

HOLY SPIRIT PARISH
RINGWOOD NORTH

ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING

21st MAY 2015

PARISH GROUP
REPORTS

COMMUNITY AND HOSPITALITY

**PARK ORCHARDS/NORTH RINGWOOD PARISH
JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB**

For the 2015 season PONRJFC has 18 registered teams (350 plus players) from Under 8 through to Colts. A club this size relies heavily on volunteers in order to get teams on the field each week.

This year, one of our home grounds Stinton's Reserve, is receiving a well deserved upgrade. This has impacted heavily on the club, forcing us to seek out alternative grounds for some of our fixture home games. This has also forced our Auskick Program to be moved to Parkwood Secondary College where 80 plus children get to participate every Saturday morning. Social Events throughout the season include Trivia Night, Ball and Senior Players Dinner as well as 3 Burger Nights.

Special thanks to my committee who work tirelessly both during the season and through the off season as well ensuring the smooth running of our club. These people are: Ondine Lowther (Secretary); John Raciti (Treasurer); Kevin George (Director of Football); Ritchie Appleby, Rob Purcell, Matt Fasan Craig Hunt (Football Operations Support); Bryan Holmes (Equipment Coordinator); Nina Foxwell (Merchandise Coordinator); Gary Morenhout (Ground Operations Manager); Mike Newton (Events and Promotions) and Mark Powell (YJFL Director).

Sean Woods, President.

HOLY SPIRIT NETBALL CLUB

We have had some great results on the court over the past year, with a number of teams playing in finals and winning grand finals in the Spring season 2013. We have 3 games to go in our Winter season, with a number of teams at this stage finals contenders.

HSNC is the largest club competing at MENA with 23 teams being entered from under 9 through to open age groups.

We have been very fortunate to pick up 2 new committee members for the 2015 year. A sincere thankyou to the committee for all of their hard work: Sandra Schipano (Vice President); Kerryn Crombie (Secretary); Sue Neal (Treasurer); Belinda Semos (Coaches Coordinator); Jade Eastwood (Minutes Secretary and Newsletter); Jo Charles (Registrar); Jacki Frangeskakis (Umpires Coordinator); Michelle Thomas (Property Officer); Kim Skien (Uniform), Amanda Bullock,, Gabby Pragnaratne and Amelia Mills (General Committee).

Although our netball focus is at club level, we congratulate a number of girls who represent MENA and Ariels in their representative programs.

Thanks to Jess Hooper and Amanda Bullock (with the assistance of Kerryn Crombie and Cath Stone) for framing the teams for our winter spring competitions. This is a difficult job, with a lot of time and effort put into ensuring the best results possible.

Thanks to the coaches who volunteer their time to ensure teams “get on the court”. It is worth noting that the majority of our coaches don’t have a daughter playing in the team they coach.

Our training venue HE Parker, Heathmont is proving to be a perfect fit for our club. The club training at the 1 location on a Friday night provides a perfect backdrop for encouraging club morale and communication.

Our annual netta program is underway with Jess Hooper coordinating this. Jess is a life member of our club. Our aim is to get at least 1 team (we always do), 2 if enough interest is touted. This is an ideal way to ensure our club continues to thrive.

We are clearly dependent on all the volunteers for the development of the club and the enjoyment our daughters derive from the wonderful game of netball.

Go Spirits!!
Karen Woods, President.

LITTLE SPIRITS PLAYGROUP

The Little Spirits playgroup consists of 15 children, from 2 to 4 years of age. Little Spirits meet from 8.50am- 10.30am on Tuesday mornings. Tanya Brown and Kate Doherty run playgroup as a team. A usual Little Spirits session consists of a craft activity, play dough, story time & some 'action' songs which the children love participating in. The 2014 year ended with a fantastic Christmas party at FitnessWorx in Mitcham, where the kids enjoyed some fun circus-themed physical activities & received a special Christmas book as a gift. So far in 2015 we have held an Easter Party & egg hunt at Halliday Park and enjoyed an excursion to Base Camp play centre in Nunawading where the children were treated to a music lesson. Funds were recently used to purchase 'Kinetic Sand' for the group - which is great for fine motor development & is proving to be an extremely fun activity as well. We have had a steady stream of enquiries from families wishing to join Little Spirits and we may look at adding a second weekly playgroup session in the year ahead. Any enquiries regarding Little Spirits Playgroup can be directed to Kate Doherty & Tanya Brown at our new email address littlespiritsplaygroup@gmail.com

Kate Doherty and Tanya Brown, Coordinators.

