



# **ST. ANDREW'S PARISH**

*Incorporating the Communities of  
Werribee Central, Wyndham Vale, Werribee South,  
Werribee North, Tarneit West, Upper Point Cook  
and Little River*

## **GROUP REPORTS**

**~ AGM 2018 ~**



***Welcome to  
St. Andrew's Parish  
Werribee***



**105 Greaves Street Nth., PO Box 872,  
WERRIBEE VIC 3030  
Ph: (03) 9741 4144 Fax (03) 9741 4433**

**Email: [werribee@cam.org.au](mailto:werribee@cam.org.au)  
Website: [www.standrewswerribee.org.au](http://www.standrewswerribee.org.au)**

<b>Parish Priest:</b>	<b>Fr. Albert Yogarajah</b>
<b>Assistant Priest:</b>	<b>Fr. Darien Sticklen</b>
<b>Assistant Priest:</b>	<b>Fr. Anil Mascarenhas</b>

**Parish Office Hours:** **Monday – Thursday 9am to 4pm**  
**Friday – 9am to 12.30pm and**  
**2pm to 4pm (closed 12.30 – 2pm)**



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St. Andrew's Parish Fair Committee

### THE COMMUNITIES OF:

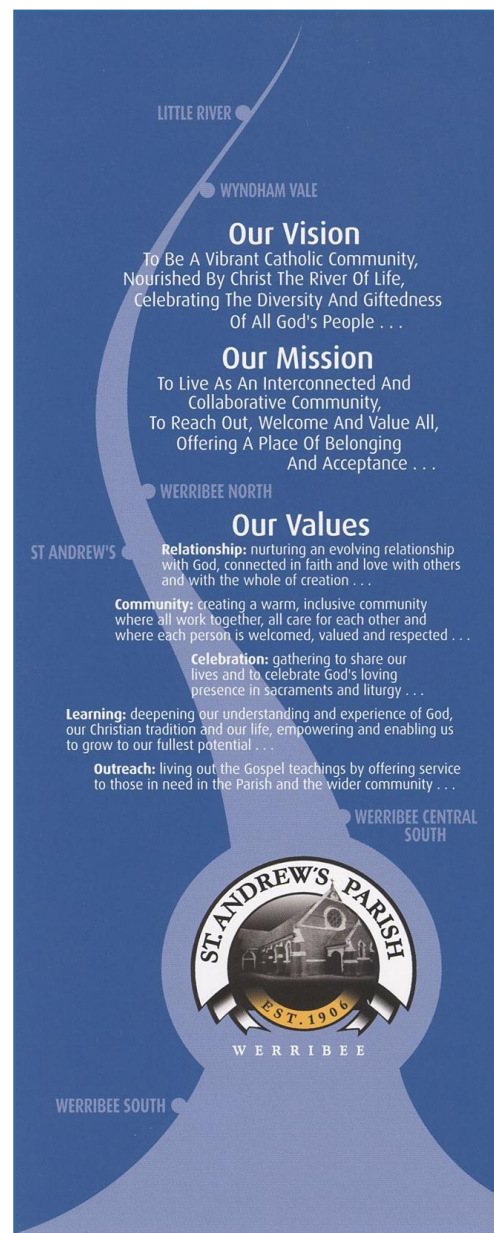
Wyndham Vale  
Bethany  
Tarneit West  
South Central & Werribee South  
St. Michael's, Little River

### THE PARISH SCHOOLS:

St. Andrew's Primary School  
Bethany Primary School  
Corpus Christi Primary School  
Our Lady of the Southern Cross Primary School  
St. John the Apostle Primary School  
MacKillop Catholic Regional College

### PARISH GROUPS:

Home Based Religious Education  
RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)  
RCIS (Rite of Christian Initiation of Students)  
RCIC (Rite of Christian Initiation of Children)  
Baptism Preparation Team  
Godstart Playgroup  
Children's Liturgy of the Word  
Catholic Women's League, Wyndham  
El Shaddai Charismatic Prayer Group  
Divine Mercy Prayer Group  
Italian Prayer Group  
GPS (Gather, Pray and Sing) Prayer Group  
Society of St. Vincent de Paul  
Liturgy Planning Team  
Altar Society  
Music Ministry  
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Sariling Tinig Filipino Choir  
Couples for Christ International  
Couples for Christ – Foundation for Family and Life  
Sri Lankan Community and St. Joseph Vaz Choir  
South Sudanese Community and Women's Group  
Tamil Community and Choir  
St. Andrew's Theatre Company  
Peonies Craft Group  
Senior's Afternoon Tea  
Werribee South Rosary Group, including Prayer Ministry for Engaged Couples  
Engaged Couples Marriage Preparation  
Casserole Bank  
St. Andrew's Play Group  
St. Andrew's Women's Group  
Young Adults Group  
Altar Servers  
Knights of the Southern Cross  
Tennis Club – *No Report Submitted*  
St. Andrew's Parish Website



## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PARISH PRIEST FR. ALBERT YOGARAJAH

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

May the PEACE of The Lord be with you all.

It is a good opportunity for me to reach out to you all in a common way for the first time. I was told by the Archbishop in November last year that I have to take up this Parish in January. My first reaction was OMG. As one who had been in this Diocese for more than 25 years, I have heard a lot about this Parish of Werribee which has been very well known for its wonderful people and lots of activities and more than anything, the size of the Parish. In fact, it is nicknamed as a mini Diocese. But trusting in God and in the support of the Archbishop, I agreed to his call. I told Fr. Frank that it will be very difficult to fit in his shoes. But I have come to you with open mind, arms and heart, so that we may journey together in doing what God wants us to do.

I already had the pleasure of having a few meetings with our Parish Staff, Core Group, Parish Team, Principals & School Staff and children of our schools as well. I also had the pleasure of meeting with Pastors of other Christian denominations in Werribee. Meeting all these wonderful people has given me the confidence that we can surely go forward in our mission with guidance of Our Lord.

This Parish is said to be one of the largest Parishes in the Melbourne Archdiocese having about 5,600 families. We already have five Primary Schools in our Parish and two Colleges and there is already a plan for another Primary School and a Secondary College in the near future. This has become necessary to cater for the needs of our children of our Catholic families, as any direction we turn we see lots of new houses being built and new young families moving in. As we are trying our best to provide for all these families the faith, morality and the education they expect for their children, we invite them to understand that they have to become main partners in the Parish. All who claim that their children have the right for education in our Catholic schools, their families have the right to receive the sacraments and liturgies in this Parish and must also realise that they have the right and the duty to join and take care of their Parish. Parish without the participation and care by the people cannot survive or grow. This is OUR PARISH and God wants us to be active members of it. Priests will come, Priests will go but you, your children and your grandchildren will be here. I have met many people who have been here in this Parish for more than eighty years. **On behalf of us Priests and all who have moved to Werribee recently, I say a big thank you to all who have been the pioneers of this Parish and worked tirelessly for the life and growth of this Parish.** We who have come recently cannot take their sacrifices and toil for granted. From what they have planted, we are reaping the harvest and now it is our turn to plant also, so that our children and grandchildren can reap the harvest.

My sincere thanks to Fr. Frank who has ministered in this Parish for the last seventeen years and has accomplished so much growth in this Parish with the help of his Assistant Priests Fr. Shymon, Fr. Darien and Fr. Anil whom I thank in an equal manner. Above all, I thank you all for what you have already achieved. I assure you that, with the help of God and support of you all, we will go well forward in building God's kingdom in our Parish. On your behalf, I also congratulate Fr. Darien on his new appointment as Administrator of the Queenscliff Parish from 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2018 this year. We wish him all the best.

May Our God's blessings be upon you and your loved ones.

Fr. M. Albert Yogarajah

## **ST. ANDREW'S PARISH CORE TEAM REPORT 2017**

The St. Andrew's Parish Core Team comprises the Parish Priests (Fr. Frank, Fr. Darien, Fr. Shymon in 2017) alongside nine Parishioners. These Parishioners bring with them a wealth of community knowledge and experience from a variety of avenues. Our main aim as the Parish Core Team is to support St. Andrew's by acting as voices to transfer messages from the community back to the Parish Priests to grow and develop the Parish. Members of the Core Team strive to be involved in as many Parish activities as possible to ensure that solid community links can be created. As a group, we represent the Parish at community events, pastoral occasions and a variety of meetings.

The Core Team meet monthly on a Wednesday evening to discuss current events and discern over issues surrounding St. Andrew's and its Parishioners. Our meetings begin with prayer and reflection and then move into discussing current events and Parish issues. The focus of these meetings is a combination of action and being active listeners for our fellow Parishioners.

In 2017, members of the Core Team included: Fr. Frank Buhagiar, Fr. Darien Sticklen, Fr. Shymon Thekkekalathungal, Anne Marie Palmer, Cass Gemoh, Deanne Arends, Edgar Belir, Ernie Demate, Ignatius Simoes, Lusi Cook, Ralph Melmoth and Sashi Jeyarajah. In addition to monthly meetings, we regularly meet with the Pastoral Associates and Admin Team and the Primary School Principals in order to keep strong links with these important groups.

The Core Team were privileged to be part of the following events/initiatives in 2017:

- Creating three models to be sent to the Archdiocese for the future of the Parish
- Facilitated the St. Andrew's AGM
- Fr. Frank's Celebration Mass and Fellowship Event
- Supported Fr. Frank transitioning into retirement
- Farewelled Fr. Shymon to his new Parish at Mernda
- Welcomed Fr. Anil Mascarenhas (Assistant Priest) and Fr. Albert Yogarajah (Parish Priest) to St. Andrew's
- Supported the St. Andrew's Amateur Theatre Company's production of "Seussical Jnr."
- Supported the construction of a bathroom and foundation restructuring at St. Michael's Little River
- 

As a Core Team we look forward to working alongside our new Priests Fr. Albert and Fr. Anil in addition to Fr. Darien throughout 2018. We await the new direction of the Parish based upon the works done in 2017. We will continue to strive to be voices for each and every member of the Parish and hope to continue to create avenues for Parishioners to feel connected to both St. Andrew's and the wider Wyndham communities.

"I see it. Even more exciting, I see people envisioning a better future, sharing their vision and working together to make it happen."

*(A Prayer for Community Builders)*



## **ST. ANDREW'S PARISH PASTORAL TEAM**

The Pastoral Team continued to provide leadership in various community building activities and Liturgies, Baptism Preparation and Visitation, Sacramental program for primary and secondary school children who are attending Catholic and non-Catholic schools, Community Masses, Visitation and Communion to the sick and elderly or those in need.

A highlight for the year was "The Catholic Guy" Mission Event held in March during Lent. This Mission was a week long event with morning and evening sessions, followed by fellowship. It inspired us in our faith journey through story, scripture, music, prayer and reflection.

Each fortnight, we meet with the Admin Team for prayer and reflection. Following this time, the Pastoral Team continued to meet to discern and discuss any particular business and Pastoral needs of the Parish.

Once a term we meet with the Leadership Team comprised of the Core Group, Principals and Admin staff for reflection and discussion on Parish related matters.

In 2017 we attended Team Time Away (Retreat) with the Administration Team at Santa Casa, Queenscliff, facilitated by Cathy Jenkins, Director of the Archbishops Office for Evangelisation. Topic: Change in the Contemporary World and Pastoral Leadership. This was a fruitful time, as we prayed, reflected and grew together as a Team.

The Pastoral Team continually works towards accreditation through Personal Faith Development, Professional Development and Supervision.

In 2017 we farewelled and thanked Fr. Shymon for his time with us and welcomed Fr. Anil who comes to us from the Seminary.

We hope to continue to answer the demands of our ever increasing Parish Community, through prayer and supporting and empowering each other.

*Norma Marot, Marthese Temming, Louisa Sullivan,  
Sherry Vivera and Benita Dahanayake*

Pastoral Team



## **ST. ANDREW'S PARISH ADMINISTRATION TEAM**

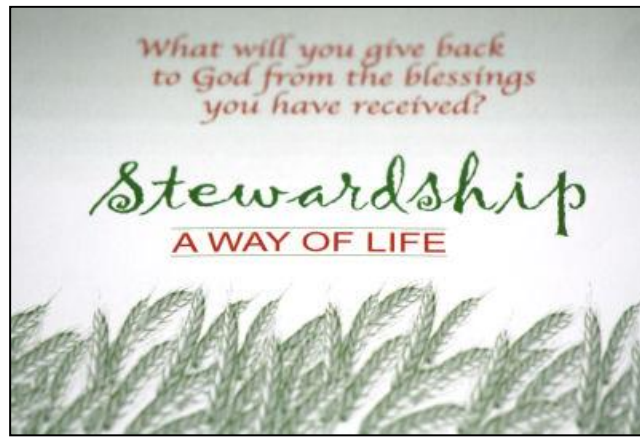
The Administration Team continued to offer strong support to Fr. Frank, Fr. Shymon and Fr. Darien, the Pastoral Team, all Parish Groups and Parishioners to assist in the day to day functioning of the Parish of St. Andrew's. We endeavour to be a welcoming face and voice to all who have contact with the Parish. We are continually updating information and procedures relevant to our Parish of St. Andrew's and all programs that we offer. We acknowledge and are grateful for the dedication and hard work of the large number of volunteers that help keep the Parish functioning. For those we do not meet as often but who are continuing to work behind the scenes, we say a big thank you for all you have done. We appreciate your continued commitment. The implementation of the requirement for Working With Children Checks for all volunteers has been met with some questions but we appreciate the way most volunteers have embraced this new requirement and thank you for your compliance. We warmly welcome all new volunteers. The Administration Team is financed by the Parish of St. Andrew's through the Stewardship Program. The Administration Team acknowledges this and is grateful. We hope to continue to answer the many demands of this ever increasing Parish Community with a friendly smile that makes dealing with all of us here in the Parish Office a pleasure. If you would like to receive the Take Away Sheet via email each week to keep informed of what is happening in our Parish, you can send us an email to [werribee@cam.org.au](mailto:werribee@cam.org.au) to be included on the distribution list. Thank you.

