

# ST PAT'S MATTERS

A magazine for parishioners and friends of St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta

*Sealed  
and  
Sent*

October 2018 | Issue 96

## Editorial

**T**his issue abounds with input from parishioners, some proffered voluntarily, but most canvassed by yours truly.

Everyone loves a good story, more so if it is true, and has an element of mystery or surprise. Opposite read about the remarkable (miraculous?) medical recovery of an anonymous man, whose identity, when finally revealed, will definitely astound you.

In another story a son pays tribute to his mother, Daisy — her selfless devotion to family, unswerving faith in God and her influence on his life. It's by Brian Neroy.

Who are the members of the newly elected Parish Pastoral Council? Find out on pages 4-6...and then read the reflection, "*Our Faith Community*" by new member, Victoria Ikutegbe.

There's a four page spread on the Sacrament of Confirmation featuring the children initiated, a report by the Sacramental Co-ordinator, Meg Gale, articles by Bernadette Fabri, Olivia Lee, the Pinto Family and Mikaela Barrientos Salazar, all related to the importance of Confirmation in a child's faith journey.

Likewise Baptism's significance is highlighted by Joseph and Nimali in their article about baby Gianna's becoming a child of God.

Meet the pilgrims who will represent St Patrick's at World Youth Day in Panama next year and see what initiatives Credo has employed in fundraising to support them.

In faith formation, Missionary Jocas Javier writes about the relevance of the New Evangelisation, while Bernadette Ching shares her views on how Australians can learn from the Mexicans. And for those with a leaning towards philosophy and theology might be tempted to take up Dr Andrew Wood's invitation.

New volunteers in the Hospitality Group, parish staff members going and coming, our SREs, a former Dean, advice for modern mums, a parishioner's poetry, the tradition behind a Maltese statue, all rate a mention in this issue.

*M. Polizzi*

# The POWER of Intercessory Prayer

**THIS MIRACLE STORY DEFINITELY DESERVES TOP BILLING**

**A**ndrea and Alan D'Souza shared during one of our Parish Formation evenings on the power and reality of intercessory prayer — prayer that is said on behalf of another person for their intentions, whatever they may be. Alan shared the story about his Mum, Esme's medical condition and how a friend interceded on her behalf at the Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes; at the same time Esme, was cured of her ailment when the shadow of Pope (now Saint) John Paul II passed over her while she was in the crowd welcoming the Pope to Goa, India in February 1986.\*\*\*

As Christians we need to believe in the power of intercessory prayer. Some time back a 50-year-old man suffered a major heart attack at the entrance of Mary MacKillop Place in North Sydney. He had no prior warning of what was to occur. The attendants called the emergency number and within minutes the paramedics arrived and started the usual procedure for such an incident. The man's face had become a deep blue, indicating the severity of the heart attack. The paramedics stabilised him, quickly placed him in the ICU ambulance and rushed off to Royal North Shore Hospital. On the way, they tried to recover him with the electric pads. But after every attempt his readings on the monitor showed that there was no heartbeat. This continues for some seven to ten minutes, until finally the ambos called in that the patient had died. Notwithstanding the attending ambulance officer decided to inject the man with one more adrenaline shot. While preparing the needle, the monitor clicked on showing some sign of a heartbeat, however faint. Having stabilised the patient, they decided to call into the Emergency Ward rather than the morgue.

The man was admitted into the ICU where he was kept in an induced coma for about four days. When his family arrived at the Royal North Shore Hospital, they were confronted by the medical staff who gave them a very grave assessment of the situation. The man had suffered an intensive heart attack with two main blockages of the arteries. They had managed to place a stent in one and were still working on the major one. The family was told that due to the fact that his heart had stopped for up to eight minutes, that there would be major physical and neurological affects – paralysis, blindness, loss of speech. They went as far as stating that this would only result in the very slim chance that he would survive. In fact, from this report the family did not expect the person to live beyond that Monday night.

During that night, the Josephine community at Mount Street, North Sydney, the place where the drama occurred, prayed around the tomb of Mary MacKillop. They prayed earnestly and deeply for the recovery of the man. The prayer extended over three or four days. The Chaplain of Mackillop Place kept in touch with the hospital to find out the condition of the man. He was told on Thursday – three days after the heart attack that the man had come out of the coma. Prospective tests showed that there were no physical or neurological impediments. The man had made a full recovery, much to the surprise of the medical team at RNSH, who referred to it as a medical miracle. Even the two ambos came back to visit the man the day before he was discharged from hospital.

This story shows the power of intercessory prayer even in the face of humanly speaking great odds. **It is believed that the intercession of Mary Mackillop was the source of the man's recovery.**

You can be assured of the authenticity of this story **as the author of this article is the 50-year-old man who had the near fatal heart attack.** Coincidentally, it happened on July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2005, the 18th anniversary of his Priestly Ordination. Thirteen years later he can still be reduced to tears recounting this story. Intercessory prayer is indeed powerful and real. This is why the Solemnity of Mary Mackillop is such a special day for me.

*Fr Robert Bossini*

# Blessing of the Pastoral Parish Council



Just prior to the Dismissal at the end of 11am Mass on Sunday, September 16th, Fr Bob Bossini, Dean and Parish Priest called forth the parishioners who were to form the new Pastoral Parish Council for a blessing. Extending his hands in blessing Fr Bob prayed:

Ever loving God,  
You gather us together as the parish of St Patrick's  
To carry the Gospel of Christ to all people.  
Bless the members of this parish council.  
Let your Spirit enlighten their minds and guide all their actions that  
they may be renewed in faith, united in love and bring to fulfilment  
the work of your church to your greater honour and glory.

The occasion was made even more special by the presence of Bishop Maxwell Silva, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Colombo, Sri Lanka, as the principal celebrant, assisted by Fr Bob.

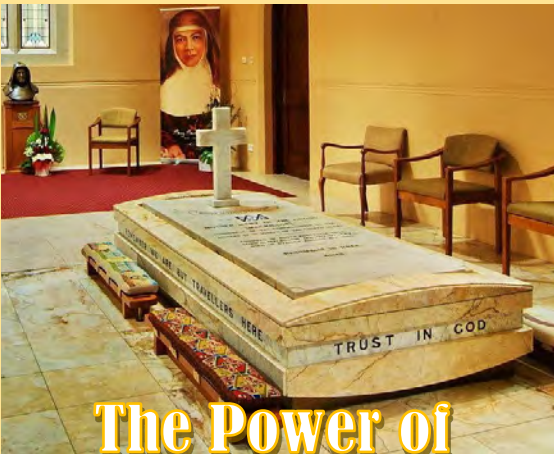
The councillors are a reflection of the melting pot that shapes St Patrick's ethnically diverse community, encompassing backgrounds from India, Tonga, the Philippines, Nigeria, Fiji, Italy and Aussie (with Irish ancestry!)

Please pray for them that they may earnestly work to serve the parish community in addressing its pastoral needs.

Overleaf, read what each PPC member has written by way of introduction.

After Mass Fr Bob suggested a photo shoot outside the Cathedral entrance.

From Bishop Silva at left we zig zag from back to front to Victoria Ikutegbe, Marietta Giullemma, Charlotte Pinto, Marian Polizzi, Salvatore Messina, Naomi Mazzitelli, Sesilia Lotoaniu, Deacon Limjap, Fr Bob and Nitesh Lal.



# The Power of Intercessory Prayer

## Editor's Footnote

### How this article came to be published:

It was after celebrating morning Mass on St Mary of the Cross Mackillop's Feast Day, (August 8th) that Fr Bob made this intriguing comment to me, "If it wasn't for Mary MacKillop, I wouldn't be here today." Pressed by me he related Mary's miraculous intervention that had saved his life. He had thought about mentioning it during his reflection after the Gospel, but decided against doing so, because he said, "It is still too raw to talk about."

I expressed the opinion that such an experience should be shared and asked if he would consider writing about it for *St Pat's Matters*. And because he acquiesced you are able to read the whole incredible story here.

Fr Bob also mentioned that he was asked to document his story to be included in the case presented to Rome for Mary MacKillop's beautification.

So whenever you pray at Mary's tomb at Mount Street, remember those nuns of her Order who kept vigil to prayerfully intercede for Fr Bob's miraculous return to good health.

\*\*\*\* Fr Bob's article begins with reference to Alan D' Souza's testimony about Intercession which featured in the last *St Pat's Matters*. It is an amazing story. If you missed reading it, and would like to do so, I am happy to send you a copy. Contact M. Polizzi on 9630 4019



# Parish Pastoral Council Matters

**Marietta Giullema, Victoria Ikutegbe, Sesilia Lotoaniu, Salvatore (Sal) Messina, Charlotte Pinto** are beginning their first term of office, serving until July 2020.

**Nitesh Lal and Naomi Mazzitelli:** second term of office, serving until July 2020.

**Marian Polizzi:** second term of office until July 2019.

**Robert (Bob) Edgar, Kerry Giumelli and Elias Saleh** have retired from the PPC.

Meet the people who make up the newly elected PPC.



## VICTORIA IKUTEGBE:

I grew up in Nigeria. When I moved from Wollongong to Sydney, last year, I attended Formation Sessions at St Patrick's Cathedral and consequently found a community of God loving people, a parish to which I wanted to belong.

There are so many opportunities in the parish, through the various ministries, for serving God through His people.

Remember that scripture also states that faith without good works is quite dead; this was my main motivation for joining the Parish Pastoral Council which allows me the privilege of serving the Church.

**\*\*Opposite page: See Victoria's more in depth comments offered as a Reflection.**



## SESILIA LOTOANIU

I arrived in Australia in January 1981 or 82 as a 9 year-old from Tonga, together with my Mum, 4 brothers and 3 sisters.

My Dad and older brother had moved here earlier and had prepared a home for us in North Parramatta We've lived in the area ever since.

In late January that same year six of us started school: the three older ones went to Catherine McAuley and Marist Brothers at Westmead, but because there was no more room in St Patrick's Primary, my two younger sisters and I were sent to St Monica's Primary. Although we attended different schools, we've always attended Sunday Mass at St Patrick's Church as a family.

In 1983-1984 my Dad took up the role as Choir Master for the Tongan Community around Auburn, Granville and Parramatta. Although over the years more members joined, my Mum and the nine children were the core of the choir, which always sang at 9:30am Mass on the fourth Sunday of the month. In 2012 my Father reluctantly retired due to ill health issues, and my son was born.

I accepted nomination to join the parish pastoral council, because I believe you become someone the community can look to for help, guidance and support — a leader with the opportunity to influence decisions beneficial to the people you have been elected to serve.

