



St. Mary's Parish, Greensborough

Parish Annual General Meeting

Monday 16 April 2017,  
7:30 PM – 9:00 PM

### Agenda

1. Welcome

2. Prayer - Fr Steven

3. Reports:

Kristel Roxas – Chairperson, Pastoral Council

Helen Anderson – Principal, St Mary's School

Jacinta Bright – Pastoral Associate

Fr Dong Tran – Assistant Priest

Paul Girolami - Finance Committee

Marco Hall - School Advisory Board

John Wood - Strategic Planning Committee

Fr Steven Rigo - Parish Priest

4. Questions

# **St. Mary's Parish Greensborough**

## **2018 Annual General Meeting**

**16 April 2018**

### **Parish Pastoral Council Report**

#### ***"TO BE A VIBRANT CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY ENGAGING WITH THE WORLD"***

The St Mary's community was full of life and energy in the busy year of 2017. The Parish Pastoral Council has been working in various areas within the community to receive feedback and discover where our parish is heading.

Throughout the year there have been a few main events:

- PPC formation weekend with Jack Stuart
- Shared meal with our partnered parishes

In August, the PPC had a formation weekend with Jack Stuart, who is an experienced facilitator in the Archdiocese and whom we have worked with in previous sessions. The theme of the weekend was "how to cope and lead in a chaotic world" and how to befriend betrayal. The betrayal and unease stems from the betrayal of the church to the victims of sexual abuse and church members and society in general. This focus led us to the conclusion that we need to be more open to and welcome more than those who are like-minded or agree with us. We also reflected upon the beatitudes as "be attitudes", aligning our perspectives to that of welcome, tenderness and mercy. This weekend helped the PPC to discover ways to move forward with the ever increasing changes and challenges within the church.

As a PPC, we decided it was important to build our relationship with our partnered parishes, St Thomas and Sacred Heart. An informal meeting was held at St Thomas in December of last year with their combined PPC. We shared an evening together getting to know one another, looking at ways for us to move forward in the early stages of our journey together as partnered parishes. This was an important first step for our three parishes to build our relationship and work together in the upcoming years.

There have also been some large areas of discussion:

- PPC Membership and connections
- Parish Website
- Parish Survey

After some reflection over the formation weekend, we decided it would benefit us as a council to broaden are knowledge of some of the other groups within the parish. We now attend SAB meetings and vice versa, and some members have recently joined the Strategic Planning Committee. We are continuing to build stronger relationships between the groups, which has brought us all much insight into different areas within the parish.

As life happens, a number of PPC members have had to step down, leaving the council in small numbers. As we seek to recruit new members in 2018, it was decided that we would review the current PPC guidelines to ensure they are updated to align with the times and purpose of the PPC. These updates have been approved by the council and are to be published in the guidelines. Nominations for new members are currently being called for and we will have a day of discernment on May 5<sup>th</sup> to appoint our new members.

Upon reviewing the parish website at the start of the year, it was decided that the site was in need of a makeover as currently, the website has only been utilised to provide information. We saw the potential it had to engage with people within and outside of our community, to evangelise and for it to reflect our parish Vision and Mission. A small group formed from the PPC who have been working together with a great amount of energy, drawing in other parishioners with a variety of skills for the design process. These people will be involved in future maintenance of the website. We are aiming for both improved functionality to the standard template provided by the Archdiocese and for the website to reflect who we are as a parish. The group hope for the new and improved website to be operational later this year.

One of the initiatives that came from our discussions following the formation weekend was the parish survey. This was conducted in November-December of 2017 with us receiving over 80 responses, from both the church and school communities. The PPC has been working on reviewing each respondent's comments. The survey has brought to light some common themes which the PPC decided was important to share with the parish community. In upcoming months, we will see in the parish bulletin and Skoolbag app these comments and themes, which groups have been asked to take to their meetings and discuss. Dissecting the survey will continue for months to come. A great big thank you to Jacinta, Dave and Susan for the great amount of work they have put into the survey.

2018 will see the continuation of work in relation to the survey and working towards the sustainability of the council and the community of St Mary's.

With our lives so busy nowadays, time is precious and I am truly grateful for everyone who has offered their time, skills and efforts to our wonderful community. I take this opportunity to say a special thank you to the following people. Fr Steve, Fr Dong and Jacinta for the ongoing leadership of our parish. To the wonderful Lisa Murray, our school representative, and SAB representatives, who have brought us such great insight into the school, we all have truly appreciated your contribution to the PPC and wider parish community. A big thank you to the previous chair, Pat Gullone, who left some very big shoes to fill. To ongoing members Susan Kempen and Fiona Scott, and to those who have finished their time on the council; Peter McKenna, Michael Lawton, Bernadette Douglas, Tiffany Davis, David Marshall and Trevor D'Souza, a special thank you for your work over the years for the community of St Mary's and for supporting me personally through my newly appointed role as chair.

St Mary's is the strong, vibrant community it is because of the amazing contribution from our parishioners. I am looking forward to what the year 2018 has in store for us.

Kristel Roxas

Chairperson



## Parish Council AGM

### St. Mary's School Principal's Report 16 April 2018

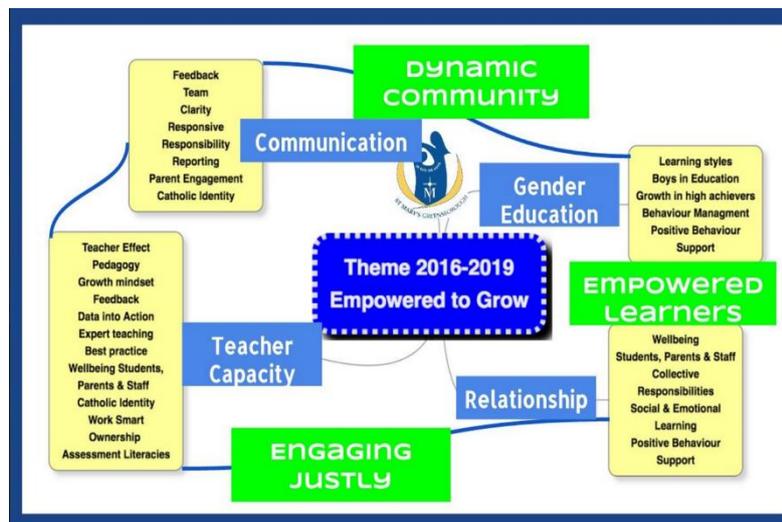
At the commencement of 2018, there were 545 students enrolled with 378 families. Prep enrolment was 65. There were 15 new students enrolled into classes across the school.

In 2017, our school theme was "Let Your Light Shine." Each Term we focussed on a value that challenged us to live out our theme and allowed us to shine a light for others. These values were Welcome, Kindness, Cooperation and Understanding.

Having participated in a Negotiated Review in 2016, throughout 2017 we began the process of enacting our goals that were set throughout the Review Process. The overall theme that came from our Review was:

#### EMPOWERED TO GROW

The following mindmap summarizes the findings which emerged through the Review process and will guide us as we work towards achieving our Goals over the next two years.



### Goals set for the new School Improvement Cycle:

- To connect faith and life in an authentic manner, deepening students understanding of their world, formed by their Catholic Identity and their call to be of service to others.
- To empower students, through rigorous and transformative learning, to be self-regulated thinkers and learners, who engage justly in the world.
- To empower students to know, understand and value themselves as they grow in relationships with others.
- To empower staff to be agents of continuous and transformative growth.
- To strengthen community partnerships that empowers the growth of all.

With our overall theme being Empowerment, our goals reflect our vision that all in the community are enabled to feel empowered to grow and contribute successfully to our community and society as a whole. We believe that:

**Empowered staff have intrinsic motivation, work collaboratively and share responsibility for decision making that builds a dynamic culture of learning. An empowerment culture promotes risk taking, reflection and feedback which drives continual growth in student learning and builds teacher capacity. Staff feel valued, trusted and challenged as they work in alignment with the School's Vision.**

## Education in Faith

### Goals

To connect faith and life in an authentic manner, deepening students understanding of their world, formed by their Catholic Identity and their call to be of service to others.

### Achievements

- RE Curriculum Closure Day on Renewed RE Curriculum
- Targeted Professional Learning for the REL Leader & two class teachers
- Father Steven facilitated a session with staff on Catholic Identity and teacher capacity in RE in the area of the explicit teaching of Gospel Values
- Introduction of REL instructional walks
- Christian Meditation Professional Learning - strengthening processes Professional Learning
- Christian Meditation Professional refresher session for whole staff at a CLF
- Engaging with Scripture Professional Learning- Junior teachers
- Year 4 Social Justice Group formed - Inquiry learning action resulted in a Mission Market (which raised \$1857.25 ) and Socktober day (promoted by the group) raised \$612.35

## Teaching and Learning

### Goals

To empower students, through rigorous and transformative learning, to be self-regulated thinkers and learners, who engage justly in the world.

### Achievements

- Incorporated timely feedback into planning documentation which is consistent across the school.
- Digital Leaders appointed one day a week
- Digital Curriculum Professional Learning - half day
- Year 2 Team attended the three day 'Designing Dynamic Inquiries' facilitated by Deb Vietri
- Introduction to 'Learning Sprints' Professional Learning facilitated by Simon Breakspear
- Occupational Therapy Professional Learning - developmental milestones for fine motor development
- Year 5 inquiry action #Spread the love
- Year 4 Social Justice Group formed and students organised and ran a Mission Market as action for inquiry raising \$1857.25
- Bunjil's Nest - students (one representative from each class) working collaboratively and creatively, built the nest.
- FIRE Carriers participated in Indigenous Literacy Day at NGV Melbourne
- Participated in the Long Walk

### NUMERACY

- Students wrote their learning goals based on evidence
- Year 2 extension maths group established in Semester 2.

