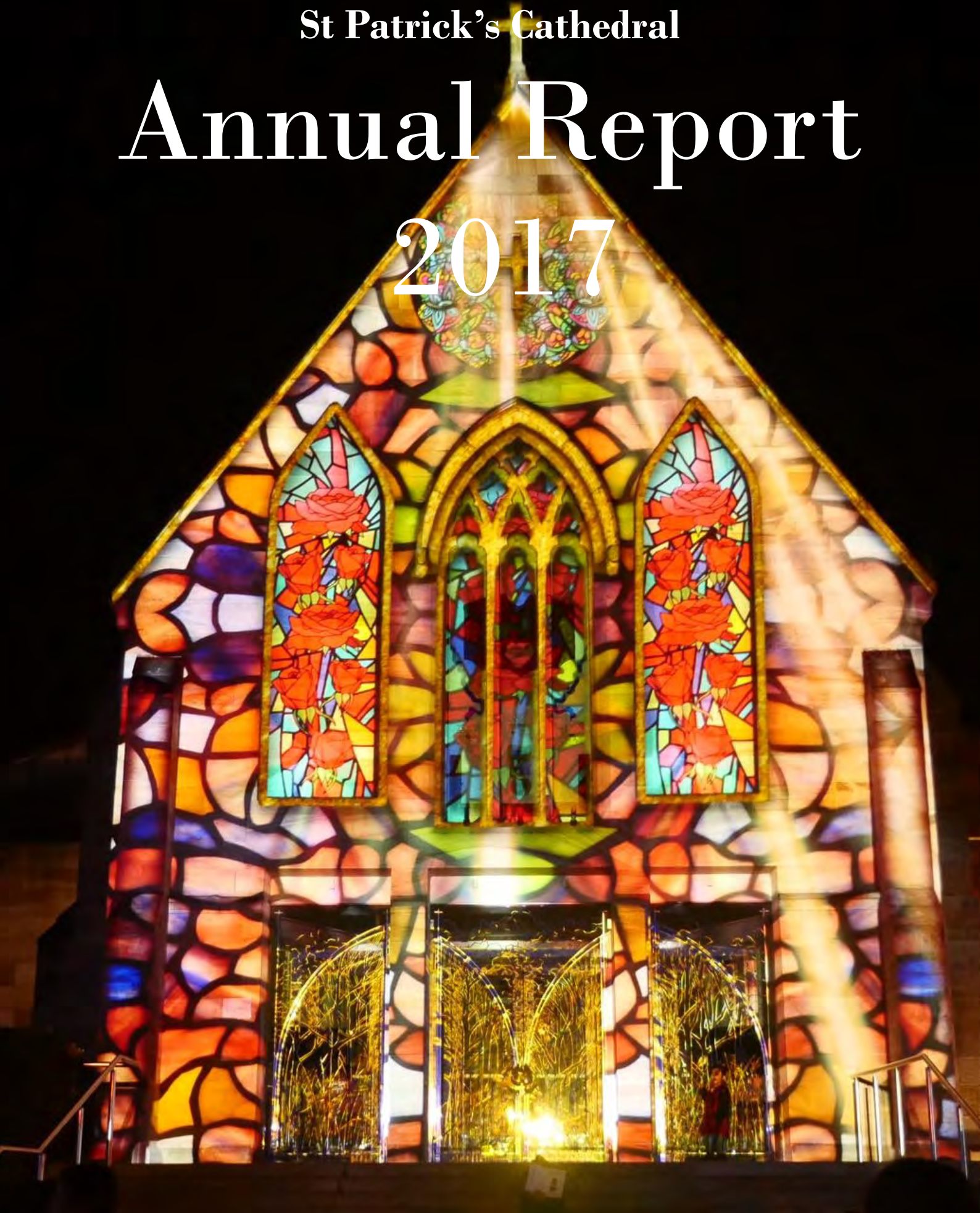


St Patrick's Cathedral

# Annual Report 2017



# St Patricks Cathedral

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# St Patrick's Cathedral Annual Report

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# THE DEAN'S REPORT



A great number of events have occurred in our Parish since the 2016 Annual General Meeting. Changes in personnel have had an enormous effect on our community. The transfer of **Fr John Paul Escarlan** to the Parish of St Monica's Richmond came as a surprise to all. He has been replaced by **Fr George Azhakath**, from the Missionary Society of St Francis de Sales. As we wish Fr John Paul every blessing in his new assignment, we also welcome Fr George knowing that we will be blessed by his presence and pastoral insights. We have also seen the retirement from the Parish Financial Committee of **Peter O'Leary** together with the 'pastoral' retirement of his wife, **Veronica**. They are moving from the local area to the Central Coast. On behalf of the Parish community I thank them for their presence, assistance and giftedness to St Patrick's Parish over so many years. We wish them well in their new chapter of life. Also, we have seen the departure of **Emeritus Bishop Kevin Manning**. Due to health reasons, he has had to take up residence at St Catherine's Aged Care Facility in Bathurst. His cheery presence, friendship and quick wit will be missed by all. We hope that he will continue to visit us in the coming years.

This year has seen the continuation of a fine formational program comprising of one Saturday every month dedicated to a specific topic. We have also continued our formational ministry with the Rite of Christian Initiation (R.C.I.A.) and the Parish Sacramental program. I would like to thank Michael and Marietta, Deacon Willy and his RCIA Team and Meg Gale and her Sacramental Team for their continued dedication in the area of formation.

St Patrick's Day this year was celebrated in an extraordinary manner with the initial **St Patrick's Day**

**Business Breakfast** held in the Cathedral Hall. Over one hundred people from all facets of life attended an enjoyable and thought provoking gathering. The guest speaker was former **NSW Premier Mr John Fahey** who spoke about the Christian approach to business and life. We hope to continue this fine celebration in the years to come. I would like to thank especially **Mr Chris Lee** who spearheaded the entire event.

