

HOLY SPIRIT PARISH RINGWOOD NORTH

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

15th JULY 2020, 7.30 pm

Via ZOOM

PARISH GROUP REPORTS

PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORT

2019 was a rather special year for PLT. We started the year with a committee consisting of Fr Jose, Dominic North-Coombes, Mary Ryan, Jacinta Bibby and Silvio Volombello. Our role is to assist the Parish Priest with the day to day running of the Parish.

The sort of activities undertaken include: Child safety compliance, Winter Shelter involvement, Confirmation ceremonies at St Pat's Cathedral, Various correspondences from Parishioners, Electronic Donation Point, Alpha Program marketing, New convenor for Children's Liturgy, Devine Renovation changes in Music, Fire Safety in the Parish House, Requests for Parish Support, Modification to Sunday Mass schedule, Closer relationship with St Gerard and St Ann Parish, Refresh of Parish house pictures, Security of staff in the Parish House, Site Development Plan, Parish/School Interaction, Changes to Fete Operation, Youth Conference Sponsorship, "Moment of Silence" after Communion, Devine Renovation Conference Sponsorship, Music Ministry APMN Conference Sponsorship, Time and Talent drive, Staff Employment contract renewal, Chapel renovation options and many others.

Then came September 2019 when we found ourselves needing to manage the parish without a parish priest. At that point we went into conservation mode, planning how we could provide mass services and sacraments, financial responsibilities, support the school needs and how to press for a new parish priest. Transition planning became a major feature of our meetings.

And the normal day to day issues continued: Child Safety policies and procedures, parish service teams, Alpha, Chapel renovations, 2020 Lenten program, Fire safety, relationship issues, web site issues, Devine Renovation initiatives, Winter Shelter 2020.

Fr Arsenio started on April 1, 2020. PLT operates under the auspices of the Parish Priest so it was important to establish that Fr Arsenio wanted to continue with the PLT operation. In our first meeting with him, Father indicated that he was happy to continue with PLT while he continued to come to grips with the parish operation.

COMMUNITY AND HOSPITALITY

As you can see there is a wide variety of topics PLT has been involved with: some small and some major. It has to be acknowledged that we all owe a vote of thanks to our parish staff for their efforts and dedication in support of our parish. Special thanks to Jacinta.

It was also towards the start of 2020 that Dominic North-Coombes decided to resign from the Parish Pastoral Council and so also the PLT. Dominic is a deep thinker and dedicated to faith development in our parish and the implementation of Devine Renovation. He brought a level of courage to the PLT to pursue difficult topics. We are grateful for his contributions.

Silvio Volombello

LITTLE SPIRITS PLAYGROUP

No report received.

HOLY SPIRIT FETE

No report received.

PREP PARISH DINNERS

Our annual Prep Dinner was held on Friday 13th March which was attended by Duncan, Prep Teachers and 50 parents across 3 classes in the hall. Unfortunately, the numbers weren't as big as usual. In fact, this was the last weekend before the Covid-19 lockdown occurred. It was a fantastic night seeing a lot of the new and current parents mingle and get to know each other.

A big shout out to all the mums who volunteered to set-up, helped in the kitchen during the evening and provided the delicious dishes. Everyone had a wonderful night and we are looking forward to hosting this event again next year. It is always an evening to remember and where most Prep families gain new friends to keep for life.

Sharon Wolff
Prep Dinner Co-ordinator

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 grandfinals over the past 12 months.

HSNC is the largest club competing at MENA with 25 teams being entered from under 9 through to open age groups. Our club ensures that all players have the opportunity to play netball as well as forming strong friendships and being socially connected.

A sincere thankyou to the committee for all of their hard work: Sandra Schipano (Vice President); Kerryn Crombie (Secretary); Amanda Conway (Treasurer); Belinda Semos (Coaches Coordinator); Jade Eastwood (Minutes Secretary); Amelia Mills (Registrar); Louise Downes (Off Committee-Publicity); Claudia Schipano (Umpires Coordinator); Cath Stone and Tanya Brown (Property Officers); Amanda Conway (Uniform), and Nat Riesset and Karen Assimo (General Committee).

We thank our out going Treasurer Sue Neal for her many years of service and for leaving the club in a strong financial position for a rainy day. That rainy day has certainly come along in the form of Covid 19!

