

# HOLY SPIRIT PARISH RINGWOOD NORTH

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

17<sup>th</sup> MAY 2018  
7.30 pm, Mary Bresnan Room

## PARISH GROUP REPORTS

### PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL REPORT

We start the 2018 report by acknowledging the great efforts of the previous PPC. Particularly, we thank Stan Fisher who was Chair of that PPC from April 2013 to August 2017. We also thank Laurel Wheatley, Jean and Ron Smith, Sr Marian and Kylie Papadopoulos for generously responding to the call for new PPC members at the end of 2015. They were all leaders of their respective groups or ministries, and joining the PPC became yet one more demand on their time.

Also, we acknowledge the many wonderful people in our parish community – as evidenced in this annual report – who are involved, and do tremendous work, in the ongoing life and development of our community. Thank you very much for all your hard work, enthusiasm and generosity.

In 2017, the PPC was invited to explore the ideas put forward by Fr James Mallon in his book 'Divine Renovation –from Maintenance to a Missional Parish'. On 4<sup>th</sup> June 2017, a parish forum attended by over 80 parishioners unanimously agreed for Holy Spirit parish to embark on the journey of Divine Renovation.

To take us on the journey, we have a new ministry called the Divine Renovation Action Team whose role is to lead Divine Renovation at Holy Spirit Parish. Secondly, we have expanded membership of the PPC to include the leaders of as many ministries as possible. Thirdly, the PPC now focuses solely on the long term direction of the parish. The aim of those initiatives is to develop a common vision, direction and purpose for the parish.

A Parish Executive Team comprising the Parish Priest, Chair of Finance, Chair of Divine Renovation, Pastoral Associate, and Chair of the PPC has also recently been formed. Its role is to address the higher level day to day operational issues facing the parish.

We are making good progress towards setting our long term direction. We have just recently created a Vision Statement for the parish which we will communicate soon.

## **COMMUNITY AND HOSPITALITY**

We can now start on our five year plan. Our first job will be to assess our parish against the ten values that make a missional parish. Following that, we will evaluate the parish against the five systems of church life - Worship, Evangelisation, Discipleship, Community and Ministry. We aim to complete them in mid-2019.

In closing, we say farewell Fr Joe and thank him for his leadership over the past seven years at Holy Spirit Parish. We also extend a warm welcome to our new parish priest, Fr Jose Joseph. We look forward to lots of fruitful years under your guidance.

*Dominic North-Coombes*  
*Parish Pastoral Council President*

### **LITTLE SPIRITS PLAYGROUP**

Little Spirits Playgroup had a busy end to the year in 2017. Whilst we had a number of children who come along for a single term, and popped in and out over the year, there was a core group of approximately 10 children who came each week.

We ended the year with our Christmas party at FitnessWork in Mitcham, where the children were taken through a number of activities and obstacles, before they devoured all of the delicious party food! The mum's also celebrated the end of the year by getting together at The Cellar Door.

The end of 2017 marked a big change to Playgroup, with leaders Sharon Wolff and Tanya Brown leaving, as their children (Sienna and Paige) started school. We had 8 of our children begin school in 2018, which made for a very quiet start to Playgroup.

We currently have 3 children enrolled from 1-3 years of age. There are a number of parents who have asked to come along and have a look, try a session etc. We have been busy so far this year, making playdoh, lots of arts and crafts and even creating some new decorations to brighten up our Playgroup space. We are hoping this might encourage some new families to pop in and say hi.

During May we will be celebrating Mother's Day. The children will be treating the mums with a lovely morning tea, along with some special treats they made for mum.

*Candy Tasca*  
*Little Spirits Playgroup Co-ordinator*

## **HOLY SPIRIT FETE**

No report received.

*Mark Johnstone, Fete Chairperson.*

## **PREP PARISH DINNERS**

We have had three very successful Prep Parish Dinners this year held in March and April. All three groups were approximately attended by 32-36 guests, many are new families to the community. It was always also great to see the Prep teachers (Katherine, Andrea and Kaitlin) could join us. Sue and I have enjoyed hosting them especially the last dinner where we farewelled Fr. Joe. A few special guests attended the evening including Peter Camilleri, Marisa Smeed and Megan Whitworth to wish Fr. Joe all the best. It was lovely to have welcomed them back to the community and be able to have a meal with us.