As part of the parish council we discuss parishioners concerns and needs and offer solutions to those issues. We might have limited powers to make decisions, but we do have the chance to negotiate and the power to influence outcomes.



## SALVATORE (SAL) MESSINA:

I feel very blessed to have been a parishioner for about two years now. My wife and I moved to Parramatta from Pymont, to be closer to work.

I went to school at Marcellin College (Marist Brothers Randwick) and grew up in the Coogee area.

Since moving to Parramatta we have been delighted by the vibrance of the local community and feel very fortunate to be part of a strong parish with very special clergy.

I made the decision to join the council because I am hopeful that with God's guidance - I can, in collaboration with my fellow councillors, investigate and reflect on pastoral matters and promote pastoral action in the diocese.

Other than my contribution to the council and the people of St Pat's Parish, I also see this as a great opportunity to continue to develop my faith and be the very best Catholic that I can.



## MARIETTA AGNES GUILLEMA

I am a 'cradle' Catholic. My husband Michael and I came to Australia from the Philippines in 2000. We have been married 25 years and have three sons.

Around 2009, I began attending the 12:30 pm Mass at the Cathedral. The whole family became parishioners at St Patrick's when we moved to Parramatta in 2011.

For three years now, my husband Michael and I have co-ordinated **Live Christ Share Christ**, a monthly formation teaching program conducted at the Cathedral Hall. We have also been members of **Catholic Laity Couples for Christ/ Foundation for Family and Life (CFC FFL)**, for 23 years.

In addition, this year I have become a Lector and an Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist.

Currently, I work at New South Wales Trustee and Guardian. I feel honoured to serve as your representative on the Parish Pastoral Council and I look forward to enriching the spiritual life of all parishioners by helping to achieve the vision and the mission of the life of the Parish. I encourage all parishioners to prayerfully consider sharing your gifts — big or small — in helping to build up the parish community of St. Patrick's.

Hopefully our PPC will address our community's concerns and may individuals be confident that their views will be taken seriously.

## INTRODUCING THE NEW PASTORAL PARISH COUNCIL



### NAOMI MAZZITELLI:

I am the Chairperson for the PPC. I came to this Parish on Christmas Eve 2010 and instantly felt a connection with the “community” here so I decided to get involved in the Parish at first through fundraising, joining the fete committee and helping out at various social functions.

However, after talking to some of the Council members, I wanted to become more involved in the pastoral side of the Parish. So I met up with Father Bob and we discussed what “gifts” (I’d say my organizational skills) I could bring to the council and what I hoped to gain from it (a sense of fulfilment and usefulness). Hence since April last year I have been a member; by June I was taking the minutes and by February this year I was acting as Chair. What I enjoy most about the PPC is that we have lively discussions on Formation and the ways in which our Parish can move forward both spiritually and socially. I have also met some fantastic and dynamic parishioners and parish guests and I hope to meet and work with many more this next year in my role as Chairperson. I feel blessed and honoured to be a part of such a wonderful working group here at the Cathedral.



### CHARLOTTE PINTO

My Husband, Claudius, son Daniel and I have been parishioners of St. Patrick’s Cathedral for more than nine years.

*A little about myself:*

I am a Human Resources Director by profession, equipped with leadership management experience, having worked for many high profile companies being responsible for leading and partnering strategic management and operation goals, senior stakeholder engagement and management. A people’s person by nature, I am passionate about HR, possess strong advisory, coaching, interpersonal relations, mentoring, negotiation and organizational skills and I have led companies towards their goals.

I am a fun-loving, straightforward, open-hearted and fair-minded person, a doting wife and mother. I strongly believe that Our Lord Jesus walks with us every step of our lives holding us in palm of HIS hand, HE is with us always!

#### Reasons for joining the Parish Pastoral Council.

I have always felt a strong sense that, as God’s instrument I could make a difference serving our diverse Parish community, (especially using the skills with which He has blessed me). For eight years I have been a Reader at 9:30am Mass, but now I am drawn to be more engaged and committed to serving the needs of our ever-growing Parish.

The primary function of the Pastoral Council is to represent the parishioners and listen attentively to their needs and concerns.

As an elected member of the PPC my hope is to provide Thought Leadership for the parish community; as Vice-Chairperson, I aim to collaborate in developing goals which help the parish fulfill its mission, and to evaluate the overall experience of parish life and worship; work to maintain open



### NITESH LAL

My wife Regina, our two children and I have been enjoying life in this Parish since our son, Dylan started at St Patrick’s Primary School 13 years ago. Our daughter, Olana started three years later.

The School, under its great and stern leader, *Mrs Bryant*, brought us closer to the Parish. Whether it was Mother’s Day, Father’s Day, Easter, Christmas, every Mass we attended at the cathedral, opened up a whole new world for our family.

Soon afterwards, Sr Susan came into the picture as Pastoral Associate— her love for the children and our dear Church, got us!

Fast forward to 2018, a dear Fijian friend, and elder of the Parish community and an inspirational parent suggested (read, told me) I should join the PPC.

PPC ??? I googled PPC – the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference 2007 document describes the Parish Pastoral Council as “A representative group bringing together the hopes and dreams of the whole Parish Community.” It goes on to state... “*Parish Pastoral Councillors exercise an overall concern for the whole Parish, not just their own particular special interest or function. ....The ministry of the Parish Pastoral Council is one of **shared servant leadership for the whole Parish.***”

Reading this, I immediately concluded, “No way, that’s not me.”

Yet here I am, writing for *St Pat’s Matters* the reason why I chose to join the PPC.

The truth is sometimes you just end up someplace, are trusted and given things to do. In return, you hope and pray you can help out, give it a real honest go, make some great friends along the way, all resulting in some awesome experiences to recall later in life.

I look forward to serving the parish, working to make it a loving and welcoming community under the leadership of Fr Bob, a priest of extraordinary talents and gentlemanly charm. I know I will learn from him.

My heroes, such as Fr John Paul Escarlan, former chaplain of CREDO Youth Ministry, Bishop Vincent, Fr Bob, our Parish Priest and the Parish Team have all directly impacted upon my faith, making it stronger.

I hope other parishioners can have these life-changing experiences in the hope of “**transforming the world until justice, love and peace prevail**”

and honest communication with all parish ministries and groups; guide and support reviews of the Parish Mission Statement to ensure that it truly reflects the current reality of our parish.

I look forward to an exciting chapter in our parish lives.

In HIS time, HE makes all things beautiful.

God bless us all!



**MARIAN POLIZZI**

I have been a St Pat's parishioner since 1979. Gradually over the years I became more involved in parish life, answering 'The

Call' to become a Reader and Catechist when Fr Larkey was Dean. Then during Fr Boyle's time as Dean I became an Extra ordinary Minister of the Eucharist, volunteered to join the Children's Liturgy and, Morning Tea Teams and I also began *St Pat's Matters*, our parish periodic newsletter. I was invited to join the Parish Pastoral Council, (later serving a term of office while Fr Kevin Walsh was Dean.)

I hope my several terms on the PPC have borne good fruit and that parishioners have found me approachable in expressing any concerns or questions they might have. My most recent project has been to encourage more people to become Welcomers at Sunday Masses, so ideally a roster can be formulated. It's a very slow progress, with few respondees to the recent bulletin notice. But spurred on by the Holy Spirit, I will prevail, even when my term of office ends in July 2019.

I wish simply to be of humble service to God and St Pat's people.



**BOB EDGAR**

Although Bob has stepped down from the PPC (after about 5 years), he will continue to visit council meetings

to report on the progress of a project he brought to council at parishioner Phil Russo's request: the erection of a plaque in recognition of the Burrumattagal Tribe being the original inhabitants and custodians of the land on which St Patrick's Cathedral stands.

The aim is to have the plaque ready for blessing and "unveiling" early in the new year, possibly on St Patrick's Feast Day.

# A Matter for Reflection

Below is what Victoria Ikutegbe wrote for her PPC 'profile' piece.

But its thought-provoking message and call to service deemed it worthy of treatment as a reflection. And with her permission it has been thus reassigned.

## OUR FAITH COMMUNITY – Fuel for the Journey

Picture this: In order to obtain a prize, you are given a choice between two tasks – snap a single twig OR snap a bundle of twigs bound together, without separating them. Which do you choose to tackle? The choice seems quite obvious; anyone would choose the easier of the two tasks. But which is easier? If you picked the single twig as easier to snap, you'd be making the logical choice that is to be expected. If you think the bundle of twigs is easier to snap, all I can say is you're stronger than I am... or you're just plain weird. But hey, weird can be good... maybe.

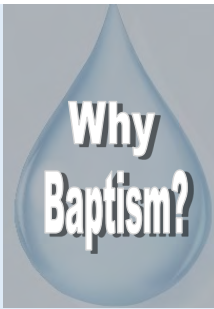
I use the above analogy to demonstrate how different our journey towards God can be depending on whether we choose to go it alone or decide to walk with others who are travelling in the same direction. I speak from personal experience when I say that the strength we draw from being part of a faith community is immeasurable. Walking the path to salvation alone, like the solitary twig, leaves us vulnerable to snapping easily under the pressure the world places on us. We are confronted each and every day by flawed worldly ideals that can cause us to question not just our faith but also the merit of living it out in the face of secular opposition. Travelling in the company of others, however, affords us a buffer which shields us from bearing in solitude the brunt of any applied pressure; the popular saying 'there is strength in numbers' is quite apt. Being part of a faith community also means that when we do have moments of doubt and uncertainty there are others to whom we can turn to help steer us back onto the right path.

Humans, though considered social creatures, do tend to balk at the idea of relying on others when it comes to things of utmost importance, like our faith and ultimate salvation. Having tried both approaches, however, I can honestly say that it makes for a smoother journey when we make use of the valuable resource that is our faith community. Think of it like calling into a service station on a road trip to ensure that our vehicle is in good working order to get us to our destination (I do like my analogies). The faith community can be our port of call for getting a tune-up (i.e. when we need reassurance in the face of swirling doubt); it can be our pitstop for refuelling (i.e. when our spirits are low and we feel disheartened); or it can simply be the servo where we go to do our rego check that keeps us 'roadworthy' (i.e. for regular faith formation through bible study, seminars and other forms of fellowship).