Chris Lee was also responsible for the very successful **Light Up St Pat's festival** during the first week of the July School holidays. Celebrated in conjunction with Parramatta City Council's Winterfest held in Prince Alfred Park, the festival was more than experiencing the fascination of the images projected on the forecourt face of the Cathedral. It was an opportune time for evangelisation and reaching out to people. A dedicated group of young people went into Prince Alfred Park to distribute flyers advertising the festival and encouraging people to come. The festival included an exhibition of the replica of the Shroud of Turin, an exhibition of the various Eucharistic miracles and a display of the history of our Parish held in the Cathedral Hall; tours of the Cathedral; Choral and organ recitals by the St Patrick's Cathedral Choir and organists and an exhibition of thirty-three relics of various saints in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel. In the ten days of the festival over 1,000 people came through the Cathedral gates to be part of this event. I wish to thank Chris Lee and his team together with our major sponsors, Parramatta City Council and Payce Company.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank **Olivia Lee**, the Chair of our Parish Pastoral Council and **Anthony Khoury**, the Chair of our Finance Committee, and their members for their dedication and work in the past year. St Patrick's Parish also comprises of many different ministries which cater for all aspects of parish life. I wish to thank the many people who are involved in these various ministries for their time and giftedness. Our parish is all the richer for their presence and efforts.

This coming year sees the completion of the first phase of **'Faith in our Future'** Diocesan Pastoral Program. This has been an outstanding working document that has assisted many parishes throughout the Diocese. It is hoped that this Program is revisited by parishes to see how much has been completed and how much more needs to be put in place in the coming years. It will form a central part of the work of the Parish Pastoral Council next year to consider how to further implement this Program.

This coming year also brings the challenge of working out with the Chancery the elements of its **St Patrick's Quarter** development program over the next few years. As a major stakeholder in this development we, as a Parish need to be aware of the issues and challenges that this development brings to our community. It is hoped that a suitable outcome will be achieved that will benefit all stakeholders.

As we move ahead may we never lose sight of the reason we are here: to be ministers of the Word and disciples of the Kingdom. All that we do, all that we bring to life in our Parish needs to be supported by the pillars of Evangelisation and Ministry. My thanks to every member of this Parish Community for your presence and support throughout the past year. May we grow in a deeper relationship with each other and with the Lord.

**Fr Robert Bossini**  
**Dean and Parish Priest**  
**August, 2017**



*Light Up St Pat's*



*Some of the dignitaries at the St Patrick's Day breakfast*





# PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL REPORT

*by Olivia Lee*

## 12 MONTH PASTORAL REVIEW

Continuing from the objectives set at the 2016 Annual General Meeting, the Parish Pastoral Council's main undertaking has been to ensure the successful implementation and flourishing of ministries and events that cultivate a vibrant parish life largely supporting the youth and family community.

This was not to the exclusion of all other demographics and ministries, but rather, to understand the underscoring importance of these two demographics:

The family as the cornerstone of the Church and society.

The youth as the leading participants in the renewal of the Church and of society.

In the past 12 months, the PPC also supported and guided the formation of 2 new events to enter the Parish – the St Patrick's Day Business Breakfast, and the Light Up St Pat's projections.

It has been a very memorable and exciting past 12 months for the Parish, and the PPC wishes to extend its gratitude to the Parishioners for all their dedication to the community, both behind the scenes, and on the front line.

## 12 MONTH PASTORAL PROSPECTIVE

For the 12 months leading into 2018, the PPC plans to continue with its support of youth and family life, whilst also looking into other areas of the Parish that require support.

The council welcomes feedback of any ideas or thoughts as to how the pastoral nature of the Cathedral Parish can be elevated to encourage more people to be involved in the community, and ultimately, love and serve Christ.

### IN THE PIPELINE:

- In response to Bishop Vincent's pastoral piece on care of the elderly and aged – 'A Seat at the Table' - at the time of writing this, the council is planning a Mass and supper to celebrate the elderly community of our Parish, and thank them for their contributions to our society.
- The council is also currently looking at ways to build a sense of community through the many parishioners already giving their time to ministry in the Church. Based on feedback, the council hopes to be able to plan a 'thank you' dinner for our ministers, as a way to begin this journey toward stronger community.
- The council has just begun planning the development of a new Repairs Ministry – where men and women in the parish volunteer their time to service the minor repair jobs of those in our parish community who need assistance.







*Welcoming new members of our parish community*  
**Easter Vigil 2017**



# FINANCE REPORT

*By Mili Lee*

## OVERVIEW:

The Church requires each parish to organise, under the Code of Canon Law (537), a Finance Council . The Cathedral Parish's Finance Council (PFC) assists Fr Bob in his role as parish priest and Dean of St Patrick's Cathedral , in the canonical administration of the parish's financial and temporal goods.

The membership of the current Cathedral PFC is a balance of male and female parishioners with diverse professional background. The PFC meets once every two months to discuss and inform Fr Bob on various financial matters that will benefit the financial growth of the Cathedral parish. Assisting the PFC in their work are two teams of counters who count and bank the weekly collections and the wardens who ensure that the collections are taken up at all weekend Masses.

### Parish Finance Council Members

Fr Robert Bossini <i>Parish Priest and Dean of the Cathedral</i>	Anthony Khoury <i>Parishioner, Chair of PFC</i>
Fr George Azhakath <i>Assistant Parish Priest</i>	David Mannall <i>Parishioner</i>
Kerry Giumelli <i>Parishioner, PFC Secretary</i> <i>Representative of the Parish Pastoral Council</i>	Sabu Thomas <i>Parishioner</i>
Cathy Dearie <i>Parishioner</i>	Debbie Grigson <i>Parishioner</i>
Mili Lee <i>Cathedral Staff, Finance Admin</i>	

## THE LAST FINANCIAL YEAR

### PARISH INCOME

The Sunday collections are the main source of income for the Cathedral parish and are separated as follow:

1. First Collection — deposited into Pastoral Revenue for the benefit of the priests around the Diocese
2. Second Collection — deposited into the Parish Account for the mission and maintenance of the parish. The Cathedral parish, like any other parish, is very much dependant on the generosity of parishioners and visitors, who contribute to the second collection on Sundays, for its income. The second collection makes up 75% of the parish income.

The second collection is classified further into :

- Envelope  
The Envelope Collection is part of the Cathedral's Planned Giving Programme whereby a family chooses to take a set of envelopes for the year, marked with the date for each week and decide on an agreed amount that they will contribute each week and place it in the envelope. Alternatively, a family may set up a Direct Debit either from a credit card or through





arranging a monthly scheduled transaction paid into our Parish Account. The planned giving programme is important as it enables the parish to budget for the coming year depending on the pledge made by parishioners.