There were plenty of delicious dishes and desserts on the night and we are so grateful for those who volunteered to cook the meals for us.

Many thanks to our helpers Lisa Lynch, Belinda Skrarov and Candy Tasca for giving up their time and helping us.

Looking forward to next year.

*Sharon Wolff and Sue Wallace  
Parish Dinners Co-ordinators*

## **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 22 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.

We have been very fortunate to pick up 2 new committee members for the 2018 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 (Publicity); Amanda Bulloch (Umpires Coordinator); Cath Stone (Property Officer); Amanda Conway (Uniform), Dean Crozier (General Committee).

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

Thanks to Jess Hooper, Amanda Bullock and Kerryn Crombie 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”.

2018 is a very different year for MENA and participating clubs as HE Parker undergoes new development with an indoor stadium being built. All games are being played at Great Ryrie Primary School and Aquinas College for the year. An amazing amount of organization goes into the running of the competition on a weekly basis.

Due to HE Parker being unavailable we were lucky enough to secure The Rings for club training on a Monday Night. The club training at the 1

location on the one night provides a perfect backdrop for encouraging club morale and communication.

Our annual netta program is underway again, with Cath Stone coordinating this. We aim to get one if not two new teams. This is an ideal way to ensure our club continues to thrive.

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

*Karen Woods, President*

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

PONRPJFC (The Sharks) have continued to grow and provide a great junior football club to the North Ringwood and Park Orchards communities under the leadership of President Ritchie Appleby.

2018 has seen an exponential growth of girls' teams from 3 teams in 2017 to 7 teams this season. Some 135 girls are playing across age groups from Under 12 to Under 18, to complement the 350 boys playing at the Sharks. There is definitely a buzz around the club at the moment and it is great to see so many girls and boys enjoying their footy in a safe, family friendly environment.

The award winning Sharks Auskick is also having another great year at Stintons Reserve under the guidance of Michael James and his team. The Park Orchards North Ringwood Parish Junior Football Club will celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2019 and planning is underway for several events next year. This will be a great opportunity to celebrate the longevity of the club. Father Mogg at Holy Spirit was instrumental in forming the North Ringwood Parish Junior Football Club which later merged with the Park Orchards Junior Football Club to form the Sharks. Holy Spirit remains an important feeder school for the Sharks.

The Sharks Committee will once again be manning a BBQ at the Holy Spirit Fete in October and we will welcome any questions about the club from the Holy Spirit community. Go Sharks!

*Andrew Mortlock  
President*

## **SPIRIT MAGIC BASKETBALL CLUB**

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

With Winter Season just getting underway our membership numbers have come in at just over 400 players– although perhaps representing something of a plateauing of numbers – our membership remains strong, with enough players to field 52 teams.

A significant development in the last 12 months saw the introduction of our Child Protection Policy, this in response to the Victorian Governments' requirement to comply with their newly developed 'Child Safe Standards'. Flowing on from the launch of this policy, we have:

- Appointed a Child Safety Officer
- Broadened our requirements for WWC checks to include Team Managers
- Increased our coach screening requirements to include the signing off on the so-called member protection declaration & a coach specific code of conduct. (this in addition to the std WWC requirement)

Going forward we will continue to be guided by our basketball association on compliance requirements.

The last year saw more coaching development activity with a beginners coaching clinic run by Ringwood Hawks Head Coach & Coaching Director, Ken Harrington. At the time of writing, more activity is being planned, with a 'higher level' Basketball Victoria run coaching clinic being looked at for the middle of the year.

During the year, Spirit Magic was once again involved in the Vinnies Christmas hamper appeal. The process of printing off envelopes for each of our 50 plus teams, asking them for gold coin donations before their return - raised some \$700 to fund hampers for needy families in the area.

This time last year – we spoke of the need to attract new committee members. An appeal to our membership earlier this year did just that, with some 5 new committee members now coming on board. The challenge now, with the club in it's 25<sup>th</sup> year, is to transition some of these new members into key roles to take the club forward.

*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.

