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Parish Annual General Meeting

**Sunday 01 March 2015,
11:00 AM – 1:00 PM**

AGENDA

- 11.00am Arrival/Cuppa
- 11.15am Welcome/Introduction/Prayer - Fr Steven
- 11.25am Reports:
- Tiffany Orbien – Chairperson, Pastoral Council
 - Helen Anderson – Principal, St Mary's School
 - Jacinta Bright – Pastoral Associate
 - Paul Girolami - Finance Committee
 - Peter McKenna, - MaD Committee
 - Paul George - School Education Board
 - Fr Steven Rigo - Parish Priest report and closure
- 12.15pm Break
- 12.20pm **Group discussion** – questions for reflection include:
- Do you have any questions about what was presented today?
 - Do you/your group have any questions or feedback for the wider parish?
 - What would you like to see happen at future AGMs? Do you have any feedback on the format/timing/etc.?
- 12.40pm Return to wider group for reporting
- 1.00pm **Conclusion**

**FINANCIAL REPORT AVAILABLE AT
THE PARISH OFFICE**

Parish Priest's AGM Report 2015

(1st March 2015)

Welcome:

On behalf of Jacinta Bright, Helen Anderson and myself as collaborative leaders of our parish community, I welcome you to our Parish AGM and thank you for your presence that indicates your interest in our parish life.

No one person can know the vast operations within our parish. People who are actively involved in some aspects of parish life cannot possibly know everything in every aspect of its life. Even I, who am supposed to have my fingers on the pulse of all things at St. Mary's find it hard to know everything of all the groups' activities and everything that parishioners do in over the 400 different ministries exercised, but they are led competently by people we entrust. So, if anything, my report is more an expression of heartfelt gratitude to the many parishioners who generously and actively involve themselves in the life of the parish because of their love of Church and the people in our parish.

This AGM is a way to inform you, the parishioners with very wide brush-strokes of our pastoral activities, education & formation, planned developments & our activities that extend us beyond our parish to our deanery, diocese, other churches, our local community as well as our financial status.

Our AGM is also an opportunity for us who exercise leadership in our parish to be accountable to you. So, I would like to thank you for the interest you express by coming today and I'd especially like to publicly thank those who have given their reports for their dedicated service to St. Mary's as well as the so many who are involved in practical ways of ministry, leadership and maintenance.

Parish Leadership:

I'd especially like to thank those I work with directly almost on a daily basis, and upon whom I greatly depend – Jacinta Bright, our PA; Helen Anderson, our school principal, our Deputy, Elizabeth Sullivan and school staff; Amelia Morse, our REC, Geraldine Conroy & the team of catechists; Jo Giudice and Frances Olofsson, our secretaries; Maureen Carr & Flo Keely, our sacristans who do so much more than just setting-up for Mass and the many others involved in various liturgical ministries which are the heart of our parish's life; and the following leadership committee chairs and all its members: Tiffany Orbien, the chair of our PPC; Paul George, the chair of our School Advisory Board; John Wood, the chair of our Strategic Planning Committee, Paul Girolami, the chair of our Finance Committee; Marian Tacey, the chair of our Liturgy Committee; our Faith Development Team; Peter McKenna and Reno Reginato of the MaD committee; Len Bainbridge, for his work with the weekly collections and the Library committee, as well as the members of the many other groups, committees and school staff.

Parish Property Development:

The Strategic Planning Committee, with its four sub-committees - **School; Church; Parish House & Grounds** continues to operate and meet regularly to monitor & review the developments on our property.

Memorial Garden:

A group was also formed out of the Bereavement Committee which explored the development of a memorial garden near the church. This group had done much work culminating in the development of the garden on the Grimshaw St. side of the church. Members of this group, together with Tina Lazzaro, continue to maintain and develop the garden and with the assistance of the MaD committee members, plaques are installed on a regular basis.

Grounds:

I would like to thank the MaD committee for their work and especially that of Tina Lazzaro, who maintain and beautify our grounds and gardens.

Spirituality and Faith Formation:

Faith formation and holistic education of our parishioners is fundamental to the mission of the church. It is of prime concern that our parish offers the best possible opportunities especially in our primary school for learning and preparing the young for secondary school and for life with an integrated formation of Catholic Christian faith. The Catholic school works in partnership with parents in the raising of their children in faith.

We have again completed a booklet for our parish for parents who have children preparing for the Sacraments. It not only provides practical details specific to our parish, but also a theology of sacramentality so as to enable parents to better understand their Catholic Faith as adults, and so to better equip them in the faith formation of their children.

I place much emphasis on the school being a significant part of the parish's life and much is done to manifest the relationship between school and parish. Together with Helen, I meet with all the parents who have enrolled their child into St Mary's for Prep. I use this opportunity to welcome them, to meet their child and to let them know that they are part of the parish community and I encourage them to make use of opportunities to be involved in the life of the parish. I also try to make it clear to them that we work in partnership for the formation and development of their child, particularly their faith formation and that I have an expectation of them to be active participants in this. Jacinta does much in making links between parish and school; she makes contact with all parents of year Prep children, many of whom she visits and establishes a relationship with them; the Prep parent evenings that enable parents to have a sense of belonging to a community wider than the school. There is also the work of the Faith Development Team; the body which consists of school staff, catechists & parishioners to provide faith formation especially for our children and their parents.

