

Blessings

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



Welcome To All

*"I believe in God - not in a Catholic God; there is no Catholic God. There is God, and I believe in Jesus Christ, his incarnation. Jesus is my teacher and my pastor, but God, the Father, Abba, is the light and the Creator. This is my Being"
His Holiness Pope Francis*

Hello to all parishioners of St. Louis de Montfort Aspendale and St. Brigid's Mordialloc and to all who might stumble upon this publication. I am delighted to welcome you to the newly relaunched Parish publication "Blessings".

We are excited to bring to you a fresh new bi-monthly publication that will support all other forms of communication within our parishes. Along with stories of parish events we also hope to challenge you with some articles that hopefully will make you think about what it is to be a Catholic today, as our Holy Father Pope Francis does above. Importantly we are hopeful of interesting you and involving you in a vibrant community. So please read and enjoy. God Bless you all.
Fr. Andrew

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



Editor's Note

A warm welcome to the first issue of "Blessings". Fr. Andrew and I would like to acknowledge Susan Dornom our Parish Secretary and her editorial team for the great job they did on our previous Parish Gazette.

I would also like to acknowledge the original team who recently met to discuss the relaunch of the Gazette, namely Sue & Peter Waltho, Stan Mitula, Lucy Cameron & Carmel Girolami.

"Blessings" is designed to attract both our parish and school families. We have taken into account the feedback received from the Parish Gazette survey conducted earlier this year and will ensure that many of the popular topics are retained. Readers will notice a new look and feel in design and content, under three main categories. As with any change it may take some time to adjust to the new format, however we hope that you will bear with us as we move forward. I very much welcome your feedback and suggestions, and you can contact me at Berna.Wake@cam.org.au

Blessings will bring you news and reflection under three main categories:

interest

Stories of interest and relevance about activities of individuals, groups and organisations from our community. We aim to help you feel connected.

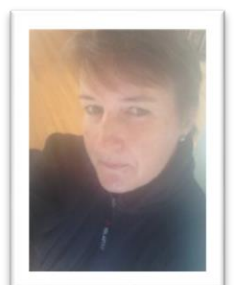
involve

Stories of the good works that people are doing in our parishes, schools, and wider community. It is a chance for you to get involved in helping others and making a difference.

reflect

Stories, prayer and reflection to help us on our spiritual journey.

Berna Wake
Editor



interest Justice Action Group

Our Justice Action Group arose 3 years ago, from a group of parishioners concerned about global and local injustices including the plight of asylum seekers and refugees, the need for sustainable living, trafficking of women and children, the tragedy of sexual abuse, domestic violence and homelessness.

This enthusiastic group of about 25 members of various ages meets monthly to discuss these issues, work out ways of educating ourselves and the parish community and to make decisions about meaningful and appropriate action.

Our focus has been the unjust treatment of refugees by supporting the Brigidine Asylum Seekers Project.

Through this organization, we have endeavored to keep ourselves informed of current government policies and their impact on people worthy of our respect and compassion.

Some of our members have adopted refugee's families to visit and befriend as well as helping them to develop language skills and get work.



Each year we've organized a picnic day for refugee families. An outing for them to enjoy with lunch and fun activities for the children. It provides an opportunity for us to meet refugees face to face and has been greatly enjoyed by all.

Such events enable us to involve the whole parish community who have responded generously.

Our group grows from time to time with new members eager to work against injustices – more members are welcome.

Words Sr. Reba

interest Our Schools

St Brigid's

'Turning Orange for Orang-utans's was a special day organised by Zoos Victoria. The aim of the day was to complete an activity and send letters, poems, posters and photos to encourage our politicians to vote for clearer product labelling, with a vote to take place at the end of Nov/ Dec.

Currently over 50% of the products on our shelves use palm oil. Natural forests and habitats of the orangutans are destroyed and replaced with palm oil producing trees. This is having a devastating impact on the orangutan population.

On Tuesday 8th November our staff and students came dressed in something orange and each level completed an activity which was sent to the politicians.

Preps made an orang-utan mask. Year 1/2s composed a song, poem and wrote a story, whilst Year 3/4s created posters to encourage people to reduce their buying of products with palm oil. Year 5/6s wrote letters to the ministers in our state who are voting on this important issue.

**We were thrilled to hear this week that the State Government has now passed legislation that will require companies to list Palm Oil on product labelling.

