



ANNUAL REPORT | 2018

ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL, PARRAMATTA

St Patrick's Cathedral

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ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL ANNUAL REPORT

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THE DEAN'S REPORT



Very Reverend Robert Bossini
Dean and Parish Priest

Dear Friends,

Canon Law is very clear on the duties and obligations that are part of the ministry of the Parish Priest. It states:

*The parish priest has the obligation of ensuring that the **word of God is proclaimed** in its entirety to those living in the parish. He is therefore to see that the **lay members of Christ's faithful are instructed in the truths of faith**, especially by means of the homily on Sundays and holy days of obligation and by **catechetical formation**. He is to **foster works which promote the spirit of the Gospel**, including its relevance to social justice. He is to have a **special care for the catholic education of children and young people**. With the collaboration of the faithful, he is to make every effort to bring the gospel message to those who have given up religious practice or those who do not profess the true faith. He is to **take care of the Eucharist**...he is to strive to ensure that the **faithful are nourished by the devout celebration of the sacraments**...he is to*

*strive to **lead them to prayer**...and to live an active part in the sacred liturgy...he is to **recognise and promote the specific role** which the **lay members of Christ's faithful** have in the mission of the Church, fostering their associations which have religious purposes.*
[CIC 528 # 1&2; 529 #1]

In reviewing the past year, I feel a great deal of comfort in knowing the life of the Cathedral Parish of St Patrick's Parramatta is based on the Gospel ministry. The welcoming and proclamation of God's word in all its forms is in the forefront of the life and ministry of this parish. I am indeed grateful to the many devoted and talented parishioners who embark on the continual proclamation of the word through catechetical, educational, liturgical, sacramental, financial, administrative and formational ministries.

Every year there is a continual effort on the part of parishioners to ensure that the faith and formation of the parish is enhanced. The reports that comprise this booklet bear testimony to that fact. Every aspect of faith life is catered for by the many and varied associations within the Parish. I would like to thank those people wholeheartedly for their dedication and presence within the Parish. The ministry achieved through these dedicated groups has allowed people to be led into a deeper appreciation of their faith and commitment.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the **Parish Team, Parish**

‘...the true meaning of the parish, that is, the place where the very "mystery" of the Church is present and at work,...’

Pastoral Council (those retiring and the incoming group) and the **Parish Finance Committee**. These people have been invaluable in their presence, participation and knowledge in assisting me with the proper administration of the Parish. This year we appointed Mindy Mercado as the Parish Youth Minister Co-ordinator, who will also share in the leadership role through her presence on the Parish Team and the Parish Pastoral Council. She will be able to continue the great work of the Credo youth groups.

This year also marks the end of the first phase of our Diocesan Pastoral Plan: **Faith in our Future**. We need to look at the five pivotal areas in this plan: **Family Life, Youth, Ethnic Diversity, Laity and Clergy** in order to see how we can continue the fine work of this outstanding working document. The way ahead is also marked with the importance of the **Plenary 2020**, an initiative of the Australian Catholic Bishops Commission. More about the Plenary will be made available in the near future. In preparation for this event, we have been asked to focus on the central question: *What is God asking of the Australian Church today?*

In conclusion I would like to leave you with a quote from Pope St John Paul II in his Apostolic Exhortation, ***Christifideles Laici*** (On the Vocation and the Mission of the Lay faithful in the Church and the World December 30th, 1988)

It is necessary that in light of the faith all rediscover the true meaning of the parish, that is, the place where the very "mystery" of the

Church is present and at work, even if at times it is lacking persons and means, even if at other times it might be scattered over vast territories or almost not to be found in crowded and chaotic modern sections of cities. The parish is not principally a structure, a territory, or a building, but rather, "the family of God, a fellowship afire with a unifying spirit", "a familial and welcoming home", the "community of the faithful". Plainly and simply, the parish is founded on a theological reality, because it is a Eucharistic community. This means that the parish is a community properly suited for celebrating the Eucharist, the living source for its upbuilding and the sacramental bond of its being in full communion with the whole Church. [Par 26]

Fr Robert Bossini
Dean and Parish Priest





OVERVIEW

Under the Code of Canon Law (537), each parish is required to organise a Finance Council to assist the parish priest 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.

Clergy and Staff	Parish Representative
Fr Robert Bossini—Parish Priest	Anthony Khoury-Chair
Fr Michael Gitau –Assistant Parish Priest	Kerry Giumelli– Secretary
Mili Lee	Cathy Dearie
	Debbie Grigson
	Sabu Thomas
	David Mannall