It is worth pointing out that the importance of the faith community is not something I made up simply because I have found it to be so in my own life (which I have). The scriptures extol the value and merits of belonging to a faith community in many instances, such as in the book of Proverbs where it states, 'as iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another' (Prov 27:17), demonstrating the strength we can draw from one another on our journey to salvation. Mt 18:20 also tells us that 'where two or three gather in my name, there I am with them', giving us confidence that when we call on the Lord in unity with brethren He will be there to answer. Other examples include Hebrews 10:24-25, 1 Corinthians 12:25-27 and Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 which sums it up beautifully. In fact, one need only look to the Acts of the Apostles to see how this community of faithful disciples worked in unison with each other and relied on each other for spiritual (and physical) sustenance in their God-given mission to lead His people to Him.

Here in our parish, you don't need to look very far to find faith communities that are waiting to welcome you with open arms. The 'Live Christ, Share Christ' movement is one such example that organises monthly formation classes that help to keep us buoyed as we journey towards God. The three Credo groups (Junior, Teen and Young Adults) offer many opportunities for fellowship and friendship with similarly-aged brethren. **There are also many opportunities in the parish, through the various ministries, for serving God through His people.** Remember that scripture also states that faith without good works is quite dead; this was my main motivation for joining the Parish Pastoral Council which allows me the privilege of serving the Church. So I ask again, will you be the solitary twig vulnerable under pressure or will you avail yourself of the security and resilience to be found in a faith community?

*Yours in Christ, Victoria Ikutegbe*



**Joseph & Nimali Weerasinghe presented their beautiful baby daughter, Gianna for Baptism 2 months after her birth.**

**Journey with them as they relate this important faith milestone for their precious child.**

**B**aptism is a holy sacrament which introduces a person into the Church community. Through the waters of Baptism, the person enters into the life of God — Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Infant baptism highlights the truth that becoming a Catholic is totally a gift from the Lord.

We were fully aware of the importance of this precious sacrament as both of us as parents were baptised as infants. Therefore we eagerly looked forward to baptising our first child, Gianna in the Catholic Church.

Once registered to be baptised at St. Patrick's Cathedral, we attended the Baptism preparation session. We believe it was quite important in attending as we gained knowledge with regards to the purpose of Baptism and the meaning of the signs and items used as well as information on the actual Baptism ceremony itself. The sessions conducted by Rev Deacon Willy, enhanced our knowledge so we were able to participate at the ceremony with a deeper appreciation of the significance of the sacrament. The sessions also provided an opportunity to ask further questions and enlighten ourselves as to the true meaning and significance of the sacrament.

We chose Gianna as the name of our daughter after Saint Gianna Beretta Molla. She was an Italian Catholic paediatrician. She refused both an abortion and a hysterectomy while pregnant with her fourth child, despite knowing that continuing the pregnancy could result in her own death, which later occurred. We came to know of Saint Gianna, whilst attending our monthly novena at St. Patrick's Cathedral and post the miscarriage of our first baby, son Uriel. We continued to pray for a healthy baby, St. Gianna is the patron saint of mothers, physicians, and unborn children.

When choosing our Godparents we gave preference to adult Catholics who practice the faith. We chose James Fitzpatrick and Nishani Perera as Gianna's Godparents bearing in mind they will take an interest in our baby Gianna over the years. As professed during the Baptism ceremony they need to help us in our duties as Christian parents. Furthermore, both parents and Godparents have dual responsibility in bringing up our daughter in the Catholic faith.

We were blessed to have Most Rev Bishop Vincent Long, confer the Sacrament of Baptism on Gianna. The ceremony began with us mentioning Gianna's name and that we requested her to be baptised. We declared that in doing so we are accepting the responsibility for bringing her up in the practice of the faith; it is our parental duty to bring her up to follow Christ's teaching, by loving God and our neighbour. First we as parents and then the Godparents were invited to trace the sign of the cross on Gianna's forehead. Once Baptism was conferred we put a white garment on Gianna as a sign of her being clothed with Christ and as a sign of Catholic dignity. James, the Godfather lit Gianna's baptismal candle from the Paschal Candle. The baptismal rite included a reading from Scripture, renunciation of sin and profession of faith, anointing with the oil of Chrism, blessing of water, clothing with the white robe, presentation of the lighted candle, prayer over the ears and mouth and prayers of intercession.

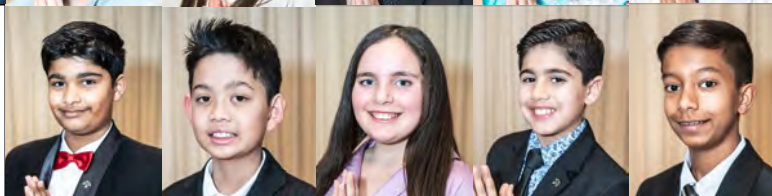
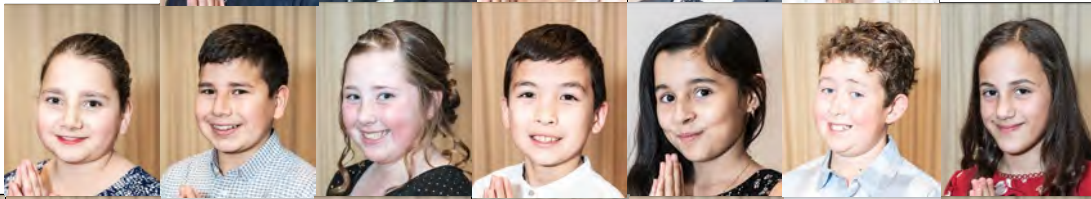
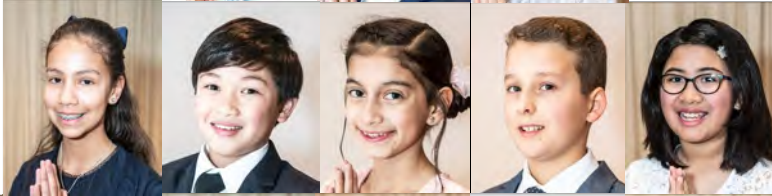
We believe the Sacrament of Baptism is of utmost importance, initiating Gianna's life journey in the Catholic faith.



**Deacon Willy, Godparents James and Nishani, Bishop Vincent, Parents Joseph, Nisha & Baby Gianna make a photographic memory**



*be sealed with the Holy Spirit*



**A DAY TO TREASURE**  
 These are the happy faces  
 of excited children  
 soon to be confirmed.

**CONFIRMATION**  
 follows Baptism and First  
 Eucharist to complete the  
 Sacrament of Initiation  
 into the Catholic Faith.  
 Baptism is the first and  
 Confirmation the last.



Accompanied by their sponsor,  
 each candidate knelt before Bishop Vincent,  
 who, dipping the tip of his thumb into the Sacred Chrism,  
 (brought to him by Deacon Willie), made the sign of the  
 cross on each candidate's forehead, saying,  
**"BE SEALED WITH THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT".**  
 Then, touching their cheek, the Bishop said,  
**"PEACE BE WITH YOU".**  
 Each newly confirmed child then replied,  
**"AND WITH YOUR SPIRIT".**



Photos adapted from those of Giovanni Portelli,





# Sacramental Program Report

by Meg Gale Co-ordinator

## CONFIRMATION 2018

On Friday 24<sup>th</sup> August we celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation for the 43 candidates from St Patrick's Cathedral Parish who had completed their preparation in the sacramental program. We were truly blessed to have Bishop Vincent Long celebrate the Mass and administer the sacrament to the children on this joyous occasion.

As always we were delighted that the principal, assisting principal, REC and other teachers from St Patrick's Primary School were able to join us and that the school choir was once again present to lead us in the hymns for the Mass.

The 43 children who received the Sacrament of Confirmation

have now made the final step for full initiation into the Catholic Faith. Please keep them in your prayers that now, 'sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit', they may continue to grow in their faith and witness the Good News in their daily lives.

### UPCOMING PREPARATION

We have again arrived at that time of the year when we are preparing to welcome a new group of children for Reconciliation (2018) and First Eucharist (2019). Our most recent event was the Sacraments of Initiation Enquiry Evening which was held here in St Patrick's Cathedral Hall on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> September. We are happy to report that the evening was well attended and through it we have received approximately 50 enquiries for registration for the upcoming preparation.

Registrations for the sacramental program are now open and the online enrolment form can be accessed via the cathedral website, go to: Sacraments/Holy Communion and click on the button **Holy Communion Registration**.

### SACRAMENTAL CALENDAR

(Please note that all sessions are held in the Cathedral parish hall)

#### 2018

Enrolment Mass	14th October 2018 (9:30 am Sunday Mass)
Introductory Session	7:30 pm Tuesday 23rd October 2018
Sacrament of Penance 1	7:30 pm Tuesday 6th November 2018
Sacrament of Penance 2	4:30 pm Saturday 17th November 2018
Practice for Penance	4 00 pm Saturday 24th November 2018
First Reconciliation	7:00 pm Tuesday 27th November 2018

#### 2019

Remembering Baptism 1	7:30 pm Tuesday 5th Feb 2019
Remembering Baptism 2	7:30 pm Tuesday 19th Feb 2019
Remembering Baptism 3	4:30 pm Saturday 9th March 2019
Ritual to Remember Baptism	4:00pm Saturday 23rd March 2019
Sacrament of Eucharist 1	7:30 pm Tuesday 30th April 2019
Sacrament of Eucharist 2	7:30 pm Tuesday 14th May 2019
Sacrament of Eucharist 3	4:30 pm Saturday 25th May 2019
Practice for First Eucharist	4pm Saturday 15th June 2019
First Eucharist	9:30 am Sunday Mass 23rd June 2019 (Corpus Christi)



### Our Newly-confirmed children need the prayers of the Parish Family as they continue their Sacramental Journey.

*Ella Abdallah*  
*Liam Abdallah*  
*Mark Thomas Abraham*  
*Gloria Achandy*  
*Connor Andrew*  
*Madeline Kate Arrage*  
*Mikaela Barrientos Salazar*  
*Jacob Luc Orcena Bernardo*  
*Rianna Kieschel Blas*  
*Lacey Ainsley Bond*  
*Charlotte Lily Borg*  
*Elliana Rose Coles*  
*Ryan Lachlan Croan*  
*Ryan Levi Day*

*Charisse Margaux De Ramos*  
*Shane John Fernandes*  
*Annette Francis*  
*Joshua Mario Galan*  
*Charlie Gardner*  
*Diana Granados Gavito*  
*Jazmyne Grech*  
*Charlotte Jensen*  
*Erica Jurisic*  
*Mia Kerr*  
*Tiana Koleti Lasalo*  
*Jayden Lawrence*  
*Ivanka Marija Markovic*  
*Sebastian Paolo Mayonado*

*Gabriella Mendoza*  
*Brooklyn Munro*  
*Val Francis Nanales*  
*Vince Carlo Nanales*  
*Camran Nasrulla*  
*Samantha Geraldine Palad*  
*Daniel Pinto*  
*Brandon Ezekiel Roque*  
*Oisin Ryan*  
*Chloe Ann Skinner*  
*Christian Stojkovski*  
*Jacob Xavier Tamaro*  
*Sienna Volante*  
*Kenneth Zhang*



**L**ast issue we featured Olivia Lee's reflection on The Eucharist, one of seven articles she penned on the Sacraments to feature in the Sunday Parish Bulletins about four years ago. This she did at the request of Fr Andrew Bass during his tenure as Administrator of St Pat's at the time. Then Olivia was still a student at Campion

College; now she has taken on the role of Parish Events Co-ordinator.