Words Michael Russo Principal St Brigid's



St Louis'

It has been another successful year for St Louis' as an exemplary school in sustainable education. Our school is committed to building strong community partnerships and is proud of leading the establishment of "The Friends of the Aspendale Train Station Group".

This group with the support of the Kingston Council and a graffiti grant from the Victorian Government, painted horses and seahorses to beautify Aspendale Station. This project was done in partnership with Aspendale Primary School, Aspendale Gardens Primary School, Yarrabah School and Aspendale North Kindergarten and the broader Aspendale community.

Words Tom Lindeman Principal St Louis'





interest Weddings

Congratulations to the following couples:



Daniel James Franklin and Nicole Louise Aimers at St Brigid's on October 28 2016. Daniel is the son of Noel and Jennifer, and Nicole is the daughter of Terry and Pam (who married at St. Brigid's many years ago).



Antonio Del Prete & Julie Wilson at St. Brigid's on 19th November 2016.



Josie Maree Vocale and Scott William Martin at St Brigid's on December 3 2016. Josie is the daughter of Costantino & Angela, and Scott is the son of John & Betty.



Daniel Foot-Connolly and Samantha Farnham, married by Fr. Andrew at Tatra Hut, Mt. Dandenong on 8th December 2016. Daniel is the son of Gregory and Rebecca, and Samantha is the daughter of Raymond and Linda.

In sympathy

Our thoughts & prayers are with the families & friends of the following people who have passed away recently.



*Giuseppina Giuliani (80).
Mother of Gaetano and
Filomena Rachele.
Giuseppina's funeral was at
St.Brigid's on October 25 2016.*



*Judith Gray (71).
Wife of Marshall.
Judith's funeral was at St Brigid's
on December 1 2016.*



*Vincenzo Renzella (76).
Husband of Grazia, and father
of Vanessa, Tania, Gino and
father in law of Rina.
Vincenzo's funeral was at
St. Brigid's on October 28.*

Our sympathy also, to the families of:

*Val Brand (formerly from Aspendale)
Concetta Rodolico (stepmother of Mim)
Joan Gleeson (Mordialloc)
Margaret McBurney (Mordialloc)
Nancy Shanahan (aunt of Susan Dornom)
John Fawaz (Windsor)
Lydia Fernandes (sister in law of Elvina Braganza)
John Haggarty (brother in law of Annette Brilliant & Marie Seddon)*

interest Baptisms

We pray for the following children and their families who were baptised in October, November & December:

Darcy John Jackson *Son of Gerard and Jill Jackson*
Lucy Mai Fletcher *Daughter of Qui & Gerard Fletcher*
Antonia Ayelen Leficura Carreno *Daughter of Pam Carreno & Fidel Leficura*
Christopher Rechichi *Son of Nicole & Mark Rechichi*
Noah Matthias Jones *Son of Maria Jones*
Cristian Anthony Eid *Son of Serena & Mark Eid*
Jagger Frankie Golotta *Son of Joanne & Antony Golotta*
Isabella Rose & Nancy Eliza Walker *Daughters of Sarsha & Christopher Walker*
Louis James Dutton *Son of Brooke & Mark Dutton*
Lachlan John Leary *Son of Michael & Robyn Leary*
Jack Charlie Holbery *Son of Emma & Tyson Holbery*
Darcy Archer Reynolds Adams *Son of Sharlene & Tim Adams*
Ava Banney *Daughter of Melissa & Adam Banney*
Isabella Sofia Gallagher *Daughter of Romina Morales & Joel Gallagher*
Vincent Joseph Worthy *Son of Colin & Sheena Worthy*
Natalie Susanna Jekot *Daughter of Matthew & Fiona Jekot*
Tyler Heath Seuren & Lenny James Taylor *Sons of Nicky Stewart & Jason Taylor*



