

Blessings

**News and reflections from
St Louis de Montfort's Aspendale and St Brigid's Mordialloc**



Issue 06 November 2017

Well we have survived the winter months and come into warmer weather accompanied by longer days. A great combination that can only lift up the soul.

I must admit that I was very shocked and surprised with the last issue of Blessings. I had little to do with the number of photos that happened to appear in that edition but I must admit that I was very humbled to have so many friends, colleagues and parishioners share their reflections. It was very affirming and I promise that future editions will include photos of other people!

We welcome amongst the staff Ann Fitzgerald who will share the parish secretarial role with Susan Dornom. Ann will be working on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and Susan the other days. I'm sure that you will make Ann welcome. You can read something about Ann in this edition of Blessings and I hope that the rest of our parish publication helps you know more about these two great parishes.

God Bless.

Father Andrew



Fr. Andrew Jekot
Parish Priest
St. Louis de Montfort's Aspendale
and St. Brigid's Mordialloc.

Editor's Note

I hope you enjoy our sixth issue of Blessings.

interest has a wonderful reflection from Kristian Tangso on our Young Adults group.

Do you wonder what happened to the JAG Bags? If you were the person who put some moccasins in your JAG bag, you will be very happy to read the story from one grateful family.

"talking with" Did you know that Melbourne has a Junior Lord Mayor? Read about St Louis' School Student Sienna Koop who has been awarded that honour.

reflect As our State parliamentarians consider the bill for assisted dying, the view of oncologists is worth considering.



Berna Wake
Editor, Blessings.
Berna.Wake@cam.org.au

If you have some news or a story to contribute, I'd love to hear from you. Please do contact me.

Why Evangelise?



National Centre for Evangelisation (including the Catholic Enquiry Centre)
<http://www.evangeliseaustralia.com/>

“THE CHURCH OFFERS MANKIND THE GOSPEL ...

which responds to the needs and aspirations of the human heart and always remains ‘Good News’”

JESUS COMMANDED US, THE CHURCH, TO DO SO

“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

In this “Great Commission” Jesus made it the Church’s mission to evangelize. Jesus commands this because “He desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.” We are invited to cooperate with Jesus’ desire by sharing the Good News, and we can be confident that Jesus is with us when we do so.

“The Church cannot elude Christ’s explicit mandate, nor deprive men and women of the ‘Good News’ about their being loved and saved by God.”
 (St John Paul II, Redemptoris Mission 44)

TO SHARE WHAT WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN

“When we have experienced the goodness of the life and infinite love that Christ offers, we want to share that gift with others. The Lord is always calling us to come out of ourselves and to share with others the goods we possess, starting with the most precious gift of all – our faith.” (RM 49)

As Christians we are called to love our neighbour. The most loving thing we can do is give others the gift of Christ. Each human is made for relationship with God, and without this relationship a spiritual deprivation exists. Evangelisers often share the good news because they are moved by compassion for those who do not know Him. They act in the hope that others might find that same “life to the full” in the love that Christ offers. As Christians we have experienced this renewing and fulfilling relationship with Christ. If we believed that it was not good for us, we would throw it away! Just like we recommend movies or restaurants to friends, we can recommend Jesus as a preferential option for people’s lives. He fulfils the longing thirst of each human heart. The Woman at the Well (John 4) is an example of one’s search for the thirst for God.

“It is unthinkable that a person should accept the Word and give himself to the Kingdom without becoming a person who bears witness to it and proclaims it in his turn.” (Pope Paul VI)

EVERYONE SHOULD HAVE THE CHANCE TO KNOW CHRIST

“It is vitally important for the Church today to go forth and preach the Gospel to all: to all places, on all occasions, without hesitation, reluctance or fear. The joy of the Gospel is for all people: no one can be excluded.”
 (Pope Francis, Evangelii Gaudium 23)

Not everyone has the gift of faith, yet everyone should be given the chance to know Christ so that they can choose to follow Him. Because we know Him, we have a duty to others to share Christ with those who have not had a chance to know Him.

As a bill to legalise assisted dying for terminally ill Victorians is currently being considered by the Victorian State Parliament, the following provides an interesting viewpoint.



101 Oncologists oppose assisted suicide legislation

Letter sent to Parliament of Victoria, 19 September 2017

Dear Victorian, Parliamentary Representative,

We, the undersigned 101 Victorian Oncologists (cancer specialists), request that you vote AGAINST the proposed Victorian Assisted Dying Bill 2017. As 80% of those who access physician assisted dying legally overseas have cancer, we feel our perspective on this issue should be heard. We add our voices to the 100 palliative care specialists who have already corresponded with you requesting that you oppose the passage of this bill.