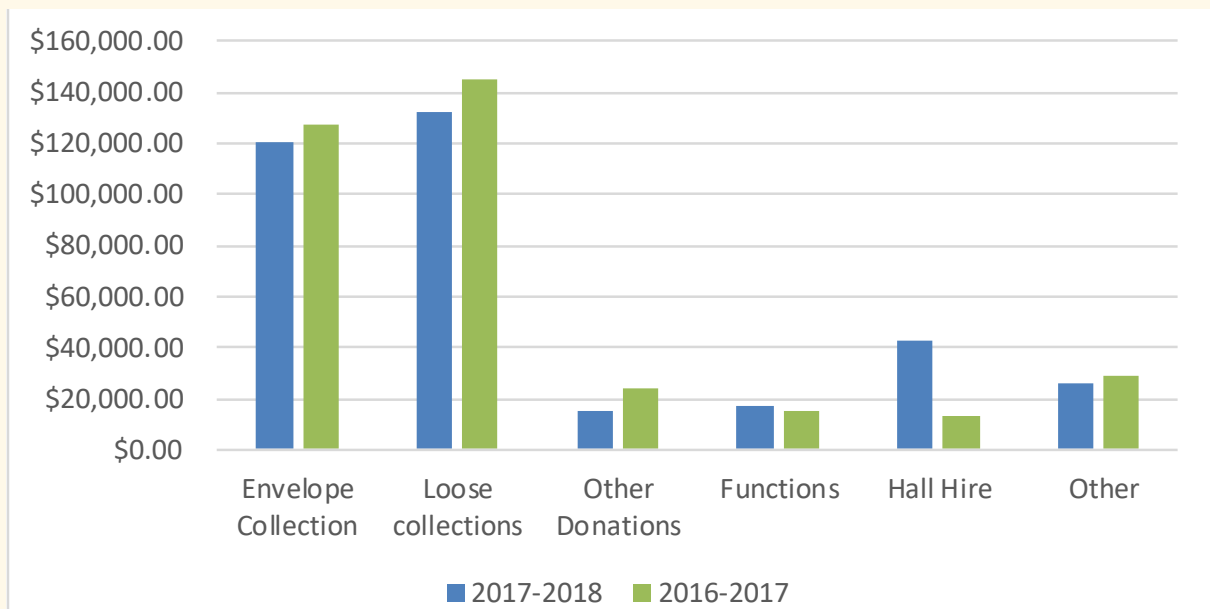
THE LAST FINANCIAL YEAR

PARISH INCOME

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

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 dependent 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.
- Loose Collection**
 Bundled into Loose Collection are all monies received via the church's collection plates that are not placed in an envelope. This also includes collection at 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 parish through weddings, hall hire, concerts and other function bookings. Income is also supplemented through fundraising initiatives organised by parishioners.

Income Analysis

The last financial year saw a drop in envelope donations by 6% and the loose envelope collection

decreased by 9%.. However hall hire income increased by close to 70% , thanks to the blessing that came with the construction activity currently undertaken by the City Of Parramatta Council. The Council now uses our precinct to host Council Meetings while their facilities are being built.

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 works were completed in the last financial year:

- Major repair to wall and ceiling panel in the Cathedral.
- Installation of new Cathedral air-condition chillers.
- Roofing repair in the hall.
- Gutter installation to covered walkway around cloisters.
- Minor renovation to hall toilets.

The Mission category includes Sacraments, SRE, Youth



Groups, Hospitality, Prayer groups, Formation for parish groups, evangelisation materials and pastoral outreach to parishioners and the wider community.

In the last financial year, the Cathedral parish has also generously contributed to the following charities:

- Catholic Foundation.
- Catholic Mission—over \$10,000.
- Father's Day Appeal for retired clergy.
- Jesuit Refugee Service (Arrupe House) —Christmas Appeal and Food Drive in Lent.
- Project Compassion.
- Holy Land Commisariat.

The Year Ahead:

The year ahead brings much hope and excitement to the Cathedral community, as it had in the past.

Our mission to serve God and bring more people to Him will be strengthened by sending four young parishioners to World Youth Day in Panama, continuing to support the various Ministries including Music ministry, Liturgical ministries, Sacraments' Program, SRE to public school, St Vincent de Paul, Formation and Prayer Groups and social activities that encourages community building. In the next year we also hope to host *Light Up St Pat's* again to connect our community with the wider

Parramatta community. Apart from the planned activities we hope to continue to bring hope to those who call on us for immediate help.

Conclusion

As Parramatta evolves into a major metropolitan centre in Western Sydney, we envisage our future mission as a Cathedral parish to also evolve into a unique and dynamic role. This financial year will see the opening of the new Western Sydney Stadium. The stadium like other developments in the Parramatta CBD will bring opportunities as well as challenges to our parish community.

May we embrace the opportunities with joy and open arms and navigate the challenges in love. May we always be ready to serve.



PRINCIPAL'S REPORT: ST PATRICK'S PRIMARY

Ms Bernadette Fabri

This is my 5th Year as principal of the school and can I say I just love being principal of such a dynamic faith and learning community with wonderfully interested students.

St Patrick's Parramatta is a primary school of approximately 416 children from four and a half to twelve years of age.

Once again the enrolment at the school is very strong with over 140 applications for 62 positions in kindergarten for 2019. This year we had a record of 42 siblings.

Most of our graduating students move on to Catholic High Schools – Catherine McAuley, OLMC, St Pat's Dundas, Marist Bros Westmead, and St Pat's Strathfield.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

- The school values the close association with the parish, our Priests and parish staff. They are always welcome to come to the school.
- Religious Education is a key component of the culture at the school with daily rich Religious Education, sacramental, liturgical and prayer experiences.
- There are a number of whole school masses and

the primary grades are rostered to attend parish masses weekly.

- Father Michael visits the school weekly (where possible) to hear reconciliation and to speak to children in their classes. We thank Father Michael.
- Children lead the community in prayer every morning and children are encouraged to write prayers to be read at this assembly.
- The Angelus is said every day all around the school and there is a special school prayer and a concluding prayer said daily at the end of the day.
- Every 3 weeks there is a Religious Education theme for school assemblies where classes present some aspect of their learning in RE.
- As Principal I am an ex-officio member of the Parish Pastoral Council and attend the monthly meetings regularly.
- Our Religious Education Coordinator Mrs Leanda Standring and Acting REC Ms Chantal Azar serves also as another link between the school and the parish in their involvement in the Parish Sacramental Programs. We encourage our staff to attend any sacramental occasion involving students at our school and other parish events



where possible. Eg the Sacrament of Confirmation which was held last Friday night at the Cathedral.

- Religious Education Curriculum is one of our Key Learning Areas and we are currently following the Diocesan Program 'Sharing Our Story'.
- Connection with our Mercy tradition through our study of the work of Catherine McAuley and the history involving the Sisters of Mercy is very important to the school. Our school values are Respect, Resilience and Compassion and these form a theme in which our school culture is developing.

Conclusion

The school recognizes the critical place the family plays in the faith development and education of their children and the important role the school plays, in conjunction with the parish, in supporting families. I often remind myself to question; what does it mean to be a Catholic School and how are we different and I feel that when you enter our doors or gates you need to be feeling something special;

- where people are welcomed and treated with dignity and respect;
- where there is a spirit of hope and endless possibility;

- where there is a spirit of reconciliation;
- where communication is honest and empowering;
- where every child feels that they are known and understood and loved;
- where by the time they leave our school they have come to know an ever loving and ever forgiving God through the people that they meet on a daily basis;
- where they get a sense that learning is not just for themselves but so that they can contribute to our world in many and profound ways and within a Catholic view;
- where their association with the school enables them to understand that they also belong to a wider community, a Parish Community, an Australian Catholic Community, a World wide Church; and
- where they will always feel as sense of belonging, way beyond their primary school years, so that when they grow up they will say, "I want to send my children to this school".