- Development of the Mental Computation continuum (addition and subtraction)
- Year 3 & 6 trialled Mental computation (addition and subtract) daily practise through Number Talks
- GRIN data showed an improvement in Maths.
- SPA Standard Data Master Class - Leaders attended Professional Learning
- Developed an online Induction Module around Child Safe Practice

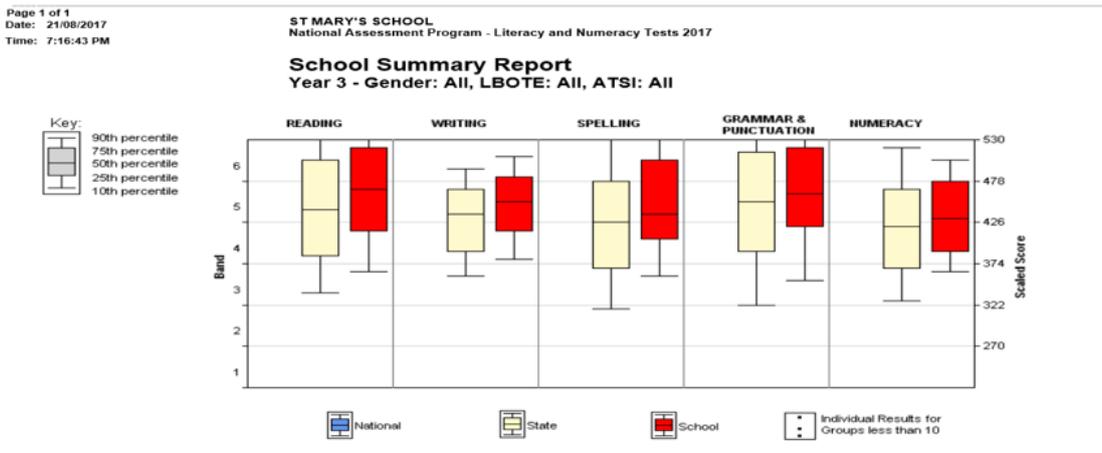
## LITERACY

- Teachers used SPA Markbook for writing and assessment
- Embedded practice with designing rubric in writing to assess student progress.
- Students wrote learning goals based on evidence.
- Teachers attended SMART Spelling and 'Caught in the Spell of Words' Professional Learning.
- Phonics in Context Professional Learning - attended by two junior teachers.

Through support programs such as the Levelled Literacy Intervention program (LLI), Getting Ready in Numeracy (GRIN) Program, effective use of data, focused expert teaching, along with a continued focus on improving teacher capacity, there continues to be improved learning for our students. This was very evident in our school assessment results and the results from the annual NAPLAN Assessment.

The graphs below display the School Summary Report for Years 3 for each of the five learning areas tested in NAPLAN: reading; writing; spelling; grammar and punctuation; and numeracy. St Mary's scores are displayed in red and the Victorian State scores are displayed in yellow. The box represents 50% of the students' scores, with the line representing the Median (middle) score. The lines on either side of the box represents 15% of the students' scores respectively. The remaining 20% are not illustrated on the graph.

## Yr.3 School Summary Report



Year 3	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy
School Mean	467	449	447	471	435
State Mean	446	428	423	450	421
Difference	21	21	24	21	14

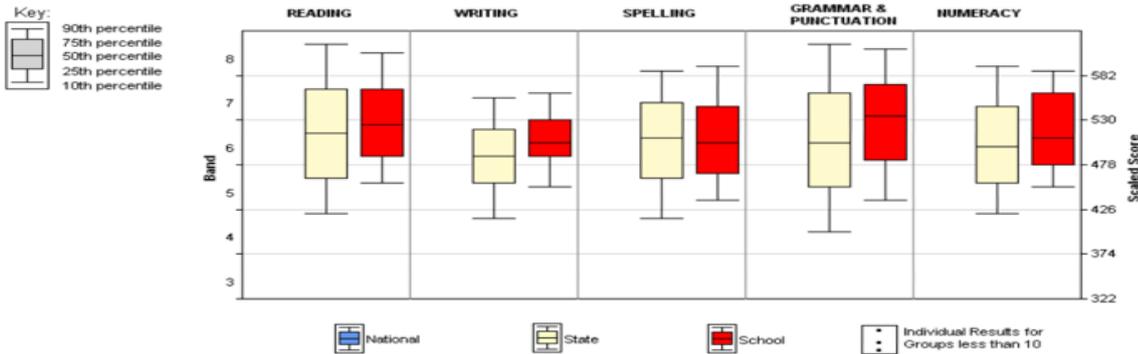
The Year 3 results indicate that in each of the learning areas St Mary's students are outperforming the State. The table also indicates the difference between St Mary's Mean (average) score compared to the State Mean. The green numbers indicate that St Mary's Mean is 14 points or more above the State Mean in each of the five learning areas.

# Year 5 School Summary Report

Date: 21/08/2017  
Time: 7:28:42 PM

ST MARY'S SCHOOL  
National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy Tests 2017

## School Summary Report Year 5 - Gender: All, LBOTE: All, ATSI: All



Year 5	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy
School Mean	516	500	508	528	518
State Mean	529	486	504	506	503
Difference	13	14	4	22	15

The Year 5 results indicate that in each of the learning areas St Mary's students are outperforming the State. The table also indicates the difference between St Mary's Mean (average) score compared to the State Mean. The green numbers indicate that St Mary's Mean is above the State Mean in each of the five learning areas.

### Professional Development Days Undertaken by all Staff:

- Term 1      **First Aid**
- Term 2      **Introduction to Renewed Religious Education Curriculum Documents and Digital Curriculum**
- Term 3      **Restorative Practices**
- Term 4      **Reporting**

## Student Wellbeing

### Goals

To empower students to know, understand and value themselves as they grow in relationships with others.

### Achievements

- Strengthened strategies that promote SEL, resilience and a 'Growth Mindset' in all aspects of student life.
- Implemented Behaviour Tracking (February and October).
- Evaluated and refined processes that track and monitor student behaviour.
- Reinforced positive behaviour strategies and celebrated successes.
- SHINE Week was introduced (Whole School).
- Student Wellbeing Leader attended 'Family School Partnership' Professional Learning
- National Day of Action' (NDA) Whole School Day.
- Restorative Practices Professional Learning - Dave Vinegrad.
- Initial training for Kids Matter Team.

- Introduced all staff to 'Kidsmatter Primary'.
- Staff participated in the Kidsmatter CLF Module 1 Sessions 1-3 Professional Learning.
- Whole school ClassDojo trial implementation. Developed 'Protocols for use'.
- Year 6 prepared and led Whole School Assembly.
- Year 5 inquiry action #Spread the love
- Year 4 Social Justice Group formed.

## Leadership & Management

### Goals

To empower staff to be agents of continuous and transformative growth.

#### Achievements

- Recognised, acknowledged and promoted teacher expertise through teachers presenting at CLFs.
- Built and promoted "Growth Mindset" by modelling this approach in CLF's & PLT's.
- Investigated and utilised relevant AITSL resources for professional growth.
- Developed reporting practices that align with Victorian Curriculum and current pedagogy.
- Built consistency and depth in the assessment of student learning.
- Completed Staff Charter as a public agreement.
- Adopted and actioned a shared 'Empowerment Charter'.
- Deputy Principal attended Leadership Conference
- Development of Reporting Rubric - this is ongoing
- Developed Scope and Sequence and assessment strategies for coding
- ARM PLT - AITSL Standards
- Restorative Practice PL with Dave Vinegrad
- Introduction to 'Learning Sprints' facilitated by Simon Breakspear attended by Leaders
- VCAA NAPLAN Professional Learning - Assessment for better learning
- AITSL Standards and Feedback - Staff explicitly explored one of the three domains
- Developed a framework for ARM meetings including feedback

## School Community

### Goals

To strengthen community partnerships that empowers the growth of all.

#### Achievements

- Evaluated and refined current communication processes to allow all in the community to be well informed.
- Developed reporting processes that clearly and continually communicate student growth in learning.
- Developed Parent Code of Conduct
- Improved response to 'Parent Involvement Survey' - increased participation in school events such as Working Bees
  - Protocols for Parent Leaders to send reminder emails and messages of thanks after events.
- Developed and trialled an 'Induction Module'
- Audited the implementation of ClassDojo and developed protocols for use by students, parents and teachers.
- Community support for St Vincent de Paul Sleepout that involved two teachers and a parent. \$2469.60 raised.
- School Community Standards of Conduct being developed.
- Literacy Parent Helper training sessions held.
- Parent Forum on Communication was held.
- Cyber Safety sessions for parents – Alannah and Madeline Foundation

## PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS

### **BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS DEVELOPMENT**

In 2017, a basketball half court was completed in the Junior Playground. Preparations for the installation of a retaining wall along the roadway adjacent to the Oval began. A permit was obtained and preliminary works commenced. Much work was done in completing the safety plan for the grounds – line marking, pedestrian crossings, wheel stops and barriers were installed that have added to a safe environment for all using the car park. Work commenced over the December School Holidays on a major renovation to the Tuck-shop. This is now completed and is providing a much improved facility for the community.

### **ST. VINNIE'S SLEEP OUT**

The inaugural St. Vinnie's Diamond Valley Sleep Out was held on Saturday 15 July at Watermarc Greensborough. This event was held to raise awareness of the hardship endured by those in our community who are in need and also to provide them with financial assistance. A parent and two teachers represented St. Mary's in this event and together, through our community's support, raised \$2469.60.

