Corpus Christi Parish

Parish Magazine
Pro Multis

PM

Issue 18, March 2013

An Overview of HOME in Queanbeyan

Habemus Papam: Pope Francis

Two new Doctorates

Easter Liturgy Times 2013

Preschool Prayer Time

What it means to be a Parish

Corpus Christi Parish

Issue 18, March 2013
What it means to be a Parish 3
Easter Liturgy Times 2013 3
Parish Christmas Celebrations 4
Habemus Papam 5
Parish Vision 6
State of the Parish 6
Income and Expenditure 8
Balance Sheet 8
The conversion of Obi-Wan Kenobi 9
An Overview of HOME in Queanbeyan 10
Proposed HOME in Canberra 10
What is the Parish Mission Council 11
Two new Doctorates 12
Archdiocesan Groups 12
PM Sponsors 13
Corpus Christi Parish Groups 13
Milestones 14
Preschool Prayer Time 15
Prayer Groups 15
Holy Family Primary School 16
St Clare of Assisi Primary School 17
St Francis of Assisi Primary School 18
St Mary MacKillop College 19
Pastoral Outreach 20
Remembering our loved ones 20
Wooden- spoon moments: 21
Movie Madness 22

Mass Times

WEEKEND MASSEES:
Holy Family Church, Gowrie
167 Bugden Ave, Gowrie

WEEKEND MASS TIMES:
Saturday 6pm
Sunday 8.30am, 10am, 6pm

WEEKDAY MASSES:
Holy Family Church (HFC) Gowrie
Sacred Heart Church (SHC) Calwell
St Clare of Assisi School (SCA) Conder

Monday 7 am HFC
Tuesday 9:30am* HFC 5.30pm SHC
Wednesday 9.30am SHC
Thursday 7am HFC
Friday 9.30am* SCA 5.30pm HFC
Saturday 9am SHC

Mass time on public holidays, 9am at HFC

* These Masses during school terms only

ANOINTING MASS 10:30am, HFC,
4th Friday of Nov, Feb, May & Aug

ADORATION & MASS FOR SPECIAL INTENTIONS
3rd Friday of the month at HFC.
4.30pm Adoration, 5.30pm Mass

MASS AT THARWA
First Friday of the month at 5.30pm in the Anglican Church
(There will be no 5.30pm Mass at HFC)

RECONCILIATION
HFC - Saturday 9.45-10.30am
SHC - Tuesday 6pm (after 5:30pm Mass)

GOODWIN VILLAGE
Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion each Sunday 11:00am
Mass / Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion is celebrated on alternate Tuesdays at 1:30pm.

BAPTISMS - 2nd, 3rd & 4th Sunday of the month at Holy Family Church

WEDDINGS - By appointment

MELKITE MASS
(MELKITE RITE IN ARABIC)
Every Sunday at 11:00am in the Sacred Heart Church, Calwell
Contact: Fr Fayez Assaf at the Parish Office 6291 6688 / 0402 243 373 / 6294 9090 (h)
Fr Fayez is Parish Priest of the Catholic Mission of the Melkite Eparchy of Australia & New Zealand

Cover Photo:
Pope Francis met with media,
taken by Mazur/catholicnews.org.uk
Catholic Church (England and Wales)
Source: http://www.flickr.com/photos/catholicism/8562159366/in/photostream/
The beginning of any new year brings with it challenges and responsibilities. 2013 is no different. As a parish community we have opportunities in which we can engage more deeply in our faith journey together. I want to emphasise once again the four elements of the parish mission: prayer, discipleship, faith formation and service. These four interrelated areas help to give focus of what it means to be a parish community within the Catholic tradition.

As people of prayer we are called to not only say prayers but reflect a prayerful awareness of others in our lives. As a people formed through a common sacramental life we are called to gather to celebrate how God is present at the centre of our lives. We do not live solely for ourselves but rather to reflect God’s glory in the way we live. There is a need to discover how each day is given to us as a gift and how each encounter with a person can be a meeting with the person of Christ. We are called to share one another’s burdens and lighten the load.

As a disciple of Jesus Christ we are also called to reflect on where it is that we are called to be Christ-like. This is not about becoming holier than thou or developing an attitude that we have to save the world but rather a natural disposition where we reflect on what it is to be a faithful person in the community in which we live. How do our lives become more transparent to the person of Christ that we discover in Word and Sacrament? How will people know that the person of Jesus is a real presence in the sanctuary of our hearts?

As people who are formed by the world around us we also need to reflect on what is an appropriate way of being Christian. This is not about standing aloof and judgemental removed from the lives of others but rather opening our minds to the ways in which we can be present to the needs of these times in which we live. Are our views shaped by every passing tide or do we provide an environment in which we can creatively respond to the events we see shaped around us?

Lastly, our lives are called to be dynamic. We are not just to sit back and hope that it will happen. Sometimes people believe that surrendering to God’s will allows us to sit back and take the back seat. Often it is quite the contrary. If we invite God to be present to the events of our lives often it places us back well and truly in the driver’s seat with clearer vision and purpose. This is not so that we can go on a rollercoaster ride but so that we can have a better understanding and responsibility for our own direction, as individuals and as a community.

May this year be truly blessed as we seek to accompany each other on our journey of faith.

God Bless,

Fr John

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**Easter Liturgy Times 2013**

**Liturgy of Forgiveness**

**Thursday 21 March, 7:30pm,**
HFC, Gowrie

**1st Rite of Reconciliation**

- each Saturday morning,
  9:45 - 10:30am,
  HFC, Gowrie
- each Tuesday,
  after the 5:30pm Mass
  SHC, Calwell

**Palm Sunday**

- 23/24 March
  - Saturday 6pm Vigil
  - Sunday 8am (not 8:30am), 10am and 6pm, HFC

**Chrism Mass**

- 25 March
  - 7:30pm Chrism Mass
  - St Christopher’s Manuka

**Holy Thursday**

- 28 March
  - NO 7am Mass at HFC
  - 7:30pm Mass of the Lord’s Supper and Washing of the feet, HFC

**Good Friday**

- 29 March
  - 11am Stations of the Cross
  - outside St Clare of Assisi School Conder
  - 2pm & 4pm The Passion and Death of Our Lord, HFC

**Holy Saturday**

- 30 March
  - 7pm Easter Vigil, HFC
  - (NO 9am Mass at SHC)

**Easter Sunday Masses**

- 31 March
  - 8am (not 8:30am), 10am and 6pm HFC
Parish Christmas Celebrations

During the Christmas celebrations, various stalls sold goods to support the work of St Vincent de Paul and people in South America

The Gardening Group celebrates Christmas
"We have a Pope!"