We collectively represent a significant proportion of the oncology workforce in the state of Victoria.

We do not believe that it is possible to draft assisted dying laws that have adequate safeguards to protect vulnerable populations, especially those with incurable cancer, progressive neurological illness, the aged and disabled. These groups of people experience high rates of depression and isolation. The risks that such legislation poses for the majority of these outweigh any benefits for the few in our opinion.

Physician assisted dying places people at risk of coercion that is both active and passive. As a consequence of assisted dying laws, society re-assesses the value of life; and the individual is taught to devalue their own life. Those with serious illness may perceive that they are a burden on society or their carers and come to feel that assisted dying is appropriate for them.

Assisted dying laws are easily challenged from a human rights and equality perspective. Indications over time will be extended beyond adults with terminal illness, to those with mental illness alone, dementia, disability, children and the healthy elderly who have “completed lives”. In Oregon USA in June 2017 the senate debated a bill that would allow demented patients and others with “mental incompetence” to be starved to death. Oregon is not a lead that we wish to follow.

Physician assisted death is not, by definition, medical treatment. It is not palliative care. We as doctors and medical specialists do not want to intentionally end the lives of our patients, or provide them with the direct means to do so. Assisted suicide is in conflict with the basic ethical principles and integrity of medical practice and undermines trust in the medical profession. We strive to eliminate suffering but not the sufferers themselves.

Where cure of cancer is not possible, we seek optimal palliative care services to support and care for patients and their families at the end of life. Without easy access to quality palliative care, some may request physician assisted dying as they feel they have no other choice. This is especially so for people who live in rural, regional and remote areas and for people from culturally and linguistically diverse communities who have less access to palliative care services.

We are very disappointed that discussion of the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill has dominated the agenda to improve end of life care in Victoria. We are dismayed that the multiple recommendations made by the Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry into End of Life Choices (June 2016) to strengthen palliative care have not been actioned. Until this is addressed, discussing physician assisted dying is premature.

In June 2017 the NSW government allocated an extra \$100 million to fund palliative care services over 4 years, particularly to provide extra funds for community palliative care services and for rural and regional NSW. Need in these same areas has been identified by the Victorian End of Life Choices report. Palliative Care Victoria's figures demonstrate that an extra \$65 million per year is required to meet deficits and adequately cover future cost projections in these areas. Such funding is essential if dying Victorians are to be adequately cared for in their homes with adequate supports for both them and their families.

We call for improved funding of palliative care services in Victoria, for the benefit of all Victorians, but especially those who live with incurable cancer and their families.

This will go some way to ensuring that fear of suffering does not dictate a person's final hours, nor the memories their loved ones will carry throughout their own lives.

The United Kingdom parliament resoundingly rejected an Assisted Dying bill in 2015 as there is no "safe system" and we urge the Victorian parliament to do the same.

Yours sincerely,

The undersigned 101 Victorian Cancer specialists

The listed signatories support this statement as individual health professionals and not as representatives of any hospital or other organisation with which they are associated.

"This article first appeared on the website of the Archdiocese of Melbourne www.melbournecatholic.org.au "