Jen Climie, Birgit Minness and Cora Ilagan  
Admin Team

## **STATISTICS FOR ST. ANDREW'S PARISH, WERRIBEE 2017**

Parish Census:	5,770 Families with 24,815 individual members registered
Sacraments 2017:	231 Baptisms 212 First Holy Communions 222 Confirmations 69 Funerals 24 Weddings
6 Nursing Homes:	Uniting AgeWell Manor Lakes Aged Care Facility BaptCare Wyndham Lodge Estia Health Aged Care Facility Mercy Place Wyndham Manor Court Aged Care Facility St. Vincent's Aged Care Facility
Werribee Mercy Hospital:	incl. Psychiatric Ward, Geriatric Ward, Mother & Baby Hub
St. Vincent's Private Hospital:	opened beginning of 2018
Parish Primary Schools:	St. Andrew's PS Bethany PS Corpus Christi PS Our Lady of the Southern Cross PS St. John the Apostle PS
Catholic Regional College:	MacKillop Catholic Regional College





Our Christian stewardship is about being a Faith Community working together and complementing one another's gifts and abilities. It is the way we use the gifts given to us in order to benefit the people in our Parish and the wider community. "Stewardship is a joyful act of recognizing God's providence." (St. Mary of the Cross Mackillop)

**The primary means of income for our Parish of St. Andrew's is the Stewardship Program.**

It is our responsibility to fund Parish Services and Maintenance of our buildings adequately.

### **Parish Services:**

- ◆ Support for young families by our Pastoral Associates and our Baptismal Team
- ◆ Visitation of elderly and sick Parishioners by Priests, Pastoral Team and Volunteers to Werribee Mercy Hospital, six Nursing Homes and family homes
- ◆ Visits and preparations for funerals by Priests and Pastoral Team
- ◆ Sacramental preparation for children by our five Catholic Primary Schools, Home Based Religious Education Program, RCIC and RCIS Programs
- ◆ Spiritual guidance and pastoral care for our students and youth
- ◆ Priests are Chaplains at MacKillop Catholic Regional College
- ◆ Spiritual guidance, pastoral care and compassion for families in times of sickness, separation, grief, and support for Engaged Couples

### **Maintenance of Parish Buildings:**

- ◆ To support the growth of our Parish and Diocesan Services
- ◆ Upkeep of Parish grounds and Parish buildings (five Catholic Primary Schools, two Churches, Presbytery, Parish Admin Centre in the old Church Hall, newly refurbished Parish Centre)

### **Parish Staff**

Our Priests alone cannot achieve the above. It is achieved through the employment of our Parish Staff – Administration Staff, Pastoral Associates, Pastoral Workers, a House Keeper.

Thank you to the families who are up to date and/or have paid their Parish Stewardship contributions in advance, your commitment is greatly appreciated. **For those who are a behind, now is the time to recommit.**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Climie".

Jennifer Climie  
(on behalf of the Finance Committee)



**Be a BIG Supporter of YOUR Parish for just \$5per week!**

# *Your Stewardship Contribution Builds OUR Parish*



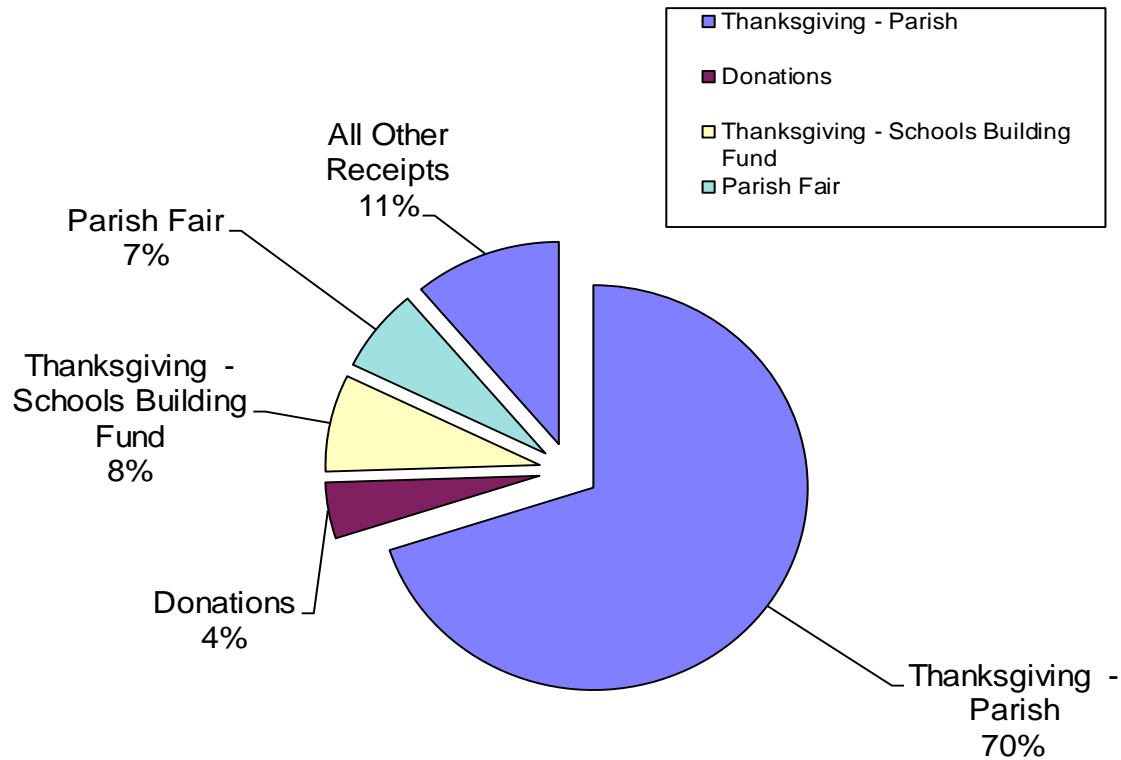
<b>St Andrew's Parish - Financial Summary - AGM</b>					
<b><u>2017 - Recurrent Income &amp; Expenses</u></b>					
<b><u>RECEIPTS</u></b>	<b>Actual \$</b>	<b>avg/wk</b>	<b>%</b>		
Thanksgiving - Parish	316,129	6,079	70		
Donations	20,223	389	4		
Thanksgiving - Schools Building Fund	35,003	673	8		
Parish Fair	30,000	577	7		
All Other Receipts	50,251	966	11		
	<u>451,606</u>		<u>100</u>		
<b><u>PAYMENTS</u></b>					
Wages & Salaries (incl on costs)	293,202	5,639	55		
Transfers to SBF for School loans	31,551	607	6		
Archdiocesan Levy	38,272	736	7		
Admin costs	68,324	1,314	13		
Property costs	71,938	1,383	14		
Pastoral costs	26,963	519	5		
	<u>530,250</u>		<u>100</u>		
Net Recurrent Surplus / (Deficit) YTD to 31 Dec 2017	<u>(78,644)</u>				
<b><u>Capital Receipts 1 Jan to 31 Dec 2017</u></b>					
Donations for capital purposes	34,154				
	<u>34,154</u>				
<b><u>Capital Payments 1 Jan to 31 Dec 2017</u></b>					
Votive Candle Stand	6,098				
Amplifier	1,395				
Cabinet	300				
Sculpture	7,000				
Little River - Underpinning & Toilet Upgrades	18,183				
Other	4,992				
	<u>37,968</u>				
Net Capital Surplus / (Deficit) YTD to 31 Dec 2017	<u>(3,814)</u>				
<b><u>Total Deficit YTD for the 12 Mths to 31 Dec 2017</u></b>	<b><u>(82,458)</u></b>				
<b><u>Reserves</u></b>	<b><u>31-Dec-17</u></b>				
General Bank Account	<u>29,016</u>				
CDF Account for Future Maintenance	7,017	- for Maintenance Works purposes			
CDF Term Deposit Account for Future Development	<u>1,088,268</u>	- for Major Capital Works purposes			
<b><u>Major Future Capital Commitments</u></b>					
> Purchase land and build church in Wyndham Vale	(\$ 500,000)				
> Purchase land and build church in Tarneit Rise	(\$ 500,000)				



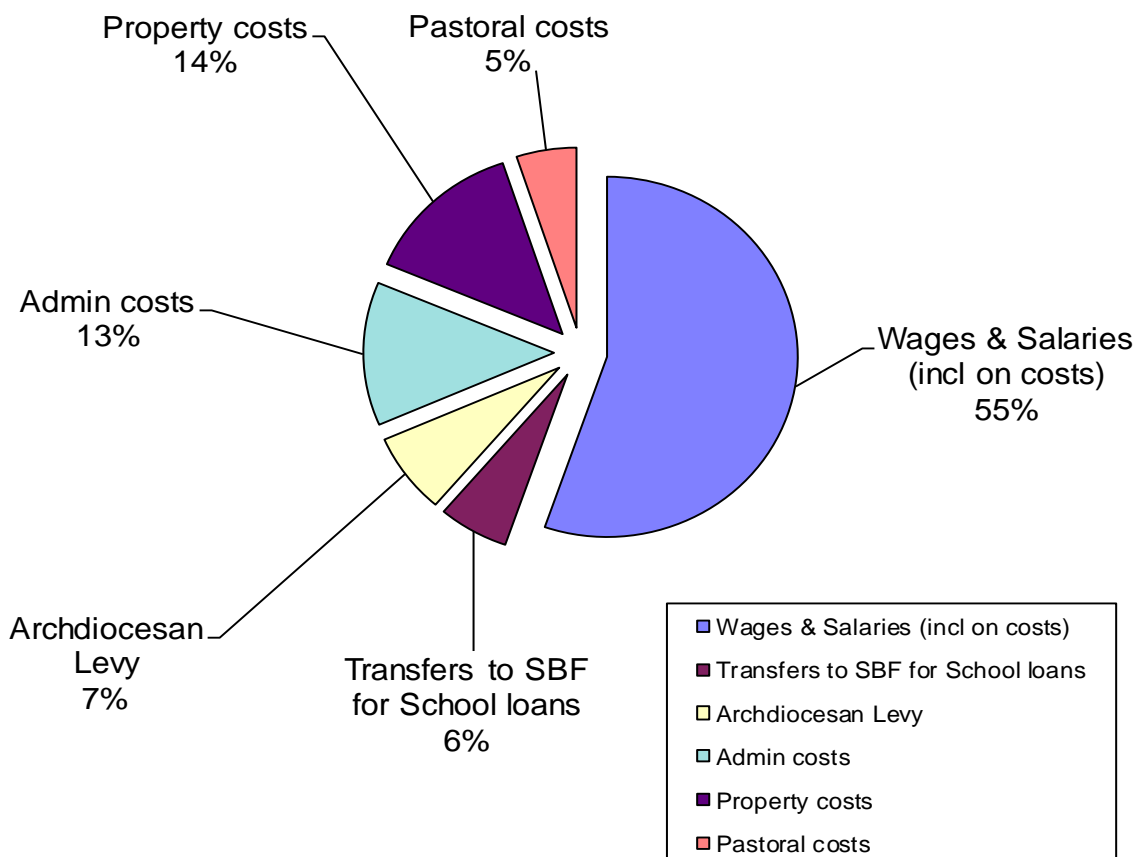
## *St Andrew's Parish*

1 Jan to 31 Dec 2017 (12 Mths) - Recurrent Income & Expenses

### **Income 1 Jan to 31 Dec 2017**



### **Expenses 1 Jan to 31 Dec 2017**



# **ST. ANDREW'S PARISH MAINTENANCE GROUP**

## **Objective:**

To Church owned assets assist in the management to maintain, upgrade or reconstruct buildings, ground areas, etc. as required and directed by Parish Priest/Parish Office.

## **Areas of Interest:**

- \* St. Andrew's Church and grounds
- \* St. Michael's Church and grounds (Little River)
- \* Penola Community Hub
- \* St. Andrew's Tennis Club

## **Projects Undertaken:**

- \* Reconstruction of St. Andrew's Church toilet amenities.
- \* Upgrade & repair bore water pumping and reticulation system to St. Andrew's Church grounds.
- \* Re-slate roof & clean bluestone façade to St. Andrew's old Church.
- \* Installation of new windows to St. Andrew's old Church.
- \* Complete internal restoration St. Andrew's old Church, including electrical, plastering, painting etc.
- \* Installation of new air-conditioning split unit to Assistant Priest living quarters in Presbytery.
- \* Relocation Sacred Heart statue to front of St. Andrew's old Church.
- \* Underpinning and external repairs to St. Andrew's Church.
- \* Internal painting and repairs to St. Andrew's Church.
- \* New steel perimeter fencing to St. Andrew's Tennis Club in Russell Street, Werribee.
- \* Re-carpet St. Andrew's Church Sacristy.
- \* New built-in robes and restoration of existing drawer unit St. Andrew's Church Sacristy.
- \* Installation of padded kneelers to St. Andrew's Church.
- \* Re-polishing seating St. Andrew's Church.
- \* Cleaning Sacred Heart statue at St. Andrew's Church.
- \* Birdproof roof venting and repairs to St. Michael's, Little River.
- \* External and internal painting to St. Michael's, Little River.
- \* Construction new garages, store areas and Sacristy meeting room St. Andrew's Church.
- \* New chainwire fence to rear St. Andrew's Church.
- \* Upgrade church bell motor equipment St. Andrew's Church.
- \* Creation of memorial garden St. Andrew's Church.
- \* Painting to external of St. Andrew's Presbytery and toilet block.
- \* Install gravel to rear garden area St. Andrew's Church.
- \* Reconstruct St. Andrew's School BBQ shelter and realign boundaries with new corrugated colourbond fencing.
- \* Installation of new air conditioning split system to 3<sup>rd</sup> Priest's living quarters.
- \* Renovation of bathroom to 2<sup>nd</sup> Priest's living quarters.
- \* Conversion old convent to Penola Community Hub.
- \* Conversion Old Bluestone Church to Parish Office.
- \* St. Andrew's Presbytery renovation to return to Priest's residence.
- \* St. Andrew's Church new stone Altar steps, re-carpeting and upgrade audio and visual equipment.
- \* St. Michael's Church Little River foundation underpinning works.
- \* St. Michael's Church installation septic tank system and new toilet and kitchen facilities.
- \* St. Andrew's Church tree carving of St. Andrew.

## **Future projects:**

- \* New steel perimeter fencing to St. Andrew's old Church and grounds.
- \* Repairs to leadlight window ventilation hoppers to St. Andrew's Church.
- \* Painting to exterior of St. Andrew's Church.

## **Current projects – Nil**

## **ST. ANDREW'S PARISH FAIR INC. 2017 – PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

The 2017 Parish Fair was a great success.

