

ST. JOSEPH'S PARISH CHRONICLE

Newsletter of St. Joseph's Parish, South Yarra.

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IN MEMORIAM FR. PATRICK BOURKE O.S.A.



Although unseen for the past 5 years Fr. Pat Bourke remained a member of the Augustinian community at South Yarra and was acknowledged as such in our weekly Parish Bulletin.

Members of the community, as well as

some parishioners, regularly visited him in Corpus Christi, Oakley, and the frequency wherewith questions were asked about his health bore witness to how fondly he was remembered by many parishioners.

Signs of Alzheimer's began to appear in 2009 but progressed quickly, so he could no longer continue his Chaplaincy at Nazareth House in Caulfield, and retired to St. Joseph's Priory in 2010.

The infirmity progressed to such an extent that by April 2011 he could no longer be managed at home in the Priory and a place was found for him at Corpus Christi Aged Care facility in Oakley, where he remained until his death on December 14th 2015.

While grieving over his death, we're content that his long years of not knowing what was going on around him any more are finished, and is now rejoicing in God's presence and in that of all those he loved.

We celebrated his Requiem Mass in St. Joseph's church, South Yarra, on Monday, December 21st, and he was buried at French's Forest cemetery, Sydney, among his Augustinian brothers, on December 23rd. Fr. Abel.

SOME PERSONAL MEMORIES:

My friendship with the late Fr. Pat Bourke was twofold. Not only did we enjoy social activities, but he always gave of his profound spiritual life, his devotion to St. Augustine and his Irish heritage.

He always knew how to put a smile on your face. His humor was contagious. He loved going to support his team at the MCG. One had to be cautious not to offend him as he dressed like a typical loyal supporter in his beanie and scarf.

He had his own ideas of the rules and felt disappointed when a free kick was given against his team. This was not a time for conversation unless it was football related. The joy for him was singing as loud as could be the theme song of his beloved MELBOURNE football team.

My friendship with Fr Pat has changed, but is not over.
Ann Mulcahy.

I remember Fr. Pat as a very kind, friendly man with a great sense of humour. One humorous incident that I recall was when my son was still at CBC high school. He was asked to sell raffle tickets to raise money for the school.

Fr. Pat made the announcement about the raffle tickets at the end of Mass, telling people what a good investment it would be to buy some tickets. Just in case some of the congregation might be hesitant about approaching my son to buy a ticket, Fr. Pat made sure to place the ticket seller's table in such a way at the exit to the church that they had no choice but to pass directly in front of my son before they could leave the church. He sold lots of tickets that day!!

Jenny Tran.

BRIAN MALLON AO

SJOS PRESIDENT AWARDED AS AN OFFICER OF THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA MEDAL

Brian Mallon, President of St Joseph's Outreach Services, was awarded an Officer of the Order of Australia Medal as part of the Australia Day Honours Programme. Brian received his award for distinguished services to the media industry and the various charities he supports.



Brian is currently a board member of Odyssey House, (since 1982), and his previous positions include Managing Director of HSV7 Melbourne, Managing Director of Crown Communications London, General Manager of Par Plan Australia and the former Executive Director of the Royal Children's Hospital Foundation.

Brian joined SJOS in 2013 and he is currently President of the committee of management, overseeing the SJOS Transitional Housing Units, the SJOS Food Store and the SJOS Bread Bank.

Unfortunately, due to ill health, Brian has not been able to attend the various SJOS activities lately but the SJOS committee are looking forward to his return to good health. His commitment to supporting the growth of SJOS, as it continues to provide outreach services to assist the marginalised and disadvantaged in our community, is greatly admired.

Bernadette Dennis.

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FUNERAL HOMILY:

Preacher: Fr. Abel.

Fr. Pat Bourke osa.

+ 14-12-15.

There are some memorable lines in the readings we've just listened to, - lines which, without a moment of hesitation, could be applied to Pat Bourke as we have come to know him over the years, - lines like:

"Happy are those who die in the Lord. Happy indeed, for now they can rest for ever after their work, since their good deeds go with them."

