

THE BARK

Our Lady of Fatima Peakhurst

Issue One 2016

ourladyoffatima.com.au/bark

GEMMA SISIA VISITS OLF

On 2 April 2016, OLF was treated to a visit by founder of the School of St Jude in Tanzania, Gemma Sisia.

Gemma's visit was the feature of a High Tea organised by the Lending A Hand Team, who has been sponsoring the school in various ways for several years on behalf of the parish.

Originally from Armidale NSW, Gemma set up the School of St Jude from scratch in 2002.

During her presentation, Gemma spoke about how her experience as a volunteer teacher in East Africa led her, as a naïve young girl, to dream of setting up a school in Tanzania.

Gemma spoke with great humility, often looking back amazed at her brazen dream of building a school. If she was older or married at the time, she says she would not have been able to do what she did.

Her first donation was \$10 from a friend. From there, the donations snowballed thanks to some hard work, her family's support and help from the Armidale Rotary Club. The building project kicked off in Tanzania with the help of a band of unskilled labourers. The school's first intake of students was a modest cohort of three.

Named after the Saint of the Helpless, the School Of St Jude now has almost 2000 students in two Primary schools and one Secondary.

Gemma explained how most schools in Tanzania are funded either by parents or the government. The



Pictured: Dorice and Gemma from the School of St Jude during their visit to Our Lady of Fatima, Peakhurst.

School of St Jude, however, runs under a unique model of funding, almost all of which comes in the form of donations and sponsorship from everyday Australians.

The school is working hard to 'localise' the staff. For example, the teachers are now exclusively Tanzanian.

As intake numbers are limited, to be accepted into the school, students must pass a series of qualifications. Firstly a reading test, then an entrance test, then they go to the school for a month in what are called probation classes. The families are also checked for their poverty levels, as they only take children who are genuinely poor. In 2016, they accepted 67 new Grade One students – however thousands applied.

An important aspect of their focus is to educate girls, because, Gemma says, the girls will become mothers, and educating mothers is important.

Continued on next page...



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Proudly, Gemma explains how it is more than the students who benefit from the school. Locals who supply things such as food and services to the school also benefit, which helps the local economy.

After completing Year 12, each graduating student must give a year as a teacher for free in a Public Secondary School in Tanzania.

An example of such a student is Dorice, who travelled to Australia with Gemma and also spoke at the High Tea.

Dorice happily recalls that when she was originally accepted into the school she received the "best cuddle ever" from her father.

Coming from a very poor family, Dorice went from sharing a desk with five students at a government school to having a desk of her own. She was also thrilled to have her own bed and regular hot meals.

Dorice, who is 21 years old, said that before going to St Jude's could not speak English.

She also said a few years ago she would have been petrified to speak in front of a room full of people. However, at the High Tea, the confidence, charm and perfect English with which Dorice spoke is a testament to the school.

Her trip to Australia was the first time Dorice had been on a plane.

Dorice plans to go to Medical School with the aim of becoming a gynaecologist of which she says there is a great shortage and a huge need in Tanzania.

Dorice finished her talk appropriately with the words: "I am proof that your support is worth it."

The visit by Gemma and Dorice to Our Lady Of Fatima came about through the connection of Phillip and Anna Corte who visited the school in Tanzania in August last year. While there, Phillip and Anna were able to experience a home visit with a Year 2 student.

The High Tea itself was a huge success, with all tickets sold. Many people came from outside the parish to hear



Pictured above left: Anna Corte, Dorice and Gemma, Phillip Corte, Fr Moses.

Above: Some of the patrons enjoying the High Tea

Gemma speak. Over \$6,000 was raised for the School through ticket sales, donations and sales of *The Catholic Weekly*. On top of that, merchandise from the school was available to purchase.

Gemma's "project on the side" as she called it is her family of four beautiful children with husband Richard.

For more information and for details on how to become a sponsor, please visit www.schoolofstjude.org

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50TH ANNIVERSARY

Our 50th Anniversary celebrations are progressing extremely well. The team behind the scene is working very hard to bring you the best 50th Celebrations ever. At time of printing, there were over 200 tickets to the Dinner Dance already gone... leaving only 40 tickets left and I expect that those will be snapped up by 22 April which is the RSVP date.

As the name on the Dinner Dance tickets implies ... it is going to be 'Fifty and Fabulous'.

The theme of the 50th Anniversary Mass on the Sunday morning will be 'Celebrating our Unique Parish Community' and unique it is! We are looking forward to having Bishop Terry Brady celebrating this Mass and blessing a special anniversary gift to the parish. The morning tea that will follow promises to be a 'Gala' affair.