We had some successful public stalls with people asking to attend again in 2018 and in the main our parish stalls ran well. Due to the weather the Donuts were slow to sell but Snow Cones were doing a roaring trade. There were no major incidents during the Fair this year which required particular attention from Security or Committee Members.

As with any event there are always ways to improve and the 2018 Fair Committee should be able to easily address the items that have arisen – such as Parish Stall Holders being responsible for leaving their areas clean with rubbish removed, signage for First Aid, review of wristbands for rides and Parish Stall Holders writing up what the stall entails and timelines for purchasing/ordering products for the stall. These issues should be easily addressed by the incoming committee.

I would like to thank our priests Fathers' Frank, Darien & Anil who were around on the day, encouraging people to spend their money especially on the Spinning Wheel and I would like to thank Darien for his stint as an MC. Peter Cullen did a fantastic job as MC, revving up the crowds, as did Sam Ioppolo & Chris O'Malley.

I am very grateful for the team and thankful that you took on roles on the Executive Committee: Ivana Tullio-Toulmin, Kate Cabiguen, Kristen Powell, Nathan Fisher, Bernie Hogan, Stacey Bird, Belinda Sullivan and Linda Mc Dougall. I would like to thank the general members for their support and input, namely Ben Minness, Birgit Minness, Adrian Rigato, and Paul Toulmin.

Thanks go to Jen Climie, Gerald Fastuca & Ben Minness for all their hard work and excellent running of the Car Raffle. Thanks also to Roger Climie who is an unofficial member of the team, helping out when required.

I would also like to thank our Parish school principals and their teams, Michael Gavaghan, Linda Roynic, Marlene Monahan, Jennifer Poon, Simon Dundon and Rory Kennedy. I am also grateful to the St. Andrew's Parish Office staff as I realise that the Fair and all it involves disrupts their routines as well. Thank you all for your continuing support.

The Fair Committee was able to provide Fr. Frank with a cheque of \$25,000 and at the St. Andrew's Parish Fair AGM, on behalf of St. Andrew's Fair Committee, I was proud to present Fr. Albert with another cheque of \$2,000 bringing our support to the Parish to a total of \$27,000.

Lou Sullivan

St. Andrew's Fair President 2017



<b>St Andrew's Fair Incorporated</b>	
<b>2017 Final Fair Results</b>	
<b><u>Stalls</u></b>	<b><u>2017 Fair</u></b>
Afternoon Tea	\$ 704.50
Bank Interest	\$ 1.31
BBQ / Chips	\$ 2,395.19
Bethany Housewares / Christmas Cake Raff	\$ 926.05
Books	\$ 322.40
Bungy Jump	\$ 895.00
Cakes	\$ 944.65
Car Raffle Launch	\$ 5,138.00
Chocolate Toss	\$ 366.65
Corpus Christi P&F Fundraiser	\$ 368.00
Donations & Sponsorship	\$ 2,081.00
Donuts	\$ 546.00
Drinks	\$ 1,471.89
Espresso	\$ 834.10
External Stalls	\$ 751.40
Fairy Floss	\$ 882.50
Fresh Produce	\$ 2,550.15
Ice Cream Van	\$ 225.00
Info Booth	\$ 89.70
Pizza Night	\$ 3,485.45
Plants	\$ 1,785.40
Pony Rides	\$ 110.00
Rides	\$ 343.40
Showbags	\$ 1,604.65
Snow Cones and Popcorn	\$ 1,480.60
Spinning Wheel	\$ 2,378.85
Tattoo's	\$ -
St Andrews Raffle	\$ 540.50
<b><u>Total Stalls</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 33,222.34</u></b>
<b><u>Less Expenses</u></b>	<b><u>2017 Fair</u></b>
Administration	\$ 139.75
General Fair Expenses	\$ 4,373.59
Hire Plant and Equipment	\$ 1,245.64
<b><u>Total Expenses</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 5,758.98</u></b>
<b><u>Net Final Income</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 27,463.36</u></b>

<b><u>Car Raffle</u></b>	<b><u>2017 Fair</u></b>
Car Raffle Income	\$ 48,563.35
<b><u>Car Raffle Expenses</u></b>	<b><u>2017 Fair</u></b>
1st Prize - Ballan Holden (car purchase)	\$ 15,773.90
2nd Prize - Kitchenaid Mixer E&S Trading	\$ 565.00
3rd Prize - Werribee Car Wash	Donated
4th Prize - Bev Marks Beds Voucher	\$ 250.00
5th Prize - All Green Nursery	\$ 200.00
Booksellers Prize - Elevate Travel Voucher	\$ 500.00
Postage/Permit/Newspaper Ad Results	\$ 1,079.35
<b><u>Total Expenses</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 18,368.25</u></b>
<b><u>Less GST</u></b>	<b><u>-\$ 1,457.77</u></b>
<b><u>Net Final Profit for Car Raffle</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 28,737.33</u></b>

<b><u>St Andrew's Fair Inc - Assets</u></b>	<b><u>Approx. Value 2017</u></b>
Books	225.63
Chip Fryer	1,489.13
Computer / Laptop	447.64
Hot Dog Cooker/Urns	153.38
Printer	45.13
Raffle Barrel	135.38
Signs	1,300.00
Software & Accessories	398.43
Spinning Wheel & Prize Stand	315.88
Stationery	180.50
Trestle tables x 20	1,630.20
Storage Containers	180.50
<b><u>Total Assets</u></b>	<b><u>6501.77</u></b>







# **WYNDHAM VALE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY**

## **LEADERSHIP GROUP REPORT**

Chairman: Nimal Pandithakoralege  
Pastoral Contact: Lou Sullivan  
Newsletter Contact: Sandy Henderson

School Liaison: Sandy Henderson  
Financial: Peter Walters  
General Members: Tess Mijares,  
Jocelyn Gemoh,  
Achala Muthukudasinghe Arachchilage

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We would like to acknowledge the people of the Wathaurong tribe who are the traditional custodians of the land we know as Wyndham Vale. We continue to enjoy the fruits of their guardianship and we thank them for that.

During the past year the Wyndham Vale Catholic Community Leadership Group has seen some changes with the membership of the group. We are starting off 2018 with new members and we are open to a couple more people joining – especially youth/young adults.

The focus of this Leadership Group is to support the existing families and the inflow of new residents to feel a part of the Wyndham Vale Catholic community and to feel linked with the Parish Community of St. Andrew's.

The group meets once a month at OLSC School to discuss relevant community and spiritual matters for the Wyndham Vale area. The various coordinators update the team with their reports. Coinciding with the Community masses we try to produce a community newsletter called Branches. Unfortunately, for various reasons, we did not get out any newsletters in 2017. If you have the skills and drive to put together the newsletter (6 for 2018) we would love to hear from you. Maybe you are looking to become involved in a group without too much commitment and where you can do things at home – perhaps this is the project for you!

The Community Mass is celebrated by one of the St. Andrews Parish team priests and is held on the first Sunday of every month (excluding school holidays). We thank and appreciate OLSC School for allowing us to use the hall for this purpose and their continued support. The numbers of families coming to the Community Masses have grown. We would like to thank Fathers Frank, Shymon, Darien and Anil for all their support and for celebrating our Community Masses. We now have altar servers at just about all our masses which is a blessing. We are very lucky to have Nirasha and Maria who are at every mass to lead the Children's Liturgy. One area where we would love to have some assistance is with the setting up of the hall to our prayer space. If you can arrive around 9.15am please see a Group member to add your name to the roster. Also remember to bring along a plate of food to share to enjoy with a cuppa after mass.

Father's Day was celebrated with great success after the September Community Mass. There was a very good gathering and everyone enjoyed the hotdogs so much we ran out. It is wonderful to see people engaging with each other after our masses.

An ongoing goal is to get the youth involved in activities in the Parish Community; encouraging the young children & youth to be involved in our gathering events and how they can be drawn to attend and participate in Mass. Any ideas are appreciated!



## **BETHANY GATHERING GROUP**

The Bethany Gathering Group meets once a month and its members are group leaders in the Bethany Community. The leaders discuss happenings and activities of their respective groups.

The evening begins with a prayer and reflection, followed by a cuppa and chat. Whilst each monthly meeting is keenly anticipated by the group members, there are highlights through the year. Unfortunately, unlike prior years, where a highlight for the group is the annual Trivia Night, due to various members' other commitments, the Trivia Night could not be held in 2017. Following this outcome, it was decided by the group that the Trivia Night would be organised for early May in 2018.

Our other highlight for the year is the preparation of the Christmas Gifts for the needy families in our community. The gifts are funded through the Gathering Group's fundraising activities. The gifts provided in 2017 were a combination of a Christmas Sweet item (Tin of Christmas Biscuits) together with a Gift Voucher. Preparing the Christmas Gifts is a great and enjoyable meeting, as all the leaders use their talents to package the festive items with the efficiency of a professional group whilst enjoying their time together.

We thank Marthese Temming (Pastoral Contact), Birgit Minness (Meetings Host and Supporter and Co-Chairperson), Josie King (Gathering Community Newsletter), Tom Shone (Men's Group, assisted by Ben Minness), Mary Rayner (Finances), Marijana Jerkovic and Natasha D'Cunha (Bethany Primary School Representatives).

Anna Manche  
Chairperson

## **BETHANY COMMUNITY JEWEL TEAM**

We celebrated a community Mass on the second Sunday every month (except during school holidays), as well as a Christmas Mass in the Bethany School hall during 2017.

Babies and children were presented for welcoming before their Baptism during the Mass.

As a community, we are grateful to the Year 6 Bethany School Leadership Team who participated by welcoming Parishioners, Leading the Prayers of the Faithful and helping out with Hospitality/Fellowship after the Mass.

The Bethany Community Children's Choir regularly sang at our Masses. We were fortunate to have a musician Jesse Payet, on keyboard, who attended practices after school each week and played at each Community Mass.

On Mother's Day, the children handed out prayer bookmarks and chocolates to the mothers present.

Attendance at the Community Masses varied from 60 to 120 people to approximately 250 for the Christmas Mass. Santa arrived after Mass with treats for the children.

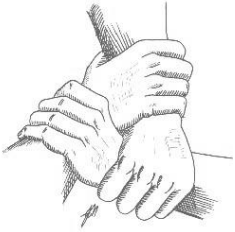
Thank you to: Leah Arida, Helen Emmanuel, Mary Rayner, Josee King, Jesse Payet who help regularly with the organisation and involvement of the Community Masses.

We thank Fr. Frank, Fr. Darien and Fr. Shymon for making our Liturgies very special.

Marthese Temming  
Pastoral Associate  
Werribee North/Bethany Community



## THE MEN'S GROUP



Our logo embodies what the Men's Group is about. It's about guys, helping guys and getting strength from each other. The group has been around for many years now. The group came about to give men a social outlet away from the rigours and obligations of work and family life.

Initially the group was started to give the men in the Bethany community a social outlet, but we've never adhered to any boundaries. If you would like to come along, and you are an adult male, then we'll make you welcome. The hardest thing to do, is to come for the first time and after that you'll simply be dining out with friends. I can't speak for others who come along, but I can attest that after an outing I certainly feel empowered to face the world and life again. It would leave a hole in my month if I wasn't able to get along. I'm grateful to my family in encouraging me to get out, as otherwise, I'd probably just spend the evening mentally exhausted and missing the end of a TV show that doesn't even interest me...

There is no stress (unless choosing what to eat causes you anxiety). There is no commitment (other than that it is appreciated if you could let me know if you're coming or not) and finally, there is no cost, except for what you eat and drink yourself on the night. It's just an hour or two, once a month. It is purely a social group and you can involve yourself in discussions, as much or as little as you feel comfortable with. We hope that we're a welcoming group of guys who don't judge people and we try to make everyone welcome. Once a month, generally on a Wednesday, we gather from 7pm and order our meals at 7.30pm. We meet socially for a meal at a variety of venues around the Werribee area and talk about whatever we want to talk about. It isn't a booze up. A late night would still have us home by 9.30pm. Inevitably we end up feeling better and ready to face the rigours of life with refreshed confidence. It doesn't matter that we might have heard the same story a few times, we are just there for each other's company. I never cease to be amazed at the variety of topics that we are variously knowledgeable in. I'll always learn something useful. There are no rules, and no obligations, except that you pay your own way and for that reason we try to go to venues where there are a range of options available to cater to all budgets. We're starting to find a lot of places that offer specials for seniors, which is useful for some of us.

As co-ordinator of the group, it makes my life a lot easier to communicate by email. In the early days I used to print flyers and do targeted letter drops each month all over Werribee to those in the group. Then I graduated up the technology scale and started phoning people, but making a lot of calls each month and then having a 5 minutes chat each time, took too long. So, like it or not, we're now an email organised group. Some of the places we've been in the last 12 months include: Martini & Co., the Commercial Hotel, the Racecourse Hotel, the Italian Sports Club, DiCaprio's Family Restaurant, Cody's Cafe, Gemelli's Cafe, Silver Chopsticks, The Groove Train, Tigers Clubhouse. There are many other places that we've visited over the years though and we're always looking for suggestions, so if you know of anywhere that would like a group of about 12 to 18 guys to liven up their Wednesday nights, please let me know! All we require is reasonably priced food and drink and a table that is big enough for the group.

If you are interested in coming, then please contact me at:  
[mens-group@standrewswerribee.org.au](mailto:mens-group@standrewswerribee.org.au) or through the Parish Office.

Ben Minness, Men's Group Co-ordinator

## **BETHANY COMMUNITY FINANCE REPORT**

As of the bank statement dated 18<sup>th</sup> August 2017, we had a total of \$837.78 and a float of \$33 in funds. During the month of October we received a donation of \$300 which brought our balance up to \$1,137.78.

On 9<sup>th</sup> November 2017 we wrote a cheque for \$470 and also used \$300 to buy Christmas vouchers for needy families. We bought 12 vouchers for \$60 each, totalling \$720. This left us with \$50 which has gone into the float. I donated \$60 for biscuits to add to the vouchers.

The last bank statement received on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2017 shows a total of \$367.80 with 2c bank interest. Our float currently has \$83.

Mary Rayner  
Finance

## **BETHANY GATHERING LETTER**

The Gathering Letter is e-mailed to the parishioners in the Bethany Community once a month. New families are added on to the email address as they are made known to us. The Gathering Letter reminds people of the Community Masses and informs them of the activities and groups within the Community. It also gives broader information on the happenings within the Parish of St. Andrew's. We thank Jenni Bravington for her continued support in the collation of material, layout and distribution of the Gathering Letter.