Since these words were announced from the balcony at St Peter’s Basilica on 13 March 2013, the Catholic world, and indeed the world at large, has been clamouring for information about our new Pope, Pope Francis I. Just in case you haven’t had the opportunity to find out who Pope Francis is, I have included a few snippets to bring you up to date.

According to Xt3 “Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on December 17, 1936. Before entering the seminary, he studied chemistry and graduated as a chemical engineer.”

https://www.xt3.com/blog/view.php?id=1123

Argentinian-born Cardinal Jose Mario Begoglio is described as:

the first non-European cardinal to be chosen to lead the church in 1300 years, the first to take the name Francis after Francis of Assisi, the first to come from Latin America, the first Jesuit pope and perhaps the first cardinal in a great many years who practices what he preaches - that of a humble existence of austerity, simplicity and humility with only the riches of his faith and God for comfort.


He is described as a leader whose humility is evidenced by his actions, both as a Cardinal and now as Pope. In The Australian, US Cardinal Donald Wuerl is quoted as saying that with the election of Pope Francis:

“...he was well known, very highly regarded... it’s very refreshing and very good news... He is reknowned as what I would call a man of God... He is a man of deep faith, deep spirituality and holiness of life and that then translates into a great simplicity of life... and a great love for the poor, a great passion for social justice and I think that is one of the reasons...  that he chose the very unusual name, unprecedented name, of Francis... I think he is trying to signal that he would like a pontificate that will both embody the love of poor but also real missionary zeal...

The appearance on the balcony was amazing in its own way but amazing in its simplicity. The fact that he just appeared in the white soutane, he wasn’t wearing the little red cape and the big ornate stole around his neck and within the arc lights here was this simple luminous figure, I thought was unforgettable. And then when he spoke, his first word couldn’t have been simpler, all he said was “buenasera”, which is “good evening” and it was sort of so homely and human that it disarmed everyone. Then as he left the balcony to go and have his dinner, the last thing he said was “Buona notte e buon riposo”, just “Good night, sleep well” and again there was something very homely and very human about that that really charmed and disarmed people...

To listen to the podcast in full, go to: http://bteamtalk.com/2013/podcast-brisbane-archbishop-mark-coleridge-on-pope-francis/

or for the ABC radio inteview, go to: http://blogs.abc.net.au/queensland/2013/03/brisbanes-catholic-archibishop-on-the-election-of-pope-francis-i.html?site=brisbane&program=612_breakfast

There is an abundance of information emerging. If you want to read more, try the following sites:

Xt3 is “is an interactive social media platform for all your latest videos, podcasts, articles and much more. An award-winning Catholic online network, Xt3 will keep you in touch with Church news and events, keep you informed on all the hot topics and the latest on WYD2013. Xt3 - Christ in the Third Millennium.”

http://www.xt3.com/

CathNews is a “service of Church Resources. It is a daily news service with prayer, meditation and Catholic website reviews. It is the most visited Catholic website in Australia, providing a mix of news, opinions, features and prayer updated daily.”

http://www.cathnews.com/
Corpus Christi Parish
South Tuggeranong

“Do This in Memory of Me”

Luke 22:19

Vision
Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.”

John 6:35

Mission
And he said to them, “Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation.”

Mark 16:15

Purpose
To become a people who offer our lives to God (Discipleship)
To become a people of blessing and thanksgiving (Prayer and Worship)
To become a people who break bread in acts of service (Service)
To become a people who share our faith with others (Faith Formation)

Principles
• Acknowledge that our community gathers on Ngunnawal land
• Enable each person’s baptismal call to live their vocation in the world
• Enable a contemplative and listening heart within our community through worship and prayer
• Recognise and respect the dignity of each human life
• Ensure first priority is given to the poor and marginalised in all our decision making
• That our community should endeavour to act together with other Churches in all matters we hold in common
• Work in a way that respects the whole of creation

State of the Parish
by Robbie Costmeyer, Office Manager

as at February 2013

Finances
Readers will recall that the Parish’s financial year is 1 January to 31 December while our direct giving pledges operate from 1 July to 30 June. The Income and Expenditure report for 2012 for the Church account and the Balance Sheet for the parish are reproduced on the following pages for your information. If anyone would like more detail they can contact me at the office during the week.

The parish made a deficit of $18,730 in 2012. This is the third year in a row that there has been a financial deficit, making cash flow management of the Church operating account even more challenging this year. The parish is also paying off a loan for the HFC extensions.

The main source of income for the parish is through Planned Giving plus 2nd collections loose (Direct Giving). This collection raised $294,212 in 2012, which was a marginal reduction over the previous year of -1%. This figure was some 5% below budget expectations, mainly because of a shortfall in giving via envelopes. Individual’s circumstances do change during the year but had all pledges been received it would have resulted in a break-even financial outcome.

The budget for 2013 has assumed no increase in Direct Giving, but to meet our budgeted expenses there is a planned shortfall which will need to be made up through fundraising. Current thinking is to conduct a raffle in conjunction with our three parish schools plus St Mary MacKillop, with three cash prizes, books of 20 tickets @ $2, and ask each parish school family and those families in the congregation who do not have children at these schools to buy/sell a minimum of one book of tickets. This plan was endorsed by the three parish school Principals at their meeting with Fr John on 6 March.

Stewardship
A myriad of minor maintenance tasks were attended to in 2012, both at Gowrie and at Calwell.

A very good synergy continues to exist between the parish and its three primary schools and St Mary MacKillop College. The grass around HFC is mowed regularly by the Holy Family School contractor while the grass area around the St Francis of Assisi car park is maintained by the St Francis of Assisi Primary School contractor. All four schools support the Parish magazine financially. Thank you!

The Staff long service leave bank account, which was set up last year, has increased to $10,029 against a liability of some $28,000 as at 1 March. There will be calls on this account when Simone Assaf and Lilli Weissegger are expected to retire during the year.

The big project in 2012 was the fundraising for a new memorial wall and garden and this project was completed in February 2013. Thank you to all who contributed, both through their generous donations and/or through their labour. The result is one to be proud of.