Jacinta and I have placed much emphasis on formation and opportunities for reflection for the various leadership groups in our parish as well as for parishioners generally. We are particularly fortunate to have as our PA one who is qualified as a spiritual director and who competently leads spiritual formation sessions. I am particularly grateful for the way we work well together. She will outline for you these and other ways faith formation and pastoral care are extended.

The Liturgy of the Word team continue to be formed and lead the Monday morning prayer and reflection on the readings of the day as well as on occasions when I am lecturing in the morning on Thursdays and when I may be on a conference or on vacation.

It is from this group that a team has been formed to also lead not only the vigils for funerals, but also the funerals themselves when families do not wish to have a Requiem Mass and do not insist on having a priest celebrate the funeral. The team has prepared a brochure "Funerals at St. Mary's" outlining also the rationale behind their ministry and it has now prepared several funeral ceremonies with families, led the ceremonies and have also led the service at the graveside or at the crematorium.

Ministers to the Sick are an important aspect of pastoral care in our parish and I especially wish to thank each of them and particularly their coordination by Anne Smale.

Parish Pastoral Council: Every two years half the members of the Council retire and we extend a call for nominations for membership. We are now at the end of a cycle, so within the next few weeks we will call for nominations and go through a process of discernment to replace half of the members of the Council to have them commissioned on Pentecost Sunday. It is attending to priorities put forward by parishioners who participated in the review process held at the beginning of 2013. The key priorities identified in the Review were to:

- Foster outreach programs and projects
- Support engagement and re-engagement of families
- Hold discussion and “dreaming” forums including a desire to enable feedback to Church hierarchy
- Use modern technologies to communicate effectively and engage with all sectors of the Parish community
- Explore ways to foster new involvement in Parish groups (including old and young people)
- Engage with youth including seeking their input into the Parish Review findings.

Forthcoming events:

Greensborough Ministers Morning Tea: Important to mention that the local ministers (including non-ordained leaders of our local Christian communities meet regularly, informally.

Deanery:

The "Dreaming a Future Structure Group", formed a few years ago to consider new ecclesiological structures into the future when there will be less priests in our region continues to meet. The group consists of members of neighbouring parishes in our Deanery. This furthers the work done that concluded in a report entitled "Imagining Parishes Into the Future". Practical outcomes from this group are slow in emerging, but we continue to try to prepare ourselves for the inevitable decrease in clergy in our deanery.

Together with Rosanna/Macleod & Montmorency parishes we have embarked on the formation of parishioners for funeral ministry and in collaborating in a common RCIC program for children in our 3 parishes.

We have engaged the services of Tony Biviano from the Parish Development Office at Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne to explore the feasibility of engaging a manager between parishes to take responsibility for common administrative duties. Currently he is interviewing priests, pastoral associates and secretaries in the deanery parishes.

In conclusion I would like to express my gratitude to all the parishioners for their support of me and their preparedness to be involved in a whole host of ways to make this the vibrant parish community that it is.



(Parish Priest)

PARISH - AGM - March 1, 2015

St Mary's Parish Pastoral Council Report

Our Role

The role of the Parish Pastoral Council is to support the Pastoral Leadership of the Parish (PP and PA) and to “be a listening group that searches out and responds to the hopes, ideas, needs and concerns of parishioners, ways must be found to keep in touch with issues of concern to the community.” (Handbook for Parish Pastoral Councils)

Responding to the 2013 Parish Review

The PPC is not a group that acts alone to “gets things done”, but rather a group who can listen to the community's needs and engage people in the “responding”. The main focus of the PPC over the last few years has been to respond to the needs identified in the last Parish Review (in 2013):

- Foster outreach programs and projects
- Support engagement and re-engagement of families
- Hold discussion and “dreaming” forums including a desire to enable feedback to Church hierarchy
- Use modern technologies to communicate effectively and engage with all sectors of the Parish community
- Explore ways to foster new involvement in Parish groups (including old and young people)
- Engage with youth including seeking their input into the Parish Review findings.

The “work” of the PPC has been to seek ways in which the above can be achieved, and/or, to highlight the ways in which they are *already* being achieved and how these initiatives can be supported. For example:

Exploring what kind of Outreach St Mary's can offer

A concrete suggestion of an outreach that St Mary's can offer is to provide free meals to the wider community. This is something that is currently being offered by the All Saints Anglican Church in Greensborough. Members of the St Mary's PPC and Social Justice committee visited All Saints to meet with their volunteers and find out how this form of outreach was created. It was a good introduction into what their church has been able to accomplish – an initiative that has taken several years to do and the necessary logistics and equipment. Rather than reinvent the wheel, it was suggested that maybe a better tact would be to encourage St Mary's parishioners to volunteer their time in helping at All Saints, given it is already set-up. In the same vein, it was also suggested that parishioners who were already volunteering their time at other establishments (e.g. Sacred Heart Mission, St Mary's House of Welcome, Vinnies, etc.) share their experience with the community and invite others to come along.