## **ST. JOHN THE APOSTLE COMMUNITY TARNEIT WEST**

**St. John the Apostle Community** is a rapidly growing community with many young families moving into the area, many of whom are seeking Baptism for their children. Each family receives a visit upon enquiry, welcoming them into the Parish community and informing them of the Parish activities.

**Community Masses** are held the fourth Saturday of each month (except School holidays) in the Community area at the front of St. John the Apostle Primary School. The Community Masses are great occasions for welcoming families preparing for Baptism and creating an opportunity for the community to gather.

We thank the school community who play an active part at these Masses. We are also very grateful to all who have attended, served and helped in preparing to make these Community Masses constantly an enriching experience. We thank the musicians AJ Angeles and Daniel Bernardo and the singers who shared their ministry with us during the masses.

We thank all the parents who helped with the Christmas Community Mass and the Children's Choir who sang magnificently as well as the children who beautifully enacted the Christmas Story. Thanks and gratitude to Fr. Frank, Fr. Darien and Fr. Shymon for their time and effort in making these Eucharistic celebrations very special.

**St. John the Apostle Playgroup** meets each Tuesday morning (except school holidays) from 10.30am to 12pm in the portables at the back of the St. John the Apostle Primary School, entrance is through the front of the school. At present there are nine registered families. We have activities/craft, story time, music/song, prayer and morning tea at our gatherings.

Marthese Temming  
Pastoral Associate, Tarneit West

## **WERRIBEE SOUTH/WERRIBEE CENTRAL COMMUNITY**

I take this opportunity to thank each and every one who welcomed me with smiles, open arms and hugs and allowed me to serve you and the community.

### **Overview:**

- The leadership group for the Community is formed to better understand and serve this area and we gladly welcome any suggestions or opinions in this matter. The team members are: Linda McDougall, Antonietta Biondo, Laura Sgro, Katrina Gauchi, Ernie Demate, Tania Thomas, Liz Palmieri, Bev Sullivan and Michelle Redman

### **Community Mass:**

- We celebrated the Community Masses in the Corpus Christi Primary School hall on the third Sunday of the month at 10am, excluding school holidays. The December Mass was celebrated at the St. Mary of the Cross Chapel and will continue for the following year.
- A children's liturgy of the Word is held during the Mass, where the children gather together at a different place to share the Gospel reflection by hearing from the Leader in a way they understand and have their own discussion about the Gospel.
- After the Mass everyone is invited to stay for a cuppa to get to know each other. Our community masses have become wonderful opportunities in getting to know each other after mass and also spending time together in worship.
- Community Masses are a special time to welcome children and their parents who are presenting for baptism at St. Andrew's Parish.

### **Family Visits:**

- Families who are presenting a child for Baptism are visited by a member of the Pastoral team before the Baptism takes place. This is a good way to get to know the family on a personal level and make them feel welcome, also to answer queries, or just to set a person's mind at ease.
- We can arrange visits if you are in need to share your pain or grievance or if you feel sick or lonely.

### **Little Kids Play Group:**

- We have a Corpus Christi **Little Kids** playgroup on every Wednesday, 9.00am to 10.15am at the school portables.
- It is a great meeting point for the parents who have younger children with their siblings at the school and a place to meet new families in the community.

### **Our Gratitude:**

- Finally I would like to thank you all—for your faithfulness, support, encouragement and hard work. It is a joy being part of this community and I look forward very much to the year ahead, experiencing the faith journey with you, celebrating and worshipping as we step up in faith, trusting always in the gracious God of all.

Sherry Vivera  
Pastoral Worker

## **ST. MICHAEL'S, LITTLE RIVER**

St. Michael's Little River Catholic Community started in 1857, when Fr. Ranald Rankin from Scotland was appointed resident Priest by Melbourne's first Archbishop, James Goold. At that time, the Parish extended as far as Anakie and Footscray, and St. Michael's was the only Church between Williamstown and Geelong. Fr. Rankin built St. Michael's Church from local bluestone. During the week the church was also used as a denominational school.

When Fr. Rankin died in February 1863, the Parish was closed because of a shortage of priests. It was incorporated into the Geelong Mission.

In 1906, Archbishop Thomas Carr created the Parish of St. Andrew's, Werribee which incorporated St. Michael's in Little River. The old bluestone church was demolished and the present one was built. It was blessed and opened by Archbishop Daniel Mannix on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1922.

Today, the Catholic Community in Little River meets on a monthly basis, usually on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month at 10am to celebrate mass. Mass is always celebrated on Easter Sunday which takes the place of the usual Community Mass during that month. During the Community Mass in September, the Feast Day of St. Michael is celebrated. There is also Mass on Christmas Day every year at 10am. A cuppa and fellowship is enjoyed after each mass.

For any enquires please call the Parish Office on 9741 4144 or email [werribee@cam.org.au](mailto:werribee@cam.org.au)







# **ST. ANDREW'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL**

## **2017 SCHOOL YEAR ANNUAL REPORT TO THE PARISH**

### **2017 School Year in Review**

#### ***Education In Faith***

The school continues to participate in the St Andrew's Parish liturgical life through weekly class masses, Sacramental celebrations and Feast day masses. Glenn Mugavin, the Religious Education leader was available to work with teachers during collaborative planning to assist teachers maintain a high quality RE program and approach. Anne Marie Palmer continued in her role as Parish Liaison and Liturgy Co-ordinator, also a position of leadership to continue to maintain the school's strong links to the parish.

#### ***Learning & Teaching***

The school completed its involvement in the three-year Visible Learning Plus project centred on the research of Professor John Hattie. The legacy of our involvement is a school wide approach to learning with agreements in place for the use of Learning Intentions, Success Criteria & Feedback in all classrooms. Our challenge will be to embed this approach without the support of external consultants.

A play based learning approach is used at the Foundation and Grade One level of the school. This approach is based on the work of Kathy Walker and is focussed on engagement of students through using their interests combined with the intended curriculum to allow children to use their curiosity and creativity in pursuing small investigations. The development of Social and Emotional competencies is also very important during this time.

#### ***Student Wellbeing***

Student Wellbeing was a major focus for the 2017 school year. A restructure of the organisation saw Tracie Kunigiskis, the school's Deputy Principal assume overall responsibility for this area. Along with the other schools of St Andrew's Parish, our whole staff attended training in the Berry St Education model. This is a model that is trauma informed, wellbeing focussed and centred on academic rigour. The model includes the following domains, Body, Relationships, Engagement, Character and Stamina and as a result of our participation we are introducing a number of whole school initiatives such as Circle Time, Brainbreaks, Ready to Learn charts, De-escalation strategies, etc.

We have also introduced Child Safety Incident Reporting as a means of gathering valuable data about behavioural incidents occurring in the school. This data will inform us as to the types of challenging behaviour that is being experienced in our school, additional information such as location, frequency, etc will be able to be analysed from this data gathering and responses made accordingly.

The school continued a partnership with On Psych, a counselling program for students and families, half a day per week however we ceased having a CatholicCare counsellor.

Two successful wellbeing initiatives continue. The first was the Friendly Meeting place, a passive play area established in the library for students who for numerous reasons find the yard too hard to participate in. The other was a transition program for kinder to school and involve the grade Four students buddying with the new students and their families to be a softer introduction.



## ***School Community***

In 2017 St Andrew's School continued its involvement in Werribee Family School Partnership cluster involving the five St Andrew's parish primary schools. Some outcomes of our work in the cluster were to hold a third Study Tour, where a group of staff from across the parish traveled to Santa Fe, USA to work with Dr George Otero in his field of Relational Learning. The cluster visited schools, community and cultural organisations. The work with Berry St Education Model was also an outcome of the cluster

Our Breakfast program was enhanced with support of Parishioners, Sam & Maria and Roger & Jen, who regularly attended the program to support the teaching staff in providing breakfast to many student each week.

The School Advisory Board, chaired by Tom Rickard, continued to provide advice for new school program and policies. The Board had input into the Child Safety Policy and school community initiatives. The Board also worked on the Master plan and Capital Grant submission, that saw the school receive a grant of \$1.65 million towards a \$3,000,000 project to refurbish Administration, 6 Learning areas, Library and toilets.

The Parents & Friends continued to support the school and after a successful year of fundraising and social events were able to provided \$10,000 to the school.

## ***2018 Priorities***

- Embed the Visible Learning Plus Collaborative Learning approach
- Whole staff training and implementation of the Berry St Education Model
- Positive Behaviour for Learning
- Victorian Government Capital Works project
- Partnerships with Engaging Wyndham Families & The Huddle

Michael Gavaghan  
Principal

In presenting the 2017 report to the Parish, the school has just completed a Specific Focus School Review.

The review was conducted by Sr. Louise Cleary C.S.B., the approved critical friend, and the school mentor, Professor Loretta Giorcelli.

The following extract from the report captures the spirit of our work throughout 2017.

“A unique feature of Bethany Catholic Primary School is its imaginative translation of its vision and mission into a compelling Narrative which describes who Bethany Catholic Primary School is and what Bethany aspires to be.

The co-construction of the Bethany Narrative by staff reflects a deep understanding of ways in which to translate into action Bethany Catholic Primary School’s vision of ‘Creating authentic relationships for successful living with the Catholic tradition.’

The Bethany Narrative is an embodiment of the mission of Bethany Primary School and states:

*We are a praying community.*

*Walking beside one another in good times and difficult times.*

*Creating a hopeful and sustainable faith future.*

*Our culture is one of Heart, Hospitality, Healing and Hope.*

*To be part of such a culture is to be surrounded by a community of people who are inspiring, accepting and non-judgemental.*

*At our best, Bethany is a place where we continue to grow in awareness and understanding of our personal behaviour so that we can discover the immense potential of life and the possibility of living it to the fullest.*

*It is a school where we want our students to develop qualities of mind, heart and body – qualities that will enable them to function with academic excellence, care and responsibility in our modern world.*

*It is a school where we want our students to excel at the art of living.*

*Ours is a living community where this art of living and learning is not perceived as fixed but dynamic in nature and in a constant state of review.*

*Within our caring community everyone is encouraged to transform through personal and professional transformations. Ongoing coaching and mentoring and building staff capacity enables us to continually raise the bar and narrow the gaps. This work has borne rich fruit and as we move forward into the future we draw strength and optimism from all we have achieved.*

*Our journey continues as we commit to further transform ourselves into a more dynamic, optimistic and effective learning community – where all work together on an ongoing basis in trust filled partnership aimed at improving student outcomes.*

*Together we are confident that we can and will build a more beautiful world, a more beautiful school, more beautiful lives.*

Having a coherent Narrative at Bethany which captures all aspects of school life, faith development, relationships, academic and personal growth, community living and engagement, binds all who educate at the school in the story together with ‘one mind & one heart’ Acts 4:32. Congruence between aspiration and actions indicate that the Bethany Narrative is a true story.”

***An extract from the School Report as written by:***

***Sr. Louise Cleary C.S.B. and  
Professor Loretta Giorcelli O.A.M.***

Marlene Monahan  
Principal



***2017 Highlights***

**OUR STRATEGIC INTENT** coming out of our Review process in 2016 was: At Corpus Christi we will continue to enhance and promote the Catholic Identity of the school. Learning outcomes and wellbeing will be improved through engaging students in a rigorous and positive learning environment. Partnerships with families and the community will be fostered in support of learning growth. Leadership practices will be strategic, consultative and distributed. This Intent will influence and guide all we do during the School Improvement Cycle of 2017 – 2020.

*In line with our Annual Action Plan for 2017, the following areas were our focus areas:*

***Home/ School / Community Partnerships***

During 2017, links have been strengthened in the following ways:

- St Andrew's Werribee Cluster: partnership between all 5 St Andrews Parish schools was enhanced through shared professional learning and collaboration on projects.
- Deakin University: staff, student and parent participation in a Deakin/ Salvation Army research project called "Melton & Wyndham: Strengthening Connections among Schools, Young People, Parents and Communities" was undertaken. Research fellows presented research findings to our FSP Cluster.
- Wyndham City Council: We successfully obtained a Community Grant for \$5000 to establish a community art piece with the intention of utilising community talents as well as providing an opportunity for parents and school community members to increase friendships and networks.
- CaPSS: Provision of Tuning into Kids program for parents at our school
- Parents: Many opportunities for feedback and input into school direction were provided throughout the year.

***Wellbeing - Positive Education***

- Our whole staff participated in the Berry Street Education Model (BSEM) Professional Learning Program. We trialled BSEM strategies across the school; including focus plans, brain breaks, mindfulness, de-escalation and self-regulation strategies
- We are in the early stages of developing the Student Wellbeing Whole School Action Plan

***Child Safety***

As part of our commitment to Child Safety, much work has been done in relation to the implementation of the 7 standards to ensure the safety of all our children. The following is a list of some of the work completed:

- Parent Information Night – Child Safety and Volunteering at CC
- Introduction of Volunteer and Employee Code of Conduct
- Refined employment & HR procedures
- Introduction of Reportable Conduct Scheme
- Bravehearts incursion for Foundation to Year 2 students and families

- Whole school participation in Day for Daniel safety awareness activities
- We engaged Michael Grose who delivered a session for all staff and parents with a focus on Building Resilience and Independence in children.

### ***Religious Education***

Faith/Life Inquiry approach was introduced and used in planning all inquiry units. CEM staff supported in deepening our understandings and implementing this approach along with our REL and RE Staff Team members.

We formed our inaugural Religious Education Student Team which comprised of 15 children who applied to be a part of this significant team. This team lead and implemented many initiatives while participating in a significant way in all aspects of faith life and education at our school.

### ***Learning and Teaching***

Our focus for Learning and Teaching in 2017 has been heavily on strategies to monitor and track student growth across the school. Some focus areas included:

- Ongoing collection and use of data to inform teaching and learning in all areas and across the school
- Consistency in collection of data using PAT M and PAT R from 1-6
- Implementation of Clear Track to track student data and growth
- Visits to other schools to learn about other ways to collect data and for information on successful assessment strategies
- Moderation in teams and across school
- Use of common tools
- Evidence for Learning: “Learning Journeys” replaced Learning Journals and we amended our reporting practices in line with this new format.

### ***Santa Fe Study Tour***

Once again, this year four staff from Corpus Christi attended the “Better Together – 2017 Study Tour”. The participants of this Study Tour / Learning Journey, travelled to Santa Fe New Mexico during the Term 3 holidays. They were a part of a group of 19 with representatives from our Parish Primary schools and they had the opportunity to work with George Otero and his team throughout the tour.