As I was pondering on the 50th Anniversary I took a trip down Memory Lane.

Thanks to the archives of Frank Golding I discovered the photos below. To most people they would look like just a group of people but they were more than that. In 1987 Fr Ray Gatt invited parishioners to attend a Parish Ministry Course at Kensington and as the photos depict, the course was very well attended by OLF parishioners. These people all went on to be involved in different walks of parish life, contributing in some way to build the parish to what it is today.

John Vaux



FR JOHN ANNOUNCES HIS RETIREMENT

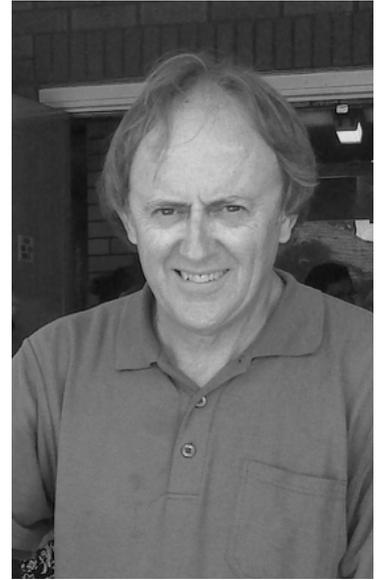
At Masses on the weekend of 2/3 April, Fr John formally announced his retirement.

After 16 years as Parish Priest of Penshurst and Peakhurst, Fr John will be stepping down from his duties to concentrate on some personal projects.

He stressed that he will remain a priest and will be taking on 'lesser duties' as it is referred to in the church.

Fr John said he will be happy to help out where necessary, filling in for priests at Masses.

His retirement will occur on 1 November this year.



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CANICE KITCHEN ~ REVISITED

Twice a year, for the past ten years, a team from OLF Peakhurst has provided lunch for the patrons of Canice Kitchen in inner city Elizabeth Bay.

Those who travel to Elizabeth Bay are the 'kitchen hands' and they prepare, serve and clean up the lunch which is provided by the 'cooks' of our parish; those who make 2kg of meatballs at a time and the others who prepare a wide range of delicious cakes and slices and donate fruit and other goods.

Each and every person who has contributed since 2006 has 'lent a hand' to lonely, poor and marginalised of inner Sydney. A core group of kitchen hands and cooks have been part of each and every visit – truly amazing people.

It is significant that on each occasion we visit St Canice's, we are joined by first-time 'kitchen hands'. Two 'newbies' who attended in February this year have kindly shared their personal experiences for *The Bark*. Thank you John and Mary.

No preconceptions

Initially, leading up to this day I decided to have no preconceptions of the people I would meet, nor the experience of lending assistance on the day, though I did believe it would be a fulfilling event for me.

Back to front, left to right: Josh Taylor, Ben Taylor, Peter Cozzi, Lesley Henderson, Margaret Donlevy, Helen Cozzi, Julia Goff, Gwen Papoulias, John Rauseo, Jordan Treddinick, Jess Lembryk, Mary Ibrahim. Picture courtesy of Michael Musgrave.

I found the crew from Our Lady of Fatima very friendly, happy and earnest. I was surprised at meeting some young people from the parish like Ben and Joshua Taylor and their girlfriends, who I found were keen and very hard working.

We arrived at St Canice's and began setting up ready to receive and serve our guests. The doors were opened and in they filed to receive their only hot meal for the week.

In the next two hours I saw people and experiences as they filed in and out.

I saw numerous nationalities, old people, young people, men, women, alcoholics, drug addicts – the destitute, the lost, the pained. All would have had a story – all had life experiences – experiences that I could only imagine.

As I interacted with our guests I found people were very appreciative – generally happy and always respectful.

Some people kept to themselves – others joked and talked to all and anyone. Some ate a little – others kept coming back, again and again. We served, we helped and we cleaned up.

As it came to the end of our time and our guests had all wandered off to their lives, I sat for a moment and reflected on all that I had seen and experienced, and felt blessed I could help in a very small way to give a small gift of service to these people I had met.

John Rauseo

Impressions from a newbie

Volunteering is humbling and is a gift that one person can give another. This is one of the reasons I volunteered to help at Canice Kitchen.

I am a very fortunate person. I have a great family, amazing friends, yummy food every day, a great job, a house and people who truly care about me. Those that came through the doors at St Canice's either don't have some of these things or feel they don't, for whatever reason.

It was a great experience for me to help the wonderful Lending a Hand Team. Like most people I often donate to charities or sponsor a child but giving up my time was a completely different experience and way of helping. It feels more personal and is a greater gift to give.

