition of their hard work. They were individually congratulated by Cardinal George Pell, which was a great honour for the girls. They were thrilled to be part of such a creative project and so they should be, this achievement will stand for years to come.

The Nativity Scene will be on display at St Mary's Cathedral from the first Sunday of Advent to the feast of the Epiphany.

*Ronny Martinovic*

## LEADERSHIP TEAM

The parish Leadership Team recently welcomed two new members: Ronny Martinovic and Frances Finch. They replace Gary McSweeney and Richard Allison who have served their terms. Deb Cummins takes over from Charles Centorrino as Chairperson.



## LITURGY LINES

Social Justice Sunday was held on 25 September. Respect Life Sunday and World Mission Day were celebrated on 2 and 24 October respectively.

We prayed for our students undertaking exams during October and November.

The Remembrance Mass to commemorate our loved ones who have died was celebrated on 4 November.

Children from the parish celebrated the Sacrament of Penance on 19 November.

The Feast of Christ the King was celebrated on 20 November.

The new Church year, Year B, commenced with the First Sunday of Advent on 27 November.

Our Advent Reconciliation Paraliturguy was held on 12 December.

The new *Break Open the Word* is available from the sacristy for readers and commentators.

Soon it will be Christmas, such a joyous time in our Parish's liturgy. On behalf of the Liturgy Committee, a happy and holy Christmas to all our parishioners and a big thank you to all those involved in our Parish's liturgy throughout the year.

*David Payne (for the Liturgy Committee)*

## GUESS WHO

This parishioner was born in Manila.

When 23 years old, she planned an around the world trip, with Australia as first stop, then the USA, but liked Australia so much she never got to the States and stayed here to live.

She moved to Lugarno in 1973 upon marrying Peter, and the couple has lived in the same house ever since.

She has a Bachelor's degree from the Dominican University, Santo Tomas in Manila, majoring in Spanish.

She had intentions of studying further in Spain with a plan of being a



diplomat. However, that did not happen and it's now looked upon by her family with much amusement.

She has two daughters, aged 32 and 27, and over the years has been involved in a great deal of parish activities and ministries. She even sings with the choir at Sunday evening Mass occasionally.

She clearly revels in being an organiser as she took on the huge role of coordinating the parish's World Youth Day participation. She has been the Parish Catechist Coordinator for a few years.

An absolute bundle of energy, there's not much this woman can't do.

Answer on page 14.



# ADRIAN PICCINI

## WALL & FLOOR TILER

### PEAKHURST HEIGHTS



## LOCAL TILER FOR 20 YEARS

HOME: 02 9596 1913

ABN: 654 298 235 28

MOBILE: 0412 030 715

(Lic. 215762C)

# MISSION STATEMENT LAUNCH AND MINISTRY EXPO

On the weekend of 19 and 20 November our Parish launched our new Mission Statement. Deb Cummins from the Leadership Team announced the launch of the new Mission and Vision Statement at all Masses, accompanied by a slide presentation that highlighted the many Ministries that exist in our Parish.

In conjunction with this launch each Ministry set up displays outside the church to show all parishioners the wonderful groups of people who work so hard in our Parish and the wider community. These Ministries and people will be the driving forces behind achieving our Mission. This Statement will now be displayed in the church and will be the foundation to our Parish's future development as a vibrant faith community.

Included on the next page is a list of contacts for each of the Parish Ministries. Please feel free to contact any of the Ministry reps if you would like to become more involved in Parish activities.

Wishing all members of Our Lady of Fatima a happy and safe Christmas and we look forward to a wonderful 2012.

*The Leadership Team*



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.