The Better Together Study Tour provided our staff with a number of significant opportunities, including:

- \* Increasing our understanding of school community development principles and
- \* Developing a deeper understanding of the link between school community, student wellbeing, learning and teaching and education in faith spheres of schooling.

The insights and learning from this tour will strengthen our understandings of family, school and community partnerships and their vital role in improving learning outcomes for our children. The tour also provided an opportunity to build positive relationships between the schools in the St. Andrew’s Parish.

Overall it has been another successful year of learning, growth and welcome at Corpus Christi School.

Linda Roynic  
Principal



## OUR LADY OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS

### CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

#### **Organisational Overview**

Current 2018 enrolments: 396      Prep: 62      Year 6: 48      17 learning groups  
2017 saw two portables arrive on our school site to help accommodate the students. This ensured that we only had 5 groups in each learning centre and the students were not crammed in. Our year 4 students were the ones who were housed in the portables.

#### **The educational priorities for 2017 were:**

- Participation with the Werribee Schools Cluster (our parish schools) in a professional learning process with Berry Street. This learning focused on Relationships, visible learning and stamina for academic growth. The Professional learning included 4 intensive days for the 130 staff of the schools spread across the 4 terms and unpacked the Berry street strategies incorporating Body, Stamina, Character and Engagement. The process also included 2 consultancy days where the team came to the school and supported staff on key strategies for our teams and students
- We began our involvement with the University of Melbourne Network of Schools working with John Hattie and his Visible Learning team. There was consolidated engagement for the Principal and 2 Success Coordinators (Sandy Henderson and Paul McDowell) from the school and then the focus project will be implemented with all staff over a 3 year period. Our focus around writing.
- The **Schools Improving Schools** group are continued to work together to strengthen the implementation of Michael Ymer's approach to mathematics.
- Continued the 5 Parish Primary schools partnership in the **professional study tour with George Otero from New Mexico**. The focus of this tour is reflected in the mission of the Centre for Relational Learning -  
"Our mission is to encourage and support, people, communities and schools to attend to their relationships as the best way to ensure the educational success of every child." This process has been consolidated with the creation of the Werribee Catholic schools Hub and the addition of our Hub co-ordinator across the 5 schools.  
Our school sent another 2 people – Hayley Palmer and Adam Grima, on the tour in 2017.
- We continued our involvement as a member of the **Wyndham Schools Community Hub** working with the Smith Family, Manor Lakes P-12 College and Wyndham Park Primary to build community connections and involvement. We had projects in place with the 'Kids Thrive' – who worked with our Year 5/6 students. The focus was on social justice and the students sought project sponsorship and implemented of 5 student led projects. Some of the community partners were Women of Wyndham, Parish play group, Wyndham Vale Men's Shed and Stewy the Snake Catcher
- Our senior students engaged in interschool sporting competitions – Billy Slater Cup, Girls and Boys 7 side Rugby, Basketball round Robin, Multi-sport competitions – softball, football, basketball and cricket
- Our students participated in the Formula One STEM Challenge in Geelong and brought home the inaugural trophy.
- We established a South Sudanese Parent group who meet regularly with our Multicultural Liaison Officers to communicate regarding misconceptions and involvement processes.



## Highlights

We had a few highlights that brought our community together to recognise talents and express our appreciation:

- Our students presented 'Lion King Kids' as our biennial production



- We created family photographic bollards to celebrate the families in our school and our Wyndham Faith Community



- The community celebrated Fr Frank's time as Parish Priest in Werribee

## Future Plans for 2018:

1. We placed an application for round 3 of the Victorian Government grant to construct our 4<sup>th</sup> and final learning centre. We were unsuccessful with the grant but CEM has given us Supplementation funding of \$1.1million. This is about 1/3 of our grant application amount and we will rethink our project to get the most for our students. We thank Catholic Education Melbourne for supporting our continual growth as a school community. It is our hope that the modular building will be completed in time for the beginning of the 2019 school year or soon after.
2. We are working with the Western Office on the Action Learning School Improvement Project that will support middle leadership in our school to be active in our future development. This is a 2 year project and will involve all staff in the process.
3. Development of our school grounds to include a grassed soccer-size field and 3 cricket pitches, establishing further play spaces in the passive/sensory area – outdoor table tennis, bocce courts, sensory garden and multigame spaces.
4. Professional Learning focus with Berry Street and our sister schools, Melbourne Uni and our Writing project and continuing the work with our SIS schools on Maths learning. Building on our South Sudanese Community Group who are creating support and links for families to increase their involvement in their children's learning.

We have a fantastic school community that endeavours to involve itself in all aspects of school, parish and wider community life and we hope our continuing journey together will build on this strength.

Jennifer Poon  
Principal



## **ST. ANDREW'S PARISH AGM REPORT 2017**

St. John the Apostle Catholic Primary School, Tarneit West continues to serve the faith community of Tarneit within the boundaries of Tarneit Rd, Sayers Rd, Boundary Rd and the Werribee River. 2017 commenced with 205 students, a rise of 100 enrolments from its inaugural year.

To cater for the additional enrolments, the staff welcomed two new class teachers to the team, Miss Chantal Disco and Miss Charlotte Fava.



To support student learning we also sort the assistance of Mrs Karen Pacifici, Mr Cooper Trigg and Mrs Jodie Ipolito who worked part time alongside teachers as Learning Support Officers.



The school was structured as follows over 2017:

- Prep (Two classes)
- Year 1 (Two classes)
- Year 2/3 (Three Classes)
- Year 4/5/6 (Two Classes)

On 4<sup>th</sup> July our school community was saddened by the passing of Mrs. Janet Belir. Janet served our school community as the inaugural administration officer and played an important role in the success of our school. Not only was Janet thorough in her role, she also ensured that all visitors to our school experienced gospel values being lived out in everyday interactions. Janet will be greatly missed by our community and we would like to acknowledge the wonderful support our school community received from Fr. Frank, the Parish and associated schools over this very difficult time.



Miss Grace Gingo, Mrs. Michelle Dobai and Mrs. Cynthia Moso need to be commended for their dedication in managing the office after Janet's passing. As they all knew Janet well, maintaining the office to the standards which she set was one way they were able to pay tribute to her contributions.

In August the school completed the second stage of its master plan. This stage comprises an additional learning space for Year 3 and 4, a visual arts space, an extension to the administration area and a covered outdoor area which can be used for sport as well as whole school gatherings.

School families continue to embrace the positive culture of the school. This was particularly evident in the way they embraced our St John's Grand Prix evening. This community event was extremely successful as it enabled our families to celebrate the remarkable achievements we have made in establishing our school.

The students also continue to view the school as a place where learning is purposeful, calm and positive. They identified the following events as highlights of the year.



- Sacramental Celebrations
- Fr. Frank's Farewell Celebration
- School Athletics Carnival
- School Competitive Sports Opportunities (Hooptime, Summer & Winter Sports, St. John's Tennis Open)
- Establishment of our school marine fish tank
- School Nativity Display

Data gained via our School Improvement Surveys indicates that parents, students and teachers all hold St John the Apostle Catholic Primary School in very high regard. As a result our school is sort after by many within the community.

The community of St. John the Apostle would like to convey their appreciation to the people of St. Andrew's Parish. These people both past and present, have lived the parish mission to outreach to those parishioners on the fringes of their large parish by establishing high quality Catholic Schools such as St. John the Apostle Catholic Primary School.

Yours sincerely,



Simon Dundon  
Principal



## **MACKILLOP CATHOLIC REGIONAL COLLEGE**

MacKillop College continues in its endeavors to offer high quality Catholic education to the community of St. Andrew's.

To find out in detail what has occurred at MacKillop College, we refer you to the College website

<http://mackillopwerribee.com.au>

where you will find the latest information about our Catholic Identity, our quality Learning and Teaching programs, our Student Wellbeing, as well as a wealth of other valuable general information regarding life at the College.

Rory Kennedy  
Principal

## **HOME BASED RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM 2017 (HBRE)**

2017 was a great year for our Home Based Religious Education (HBRE) Program and our 73 lovely families. 17 children were in the Pre-Sacrament class with Danni Camilleri as their Catechist. Chrissie Van der Hoeven prepared 25 children for Reconciliation. Marijana Jerkovic prepared 16 children for their First Eucharist. Clare Taylor prepared 15 children for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

The program starts for children in Grade 3 who attend non-Catholic schools. Each year the children attend eight workshops with a catechist and do workbooks and a project at home with the help of their family. This year we introduced Parent/Child workshops for each Sacrament which was conducted by our 4 Catechists. The feedback from parents was very positive.

A special part of our program is the Reflection Day for our Confirmation candidates. Bishop Mark Edwards joined us for a lovely reflective day beginning with 9.00am Mass. During the day we listened to and reflected upon 'Spirit Filled People' in our Parish. The day concluded at 1.00pm with lunch.

Also, it would be impossible to have such a program without volunteers. To Birgit & Ben Minness, Chris O'Malley and Mary Collins we say THANK YOU & GOD BLESS.

At the end of 2017 we said a big thank you and good wishes to our colleague Therese Kennedy, as she retired after hard work and dedication of 9 long years.

We greatly thank our children, families, catechists and anyone who helped us make our 2017 HBRE year such a pleasant and rewarding program.

***Thank you and God Bless.  
Benita Dahanayake***

# **RCIA – RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS 2016**

**July 2017 – May 2018**

This Easter 2017 we celebrated as four catechumens (unbaptised) received the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist and four candidates (baptised in a Christian Church) received Confirmation and Eucharist.

These eight Neophytes (new Catholics) began their journey in July 2017 taking part in the Inquiry phase and after their Rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens they moved into the Catechumenate phase. During the Lenten season they took part in the Period of Purification and Enlightenment, including the Scrutinies, before receiving the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil Mass. The Neophytes continued their post baptismal catechesis, the Period of Mystagogia, as they move ever forwards in their relationship with God.

The RCIA is never called a *program* but rather a *process* as a program implies that they have completed something but for all of us, our journey of trying to be Christ like, of relying on the Holy Spirit for guidance and of growing continually in love towards God, is never ending.

Often we have people enquiring to become Catholic and they do not know a Catholics who can stand for them as godparent or sponsor. The team approaches people we feel would be fantastic supporters to journey with them and I would like to acknowledge and thank our parishioners: Bev Sullivan, Sarah York, Clare Taylor, Chrissie Van Der Hoeven, Peter Walters and Bernard Sandford who journeyed with our neophytes offering their support and knowledge.

I would like to acknowledge the Team, Sarah York and Chrissie Van Der Hoeven for their commitment to help keep this vibrant process running in our Parish.

Finally, I would like to recognise and thank Bev Sullivan for her 20 years of dedication to RCIA in our Parish. I know Bev began her involvement with RCIA as a time out from caring for her disabled husband but continued her involvement because of her passion and the joy of bringing our Catholic faith to others. Her wisdom, spirituality and insight as an elder of our church will be sorely missed and could never be replaced!

The RCIA team and Parish sponsors are all volunteers and we give our time freely as nothing could more special than to see the joy on the faces of the neophytes at the Easter Vigil mass as they stand beaming and proud, and I believe, touched by the Holy Spirit!

Louisa Sullivan  
RCIA Coordinator

## **RCIS – RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF STUDENTS**

RCIS is a Catechism based series of workshops for secondary students preparing for the Sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation, Holy Communion and Confirmation. Fr. Darien Sticklen conducted the workshops in 2017 with 15 enquirers. We congratulate the Students who attended and completed RCIS in 2017 and offer our prayerful wishes for their Faith formation ahead.

In 2018, we have had 11 enquiries from students to be enrolled and to start preparing themselves for the Sacraments of Initiation. Fr. Darien commenced the program with the students in February for 18 workshops and it will conclude mid September 2018.

## **RCIC – RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF CHILDREN**

This service continues for school aged children seeking the Sacrament of Baptism. There are two programs per year, Term 2 and Term 4. The children and their parents meet for six sessions on Sundays before 11am Mass. The children also attend Children's Liturgy, along with other children attending at that Mass. We have introduced successfully two small celebrations after Session 3 and Session 6 which relate directly to what the children and their parents learn and to help people to get to know one another better.

Due to the introduction of child safety regulations, we will need volunteer sponsors/godparents on occasion. This is a whole Parish responsibility to ensure that these children approach Baptism mindful of the Catholic faith centred on Jesus Christ.

Norma Marot  
RCIC Coordinator

## **BAPTISM PREPARATION PROGRAM**

Parents of each family enquiring for Baptism for their children are visited. First time parents or those who attended more than five years ago are required to attend a Preparation Seminar held on the fourth Saturday of each month. Godparents, friends and other children are encouraged to attend with the parents and are included in the preparation program.

The preparation sessions are generally on the fourth Saturday afternoon of the month, except in February when there are two sessions because there is no preparation session in January. For subsequent children the Pastoral Associate gives a short revision of the Sacrament of Baptism when they visit.

Evaluation forms from parents are very positive and indicate that the program is successful. Both programs are under review and there may be some changes in the future.

Norma Marot  
Baptism Preparation







**GODSTART** is a dynamic and engaging program for children aged 2 to 5 years and their parents and carers. It provides an introduction to PRAYER and SCRIPTURE in a fun and interactive way!

The **GODSTART** session follows this basic structure:



**Bible Story** – As a focus, the children are introduced to a scripture story or theme. E.g.: Baptism, Palm Sunday, Easter, Jesus Blesses the Children, Going to Mass, Mary and Christmas.



**Craft / Activities** – We complete hands on craft activities based on the story or theme of the session. Parents, carers and children work together and talk about their learning. Children get to take their work home.



**Song / Dance** – We move to the prayer space. We use song, music and dance to reinforce the learning in the session. The children enjoy using instruments and movement and the adults get involved too.



**Prayer** – We conclude with a simple prayer around the **GODSTART** prayer mat. All the children's names are written on the prayer mat. This is a quiet time to pray to God and to thank Jesus. We end with our final songs, "Shalom" and "Go Now in Peace." After the session, we have refreshments to encourage and foster friendships between the children and it is a chance for the parents and carers to talk and connect. The children play together and the parents and carers enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit.