### **KIDSMATTER**

KidsMatter is an Australian initiative which provides a framework, resources and support to identify and implement strategies to promote the mental health and wellbeing of students. It is led and supported by the Principals Australia Institute, beyondblue and the Australian Psychological Association.

It has four components which are:

1. Positive School Community
2. Social and Emotional learning for students
3. Working with parents and carers
4. Helping children with mental health difficulties.

We have worked through Component 1 and are beginning on Component 2. We are linking this with the new Victorian Curriculum and with a specific focus on the Respectful Relationships curriculum resource. This is to promote healthy interactions and relationships which foster great learning and improved academic outcomes for our students.

### **PARENT COMMUNICATION FORUM**

A successful Parent Forum was held on 31 August where we shared our current practices around communication. There was a focus on email, Skoolbag and ClassDojo. Through open discussion, we received feedback on the effectiveness of all channels of communication. Protocols around the use of the various forms of communication were shared. In Term 4, following ratification by the School Advisory Board, protocols were shared with parents.

### **CYBER SAFETY SESSION**

On 20 April, a Cyber safety evening for parents was conducted by facilitators from the Alannah and Madeline Foundation. This was an important event as parents were given ideas and resources to enable them to support their child to keep themselves safe when online.

### **eSMART SCHOOL**

In 2017, St. Mary's received accreditation status as an eSmart School. To receive this accreditation, over the past three years we developed and implemented practices to provide for the safe use of online resources at school. A rigorous process of evaluating practices and the development and implementation of policies was required. Although accreditation has been achieved, there is a commitment to ongoing review and renewal of practices to ensure that our students engage in the safe use of online resources and are cyber smart.

### **HAPARA**

An administration management tool called Hapara was introduced at the commencement of 2017 in Yrs. 3- 6 to enable teachers to monitor, organise and allocate tasks to students. It personalises instruction and is a platform for feedback to the student.

## **CLASSDOJOS**

In 2017 we trialled ClassDojo. This App is a tool to communicate about Behaviour and to send quick messages to parents. It also allows for parents to communicate to the teacher via short messages. Stories, another feature of this App, was also trialled by some teachers to showcase class learning.

## **SEESAW**

A trial using Seesaw, a digital portfolio was introduced in Prep during 2017. At St. Mary's it is used to convey to parents growth in students' learning in real time. Parents are able to provide feedback to both the teacher and student using this App.

## **INDUCTION MODULE**

In meeting new requirements around volunteers working in schools, we developed an online Induction Module which incorporated all the new requirements, these being that volunteers need to participate in an Induction session, provide referees and be interviewed prior to assisting in schools. In Term 2, parents who helped in classrooms were required to complete the online Induction module and in Term 3, all volunteers who assisted on excursions/incursions or at the Canteen were asked to complete the Induction module. This expectation to complete the Module is an expectation for all volunteers in 2018. The Module is on our Website under "Our Community", "Child Safe Requirements."

## **STUDENT PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES**

### **FIRE Carrier Program**

The FIRE Carrier Program, an acronym for "Friends Igniting Reconciliation through Education," continued strongly in 2017. New students and teachers were inducted as FIRE Carriers and participated in a variety of learning experiences to deepen their understanding of this program. All levels, staff and the community painted Totem Poles with a representation of themselves as a group.

### **LONG WALK – NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK**

National Reconciliation Week took place from Saturday 27 May to Saturday 3 June 2017 with the theme being, "Let's take the next steps". In 2017, we reflected on two significant anniversaries in Australia's reconciliation journey – 50 years since the 1967 referendum, and 25 years since the historic Mabo decision. In commemorating these significant milestones, St Mary's took part in the Long Walk on Tuesday 30 May.

To enhance their understanding of these significant events, the Year 6 students were involved in a mini inquiry unit about 'The Stolen Generation' and actioned their learning by decorating posters and bollards which they carried on the Long Walk. Along with teachers and parent helpers, they walked to Loyola College, along Grimshaw Street, dressed in t-shirts designed by two of our students. The Loyola College VCAL students accompanied our students on the Walk. We met up with students from St Damian's School who also participated in the Walk.

### **MATHS ACHIEVEMENTS**

Students from Yrs. 4 – 6 participated in Maths Competitions throughout the year. Twenty one Yr. 4 students participated in the Maths Games Program where 10,000 students from 500 different schools participated and 29 Yr. 5 and 27 Yr. 6 students entered the Maths Olympiad Competition where there were 31,000 participants from across 1400 schools. In the Yr. 6 Maths Olympiad competition, two students achieved a perfect score and were in the top 1% of the 31,000 students. Another student was in the top 10% and four students performed in the top 25%. In the Yr. 5 competition, one student received an award for outstanding effort and improvement in Mathematical Problem Solving and in Yr.4, five students were recognised for their outstanding Problem Solving and Perseverance.

### **FUND RAISING**

To support the work of Catholic Missions, Kevin Meese director of the Melbourne Office, spoke to the Year Four students to engage their interest. They also explored Catholic Social teaching which calls us to stand in solidarity for those in need. The Year Four students then worked through a design process to

mass produce products to sell or to develop an activity for students to do as part of a hugely successful Mission Market event. This event in combination with a colourful sock day, when the school community gathered to celebrate a Mission Mass, raised a total of \$2487.60.

The school also supported the work of Caritas through Project compassion and an awareness raising campaign by the Year Two level. This group was part of the Mission Mass & Socktober day. They also supported a parish initiative to collect glasses for overseas missions. The Year Five students facilitated an awareness raising day during Refugee Week. After a Mass focusing on praying for refugees, the school community gathered on the piazza to draw butterflies, reflecting our solidarity with refugees.

**BIG GROUP HUG**The Big Group Hug is a local charity that supports disadvantaged families in the community and beyond. They provide donated goods to help parents to care for children from newborn to 12 years of age. St. Mary's responded to the Big Group Hug's call for donated new socks, jocks and singlets for both boys and girls to keep them warm as the winter weather approaches. Participation in this project was initiated by one of our students.

### **SCHOOL CHOIRS**

St Mary's Senior and Junior Choirs took part in the fourth annual Freedom Choir Festival (Zone/District Choir Festival) on Friday 23 June. The Festival gave our students the opportunity to perform for students from other schools as well as observe other performances.

### **ART SHOW**

St. Mary's Art Show was held over two nights, these being the 18 and 19 October and was open for parishioners to visit on Sunday 21 October. Artistic works completed by all students were on display. The theme of the Art Show was, "Colour is fun, colour is just plain gorgeous, a gourmet meal for the eye. The window of the soul". Adding to this event, was a bar/be/que cooked by members of the MaD Team.

### **SPORT**

For the first time we applied for Sporting Schools Funding. This is a government initiated program where funds are allocated according to the size of your school. The money can then be used to employ specialist coaches and buy new equipment for each particular sport. We received \$3700 for each term last year and students participated in the following sports as a part of our Physical Education Program. Equipment was also purchased.

Term One	Basketball
Term Two	Hot Shots Tennis
Term Three	Volleyball
Term Four	Ten Pin Bowling

Along with these programs other sports programs across the school included: Rugby League, AFL 9's, Waster Safety, PIT Gymnastics, Dance & Movement, Coach Approach ( a variety of sports coached by national players) Circus Skills

We achieved success in a variety of team sports:

- Year 5/6 Girls won the Watsonia District Rugby League Round Robin. They then competed in the Billy Slater Shield State Finals, winning a number of games at the event
- Year 6 Boys' Basketball team were runners up in Watsonia District Finals
- Year 6 Mixed Football team were Premiers in Watsonia District Finals
- Year 6 Mixed Football team competed in Banyule District Finals
- Year 6 Girls Bat Tennis Team were runners up in Watsonia District Finals
- Year 6 Girls Netball A Team were runners up in Watsonia District Finals

Watsonia District Athletics and Cross Country Overall winners - Years 3 - 6

Watsonia District Swimming Overall runners up - Years 3 - 6

### **Community Involvement**

The School Advisory Board met on eight occasions and continued to give valuable advice in relation to the operation of the school. A major focus was on developing Community Protocols around behaviour and general expectations of Parents, Staff and Students. The Parents' Association provided a number of social events and continued to successfully run the Tuck shop and Uniform Shop. Fundraising events were also held. A very successful fundraiser was held in October raising \$ 15,000 for the school. The MAD Team held Working Bees throughout the year and successfully completed the major task of completing the safety management strategy in relation to safety measures for pedestrian safety and the enhancement of traffic flow in the car parks. It is through the enthusiastic and generous support of these groups, that we are able to continue to build community and have a real sense of pride in who we are at St. Mary's.

## **2018 School Improvement Plan:**

### **EDUCATION IN FAITH**

#### **Goal**

**To connect faith and life in an authentic manner, deepening students understanding of their world, formed by their Catholic Identity and their call to be of service to others.**

#### **Intended Outcomes:**

- **That students know and understand what it means to be a member of a Catholic faith community.**
- **That students enter into dialogue and engage in activities that deepen their Catholic Identity.**

#### **Key Improvement Strategy**

- Strengthen and develop processes to enhance teacher capacity and pedagogy to make explicit links between Religious Education and faith-based interpretation of their world.

