

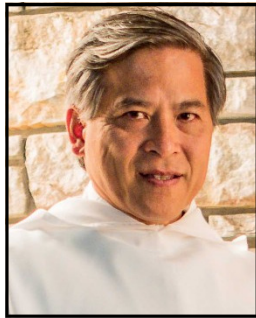
ST. DOMINIC'S ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

2017



LETTER FROM THE PARISH PRIEST

The day I took position as parish priest at Saint Dominic's parish was also the day when our 46 young people received the Sacrament of Confirmation. It was great to see the parish as its whole in celebration. There were old and young generations, the school and the church communities, staff and students... That marked the beginning of my pastoral journey with hope that the Spirit will produce a manifold fruit in our lives; that the fruit might take the shape of what we have traditionally named the gifts of the Holy Spirit – wisdom, understanding, counsel, courage, knowledge, fear of the Lord and piety.



Then one week later, I also had another chance to concelebrate with the Dominican sisters celebrating 150 years of their presence in Australia. Once again, young and old generations with religious and lay people coming together to acknowledge their contribution of gifts, talents, time and energy for the betterment of our country and Solomon Islands. In some ways, we all are recipients of their gifts. I wondered myself: how am I now the seed that God is planting in the world? Where am I called to speak the Word of God in my daily life? How should I plant a word in the world and how fruitful will it become? It's not easy to answer those questions. And there are still a lot of questions being raised in my mind since then.

Those two major events have launched me to an environment that I consider the parish as fertile soil into which the seed of Word of God has been planted and each of us, in turn, are now sowers.

Christmas is coming. "The Word was made flesh and lived among us." This is the meaning of Christmas. God has come into the world, born of virgin, in the person of Jesus Christ. The Word of God exists for the sake of communication between him and the Father, and for the sake of appearing in history as God's communication to us.

Jesus teaches us by his actions and his words. Along with his actions, He speaks a word of welcome to outsiders; a word of healing to the sick; a word of forgiveness to sinners; a word of acceptance to the least; a word of hope to the despairing...

Christmas is coming. The Word was made flesh and lived among us. I warmly wish you all a very happy and holy Christmas.

Fr Peter Toan Nguyen OP - Parish Priest

ST DOMINIC'S PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

The mission of the Parish Pastoral Council is to work with the Parish Priest and pastoral team, in leading the growth of St. Dominic's Parish as a welcoming community of worship, spiritual richness and service.

A major focus this year has been the role out of our Child Safe Standards program. Train the Trainer workshops were attended by members of the parish office and parish pastoral council during the year and subsequent training has commenced with the leadership of our many parish organisations. Sincere thanks to Ellen Janes, Jacinta Bibby and Manuela Brambilla who have orchestrated and delivered much of this work.

During the year we farewelled our parish priest Father Paul Rankin who was transferred to PNG after serving St. Dominic's Parish for the past nine years. We thanked father Paul with a small celebration in May and have now welcomed Father Peter Toan Nguyen on his appointment as parish priest.

The Parish Pastoral Council is looking for new members in 2018. If you are available to contribute to some of your talents or time for the direction of the pastoral work within the parish, please contact Fr Peter or Jacinta in the parish office.

God Bless

Bill Sullivan - Chairman

PASTORAL ASSOCIATE

Christmas is the time year we can look back and be thankful for the many blessings we have received.

This year we are most thankful to our Student Master Fr Thomas Azzi OP, the student and postulant Dominican Friars as together we have been working within pastoral roles to show them how valuable parish work is as part of their studies.



We thank the students for their dedication in the following pastoral work over the past 6months and we look forward to the continued work and learning they do.

- Will Loh** - Youth Group
- William Sotabatu & Oliver Bajon** - Communion to the sick
- Blake Crossley** - Altar Servers & Youth Mass Choir
- Sebastian Condon** - RCIA & Youth Mass Choir
- Christian Elters** - Sacramental Preparation & Vocations Promotor
- Carter Tanaboe** - Vocations Promotor
- Reginald Chau** - Monash Uni Chaplaincy

Over time the students will work with me, other parish workers and Fr Thomas OP to cover some of these areas of parish life.

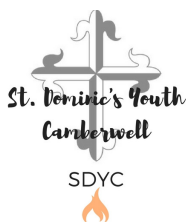
At this time of year I would like to thank the community of St Dominic's Parish for there constant support and wish all a Very Happy Christmas and New Year.