The many faces that came through the doors at St Canice's each had a story. Some shared parts of their story and it fascinated me that some spoke with passion. After hearing stories ranging from sick family members to the latest music they are listening to and the latest on cosmetics I was very grateful for the gift I was also receiving – a part of someone's story.

While some had tough exteriors, shy exteriors, sad exteriors and proud exteriors, they were all appreciative.

It was a great experience and I would encourage anybody to give the gift of time at least once. It won't be my last time and I challenge anyone to butter bread quicker than me!

Mary Ibrahim

Thank you letter from St Canice Parish Priest

Since 13 August 2006, parishioners from Our Lady of Fatima Peakhurst have been supporting the work of our Lending a Hand Team in providing a twice-yearly hot lunch for disadvantaged people at St Canice's Kitchen.

Over the past decade, literally hundreds of you have cooked, baked, donated, served and cleaned up out of the goodness of your hearts.

Some people have helped once, others have not missed a visit. You are all special and valued as the following letter from Fr Chris Jenkins, Parish Priest at St Canice's,



Canice Kitchen located next to St Canice's Church Potts Point.

attests. Our most recent team of kitchen hands is featured in the video – see the links to the video at the end of the letter from Fr Chris.

The St Canice parishioners are proud to speak of Canice Kitchen, but very few have any measure of the dedication of our supervisors and teams of volunteers. It is you who prepare and serve the meal for our hungry guests and make the Kitchen a place of welcome, seven days a week. We thank you.

Michael Musgrave has been working on a series of stories about St Canice's, a parish communication initiative known as 'Canice Connections', with the aim of enriching parish life. He has been to the kitchen over the last month and taken photos and gathered 'stories' from a cross section of the teams. From these photos and stories, he has made a five-minute video.

This video will not only aid awareness of the fabulous work you and your teams of volunteers do, but hopefully will engage St Canice parishioners in an interesting way. And, it may solicit further involvement, and evince some reflective pride!

Easter Blessings!

*Fr Chris Jenkins SJ
St Canice Parish Priest*

See the video at www.stcanice.org.au or youtu.be/3eRMb3oBjfk

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FOODIES MARKETS

Club Rivers has recently come on board as a sponsor for our drink stand at the Foodies Markets.



After a chance meeting between the manager of Club Rivers and myself while giving blood at the OLF Mobile Blood Bank back in September, a relationship was suggested and forged.

Nicole Heinrich, Marketing Manager from the club has worked with us to organise a sign for our stall.

The club pays for and delivers us drinks and ice each time the markets are held.



Club Rivers has developed a 'CommuniTEAM' of staff who go out into the community and help different organisations, so it is something that they are really trying to push with their staff.

As a result not only do they give us drinks, they give us a staff member for 1.5 hours every markets.

Last month we had the delightful Kathy from Sketches Café at the club help us out.

We thank Club Rivers for this wonderful assistance and outreach to our parish.

Emma Williams

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FR JOHN'S LENTEN TALKS 2016

Fr John looked at what our faith means and where this journey of faith takes us in our life when he gave the first of two talks he had prepared to those who gathered in the church during Lent to hear him speak.

John spoke of the relationship between science and faith and how in our age which could be seen almost as a time of non-faith we sometimes feel the need to justify or defend what we hold to be true.

Not all faith is religious. We can be religious yet have no real understanding of faith. John explained there is a difference between faith and spirituality, but both have a sense of something beyond what we can understand and come from deep within, speaking to us and drawing us forward in our search for truth. We can find truth in all religions and the presence of God everywhere in our world.

John said faith is not knowledge and he suggested that this gives us something to bring to our relationship with God. Our doubts and questions allow our faith to grow and deepen. God always takes the initiative. Our faith is a gift from God and our response to this gift is seen in the way we live and express our faith. Only some people choose to respond to God's gift of faith.

John reassured us all that those of us who worry about our children or family members who may not be practising their faith need to remember this does not mean they have lost their faith.

In 1 Corinthians 13:13 it says...'Meanwhile these three remain, faith, hope and love: and the greatest of these is love.' God is love, and he gives us faith to find our way to love. Faith is all our about our journey and relationship with God. Faith is something we pass on to others, it is personal, it grows when we are in communion with one another and empowers us as we search to know and share the presence of God with others.

In Fr John's second talk he shared his insight of the Gospel of Luke, who was the most prolific of the writers of the New Testament as he gives us both his Gospel and The Acts of the Apostles. His Gospel is for everyone.

Luke has a strong sense of the journey of Jesus heading to Jerusalem and ultimately his death which is shared through his perspective of social justice, refinement and sensitivity, with an educated and universal language.

