

*HOLY SPIRIT PARISH
RINGWOOD NORTH*

*ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING*

9TH MAY 2013

*PARISH
GROUP
REPORTS*

COMMUNITY AND HOSPITALITY

HOLY SPIRIT NETBALL CLUB

HSNC is the largest club at Melbourne East Netball Association (MENA). We have 213 registered players which make up our 4 U9, 4U11, 6U13, 5U15 and 6 open teams.

This is my first year of Presidency, taking over from John Ampt. I would like to acknowledge and thank John for all of his hard work over his many years on the committee. One of the most pleasing parts of being involved in this club is that girls from Holy Spirit continue to maintain primary school friendships through netball once they leave primary school. Being such a large club, girls have the opportunity to coach and umpire and give back to the club. Our netta program at grade 1 and 2 enables our club to continue to grow and provide girls with the chance to play a team sport, keep fit and stay socially connected. Special thanks to my dedicated committee- their support and hard work enable players to take the court each week.

Go Spirits!!
Karen Woods, President.

LITTLE SPIRITS PLAYGROUP (Tuesdays 8.45-10.30am)

We meet every Tuesday. Currently we are at full capacity with 9 mothers, 1 Dad and 15 children that attend each week. The children have an enjoyable time each week and it is a great chance for the mothers at the school to meet each other. We do a different art/craft activity each week, followed by snack time, then outside with our bubble machine and kids run around. After that we head back inside for Story time and show and tell to finish off. Each term we go on a excursion outside of the school, either a park, swimming centre, or Indoor Play centre. We have an annual Christmas dinner for the Mums; and a break up excursion for the kids. The past 2 years we have been to Chesterfield Farm.

Cath Stone, Co-ordinator.

PARISH DINNERS

Parish Dinners have been held for over 15 years. Father Mogg began these small weekly gatherings held in The Community House made up of about 7 parishioner's/ school parents. These days myself and Megan Whitworth organise and attend each dinner. Peter Camilleri, Father Joe and Jo Towler also attend and we hold 6-8 a year with up to 30 people per dinner.

Our aim is to invite parents from each year level to share an evening with us in The Mary Bresnan Room, this enables them to share a meal in an informal setting and get to know Father Joe (current Parish Priest), Peter, Jo and each other. In particular this is a great opportunity for dads to meet and socialise as they don't always get the chance to do so.

Our vision is to enable the school and parish community to unite and for people to familiarise themselves with the Parish environment so they know they are welcome and to be a part of our special community and continue its growth.

The meal is provided by the parents who attend, on a volunteer basis, with the parents from the previous dinner supplying food for the next one. On the night they are given the opportunity to introduce themselves and share reasons for what brought them to our Parish/School and a brief description of their families.

Our achievements over the years include:

- Continued personal involvement by the parents in providing food and assistance at the dinners.
- Contact with the leaders of the School and Parish.
- To keep these dinners happening into the future.

and more recently:

- To expand and continue to promote The Holy Spirit Parish and School Community.
- Make parents aware of the various ways they can contribute to the School and Parish as volunteers.

Marisa Smeed & Megan Whitworth

LITURGY AND CELEBRATION

LITURGY GROUP

We, the liturgy group have had another busy year. Some attended the workshops for Advent/Christmas and Lent/Easter provided by the Archdiocese.

The Advent colours for the sanctuary and the lovely blue Altar cloth and accessories were provided by members of our group.

We spend quite a few Saturday mornings decorating our worship space. This is an enjoyable task and very rewarding. However our numbers have dropped since the last AGM and we really are too old to climb ladders. Maybe this could be put to council to recruit more members. We need some fresh ideas.

Marilyn Grant on behalf of the Liturgy Committee.

CHOIR

Over the last 12 months choir numbers have basically remained unchanged averaging 12 at most masses. This small group of Parishioners has knitted very tightly together in sound and friendship. Their commitment and enthusiasm has enabled us to enhance the liturgies by leading the congregation in song. Besides practicing every Thursday; at Easter and Christmas (our major commitments) we have extra practices as well.

We are still hoping to get new members to increase our numbers and sound. Not many people are willing or able to commit to that one day a week practice. We are continually looking out for new music to increase our repertoire and further enhance the worship space at masses.