## WHAT DO THE PARTICIPANTS SAY ABOUT GODSTART?



Clare loves GODSTART, she loves the friends she has made there, it's good that she learns about God's teaching and prayer through song, dance, craft and play. Pearl GODSTART is a very cheerful way of learning about God, playing and learning preschool aged skills. Dasanthi My kids always look forward to GODSTART and as a parent, I love the "Godly themes" used during the activities. I want to really thank Susanne and her team too for the time and effort they put in to ensure the kids have great fun in God's house! Ony



My daughter loved GODSTART because she got to learn about Jesus and our church in a child friendly environment with her friends. She loved the art & craft and music elements. Victoria GODSTART has been a wonderful journey which across both educational and strong faith foundation for Charlie and Angus. They thoroughly enjoy the stories, activities and music. For the most recent Easter activity



they were role playing as Jesus which reinforces their understanding the story behind that Jesus died for us. God start has shared the true value of Christianity and word of The Lord. Jenny Chen

My gorgeous 4 year old (Levi) just loves GODSTART! He loves the singing, drawing and his new playmates. I knew GODSTART was enriching his life when over Easter he kept talking about the cross, God's army (!) and how Jesus rose for him!! Kit

**GODSTART takes place every fourth Friday of the month in the  
St. Andrew's Penola Hub,**

**33 Mortimer Street, Werribee from 12.30pm - 2.30pm**

**Please Join Us!**

Our dates for 2018 are 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 27<sup>th</sup> April, 25<sup>th</sup> May,  
22<sup>nd</sup> June, 27<sup>th</sup> July, 24<sup>th</sup> August, 28<sup>th</sup> September, 26<sup>th</sup> October, 23<sup>rd</sup> November,  
21<sup>st</sup> December (this is the 3rd Friday)

**Please contact Susanne Sweeny on 0438 372 952 for further information.**

## **CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD**

We have a committed group of leaders who lead Children's Liturgy of the Word each Sunday during school terms at the 9.30am and 11am Masses at St. Andrews Church, our Community Masses at St. Mary of the Cross Chapel and Our Lady of the Southern Cross Primary School.

- The Children's Liturgy of the Word refers to the practice of children leaving the Sunday Assembly during the Liturgy of the Word and gathering elsewhere to celebrate a separate Liturgy of the Word that is more appropriate to their level of understanding.
- This helps the children understand the meaning of the bible reading more easily with activities and stories. Children will get opportunity to share their ideas and participate in the prayers and songs.
- The commitment of our Leaders who are all volunteers is greatly appreciated and we are looking forward to build on this practice and involve the children more into celebration of the Mass.

Please contact Sherry Vivera at the Parish Office for more information.

## **WYNDHAM CWL BRANCH**

We have much pleasure in presenting our report for 2018.

Our Branch has a very active membership of 20 who all attend our monthly meetings.

As we have now done for a number of years, we distributed our duties amongst the members so as to have more of our members involved with the running of the Branch. This has worked well for our Branch, so we continued with this again this year.

At each meeting a “Reflection” is an important part of the Agenda.

We also acknowledge any member who has had a birthday or who will be having one during the month. Our “Sunshine Lady” also sends them a card from the Branch.

Anyone who is sick or had a bereavement within the Parishes also receives a card from Wyndham Catholic Women’s League. It is much appreciated and it keeps us known throughout the Parishes.

Our meetings are held at a local restaurant where they have a small function room. There is no charge for the room. We commence our meetings with lunch – for those who are able – followed by our meeting, commencing at 1.30pm. Our meetings are held monthly from February to November.

This year, our first meeting was held on Ash Wednesday – we all attended mass at St. James where we were part of the school mass. Fr. Jude congratulated us on our work within the Parish and told the children about “the Catholic Women’s League work”.

Our members support the 3 Parishes by church cleaning, as special ministers, ministry to the Nursing Homes, volunteering at St. Peter’s Parish Office, supporting St. Andrew’s Fair, attending the World Day of Prayer Service. Members also attend the Melbourne Archdiocese Conference and the Annual Communion Luncheon.

On a social side, we are lucky to have the Wyndham Community Bus free of charge – with a driver – allowing us to go to places of interest. In February we had our first bus outing, where we went to see the Dr. Sr. Mary Glowrey Museum, which the members found interesting.

We look forward to continuing the work of the Catholic Women’s League within the Parishes of Wyndham.

Denise Doolan  
President

Karen O’Kane  
Secretary

# **EL SHADDAI (GOD ALMIGHTY) CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP**

## **NEW YEAR OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST 2017**

### **50 years of CCR International**

- The Great Year of Rediscovering of the Holy Spirit
- 7/2/17 Fr. Darien celebrated the opening mass of the presentation of Jesus in the temple.
- 21/2/17 Adrian Commadeur preached the History of ICCRS World Wide New Discovery of the Holy Spirit
- Lenten Program Theme is Hope
- Shane Dwyer, Sr. Hilda Scott and Fr. Graeme Schmitzer on CD
- 28/2/17 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday "The Temptation", Matthew 4 :1 – 11
- 7/3/17 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday "The Transfiguration", Matthew 17: 1 - 9
- 14/3/17 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday "The Samaritan Woman" John 4: 5 – 16, 10 – 26, 39 – 42
- 21/3/17 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday "Healing the Blind Man" John 9: 1, 6 – 9, 13 – 17, 34 – 38
- 3/17 Catholic Guy
- 28/3/17 No Prayer Group
- 4/4/17 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday "Raising Lazarus", John 11: 3 – 7, 17, 20 – 27, 33 – 45
- 11/4/17 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday "The Passion", Matthew 21: 1 – 11
- 18/4/17 Resurrection Mass
- 25/4/17 "Why So Many Problems" – Lito Alinza
- 2/5/17 ICCRS Rome DVD "A New Pentecost" History of CCR re. 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary
- 9/5/17 Sharing John 14: 1 – 12 Year A and Adoration
- 16/5/17 Marthese Temming "Praise and Worship"
- 23/5/17 A. and F. Bucci "Sharing God's Glory in The Holy Land"
- 30/5/17 Thanksgiving Mass
- 6/6/17 Mario Carlos – Signs of the Time – Trusting God
- 13/6/17 Marthese Temming – The Holy Spirit Prepares the Army of God Against the Army of Satan
- 20/6/17 Personal Testimony of God's Glory Manifestation in Our Lives
- 27/6/17 2017 Conference January on DVD, Michelle Moran. The Holy Spirit Is Moving Throughout the World and We Are Privileged by His Grace.
- 4/7/17 Ulf and Birgitta Ekman – Conversion to Catholicism from Pentecostal Religion
- 11/7/17 Michelle Moran "You Have No More Power Come to Me and Receive My Power at The Foot of the Cross"
- 18/7/17 Ulf Ekman "The Word of the Lord Should Live Richly in Us by the Power of the Holy Spirit"
- 25/7/17 Anne Brereton "God Call Us into The Intimacy of His Word"
- 1/8/17 Thanksgiving Mass
- 8/8/17 Dominic and Angela Vivona
- 15/8/17 Adoration of The Blessed Sacrament
- 22/8/17 Sharing. Isaiah 9: 1 – 3 5 – 6 Feast of Queenship of Mary Our Mother
- 29/8/17 Christine Grech and Prayer with Healing Ministry Group Pasco Vale

- 5/9/17 Fr. Dan Strickland CD Theme from “Head to Heart”
- 12/9/17 Michael Power Continuation “From Head to Heart”
- 19/9/17 Margaret West Continuation “From Head to Heart”
- 26/9/17 Josephine Thomas from Hoppers Crossing, Personal Experience of Rome, 50<sup>th</sup> CCR Jubilee Year
- 30/9/17 Retreat Day Spirit Seminar Fr. Shymon Thekkekalathungal, Theme “The Kingdom of God is at Hand”
- Retreat, The Kingdom of God Fr. Shymon and Angela Vivona
- 3/10/17 Adoration with Blessed Sacrament. Theme “Jesus Help Me to Get Closer to Your Kingdom” with Healing Prayer
- 10/10/17 “Jesus Calls Us to Heal and Be Healed” Louiza Romanic, Brunswick
- 17/10/17 “Healing Our Relationship with God” Adrian Commadeur, East Keilor
- 24/10/17 “Healing Our Relationships with Others” Charlie Gatt, Taylors Lakes
- 31/10/17 “Praying for Our Own Healing” Roman and Patricia Sawko, St. Albans
- 7/11/17 “Praying for Others” Doris Agis, Kealba
- 14/11/17 “The Loving Mercy of God” Sr. Loraine Robinson, Altona North
- 21/11/17 “Prayer for A New Release of God’s Spirit” Angela Vivona, Hoppers Crossing and Frances Bucci, Werribee
- 28/11/17 Thanksgiving Mass for All Blessings Received for Year 2017, Fr. Darien Sticklen
- 5/12/17 End of Year Celebration Film of the Jubilee Cross CCR 50 Years at St. Andrew’s Parish and Our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary
- New Year of the Wordship of Jesus Our Redeemer and Savior Over Us and The Whole World 2018
- 6/2/18 Adoration Blessed Sacrament Fr. Darien
- 13/2/18 Sharing – 5<sup>th</sup> week of Ordinary Time, Mark 7: 5 – 13
- Lenten Program Theme “Surrender” On CD
- Most Reverend Peter W. Ingham DD Diocese of Wollongong
- Fr. Graham Schmitzer and Sr. Hilda Scott OSB
- 20/2/18 “The Temptation” Mark 9: 12 – 15
- 27/2/18 “The Transfiguration” Mark 9: 2 – 10
- 6/3/18 “The Cleansing” John 2: 13 – 25
- 13/3/18 “The Serpent” John 3: 14 – 21
- 20/3/18 “The Hour” John 12: 20 – 30
- 27/3/18 “The Passion” Mark 15: 1 – 39

Would you like to come and see what this group is all about? You are all very welcome to come and join us. We are a multicultural group, who all come together to praise the Lord through the Holy Spirit. At the end of every session there is a fellowship, and from there we evangelise with our life, wherever the Lord calls us to our brothers and sisters in need.

For prayer support, enquiries or a lift contact the core group members: Frances Bucci, John Vella and Philomena Fernandes via St. Andrew’s Parish Office 9741 4144.

Thank you all, may God bless you and your families.

## **DIVINE MERCY PRAYER GROUP**

We would like to thank Fr. Frank, Fr. Shymon and Fr. Darien for giving us this opportunity to pray during 2017. We meet every Friday at 9.30am at the Penola Hub for prayer, thanksgiving and fellowship.

Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month however, we go to Mercy Place Nursing Home to pray the chaplet. We don't only go there to pray, but to spend some time with the elderly inside. During Lent we start our Divine Mercy chaplet at 10.30am due to the Stations of the Cross in the morning.

Our group is now growing bigger and stronger with new people every Friday. In the future we would like to also see many more people come along and join us.

We would like to thank everyone for coming from Philomena and the Divine Mercy Group.

## **ITALIAN CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP "GESÙ RISORTO"**

The Italian Charismatic prayer group "Gesù Risorto" celebrated 36 years of life last year, and has continued to meet in the Penola Hub every Wednesday morning from 10am to 12.00pm.

The core group consists of a co-ordinator and 4 other people.

The main focus of the prayer group is praise and worship, scripture readings and reflection and sharing of Gods word.

### **PROGRAM FOR 2017**

- Lenten program
- Exposition and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
- Fellowship every last Wednesday of the month
- Intercessory prayers for the needs of the community
- Core group meeting once a month
- Reflections on the scriptures, occasionally by visiting speakers from the ICCR and other prayer groups and from DVD's
- Organize a 9 week "Life in the Spirit" seminar with teachings on DVD
- Attend leaders days once a month at ICCR Centre in Northcote
- Attend co-ordinators meetings in March and September at the ICCR Centre in Northcote
- Attend retreat day at the ICCR Centre in July
- Organize visit of the Jubilee Cross at the prayer group
- Organize outings twice a year with community bus
- Attend Italian Charismatic Renewal's annual 4 day National Conference in October
- Organize nativity play at the end of the year

Carmela Tramontana  
Coordinator



## **GPS (GATHER PRAY AND SING) PRAYER GROUP**

The GPS Prayer Group is a parish-based group of Christ's faithful. It is devoted to the religious formation and personal sanctification of its members through Gospel reflections and sharings, active involvement and participation in ecclesiastically approved religious devotions, attendance at relevant doctrinal teachings, and frequent reception of the Eucharist. The Group is open to all people living in the parish or elsewhere who are interested in Gospel reflections and sharing. We meet in Studio 3 (or alternative), Penola Hub, St. Andrew's Parish, every 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the month from 2pm for 2.30pm to 5pm.

Fellowship with coffee/tea and bickies follows the meeting.

The meeting opens with a prayer and singing of praise and worship songs, then Gospel reading of the following Sunday's Gospel, brief silence followed by individual reflections and sharings by the participants. A summary Gospel reflection and sharing will be provided by an assigned participant. If a priest can attend, he may give an allocutio before the closing prayer.

For enquiries, please contact Ernie/Cora Demate on 9741 0428, M 0402 708 677 or Fred/Nizza Calvin on M 0423 967 814.

## **ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY**

*"You see a great deal of distress that you are unable to relieve. God sees it also.*

*Bear the pains of the poor together with them, doing all you can to give them whatever help they need, and remain in peace." St. Vincent de Paul*

The St. Vincent de Paul Society Werribee Conference which was founded on 4<sup>th</sup> July 1973 is a small group of volunteers who give their time to others in the community who are in need. We aim to serve the poor with love, respect, justice, hope and joy. We aspire to be recognised as a caring charity offering "a hand up" to people in need. We do this by respecting their dignity, sharing our hope and encouraging them to take control of their own destiny.

We can manage five home visits a day and offer support by providing vouchers for food, medicines and clothing, order furniture as well as support children with their educational needs. We are able to stay with people until they are back on their feet; sometimes referring them to other agencies as we are not trained for complex problems.

Conference members meet once a month in the Penola Hub for prayer and discussion and new members are always welcome. We currently have 17 Conference members.

Each year we ask the wider community for support at the Poor Man's Mass (Winter Appeal) and through our Christmas Appeal. Both are always a huge success which allows us to continue our work in a generous manner. The annual turnover for 2017 was approximately \$159,500. Some 937 home visits were made which assisted 1464 adults and 1616 children.