HOLY SPIRIT FETE

The 2015 Fete Committee has had a number of changes since last year. We have a new President 'Mark Johnstone' who was responsible for all the Advertising, Sponsorship and marketing of the fete last year, taking over from Stephen Thompson. Dale Sabire has stepped aside as President and is working with Mark in handover. We also have introduced a number of new members to the committee John Cilia, Sharon Wolff and Margaret Watts,

This year we have broken down the committee into subgroups: Operations; Stalls; Marketing; Raffle; Finance and P&F. Mark has been working with all these groups and we are progressing well. Our aim this year is to increase sponsorship by at least 2 major sponsors and to focus on raffle ticket sales and return of tickets. We are also looking at ways to make it easier for people to pay for tickets on the day, by including mobile Eftpos machines or having an ATM machine on site. The committee felt that this was an area in which we needed to tidy up.

We are also looking to encourage members of the fete community to organise and run stalls under our guidance. At the 2014 Fete the Cake stall was organised this way and as a result was a great success. We are looking at other groups within the Parish to follow this model. (eg Sharks)

We have also implemented an OHS plan for all the stalls which will ensure that the volunteers are working in a safe environment. For example we have purchased equipment such as trolleys which will allow us to move heavy objects around the school, thus reducing the chance of injury.

We are not looking to change many things. We want to tweak a few items to make it easier on all involved. We know that the fete is a great day and we have been praying to the lord that the weather will be like last year!

*Mark Johnstone – President
Holy Spirit Community Fete*

PARISH DINNERS

The Parish Dinners have been held successfully for the past 15 years. Megan Whitworth and I organise and attend these dinners for the parents of different year levels. Dinner is held in the Mary Bresnan room with as many as 34 attending. Father Jo and Peter Camilleri also attend. Our vision is to continue to provide the opportunity to enable the school families and Parish Community to unite over a meal and familiarise themselves with the Parish environment so they know they are welcome and to be a part of our special community and to continue its growth. It is also a chance for parents to meet each other and grow some special friendships. This is quite a unique opportunity we offer to our school community as there are hardly any other School/Parish's that do. I am proud to be associated with the Parish Dinners. We strive to

- Ensure the dinners continue into the future.
- Make parents aware of their Parish surroundings
- Make parents aware of the various ways they can volunteer in the School and Parish.
- To make parents realise that our community is special and we need them to continue to promote this into the future.
- Have fun at the dinners, meet new people and spread the word amongst other school parents.

This year our change has been to only conduct dinners for Prep classes at the beginning of the year because our numbers were dwindling for the other grades.

I would also like to survey parents about what the dinners mean to them and how they would like to see them evolve into the future.

Marisa Smeed, Coordinator.

LITURGY AND CELEBRATION

SPIRIT MAGIC BASKETBALL CLUB

The following outlines a brief description of the Spirit Magic basketball Clubs' year in review.

The recently commenced Winter season has seen membership numbers at near record numbers for the second season in a row, rounding out at just under 400 players. Whilst such growth is obviously a positive for the club, it does also introduce challenges around finding volunteers to coach teams (particularly at the older age group levels), and acquiring enough good quality court space for training. In regard to training venues, the last 12 months has seen us secure the Aquinas College gym on Tuesdays evenings as an ongoing venue – good quality courts with enough spare court space to allow for some further membership growth.

The year also saw a significant growth in the number of people joining our committee, peaking at 13 at one point during the last 12 months. Significantly at a committee level also, the year saw the ushering in of myself as the new president of the club, relieving Howie Sykes after 5 years of hard work in the position.

A couple of other noteworthy events during the year were the Parents Dinner @ the Ringwood Bowls Club, a successful evening attended by some 80 odd parents, and the Vinnies xmas hamper appeal where some \$500 was raised through our 49 teams ultimately being used to fund hampers and gifts for 4 needy families in the area.

The challenges in the year(s) ahead will continue to revolve around encouraging more volunteers to take up coaching and enticing those already coaching to 'stick with it' especially as their kids move into the older age groups. Additionally and importantly, the upskilling of these new and existing volunteer coaches also looms as a significant challenge going forward.

Leon McKenna, President.