Or:

"so he can be sympathise with those who are ignorant or uncertain, because he too lives in the limitations of weakness."

Or from the Beatitudes:

"Happy the poor in spirit, the gentle, those who mourn, the merciful, those who hunger for what is right", and so on.

Pat lived the Gospel, not in any cramped kind of way, but joyfully, exuberantly, always ready with a response that paused you to think, or to bring you down to earth. I think we all know his saying: *"You've got to walk the walk and talk the talk"*, or the need to have an *"Attitude of Gratitude"*. For him there was no point in being bashful, to be too timid to speak out about things you're passionate about.

And he could be passionate, Anyone who remembers his homilies will remember how short and to the point they could be, - but they packed a punch in which there was no beating about the bush.

Or the passion he had for sport. Teaching in Villanova, in Brisbane, for 10 years from 1965, he became coach of football, cricket and athletics, finishing up as Sports-master of the College.

Living with him for 4 years in St. Kieran's, Manly Vale, a regular feature was to see him trot off to Warringah Golf Course with a couple of mates, notching up some very creditable scores on a minimal handicap.

Arriving once again in Melbourne in 1999 to take up his role as assistant pastor here in South Yarra, he also re-kindled his passion for Aussie Rules, which had first been nurtured during his stint here as Catholic Chaplain to the Alfred for 7 years from 1983.

Melbourne, or the Demons, was his favourite team, and it was a sight to see him march off with gusto on a Sunday afternoon, maroon and black scarf around his neck, similar beanie on top of his head, backpack strapped on, with water-bottle and other needs, for an enthusiastic and vocally supportive afternoon's enjoyment.

Life with Fr. Pat around was never dull. I remember my first encounter with him in September 1958, just after I'd arrived in Ireland to start my studies in Philosophy, while he stood on the point of leaving for Rome to begin Theology. It was the night before his departure, and he, together with 5 classmates also going to Rome, dragged the radio-gramophone from the common-room to the cor-

ridor where most of the bedrooms of staff and students were located. About 2.00 a.m. the Colonel Bogey march rang out at full volume, lifting everyone from their beds. Pat was in the middle of that escapade.

I caught up with him again in Rome 2 years later, where at that stage he was the Infirmarian for the community, looking after students who fell victim to colds and other ailments. His mulled red wine was a sure remedy, and probably presaged his empathy with patients when later he became a hospital chaplain here in Melbourne and in Brisbane.

Our paths crossed again when I came home after Ordination in 1964, and I found him in Manly Vale as joint assistant priest with Jim Bolton to Fr. Kieran O'Shea, and I needed to finish off my interrupted Theology under Jim's tutelage.

In 1975 he followed me up as Parish Priest of Mareeba, in Far North Queensland, when I went into the RAAF as Chaplain. He loved Mareeba, but since I'd left the Parish with a sizeable debt in its School Building Fund, the years there were not easy, and the scope of the administration worried him. It was in Mareeba that he joined Alcoholics

Anonymous, not because he was a great drinker, but because he felt affirmed in their company, and a counterpoint to his administrative worries. It was an association he maintained for the rest of his active life.

Pat's pastoral life really found its niche in hospital chaplaincy, and in particular in the ministry he was able to exercise among the elderly, their families and the staff at Calvary Health Care, Bethlehem. He had an uncanny knack of touching people with just the right word or gesture, the warmth of which is still legendary among the people who live and work there.

A special thanks must go to Sr. Theo who assisted him at Mass when his faculties began to fail him, and who, together with Sr. Mercier took him into their Convent home when he could no longer stay on his own.

In 2010 he was relieved of any responsibility and retired here to St. Joseph's Priory, but sadly he was no longer the same priest and man he had been. When in May 2011 he could no longer be managed in the Priory, he was accepted for Aged Care at Corpus Christi Aged Care facility in Oakleigh, where he remained until his death last Monday.

We are saddened by his passing, for we remember him as the great character he was, the joy and energy that exuded from him, and that touched so many during his 48 years of active ministry.

