

HOLY SPIRIT PARISH RINGWOOD NORTH

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

26th MAY 2016
7.30 pm, Mary Bresnan Room

PARISH GROUP REPORTS

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

The role of the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) is to promote the Church's mission to live and communicate the love and values of Christ in our world. The PPC shares in the responsibility for the ongoing life and development of the faith community, working together with parishioners to provide support for their efforts to live as followers of Christ.

We are blessed by the fact that we have so many groups in our parish community – as evidenced in this annual report – that are involved in, and do tremendous work in the ongoing life and development of our community. The PPC is most appreciative of the efforts of the few, but tireless volunteers who have produced great outcomes in the past twelve months across all the portfolios of:

Community and Hospitality – events that provide opportunity for fellowship and often requires/enhanced with the provision of food, drinks and fun activities.

Liturgy and Celebration – relates to all things liturgical including the special occasions of Holy Week, Easter, Christmas, Pentecost, the Sacraments etc.

Faith and Witness – involves provision of opportunities and programs to support faith formation and growth.

Service and Outreach – incorporates those activities specifically aimed and designed to provide a service within or beyond the parish for the individual or common good.

We commend the reports of each group to you.

I would now like to make particular mention of activities that are out of the ordinary and therefore deserve some mention.

Social Activities – last year the Parish ran its first social events for some years in the form of a Trivia Night which was very well received. This was followed by a dance in February 2016 which will be repeated again in 2017. Thank you to the people who put those two fantastic activities together.

Carols – We are pleased to see the excellent outcome of the Carols with Spirit in December, put together by a group of school parents and others. What a terrific way of getting our community together to celebrate the birth of Christ.

I would like to acknowledge the excellent contribution of Peter Camilleri as Principal to the School and Parish and fermenting the relationship between the two. Peter played a significant role on the PPC and, I believe, never missed a meeting in his 17 years at the school. That is a feat in itself. We wish Peter all the best in his new endeavours.

I must also acknowledge that we need more people involved in our various Parish Groups.

PPC Members have been involved in the following activities during 2015:

- Continue with the implementation of the revised Pastoral Council Charter
- Assist with Foundation Year Welcome Mass
- Assist with preparation and running of Sportspersons mass
- Assist with Easter Liturgies and Pentecost Sunday as requested
- Winter warmer's Mass
- Assist with Fete activities as required
- Assist with Christmas Liturgies as required by Liturgy Team
- Continue to seek members
- Assist with implementation of the Stewardship Program
- Attended Year of Mercy Seminar conducted by Cathedral personnel and assist with the implementation within the Parish.

In closing, I would like to thank Father Joe, the PPC, Parish House Staff, Parish group personnel and Parishioners for their valued contributions throughout the year.

Stan Fisher, Chairperson.

COMMUNITY AND HOSPITALITY

LITTLE SPIRITS PLAYGROUP

Little Spirits Playgroup have been very busy in term 1 and so far in term 2. We have 13 children who has joined us this year, aged 4 years old to 6 months old.

During term 1 for five weeks we had extra 5 children who are in Prep that joined us due to having a day off on Wednesdays. As soon as the Preppies left us, the little spirits were busy creating lots of crafty things such as decorating love hearts for Valentine's Day, making four leaf clovers for St. Patrick's Day, making Easter baskets and lots of colouring and drawing. We also celebrated Easter off site at McAlpine reserve where we had a picnic and an Easter Egg hunt. The Little Spirits also celebrated Mother's Day where all the Mum's were spoilt with morning tea of cupcakes, macarons and pink lemonade. Our big kids (Sienna, Paige and Isla) treated the mum's with a hand massage and also a manicure. All the children also took home a little present for the mums which consisted of a photo frame with mum and child's photo, a tea bag and a little chocolate. It was a very memorable day for all and not to mention a very relaxing playgroup session. We have also been celebrating the birthdays every month for all the mums and children which gives the children something to look forward to every month for an excuse to eat some cupcakes.

Looking forward to many more fun activities with the Little Spirits children this year.

*Sharon Wolff,
Little Spirits Playgroup Co-ordinator.*

HOLY SPIRIT FETE – No report received.

PARISH DINNERS

The Parish Dinners have been ongoing now for over 20years and even though they are a small event on the calendar, they are regarded as a great opportunity to meet other class parents and to speak with Father Joe and our school principal. This is also a great introduction to our Parish.

