

PARISH PRIEST REPORT FOR THE PARISH AGM 2024.

It has been a wonderful year. I am happy that an opportunity has been presented to me once again to thank you all for your immense contributions to the growth of our community. Welcome to our annual general meeting for the year 2024. During this we listen to ourselves as we look at the year coming to an end and look to the new year so that together we review the work already done and plan for what lies ahead. Thanks to your support, our community has accomplished a lot and is set see greater heights.

Parish Pastoral Council (Steve Lee, Madeleine Sullivan, Deacon Paul, Susan Wright, Marc Tattersall, Marilyn Lobo, Buena, Louisa Merry, Jim Joseph, Irene Walker and Paul Lusk) inspires me with the servant leadership model they have adopted. The Chairperson, Stephen Lee recently relocated to Dubai. We thank him for his dedication to the community. He is a great loss to us. God has blessed us with Marc Tattersall who has kindly accepted to offer his services as the new chairperson.

The newly set up committees are delivering great results already. The maintenance Committee have seen to the renovation of the parish presbytery, the replacement of the taps in the parish centre have already been undertaken. This committee has also secured a building report for the church and the parish centre to help us correctly channel our maintenance efforts. I am particularly grateful to Des Wright for his role in getting the presbytery renovated. Media Committee has kept our website current. Our morning tea is no longer limited to the after 7:30 am masses. Thanks to the Social Committee, we are now able to provide tea, pizza, sausages to community members after the other masses from time to time. These aim to afford us the platform to share our lives with others.

The Council has also set up a committee to help bring a satisfactory and lasting solution to the parking challenges we have in the community. The Master planning Committees has done a tremendous work, and the Parish Pastoral Council is following up on their recommendations.

We are blessed to have Kristy Shaw, Paul Armstrong, Mark Fuderer and Deacon Paul looking after our parish finances. Just recently there was need to upgrade our collection machines. The members of the Finance Committee donated one machine (\$841) each. The fourth machine was donated by Alby Nuich. I thank them for their unwavering commitment to the service of the community.

I thank The Social Committee for exploring avenues to bring the community to share moments together. We have seen groups like the Crafts group, Widows fellowship, walking group emerge and thrive. We are grateful to all who devote themselves to build platforms that provide opportunities for community members to socialise and enjoy time together. Marilyn Lobo, Louisa, Jane, Buena and others have helped extend the teas and other community building functions to those who attend masses at other times.

My gratitude goes to Vince Thompson and Saint Vincent De Paul group for being the presence of the community to the poor and struggling.

The Legion of Mary group do a lot of outreach and grass root evangelization, and I like to thank them for that. To the many groups like The Eucharist Adoration Group, Christian Life Community Group, Christian Meditation Groups, The Wednesday Rosary Group, and others who gather on various days and at various times to pray for the community, I am very grateful. It is heartwarming to see that these spiritual life groups in our community is growing strong and people are building friendships and finding support through them.

Faith formation team continues to help deepen the spiritual life of our community. Thanks to Sue Wright and her team, we have enriching lent and advent programs. My thanks go to Graham Rose, Sister Helen, and Deacon Paul for undertaking to facilitate Advent Programs. Thanks, Graham, for the 'GIFT' and some spiritually uplifting write ups in the Credo. Michael Rose assists with the Catholic Culture which features weekly in the Credo. Four adults are being prepared for the sacraments of initiation into the Church. We hope to celebrate these sacraments on Easter Vigil 2025. These are fruits of the witness that members of the community give to Christ.

Thank you for the support you give to our parish community on daily basis: Joan Burke, Paul Lusk, the Acolytes, our Altar Servers, the Musicians, those on the cleaning roster, those who help with the Power point during masses, Readers and Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist, Those who take up the Collections and all you who share your talents and expertise with us. Thanks to you Robyn and Peter Armstrong, Mary Rolls, Freda, Joan Burke and many others who have catered for our various functions and celebrations.

I like to thank Clare Broad and her team for giving us yet again a beautiful Sacramental program. My thanks also go to Giuliana Romeo, Emma Craigie and Tania Farcich for their work in coordinating Our Children's Liturgy. Our community is very lucky to have Sisters Anita, Helen and Emelia who help to enrich us with their presence and work among us. Sister Anita does a lot of work with our children in the school. Sister Helen does a lot of visitations to the sick and home bound in the community bringing them the Eucharist and comfort. Sister Emelia who works in the hospital brings the touch of Christ to healing and care of the sick. Many have been led to Christ through loving care that you provide. The sisters are God's gift to us. I am encouraged and inspired by their life and work.

Our children from the school were very involved in our Christmas Carols last year, and they will be participating again this year on the 1st of December. I am grateful to Emily Armstrong for organizing the Christmas Carol for us. She did a wonderful job last year. She is already putting things in place for this years Carols.

Our Safeguarding Officers: Rose Clarke, Megan Henley, Suvas Lobo (who was called to eternal life passed on the 27 of October), Susan Wright and Joan Burke, have done an exceptionally brilliant job with the Safeguarding program in our community. Many thanks to them.

My special thanks go to Deacon Paul who has been a great help to me and an inspiration to many in the parish. To Jo, Kristina, Noelene, Leanne Croft, Deacon Paul and others who keep the Office manned and running – thank you so much.

I like to acknowledge the work of the newly formed Maintenance Committee. Jim Joseph, Noelene Hampton, Tony Clark and Bob Berley. They have already accomplished a lot and have a lot of work lined up for the future. The parish council chairperson will share some of their plans with us in the course of the meeting.

All these good things happening show the beauty of us sharing our time and talents. Together we are unstoppable. I know that the only way we can continue to make progress is for us to keep sharing as generously as we can. I like you to know that I am very thankful for the support you have given to me and to the Parish Community. Your support and good will are always needed and appreciated. Thanks for being in our community and for contributing to our Community Life. Deacon Paul and I are dependent on your continuing to share your many talents with Our Parish Community. Don't hesitate to contribute ideas that will lead Our Community to greater heights.

Fr. Hyginus

May I use this opportunity to announce that the bishop is making a canonical visit to our parish from Friday 19 September to Sunday 21 September 2025. Please mark your diaries accordingly. Our Parish will be 75 years in 2026. I like to invite us to consider being part of the preparation by volunteering to be part of Organizing Committee.