We're glad that the martyrdom of the last 5-6 years is over, and that bursting once again with life, he is able to respond to the never-ending love of God's eternal embrace.

Fr. Pat, All I can say is "well done", and may we have the grace to meet up with you again when our time comes to leave this mortal coil.

STRIVING FOR A MORE JUST SOCIETY.

A comment occasionally heard it that its teaching on Social Justice is one of the least known treasures of the Catholic Church.

The truth of that comment is partially verified by the small number of people who become involved in our Parish's Social Justice group, and by the equally small number of people who will attend a workshop, seminar or Parish Conversation organized to share awareness and understanding of particular issues the group has focused on during the year. Another aspect of the truth of that comment lies in the perception that Social Justice is concerned about political issues, and therefore people stay clear of them, - they don't want to become involved.

The truth of the matter is that Social Justice is not first and foremost a political issue, but an issue of awareness and understanding of what makes for a fair and just relationship between the individual and society as a whole.

This is an issue which concerns us all, and sticking our head in the sand leaves the issues at stake open to those who want to use them for their own particular designs and profit.

Social Justice is about the common good in its many variations and colours, and it is only by joining together to study and discuss a particular issue that we can grow in appreciation of the elements involved and work towards a solutions that works for the whole of society.

Much of the groundwork regarding the principles at work in Social Justice has already been done, particularly through the Social Justice Encyclicals and Statements issued by almost every Pope since Leo XIII in 1891, but these need to be applied to actual situations experienced in the local community, situations such as our group has already studied over the last 3 years: Homelessness, Refugees, the Environment, and so on.

The major effort of our Social justice group is to gain a thorough understanding of the Principles of Social Justice through their application in the areas studied, and in this way to equip ourselves and the wider parish community to gain insight into further issues of Social Justice, - for example, one issue currently in the news: Surrogacy.

A fistful of questions arising there are: How potentially damaging (psychologically) this practice could be to the surrogate mother, as well as to the child thus carried? Should the practice be permitted? What safeguards need to be put in place? What ought to be the responsibility of the parents who provided the fertilized ovum for implantation, a) to the child if unwelcome disabilities are discovered, and b) to the surrogate mother where her health and wellbeing could be at risk? Can this be treated as merely a commercial proposition, or does it have deeply moral responsibilities?

Social Justice asks deep questions for the good of society, and to ignore or minimize them is to devalue our own human dignity and worth.

Our Social Justice Study Group meets monthly in the Parish Library at 7.30 p.m., every 3rd Wednesday of the month. We welcome all who would be interested. Fr. Abel.



OUR LADY OF LOURDES STUDENTS ARE VERY HAPPY!

South Yarra Parish has made OLOL very happy.

Last year we asked the parishioners of South Yarra to drop their Earn and Learn vouchers into the 'Our Lady of Lourdes' box at Woolworths Prahran. Altogether and with all our boxes and everybody's help we earned 18,300 points which meant we got to spend \$1998.18 on stuff that we needed.

We bought some maths equipment like dominoes, number cards and scales to measure things. We also bought some beautiful balls!

The students at Our Lady of Lourdes would like to thank those parishioners of St Joseph's and St Thomas Aquinas' who put their docket in our OLOL box.



Holy Week

HOLY WEEK/EASTER CEREMONIES SCHEDULE:

PALM SUNDAY: Sat. 19 March, 6.00 pm at St. Joseph's,
Sun. 20 March, 9.00 a.m at St. Thomas Aquinas church
10.30 a.m. at St. Joseph's church.

Holy Thursday, 24 March,
7.00 p.m. Mass of the Last Supper.

Good Friday, 25th March.
10.00 a.m. Stations of the Cross: St. Thomas Aquinas.
3.00 p.m., Celebration of the Lord's Passion: St. Joseph.

Holy Saturday, 26th March.
7.00 p.m. The Easter Vigil at St. Joseph's.

Easter Sunday, 27th March.
9.00 a.m. Mass at St. Thomas Aquinas.
10.30 a.m. Mass at St. Joseph's

AN AUGUSTINIAN STUDENT JOINS THE TEAM

PERCIVAL SEVARE OSA

I am second of five children to my parents Eufronio and Jacinta. I have three sisters and a brother. I am 35 years old.