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, as well as some new ideas for the presentation of the gospel. Yvette is currently working with these young parishioners in preparation for the Saturday evening Pentecost Mass. We pray that this will become a regular feature of our parish celebrations.

The response to our Holy Week/ Easter ceremonies has been overwhelmingly positive, with many messages and letters of thanks for the effort put into preparing these liturgies. 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, MaryAnne Brown, Kerry Haddow,

Lawry Cecconello, Fiona Massarotti, Marian McClelland 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. The opportunity to talk to other liturgists and share ideas is enormously beneficial. Fortunately, we have many creative and resourceful members in the team, and any new ideas presented are always greeted with enthusiasm.

As always, we are constantly looking for new members to join the Liturgy Team. This year will see the 'retirement' of Jocelyn D'Souza after many years of dedicated commitment to the Liturgy Team. We would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge her tireless efforts, particularly with the many Forgiveness/Reconciliation services she has prepared over the years.

New members need to be recruited as a matter of urgency. If anyone would like to become involved, please contact the parish House for more details.

*Jenny Philp  
Holy Spirit Liturgy Team*

### CHOIR

No report received.  
*Maree Buttler and Marilyn Grant  
Choir Leaders*

## **ROSARY GROUP/PRAYER 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 27th 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.

*Lyn Thwaites*

## **CHRISTIAN MEDITATION**

We are a Christian based Meditation group and we meet weekly every Tuesday morning from 9.15 am to 10.00 am during each of the school terms in the Chapel at Holy Spirit Parish.

On average 6 people attend weekly and our focus is to listen to the word of God via the last Sunday's gospel reading. Then we settle into relaxing our whole mind and body. Then leading into 30 minutes of quiet meditation in the presence of the Holy Eucharist exposed in the monstrance.

Our focus as a group is to grow more spiritually in our awareness of our inner self, nature and God.

All newcomers are most welcome.

*Len Moore*

*Facilitator*

## **CHILDREN'S LITURGY**

No report received.

*Michelle Sherriff*

*Co-ordinator*

## **FAITH AND SPIRITUALITY**

### **HIGH SPIRITS**

2018 has begun with a lot of changes to the High Spirits class. To begin with we have two new facilitators, myself who teaches the Tuesday group and Elma Gama, a parent and parishioner who takes the Wednesday group. A big thank you to Ana for getting us started earlier this year.

We currently have 33 extremely enthusiastic children between the two classes and a growing waiting list for next year. Keeping in mind parish boundaries and readiness to be part of the Holy Spirit community, families are accepted into the program. If we have vacancies we will offer children out of the parish boundaries a spot as well.

This year we are looking at integrating the religious education program from the school as part of our curriculum here at High Spirits. A big thank you to Marianne Condon and Fran Miller for their ongoing support in assisting us with this set up.

The children are focusing on establishing the importance of prayer and faith in their everyday life and experiences. The children will soon experience a weekend mass as a group and will take active part in another later in the year. We are also looking at starting a reward system to encourage children to attend weekend mass regularly. Building a relationship between church, community and faith are integral for this program to succeed.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank our volunteers who share their faith experiences with us every week. Maureen Chamberlin, Lyn Thwaites and Jocelyn D'Souza. The Wednesday group also benefit from some youth volunteers so a big thank you to Karissa Chowdary, Miguel, Alex and Francisco Cortes for giving their time to help this worthy cause. Without their continuous support we wouldn't be able to continue such an enriching program. We would also like to thank Ruth and Jenny for all the behind the scene work you do for us especially in assisting me with all my 101 questions.

*Etta D'Souza, Teacher.*

### **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 3 private residences. We have 8 pairs of volunteers (up from 7 last year) and 2 emergencies. During the year we lost Peter Abrams, who moved at the end of 2017. He was one of the original volunteers when this ministry began in the Parish. Laurie and Judy Wilson, Angela Orwin and Peter Young also resigned from our roster.

We have been blessed with a number of new volunteers:- Hiroko Sugimoto, Michael and Kerry O'Leary, Maureen Chamberlin and Ida Brotherton. Also Len Moore and Kate Graham have rejoined our group.