Use modern technologies to communicate effectively/ engage with all sectors of the Parish community

There was some investigation done into an online platform that aims to encourage information sharing between the various parish groups. There is also work being done towards populating the parish website (www.cam.org.au/greensborough) and create an editorial team for *The Marianist*.

Engage with youth including seeking their input into the Parish Review findings

Members of the PPC have been keen to hear from young people, especially students from the local schools like Loyola College. The PPC has attended the last few Youth Ministry dinners and tried to engage the students in the various facets of parish ministry (e.g. Children's Liturgy). The PPC also partnered with the Archdiocese Office for Youth in hosting a Regional Youth Dinner (October 2014). The dinner drew together youth leaders from around the Northern region and (then) Episcopal Vicar for the Northern Region Rev. Martin Ashe, with the aim of sharing ideas and opportunities for engaging young people.

Welcome Ministry – within St Mary's and Surrounds

What began as a discussion in the PPC on how information in the Church Gathering Space could be re-organised developed into a discussion of how the parish was really living up to its vision of being a welcoming, "vibrant Christian community engaging with the world." The outcome of which was a 'Welcome Ministry', whereby the vision statement of the parish was reflected upon and reviewed in terms of how St Mary's parishioners embody a welcoming attitude and how we can engage with others in the community. In relation to this, a letter was written by the leaders on PPC to the Heidelberg Islamic community, expressing St Mary's support and friendship to their community. This was done in reference to the negative attitudes present in the wider community towards religious faith – attitudes that can lead to vilification and create division. St Mary's had previously hosted Sherene Hassan (former Vice-President of the Islamic Council of Victoria and currently a Board Director of the Islamic Museum of Australia), who in 2013 came to speak at the Parish about what it is like to be a woman of faith in Australia. The letter from the PPC was an act of support from leaders of one faith community to another. It was signed by the PPC and Fr Steven Rigo, and sent through the Banyule interfaith network.

The PPC continues to work towards addressing the needs identified by the parish in 2013, but is mindful that this takes time and the job is never "finished".

Membership

Bernadette Douglas	Kurt Geyer (School Representative)
Trevor D'souza	Lucia Minuzzo (School Advisory Board)
Pat Gullone	Jacinta Bright (ex-officio)
Josette Hamad	Fr Steven Rigo (ex-officio)
Candace Hanlen	Jo Giudice (administrative support)
Sue Hollowood	Frances Oloffson (administrative support)
Leon Kempen	
Bruce Moore	
Tiffany Orbien (Chair)	
Kristel Roxas	

In mid-2014 there was a change in chairmanship, with Trevor D'Souza stepping down as Chairperson and Tiffany Orbien taking on the role.

Meetings

The PPC meets on the third Tuesday of every month. In addition to concerns raised in between meetings, the PPC receives regular updates from the following groups:

- Pastoral Associate
- Engaging with School Parents Group
- Welcome
- Deanery
- School Advisory Board
- Finance Committee

Whilst the PPC claims no 'oversight' of these groups, these reports help keep the PPC abreast of what is happening in the community both within and around St Mary's.

Ongoing Training and Formation

Throughout 2014, members of the PPC attended a number of networking gatherings, training workshops and formation opportunities. These included:

- Understanding your 2011 Parish Social Profile: A training workshop in utilising your profile for pastoral planning in your parish (April 2014)
- Co-responsibility in the Church: A regional gathering for Parish Pastoral Councils (August 2014)
- Regional Youth Gathering – Northern region (October 2014)
- Parish Formation Session – Using the Enneagram (October 2014)

The PPC recognises the need for ongoing formation (as individuals, and as a group) since it helps create cohesion and a common sense of purpose within the group.

Goals for 2015

PPC Membership – Transition and Inviting New Members

The length of membership in the Parish Pastoral Council is four years. This year, half of the Councillors are due to finish their term, so the group has begun reflecting on what steps can be taken to ensure there is a smooth transition process. This has included a guided reflection (led by Jacinta Bright) on what the PPC has set out to accomplish and what have been some of the challenges/opportunities in achieving this. It has also been suggested that an information session is held (in addition to the discernment day) when inviting future members, to ensure there is clarity in what is being asked.

St Mary's 60th Anniversary

This year marks the 60th anniversary of St Mary's. In late 2014, the PPC invited representatives of the various parish groups to an initial 'dreaming session' to brainstorm how to celebrate this

occasion. It was agreed that the PPC would then assemble a smaller group of individuals who would take responsibility for 'enacting' some of the suggestions. This group has now been formed, with key representatives from the School, Parents Association, Parish and Parish Leadership Team. The PPC continues to support this group in their work, encouraging them to engage the wider community in marking this occasion. One of the initiatives is a 'letter drop' exercise, which would involve creating a postcard to send to all those in the surrounding neighbourhood to remind them that St Mary's is a welcoming community, and of the regular mass times (especially at Easter and Christmas time). This would be done as a gesture of welcome but also to celebrate 60 years of being part of the community.