Maree Buttler and Marilyn Grant.

ROSARY GROUP/PRAYER FOR PRIESTS

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 7.30 pm to 8.30 pm with rosary prayed from 7.30 pm till 8.00 pm. We are now in our 22nd year and have a core group of 14 or so but seldom have more than 10 people on any given night. During Lent we include The Stations of the Cross. This usually attracts a few extra people.

First Saturday Devotion

This has been going since 1995 in our parish. 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.

The Cenacle of Prayer for Priests

This Cenacle of Prayer for Priests takes place on all other Saturday mornings after the 9.30am mass and is led by Lyn Thwaites. The rosary and a few other prayers are prayed including making an Act of Consecration to The Immaculate Heart of Mary. We pray for The Holy Father, all cardinals bishops and priests including Fr. Joseph and all the priests of the Deanery. We conclude with a reading of one of the locutions given by Our Lady to Fr. Stefano Gobbi. These were given for a period of almost 25 years from July, 1973 to 31 December, 1997.

There is not much to report. The various group numbers have neither grown nor declined. But when someone can no longer attend for whatever reason Our Lady always sends someone else to take their place.

Carmel Hill

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Children's Liturgy has continued to provide an opportunity for pre-school and primary aged children to participate in a version of the gospel that targets their understanding. This includes meditation, introductory prayer, gospel reading & discussion, their own prayers of the faithful and ends with an activity. The children and their leaders return to mass at the time of the Offertory procession.

Over the last year Children's Liturgy was successfully introduced for 6pm mass on Saturday nights and continued as part of 10.30am mass on Sundays. Twenty dedicated volunteers are our current leaders and at least 2 are rostered on at each mass during school terms. Nine new leaders have joined over the last year to meet the demand across 2 masses each weekend.

Children attend from our parish school and also many other local schools in our area. The number participating varies greatly from 6-45 with an average of approximately 15. The class level masses during 2012 have attracted more children and new colourful activity sheets have been introduced from Term 2, 2013.

Sue Wallace, Co-ordinator.

FAITH AND SPIRITUALITY

FAITH DISCUSSION GROUP

The Holy Spirit Parish Scripture Group began in second term 1993 – 20 years ago. Fr Mogg was very supportive. And each successive priest has blessed the group and encouraged us. Fr Mogg provided a lot of guidance and advice in the early days.

For many years the focus was on reading the scripture in more depth and using commentaries to enlighten us. Then we found the discussion was wide ranging and decided using the term Faith Discussion Group more appropriate.

We have met fairly consistently on a Tuesday morning during school terms for all that time. Members of the group have helped with leading when I have been away. First term is usually the Lenten program and in the past couple of years we have continued reading the following Sunday's gospel and discussing it each week.

Over those 20 years a rough estimate is that 80 to 100 people have been to at least one session, most from within the parish but some from neighbouring parishes.

We would like to celebrate the gift this group have been to each other and the parish at a Sunday liturgy later this year.

Maryann Street

PARISH SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM **in partnership with Holy Spirit School**

Confirmation - May 26/27 2013 - 82 candidates
Eucharist - August 18/19 and 25/26 2012 - 72 children
Reconciliation - during October - 20 'High Spirits only' children
Change to Reception of Sacraments at Holy Spirit School as from 2013:
Sacrament of Reconciliation/Penance - Grace 3, Term 4
Sacrament of Eucharist/Holy Communion - Grade 4, Term 3
Sacrament of Confirmation - Grade 6, Term 2 (no change)

Mary Ryan, REC.

HIGH SPIRITS/RCIC

In the hope of engaging families more directly with the weekend faith community, last year saw the move from an after-school session for children only, to an RCIC model, parents and children together and following the same process and stages as the RCIA.

15 families participated (25 children) in this journey of initiation which culminated in reception into the Church on Easter Sunday at the 10.30am Mass. Together we celebrated 10 Baptisms, 20 Confirmations and 20 1st Eucharist! Feedback from participants via a recent survey of parents and children was very positive.

Children's Liturgy at the Saturday night 6pm mass/ Sunday 10.30 mass was an integral part of the RCIC.