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

*Helen Scorgie  
Coordinator*

### **MONDAY EVENING MEDITATION**

No report received.

*Yvette Collins  
Co-ordinator*



## **BAPTISM PREPARATION GROUP**

No report received.

*Yvette Collins, Co-ordinator*

## **RCIA**

The team of Gloria Thomas, Lawry Cecconello and myself have worked diligently to provide a welcoming and open forum as we welcomed two new people into our Community at the Easter Vigil this year.

Two young females began the RCIA journey with us in October 2017 and we have just completed the program on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> May.

As you can tell it is a long program – meeting once a week. We meet in the parish house and learn all about the Catholic faith, the Church and its traditions.

The Candidates experience some opportunities to meet community with Rite of Acceptance, Rite of Election (St. Patrick's Cathedral in East Melbourne), The Ceremony of the Scrutinies and the pinnacle – Reception into the Catholic Church – Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil.

We are open to new ideas or ways to bring our new people into getting involved in the parish and feeling a sense of belonging.

The journey continues for the RCIA recipients along with each one of us as we walk the path to- and with Christ.

*Peace and Blessings, Tina Toomey.*

## **SERVICE AND OUTREACH**

### **EVERGREENS**

The “Evergreens” have continued over the past 12 months, offering support and friendship, by way of monthly meetings with Mass, morning tea, guest speakers and social outings etcetera – we welcome guests to join us on our outings. Bus hire costs have increased so we are using local venues and avoiding the cost of bus hire.

A representative from the “Evergreens” attends the monthly Healthy Ageing meetings run by the Council and held at Realm in Ringwood.

The group has accepted invitations to luncheons held at Aquinas College with students Hosting and providing an opportunity for interaction.

A number of our Support Team are foundations members with 36 years service, so we would welcome any younger people to our group. This is so important to keep on regenerating the “Evergreens” and encourage all members to extend invitations to the Community.

We continue to also support our Members by providing transport and home and hospital visitation when required.

We nominated Sheila Batson for “The Deakin” volunteer Community Award and attended the ceremony.

*Carol Harris*

## SPIRIT MAGAZINE

The Spirit continues to be well received with an increasing number of people passing on their comments and appreciation. Particularly rewarding to have parents attending the Prep Mass Sausage sizzle, say they enjoyed reading it.

We had a change of ownership with the printers at Christmas, with the March edition the first printed under the new ownership, and only a few issues due to technical failures. The new Masthead has been well received and I thank Mike Haw for all his work on that and Tobin Brothers Ringwood for providing the \$100 voucher as the prize for the winning design. This was donated back to the community to assist a family in need.

We continue to print 700 B&W copies (Colour front & Back Pages), with many thanks to Michael O'Leary who uploads the online version, and corrects some of the edits that get missed in the print copy. We currently have 9 advertisers which created a revenue total of \$1540 for the current financial year. We lost one advertiser at a cost of \$275 reducing the total for the year from \$1815. Printing costs for last four editions amounted to \$7,725.30.

We have made some progress towards reducing costs, the last edition by \$300 Thanks to generous people helping assemble a page of photo's each, thus reducing my time requirement and the cost of it being done at the printers. I hope more people will be able to assist in this way, and thus see continued reductions.

This year I intend to get the invoices out on 1 July. Gerald Fahey greatly assisted last year by contacting all advertisers to see if they wished to continue their support with 100% success rate, and also followed up any prospective new clients. As always, I appreciate the ongoing life of The Spirit is dependent upon Parish support and finances, and accept any decisions made with regard to its continuance.

Editorially, I continue to try to source articles of interest from a wide range of sources both nationally and internationally, and remain aware of

the Copyright laws and the ever-present danger of a journalist picking up a headline and running with it, without necessarily reading the content of that article.

Thank you to all who have assisted in the past year.

*Helen Konynenburg, Editor*

## ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

The demands for our services have continued unabated over the year, with the primary reasons being ever increasing utility costs, rents and education. We do all; we can help and are placing particular emphasis on education, as parents are often placed under stress with this matter – if parents cannot afford the cost of school camps, uniforms and books, for their children, there is an emotional price to pay for them and the children.

We currently have 20 members, who carry out home visitations, bread runs, fruit and vegetable runs and any other task which arises.