This year has been a very different year with play being suspended in March. Games and training will begin again in July. The return to play process, as with all other sporting codes, has relied heavily on volunteer input to ensure the safety of all players and officials.

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, Amanda Bullock and Kerryn Crombie, with the assistance of Amanda Conway and Sandra Schhipano, for framing the teams for our winter and 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”.

Under 9 through to under 17 teams train on a Monday night at The Nets. The whole club training on the same night fosters club spirit and enables our older girls to coach and assistant coach younger teams.

Our annual netta program will be held later in the year, with Cath Stone coordinating this. This program continues to see our club grow and thrive. These new teams won't start until next year.

Annually we give out MVP and Years of Service awards. For the second year in a row we will be awarding a 30 years service award. We felt that these awards reward the girls who try their best every week and our older girl's loyalty to the club.

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.

Karen Woods, President

PARK ORCHARDS/NORTH RINGWOOD PARISH JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB

The Football Club is back to training after sitting out the COVID-19 pandemic. Our season starts on 12th July and the players can't wait to get back out on the park with their friends. The Sharks Committee has been working feverishly in the background to make sure we are ready to play in a safe and controlled environment. We invite the Holy Spirit community to view these messages from our 2020 Club Captains by visiting the following link

<https://www.facebook.com/PONRPJFC.Chsarks/videos/376332763322980/?epa=SEARCH.BOX>

Andrew Mortlock, President

SPIRIT MAGIC BASKETBALL CLUB

No report received.

LITURGY AND CELEBRATION

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, gifts for Mothers' & Fathers' Day Masses. 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.

The Christmas Masses were again very well organised and attended. Particular thanks must go to Yvette Collins, who volunteered to coordinate the 5pm Mass, bringing several young parishioners together to provide the music & singing, readings & prayers for the Mass, and also to the coordinators of the 7pm, midnight and 9am Masses.

"Live" music continues to be a feature of our Eucharistic celebrations, and we are extremely grateful to all of the musicians and singers who generously volunteer for our weekend Masses. Thankfully, our Youth Band have been providing music at the 5pm Masses on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month, bringing a fresh perspective to the celebration of Eucharist. We are very blessed to have them in our community.

After Fr Jose left our parish at the end of September, we needed to find supply priests for our Eucharistic celebrations. Fortunately the Dominican Fathers, Father Peter O'Rourke and Father Paul Castelly were willing to

support our parish for as long as necessary, and we are extremely grateful for that support. They were embraced in typical Holy Spirit fashion, with many parishioners enjoying the homilies, chats and companionship offered by each of the priests providing supply for us. Our Pastoral Associate, Jacinta Bibby, was fundamental in coordinating the supply roster and liaising with the Archdiocese, priests and parish. Her knowledge, experience and professionalism allowed her to steer us through this time with minimal disruption to our normal routines. Thank you Jacinta!

We were thrilled when advised that Fr Arsenio Tuazon had been appointed as our Parish Priest, and looked forward to celebrating the Holy Week and Easter ceremonies with him. However, with the COVID19 pandemic hitting the world so severely, our lives changed profoundly. Fr Arsenio was unable to be welcomed to the parish and was unable to celebrate any of these liturgies, which was a very strange experience for all. Watching these Masses on TV or a computer screen was just not the same. Our Good Friday coordinator of many years, Lawry Ceconello, had advised us that he was moving out of the parish, and was planning the big "hand over" to Sue Wallace and Fiona Massarotti this year, but again, everything was put on hold due to COVID 19. Lawry will be handing over the responsibility of Good Friday soon, so we thank him, and Frances, for the many years of dedicated service to our Parish, not only to liturgy, but in so many other facets of our parish life as well.

Our weekday and weekend Masses have resumed, although to limited numbers. Once again, our thanks to Jacinta for managing the booking & contact tracing details for these masses. It has been wonderful to see parishioners back together celebrating Eucharist, of course with social distancing and hygiene requirements be adhered to! A few of our Masses have been recorded and made available through the parish website. Thanks to Peter Philp for facilitating the recording and Mike O'Leary for managing the website. We are left to ponder just how our celebrations will look going forward. In a way, the limited numbers are good, as Fr Arsenio is meeting just a few parishioners at a time, rather than 100 or so "en masse"! However, we do look forward to the time when we can officially welcome Father to our parish with a suitable Eucharistic celebration.