LITURGY TEAM

The Holy Spirit Liturgy Team is a small and dedicated group. Several members are also choir members. Whilst these roles go hand in hand, it does also create some "conflicts of interest" for major occasions, as those members are not available to assist during the Masses. However, we do manage to recruit helpers, often with a tap on the shoulder before Mass begins, to get us through the liturgy.

As a team, we meet to discuss, prepare and co-ordinate special Masses, (including introductions, Prayers of the Faithful, reflections, etc), Forgiveness Rites, flowers for Mothers' Day, Chocolates & bookmarks for Fathers' Day. We prepare the church for various occasions - changing the altar linen for the appropriate liturgical season, putting up relevant banners, decorating the church and preparing the foyer with artwork, messages etc. Many Saturday mornings there will be a bevy of activity going on, attending to the small details which can make a liturgical celebration so much more meaningful, i.e. altar cloths & banners being ironed, or creating a 'focus' near the sanctuary which reinforces the theme of the Mass.

I'm sure you all would have noticed the constant changes to the church environment over the Easter period. This is a huge effort from the team and the many parishioners we "recruit" to assist, and to those people we say "Thank you, we couldn't manage it with out you". Special thanks need to go to Jocelyn D'Souza, Marita North-Coombes, Kerry Haddow, Lawry Ceconello, Sue Wallace and Shirley Graham, who, along with the other Liturgy team members, co-ordinated the various Easter celebrations. Also a huge thanks to the choir – many hours of rehearsal go into the Easter Triduum and it just wouldn't be the same without their contribution.

We are always looking for new ideas and several members of the team regularly attend workshops run by the Archdiocese specifically to glean new ideas and resources which we can use in our Parish celebrations. These workshops are often run on a Saturday from 9am - 4pm, usually

before Advent and Lent, however, there are also other times when an opportunity is presented, and someone will go along.

Our numbers have declined over the past few years, with some members moving away from the parish, or in some cases, life style changes which have meant members are not able to continue. We are all getting older too, which limits our ability to climb ladders etc. We have been fortunate to have great support from the likes of Lawry Ceconello, Silvio Volombello & Don Schroder, or often the men involved in Church set up , who often do the climbing & fastening or hanging for us.

At this point we need to reiterate our plea from 12 months ago! We need new members to join us. We would love to have new ideas to re-invigorate our liturgies, so if any one is thinking that they might like to help out, please don't hesitate to ask! The team members are: Marilyn Grant, Karen McQuade, Shirley Graham, Jenny Philp, Jocelyn D'Souza.

CHOIR

Over the last year choir numbers have remained around 12. We could definitely do with a few more men. We only have two at the moment.

We have sung monthly at masses throughout the year as well as the big Church feasts of Christmas, Easter and Pentecost. Easter 2015 was a great success, one of our best. Our musical sound and volume has been enhanced greatly with amplification at Christmas and Easter thanks to Peter Philp's sound system.

We sang again at the Parish carols night in December and recently supported the Sportsman's Mass with some great singing.

Pentecost Sunday 24th May we are representing HSP at the Interchurch Fellowship service at the Uniting Church in Heathmont.

We are a very happy group continuing to have fun singing together. Now would be a good time to join as we have time to teach our repertoire before the next big church season.

Maree Buttler and Marilyn Grant, Choir Leaders.

ROSARY GROUP/PRAAYER FOR PRIESTS

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament is held on Wednesday nights from 7.30 pm to 8.30 pm with rosary prayed from 7.30 pm till 8.00 pm. We are now in our 24th year and have a core group of 14 or so but seldom have more than 10 people on any given night. During Lent, The Stations of the Cross are included. This usually attracts a few extra people.

First Saturday Devotion

This has been going since 1995. Again a core group of 12-13 people with 10 most times. Our Lady asked for 5 First Saturdays when she appeared to the 3 children at Fatima, Portugal in 1917. The format is much the same as for Wednesday night, with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament immediately after 9.30am mass, plus the rosary and Fatima prayers.

Marian Movement of Prayers for Priests

On Saturday mornings at 10.00 am we come together to pray for Priests. There are usually about 12-14 of us – this includes 3 people who come each week from Our Lady's Parish Ringwood. Our Priests are precious and we need to always keep them in our prayers. We also pray for vocations to the Priesthood and for all of the young men in the Seminaries. This is important as we all know that our Communities are in great need of Priests.