Assist a Student program, which at a cost of \$70.00 per annum is a major object – this is actively canvassed through our school and the parish and the funds (without deduction) are allocated to a student in India or the Philippines to assist with education. The Conference also makes Easter and Christmas Grants to our Twinned Conferences in those countries.

Our Christmas hamper appeal saw 85 hampers prepared by our parishioners and these were delivered by members and helpers plus three toys for each child and a cash supplement to buy fresh food.

Our total income over the year (to 30/06/2017) was - \$60,600.07 which was funded by \$30,000.00 from our Ringwood Regional Council and the balance from Parishioner sources. The Ringwood Regional Council grants were funded from profits at our Ringwood Centre – we provide goods to the Centre by way of furniture and clothing which is on sold.

One of our members performs all the bookkeeping at the Centre on two days a week.

Our expenses for the same period were \$61,594.61.

We are grateful to the parishioners and the school for ongoing support – if this was not forthcoming, the cost would be to the disadvantaged whom we assist.

*Ron Smith*  
*President*

## GRIEF AND LOSS SUPPORT MINISTRY

Over the past 12 months, the Ministry has continued the practice of sending a letter of acknowledgement and support to those parishioners who experienced the death of a close relative. Throughout the year, this information was obtained by liaising with Tina on a regular basis so that we were able to contact bereaved parishioners by post to express our condolences on behalf of their parish community.

At the time of the first anniversary of the death of their loved one, a card was sent to the bereaved parishioners recognising their loss and offering support.

In November, we had our annual Mass of Remembrance for those parishioners who had farewelled a loved one in the past 12 months. Contact was made by a letter of personal invitation and a notice in the Word. During the Mass, acknowledgement was made of those whose memories were sacred to these parishioners and that this was the first Christmas without their loved one. The Mass was followed by supper in the Mary Bresnan Room where members of the Ministry were there to support the bereaved.

*Robin Walsh*  
*Coordinator*

## PASTORAL CARE

“We need no wings to go in search of God,  
but have only to find a place where we can  
be alone and look upon Him present within us.”



These words were written by St. Teresa of Avila in her book *The Way of Perfection*.

I have enjoyed another year with the honour of being able to represent the people of Holy Spirit in my work with those in the community who face joys, difficulties, illness and death in their lives.

Along with Fr. Joe we work in unity with each other to try to fulfil the pastoral needs of our people.

I work two days per week and my weekly and monthly roles involve:

- ? visiting people in our parish who are sick, elderly or alone, taking home communion to those who find it difficult getting to church and visiting people in hospitals.
- ? Assisting Fr. Joe at Retirement Village, Cherry Tree in Croydon for monthly Mass.
- ? Organising food relief and home visits for those who may be in crisis.
- ? Updates of Recent Deceased Register and home visits to recently bereaved.
- ? Assisting families with preparation of funerals and preparation of Mass Service.
- ? Working at the funeral service alongside funeral directors to ensure smooth flow of funeral.

I must give thanks to Ada Volombello, Kerry O’Leary and Helen Scorgie who also share the load of making visits to Nursing Homes and private homes of many of our ill people.

Sometimes there are other daily requirements which may pop up in the lives of many in our community, and we do our best to lend a helping hand or listening ear when and wherever we can.

I thank the Holy Spirit Parish Community for entrusting me with this role.