Luke wants us to know the Jesus he knows. He is a master story-teller and as a physician his writing reflects the healing presence of Jesus and we find a number of parables only in Luke's gospel such as the

Good Samaritan, Martha and Mary, the woman seeking forgiveness who washed Jesus feet; Lazarus, where Jesus lifted up the lowly; and the widow of Nain where we see Jesus bring the woman back to life by restoring her hope.

We meet a gentle and courageous Jesus in Luke's Gospel. We find in Luke the infancy narrative which gives us the great celebration and tradition of the birth of Jesus at Christmas. Without Luke we would not have the Magnificat.

Luke's Gospel is sometimes known as the Gospel of the Holy Spirit because it is full of the Holy Spirit and brings us an account of the first Pentecost and reflects the Spirit of God.

It is known as the Gospel of Jesus' Prayer for the way Luke saw and connected with Jesus' prayer in his life; sometimes it is called the Gospel of women for the inclusive way Luke talks about the roles and relationship of women in the life of Jesus.

It is the Gospel of Compassion and the Gospel of Great Pardons as we read of the story of forgiveness in the Prodigal Son. Through Luke we meet a Jesus full of compassion, mercy, forgiveness and healing.

We thank John for taking the time to prepare these talks and for sharing his faith and insight with us as we all journey together in faith.

Monica Hayes

FRIENDSHIP GROUP

Our little group is going well enjoying playing bingo. Other times we play board games and card games. We meet every second Thursday from 10am to 1pm. If you're interested in coming along please ring Helen on 9153 5074.

Helen Cozzi



OUT AND ABOUT...

Australia Day Award

There would not be many parishioners who would not have heard of Julia Goff. Julia has a bright and bubbly personality and her natural warmth endears you to her. She is kind with a heart as big as Australia and she gives unconditional friendship. Julia plays many roles at OLF as a very active catechist and member of our Lending a Hand Team, but she is best known for her involvement at St Canice's. She is also a valued member of our Finance ministry.

If that was not enough, Julia has worked tirelessly for the Peakhurst Amateur Swimming Club over a period of 27 years. It was the Swimming Club that nominated Julia for an Australia Day Award for her volunteer work with the club. For the many that know Julia (and there are many) we congratulate her on receiving the Australia Day Award as Hurstville's Citizen of the Year and are proud that she has been recognised for the great work she has done. Thank you, Julia.

Sports representation

The Williams sisters (not the tennis variety), Madeline and Sienna took off to the Oztag Junior State Cup this year. This was a three day event in Coffs Harbour in February. Both were representing the mighty St George area. Sienna was named the captain of the under 12s girls team.

Madeline was also invited to play in the Senior State Cup for St George. She competed in Tamworth in March, in the mixed under 20s team, which went on to win the State Cup and are now state champions. Well done and Congratulations!

MKR at our Markets

Spotted at the Foodies Steet Markets on 1 April were some representatives from *My Kitchen Rules*. We're not sure exactly why they were there, but given that the Markets are ranked among the best food markets in Sydney, it was only a matter of time before they received some high profile attention.

Grandmothers in bloom

Grandmothers, I believe are always in bloom. Where would we be without our grandmothers or grandfathers for that matter. Two new grandmothers that I know have come into our midst... and they are Camille Philips and Anna Amendolia. A granddaughter for Camille

Local heroes praised

JULIA Goff was named as Hurstville's 2016 Citizen of the Year at the Australia Day Awards.

Hurstville Young Citizen of the Year Award is Philip Chan and Young Sportsman of the Year Award is Matthew Dufty

Mayor Vince Badalati said Julia Goff had dedicated many thousands of hours volunteering in the Hurstville community and was an outstanding example of a local citizen.

"Julia has volunteered her time for many local community organisations including Lugarno Public School, Peakhurst South Public School, St Joseph's Primary School, Peakhurst High School and Georges River Cricket Club," Councillor Badalati said.

"Julia is the first to put up her hand for fundraising opportunities that help the club and to assist in any way she can for the benefit of the club.

"The ongoing dedication Julia exemplifies is a real testament to her spirit of giving and commitment to the local community."



OUTSTANDING: Young Citizen Philip Chan, Hurstville mayor Vince Badalati, Citizen of the Year Julia Goff, and Young Sportsman of the Year Matthew Dufty.

"The 2016 Hurstville Young Citizen of the Year Award Philip Chan is a human rights advocate, social entrepreneur and a recent University of Sydney Media/Law graduate.

"Philip has shown dedication beyond his years and has demonstrated a great ability to lead and motivate others to achieve the very

best they can," Cr Badalati said.