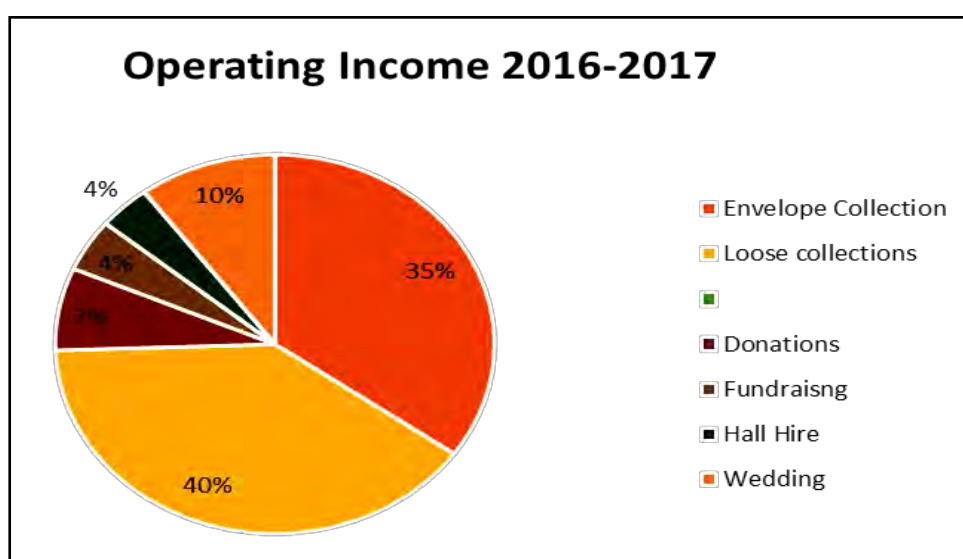
This number represent 12% of the total weekend congregation of St Patrick’s Cathedral.

## 2. Loose Collection.

Bundled into Loose Collection are all moneies received via the church’s collection plates that are not placed in an envelope. This also includedes cash received on Friday Masses and any other Mass where a plate is taken up for the purpose of maintaining the Cathedral parish.

Apart from the second collection, we are also fortunate to have a beautiful Cathedral, Chapel and Hall that generate income for the Cathedral through wedding and other function bookings.

Our income in the last financial year saw a drop in the planned giving collection by \$3 000.00 short of our budget however the increase in loose collections and donations enabled us to increase our income by \$10 000.00.



## Other Income

Apart from the Sunday collections, the Cathedral income is supplemented by hall hire and fundraising. With the recent hall renovation we hope to increase use of the hall for corporate and private functions.

The Island night and raffle which was organised in September 2016 was a great community building project but also added \$12,000 to the Cathedral coffers.

## Expenses

The Cathedral expenses are classified broadly into maintenance or mission category.

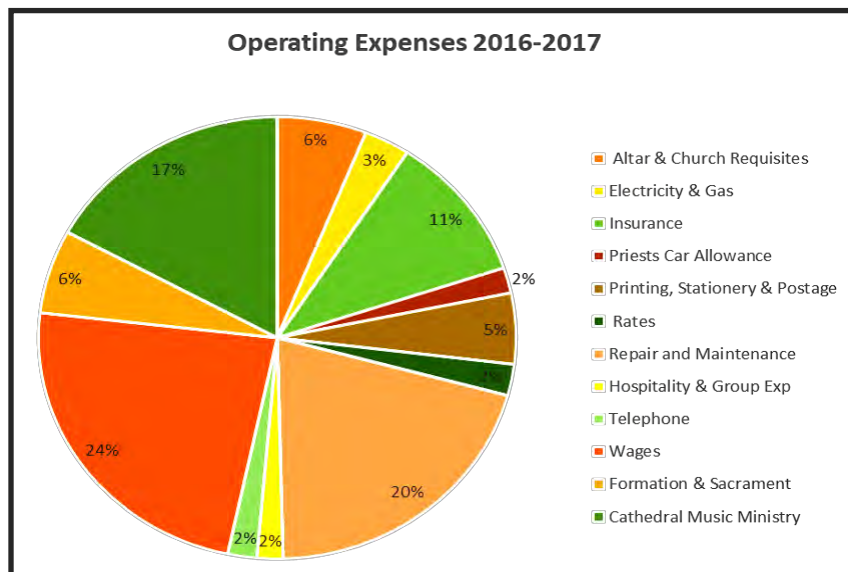
The Maintenance category is supported by the Diocese of Parramatta and it includes costs such as maintenance of all Cathedral precinct buildings (Cathedral, Chapel, Murphy House, Hall and Presbytery) utilities, insurance, wages and costs incurred for the running of the Cathedral office.

Apart from the day to day cleaning and general maintenance work, the following maintenance work was done around the Cathedral precinct in the last financial year:

- The hall was renovated with new sound system and projector installed.
- Cathedral Reception and Offices were repainted and an old bathroom in the Presbytery converted into the Cathedral archive.
- Cathedral and Chapel roof repaired with new gutters installed. This cost was absorbed by the Diocese of Parramatta.

The Mission category is one that we would like to increase in our budget. This cost includes Sacraments, SRE, Youth Groups, Hospitality, Prayer groups, Formation for parishioners and group leader, evangelisation materials and pastoral outreach to parishioners and the wider community.

The chart below shows how the cathedral spent its income in the last financial year.



Apart from supporting our parish we have also contributed significantly towards appeals such as the Diocesan Works Fund, Caritas, Catholic Mission, St Vincent de Paul, Holy Land Commissariat, Missions in the Philippines and Father's Day appeal.

Thank you parishioners and friends of St Patrick's Cathedral for your financial contribution to the Cathedral in the last financial year. Your contribution will continue to help us move towards a more mission oriented Cathedral parish.



*Fundraising at St Patrick's Cathedral*





# *When two become ONE*

Call 02 8839 8411 or email [secretary@stpatscathedral.com.au](mailto:secretary@stpatscathedral.com.au) for more  
information.



# LITURGY CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT

By Christopher Ohlsen

In the last twelve months much has been happening in our Parish! We celebrated our first Christmas and Holy Week with Bishop Vincent, I have been appointed as Diocesan Master of Ceremonies and more members of our community have been volunteering their time and talents and joining our Liturgical Ministries.