Here you can read her thoughts on Confirmation, through which she states that

***"an indelible mark was made on your soul – the recognition of your being as a Christian, and the seal of your permanent connection with God. "***

### **Snippets of Sacraments: CONFIRMATION** ***What's in a name?***

**W**hat do you and James Bond have in common? Probably not much. Chances are though, even if you haven't seen a James Bond movie, you're well aware of the classic, identity-affirming line – ***"Bond. James Bond"***.

The world goes crazy with this line, parodying it, appropriating it, using it as a legitimate answer any time someone asks what your name is (guilty). But what is the attraction to the name in doing this?

It's the same attraction we have to our own name when we correct someone on its pronunciation, or remedy the spelling, or smile when someone recognises us as being someone's relative – our name is an intimate glimpse into who we are.

As Catholics, one thing most of us remember about receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation is the saint's name we chose to take on. Just as our first names were purposefully given to us by our parents at Baptism to link us with our family, our Confirmation names are given as a way to unite us with our heavenly family. The Saint chosen to represent us brings more than just a name to our identity, it identifies us with their virtues and they become role models of how we should want to love God. To know God, to love God, and to serve God is a continuous process of conversion with which we need the strength of Grace to help us through the times we turn away, so we may turn back.

Through the Sacrament of Confirmation, the Holy Spirit gives us this special strength, making us able to defend the faith by word and action as true witnesses of Christ, unashamed of the Cross.

The world we live in does not make this an easy thing to do though, and like the Apostles in today's Pentecost readings we might be so overcome with fear of judgement or persecution, that we hide our identity as Christians. But it is in the midst of the Apostles' fear that Christ appears to them and not only comforts them, but seals them with the Holy Spirit, *confirming* them as His disciples.

There are people who will forget your name.

There are people who will not even ask for your name.

There are people for whom you will never be anything more, but a name.

Through Confirmation though, an indelible mark was made on your soul – the recognition of your being as a Christian, and the seal of your permanent connection with God, — Our God who calls us by the name with which we associate our character, worth, and being.

*Olivia Lee, 23, Campion College*



**M**s Bernadette Fabri, the Principal of St Patrick's Primary has allowed us to share the following extract, from the school newsletter. It features the pupils making their Confirmation, and the important message Bishop Vincent's homily conveyed to everyone.

**L**ast Friday Night some of our students received the Sacrament of Confirmation. The Mass was celebrated by Bishop of Parramatta, Bishop Vincent Long Van Nguyen and was concelebrated by Father Bob, Parish Priest and the Dean of the Cathedral, Assistant Priest Father Michael and Deacon Willy.

In his homily Bishop Vincent reminded the children that as part of this very special sacrament they are now equipped spiritually to follow the footsteps of Christ. He called on the congregation to recall the many scripture stories such as the story of the blind man and the unclean woman, each demonstrating for us that Jesus' mission had a particular focus; the lost and the last. **Bishop Vincent reminded the children that through their anointing by the Holy Spirit, their words and deeds will be inspired and guided. They will be Spirit-filled and Spirit-led.**

He asked all of us to lead a life that is a replicate of the life of Christ, one that makes a difference to the lives of others with particular attention and solidarity with the 'down and out' and the poor.

This is indeed a challenge, especially in a world that calls us in the opposite direction. This direction is often about getting whatever we want at the expense of others, to serve our individual rights with no consideration on how this may impact on those around us and one which encourages a sense of self promotion to the extreme.

In a loud and busy world he asked the students to discern the voice of the Spirit through; prayer, receiving the sacraments, listening to parents and teachers who can show us how to lead a more loving Christian life.

May I ask you to keep all these children and their parents and sponsors in your prayers over the months to come.

God bless you and your family.

Bernadette Fabri  
Principal

# CONFIRMATION MATTERS: a family affair

It was very affirming to receive articles from both Daniel and his parents about his Confirmation. In so doing they have exemplified the ideal situation — the importance of preparation for and celebration of the sacraments of initiation as a family.

**H**i, my name is Daniel Pinto. I am a year 5 student at St Patrick's Primary School, Parramatta and attend Sunday Mass with my family.

On Friday 24<sup>th</sup> August, 2018, I received the Sacrament of Confirmation with my fellow classmates and other members of the Parish. It is the last Sacrament of Initiation and is unquestionably a treasure to remember and cherish for life, to guide you through everything you say and do. In this holy Sacrament, the Bishop seals us with the gift of the Holy Spirit which is bestowed upon us and sealed in our hearts, like the Apostles on Pentecost Sunday. Our souls are sealed with Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit. They are wisdom, knowledge, fortitude, piety, counsel, understanding and the fear of the Lord. These are sealed within us to guide our thoughts, actions and words every day.

The Apostles were also given these gifts to guide their lives in the way of God without Jesus physically with them on Earth and so are we.

We were taught about these gifts in the preparation for the day and their meanings too. Wisdom allows us to see God in others and all his wonderful works all over the world. Knowledge of our beliefs and the ability to see God in the actions of our own lives. Piety — to have deep reverence for the Lord our God and to connect more deeply with Him. Understanding — of others and the true meaning of God. Fortitude — courage and the ability to stand up for the what is right, right in God's eyes. Counsel — ability to make the right judgements and decisions. And the Fear of the Lord — awe of God and all his works and how He is perfect in every way.

We receive these gifts from the Holy Spirit in Confirmation to guide us for the rest of our lives so that we may fulfil Jesus' mission for us. I will always remember and never forget this day.

I would like to especially thank my Parents and Sacramental Coordinators for their guidance, support and efforts to prepare me for this wonderful day.

## PARENTS' MESSAGE from Charlotte & Claudius Pinto

**A**ugust 24<sup>th</sup> 2018 was a very special day for us as parents, when our son Daniel received the Holy Sacrament of Confirmation at St Patrick's Cathedral, thereby concluding the Sacraments of Initiation into the Catholic faith; a very proud moment for us as parents to see our son Daniel receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, promised by Jesus Christ our Lord and poured out upon the Apostles at Pentecost.

Daniel was so very enthusiastic and happy to be involved in the preparation sessions beforehand with our guidance as parents and that of the teachers from his school, as well as the Sacramental Team.

We understand that as Catholics and followers of Christ Jesus, we are strengthened by this power from Heaven, and are made true witnesses of Christ in word and deed, and bound more closely to His Church.

Thus strengthened, we will endeavour throughout our lives to fulfil our parental role —to teach and nurture our child to grow more in holiness and love, to deepen his faith, to guide, counsel and encourage him constantly to live by the teachings of the Catholic faith. This parental support not only helps children reach greater heights in life, it also builds an atmosphere of trust and understanding. The children also learn to take ownership of their actions and be responsible individuals. **Your home is the place where faith can be nourished as you worship together regularly and also participate in parish life.**

Special thanks to Meg Gale for her efforts, patience, support and guidance during this journey to the Sacrament of Confirmation.

May our Lord bless all our parishioners and their families.



## A REFLECTION

from

**MIKAELA BARRIENTOS SALAZAR**

**O**n Friday 24<sup>th</sup> August, I received the Sacrament of Confirmation. The Mass was led by Bishop Vincent who shared many inspiring messages about the gifts of the Holy Spirit and the importance of our new responsibility as full members of the Catholic Church. It was very similar to being baptised as we renewed our Baptismal promises and were blessed with the Oil of Chrism. However, this time we answered for ourselves and we chose a saint's name by which we were addressed on the day.

I felt nervous as I was making this commitment to God and the community but also very encouraged to have my sponsor, my family, teachers and other students of the St Patrick's Primary community present.





**Presenter: Jocas Javier**

I have been a missionary since 2005 and have been full time in the role for 4 years now.

In my life as a missionary, uncertainty is my friend for I always abide by God's plan and providence. Last August 3, I was asked to go to Sydney to fill in for Tito Ed Paalam, Live Christ Share Christ World East Coordinator, who was supposed to do a presentation on the New Evangelisation and relevance of LCSC in that mission at St Patrick's Cathedral Parramatta.

As a missionary, 'yes' is always our response to God's call but then again the human in me resurfaced at this unexpected request. I was anxious, but the more I realize my weakness, the more

I cling on to God's grace:  
**When God calls He really equips.**

From the moment I started speaking to those gathered for the session in St Patrick's hall, I know it wasn't me anymore, but God speaking His message through me. Anxiety turned into full confidence knowing that the Lord is with me, as He is with everyone. Once again, I was affirmed that this is God's work we are asked to participate in. That miracle happens when we allow the Holy Spirit to work through us. I was definitely younger than most of my audience. All I had was the story of my journey with God, yet I knew it was more than enough.

The most selfish man on earth is someone who knows about God and doesn't share that knowledge about Him to others. When we meet Christ it should lead us to live like Him, and if we start living like Him we are led to sharing Him. As St. Francis of Assisi once said, "Preach the Gospel at all times. When necessary use words." This is what we should do today.

**Live Christ Share Christ. (LCSC)** is a response to the call of the New

Evangelization. It aims to reach out to the grass roots, to reach the non-Catholics, to empower the laity and to build up the Church. LCSC has 4 pillars as its foundation:

1. **Live Life;**
2. **Live the Word;**
3. **Live Full and**
4. **Live Pure.**

I personally champion 'Live Pure'. It is a Catholic pro-life movement that promotes and defends the culture of life, by leading young people to a life of Purity and Chastity. It works to bring the cause of Live Pure to parishes, secondary schools, junior and senior high and universities through the formations and events. We are striving to start a world-wide movement enjoining the young men and women standing up and living up for the cause of chastity and purity.

'Live Pure' is both my cause and my saving grace. I believe there are more like me out there who just need to hear that there is still hope and that God loves them no matter what. Everyone needs God, they just don't know it. Everyone doesn't just need Him, we all need Him now.



Above:  
The group who listened to Jocas Javier. They were grateful that he readily stepped into the breach when Mr Tito Ed Paalam was unable to attend.