Blessings.

Jacinta Bibby - Pastoral Associate.

ST DOMINIC'S YOUTH CAMBERWELL

What an exciting and interesting year it has been for our young people of St. Dominic's! It has been a year of change and newness, having welcomed our year as "Youth in Action" to now farewelling 2017 as "Saint Dominic's Youth Camberwell (SDYC)" and with our new "Lumen" prayer evening events, it has been a time of fresh starts.



We have had a mixture of both social and prayerful events throughout the year, with both serving to bring our young people together to form community and to share with one another in life and in faith. Our main constant throughout this year has been our once-a-month youth led mass, which is now a staple for our young people to serve in music ministry, altar serving and reading, all of which has been aided immensely by some of our Brothers here at the Parish who have also been participating wonderfully in our youth events and youth led masses.

This year, we have been fortunate enough to witness a growth in our young people, in numbers and in spirit, some of whom who are now serving in ways that at first pushed them out of their comfort zone and now are doing a great job at it! And although our group is small in quantity, we are hopeful that we will see the youth community grow and flourish in the new year!

We thank you for your support and we hope to see more and more young people get involved in the new year! Thank you for allowing me to serve in your Parish and I look forward to witness even more growth in the time to come.

We hope you have a wonderfully blessed Advent and Christmas time. God Bless.

Patricia Guzman Youth Worker

DOMINICAN FRIARS

The Dominican friars of St. Dominic's Priory have had quite a year. It began with the Provincial Chapter in January during which Fr Anthony Walsh was elected the new Provincial of our Province (of Australia, New Zealand, Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea). The Priory also elected Fr Kevin Toomey as the new Prior of St Dominic's and welcomed back Fr Thomas Azzi who was ordained in 2014. Fr Kevin filled in as acting Parish Priest until the arrival of Fr Peter Nguyen. We farewelled Fr Paul Rankin as he embarked on a new assignment as Master of Students in PNG. We also commended to God Frs Aquinas McComb and John McKenna whose funeral Masses were held at St Dominic's Church. Fr Kevin Condon concluded his time at Ballarat and recently moved into Nazareth House, Camberwell.

During most of the year, the Priory was undergoing extensive works as a new fire sprinkler system was installed. Many an early morning a procession of black capped friars cantered past a small army of assorted tradies.

Our student numbers increased during the year with the arrival of Brs Christian Elters and Sebastian Condon who completed their novitiate. We also welcomed our two Australian postulants Blake Crossley (SA) and Oliver Bajon (Qld) who will receive the habit in early 2018. Finally, we said goodbye (for now) to Br Lawrence Bosekana who returns to the Solomon Islands to continue serving as deacon until his priestly ordination in 2018. After all that, we look forward to our annual holidays and wish you and your families a blessed Christmas and new year.

Fr Thomas Azzi OP

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY CAMBERWELL EAST CONFERENCE

Purpose: The Camberwell East Conference has been a part of the St Dominic's Parish community for many years. The Conference comprises members of St Dominic's Parish who give of their time freely to help those in our community, as well as other areas of Melbourne, who are in need of assistance in requiring food vouchers, assistance with utility expenses, school costs including purchasing School books and computers, School uniforms, paying for School camps etc where the parent/s are unable to afford to purchase those items.



Highlights: On one occasion this year we were requested to visit a woman in our Conference area who was in need of assistance with food vouchers. We had visited her previously but this time she was attempting to flee a domestic violence situation. With guidance from the Camberwell Police, we were able to put her up (as well as her adult son) in safe accommodation for two weeks, and eventually assist her to move interstate to live with her family. We were extremely grateful for the assistance of one parishioner, Tony Ryan of John Ryan Removalists who transported her furniture interstate so that she did not leave all her furniture and effects behind. She is so grateful for what we did for her and she is now safe with her family. Conference members visit individuals and families in Port Melbourne and South Melbourne, as well as in our area. Next year we will be looking after a specific area of South Melbourne where it is hoped over time we will get to know those in need more closely and will be able hopefully provide them with referrals to other organizations, if the need arises. Conference members assist at the Vinnies Shop in Auburn once a month. We also collect unsold bread and rolls etc from Brumby's Bakery, Middle Camberwell, once a fortnight on a Monday afternoon and that bread etc is made up for sandwiches by ladies of the Parish, as well as students from Siena College on the Tuesdays. The sandwiches are then taken by a Conference member into the Collingwood Town Hall for the Soup Van that night. Members also assist with the operation of the Soup Van from Fitzroy each Sunday evening. Fruit is purchased by the Conference from Bushy Park Fruit Wholesalers in Wantirna South which goes out on the Sunday evenings. We are so grateful for the support of the St Dominic's community when there are appeals for financial donations as well as the Winter and Christmas Appeals. With the non-perishable food donations from the Parish we are able to take those items to the SVdP Food Bank in Collingwood/ Abbotsford where the food is distributed to the poor in that area.