## Ministries

Ministry	August 2015 – August 2016	August 2016– August 2017
<b>Acolyte</b>	16	17
<b>Altar Servers</b>	19	24
<b>Extraordinary Ministers</b>	38	40
<b>Readers</b>	36	44

## Sacraments

Sacrament	August 2015 – August 2016	August 2016 – August 2017
<b>Baptism</b>	153	141
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion</b>	63	61
<b>Confirmation</b>	48	36
<b>Matrimony</b>	22	16
<b>Funerals</b>	16	11

Average Weekly Mass attendance 2000 people.

In the past twelve months I had initiated communal Morning Prayer on Sundays and Evening Prayer on weekdays commencing at 5:15pm. Unfortunately, due to lack of numbers, this has discontinued. Similarly, the daily recitation of the Rosary in the month of May, combined with Evening Prayer had very little success. However, on the Solemnity of Corpus Christi we held an overnight Eucharistic Adoration Vigil. This was well attended and would be something that would be repeated next year.

The Cathedral continues to try and be a teaching ground for Ministers across the Diocese. One on one training of individuals appears to be far more successful at the moment than larger teaching events.

My focus for the next twelve months will be to get a formation timetable in place for Ministers across all our ministries within our Parish. It is my hope that by having regular formation sessions that this will also address the issue of commitment to our weekend ministry Roster.

My thanks to you all for your support and encouragement over the past year!



*"The liturgy is the summit toward which the activity of the Church is directed; at the same time it is the fount [source] from which all the Church's power flows."*

Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, 10



# CHILDREN'S LITURGY 2017

by Marilyn Cook

*Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old  
he will not depart from it. (Proverbs 22:6 )*

The Children's liturgy team aims to instruct children (approximately 3 to 8 years old) on the gospel story. We aim to provide a simple interpretation at the level of the children so that they can understand the basic message and the concepts involved.

We provide leaders for this ministry each week during the school terms. Two adults each week aim to engage and motivate the children in a small group environment. *We could not provide Children's liturgy without the help and dedication of our wonderful team of leaders.*

*Thanks to Kirrily and Oscar, Jessy and Priya, Claire and Stephen, Grace and Josephine, Sarah and Edward, Rita and Anna, Danielle and Rosie and Graham and Marilyn.*

We asked the children recently "Why do you like coming to Children's Liturgy", and this is what they said:

***"Cause we learn about Jesus"***

***"..It won't be so complicated so we can understand better"***

***"Colouring in"***

***"Saying Prayers"***

***"We get to do arts and crafts ... we got to make a triangle from paddle pop sticks that represented the Holy Trinity"***

***"We get to learn more things than we do in Religion"***

***"We learn about God"***

***"We learn what Catholics do who love God"***

*They do enjoy the crafts, the songs, the activities and the age appropriate discussion groups, all while discovering the meaning of the Gospel. And YES, they would recommend to their friends to attend Children's Liturgy at St Patricks, Parramatta.*

*We are always in need of new helpers. If you are interested in helping out please contact the Parish Office.*

*There will always be someone to assist you and you will be providing a valuable experience for the children.*



*Marilyn with children at the Children's Liturgy*



Children's Liturgy is held each Sunday during school term during the 9.30am Mass.

Volunteers needed to help once a month. Apart from a love for the faith, a working with Children clearance is needed if you wish to work in this ministry.

Apply by calling the Cathedral Office on 8839 8411.



## MUSIC MINISTRY REPORT 2016-2017

The music ministry at St. Patrick's Cathedral continued its service to the parish, diocese and city of Parramatta over the 2016-2017 year with the strong and dedicated commitment of our many talented musicians, supported by the cathedral congregations and clergy. 2017 also marked the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of an important document on Church Music "*Musicam Sacram, 1967*" which outlines the importance, principles and purpose of Sacred Music in the Church's liturgy and worship. Upon reflection of this document, it is pleasing to see that our cathedral fulfills the aims and objectives which are espoused, in summary, that Word and Sacrament celebrated with beauty through Music and ritual nurtures and sustains our people in order to live out a fulfilled Christian life. We are blessed that the liturgy at the cathedral is vibrant and celebrated beautifully, is consistent with the principles of the reforms initiated after the Second Vatican Council, and true to the vision of "full, active and conscious participation of the faithful".

From week to week, the music ministry serves the Sunday Masses of 6.00pm Vigil, 9.30am, 11.00am Solemn Sung Mass and 6.00pm evening. Music is also provided for Solemnities of the Lord celebrated during the year at 12.30pm weekday Mass and the evening Solemn Masses for Ash Wednesday, Assumption of Blessed Virgin Mary and the Commemoration of All Souls. Cathedral musicians also provide music for diocesan occasions, weddings, funerals and other liturgical events.

Currently the team of musicians at St. Patrick's includes, Director of Music, Bernard Kirkpatrick, Assistant Organist, Michael Taylor, Senior Organ Scholars, Timothy Coorey and Alex Stevens, Junior Organ Scholar, Patrick Newman. Cantors leading the music at weekly scheduled liturgies number approximately 10 male and female voices. St. Patrick's Cathedral Choir has SATB membership of approx 36 mixed male/female voices – with 12 choral positions providing scholarship opportunities for young catholic musicians to learn the

skills of a liturgical musician. Membership enquiries for the choir have continued to remain strong especially among older youth and young adults, even with the obligatory attendance at weekly choir rehearsal each Wednesday and attendance at the Solemn Mass each Sunday and as scheduled. As a cathedral church, the role of the choir takes on a particularly important and heavy commitment to ensure that the music in the bishop's church enables effective musical support and embellishment in accordance with the liturgical rites and the principles outlined in liturgical documents, drawing from a broad repertoire of sacred music new and old, and modelling good liturgical praxis for the diocese.

Other contributors to the musical life of St. Patrick's include the Tongan Choir – led by Sefo Apikotoa. Their long standing and ongoing commitment to the 9.30am Mass on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month is most appreciated by cathedral parishioners. The Youth-led Mass on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month at 6.00pm continues to grow and involve the participation of some of the cathedral youth group "Credo" with various musicians, led by Anthony Silvestrini. Collaboration with the RCIA team and St. Patrick's Primary School now sees the participation of the primary school choir and musicians at the parish First Holy Communion Masses and Confirmations. St. Patrick's Cathedral also has an active inter-action with the Diocesan Performing Arts Unit – "Captive" - collaborating with young musicians from around the diocese to integrate liturgical music with the instrumental and performance skills they are developing through this unique CEO educational program.

