

ST. JOSEPH'S PARISH CHRONICLE

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

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HOW CAN WE SHARE IN THEIR JOURNEY?



Pope Francis with refugees in St. Peter's Square

On 27th September 2017, Pope Francis will give his backing to Caritas International in the promotion of a special two-year campaign called **"SHARE THE JOURNEY"**.

This campaign hopes to raise greater awareness among Catholics of the plight of asylum seekers and remind us of our traditional Christian teachings concerning those in need of our support when they are fleeing danger.

Over the years quite a number of refugees and asylum seekers have been helped through St. Joseph's Outreach Services' transitional housing. Also, we continue to offer accommodation, both in the priory and in our small crisis shelter "The Stables", to those who have fled dangerous and difficult circumstances in their home countries.

The situation of refugees around the world has grown worse and Pope Francis wishes to remind us that, "Every stranger who knocks at our door is an opportunity for an encounter with Jesus Christ, who identifies with unwelcomed and rejected strangers in every age."

"Our solidarity must be expressed at every stage of the migratory experience – from departure through journey to arrival and return."

Over the next two years Pope Francis invites us to reflect on new ways that we can collectively and individually offer "WELCOME", "PROTECTION" and "JUSTICE" to those seeking refuge from persecution, wars and natural disasters. We will be asked to consider how we can **"SHARE THEIR JOURNEY"** in new, creative ways.

Fr Michael Sullivan OSA
Parish Priest

SJOS RECEIVES 2017 STONNINGTON COUNCIL COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

It was a great thrill to hear that SJOS had been nominated for one of the 2017 City of Stonnington Citizen of the Year Awards this year, and the Gala Awards Night, held at Malvern Town Hall on Thursday 24th August, was a splendid occasion. Our parish was represented by Frs. Michael and Abel and several of the SJOS members, led by President, Tony Dawson, and Secretary, Bernadette Dennis.

The City of Stonnington is very generous in making these annual awards to both individual citizens and to community groups, and they made it very clear to



us and all present that they are most appreciative of all the work that is done by St Joseph's Outreach Services to assist and support people in need of food and shelter.

The services provided, all by volunteers, include the continued maintenance of the twelve accommodation units for people waiting, often for periods of six to twelve months, for public housing, the weekly provision of food and bread through the Food Store, and the collection and packaging of bread donations from several generous bakeries in the district. In accepting the Award on behalf of SJOS, Tony Dawson acknowledged the generosity of the benefactors who help us with their donations and all the volunteers who give so freely of their time to the work needed to be done.

Our parish is very proud of all the work done by SJOS to support people in need, and we are grateful for all who, without fuss or fanfare, give so freely of their time and energy to this important work. We thank The City of Stonnington for their recognition and support of SJOS.

Di Brebner
SJOS Committee member

In this issue:

- How Can We Share In Their Journey?
- SJOS receives Stonnington award.
- Fr. Percival celebrates back home.
- New faces on the Parish Pastoral Council.
- St. Joseph's Outreach September update.
- St. Nicholas of Tolentine, within a bit of Augustinian history.
- The Beginning..... The Middle..... and the End.

FR PERCIVAL CELEBRATES BACK HOME.

At Mass a few weeks ago when parishioners congratulated Fr. Michael on his 40 years as an Augustinian priest, Fr. Percival joked that “his was only two months.”

Anyone who has ever watched an airline commercial knows that homecomings are much anticipated events for family and friends.

And so it was that Fr. Percival travelled more than 6000 KM to his hometown of Hilongos (pronounced with a silent ‘g’) on the scenic large Filipino island of Leyte.

Hilongos has a population of 60,000 in 52 barangays (small local areas), so it is almost twice the size of Warnambool, yet retains a very provincial feel.

At 3pm on Saturday 2 September, Fr. Percival’s Mass of Thanksgiving in the local language of Bisaya commenced. It was concelebrated with several other priests including the rector of Cebu City seminary. Also present was another of the three Augustinians ordained in Sydney earlier in 2017, Fr. Saldie Resolado, who now ministers in a Brisbane parish.

Fr. Percival’s homily concentrated on how we should all use our talents effectively, and most importantly share them with others.

The Mass at Immaculate Conception Church featured a duet by two talented Cebu-based young women, Pia and Marion.

The Church was packed, with an estimated 900 to 1000 parishioners and visitors joining to celebrate Fr. Percival’s homecoming. At the conclusion, hundreds queued to be blessed by Fr. Percival.

We adjourned to Fr. Percival’s small area ‘barangay’ (246 families in a few local streets) of Kanghass about two kilometres away. Note the Australian connection in ‘has kangaroos!’

The basketball court was filled with tables, chairs, food and drink and a few hundred local residents. At the entrance, more meals were distributed to

those unable to be seated. In all, some 2000 meals were handed out. I couldn’t help thinking of loaves and fishes.

A stage had been erected with Pia and Marion’s singing entertaining us, followed by about 10 beautifully attired teenagers playing guitars.