Then we can say we are on the right track. That is our vision.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Marilyn Cook

Children's liturgy can be very rewarding for presenters as well as a fun and worthwhile activity for children. It is our aim to present the Gospel to the children in a simplified form so that they take home a message that they can relate to.

Some of our presenters have shared their thoughts and impressions of what they gain from children's liturgy.

Kirrily and Oscar

Helping out with children's liturgy always makes me smile. We often bring along a few props and lead the children through a re-enactment of that Sunday's Gospel. The children get so excited to see the Gospel "come alive". Then we encourage the children to share what the Gospel means for their everyday life. The sharing from the children is often very profound. You can really see the Holy Spirit at work in their lives.

At the prayers of the faithful, we usually join hands in a circle and ask each child to pray for their own intention. Even though they are so young, the children always remember to pray for those who are in need and suffering. I often think of Jesus' reminder that the kingdom of God belongs to children. Very often, through their own sharing and prayer, the children are in fact teaching me and teaching each other. It is beautiful to help facilitate this process.

Grace

When I facilitate the children's liturgy, the Gospels come alive for me in a new and refreshing way. The children's participation bring out spiritual insights that I sometimes didn't even anticipate. God speaks in many ways and I believe the children's liturgy is one way which brings the children and myself closer to God.

Clair and Steven

Steven & I like explaining gospel messages to children in their own space and their own words. We also enjoy the different discussions we have with children who bring many perspectives.



Marilyn with children at the Children's Liturgy



Jessy

I get the satisfaction of enjoying being with children and learning more by teaching them. I feel I am contributing to my parish in a worthwhile manner and to the Church for my blessing from God. It is a great pleasure for my soul to be part of this group.

Rita and Anna

“Being a part of Children’s Liturgy gives you the opportunity to break the Gospel down and then present it in a simple and relatable message that we as adults sometimes overlook and/or take for granted. Children have the ability to appreciate & then express things in such a pure and uncomplicated way - we usually walk away feeling we have learned even more from them .

We appreciate all the help of our enthusiastic and dedicated leaders – Kirrily, Oscar, Rita, Anna, Edward, Sarah, Danielle, Rosie, Grace, Jessy, Priya, Claire, Steven, Graham and Marilyn.

We are always in need of extra volunteers. Parents/helpers are most welcome to accompany the children at any time to see if it’s something that they would like to participate in.

Please contact the Parish office if you would like any information on how you can participate in this most worthwhile ministry.





DIRECTOR OF MUSIC REPORT

by *Bernard Kirkpatrick*

worshipper's hearts and minds through the presentation of music from across the ages. The music ministry at St. Patrick's Cathedral continued its service to the parish, diocese and city of Parramatta over the 2017-2018 year with the strong and dedicated commitment of our many talented musicians, supported by the cathedral congregations and clergy.

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 has gradually been introduced to playing the organ at Mass and featured in a diocesan video profile for Catholic Outlook (online). The cathedral cantors who lead the music at the 6.00pm Vigil, 9.00am, 6.00pm and other liturgies include Danny Dingle, Leonia Kim, Jessica Kelly, John Paul Turner, Eleanor Taig, Belinda Bugo, Mili Lee, Martin Hartley, Ezra Kuhn and Johanne Perera.

St. Patrick's Cathedral Choir has SATB membership of approximately 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. A number of talented young choristers joined the ranks of the choir including Samuel Verceluz, Eric Grella and Perpetua Yeo (the latter two have also been exercising their organ playing skills on occasion at the cathedral organ.) Madeleine Elf Helperin (from Sweden) also joined us, and was received into the Catholic Church at this year's Easter Vigil. Welcome!

In the cathedral church, the role of music is particularly important. Above all, it must serve the catholic liturgy, with appropriate and informed programming which can give expression to the voice of the Catholic faithful, as well as lift music ministers must ensure that the music in the bishop's church enables effective musical support to complement the liturgical rites, especially in the more solemn forms and fullest expression of our Catholic symbols. The cathedral also serves as the model par-excellence for good liturgical praxis in the diocese.

2017-2018 saw a number of disruptions to our usual routine. Repair work on the wall panels above the choir stalls saw the area closed for approximately six weeks in February and March due to presence of the scaffolding assembled over the choir platform, organ console and organ pipes. The cathedral choir spent most of the Sundays in Lent repositioned on the floor of the nave with tenors and sopranos on Victoria road side and the basses and altos on the cloister side. The cathedral organ was out of action whilst the panel work continued throughout Lent. The Allen digital organ from the chapel was placed in front of the pipe organ case on the floor to accompany the choir, and singing of the assembly.

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 4th Sunday of each month is most appreciated by cathedral parishioners.

The Credo Youth group farewelled lead musician Anthony Silvestrini from the 4th Sunday Music group. With the appointment of new Youth Minister, Mindy, the Youth group musicians are looking to regroup. In the interim, cathedral organ and cantor have resumed the provision of music at the Youth Mass. 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), and Solemn Vespers (sung Evening Prayer of the Church) on certain Diocesan days of celebration.

In 2017, Fr. Michael Gitau re-joined the cathedral staff as Assistant Priest, and stepped up to the challenge of brushing up his musical skills to sing the ministerial chants of the Mass.



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”.





Some Highlights of the last year include:

Nov 2, 2017 – All Souls Day: The annual Solemn Requiem Mass was again sung by the Bishop and SPC choir, with families of the deceased buried from the cathedral during that year attending.

Holy Week Liturgies – especially “Tenebrae” – psalm singing, scripture reflection and polyphonic responsories were sung magnificently by the Cathedral choral scholars; and Good Friday Solemn Commemoration – especially the enthusiastic and fervent congregational chanting of the Passional according to John;

April 25 –ANZAC Day. Members of the cathedral choir led the singing at the Dawn Service, accompanied by the Army Band. Choristers arrived at 4.00am at Murphy House and proceeded across Prince Alfred Park to the rotunda where we were placed. After the service, choristers enjoyed a well earned breakfast at MacDonalds!

May 2018 - Mother’s Day Concert presented by SPC Choir members and instrumentalists, co-ordinated by Ivy Wallace. Music featured cathedral singers and friends presenting female vocal group, male vocal group and combined voices, with violins, cello, keyboard and organ. Mothers were given a special blessing by Fr. George.