We don't really know what the future will bring, but we know that Liturgy preparation will be essential as we move forward. To that end, we are constantly looking for new members to join the Liturgy Team. If anyone would like to become involved, please contact the Parish Office for more details.

*Jenny Philp
Holy Spirit Liturgy Team*

CHOIR

The Choir ended 2019 on a high, with a very beautiful Midnight Mass. We introduced New Mass Parts during 2019 and the congregation have embraced them and joined in singing them well.

The Choir is a very committed group of people who attend weekly practices all year round, and 2020 has not been any different.

We were back in the swing of things after Christmas and getting ready for Easter. Then of course everything went on hold due to the COVID 19 pandemic, but not our Choir.

Since late March we have been meeting weekly on Zoom, and singing the Hymns appropriate to the week's readings. We went through a lot of the lovely Easter and Pentecost Hymns. Some weeks we have a favourite hymn theme. This has been a great way to stay together while apart.

A while ago Bill Buttler came up with the idea of a Virtual Choir Project. The Choir took this on and the result is a fantastic rendition of "Abide O Spirit", a beautiful hymn by David Haas. You can look and listen to this production on the Parish Web site under YouTube. Bill put in many hours to mix and edit this production and the end result is something he and the Choir can be proud of. This ended up being another great bonding experience for the choir.

We do look forward to actually singing together in person one day but until it is safe to do so we will continue to enjoy our virtual choir practices.

New choir members still very welcome.

*Maree Buttler and Marilyn Grant
Choir Leaders*

BODY OF CHRIST PRAYER COMMUNITY

No report received.

ROSARY GROUP/PRAYER FOR PRIESTS

When not in lockdown, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament is held on Wednesday nights from 7.00 pm to 8.00 pm with rosary prayed from 7.30 pm till 8.00 pm. We are now in our 29th year. During Lent, The Stations of the Cross are included. Rosary/Divine Mercy of Chaplet is recited at 9.30 am on Friday mornings.

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

Marian Movement of Prayers for Priests - On Saturday mornings at 10 am we come together to pray for Priests. There are usually about 12-14 and includes people who come each week from Our Lady's Parish in 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.

Lyn Thwaites

FAITH AND SPIRITUALITY

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION

Held Tuesday mornings during school terms from 9.15-10.00 am and has been running continuously for eight years. An unusual fact is we had our first meeting on 19th March 2012 and because of COVID we had our last meeting on 17th March 2020. Up until that time we usually had between 4-5 attendees to share in 45 minutes of Christian Meditation. Our usual format was listening to the previous Sunday Gospel Reading and in the presence of exposed Eucharist we would begin our meditation. A few months prior to suspending our weekly meetings, our former Parish Priest, Father Jose, gave us permission to receive the Eucharist as part of our time spent with the Lord. As this report is being compiled we are still in lockdown mode waiting for official permission to resume our meetings.

Len Moore, Facilitator.

SUNDAY HOME COMMUNION MINISTRY

The Sunday Home Communion Ministry had resignations from Denise and David Carl after their January service and gained Jocelyn D'Souza and Marita North-Combes whose service hasn't started due to everything being suspended. As the Ministry deals with aged and frail people, even when other services begin to resume, there is a need to be extra cautious so that Covid-19 is not spread to our volunteers or those we serve. Ada Volombello took the initiative to contact nursing homes and advise them of the availability of Mass online. Thank you Ada.

Helen Scorgie, Coordinator.

MONDAY EVENING MEDITATION

No report received.

HIGH SPIRITS

No report received.

BAPTISM PREPARATION GROUP

No report received.

RCIA

The RCIA journey in 2019 started much like many other RCIA journeys had started in previous years. The RCIA team, made up of Tina & Lawry, and 2 catechumens, Andrew Mitchell and Sam Philp, who, from the outset, came across as extremely dedicated, focused and inquiring individuals, as we had seen in previous years' program.

The weekly meetings started off, as normal, just after the Holy Spirit fete, and continued on through to the Christmas season, when the mandatory pause was enacted. Back in February of 2020 with the weekly meetings, the formation was really going along quite smoothly and effectively. We had the customary presentation of the catechumens at the cathedral with archbishop Peter Comensoli, although Andrew was unable to attend, as he had booked an overseas trip some time back, and this trip unfortunately coincided with the visit to the cathedral.