In addition to the music which needs to be provided for the regular schedule of cathedral liturgies, other occasional services, in particular the celebration of the Divine Office, or Liturgy of the Hours, forms the basis of a number of other special liturgies throughout the year, including the Office of Tenebrae (during Holy Week), Solemn Vespers (sung Evening Prayer of the Church), which take place for the presentation of Diocesan



Awards, the Induction and Welcome of Principals of Parramatta Catholic Schools and Student Excellence awards.

In 2016, the cathedral saw the arrival of two new clergy amongst us, namely Fr. George and Bishop Vincent. Both are to be highly commended for their efforts in “getting up to speed” with the musical parts of the liturgy proper to the bishop and priest.

**Some Highlights of the last year include:**

Nov 2, 2016 – All Souls Day: A beautiful Solemn Requiem Mass was sung by the Bishop and SPC choir, with families of the deceased buried from the cathedral during that year attending.

March 17, 2017 - Showcasing some of our cathedral musician talent at the inaugural St. Patrick’s Day Business Breakfast.

Holy Week Liturgies – especially “Tenebrae” – psalm singing, scripture reflection and choir responsories, and Good Friday Solemn Commemoration – especially the enthusiastic and fervent congregational chanting of the Passion according to John;

May 2017 - Mother’s Day Concert presented by SPC Choir members and instrumentalists.

**Concert Highlights:**

The public profile of St. Patrick’s as a venue for fine concert performances continues to grow and attract strong audiences. Such performances include the annual Christmas Concerts by the Australian Brandenburg Orchestra, and performances by Sydney Philharmonia Choirs. Such performances make a significant financial contribution to the cathedral for the use of our facilities.

As Music Director, I extend my thanks to all who assist in the music ministry at St. Patrick’s Cathedral, Parramatta. In particular, I thank especially Mrs. Ivy Wallace for her hard work in the role of choir librarian/secretary for several years and who now hands over this responsibility to Ms. Bianca Thio. My thanks also go to Bishop Vincent Long van Nguyen, Dean Robert Bossini and clergy of the parish for the continuing support they provide in presiding at liturgy, and special thanks to all of the parishioners of the cathedral who so warmly embrace all our music ministers and who enthusiastically participate in the assembly’s music, as we all give glory to God, who blesses us so that we may sing his continuing praises and endless mercies.

*Yours in service,*

*Bernard Kirkpatrick,  
Director of Music.*



*We are blessed that the liturgy at the cathedral is vibrant and celebrated beautifully, is consistent with the principles of the reforms initiated after the Second Vatican Council, and true to the vision of “full, active and conscious participation of the faithful”.*



# SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION PROGRAM

*By Margaret Gale*

## **The Team:**

St Patrick's Sacramental Team consists of five members. Four of our members work in teaching and enrich the program greatly through their many skills and vast experience. Working with the cathedral primary school, St Patrick's Primary, is very important to the sacraments of initiation in our parish and the REC of St Patrick's Primary is a valued team member. In the past year, long time REC and team member, Mrs Judith Kerr retired. Although this was a great loss to our team we have been blessed to welcome the new REC, Mrs Leanda Standring, and look forward to continuing our work with St Patrick's Primary well into the future.

## **The Program:**

The Sacraments of Initiation program used at St Patrick's is that endorsed by the diocese – we are closely guided by the team from the Office for Worship and use the preparation materials which OFW has created specifically for the Sacraments of Initiation program.

In accordance with the *Diocese of Parramatta Policy on Sacraments of Initiation* we, as the Sacraments of Initiation team “supports the home by providing a more systematic catechesis through parish-based, family-centred, school-supported programs of sacramental preparation.” To this effect, the preparation for each sacrament consists of two parent formation evenings and two child/parent afternoon sessions. The important role of the parents and the family in preparing their child for the sacrament is reiterated throughout the formation process.

The sacramental program runs on a yearly schedule.

The ‘year’ starts in October with preparation for the sacrament of Reconciliation which is usually held in December before school breaks for the Christmas holidays. This is also during or around the season of Advent and serves as a good way for us to remind the children that this is a time of preparation and repentance as we look forward to welcoming Jesus at Christmas.

In March the program re-commences and preparation starts for First Eucharist.

This preparation includes a segment called ‘Remembering Baptism’ which was developed to help



the children who are participating in the Sacraments of Initiation program come to understand this sacrament and its place as the Sacrament by which they became a member of God's family.

First Eucharist at St Patrick's Cathedral is usually held on the feast of Corpus Christi.

In the second half of the year – starting at the same time as School Term 3 – we begin the next phase of the Sacraments of Initiation program with preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Attendance is mandatory for all sessions of preparation.

## **Team Formation**

Members of the Sacraments of Initiation team regularly attend coordinators meetings, team meetings and training days with OFW. We are continually updating our resources and refining our approach.



Age Requirements  
Eucharist: 7yrs or older  
Confirmation: 10yrs or older

### **Numbers**

St Patrick's Cathedral Parish Sacramental team continues to support St Oliver's Parish Harris Park and also prepares the children from St Oliver's who are completing the Sacraments of Initiation.

The breakdown of numbers for the last year for each sacrament and parish is as follows:

RECONCILIATION: 58

St Patrick's: 48

St Oliver's: 10



EUCCHARIST: 59

St Patrick's: 51

St Oliver's: 8



CONFIRMATION: 29

St Patrick's: 26

St Oliver's: 3



*St Patrick's Cathedral Sacrament of Initiation Team*





As one of the key ministries in our parish, the Live Christ Share Christ (LCSC) movement continues to provide regular monthly formation teachings as part of our evangelisation and renewal thrust. Every session comprised of prayer, praising, songs, teaching, sharing, group discussion and fellowship.

This year, our first formation session started in February with an introduction and overview of the Gospel of Matthew by Fr. Bob. The succeeding March and April sessions incorporated the five weeks of Lent wherein Fr. Bob and Fr. George each presented formation and reflection topics related to the Sunday's gospel. Each Lenten session provided each participant an in depth scriptural guide to the Gospel readings including knowledge of its corresponding historical background and significance within their own lives.