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 *Noél! Noël!* Christmas concert 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, choir librarian/secretary 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.

SACRAMENTS AT ST PATRICK'S



SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION PROGRAM

The Team

St Patrick's Sacramental Team has six members. Five of our members work in teaching and enrich the program greatly through their many skills and experience. Since our sacramental program also covers St Oliver's Parish at Harris Park the support of the RECs from both St Patrick's and St Oliver's primary schools is significant throughout the program. The parish works closely with the schools to nurture the faith in our young parishioners as they prepare for the sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation.

Team Formation

Members of the Sacraments of Initiation team regularly attend the training days and coordinator/team meetings held through the Diocesan Office for Worship. These meetings are crucial for our ongoing commitment to best practice and to ensure our team continues to offer the most updated teaching methods as well as the latest resources to the children and their parents participating in the program.

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 within the Diocese of Parramatta.

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" Guided by this the preparation for each sacrament consists of at least two parent formation evenings followed by 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 and attendance is mandatory for all of the preparation sessions.

The sacramental program is held according to the school terms. Commencing in Term 4 the children start preparation for the sacrament of Reconciliation, which is usually held in December before school breaks for the Christmas holidays. This is also usually during 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.

Preparation for Reconciliation is the first step toward Eucharist and after the summer break the program recommences in Term One with a segment on Baptism which is crucial to help the children who are participating in the Sacraments of Initiation program come to understand this sacrament and its place as the very first 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 – commencing with School Term 3 – we begin the next phase of the Sacraments of Initiation program with preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Sometimes referred to as “the sacrament of Christian maturity” (CCC 1308) this final sacrament for the full initiation of children into faith gives us all – children, parents and team, alike – a chance to reflect and remember how as Catholics we are called to witness to Christ in every moment of our lives.

Age Requirements

Eucharist: 7yrs or older

Confirmation: 10yrs or older

Numbers

We continue to work with and support St Oliver's Parish Harris Park with the preparation of the children from their parish and school iwho are completing the Sacraments of Initiation. The numbers below reflect this.

The numbers for August 2017-August 2018 for each sacrament and parish are as follows:

RECONCILIATION: 68

St Patrick's: 55

St Oliver's: 13

EUCCHARIST: 68

St Patrick's: 56

St Oliver's: 12

CONFIRMATION: 49

St Patrick's: 43

St Oliver's: 6



INFANT BAPTISMS

As the Cathedral Parish of the Diocese of Parramatta, we are often inundated with requests for baptism. For the year ending 2017, **142 Baptisms** were held at St Patrick's Cathedral. Of these, 9 were adults who began their journey in the Catholic faith through the RCIA program.

A large proportion of parents who request baptism for their child/children have had an affiliation with St Patrick's over the years; either attending St Pat's Primary, married at the Cathedral or parents are parishioners.

Baptisms are celebrated on Sundays in the Cathedral and there are usually a maximum of four children per Sunday. Due to the large number of request received at the office, parents are encouraged to book at least three months ahead for their child's baptism. The criteria for Baptism is the parents must attend the Baptism Preparation Seminar, on the third Saturday of the month; one parent must be Catholic and one Godparent must have received the Sacrament of Confirmation.



MARRIAGES

In the last year, 24 marriages have taken place at St Pat's.

The couples go through a process starting with an interview and gathering of information from an office staff member.

They attend a Pre-Marriage Preparation program, Life, Marriage & Family office run these courses.

An interview with the priest either before or after the preparation program is required.

The Blessed Sacrament Chapel is most popular amongst couples.

We have tidied our wedding application process over the last year and hope this will encourage more weddings to be held here. The costs charged are not exorbitant and help offset Cathedral expenses.





RCIA

Deacon Willy Limjap

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is a program designed for adults interested in becoming Catholics. The process involves preparing them in their journey towards receiving the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist). It starts with a period of Catechumenate, wherein those who have opened their hearts to learning about and to believing through the Catholic Faith, may be strengthened spiritually towards receiving the sacraments fruitfully.

Enquirers to the Catholic faith are generally of 2 types: those who have never been baptised (referred to as Catechumens), and those who are Christians belonging to a non-Catholic church but wishing to be fully accepted into the Catholic Church (referred to as Candidates).

The RCIA process takes the enquirer through various phases, including prescribed rites (the Rites of Acceptance, of Election and of Welcome) prior to receipt of the Sacraments of Initiation. The process starts with the period of evangelisation (generally around August each year), followed by periods of catechumenate, of enlightenment and of mystagogy (or postbaptismal catechesis). The RCIA program ends 6 weeks after

receiving the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil mass (for those who have never been baptised), and at the Easter Sunday mass for those who are already Christians.

During recent years, our parish welcomes yearly around 10 to 15 new members into the Catholic Faith; But, unlike previous years where those accepted have mainly been Catechumens, 2018 has seen 5 Catechumens and 5 Candidates completing the RCIA program.

The RCIA team plays an important role in the formation process, providing guidance to the enquirers throughout their RCIA journey. We currently have 7 members in the formation team, some of whom are themselves recent graduates of the program. Each participant is also assigned a Sponsor whose role it is to provide added support during the journey.

The formation team meets with the Catechumens and Candidates once a week on weeknights; and when required, one-on-one sessions are also conducted.

The RCIA journey is always an inspirational event, not only for the participants, but also for their sponsors and for the formation team. As this year's RCIA is about to commence, we look forward once again to another Spirit-led journey.





The Live Christ Share Christ (LCSC) movement is now on its third year providing regular monthly formation teachings in conjunction to our parish evangelisation and renewal program. Through the collaboration and guidance of our clergy, we have been able to conduct meaningful spirit filled sessions every year.

In September last year, a whole day spiritual renewal seminar called “One in Christ” was conducted through the Couples for Christ Foundation Family and Life laity community. The following October, Fr. John Rizzo presented the topic “Our Lady Necessary for our Time” to a full house audience. In November, a devoted parishioner Stan Lobo presented a talk on “Spiritual Gifts.”

Our year ended last year with a series of Lectio Divina sessions as part of the Advent program. Fr. Bob, Fr. Sean, Fr. John and Fr. Michael took turns every week to lead these sessions.