Carmel Hill and Lyn Thwaites.

TUESDAY CHRISTIAN MEDITATION GROUP

The group has been meeting now for over 2 years on Tuesday mornings from 9.15am to 10am during school terms. Usually there are about 5 to 6 participants that partake in our meditation period.

The aim of the group is to learn the ancient art of meditation whereby we hope to become in tune with ourselves nature and God. We are quite privileged to do our meditation in the presence of the Eucharistic host in the Monstrance, which is set up on the Chapel altar. Hopefully new meditators will join our ranks in the years to come.

Len Moore, Facilitator.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

The Children's Liturgy program has continued over the last year on both Saturday nights at 6pm and Sundays at 10.30am during school terms.

There are 18 current leaders who are all parents or adolescents in our parish. We have had two new leaders start this year and couple who shared a leadership role who have left the roster due to other commitments.

With the help of Michelle Sherriff we have had a number of Grade 6 children preparing for their Confirmation come along recently and assist the leaders. This has been a rewarding experience for everyone involved. We also have a Year 7 student about to join our roster to assist.

There is an average of approx 12 children attending each Children's Liturgy session. The numbers are increased when RCIC students undertaking their program as they are encouraged to attend Children's Liturgy. We have had some very successful large nights with 30+ children when special masses are on such as the rite of acceptance for Confirmation and Communion. The Sports mass had 70+ children which we split into 2 groups. We still run a fairly normal Children's Liturgy program on these big occasions so that children who haven't attended Children's Liturgy before can have the experience of what it is like.

The coloured activity sheets are enjoyed by the children in addition to our usual meditation, reading, discussion and prayers. The Children also love listening to music. Most of all the children all love the feeling of being involved and included in our mass whether they get to carry the candle, children's cross, bible or being part of the Offertory procession.

The location for Children's Liturgy has been challenging over the last year. Firstly we were moved to the back room of the Community house due to their scheduling which was a little too far away and now that the Community House is now having renovations the rooms have not always been suitable or accessible. We have a temporary location back in our preferred front rooms of the old Community House and we look forward to this being a permanent home once the renovations are complete.

Sue Wallace, Co-ordinator.

SUNDAY HOME COMMUNION MINISTRY

We have a dedicated group of volunteers who go out in pairs, one pair each Sunday, to take Communion to Nursing Homes and private homes of those unable to come to Mass due to age or ill health.

We currently visit 3 nursing/group homes and no private residences. We have 6 pairs, down from 7 at this time last year. Ideally we would like 8. Over the course of the year we have lost 2 volunteers from the roster, May Weiss and Annette Heskett, and recruited 2, Kerrie Spencer and Clare Parle.

The Parish is organising training for people interested in becoming Special Ministers of the Eucharist, or refreshing their knowledge. Perhaps some of these may consider joining the Home Communion team. Many thanks to our group of volunteers and may God bless them all.

Helen Scorgie, Coordinator.

FAITH AND SPIRITUALITY

MONDAY EVENING MEDITATION

Be still, and know that I am God - Psalm 46:10.

The evening meditation group was formed in early 2013 to provide an opportunity to spend time in stillness and silence in the evening. The friendly group meets fortnightly in the Holy Spirit Chapel. The attendees vary, but typically 7 to 10 people attend each gathering. We are ably led by Clare Gill, who has trained in guiding meditation. Whilst Clare is not a Holy Spirit parishioner she volunteers in her role with us. We are very grateful to her for her leadership and for the preparation she does for our sessions.

We would love to welcome anyone with an interest in learning to meditate or continuing their meditation practice to join our group. Should you wish to learn more, please email Yvette Collins at hsinfo@fastmail.com.au or call 040 787 3432.

Yvette Collins, Coordinator.

HIGH SPIRITS/RCIC

I took over the role of co-ordinator of the High Spirits/RCIC program at the beginning of Term 3 2014; I really had no idea what I was getting myself in for!! It started off ridiculously busy and really hasn't eased off since! ☺

July and August saw me preparing 8 children for the Sacrament of First Eucharist. This was celebrated at the end of August with the Holy Spirit school children. At the same time I also started the new RCIC program (Rite of Christian Initiation for Children) where I had 18 children enrol in the program. Our classes were held on Sunday mornings 9.15am-10.15am, followed by attending 10.30am Mass together where the children also participated in Children's Liturgy.