### **LEARNING AND TEACHING**

#### **Goal**

**To empower students, through rigorous and transformative learning, to be self-regulated thinkers and learners, who engage justly in the world.**

#### **Intended Outcomes:**

- **That students achieve at least one year of growth in Literacy and Numeracy.**
- **That student engagement improves.**
- **That students demonstrate greater responsibility and capacity to self-regulate their own learning (PRT).**

#### **Key Improvement Strategies**

- Strengthen a whole school approach to targeted teaching that strives for high growth for all students.
- Strengthen the whole school consistent approach to ensure that all students are empowered to be responsible, inquisitive, active learners with a 'Growth Mindset'.

### **LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT**

#### **Goal**

**To empower staff to be agents of continuous and transformative growth.**

#### **Intended Outcomes:**

- **That the capacity of leaders is extended and enriched, enabling strong supportive leadership.**
- **That through dynamic and responsive evidence based action, St Mary's community is at the forefront of best practice in education.**
- **That enhanced feedback and appraisal processes will facilitate transformative growth.**

## Key Improvement Strategies

- Provide targeted, personalised Professional Learning that empowers staff to improve student learning outcomes.
- Build and develop staff collaborative practices that leads to collective responsibility for student growth and school improvement.

## STUDENT WELLBEING

### Goal

**To empower students to know, understand and value themselves as they grow in relationships with others.**

### Intended Outcome:

- **That students develop the skills and strategies to take responsibility for their actions, positive choices and ongoing personal growth**

### Key Improvement Strategies

- Strengthen and develop processes to enhance teacher capacity and pedagogy to lead students to develop a positive attitude and growth mindset.
- Develop and embed a whole school approach to social and emotional learning (SEL)

## COMMUNITY

### Goal

**To strengthen community partnerships that empowers the growth of all.**

### Intended Outcomes:

- **That community members engage in clear and respectful communication.**
- **That the community builds positive relationships that enable participation and contribution in all aspects of school life.**

### Key Improvement Strategies

- Strengthen two-way communication with parents to optimise learning.
- Improve collaboration within the community leading to strong partnerships and enhanced collective responsibility.



Helen Anderson

**PRINCIPAL**

## Pastoral Associate Report to Parish AGM 2018

### Preamble

I am very conscious that the nature of my ministry is communal. Without the support and generosity of parishioners, my work would be very difficult. I am inspired and encouraged by so many. I am grateful for this interest and support and enthusiasm for ministry. I am also grateful for the trust I am given, by those who share their struggles and joys with me and by those who are willing to engage on the journey of ministry.

I am also grateful to work with Fr Steven and Fr Dong. We work as a team and we experience each other's support and respect. I am very grateful as a woman in leadership in the Church, that Fr Steven and Fr Dong and I work collaboratively and this encourages me for the future, in a Church where more and more lay people will be called upon to exercise leadership in Parishes.

I endeavour, in the pages that follow, to sketch out something of my work, my purpose and the way my ministry is undertaken.

Faith and Spirituality underpins all my work, regardless of wherever, whatever and with whomever I am engaged

- those deeply committed to our parish
- those loosely connected to our parish and who might see themselves as spiritual but not religious
- those who may not be connected to the parish but come to us for assistance
- those who reject the parish

My work is grounded in the belief that we are loved by God, no matter who we are, committed or not, and that God wants a relationship with us, not only for our own sake, but so that we can bring that love into the world.

This fits with our Vision To be a Vibrant Christian Community Engaging with the World and is what shapes the way I engage in my ministry as Pastoral Associate at St Mary's. It shapes my direct ministry; in what I hope for my in encounters with others and it shapes my contribution to formation for ministry.

The following points describe how I try to do this:

### Faith & Spiritual Formation

- Faith Formation Nights

Working with others on the **Faith Development Team**, we organise and conduct **Faith Formation Nights** for parents and guardians of children preparing for sacraments. We are aware that some parents may be loosely connected to the parish, perhaps some even identifying themselves as spiritual but not religious. These nights are conducted with the hope that something of what is shared resonates with parents, deepening their appreciation of the sacraments and belonging to the Church.

Support for the running of **Alpha**, in May and June, a small group series which aims to bring people to a starting point in their faith. I am also supporting the potential establishment of an Alpha core group in the parish, that might see to the ongoing work of Alpha here.

- RCIC  
Last year, in May, a grade 6 boy, who had been journeying with me over the last year, preparing to become a Catholic, was Baptised and received his First Eucharist.  
In previous years, I had worked with personnel from St Francis Xavier Parish, Montmorency, to conduct the RCIC Program; the children's version of the RCIA. This arrangement has proven too difficult to continue, so now our Sunday Catechist Program has made space to include any older children preparing for Baptism.
- Times of Reflection  
I conducted a reflection evening for Catholic Charismatic Renewal entitled "God's Love", in April.  
Fr Steven and I conducted a reflection day for the Faith Development Team in May.
- Nurturing a culture of Reconciliation  
I conducted a discussion group on the book "I Shall Not Hate" at the end of March last year and followed up with a film night showing "The Power of Forgiveness".
- Soul Sisters I am a member of a give support to the group, Soul Sisters, who gather for mutual support and to assist Parish initiatives in relation to Women.
- Spiritual Direction I currently see two people for spiritual direction a regular basis and others intermittently. This ministry is about assisting another to listen to the presence of God in their lives, paying attention to where God is calling them in their everyday lives.
- Pastoral Support I am naturally involved in the pastoral support of others. This support might be in one to one encounters, one off, or it might be in an ongoing way. As well as qualifications in Pastoral Ministry and Spiritual Direction, I am a Counsellor. This background is helpful in my role.

### **Engaging with School Families**

- Prep Parent Connection Night  
In May I worked with a group of parents to plan and conduct the Parish hosted Prep Parent Connections Night. There are several layers to this night. We ask that no school personnel attend so that parents, who may see the school as their connection to the Church, can see the parish, to which they belong, caring for them.  
We create an opportunity for parents to reflect on the uniqueness of their prep child or children, to write a letter to their child that will be given them in grade 6 and we bring the night together in the context of their relationship with God and God's love working through them.  
This event has been held for 13 years now, with this year's Prep Parent Connections Night to be held in May. We usually have around 100 people attend.
- Prep Visits  
I contact new families coming in to the school at Prep and at times, when I can, other levels. When parents will have me, I visit them. This visit is a pastoral visit, wherein I hope they experience a face of the Church that is welcoming and interested in them and supportive. At times I can offer ongoing pastoral support. Last year I visited 22 families. I begin my Prep visits this term.

- Anointing of the Sick and Elderly

Each year we have two Masses of Anointing of the Sick and Elderly; one in May and one in December. I endeavour to involve the grades 5 and 6 students and their parents or guardians. The children prepare by learning about the sacrament and they come to the Masses, sitting with the people who have come for anointing. They come with a gift they have made for each one.

The parents receive a letter advising them that the child explaining the sacrament and letting them know that their children will be joining in the Mass. The parents are encouraged to come and if they, or those amongst their family or friends would like the sacrament, they are invited to be anointed.

- Catering After Funerals

After many years, Betty Ryan and Fay Taylor retired from co-ordinating the catering and serving mourners following a funeral. This ministry had made a significant impact upon the Parish, serving so many and involving a great number of parishioners over the years. At the stage Betty and Fay retired, eleven of the twenty-two volunteers retired with them, after a long and faithful service.

I put the call out through the parish bulletin and the school newsletter, The Candela and was grateful to find that eleven school mothers wanted to help. This ministry is now coordinated by Veronica Collum, who followed her mother's example. Other mums told me they wanted to help because this is their community. Veronica is assisted by Julie McDonald, Marline Parmenter and Ellen Smiddy.

- Parents' Association This is a fundraising body of school parents, raising money for the school. I have joined the parents' Association, on behalf of Fr Steven, as a way of engaging with school parents and assisting them in connection with their initiatives as they reach out to the worshipping community, for support.

## **Support for Parish Groups and Formation for Ministry**

Other than the groups already mentioned, I have supported the following groups, in various ways depending on the particular ministry, but always including evaluation, formation and encouraging consideration of generativity, particularly for pastoral and liturgical ministries. As numbers are diminishing at Masses, it is obvious that our volunteer pool is also diminishing. So, we need to consider the viability of some ministries and use our ingenuity to imagine how we can engage with others, such as school parents, parents of recently baptised etc. As well as assisting valuable ministries to continue, this creative engagement reaches out to include people whom we might not have previously considered. Maybe what is perceived as disaster, can bring about new life.

The areas discussed, below, include the areas of administration, pastoral ministry and liturgical ministry:

- Parish Pastoral Council; I assist the PPC by arranging professional development and thinking with them about leadership matters in the Parish. The Parish Survey is something with which, along with other members of PPC, I am quite involved.