Alamgeer Dr Mohammed Medical Oncologist Monash Health; Amarasena, Dr suru Radiation Oncology Trainee Peter Mac; Bae, Dr Susie Medical Oncologist Peter Mac; Bahzadigohar, Dr Ramin Medical Oncologist Monash Health; Barnett, Dr Frances Medical Oncologist Northern Health; Bond, Dr Rodney Medical Oncologist Melton Health; Boolel, Dr Vishal Medical Oncologist Ballarat Health Services; Brady, Dr Benjamin Medical Oncologist Cabrini Health; Brown, Dr Stephen Medical Oncologist Ballarat Health Services; Carden, Dr Craig Medical Oncologist Ballarat Cancer Care; Cebon, Professor Jonathan Medical Oncologist Austin Health; Chong, Dr Geoff Medical Oncologist Austin and Northern Health; Chong, Dr/Mr Chilton Surgical Oncologist Monash Health; Chu, Dr Julie Radiation Oncology Trainee Peter Mac; Chua, Dr Sue Medical Oncologist Eastern Health; Coleman, Dr Andrew Radiation Oncologist Peter Mac; Collins, Associate Professor Ian Medical Oncologist South West Reg. Cancer Centre Warnambo; Cooray, Dr Prasad Medical Oncologist Eastern Health; Croagh, Dr/Mr Daniel Surgical Oncologist - Gastrointestinal Surgeon Monash Health; Cullinan, Dr/Mr Mark Surgical Oncologist - Gastrointestinal Surgeon Monash Health; David, Dr Steven Radiation Oncologist Peter Mac; Davis, Professor Ian Medical Oncologist Eastern Health; Dawson, Associate Professor Sarah - Jane Medical Oncologist Peter Mac; Delahunty, Dr Rachel Medical Oncologist Peter Mac; Doughton, Dr Jacki Radiation Oncologist Peter Mac; Dwyer, Dr Mary Radiation Oncologist Peter Mac; Faisal, Dr Wasek Medical Oncologist Ballarat Health Services; Fallah, Dr Ali Medical Oncologist LaTrobe Regional Hospital; Fleming, Dr Shaun Malignant Haematologist Alfred Hospital; Fox, Dr/Miss Jane Surgical oncologist/ Breast Surgeon Monash Health; Francis, Dr Heather Medical Oncologist Ballarat Cancer Care; Francis, Associate Professor Prudence Medical Oncologist Peter Mac; Ganju, Associate Professor Vinod Medical Oncologist; Monash Health and Peninsula Health; Geddes, Dr Katherine Medical Oncologist St Vincents Hospital; Goss, Dr Geraldine Medical Oncologist Eastern Health and Ringwood Private Hospital; Grant, Associate Professor Peter Gynaecologist Oncologist Mercy Hospital for Women; Green, Professor Michael Medical Oncologist Peter Mac; Grossi, Dr Marisa Medical Oncologist Peter Mac; Hafeez, Dr Umbreen Medical Oncologist Austin Health; Haines, Associate Professor Ian Medical Oncologist Cabrini Health; Harris, Dr Marion Medical Oncologist Monash Health; Haydon, Dr Andrew Medical Oncologist Alfred Hospital & Cabrini Health; Hayes, Dr Terri Medical Oncologist South West Reg. Cancer Centre, Warnambo; Jamal, Dr Shafaet Medical Oncologist LaTrobe Regional Hospital; James, Dr Philip Medical Oncologist Ringwood Private Hospital; Jefford, Associate Professor Michael Medical Oncologist Peter Mac; Joshi, Dr Sachin Medical Oncologist LaTrobe Regional Hospital; Kannourakis, Professor George Medical Oncologist Ballarat Oncology; Kwan, Dr Edmond Medical Oncologist Monash Health; Lee, Dr Belinda Medical Oncologist Peter Mac; Lickliter, Dr Jason Medical Oncologist Alfred Hospital Liew, Dr Sem Medical Oncologist Monash Health Lim, Dr Lionel Medical Oncologist Eastern Health & Ringwood Priv Hospital Lim, Dr Ming Sheng Malignant Haematology advanced trainee Monash Health Lipton, Associate Professor Lara Medical Oncologist Cabrini Health Loi, Associate Professor Sherene Medical Oncologist Peter Mac Lundy, Dr Jo Medical Oncologist Peninsula Oncology Manolitsas, Dr Tom Gynaecologist Oncologist Monash Health Mathai, Dr Jared Medical Oncology advanced trainee Cabrini Health Menon, Dr Sid Medical Oncology advanced trainee Monash Health; Michael, Associate Professor Michael Medical Oncologist Peter Mac; Mileskhin, Associate Professor Linda Medical Oncologist Peter Mac; Ngan, Dr Sam Radiation Oncologist Peter Mac; Ooi, Dr/Miss Corinne Surgical oncologist/ Breast Surgeon Monash Health; Parente, Associate Professor Phillip Medical Oncologist Eastern Health and Epworth Hospital; Pellegrini, Dr Laura Medical Oncologist Eastern Health; Phillips, Dr Claire Radiation Oncologist Peter Mac; Phillips, Prof Kelly-Anne Medical Oncologist Melbourne; Pook, Dr David Medical Oncologist Monash Health and Cabrini Health; Pope, Dr Kathy Radiation Oncologist Peter Mac; Rajasooriyar, Dr Crishanthi Radiation Oncology Trainee Peter Mac; Rowe, Dr Catherine Medical Oncology advanced trainee St Vincent's Hospital; Ryan, Dr Gail Radiation Oncologist Peter Mac; Semira, Dr Christine Medical Oncology advanced trainee Peter Mac; Shackleton, Professor Mark Medical Oncologist Alfred Hospital; Shapiro, Associate Professor Jeremy Medical Oncologist Cabrini Health; Spilias, Dr/Mr Dean Surgical Oncologist/ Bowel Surgeon Monash Health; Stefanou, Dr Greg Medical Oncologist John Fawkner Oncology Coburg; Stewart, Dr Jo Medical Oncologist Austin Health; Strach, Dr Madeleine Medical Oncology advanced trainee Austin Health; Strickland, Associate Professor Andrew Medical Oncologist Monash Health; Sycamnas, Dr John Medical Oncologist St John of God, Ballarat; Tamjid, Dr Babrak Medical Oncologist Goulburn Valley Health and Peninsula Health; Tan, Dr Jennifer Radiation Oncologist Peter Mac; Tatarczuch, Dr Maciej Malignant Haematology advanced trainee Monash Health; Teoh, Dr/Mr William Surgical Oncologist/ Bowel surgeon Monash Health; Tie, Associate Professor Jeanne Medical Oncologist Peter Mac; Tiong, Dr Ing Soo Medical Oncologist Peter Mac; Tiu, Dr Crescens Medical Oncology advanced trainee Eastern Health; ran, Dr Ben Medical Oncologist Peter Mac; Tsan, Dr/Mr Cyril Tsan Surgical Oncologist/ Breast Surgeon Monash Health; Seng, Dr Michelle Radiation Oncology Trainee Peter Mac; Voskoboynik, Dr Mark Medical Oncologist Alfred Hospital Warren, Dr Mark Medical Oncologist Bendigo Health; White, Associate Professor Shane Medical Oncologist Austin and Northern Health; White, Dr Karen Medical Oncologist Barwon Health Cancer Services; Wong, Dr Jonathan Malignant Haematology advanced trainee Monash Health; Wong, Dr Vanessa Medical Oncology advanced trainee Ballarat Health Services; Woodruff, Dr Roger Medical Oncologist Austin Health; Wu, Dr Min Medical Oncologist Monash Health; Zalberg, Professor John Medical Oncologist Alfred Health