*Tina Toomey*  
*Pastoral Worker*

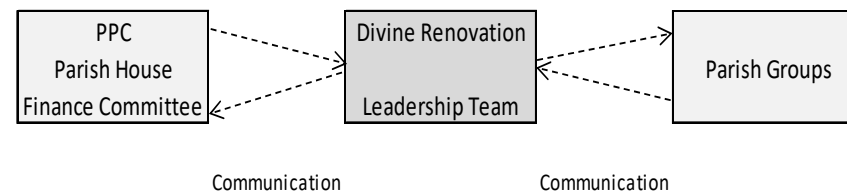
## OTHER REPORTS

### DIVINE RENOVATION

4 <sup>th</sup> June 2017	Pentecost Decision – Parish Forum “Big Book Discussion Group” mass / lunch. Attended by over 70 parishioners. Decision taken to move from a Maintenance to a Missional Parish following the Divine Renovation model.
10 <sup>th</sup> June 2017	Name Tags introduced to weekend Masses, Welcoming subcommittee formed
July 2017	Vision Statement submissions commenced
Sept 2017	Divine Renovation Action Team (DRAT): Leadership established Establishment of and first meetings of DR Action Teams: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hospitality &amp; Welcome</li> <li>• Liturgy &amp; Celebration</li> </ul>
28 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2017	New PPC established with a more strategic focus in support of Divine Renovation. First meeting
Dec 2017	Christmas Masses (DRAT: Liturgy & Celebration, Hospitality & Welcome involvement)
24 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2018	Eight ppl from the DRAT leadership team attended an Alpha Training Day
Feb 2018	New ‘Welcome Ministry’ Roster started
April 2018	New parish Vision Statement achieved
April/May 2018	Alpha ‘Pilot’ program run
May 20 <sup>th</sup> 2018	Pentecost: Welcome to new PP Fr Jose and the Parish ‘Alpha’ Launch
July & August 2018	Parish ‘Alpha’ experience 30/5, 6/6, 13/6, 20/6, 27/6 School holiday break: 18/7, 27/7 & 28/7 (Fri night/Sat), 1/8, 8/8, 15/8, 22/8
Sept 2018	Connect groups established

The two key structural changes have taken place in the Parish in the last twelve months involving:

- 1 Parish Pastoral Council (PPC)
- 2 Divine Renovation Action Team (DRAT)



#### 1. Revamp of the Parish Pastoral Council

- Moved to a more strategically focused group responsible for:
  - 1 developing the parish vision and purpose statements,
  - 2 aligning and evaluating ministries against the vision statement, and
  - 3 working out the broad strategy for a five-year plan.

2. The change-over of the original founding DR team (core group) to the current Divine Renovation Action Team: Leadership, which continues to be chaired by Mary Ryan.

- We have established a database of DR contacts (82), parishioners and friends interested in participating in and being informed of developments regarding Divine Renovation. (To date this resource has been under-utilised)

3. Initial focus in the following two areas, each of which is served by a DRAT:

- Hospitality and Welcome:  
We worked to reawaken and strengthen the welcoming culture, which calls all parishioners and friends old and new, to be part of the regeneration to participate strongly as welcoming people to each other and to newcomers. This is probably the most visible sign of the Divine Renovation work to

date. It's already making a notable difference as to how we see ourselves and others see us.

- Name tags – We now have two boards holding approx. 340 names. Having established a process of welcoming that has been embraced by the Parish, we are now almost ready to reveal a custom made cabinet to house them. Thanks to Kerry O'Leary, Don Schroder, Silvio Volombello and Ian Hamshaw for their work on this project. This will be located on the r/hand side in the entrance of the Church.



- Reviewing post mass tea and coffee so that parishioners feel welcome to relax and chat has been another fruit of DR.
- A new DR Welcome Roster began in February with about 25 ppl rotating on a fortnightly basis. This will be reviewed before the next roster. The idea is to have a number of ppl on duty before and after mass not only handing out the Word but outside, inside around the congregation, at the names tags and after mass cuppa extending warmth and conversation.

➤ Liturgy & Celebration:

- Christmas Masses were a focus last year. The special introduction to bring everyone together at the start of mass and the communal holding of hands at the end were inspiring and moving.
- Father Joe now sometimes comes down from the sanctuary to deliver the homily with the congregation for a more immediate personal experience.

- Masses now always include a hymn of praise.
- The trial of a new Mass Captain welcome script during Lent received very mixed reviews. The new script included a lengthier welcome, an invitation to enter into silence, the use of a gong and an invitation to hold hands for a short time. Further consultation will be made.
- Hand rails will be installed on both or one side of the sanctuary in order to assist those in need to safely ascend and descend the steps.