- St Mary's Administration Team I facilitate meetings to allow the administration personnel to discuss and plan relevant matters. As our own Parish Administration Team consists of three staff over four days and these days mostly don't overlap, these meetings assist the work to flow as well as possible. I see how hard they all work and the difficulty there is in fitting everything in to their time. I am grateful to be working with each member of our Team.
- Combined Parishes Administration Teams I facilitate meetings, bi-monthly, for the Administration Teams of our three Parishes. These meetings have enabled the Teams to grapple with how they can best work to streamline work; including ways of sharing between the three Teams.
- Supporting the Catechists of the Partnered Parishes to share resources; recently I facilitated a meeting of the Catechist Teams and as a result a decision was made for further meetings and the sharing of ideas and resources.
- Liturgy of the Word and Funeral Ministry; I support this Team in reflection and planning and formation for ministry. The Team recognises that they need more help, especially with data projection. The Team is very proficient and is an expression of the compassionate face of God. A number of the families who come for funerals are not well connected with the Church. Perhaps they grew up in the parish, going to school here, perhaps their parent lived in the parish and perhaps the parent was connected more fully to the Parish. No judgment is made by our Team. They reach out and with patience and love, they support and guide and at times lead the funeral prayers. When a loved one dies, people seem to recognise that while their world might be turned upside down and they feel like falling apart, or when they just don't know what else to do, we, the Church, has the framework, understands the mystery and supports them with love.
- Baptism team formation and assistance Fr Steven and I met with the Baptism Team at the end of last year to express appreciation for their work and evaluate with them, their ministry. At that meeting it was decided to have a Formation Day in March this year. This day focussed on Scripture and the way each of the Team members is called to this ministry, which is a ministry in collaboration with God, reaching out to families, expressing the hospitality of God. We explored the qualities Jesus shows in encountering others, affirming and encouraging the qualities of Team members. A renewed enthusiasm for the ministry was experienced.
- Formation for Liturgical Ministry, is required for people wishing to become Extraordinary Ministers of Eucharist and Lectors (Readers). I conducted a formation session with Marian Tacey, of the Liturgy Team, in October last year and will conduct another formation session later this week. This formation entails a theological background to these liturgical ministries as well as practical support.

### **New or Current Initiatives, the Future and the wider Melbourne Church**

- Dreaming Future Parishes is a deanery related group with which I have been involved for a few years, along with Fr Steven, Susan Kempen and Trevor Corcoran, representing St Mary's. Fr Steven will say more about this group, in his report.

- Website An initiative of the PPC is the development of a new parish website, as a tool for communication and evangelisation. I have been part of this group and at some stage will step back to allow the group to continue in their endeavour.
- Francis Sullivan Night I supported Fiona Scott, who was the key person responsible for inviting Francis Sullivan to speak to parishioners about the Royal Commission and the Church's response. The numbers attending confirmed, what we already know and experience ourselves, that the Sexual Abuse Scandal in the Church has a profound effect on us, the Church.
- The Parish Survey My own reading of this survey shows how diverse a Community of Faith we are. The term catholic means universal and as a Catholic Church, we embrace, with comfort or discomfort, those who think differently.

There seems to be a belief, from some, that the Parish isn't doing enough in some areas. This seems to indicate that the belief is that the Parish is an institution and we rely on the institution of the Parish to act on our behalf. However, if we understand that 'we' are the Parish, then we might see that we each have a responsibility to initiate new ideas, or to assist areas which might seem to be struggling.

There is also affirmation of Parish leadership, indicating that we have the support of Parishioners to continue in particular ways. This affirmation, I am sure, will enable us to strengthen our resolve and draw others in to new initiatives.

It has also been encouraging to receive feedback from school parents, particularly those who can help us understand the way that our disconnected parents might think and feel and to consider new approaches that might refresh us and help us to respond to contemporary issues. Amongst the issues emerging in this regard, are a loss of faith in the hierarchy of the Church because of the Abuse Scandal, gender issues – where women are regarded as inferior, a need to have concrete ways that we might support the marginalised. We do have some mechanisms, such as the work of Vinnies and the Social Justice Group, but we need to listen and see what else we can do. I am keen to support this thinking.

National Conference of Pastoral Leaders and Planners Since 2016, Fr Steven and I were involved on a planning committee for the National Pastoral Leaders and Planners Conference, held in September last year. Over 200 Pastoral leaders and planners came from across Australia and New Zealand. Speakers included social researcher Hugh MacKay, theologians Maeve Heaney and Richard Gaillardetz, Radio Journalist Geraldine Doogue and Archbishop Mark Coleridge. This was a successful conference, inspiring those present to solidarity and freshness in leadership in these current times.

The Future of Pastoral Associates I have been a Pastoral Associate for almost 30 years, in four parishes. I am a member of the Association of Pastoral Associates and coordinator of the Association's Employment Relations Group. Along with other members of our group, I

support Pastoral Associates in employment matters and we endeavour to create a better security of tenure for those in our ministry.

In the last few years, we have worked alongside supportive Parish Priests, including Fr Steven and also our neighbour Fr Terry Kean, in engaging with key Archdiocesan agencies and other stakeholders to assist the growth of Pastoral Associate ministry into the future.

The Role of Laity in the Church must move from that of helping the Priest, to recognise our own dignity as co-creators with God in God's Mission. The number of Priests, in Australia, is diminishing. We can think our role as lay people is to fill in and compensate for the gaps, however, we are called, by our Baptism, to fully conscious, participative roles in the Church, co-creating with God, bringing about God's Mission. We have always had many gifted and generous people at St Mary's. We still have everything we need to be a Vibrant Cristian Community engaging with the World. If we don't believe that, then we perhaps don't have enough faith in the Spirit present with us. We might need to think about ourselves in new ways. I am keen to assist that thinking.

With much gratitude and with every blessing,



Jacinta Bright

Pastoral Associate

## ASSISTANT PRIEST'S REPORT

My role is as Assistant Priest to the parishes of St. Mary's, Greensborough, St Thomas the Apostle, Greensborough North and Sacred Heart, Diamond Creek. I work under the direction of Fr. Steven Rigo, Parish Priest together with Fr. Tao Pham as the other assistant to our three partnered parishes.

I used to live with Fr. Steven for about one and half years in the Parish house at St Mary's but after the partnering of the parishes in January 2017, I moved to the Parish's house at St Thomas' together with Fr. Tao Pham.

Although I live with Fr. Tao at St Thomas' most of my pastoral ministry has been exercised at St Mary's parish, mainly because Fr. Steven has asked that my pastoral leadership be particularly focussed for the St Mary's parish community.

St Mary's parish is a busy and energetic community with many programmes. I have been involved in a number of different groups:

Over the last year we have worked hard to continue to be a place of welcome for many new members who come from overseas to live in our parish community: Vietnamese, Indians, Chinese, Filipinos, Malaysians, Koreans and so forth. My challenge in this area has been

As a priest, I think one of the happiest examples for me of our welcoming culture over the past year has been our Easter and Christmas liturgical celebrations. This Easter I had the great opportunity to celebrate Mass in our three different parishes. I find it inspiring to see so many faces and different people who are involved with the various roles that enable these liturgies to be beautiful experiences for so many people, especially through the work of the Liturgy Group, Sacristans, Choirs and Altar Servers.

I have successfully recruited a number Altar Servers this year, with an agreement with Fr. Steven, which resulted from my speaking to students in class at St Mary's school. Also through advertising in the parish bulletin I was able to recruit a number of others who live in the parish, but do not attend our school around. As a result, we have an additional 10 or 12 Altar Servers this year whom I have trained and continue to form. I also cooked the BBQ for them and gave them a small box of Chocolate for special occasions, like Christmas and Easter. I work together with Troy Flores to support and train Altar servers.

As an expression of my pastoral care responsibilities, I spend quite a lot of time visiting, anointing and also taking Holy Communion to those who are sick or elderly in our parish in their own homes, to those in Nursing Homes, hospitals, and Care Centres generally, but not limited within the boundaries of our three parishes. I am convinced that, being a caring community, especially for the sick and vulnerable, is a vital sign of what it means to be a healthy Church.

There have been many Funerals in our parish (about 40 last year). I work together with a very capable and generous team who form the Funeral Ministry group in preparing and

presiding at funerals and burials. As a team, we work together to assist the families to prepare the funeral by choosing with them the readings, hymns and liturgy, and then assist them by creating the funeral booklet.

At school in St Mary's I make time sometimes to sit down with School Staff during Morning Tea and Lunch breaks. I sometimes spend time with students in the school yard by playing sports with them and talking with them during their break times. I also sometimes go to the various classes to speak to them within their sacramental programmes, particularly as they prepare for the Sacraments of Confirmation, First Holy Communion and Reconciliation.

You might ask me, so what do you do in your free time? I, indeed, love to spend my time to work in the garden, enjoy cooking and also love to do physical exercises. I love going to the gym, for a run or to catch up with other priests or friends for coffee or a meal.

I am privileged to minister with a gifted and enthusiastic parish Staff Team, like Fr. Steven Rigo (Parish Priest); Jacinta Bright (Pastoral Associate); Frances and Sharon (Secretaries); and, Denise (Communicator, School & Parish). I work together with them I would like to thank all of them for their great dedication and enormous efforts for the smooth running of St Mary's parish.

To end, I would like to express my sincere thanks to all of you for your tireless efforts making St Mary's Parish community a special place to be. May our parish Patron, Blessed Mary, fill us with love and faith so that we grow as a parish into a body of Christ, with the values of the Gospel.

Fr. Dong Tran  
Assistant Priest

# St Mary's Greensborough Parish AGM 2018

## Finance Committee Report

INCOME			EXPENDITURE	
	2016	2017	2016	2017
Sacrificial Giving (excl. SBF)	204,048	199,103	General Expenditure	41,737
Second Collection - Loose	23,646	26,076	Wages(secretary, pastoral associate)	113,561
Fundraising	69,133	44,291	Pastoral Ep's & Liturgical costs	25,578
Donations	6,056	15,259	Property Costs (incl. Hall, insurance, security, cleaning, light, power and rates)	57,541
Rental	58,673	60,102	Fundraising expenses	11,460
Interest	399	307	Archdiocesan Levies	22,628
Piety	7,857	8,164	Interest	19,559
Sundry	19,246	17,120	Capital Expenditure	55,209
				52,340
TOTAL	\$389,058	\$ 370,422	TOTAL	\$ 362,586
				\$347,273

Parish Support Program: The last round of renewal was conducted March 2016 and the pledges were increased by approx. \$1400. It is our intention to again run the renewal program early next year as part of our three year renewal cycle.