Another milestone was the first emergency evacuation drill for HFC on 9 and 10 March, followed by the parish centenary photographs. Thank you to all for your participation.
Sacraments

We often speak about how busy the clergy and our staff are in our parish. To help illustrate this the following table represents the sacramental workload alone during 2012:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number during 2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a) Children up to 1 year old</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b) Children from 1 to 7 years old</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c) Over 7 years old to 18 years old</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d) Adults</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Baptisms</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total First Reconciliations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total First Communions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Confirmations</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a) Both Catholics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b) Between a Catholic and a non-Catholic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c) Nuptial Masses <em>(included above)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Marriages</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a) Requiem Masses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b) Prayers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Funerals</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Parish Anointing Masses</strong> or celebration of Anointing of the Sick <em>(as distinct from Hospital/Aged Care Homes)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Welcomed into the Church</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Liturgical Training

Training has been organised for 4 and 11 May for three long-term Ministers of the Altar who have professed a desire to become Acolytes. All existing Acolytes and Senior Servers of the Altar have also been encouraged to attend this two-day training course. Mgr John Woods will commission the SSoAs as Sacristans when the three Acolytes are instituted.

Other Training

Readers and Junior Servers of the Altar can also look forward to some training soon and there is consideration being given to recommencing annual picnics for the young Servers to reinforce their sense of belonging to our faith community.

Music Ministry

Phil Murray has been working for some months with some of the leaders of the ten Music Ministry groups to develop recommendations to improve their connectedness and delivery where needed. He reported on progress at the February 3 Parish Mission Council and submitted his written report to Fr John on 6 March. This report will now be considered by the Parish Pastoral Council on 9 April.

Strategic Direction

The Parish Plan 2012-14 is a dynamic document which provides the parish with its strategic direction. The parish is blessed with many people with the commitment, faith and skills to pursue the Parish Plan recommendations. All parishioners are invited to participate in discussions on this Plan at the quarterly Parish Mission Council meetings on the first Sundays of February, May, August and November.
## Income and Expenditure

### Balance Sheet

**Current Year: As At End 31/12/2012**

**Accountants: All**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>G/L Account</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Current Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Asset</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1000</td>
<td>General Cheque Account</td>
<td>17,931</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2000</td>
<td>Special Projects Account</td>
<td>5,733</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.3000</td>
<td>Maintenance Account</td>
<td>2,003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.4000</td>
<td>Staff long service and annual leave Account</td>
<td>8,129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total Asset:</strong></td>
<td>35,966</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Liability</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3010</td>
<td>GST Payable</td>
<td>251</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3020</td>
<td>GST Chardmate</td>
<td>-5,368</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.4100</td>
<td>LSL Provision</td>
<td>16,175</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.4200</td>
<td>Annual Leave Provision</td>
<td>1,376</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.5000</td>
<td>Parish Loan</td>
<td>255,576</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total Liability:</strong></td>
<td>276,397</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Net Assets:</strong></td>
<td>-244,431</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Equity</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.8000</td>
<td>Parish Funds</td>
<td>-223,355</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.9000</td>
<td>Current Drawings</td>
<td>-21,666</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total Equity:</strong></td>
<td>-244,431</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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## Income and Expenditure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Last Year 01/01/2011 - 31/12/2011</th>
<th>Current Year 01/01/2012 - 31/12/2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Income</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.2000 Income</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.1000 Direct Giving</td>
<td>294,212</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.2000 Donations/Bequests</td>
<td>65,042</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.3000 Funds/Conserves</td>
<td>10,160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.4000 Hire/Hire of Facilities</td>
<td>1,290</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.5000 Sale of Religious Items</td>
<td>16,257</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.6000 Sunday Income</td>
<td>134,355</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.7000 Donations/Quota Collections</td>
<td>15,369</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.8000 Educational Recoupment</td>
<td>16,261</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.9000 Capital Items</td>
<td>190</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Income Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>553,446</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Expense

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenses Total 497,200</th>
<th>Total Expense 546,575</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenses Total 497,200</th>
<th>Total Expense 546,575</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>497,200</th>
<th>Net Surplus/(Deficit) 6,871</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
‘aka’ Sir Alec Guinness

With the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse upon us, society at large, and especially the Catholic Church, is set for a distressing time; one in which we will be asked to further confront the reality that evil, both individual and institutional, is closer to home than we like to think, or want to acknowledge.

We like to think that evil is what others do in other places and in other times; but what about my trusted priest and church, my trusted teacher and school? My God, what about my parents, my siblings, my uncle, my home?

“Gosh,” we collectively lament, “can anyone be trusted?”

These are the best of times, the worst of times - the best because truth is having its ‘day in court’; the worst because of what this truth will reveal.

I can’t help thinking of a wonderful family friend, Fr Gerry Cudmore (military chaplain, now deceased), who spent many hours with us during our ‘growing-up’ years in Australia and overseas. He was the first priest I met. He was an honourable man, a man who laughed and joked and teased with us. We trusted him. We loved him, and our affection was well placed. It was all so healthy and natural and innocent. My God, isn’t that how it should always be?

If he were alive today he would weep and rage against the betrayal and criminality perpetrated against the young by his peers.

I am reminded of the conversion of the esteemed English actor, Sir Alec Guinness, much beloved in his cameo role as Obi-Wan Kenobi in the original Star Wars film (1977).

Guinness, an Anglican, was playing the lead of Fr Brown, the endearing Catholic priest and detective created by G K Chesterton. The film was being shot in a remote French village in 1954 – the actor was 40. At the end of each day’s filming Guinness, dressed in clerical garb, would walk back to his lodgings. One evening, on his way ‘home’, he met a stranger who changed his life.

Guinness reflected on the encounter in his autobiography, Blessings in Disguise:

I hadn’t gone far when I heard scampering footsteps and a piping voice calling, ‘Mon pere!’ My hand was seized by a boy of seven or eight, who clutched it tightly, swung it and kept up a non-stop prattle. He was full of excitement, hops, skips and jumps, but never let go of me. I didn’t dare speak in case my excruciating French should scare him. Although I was a total stranger he obviously took me for a priest and so to be trusted. Suddenly with a ‘Bonsoir, mon pere’, and a hurried sideways sort of bow, he disappeared through a hole in a hedge. Continuing my walk I reflected that a church which could inspire such confidence in a child, making its priests, even when unknown, so easily approachable could not be as scheming and creepy as so often made out. I began to shake off my long-taught, long-absorbed prejudices.

What an irony: that Guinness’s long held prejudices against Catholicism, its ‘creepy and scheming’ ways, were overcome by the trust and hand of a child.

Now, six decades later, we find ourselves at the centre of a Royal Commission that is tasked with bringing to light and to justice the creepy and scheming within our midst.

And while the Commission will have its flaws and limitations, it might prompt the Church to look deeply and humbly within itself in order to address the culture that allowed such criminality.