Emma Nancy Wilmann *Daughter of Belinda & Ludovic Wilmann*
Ana Louise Clifton *Daughter of Sandy & Andrew Clifton*
Harvey George Reid *Son of Pip & Jason Reid*
Blake Nixon Barr *Son of Brooke & Liam Barr*
Xavier Leon Korsak *Son of Daniel & Lisa Korsak*
Lachlan Isaac Gaal *Son of James & Vanessa Gaal*
Archer Thomas Jaspers *Son of Robbie Jaspers & Kate Laister*
Michael Patrick & Caleb Sean Conlon *Sons of Rohan & Lucinda Conlon*
Leo Marcus Favaloro *Son of Jade & Anthony Favaloro*
Bliss Chunjie Marie & Sachin Kee-Tae Pengilly *Children of Jenny Ball & Jeff Pengilly*
Ted Patrick Byrne Taylor *Son of Megan Brosnan & Michael Taylor*
Dylan Nicolaas & Jayden Michael Nagtzaam *Sons of Kayla & Nicholas Nagtzaam*
Alexander Lachlan Coyle *Son of Martin Coyle & Esther Moreno*
Blair Bryla *Son of Elissa Scorgie & Brett Bryla*
Darcy Michael Sloane *Son of Rebecca Norman & Michael Sloane*
Maisie Victoria Aboujaber *Daughter of Andrea & Kim Aboujaber*

We are called to live
our baptism every
day, as new creatures,
clothed in Christ.

Pope Francis

involve St Vincent de Paul



Annual Christmas Appeal

At each of our Christmas Masses we will be taking up a special collection for Vinnies. You may well wonder where does this money go?

Susan Dornom is the Mentone Regional President for St Vincent de Paul and she has written the following article to help explain.

Christmas is supposed to be a time of joy and family get together but for many in our community it is a very stressful time. Family breakdowns, bereavements, financial difficulties and many other factors are intensified at this time of year. Our two local (Aspendale & Mordialloc) St Vincent de Paul Conferences work to help families have a happier Christmas by providing hampers and gifts to families in need. Parishioners and school families are very supportive and donate items to help fill these hampers and also generously donate funds through special collections at Masses at Christmas and also at Easter time.

Each year the two St Vincent de Paul Groups in our Parish visit over 300 homes. During these visits they can assist struggling families by providing food, supermarket vouchers, furniture, vouchers for clothing, assistance with bills, advice and referrals to other organisations and most importantly by offering friendship and support at times when it is greatly needed. Members also regularly help out on Vinnies Soup Vans and in our local Vinnies Stores, plus they run our 'Let's Do Lunches'. They meet regularly and support one another in living their faith through action. New members are always welcome. If you would like more information, please contact our Conference Presidents:

Aspendale: Geoff Terrell 9580 9937 Mordialloc: Bill Cribbes 9589 4979

Words Susan Dornom

reflect Pilgrimage Walk of Mercy

The Jubilee Year of Mercy officially ended on November 20 with the closing of the Door of Mercy in Rome (& in St Patrick's Cathedral).

To commemorate this & to celebrate St Brigid's renovations parishioners were invited to take part in our own pilgrimage "Walk of Mercy" from St. Louis' to St. Brigid's on November 19.

Graham Jones joined the walk and here is his reflection:

We gathered in the foyer at St Louis' and Father Andrew advised that this was a test for those who might wish to go on the Camino Pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela in 2017. Was he joking?

Deacon Joe conducted the Blessing for Pilgrims which included some readings and hymns. He reminded us that the walk was a time of reflection and suggested silence or prayer in small groups during the walk. I chose silent reflection as I tend to be busy all the time and silent reflection was a real pleasure. The weather was a mild spring day with light winds and we were out walking with a group of like-minded people so how could we not have joyous thoughts about the opportunities in our lives.

The walking time went very quickly. When we arrived at St Brigid's music was playing and pictures of sights along the Pilgrimage Route were on the overhead projector. We had a reading which seemed so relevant that I found it hard to believe that it was from a text written a couple of thousand years ago. After a public examination of conscience there was the opportunity of individual confessions followed by afternoon tea, the heated biscuits were my favourite. Thank you to all those involved in providing the opportunity, I am glad that I went.

Words Graham Jones



reflect

St Brigid's renovations – what they mean to me?

The renovations to St Brigid's were recently completed and a blessing by Bishop Peter Elliott took place on Sunday November 20 2016. We asked some parishioners to share their thoughts:

"The renovations at St Brigid's are a wonderful enhancement to the church. The magnificent circle of light immediately draws attention to the altar which then becomes a beautiful focus for the Mass. The new lectern not only looks great but being so much closer to the altar gives a sense of inclusion." Words Ann Brennan



"I would like to say I love the new look St Brigid's church, with the bold and functional portico to the inspirational lighting. Now the altar has been brought forward it makes attending mass even more intimate. As for the landscaping around the disabled access I believe the young men from St Bede's will be undertaking a design and construct project, I can't wait to see what they come up with as I am sure they will be up to the challenge". Words Chris Lowe