In 2016 we initiated the Parish Levy for School families not contributing to Sacrificial Giving. We set the levy at \$120 per family we collected 60%. In the past year we have collected less, this an issue that the finance committee will address in 2018.

The Parish has to pay back **\$20,000 per quarter** for the gathering Space. This is servicing a loan of \$768,000 over a period of 15 years.

It has to be stressed that we are in a position to make our repayments, but the money has to be managed. At this stage there are no plans for further works. e.g. renewing the light fittings with better energy efficient technology.

### Parish Surrounds

The Finance committee has committed to the school a level of support that will use the balance of the SBF until it has been fully drawn down.

The Finance Committee will remain vigilant in monitoring the progress of Parish finances.

Presented by Paul Girolami

Finance Committee

2017 was a busy year for the school and the board.

We worked hard on furthering community engagement and on developing closer ties and better communication with the Parish and other stakeholders.

1. Parent Involvement Form

178 families first responses 27/2/2017

225 families in 2018 at same time

474 volunteers across fundraising events

211 for working bees (with 80% conversion rate)

2. Child Safe Standards

Induction module/volunteer guidelines

3. Benevolent Fund

Working with the St Vincent's de Paul Society

4. Parent Engagement and Participation

Art show, BBQ

Parent Forums

Seesaw learning journal

5. Communication

Class Dojo, Skoolbag

Parents' Association

Maintenance and Development Team

Parish Pastoral Council

6. School Community Standards

Parents, Staff, Students

7. Community Welcome Evening

Recognising the extraordinary work of volunteers who contribute so much to our community

8. Carpark works completed

9. Presentations

Kids Matter

Literacy

Numeracy (GRIN maths program)

David Wilkes on Catholic Schools Funding

A sincere thank you to those who contributed to the smooth running of the school: Helen, Father Steve, Leadership Groups, teachers, parents and volunteers.

Marco Hall  
28 March 2018

## St Mary's Strategic Planning Committee (SPC)

### AGM Report 2018.

The Strategic Planning Committee met twice during 2017 as agreed, given the Master Plan was well and truly established and being enacted.

The May 2017 meeting was a review and update status of the Master Plan. This meeting also reviewed the proposed traffic management report which was kindly presented by Marco Hall on behalf the St Mary's SAB. The SAB sub-committee that prepared the report were acknowledged by Marco.

The Traffic Management Plan Report (TMP) acknowledged the need to review the operation and movement of traffic during peak periods of School drop-off and pick up acknowledging that this is the highest risk time. The Report also identified all users of the St Mary's Property to ensure all aspects were taken into account. The report was discussed in detail and it was acknowledged that the plan was a reflection of the physical requirements and needs of St Mary's. The SAB requested that the MaD Team implement the physical elements, just as signage, line marking and wheels stops.

The November 2017 meeting officially welcomed Kristel Roxas and David Marshall as new members of the SPC.

The goals of the November meeting were to review the achievements of the current St Mary's Master Plan and understand the future direction that a new master Plan needs to take.

A slide pack was presented which summarised the Master Plan from 2004 and its various updates through to the end of 2017. (Attached as pre-read for AGM).

The Strategic Planning Committee acknowledged the wonderful work of the whole St Mary's Community that has gone in to implementation of the Master Plan over the period 2004 to 2017.

The SPC acknowledged that it is time to review the Master Plan.

- Actions:
  - It was agreed that each Representative at the Meeting would re-engage with the various Sub-Committees that put the 2004 Plan together.
    - Church Groups – Lead by the PPC (Kristel Roxas)
      - Not limited to but to include the Liturgy Group and Bereavement Committee.
      - Including the Parish House
    - School – Lead by Mrs Helen Anderson(Principal) and Marco Hall (Chair of SAB)
      - To involve Parents Association (PA) and the School Community including the Children.
    - Parish Grounds inc Hall and James Kierce Centre – Lead by the MaD Team.
      - General comment that the Traffic Management Plan (TMP) should sit beside and incorporate SPC TMP and strategic plan.

Feedback has been received from the groups above as requested by Easter 2018.

The submissions will be reviewed at the next SPC Meeting on the 3<sup>RD</sup> May 2018 to establish the new St Mary's Master Plan.

SPC

## **Parish Priest's AGM Report 2018**

(16th April 2018)

### **Welcome:**

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 the opportunity to inform you of our financial status.

Our AGM is also an opportunity for us who exercise leadership in our parish to be accountable to you, the parishioners we serve. 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 to the so many who are involved in practical ways of ministry, leadership and maintenance. This year the PPC has requested a few other groups in the parish to submit reports in written form only, because we believe that it is important for you as parishioners to know something of their activities. I am grateful for the extensive commitment that so many generous parishioners make to the life of the parish and I feel proud of the initiatives in leadership that they exercise.

### **Parish Partnership:**

Having been appointed to St. Mary's in January 2003, I have now completed 15 years as your parish priest and with my incumbency incorporating the partnered parishes of Sacred Heart and St. Thomas in January 2017, I think I will be here for a few more years as I try to develop that partnership with the assistance of Jacinta Bright, Dong Tran and Tao Pham in our pastoral leadership roles, but also with the assistance of the three principals and administrative staff.

I had originally intended in early 2017 to move to the presbytery at St. Thomas with Dong and Tao, which could easily accommodate the three of us, but for much of last year, I was physically and emotionally not really able to do so. As time went on, I felt that I would be abandoning St. Mary's if I were to move residence, and I had concerns of leaving the parish house at St. Mary's empty, apart from the occasional meetings that are held in the house. Remaining in residence here however does also cause me concern in that I do not feel that I can adequately mentor and support our two assistant priests. I had thought of inviting a recently retired priest to live with them, who could exercise this mentoring role, but my attempts have thus far been unsuccessful. I don't believe that this current situation is ideal, but I am trying to ensure that I meet with them regularly formally and socially. I am grateful not only for their support and ready availability to exercise priestly ministry with me across the three parishes, but also for their patience with me as we make the efforts to pastor across three parishes and 4 communities (including St. Peter's Hurstbridge).

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.

Probably the greatest challenge with the partnership of three parishes is the successful encouragement of people in each of the parishes who exercise similar responsibilities to meet with one another and look for opportunities to collaborate with each other for common initiatives and goals. We can all be 'stuck' in thinking that "it's hard enough for me to do the job I'm required to do in one place, so don't ask me to work with someone else across another two". Whereas my

thinking is that working together can enable us to work more efficiently and more effectively for each of our parishes. I am beginning to see fruits of this cooperation and collaboration.

My endeavour is to encourage various individuals and groups to meet across the three parishes to explore ways that can work with one another. Examples of groups that have already begun to work together are Faith Development Team; the three Principals; Liturgy teams; Admin staff; Baptism teams; Parish Pastoral Councils and etc. One particularly successful cross-parish achievement is the employment of Ana Amorim as REL across both St. Thomas and St. Mary's schools, working two days each week at each school. It means we can move towards synchronising Sacraments programs and offering Faith Formation nights for parents across the three schools.

I would like to make it quite clear that I believe that fostering the model of partnership of our three parishes can work, rather than working towards an amalgamation of them. The three parishes are very different in all aspects from one another and can remain distinct from each other. That does not mean that they cannot work with one another and have shared leadership. I have no intention of amalgamating the three parishes.

### **Parish Leadership:**

I'd especially like to thank those I work with directly on a daily basis, and upon whom I greatly depend – Jacinta Bright, our PA; Dong Tran, our assistant priest, Helen Anderson, our school principal, our Deputy, Elizabeth Sullivan and school staff; Ana Amorim, our REC, Geraldine Conroy & the team of catechists; Frances Olofsson and Sharon Prosser, our secretaries; Denise Chang-Faux, our communications officer; 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: Kristel Roxas, the chair of our PPC; Marco Hall, 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; 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.

When I first employed Jacinta Bright as our Pastoral Associate at the beginning of 2005, her role was essentially to develop and foster relations with the school and especially the parents of our school children and to form and support groups and teams in the parish and to empower them to continue and develop a sense of ownership of their own particular contribution to the life of the parish; to then also offer opportunities for formation of leaders for ministries. She has also offered opportunities for retreats and for individual spiritual direction. 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.

Since I have become Parish priest across three parishes, I have asked her to 'step-up' and express pastoral leadership with me, thus she has taken on more direct responsibilities which I had formerly expressed on my own. We meet regularly and consult on decisions that are to be made that she may express on behalf of both of us. I am very pleased how she has undertaken this increased responsibility and how parishioners have cooperated with her assured that decisions in leadership and pastoral care derive from the leadership team planning and working together.

I must also mention what I believe is a great achievement by a group formed some ten years ago, the 'Dreaming a Future Structure' group from across a number of parishes of our Deanery and consisting of priests and parishioners, of creating a role of Administrative management. This has resulted in the employment of Colin D'Rosario, employed by the Archdiocese for our parishes as a

Parish Support Officer in the area of administration. I firmly believe that a priest can pastor a number of parishes if he has the assistance of someone who can refine and oversee administrative responsibilities on his behalf and enable admin staff to collaborate across parishes to work more effectively and efficiently and work on behalf of parishes to gain the most cost effective supplies and services.