Past High Spirits families were directed to attend children's liturgy on a regular basis and slot into the Parish Sacramental Program where appropriate. Many of these families have disconnected from regular parish life.

Children's mass and bible story books available at the door of the Church for children to use at any weekend mass were/are well received.

Mary Ryan, REC.

BAPTISM PREPARATION GROUP

The Holy Spirit Baptism Group has the privileged role in our Parish Community of welcoming families to our Parish at one of the most special times in a family's faith journey. Each month a member of our Baptism Team presents an information meeting to families that have contacted the Parish wishing to have their baby baptised at Holy Spirit. Each family is asked to book into and attend an information session as well as a Welcoming Ceremony prior to the date of their child's Baptism. Presentation of a video and informal discussion and relevant information and documentation is given to parents during our information session. Confirmation of their child's Baptism date is also attended to during the 1-1/2 hr session. Sessions are held in the Parish House at 7:30pm on the second Tuesday evening of the month, with the exception of October when the date is changed if it coincides with fete week. During the past 12 months we have welcomed and Baptised approx. 70-80 babies or young children into our Parish Community. Fees for Baptism have been increased this year to \$80 for families who are Parishioners and \$100 for non Parishioners. Father Joe and Father Frank attend to Baptisms which are conducted in the church for families expecting larger number of guests or when more than one family have requested the same date to have their child Baptised. The Chapel is also used for Baptisms upon request and for smaller ceremonies. Baptism Ceremonies are available to families every weekend of the year with exception to weekends when there are other significant Parish functions taking place. January is the only month where we do not take bookings for Baptisms, as Father Joe is on leave at this time. Our Parish is blessed with a small group of volunteers who offer their time, warmth and care to conduct our monthly Baptism meetings. Much appreciation and many thanks must go to our wonderful committee. Members for 2013 are as follows: Yvette Collins, Lisa Keedle, Ruth Smith, Janet Feher, Leanne Thompson (Baptism Group Coordinator). During this coming year there are a few small changes that could be made to improve our current meetings. Having some photos and perhaps some video footage of Baptism and Welcoming Ceremonies that take place at Holy Spirit may give a more personal touch. We all look forward to continuing to be part of this special ministry within the Holy Spirit Parish Community.

Leanne Thompson, Baptism Group Co-ordinator.

RCIA

Lesli, Robert, Paula, from Holy Spirit Parish and Lyn from St Anne's Parish, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, began an incredible journey beginning with contacting Fr. Joe or Tina, the Pastoral Associate. Members from both communities, Fr. Joe, Tina, Gloria, Lawry, Jocelyn, Anne-Marie and Jenny travelled with them on their journey. We met weekly at the Holy Spirit Parish House and from our text 'At Home with God's People' we became acquainted with the teachings of the Catholic Church. We also shared spontaneous and traditional prayers, video and scripture reflections. This journey was interspersed with many celebrations of faith-filled and moving rituals like the acceptance in the parish community and also in the wider community at St Patrick's Cathedral. There was also the Rite of Purification and Enlightenment. At the Easter Vigil they received the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist. It was great to see how many parishioners welcomed our new members. Now we are enjoying listening to the stories from other Parish groups where we are inspired by how they serve Christ. This has been an amazing experience for all of us on our journey of faith.

Jocelyn D'Souza.

SERVICE AND OUTREACH

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

We have 22 members and meet weekly .

We provided the following material assistance for the 12 months to 30/06/2012.

No. of cases 270 - 407 adults & 367 children

Fruit & Vegetable weekly runs 25 (av. 10 families per run)

A total of 417 households were assisted

Spent \$14,810 on supermarket food vouchers

\$7740 in donated food

We conduct the annual Winter Appeal where non perishable food, clothing & bedding is generously donated by parishioners & our local primary & secondary schools. Last December we delivered 77 Christmas hampers and toys Also we made up 10 baskets of food for a local rooming house for approx.. 12 residents. In conjunction with the hampers we provide cash for the families to purchase fresh food for their Christmas meals. In January we take up to 6 children of assisted families to the Kids' Summer Camp at Mt. Martha for a week. We rely totally on donations, fund raising & income from our Vinnies Shop to provide assistance. We receive no government financial at all.

Kevin O'Callaghan, President.