"I was a bit apprehensive at first mention of the renovations but was surprised with the results. I find it quite uplifting as I pray before the Altar which is much closer now and with the "Halo" of light above, it is quite inviting. The Baptismal area is beautiful, especially with the new cabinet for the Oils when it is lit up. The jury is still out on the new chairs but on the whole, I am very happy with it. In fact it is quite beautiful." Words Debi Atherton



"I didn't want it to be changed, loved it as it was. The changes are better than I thought. The Altar brings the people closer and the sphere brings calm, the Holy Spirit hovering over the Altar. The Baptismal area is complete with the painting of Jesus' Baptism. Our Lady and the Sacred Heart area looks amazing. The padded kneelers are a welcome comfort. The front entrance with extended roof will be great in the winter time and the ramp is great for the disabled, being able to come in the front door." Words Marie Medlicott

reflect

“talking with”

Bernadette Carr – Pastoral Associate

What does Christmas mean to me?

Every year I would take my children to the Christmas Tree Farm, they would run wild calling ‘coo wee’ as they all found the very best tree in the farm. I/we would make our Advent calendar, I would plan the days out and every day we would do something, go for a walk, visit the Myer windows, go out for ice cream, do a guided meditation on Christmas, pray around the advent wreath, go to the community Christmas carols or occasionally I would put lollies in for a treat. My children have all grown, and, have children of their own. I have great joy watching some of our traditions being passed on to my six grand-children, the eldest of which will be four in January.



Two years ago my daughter in law Christie, had just finished feeding Jack, when she heard my son John speaking to almost two year old Holly. Christie crept out and took a photo of John and Holly sitting under the real Christmas tree which they got from the Christmas Tree Farm. Christie could hear John explaining how the Christmas tree fits into the Christmas story. It may not be the best quality photo but believe me, it warms my heart every time I look at it! So what is Christmas to me? It is *Gratitude* for all I have, *Hope* that the message of *Love* lives on, and, *Peace* as I reflect the *Joy* of that first Christmas, just as alive and real today!

Words Bernadette Carr



reflect

Father Andrew's Word

Where has the year gone?

Christmas time is an opportune time to stop and look back on the year. When I do so, I realise that life in the parish has been incredibly busy. Remember Fr. Nick, Fr. Mike and Sr. Joan who came and spent one week with us during our Mission week in April? They were an absolute gift to us as they shared their wisdom and assisted us in deepening our faith in Jesus. Then we renewed our support to prayer, our involvement in parish life and our financial support all through the Stewardship program.

There have been the ongoing improvements to our churches with a significant renovation to St. Brigid's. As the altar top was lifted off so that the base could move forward to its new position, an exciting discovery awaited us. A time capsule. It contained a few pieces that were crudely thrown together and placed into the altar cavity. A newspaper dated back to 1957, some coins (one pre-decimal and the other post decimal), some rosary beads and Fr. Jim English's calling card, listing the parish phone number as XY 1018. Some of these items were placed into the time capsule when it was built in 1957 and further items included when the altar moved in 1967 in accordance with the Vatican Council requirements.

We continued the tradition with a new time capsule including items such as the parish newsletter and directory along with my calling card. I wonder who will discover them (and when)?

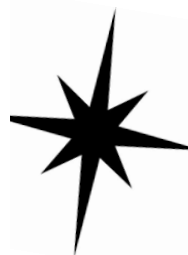
Advent reminds us that Christmas is not far away and that we are to hold close to our hearts the first ever Christmas, the time when God has taken on our humanity and has come into our world. We name this new born child Emmanuel which means "God is with us". We take the time to ponder over the reality of this name because it reminds us of how valued and loved all of humanity is in God's eyes.

God came into our world and our lives so that we are never to be on our own, so that we know that we can call on God at any time, and that God will hear and answer our prayers. We may not receive the Christmas presents that we have asked Santa to give, but God will present us with what we need. We just need to be open to the gifts that come our way.

So, as we gather around our Christmas trees this year, I invite you to take the time to see the evergreen tree as a symbol that Jesus is ever-present and he is the "Tree of Life" as well as the Christmas lights to remind us that the Christ child came to earth as the "Light of the World".

May you and your families have a happy and holy Christmas.

Fr. Andrew



next issue

RCIA

Profile on
Candidates

Fantastic Festival

All the news

talking with

Fr. Patrick

& much more...



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