Engagement of Parish Groups

In the last couple of years, the PPC has invited the parish's various groups to host morning tea following weekend masses. This has been an exercise in maintaining regular contact with parish groups and offering them a chance to promote their ministry. The PPC will once again invite groups to fill up a roster in 2015. The PPC also sees the occasion of the 60th Anniversary as a 'springboard' for contacting the various groups, highlighting their work and inviting others to volunteer for these ministries.

Communications

The PPC has been reviewing and brainstorming ways in which parishioners can give feedback to Parish Leadership. In addition to the Parish Review being an 'event' at which parishioners give feedback, the PPC is keen to explore other ways for parishioners to give feedback and feel included in the process of achieving what was set out in the last Parish Mission.

Presented by

Tiffany Orbien - Chairperson

St. Mary's Parish Council AGM Meeting 1 March 2015

Principal's Report

At the commencement of 2014 there were 550 students enrolled with 370 families. This year we have 562 students and 380 families

In 2014, our school theme was "Be People of God" and throughout the year we endeavoured to live as called by Jesus. To keep our focus on this ideal, each Term there was a focus on a different Christian value. These values were related to the attributes of those people who have given their names to our Sports Houses. Term 1 Loyola - Faithfulness, Term 2 McAuley - Determination, Term 3 Mercy - Service and Term 4 Bosco - Joyfulness.

Staff, following consultation with the School Advisory Board and with input from a representative group of students, explored who we are as a community and how we want to be into the future. Following this process, a Vision statement was formed. The following statement will guide all that we do into the future.

St Mary's is a:

Dynamic Community

Of Empowered Learners

Engaging Justly in the World

We felt that we are dynamic in that we, students, parents and staff are continually learning and growing and that our students are being presented with endless opportunities and resources to take their learning further. We also felt that we work together in a dynamic way to build community. We want our students to be empowered and equipped with the skills to be life-long learners who wish to make a difference in their world. As a Catholic school we aim to be people of justice where our students are encouraged to actively engage in the world in-order to make it a better place for all people.

St. Mary's students entered into a number of social justice activities and raised money for organizations such as Catholic Missions, Catholic Aboriginal Ministry and they also raised \$15,500.00 for a school family following the death of the children's father. This was an amazing effort and was well supported by all families in the school.

At the end of Term 2, we said farewell to Bonnie Dickson as she retired from St. Mary's after giving 40 years of valued service. In recognition of her years of service and her enormous contribution to the lives of so many children, we named our new playground, "Bonnie's Playground".

Building

Our new facilities were blessed and opened on the 21 February 2014 and are serving our purposes well. The school and Parish staff are finding the opportunities to work together very positive.

Following the completion of our buildings, a sub committee was formed from the School Advisory Board to consult and formulate plans for the re-development of the Junior playground. Currently two stages have been completed with the construction of Bonnie's Playground and extensive work has been done in the second stage with re-plumbing, retaining walls and 22.5 metres of concrete paving laid. This work was all done through volunteers within the school and Parish communities. The work has been hard with many volunteers not only putting in days of work but also providing equipment to enable this work to be done. The final stage is currently being planned and it is envisaged that the playground re-development will be completed mid Term 2.

The staff and students are extremely grateful for all the support given by these volunteers, many of whom are members of the MaD Team.

Projects and Programs 2014

Throughout 2014 we continued with the work initiated through the CHANGE 2 Project, the Contemporary Learning Project, the Learning Assessment Project, the Collaborative Literacy Learning Communities Project and the P-8 Writing Project.

We were also involved in some new initiatives in 2014. St Mary's was selected to participate in the ICON Research Project (Integrated Catholic Online Network) to trial a Google application in preparation for transforming teaching and learning. Knowledge and skills gained were shared with Catholic schools in Victoria.

We were also one of 15 schools from across Australia (one of only three in Victoria and the only Catholic school from Victoria) chosen by ACARA (Australian Curriculum and Assessment Authority) to share our planning for and implementation of the Australian Curriculum. This work was filmed and is available on the ACARA website and Youtube.

St Mary's also participated in a professional project in conjunction with Apple (Sydney) to produce an educational resource app to be shared on itunes.

Another project we participated in was a Google Educational Symposium where we shared our application of Google apps and Chromebooks with teachers across Australia.

In 2015 further acknowledgement of our contemporary practices is being recognised. We have been chosen as one of three schools in the Archdiocese of Melbourne to be a roll out school for GAFE (Google Apps for Education) as a component of the Integrated Catholic Online Network (ICON).

In the area of Literacy and Numeracy we have been asked to trial the implementation of new assessment tools for the Australian Council for Education and Research (ACER).

Student Programs/Activities

National Sorry Day

In celebrating National Sorry Day, students and teachers participated in a Long Walk. Through this activity, \$400 was raised which went to the Open Doors Foundation which provides support for the education of Aboriginal children.