The children completed their Sacrament of Reconciliation in November and were able to complete their Rite of Enrolment at our Community Mass and Meal.

After breaking for summer holidays we then resumed classes again at the start of February. The initial plan was that the children would prepare for both First Eucharist and Confirmation at the same time and receive both of these at Easter time. However, after reviewing the amount of work to be covered and the lesson allocations, Fr Joe and I agreed that the current program would be too rushed for the children to be adequately prepared for both sacraments. So we changed the structure of the program so Term 1 was dedicated purely to First Eucharist preparation. The children received this sacrament on the weekend of April 18th and 19th.

We then started our Confirmation preparation at the start of Term 2. Our class time changed to Saturday afternoon 4.45-5.45pm, followed by attending Saturday night 6.00pm Mass together, with the children continuing to participate in Children's Liturgy. As part of the Confirmation preparation the children also attended the Confirmation Reflection Day along with the Grade 6 Holy Spirit children at the Holy Cross Centre in Templestowe. This weekend the children will complete their RCIC journey by making their Confirmation.

Fr Joe and I have now decided to revert back to the previous way of running the High Spirits program, where all of our sacraments will be celebrated with the Holy Spirit school children.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all of the Parish staff who have been ever so supportive of me whilst I've tried my best to do this job. They have been so welcoming and accommodating, especially as I've often needed to bring my children into the Parish House with me, they have put up with copious amounts of biscuit crumbs everywhere and the sounds of Play School on the TV! Thank you also to the parishioners and school staff who have helped me along the way and have been most encouraging and helpful.

Michelle Sherriff, REC.

BAPTISM PREPARATION GROUP

The baptism preparation group has continued to facilitate the preparation of parents for the baptism of their infants and pre-school children throughout the year. Meetings occur monthly and are attended by two of our group of five dedicated parish women. The co-ordinator's role was passed from Leanne Thompson to Yvette Collins late in 2014 when Leanne moved to Michigan. The program has not been reviewed or significantly changed for over ten years. A review to ensure the program meets the needs and expectations of new families is warranted. We would welcome assistance to do this, should someone have an interest.

Yvette Collins, Baptism Group Co-ordinator.

RCIA - No candidates this year.

SERVICE AND OUTREACH

EVERGREENS

Highlights over the past 12 months include:

Trish Manson-Allen, receiving Deakin Community Award, for service to Community, (Meals On Wheels and Evergreens, over 20 years service), Christmas Party, celebrated at Dorset Gardens Hotel, (which was enjoyed by members, partners and friends).

The annual away trip this year to Mt. Gambier over 4 days, this was fully booked with positive feedback.

Our monthly outings are usually well supported- we need 30 patrons to make bus hire viable. We continue to have patronage from St. Annes & St. Gerards & Healthy Ageing Groups, which is very much welcomed.

STATISTICS-(Approx.)

Active Evergreens – 50

Hon./Members- 14

Support Team – 20

plus partners assisting with set up for meetings & transport.

We average 40 members at our monthly meetings, held on the last Friday of the month, at the Parish House.

(Mass at 9.15am followed by meeting, usually with a guest speaker.)

Our activities are promoted in "The Word" and "Chatterbox" magazine.

Our outings are organized by our Social Committee, (part of the Support Team), casual or new members always made welcome.

Jean Smith.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Our Society Conference continues to enjoy great financial & material support from the Parishes and Schools. We do not receive any government funding and derive our funds from our monthly \$2 collection, the poor box, donations and proceeds from our Vinnies shop in Ringwood.

We have 22 Members and meet weekly to review and plan our visits to those who request assistance.

The vast majority of our assistance visits are to single parent families, people with physical & mental disabilities who are living in various levels of poverty in our community.

Over the 12 months we provided the following assistance to:

676 adults,
649 children in 457 home visits :-
Supermarket food vouchers - \$22,453
Donated food - \$10,600 ,
Purchased food - \$10,142
Fruit & Vegetable runs – 45
Bread runs - 45
Christmas hampers - 90

Members also do visits in South Melbourne where there is no local Vinnies Conference and serve meals at Ozanam House – a shelter for 60 homeless men.

Kevin O'Callaghan, Secretary, North Ringwood Conference

GRIEF AND LOSS SUPPORT MINISTRY

The Ministry continues the practice of sending a letter of support to the recently bereaved of the parish a few months after the death of a close loved one. At the time of the first anniversary of the death a card is also sent to the bereaved.