This year, our first formation session started in February with an introduction and overview of the Gospel of Mark by Fr. Bob Bossini. The succeeding six weeks were Lenten Reflection Sessions conducted extensively by Fr. George, Fr. John, Fr. Michael and Fr. Bob.

The April session titled “Intercession” was presented by a young passionate parishioner Andrea D’Souza while her husband Alan D’Souza amply testified an inspirational sharing.

In May, we had our yearly Pentecost Retreat session consisting of a Liturgical Bible Study in the morning and a teaching on the Holy Spirit by Fr. Bob in the afternoon. The following June session was the start of the series of talks on Foundation on Christian Living and Fr. Michael presented the talk on the topic “Sons and Daughters of God.”

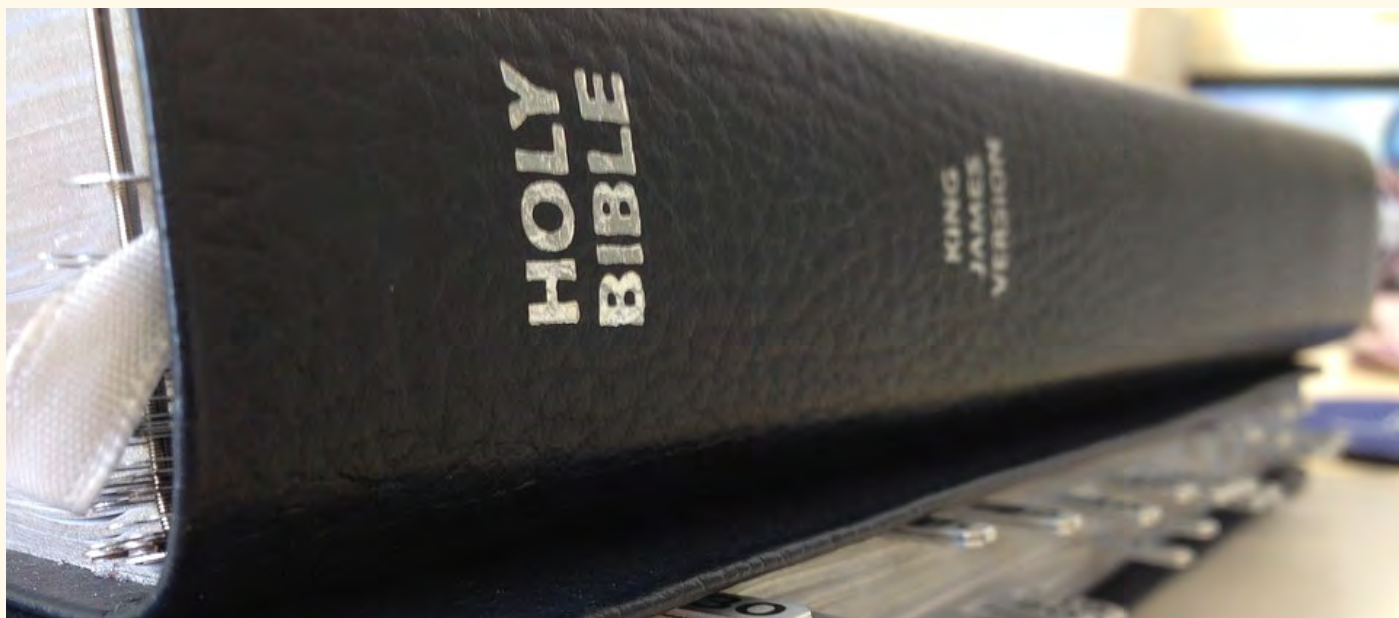
In July, a young missionary worker of the Live Pure Movement (one of the pillars of the Live Christ Share Christ) Jocas Javier gave an inspirational talk on “The New Evangelisation and the Significance of the Live Christ Share Christ Movement” and for the month of August, Fr. Michael will continue the Foundation on Christian Living series talks on the topic “Brothers and Sisters in the Lord.”

More inspirational and informative sessions are scheduled for the rest of this year and, as usual, we highly encourage all parishioners to take the opportunity to attend these sessions.

We endeavour ourselves to be able to spread the New Evangelisation efforts of our Church to all parishes and through the grace of God, we managed to conduct our foundational program ‘Life in Christ Seminar’ last February and March at the Holy Name of Mary Rydalmere Parish through the kindness of their parish priest, Fr. Peter Lamont. We are currently conducting similar formation teaching sessions at this parish.

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.

God bless.



SPECIAL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM

Pamela Bain

Special Religious Education (SRE) is the time set aside in Government Schools for Catholic SRE teachers from the local Catholic Church to teach Catholic children about building a relationship with Jesus and understanding his message of salvation. A Special Religious Educator, often called a catechist or Scripture Teacher, is a volunteer who goes into the local schools each week to share the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Bishop Vincent says, 'the role of the Catechist in passing on our living faith is crucial.'

Here at St Patrick's we have the opportunity to take the Good News to 214 children in four local primary schools and to 96 girls at Macarthur Girls High School.

Currently we have eighteen full time SREs with six others who can fill in when the need arises. This year we have welcomed two new SREs who have already completed the Level 1 Training course and are now ready to take classes on their own. Fortunately, this is enough to cover all our classes but there are two kindergarten groups who would dearly love to have their own special teacher.

Our SREs live busy lives. Some take time from their paid employment to come to the schools. Others have sickness within the family but still find the time to bring the Good News to the children. Thank you to all for your continuing support for our ministry by your prayers.

The girls from Year 10 at Our Lady of Mercy College assist the SREs at North Parramatta Public School on a weekly basis. These girls are very positive in bringing our faith to the children and are growing in their faith journey as well.

The active support from Father Bob and the Parish Team is sincerely appreciated. We thank them for all the assistance we have received from them during the past year.

The Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD) continues to guide us in our personal growth with Reflection Days, Guest Speakers, Refresher Courses and Workshops. Coming together for the Annual Diocesan Mass and the Regional Mass are highlights of the year. Several of our SREs received Certificates acknowledging their years of Service at the Regional Mass which was held at St Patrick's, Parramatta, this year.