Left:  
Jocas attended The HALAGA Live Pure Conference 2017. Ten thousand young people held hands while praying *The Lord's Prayer*.

## WHAT DOES THIS LOGO MEAN?

There are 4 basic elements in the Live Christ, Share Christ (LCSC) logo:  
the cross, the dove, the host and the star.

### THE CROSS

- ◆ Our task is to proclaim Christ and the salvation He won on the cross.
- ◆ This is the LCSC basic mission of evangelization.
- ◆ Our desire is for all Catholics to meet and know Christ, to live Christ and to share Christ.
- ◆ Christ and His cross are at the very centre of our lives and our mission. We live for Christ and we die for Christ (Phil 1:21).
- ◆ The color is red, signifying the precious blood shed by Jesus on the cross, and also the call to us to lay down our very lives for the cause of Christ.
- ◆ It is a call to self-sacrificial love and martyrdom.

### THE DOVE

- ◆ The dove represents the Holy Spirit.
- ◆ We are a people who live a life in the Spirit, and who are empowered for mission by the Spirit (Acts 1:8).
- ◆ The color is gold. Through the fire of the Holy Spirit, we are purified (Sir 2:5).
- ◆ We are to be sacrificial offerings to God (Wis 3:6).
- ◆ We look forward to wearing crowns of gold in heaven (Rev 4:4).

### THE HOST

- ◆ The host represents the Eucharist, central to our Catholic faith. LCSC is about mainstreaming Catholic lay evangelization.
- ◆ The white color points to the purity of our lives.
- ◆ We are called to a life of holiness (1 Pt 1:15-16). In fact, we are to be perfect just as the heavenly Father is perfect (Mt 5:48).

### THE STAR

- ◆ The star represents Mary, who is the Star of Evangelization.
- ◆ She is crucial to our work of evangelization and mission, being there through salvation history, from Genesis (Gen 3:15) to Revelation (Rev 12:1-7).
- ◆ The star is also a stylized figure of a person leaping and dancing with joy, with Christ in his/her heart and anointed by the Holy Spirit.
- ◆ We reflect the joy of Mary in our life and our mission (Lk 1:47-49).

The blue color signifies our consecration as a people to Mary.



Plumpton is a bit of a hike from Parramatta, even by car! Nevertheless, on 7th September, 2018, seven Special Religious Educators of our parish made the journey to that suburb to attend the annual Diocesan Mass organized by the CCD, i.e. Confraternity of Christian Doctrine and for which Most Reverend Bishop Vincent was the main celebrant, with priests of the Diocese.

For some of us it was our first visit to the beautiful Church of the Good Shepherd, which was packed to overflowing with Catechists of all ages. Most affirming was the presence of student representatives from 19 high schools involved in teaching catechetics to Catholic children in state schools. And what a stirring sight to see them, bearing school banners, forming part of the entrance procession. Willing to witness! Wonderful!



Bishop Vincent presented numerous awards after Mass. We managed to round up five of the seven Parramattaites (Mona Kaltoum and Michael Sobb couldn't be located) to snatch a photo shoot with him (albeit not the best!) before we headed off. Why only seven of our twenty-one SREs present? Well work, sickness and other commitments accounted for the small turn out.



L-R: David Mannall, Pamela Bain, the Bishop, Marian Polizzi, Dianne Smith, Maria Valentin

I have been asked to write a short article on Mum for *St Pat's Matters*, our parish magazine. I've been thinking about what to include and how to present a life that has seen so much and that represents 8 decades across some very tumultuous times....and still keep it short. Daisy Neroy, my mum, turned 87 on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2018. **Let me introduce to you the most influential person in my life.**

Mum was born in Bombay, now Mumbai, in 1931 before India became an independent nation, in an era that saw much social upheaval. I can only imagine how it must have been having to witness your birthplace fall apart, resemble a warzone and then go through some very early "readjustments" that played out on the streets, including the bloody riots that followed independence and partition in 1947. Mum doesn't like to speak much about those times but sometimes she does allude to some horror stories that have stayed. After all, she was just an impressionable 16 year-old teenager then.



Mum and Dad at their wedding reception

Mum and Dad had three kids, Trevor, Brenda and me. We lived in a middle class section of Mumbai in what's best described as an apartment - tenement. Not much in terms of possessions but an abundance of happiness. Music played non-stop on our record player. Mum's music choices, Jim Reeves, Engelbert, Cliff Richard etc were some of our unseen, but frequently heard, guests. We

went to St Paul's High School, had many friends from varied backgrounds and faiths — and every Sunday without fail, we went to church.

Therein lies, I would think, the secret of Mum's inner strength. In her own words **"God is in charge so never say die!"** I suspect it still is the one simple statement that drives her. My earliest memories of childhood is of a family unit that welcomed everyone into their home. We in turn were part of everyone else's lives in the building. I remember celebrating Hindu and Muslim festivals, along with families there. We had Mass said in the building square once a year for St Francis Xavier's Feast, Santa Claus distributed gifts on Christmas Day and in the same space Diwali and Muslim prayers for Eid were celebrated. A very early lesson in integration for us kids that went way past just "Tolerance". Through it all we remained strongly Catholic. We reached out to everyone with respectful inclusion. And on Sunday we went to church.

There were challenges best not mentioned here. What matters is that Mum held the family together based entirely on her strong belief that Jesus, Mary and Joseph, being our models should and would define our code of conduct: nice big family trying their best to stay together, Mum, Dad, us three kids and our grandparents — revolving around a central pillar, Mum, under the careful, loving, watchful gaze of framed pictures of Jesus, Mary, Don Bosco, Dominic Savio, St Jude and many other saints that adorned one complete wall of the living area. The largest altar in a home that I've ever seen — and no TV for a long time. We considered ourselves truly blessed when we were the first family in the building that actually were able to purchase a black and white TV. Every week Mum would welcome all the kids in the building (and some adults) who would sit on the floor and watch a much anticipated old Indian movie on the TV with the volume on max while Mum prepared and dished out snacks to everyone there. I remember watching cricket that way too!

Mum taught at Kindergarten level in the highly respected St Paul's School for a long 33 years. She was a popular class

teacher. Parents loved her as she could speak several local languages and communicate effectively with them. Quite a few kids in my English language Catholic school had parents who couldn't speak the language at all. I loved going to school and being "Miss Daisy's" son. I soon realised though I wasn't going to get granted any special favours as my Mum's message to all my teachers was, *"deal with him as you will"*. Same applied to my brother who followed. I think we often got made an example of. Did us a lot of good in the long run. Mum was never my teacher in school.

In life, however I have learned from her. I know others who have, too. I have learnt that there is strength in prayer; that determination and steadfastness are the fruits of a deep belief that Jesus lives and works in our lives today, not just 2000 years ago; that Patience is a virtue; that being a mother is a responsibility but there is also joy in giving to your family without counting the cost; that Love is above all — the silent, undemanding, all sacrificing kind. **This is where I stand in awe!** I am not afraid of mentioning, Mum worked and earned a lot of money through hard work, regular school hours followed by tuitions that she gave at people's homes. She put us through school and set all three of us on a path to progress and success. **She gave us her all without reservation.**

Mum has zero personal savings!. She always sincerely believed that if God can look after the birds in the sky etc, He would look after her as well. I think people with faith like hers are a rarity these days, or maybe I just haven't had the fortune to meet them.

Here is an incident that perhaps best illustrates her capacity to give to her family. At one point as a young working man, I wanted to buy a small apartment in Mumbai. The first piece of real estate that we could own. Till then we were renting. I took a loan from the bank, but was short of some money. Mum couldn't see me disappointed I guess, so in her wisdom she decided to sell most of her personal jewellery and gave me the cash. That must have not been easy. No repayment terms. Not a loan. Just gave it to me.

*Cont'd next page*

# A Matter for Reflection

A POEM by BERNADETTE

## Brian's Tribute continued

Took me a while to repay her and help get some of that jewellery back. This incident has single handed and permanently defined the way I think of my own family today as well. Very high standard of giving that I'm sure I'll strive to reach, but not sure I'll succeed! Mum has set the bar pretty high.

One year the building that we lived in was designated unsafe by the state government and we were almost overnight moved to a temporary shelter-type residence which was a ground floor row house type unit with a small veranda at the front. Over 2-3 days we managed to carry our most prized possessions with us. The three of us siblings took the record player, fish tank, TV etc. Mum ensured the Altar and the saints joined us too. After all, we now had a new wall to adorn!



Trevor Brenda, Mum & Dad & me

Dad got sick and was the victim of partial paralysis for more than 10 years. Mum looked after him and in 1997 when he passed, it was just Mum and me. I decided then I would try migrating to Australia to join my siblings, Brenda and Trevor, already here in Melbourne. So in 2002, I came across permanently on a skilled visa. Mum opted to stay behind and gave me the same rationale that she'd be fine. However, seeing how worried I was leaving her behind in a city that's so very warm in more ways than one, but had very little in terms of support mechanisms in place for older people, she agreed to join me.

Not sure how difficult it is for someone who is 71 years old to leave behind the life she knows, her long-time friends and to readjust to a culture that's different from the one she's used to — but it's a brave act to say the least.



## Drop Dead

If you were to die now  
This very minute  
What would you leave behind?  
Deeds undone,  
Words unsaid,  
Broken hearts,  
Broken vows.

Would those in life know you had loved them to the end  
Would others know you treasured them as your friends.

If you were to die tomorrow  
Just 24 hours.  
What would you do?

Prepare your will.  
Erase ill will  
Tell your family you love them  
Make peace with your friends  
Ask God to let you join him at the end.

None of us know the exact hour of our death,  
So be prepared – put your affairs in order.  
Affairs of the heart,  
Affairs of the state,  
Affairs of the mind.

Tell your husband, wife, children, parents -you love them.  
Apologise and ask forgiveness,  
From those you wrong and from your God.

Write letters to your young for them to read when they are older  
Old enough to understand, your hopes and love for them.  
Make a careful will that leaves peace after you have gone.  
Say what you want at your funeral — your final farewell.

So if you do Drop Dead today.  
There is nothing left undone, unsaid, or unloved.

At 87 Mum still loves other people. If you do see her, please say 'Hi'. You will be greeted with a smile and if you need a prayer, she will gladly oblige. As I mentioned earlier, Daisy, my mum has this unique personal relationship with Jesus, Mary and Joseph. She will put you on her list and pray for you.

\*\*\*\*\*

Today Daisy, her son Brian, Manju his wife and grandson Aaron are regulars at 9:30am Mass on Sundays. They have been St Pat's parishioners since 2009.