Of course, at around this time (mid March) things started to go very much awry with the COVID 19 situation, and our weekly face to face meetings could no longer take place.

To the guys credit, we agreed to continue our weekly gatherings in a virtual sense, via the Blue Jeans platform. In fact, it was Sam who set this up for us technically and made sure everything was working. So our journey was only partially derailed by the pandemic. The 2 catechumens still maintained their interest and focus, when they could have easily said, let's stop and maybe start at a later date – they actively chose to continue.

Further challenges were thrown our way, when no Easter gatherings were allowed – a time that would have seen these 2 catechumens enter the Catholic faith on Easter Saturday.

The formation continued on after the Easter period, until the completion of the program in late May - we use the book 'At Home With God's People' as the guideline for the program.

After a fair bit of discussion and investigation, we now have a date of 18th July for the reception of Andrew and Sam into the Catholic Faith.

Leaders: Lawrence Cecconello & Tina Toomey

Alpha 2020@Holy Spirit Parish

February to July 2020



Alpha 2020@Holy Spirit was quite different to previous years.

In February, two sessions were held as a "Come and See" introduction to Alpha – Wednesday evening and Friday afternoon. From this, seven guests registered to continue the Alpha program at Holy Spirit Parish. The team consisted of 18 people, acting as hosts and helpers, task force members and catering support. Wednesday evenings included a meal, video talk and discussion in small groups. Philippa Higgins co-ordinated the catering and several of those who had participated in the 2019 Alpha helped with food preparation and serving. Friday afternoons included afternoon tea, video talk and discussion. We had six weekly sessions at these two times. The weekend retreat had been booked and planned at Pallotti College, Milgrove for the weekend of 21st /22nd March. And then COVID-19 forced us to rethink....

It has been quite challenging to move the Alpha course online. We had a break for a few weeks, which included Easter and School Holidays. Then started sessions again using Zoom. After several Wednesday evenings we overcame most of the technical difficulties. The first week (15th April) we simply joined a Zoom meeting to catch up. It was great to see everyone's faces and hear their news. Over the following weeks, we started with 15

minutes catch up then watched the Alpha film together. Using the breakout rooms in Zoom, we were able to form smaller discussion groups and continue the Alpha Journey. We completed the 11 weekly sessions for Alpha and then did the sessions that would normally be held on the Weekend retreat. In this way we completed the whole course by June 10th, just after the Feast of Pentecost – our Parish Feast Day.

The feedback at the end was positive, including the Zoom sessions. People said they had made new friends, it had strengthened their faith, and they felt more loved. Clearly we couldn't share a meal or have a cuppa together, but by keeping connected via Zoom, we have boosted our sense of the faith community to which we belong. One person commented: *I thought it was a great way to stay connected in these difficult times.*

Holy Spirit Parish also hosted an Alpha training session conducted by Alpha co-ordinator Lorraine McCarthy, with Philippa and Cliff Fielding on Saturday 15th February. Approximately 25 people attended the training from six different parishes. Eight team members from Holy Spirit Parish were able to attend this training day. Thank you to Kerry McGowan for opening up the venue of St Anne's School hall and supporting us on the day.

What next? – There will be an Alpha Celebration evening on July 22nd at 7:30pm, when those who have just completed Alpha will be able to share their experience with others who are interested in finding out more about Alpha@Holy Spirit. We have six people from St Joseph's Malvern Parish who are going to join us this night. The evening has been advertised on the Website and in the Word. Anyone interested can register and will be sent a link to join via Zoom. The Co-ordinators are currently discussing with Fr Arsenio about the possibility of establishing small faith discussion groups in the Parish as a follow on from Alpha.

Thank you to everyone who has continued to keep Alpha@Holy Spirit in their prayers. Thank you to all the team members and supporters who kept us going week by week.

Blessings to all,

Maryann, Michael and Kerry (Alpha @ Holy Spirit Co-ordinators)

SERVICE AND OUTREACH

EVERGREENS

Prior to the Corona Virus restrictions, the Evergreen activities continued as normal with monthly Mass and meeting. Social activities by way of Bingo and Morning Melody programs including lunch, fete involvement and the ever popular Christmas party at the Dorset Hotel. Since the restrictions however, we have offered support by keeping in touch by regular phone calls, cards, flowers et. Recognising birthdays, Easter, Mother's Day and distributing the Spirit magazine which was welcomed by all. However, all are looking forward to the "new normal" when the Virus is under control and in the meantime are doing the best they can.