"He has achieved remarkable success in empowering young people to fulfil their potential to make a lasting change in our local community by advocating for human rights, education and youth participation.

"With over a decade of social justice volunteering at

home and abroad including volunteering for the United Nations, EarthRights International, and UNICEF, Philip has a genuine passion to serve others and to empower other young Australians."

The 2016 Hurstville Young Sportsman of the Year Matthew Dufty is a contracted player with the St George Illawarra Dragons and was

also a local junior, having played with Penshurst RSL.

Matthew graduated to the Holden Cup in 2014 after having previously represented the district in the Harold Matthews Shield and SG Ball competitions.

In 2014, he was selected to play in the NSW U/18 team where he played a starring role against Queensland.

The Leader article about Julia Goff and her award as Hurstville's 2016 Citizen of the Year.

and George... a grandson for Anna and Michael. In my opinion, a new baby is always a miracle from God. Heartiest congratulations must go to the new parents.

Jumpin' Jim

Jim North was happier than normal in January. He hit a hole in one at golf. Well done, Jim!

Easter ceremonies

The Easter ceremonies were wonderful and the various ministries worked as a community to enliven and enrich the lives of those who attended. Thanks go to all but I wanted to give a special mention to the choir, who as well as singing at the various celebrations, attended mass twice on Palm Sunday and again over the Easter weekend. As a group they are unassuming but they enrich our lives by bringing extra warmth to the mass.

John Vaux



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CHANGES TO MASS

The current trial of Communion under Both Kinds at Our Lady of Fatima is an opportunity for us to review the Instruction of the Church relating to some of the changes in the Mass since 2008.

The changes to the General Instruction relate to two areas – what is called 'gesture' and 'posture'. Gesture relates to actions such as making the Sign of the Cross, genuflecting and bowing. These are signs of reverence. By posture we mean when we stand, sit and kneel.

In the part known as the Liturgy of the Eucharist, before the new changes came into practice, we remained seated until after we responded to the priest's invitation. Then we stood for the Prayer over the Offerings.

From May 2008, we were asked to stand as we made our response "May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church." We stand in response to the priest's invitation to pray, not as the priest expresses his invitation "Pray, brothers and sisters that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father."

How Australian Catholics receive Holy Communion

The Australian edition of the revised General Instruction of the Roman Missal states: "When approaching to receive Holy Communion, the faithful bow in reverence of the Mystery that they are to receive." The bishops of this country determined that our sign of reverence before receiving the Eucharist would be a bow of the head to the Body and Blood of Christ in the hands of the minister. A bow of the head is required to express bodily our recognition of the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist. Genuflecting and making the Sign of the Cross may also be discretely added. As soon as the communicant receives the host, he or she immediately consumes the whole of it.

What does the General Instruction say about Communion under Both Kinds? It states that "Holy Communion has a fuller form as a sign when it takes place under both kinds." It also states that "the Catholic faith teaches that Christ, whole and entire, and the true Sacrament, is received even under only one species...those who receive under only one species are not deprived of any grace that is necessary for salvation."

In addition to the General Instruction of the Roman Missal, in April 2004 the Holy See released *Redemption is Sacramentum*, which documents the Norms for the Celebration of Mass. The liturgical norms regulate how the public worship of the Church is to be carried out.

What additional guidance does this document provide about Communion under Both Kinds?

"The chalice should not be ministered to lay members of Christ's faithful where there is such a large number of communicants that it is difficult to gauge the amount of wine for the Eucharist and there is a danger that "more than a reasonable quantity of the Blood of Christ remain to be consumed at the end of the celebration... the same is true where a notable part of the people continues to prefer not to approach the chalice for various reasons, so that the sign of unity would in some sense be negated." (paragraph 102)

'The norms of the Roman Missal admit the principle that in cases where Communion is administered under both kinds, "the Blood of the Lord may be received either by drinking from the chalice directly, or by intinction..." If this modality is employed, however, hosts should be used which are neither too thin nor too small, and the communicant should receive the Sacrament from the Priest only on the tongue.' (103) The laity are not permitted to intinct the host, only the priest can intinct the host in the chalice and must then give communion to the faithful on the tongue. (104)

The three month trial of Communion under Both Kinds will conclude on the weekend of 7/8 May.

Jenni Payne

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WHAT'S AHEAD? – NEWS FROM THE LEADERSHIP TEAM

Parish Community Survey 2015

During November 2015, the Parish conducted a Parish Community Survey at the weekend Masses. This was done in conjunction with the Parish Census.

