

# ST. JOSEPH'S PARISH CHRONICLE

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

Issue 23

Autumn 2018

## OUR PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL ON RETREAT.

On a recent Friday afternoon in February some 14 pilgrims, most being members of the Parish Pastoral Council, travelled from Melbourne to Pallotti College, Millgrove, on their annual retreat.

The retreat program was well organised by Fr Michael, with its balance of prayer, discussion and socialisation. It enabled the group to come together, to work together and to see the strengths and weaknesses of our parish.

During 2017 the PPC had drawn up a comprehensive plan (a wish list) of some 37 programs and activities that they were hoping to commence or complete.

These were under the following headings, viz.: Sick and Elderly, Families and Children, Youth and Young Adults, Prayer, Faith Formation and Education, Liturgy and Worship, Outreach, Celebration of Diversity, and Parish Business.

These were assessed through the filter of the Parish Vision Statement, with its emphasis on a Christian spiritual community sharing its gifts and talents through openness and hospitality.

Over 4-5 hours of discussion and dissection it was concluded that there had been successful outcomes in at least 17 of these areas, which bodes well for the coming year.

It is over 40 years since I have been on retreat at Pallotti College. The movers and shakers of those years have become names on rooms and memorial lectures. The College itself is set in a wonderful natural environment conducive to thought and contemplation.

It seems almost a truism to say that in such an environment, prayer takes on more meaning, the Mass has more relevance, the way ahead seems more certain, and thoughts of God and nature come naturally. The mind seems clearer, problems seem more defined, solutions more achievable, and the way ahead more certain.

Paul Mulqueen.



## **"GOD IS RIGHT UNDER OUR NOSES"**

"God is closer to us than we are to ourselves" is a familiar quotation from St. Augustine. However, the phrase **"God is right under our noses"**, which I recently found in a Catholic weekly magazine,\* seems to carry more strongly the idea that we often look for God in all the wrong places.

Easter, which we are preparing to celebrate in a couple of weeks, teaches us to stop looking for God among the dead and in all the wrong places. Easter invites us to discover God in a new revolutionary way, in places and situations we least expect – right under our noses. Easter reminds us to be open to God every day through our faith in the Risen Jesus.

It is not easy for Christians living in busy, secular, urban environments to do this. We tend to go looking for God only when we are at church or when we are praying. We keep our faith life separate from our work and even our personal lives. If I am disheartened by a serious situation in my family or at work, or am worried by a big financial problem or a bitter relationship dispute, the idea that God is there with me at that time may not occur to me at all.

Also, more often than not, I fail to be aware of God's presence at the joyful and happy times of life, in my family or at my work. In our secular, multi-layered world, God can seem very remote from my daily experiences and activities.

What can help to keep me grounded in my belief that God through the Risen Jesus is part of everything in my life?

Being part of an active faith community of people from many different backgrounds, South Yarra Parish, can help. That is why our Parish Pastoral Council from time to time invites all those who attend masses in our two churches on weekends to other social and religious events. These events help us to get to know each better, make new friends, and be renewed and revitalized. Coming together as a community on these occasions also might help us discover that "God is right under our noses" and with us every day in our attempts to live our Christian calling.

Fr. Michael.

\* *The Tablet* 17 Feb. 2018 Interview with Cardinal Blase Cupich, Archbishop of Chicago.

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## A CELEBRATION TO BE SHARED.

The parishioners of St. Joseph's, South Yarra have always been good at creating celebrations. On Sunday February 11<sup>th</sup> they did it again when two Augustinian priests celebrated 60 years of ministry.

Ten years ago three Augustinian priests, Pat Fahey, Gerry Dullard and John Barry chose South Yarra as the place to celebrate their 50 years of priesthood. On this occasion the story of their initial calling, their overseas study and the family attendance at their respective ordinations in the U.S.A. was shared with us. Pat Fahey died in 2015 and no doubt now knows the joys of heavenly celebration.

John and Gerry, at first reluctant to be the centre of any further celebrating, were persuaded to allow some form of gathering for their 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

What was supposed to be an occasion with 'no fuss', became a day of much rejoicing and true honour. The 'no fuss' embargo allowed room for glorious music, prayerful liturgy and a strong gathering of family and visitors, many coming from afar.