## MINISTRY INFORMATION

### LEADERSHIP TEAM

Chair: Deb Cummins: Mobile 0418 818 659  
Email [debrav8@optusnet.com.au](mailto:debrav8@optusnet.com.au)

### FINANCE TEAM

Robert Baker: Email [olfpeakhurst@atu.com.au](mailto:olfpeakhurst@atu.com.au)

### MAINTENANCE

Paul Moreton: Phone: 9533 1203

*Promoting prayerful, meaningful liturgies:*

### LITURGY

David Payne: Phone 9533 1149

### CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Allison Flood: Email [allisonjf@optusnet.com](mailto:allisonjf@optusnet.com)

### ALTAR SOCIETY

Christine Buckman: Contact via Parish House

*Actively demonstrating Christ to the wider community:*

### LENDING A HAND

Tony Thorpe: Email [tonythorpe@optusnet.com.au](mailto:tonythorpe@optusnet.com.au)

### WELCOMING

Maria Vaux: Phone 9153 8766

### CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Inez Mullen: Email [imull30@bigpond.com](mailto:imull30@bigpond.com)

### ST VINCENT DE PAUL

Paul Finch: Phone 9153 9819

### THE BARK

Dominic Alati: Mobile 0402 131 072  
Email [domalati@hotmail.com](mailto:domalati@hotmail.com)

### FRIENDSHIP GROUP

Helen Cozzi: Phone: 9153 9819

### PLAYTIME

Julie Young (new co-ordinator from 2012):  
Mobile 0414 433 284

*Providing opportunities for faith development for all:*

### CATECHISTS

Evelyn Graham: Phone 9534 2605

### SACRAMENTAL TEAM

Tosca Galluzzo: Phone 9153 9006

### BAPTISMS

Noelene Hammond: Phone 9534 2980

#### Advertise your business in The Bark

It's good value. Supply your own ad or we can do it for you.  
Contact Dominic Alati [domalati@hotmail.com](mailto:domalati@hotmail.com) Ph 0402 131 072



# OH LORD IT'S HARD TO BE HUMBLE....

I found Father John's homily last night on humility both thought provoking and challenging (which is the test, after all, of a good homily!) This is, without doubt, one of the greatest virtues and, as Father John pointed out, has a flow on effect for both us and those we acknowledge and value through our acts of humility.

The challenge is... how to become humble? On the one hand, we are told to be proud of our achievements and to have a healthy self-love. On the other, we know that to be good Christians, we need to serve each other, in effect, to be humble.

It is in the acts of service and giving that we can find the means to be humble. The old trio of virtues 'faith, hope and charity' is now rendered as 'faith, hope and love'. Charity is love in its purest form; love without any expectations.

When we give to others (time, goods, money or effort) we try to do so out of a concern for their needs rather than a sense of duty or righteousness.

Lending a Hand is one of Our Lady of Fatima's charitable arms (sorry about the pun!) and the members of the Lending a Hand Team have had many opportunities to experience this humility. When we discuss projects or ideas for our parish to support, we consider the lives

and needs of those involved. We ask how the parish can benefit the greatest number of people in the best possible ways.

Understanding the difference made by providing education, a hot meal, a comfortable mattress, access to clean water, a school uniform, a pair of thongs for sore feet or even a Christmas card to a nursing home resident is undoubtedly a good starting point for being humble.

However, what is truly humbling is seeing the strength, resilience and faith of many of those we have assisted over the years.

*Julia Goff - Lending A Hand Team Member*

## PROOF THAT PLANNING WORKS

Shortly after the Lending A Hand Ministry commenced, it was decided that we would develop guidelines around how we would go about distributing funds. It might sound strange, but the task of choosing appropriate recipients for the funding is not a simple one, and it is only after a substantial amount of consideration and investigating that we make the final decisions.

Spending money which isn't your own brings with it a greater deal of responsibility; as well we need to achieve the maximum benefit from the funds provided. We also recognise that we must satisfy parishioners that we are achieving the objectives for our ministry by 'reaching out to others' in a way that resonates with parishioners.