I taught for nine years in a Catholic school in Cebu, Philippines before joining the Augustinians in Australia in July 2011. I took my first simple profession of religious vows on 03 February 2013. I completed my Baccalaureate in Sacred Theology at the Catholic Institute of Sydney in June 2015.

I am recently appointed member of our Augustinian Community here in South Yarra. I look forward to serving our parish after the completion of my course in Pastoral Care at Austin Health.



much more fulfilling relationship with God, he went window shopping for religious denominations. From Presbyterian to different evangelical groups. He sampled their approaches and found some to be uber literal in the interpretation of the bible, some hypocritical, pastors saying one thing and doing the complete opposite, and some more nationalistic than spiritual. This seemed unfulfilling, something was amiss.

Call it a stroke of luck or a miracle, he found himself working in a catholic university run by the Augustinian Recollects. Little by little, he was reintroduced to Catholic traditions, customs, morals, and values. It took another four years until he decided to fully join the catholic community when he married his long time sweetheart, Annie, who is also a Catholic. But what really sealed the deal was when he heard a sermon at St Francis church stating that rituals are important to the Catholic tradition but it should be core of the ritual that should be focused upon, and acknowledging mistakes and atrocities done by Catholics to people in the name of God. To me this made the church approachable, down to earth, and human. This admission separated the Catholic Church from self-righteous and intolerant churches of the new age.

In the search for spiritual satisfaction and a deeper bond with God Kirk has gone a full circle, going through twists and turns until he found his way unto the loving embrace of our lord.

WE WELCOME AT EASTER

KIRK JIMENEZ



Dynamic, exuberant, and optimistic, Kirk, a nurse by profession, and who is married to Annie Duran, is in constant search for life's wonders, eager to experience the fullness of God's love through the miracles of his creations and the beauty of humanity.

Born Kirk Odrey Omictin Jimenez, to a catholic father and a protestant mother in a small sleepy town of Dumaguete. He was raised Presbyterian, and studied at Silliman University; Asia's oldest protestant university, during his primary, and tertiary education. Christian morals and values were drilled into him during his pre-conventional stage of moral development by his parents, relatives, teachers and community pastors, leaning more towards Presbyterian traditions.

As he entered secondary school, he was introduced to Catholicism as it was the predominant denomination of Christianity practiced in the school he transferred to. Coinciding with his conventional stage of moral development, he participated in catholic masses, retreats, and pilgrimages sponsored the school, all the while being molded by catholic values. However, he was still oblivious to most of its customs.

As he progressed to his university education, he was acquainted with different philosophical approaches to spirituality, ethics, and morality. Like water with its different phases, he transitioned from Christian, to atheist, to agnostic, and as he reconciled with the existence of God, he found his way back to Christianity. In a bid to have a



BRUCE BARNARD

My name is Bruce Barnard. I was Baptised in the Anglican church. I come from a family with strong religious values and ties. My wife and I have many Catholic friends and relatives and wish to strengthen our ties by joining the Catholic community.

We currently have a one year old girl. I am currently attending the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults. We look forward to my reception into the Catholic faith this Easter vigil. My wife plans to participate in a future RCIA program.

THE BEGINNING.....THE MIDDLE.....AND THE END.

The following have been added to the Christian community via the waters of **Baptism**: Felix McCarthy, Rowdy Anderson, Sophie Colquhoun, Lizzie Colquhoun, Connor Karklins, Louis Phillips, Annaliese Kerr, Pia Kopp & Gabriella Deckert.

The knot was tied between: Janiel Ternura & Natalia Lim, Nigel Spink & Celeste Oliver, Philip Leong & Pamela Khoo, Albert Davies & Stephanie Nicholson, Craig Parker & Lilly Solowiej, Aaron Mahaffey & Emily O'Brien, Andrew Crack & Elspeth Martin

While: Fr Pat Bourke & Peter Furnell returned to their Creator.