HOLY SPIRIT PARISH NEW WEBSITE

Re-launched 18/03/2013 <http://www.holyspiritparish.org.au/>

Development History

- Mid 2009
 - The idea for a revamped web site came originally from “Our Parish Past & Present” forum
- Mid 2010
 - The call for a new web site came again from “Spirit Search” Parish forum
- 03/2011
 - Following on from the prior forums the PPC moved to establish a new Parish web site.
 - Meanwhile, the then current web site was expanded whilst Parish House determines the parish's longer term requirements
 - From 05/2011: Word and Spirit Magazine loaded regularly to the web site by Parish House staff. Helpful for parishioners who can't get to mass on the weekend.
 - From 08/2011: 10 Group pages were added and later another four.
- 18/03/2013
 - Launch of the refreshed site

Issues

- Requires a technician to maintain. Should be maintainable by parish house staff at a minimum and ideally should allow page owners to maintain their pages, e.g. group leaders
- Insufficient structure and associated content - does not adequately convey the richness of our parish. Can't be easily extended.
- Doesn't compare well with most other parishes.
- Web sites are in many ways where people's first impressions of an organisation are made. Our web site was not doing our Parish justice.

Features

- Easy to use and maintain
- Lots of imagery that “shows off” our parish
- Consistent style and layout – re-branding of the Parish logo
- Relates well to our school web site



Michael O'Leary.

PASTORAL CARE

2012 was a busy year again in Pastoral Care with many families suffering challenges in their lives, especially with the loss of 18 parishioners from our community. Preparation of Funerals, spending time with bereaved families and execution of Requiem Mass is also a major part of the workload. Holy Spirit Parish is experiencing many parishioners reaching elderly years and being moved from homes into local Nursing Homes. There were weekly visits with Eucharist and monthly masses at Gracedale Nursing Home and mass being introduced at Cherry Tree Retirement Village in Croydon last year. Approx. 30 parishioners attend this mass each month and afterwards lunch is served and Father Joe and Tina both attend this enjoyable ministry. Many sick people at home has increased the workload as the Sunday Communion Roster is currently full, so I make home visits to over 5 others each week. I also make visits to those who are alone, sick and struggling with issues in their lives. Parishioners regularly drop into the Parish House for a place to go and talk as they may be uneasy with society or themselves or with relationships. Just being a listening ear is usually all that is needed, but if we can refer people to health and counselling resources we do so. Catholic Care is a resource that we recommend on a regular basis. A few families from Holy Spirit Community School suffered marriage and family breakdown during last year and they sometimes come to the Parish for assistance and support. We always drop everything at these times and spend as much time as needed to help make these people feel valued and loved.

Spiritual/religious issues are often part of a quest for a deeper meaning of life and understanding of self - time is spent with parishioners to help them journey through their times of doubt. Hospital visits also take up many hours of each week but the time invested in these visits is invaluable. This coming year I will be focussing on offering reflective programs for married couples and I hope that my time can be shared at Baptism meetings so that I can meet and get to know the new young people entering our parish. We need to meet together and work out ways we can start making changes in our parish so that we become attractive for young people to enable them to get more in touch with their spiritualism. People are really looking for God in their lives but many cannot relate to the Church these days. Let us all pray that Our Lord shows us the way to move forward in this fast changing world that we live in.

Tina Toomey, Pastoral Worker.

SCHOOL

On behalf of the school community of Holy Spirit Community School it is my pleasure to present the 2012 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 monthly Parish Pastoral Council reports I deliver.

Student Numbers

August census showed 466 students (305 families) were enrolled; this was slightly down from 2011 but we are still holding on to pleasing enrolments in spite of very strong competition from surrounding schools.

In 2012, as with previous years there were 18 classes:

3 x Prep

5 x 1/2

5 X 3 / 4

5 X 5/6

Staff

In 2012 Holy Spirit School employed 43 staff.

Teachers 18 full-time; 8 part-time, including Principal, Deputy Principal, Student Wellbeing, Reading Recovery, Literacy and Maths,

Office staff – 2 full-time – Bursar and secretary

Student Support staff – 10, all part-time.

Specialist teachers 4 of Italian, 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.

The Deputy Principal was released from the classroom. His role entailed 0.6 to complete DP duties, which are many, and varied, plus 0.2 ICT and 0.2 Sport.