Two of our guidelines are:

- 1) That, apart from providing financial support, we attempt to be a conduit in achieving goals for what we perceive are worthwhile causes but which we can't financially achieve ourselves, or which requires resources that we don't have available.
- 2) To support objectives that have the potential to provide ongoing lasting benefits, rather than being simply a one-off support.

From a recent communication we can report to have achieved these objectives through our assistance in 2005 with the Barmedman community pool in western NSW. Our involvement with Barmedman began during a period of severe drought in country NSW, and our contact was via one of our Lending A Hand members, Jan Dawkins, who had a friend in Barmedman, Shirley Clay.

Our initial involvement was in relation to the psychological impact that the drought was having on people, and in particular the incidence of suicides from men on the land. A couple of us visited the town of

**LJ Hooker**

**Looking to Buy?  
Looking to Sell?  
Looking to Rent?**

**Contact the team at LJ Hooker**

LJ Hooker Mortdale  
11A Morts Rd, Mortdale  
P: (02) 9570 4488 F: (02) 9570 8080

LJ Hooker Riverwood  
164 Belmore Rd, Riverwood  
P: (02) 9533 1111 F: (02) 9533 9533

**Visit [www.ljhooker.com.au](http://www.ljhooker.com.au)**

**[ljhooker.com](http://ljhooker.com)**



West Wyalong, which is the regional town for the area, and had discussions with the local priest, St Vincent de Paul and local council. Over time the drought eased but we decided to help out the nearby town of Barmedman which, like many country towns, was losing its identity somewhat, as a result of shops closing, and activities moving to larger towns and cities.

However, Barmedman had a unique piece of infrastructure – its swimming pool (pictured). This isn't a regular swimming pool; it is a mineral pool that has its origins in the flooding of the Barmedman goldmines by an underground stream. It is a large therapeutic pool that is said to ease aches and pains due to the high mineral content. The pool is fed by an underground stream and is surrounded by shady grassed areas. It now has a kiosk (open in summer), barbecues and dressing sheds and is a focal point for the town's activities.

Jan Dawkins recently received a clip from *The West Wyalong Advocate* – Friday 2 December, 2011:

#### **City to Country Friends for Barmedman Mineral Pool**

*Six years ago in the middle of the drought, there was*

*much rhetoric from politicians and organisations about the need to bridge the city/country divide.*

*A city friend contacted her country friend at Barmedman with an idea on how they could help build that bridge, City/Country Connect was born, it's motto, Hands Across the Divide.*

*Both friends commenced a fund-raising campaign with Our Lady of Fatima Parish Lending a Hand Committee Peakhurst, St George Lions Club Hurstville and Revesby Workers Club who between them raised \$2500 towards the project which was bolstered by a \$5000 donation from Cowal Partnering Program Barrick Gold Australia and a further grant of \$2500 from the Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal. The Illawarra Catholic Club also contributed monies for swimming trophies.*

*Through this network a swimming club from the southern Sydney suburb of Oatley decided that they would like to visit Barmedman and participate in a family fun weekend at the Mineral Pool, many of the families never having visited the country before.*

*Two very successful visits have taken place incorporating a city country cricket match as well as activities at the pool, with another to take place in March 2012, the Oatley team determined to take home the cricket trophy, which at the moment presides at the Barmedman Hotel.*

All of this would not have happened if not for the efforts of Jan and Shirley and Our Lady of Fatima's contribution via Lending A Hand. It not only achieved our objective of an ongoing benefit to a country town, but along with the other city contributors, we have been truly, 'Hands Across the Divide'.

It is pleasing to see some years after deciding on those guidelines that they have worked in achieving what our overall objective is i.e. actually lending a hand.