FIRE Carrier Program

"FIRE Carriers," an acronym for "Friends Igniting Reconciliation through Education," is an initiative through the Catholic Aboriginal Ministry of Victoria. The program aims to bring Peace, Justice and Reconciliation in dealing with the past, so as to build respect, appreciation and understanding of the original custodians of this land. This program continued successfully throughout 2014 with two teachers attending the Lake Mungo Yingadi immersion experience. Our students who were inducted at Ash Wednesday Mass as our FIRE Carriers participated in a day at Amberley where they joined with students from other schools reflecting on and forming ideas and goals to enable understandings of Reconciliation to be embedded in our school culture. One goal was to have nine totem poles installed in the garden at the front of the school. There will be one for each of the Levels, one for teachers and one for the Parish community. These will be painted each year expressing our stories as in Aboriginal culture, story is to be valued and passed on to the next generation.

Mathematics Competitions

Eight Yr. 5 and 6 students participated in the Maths 24 tournament along with ten other schools from the North Eastern Zone. St. Mary's came fourth in this Mathematics Competition. (One of our Year 6 students was placed 4th for individual scores and two Year 5 students were placed in the top 12 for individual scores.)

Twenty-seven of our students participated in the Australasian Problem Solving Mathematical Olympiads Competition. We had one student who was in the top 10% and one in the top 25% out of 30,494 entrants.

School Performance

Our biennial School Performance was held in August and was titled, "Oh! The Places St. Mary's Will Go." The script was written by a team of students and evolved from their inquiry learning for the Term.

Sport

In the area of sport our 11 year old and 12 year old boys' Relay Teams competed in the State Finals. In individual events, Dom A competed in the Long Jump event and Erin W represented St. Mary's in Hurdles and Triple Jump. At the conclusion of the competition, Erin was named State Champion in the Triple Jump event.

At Tennis Victoria's Championship Dinner on 23 June, St. Mary's received Tennis Victoria's Most Outstanding School Award for the promotion and participation in the teaching of Tennis Skills. This Award was presented to us by Margaret Court the greatest female tennis player of all time. Other notables in attendance were ABC Broadcaster Ian Cover, Greg Champion and Frank Sedgman.

- Year 5/6 Boys won the Watsonia District Rugby League Round Robin. They then competed in the Billy Slater Shield State Finals, winning all but one game, thus missing out on playing State finals by percentage
- Year 6 Boys' Basketball team were runners up in Watsonia District Finals

- Year 6 Mixed Football and Soccer teams were runners up in Watsonia District Finals
- Year 6 Girls Netball A Team were runners up in Watsonia District Finals

School Development in the Five Spheres of Schooling actioned from the School Improvement Plan

1. Religious Education

- School motto was based on the Gospel and a Gospel Value was implemented each Term
- Godly Play was introduced to enrich the learning of students
- Moderation based on Scripture was introduced across the school
- Literacy and R.E. learning was linked
- An R.E. Overview was developed
- An audit of Scripture was conducted

2. Teaching and Learning

- Worked to enrich student learning through ICT and design thinking
- Embedded Learning Intentions and introduced the use of Success Criteria
- Coaching was utilized across the school
- Identified features for consistent planning documentation across the school
- Chromebooks and iPads were purchased to support contemporary learning across the school
- Maths Planner was developed to be used across the school
- Introduced eWrite, PAT comprehension and PAT vocab assessments and implemented online assessment for PAT Maths
- Data analysis tools were developed to support the grouping of students
- Professional Inquiries were entered into by staff
- Teacher reflection journals were utilized

3. Student Wellbeing

- Reviewed Policies in light of Google
- Developed a Staff User Agreement
- When planning for student learning, focused on the "who" before the "what"
- A Google Form was developed to track student behavior
- Updated Behaviour Policy
- Yr. 3 students participated in the Community Policing Program
- Social Skills Programs and Interest Clubs were extended
- Through professional learning, extended staff knowledge of Restorative Practices
- Group PLP's (Personalized Learning Plans) developed

4. Leadership and Management

- Change 2 Training for some staff
- Staff co-facilitated Change 2 in other Catholic schools
- Team Teaching opportunities extended
- Learning Walks conducted to support teacher practice

5. Community

- Parent Forums on Goal Setting, Blogging, Google Communities, Cybersafety were held
- A very successful Grandparents' Day was held on 25 July
- Focus was given to effective school communication and parent participation through Assemblies, Class Masses and the Skoolbag app
- The SAB through two sub committees continued its work on Parent Engagement and through a Grounds Committee, developed a concept plan for the re-development of the playground. Research was conducted on the effectiveness of Homework. Findings were presented to staff as a basis for updating current Policy. Student Behaviour Policy was reviewed. Processes for supporting families in need were discussed and draft concepts were developed
- Participation and support in the life of the school continued to be a focus of the work of the Parents' Association. Through a very successful social event, the "Robbie Williams Experience," the PA raised \$10404.35 which went towards the Playground re-development. The PA continued to run the Tuck-shop and Uniform shop, supported special days of celebration, retreat days and conducted special activities for the students and families
- The Maintenance and Development Team (MaD) provided ongoing and committed support to the maintenance of the school and its grounds. In conjunction with the Grounds subcommittee from the School Advisory Board and parent and Parish volunteers, an amazing transformation took place in the Junior Playground. What has been achieved through the tireless work of these volunteers is exceptional. We are extremely thankful and appreciative of all that these volunteers have given to our community