For the passed 13 years and more recently with the help of Megan Whitworth, I have proudly organised these dinners. This year we have said goodbye to Peter who has always attended and supported these dinners on behalf of the school and say hallo to Sue as acting principal. Sue has also attended and supported us in Peter's absence. Together with Father Joe these dinners are held as a way to build our community spirit through the Parish and school.

Our aim is to share a meal with the prep class parents in an informal, friendly manner. We hold three of these dinners, one for each class in the Mary Bresnan room in the Parish House. We exchange stories, introduce ourselves and provide some information about our Parish and school and how we can support one another.

It is amazing how many people know each other prior to Holy Spirit and how much we have in common. Good friendships are also fostered and continue throughout the primary school years and beyond.

A 2-3 course dinner is provided by parents who have attended the previous dinner. It's like "paying it forward", but with a meal. This is one of the ways we can contribute to making our community so special.

Moving forward to next year, it will be sadly my last year at the school so hopefully somebody else will carry on with these dinners. I know that this is important to keeping the school and parish linked. My goal is to find my replacement and see the dinners continue into the future for others to enjoy.

Marisa Smeed, Coordinator.

PARK ORCHARDS/NORTH RINGWOOD PARISH JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB

The Park Orchards North Ringwood Parish Junior Football Club (The Sharks) has long had a close affiliation with Holy Spirit Primary School, with a large number of the school's children playing football at the club in their formative years.

2016 started with our annual pilgrimage to Kinglake to play our intra club practice matches and raise money for the Kinglake community. We have had a close relationship with Kinglake ever since the 2009 bushfires devastated that community. This year we raised another \$3,000 which went straight into the Kinglake junior football club and helped them to enter 3 teams in their competition.

Back home and the Sharks are also active in the local community. Our Colts players (Under 17's) were up early on ANZAC Day to attend the Ringwood Dawn Service and lay a wreath, an annual tradition which we continue to promote to ensure that our players develop an understanding of the sacrifices that others have made.

Our 2016 numbers are around 370 players across 18 teams, from Under 8 to Under 17 age groups. And in 2017 we will look to build on these strong numbers with the introduction of female teams across all age groups which will also promote diversity within our club.

*Andrew Mortlock, Secretary,
Sharks Football Club.*

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 in the Spring season 2014. We have 5 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 2016 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); Amelia Mills (Registrar); Louise Downes (Newsletter); Maddi McQuiggan (Umpires Coordinator); Michelle Thomas (Property Officer); Kylie Papadopolous (Uniform), Gabby Pragnaratne and Cath Stone (General Committee). We acknowledge the resignation of Kim Skien, Jo Charles and Amanda Bullock and thank them for their hard work over the years.

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, Sandra Schipano 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 Cath Stone coordinating this. 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 lucky enough to have 2 mums interested in coaching these new teams.

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
Holy Spirit Netball Club.*

SPIRIT MAGIC BASKETBALL CLUB

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

The recently commenced Winter season sees our membership numbers at just under 400 players – stabilising member numbers at comparable levels to this time last year – this after a couple of seasons of significant growth in the seasons prior to this.

The pressure these strong numbers have exerted on our training venue capacity, has been alleviated in the short term with the relatively recent acquisition of the Aquinas College gym on a Tuesday evening. Even further modest growth into the future, however, could soon see us back at 'full capacity', with a second evening at Aquinas being explored as a possibility to provide more relief.

The last 12 months has seen an unprecedented level of coaching clinic activity, as we sought to take advantage of some fully funded clinics on offer from Basketball Victoria. Two so called 'Community Level' coaching clinics, attended by some 15 coaches each, were run during the year, whilst another 8 coaches attended the higher aiming 'Club Level' clinic (this particular clinic funded by Spirit Magic). At the time of writing, a third 'Community Level' clinic has been planned, with further investment in coaching development considered a priority in the years ahead.

Other noteworthy events during the year included the holding of a 'Family Night' - an evening at the 'Big Slide' play centre in Knox, designed to appeal to all age groups & parents alike and attended by some 130 odd people. In addition, the Vinnies xmas hamper appeal was run once again – this time raising some \$700 to fund hampers and gifts for needy families in the area.

The challenges in the year(s) ahead will continue to be around how to deal with further club growth – in terms of attracting, keeping, and developing committee level & coaching volunteers, securing enough good quality training venue space, and generally coping with the complexities of a growing organisation.

*Leon McKenna, President,
Spirit Magic Basketball Club.*

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.

