

Parish Pastoral Council Report

I am sure it is a common feeling for all when we reach this time of the year, Advent is upon us and we take a moment to look back at all that has transpired through the past 12 months. It happens each year, however I am still amazed by just how quickly the time passes, the many many small steps taken towards incrementally achieving the goals we have set out for ourselves and our parish community.

Thank you to all who continue to support our parish life through your financial contributions, your presence at mass and in our community, your participation in parish functions and your willingness to say yes when asked. There are so many aspects in our parish life that run smoothly because of the contributions you make.

Some personal highlights this year have been the return of our Parish dinners and a great social programme bringing everyone together and building a stronger congregation. The Parish Busy Bee held last weekend was also outstanding, with around 50 parishioners making light work of a job list that has been troubling us for sometime. Congratulations and thanks to all involved.

Whilst we had hoped to continue to work on our Parish Master Plan and the feedback received from parishioners following the initial presentation at our 2022 AGM, activities have been placed on hold whilst we maintain a focus on the renovation works at the Presbytery. Detailed plans have been completed and we await the final costings. The Parish Master Plan remains a keystone in preparing for our future years and will resume once the Presbytery works are finalised.

No parish can be successful without the active and positive support of the Parish Priest. We are blest to have Father Hyginus leading our parish through his faith and enthusiasm. Father, we thank you for all you bring to our community, your faith, guidance and challenge. You remain in our prayers and I am sure we are in yours.

The PPC continue to work diligently and I thank all members for your commitment to another term. All share in our desire to support and grow our faith community. We are thankful for God's blessing and appreciate the gifts we each bring.

As our agenda turns to 2024, we wish to you all a wonderful Advent season, a safe and happy Christmas and a blessed new year.

God Bless,

Parish Pastoral Council

Father Hyginus, Deacon Paul, Madeleine Sullivan, Susan Wright, Jim Joseph, Marc Tattersall, Mark Fuderer, Marilyn Lobo, Lousia Merry, Irene Walker, Paul Lusk, Stephen Lee

Parish Group Reports:



St Vincent de Paul Society
North Beach Conference
Parish AGM Report 2022/23

The past year has been both a busy and challenging year for the St Vincent de Paul conference in North Beach. We have seen an increase in demand for our support across the board as many more people, single, couples and families reach out for the basic necessities of life, many of which we would normally take for granted.

The housing situation continues to cause hardship both for those who have a mortgage and those who are renting, along with this there continues to be an increase in people falling into homelessness. With your support we have been able to reach out and provide assistance in the basic necessities of life and at times ensuring that they can remain in their accommodation

We are very grateful for the ongoing support of Fr Hyginus the parish and school communities. Without you we would be unable to provide the needs of many people and could not do the work we do.

New members are always welcome, which would both lighten the load on the current members and also further increase our reach to those that require our assistance.

I would like to share few of the comments received by the Vinnies call centre indicating the appreciation of the assistance given by the members, assistance only made possible by your generosity.

Excellent very good, thank you from my heart.

Didn't make me feel I should not have asked for help it was very hard for me to do

Because they always take my specific needs into consideration.

Thank you for all the amazing assistance you have provided me and my children with.

THE READING MINISTRY

Speaking to those who belong to the Reading Ministry, I feel that they take their contribution to the Liturgy seriously. They always 'do their best,' to read, which in this case, in liturgical situations, is spoken of as proclaiming the Word (of God'), with conviction, clarity, love and humility. Many parishioners have gone before us and I'm sure our present readers are grateful to them for leading the way.

Reading at Mass may give us a greater sense of belonging to the worshipping community. It can be an opportunity to serve the community and each other as we develop an awareness of 'bringing' the Word of God alive.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME

In 2023 we saw 246 school-aged children receive sacraments.

Confirmation 88 candidates were confirmed on Pentecost Sunday 27th/28th May
Eucharist 83 candidates received their First Eucharist over two weekends 29th/30th July & 5th/6th August
Reconciliation 77 candidates made their First Reconciliation on 24th/25th October. These were week nights then the children came to mass the next weekend to receive their certificates.

As part of their sacramental preparation, we introduced a Community Service component this year. Children were asked to attend a minimum of 3 masses over 8 weeks and participate by helping out at mass. The Year 6's came up with a list of things that could be done to assist Father, the Acolytes and the parishioners. There was a very positive response by the children and their families. We all benefitted from their assistance each week. We plan to continue this component in 2024.

The Sacramental programme would not operate without the leadership and guidance of Fr. Hyginus. Thank you, Father. I would like to acknowledge the wonderful leadership and support provided by Gabrielle Doyle and her amazing staff who prepare the children and attend all sacramental events. I would also like to thank Deacon Paul and his band of catechists who have worked very hard to prepare the children for their sacraments. Lastly, I would like to sincerely thank all parishioners for their constant thoughts and prayers for the children and their families. The Programme would not run as well without the contribution of so many. Thank you all.

Clare Broad
Sacramental Coordinator

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Children's Liturgy operates during the 9:30am Sunday Mass during school terms. There are three volunteers rostered on each week, all of whom have a current Working With Children card and have also completed the mandatory safeguarding training. Due to insufficient volunteers, Children's Liturgy is not offered for all the weeks of the school term.

On the Children's Liturgy committee are Emma Craigie, Tania Farcich and Giuliana Romeo. The committee ensure the smooth running of this ministry by ensuring activities are prepared, resources are maintained, rosters are prepared and circulated as well as reminders issued to volunteers each week. We thank our current volunteers for their dedication to this ministry and we hope new volunteers can join us in 2024.