Fantastic News for St Brigid's

On Wednesday 11th October, we hosted the Hon Deputy Premier of Victoria, Mr James Merlino, our State Member for Mordialloc, Mr Tim Richardson and Ms Debra Egan our Regional Manager for Catholic Education Melbourne.

Following a short meeting and school tour, it was announced at an assembly that the State Government has committed \$1.75 million for capital works here at St Brigid's to commence next year with a local contribution of \$1 million. This project will see a complete transformation of the learning facilities here at St Brigid's next year – the largest change to our school in the last 50 years.

It is a landmark day in the history of St Brigid's – our students are very fortunate and will benefit greatly from this building project. Exciting times ahead!



NOVEMBER 2017



Morning tea with Mark Dreyfus

The Honourable Mark Dreyfus MP kindly invited the members of our school choir and some of our talented music students to provide entertainment at a morning-tea for the senior citizens of our local community that took place at the Mordialloc Bowls Club on Monday 9th October.

The audience and Mark Dreyfus complimented the children on their wonderful singing and playing and commended them on the manners they showed to our senior citizens.

*Words: Wendy Sullivan
Vice Principal St Brigid's Primary School*

St Louis' announced as ResourceSmart "School of the Decade"



After winning the Keep Australia Beautiful Sustainable Cities Active Schools Award on 15 September, our school has just won the Victoria Government Dept of Sustainability ResourceSmart Awards for **Community School of the Year, Leadership School of the Year, and School of the Decade.** "From the time you step into the school the progressive approach to sustainability is visible" said the judges of the ResourceSmart schools program, the biggest sustainability awards for schools in our state.



St Louis de Montfort's Primary is a 5Star ResourceSmart School that has embedded sustainability into its school culture over a long period.



Staff and students lead by example and educate the broader community about the benefits of sustainability. The school continuously demonstrates a commitment to educate the wider community on sustainability issues by hosting large scale events like the Steps to Sustainability Conference, as well as running workshops at events including the Victorian Schools Gardens Garden Show, the Big Green Schools Conference and the Kids Teaching Kids Conferences.



Classrooms contain composting bins, paper collection trays, reminder signage to turn off lights and computers when not in use, and recommended temperatures for heating and cooling. Outside walls display artworks promoting water saving initiatives and large water tanks supply water to toilets, gardens and tennis courts. The sustainability precinct contains a kitchen made from converted shipping containers, wood-fired pizza oven, grey water pond, garden beds, aquaponics ponds and beds, re-used tyre and sleeper walls and amphitheatre, permaculture area, compost system, orchard, rabbit hutch, bird aviary, chicken coop, swales (wetlands), and reptile enclosures.



This amazing precinct provides hands-on learning opportunities for students, who learn about the importance of sustainability across curriculum areas including English, maths, science and technology, and are rewarded with 'sustainabux' for acting sustainably.