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 without you". Special thanks need to go to 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 have attended workshops run by the Archdiocese specifically to glean new ideas and resources which we can use in our Parish celebrations. Unfortunately, these workshops are few and far between these days, with more electronic media being used. Whilst these resources are useful, they do not allow us to talk to other liturgists and share ideas, which has been

one of the most beneficial aspects of past workshops. However, we are fortunate to have many creative and resourceful members in the team, and new ideas are constantly being presented.

We were very fortunate that our recent ‘Stewardship Expo’ gave us an opportunity to showcase some of the work the Liturgy team have done in past years. This created some interest from several parishioners, and, as a result, our numbers have increased. We are very grateful for the assistance from Lawry Cecconello, Silvio Volombello & Don Schroder, and often the men involved in Church set up, who often do the climbing & fastening or hanging for us, as climbing the ladder is getting more difficult as age catches up with many of us!

Jenny Philp, Holy Spirit Liturgy Team.

CHOIR

2015 has been a busy year again for the choir.

We have been blest with some new members to swell our numbers. We are a very happy group.

We sang in Lent. Then put in a big effort for Palm Sunday and the Easter Ceremonies. Our hours of practice paid off and the singing was beautiful. At Pentecost, the 24th May 2015 we sang at 9.00 Mass at Holy Spirit then in the afternoon, went to the Uniting Church, Heathmont and performed at the Fellowship of Churches combined service.

In August the choir, sang for two First Communion Masses, one at St Gerard’s and one at Holy Spirit. This was a lovely experience, seeing the children receive the Eucharist for the first time.

We sang at a few more Sunday Masses including Christ the King in November.

In December we performed at the Holy Spirit Carols Night, which was a great Success.

2015 ended with Christmas Midnight Mass. A very satisfying year and a great effort from all members.

Maree Buttler and Marilyn Grant, Choir Leaders.

ROSARY GROUP/PRAAYER FOR PRIESTS

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 25th 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. 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.

Carmel Hill and Lyn Thwaites.

TUESDAY CHRISTIAN MEDITATION GROUP

The group has been meeting now for over 3 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/Len Scicluna, Facilitators.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

At the start of this year we put out the call for some new Children's Liturgy leaders, as a number of our experienced leaders had moved on at the end of 2015. We had a great response with 10 new leaders joining up! Mary Ryan very kindly led our first Children's Liturgy training session at the start of March, which was for both new and experienced leaders and provided us all with greater insight and ideas to bring to our program. We have since implemented some new ideas that include using an Ipod rather than a CD player for our music, new cushions for the children to sit on and a new prayer cloth. We have also created name-tags for each leader to wear to make it easier for new families and children to get to know us. Our Children's Liturgy participation numbers have varied, with some weeks having over twenty children and other weeks in single figures. We always warmly welcome any new children who would like to attend. Families are welcome to talk to any of our leaders at 6.00pm Saturday night Mass or 10.30am Sunday morning Mass and are welcome to attend Children's Liturgy with their children for the first time if they wish. We'd like to take this opportunity to thank the wonderful Sue Wallace who has done an amazing job of organising Children's Liturgy for the past 4 years, we very much appreciate all of the hard work and time she put into planning and organising our program. And a very big thank you to all of our leaders who generously give their time each week to lead and guide the children of our parish in their faith.

Michelle Sherriff, 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 one private residence. We have 6 pairs of volunteers and 3 emergencies, so we have maintained the numbers we had this time last year. Ideally we would like 8 pairs. Over the course of the year we have lost 2 volunteers from the roster, Len Moore and Clare Parle, and recruited 2, Laurie and Judy Wilson who have yet to be trained. Laurie and Judy volunteered in response to the recent Parish Expo and Stewardship Program.

Many thanks to our group of volunteers and may God bless them all.

Helen Scorgie, Coordinator.

MONDAY EVENING MEDITATION – No report received.

FAITH AND SPIRITUALITY

HIGH SPIRITS – No report received.

BAPTISM PREPARATION GROUP- No report received.

RCIA – What Is It, And What Does It Mean

The **R**ite of **C**hristian **I**nitiation of **A**dults is a process that the Catholic Church has developed which allows people seeking to find out and understand more about the Catholic religion, to explore the faith and some of its more common pillars. Whilst the program is predominately aimed at individuals who are of an adult age and are currently not Catholic, it has also been used by ‘lapsed’ Catholics who are expressing a desire to reconnect with their faith, as well as previously baptized Christians from ‘other’ Christian faiths.

