

ST. JOSEPH'S PARISH CHRONICLE

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

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BR PERCIVAL SEVARE OSA: ORDINATION TO THE DIACONATE

One of the most significant and happiest events in our parish this year occurred on Friday 7th October with the Ordination to the Diaconate of Br Percival Sevare OSA.

A full church gathered for this most joyous liturgy. Fr Michael and Mrs. Clare Taylor, Chair of the Parish Pastoral Council, welcomed everyone present, including several members of Percival's family and friends who had travelled from the Philippines and interstate for the Ordination; they joined with Fr Dave Austin OSA, Prior Provincial of the Order of St Augustine in Australia, several Augustinian priests and seminarians from Melbourne and Sydney, together with local priests and many parishioners.

We were delighted to welcome Most Rev. Terry Curtin DD, Auxiliary Bishop of Melbourne and cousin of Fr Austin, as the ordaining bishop, who presided with great grace and warmth. In his homily Bishop Curtin congratulated Percival on taking this next step towards his ordination to the priesthood. He remarked that this was a significant night for both Percival and himself, as it was his first time to preside at an ordination, which meant that there would always be a special bond between them and in their prayer for each other in their service of God's people.

Throughout the ceremony, the whole church rang out with most joyful prayer and music as the congregation, led by our parish choir and musicians gathered for the occasion, filled the church with some of Br Percival's favourite hymns, including the Augustinian hymn, *Late have I loved Thee*. This was movingly led by two of Percival's brother seminarians Brs Saldie and Francis, who were to be ordained to the Diaconate in a similar ceremony in Sydney the week after Percival.

Among the many highlights of the celebration was the Responsorial Psalm, *This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad!* Sung in Filipino by Br Francis, and Ms Perlita Pepe from St Joseph's Church choir, it was a moving tribute to Percival's Filipino heritage and to his commitment to the Lord and the service of God's people.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, Fr Dave Austin congratulated Percival on making this commitment to the service of God as an Augustinian; he thanked Bishop Curtin for accepting the invitation to be the celebrating bishop and the people of South Yarra for their spiritual welcome to all our visitors. The evening ended with a most enjoyable supper in the hall, where Br Percival expressed his great thanks to everyone present.



Percival, who was born in the Philippines, has been in the seminary of the Australasian Province of the Order of St Augustine for the past six years, and is currently a member of the South Yarra community. Since he has been here in the parish, Percival has shown great dedication to the service and care of the people of our parish and in the hospitals, and commitment to leading us in prayer and ministry. Let us pray for him with great joy in the months ahead as he prepares for ordination to the priesthood. In the words of the

Solemn Blessing from the Ordination Mass:

*Percival, may God, who has called you to the service of others in his Church,
give you a great zeal for all, especially the afflicted and the poor.*

*May God, who has entrusted you with preaching the Gospel of Christ,
help you, as you live according to God's word, to be its sincere and fervent witness.*

Di Brebner *Liturgy coordinator.*

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SACRISTY: Who are we and what do we do?

This is the first in a series of articles about some of the people who work in and around our Parish of South Yarra. Knowing a little more of who we are and what we do might encourage you to support our community according to what you are interested in and can manage;

Let's introduce ourselves...



St Joseph's Sacristy team for 10.30 Sunday Mass

L-R: Kathy (from Malaysia), Anto (from Italy), Anne (from England) and Jem (from India)

Jemina. I started coming to St. Joseph's about 6 years ago after finding out that St. Joseph's was in my neighbourhood. I was like every other regular Sunday worshipper, but I felt by being just that, I wasn't fulfilling my devotion to God.

There was a scarcity of helpers so Anne extended an invitation at 10.30 Mass one Sunday to test the water. I thought this was a wonderful opportunity for me to contribute positively without going out of my way and I am glad that I did. The satisfaction that I derive from it makes me feel so very near to God. In the process I met such wonderful people like Anne, Anto, and Kathy and many other like-minded worshippers. I'm so happy.

Katherine: The Eucharist is one of the most important aspects to me as a catholic. It is a great privilege to be able to assist in a small way with the setting up for Mass. Being a member of our little team means we cover for each other whenever we encounter emergencies, and we are good company. St Joseph's is a wonderful parish but it feels even more so through the connection of united contribution!

Antonella: I was born and grew up in a small town on the Adriatic coast in the south of Italy. I am a molecular biologist and in October 2014 I moved to Melbourne with a position leading a team at Monash University.

I started to look around the neighbourhood hoping to find a Catholic Church near Prahran. While walking

around Chapel Street on a Sunday afternoon, I noticed the cross on top of the spire of a church which turned out to be St Joseph's. By the entrance I saw the sign welcoming everyone and inviting people for a moment of prayer or just for meditation. I found that remarkable considering the hectic and eccentric life style developing a few steps away in Chapel Street.