Coming from Sydney the Augustinian Provincial, Fr. Dave Austin O.S.A., spoke for all of us when he delivered his homily.

*"We Christians are called to be strong for one another, to love and support one another in all sorts of situations. Sometimes people put priests on a pedestal as if they have it and the rest of us are trying to find it. In the almost 60 years that I have known John and Gerry, I have never known them to seek the pedestal. They would not feel at home there; it would be an act of dishonesty, a false view of what the Church is called to be."*

Fr. Dave, in naming the Augustinian identity of John and Gerry, said,

*"As Christians we need each other if we are to love well. Augustine found this in the company of his friends, the first Augustinian community, inspired by the first Christian community described in our 1<sup>st</sup> reading from the Acts of the Apostles. John and Gerry have lived their lives as Augustinians in this community context – a setting for friendship in which we Augustinians enjoy the rich experience of close friendship and collaboration with yourselves too."*

All present were pleased to hear Fr Dave refer to these priests as 'men of their time'

*"Social change, including change in the Church and even in our families, does not happen suddenly but gradually things move into place as people form new attitudes and gain fresh insights. In both John and Gerry I always sensed a breadth in their view of the world, always men of their time, particularly in their pastoral insights and their capacity from the beginning to help people discover the kindness of God, the God who enjoys us, the God of love and not fear."*

And two words which resonated with all as we considered and celebrated the 60 years of priestly ministry given so generously by these men were:- 'saintly and ordinary'.

*"People sometimes express their admiration and appreciation of Augustinians and their ministry – part of the rich and diverse patchwork that makes us, together, the Body of Christ. The late Fr Pat Bourke, known to many of you, described this Augustinian quality as 'humanita' – humanity, a humanness that reflects the essential identity of Jesus as one of us – saintly and ordinary."*

Congratulations and blessings were given to John and Gerry by all present.

Another special Augustinian honouring took place at the end of Mass when Therese Philips and Carole Mc Nally were presented with Certificates of Affiliation to the Augustinian Order. Both women have contributed much to the work of the Augustinians and the life of the parish over many years. This affiliation claims them as members of the Augustinian family.

Mary McCormick.



Fr John Barry, Fr Gerry Dullard & Fr Dave Austin



## Holy Week

### HOLY WEEK & EASTER TIMETABLE.

**PALM SUNDAY:** Sat. 24 March, 6.00 pm at St. Joseph's,  
Sun. 25 March, 9.00 a.m at St. Thomas Aquinas church  
10.30 a.m. at St. Joseph's church.  
**Holy Thursday, 29th March.**  
7.00 p.m. Mass of the Last Supper.  
**Good Friday, 30th 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, 31st March.**  
5.00-6.00 p.m., **Reconciliation.**  
7.00 p.m. **The Easter Vigil** at St. Joseph's.  
**Easter Sunday, 1st April.**  
9.00 a.m. Mass at St. Thomas Aquinas.  
10.30 a.m. Mass at St. Joseph's

## THE AUGUSTINIANS 180 YEARS IN AUSTRALIA.

On February 24, 1838, the first Augustinian to come to Australia set foot on Australian soil. This date in 2018 marks 180 years of continuous presence by the Augustinians in Australia. With that they can lay claim to being the male Religious Order with the longest continuous time of ministry in Australia.

The Benedictines had arrived 3 years earlier, when Fr. John Bede Polding OSB arrived in Sydney with a small group of English Benedictines to take up his post as Vicar Apostolic of Australia, but these had to withdraw in the course of time for lack of reinforcements from England.

James Aloysius Goold was that first Augustinian to come to Australia, thanks to a happy circumstance where, as a recently ordained priest, he ran into Fr. William Ullathorne OSB, then Vicar General for Bishop Polding, on the steps of an Augustinian church in Rome. The latter was in Rome looking for priests to serve the Mission in Australia and painted such a fascinating picture of the needs and the work to be done there that Goold volunteered on the spot, offering to serve the mission for seven years, providing the Order would allow him to do so.