Jean Smith
Support Group Member

SPIRIT MAGAZINE

The Spirit Magazine has now been published regularly for thirty-five years, and continues to be well received within our parish, and the broader community with, initially posted copies, and in recent years emails with PDF copies attached or a link to the website. I believe the mailing list is now down to perhaps one, and the external email notification of approximately 80 -100 addresses throughout Victoria, interstate and often overseas. The Spirit was initiated primarily as a tool to create and enhance a sense of belonging to community at all levels. To keep in touch with those who could not physically get to mass regularly, and those who, for whatever reason chose not to be physically involved. The Spirit was a "door" to those non-attendees and the curious, showing they always belonged and were welcome at any time, and also as a tool to welcome a much broader community to our Fete. Former parishioners love getting the Spirit as a means of staying in touch with a special community and many return year after year for the Fete.

The printed magazine format was, and has always been a deliberate means of getting the magazine into homes where they could be noticed/picked up

by family and visitors who just may find something in the magazine of comfort, or inject a curiosity to learn more.

Whilst the world has largely turned to digital, the printed magazine is surviving in pockets of community interest, as referenced in a recent edition of the ABC Program The Mix, where it highlighted several specific "Community interest" print magazines that are thriving largely on a young audience. Cost of print, however is the issue for products such as The Spirit.

Financials -

Financial Year 2019-2020 Spirit Magazine Accounts –

Advertising Revenue	\$2090.00	
Printing Costs		\$7151.54
Donation Costs June edition	\$ 819.50	
Total-	\$2909.50	\$7154.54
Cost to Parish 2019 -2020 Year	<u>\$4245.04</u>	

Pre Covid-19 (March 2020) we published quarterly with a print run of 700 copies per issue at a cost of \$2110.68 per issue. Generally we receive around 40 – 50 positive written responses of appreciation for each edition, and numerous verbal expressions.

Post Covid-19 The June edition was published with a print run, initially of only 50 copies with a further 20 copies subsequently being required. Jean Smith organized distribution throughout the Evergreen community and several other parishioners paid for the extra print copies and distributed them to friends and family. (It is worth noting that these friends and family are generally fete attendees and contribute largely to the Vinnies Christmas Hamper appeal.)

Distribution online was via emails with PDF copies attached or with the link to Spirit Magazine on the Parish website. There were many calls, emails etc asking about print copies. Generally from the older demographic, however surprisingly, quite a number of those aged in the 30 -50 group said they preferred to read The Spirit in print.

SPIRIT EXTRA - The idea behind producing a smaller fortnightly online publication was simply as a means for connecting people through the initial phrase of Covid-19 lockdown. Happening so quickly it tended to leave people feeling alienated, particularly from their parish community, afraid and for some who were not used to finding

entertainment through electronic /digital means, at a loss to know how to fill their time. Thanks to Michael O’Leary who formatted and uploaded the content, we subsequently produced seven editions up to 30 June 2020. Positive written responses were received for each edition from between 40 – 51% of the email distribution list of 108. Later editions have been additionally distributed through the parish email list. Whilst this has been achieved in exceptional times, for it to remain viable long-term is doubtful given the time required to put it together, format and upload.

The Future - Does The Spirit magazine have a future?

Realistically, I think we can expect a drop in our advertising revenue as business struggles, some areas more than others. The parish is struggling with financial pressures that I cannot see abating in the foreseeable future. In an ideal world, I believe we could cut back the print copies of The Spirit to 200 - 300 to be distributed through weekend masses (when/if) they return, those on the Home Communion list/ Vinnies clients, and the current informal delivery by parishioners to family and friends.

Distribution through the Holy Spirit school online, as opposed to print, as I believe this community is familiar with and would prefer receiving The Spirit online given the time constraints they usually face.

It is not feasible to allocate the formatting of The Spirit to a current volunteer, as the hours required would be too onerous. Printing remains the lesser cost of production.