Professional Development Days

- Inquiry - Thinking in the Curriculum. (Facilitator Deb Veitri)
- Addressing Special Needs of Students. (Facilitator Ian Lillico)
- School Vision and Learning and Teaching Policy. (Facilitator Louise Harris)
- Assessment and Reporting

Goals set for 2015 are as follows:

EDUCATION IN FAITH

- To provide a Catholic environment that integrates faith, life and culture

LEARNING AND TEACHING

- To build and implement contemporary pedagogy and practices to maximize student learning and engagement

LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

- To develop and embed a consistent contemporary learning and teaching culture

STUDENT WELLBEING

- To maximize student wellbeing, engagement and connectedness to school and their learning

COMMUNITY

- To build family and community partnerships which support student learning and engagement



16 February 2015

Helen Anderson

PRINCIPAL

Pastoral Associate Report
Annual General Meeting - 1 March 2015
St Mary's Parish, Greensborough

I began in St Mary's Parish as Pastoral Associate ten years ago today. I thank you for having me here.

Pastoral

- My involvement in the area of pastoral ministry is threaded through my days as I meet those, casually or by appointment, who wish to share their concerns with me. My pastoral responsibility is also picked up again in my visits to new prep families in the school and in the various groups and activities in which I am involved.
- Following the death of two little girls, Indiana and Savannah, early last year, I supported the group planning the Liturgies in June where we remembered those who had suffered as a result of domestic violence.
- An idea emerging, during the year, from some Baptism Team members was that there could be something organised to reach out to those young families, by way of social activities and provision of relevant education and discussion around parenting. The group tried valiantly and generously, but the response was nil. The group has decided to leave things go for the moment.

Formation

- I co-facilitate the joint project – The Rite of Christian Initiation of Children, with others from here and St Francis Xavier Montmorency parish. We have four children in the St Mary's group to receive sacraments at Easter.
- Together with Fr Steven and Trevor Corcoran I conducted three Saturday workshops during August/September, for the Diamond Valley Deanery focussing on Lay Leaders of Liturgy including Funeral Ministry. There was a strong response from some Deanery Parishes as we explored together the call of the baptised to share in the ministry of the Church, were formed with a sound Theology of Ministry and of suffering, explored the journey of grief and our response as ministers and addressed some of the practical and theological aspects of leading liturgy and working with families in preparation for funerals.
- I facilitated a review for the Baptism Team, of their procedures and assisted in a renewal of the group which had experienced the loss of some key members. That group is going well.
- I am a member of the Faith Development Team and collaborate with those members in planning, enabling Faith Formation Nights for parents preparing for sacraments this year. Together with Fr Steven I facilitated the formation night on Confirmation last year
- I arranged, for the Parish Pastoral Council, the Enneagram weekend we had at Pallotti College in October.
- Together with Fr Steven and Janet Zappula from the school, I attended Mental Health First Aid training provided by Jesuit Social Services.
- I will complete a post graduate qualification in counselling at Swinburne University in the middle of the year, which will be helpful in my ministry here.

Spirituality

- I see a small number of parishioners for spiritual direction and last year took one parishioner through the Ignatian Spiritual Exercises. I have begun to take another person through the Spiritual Exercises this year.
- Our Retreat Team conducted the First Spiritual Exercise retreat Inner Peace in Divine Love last year and is currently conducting Inner Peace in Darkness and Light as a Lenten retreat. In Advent the Team conducted a reflection day on the movie The Nativity.
- The parish group Soul Sisters meets to support each other and previously conducted the Women of Faith series of talks. Last year was more a time for mutual support. The group is talking again about conducting a similar series at some stage in the year.
- Fr Steven and I conducted a FDT reflection day last Tuesday for the Faith Development Team. The theme was in response to Pope Francis call for us to be a church for the poor and in that to recognise the importance of our own capacity to be moved to tears if our hearts are to be open to the poor in a humble and loving way. Copies of that article are available today.

Engaging with School Families

- This year our Prep Parent Connections Night will be on April 21st. Maree McMahon, Natasha Mills and I have a core group of last year's prep parents to assist us in the planning and conducting of the night. The Prep Parent Night is often remembered as one of the most important events parents experience. This night is open to our own school parents and the parishioner parents of those children who attend state school in the area. Our focus is to engage with these families as parish so that they see the wider parish as supporting them, engaging them and interested in them. The night is reflective and prayerful and most enjoyable.
- I visit as many new prep families as are open to and available for the visit. The purpose of these visits is again for parents to experience the wider parish (and by that I mean the parish beyond the school) as welcoming and supportive. Many may not have had an experience of church for a long time, if ever. This is an important opportunity for us to introduce ourselves to them and let them know we care for them and that they too are parishioners.
- Each year I initiate the invitation to grades 5 and 6 and their families to come to the Anointing Masses. It is important that our children and their families know more about Sacraments other than Baptism, Eucharist, Confirmation and Reconciliation. There is a danger that the last three mentioned are seen as school Sacraments if there is no connection with the whole parish and in that, the worshipping community. This is one reason we don't have the big class, or whole school groups for their First Eucharist any more. It was fine when 90% of families participated in the weekly Eucharist, but no longer is it helpful to separate First Eucharists from Sunday Eucharist with the faith community. The Anointing of the Sick and Elderly, as another of the Church's sacraments can be largely hidden and we are best to broaden families understanding that sacraments are connected with life. We are also best to enable children and their families to see the faithful and prophetic image of the sick and elderly present who trust God and who experience peace and acceptance. This is a positive experience for the children whose hearts are touched, just as are the hearts of the sick and elderly by the presence of the children.