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

Fees and Levies:

Fees: 95.2%

Levies: 90.00%

Follow up with non –paid fees continued in 2013.

School Improvements:

2012 was a relatively minor year for building works, when compared to previous years, with the major item being the construction of the Meditation Garden. We are enormously proud of this centre piece of our school. Renovation of the oval was successfully completed. Obviously continual maintenance works were done to the site.

Academic Results:

Data from sources such as NAPLAN show that Holy Spirit continues to provide a quality education. Our continual aim is to improve in all areas of the curriculum. Evidence of this striving for improvement was the school's involvement in ACU/CEOM CTLM project. Staff and students found this project to be most productive. Five professional development days were given over to this project plus fortnightly after school meetings and professional development sessions. We are also worked steadily in the ICT area with staff receiving ipads; a number of classes commenced blogging and all that goes with this exciting technology.

Religious Education continued to be central to all we did. Weekly 8:30 masses, whole school masses, sacramental programs, making the children aware of social justice issues, daily prayer and Christian meditation demonstrated our Catholic faith. We are proud to be a Catholic school.

Parent Committees

School Board, Parents & Friends, Maintenance, Uniform Shop, OSHC – are valued and are empowered to fulfil their roles. The School Board, P and F, OSHC meet at each month with Maintenance on a needs basis. The works these groups complete around the school are fantastic; they bring so much to our community.

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 (6 per year) organised by Marisa Smeed and Meagan Whitworth, continue to be an example of ways we strive to build community.

Our Vision inspires us to set an example in the wider community and make a connection to our constantly changing world. This is our challenge for the future.

Peter Camilleri, School Principal.

SCHOOL PARENTS AND FRIENDS

The Parents and Friends Committee is made up of Volunteer parents that meet on a monthly basis to discuss fundraising events, special days at school and plan activities for the school year. We fundraise for additional resources and equipment that will benefit the school. In 2012 we had 28 members on the Parents and Friends Committee.

During 2012 we:

- * Sold icy poles in Term 1 and Term 4 after school
- * We held free dress days for Toy Donations for Fete, Mystery Jars,

Gold coin donations

- * Sold Entertainment Books
- * Held raffles for Mothers day and Fathers day and ran Mothers day and Fathers day Stalls for the kids
- * We held a Horse racing night, Food days, assisted with the colouring in competition for the Fete
- * Held 2 Dads night, held a successful Chocolate drive as our main fundraiser
- * Organised morning tea for Spirit day, held a talk for parents on Childhood Anxiety, ran a Supporters café at our School sports, donated \$28,000 to the school towards the New Prep Area
- * ran 2 stalls at the Fete, cooked lunch for the teachers on World teachers day, assisted with the New prep parent dinner, Morning tea and finally our whole school end of Year BBQ that finished a very successful year for the Parents and Friends Committee who all enjoy being able to give back the school community which in turn benefits our children.

Belinda Semos, President.

FINANCES

1. Management Committee Actions - 2012
2. Financial Results - 2012
3. Thanksgiving Performance
4. 2013 Initiatives

Management Committee Actions - 2012

- Prep. for Parish Accounting System – PACS.
- Complete Thanksgiving Renewal program
 - 7% improvement in income.
- Complete Car park project
 - Landscaping – rocks, sleepers, planting – completed,
 - New cross - planning to approval stage.
- Improve Governance
 - Establish Rules for Community Centre Use,
 - Establish cost sharing arrangements for Com. Centre.
- Devise a plan for the Old Parish House building
 - NRCH Relocation project.
- Diversify Income and Reduce Costs
 - Invested half of available cash reserve into Term Deposit,
 - Reduced photocopying cost by 24%.