Oh for that day when a child can walk and chat and skip alongside an unknown priest again with well-placed trust that the priest holds as sacred – the child’s innocence – as it should always be.

---

*Mark 10:14*

> Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs.
An Overview of HOME in Queanbeyan

By Fr Peter Day

“We are inspired by Jesus’ love and respect for the marginalised: a love that pays no regard to religious/political/social affiliation.”

HOME provides a supportive, loving home for 19 men and women with mental illness (medium-high needs) who cannot live independently or are at risk of homelessness - (Note: nine of our residents are from the ACT).

HOME features 20 self-contained residential apartments—18 for permanent residents, one for long-term respite, and one for a live-in caretaker; there is also a five bedroom house on-site which is lived-in by a family who provide a back-up caretaking role.

Residents have access to 24 hour pastoral care delivered by qualified employees, volunteers, and live-in caretakers. Residents are seen daily and encouraged to live active, fulfilling lives within their community.

While residents contribute rent ($195 p/w) and cover their own utilities, we will still need a further $160,000+ per year to cover running costs (note: HOME does not receive any ongoing government assistance).

Our aim is to raise enough money to become financially self-sufficient within the next 10-15 years.

Proposed HOME in Canberra

By John Tucker

Progress and Plans to establish a HOME in Canberra

As a result of concerns raised by many people in Canberra, a community group facilitated two supported accommodation workshops in Tuggeranong in December 2012 to look at the best ways of addressing the supported accommodation needs of people with chronic mental illness – e.g. depression, schizophrenia, bi-polar etc. Analysis of the outcomes of the workshops has found that there is a strong case to build a supported accommodation facility in Canberra, based on the successful HOME in Queanbeyan.

Further information concerning this need can be found in Fr Peter Day’s article published in the Canberra Times of Monday 28 January 2013 on HOME in Queanbeyan (http://www.canberratimes.com.au/opinion/mentally-ill-suffer-from-lack-of-love-20130127-2dfcg.html)

We have a vision to build an affordable supported accommodation facility in Canberra and are considering ideas on the best way forward to bring the vision to reality. It is planned to have a quality and affordable supported accommodation facility in Canberra built and operational by 2015-16 if possible.

A suggested way forward requires us to confirm a clear vision, establish a strong Board, develop a business case and stakeholder engagement and communications strategies. We need people with qualifications and experience in areas such as business, law, communication and publicity, building construction, architecture, and project management to join or assist our group to help us with the way forward to translate our vision to reality.

If you are a qualified and experienced business person, lawyer, builder, architect, journalist or public relations officer, chartered accountant, or have experience in working in one or more of these areas, or you are a committed and interested parishioner and would like to assist in establishing a HOME in Canberra, please contact John Tucker by email ejohntucker@hotmail.com or phone John on 02 6291 7869 or Mob 0411 350 547.

I’d like to share with you the very first experience I had with people who were fragile... Each one of these [people] in some way or another expressed through their body the flesh become Word. Each one was saying, “Do you love me? Am I important for you? Will you be my friend? Will you come back and see us?”

Jean Vanier
What is the Parish Mission Council -

Where do I fit in?

The Council is your opportunity to have a say in the activities of the Parish from service through to faith formation, prayer and worship models and programs. The Council was set up following the Carolyn Kitto workshops held as a response to the Parish’s profile discerned following our input to the Church Life Survey in late in 2011.

The review process developed a Corpus Christi Parish Pastoral Plan 2012-14 - available on the Parish website - as an implementation plan designed to help the Parish meet its identified objectives:

1. To become people who offer our lives to God, “Discipleship”
2. To become a people of blessing and thanksgiving, “Prayer and Worship”
3. To become a people who break bread in acts of service, “Service”; and
4. To become a people who share our faith with others, “Faith Formation”

To ensure ownership as well as appropriate expertise, ideas and energy for each of the recommendations, all parishioners who have a particular interest in pursuing any of the issues outlined in the plan can be involved in the methodology and process.

Several groups have already begun to provide important focus on these objectives but more input is encouraged. A strong community focus can help the Parish and all its members to encounter Christ afresh. Through prayer, study of intentional discipleship and elements of the plan such as the Pilgrim Passport, volunteer teams are moving forward as intentional disciples. You can join in this process and find practical and spiritual rewards.

There are four key teams of volunteers working on music ministry; youth leadership; prayer and worship; and faith formation.

The Music Leadership Team have been working autonomously to ensure quality, reflective and liturgically-correct music enhancements for the Parish and are focusing on improving coordination, training and leadership.

The Youth Leadership Team has been researching community outreach opportunities and programs that would link with parish social justice projects. It is currently focusing on local service programs that will aim to draw out the stigma of poverty. The team will continue investigating shared experiences to complement the social justice group coffee sales project, supporting students in Timor Leste.

The Prayer and Worship seasonal celebrations are working well providing the Parish with new and revitalised liturgical opportunities. The Parish retreat with the Catholic Guy during Lent enhanced the experience.

A review of faith formation resources expects to provide renewed vitality to the strength of programs. The planned Pilgrim Passport will present key milestones and commitments in the spiritual journey through early life and the Sacraments and through the formal education journey into adulthood. The Schools continue to work closely with the Parish team to ensure synergies of ideas and programs, and with each other to continue shared professional development and resources.

We encourage each and every Parishioner to reflect on how they can contribute to implementing the 2012-14 Corpus Christi Parish Pastoral Plan and in so doing enrich the overall community belongingness and their own faith journey.
Two new Doctorates
by Robbie Costmeyer

Few parishes have their clergy study part-time towards being awarded a doctorate. Our parish is doubly blessed by having two of our working clergy being awarded doctorates in 2013.

Fr John Malcolm Armstrong
Fr John was awarded his second doctorate, a Doctorate of Practical Ministry, on Saturday 23 March 2013 by the ACU. Fr John was awarded his first PhD in 2001 on the “Religious Attendance and Affiliation Patterns in Australia 1966 to 1996”. The title of his second doctoral thesis is: “A review of clergy life and ministry of the Catholic diocesan priest according to Lonergan’s hierarchy of values”.

Synopsis: This research project was able to highlight how Lonergan’s hierarchy of values should become a constitutive part of any review process. This review process seeks to move beyond a functional understanding of life in ministry towards a focus on how a priest grows in a relationship of faith within the context of their community. The community and relationships he develops within a diocese are constitutive of him as a person. The review process seeks to help a priest to grow in his identity, mission and ministry.

Fr Jaison Paul Mulerikkal
CMI will be awarded a PhD from the Research School of Computer Science, ANU in July 2013. The title of his thesis is: “Service Oriented Architecture for High Performance Scientific Computing.”