Welcome

- I have been working with a small group that originated in, and is a sub group of, the Parish Pastoral Council. This group has been exploring what welcome actually means if we are to understand more fully the indiscriminate hospitality of God. To be people of welcome is to do more than keep the church open or tidy and more than having designated hospitality ministers – all of which are good and important, but we have been challenged to think about who we exclude, who we reject, who we judge and with whom are we not reconciled – in our families, our parish, our wider community, as Australians and as members of our global community. We are currently completing a document which sets out some guidelines, as a work in progress, and which we hope to open up for feedback and discussion in various ways throughout the coming year.

Dreaming Group

- I have been a member of this group for a few years now as we think about how to be Church in time to come (which will not be far away) when we have fewer priests in the Deanery, keeping as an important reminder our call to leadership in our Church whether we are ordained or not ordained. We are thinking about the role all Catholics, including the ordained; at what is essential and what can be shared. We think every now and again about structures that might be possible between parishes. We think about how we can engage parishioners in our parishes when some will be very open to something new and others will not.

Ministers and Associates

- I am a member of an inter-church group of ministers and associates which meet every six weeks or so to share about ministry in our various churches and to plan various events such as the Stations of the Cross.

Thank you for the support for me in my ministry.

Yours sincerely,

Jacinta Bright

Pastoral Associate

St. Mary's Parish Council AGM Meeting 1 March 2015

M.a.D. Committee Report

It has been a great honour to serve as St Mary's Maintenance and Development Committee President in what has been a very busy but gratifying 12 months.

Our MaD Team (as the committee call those who are always there when asked to lend a helping hand) have achieved so much and in a short time.

By the end of 2014 we had completed and seen open "Bonnie's Playground". I'm sure that most of our school and parish community can see what a great outcome the final product is but probably don't understand the many long hours that were put in by our volunteers during a very challenging wet few weeks that this job was completed in.

The next stage was the junior playground area. Again our dedicated volunteers worked in the extreme heat to have the ground ready for new retaining walls and footpath to be placed.

Many gave their time over the Christmas break (some leaving family on holidays to come back and help) to get finished before the teachers and students started the new 2015 school year.

In one day 23 cubic metres of concrete was laid. Just amazing when you consider 6-10 cubic metres is considered a good days work.

We continue with the junior playground and hope to have it finalised before the end of term 2.

I don't want to sound negative but this needs to be understood by our Parish.

The MaD Committee still have concerns over the numbers attending general working bees as those numbers are in decline in 2014 with the first working bee for the 2015 year having committee members and their families outnumbering others.

While we all love what we do MaD cannot be relied to do as much as we do without help, particularly from school families. "Burnout" is a real possibility and with so much more that we can do for our wonderful school and church grounds it would be a shame to lose such dedicated individuals as we have.

Each MaD member have jobs to go to (many run their own businesses), kids playing sport, family commitments and are just as busy as anyone in our community yet each MaD members seem to find time to spend 1-3 hours every week doing something that needs doing at St Mary's. That's 10-30 hours a week of volunteer time. Much of it after hours and on weekends whether there is organised work or not.

It's not a big commitment for our families. We ask that each family find time to dedicate a minimum of just 1 hour per year to a working bee. That would give us close to 10 weeks (in total hours) of time per year to dedicate to the schools ongoing minor maintenance program. The importance of this cannot be overstated. If families don't attend working bees the long term knock on affect will be noticed and the school will show a lack of maintenance. MaD committee can't be asked to shoulder all the work.

That said there are people who go above and beyond and they should be recognised.

Our dedicated MaD Committee members (in no particular order): Reno Reginato (and Steph), Alan Hawley, John Wood, Phillip Goulding, Catherine Pacioane, John Crapis, Danny Verbeetan, Ben Tosetto and Hilda Cowan. These people give so much. I am truly grateful to them for their assistance this year.

Then there is the MaD Team. These are a small group of dedicated people who, when ever asked to help, give their time, equipment and expertise.

Adrian Ferronato who not only given his time and expertise in all things plumbing but has lent MaD his earthmoving equipment that has made most of the larger projects possible. The savings for the school are in the thousands of dollars due to Adrian's generosity.

Zack Fekonja is our master builder. All the timber work you see is down to Zac's expert work. He uses all of his own equipment and extras (nails, screws etc) and never asks for compensation.

Rob Balassone his general building skills have been invaluable with anything from roofing to concreting. His sense of humour is always welcome around the place too. Thanks Rob.

David Sanelli has lent earth moving equipment along with his knowledge of landscaping. He is currently working on the junior playground design.

Reno Reginato, MaD's Secretary and general do anything man. Reno spends a lot of his weekends at the school, line marking, weeding and other jobs that seem to get missed at working bees.