In September we invited parishioners to attend an interactive presentation on *The Last Taboo Project- Talking about dying and death*. The project was designed to enable community conversation and create more ease, awareness and connection around dying and death. The project worker Leanne Skipsey gave a sensitive and thought-provoking presentation which was attended by number of special ministers and members of the Ministry.

In November we had our annual Mass of Remembrance for the Recently Bereaved. It is a time when most people are preparing for Christmas and we acknowledge that for the recently bereaved this will be their first Christmas without their love one. Letters of invitation were sent to 49 families as well as a notice of invitation in the Word.

Robin Walsh, Coordinator.

HOLY SPIRIT PARISH WEBSITE

Changes

In the last 12 months the following changes have been made to the Parish Website:

- The Spirit Magazine is now published in colour – Thanks Helen Konynenburg
- Added a Forgiveness Service Booklets page – Thanks Jenny Philp:
 - Lent 2014
 - Advent 2014
 - Lent 2015
- Parish Pastoral Council Plan Charter and Pastoral Plan 2014 – 2018 added – thanks Mary Ryan (representing the PPC)
- Pastoral Care role page added – thanks Tina
- Parish Group Reports added, from our AGMs
 - 2013
 - 2014
- New Parish Groups Added
 - Sunday Home Communion Ministry – Thanks Helen Scorgie
 - Prep Welcome Mass – Thanks Michelle Sherriff
 - Sports Mass – Thanks Michelle Sherriff
- Parish Groups Removed
 - Faith Discussion – Maryann Street can no longer continue this group
 - Eastland Chapel – No longer exists
- Parish Calendar added - thanks Ruth. Please use this resource:
 - See bookings for
 - Parish Community Centre
 - Parish House
 - Chapel
 - See the Liturgical Seasons and Feast Days
 - See Australian public holidays
 - Advise the Parish House staff of your requirements to be added to the calendar

- Holy Spirit YouTube Channel added with the following videos:
 - Mass of the Last Supper, Holy Thursday
 - Good Friday Mass
 - Easter Saturday Vigil

Usage - Summary

Now that we have two years history for the web site in its current form we can do some analysis to compare the sites usage between the year just passed and the year prior.

Key points are as follows:

1. In most cases usage has increased (Session, users, pageviews). However, pages / session and average session duration has decreased suggesting the site is less engaging.
2. Desktop (around 50%), Smart Phone (27%) and Tablet Usage (20%) is largely in the same ratio (I expected a significant decrease in desktop usage / increase in mobile/tablet usage)
3. Easter and Christmas remain the busiest periods for the website. Usage has increased on the peak days in each period by 45% and 29% respectively

For more information refer to the parish web site.

Future

In late April a working group of interested parishioners met to discuss the web site and agreed to address the following areas:

- Privacy Policy
- Adding pages on the sacraments
- Establishing a News and Events log, probably on the front page
- Add a page on the Parish Management Committee
- Add a page for a regular spiritual message to be confirmed with Father
- Look to redevelop the site to a responsive design so that it would work better with smart phones and tablets

Michael O'Leary.

PASTORAL CARE

We must restore hope to young people, help the old, be open to the future, spread love.

Be poor among the poor.

We need to include the excluded and preach peace.

Pope Francis

The past twelve months have been steady in my role within our community. Home visits to those who are ill, ministering with Eucharist, staying for a chat and offering practical home help is a major part of my work.

Those who suffer bereavement are assisted with my time, parish resources and support to plan and execute funeral masses.

Regular visits to local nursing homes and spending time with the elderly and lonely is an important outreach action. Organising helpers to sit with lonely parishioners, driving them to doctor's appointments etc. is also a great outreach that we have been busy with the past year.

Spiritual and religious issues are often part of a quest for a deeper meaning of life and an understanding of self, so time is spent with parishioners to help them journey through their times of doubt.

Home visits to new parishioners, meeting their families and being made feel welcome in their homes is a wonderful part of my pastoral care work.

I receive great assistance from Fr. Joe for which I am very thankful for plus many generous parishioners who make weekly visits on behalf of the parish and also the Sunday Communion Ministers. I truly thank them all and pray often for them. If you see any needs in our parish that are not being addressed, please come in and have a chat with me and we will see what we can do about meeting the need.

Peace and Blessings.