The popular Pentecost Retreat session last June was a whole day event consisting of a teaching on the Role of the Holy Spirit by Fr. Bob in the morning and a spirit-filled Liturgical bible Study by Annette Hartman in the afternoon. Another session was also held in the month of June called 'Being a Servant – Christian Service' by Mili Lee.

In the month of July, our Deacon Willy Limjap presented the well-received topic 'Christian Witness'. For the August Christian Personal Relationships session, two talks were presented – 'Learning to Love Another' by David Mannall and 'Honour and Respect' by Anthony Ampuch.

More formation teachings are scheduled for the rest of this year and we encourage all parishioners to take the opportunity to attend these sessions.

Our vision for next year is to continue our monthly formation teachings with new inspiring topics to deepen the faith and nurturing parishioners to spread the good news to others. We also plan to implement another Life in Christ Seminar (LCS) as part of our continuing work to do rapid, massive persistent, committed and unrelenting evangelisation going to the grassroots and reaching every Catholic







# *Cathedral Function Room for Hire*

*Looking for a venue to host your next corporate or private function? The Cathedral function room is available to hire during the day. Call the parish office for more information.*



# Special Religious Education Program

*Pamela Bain & David H Mannall JP*

*(Co-ordinators)*



It is with a great deal of pleasure that we present this report. We have had a very successful year in taking the word of Our Lord into the following State Schools: -

School	Student Numbers
Oatlands Public School	52
Parramatta East Public School	56
Parramatta North Public School	59
Parramatta Public School	39
Macarthur Girls High School	105
<b>Total</b>	<b>311</b>

We teach all levels from K through to Year 12.

As most of you will know we recently had a recruitment drive. This was successful and we now have 23 SREs, plus 3 "On call" standbys. From these we have 5 co-ordinators who in addition to their teaching roles also carry out other administrative responsibilities in each school. We are extremely grateful to all our teachers. All our SRES have completed Level 1 training and some both levels 2 and 3. They all have family responsibilities and some are in employment but they still manage to make the time to teach. Please pass on the thanks of all in the Parish to your families for their understanding and patience.

Our teaching resources and ongoing excellent training are provided by the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD).

They also arrange for our Regional Meetings of our Parish Co-ordinators and "Reflections Days".

Also, we are very fortunate to have the help of a number of year 10 students from Our Lady of Mercy College Parramatta (OLMC). They help our teachers at Parramatta North P/S on a weekly basis. The response of the students in the school is very positive and the young ladies have told us they gain a great deal of experience and further understanding of our faith.

We are extremely fortunate to have the active support of Fr. Bob and Fr. George. As well, the assistance and time given by the staff in the Cathedral office is greatly appreciated.

Our plans for the future include encouraging our Catechists to increase and/or update their level of training and to provide more social gatherings where we can share our teaching experiences.

Thank you for all your ongoing support and willingness to assist in any way you can.

Finally, what we do would not be possible without the wonderful team support of all SREs and administration assistance.

May we continue to be blessed as we help our students to a greater and faith filled understanding of the teachings of Our Lord Jesus Christ.



# The Legion of Mary

*By Geraldine Lilley*

The Legion of Mary was formed by Frank Duff in Dublin, Ireland in 1921, and is a worldwide Catholic Association whose aim is missionary. Legionaries aim to grow in holiness themselves through prayer and devotion to Mary, and then to share what we have with others in the community through carrying out good works. Legionaries do all their work in the spirit of Mary, and to try to imitate her humility, prayer and obedience to God.

There are two forms of membership in the Legion of Mary: active membership, and auxiliary membership.

Active members attend a weekly meeting, known as a praesidium meeting and perform active work each week. Our praesidium here in Parramatta commenced in July 2016, and so has been running for just over a year. We meet every Saturday morning at 9:45am in Murphy House, and our meetings run for approximately one hour and fifteen minutes. Our praesidium currently consists of five active members. We also have approximately 60 auxiliary (praying) members.

As a new praesidium, we are still finding our feet in terms of active works. However, all members are doing their best to do what they can throughout the week. We have one member who conducts two catechism classes in state schools during the week. Other members distribute Miraculous Medals to people they meet and visit the sick and lonely. We have also approached Marian Nursing Home and are currently in the process of organising police checks, so that we will soon be able to visit the elderly in the Nursing home, showing them that there is always



someone there for them. We also soon hope to commence home to home visitation, knocking on every door in the parish, not to preach, but simply to listen, let people know that the Church is always open for them, and hopefully to sow a seed of faith in people's hearts.

For those who cannot attend the weekly meeting or do the weekly active work there is also auxiliary membership. This involves saying the prayers of the Legion and the Rosary on a daily basis. The Auxiliary members are our praying members, our prayer support behind what we do. As mentioned above we currently have approximately 60 auxiliary members, and hope to hold a morning tea for our auxiliary members in the near future, so that we can get to know each other better and thank them for their support.



The Legion of Mary is a perfect way to combine faith with action, deepen one's own prayer life, help others, and make new friends. We pray that with the grace of God, we may be able to gain more members and expand our works even further so as to reach more people. For enquiries, please contact Michael Lilley on 0415 335 368 or Geraldine Lilley on 0403 028 096.

## Christian Meditation

The Cathedral Christin Meditation group started 13 years ago and meets each Tuesday at 9.30am in Murphy House. The group provides an avenue for parishioners and visitors alike to be still and reflect.

Our gathering usually begin with a prayer followed by a talk - which lasts between 10/15 minutes. We then have 20 minutes silence. After that another prayer and we have the opportunity to ask for individual intentions and we finish with the Lords Prayer. We normally have about 7 or 8 people attend. Everyone is welcome to attend this meditation group.

Christian meditation has its origins in the gospels, but the mantra-based form used today in the Eastern and Western Churches comes from the desert tradition of the late third and fourth centuries. A Christian monk, John Cassian, who spent many years in the desert learning a new spiritual way of life introduced the mantra-based practice of meditation to Western monasticism in the late fourth century.

The group aims to continue this tradition of meditation in the next year.