Summary

We are living through a period of great change, frightening though this may be it is necessary and ultimately will lead to changes that possibly could/should have been made, but were postponed because of the comfort of familiarity. Personally I believe The Spirit is a worthwhile tool to help us to keep in touch with those who have contributed a lifeline of dedication to Holy Spirit parish and the “lost” sheep who we should never abandon, as well as all it’s other benefits to community. (Informing, creating a sense of belonging, and awareness).

However, the parish community now has to decide if they wish to see The Spirit magazine continue, and if so, how we are to finance the cost.

Thank you all for your support throughout the year.

Helen Konynenburg, Editor

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Our current membership stands at 22.

Assistance provided over last 12 months :

26 Fruit & Vegetable runs delivering fresh produce to approx. 24 families

283 home visits providing supermarket vouchers, bags of non perishable food, paying utility bills, rental assistance ,educational assistance

Income:

Christmas & Winter Appeals \$ 7,814

General income (donations ,poor box) \$10,728 .

Expenditure:

Food Vouchers \$23,355

Fruit & Vegetables \$13,761

Education \$3,472

Utilities \$3,288

Up until March 16 ,we met weekly on a Monday evening which was our last meeting at the Parish House.

The corona virus has had an immediate and great impact on how we provide assistance to our community clients.

We receive no government financial assistance and rely on our Vinnies shop revenue, Winter & Christmas Appeals & donations.

Until recently, 50% of our shops were closed and not accepting donated goods or collecting furniture. Revenue from our shops Victoria wide dropped 80%. Our Ringwood shop remained open(Burnt Bridge shop closed) Monthly revenue averages \$15,000,but for the months March & April dropped to a net \$39.00 after some large expenses were incurred. All shops are now open & receiving donated goods.

We are the only charity that does home visits, but we have had to imposed new procedures for safety reasons for all parties. In a lot of cases ,the

home visit is just as important to the client as the assistance provided as we provide the only social contact.

After phone contact with the client requesting assistance, we explain we cannot enter the home and will meet at the front door.

Usually we provide Coles supermarket vouchers to the values of \$50 to \$100. With the reduction in local funds, we are providing bags of good quality non-perishable food plus a \$20 Coles voucher to buy fresh food. Visits have reduced lately as a lot of our clients are receiving the extra \$550 Centrelink supplement which will cease in September.

We were successful in securing a \$5000 grant from Maroondah Council. Last December we delivered 99 Christmas hampers plus 300 toys to struggling families provided by parishioners of Holy Spirit & St. Anne's.

I wish to thank our wonderful Parish community for your ongoing generous support to enable us to continue providing assistance to the poor and disadvantaged in our community.

Kevin O'Callaghan
President

GRIEF AND LOSS SUPPORT MINISTRY

The Ministry continued the practice of sending a letter of condolence and support to those parishioners who were recently bereaved. Another contact is made at the time of the anniversary of the death of their loved one when a card is sent.

I have decided to resign from this position after 20 years in the Ministry and 15 years coordinating. I feel it is time for a change. I have spoken to all members of my decision. They have been part of the Ministry for many years and some of them are foundation members (1995).

Robin Walsh
Coordinator

OTHER REPORTS

PASTORAL CARE DURING LOCKDOWN

I have been asked to write a report and also explain what my role is here at Holy Spirit. During the past year my role as Pastoral Associate has been quite unique.

With Fr Jose leaving, there were many new challenges, so it was sleeves up and let's go. The parish/school community and their needs are first and foremost.

A chat with the Vicar General, Joe Caddy, and our regional Bishop, Monsignor Ireland, quickly helped to outline what needed to be done. The main priority was to ensure all celebrations of the Eucharist took place, along with the needs of the people: visits to hospitals, nursing homes, prayer and communion visits, home visits, school and parish sacraments, children's liturgy, funerals, baptisms, reconciliation and RCIA, Alpha, week day mass for the parish, school masses and celebrations, weekend masses. This all happened and I had a great network of people to work with and they all know who they are. (Thankyou). During this time we had Christmas and all the special celebrations and liturgies, end of year school celebrations and liturgies, the support from Fr Martin Wallace OP and Fr Peter O'Rourke and Fr Paul Castley was wonderful together with all our planning, we didn't miss a beat.

During this time our Parish fete extravaganza took place with amazing team work, energy and results for both our parish and school communities it was great to be a part of and witness such team work.