On the next Sunday I went to the 10.30 am mass and found myself surrounded by a small community of people whose love and affection for each other felt almost overwhelming. I decided to introduce myself and met Father Abel. Ever since, my participation in this small community has led me to meet lovely and loving friends, generous and caring people, and I also managed to get my confirmation done!

Although we are all busy with things in everyday life, I always try to make time to come to St Jo's and enjoy free smiles and hugs that remind me every time that all we really need is love.

Anne:

I came with my family to Melbourne in the late 70s just after the parish came under the care of the Augustinians. My involvement in St Jo's was limited to begin with because of family and work commitments, but as the years went by my 'faith community' became increasingly important to me and when I could I became more actively involved in different ways.

I became the sacristan at St Jo's almost by accident. I began to help Irene Zatorski who had been in the position for many years but by then needed support. A well-loved parishioner, she was a great mentor and friend. When she died it was presumed that I would continue in her role, and so I did!

I think our parish community is strengthened by our shared responsibility for its welfare and sustainability. My call for assistance led me to meeting and guiding current and past members of the team and what a joy it has been. But people come and go and my call goes out again...

...what do we do?

We set up the items needed for the 10.30 mass on a Sunday, including the candles, vessels, breads and wine, the linen, lectionary and Book of the Gospel. We check the microphones too and anything else that's needed from time to time, including preparing for special celebrations. After mass we tidy up and return the items. We arrive about 15-20 minutes before mass to set up and it takes about 15 minutes to clear up after. We choose when we are rostered on and how often but make adjustments if needed - and we always have help to know what to do, when and where!

Perhaps 10.30 at St Jo's is not the time or the place for you. You might find joining the helpers at the 6.00pm Mass at St Joseph's on a Saturday, or the 9.00am Mass at St Thomas' on a Sunday would suit you better. We invite you to join us and if you want to know more, please speak to any of us when you see us at Mass. You will be very welcome.

THE CHURCH ACROSS THE ROAD FROM WHERE I LIVE.

I feel safe and sound having my church, St. Joseph's across the road. It is my blessed cross. Without it I would feel lost in the wild Chapel Street jungle nearby. It gets me away from all the badness and bungle of my life. I now have a full and content life.

I am thankful to St. Joseph's for leasing out what used to be their convent. Approximately eight years ago, a bevy of parents, local organizations such as Prahran Mission, many caring companies and government all got together to create a supported psychiatric residence. This residence specialised in sufferers of Schizophrenia and is called THE HAVEN. Thanks to St. Joseph's the convent was able to be renovated into the strong new structure where I live today.

I and 13 other residents now have a great permanent place to live. We could not ask for more. Renting out the convent at a very low cost was a huge sacrifice for St. Joseph's and I will be forever grateful for it as well as my fellow residents. The church would have been much better off selling the land for a much greater price. However, their land has given me and others wings to fly.

Thanks to St. Joseph's leasing out their property I have now finally vented out all the rage of my younger years when I was living in vile temporary accommodation. I have really turned the page. I feel completely safe and comfortable. My fears and worries have diminished. I used to live in other suburbs with little support. I was always in a panic and never at peace. I can now enjoy the tranquillity of THE HAVEN with all its support and security. Looking outside at the church, which I often do, I feel myself towering just like the giant trees which live so harmoniously in front of the church enhancing its majesty. I feel like I'm ascending into the sky being totally raised up high and looked after.

My life has really picked up with the church and it is a fact I have cleaned up my once sorry and shameful act.

I have been more mindful of my sinful addictions such as overeating and compulsive shopping just by attending and being near the church. St. Joseph's is strongly committed to kicking addictions. It gives me and many other addicts a sense of purpose as it wipes and swipes away like a beautiful cloth all our many foibles. I feel much greater strength and control over all my unhealthy addictions.

Even just looking at the church outside my window fills me with elation. It gives a great view on life as I hear the choir of birds in the trees as they chirp and sing away hymns of joy.

Every Sunday, I also love to hear the heavenly choir of the church with all its enthusiastic volunteers and the gentle touch of the piano which really strikes a chord. The church certainly keeps me engaged as I go there and listen to the priest's meaningful sermon. I also love the social aspect where simply being close to fellow parishioners I can feel a powerful and genuine connection. As I stare at myself in the reflection of the church's

stained glass windows I feel myself being looked after by all the saints and holy figures of my religion.

I also feel totally in the presence of God as I am given the communion and wine that represents Jesus and life. Saying the Hail Mary during Mass I can almost feel the mother Mary with her hand in mine. It also brings me closer in spirit to my own deceased mother who meant the world to me.

Thanks to St. Joseph's my living environment is now firmly in place and hooked in like the cross. I finally have found peace and no longer feel beneath people. I can also reach out to others who ask for my company and my help thanks to the guidance and teachings of the Bible. I also can't get enough of the beautiful and spiritual stories within its holy pages.

In many ways I feel I am living a charmed life just living opposite the church. I now have more than everything I could ever want. I feel no harm will come my way. I feel entwined in God's arms. I am finally at one with man and woman kind.