Synopsis: The aim of the research work was to empower scientists and researchers to develop their own applications for high performance computing to solve complex scientific problems with relative ease. In order to achieve this, he studied the source code of a middleware called IBM-Platform Symphony and re-engineered it to produce a new middleware. It was also successfully deployed in the emerging Cloud Computing infrastructure.

The parish may be justifiably proud of Fr John and Fr Jaison on many fronts. Congratulations to them both!

Archdiocesan Groups

AMICUS
A group run by and for separated, divorced and widowed parishioners.
Tricia McLachlan 0438 120 248

ANCOP CANBERRA
Learn more about Gawad Kalinga (to give care) and find out how it has changed lives in the Philippines, and how you can make a difference. Chris Carlile 0414 938 831

THE CATENIAN ASSOCIATION
An international men’s group offering a forum for Catholic men to meet, socialise and to encourage each other in the practice of their faith. Meet either on the first Wednesday or third Thursday of each month over dinner at the Southern Cross Club in Woden. Social activities are arranged during the year and generally involve families. www.thecatenianassociation.org.au canberracatenians@yahoo.com.au

CATHOLICARE (Catholic Social Services)
Marriage preparation courses and general counselling, natural family planning, school counselling, etc.
www.catholiccare.cg.org.au
42 Canberra Ave, Forrest 6295 4300
57 Hicks St, Red Hill 6162 6100

COUPLES FOR CHRIST
A movement intended for the renewal and strengthening of Christian family life. CFC also has established family ministries. These are: CFC Kids for Christ (KFC), CFC Youth for Christ (YFC), CFC Singles for Christ (SFC), CFC Handmaids of the Lord (HOLD), CFC Servants of the Lord (SOLD).
Danny Ambida 0448 243 508 or d.ambida@cfcact.org

L’ARCHE GENESARET
Monthly open prayer gathering on Mondays. Anyone interested is most welcome.
www.larche.org.au
Rosemary 6282 9066

CURSILLO
Cursillo offers a unique opportunity for renewal in Christian life. The men’s and women’s Cursillos run separately. For further information please contact:
Chris Carlile (Men) 0414 938 831
cjcarlile@optusnet.com.au and
Margie Doyle (Women) 0418 974 213

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER
A weekend away for married couples in peaceful, picturesque surroundings – away from the distractions of everyday living.
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Corpus Christi Parish Groups

BOOK CLUB
Meets every 6-8 weeks to discuss books on broadly spiritual themes.
Susanne Schmidt

DINNER FOR EIGHT
Adults socialising over a meal.
Kim Peisley

CANCER SUPPORT GROUP
For people who have had cancer, are a carer of a cancer patient, or would just like to provide assistance and support. Meets 1st Wednesday of the month 5:00pm, Parish Centre Gowrie. Margaret & John Church or Mary Sant

CRAFT GROUP
Meets once a month for some chatting and catching up on whatever crafts you want in a fellow parishioners home. Susanne Schmidt

HOSPITALITY GROUP
Organises parish social activities including stocking the kitchen for a ‘Sunday Cuppa’.

MOVIE MADNESS
Are you a film fan, a flicks fiend, a pictures person? Become part of a Movie-Goers Group. We choose and attend movies as a group, discuss the pluses and minuses over cake and coffee afterwards; perhaps even pen a paragraph or two for publication in PM.
Tony Orrell

PLAYGROUPS
Morning gathering of parents with young children.
Calwell: Assisi Room
Mon 10am-12noon
Gowrie: Parish Centre
Thurs 9:30-11:30am

GROUPS CAN BE CONTACTED BY CALLING THE PARISH OFFICE ON 6291 6688

SENIORS GROUP
Social group for senior parishioners. Morning tea on the 4th Friday each month (Feb - Nov) 10:30am Parish Centre, Gowrie.
Anointing Mass 10:30am, HFC, Gowrie on the 4th Friday of Feb, May, Aug & Nov followed by lunch in the Parish Centre Gowrie.
Mary Sant

SOCIAL JUSTICE GROUP
To promote awareness and coordinate parish responses to issues of social justice. Meet first Sunday of the month in HFC (Children’s Liturgy room) at 4:30pm. Coffee from East Timor is sold after all Masses on the last Sunday of the month.
Chris Carlile

Property is now Ray White Tuggeranong
On the 22nd September 2012, Nicole Terry and James Knight were married at Holy Family Church, with Fr John Armstrong officiating. Nicole is daughter to Theresa and Michael Terry and was attended by her three sisters, a friend and her sister-in-law. Despite a couple of fumbled pens and miss-said vows the ceremony was beautiful. The ceremony was enhanced by the amazing music provided by Kyle Denton (a teacher at SCA) and Jenna Taylor. Their reception followed at Manuka Oval. Nicole attended St Clare of Assisi Primary School and St Clare’s College, while James attended St Edmund’s College. They first met on the bus traveling to and from school. Nicole is currently studying a Bachelor of Primary Education at the Australian Catholic University and regularly goes to weekend mass at Holy Family Church.

Milestones

We love to mark milestones in the lives of our parishioners.
To have your milestones featured in the magazine, please email photos and/or articles to jenny.anderson@ccparish.org.au

Congratulations Nicole & James!
Preschool Prayer Time

by Nicole Doherty, ELCC Director

The children attending Holy Family Early Learning and Care Centre (our Parish preschool), form a prayer circle every morning to sing songs of praise to God and to talk to their friend Jesus.

Soon they will start learning about Lent as a special time to practise kindness. They will also change their prayer cloth from green to purple, just like in the Church!

This is the Penguin Class of 25 children. Their teacher Miss Melissa Dickinson is teaching them a song with actions about being disciples of Jesus.

There are four preschool classes at Holy Family ELCC with a total of 90 children. The majority of these children will go on to Kindergarten at one of our Parish primary schools; Holy Family, Saint Francis of Assisi and Saint Clare of Assisi.

The preschool is across the road from Corpus Christi Church. We are a hub of happy, faith-centred learning!