For more details about this ministry, how it works and how you could become involved please contact the Parish Office.

Thank you to all our wonderful Special Religious Education Teachers for all they do for our children in State Schools and thank you to all who support us in various ways.

Thanks be to God for all our blessings.



THE LEGION OF MARY

Michael and 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 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 two years. We meet every Monday Evening at 6:30pm 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.

During the past year, one of our main accomplishments is the commencement of a Catholic literature and piety stand after weekend Masses as part of our active work as Legionaries. Each weekend, at least two Legionaries set up the stand outside the Cathedral before and after Sunday Masses and offer

religious leaflets, holy cards, rosary beads, books etc to parishioners. We try to rotate which Mass we attend each week, so that our work reaches all parishioners. So far, this work has been received well by parishioners and visitors to the Parish.

All members are also 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.

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.

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 0434 799 902.



CREDO YOUTH MINISTRY

Mindy Mercado

Credo Youth Ministry is the body of youth groups of St. Patrick's Cathedral - Junior Credo, Teen Credo and Credo Young Adults. Credo, meaning, I believe, aims to bring young people closer to their Catholic faith through community, fun and friendship. Each group is facilitated by youth and young adult volunteers under the guidance of Catholic Youth Parramatta (Parramatta Diocese) and the parish youth co-ordinator.

“The future is in your hearts and in your hands. God is entrusting to you the task, at once difficult and uplifting, of working with Him in the building of the civilization of love.”

(St John Paul II)

Credo Young Adults

Credo Young Adults, aimed at youth aged 18 – 35, continues to meet every 1st Friday of the month.

Each evening begins with facilitating the parish's first Friday devotion in the chapel and is followed by a talk or discussion of the faith. These have included: The Eucharist – Back to Basics, Love and Purity by Fire Up Ministries, Vocations and a reflection on Mary MacKillop. The topics chosen for the evenings are often as a formation for the group as leaders of Teen Credo and Junior Credo. This year, the group launched, Horizon Nights – Adoration in the Cloisters. The group also attends young adult events in the Diocese such as, Catholic Youth Parramatta's young adults retreat, Lifted Live events and the Faith Feed.

Teen Credo

Teen Credo, for high school aged youth, aims to meet every 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month. The group follows the Lifeteen Program – A Catholic youth ministry resource. Topics explored include: Lent, Friendship, The Guide to Happiness and a Credo families talk on Love and Purity by Fire Up Ministries.

This year has seen a change in the regularity of these meetings due to their attendance and assistance at Diocesan Youth events and preparation and formation for the upcoming World Youth Day. The Teens from this group have also been involved in assisting in Junior Credo sessions and as altar servers and readers at mass.



Junior Credo

Junior Credo, for primary school aged students, meet every 2nd Friday of the school term. The group follows the Lifeteen 'Edge' program – the junior version of the Lifeteen Catholic youth ministry resource. This year, the group has explored: The Ten Commandments, Lent, Saints and the Trinity. The group has welcomed three new families this year.

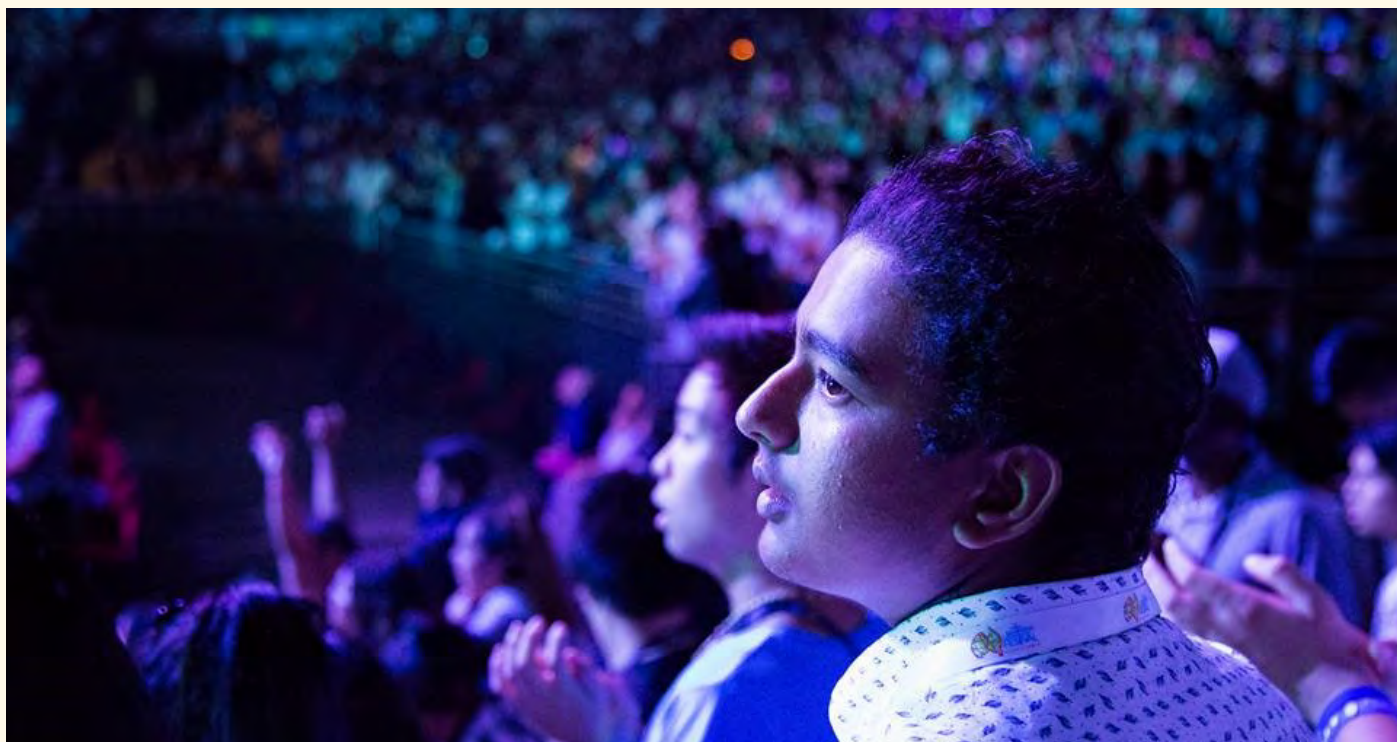


Lifted Sports Day

November 2017

Teen Credo and Credo Young Adults represented the parish in the annual Lifted Sports Day where youth groups from across the Diocese battle it out in the sports of Basketball, Volleyball, Soccer and Touch Football. Credo was presented with the Spirit Shield as the best team who showed good sportsmanship on the day.