In a general sense, the program is ‘structured’ around the main pillars of the Catholic religion – the Sacraments, the old & new Bible Testaments, the important figures etc; these are explored and explained with the support of an RCIA team, as well as a rich diversity of materials and texts. It is likened to a spiritual journey which involves members of the congregation and the candidates / catechumens coming together and working through quite a number of sessions where the candidates / catechumens learn to pray, learn about the life of Jesus through the Gospels and discuss what his message means for us in everyday life.

The complete RCIA journey can be broadly described as a subset of smaller journeys or stages. These are

1. Enquiry - candidates / catechumens make initial enquiries about the Catholic faith in the company of likeminded people; the end of this stage is denoted by the ‘Rite Of Acceptance’

2. Formation in Christian Life – A period of learning through the Gospels and reflecting on how Catholics bear witness to their faith, and ends with the ‘Rite of Election’
3. Preparation For Easter – coincides with Lent and makes provision for a more intense period of preparation and prayer, and culminates with the ‘Sacraments Of Initiation’ at Easter.
4. Deepening of Faith – The newly baptized / confirmed Catholics reflect on the whole experience and the general direction of their lives and ends with the ‘Missioning Ceremony’.

The RCIA Program At Holy Spirit.

Here at Holy Spirit Parish North Ringwood, the RCIA program broadly follows the universal guidelines set out by the Catholic Church. We have a small team of committed parishioners, which includes the Parish priest, that guides RCIA candidates through the program over a period that usually runs from October, through to May / June of the following year (with a few holiday breaks interspersed). The guidance is primarily centered around a contemporary text developed here in Australia, titled ‘At Home With Gods People’, although there are many other texts, symbols and reading materials that are also used along the way. What we do well at Holy Spirit is to make the program flexible and relevant, so that we may cover certain topics, for example the importance of Christmas, at a stage in the program which is actually when Christmas occurs.

The RCIA candidate usually is someone who has not been baptized before and is of an ‘adult’ age, but we have previously had individuals through the program who were baptized and brought up in other faiths, as well as Catholics who had left their faith for whatever reason, but wanted to pick it up again and come back into the community.

The team and candidates meet weekly for about 90 minutes and explore a particular subject or topic which plays an important role in the life of the Catholic Church. There is usually ample time for general discussion and reflection and questions are always most welcome. Weekly attendance is encouraged, but if a candidate is unable to make it on any particular week, they can still read the subject matter from the provided book.

It is important to note that the RCIA is a journey and that not all journeys finish in the same place. This may mean that a candidate who starts the RCIA journey may or may not eventually become a baptized Catholic – each individual must make that assessment and decision based on their experiences and responses to the RCIA journey; it goes without saying that there is absolutely no pressure on anyone from anywhere to make a particular decision, either way.

*Lawry Cecconello,
On Behalf of RCIA Team.*

SERVICE AND OUTREACH

EVERGREENS

The Evergreens have celebrated their 35th birthday, very much supported by the Parish and Parish House staff.

Vin and Gabrielle Dwyer, sorted through many photos taken over the years, to provide a Power Point presentation, at the 6pm and 9am masses on the weekend and at the Evergreen's monthly meeting.

At that meeting, Alison Nichols made a decorated special birthday cake to add to celebrations and Frances O'Dwyer organised a thank you card, signed by the Evergreens for the Support Team.

We have had Mica from Eastern Libraries, as guest speaker, informing us as to what is available with new technology, and Mary Katsikis from Maroondah Council is to visit this month.

Two Support Team members attended a Healthy Ageing meeting and two were guests at the Volunteers luncheon.

Jean Smith.

SPIRIT MAGAZINE

To Support Community Awareness and Communication.

Spirit Magazine has been moving ahead well. Participation from the parish community has been excellent with more articles being offered from a variety of voices, which is what we have been aiming for. We have been really trying to give readers a sense of who we are and where we have come from - to try to reinforce a sense of belonging - This is home. Also trying to fulfil our charter to support community awareness by offering a wide variety of external contributors for a broader perspective. Still struggling to contain costs, have been trying to do more prior to sending to printers. Aiming to build readership to encourage more advertisers. Struggling with sales and accounts - Not my forte - would really love a team to take on this role? Current print run 700 copies black and white, uploaded to website in full colour.

Fr Joe has indicated he would like to have at least one issue each year with a colour front page, and we are working on an updated masthead.

Thank you to all for your support.

Helen Konyneburg, Editor.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

A report to the Parish of our activities over the past 12 months to April 2016.