Over the 15 years I have been at St. Mary's we have had two parish reviews to listen to parishioners and provide direction for our PPC in its role of leadership. Given the outcome of the Royal Commission into the Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse and the partnering of three parishes, the PPC sought to learn what the concerns are of our parishioners. A great deal of energy and time went into composing appropriate questions and made available to all parishioners, including parents of our school children. Over eighty replies were completed. Since then a sub-committee of the PPC has thematised the responses and over the coming months will provide the responses for all the parishioners to read under each theme. The PPC has already addressed some of the concerns in practical ways and will pass on to various groups in the parish to attend to the issues raised that are under their purvey. My intention is that in the next year or two we will hold a parish review again to provide direction for our PPC. My hope is that we also have a survey in the other two parishes and that the review might involve the three parishes together. I will of course be directed as to the best course of action with regard to the other two parishes and the appropriate way we can work on this together.

I have taught at tertiary level for most of my priestly life. As of the end of last year, my teaching commitment to CTC has ceased and though I miss formal teaching, I am now more able to dedicate myself to leadership of the partnered parishes.

#### **Parish Property Development:**

The Strategic Planning Committee, with its four sub-committees - **School; Church; Parish House & Grounds** continues to operate and has recently reviewed the Master Plan. John Wood will present on behalf of the SPC.

#### **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, and especially John Wood, 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 have now also done this at St. Thomas. At Sacred Heart Parish I speak with the Prep parents as a group. 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.

The Liturgy of the Word team continues to be formed and lead the Monday morning prayer and reflection on the readings of the day as well as on occasions when Dong and 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 Merrill Gunawardana.

**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 coming to the beginning of a new cycle, and we will have a discernment day in a few weeks time to appoint new members onto the PPC.

**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 has been, and for the support they offer for the future as we progress with the partnership of our three parishes.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven Lago". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'S' and 'L'.

(Parish Priest)

## Reports Submitted from Parish Groups

1. Godstart
2. Prayer Shawl Ministry
3. Family Groups
4. Soul Sisters
5. Altar Society
6. Catechist Classes
7. Greensborough Interchurch Council
8. Library
9. Liturgy
10. Mature Aged Group
11. RCIA
12. Liturgy of the Word and Funeral Ministry Group
13. Social Justice Group
14. Ladies Auxiliary
15. MaD

### 1. 2018 AGM Report - GODSTART GROUP - Pauline Prendergast

I have been involved with Godstart for a number of years. My role is to deliver a printed Birthday card for all one year olds who have been baptised at St Mary's. Eliana Salamone provides me with a list of the parents and their addresses. Centacare (who developed the program) provide the cards at a cost to the Parish and I include a Parish covering letter which reminds parents how much they and their children are loved by God and that they are important members of our Parish Community. If any families have moved out of our area I post the card to them. The cards which I deliver are always warmly welcomed and quite often I get invited in for a 'cuppa'.

I understand that the 2 year old cards and books for the 4 year olds are no longer being distributed by other members of the original group.

### 2. 2018 AGM Report - PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY - Maureen Leahy on behalf of Anne Fleming.

On behalf of the Prayer Shawl Ministry, it is a pleasure to report our members have been busy donating their time to this very important part of the church community.

The group meets in the Gathering Space each Monday at 10am.(except school and public holidays.)

Numbers vary from week to week due to other commitments people have. Nevertheless it is a resourceful, friendly group.

The many garments created by the group in the way of shawl, knee rugs and baby parcels are sent to the RWH volunteer co-ordinator to be distributed to the oncology ward and mother baby ward.

A few garments are also kept in the parish for the sick and bereaved.

In the beginning of 2017 our group was not able to deliver our treasured goods due to the sudden departure of the volunteer co-ordinator at the RWH.

Fortunately the Prayer Shawl Ministry of Our Lady Help of Christians Eltham, generously offered to distribute through their outlets.

In June 2017 a new co-ordinator was appointed Niamh Condren is our contact for the RWH now. She has visited our group personally for morning tea and to meet the ladies who do fabulous work.

In the last 12 months 252 garments have been created.

At the end of the year, RWH has a Christmas celebration as a "Thank You" to the many groups involved with the hospital across the state. St Mary's is included in this celebration.

In concluding our report we are always grateful for wool and at times when running low, some kind person gifts us with a supply.

### **3. 2018 AGM Report - FAMILY GROUPS** - Co-ordinators Michael and Pauline Prendergast

Family groups at St Mary's continue strongly. We have 4 groups run by dedicated Leaders, with approximately 10 families in each. Most are meeting every month to enjoy each other's company and participate in a variety of activities. 2 groups even spend a weekend away each year to further advance the sense of 'Community'.

The founder of the Passionist Family Movement, Fr Peter Mcgrath, died recently and we mourn his passing. He was a tireless worker and spread the movement to New Zealand and even overseas. Pauline and I had the pleasure of meeting him a couple of times and hearing him talk.

The group has members ranging from bubs to a 96 year old (Pauline's father). The groups are structured so that young families are together in one group and the more mature in other groups. We also have non-catholic spouses in groups and they too are very active in our activities and feel at 'home'

We celebrated our 10th Anniversary last year and joined many other Australian Parishes in achieving this milestone. Our next target is 25 years.

We are continuing with our yearly morning tea and providing speakers at all masses to encourage more participation in our groups

### **4. 2018 AGM Report - SOUL SISTERS REPORT**

Soul Sisters, has been meeting since 2010. The group meets to support each other and to grapple with the issues that effect contemporary women in the church and society; challenging accepted norms and working towards a culture of inclusivity where all are respected and valued. Soul Sisters conducted a series, a couple of years ago, entitled Women of Faith in Australia and we plan to conduct a series later this year on Women in our Catholic Tradition. This new venture will be designed to assist Parish reflection leading up to the Plenary/Synod in 2020. The members of Soul Sisters are Ellen Smiddy, Anne Fleming, Susan Kempen, Anne Marshall, Michelle D'Souza, Fiona Scott, Frances Olofsson, Bernadette Douglas and Jacinta Bright

### **5. 2018 AGM Report - ALTAR SOCIETY REPORT** - Group Leader Trish Spencer

In the mid 1950's the women who belonged to the 'Legion of Mary' attended to the Altar, the Sanctuary, the linen and some fundraising. In early 1960 they renamed themselves the Altar Society. From that day till today the group, with of course a change in members has continued to carry out the same ministry within our Church.

Working on a roster system four women attend weekly to the flowers and the Sanctuary cleaning. This ministry takes approximately three hours with Friday being the allocated time but in recent years this has become difficult. The cost of the flowers is covered by the Parish. Three women weekly launder the linen and where necessary repair and replace it. Yearly the Altar Servers' robes are washed. This is all done with no cost to the Parish. Six women share the duty of opening the Piety shop after each weekend mass. It has proven to be a great place to buy a card or gift, for people to ask a question or seek information and, for many visitors and new parishioners it is their first point of contact.

Through negotiation and good will we receive 20 per cent discount on all stock we purchase and 15 per cent or 10 per cent on cards and books, depending on the supplier. We sell at the original retail price. The tapers are also purchased from Southern Cross. This cost is covered by the Parish and as it makes a profit it is a good fundraiser. It takes about three hours a month for purchasing and re-stocking. Monthly the money is handed to Len.

The Altar Society group consists of seven women and I know they all carry out this ministry in love for God and our community. But I also feel that these women who work so tirelessly go very unnoticed yet their work is essential. Their ministry might be more noticeable if it was not done.

### **6. 2018 AGM Report - CATECHIST CLASSES**

For the past sixty years, on Sunday mornings during the school term, Religious Education classes are held for children attending local Government primary schools.

Children attend from the junior grades, and go through to Grade six, receiving the Sacraments at the appropriate year level.

The program is coordinated by Geraldine Conroy with Noreen Hazari and Nicole Ridler making up the team of teachers. Ellen Smiddy manages the administration and gives support where needed.

This year there are 28? Children in the program.

The program is supported by St Mary's School, and Fr Steven and Jacinta Bright.

## **7. 2018 AGM Report - GREENSBOROUGH INTER CHURCH COUNCIL - Margaret Armstrong**

The GICC was begun in May 1989 by the Clergy from various Churches to celebrate together what we have in common.

We celebrate the Way of the Cross on Good Friday – using the Stations used by Pope John II at the Colosseum. We have done this at various places over the years – including walking through Main Street and Grimshaw Street to the Greensborough Memorial Park. The last three years we have gathered on the lawn at All Saints Anglican Church, Greensborough.

This year we had a good crowd who stayed for a cuppa and hot cross buns, which were enjoyed by all. On the first Sunday of December, we celebrate Community Carols at St. Mary's. 2017 was the 92 year of the carols.

Twice a year we hold a sausage sizzle at Woolworths, Greensborough, to raise funds for our community Fund, which is used to help needy people.

Our annual Dinner had to be cancelled due to lack of support. Those who attended always enjoyed it. St Mary's has three representatives on the Committee – Marline Parmenter, Adrian Cosgriff and Margaret Armstrong.

More support from St. Mary's at functions would be appreciated.

## **8. 2018 AGM Report - ST MARY'S PARISH LIBRARY - Anne Hughes (Librarian) for St Mary's Parish Library Committee**

St Mary's Parish Library has been functioning for almost 14 years, and is situated in the Gathering Space of the Church.

The Library aims to offer a collection of resources which offer borrowers information, inspiration and entertainment relevant to Catholic people and is open to all parishioners in the Diamond Valley Deanery. It includes books for children and young adults. The collection provides many items which are not necessarily available in public libraries.

At present the Library holds 2754 books, 331 DVDs and 95 CDs. Recently the catalogue was made available online and may be accessed at [cloud.collectorz.com/247780](http://cloud.collectorz.com/247780)

The Library has been developed from many generous donations from Parishioners, and purchases are occasionally made when important items become available.

Frequent thematic and seasonal displays are mounted, and book lists and displays can be provided for parish groups on relevant topics, e.g several books were recently taken to the Grandparents' group meeting.