A new school year begins, excited families and children, a buzz around our RCIA and new Alpha program, Lenten reflection group being planned and the news a new Parish Priest was not far away. 2020 was looking fantastic.

Then COVID-19 – oh my how things can change! Our new PP was announced with a start date 1st April 2020. No it wasn't an April fool's joke! We were blessed by the arrival of Fr Arsenio, however, we then

went straight into lockdown so our parishioners did not get to meet him. We started thinking of ways to build a relationship during this strange time.

When we were able to come together in small groups for Holy Eucharist, what would this look like? We needed to have a phone booking system and maintain a “fair for all” approach to attend. I feel we did our best with this as not too many people had to go on a waiting list. We needed to gather names and numbers for contact tracing, maintain 1.5m social distancing, along with a thorough clean after each celebration. Our week day masses were in the Chapel with 15 people our weekend masses in the Church with 20 people, along with those helping with the parts of the mass. Thank you to all those people.

Other ways in which we are trying to keep in touch with parishioners are many and varied. Each week we send a parish bulk email with general information, the Word and a weekly reflection written by Fr Arsenio. Helen has been producing the Mini Spirit Magazine, “Spirit Extra”, which is emailed and also available on our website. We have done some mail outs to those who may not have or use email. The Evergreens have been sending Birthday Cards, flowers and making calls. The Choir meets regularly on “Zoom” and they have produced a video clip of “Abide O Spirit” – please check it out on our website. Other Meetings and catch ups via “Zoom” have been taking place. Parishioners have kept me in the loop with people to call, or information for Fr Arsenio to call and anoint those in need. We have also been in contact with school families via the Dojo app with parish news and information. Peter Philp has been our videographer for a couple of special masses and with Michael O’Leary’s technical expertise, they are now up on our website via YouTube for you to view. Michael has been keeping our website up to date along with ensuring we have the best server and support people to maintain this for all of us – Big Thank You to Michael.

So as you can see my role has been, and is very different, ensuring things happen and continue to happen during this strange time of lockdown. I look forward to the many and varied opportunities in the future. Many thanks Fr Arsenio and to all the Parish Staff you are amazing!

Jacinta Bibby, Pastoral Associate.

Parish website Report

Infrastructure changes

- None

Changes

There have been no major changes to the parish web site in the past year. However, a number of changes in Catholic Archdiocese Melbourne regarded staff reductions have resulted in a few outages.

The closure of Churches (effective 18/03/2020) have led to an increase in web traffic since that date.

From a content perspective, in the last 12 months the following new pages have been added or changes made to the Parish Website:

- Parish Group Changes
 - Divine Mercy Sunday Celebration - added
- Holy Spirit YouTube Channel
 - No changes
- Other Content
 - News and Events section:
 - Laudato Si Seminar
 - Alpha 2020A
 - Holy Spirit Parish Online - How we stay connected (Parish Information regarding COVID-19)
 - Fr. Arsenio Introduction
 - High Court Decision re. George Pell
 - Walk With Me – Gary Pinto, Caritas
 - Spirit Extra!

Usage - Summary

Key points are as follows:

- Web site usage was up around 20% on last year.
- YouTube video usage continues to decline as a result of lack of new content.
- The Word and Spirit Magazine continue to be sought and downloads have increased by 33 and 22 percent respectively (note one download is assumed for each page view)

- The new the first three editions of the Spirit Extra have been downloaded 121 times in total.
- Bear in mind that Helen Konynenburg emails the Spirit Magazine as an attachment to around 110 parishioners and friends so the number in this report are additional to that. The two editions of the Spirit Extra was emailed as a link, the third was as a PDF.

Document	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
The Word / week	15	35	55	49	66
Spirit Magazine / quarter	53	195	156	168	205

- Page View counts of the most popular pages

	Year	The-Word-Newsletter	Mass-Times/Weekly-Services	Our-Parish/Parish-Calendar	The-Spirit-Magazine	Spirit Extra	
	01/05/15 - 30/04/16	15/16	798	941	381	211	
	01/05/16 - 30/04/17	16/17	1,820	1,830	682	780	
	01/05/17 - 30/04/18	17/18	2,863	1,336	713	624	
	01/05/18 - 30/04/19	18/19	2,569	1,217	660	672	
	01/05/19 - 30/04/20	19/20	3,418	1,395	556	819	
		Trend					

For more information refer to the parish web site:
www.holyspiritparish.org.au/Our-Parish/Parish-Group-Reports

Michael O'Leary
 Assistant to Holy Spirit Parish

School Report

A feature of the 2019 year was the completion of a Master Plan for our site. A group of parishioners and school staff oversaw a consultation process that will set us on a path to completing a plan for what is needed to school as well as looking for shared resources that the parish may benefit from.