Then the unexpected, in the form of what is called in the Philippines a ‘brownout’ occurred. The lights from many mobile phones lit up the tables. The local electrical co-operative had scheduled maintenance but the function details had not been conveyed to the co-op. After half an hour, power was restored. Later, Fr. Percival cut a huge cake.



The next day, 40 of us including the priests and Fr. Percival’s family and friends enjoyed a marvellous day island-hopping to three of the four white sand Cuatro Islas islands, offshore from Inopacan. We had planned on hiring a 60 seat Bangka (boat) but a neighbouring town’s Mayor purloined it the previous night, so we hired separate 16 and 36 seater bangkas.

We visited uninhabited Mahaba – meaning ‘long island’ – and stunning Digyo Island. At the latter we enjoyed a lunch with extremely sweet mangoes and bananas purchased from the Hilongos market, along with fresh fish mostly bought from a fisherman who was 50 metres offshore, washed down with San Miguel beer, soft drink or water. The coconut palms, blue to aquamarine waters, an opportunity for snorkelling, and finishing off lunch with the very sweet buko pandan dessert, made for a wonderful time. For a while the priests gathered quietly in contemplation while others swam at the beautiful sandbar.

Our final stop was at the inhabited Apid Island which was also very pleasant. As we returned to shore, a little rain began.

As one parishioner said to me outside the Hilongos ‘in Philippines our faith is very strong.’

Like Frs Abel and Michael who are respectively 20,000 and 1700 kilometres from their families, Fr. Percival’s mission to serve God and minister to the South Yarra community means being a long way from home.

As I travelled on a slow but steady ferry back to Cebu City the next day and watched a majestic seabird dive bombing for fish, I reflected on how one person can effect change. Already we’ve seen locally how Fr. Percival has encouraged our local young people to join as a group in South Yarra.

My prayer is that Fr. Percival will rejoin us, refreshed in the knowledge that his family and friends care for him across the miles.

Edmund Carew.



NEW FACES ON OUR PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL.

Diana Jeske

I moved to Melbourne almost seven years ago after living in the UK for three years and growing up in Vancouver, Canada.



While pursuing a PhD (in medieval history) brought me to Melbourne (which I completed in 2015) I had not been here long before meeting my now husband. We are currently settled in Melbourne for the foreseeable future and are looking forward to hopefully starting a family next year.

As a 'cradle Catholic' (a term I'd not heard before moving to Melbourne), I was very excited to stumble across St. Joseph's a couple of years ago. Living only a five-minute walk from the church has allowed me to become increasingly involved in parish life, something which I've not enjoyed since leaving Vancouver almost 10 years ago.

I'm excited to be a new member of the parish pastoral council and look forward to contributing more in the future.

Raymund Rajen

Peace! My name is Raymund Rajen.

I have been living in South Yarra for a year now and am blessed to be a parishioner of St Joseph's church.



I've met so many wonderful and like minded people whom I now call friends. I am also involved in the choir, the lectors and the young adults ministry (Y.A.M). It has been a colourful journey and God has been very kind.

I am no Saint nor do I have any council experience, but truly hope that I can contribute in my own little way to the success of the parish's mission in welcoming all to God's love and mercy.

As I embark on this new experience with the PPC, my quest remains the same; to always find the love of Jesus in the Word, in the Eucharist, and in the Community.

Daniel Dorall.

My name is Daniel Dorall and I started coming to the parish after I moved from Prahran to South Yarra in 2004, - I had previously attended Mass at St. Mary's in East St. Kilda.

I grew up in Malaysia and moved to Melbourne to study architecture in 2003, and decided to stay.

Before long our past parish priest, Fr. Brian Buckley, tapped me on the shoulder to help with the reading and commentating, I was mostly a Sunday Catholic.



Since I have been involved in the RCIA and now the Young Adults ministry. I also have a passion for social outreach and philanthropy, and support St. Joseph's Outreach Services, - volunteering at the food store.

I'm looking forward to contributing through the PPC over the next 12 months.

ST JOSEPH'S OUTREACH SERVICES INC UPDATE

Over the past two months, SJOS has been the recipient of two (2) awards, honouring the wonderful volunteer work of the organisation.

On Friday night, 28 July 2017, at the **Higgins Community Service Award Night**, Cushla DeMuth received an award as an "Outstanding Volunteer". Unfortunately, Cushla was unable to attend on the award night, so Carmel Bateman, long time SJOS committee member received the award on her behalf from the Governor of Victoria, Linda Dessau and The Hon Kelly O'Dwyer MP.



During the SJOS Annual General Meeting on Sunday, 13 August, President Tony Dawson presented Cushla with her well-deserved award.