6 February 2013

Prayer Groups

FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION
1st Friday of the month at 8-10pm, at SHC, Calwell
Alex Briones

CENTERING PRAYER GROUP
1st and 3rd Thursday of the month
7:30pm at Holy Family Church
Rob Moore

THE SEEKERS
Searching byways, exploring wilderness & sharing the glories of the journey
Meets monthly
Karen & Steve

CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP
Wednesday 8:00pm, Parish Centre
Br Matt McKeon
Olga Hector

DIVINE WILL PRAYER MEETING
4th Thursday 5:30-6:30pm,
Parish Centre, 6291 6688

MEDITATION PRAYER GROUP
Monday morning
St. Thomas the Apostle Church, Kambah
(after 8:30am Communion Service)
Wed evening at 7:30pm Holy Family Church, Children’s Liturgy room
John Ryan

SPANISH PRAYER GROUP
2nd Sunday 2:00-4:30pm at Sacred Heart Church, Calwell
Rosa

Open to all - newcomers welcome.
Contact the Parish Office on 6291 6688 for more details.
A Great Way to Start the New Year…

Our Meet and Greet was a wonderful opportunity for the students to introduce their parents to the Teachers. It was truly wonderful to see so many families attending the evening. It was a great success and teachers enjoyed the opportunity to meet the parents. It was terrific to see so many people chatting, introducing themselves and continuing to build the great community spirit for which Holy Family is renowned.

Staff Professional Development

This year our theme is: Dare to be a Disciple! Throughout the year the children attempt to live each day “Making Jesus Real” in their lives. We will be aiming to help the children maintain a positive attitude to life through assisting in the development of people skills and life skills. We cannot teach all 56 qualities overnight - they take a lifetime to develop. We will be focusing on the GODNESS around us and on how we have to be SWITCHED ON to it by REFLECTING every day to see where Jesus has been for us on that day. The children will be encouraged to use 101 words of encouragement, you might hear words used such as ‘happy chappy’, ‘EAST and WEST’, ‘build a bridge’, ‘how to be a giver’, ‘be determined’, ‘snowflakers/blisters’, ‘blaimers and claimers’, ‘win the hard ball’, ‘teamwork 1 percenters’, ‘tup’ or ‘put’, ‘Go Karts/billy Karts’, etc. The staff spent a day with a Tasmanian CEO consultant and the staffs from our parish schools, exploring the “Making Jesus Real” approach to life. We are keen to introduce this way of living into Holy Family this year.

Opening Mass

At our Opening Mass we officially launched our theme “DARE to be a disciple”. It is a theme that opens up so many opportunities for us to be more like Jesus in our school community. We celebrated, as a whole school, the official beginning of the new school year. All classes, including preschool, assembled in the Church for our Mass. Father Peter Day ensured the message of DARE to be a Disciple was encapsulated into one sentence - “Love, Love, Love, all the rest is Blah, Blah, Blah!” The children enthusiastically sang Beverley Stone’s new composition - our theme song this year “DARE to be a Disciple”.

Leadership Breakfast/Workshops

Our Year Six students began their final year of primary school with a breakfast to celebrate the significant role of student leadership they hold. They feasted on pancakes and fruit and enjoyed each other’s company as they shared hopes and dreams for the year ahead. Mrs Vigliotta and Mrs Marek did a wonderful job of hosting the event and took joy in presenting each student with a card to acknowledge the leadership journey that lies ahead.
Farewell to Mr Walker

At the end of 2012, St Clare of Assisi farewelled our principal, Mr Greg Walker who is taking up the position of Acting Principal at St Anthony’s Primary School at Wanniassa in 2013.

Mr Walker was principal at St Clare of Assisi for 7 years. It was his first appointment as a principal and he commented that, “Each person in our community has played a part in shaping my leadership and life in these years. I have loved coming to work every day which is the greatest sign of how I view the school and the important role of Principal.” In his time at St Clare of Assisi he has been responsible for instigating many teaching and learning initiatives throughout the school. He has also coordinated the building of new BER classrooms and recently a new office, staff room and library. At the Farewell Assembly, Mr Walker was treated to a traditional SCA farewell that included a whole school guard of honour, the staff singing a song to the tune of his beloved Carlton Football Club song, and the whole school danced to the ‘Walker Style’ (Gangnam Style) before he was carried from the hall by the male staff members. Mr Walker said he was very proud to have played his part in ensuring the strong school spirit continues to be present at SCA and that the school is in terrific shape. SCA now boasts outstanding and contemporary facilities and resources. It has educational programs, services and opportunities in place to ensure quality teaching and learning continues for all students. Our sincere thanks go to Mr Walker and we wish him much success in his new school.

Year 6 Graduation

Year 6 2012 students graduated from primary school at St Clare of Assisi with a farewell assembly at school and a Mass at Holy Family Church where they were presented with their graduation certificates and farewell packs. An old proverb states that ‘it takes a whole village to raise a child’ and their graduation is the culmination of many years of a hardworking and supportive partnership between home, school and parish. Many students in this cohort have actually joined us from other schools so graduation is the end of a different journey for them. Each member of staff has contributed in some way to the education and development of these students and enjoyed sharing this celebration with each student and family.

Kindergarten Christmas Assembly

Our Kindergarten students and their teachers presented a lovely Christmas story and assembly in the last week of 2012. It is always nice when our youngest students remind us of the beautiful story of the birth of Jesus. Their performance, innocence and freshness was something that we can always learn from and take into every Christmas season and celebration. We even had a visit from Santa wearing shorts who gave lollies to all the students, and looked a little like Mr Walker!

New Library and Staff Room

The students and staff returned to the 2013 school year to a new library and staff room. This finished project was the culmination of a year’s work in the planning from architects, builders, trades people, school staff and the community. The new library boasts an open plan design, specialised teachers’ room, a multipurpose room that can be used by the community, and senior and junior reading areas furnished with beanbags, mushroom seats and lounges. This new facility makes St Clare of Assisi an innovative and interesting teaching and learning environment for all children. The staff room was built to accommodate large staff numbers and is an inviting, social gathering space for staff to relax and interact.

by Theresa Terry (Acting Religious Education Coordinator)
Farewells and Welcomes

We temporarily farewelled Marg Bodel who is taking leave this year for some family time. We warmly welcomed Amanda Stewart to the St Francis of Assisi School community along with about fifty new families, including some eighty kinder students and their families as well as many other families with children in primary classes.

Year Six Graduation Mass and Candle Ceremony

The community of St Francis of Assisi Primary celebrated a beautiful Year Six Graduation Mass, with the theme ‘Journeying On’. The students were commended for their contributions to the life of St Francis of Assisi School and congratulated on the achievements gained over their time here. Father John spoke of the many memories of school, friends and community that they will take with them as they continue their journey through life.

The Candle Ceremony, where the Year Six students hand on the ‘Lights of Leadership’ to the Year Five students, was a moving celebration. This was an opportunity for the school community to farewell the Year Six students and to acknowledge the leadership role our Year Five students will undertake as Year Six students this year. We also farewelled many families who were leaving our school community in 2012 and thanked them for their support.