Our Society Conference continues to enjoy great financial & material support from our 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 18 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 1008 adults, 1363 children in 733 home visits :-

Supermarket food vouchers & Vinnies Gift Cards - \$18,190

Donated food \$11,446

Purchased food \$10,842

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

*Laurel Wheatley, President
North Ringwood Conference.*

GRIEF AND LOSS SUPPORT MINISTRY

The Ministry continues to liaise with Tina on a regular basis to maintain a list of the recently bereaved of the parish.

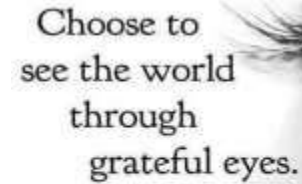
A few months following the death of a close relative the Ministry sends a letter of support to the bereaved parishioner.

Another contact is made at the time of the first anniversary of the death of their loved one when a card is sent to the bereaved parishioner.

Each November we have an annual Christmas Mass of Remembrance for the recently bereaved. We send personal letters of invitation some weeks before the Mass and include a notice in The Word in case someone has missed out on the letter. We acknowledge that this is a time when many people are caught up with pre- Christmas activities it is also a time when the bereaved are contemplating their first Christmas without their loved one. We usually send about 80 letters and cards to bereaved parishioners.

Robin Walsh, Coordinator.

PASTORAL CARE



Choose to
see the world
through
grateful eyes.

It will never look
the same way again.

I found this little quote a while ago and it has stuck in my mind, so thought I would share it with you all. Especially in this Year of Mercy which began in November '15 - it helps me to realise I am so very grateful that I have the honour of working with the people of Holy Spirit Community - it has blessed my life amazingly and continues to do so as my life has journeyed on. I have been working as a staff member of Holy Spirit since my daughter Elise began prep at Holy Spirit School when she was 5 - she is now 31! I started as Parish Secretary with Fr. Kevin Mogg as our Parish Priest and he is also celebrating the 60th year of Ordination coming up in July.

So I count my blessings everyday for the relationships I have been able to form with my community. I also receive much love, support and care from everyone so I thank you all for that!

The 2015 year was another busy one in the parish. The usual parish works, schedules, routine and challenges are very much the same to expect and many activities are repetitive in nature, I have learned that I can never repeat myself in these works. There is always something to learn and unlearn, new ways to explore, meanings and insights to discover.

A fair portion of my working time is dedicated to visiting people. Mainly those who are sick or lonely, at nursing homes or care centres plus also having home visits to new parishioners.

Every person I see connects me to their spirit and keeps me focused on each persons "specialness" and closeness to Our Lord.

Fr Joe and many lay people help me enormously in my work and without them we could never cover the spiritual needs we have in our community.

Sunday communion roster Ministers and Evergreen Leaders and assistants also keep our parish outreach alive, active and positive and we must all be grateful to these wonderful people.

Regular Monthly masses at our local nursing homes and retirement villages are fantastic opportunities to have one on one time with our friends from the parish who may not be able to get to weekend worship.

Many hours are also spent assisting bereaved families as they plan and prepare funerals which is also quite regular with the ageing parish community of Holy Spirit.

I pray for many people of our parish that I know needs prayers but I also pray for God to bring back those to our parish whom we haven't seen for many a year. I pray that they realise that we miss them and their presence - we need them- and we won't try and get them to do stuff - just come back to our church, hear the word of God and reconnect with our community.

I must not forget my colleagues at Holy Spirit Parish House wonderful people who do so much beyond the call of duty and give me so much back up and support, thank you all.

Tina Toomey , Pastoral Worker.

OTHER REPORTS/PROJECTS

Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy Committee

Last year Pope Francis called the universal church to celebrate the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy, Dec 2015 - Nov 2016. He asked Catholics around the world to use the year to 'open wide' the doors of their hearts to compassion and forgiveness for themselves and others. To promote and action this call at the local level, a special combined parishes Year of Mercy Committee was convened by Fr Joe in early December last year, which has since met on several occasion. The overall aim of the committee is to **inform, educate and engage** parishioners, school families and the local community in the message and meaning of mercy.