Volunteers needed: If anyone is interested in joining the Conference please contact John Dowling, Conference President on either 0401 059 166 or by e-mail at jgdowling@yahoo.com.au.

John Dowling - Conference President



ST DOMINIC'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

It has been a busy and productive year at St Dominic's Primary School during 2017. It was the first full year that we implemented action plans from our review in 2016 and this provided us with targeted direction and purpose.

For the first time we used our new Dominican House names! All students are a member of a House for a variety of activities throughout the year, the most prominent being the cross country and sports days. The current Year 6 leaders presented to Fr Paul Rankin and I at the end of last year to recommend names for the Houses and I am delighted to report they reflect the values that epitomize the Dominican charism.

The House names are Siena (Red) House, Aquinas (Blue) House, De Porres (Green) House and Caesarini (Gold) House. Each of these House names serves as a reminder of significant figures who have lived and left a strong legacy of Dominican values.



Our 2017 school calendar was busy with dozens of events that helped foster and promote our Gospel values and community spirit. Our Sacramental program plays a pivotal role in the religious education program. Our teaching staff are well supported by Jacinta

Bibby, our Pastoral Associate, as they guide our students through their preparation for Holy Eucharist, Reconciliation and Confirmation. Both Fr Paul and Fr Peter have been wonderful leaders to our students during these special times and on behalf of our school community I thank them for their guidance. Of course we were sad to farewell Fr Paul, but excited to welcome Fr Peter to our community.

The Sacramental program not only contributes to the faith development of our school children but also to community spirit. These significant family celebrations are a reminder of the importance of family and community and they help children to learn more about the significance of the religious signs and symbols of our faith.

Our school is well supported by our Parents and Friends Association (PFA). The new name for our PFA reflects the inclusive nature of our school community and again they have done an amazing job in raising funds for the school and developing social connections for all families.

Our committed and talented staff do an amazing job every day to care for and provide purposeful learning opportunities for our students. We have developed a strong Social and Emotional Learning program over the last few years and this year we had a greater focus on developing STEM education (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) by being part of a collective with three other local Parish primary schools. These initiatives form just a small part of the comprehensive learning program we offer at St Dominic's.

I would like to thank Fr Peter, Fr Paul, the School Advisory Board, our PFA, the Parish Pastoral Council and all families of the school and Parish for their generous support throughout 2017. My final thank you is to the wonderful and talented students of St Dominic's who every day make us proud with their amazing achievements and delightful personalities. We are blessed to be working in partnership with families to help them learn and develop during these formative years.

Patrick Green - Principal

WELCOMING THE STRANGER COMMITTEE

*"For I was hungry and you gave me food,
I was a stranger and you made me welcome."*

(Mt:25: 35)

The two asylum seeking Afghani women who the parish has been helping with accommodation and social support for the last 18 months were granted a Safe Haven Enterprise Visas (valid for 5 years) earlier this year. In the previous two years the parish helped a Syrian family until they were given refugee status in Australia.



We have been in partnership with St Bridget's in Greythorn for the past 17 months helping that parish support an asylum-seeker Tamil family. They are still waiting on the Immigration Department's decision on their application for refugee status.

In February a special collection of food and other items for asylum seekers was held. The response from parishioners was outstanding. All items were given to the **Brigidine Asylum Seeker Resource Project (BASP)** where they were gratefully received.

Peter Charles

JUSTICE AND PEACE GROUP

We meet on the last Monday of each month at 7.45pm for approximately an hour. The meetings are not overly formal and we discuss a range of current social issues.