Australian Catholic Youth Festival

December 2017

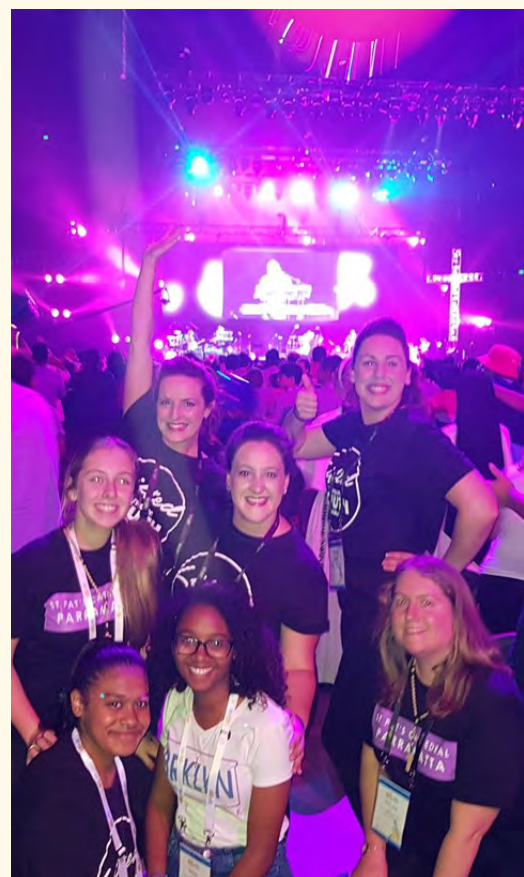
The Australian Catholic Youth Festival was held in Sydney Olympic Park in December last year. Organised by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, the festival provided an opportunity for youth to deepen their relationship with Jesus and encounter and celebrate the vitality of the Church in Australia.

Credo had over 20 pilgrims attend the festival. The event concluded with Credo families joining in the pilgrimage for the final mass held in the Domain – largest Australia Catholic gathering since World Youth Day Sydney, 2008.

Credo in the Community

Working alongside Catholic Youth Parramatta, Credo's youth and young adults have had the opportunity to represent the parish in various ways:

- Palm Sunday Youth Mass – Teens and Young Adult group led the procession through Parramatta as flag bearers and readers at the mass.
- Good Friday Night Walk – Youth hosted the Diocese in planning and co-ordinating the re-enactment of the final Stations of the Cross.
- Diocesan Dance Crew - Stephanie, Melissa, Olana and Jann - choreographers and dancers at the Lifted Live events and last year's Australian Catholic Youth Festival.
- World Youth Day Leaders - Jerick, Melissa and Stephanie - selected in guiding and facilitating youth on pilgrimage to World Youth Day, Panama, 2019.
- Diocesan Youth Council Members - Mindy and Stephanie – commissioned by the Bishop, make decisions in the vision and mission of youth ministry in the Diocese.
- Deanery Ambassadors – Matt and Mindy – assist in planning and co-ordinating Diocesan youth events.





ST PATRICK'S HOSPITALITY

By Marian Polizzi

We are proud to announce that this community outreach has now been operating in the parish for approximately 23 years.

For the benefit of newer parishioners, let's begin this report by a brief review of this initiative's history.

St Patrick's Hospitality Team began back in 1995, with the simple aim of giving parishioners the opportunity to gather socially after Sunday Mass. The original team of about six people took turns to serve morning tea after 9:30am and 11am Masses once a month in the old parish hall, which was situated behind Murphy House. Part of the new hall and the grassed area of the Cloister now occupy this space.

When the disastrous fire in February 1996 gutted the old cathedral, the Marist Brothers High School building was converted into the pro-Cathedral, (where the new cathedral now stands) and because the parish hall was deemed too far away, Morning Tea was relocated to the end room of another old school building (the car park now occupies that site.) Since the room had access to a grassed area fronting Victoria Road, and had a statue of Our Lady, the new venue was dubbed the *Grotto Café*. The water supply to the disused school building had been disconnected, so water had to be fetched "Jack & Jill" style in buckets from a tap at the back of the Parish Hall for making tea and coffee, and

washing up was done in a dish. These challenges did not deter our members: Morning Tea was now offered every Sunday; and team numbers gradually increased.

During construction of the new St Pat's Cathedral the parish relocated to *St Pat's in the Field* in the grounds of Cumberland Hospital, Fleet Street, to a hall that had originally been a chapel. Now we had a kitchen and running water; and here, people could gather after Mass either in the meeting room off the kitchen or alfresco under the palms.

Returning home in November 2003, team members reveled in the spacious and impressive facilities that the new Parish Hall offered. The gathering space was named the *Cloister Café* and earlier this year a stylish new sign on the hall windows draws people to the spot.

The number of members remains at 40: whilst we welcomed 4 new members, two married couples "retired" due to ill health and one lady has taken temporary sick leave.

The breakdown of personnel now, is as follows:

4 married couples

One mother and daughter

25 women

5 men

St Paul's exhortation: ***Let hospitality be your boast***, inspires team members to remain steadfast in their ministry of social outreach to parishioners and visitors.

And St Paul's words are reinforced by the group's motto:

***Great Occasions for serving God come seldom;
little ones surround us daily.***

which always heads each three-monthly roster as a constant reminder to keep us focused in our endeavour.

Our Team's service during the past year,

- Served morning tea in the Cloister Café on most Sundays after 9:30am and 11am Sunday Masses. (except when special functions necessitated it being cancelled).
- Had a special morning Tea on Gaudete Sunday in December to farewell Fr George Azhakath, (who is still with us due to unexpected heart problems preventing his return to India.)
- Liased with the RCIA Team to organize the Celebratory Supper for Neophytes held in the Cathedral Hall after the Easter Vigil.
- Assisted at various parish functions when asked e.g. the Good Friday Breakfast for Diocesan Youth and just recently the Credo Youth BBQ fundraisers for WYD Panama 2019.
- Continued the ***Donations Basket***: through this initiative generous parishioners show appreciation of the café's pastoral outreach by contributing supplies for Sunday Morning Teas.