Tina Toomey, Pastoral Worker.

HOLY SPIRIT SCHOOL

On behalf of the school community of Holy Spirit Community School it is my pleasure to present the 2014/15 School Report. I wish to point out it would be impossible to explain all highlights/achievements in a limited space of time. This report should be read in conjunction with the Parish Pastoral Council reports I deliver each month.

Student Numbers

August 2014 census showed 456 students enrolled. 2015 there are 453 students enrolled.

As with previous years in 2015 the school is divided into 18 classes:

3 x Prep (76)

5 x 1/2 (127)

5 X 3 / 4 (124)

5 X 5/6 (126)

Staff

In 2015 Holy Spirit School employed 51 staff members

Teachers 14 full-time and 17 part-time. These numbers include the Principal, Deputy Principal, Student Wellbeing, Reading Recovery, Literacy and Maths,

Office staff – 2 full-time – Bursar and secretary

Student Support staff – 13, all part-time.

Specialist teachers 4 of Japanese, Library, Performing Arts and Physical Education, all part-time.

Counsellor -1, part-time.

In a number of classes we have shared teaching arrangements where two teachers take the class.

Positions of Leadership – Religious Education, Student Wellbeing Learning and Teaching, Maths, Literacy and Level Leaders. Within the above numbers we employed three graduate teachers.

Fees and Levies:

Fees: 97.0%

Levies: 96.00%

Follow up with non-fee payers continued in 2014/15.

School Improvements:

The main works around the school were the construction of the garden surrounding the BBQ area, the artificially turfing of the Fr. Mogg oval and the placement of shade sails over the play equipment.

Academic Results:

Data from sources such as NAPLAN (2014) show that Holy Spirit continues to provide a quality education. Our continual aim is to improve in all areas of the curriculum. Although our direct involvement in the CTLM project concluded we have maintained a working relationship with ACU and CEOM. As a school we outsourced an IT company, AHH Computer Tutor, to inservice students and staff alike. Religious Education continued to be central to all we did. Weekly 8:30 Masses (9:00 from April 2015), whole school Masses and sacramental programs. Social justice issues continued to be priority. Daily prayer and Christian meditation demonstrated our Catholic faith. We are proud to be a Catholic school.

CEOM School Review - The school has continued with the implementation of the 2013 CEOM Review with focus being feedback.

Parent Committees - School Board, Parents & Friends, Maintenance, Uniform Shop, OSHC – are valued and are empowered to fulfil their roles. We are also well supported with classroom helpers, sport & excursion helpers on a needs basis.

School Parish Links - A great sense of community exists between our School and Parish. The existing links continue to be very strong and highly valued. The cooperation is evident with the sacramental programs, Masses, visits by parish to the school, use of the Community Centre etc. The Parish dinners (3 in 2015, Prep classes only) organised by Marisa Smeed and Meagan Whitworth, continue to be an example of ways we strive to build community.

Peter Camilleri, School Principal.

PARENTS AND FRIENDS COMMITTEE

No report received

OUT OF SCHOOL HOURS CARE

OSHC utilization averages since the beginning of the year are as follows.

BSC – 24

ASC – 34

VAC – 29

Our numbers since last year have dropped, particularly for Vacation Care as there has been a large increase in surrounding schools opening their own programs in the last 12 months.

We have a very dedicated and hard working committee of management, we meet monthly for meetings to discuss any happenings or up and coming items for OSHC. It is also a very high priority for the committee to track and responsibly utilize the funds for the program, this includes future planning, ongoing running costs, wages and incoming funds. The committee in conjunction with the Holy Spirit Parish, has been very busy lately as we are in the planning stages of renovating the Community House for OSHC use going forward.

We are also very excited to introduce our new 2ic in Carissa. Carissa had hit the ground running with her new role and is enjoying the change of pace compared to her previous background of Long Day Care.

Damien Thomas, Director.

PPC REPORT

Activities during 2014 include:

- Develop and implement Parish Pastoral Council Charter for 2015-2018.
- Assist with the Prep Welcome Mass.
- Assist with preparation and running of Sportsperson's Mass and activities.
- Assist with Easter Liturgies.
- Organise State Youth Games Dinner.
- Pentecost Sunday – helped with Liturgy participation as requested.
- Winter Warmer's Mass.
- Assist with fete activities as required.
- Arranged defibrillator training for PPC, staff and parishioners.
- Arranged Carollers at Nursing Homes.
- Christmas Liturgies – assist as required by Liturgy Teams.
- Seeking new members.