Carols by Candlelight

We all enjoyed a fantastic evening of singing Christmas carols around the Sacred Heart Church and a sausage sizzle. Santa (aka Principal David Austin) even dropped in with a surprise pre-Christmas visit and a huge lolly bag!

Bush Tucker Indigenous Garden

St Francis of Assisi Primary School is a sustainable environmentally friendly school and has been fortunate to be awarded a grant to develop a bush tucker garden. The children are looking forward to harvesting and tasting some native berries and herbs.

Ash Wednesday and Opening School Mass

The whole school community: students, staff, parents, grandparents and parishioners celebrated the beginning of Lent and the new school year with a beautiful mass lead by Fr Peter Day. The theme was from Making Jesus Real: “Be the face of Jesus to others”. Fr Peter showed the children signs which said: ‘Be welcoming’; ‘Have good manners’; ‘Be team players’ and ‘Put others first’. A challenge for all of us as we prepare for Easter.

Making Jesus Real

During the January week of professional development the school staff of our three Corpus Christi Parish Schools were inspired and uplifted by a dynamic presentation by Peter Mitchell from the CEO Tasmania. He showed us how we can Make Jesus Real in our classrooms, our homes and in our wider communities. We are hoping to transform our children into positive, resilient team people who are cheerfully obedient, welcoming and considerate of others! The children have loved beginning to learn about being ‘Happy Chappies’ and people who are ‘winners and grinners’.
A quick recap: MacKillop says goodbye to 2012

There were so many highlights for St Mary MacKillop College in 2012.

Last year ended well, with stellar Year 12 Certificate results – 86% of MacKillop’s cohort achieved an Australian Tertiary Admission Rank of 65 or more, the third best percentage in the ACT. Our College Dux, Parker Blakey, achieved a result of 99.10 and all students wishing to go to university gained entry – almost all of them to the course of their first choice.

Along with these results, many students from the Class of 2012 have gone on to CIT and apprenticeship, most of them benefiting from industry experience and study at the College’s Trades Training Centre.

Some of the highlights of 2012 included the opening of the Trades Training Centre by Prime Minister Julia Gillard, the College Musical (Seussical Jr) receiving several nominations for the CAT Awards, and the achievement of a Children’s Week Award for MacKillop’s new Cross Campus Interaction Program. In addition, a number of students had personal success in academia, social justice, creative arts, and vocational education.

In Sport, MacKillop watched on as four ex-students represented their nation at the London Olympics, while a number of students were selected in Australian School teams for rugby, cricket, and soccer.

A new year, a new challenge!

Despite such a big year in 2012, MacKillop expects 2013 to be even bigger!

MacKillop will officially become a one-to-one laptop school midway through Term 1, when the rollout to Year 7 will result in every student having a laptop for his or her studies.

In late February, the College celebrated its Opening Mass to kick off a busy year.

Also in Term 1 are the College Swimming Carnival, Canberra Centenary celebrations, Year 7 Community Day, Year 12 Mentoring Day, and the Honours Assembly, where the College will celebrate the great academic and extra-curricula success of 2012.

Interested in MacKillop?

If you wish to find out more about St Mary MacKillop College, contact us on 6209 0100 or feel free to attend the Year 7 2014 Information Night on Monday 6 May 2013.
Pastoral Outreach

CARE MEALS
Prepare and deliver an occasional meal. Meals stored in the freezer at the garage at Gowrie. A code to the door allows 24 hour access.

PASTORAL CARE
Practical and personal support for parishioners in need (e.g. emergency shopping, transport, home help, etc)

PARISH CONTACT— Baptism & New Parishioners
Visit new parishioners and parents of children preparing for Baptism.

To assist with Pastoral Outreach or to seek assistance contact 6291 6688

CATHOLIC CARE COUNSELLOR—each Wednesday CatholicCare provides a Counsellor to work from the Parish Office Gowrie for relationship or student & family counselling. All bookings/appointments to be made through the CatholicCare office. 6162 6100

ST VINCENT DE PAUL
Helps the poor and needy in the community.
CALWELL: Mon 7:00pm Assisi Room Calwell
GOWRIE: Mon 7:30pm Parish Centre Gowrie Parish Office Emergency Welfare Office at Phillip 6282 2722

BAILLYS SPIRITUAL AUXILIARY GROUP
This initiative is designed for former St Vincent de Paul members, or current members considering retirement or time-out. Open to members from all areas of the ACT who wish to continue to live their Vincentian spirituality by meeting weekly for prayer, mutual support and social interaction. Group meets at the Parish Centre at 10.00am on Wednesday during school terms. Laraine O’Shea

Remembering our loved ones

by Robbie Costmeyer

The parish offers three different ways to help remember the anniversary of the passing of a loved one:

Book of Remembrance
The Book of Remembrance is now an established feature in Holy Family Church and was introduced in 2012 to record the anniversary of those parishioners who have died. The book has a page for each day of the year and is kept in a locked cabinet inside the church. It is located below the picture of St Mary MacKillop on the left as you enter.

Instead of bringing flowers to a funeral, why not gift an entry in the Book to a friend or family member who has had a recent bereavement. Names can be given to the Office at any time and the book is sent to the calligrapher at regular intervals for updating. If you wish to see the actual page listing your loved one’s anniversary at any time please ask at the Office.

From 30 June 2013 the Parish Bulletin will no longer display the names of those whose anniversary occurs during a particular month. This list is ever-growing and the space is required for other notices. The Book of Remembrance offers a permanent and more reverent means to remember those anniversaries.

Obituaries
The writing of an obituary can be a cathartic process and enables the life of your loved one to be shared with others. While you can be on friendly terms with many in the parish only your closest friends and family would know the achievements and highlights in the life of your dear departed. By publishing the obituary in the parish magazine you immediately share their life with other parishioners, which in turn may help in the grieving and healing process.

Memorial Walls and Gardens –
The initial Holy Family Parish Memorial Wall and Prayer Garden was established in 1998 to be used for the interment of ashes of parishioners and to have a plaque put in place to remember the deceased. As of February 2013, nearly all of the 102 places for niches had been allocated, although 33 niches remain unoccupied.

A second Memorial Wall was completed in December 2012, located in the west Church courtyard. This has a capacity of 134 niches in two walls (left and right). A Prayer Garden behind those walls was completed in February 2013.

Guidelines for eligibility criteria for allocating spaces in the new memorial wall may be found on the parish website (www.ccparish.org.au). As of 18 February 2013 the allocation of niches in the new columbarium is limited to:

• those who have died, and
• those who have been diagnosed with a terminal illness.