The staff have incorporated sustainable education across the curriculum and immerse students in an inquiry-based approach to learning. The school uses contemporary teaching and learning practices such as their science, technology, and maths initiative, where students have the opportunity to work with experts from Swinburne University and St Kilda Eco Centre to enhance student skills and knowledge about local bird life and reptiles. Action resulting from this project saw St Louis students proudly design and build bird boxes encouraging native birds onto the school site. St Louis has also initiated the 'Friends of Aspendale Train Station Group', involving the wider community in the beautification of the local train station. In addition, the school has demonstrated its leadership by recently expanding its sustainability precinct, installing solar panels with a battery system and reducing its rubbish collection.

St Louis have grown from a community with little knowledge about sustainability to a community that is passionate, engaged and active at the school level and in the wider community.

From the time you step into the school their progressive approach to sustainability is visible, awards proudly displayed, events advertised and then when you arrive at the sustainability precinct you will see children proudly immersed in hands on learning in natural environments. The school has a clear vision and sustainability plan implemented with great pride, resulting in a positive impact on the local community and schools across Victoria.

*Words: Tom Lindeman
Principal St Louis de Montfort's Primary School*

Our thoughts and prayers are with:



Patricia Sayers (88). Mother of David Achieson. Patricia passed away on 19 August 2017. Patricia's funeral service was at Gateway Chapel on 24 August 2017.



Clare Dunn (98). Mother of David. Clare passed away on 22 September 2017. Clare's Requiem Mass was at St Louis' on 4 October 2017.



John (Jack) Wilkinson (87). Husband of Bonnie and father of Joanne Partleton, John & Rod. Jack passed away on 21 August 2017. Jack's Requiem Mass was at St Louis' on 25 August 2017.



Kevin Worfolk (55). Brother of Bev Crane and Margaret Keating. Kevin passed away on 13 September 2017. Kevin's funeral was at Russell Brothers on 21 September 2017.



Tom Drenen (84). Husband of Mary and father of Carmel, Mary, Anne and Bernard. Tom passed away on 23 August 2017. Tom's Requiem Mass was at St Louis' on 29 August 2017.



Margaret Powell (101). Mother of Ross. Margaret passed away on 28 September 2017. Margaret's Requiem Mass was at St Brigid's on 6 October 2017.



Dennis Bell (74). Husband of Gail, and father of Christopher, Stephen, Peter, Jeannine & Matthew. Dennis passed away on 26 August 2017. Dennis's Requiem Mass was at St Brigid's on 1 September 2017.



Richard Potter (95). Uncle of Sue Turner. Richard passed away on 19 September 2017. Richard's funeral was at St Louis' on 26 September 2017.



Maureen Payton (90). Mother of Marg Deveson. Maureen passed away on 14 September 2017. Maureen's Requiem Mass was at St Louis' on 19 September 2017.



Gordon White (96). Father of Rosemary Driscoll and Dennis White. Gordon passed away on 3 October 2017. Gordon's funeral was at St Louis' on 12 October 2017.

Maureen Cuskelly. Mother of Kate Roberts and Brad. Maureen passed away on 8 September 2017. Maureen's funeral was at Bunerong Cemetery on Sept 2017.

Alexandra Grace Walsh (0). Daughter of Jonathan Walsh and Taryn O'Brien. Alexandra passed away on 21 September 2017. Alexandra's funeral was at St Brigid's on 3 October 2017.

Kurt Wessel (86). Husband of Linda. Kurt passed away on 12 September 2017. Kurt's funeral was at Gateway Chapel on 19 September 2017.

Eva Kozma. Wife of Tibor, mother of Caroline. Eva's funeral service was at Gateway Chapel on 5 October 2017.

Wedding Anniversaries

Congratulations to Des and Glenys Healy on their 60th Wedding Anniversary on 24th August 2017. Des and Glenys were married by Father Toomey at St Colman's Elwood in 1957. The photo features two of the bridesmaids from their wedding day.



Congratulations to Rita and Nelson Popley on their 50th Wedding Anniversary on 26th August 2017. Rita and Nelson were married at St Mary's Church in Jamshedpur, India.

Congratulations to Marie and Alan Seddon on their 50th Wedding Anniversary on 30th September 2017. Marie and Alan were married at St James' Church Gardenvale by Father Paul Willy.