The group is very fortunate to receive annual funds from the Vodaphone tower lease. With this, we provide financial support to a number of lesser known and more vulnerable charities and institutions. Each member has been assigned to monitor one or two of these. The funds are then divided up and donated so as to provide additional support where needed. The program is reviewed on an annual basis.

We have also been running cake stalls, Timor coffee sales and the "Senior's Luncheon" program where we invite our more senior parishioners for a parish sponsored lunch. This is a great opportunity for our senior's to catch up with other parishioners.

This year Kate Doherty has retired from the group. She together with Mary O'Conner have chaired the group for many years. We were very fortunate to have had her leadership over the years and will miss her support. Thank you Kate.

We are always looking for new members and you would be more than welcome to join the group. Why not just come along, meet us and see if the work we do is something that would interest you.

Hans Zerno

ST DOMINIC'S PARISH GROUPS

A big thank you to all wonderful people in the many ministries that help to serve our parish and its people.

Altar Servers: Hamish Osborne 9836 4952 and Blake Crossley blake.crossley@op.org.au

Baptismal Preparation and Discussion: being a member of the baptism ministry is a rewarding way to be involved in the parish. It is a privilege to be part of discussions with parents about their hopes for their child's future. Contact John and Tess O'Shea 9889 4395

Bereavement Outreach: Maureen Stavely 9836 2401 and Mary Stanley 9809 0014

Counters: Adrian Wayland 9912 6870

Craft: we meet in the Parish Centre from 10:30am to approx. 12:00pm on the 2nd and 4th Friday of the month during the school term. A great opportunity to catch up and hear any news. We work on our own individual tasks. Knitting and mending mainly. Contact Martina McKeon 9889 1321

Dominicare: we help people with lifts to Mass, medical appointments and shopping and other tasks around the home when needed. Extra volunteers are welcome. Peter Charles and Marianne Zabukosek 0481 296 547

Ecumenical affairs & Interfaith: As a member Parish of the Canterbury Council of Churches (CCC) our parishioners actively participate in all events held by the council. Contact Martina Chatfield 9836 2327

Eucharistic Ministers: The Ministry volunteers assist in the distribution of Communion during Mass. Some also take Communion to those unable to attend Mass due to illness or disability and are therefore housebound or in nursing Home. Contact Bob Solly rsolly@bigpond.net.au

Exercise Classes:

Seniors exercise Group — Tuesdays 9:45am-10:30am Friendly people, engaging activities varied each week, tailor made play list, catering for individuals, followed by tea and coffee & convivial conversation

General exercise—Thursdays 9:30am-10:30am Aerobic based, strength, general fitness and stretching based with hints of Pilates to popular music with modified exercises to cater for all.

The groups during 15 years of operation have raised \$21,945. Part of this money has been used to make significant donations to various causes discussed and decided by the groups

Contact Amanda Cubit 9813 3174

Finance Committee: John Smith 9889 2518

Justice & Peace Group: Hans Zerno 9809 1291 and Faye Devlin 0467 033 629

Music Ministry:

Sat 6:00pm—Jan Maine
Sun 9:30am— Anna Sano
11:00am—Rod Junor
6:00pm Imelda Purcell

Prayer: Siena Chapel—Kathryn O'Connor 9830 5489

Readers/Lectors: Maureen Salter 9889 4480

Sanctuary Carers: volunteers on a regular rostered basis carry out the work of Sanctuary care: attention to floral work, environment displays of special feasts, votive candle changeovers, washing and ironing of purifiers and cleaning of brass. Contact Parish Office

Seniors Outing: Des Patrick 9830 4737

St Vincent De Paul Society:

John Dowling (Conference President) 9808 2210
Sandwich making—Karin Simpson 0425 741 066
Soup Van—Denis Fitzgerald 0418 136 372

Tennis Club: this is a club that caters for players of all abilities and provides a welcoming, inclusive and very sociable environment. Contact Peter Davy 9836 7112

Walking Group: we meet on the 3rd Monday of the month in the church carpark and either carpool or use public transport. Each month one member plans and guides the walk which is advertised in The Dominican. An early coffee stop is eagerly anticipated. Later we stop for our BYO lunch. The good company, fresh air, unfamiliar places and scenery lift our spirits. Mary Bendeich 9882 8834

New volunteers are welcome!

Rejoice a Savior is born!



*We wish you a Merry Christmas
and all God's blessing
in the New Year*