Many thanks to the Parish Staff for their valued assistance during the year, also Parish personnel and Parish Pastoral Committee.

Stan Fisher, Chairperson.

FINANCES

2014 saw an annual surplus of about \$11,000 however in light of a late annual Insurance invoice of \$9,000, the real surplus was \$2,000. Thanksgiving donations fell away to \$175,000, a drop of \$9,000 on 2013. Our diversification of income, including rent and interest on term deposits and an excellent Fete result has helped to offset the drop but is not a complete offset. Progressive reduction in hard and soft costs over 2014 and previous years has helped to keep costs in control and judicious spending has helped achieve this outcome.

The Parish Management Committee's objective of increasing revenue is focused on a voluntary extension of the Thanksgiving program through the school community in order to raise extra donors. This program was prepared and will be executed in 2015 - bit slower than we would like. The Outside School Hours Care program runs as a non-profit operation and has been successful growing year over year. This year, they move out of the Community Centre and into their own buildings (ex NRCH). The renovations required will be fully funded by OSHC and they will assume full responsibility for the maintenance of the buildings. Furthermore they have offered to donate at least \$10,000 annually to the Parish. This is additional income for us. The Deanery Raffle that the Parish has been involved with for what must be over 30 years has been less and less supported each year and is difficult to manage. PMC has taken the decision to seek alternate revenue generating opportunities. The Parish Pastoral Council has taken up the challenge and in 2015 will run a Trivia Night to raise funds for the Parish. Well done Lisa Keedle and Don Schroder.

PMC has spent a lot of effort over several years to reduce variable costs and even fixed costs where possible without effecting the provision of services and maintaining buildings in reasonable if not perfect condition. In 2014, they started to look at reducing electricity costs by installing a Solar Power system. This seems wise in the light of threatening rises in electricity charges. Three quotes were obtained and these are being assessed. Changes in government support has complicated the analysis but it appears a 5 year payback on a \$7,000 investment can be achieved without considering rises in power charges. A decision will be made in 2015.

The Committee has a responsibility to ensure the proper management of the Parish resources and finances. This is implemented in the governance procedures under which the parish operates. In 2014, detailed financial reporting from the Fete Committee operations was sought and freely provided. This will be an annual reporting program. The PMC is very satisfied with the integrity of the Fete Committee's financial processes and procedures. PMC reviewed the storage and security of physical data, keys, registers and reports and installed cupboards and lockable units on the Parish Admin offices. The committee also reviewed the management of cash collections and introduced more stringent procedures for collection, storage and counting.

By way of maintaining and improving parish assets, the committee addressed issues with the floor in the Community Centre caused by condensation under the floor boards, recarpeted the Sanctuary and spent almost \$7,000 on a new video projection system. Thanks to the School for also providing funding towards this.

The Total Income in 2014 was \$242,400 which was down on 2013 at \$287,700. This however is not a true reflection. In 2014 the PMC changed the accounting of "cost charge out" items. These are services where the parish assumes a cost and then passes a charge on to one of our service subsidiaries. In these cases the accounting showed both expense and income. The new accounting approach takes these items out of the P&L so although the income is down, so too are the expenses. On the Balance Sheet the Cash has remained fairly stable and Long Service Leave Entitlement dropped significantly due to staff movements as expected.

In 2015 you will see that the committee is seeking to implement a number of the initiatives commenced in 2014.

Silvio Volombello, Finance Committee.

Closing Song:

COMPANIONS ON THE JOURNEY

We are companions on the Journey
Breaking bread and sharing life
And in the love we bear is the hope we share
For we believe in the love of our God
We believe in the love of our God

No longer strangers to each other
No longer strangers in God's house
We are fed and we are nourished
By the strength of those who care
By the strength of those who care

We are companions on the Journey
Breaking bread and sharing life
And in the love we bear is the hope we share
For we believe in the love of our God
We believe in the love of our God

We have been gifted with each other
And we are called by the word of the Lord
To act with justice to love tenderly
And to walk humbly with our God
To walk humbly with our God

We are companions on the Journey
Breaking bread and sharing life
And in the love we bear is the hope we share
For we believe in the love of our God
We believe in the love of our God

QUESTION AND ANSWER TIME