*Lending A Hand Team*

## **Winchester, Lonnon & Klein CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS**

Corporate And Personal Taxation Specialists

**Peter J Winchester ACA**

Also offering Investment, Retirement, Insurance, Superannuation,  
Mortgage Elimination and Leasing Services with  
Professional Investment Services P/L

ABN 11074608558

FINANCIAL PLANNERS AFS Licence No 234951

**Tom Ryan MAppFin BSc DipEd DipFinPlan CFP**

617-621 Forest Rd, Bexley NSW 2207. Ph: (02) 8567 6333 Fax: (02) 9587 1176

## GOOD USE OF CHURCH GROUNDS...

The Georges River Lioness Club held a fair on the church grounds on a sunny Saturday 19 November.

Connie Alifano from the Lioness Club said the Club was very happy with the attendance and a lot of money was raised which will go to the charities the Club supports.

Spotted among the stall holders were the Vaux girls, Leah and Emma.



## FRIENDSHIP GROUP

Our little group is going well. There are 23 guests and 13 helpers who generously make cakes and slices and sandwiches for lunch each fortnight.

Bingo is played every six weeks with small prizes for the winners. Other times we play cards or board games.

Our Christmas Party was on 15 December. Many thanks to Tony Girdler and pianist Therese who entertained us on the day.

If you are interested in becoming a helper or a guest please call Helen 9153 5074.

## BAD USE OF CHURCH GROUNDS...

The illegal dumping of mulch on the church grounds has forced the closure of the Isaac Street gates during the week. The decision to close the gates was made at the Annual General Meeting in November.

A clean up had been planned to dispose of the mulch, but that was before another load was dumped.

It is an expensive exercise for the church to dispose of the mulch.

While anyone is invited to take the mulch, it isn't advisable as it could be termite infested. This is why it hasn't been distributed around the church gardens.



## GALLUZZO'S RIVERWOOD PLAZA PHARMACY



• Clinic Sister • Chemist Club  
Free Blood Pressure and Blood Sugar Testing

REVLON • L'OREAL • DARRELL LEA • CALVIN KLEIN

Shop 11-14, 247 Belmore Road  
Riverwood South  
Ph: 9534 2000 Fax: 9533 3096

# UNSUNG HEROES OF OUR PARISH

In the last issue of *The Bark* I wrote about Tony Thorpe being an unsung hero of our Parish and I am delighted to report that Hurstville Council has recognised his contribution to the Community by awarding him a 'Volunteers Award'. The Mayor of Hurstville, Steve McMahon formally presented the award to Tony at a reception held in the Councillor's Suite on Thursday 1 December. Congratulations Tony, we are very proud of you and your efforts.

In this issue I would like to point out another 'Unsung Hero' or in this case 'Unsung Heroes' and they are our Altar Society (past and present). This amazing group of women and men (yes there are a few blokes too!) go about their ministry quietly and often behind closed doors so no one really knows who they are.

If you popped into the church on a Saturday morning or very early on a Friday morning, you would find these busy workers wiping down the pews, dusting the shelves, sweeping the paths, giving our church TLC (tender loving care) and of course preparing the flowers.

While we have professional cleaners to do the vacuuming these days, there are always a number of jobs to complete. We are forever grateful to this happy group of parishioners who work tirelessly and are always willing to be there. Of course if anyone would like to join the Altar Society you will be welcomed with open arms (contact Christine Buckman via the parish house).

Too often, we take for granted that our Church looks so spick and span, we forget the efforts that go in to keeping it that way. Next time we go into Mass and look around us, let us give thanks to our Altar Society.

## The Majellan Family Magazine

A popular quarterly magazine supporting faith and upholding the sanctity of marriage and family

Subscription: \$10 per year

The Majellan, P.O. Box 43,  
Brighton, Vic. 3186  
[www.majellan.org.au](http://www.majellan.org.au)  
Tel: 03 9592 2777

I was very saddened to hear Fr John announce that Augusta Cossetto had passed away suddenly on 1 December. Now, Augusta was definitely one of those unsung heroes of our Parish. For as long as I can remember and long before that, Augusta had been a member of our Choir.