In August, as part of the City of **Stonnington Citizen of the Year Awards 2017**, the volunteers of SJOS won the Community Group Award. (See separate report on pg 1)

On Sunday 13 August 2017, SJOS held the 2016/2017 Financial Year Annual General Meeting. Attended by Sir James Gobbo, the SJOS Patron, as well as Sam Hibbons MP, Member for Prahran and Cr Matthew Koce, Stonnington North Ward Councillor, the meeting was well attended by SJOS members and committee. During the meeting, members re-elected nine (9) of the current committee members and received presentations of the financial and activity reports. At this meeting Cushla DeMuth volunteered her services as a committee member which was ratified at the SJOS Committee Meeting on Wednesday, 23 August.

St. Nicholas of Tolentine, within a bit of Augustinian history.

A presumption is often made that the Augustinians must have been founded by St. Augustine, and while that is a reasonable assumption, the facts are quite different. St. Augustine of Hippo did indeed found a number of religious communities, both male and female, for which he wrote the Rule we have come to know as the Rule of St. Augustine.

However, the religious communities which he founded himself did not survive the Vandal invasion of North Africa about the time of St. Augustine's death. Some of his monks probably escaped to Italy, taking their Rule with them, but were never able to flourish into the substantial communities they had been in North Africa. Those who did survive became lost in the mists of history.

Yet the Rule did survive, and being more adaptable than the Rule of St. Benedict, which predominated in Western Europe right up to the early Renaissance, it was adopted by a number of new religious founders who saw their call as one which differed from that of the Benedictines and Cistercians. That same Rule was also adopted by many of the small groups of hermits which formed themselves in different parts of Italy from the 11th century onwards.

When in 1210 St. Francis of Assisi founded the Franciscans, their mendicant way of life and preaching in towns and cities had such an effect, that it invigorated the Church in new ways, and the 4th Lateran Council of 1215 issued a decree which called on these small groups of religious people to come together under one major Superior, and under one of the Rules of community life approved by the Church. St. Dominic and his followers, who also lived by the Rule of St. Augustine, were the first to respond to that decree that very same year, but with their own distinct Constitution.

It took some time for the other groups already living by the Rule of St. Augustine in Italy to come together and decide that from then on they were called to a more Apostolic way of life, adopting to be mendicants, as the Franciscans and Dominicans already were. So it was that in 1256, after a preliminary effort in 1244, and approved by Pope Alexander IV, they came together in what is called the Grand Union, and became known as the Order of Hermits of St. Augustine, later abbreviated to the Order of St. Augustine. In succeeding years the Order continued to grow, spreading across Europe and, following the discovery of the Americas, into Central and South America, and by way of the Philippines into Asia.

In Italy, in on the ground floor, so to speak, was a young man, Nicholas Gurutti, born in 1245 to a middle-aged childless couple who had prayed to St. Nicholas of Bari that even though near the end of their fertile life they might yet have a child. Nourished by his prayerful parents Nicholas himself grew in closeness to God as well, and inspired by the local Augustinian community, as an 18-year old, asked to be accepted as a novice in that community. Professed 12 months later, he continued to grow spiritually, and successful in his studies, he was ordained in 1271.

As a priest and an Augustinian he soon became known for his preaching and teaching, especially in his willingness to go out into the streets to share the good news of God's unfailing love, even for the worst of sinners. His gentleness as a Confessor drew many to come back to living their faith, as well as being a spiritual guide for others and a special comforter to the dying.



In 1274 he was appointed to the Augustinian community in Tolentino, close to the Adriatic coast of Italy, where he added the reputation as a peacemaker, and his care for the poor and imprisoned to his already mentioned qualities. Within the Augustinian community he was valued for his humility, prayerfulness and fraternal charity, although he sometimes needed to be cautioned for imposing too harsh a regime of fasting and penance upon himself.

When he died in 1305, after a long illness, people began immediately to petition for his canonisation, such was the holiness they recognised in him. His canonisation took place in 1446, the first Augustinian to be officially recognised as a Saint. In the Church he has become known as the Patron of Holy Souls.

His feast-day is the 10th September.

MEMORIAL MASS

On Thursday, November 9th at 6.30pm, we will again hold a Memorial Mass in the Tolentine Garden beside St Joseph's church, for all deceased parishioners, but especially those who have died in the last twelve months.

FUTURE EVENTS FOR SJOS:

TUESDAY 14 NOVEMBER 2017 at 6.00pm:
Fundraising Film Night at Palace Como Cinema.

THE BEGINNING, THE MIDDLE, AND THE END.

The following have been added to the Christian community via the waters of Baptism: Sophia Kawamoto, Amelie Curtis, Orlando Magasdi, Harry Browne, Kira Simpson, Adeline Kannourakis, Cordelia Smith

The knot was tied between: Kevin O'Malley & Elisa Carayannis, Christopher Slade & Kate Archibald, Andres Toledo & Sheryl Llanda, Brett De Niese & Sarah-Sophie Lang

While John Oliver, Michael Niall, Brian Jones, John Bakos, Guiseppe Tesoriero, Claire Jackman, Mark Niall, Rosa Taranto & John Hoban **returned to their Creator.**