We welcome and pray for children recently baptised:

Darley William Angus and Tabitha Matisse Cross
Children of Sophie and Michael Angus

Chloe Grace Hamilton
Daughter of Alycia and Jay Hamilton

Finley Joshua Pickles
Son of Rachel and Phillip Pickles

William Robert Marks
Son of Claire and Thomas Marks

Alexander Munro Pankhurst
Son of Phillippa Ulbrick and John Pankhurst

Mekhi Henry Senaweera
Son of Sinead and Chaminda Senaweera

Zachary William Bassily
Son of Marianne and Ramy Bassily

Harrison Benjamin
Son of Kelly and Chris Benjamin

Zac Joseph Spiteri
Son of Sylvia and Tanny Spiteri

Tia Kathryn Wood
Daughter of Corinna Childs and Shane Wood

Zachary James Smith
Son of Bruce Smith and Rachel Agimatagi

Hudson Leo Browaeys
Son of Jayne Lindau and David Browaeys

Taylah-Ann Ruberto
Daughter of Linda Dell'Oste

Noah James Whatmore
Son of Evelyn and Adam Whatmore

Aaron Louis Salita
Son of Andrea and Patrick Salita

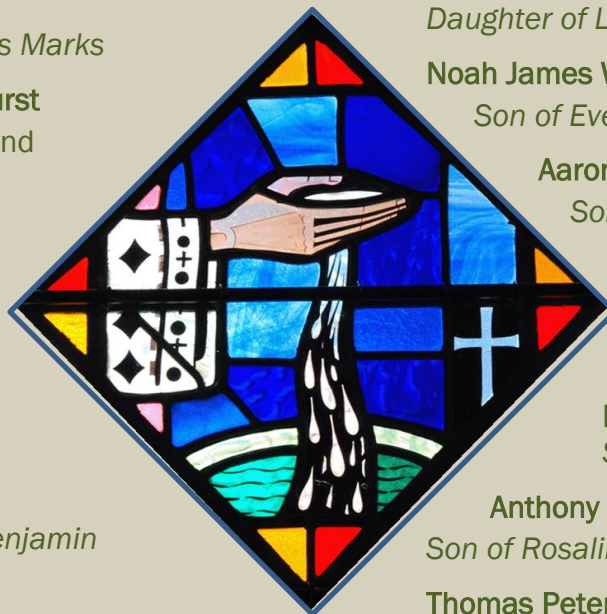
Harrison Antun Kenneth Lovric
Son of Jennifer and Matthew Lovric

Nash Parker Harms
Son of Andrew and Carly Harms

Anthony Ivan Trbusic
Son of Rosalinda and Ivan Trbusic

Thomas Peter Riley
Son of Louise Macgeorge and Luke Riley

Edison Robert Rakoci
Son of Maddy McWilliam and Ivanko Rakoci



Congratulations Mary Lavery 100 Years Young!



Father Andrew celebrating with Mary on 7 October 2017

What an inspiration Mary is. She retired from running her child care centre when she was 88. She drove her car until she was 90 and when her hearing became a problem in her nineties she decided texting and Face Book were the best ways to keep in touch with her family and friends. (Still her preferred modes of communication)

Mary really enjoyed the reception at Government House put on by the Governor of Victoria for 2017 Centenarians.

Mary has 6 children, 20 grandchildren and 22 great grandchildren, many of whom were able to celebrate her 100th Birthday party with her.

The family would say that Mary's most memorable characteristic is that she **never, ever**, says a bad word about anyone.

Words: Ann Brennan

Meet Ann Fitzgerald Part Time Parish Secretary



Family: Husband - Michael works for Superannuation company. Son - Jim 15 St Bede's, Daughter - 12 OLA Cheltenham

I grew up in: Cranbourne

Favourite food: Turkish

Favourite Movie: The Waking of Ned Devine

Childhood hero: My Dad

Favourite city: Hobart

Treasured possession: The sample model Celtic wooden cross my dad made for St Agatha's

3 things I would like to do in retirement: Travel, exercise, spend time with family & friends

Travel bucket list: Cruise in January to South Pacific with husband & kids

Footy team: Richmond

Best trait: Easy going & fairly happy

Worst trait: Always have to be on time (usually way too early according to husband, teenage son & anyone who knows me well - drives them crazy)

3 people I'd like to have dinner with: Don't mind as long as I don't have to cook



Mum and dad lived in Myanmar where their people, the Rohingya are persecuted by the government, where homes are burned and families are forced to move to the jungle. Wanting to give their young daughter a better, safer life, they escaped to Bangladesh, then travelled through Thailand to Malaysia where they ended up in a detention centre for the following two years. During that time their second daughter was born.

Then, as a family of four, they travelled by boat towards Indonesia. It was during this trip that they were picked up and taken to Christmas Island. Boat travel was horrific – a great number squeezed into a small boat with people suffering sea sickness everywhere, all the time, all over the boat – all this with a new born baby. After several months in detention on Christmas Island, they came by plane to Melbourne and on arrival were transferred to the Maribyrnong Detention Centre. This last stay was a welcome relief as they received good, healthy food, fruit and vegetables.