On arrival, Goold served for three months in Sydney, where his ministry included convict chaplaincy. For the following nine years he was appointed southwest of Sydney to Campbelltown, where he built a church and presbytery, and also was the priest attending the execution by hanging at nearby Berrima Gaol of a former bushranger.



In his tenth year in Australia, when he had already begun his plans to return to Europe he was appointed the first Catholic Bishop of Melbourne, then encompassing the whole of Victoria. He arrived in Melbourne October 4, 1848 and served as its Bishop, later Archbishop, till his death in 1886. The story of his 38 years in Melbourne would need to be told separately.

Meanwhile acutely aware of the need for more priests, especially after the huge influx of new immigrants following the Goldrush of the early 1850s, Goold needed more priests. In Ireland the Order was already heavily committed in the USA, India and England, so could not commit to a regular flow of Augustinians to Australia, but were prepared to allow those who volunteered to come to Australia to do so.

As a result a trickle of Augustinians kept coming to Australia, mainly serving in Victoria and Tasmania, until in 1874 Victoria was split into three Dioceses, with Sale following in 1887, with the Augustinian, Martin Crane OSA being appointed as first Bishop of the Diocese of Sandhurst. By then the Irish Augustinians were a bit more free with committing men to Australia, so a wider ministry became possible, although still without regular Augustinian communities, until in 1886 the first Augustinian community, consisting of 3 priests, was formed in Echuca, and that Parish committed to their care.

Meanwhile a need had arisen in Far North Queensland, where the Palmer River Gold Fields were discovered, again resulting in an influx of immigrants, many of them Irish, with the result that in 1884 Pope Leo XIII committed the already established Pro-Vicariate of Cooktown to the Augustinians. When Cooktown went into decline the Vicariate became the Diocese of Cairns. There they continued to staff all parishes until 1948, until the appointment of Mgr. Thomas Cahill, as the first Diocesan Bishop of Cairns in 1948, upon the death of its last Augustinian bishop John Heavy OSA.

With diocesan priests gradually taking over most of the parishes in Cairns diocese, the Augustinians were slowly freed to take up some further challenges, starting with the establishment of Villanova College in Brisbane in 1948, and the Parish of St. James in Coorparoo in 1952, to be followed later that same year by the newly-formed Parish of Manly Vale in the Archdiocese of Sydney. In 1956 St. Augustine's College in Brookvale followed.

Also in 1952, thanks to the steady increase of Australian young men who sought to join the Augustinians, the Augustinians in Australia became a Province in its own right, with Fr. Thomas Hunt OSA being elected as its first Provincial.

The Augustinians returned to Melbourne for the first time since 1886 in 1976, when the Parish of South Yarra was committed to their care. They have served the Parish since, much to the delight of the Parishioners who have seen the Parish grow into a welcoming community, true to the Augustinians' aim "to be one in mind and heart on the way to God".

Fr. Abel.

## **SJOS FEBRUARY UPDATE:**

### **THE 2018 COMBINED PARISHES RAFFLE:**

SJOS will be supporting the Combined Parishes Raffle in 2018 with the major prizes being 3 all new Suzuki Baleno GL cars. This car was voted the 2016 Australia's Best Light Car.



The tickets will be on sale after masses from mid March to April and the raffle will be drawn on 2 June 2018.

### **SJOS SAUSAGE SIZZLE AT BUNNINGS COLLINGWOOD:**

In 2018, SJOS has been invited to manage two (2) Saturday Sausage Sizzles at Bunnings Collingwood. The first date will be Saturday 26 May 2018 and the timing will be from 8:30 am until 4:00 pm. Sausage Sizzles are a lot of fun and a really great way to raise money for SJOS. Anyone who would like to volunteer for a 2-hour shift supporting this event, please email [info@sjos.org.au](mailto:info@sjos.org.au)

### **OTHER EVENTS FOR SJOS IN 2018**

**Weekend of 23/24 June 2018: SJOS Appeal Weekend**

**Sunday, 15 July 2018: Soup and Muffins in the Food Store.**

Bernadette Dennis.