Isabella Fels.

Mass of Remembrance

On the evening of 17 November 2016, our parish community gathered in the Nicholas of Tolentine Memorial Garden for the annual Mass of Remembrance. It was a solemn celebration of life, faith and hope where we expressed our gratitude to God for the lives of our deceased loved ones and prayed that we will one day be reunited with them in God's Kingdom. Every person whose name was listed in our Parish Books of Remembrance was commended to the mercy of God in the celebration of the Holy Eucharist. All those present were also given the opportunity to list down the names of their deceased family, relatives and friends and personally offer them to the altar. This symbolic gesture echoed Saint Monica's request to her son, Saint Augustine, just before she died, when she said: *"Lay this body anywhere, and take no trouble over it. One thing only do I ask of you, that you remember me at the altar of the Lord wherever you may be"* (Confessions, IX, 11.27). This was made even more

CHRISTMAS TIMETABLE.

RECONCILIATION

Christmas Eve, St. Joseph's, 5.00—5.45 p.m.

MASS TIMES:

Christmas Eve: 24th Dec.

6.00 p.m. Family Mass.

8.30 p.m. Carols,

9.00 p.m. Mass of Christmas.

Christmas Day:

St. Thomas Aquinas, 9.00 a.m.

St. Joseph's, 10.30 a.m.

New Year's Day: As usual for weekends.



meaningful when everyone lit a candle from the Paschal Candle, representing Jesus, our Savior, to remind us of the mercy of God in and through Christ. The white roses that were given to everyone present evoked a deep sense of reverence for the lives of those whom we commemorated in the Mass of Remembrance. The significance of praying for the dead, especially celebrating a Mass of Remembrance, is well articulated by Saint Augustine in his sermon, 172. He says,

*However, there is no doubt that the dead are helped by the prayers of holy Church, by the saving sacrifice, and by alms dispensed for their souls; these things are done that they may be more mercifully dealt with by the Lord than their sins deserve.
(St Augustine, Sermon 172)*

Parish BBQ and Fair Sunday 27th November

Each November, as the end of the year approaches, we gather for the Parish Barbeque which is always a very happy parish occasion. The sun didn't shine so brightly on the day, but that did not dampen the spirits of all who gathered for yet another wonderful parish celebration. This year almost one hundred parishioners enjoyed the delicious food and drinks, the raffles and especially the conversation together. There was a great army of willing workers, organized by our Pastoral Worker, Ona Stewart, preparing food, making salads, cooking the BBQ, serving food and drinks and keeping the day running smoothly, as well as setting up and cleaning up the hall and surrounds.

An added enjoyment this year was the mini- fair, organized by our new Facilities and Accounts Manager, Christelle Dezaunay. On sale were delicious French pastries, (donated by our French parishioners); delectable jams, chutneys and refreshing cordials (made by several industrious parishioners in a jam working bee); delightful homewares (donated by Christelle's neighbour, Maddy Noble) and some pretty potplants (produced by Narelle Ryan); and an avalanche of donated pre-loved books, CDs and DVDs. We also took the opportunity to sell some of the POSHU beaded necklaces and bracelets for the women of the remote villages in Uganda, and to advertise the work of SJOS and the Parish Thanksgiving Program.

Great thanks are due to all the many parishioners, **too many to be named**, who all worked so hard to make the day a success; as well as **to the generous donors who provided the many elements needed for the BBQ.**

On top of this, there was **\$1400** raised from the BBQ and **\$1700** from the Fair. The money will be used to help us continue to offer food and accommodation to the needy in our community through the work of S.J.O.S. Well done everyone!

Di Brebner.



**St Joseph's
Outreach
Services**

Shelter | Opportunity | Support

CHRISTMAS GIFT GIVING WITH A SJOS DONATION



The Management Committee of SJOS would like to thank all those who have generously supported SJOS during the past year with the gifting of a lot of generous donations. We would now like to present another opportunity. With Christmas upon us, and the challenge of finding interesting and exciting Christmas Gifts for friends and family, please consider giving a **SJOS Donation** as a gift. We can provide a gift card with the actual donation gift detailed, and like an Oxfam gift, your gift for your family member or friend is a donation to SJOS, to support the outreach services we provide to the marginalised and disadvantaged in our community.

For further information contact info@sjos.org.au

Upcoming 2017 SJOS Events:

Sunday, 2 April 2017:

Ashton Smith Singers Choir Performance in St Joseph's Church South Yarra.

The Beginning.... The Middle... and the End

The following have been added to the Christian community via the waters of Baptism: Phoebe Buckley, Madison McGloin, Maxwell Kerr, Theodore Quilty, Jonathan Horgan, Niamh Ebdon, Rafferty Vaughan, Pearl Varney, Clara Kolaric

The knot was tied between: David Cinque & Lauren Bolton, Brendan Chambers & Georgia Hunter, Randolph Newman & Stephanie Lee, Thomas McCarthy & Julia Curtain