# Meet our WYD Pilgrims

A REPORT by GENEVIEVE LEE

After morning Mass every second Sunday over the past few months, you might have noticed the smell of barbecued sausages lingering in the Cloister air. On those days, the **Teen Credo Youth Group** have been eagerly selling sausages and baked goods, hoping to encourage the parish community to support their fundraising to send pilgrims to World Youth Day 2019.

World Youth Day brings together over two million young Catholics every two to three years from many nations. Panama City will host the next WYD from 15th — 30th January, 2019.

Parramatta Diocese will be sending approximately 200 pilgrims to Panama. Six of those 200 pilgrims, will be representing St Pat's Parish, the five pictured here going for the first time have been active in the BBQ fundraising effort.

Therefore, it seems only fitting to profile these pilgrims who will benefit from the community support of BBQ Sundays.



THE PILGRIM QUINTET: Dylan, Vaine, Genevieve, Rachel and Olana

## RACHEL TOUCHE:

Rachel is 16 years old, and is currently in Year 10 at St Patrick's Marist College, Dundas. The oldest of three children she has been an active member of Teen Credo since its conception in 2015. She helps out with Junior Credo on Friday afternoons and enjoys reading Dystopian novels in her spare time.

### Why do you want to go to World Youth Day?

*"I want to go to World Youth Day to be able to strengthen my faith. To have the opportunity to be surrounded by a community of young Catholics, is something that I think will help me on my faith journey."*

### What are you looking forward to?

*"I'm really looking forward to pilgrimaging through Mexico to get to Panama for the final Mass. In particular, I really cannot wait to see the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe."*

## DYLAN LAL:

Dylan is 18 years old, and in his first year of course studies for a degree in Bachelor of Commerce at Macquarie University. Dylan is a senior server at the 6pm Mass on Sundays. In his spare time you can find him with a basketball in his hands, playing the game passionately. He is one of the upcoming leaders of Teen Credo, so be sure to keep an eye on him.

### Why do you want to go to World Youth Day?

*"I've always wanted to go and experience World Youth Day since it was held in Sydney in 2008. I've always thought it would be a great opportunity to experience the unique atmosphere of the pilgrimage."*

### What are you looking forward to?

*"I'm looking forward to doing community service projects during the pilgrimage. We'll be working a lot with people on the outskirts of society, so being on pilgrimage and helping them will allow me to give back and appreciate all that I have."*

## OLANA LAL:

Olana is 15, and sister to Dylan. She is in year 10 at Our Lady of Mercy College, Parramatta. She, like the other pilgrims featured,

is going to World Youth Day for the first time. She is an active member of Teen Credo, assisting with Junior Credo in her spare time. As well as this, Olana, a talented and keen dancer, choreographed her school's routine for the recent dance competition "Bring It On".

### Why do you want to go to World Youth Day?

*"I would like to go to World Youth Day because I believe that it is an opportunity for me to strengthen my faith and to share my spiritual journey alongside fellow youth members."*

### What are you looking forward to?

*"I'm looking forward to our visit to the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe and the various churches. I'm excited to experience South American culture and to be with youth from all over the world."*

## VAINE LOTO'ANIU:

Vaine, 17 years old, is in year 11 at Catherine McAuley High School, Westmead. She has been in Teen Credo since 2015 and an altar server at St Pat's 9:30am and 11:00 am Masses since 2008. Vaine regularly learns about and dances traditional Tongan dances with family, keen to do her part in sustaining the culture in her own life.

### Why do you want to go to World Youth Day?

*"I think it would be a good opportunity to experience not only my faith, but the cultures of new places like Panama and Mexico."*

### What are you looking forward to?

*"I'm looking forward to helping those in need, as well as making new friendships with people I meet during the pilgrimage."*

## GENEVIEVE LEE

Genevieve is 17 years old and has just graduated from year 12 at Gilroy Catholic College, Castle Hill. She is a Reader at 6pm Mass on Sundays and is a part of the Teen Credo youth group. Genevieve hopes to pursue a Bachelor of Psychology with a Bachelor of Law at Macquarie next year.

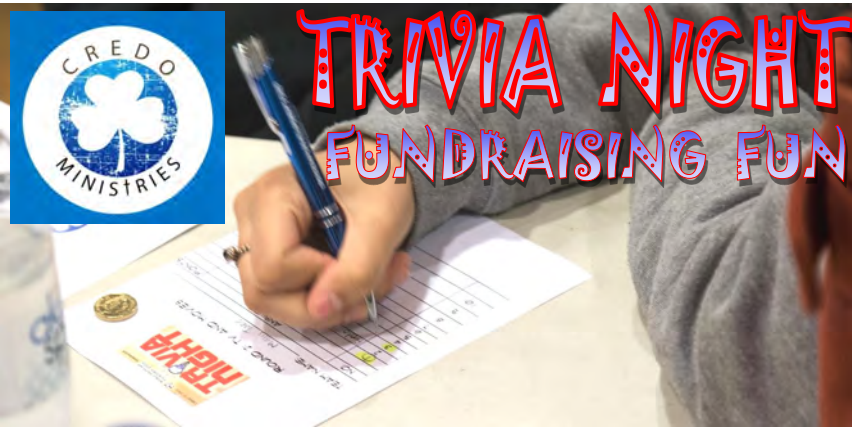
### Why do you want to go to World Youth Day?

*"After hearing about the experiences my brothers and sister had when they went to Poland, Brazil and Sydney, it seems like something you should do at least once. I want to go to further my faith journey, whilst being surrounded by young people from around the world trying to do the same."*

### What are you looking forward to?

*"I'm looking forward to trying new foods like Tacos Al Pastor as we travel through Mexico, but I'm also looking forward to taking part in the final Mass and visiting the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe."*





# TRIVIA NIGHT FUNDRAISING FUN

The Trivia Night on 8th September was another initiative to augment the funds needed to send the five Teen Credo Youth off to World Youth Day as St Pat's parish representatives.

You didn't come? Well, you missed a most entertaining, fun and laughter-filled evening that certainly tested the grey cells with some very 'curly' quiz question; and the chance to be community-minded and support a most worthwhile cause.

## Let the pies do the talking



## time for team thinking



## Hoping for just judges



Food for the little grey cells was on offer in the form of a BBQ buffet, which was included in the cost of entry.

Thanks to Anthony Silvestrini, under his big sombrero, for his singing and guitar strumming interludes.

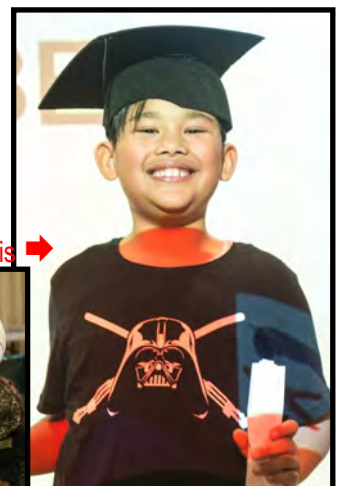
All evening the hall was abuzz with friendly chatter, and also during consultation on Quiz Questions. We were warned there was to be no googling answers ....as if St Pat's people would stoop so low!!

It was great to see Fr Bob and Fr Gitau enjoying the time off priestly duties.

Frivolity abounded during the paper plane making challenge, the Heads or Tails game and the Closest Coin to the Bottle of Wine and of course judging the best Thinking Hat below.



Such fun parading to be judged by the audience as to whose THINKING HAT was the best: And the winner is →



But wait there's more on the back page

## A SCHOOL OF THOMISTIC PHILOSOPHY AND THEOLOGY TO START IN MARCH 2019

Arrangements are presently underway for the opening of a school of Thomistic Philosophy and Theology at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta, in early March 2019. The school will be under the direction of Dr. Andrew Wood.

### The Present State

As many would agree, modernity suffers from a malady of the mind. Today more than ever, even though we are in the information age, a lack of clear reasoning and a decline in the life of the intellect is evident.

We have lost the sense of values, the right appreciation by which the human mind gets the right sense of proportion: to assess the bigs as bigs, and the smalls as smalls. Modernity often struggles to judge higher goods to be higher and lower goods to be lower; it readily esteems the means more important than the end; and prefers the useful over that which is desirable simply for its own sake. All of which is due to a decline in the life of the intellect.

The consequences: if we allow ourselves to be persuaded that there is no God, or to leave God out of the scheme of things, or if we deny or overlook the spirituality and therefore the immortality of the human soul, or if we reject, or even falsify, the nature of the human intellect and its companion, free-will, then we will think that the highest and most desirable goods are the goods of this world: sensual pleasures, comforts, wealth, power, good fellowship, reputation, etc.

This inevitably leads people, if they can, to suppress the rights of others; to desire the full expression of one's own individuality rather than to seek the highest development of one's personality; to the mediocrity of the lowest common opinion; or to the erection of a substitute god in the form of a vague humanitarian ideal, or to an all-exacting State.

### The Remedy

A necessary remedy for all this is sound philosophy—one that explores and truly plots the order of reality, and duly guides our thought and conduct. Ever since his death on 7 March 1274, and his canonisation on 18 July 1323, the Popes of the Catholic Church have consistently recommended the philosophy and theology of St Thomas Aquinas as the surest way of attaining the truth of things.

In writing for his own age St. Thomas wrote for all ages, because he went below the foundations of his own age and identified the perennial foundations of all correct thinking: namely the indisputable principles of all reality. In his encyclical *Fides et Ratio*, Pope St John Paul II declares that "the Church has been justified in consistently proposing Saint Thomas as a master of thought and a model of the right way to do theology" (n.43).

This appreciation is explained not only by the content of St Thomas' teaching but by the method he used, especially his new synthesis of and distinction between philosophy and theology. Aquinas identifies the compatibility of the world of rationality—philosophy conceived without Christ — with the world of faith in Christ and his revelation.

Since the trust with which St Thomas endows these two instruments of knowledge—faith and reason—are traced back to the one source of all truth, the divine *Logos* (or Word), to study philosophy without the intention of doing theology is to fall short of acquiring reason's ultimate purpose—the attainment of a correct and full understanding of God the Creator; and to study theology without first grasping and appreciating the extent of reason's capability (i.e., without sound philosophy), is to place oneself in danger of misunderstanding God's revelation.

It has therefore been decided to commence this lay apostolate of teaching the philosophy and theology of St Thomas Aquinas. The mission of this institute falls under the heavenly guidance, first, of the Holy Spirit, the Giver of wisdom; secondly, of Mary, seat of wisdom; and thirdly, of St Thomas Aquinas, the greatest exponent of philosophical and theological wisdom.