From Maribyrnong, the family moved firstly to Werribee and now reside in Springvale. Since arriving in Australia, they have had two sons; the two girls are now at the local primary school. Whenever we visit, we find the entire family happy and content to be here. While we often turn up our own ducted heating, this family sits in their home with overcoats on to keep warm in this cold weather – no heating is used because of the exorbitant costs.

NOVEMBER 2017

The Journey of the JAG Bags!

Many parishioners generously donated goods for the JAG Bags. Here we hear the story of a very grateful family.

They remain on a temporary bridging visa and long to be accepted as immigrants to their new country. They very much appreciate the generosity of the community who provided them with bags of goodies. **Before the bags had even been taken inside, mum had already put on the warm slippers that had been donated, and was expressing how warm her feet felt!!**

On behalf of our Springvale family, we thank the Aspendale & Mordialloc community for bringing such joy and for giving them such self-worth.

For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me. ...

...Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.

Kind Regards

Brigidine Asylum Seeker Volunteers



Can Pope Francis assist the plight of the Rohingya people?

Pope Francis will travel to Myanmar from 27 to 30 November for a landmark visit that is likely to focus international attention on the plight of the stateless Rohingya Muslim minority. The visit to Myanmar will be the first by any pope to the country formerly known as Burma. Pope John Paul II visited Bangladesh in 1986.

The Rohingya, who are of Muslim faith have been persecuted for many years in predominantly Buddhist Myanmar. In recent months, clashes between the Myanmar security forces and suspected Rohingya militants have escalated dramatically with hundreds of people killed. Thousands have been forced to flee their villages in Northern Myanmar with many aiming to cross the border into neighbouring Bangladesh.

Rohingya have been fleeing Myanmar to Bangladesh since the early 1990s and there are about 400,000 in the country, which has caused significant tension between the two nations who both regard them as the other country's citizens.

Pope Francis has regularly spoken out in defense of the Rohingya. He recently decried the latest

*“sad reports of the persecution of a religious minority, our Rohingya brothers” adding:
“I would like to express my closeness to them and all of us ask the Lord to save them
and to prompt men and women of good faith to help them and ensure their full rights.”*

How fortunate we are to have a leader who is not afraid to speak out and stand alongside a persecuted Muslim community. He leads us all by his example.

Words: Berna Wake



Meet our Young Adults Group

Blessings



Celebrating our birthdays with cake at the presbytery with special guest Deacon Brian.



Games night at the upper meeting room of St. Brigid's Church.



Our young adults gathered at St. Brigid's after leading the Liturgy of the Jubilee Cross on Friday, 11th August, 2017. Please email Fr. Andrew to request a copy of Kristian's testimony of her faith.



Dinner at Café on Bourke with fellow young Catholic adults after attending Holy Hour at St. Patrick's Cathedral.



Fr. Justel with Edward Sri, author of Men, Women & the Mystery of Love, after his talk on "Love and Responsibility" at ACU.



Maddie and Kristian representing our young adults in our parishes' Caritas for Ks Challenge.

NOVEMBER 2017

Introducing the Young Adults of St Brigid's & St Louis'

Greetings!

My name is Kristian Tangso and I have been a parishioner here at St. Brigid's and St. Louis for almost twelve years. Over these years I have become an active member of our church community, however for the longest time it has been a desire of mine to belong to a group of like-minded young adults of Christian faith within the local area.

This year the Holy Spirit within me ignited a flame in my heart and gave me the courage to take action. With the timely arrival of Fr. Justel to our parishes early this year, I informed him of what our church was missing and expressed my interest in having our very own young adults group. To my excitement, he was also enthusiastic with this idea and thankfully Fr. Andrew was also eager to support our plan.

In May, we invited all young people between the ages of 18-35 years old to gather and discuss what their hopes would be for our group. Establishing a new group can be a daunting task especially not knowing the level of interest to expect, however we remained optimistic. To our surprise, people actually turned up! Since then, with Fr. Justel as our spiritual guide and Basia Mitula as our co-leader, we have been meeting fortnightly (typically on a Friday evening for 2 hours) to participate in both religious and social activities. In addition, there are various other events in Melbourne that are targeted towards young Catholic adults, namely Theology at the Pub (first Monday of every month at the European Bier Cafe), Mass for Young Adults (first Wednesday at St. Peter's and St. Paul's in South Melbourne), Six30 Holy Hour (every Thursday at St. Patrick's Cathedral) and other events promoted by the Archdiocesan Office For Youth.

I strongly encourage all young adults to get involved in these gatherings as I believe that it is a great opportunity to truly grow in fellowship of our faith. We were all created in the image and likeness of God (Genesis 1:27) and in God's glory we have been called to live a life of greatness; to spread love and share our gifts to the world.