A number of projects have been undertaken. These include:

- Year of Mercy take home activity via school families (one per term)
- A 'How to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation' brochure. See parish website.
- A 'Doorway of Mercy' at the internal entrance to the Church. (St Anne's & Holy Spirit)
- A 'Welcome to Holy Spirit' mat at the Church entrance.
- Pope Frances - 'Be Merciful' Billboard (St Anne's & Holy Spirit)
- 'Mercy Matters' Mass & supper: 6pm 18th June 2016.
- A 'Faces of Mercy' wall along the back of the Church (St Anne's & Holy Spirit)
- 'Stand for Mercy' action: Sunday 10-12noon 23rd October 2016
- 'Year of Mercy Thanksgiving' Combined parishes Mass & Meal: 5pm Sunday 27th November 2016

Please support the efforts of the committee with your **participation** in the above initiatives.

Mary Ryan: Chairperson, Year of Mercy Committee

AGM 2016 - Parish website, Report

Background

- Pre 18/03/2013 - the Parish web site was composed on a handful of html pages with no content management. It was quite static with no new content and what was presented was in many places inaccurate/out of date
- 18/03/2013 – a new replacement web site was built by the Parish with Catholic Archdiocese Melbourne using Microsoft DNN and hosted in Microsoft’s Azure cloud solution. The new site
 - had a content management system (DNN)
 - expanded significantly on the original site
 - served the parish well
 - however, was not well suited to mobile devices.
- On 21/12/2015 – the web site was replaced again. It is now hosted by CAM still using DNN, but its design is “responsive” meaning it is designed to work well on smart phones, tablets and desk/lap-top computers.
 - content has been redeveloped in responsive form
 - content has continued to be added through the year
 - hosting is slightly cheaper because it is hosted by CAM
 - CAM automated backups are in place and support is available

Changes

The major changes for the parish web site have been:

- The move from the previous site hosted in Microsoft’s Azure cloud solution to newly build site still using DNN as the content manager but with a “responsive” design meaning it is designed to work well on smart phones, tablets and desk/lap-top computers.
- Rework of the front page, www.holyspiritparish.org.au
 - Father Joe’s Reflections (Thanks Father Joe and Dominic N.), www.holyspiritparish.org.au/Our-Parish/Reflections
 - Rolling Banner images / click through, www.holyspiritparish.org.au
 - Pope Francis’ Twitter feed (Pontifex), www.holyspiritparish.org.au
 - Addition of a Remembrance page, www.holyspiritparish.org.au/Remembrance

- Establishment and implementation of the following policies:
 - Website Policy, www.holyspiritparish.org.au/Website-Policy
 - Privacy Policy, www.holyspiritparish.org.au/Privacy-Policy
 - Collection Notice, www.holyspiritparish.org.au/Collection-Notice

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

- New Parish Groups Added
 - Altar Servers (Thanks Ruth F.), www.holyspiritparish.org.au/Parish-Groups/Altar-Servers
 - Parish House Wednesday Morning Group (Thanks Kerry O’L.), www.holyspiritparish.org.au/Parish-Groups/Parish-House-Wed-Morning-Group
 - Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (Thanks Tina and Lawry C.), www.holyspiritparish.org.au/Parish-Groups/Rite-of-Christian-Initiation-of-Adults
 - Winter Warmer Mass, www.holyspiritparish.org.au/Parish-Groups/Winter-Warmer-Mass
- Parish Groups Removed
 - None
- Holy Spirit YouTube Channel videos added:
 - 28/02/2016, Invitation to Parish Stewardship Meeting, 1st March 2016 7:30 (Fr. Joe), www.holyspiritparish.org.au/Our-Parish/Stewardship/Parish-Stewardship-Meeting-Invitation (thanks Tony M.)
- New Sacraments Pages
 - Baptism (Thanks Ruth F.), www.holyspiritparish.org.au/Sacraments/Baptism
 - Reconciliation (Thanks Mary R.), www.holyspiritparish.org.au/Sacraments/Reconciliation
 - Marriage (Thanks Tina T.), www.holyspiritparish.org.au/Sacraments/Marriage
- Other Content