Classes will commence on Monday 4 March 2019, held from 7-9pm in the Murphy House, adjacent to Parramatta Cathedral. All courses will be aimed at undergraduate and post-graduate university level, though all are welcome to attend. No degrees will be offered. A nominal fee, for those who can afford it, will be charged per term.

Further information, including 2019 course programs, fee amounts and terms dates will be published in the next edition of *St Pat's Matters* and upcoming St Patrick's Cathedral Parish bulletins.

Alternatively, call Dr Andrew Wood on 0449 574 527. Hope to see you there!

**The mission of this institute falls under the heavenly guidance, first, of the Holy Spirit, the giver of wisdom; secondly, of Mary, seat of wisdom; and thirdly, of St Thomas Aquinas, the greatest exponent of philosophical and theological wisdom.**

To one who has faith, no explanation is necessary.

To one without faith, no explanation is possible.

*Thomas Aquinas*

# Faith matters:

## how Australians can learn from the Mexicans

I highly recommend the **Pilgrimage to Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City**. This is the first official apparition of our Holy Mother recognised by the Catholic Church. The Mexicans are so blessed, aside from our Virgin Mother, Archangel Michael also appeared in Mexico to give them a source of healing water.

The Pilgrimage included the history of the Aztecs' culture of human sacrifice to their sun god. After their conversion, they started offering flowers and agricultural harvest. (refer to photo).



Note: the original image has a sun behind the Virgin of Guadalupe to represent that She is higher than their sun god and yet she is not God.

Three years after the Spanish conquistadors invaded Mexico, the Franciscan Missionary Friars walked for miles barefoot to Mexico. They used Our Lady of Guadalupe, original meaning of the name **Coatlaxopeuh** in Náhuatl is "**The Lady who smashed the serpent with the foot.**" These were the words of Juan Diego when he was asked what he saw. The Image converted millions to the Catholic faith.

On the way back to the hotel, our tour guide showed the movie, "**For the Greater Glory**", starring Andy Garcia and Eva Longoria. It tells the true story of the Cristelo War and the Martyrdom of 12-year-old Jose Sanchez Del Rio, now a saint.



In 1924, the newly elected Mexican president Plutarco Elías Calles banned religion focusing on the Roman Catholic Church thinking it to be a source of evil, fanaticism and violence. He banned all sacraments so no marriage, baptism, eucharist, confession etc were allowed. Banned also were catechism and scripture teachings, religious vestments worn by priests and nuns, and any religious practices or symbols. His government began eliminating church privileges and seizing church properties throughout the country, in accordance with anti-clerical laws written into the [Mexican Constitution](#). It led to seizure of church property, the closing of religious schools and convents, and the exile or execution of clergy.

Many resisted in a nonviolent way. Clergy willingly died for their faith in Christ the King and Virgin of Guadalupe. Priests refused to flee, uttering words like, '*there is no greater glory than to die for our Lord Jesus Christ.*' Catholic journalists and young people rallied and were killed. People still attended Mass, confession etc and died for doing so.

There was total denial of the Freedom of Religion and persecution of Catholics who practiced their faith.

Faithful Catholics defended their religious beliefs. Their battle cry was **Viva Christo Rey** (Long Live Christ the King) and **Viva Birhen Guadalupe** (Long Live The Virgin of Guadalupe).

Today in Australia, freedom of religion is being curtailed. The Fairness in Religion in Schools group (FIRIS), a parent group that successfully ousted church-run classes from public school class time in Victoria and Queensland, has turned its focus to NSW, but this time they are campaigning to get religion off public school premises altogether. Also there's the legalisation of abortion, suicide, euthanasia or assisted suicide, same sex marriage, all contrary to Christ's teachings.

In Australia, we are told not to use the crucifix as it will upset children to see a crucified and suffering Christ. In Mexico, parents bring their children to see a bleeding and suffering Christ to tell them how Jesus suffered and died for them because God loves them.

Here we are conscious of not wanting to upset other people's feelings but opt to offend God.

Mexico has followed the way of the cross, which (quoting words from Fr Sim) "*symbolised the most cruel instrument of torture and death and turned it into the supreme symbol of unconditional love.*" The Mexicans have turned blasphemous attacks on God, persecution of the Catholic faith, destruction of Holy relics and churches, into opportunities, by those who are faithful to Christ, to courageously come out and profess their faith and allegiance to Our Lord Jesus Christ and Our Holy Mother. The Mexicans turned persecution into a blessed moment that created 30 saints, and thousands of martyrs.

It became a BLESSED MOMENT WHEN THE DEEP RELIGIOUS FAITH of the Mexican people rose and shone to Proclaim the Glory of God!

Let us hope that Australian Christians will bravely rise to the challenge to do likewise.

**Viva Christo Rey!**  
**Viva Birgen Guadalupe!**



Actual photo of Blessed Father Miguel de Pro holding a cross and rosary on each hand before being killed.



*Bernadette Ching*

# Modern Mothers Matter

## MODERN MARY: surviving the challenging vocation of motherhood as modern Christian women.

The trials and tribulations of modern motherhood are so vast; I'm exhausted at the thought. As a Christian mother of two perilously active boys, I wonder how on earth Mary must have felt? Being thrust into motherhood, through no choice of her own, given the most stressful mandate a woman could ever consider: give birth to, and raise, the saviour of the world. Too bad if you were planning on making it to Pilates!

The aim of this column is to bring the realities of motherhood into the fore and to start a conversation about how we, as modern mothers, can actually live out our role through our faith.

Life can be punctuated by a phone call, test results, a wrong turn, a chance meeting, a harsh word, being in the wrong place at the wrong time, or a silly mistake. A single moment can turn your life upside down, no matter how well-planned, safe and secure your life may be.

With children, we add to that an extra layer of volatility and vulnerability. My toddler's cranium appears to gravitate towards rough surfaces and hard corners. He associates visits to the doctor with vaccinations and getting his head glued shut. My primary schooler is out in the world, without me. Having dialogue without my intervention, making choices without my advice (yelling). Who's going to chop up his carrot into sticks? No one. He'll eat it whole. Just let that sink

in. You've been chopping snacks for 5 years and now you are redundant. With each year of a child's growth, a mother's world is upturned just a little. Old challenges are replaced with new ones. So on top of their vulnerability as children, is the uncertainty of growth. Time passes and your babies grow, but it's all entirely beyond your control.

I'm told not to be sad about the little things and not to worry about what tomorrow may bring. But these anxieties and fears have become the essence of motherhood. I carry this fragile and precious little thing around in my arms my whole life, watching that it doesn't crack. But if the world can change in a second and no one knows what the next moment brings, then the turmoil we feel about tomorrow is futile.

I had one mother explain to me how she had coached her genius son towards his Law degree, only to have him drop out in

his penultimate year to become a 'hip-hop artist'. I forego my basic necessities so that I can make time to cut out word cards for my son to practice for his spelling test, only to have him say that he spelled out "frog" instead of "and" because he misheard his Scottish exchange teacher. After glaring at him for nine whole seconds, I threw my hands up.

Surrender. I may not be able to rest my body from the constant chore of motherhood, but I can practice resting my mind – by throwing all of my worries and anxieties to God, the funny little ones and the big serious ones. Because if anything is clear, it's that there are no guarantees in this world. Except God. He is the source of eternal salvation.

I may have studied an article about the latest super-virus to hit day care centres, or educated myself on the antibodies in breast milk, or armed myself with state-of-the-art child safety gear... But each day, life declares that there is no guarantee in it other than our Lord. Each passing month proves more and more to "trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding". Because neither your understanding, nor your strength, nor your glory and wealth will save you in these moments.

We're so busy trying to avert risks for our children, trying to live in Sydney properties near the right schools, trying to establish ideal conditions. That level of control... it's tiring. **What would Mother Mary do?** Just get on the darn donkey. Travel God's path. This is our journey too. Without the luxury of stopping to google some #MumHacks for the trip. Hers is the story of a real woman who embraced motherhood AND helped save the world. Would a modern mother survive being

thrust into motherhood the way she was?! While you're still looking for somewhere in the inn to plug in your breast-pump, Mary's already contending with the minor detail of Herod's Massacre of the Innocents.

Mother Mary truly is the patron saint of putting one foot in front of the other, in complete faith. With love she endured adversity. She was moderate in prosperity, brave under harsh suffering, cheerful in good works and completely open-hearted in her nurturing. That's the kind of mother I want to be.

If this resonates with you, share your stories with us at [modernmarymums@gmail.com](mailto:modernmarymums@gmail.com) **Maybe we can start a conversation about how on earth to survive this challenging vocation of motherhood, as modern Christian women?**

***Surrender. I may not be able to rest my body from the constant chore of motherhood, but I can practice resting my mind – by throwing all of my worries and anxieties to God. Because if anything is clear, it's that there are no guarantees in this world. Except God. He is the source of eternal salvation.***

### Mother Teresa: words to live by

*What can you do to promote world peace?  
Go home and love your family.*

*God doesn't require us to succeed.  
He only requires that you try.*

*Not all of us can do great things.  
But we can do small things with great love.*



# Hospitality Matters

Welcome aboard to our newest volunteers to the Cloister Café.



Sonia and Eva tackle the task of washing up with a joyful attitude.

## SONIA PARADA WRITES:

I became a Catholic at the Easter Vigil this year, but have been attending Mass over the last 6 years with my partner Joseph Jensen. I'm so proud that I have begun this new journey of faith and I felt an urge after my initiation to do something to contribute to service in the Church. Since I have worked for more than 22 years in the hospitality industry, I chose to join the Hospitality Group.

So far I have served Morning Tea for two Sundays after 11am Mass. I have enjoyed the experience immensely, serving and interacting with such a diverse group of people, feeling a sense of belonging, knowing that we all follow the same faith.

I believe this is a very important ministry in the parish as it provides the chance for fellowship amongst parishioners and visitors to the Cathedral. I'm so happy to be a member of the Hospitality Team and it is all for the glory of the Lord.

## EVA NABAKONJO WRITES:

I am a health professional and have been praying at St Patrick's Cathedral for almost two years now.

I saw announcements in the weekly parish bulletin requesting volunteers to serve Morning Tea after Masses on Sunday mornings. I used to see some volunteers on duty doing the same tasks repeatedly, and I felt I should lend a hand to lighten their workload.

When I met the Co-Ordinator, Marian Polizzi, to enquire about joining the Hospitality Group, I found her to be approachable, understanding and so tolerant of others. When I began my first duty I found those I was rostered with to be friendly, caring and gentle. And once you get used to being interactive with the people coming to the Cloister Café, it feels good to be serving them. Getting involved also gives me a sense of really belonging to the parish community.