- Alpha: A key element of DR is the Alpha Program. Four parishioners have participated in such a program in the last six months and many prior to this time when they were run at St Anne's.
- On February 24<sup>th</sup> 2018 eight ppl from the DRAT leadership team attended an Alpha Training Day at St Benedict's in Burwood which they found really helpful and were provided with some excellent resources to use for Holy Spirit.
  - DRAT: Leadership then went ahead with an Alpha 'Pilot' Program as a taster and training opportunity of the upcoming Parish Alpha. 20 ppl met weekly over April/May. The whole parish community was asked for prayer support during this time – thank you! It has been a remarkable experience and we hope that it will lay the foundations for Alpha as a core offering and evangelisation resource for any and all who visit or belong to our parish in the future.
  - Ron Huntley – DR expert from Canada, will be visiting Melbourne in July and Fr Joe previously indicated support for a Parish consultation opportunity. There will also be an offering at the Diocesan level. Dates to be advised.
  - The DR focus on the time ahead is launching and running the first 'Alpha' experience for mass goers and then beyond.
  - Connect Groups: To be established as a follow -up, this is an essential flow on system where people can continue to gather and to give and receive mutual support in their Christian journey.

In summary, there has been a massive amount achieved over the past twelve months, through the passionate involvement and support of so many committed parishioners. Not only those 70+ who stood shoulder to shoulder to endorse Divine Renovation last June, but all who continue to willingly participate and wholeheartedly support all initiatives and efforts being made to bring our parish from maintenance to mission.

Thank you one and all for your contributions. We are still relatively at the beginning of our Divine Renovation journey, but at least we have well and truly 'set sail'. May our parish patron the Holy Spirit continue to guide and direct us as we travel.

*Mary Ryan*  
*Chairperson,*  
*Divine Renovation Action Team: Leadership*

## **PARISH WEBSITE**

### **Infrastructure changes**

- None

### **Changes**

There have been no major changes to the parish web site in the past year.

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

- Parish Groups Removed
  - State Youth Games – YL
  - Vinnies Youth
- Holy Spirit YouTube Channel
  - No changes
- Other Content
  - New and Events section:
    - A Pastoral Letter to the Catholics of Victoria – Euthanasia - <https://www.cam.org.au/holyspirit/News-Events/Pastoral-Letter-Euthanasia>
    - Wall of Mercy - <https://www.cam.org.au/holyspirit/Year-of-Mercy/Wall-of-Mercy>
    - Our Daily Journey to “Emmaus” - <https://www.cam.org.au/holyspirit/News-Events/Our-Daily-Journey-to-Emmaus>

### **Usage - Summary**

Key points are as follows:

1. In almost all cases the metrics for the site's declined. 2015/2016 is looking like a peak with 2016/2017 being fairly flat but 2017/2018 showing reduced patronage:

- a. Page Views -10%





- b. Pages / Session -3%
  - c. Average Length of a session – 2%
2. Peak web site Users for Christmas an Easter reduced by 37% and 14% respectively (on 10% and 20% last year).
  3. YouTube video usage has declined. This is because there has been no new content.
  4. PageViews

Document	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
The Word / week	15	35	55
Spirit Magazine / quarter	95	170	178

**Next Year**

- Adding pages on the sacraments
- Extending the News & Events section
- Supporting Renovation @ Holy Spirit – It’s Devine!

*Michael O’Leary*  
*Assistant to Holy Spirit Parish*

Year	The-Word-Newsletter	Mass-Times/Weekly-Services	Our-Parish/Parish-Calendar	The-Spirit-Magazine
15/16	798	941	381	211
16/17	1,820	1,830	682	780
17/18	2,863	1,336	713	624
<b>Trend</b>				

5. Page View counts of the most popular.

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



## HOLY SPIRIT SCHOOL

One of the events of 2017 was the start of my tenure as principal. I was fortunate enough to take over a school that had been well run by Peter over many years. Having such a solid foundation ensured that we have some great opportunities available to us.

The first opportunity presented itself around the whole school review. This review process is a compulsory event that takes place every four years. It involved the school compiling a self-reflection report which was then ratified by an independent reviewer and the Catholic Education Office. This self-reflection highlighted the things we are doing well and also looked at what we could improve upon. A particular focus was on ensuring that parents had a chance to respond. Several 'community conversations' were held which added to the overall report being truly reflective of our community. At the end of this process a school improvement plan (SIP) was derived which in turn help set an annual action plan (AAP) for the year ahead. Amanda Smith (CEM) was very helpful in this process.