The St Brigid's and St Louis' young adults group, offers a safe, friendly, fun and welcoming environment to those seeking a place to explore, deepen and practice their Christian faith. We currently have about twelve members in our group, but we're praying that over time our numbers will multiply. So, if you or anyone you know are curious to find out what we're all about, you're more than welcome to join us! You can also like us on Facebook.

Sadly, I have had to step down as a leader of our group since I have been given an amazing opportunity to pursue cancer research in Norway over the next three years, however I am sure that they will continue to flourish in my absence. It has sincerely been such a blessing and a rewarding experience to be part of this group. I look forward to what the future holds for everyone.

God bless,

Kristian

NOVEMBER 2017

talking with the Junior Lord Mayor Sienna Koop



Sienna Koop, in mayoral robes, with finalists Abby Vogel (left), Mikayla Barnes, Julian Cugliari (rear), Alexandra Bardsley.



Did you know that there is a Junior Lord Mayor of Melbourne?

Well yes, there is and I'm sure you will be delighted to know that one of our own St Louis' school students, Sienna Koop, was recently announced as the Junior Lord Mayor of Melbourne for 2017/2018. And, would you believe, Sienna follows another St Louis student, Mason Dwyer who was the Junior Lord Mayor for 2016/2017!

What a coup for our students!

Since 2013, a competition, for students from grades 5 to 7 has taken place to select the Junior Lord Mayor, with the winner announced on Melbourne Day on 30 August.

The Junior Lord Mayor was able to raise the flag on Melbourne Day on August 30, won a class excursion to go sailing on the *Enterprise and will*, join city councillors and Lord Mayor Robert Doyle on official and other fun duties during the year and more!

Sienna was chosen by a panel of judges, including Acting Lord Mayor Arron Wood, Radio 3AW presenter Denis Walter, Channel Nine newsreader Peter Hitchener, 13 CABS' Head of Client Services Simon Purssey and Melbourne Day Committee chairman Campbell Walker.

Congratulations and well-done Sienna!

Words: Berna Wake



talking with the Junior Lord Mayor Sienna Koop



How does it feel to be Junior Lord Mayor of Melbourne?

It feels amazing! You feel so special and feel like you have a lot of power to do the things that you feel need to be done.

Have you done many media interviews? How was that?

Yes, I have had many media interviews. They were very exciting as it was my first time being on television.

What was it like to meet Lord Mayor Robert Doyle?

Unfortunately, I haven't met the man himself yet, but I have heard many great things about him. I have met Deputy Lord Mayor, Arron Wood who was very welcoming and warm.

What would you like to see improved in Melbourne?

I would like to see a train line or a monorail being built into the airport so that we can decrease traffic congestion to and from the airport.

What will be some of your duties in the next year?

Some of my duties will be Moomba, different conferences and a homeless day lunch at Luna park.

What do you love most about living in Melbourne?

I love the amazing sights and people in Melbourne. I love the sporting events that we hold and the amazing culture and respect for others that we all contain in our hearts.

What do your friends and family think about you being Junior Lord Mayor?

My family and friends were very proud of my achievement as the Mayor because they know that I have potential in life and they want me to do everything I can to succeed.



**CITY OF
MELBOURNE**

Father Andrew's Word



“Hey Fr. Andrew, how about organizing a parish pilgrimage to the Holy Land?”

I had a few of these requests over my seven years here and so I thought that I better do something about it.

It appeared that there was some interest - well, there certainly was interest as 42 people have chosen to come along.

This number allows another priest to be involved making the pilgrimage extra special having Fr. Justel journey with us. I realise that many others wanted to go but finances or health were an issue. You will be remembered and prayed for as we walk in the footsteps of Jesus.



Our Christian lives are an ongoing pilgrimage during our time on earth. The cycle of life and what we experience here is only part of the journey for our destination is to be fully with God. During the month of November, we honour those people whose pilgrimage on earth has come to and are now resting in God's loving embrace. We remember in particular all those people who have died in the last 12 months and whose names are inscribed in the Memorial book.

Part of our Christian pilgrimage experience on earth requires assistance. We cannot do it on our own. The church offers some assistance through the sacraments, in particular the sacrament of Reconciliation so that God's healing power can come through this beautiful sacrament to lift us up and carry us during the pilgrimage. We pray for the Year 3 children from our schools and the catechist children who have received this sacrament for the first time recently.

With every Blessing,

Fr. Andrew

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December

Christmas Feature
The Year in Review

JAG Picnic

Youth Festival

Catholic?

**Thinking
about it?**

Are you interested in becoming a Catholic? Do you know someone who is interested in joining the Catholic Church?

If you would like to know more please contact our Pastoral Associate Bernadette Carr at Bernadette.Carr@cam.org.au

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