Not a lot of parishioners would recognise her name but they would recognise her. Augusta was a beautifully groomed woman who wore her clothes impeccably. Never a hair out of place, she spoke with the most charming accent. She had a heart of gold – her presence will be missed.

Augusta had moved into Beauty Point a while back but she missed her Parish of Our Lady of Fatima Peakhurst so much, she decided to make the trip back each week. She sat in her normal position just behind us on Sunday mornings and we instantly recognised her and chatted. We did encourage her to go back to the Choir and lately I had noticed that she had moved to where the Choir sits. Whether she joined the Choir or not, I am not sure, but she was where she loved to be, in the music hub of the church.

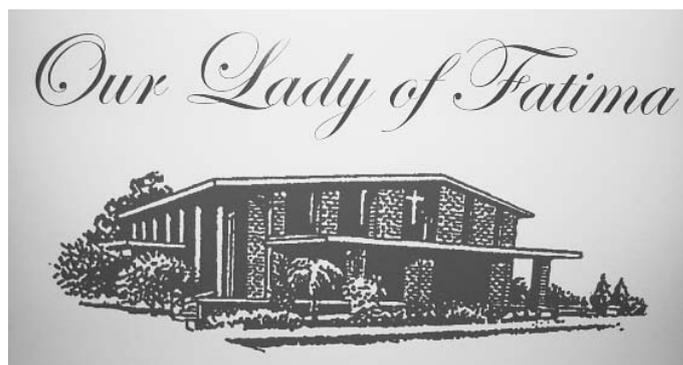
May God bless her.

*John Vaux*

## CALLING ALL ARTISTS 1

In the new year, details will be advised of a quest to develop a new church logo.

Details are in their early stages, but parishioners will be invited to create a logo to replace the current one (below).



## CALLING ALL ARTISTS 2

Expressions of interest are sought from parishioners who have produced art with a religious Easter theme that they might like to display.

Contact Dominic Alati at [domalati@hotmail.com](mailto:domalati@hotmail.com) or call 0402 131 072.



## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Congratulations to Peter and Kerry Briggs who celebrated their 13th wedding anniversary on 28 November.

They were married at Our Lady of Fatima, Peakhurst by Fr Jacobs (pictured).

They have an eight-year-old son Benjamin who is the love of their lives.

Guess Who answer from page 7: Evelyn Graham

## THANK YOU

Ten past five; I'm late.  
I arrive at the church  
Slide into a seat  
And think to myself  
This is great!

Everything's organised,  
From flowers to candles  
Welcome to choir  
And all jobs between.

Not often do I really think  
How much it takes  
To make my mass great  
Whether, I'm early or late.

So thank you to all the people  
Who are there to prepare,  
So that I can be part of  
A community's prayer.

*A Parishioner*

## ARTICLES FOR *THE BARK*

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

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

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

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

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

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

# FUNNIES

A woman was at work when she received a phone call that her daughter was very sick with a fever. She left her work and stopped by the pharmacy to get some medication. She got back to her car and found that she had locked her keys in the car.

She didn't know what to do, so she called home and told the baby sitter what had happened. The baby sitter told her that her the fever was getting worse. She said, "You might find a coat hanger and use that to open the door."

The woman looked around and found an old rusty coat hanger that had been thrown down on the ground, possibly by someone else who at some time or other had locked their keys in their car. Then she looked at the hanger and said, "I don't know how to use this."