I think the hospitality ministry is very important as it encourages togetherness, sharing, and outreach to parishioners who might be needy in one way or the other.

Yours in Christ, Eva N.

**CARLA ATKINSON**, the fourth volunteer to join the Hospitality Group, wants to wait a while before writing any comments and having her photo displayed. So far she has been on duty twice, reporting favourably to the co-ordinator about her experience.



We reserve the right to edit, omit or censor any article submitted for publication.



## SUSANNA TENNER: Volunteer No 3

That's Susanna at the back on the right. She and Sesilia, on the left, are siblings and so they will form a Sister Act when on duty in the Cloister Café. The four children are Susanna's: L-R Gisela, Gunther, Annelise and Ulrich.

Sesilia has been on the team for a number of years now.

The HUGE tray of cakes showcases the generosity and culinary skills of the sisters' mother, Seine, who loves baking for St Pat's. And there are always a tray or two of cakes sent to the Presbytery for the priests' morning tea. Thanks Seine, on behalf of the people who get to sample your treats at morning tea.

Here Sonia and Eva, the new 'kids on the block' are flanked on the left by long time member Liz Clark who has recruited MARY GENE, on Sonia's right, to be her substitute while she is away in the Philippines for an indefinite period of time.

Welcome to the team, Mary Gene. Maybe you might even decide to stay on after Liz returns.

# Former Deans Matter!



The occasion was ostensibly to reconnect pilgrims who had journeyed with Fr Wim Hoekstra (Dean of St Pat's from 2006-2012) on one or more of the many pilgrimages he lead abroad over the past 5 years or so. Pictured are those who could make it on 9th September to the Cloister Function Room. Recognise anyone? But organisers, parishioner Annette Hartman and fellow traveller, Diana Strobl had a hidden agenda for the afternoon tea gathering. They surprised Fr Wim with a cake to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of his Ordination to the Priesthood on 2nd September. Annette did a fantastic job in trolling for days through the thousands of her pilgrimage photos to present a power point trip down memory lane for those present..

## Remembering matters



**This magnificent statue of Holy Virgin Mary is situated in the Immaculate Conception Parish Church in Cospicua, Malta GC.**

*In the last St Pat's Matters long time parishioner George Abela wrote a little about his life. In his wallet he keeps a treasured photo of this beautiful statue. Below is George's recollection of the tradition of how the statue came to be.*

This is the story of the statue from the beginning as I remember it: It happened that there was a mother who had a baby who used to cry a lot. The mother became so tired and used to tell her, "I wish the devil would take you away." One day it finally happened.

Then in the harbour was a Captain of a big boat. He was Italian. He took some crew to investigate the noise of a crying baby. It came from behind the Church. There was the scene of the Devil hitting the baby with a stick. Then they saw a bright light on an olive tree. There was Holy Mary. She had come to rescue the baby and the Devil disappeared.

Years later the priest wanted to do an extension at the back of the church, but they couldn't because of that tree. The extension was needed because



the clergy were short of room for the choir.

So they decided to cut the tree down and make a statue of Holy Mary from the trunk of the tree. Years later it was sent to Milan Italy to be covered with silver, gold and precious stones. It became the most beautiful and most valuable statue. The sculptor who made the statue of Holy Mary was Abraham Gatt, Maltese Maestro.

**I am yours faithfully, *George Abela.***

**Footnote: Practically nothing of the original wooden statue exists today, for in 1905 it was sent to Milan at the Firm Antonio Ghezzi e Figlio to be totally covered in silver, except for the head, hands and feet. Cospicua-born Abram Gatt (1863 – 1944) was responsible for this almost complete transformation of the statue, for the design on which the Italian firm worked was prepared by him.**

# STAFF MATTERS:

## Time to say Good-bye and Welcome



At the end of 11am Mass on Sunday September 23rd, Bishop Vincent farewelled **Chris Ohlsen**, who has resigned from the many positions he held in the parish and Diocese: Liturgy Co-ordinator and Sacristan at the Cathedral, Diocesan Master of Ceremonies and Executive Assistant to Bishop Vincent Long.

He will be taking up a new position in Canberra as the new Executive Secretary for Evangelisation and Ministry and the Executive Secretary for relations with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples. The position assists the Bishops to set a national policy on issues.

In an email sent on 21st September, Chris wrote to Ministers: *As has previously been announced, today concludes my service as Liturgy Coordinator and Sacristan of St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta. Let me take this opportunity to thank you all for the privilege of being of service to yourselves and to the wider St Patrick's Cathedral Community in this role. Thank you all so much for your assistance in keeping our liturgies day in and day out prayerful celebrations that bring people closer to God. I won't be disappearing altogether as I will be assisting on occasions at some of our Sunday Masses and Diocesan celebrations so I hope to keep in touch with many of you.*

*I thank Dominic for taking on this role and know that he will continue the high level of organisation and liturgical celebrations that we have at the Cathedral.*



Dominic has been appointed to replace Chris as Liturgy Coordinator and Sacristan of St Pat's He's pictured here at his institution as an Acolyte in June last year, having been an Altar Server since 1997, not necessarily at the Cathedral!

In an introductory email to Ministers, Dominic wrote: *I would like to take this opportunity to say hello.....I am the new Liturgy Coordinator here at St. Patrick's Cathedral. No doubt many of you have seen me at various Masses over the past year and a half as well as at some of the other events held in the Parish.*

*When I am not at the Cathedral, I am studying a Bachelor of Arts in the Liberal Arts at Campion College, Toongabbie, where I am just over half way through my degree. When I am back home in Melbourne, you will generally find me at work at one of several steam railways that Victoria has to offer!*

*.....I would like to take this opportunity to personally say thank you to you, Chris, for your time and dedication to the role over the past few years. Your commitment to the Parish through the organisation of the various Liturgies has, I am certain, not gone unnoticed nor unappreciated. I am sure that, with me, the Cathedral Community wish you every success in your new position and I hope that you will always remember that we will look forward to seeing you visit (and maybe serve) when you get the opportunity!*

*I know that I have a big job ahead of me and so I ask for your prayers and patience as I get to know the role and all that it entails. I know that I will have your support and for this I thank you in advance.*

*I am looking forward to getting to know each and every one of you, so please feel free to come and say hello!*

## DID YOU KNOW?

The PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL has EX OFFICIO MEMBERS apart from those elected.

### WHO ARE THE EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS?

- Fr Bob Bossini (Dean & Parish Priest)
- Fr Michael Gitau (Assistant Priest)
- Bernadette Fabri (Principal of St Patrick's Primary)
- Mindy Mercado (Youth Co-Ordinator)
- Dominic Franssen (Liturgy Co-Ordinator)
- Meg Gale (Sacramental Co-Ordinator)

### WHO WAS HE?



The cute kid looking so prim, proper and holy on His first Communion Day is none other than **DAVID PIGOTT**, a regular at 9:30am Sunday Mass. He is the Warden who organizes the collections and has been a St Pat's parishioner for 12 years.

Mili Lee and Clem Gallagher guessed who he was.

# Oh, what a Trivia Night!



## Top Trivia Thinkers



Priestly intervention in the coin-rolling competition failed to secure the prize!



## Oh, what a Youth Group!

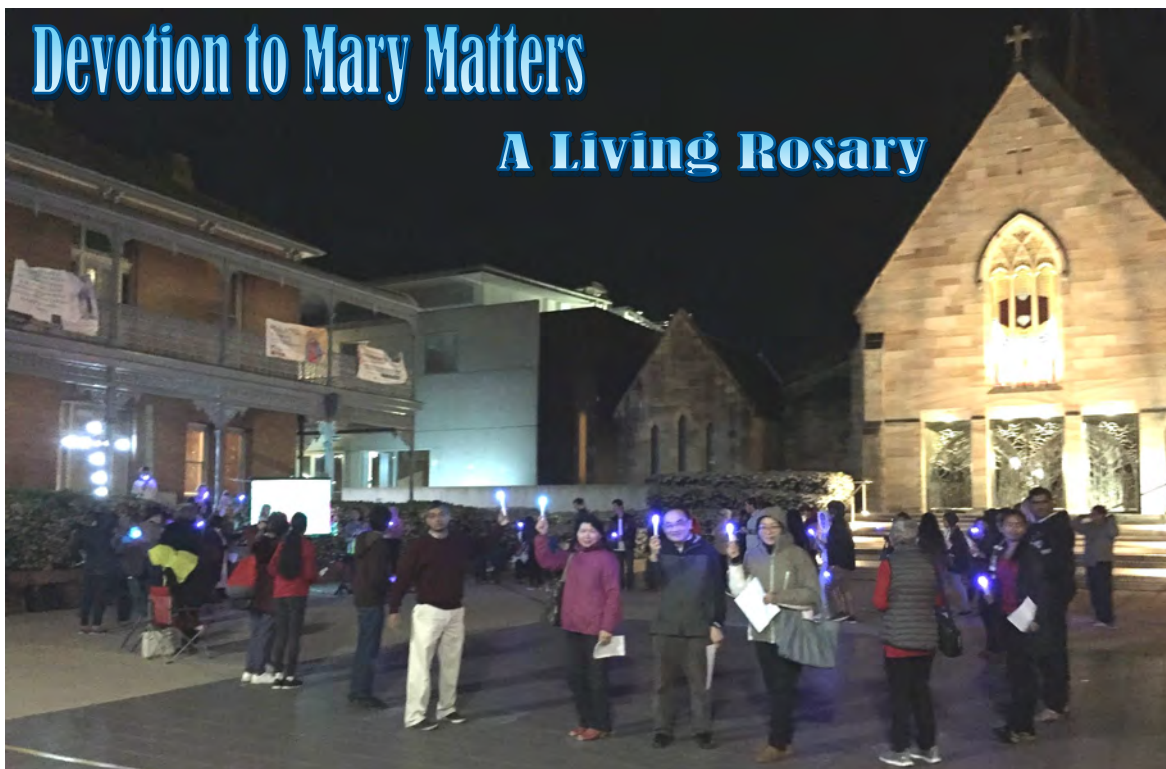


Thanks to Russell & Jann del Mar for the pics!  
And to Mindy Credo Coordinator



## Devotion to Mary Matters

### A Living Rosary



#### STOP PRESS!

On 30th September, **A HUMAN LIVING ROSARY** took place in the Cathedral forecourt after 6pm Mass, with reflections on the Divinity of Jesus through the Luminous Mysteries.

Detailed coverage and photos of this special event will feature in the next issue of *St Pat's Matters*.