- Father Joe's Reflections (Thanks Father Joe and Dominic), www.holyspiritparish.org.au/Our-Parish/Reflections
- Rework of Mass Times, Reconciliation Times, The Rosary, Prayers and Silent Adoration (Thanks Jenny P.), www.holyspiritparish.org.au/Mass-Times/Weekly-Services
-
- New and Events section:
 - Evangelisation – John the Beloved, (Thanks Maryann S.), www.holyspiritparish.org.au/John-the-Beloved
 - Parish Stewardship campaign, www.holyspiritparish.org.au/Our-Parish/Stewardship
 - Advent – Week 1, www.holyspiritparish.org.au/Advent-Week-1-Hope
 - Advent – Week 2, www.holyspiritparish.org.au/Advent-Week-2-Love
 - Advent – Week 3, www.holyspiritparish.org.au/Advent-Week-3-Joy
 - Advent – Week 4, www.holyspiritparish.org.au/Advent-Week-4-Peace
 - PPC Renewal (thanks Dominic N.), www.holyspiritparish.org.au/News-Events/PPC-Renewal
 - Year of Mercy, www.holyspiritparish.org.au/Year-of-Mercy
 - Christ The King, www.holyspiritparish.org.au/Christ-the-King
 - Remembrance, www.holyspiritparish.org.au/Remembrance
 - Fete 2015 Results, www.holyspiritparish.org.au/Fete-News
 - Lawry – Camino 2015 (Thanks Lawry C.), www.holyspiritparish.org.au/Lawry-Camino-2015

- Trivia Night, www.holyspiritparish.org.au/Trivia-Night-7th-August-2015

Usage - Summary

Key points are as follows:

1. In almost all most cases the metrics for the sites usage have improved, some by more than 50%
2. 94% of users access the site via the new domain, www.cam.org.au/holyspirit
3. Desktop (around 52%), Smart Phone (30%) and Tablet Usage (17%) is largely in the same ratio (I expected a significant decrease in desktop usage / increase in mobile/tablet usage), particularly given the move to the site's responsive design.
4. Easter and Christmas remain the busiest periods for the website. Christmas Eve usage increased 29% to 301 hits, Easter Saturday usage decreased by 28% to 115 hits

For more information refer to the parish web site:

www.holyspiritparish.org.au/Our-Parish/Parish-Group-Reports

Next Year

- Adding pages on the sacraments
- Extending the News & Events section

Michael O'Leary.

HOLY SPIRIT SCHOOL

On behalf of the school community of Holy Spirit Community School it is my pleasure to present the 2015/16 School Report. As it is not possible to explain all highlights and achievements in this Annual Report, it should be read in conjunction with the Parish Pastoral Council reports delivered each month.

Student Numbers

August 2016 census showed 454 students enrolled. In 2016 there are currently 456 students enrolled. We have a waiting list for some classes.

The structure of the 18 classes in the school is:

3 x Prep (61)

5 x 1/2 (134)

5 X 3 / 4 (128)

5 X 5/6 (133)

Staff

With the retirement of Peter Camilleri, the process of employing a new principal for Holy Spirit has begun. In 2016 Holy Spirit School employed 50 staff members

Teachers 18 full-time and 14 part-time. These numbers include the Principal, Deputy Principal, Student Wellbeing, Reading Recovery, Literacy and Maths,

Office staff – 1 full-time Bursar 2 part-time Education Support Staff.

Learning Support Officers – 10 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.

Fees and Levies

Fees: 93.7%

Levies: 95%

Follow up with non-fee payers continued in 2015/2016.

School Improvements

A major improvement in the last 12 months was the replacement of one of the Adventure Playgrounds, also replacing the existing softfall mulch with playground safe artificial turf.

Regular working bees and the use of various tradespeople assist in keeping the school in such good order.

Academic Results and Updates

The data we receive from sources such as NAPLAN (2015) show that Holy Spirit continues to provide a quality education. We were pleased with the improvement in our results in 2015. Our continual aim is to improve in all areas of the curriculum.

ICT continues to be a growing area. Chrome books have been introduced to the Senior School.

In 2015, Holy Spirit accepted the invitation to be involved in the School Wide Positive Behaviour Support initiative (SWPBS). This is a two year commitment.

Holy Spirit has been one of the first intake of schools to be involved in ICON (Integrated Catholic Online Network). When fully implemented this will be a single signon platform for staff, students and parents.

Religious Education continues to maintain a central focus including Weekly 9:00 Masses, whole school Masses and sacramental programs. Social justice issues continue to be a priority. Daily prayer and Christian meditation demonstrate our Catholic faith. We are proud to be a Catholic school.

CEOM School Review Cycle

The school has continued with the implementation of the 2013 CEOM Review.

From our 2013 Review, School Improvement Plan and collected data, much of our learning focused from our 2014 Change2 opportunity of Feedback and Mentoring. As a result, we implemented peer observation, feedback and mentoring for staff professional learning. Our aim is to continue to develop a feedback culture where ongoing collegial conversations are held.

Parent Committees

School Board, Parents & Friends, Maintenance, Uniform Shop, Banking and OSHC are valued groups within the school. We are also well supported with classroom helpers, sport and 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 2016, Prep classes only) organised by Marisa Smeed and Meagan Whitworth, continue to be an example of ways we strive to build community.