2012 Profit and Loss Statement - Income

• Thanksgiving Donations	\$199,700
• Fete	\$63,600
• Rent 114 Oban Rd	\$ 17,000
• Deanery Raffle	\$8,800
• Other (raffles, interest, other)	\$20,400
➤ Total Income	\$309,300
➤ (Note - 2011 Income \$304,100)	

2012 Profit and Loss Statement - Expenses

Pastoral

• Faith, Liturgy & Sacramental	\$59,600
• Parish House Open Centre	\$28,000
• Welfare, Grief & Loss	\$19,300
• Outreach	\$10,500

Other

• Light, power, administration	\$73,700
• Insurance	\$8,300
• Archdiocese Levies	\$24,100
• School Building Fund Cont.	\$55,600
• Property maintenance	\$15,700
➤ Total Expenses	\$294,700

(Note - 2011 Expenses \$296,200)

2012 Profit and Loss Statement

Recap

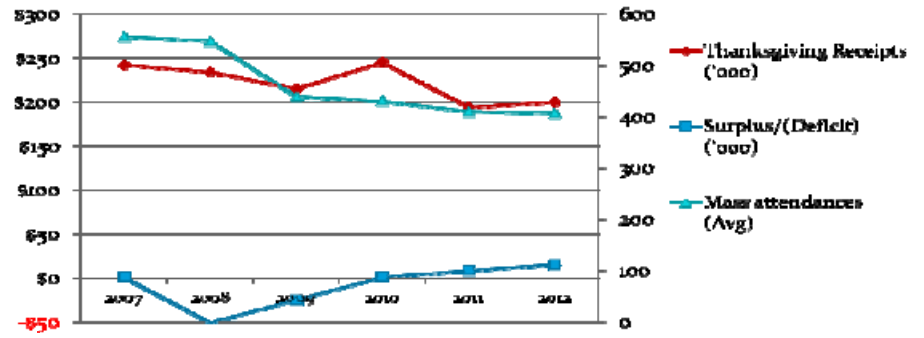
• Income	\$309,600
• Expense	\$294,800
• Net Operating Surplus	\$ 14,800

(Note - 2011 Net Operating Surplus **\$7,900**)

2012 Balance Sheet

• Cash	
• CDF, Term Deposit and bank	\$ 127,000
• Entitlements provision	\$ 23,100
• Fixed Assets	\$ 181,000
• Land	\$2,312,000
• Buildings	\$2,753,000
• Total Assets	\$5,386,100
• Total Liabilities	\$ 28,100
• Net Assets	\$5,358,000

Thanksgiving Performance



	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Thanksgiving Receipts ('000)	\$242	\$234	\$215	\$245	\$194	\$200
Surplus/(Deficit) ('000)	\$1	-\$51	-\$25	\$1	\$8	\$15
Mass attendances (Avg)	555	547	439	430	410	405

2013 Objectives

- Improve Income
 - Achieve income from NRCH lease.
- Reduce costs
 - Reduce operating costs – lighting,
 - Reduce cost of printing Spirit Mag.
- Improve governance
 - Complete PACS implementation,
 - Establish operating budgets,
 - Improve office and chapel security.
- Execute capital improvements
 - Complete new cross project,
 - Improve Audio in Com. Centre

Silvio Volombello, Finance Committee.

PPC PORTFOLIOS

Liturgy and Celebration

Over the past year we have continued to introduce a variety of ways to encourage all people, but especially families to participate and celebrate in our weekly liturgies. Since our last Annual General Meeting we have had several Grade Masses, combining 1/2, 3/4 and 5/6 children. We have had mixed success with these Masses but we will continue to encourage participation and involvement by the children and their families. Any ideas are most welcome.

Earlier this year we had our 1030am Prep Welcome Mass which is always very popular with our young families. A Sausage Sizzle is offered afterwards and its a great way to introduce these families to the wider Parish Family of Holy Spirit.

We also had a 6pm Sports Persons Mass which was postponed from last year. All Sports were represented and the children were encouraged to come in their Sports Uniforms. Pizza was served after Mass . We are hoping this will be an annual event and more children will become involved.

The Christmas and Easter Liturgies are always well received by our community which is a reflection on Father Joe, our dedicated Liturgy Committee and Choir. There are so many volunteers needed to help make these Liturgies meaningful and on behalf of the PPC I would like to say thank you to all those involved.

We would encourage any ideas to improve our weekly Liturgies. Please forward your thoughts, ideas and suggestions to Father Joe or the Parish Council eg. Music, themes, reflections, environment etc. We all have a part to play and together we can make our Liturgies more meaningful , inviting and a real celebration for all.

Marita North-Coombes, PPC.