## Novena to Mary Full Of Grace

*"With the Rosary, the Christian people sit at the school of Mary and are led to contemplate the beauty on the face of Christ and to experience the depths of His love."  
(Rosarium Virginis Mariae)*

As a community, together with the Mother of our Lord, we pray the Holy Rosary with Scripture, Reflections, Meditation & Song on the last Thursday of each month in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel. The rosary usually starts at 7pm and goes for an hour. We have a group of over 10 people each month. Mary, herself, is our teacher and guide. Will you accept her invitation and give yourself some "prayer time" in contemplation with the Lord? Join us each month if you can .





# CREDO YOUTH MINISTRIES



Credo Youth Ministries began when the then young adults group launched its first "Connect" night in November 2013. The group welcomed young adults from across the diocese as not many opportunities for young adults to share in the faith were readily available at the time.

As the group's monthly connect nights grew, the young adults groups fruits were shown when others who wanted to do more and share this love of faith with others. Thus began, what is now called, Credo Youth Ministries. This year has seen Credo Youth Ministries operate with three groups: Credo Young Adults, Teen Credo and Junior Credo.

This year, Credo Youth Ministries have been involved with and working alongside Catholic Youth Parramatta, an arm of the Diocese of Parramatta that helps Youth Ministries achieve its goal of bringing more young people closer to God. Credo Youth Ministries have represented the parish on a

Diocesan level through hosting Parra Matters (roaming formation session), hosting the Good Friday Night walk (final station) and three of the leaders being chosen as deanery ambassadors for the upcoming Australian Catholic Youth Festival.

Over the past year, leaders in Credo have participated in various ways of formation through:

- Parra Matters event evenings (run by Catholic Youth Parramatta)
- Having representatives in the Parish Pastoral Council
- Other CYP events such as Lifted Retreat, Formation sessions for World Youth Day, etc.
- LifeTeen Program formation retreat
- The Faith Feed - an initiative of the Institute for Mission

## Credo Young Adults

Credo Young Adults, aimed at young adults aged 18 – 35, continues to meet every 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of the month for Adoration in the chapel at 6:30pm. All groups under the Credo ministries banner and the wider parish community are welcomed at first Friday adoration led by Fr George. Following the Adoration the group meets for fellowship and dinner. This year has seen the group involved in: discussions and talks on a number of topics such as: The Pope's Encyclical - Laudato Si, Relationships and the Catholic Church's view on family. The group also attended Culture Project's Restore sessions.



*Youth leader Anthony Silvestrini singing at Faith Feed*

## Teen Credo

Teen Credo launched in 2015 with the aim of serving high school aged youth in the parish. The group are currently using the Lifeteen program. Life Teen is a movement within the Roman Catholic Church with an aim of leading teenagers and their families into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ and His Church. It has resources online that we can use to share with young people of the Parish.

The group regularly meet every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month at 7pm. The group had previously met at 4pm and have recently changed the time to after mass. Currently, students from Year 8 - Year 12 are the makeup of the group.

Teen Credo is involved in the parish through the Credo Youth Band who run the music at every 6pm mass on the 4th Sunday of the month.



## Junior Credo

Junior Credo launched in February this year, run by the three leaders - Chantal, Matt and Melissa. The group uses the Lifeteen EDGE program. Originally aimed at Years 4 - 6, Junior Credo has seen attendance from children from Years 1 - to Year 6. Junior Credo meet every 2nd, 3rd and 4th Friday of the month from 5pm - 6pm.





## **Credo's achievements and involvements this year:**

- Youth mass is celebrated every 4th Sunday of the month and run by Credo
- Organised the presentation for the final stations of the cross for the Diocesan Good Friday Night Walk
- Hosted Catholic Youth Parramatta's "Parra-Matters" a romaing formation session for youth leaders in the diocese
- Three leaders are working alongside Catholic Youth Parramatta as Deanery Ambassadors for the Australian Catholic Youth Festival
- Assisted in hospitality and formation during Light Up St Pat's



# ST PATRICK'S HOSPITALITY

By Marian Polizzi



Another AGM Report and still members of St Patrick's Hospitality Team remain dedicated to putting into practice St Paul's challenging exhortation:

***Let hospitality be your boast.***

What helps members of the Hospitality Team to achieve this goal as they carry out their ministry of social outreach in the Cathedral parish, is the perennial motto they endeavor to humbly faithfully follow:

**GREAT OCCASIONS FOR SERVING GOD COME SELDOM;**

**LITTLE ONES SURROUND US DAILY.**

This past year we welcomed three new members (two women and one man) to the team. One of the women is unable to commit to a roster, but comes to help whenever she is able.

Currently 40 people make up the team, comprised of 22 women, a mother and daughter, 4 men, and 6 married couples. We regret losing two team members, Ditas Spears and Carmen Whitty, forced to retire due to ill health. (Carmen had been a member for about 10 years.)

New parishioners, might be interested to know the history of offering of morning tea after Sunday Masses. It originated back in 1995, in the old cathedral, before the 1996 fire. The aim then, as it remains to this day, was to provide an opportunity for parishioners to meet socially and get to know each other, and to extend

hospitality to visitors. The original team of about six people served morning tea in the old parish hall once a month.

The venue during the pro-Cathedral Days relocated to the Grotto Café (in the old Marist school block where the car park now stands), by which time morning tea was offered every Sunday; then while the new Cathedral was being built, the parish relocated to *St Pat's in the Field* in the grounds of Cumberland Hospital, Fleet Street. Here, people could gather after Mass either in the kitchen or alfresco under the palms.

In the past year, we continued our service to the parish community by

- Offering morning tea in the Cloister Café on most Sundays after 9:30am and 11am Sunday Masses. (except when special functions necessitated it being cancelled).
- Having a special morning Tea to welcome Fr George to the parish.
- Assisting at various parish functions when asked e.g. barbeques, the Good Friday Breakfast for Diocesan Youth and the *Light-up St Pat's* event in July.
- Liasing with the RCIA Team to organize the Celebratory Supper for Neophytes held in the Cathedral Hall after the Easter Vigil.
- Recently initiating the new concept of a ***Donations Basket***. Via notices in the bulletin, parishioners are encouraged to contribute supplies for use in the Cloister Café. The idea has been well received.

In the year ahead the Hospitality Team will

- continue the current modus operandi
- continue to explore the feasibility of purchasing a Cloister Café Banner to alert people to its location.
- Be ready to assist whenever needed at parish functions.





## St Patrick's Welcomers / Greeters



This initiative started at Christmas 2014. to welcome parishioners and visitors as they arrive for Mass at the Cathedral, mainly on Sundays and on other special occasions.