A niche will not be offered to the surviving spouse at the time.

All those with reserved spaces in one of the memorial walls will be periodically asked in writing whether that reserved space is still needed. They may have remarried, moved out of the parish, or are no longer interested. Any niches thus released will be reallocated.
Wooden-spoon moments:

by Fr Peter Day

a parable for disillusioned Catholics

You could barely see her amongst the fifteen thousand other supporters, but she was there. She was always there, wearing her club beanie and scarf, waving the team flag and proudly donning her prized t-shirt ‘graffitied’ with player autographs.

Pat had followed the club for 60 odd years. She was a tiny lady, five foot one, dear. The tape measure disagreed, four foot eleven... and that’s it, it nagged. There was no argument about her weight, though - fifty kilos ringing wet. But tiny Pat was a giant within the club. She stood like a beacon, shining forth unmatched spirit and loyalty. The players and training staff all knew her, and respected her. After all, Pat had been to every match they’d played since 1960; she even turned up without fail on Thursday evenings to watch the boys train. She did concede, however, that there was a little 18 months break when she nursed her husband, Bill, through cancer. “He was my first love,” she said. But other than that, Pat turned up every match day (and Thursday evenings) rain, hail, or shine. “Just to encourage the boys, mind you; not to pester ‘em,” she’d insist. “I’m no football groupie. Sure, I love these boys, but I don’t want to go clubbing with them, and I certainly don’t want to marry them.”

Now this day was special for the club. It was their last training session before the grand final. Supporters had come out of the woodwork – thousands of them from near and far. What a year it had been: “A miracle”, the papers were saying. A bunch of young upstarts, predicted to finish in the bottom three, now in the grand final. The experts were shaking their heads. Pat wasn’t. She didn’t have much time for the experts. As far as she was concerned “They were a bunch of well dressed, overpaid blokes who get it wrong half the time.” Not only was the club a match away from being premiers, but membership had topped 33,000 - the previous best was 25,000 in 1975. Happy times indeed.

Well, that was two years ago. Today it won’t be so hard to pick-out tiny Pat amongst the crowd. There’ll be no crowd. It had been an awful year for the club. They’d won just six games. Worst season in their history. Wooden-spooners for the first time. The press had crucified them all year, while many of the supporters tore-up their memberships in disgust. Not only that, the coach was sacked and five players were asked to move-on. But amidst the misery and panic, there she was, tiny Pat, faithfully at the club’s last training session of the season. She was the only one at the ground, save for the players, support staff and the interim coach. It was a bloody cold day, too. Never mind, Pat had her thermos: four teaspoons of coffee, a tablespoon of sugar, and a nip of medicinal brandy. This was her thirty-second consecutive year of watching the boys’ Thursday evening training. She always sat at the edge of the fence behind one of the goal posts. And from her faithful lips you could hear the familiar words of encouragement, words that had echoed around the ground for three decades: “Good mark, young fella; c’mon boys keep runnin’, keep workin’. Make me proud!”

A journalist got a surprise when he asked Pat why she continued to be so faithful in such miserable times. “Ya know,” she said, “that Jesus fella knew a thing or two. People loved it when he was workin’ those miracles. Even his best mate, Peter, only wanted the highlights package. But he made it pretty clear, didn’t he: “If ya wanna come for the ride, if ya gonna love me, you’ll have to accept that along with grand finals come wooden-spoons too. It’s a bit like marriage, isn’t it? My husband and me had a wonderful honeymoon, kinda like winning a grand final; wished it’d never end. But life ain’t like that. He also got sick, got cancer. That was like gettin’ the wooden-spoon; that was a heavy Cross to carry. But it was during that time that I really learned about love, about how to love and how to be a true supporter. I reckon ya need wooden-spoon moments to be a better person.”

“Anyway, son, next year we’ll be a stronger club. We’ve learnt a lot about ourselves this season; can’t wait ‘til training starts again in a few months. Might see ya there? Gotta go now, son. God bless, ya.”

“If ya wanna come for the ride, if ya gonna love me, you’ll have to accept that along with grand finals come wooden-spoons too.”
As the new movie contenders for the Oscars started to fire up, the big summer blockbusters were winding down.

Did you see any of these?

**The Hobbit** Although very enjoyable, with marvellous effects, the three Lord of the Rings movies have taken the lustre and some of the magic out of this offering. It will be interesting to see how they can produce a full trilogy out of a relatively small book.

**Quartet** Another lovely British comedy drama with the magnificent cast of Maggie Smith, Pauline Collins, Billy Connolly and Tom Courtney making us laugh, cry and totally enjoy an offering that just doesn’t quite reach the heights of Best Exotic Marigold Hotel, but with a stellar cast, the makers couldn’t go far wrong.

**Hitchcock** Anthony Hopkins and Helen Mirren, breathe life and humanity into the roles of Hitchcock and his wife Alma Reville. Set during the making of Psycho, it concentrates not so much on the film as the relationships between Hitch and his wife, and the effect he had on his two leading ladies. Scarlett Johansen makes an excellent Janet Leigh and Jessica Biehl helps us to understand how Hitch could love and loathe his chosen stars at the same time.

**The Life of Pi** is a magnificent cinematic experience, tremendous effects to build a tale of fantasy, but a bit light weight as to story content. The viewer is brought to earth with a thud at the end when the whole ordeal is explained in psychiatric terms.

**Django Unchained** This is quintessential Tarantino – loud, crazy, extremely gory, violent, with a dark thread of humour running through it. Not for the squeamish. If you have seen and appreciated some of his other work (Pulp Fiction, Reservoir Dogs), then you are well prepared for more than two hours of rather confronting material.

**Silver Linings Playbook** is a comedy based on the rather uneasy topic of reintegrating recovering mental patients back into their previous lives. Patrick (Bradley Cooper) suffered a bad mental and emotional breakdown that cost him his wife, his child and his job. After being released from hospital after 18 months of treatment, he returns to the home of his parents (Robert Deniro and Jackie Weaver) and is introduced to a woman also recovering from severe emotional trauma (Jennifer Lawrence). There is plenty of humour, some very serious comments on mental health recovery (even Dad has an almost obvious OCD condition), and the whole family is fixated on club football, and the delicacy needed to overcome reservations and to embrace honesty as to how the family and friends strings can be retied without recrimination – even a situation like this can have its silver linings.

Anyone interested in joining this very gregarious group who have a lot of fun at meetings and outings can contact Tony via the Parish Office for more information.