We thank Fr Hyginus for welcoming the children at the start of the Mass and encouraging them to join the activities that have been planned, this has led to more children participating. During the time they spend with the volunteers, the children listen to the Gospel, watch a video or listen to a song relevant to the gospel reading and talk about the relevance to their lives. Finally they complete a simple craft activity or worksheet. We noticed a significant increase in attendance rates this year, especially during the period of preparation for the sacraments.

Some of our volunteers have left this ministry as their circumstances change and we thank them for offering up their time and sharing their skills with the children in our parish. We look forward to 2024 and supporting the children of our parish in learning about God and the Church.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Eucharistic Adoration is spending an hour before the Blessed Sacrament in prayer and devotion and is the same as spending time with Jesus Himself. It is a way of giving back the love that has been extended to each one of us personally.

Jesus invites us personally saying, "Could you not watch one hour with me"?

We are very fortunate in this parish in that we have an Adoration Chapel available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The chapel is on the south side of the Parish Pastoral Centre and entry is by a 4 digit code.

There is always a need for new Adorers to be added to the roster.

For further information please contact Margaret & Jim Staddle p: 9307 1241 or 0437 190 700

MEDITATION GROUP

(Wednesday daytime 1-30 to 2-30pm & Thursdays 7-30 to 8-45 pm)

Our groups meet weekly to support and enhance our daily meditation practice

As part of a global spiritual community "World Community for Christian Meditation" we are united in the practice of meditation in the Christian tradition and this nurtures our, practice with links to beautiful readings talks and other resources. #1

As part of the North Beach community, we would like to think that our faithful weekly commitment adds to the richness of spiritual life in the parish. We meet in the Parish Centre to say our opening prayer (see below), then we listen to a talk or spiritual music for a brief time and sit in silence for 20- or 30-minutes finishing with the Lord's Prayer. #2

Founded in the mid 1990's by young parents whose kids were at OLG primary school. Still meditating after 25 years Dianne, Lawrence, Linda, and Angela were taught this style of prayer by the late local WCCM leaders Sam & Vesta #3. Fr Ken Keating invited us to meditate in the parish house and offer this gift to others in the parish. Several more people saw the value of this gift and joined and supported the group "leaders" in the end becoming leaders themselves.

So now in 2023 we have seen others come and go & there are two groups. The Thursday night group has around 9 regular members who take turns leading the weekly meditation. Wednesday afternoon has 8 regular members. We treasure our gift of meditation and feel the least we could do after receiving it is to encourage others to see if this style of prayer suits them and to offer to pray with them.

Opening Prayer

"Heavenly Father open our hearts to the silent presence of the spirit of your son lead us into that mysterious silence where your love is revealed to all who call "Maranatha" (come Lord Jesus)".

#1 For further information refer to <https://wccm.org>

#2 See the App WCCM from the App Store or Google Play for resources we use.

#3 <https://wccmaustralia.org.au/>

SUNDAY 09.30 CHOIR

OLG Choir has been going for over 15 years we have 11 ladies and two men on our books , we are always looking for new members. We have had various leaders and musicians. To name a few, Stephen our current Minister of music, Coris, and our current leader Dominica whom is an accomplished pianist and flute player. She actually majored in the flute. She has an assistant leader in myself David, I have sung in several Church choirs. I started singing in the School and Church boys choirs at a very young age till my voice broke. I have also sung in the past with the Salvation Army and now sing with the Perth Male Voice Choir. I have had several voice training lessons along the way. Most of our ladies have been with the Choir since the inception. They come along and sing for the love of music and the Church. The Choir did have a difficult time during and after Covid because Dominica was moving and went to South Korea to stay with relatives for several months. We felt we had no choir without a pianist or a musician. However, after the ladies Mary, Kathleen, and my wife Josie who is also a member of the choir spoke with Father Hyginus, it was decided the Church needed the Choir. I had already arranged for the next weeks music so with just a few of these dedicated ladies and myself, we carried on with the help of modern technology and a Bluetooth speaker. Also with Father Hyginus constant support the Choir not only survived but also went from strength to strength with experience of using blue tooth and setting up songs and mass parts, we also felt our harmonies improved whilst singing as a Choir. On top of this we learnt new songs along the way and I must say the few ladies we had were easy to teach. Gradually some of the other ladies returned, and so did Dominica which we were thankful for. We have come a long way since the start of the choir, we are now a confident and experienced choir, with the guidance of Dominica and the support of Father Hyginus.

David Poulton,

OUTREACH AND FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY

Mission: To develop the ENGAGEMENT pillar of the OLG Parish

2023 has been another successful year of fellowship and engagement throughout the parish.

First Sunday of the Month 730am morning teas Attended well and supported by a band of volunteers. Thank you Madeleine Sullivan for coordinating and all bakers for this to be possible!

Easter Egg Hunt - Celebrated after 930 mass on Easter Sunday. Thank you to Emma Craigie, Giuliana Romeo and Katy Tindall for assisting in a fun morning tea and Easter egg hunt.

Get to know you Parish Dinners - Both dinners were attended well, new and old friends enjoyed pot luck meals and drink with good cheer. Thank you Juanita and Joan

Our Lady of Grace School Mass - Thanks to the efforts of Father Hyginus, Claire, Rae Webb and Mrs Doyle which culminated in a beautiful school mass, giving thanks for Sacraments. This was followed by fun, fellowship, cake and pizza in the parish hall.

Safeguarding Sunday - Father and Safeguarding team helped promote this very important event in the church's calendar. Tea, coffee, baked food again encouraged gathering.

Join us for the Christmas celebrations! Thank you Emily Armstrong and her band of helpers.

Join us next year for walking group, cards group and crafting.
We are always looking for assistance and ideas. Please come forward, we'd love to have you!

Thank you for your support
Louisa and Marilyn