In the year ahead the Hospitality Team will

- continue the current modus operandi;
- seek more recruits by speaking to people at Morning Tea and advertising in the bulletin;
- be ready to assist whenever needed at parish functions; and
- review our involvement as Welcomers before Sunday Masses and look to ways of encouraging more parishioners to become involved in this vital role — to remind worshipping community that we are the Body of Christ.





ST PAT'S MATTERS MAGAZINE

Marian Polizzi

This publication had its humble beginnings back in March 1997, with the blessing of Fr John Boyle, then Cathedral Dean.

The first issue, called ***Parramatters*** was one A4 sheet printed on both sides in black and white. From Issue 2 it became known as *St Pat's Matters*.

Over the 21 years of its existence the publication's size has gradually increased, with recent editions now containing 24 pages; it has gone from monotone to colour print; and it has evolved from being called a parish newsletter to a '*magazine for parishioners and friends of St Patrick's Cathedral Parish.*' (Credit is owed to Mili Lee for issues being printed in colour and promotion to upmarket magazine format.). Issue 95 was distributed in July.

The original aim was to put out a newsletter every two months. However, time constraints saw a reevaluation to a more realistic goal of publishing issues every three months.

What is the purpose of *St Pat's Matters*?

- to build a sense of our identity as a parish community;
- to report on the various liturgical, sacramental

and social events that take place at the Cathedral; e.g the Sacramental Programme, RCIA, (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults), Easter Vigil, St Patrick's Day;

- to encourage people to write about their involvement in ministry —as Acolytes, Altar Servers, Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Community, Choristers, Special Religious Educators, Children's Liturgy, Hospitality, Visitation to the Sick;
- to highlight the good works of individuals in and beyond the Cathedral, and of parish groups such as Live Christ Share Christ, Credo Youth, Legion of Mary; and
- to revisit parish history —priests, people and events —as we record present day happenings.

How is content matter sourced?

Notices are published in the Sunday Bulletin with requests for submissions, but the most effective method of garnering articles is by directly approaching people for input.

May future generations in reading issues of *St Pat's Matters* in the parish archives gain an appreciation of our era and how we lived the Catholic Faith.





EVENTS' REPORT 2018

Six Monthly Review

As a relatively new arm of ministry within the Cathedral Parish, the role of purpose of the Event Co-ordinator is to oversee the development, organization, and running of large events that are mediums of evangelization for the Cathedral Parish.

The past six months have largely been a learning curve of developing what this will look like for the year ahead, and how best we can utilize the great number of parishioners who would also like to be involved in the implementation of events in our Parish.

2018 Business Breakfast

With 110 attendees gathered to listen to renowned businessman Iwan Sunito speak to Business As A Tool for the Common Good, this year's Business Breakfast was a valuable opportunity for the Business Community in Parramatta to come together and reflect on the true value of their professions on our community.

The wonderful young ladies of Our Lady of Mercy College were our servers for the morning, and the incredibly talented students of Holy Family Maronite College made the early start easier for all as they serenaded the guests.

Light Up St Pat's

Unfortunately due to unforeseen issues regarding sponsorship for this event, Light Up St Pat's was cancelled and we are now looking forward to 2019 to re-launch this as a combined community event.

Women's Spirituality Night

On October 13th we will be re-launching the Women's Spirituality Night with guest speaker Jocelyn Hedley who will run an evening retreat on the spirituality and life of Eileen O'Connor – please look to the Parish bulletin for further details on this.



ST VINCENT DE PAUL – PARRAMATTA CONFERENCE

Since reforming in 2016, the SVdP Parramatta Conference has been providing ongoing responses to the numerous requests for assistance. These include emergency provision of food options, help with the ever increasing energy accounts, clothing and furniture where needed, among other specialist support services and referrals.

Current Team:

Recently President Gerard Gilchrist has found it necessary to retire, and the conference offers a sincere 'thank you' to Gerard for his service over his term.

Our new team is:

President: Graham Cook

Treasurer: Terry O'Brien

Secretary: Marilyn Cook

With tremendous support from Ray Love and Eugene Das.

Working in a Changing Environment

Recent changes to the way that SVdP services are delivered have included:

- The Harris Park support Hub has recently opened, being only the second in the Diocese. The hub provides, in a friendly environment, a comprehensive and professional service to the clients who attend there.
- Our conference does support the Hub in many ways including volunteering time, assisting with food deliveries and packing, and various supplementary services.
- Our conference also works with the Hub staff to deliver the best outcome for many clients.
- Client home visits do however remain a focus of the Conference, where we provide a unique and personalised service.

Social Justice issues being addressed by SVdP today

In addition to front line support to clients, we also actively embrace the Social Justice of SVdP in these areas:

- Provision of Socially Responsible and affordable housing in the community.
- Support for clients in housing stress.
- Combating homelessness.
- Standing for equitable energy costs.
- Combating energy affordability problems and cost of living pressures.
- Supporting refugees in our communities.
- Raising awareness of the plight of many refugees in our society.

The works carried out within the Parramatta Saint Vincent de Paul conference are of immense importance to the clients we serve. The advocacy carried out by SVdP as an organisation is commendable community building in the true sense of Christianity and a caring society. Saint Vincent de Paul continues to make a positive difference, and always welcomes your support.



Harris Park Community Hub

"I didn't know where to turn until I came to Harris Park Hub. Thank you for helping me to make real positive changes."
- Harris Park Hub Client

WHAT IS THE HARRIS PARK COMMUNITY HUB?
The Harris Park Community Hub is a client-centred support and referral service operated by the St Vincent de Paul Society. It offers support to those in the community who require financial, food or material assistance. The Community Hub team will work with you to offer the best possible support for your needs.

WHAT ARE OUR AIMS?
We provide advocacy, referrals and support in navigating the appropriate services. We'll have a conversation with you and allow you the time and space to discuss your needs. Our aim is to give you what you need to make informed decisions.



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