Enrolments sat at a healthy 454 again which in turn meant a settled staffing allocation. We continued with three prep classes and a further fifteen classes of composite grades. Student wellbeing continued as a focus throughout the year and a rebranding of student behaviour acronym STAR a major part of this. Another highlight in the year was the Confirmation of our students at St Patrick's Cathedral.

Our P&F continued to provide community building opportunities as well as providing fund raising for school facilities. This work under Sharon Wolff's guidance was greatly appreciated. Kylie Papadopoulos continued as school board chair till the AGM and led this group magnificently. Their focus was on understanding the part the board play in school life (assisting with direction setting) and how best this can be provided (via the SIP and AAP). We are now fortunate to have Andrew Conway as chair of the board.

The opportunities for staff to be involved in different aspects of school life were plentiful. A speech pathologist was employed to train staff to deliver social skills programs, others had the opportunity to form a team to deal with NCCD (Nationally Consistent Collection of Data) funding and decisions and the biannual Art Show was also conducted. This was an outstanding success based on the fact that for the first time the students were able to participate as well.

These all added up to some of what was yet again a busy and productive year. I would like to thank our staff, parents and students who make our school what it is. To serve as principal is a privilege and I have appreciated being able to work closely with Lauren Witnish and Melinda Buscema in particular. If our school runs as smooth as silk it is because of the efforts of these people along with Errin Begley, Melissa Barrett and Donna Gagnon who continue to run our administration to ensure that we

meet all compliance requirements whilst making all feel welcome. I am most grateful.

Duncan Arendse, Principal.

FINANCES

Commentary on 2019 Financial Performance.

2019 was another year of sliding mass attendances and income. Average mass attendees dropped to 280 in counts taken in May and September and the Stewardship Financial Donations dropped a further \$13,800.

Fortunately a good fete resulted in an increase in fete income of \$4,600 for the parish. The Fete Committee has innovated with several new ventures including extending the finishing time to 8pm. We are lucky to have such an effective team. Overall parish income dropped by \$10,500 over 2018. Expenses overall remained constant with an increase of only \$1,000 over 2018. Looking more closely however the 2019 insurance payment of \$11,700 wasn't paid until January so the real expenses for 2019 should have shown an increase of \$12,700. General administration costs rose by \$9,000 with replacement of one laptop, a TV for the Chapel and increases in utility costs and salaries. Pastoral expenses increased by \$6,000 with a significant expense on the purchase of a new baptismal font and Easter candle holder for \$3,000.

The net effect for 2019 was a loss of \$4,000. However considering the late payment of the insurance premium the loss could be considered as \$16,000. Obviously this is a serious concern for the parish and needs to be addressed in 2020. Unfortunately the mayhem introduced by the Covid19 restrictions on parish services make this objective very difficult to address.

Commentary on 2020 Financial Performance and Expectation.

April 2020 was the first full month of operation in the first Covid19 lockdown period. Income in April was \$10,000, a reduction of 33%. This qualifies us for the ATO cash boost which should net the Parish approximately \$15,000. Fortunately a significant Thanksgiving income is still donated via the Direct Debit facility and we retain most of our donors. We also qualify for the Job Keeper payments which saves most of our salary payments from April to September. The Archdiocese has also reduced their levy reducing expenses by \$6,000. The labour cost for the extra cleaning needed to comply with Covid19 restrictions is covered by the Job Keeper payments. Finally it is expected that the fete as we know it will not run this year. The fete committee is investigating the possibility of running a virtual or online fete obviously with restricted products for sale. We wait to see what they propose. Taking all of these factors into account our budget for 2020 will see a loss for the Parish of \$2,000. The Holy Spirit must be with us and will need to remain so as the budget does include significant risks including achieving a return to full Thanksgiving levels from October.

*Silvio Volombello – Chairperson,
Parish Finance Committee.*