The aim of the Community Survey was "to see what the Parish needs to continue or improve to remain relevant to parishioners and the broader community. Information collected in the survey will be used to set a new vision and direction."

Community Survey Forms were still being received during December 2015 and January 2016.

A total of 188 parishioners completed the Parish Community Survey. This compares with the 228 parishioners who completed the Census Form.

In general terms, parishioners like the Parish because of its community spirit, liturgies and community outreach.

Suggestions for improvement from parishioners were mainly in the categories of Social, Youth, Faith Development and Liturgy.

The responses have been reviewed by Fr John, the Leadership Team and the appropriate Ministries.

Below are further details about the responses to the seven questions asked in the Community Survey:

1. Approximately how often do you attend church/mass? Weekly; Special occasions only; Depends (please let us know).

About 90% of respondents attend church/Mass weekly. A number of respondents attend fortnightly because of other commitments.

2. Is there anything that you (or others) would like to see change that may prompt more people to specifically attend church/mass?

About 70% of respondents did not answer this question, simply wrote NO or just wrote positive comments, suggesting that they like the Parish the way it is.

Suggested changes from respondents were many and varied with little commonality.

The suggested changes mainly related to:

- The Mass
- Music
- Adult Faith Development
- Youth

The suggested changes to the Mass have been reviewed

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by Fr John and the Liturgy Committee and some suggestions are being considered.

Music in the Parish was discussed at the recent Ministries Meeting. There is a need for more musicians (to provide a variety of music for the Masses) which has been advertised in the Bulletin over recent times. From the Ministries Meeting, it is proposed to advertise through the local high schools for musicians.

The Liturgy Committee is investigating other adult faith development programs to complement the Parish's Lenten Program conducted each year.

The suggested changes relating to the youth are being reviewed by the Youth Ministry. Comments mainly related to having regular Youth Masses with music to suit.

3. What do you or people you know currently like about OLF Parish?

Parishioners mainly like the Parish because of its:

- Friendly and caring people
- Community spirit
- Welcoming environment
- Priests, especially Fr John as Parish Priest
- Liturgies
- Opportunity to become involved
- Outreach programs.

4. What additional services, group activities or social events would you like to see continue or started at the Parish?

About 65% of respondents did not answer this question, suggesting, again, that they like the Parish the way it is. Suggestions from the other respondents mainly related to social aspects of the Parish.

The Leadership Team is investigating social events that might be considered for the future in the Parish following the 50th Anniversary Dinner.

5. What does being actively involved in OLF Parish community mean to you? Please order in preference from 1 (most relevant to me) – 5 (least relevant to me):

About 70% of respondents gave their first preference to option 1: I want to attend mass and liturgies (understand the teachings of Christ).

About 20% gave their first preference to option 4: I want my family to be brought up following Christian values.

6. Do you think communication within the Parish is adequate enough? Yes or No?

About 80% of respondents gave their answer as YES. 6% of respondents gave their answer as NO, with the others not responding to the question.

7. In order of preference (1-5), what is your

preferred method of staying in contact and receiving information from the Parish?

53% of respondents answered paper hard copy.

28% of respondents gave their answer as email.

The other respondents gave their preference as SMS, website or Facebook or did not respond to the question.

The time and input into the Parish Community Survey 2015 by the respondents is greatly appreciated by Fr John and the Leadership Team.

As mentioned, parishioners like the Parish because of its community spirit, liturgies and community outreach.

Suggestions for improvement from parishioners, which were mainly in the categories of Social, Youth, Faith Development and Liturgy, are in line with the Leadership Team's "3 Year Parish Plan – Objectives".

This confirms the OLF vision and direction as set by the Leadership Team, but provides some further initiatives for consideration.

The Leadership Team will continue to keep parishioners informed of developments in the Parish via the "What's Ahead? – News from the Leadership Team" articles in the Bulletin and *The Bark*.

The Leadership Team

Ray White™



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LITURGY LINES

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

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

The Sundays in Ordinary Time commenced on 17 January. Ordinary Time is devoted to celebrating the mystery of Christ in all its aspects.

On the weekend of 23 and 24 January our Masses focused on Australia Day and we gave thanks for our wonderful country.

Our Lenten Season commenced particularly early this year with Ash Wednesday being 10 February. Lent is a penitential season of prayer, self-denial and helping others in preparation for Easter. Our thanks to John Vaux and Tony MacDougal for their good work on the front wall of our church.

Catechist Sunday was celebrated in the Parish on 14 February with a "Rite of Commitment and Sending Forth" for the Catechists teaching in our local State Schools.