PARENTS AND FRIENDS COMMITTEE – No report received.

OUT OF SCHOOL HOURS CARE

With the resignation of Damien Thomas and Peter Camilleri within days of one another in Term One, OSHC has seen some major changes in 2016.

The committee has spent the first part of this year addressing the obvious staffing issues. Through the recruitment process we recognised the potential in Carissa Henricus, Assistant Director, to upskill and take on the Director role in an Acting capacity on a trial basis.

Nicole Carter, who has been with the service for 10 years, agreed to return (from a brief position held elsewhere) as Assistant Director to support Carissa.

So far the new dynamic is working very well where it matters most – that the team is providing quality care for our kids.

The committee is currently made up of five parent volunteers as well as Sue Johnston and Carissa as Acting Director.

Rebecca Crozier and Nicola Morriss (commenced 2014)
Rachael Rourke (2015)
Melisa Versace (2015)
Jenelle Williams (2016)

Other issues the committee is working through include:

- Managing finances to ensure the service can continue to operate.
- Viability of the building project.
- Possibility of outsourcing to an external provider.

Average daily attendances since the start of the year:

After school: 30
Before school: 16
Vacation care: 27

Rebecca Crozier

On behalf of the OSHC Management Committee.

FINANCES

The 2015 loss of \$15,500 is the first loss registered since 2009. Thanksgiving donations continued to reduce year over year (down by \$5,000) and costs generally continued to rise. However the loss was generated by 2 major expense items. The insurance invoice for \$8,800 which is usually paid in December arrived late and was paid in January 2015. A reconciliation of staff long service leave provision found that the account was short by \$7,000. The later item is effectively a deferred cost that finally had to be paid. Income was bolstered by very successful fete and Trivia Night events.

An attempt to increase Thanksgiving program participation from the school community was not particularly successful. In reviewing the Thanksgiving program generally it was noted that a program had not been run professionally and with support from the Archdiocese since 2007. In that time many people had left the parish but also many new parishioners had also joined the Parish. An opportunity existed to run a full program and in that program give new parishioners an opportunity to support the parish and again offer the School community another chance to freely participate. It was agreed the program would run in Q1-2 2016. Estimated cost for the program was \$13,000.

Installing Solar Electricity in the Parish House was a major infrastructure project that has a 5 year payback on today's electricity rates. Minor repairs were conducted on the drainage around the Community Centre (CC) and on the windows in the foyer and on the Little Spirits Room. Chapel windows still need repair.

Michael O'Leary devised a method of streaming live video in the Community Centre to the projector to improve our ability to broadcast vision of special events at the altar so people can see them better. This solution has no cost to the parish.

The committee also investigated the cost of building a pergola outside the chapel and weatherproofing the area. Initial quote for a low-maintenance steel structure was \$20,000. In light of the projected financial position it was decided to defer the item until after the outcome of the Stewardship

program was known. Other less expensive options for the structure will be considered in 2016.

The Stewardship Program ran over a 4 week period in April and was aimed at increasing parishioner involvement by way of Time and Talent participation and by providing financial support to both the parish and presbytery accounts. Time and Talent involvement increased but may need reconsideration later in the year. Financial support for the parish increased by 25% from \$153k to \$191K per annum. Presbytery increased by 90% to \$761 per week.

Finally a decision was taken in 2015 to revert to the more traditional name for this committee as Parish Finance Committee in line with parish operating guidelines provided by the Archdiocese. Responsibilities of the committee remain unchanged.

*Silvio Volombello – Chairperson,
Parish Finance Committee.*

QUESTION AND ANSWER TIME

Closing Words

Dominic North-Coombes
Secretary
Parish Pastoral Council.

Closing Song:

HEARTS ON FIRE

We come from ancient dreamtime
From the bush or by the sea
We come from a thousand city streets
We are the rich and lowly
We are the poor and strong
We come to share this moment
Gathering here
Singing one song

CHORUS:

*With our hearts on fire with the love of Jesus
Hearts on fire let's spread the Word
Hearts on fire feel the Spirit blazing
Hearts on fire
Called to live the Good News in this land
Setting hearts on fire
With our hearts on fire
Setting hearts on fire*

We long to live in freedom
We yearn for unity
We dream of justice joy and peace
Spirit fill us with your power
Jesus help us live your call
O Creator give us wisdom
So we will be
Good News for all