## AN RCIA EVENT FOR BAPTISM AND FULL INITIATION.

On Sunday 18th February, a small group of us, including our Candidate for Baptism as well as our Candidate for Confirmation and Eucharist, together with their Sponsors and myself, made our way to St. Patrick's Cathedral for the annual ceremony of Election and Enrolment, to begin their final steps to the reception of these Sacraments.

This ceremony brings together people from every Parish in the Melbourne Archdiocese where the RCIA is active, to present their Candidates to the Archbishop, to testify that these Candidates have diligently pursued their desire to learn more about our Catholic Faith, and now wish to receive the Sacraments which allow them to become full members of the Catholic Church.

In a Cathedral packed with other Candidates, Sponsors, RCIA teams, together with family and friends, they were welcomed by the Archbishop to be officially inscribed in the Book of the Elect, and to gain strength and support from seeing that their Journey to Easter was not a solitary one, but inspired many others to seek admission to the Sacraments as well, and so grow in union with Christ as their Saviour and Guide on the way to eternal life.

Next is a photograph of our little group in the Cathedral, with from l. to r.

Sandra Da Costa, Shannon Magasdi, Neriman Erdonmez, myself, and Diane Lazaroo. I will let our Candidates introduce themselves below.



Fr. Abel.

### NERIMAN ERDONMEZ.

Hi, I am Neriman. I was raised in a non-religious home but was always drawn to the Scripture Classes and teaching in Primary School and attended a Catholic High School where all of the Bible teachings and readings resonated with me. Becoming part of the Catholic Church is something I have always wanted to do and thought a lot about.



Moving from Sydney to Melbourne 12 months ago led me to the South Yarra Parish, and wanting to learn more about how I can be involved in the Catholic Church to now participating in the RCIA program. I am really looking forward to my Baptism at the Easter Vigil and being an official part of the catholic community.

### SHANNON MAGASDI

Hello my name is Shannon Magasdi and I am a current RCIA candidate.

As a baby I was baptised as a Catholic, however I did not go on to complete the sacramental journey. Almost half a century later I am about to rectify this, to realign myself with the faith of my childhood and finally become the *bone fide* Catholic that I always felt I was meant to be by birth and faith.

The catalyst to me finally taking this step has been my son, Orlando's Catholic journey.

Last year, Orlando informed me that he was Catholic and wanted to make it official.

We had several meetings with Fr. Michael and in July last year, at 12 years old, Orlando was baptised and had his first communion at St Joseph's. Later in the year he went on to be confirmed with his school cohort and has now commenced his secondary education at a Jesuit Catholic School.



While I do not currently live within the parish, I have done so for much of my life, my mother lives in the parish and I feel certain that at some point in the future I will return to the area. The choice of this parish was a conscious decision to ensure that I was not merely selecting a *parish for now* but rather a *parish for life*.

While I initially approached the RCIA quite pragmatically; as a means of getting my Catholic paperwork in order, my actual RCIA journey and experience has been far more rich, rewarding and enlightening than I ever foresaw. Along the way I have met many wonderful members of the parish, who have generously shared their time and their life stories as they led our weekly RCIA meetings through bible readings, and discussion topics. Many thanks to you all and of course to Fr. Abel, Fr. Michael and Fr. Percival as well as my sponsor, Sandra Mayo and my fellow RCIA candidate and new friend, Neriman.

Along the way I have also discovered so many wonderful things about this parish, in particular the involvement of parishioners in social justice and care for the sick.

I look forward to becoming a fully-fledged Catholic, to finally be able to take Communion, to share my faith with those in my life and to become an active member of the South Yarra parish.

### THE BEGINNING, THE MIDDLE, AND THE END.

**The following have been added to the Christian community via the waters of Baptism:** Poppy Jarvis, Hugh Lewis, Oliver Lewis, Harrison Burr, Maximilian Dorman, Laurence Baker, Jesse Benoiton, Andre Von Schrenk, Angela Horgan, Kristen Tran, Elizabeth O'Brien, Caleb Fonseca, Alice De Vries, James Lyle, Hope Edelsten, Isabella Longmuir.

**The knot was tied between:** Stephan Wassnig & Savanna Bonin, Danh Cao & Linh Nguyen,

**While John Galvin, Doris Sinkora & Gavan Grimes returned to their Creator.**