About 60 parishioners attended Fr John's Lenten Talk – "Catholic Faith – What do we believe and why do we believe it?" on 15 February and about 70 parishioners attended his Talk – "Luke's Gospel – What makes it different?" on 22 February. Both talks inspired many questions and gave those who attended much to reflect on. Our thanks to Fr John for his Lenten Talks.

The Stations of the Cross were held in the church, as a special devotion during the Lenten Season, on 29 February and 7 March with a good number of parishioners attending. Our thanks again to Dominic Alati for organising the Stations of the Cross.

Our Lenten Reconciliation Paraliturg was held in the church on 14 March.

Holy Week commenced on 20 March with Palm Sunday. The Easter Triduum began with the evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, continued with the Celebration of the Passion of the Lord on Good Friday, reached its high point in the Easter Vigil and closed on the evening of Easter Sunday. Our sincere thanks to Fr John and Fr Moses for the beautiful ceremonies.

A special Mass will be celebrated in the Parish on Anzac



The altar decorated for the Lenten Paraliturg.

Day, Monday 25 April.

The Liturgy Committee is busy preparing for the 50th Anniversary Mass, at 9.15am on 15 May, to be celebrated by Bishop Terry Brady. This happens to be Pentecost Sunday, the birthday of the Church – a very appropriate day for our Anniversary celebration. The Mass will be followed by a Morning Tea Family Gala.

The 3 month trial of Communion under both kinds will continue until mid-May.

Jenni Payne is planning a course for Altar Servers in June, after the Sacrament of First Holy Communion.

The Liturgy Committee would like to thank everyone involved from the Parish in making our liturgies special, particularly for Holy Week and the Easter Triduum. Thank you for giving so generously of your time in so many ways.

The Liturgy Committee

MIDNIGHT MESSAGE

Clear night sky,
constellations circle overhead,
a celestial blanket
enveloping the earth.
Individual stars
shimmer, pulsate, burst
with brilliant far-reaching light,
rosary beads in the sky.
Southern Cross,
crucifix-shaped,
reminding us
of the ultimate sacrifice.
Love for each of us
written across the sky.

Torie Cooper

GRACE'S PLACE



Pictured: Deb Cummins and Emma Williams with Robert Taylor, president of the HVSG.

What a special night Deb Cummins and I experienced on Tuesday 2 February.

We were two of 600 people at Blacktown Workers Club, remembering Anita Cobby, 30 years after the horrific crime that moved all Australians. We were there to commemorate, remember and help fundraise for Grace's Place.

Simon Bouda from Channel 9 hosted the evening and speakers included Mike Baird, NSW Governor David Hurley, Anita's sister and the ever impressive Martha Jabour, CEO of the Homicide Victims Support Group.

The Blacktown workers club donated \$50,000 to the project launched to build Grace's Place, and the state government did the same.

Grace's Place, named in honour of Anita Cobby's mother Grace, will be a trauma centre, which would cater for children and young people.

It will be a world first – a residential trauma recovery centre for children after homicide.

Grace's Place will provide support in a safe place where children, teenagers and their families grieving the death of someone they love through homicide, can share their experiences, receive counselling, be involved in therapeutic programs and learn life skills on how to survive the trauma without their loved one.

We were at the night representing the Our Lady Of Fatima Lending A Hand Team and in support of the amazing people from the Homicide Victims Support Group who we have established a relationship with through our work at their two refuge homes, Ebony and Ivory Houses. We bought raffle tickets and 'bricks' to help build Grace's Place.

This building has now been designed and drawn up and Blacktown Council is finalising plans to donate the parcel of land. It is going to cost \$2.8Mill.

We continue to feel very blessed to be associated with this remarkable group.

Emma Williams

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

On the 4 March 2016, Our Lady of Fatima hosted the World Day of Prayer.

This is a coming together of all our local churches to pray for a particular country – this year the country was Cuba.

The day itself was organised by the Catholic Women's League and we are happy to say that it was an enormous success. There were approximately 70 men and women present, but I am sorry to report that the number of visitors outnumbered the local parishioners who attended the service.

To those ladies and gentlemen from the parish who did attend a big thank you – your attendance was very much appreciated.

The service itself was beautifully worded with different parts of the dialogue being read by members of the local churches, including Peakhurst Lugarno Uniting Church, St Matthew's Uniting Church, Georges River Baptist, as well as our own ladies.

A service like this does not come easily as there were meetings and a lot of preparation and for this a very big thank you goes to Dom Alati and Marie Ryan for the overheads, Ruth for playing the organ, Katerina Roth for displaying the photos and books on Cuba, Pat Macks for being the leader and last but not least a big thank you to Fr John for being the guest speaker.