We have a core group of frequent borrowers but want to encourage many more to visit the Library. We have found that biographies and DVDs are the most borrowed items. Items can be borrowed for one month. The Library is usually open after weekend Masses and during the week when a committee member is available.

The Library is managed by a volunteer librarian and a small committee under the direction of the parish priest. New Committee members are always welcome.



**Be informed, inspired and entertained**

## **9. 2018 AGM Report - LITURGY GROUP**

During 2017 the Liturgy Group continued to work under the direction of Fr Steven to plan and prepare liturgies and the 'environment' of the church and gathering space to mark the various seasons, feasts and occasions of the liturgical year. We refer to the General Instructions of the Roman Missal and use various resources, particularly those presented by the Archbishop's Office for Evangelisation (AOFE). The Liturgy Group coordinates the Parish music groups, Ministers of the Word and Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, and liaises with other Parish groups e.g. the Social Justice Group and Altar Society. In 2017 some members attended formation sessions and workshops offered by AOFE, and its Youth Ministry, and also attended the Australian Pastoral Musicians Network Conference in Perth. Parishioners are always welcome at our monthly meetings.

## **10. 2018 AGM Report - MATURE AGED GROUP REPORT**

For over 30 years the over 50 Members of the Parish and local community have gathered the 2nd Wednesday of the month from Feb - Dec. This year's program includes 7 outings & 3 home Meetings. When we are home, we meet in the James Kierce centre from 1130 - 2.00, collect for outings, play bingo, have an activity or guest visitor. Our first outing in March was to the Ballarat Botanical Gardens to see the Begonias. Our outings always include a 2 course cooked lunch. Annual Membership is \$10. So far, for 2018, we have 46 Members.

We offer our program to surrounding Parishes, some that no longer have programs, which helps, fill their need and us fill our bus which can make the trips a little cheaper.

Committee members: Angela Pacillo, Kay Searle & Geraldine Conroy: 0438148896.

## **11. 2018 AGM Report - RCIA - Tim Hamilton**

Thank you for the opportunity of reporting on the past years activities in RCIA.

Two candidates are currently involved in RCIA and they received the sacraments of Confirmation and First Eucharist at the Easter Vigil. Both are young Mums and very committed to learning about and practicing their new Catholic faith.

We meet for 2 hours each week over 9 months. In the meetings, we pray, we watch and discuss a 30 minute video (a video series called "Symbolon" is used for catechetical formation), and we study the Gospel from the next Sunday. We occasionally have other activities such as meditative prayer.

The RCIA meetings are open to others who would like to join us and, over the 13 years that I have been involved in RCIA, six Catholic Parishioners or friends of the candidates/catechumens have come regularly to the meetings to learn more about their faith and to support those going through RCIA.

For the past 12 months, the RCIA "Team" has been just one person, with Jo and Sam Giudice unable to participate regularly because of poor health. I am trying to recruit another 1 or 2 members to help me. However, my biggest challenge is to find ways of engaging candidates and Catechumens after RCIA is finished, to keep them involved in Parish life. Working in my own in RCIA, I have been unable to satisfactorily address this need and would appreciate help in this regard. I'm hoping the upcoming Alpha programme might be one option we can offer.

I am very thankful to Jacinta Bright and Fr Steve who have, over the years, "recruited" most of our RCIA Candidates and Catechumens in the course of their work in the Parish. I am also appreciative of Marian Tacey's help with the RCIA ceremonies over many years.

## **12. 2018 AGM Report - LITURGY OF THE WORD AND FUNERAL MINISTRY GROUP**

Members of the group conducted Celebrations of Liturgy of the Word (Prayer Services) each Monday during the year and on those occasions when no priest was available for Mass.

These Liturgies provide the opportunity for parishioners to encounter Jesus in the Word alone, as distinct from during celebrations of the Eucharist when we encounter Jesus in the Word, but also and most significantly in the Eucharist.

The likelihood is that, as the number of available priests decreases, lay led Liturgy of the Word will become more widespread.

Those on the Funeral Ministry were involved in 33 funerals during the year. This included accompanying the celebrating priest when meeting with the family of the deceased to help in planning the Funeral Mass or

Funeral Service, assisting in selection of music (hymns), preparation of booklet and setting up of computer and projector presentations.

On a two occasions group members met with the family without a priest and in one instance, conducted the Funeral (Prayer) Service at the funeral director's chapel.

On funeral days at St Mary's, members of the group liaise with the funeral directors, set up the church, assist with the parking and minimise disruption to the school, assist the family in their involvement during the service, operate the computer and projector, and be available to support the priest and family.

Bereaved families frequently express their sincere appreciation for the compassionate caring they have experienced from the community at St Mary's.

The Funeral Ministry Team considers its pastoral role as very important in providing a human caring face to our church.

### **13. 2018 AGM Report - SOCIAL JUSTICE GROUP - Ellen Smiddy Convener**

The Social Justice Group meets regularly in the Parish House.

Our small group has several objectives –

- To pray together about our concerns on justice issues
- To support each other in our hopes, concerns and frustrations as we go out to work for justice
- To create awareness in our community of issues in our world
- To work with other parishes in our Deanery with ideas and support

Some examples of what we do: –

Publicise and distribute Project Compassion material.

Celebrate Reconciliation Week, where we use our Message Stick to link the Gospel with the Aboriginal community.

Collect food and toiletries from parishioners for Asylum Seekers.

Collect money through a monthly giving program, for housing for Refugees and Asylum Seekers – last year we donated \$4,965.

Acknowledge Social Justice Sunday and distribute the Bishop's statement. The 2017 theme was 'Developing an Inclusive and Sustainable Economy'.

Collect household batteries, to save poisonous chemicals going into the environment, and take them to the Banyule Council's Recycling Centre. Approximately 25kgs collected last year.

Inform our community of Special days and events.

Overall, we would like to take on all injustices, but we know that we can't. We do what we can to work for justice.

We have to rely on the Spirit and others to help us change our world.

### **14. 2018 AGM Report St Mary's Greensborough Ladies Auxiliary Annual Report 2017**

2017 was the 50<sup>th</sup> year of the St. Mary's Parish, Ladies Auxiliary. Although we only have approximately 9 ladies regularly at our monthly meetings we have wonderful support from many others within the Parish.

Our first activity for 2017 was a Sunday Luncheon on the 19<sup>th</sup> March in the James Kierce Centre. This function was following our tradition of having a social activity on or near St. Patrick's Day (17<sup>th</sup> March). The first social event for the Auxiliary was a luncheon on 17<sup>th</sup> March 1967.

We meet monthly in the Parish House in a very social environment between February and October, our January, July & November meetings are held at a commercial venue over lunch.

During March/April the Auxiliary members assisted in the selling of tickets for the combined parishes Raffle. In May we held a stall selling "Winter Warmers". There is a strong demand for our heat bags and other goods suitable to beating the cold weather.

Our Cake Stall in August was very well supported as well as the sale of our Recipe book, with recipes supplied by members.

Each year we have a craft stall, jewellery stall, gift stall and sell raffle tickets for the Christmas Stocking at the Parish Fete in November, the stocking is drawn in early December.

Our Stalls at the fete raised \$2500.00 and a further \$3500.00 was given to the Parish in December as a result of our efforts.

As a group we are indebted to the hard work and dedication of Mrs. Maureen Gleeson who has spent countless hours over the past 50 plus years in various roles within the group. Maureen's Australia Day Award in January 2018 was well deserved.

## **15. 2018 AGM Report St Mary's MaD Parish AGM Report 2017**

The St Mary's Maintenance and Development Team (MaD) generally manages and supports the whole School and Parish Community with the care and upkeep of our fantastic 5 acres, through coordinating working bees.

MaD works with the School Principal, Parish Priest and their wonderful Teams to get the message out about up and coming working bees.

2017 was yet another great year for MaD, with consistent attendance at Working Bees and its probably fair to say that 2017 we noted an increase in attendance.

Each working bee focusses on a Year Level which enables people to set themselves up for attending their year level bee where they know that they will know others. Working Bees are always promoted as an opportunity to have fun, enjoy each other's company and hopefully get some work done as well! We combine the Prep and Grade 6 Working Bee focus so as new people have the opportunity to come along with their buddies and also experience those that have been through our wonderful school. We also find that the children love to come along to lend a hand at working bees and this in turn assist in getting the parents along!

We mark this as a sign of success with people genuinely enjoying themselves and feedback also supports this goal.

We also thank the SAB for their push to have families sign up for given tasks as part of the Community Support Strategy, this certainly assists us with an understanding of likely attendance.

At the 2017 MaD AGM, Peter Mckenna and John Wood agreed to lead the MaD Team as Co-Presidents but also noting that they wanted others to step up and take on the roles following the 2018 MaD AGM which will occur on Tuesday 17<sup>TH</sup> April 2018. MaD's philosophy has been about always generating new ideas and reinvigorating the Executive Team to ensure the best outcome always for St Mary's.

MaD has a great committee of parents who support St Mary's in ways that other communities would find it hard to understand, this is through the donation of Machinery, Equipment, Professional trade skills and unbelievable over and above hours given to the community. We are certainly lucky to have these members with us.

MaD is also called on for many others supporting roles throughout the St Mary's Community and along with many other of the volunteer groups is widely appreciated.

MaD supports both the SPC and the SAB with the implementation of their plans. Examples in 2017 was the implementation of the physical components of the Traffic Management Plan being, wheel stops, bollards, signage and line marking, making the grounds as safer place for all the St Mary's Community.

As always upwards and onwards,  
Pete and John on behalf of all the MaD ones!