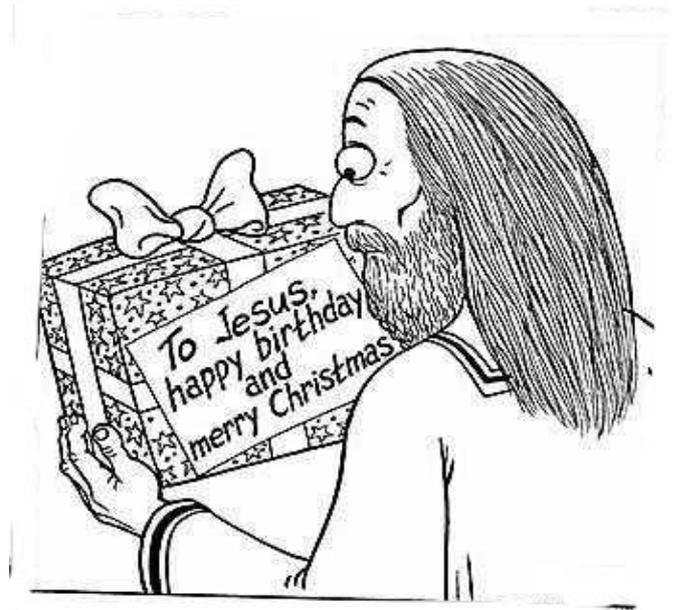
So she bowed her head and asked God to send her some help. Within five minutes an old rusty car pulled up, with a dirty, greasy, bearded man who was wearing an old biker skull rag on his head. The woman thought, "This is what you sent to help me?" But, she was desperate, so she was also very thankful.

The man got out of his car and asked her if he could help. She said, "Yes, my daughter is very sick. I stopped to get her some medication and I locked my keys in my car. I must get home to her. 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 was opened. She hugged the man and through her tears she said, "Thank you so much! You are a very nice man."

The man replied, "Lady, I am not a nice man. I just got out of prison today. I was in prison for car theft and have only been out for about an hour."

The woman hugged the man again and with sobbing tears cried out loud, "Oh, Thank you God! You even sent me a professional!"



Jesus gets gypped on presents again.

In a small Southern town there was a Nativity Scene that showed great skill and talent had gone into creating it. One small feature bothered me. The three wise men were wearing firemen's helmets. Totally unable to come up with a reason or explanation, I left.

At a Quik Stop on the edge of town, I asked the lady behind the counter about the helmets. She exploded into a rage, yelling at me, "You Yankees never do read the Bible!" I assured her that I did, but simply couldn't recall anything about firemen in the Bible.

She jerked her Bible from behind the counter and ruffled through some pages, and finally jabbed her finger at a passage.

Sticking it in my face she said, "See, it says right here, 'The three wise man came from afar.'"

## A SHORT HISTORY OF MEDICINE:

"Doctor, I have an ear ache."

2000BC - "Here, eat this root."

1000BC - "That root is heathen, say this prayer."

1850AD - "That prayer is superstition, drink this potion."

1940AD - "That potion is snake oil, swallow this pill."

1985AD - "That pill is ineffective, take this antibiotic."

2000AD - "That antibiotic is artificial. Here, eat this root!"

## Advertise your business in The Bark

It's good value. Supply your own ad or we can do it for you.  
Contact Dominic Alati [domalati@hotmail.com](mailto:domalati@hotmail.com) Ph 0402 131 072

# CATHOLIC CHURCH PEAKHURST PARISH OF OUR LADY OF FATIMA

825 FOREST ROAD PEAKHURST 2210

**Priest (non-resident) Parish Priest:** Fr John Crothers **Assistant:** Fr Thu Nguyen  
Parish Secretary: Ruth Meagher – 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.