As usual Fr John gave a wonderful talk, and during the afternoon tea that followed everyone was saying how impressed they were with the whole ceremony.

The afternoon tea which followed the ceremony was put on by the ladies of Catholic Women's League and, as usual, a great abundance and variety of delicious food was provided. A grand sum of \$570 was made and this money goes to the Bible Society, who organise all these days.

All in all a great day was had and again a big thank you to all who participated.

Thank you.

Inez Mullen

CHRISTMAS CHILDREN'S NATIVITY MASS

Last Christmas, we again had a great line up of bright young stars to help produce our always much anticipated Christmas Nativity play.

The kids had pre-recorded some thoughts about Christmas which opened the Mass.

When it was time for the play, we started with our Christmas rap "In Bethlehem" which saw the children rapping away as cool shepherds in sunnies and wise men with gold chains and backwards caps. This part of the play was brilliantly co-ordinated by Susie Paino.

Next up was the live broadcast from the World News desk reporting on the birth of Jesus.

Sienna Williams was anchor with "live crosses" to Chloe Kirlappis at the visit by Angel Gabrielle, Sienna DeMarcellis to interview Mary and Joseph on their way to Bethlehem and Zoe Pitkethley who reported directly from the stable.

The children were fabulous and did a tremendous job not missing a beat on the night.

A big thank you must also go to the parents and grandparents who brought them along for a month to the Friday afternoon rehearsals.

Allison Flood again lent her skills to putting the production together.

Time to put out thinking caps on for the 2016 nativity!!

Emma Williams



The annual Children's Nativity Pageant is a highlight of the Christmas Eve Mass.

ARTICLES FOR THE BARK

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

Articles should be emailed to: domalati@hotmail.com or left at the Parish House with your name and contact details. Articles left anonymously will not be accepted.

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

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

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

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

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FUNNIES

A bus full of ugly people had a head on collision with a truck. When they died, God granted all of them one wish.

The first person said, "I want to be gorgeous." God snapped his fingers and it happened. The second person said the same thing and God did the same thing. This went on and on throughout the group.

God noticed the last man in line was laughing hysterically. By the time God got to the last ten people, the last man was laughing and rolling on the ground. When the man's turn came, he laughed and said, "I wish they were all ugly again."

Two nuns are driving along at night. Suddenly, a vampire jumps in front of their car.

"What should we do?" asks the first nun.

"Show him your cross!" says the second.

So the first nun leans out the window and yells, "Get out of the way, idiot!"

If God is watching us, the least we can do is be entertaining.



Suddenly, Father Schober was not sure whether he really should have bought the new crucifix at Ikea.

God and Saint Peter are out golfing. They come upon this Par 3 with water in the middle. God turns to Saint Peter and asks, "What do you think Tiger Woods would use from here?" Saint Peter replies, "Maybe a 6 iron."

God gets out his 6 iron and hits a ball. It goes in the water. He hits a second one. It goes in the water as well. He hits a third and it goes in the water, too. He says, "Well, I'm gonna go get my balls."

So he walks out on top of the water and this group of three comes up behind them. One of the three shouts, "Who does he think he is? God?"

Saint Peter says, "No, he thinks he's Tiger Woods."

A Higgs Boson walks into a church and the priest says "We don't allow Higgs Bosons in here". The Higgs Boson then replies "But without me, how could you have mass?"

If it's true that we are here to help others, then what exactly are the others here for?

People are funny; they want the front of the bus, the middle of the road, and the back of the church.

Is déjà vu God's way of replaying a YouTube clip?

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: Ruth Bargarey – PH: 9533 2594 – Fax: 9533 5908
Email: olfpeak@bigpond.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

Emma Williams, David Payne, Camille Philips, Bob Barisic, Francesca Guidotto, Chris Bounds.

THE BARK

Dominic Alati 0402 131 072 domalati@hotmail.com

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

2016 SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

First Holy Communion (Eucharist)

For children in Year 3 or older

Saturday 28 May at 5pm OR Sunday 29 May at 9.15am

Enrolments CLOSED

Confirmation

For children in Year 6 or older.

Please note they must have received the Sacrament of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion before they can receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Sunday 14 August at 2.30pm 2016

Enrolment forms available from Monday 23 May (forms can be downloaded from website)
and are due back to the parish office by Friday 3 June 2016.

First Reconciliation

In preparation for First Holy Communion 2017

For children in Year 2 or older.

Wednesday 21 September from 5pm

Enrolment forms available from Monday 1 August (forms can be downloaded from website)
and due back to parish office by Friday 12 August 2016.