George Cairns  
President, Werribee Conference



**St Vincent de Paul Society**  
*good works*

## **LITURGY PLANNING TEAM**

Over the past year, the Liturgy Planning team has continued to meet and support the Priests in the many different masses and celebrations throughout the year.

These included:

- The Catholic Guy
- Lenten Penitential Service
- Holy Week Celebrations
- Pentecost Mass
- Christmas Penitential Service
- Other special Masses

Members of the team have attended workshops run by the Archbishop's Office for Evangelisation.

We have also welcomed new members to the team over the course of the year.

Liturgy Planning Team

## **ST. ANDREW'S ALTAR SOCIETY**

The Society is probably better known as the Church Cleaning Group because that is their main role in the Parish. The Parish supplies the cleaning needs and organises two special collections each year to help cover the cost of flowers.

A small group of ladies take turns with the laundering of Altar cloths and another group gives valuable assistance to the Priests with the preparation of weekday masses and other specialist jobs.

Many of the men and ladies on the rosters have been volunteers for decades and some are quite elderly. It is difficult attracting new volunteers. If you have ever considered joining the group, please give it some more thought. The work is not heavy and people are only called on to help once every few weeks. Times can be negotiated to suit you. Many of the current volunteers work part time or some even full time. We are very grateful to the men who assist with the vacuuming because that is the most strenuous job.

If anyone is interested in finding out more about the rosters, please contact the Parish Office on 9741 4144. Thank you.



# ST. ANDREW'S PARISH MUSIC MINISTRY

The St. Andrew's Music Ministry consists of a number of groups of singers and musicians and choirs who are dedicated to providing music and singing for the Sunday Eucharist and many other Parish Celebrations. The Music Ministry operates on a roster basis, attempting to cater for as many of the masses each weekend as possible, as well as special celebrations.

The group coordinator's role includes:

1. Formulating a roster and sending it to all Music Groups/Choirs
2. Choosing appropriate music when required
3. Keeping track of copyright issues and reporting usage on a regular basis
4. Informing all members of upcoming events
5. Ensuring that powerpoint presentations of hymns and mass are created as required

We continue to provide the best service that we can to the Parish and are encouraged by the generally positive response to our efforts. We are fortunate to have a number of groups and individuals give of their time and talent on a regular basis and I would like to thank them for their commitment. For special celebrations, such as at Easter, Pentecost, etc. all Music Groups are invited to join in the One Voice Choir – practice dates and times are advertised and anyone is welcome to join us, no experience necessary.

We are continually seeking more members of the Parish who can make a contribution to the Music Ministry, no matter how small. Anyone who is interested in either joining a choir or contributing independently can contact Birgit Minness at the Parish Office on 9741 4144 or [werribee@cam.org.au](mailto:werribee@cam.org.au) Thank you.

Birgit Minness



# ST. ANDREW'S PARISH CHOIR

The St. Andrew's Parish Choir is a small group of committed people who enjoy singing. We sing at 9.30am mass on the third Sunday of the month and join with the One Voice Choir to lead the music and singing for Easter and Pentecost and other celebrations that occur from time to time. Some of us also provide music for the 9.30pm Christmas Carols and Mass on Christmas Eve each year. We rehearse on the Tuesday evening prior to our Sunday commitment.

The main aim of our group is to provide prayerful music for the congregation. The hymns and psalm are chosen to fit in as much as is possible with the readings and prayers of the day. A list of these is emailed to each group member prior to our practice, so that everyone is prepared. Another very important principle of our group is that those who attend feel welcomed, valued and appreciated.

One of our main challenges is maintaining and increasing our number of singers. We have tried many different ways of addressing this over a very long period of time but unfortunately it still remains an ongoing issue. However, those who do attend enjoy what we do and continue to remain committed to our group.

Judy Glaubitz

## **SARILING TINIG FILIPINO CHOIR**



As the Sariling Tinig Filipino Choir (STFC) group celebrates our continuing existence in the life of the Parish, we recognise the abundant blessings we have received from God almighty and submit this report. Throughout the past year, STFC has continued to take on the responsibility of helping enhance and create a meaningful liturgical celebration. We have done this by providing music during mass, as well as assisting the Parish in fulfilling its mission by supporting important activities and bringing people closer to God.

STFC, aside from our monthly scheduled choir service, has also supported the Parish by participating in, and sometimes leading various activities, such as:

- The conduction and performance of Christmas Carols for the congregation before mass celebration
- The “One Voice Choir” performances, especially during Holy Week
- The numerous meetings of the Parish relating to ongoing education formation, upcoming Parish activities and other information
- Last year’s Parish Fair where we helped look after book sections and the BBQ area
- The visit of Our Lady of Fatima in October last year
- The 2017 Car Raffle Launch held in August, which broke the total record of attendance with 397 guests and \$5,138 raised funds

Despite the hectic schedule of STFC members, back in May 2017, some of us managed to come together and enjoy the natural beauty of Tasmania which coincided with the group’s 16<sup>th</sup> year anniversary.

2017 was not just a busy year for us, it was also a year of mourning. On July 4 of last year, our choir lost a beloved member, Janet Belir from pancreatic cancer at 48 years old. She worked at St. John the Apostle Primary School in Tarneit.

As this year marked the change of Parish leadership due to Fr. Frank’s retirement, as a way of honouring his undeniable hard work as a Parish Priest, our group presented a token of appreciation during a Christmas party celebration held at Ferenze restaurant last December.

Sariling Tinig Filipino Choir now also sings on the third Saturday of each month, as well as every first Sunday following request of the Parish leadership.



## COUPLES FOR CHRIST INTERNATIONAL

Couples for Christ (CFC) is a Catholic movement intended for the renewal and strengthening of Christian family life. The organisation is affiliated with the Vatican recognition from the Pontifical Council for the Laity. It is led by an International Council, which operates in the Philippines under the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines and can report directly to the Vatican. The community is made up of family ministries, social arms, and a pro-life ministry.

CFC couples have committed themselves to the Lord and to one another, so that they may grow in maturity as men and women of God and fulfil their primary vocation of raising families grounded in Christian values, in the service and love of God.



Our CFC theme for this year is “Rekindle the Gift... Fulfill your Ministry!” The theme is taken from the second letter of Paul to Timothy, but particularly anchored on the following verses: "For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift that is within you through the laying on of my

hands.” (2 Timothy 1:6) and “...perform the work of an evangelist; fulfill your ministry (2 Timothy 4: 1-5).

Our theme is meant to focus on the gifts we were given and to rekindle them if necessary, as well as being aware of our ministry and what we need to fulfill it. With our service in the St. Andrew’s Parish, we hope to continue to use the gifts God has given us to help enrich the mass celebration through our choir participation, as well as all the other activities the Parish is involved in.

We are happy to share some of our accomplishments for 2017:

- Conducted a Christian Life Program (CLP) from July to September 2017
- Joined the One Voice Choir during the week of Easter
- Supported the Parish Fair and Car Raffle by selling tickets
- Performed with a band in the Car Raffle Launch event
- Participated in the One Voice Choir for Father Frank’s farewell mass
- Conducted teachings to assist our members in their faith journey
- Sang with our music ministry every third Sunday at the 11am mass

This year, we have also encouraged other CFC members to create another choir to sing during the 9.30am mass every second Sunday of the month. As this year progresses, we hope to offer another Christian Life Program (CLP) to those interested, support the Parish in the various activities they will organise, as well as helping out in the activities of other Parish Groups when possible.



# **COUPLES FOR CHRIST FOUNDATION FOR FAMILY AND LIFE** **(CFC-FFL)**

**St. Andrew's Parish Area (SAPA) – <http://cfcffl.net/the-cfc-ffl-community/>**



An active St. Andrew's Parish Group for over two decades now, the Couples for Christ Foundation for Family and Life - St Andrew's Parish Area (CFC-FFL SAPA), continues its strong presence. It interminably undertakes numerous activities that help us grow our faith to maturity, and bring others to meet Christ, imitate Christ, and share Christ's love to others in a variety of ways. We conduct many faith growth and development formation programs for adults (covering married couples, unmarried individuals, widows/widowers) and the "youth" (covering young adults/singles, teens, and kids) – each "age segment" having its own particular and separate ministry. We have been undertaking our regular activities/affairs including Cell Group prayer meetings, Bible Studies, monthly Gatherings/General Assemblies, Family Days, Evangelisation Rallies, Youth Camps, Kids Camps, and other religious activities like our "Ta'Pinu Stations of the Cross Pilgrimage", and a whole plethora of other seminars/programs.

CFC-FFL is now vigorous supporting a number of evangelisation activities of the "Live Christ, Share Christ" movement which is officially approved/endorsed by Archbishop Denis Hart, and supported by all of the Bishops in the Archdiocese. These include the "Live Pure" (launched in St Andrew's [Penola Hub]) for the Young Adults Group (YAG), "Live the Word" (Liturgical Bible Study) and many others. CFC-FFL SAPA have been deploying our regular Christian Life Seminars, special teaching nights and other special events in the St Andrew's Parish Area.



Some members of CFC-FFL SAPA are attending the worldwide New Evangelisation Conference (NEC) this April in the Philippines – strongly supported by the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP). This massive event is expected to be well attended by delegates (the clergy, religious and lay) from various Australian States and countries from around the world. The weekend event will be led by the world-wide Servant General Frank Padilla, the founder of Couples for Christ.

## **Ensemble of Faith (EOF) Choir**

**<https://www.facebook.com/groups/Asaph.Music.Service>**



EOF Choir is a collaborative parish group of teens, young adults, individual adults and married couples from various cultural backgrounds and members from various faith renewal groups. Faithfully serving the St Andrew's Parish over a decade and a half now, the choir group unceasingly provides music services during regular and special masses. The EOF Choir has been providing music services in the annual special mass celebration of the Feast of St. Michael's at Little River for over 10 years now. This choir and the Young Adults Group (YAG) served together during the Christmas Eve Service on 24 December 2017, and even in the past years. Almost inextricable, these two music groups (EOF & YAG) remain committed in serving of St. Andrew's Parish community for a seriously long time.

## SRI LANKAN COMMUNITY AND ST. JOSEPH VAZ CHOIR



On 14 January 2015 **ST. JOSEPH VAZ** was canonised by Pope Francis at Colombo in Sri Lanka. St Joseph Vaz was a native of Goa where he was born in 1651. Joseph was ordained in 1676 and was devoted to the Blessed Virgin.

The Sri Lankan Community of St. Andrew's Parish joined together and formed a choir in September 2012 which was named "Joseph Vaz Choir". We sing on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of every month at the 5pm mass. We practice on the Thursday before the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday at 7.45pm. The choir is open to all communities and currently we also have representatives from India, Indonesia & Pakistan. We welcome anyone who would like to make the mass more joyful to come and join the choir.

During the past year we have strengthened the group and the community. The group has participated in various activities in and out of the Parish, thereby getting to know other communities. We attended the feast of St. Anthony in Hawthorn organized by one of our members. This is an annual event. The Mass is celebrated in English, Sinhala & Tamil languages, bringing communities together. People from various parishes attend this celebration. We celebrated the Feast of St. Joseph Vaz for the first time in our Parish in January. The mass was concelebrated by Fr. Frank & Fr. Albert.

During Easter School Holiday, a few families attended the Easter Camp at the Grampians which was organised by Australia Sri Lanka Catholic Association. Other activities during this year included family nights.

In addition, we also have a fellowship after the mass and welcome everyone to join us to share some food and get to know each other better. We also welcome any parishioner young and old, from any walk of life to come and join hands with us to serve together, by way of doing the gospel readings, serving at the altar, joining the choir, setting up and helping during and after the mass and any event which is organised, which will make this community strong and better to serve our parish.

For further information of the group please contact one of the following;  
Achala on 0420 580 800, Dilan on 0451 993 935, or Nimal on 0417 374 593 or  
nimal.pandi@bigpond.com

## **SOUTH SUDANESE COMMUNITY**

On behalf of the South Sudanese Parishioners of St. Andrew's Parish, I would like to thank our Parish Priest Fr. Frank, Assistant Priests Fr. Shymon and Fr. Darien for their faithful commitment and assistance to our South Sudanese community and the Parish communities at large during 2017. I would also like to extend my thanks to the administration, pastoral leaders, catechists and all who are involved in the Parish activities. My thanks also to the Parish School Principals and staff for their great care for our children and their parents.

The south Sudanese community is always committed to its annual activities from day to day basis.

### **Our activities are as follows:**

- South Sudanese mass every fourth Sunday of the month at 2pm
- Choir group every second Sunday of the month at 11am mass
- Legion of Mary Rosary group every Tuesday night in the Penola Hub
- Dinka Language School for Primary and Secondary School children at St. Andrew's School
- South Sudanese Women's English classes every Wednesday at St. Andrew's School
- South Sudanese Basketball team (Wyndham Lions) every Friday and Saturday night in St. Andrew's School Sports Centre.

### **Events:**

- We had a community retreat with Fr. Stephen and Deacon George in the Penola Hub. Many community leaders and parishioners attended.
- We also celebrated St. Bakhita feast at Holy Eucharist Church St. Albans. The main celebrant was Bishop Mark Edwards, concelebrants were Fr. Frank, Fr. Stephen from South Sudan and Deacon George. It was a combined celebration Mass from four different Parishes – Werribee, St. Albans, St. Anthony and St. Catherine of Siena Melton. It was a great celebration.
- We also celebrated the farewell for Fr. Frank.

### **Visit:**

- Every year we have a visiting Priest from South Sudan. This year we had Fr. Stephen who came from Rome to spend a whole month with us. He celebrated with us Christmas masses and the feasts of St. Bakhita and St. Combony. He spent a good time with us conducting masses in our different Parishes and meeting with the community members.

Finally, on behalf of the South Sudanese community in St. Andrew's Parish, I would like to welcome Fr. Albert as our new Parish Priest and wish him the best. Also Fr. Anil as Assistant Priest. May the Holy Spirit be with them and guide them all the way. And I would like to thank everyone for taking time to read this report. We are committed to our Parish and will continue to contribute to the Parish to the best of our ability and we ask the Lord to bless us and give us courage and strength to continue to do his work and thanks. God bless you all.

Matthew Majur

## **TAMIL COMMUNITY AND CHOIR**

Fr. Anthony Gnanapragasam, the Tamil Chaplain for the Archdiocese of Melbourne, celebrates the Tamil Mass at the Penola Hub every third Sunday of the month at 5pm. The Tamil Community are very thankful for being welcome with open arms in our Parish of St. Andrew's. Fellowship follows after each mass. Our choir sings cultural songs during the mass. Anyone is welcome to join us.