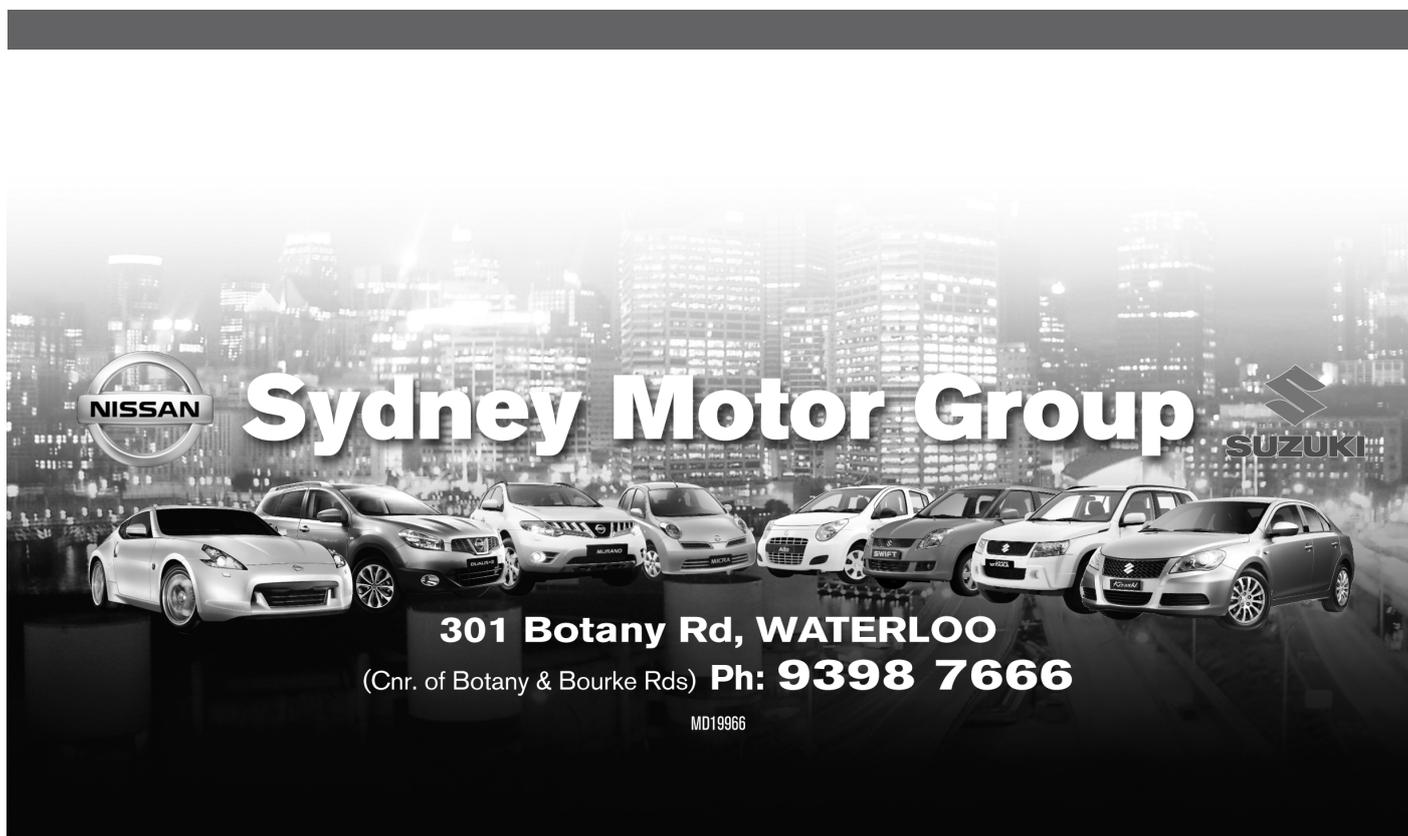
## LEADERSHIP TEAM

Deb Cummins (Chair), Charles Centorrino, Fran Harvey, John Benfield, Frances Finch, Ronny Martinovic.

## THE BARK

Dominic Alati 0402 131 072 domalati@hotmail.com

Thanks to the following people who help produce *The Bark*: The Artwork Team, John Vaux, Ruth Meagher, Fr John, Fr Thu, the Leadership Team, everyone who contributes articles, the advertisers and supporters.



**NISSAN** **Sydney Motor Group** **SUZUKI**

**301 Botany Rd, WATERLOO**  
(Cnr. of Botany & Bourke Rds) **Ph: 9398 7666**

MD19966