The school leadership team (SLT) also undertook training with an internationally accredited coach, Mary Amohanga. Mary worked with individuals on the team as well as the collective to assist with building leadership capacity. In turn this opened up opportunities to have SLT members work more independently with staff members. One of the outcomes of this was that Student Services leader Melinda Buscema worked very closely with teacher aides. She developed role descriptions with them as well as building teaching and learning skills. This work benefited not only the individuals but students as well. As a part of her role Melinda also undertook further training in a model that will assist in teaching behaviour skills to our students. (Berry Street model).

Staff capacity was also a them with targeted PD provided by Ron Ritchhart. His 'growth mindset' focus has been an ongoing target for teaching staff. The aim being that all teachers will eventually complete the course.

Our P&F continued to provide community building opportunities as well as providing fund raising for school facilities. This work under Belinda Semos' guidance was greatly appreciated. Amongst other things they provided much needed assistance in running the bi-annual Art Show. Kylie Pappadopolous continued as school board chair 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).

A major change to our school was the decision to outsource two items. The first was out of school hours care (to Extend). This valuable service had been a parish and school concern for a number of years. I for one would like to voice my appreciation of all who assisted this throughout the years. It was a huge commitment that many families reaped the benefit of.

The second decision involved the outsourcing of working bees to a maintenance person. Again, my thanks to Theresa Lanza and Kerry Childs who were the last organisers of the maintenance subcommittee. They were mightily relieved when Silvio Volumbello took over.

*Duncan Arendse*  
*Principal*

## FINANCES

This report relates to the full year result for calendar year 2017.

### Income

The major part of income is the Stewardship donations and this was steady over the 2016 result at \$177,500. Many thanks to our loyal and generous parishioners for their continuing support.

Fete income is the next greatest contributor. The record profit of \$80k is shared 50/50 with the school however this year provision of \$30k has been made for building a new storage facility and eliminating 6 containers that litter the property. This building, to be located at the edge of the lower car park, will allow for much simpler access and facility. The building is expected to be erected by August 2018. With other adjustments the share of fete money coming to the parish was \$30k.

Activities such as the Rock and Roll night and other social events boosted the Other Income by about \$3k.

Overall the income for 2017 was down \$4.3k on 2016.

### Expenses

There were a number of changes implemented that lead to a reduction in costs of \$23.7k for 2017 versus 2016. These included a change in salary arrangements for delivering the High Spirits program, change to the photocopier lease agreement leading to reduced lease and operating costs and a change of print contractor for The Spirit magazine providing a lower charge for printing. At the same time staff salaries and superannuation were increased to current recommended levels. Other expenses remained much the same. A change in billing procedure by Yarra Water saw the parish inadvertently paying the school water bill for a time but this was found, corrected and the school recompensed the parish for the amount.

The parish posted a surplus in 2017 of \$23.1k.

Looking towards 2018, we have installed sorely needed new air conditioning in the parish house and chapel. The old systems were either not working or loud and inefficient. That cost \$14.1k. The system can both heat and cool so will add more comfort all year round for Father, the staff and anyone partaking of the hospitality of the open house.

In the Community Centre/Church, we have made changes to the toilet doors to add light into the foyers and to allow visibility of traffic movement. We are installing a new cabinet for name tags in the entry foyer which will be a stylish feature as well as a functional addition. We are also installing hand rails leading up to the altar to assist us all in safely navigating the steps.

Looking at our financial expectations in 2018, we expect a reduction in income due to the OSHC organisation moving out of the Community Centre into their own buildings (ex Community House). This was largely a reimbursement of utility and insurance costs so we should see a commensurate reduction in costs however the nett effect will still leave us worst off income wise. The costs of running the Community Centre are now shared 50/50 with the school but we are expecting a slight increase in costs to us overall.

It is also of concern that in 2018 year to March, the Stewardship income has dropped by 7.5%. This needs to be addressed with a mid-term stewardship refresher.

*Silvio Volombello – Chairperson,  
Parish Finance Committee.*

## QUESTION AND ANSWER TIME

### Closing Prayer