Alan Hawley MaD's Assistant Secretary and Treasurer and labourer. Always there to lend a hand even though he does shift work.

John Wood. What can we say about MaD's immediate past president? He has built a solid network of contacts over the years and is always prepared to organise all our material for any of MaD's projects. His plumbing skills have also come in handy. John spends a large amount of his time interstate with his work, yet still finds time to organise things for us.

John Crapis. One of our newest committee members. His skill with a welder can't be beaten. He has more tools than Bunnings and is always there to help.

Phillip Goulding. MaD's go to man. Phill no longer has kids at St. Mary's but still helps out. Just recently he was at Tom's Shed at 5:30am during the week to repair ailing equipment in preparation for our first working bee for the year. He is always first there at the working bee to have everything ready.

Phillip Georgiou. Phil is on the SAB Grounds Sub Committee and has done an amazing job overseeing the major projects around the school. His drive keeps us all on our toes and he is an important cog in the MaD machine.

Barney Collum. Helped during the construction of Bonnies Playground. He brought in soil and organised other trades that helped clean up the area. Thanks Barney.

Frank Scarfo our concreter extraordinaire. He screed and levelled over 23 cubic metres of concrete in one day. Amazing stuff. His expertise on Bonnies Playground was invaluable too.

Peter Miles. Peter is like the Duracell Bunny. He just goes and goes and goes. Pete's experience in all aspects of construction has been very useful.

David Elliott despite his recent serious illness still comes along to working bees and major works to ensure we are all fed. We all love having Dave around as a source of inspiration if nothing else.

Ben Tosetto. Ben has been a great worker and supporter of MaD over many years. Ben's coffee has become legendary and often is the cry we need a Ben's Coffee to keep us going.

Travis Clayton who claims he doesn't know one end of construction to the other but is there to help when we ask.

Louise Grouios who organised the plants around Bonnie Playground and the donation of them too.

Some others who have lent a hand are: Andrew Wolzko, Peter Dynes, John Mikac, Mike Hoey, Jim Goodge, Rob Douglas, Mary Elliott, and Amanda McKenna.

We need to acknowledge some local businesses of parents at the school too who have helped. Simon Whiting (Ace Drilling) who dug many post holes for us at no charge. This involved bringing in machinery, so it was no small favour. Thanks Simon.

Mick Parker, manager of Bunnings at Thomastown who donated \$220 worth of plants on behalf of Bunnings and also Maree Parker (Mick Parker's wife) who helped plant out those plants.

To Helen Anderson, Liz Sullivan, Gary Collings and our wonderful teachers who attended working bees thanks for your help this year. It is a pleasure to work alongside such dedicated staff that truly care about our kids. Thanks to the support staff, Phillipa, Trish and Fran for your help during the year.

To Fr Steven. Thanks for all of your support too. Not to many parish priests would roll their sleeves up and help with the work as you have this year. You are a good man and a good friend to us at MaD. Thanks you.

We look forward to 2015.

Presented by - Peter McKenna

President – M.a.D. Committee

PARISH AGM - 2015

School Advisory Board Report

For presentation at the Parish AGM 1 March 2015

The School Advisory Board (SAB) comprises the Parish Priest, the School Principal, three school staff members (including the Deputy Principal) and up to ten parent representatives. A member of the School Advisory Board is also represented at other school group meetings such as the Maintenance and Development Team (MAD) and the Parents Association (PA).

The SAB met on eight occasions during 2014 and the AGM was held in March.

The SAB covered many items in relation to the operation and management of the school as well as receiving reports from the various groups which are part of the Parish/School community. A report was presented at each meeting by the School Principal, Parish Priest, and the SAB representative of the Parents Association (PA) and the Maintenance and Development Committee (MAD).

SAB meetings throughout the year included discussion of a number of diverse topics, some of the more important issues covered were:

- **School Grounds Development**- a SAB sub-committee was formed and working in conjunction with MAD formulated plans for development of the playground space behind the Administration Building. This level play area covered in Tiger Turf was completed in Term 2 and named 'Bonnie's Playground'. Stage 2 plans for the development of the Junior Playground were then formulated and started by the end of the year.
- **Parent Engagement** – a SAB sub-committee was formed to review the school's Homework Policy. This included considering the body of research for and against homework for primary school aged students and also the implementation of a survey for the school's teachers to share their views. Recommendations from the SAB were then given to the School's Leadership Team.
- **Policy Review** – The SAB reviewed and updated the Behaviour Policy, the Anaphylaxis Policy and the SAB Guidelines. The SAB is also in the process of developing a Benevolent Fund policy.
- **School Security Review** – The SAB reviewed school security and implemented a range of new security measures.

I would like to give thanks to all current SAB members plus those who resigned earlier in 2014 at the end of their term. The dedication and passion of this group ensures that the SAB is an active contributor to the development of the school.

The School Advisory Board looks forward to continuing to support St Mary's Parish School into 2015 to maintain the standard of education that it is renowned for.

Presented by Paul George - Chairperson



VISION STATEMENT

**“To be a vibrant Christian community
engaging with the world”**