Contact person: Sonali Krishnakumar 0435 815 766

## **ST. ANDREW'S AMATEUR THEATRE COMPANY**

The St. Andrew's Amateur Theatre Company was founded in 2009 and last year was supported by the St. Andrew's Parish, particularly Parish Priest Fr. Frank Buhagiar, and Assistant Priests Fr. Darien Sticklen and Fr. Anil Mascarenhas. We provide a safe and welcoming environment where the youth of our faith community can come together to create entertaining productions.

In 2017 we were proud to present Seussical Jr. Horton the Elephant, the Cat in the Hat and all of your favourite Dr. Seuss characters sprang to life onstage through our wonderful young cast.

The show took us from the Jungle of Nool to the Circus McGurkus. The Cat in the Hat told us the story of Horton the Elephant, who discovered a speck of dust containing tiny people called the Whos. Horton made it his mission to protect the Whos from a world of naysayers and dangers. During his journey Mayzie La Bird tricked Horton to look after her egg whilst she went on a vacation.

Gertrude McFuzz noticed Horton from afar and never lost faith in Horton's journey to save the Whos. Horton faced ridicule from The Wickersham's, danger from the elements and was sent to court by The Sour Kangaroo.

Seussical Jr. showed us that the power of friendship, loyalty, family and community can be challenged and emerge triumphant!

This was the first time that the Theatre Company showcased a junior show. Not only did we have around 80 cast members under the age of 18 but our production team were also young adults. It was wonderful to see our talented young people come together and showcase their talents for the community. Due to their dedication, support and enthusiasm the show was a great success.

For further information about the St. Andrew's Theatre Company please visit our website at: <http://www.standrewstheatrecompany.com>

Remember – “A person's a person, no matter how small.” Dr Seuss



## **PEONIES CRAFT GROUP**



Our Peonies Craft Group has been gathering with old and new members for some time now. Over a number of years we have continued to meet in various areas and were excited at the thought of being permitted to use a room in the old Convent, once the renovations were completed.

The Convent, which had been built in Werribee to house the Sisters of St. Joseph of the Sacred Heart in this area, needed to be closed down. I can only say that the Convent, for health and safety reasons needed renovations, etc. carried out, so had to be closed as a place for the sisters to live. The Convent was the property owned by St. Andrew's Parish. Finally the property which was the Convent has been fully renovated and is now referred to as the Penola Hub.

Throughout 2017, various members of our group had to move out of the area. We keep in contact as much as possible. Other members have developed severe illnesses, though we keep them all in our thoughts and prayers. As we are all over 60, I guess we should all be happy and grateful that God has brought us together to begin and continue to be blessed with their friendship.

We have been permitted to take some bus trips to various locations over the last 12 months and next week we are off to Mount Macedon. We will be visiting some special flower gardens and checking out souvenirs we may think of buying.

Our Group is most grateful to use the wonderful facilities in the Hub. We continue to meet from 10am until 12pm in Studio 1 in the Penola Hub. We are a multicultural group and would welcome your friendship when you come to the Penola Hub to meet us all.

For further information regarding the group please contact Nell on 9742 6258.

## **SENIORS AFTERNOON TEA**



This is a new group that started for the first time in September last year. It is designed for Seniors who may feel lonely to come and share with others and socialise and enjoy their day.

It is held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month at Penola Hub from 2pm to 3.30pm. It is suitable for all seniors, male or female. Transport is available for those unable to drive. We started with 8 guests and 3 helpers and it now has grown to 20 guests and there's always room for more Seniors to come and join us.

If you would like to join our group, please give Sophia Cooper a call on 9742 5823.



## **WERRIBEE SOUTH ROSARY GROUP**



The Rosary Group gather together at St. Mary's Campus in Werribee South, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month from 2.00 to 3.00 pm, excluding school holidays.

- The Rosary Group is a faithful group who come together to say the Rosary.
- We pray and intercede for the many needs which arise in our Parish, we specially pray for the Priests, sick people, those who are dying, for engaged couples and whatever the need and situation is requested by different people which needs to be covered in prayer.
- The Rosary Group takes advantage of the Council bus trips offered to groups each year.
- We gather for a Christmas outing together to share the love and joy of Christmas.
- We make regular visits to Point Cook Manor Aged Care Facility to pray the rosary with the residents.

Prayer is vital for our Parish to continue to run smoothly, so we appeal to anyone who has a spare hour once a month to join with us in prayer.

Please contact Sherry Vivera at the Parish Office for more information.

## **MINISTRY OF PRAYER FOR ENGAGED COUPLES**

The Ministry Of Prayer For The Engaged was set up so that prayers are offered by a team of 'prayers' from the Parish, for those couples who are engaged to be married. Members of the team are allocated couples approximately 3 months prior to the couple's planned wedding day. The Rosary Group has taken on the role of praying for our engaged couples.

## **CASSEROLE BANK**

Heartfelt thanks to all who contributed to the Casserole Bank in 2017. There were over 580 meals provided for families throughout the year with some volunteers supporting these families on a regular basis. We are also very thankful to the year 12 VCAL students from MacKillop College who supplied many meals for the Casserole Bank.

We are happy to accept casseroles, pasta, soups, noodles, rice dishes, etc. with a list of ingredients attached. Please use ice-cream containers or non-returnable containers. Anyone wishing to contribute, can leave casseroles at the Parish Office during office hours. For pick up or enquiries please contact Lou, Sherry or Marthese at the Parish Office.

Lou Sullivan, Sherry Vivera and Marthese Temming



## **ENGAGED COUPLES MARRIAGE PREPARATION**

FOCCUS has been used as an instrument for marriage preparation in St. Andrew's Parish for the past 30 years. At the present time we only have one facilitator, a registered member of the Catholic Society for Marriage Education (CSME). During 2017, 24 couples were married in St. Andrew's Parish, as well as some couples getting married elsewhere; most of these couples were prepared by the St. Andrew's facilitator.

The Church has a responsibility for marriage education and in helping couples live out the sacrament. FOCCUS assists by giving couples an opportunity to explore their strengths and weaknesses in a relationship, and the areas they wish to develop further. It is a comprehensive way of stimulating and helping people to grow.

Whatever is discussed between the facilitator and the couple is essentially CONFIDENTIAL. If there is a need to seek help on the part of the facilitator, then this should be discussed with the couple and their wishes taken into account and respected. At all times the couple's dignity, freedom and respect is maintained, allowing them the choice to share as much or as little of their story as they desire.

As part of its work in the Melbourne Archdiocese in the field of Marriage Education, CatholicCare Family Services is responsible for maintaining the integrity of the FOCCUS instrument and for adequately training facilitators.

Karen Michelon  
Coordinator

## **ST. ANDREW'S PLAYGROUP**

St. Andrew's Playgroup was held on Tuesday mornings from 9.30am – 11am during school terms at the Penola Hub with our Coordinator Frances Gillett. A number of families were enrolled and had children participating in the Playgroup throughout the year. Due to other commitments, Frances is not able to continue her role in 2018. We would like to thank her for all her efforts and wish her well.

St. Andrew's Parish Playgroup is continuing to meet in 2018, but this year on Thursdays from 9.30am – 11am during school terms.

For any enquiries, please contact the Parish Office on 9741 4144 or [werribee@cam.org.au](mailto:werribee@cam.org.au)

## **ST. ANDREW'S WOMEN'S GROUP**

The Women's Group has been going strong during 2017, with the aim to organise a dinner each month for women of our Parish to gather and enjoy each other's company.

We have visited a number of local restaurants between February and November with an average attendance of 10 women throughout the year. We are a friendly group and happy to welcome any new faces wishing to join us for a meal and a chat.

If you would like to find out more or be included on the distribution list to receive emails re. our dinner plans, please contact the Parish Office on 9741 4144 or [werribee@cam.org.au](mailto:werribee@cam.org.au)

Marthese Temming  
Pastoral Associate

## **YOUNG ADULTS GROUP (YAG)**

We capped off another great year with our Passion Play "*By His Mercy*", performed on Good Friday to a full Church audience. One of our leaders, Elizabeth Etta directed and organised the efforts of over 20 of our young people who contributed to the success of the play through their talents in song, dance and drama. It was really heartening to see so many of our young people come together to commemorate the Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We would like to thank the families and friends who helped with reading, lighting, backstage, costumes, catering and drop offs. We couldn't have done it without you!

Other highlights over the past year include:

Monthly Youth Mass – 5pm on the second Sunday of the month at St Andrew's Church

**July:** YAG Meet & Greet Event

**October:** "The Year of Youth in Your Parish" Seminar at the Catholic Leadership Centre

**November:** Chocolate Coin Toss at the St. Andrew's Parish Fair

**December:** Joined our good friends Ensemble of Faith Choir for the Christmas Eve Midnight Mass

**February:** Leader's Dinner at Magnificat House

**April:** Interfaith Leadership Camp in Queenscliff

2018 is the Year of Youth and we hope to continue exploring our faith together as a group with the friendships and sense of community we have formed.

Thank you to Fr. Albert, Fr. Frank, Fr. Darien, Fr. Anil, Fr. Shymon and Jim Lizardo for their guidance and support.



## ALTAR SERVERS

The Parish Altar Servers have continued over the year to support the Parish in all aspects of liturgy. Our servers have also played part in services in our schools, as well as in other schools. We continue to welcome more servers to join our guild.

Here are some of the many things that the servers take part in:

- Sunday masses
- Community Masses
- Christmas masses
- Holy Week Liturgies
- Supporting the schools in their masses
- Confirmations
- Pentecost Mass
- Training Sessions
- Other special masses, e.g. Farewell Mass for Fr. Frank and Installation Mass for Fr. Albert

We have been always encouraging students in the schools, those who have made their first communion to take an active role in the Parish as an Altar Server.

We currently have 50 children on our Altar Servers Roster – we have had a big increase in numbers in general which is great to see. We offer practical training sessions in the Church in order to make the children become confident about serving at the Altar. We also encourage them to come up any time to volunteer for serving, not just when they are rostered.

I appreciate and thank all the children who are so vibrant as Altar Servers, as well as their parents for their encouragement and everyone who has supported us throughout the year.

Fr. Anil Mascarenhas  
Assistant Priest



# **KNIGHTS OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS (VIC)**

## **Report to St. Andrew's Parish, May 2018**

Greetings to our fellow Parishioners, and a warm welcome to our Parish's Priests, Frs. Albert and Anil recently, and Fr. Darien less recently.

With these appointments we look forward to a period of further development in our ever-growing Parish.

During the past year, the Knights of the Southern Cross have been progressing with its Renewal Campaign, whilst continuing its good works in fundraising and fostering the Christian way of Life.

Donations have been made to St. Vincent de Paul to support the great work they continue to perform, and in Scholarships to our Regional Colleges, MacKillop and Thomas Carr. As well, donations to Mary MacKillop International for Teacher Training Manuals being translated into Tetum language for Timor-Leste, and further to Mapourdit Mission in South Sudan.

With the support of a small committee of Parishioners, the Knights were involved in the campaign against the legalising of assisted suicide and euthanasia.

We note, also, that the Rosary Crusade, started by the Knights in 1987, with the Statue of Our Lady moving from home to home, is still flourishing.

The significant work being planned in the Parish, by the Knights, needs more good men to become involved as the role of an organised body of Catholic laymen becomes increasingly important in Today's Church.

To meet these new needs, the Knights are undergoing a radical renewal campaign to change from how "things" have always been done to an enlightened approach to future Church, and Parish, needs.

There is much to be done. Please refer to the brochures in the Church, and seek to become involved.

May the Holy Spirit bless us.

John Hennessy  
National Development Officer  
Knights of the Southern Cross



## **WEBSITE REPORT**

The website provides a window into life in the Parish of St. Andrew's Werribee. I've been the webmaster for St. Andrew's Parish Werribee for about 11 years now.

One of the biggest challenges with the website is getting content. It may sound simple, but any photos need to comply with privacy considerations. Whilst you can publish on Facebook, Instagram, etc. any images you want to, the Parish Website must conform to guidelines that are laid down, and I need to ensure that everything that is presented is done so in a manner that is reflective of our values.

The hardest part is photos. It's very difficult to ensure that everyone whose image I'm supplied, has consented to having their photo published on the website. Where children are involved it becomes even harder. There is no way to restrict who has access to the website or any of the content, so people need to be comfortable that their images will be seen around the world. Personal approval needs to be given by everyone in a photo before it can be uploaded. If anyone believes their image has been uploaded without their consent, please let me know and I'll take it down.

Quality of photos can also be a challenge. Whilst a quick photo on a phone may be good for showing your friends quickly what you've been up to, and they don't worry about the image being blurred, or heavily pixelated or the lighting being bad, or an awkward pose in the background, etc. I really want to show the Parish as a place where we take pride in being involved. For me, that pride is reflected in quality.

I won't publish personal phone numbers on the website. I do this to protect individuals from the dark side of the web. So, when I'm provided with content, I would appreciate it, if it is in a format that can be edited. I'm grateful that the staff in the Parish Office don't object to their phone number being put against absolutely anything and everything that is happening.

The website itself doesn't use any of the currently available tools, instead relying on a simple text editor to build the coding. Consequently, it isn't as simple as Facebook, or Instagram to update content. It's all I've ever used, and I simply don't have the time now to learn the newer systems and then try to convert everything we have. I'd be happy to talk to someone if they are interested in taking on this challenge and they know how to do it! But be warned, it won't be a small job.

So why do I do it? I do it because I feel that the website can provide a sense of what the St. Andrew's Parish is about. It can give people an insight into the sort of community we are and identify ways that you can become involved, if you want to be. I'm providing a window to us, the people of the St. Andrew's Parish. I'm trying to show that "Church" isn't just for Sundays. It's a welcoming community.

A few statistics...

- Number of webpages on the website – over 50 (I don't count them anymore)
- Number of groups and their info on the website – dozens
- Number of images / photos – over 500 (I didn't count them either!)
- Number of changes each week – between 2 and 5 most weeks.
- Last time you visited the website??? Last year after reading this??? Or today???
- You can find the website at [www.standrewswerribee.org.au](http://www.standrewswerribee.org.au)

Thanks for your time.

Ben Minness  
Webmaster

Email: [webmaster@standrewswerribee.org.au](mailto:webmaster@standrewswerribee.org.au)