We believe this role is vital to building the sense of the worshipping community's identity as the Body of Christ.

It's an easy task: simply to welcome everyone with a friendly smile and a cheerful hullo as they are handed the bulletin and liturgy guide.

Unfortunately, the aim of having 4 parishioners, wearing name tags as Welcomers outside the various entrances before all 5 Sunday Masses has not gone as according to plan, for the following reasons:

1. Lack of response to requests in the parish bulletin for volunteers to fulfil the role.
2. The majority of people arriving late, thus late missing out on being welcomed.
3. In winter, for welcomers to stand outside is not pleasant, especially at the 8am, Vigil and 6pm Masses.

However, there are some positive results:

- some parishioners welcoming people before the Vigil and 6pm Masses, albeit only in the link area.
- Teen Credo members welcome people at their bi-weekly 6pm Sunday Mass.
- Some members of the Hospitality Team welcome people before 9:30am Mass the Sundays they are rostered for Café duty.

- The 11am Mass has the most consistent team of welcomers, once again mainly members of the Hospitality Team, who cover all entrances to the Cathedral.
- We value the support of Michael and Marietta Guillema, co-ordinators of the **Live Christ, Share Christ** Movement who do welcoming on the Sundays they are promoting their upcoming formation sessions.

### In the year to come?

- ◇ We will continue to campaign for Welcomers/Greeters by placing periodic recruitment notices in the bulletin and personally approaching people to become involved in helping St Pat's become widely known through this ministry, as **the friendly cathedral parish**.
- ◇ We will still work towards the goal of having Welcomers outside the Cathedral before Mass, covering all entrances.
- ◇ The ideal still being pursued is the establishment of some form of roster similar to that for Proclaimers of the Word and Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist.

**Marian Polizzi**

**Hospitality Team Co-ordinator**



# EVENT COORDINATOR'S REPORT



While there have been a few events both liturgical and non-liturgical held in St Patrick's Cathedral in the past year, my role as volunteer event coordinator mainly focused on organising the St Patrick's Business Breakfast and the Light Up St Pat's event. Before I elaborate on these two events, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all employees and volunteers who lead various groups in the Cathedral and who work tirelessly to successfully organise events for these groups.

## **St Patrick's Day Business Breakfast**

At 6.30am on St Patrick's Day in March, a hundred business men and women joined Bishop Vincent, Fr Bob, members of our Finance Committee and Parish Pastoral Council and our Cathedral staff to celebrate St Patrick's Day in the Cathedral Hall.

The keynote speaker of the morning was the Chancellor of Australian Catholic University (ACU), and former Premier of New South Wales, The Hon. John Fahey AC. Mr Fahey spoke on the topic of Leadership and Faith in the Business World.

He acknowledged his family ties to our parish as his uncle served as an assistant priest here at St Patrick's before it became a Cathedral. He talked about his Irish heritage and how their faith helped form him as a leader. It was a privilege to listen and be inspired by a great leader whose Catholic values influenced his compassion and understanding for his colleagues and care towards the less fortunate members of our society. He left us with the parting message 'not to forget the poor'.

When we celebrate St Patrick's Day, we cannot go past acknowledging the Irish priests, religious, lay men and women and the early settlers of our nation, who toiled to establish the Catholic Church in their new-found home. St Patrick's Cathedral is proud to be part of an Irish ancestry.

While the City of Parramatta prides itself as the cradle city, we at St Patrick's Cathedral are known as the Cradle of Catholicism. This is because right next door to our Cathedral, somewhere in the vicinity of Prince Alfred Square in 1803, the second Mass in the colony and the first Mass in Parramatta was celebrated by Fr James Dixon.

The Parramatta skyline has changed dramatically since Fr James Dixon's day. Present day Parramatta is a construction site. The increasing height of the Meriton building has been the topic of conversation with many of our parishioners. 'How tall is it going to be?' 'How did they get away with that height?' 'Whose gonna live there?' and the list of questions goes on.

Mr Fahey's message of not forgetting the poor is an apt reminder to the church of Parramatta as the City of Parramatta grows. The main objective of the event team is to open the Cathedral doors to conversation with people within and beyond our Catholic community. It aims to promote faith and connect with members of our wider Parramatta communities.

The Business Breakfast was a huge success. We celebrated our past and toasted the future of our church in the city of Parramatta. The wider Parramatta community is excited about the new development and growth in the area. Growth brings with it various opportunities. As a parish





community we can also grab this exciting opportunity to grow, connect and serve with and for our community.

### **Light Up St Pat's**

We are very grateful to Payce and Parramatta City Council for supporting us in the Light Up St Pat's initiative.

Light Up St Pat's ran in conjunction with the Parramatta Council's Winterlight Festival in June and July this year. The aim was to light up the Chapel façade in various images depicting the theme of hope.

For ten glorious nights our beloved spiritual home was transformed as beautiful images evocative of our Christian Faith were projected onto its façade. People from all walks of life came into the Cathedral precinct to not only watch the light but walk through the exhibition in the hall, visit the relic of Saints in the chapel and tour the Cathedral.

The hall exhibition was divided into two. The first part was the Cathedral history and the second part was an area to arouse spiritual curiosity. Our history is fascinating. It is a story of hope and courage in time of difficulties. From the early days of the settlers to the fire of 1986, our parish story showcases the resilience of our community. The replica of the Shroud of Turin and images of Eucharistic miracles were part of the Spiritual curiosity idea.

The Cathedral had been given over 20 relics of Saints in the years it has been in existence. There were even relics from the Cross and part of Our Lady's veil. These were exhibited in the Chapel throughout the 10 day of Light Up St Pat's.

Despite the cold nights, our volunteers were amazing in their welcoming and hospitality making everyone who



walked through our church feel at home. It was especially encouraging to see so many young people being part of the Evangelisation team for the event. These young people went to Prince Alfred Park each night and invited people into the Cathedral to watch the light show and walk through the various exhibitions.

Light Up St Pat's and St Patrick's Cathedral Business Breakfast have been two great events of outreach and connecting this year. The enthusiasm we have seen from the parish community this year is humbling. It's great to be part of a growing city and even greater to be part of a growing city church.

*May the Light of Christ be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path.*











# St Patricks Cathedral

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