

# The Eyrie

St John's Catholic Parish Heidelberg



## Aboriginal Catholic Ministry

Margaret Uquhart

You will probably have noticed a new plaque hanging in the porch of the church. It is the first ever acknowledgment plaque endorsed by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference to be used in parishes, Catholic schools and organisations. It is a sign of welcome and understanding for ALL Australians. It also reminds us of the ongoing journey of Reconciliation. The acknowledgment plaque shares the vision of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council.

The main logo on the plaque was designed by the Murri Ministry, Brisbane, to depict black and white coming together in faith and respect for one another. Across the top of the plaque are the colours of the Torres Strait island flag and across the bottom, the colours of the Aboriginal flag. All churches, schools and organisations that display the plaque will become a partner in faith with NATSICC and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholics. There are two other plaques in the parish: one is in the school and the other on the outside of the hall facing Cape Street.

In October 2011 Fr Ted asked me to be the parish ambassador for Opening the Doors Foundation. This Foundation raises funds to keep Aboriginal children in the schools of



their choice. The Aboriginal Catholic Ministry in Thornbury sends out information by email. For days important to the Aboriginal people such as NAIDOC week, suggested Readings and Prayers of the Faithful are sent to the parishes. I give these to Sr Loreto who is able to incorporate some of the suggestions into the Mass of the day.

For appropriate occasions, three flags are on the sanctuary: the Australian flag, the Victorian flag and the Aboriginal flag. The Victorian flag was given to us by Anthony Carbines M.P. local state member and the Aboriginal flag by Jenny Macklin M.P. federal member.

We acknowledge the traditional owners, the Wurunjeri people.

# Robert Dowling

Parish Council Representative, St John's Heidelberg

## Life is short.

When young, days seemed long and summer school holidays went on forever and I dreamed of what I would/could do with my life. As with most people, my adolescence was a confusing and uncomfortable period of development. Despite my successes, I often felt overwhelmed by the many challenges, and struggled with the transition to adulthood.

I found strength through my Christian faith which was significantly supported by the rejuvenation within the Church coming from the Second Vatican Council. I participated in the formal sacraments regularly but also found strength through formal and informal prayer.

I frequently called on St. Jude Thaddeus ('Help of the hopeless')!! This very much highlights my internal doubts and lack of self-confidence during this time. My faith was often tested and it fluctuated – and still does to this day.

By my 30's, every day was full and busy, living my life – working, studying, parenting, and partnering with domestic, family, school, church and social responsibilities. These were long days with often forgone sleep, full of challenges and rewards. There was a new dimension though to life – I could now look at daily challenges and what may lie ahead with the depth of experience that I had accumulated over the previous 20-30 years. I had developed many skills and a significant level of maturity to help guide many aspects of my life.

It is fair to say that, apart from occasional awakenings, my Catholic faith was then on auto-pilot. During that time, through my wife, I had significant people (from a Protestant tradition) come into my life and who opened my eyes to the meaning of 'living my faith'. They were Christians

who put Christ into their lives in ways similar to a number of Catholic Saints. This again not only challenged me but inspired me to review my relationship with God.

By my 50's, our children had been raised and educated and had moved out into the world. I was generally enjoying my home and work life and taking on new challenges. However, by then I was looking ahead and planning for life after work. I had more time for reflection and, when my mother gave me the poem "Footprints in the sand", I again was challenged to review my faith and my relationship with God.

Apart from the obvious, that God had been there with me throughout my life through thick and thin, I looked at how I



had somehow retained my faith despite all of the periods of doubt, questioning and difficulty. I reflected often on this and found spiritual strength when particularly challenged by events. Whether these mental monologues can be considered prayer, I do not know.

These thoughts and reflections were to prepare me for the most momentous challenge of my life. One morning in October 2016, I hiked with my wife, sister-in-law and nephew to the top of the third highest mountain in South Korea. That afternoon we had a calamitous car crash whereby my wife was severely injured, becoming a quadriplegic.

For some time, there was only one set of footprints in the sand!

Now, at 65, as a husband, carer and father of adult children with their partners, I have new challenges. My faith continues to be tested and Pope Francis is a light on the hill, rekindling the promise of that now distant (for many) Vatican Council II.

For me, the transformation of the Church instigated by the Council was challenging but invigorating. I can only hope and pray that, under the leadership of Pope Francis, the process will resume and lead to a more relevant and engaged clerical hierarchy able to accept the outstanding changes that were countenanced at the Council at what seems like only

## Footprints in the Sand

One night I dreamed I was walking along the beach with the Lord. Many scenes from my life flashed across the sky.

In each scene I noticed footprints in the sand. Sometimes there were two sets of footprints, other times there was one only.

This bothered me because I noticed that during the low periods of my life, when I was suffering from anguish, sorrow or defeat, I could see only one set of footprints, so I said to the Lord,

"You promised me Lord, that if I followed you, you would walk with me always. But I have noticed that during the most trying periods of my life there has only been one set of footprints in the sand. Why, when I needed you most, have you not been there for me?"

The Lord replied, "The years when you have seen only one set of footprints, my child, is when I carried you."

We respectfully acknowledge the Wurundjeri People and their Elders past and present, the traditional custodians of this land on which our church and school stand. The St John's Community joins together in solidarity with our Indigenous brothers and sisters, working for justice and reconciliation.

# Stewardship Program 2018

Our recent Stewardship Program was an exciting time at St John's.

It gave us a wonderful opportunity to reflect, as individuals and as parish community, on what it means to be a part of our parish family. It provided a forum for all of us to consider and discuss the core themes of *Faith, Community and Future*. Each week there were speakers and special Program materials. We heard special video messages from the Vicar General, Monsignor Greg Bennet and were able to follow the Program at Mass and on our parish website and Facebook, and were updated via SMS and email. We also welcomed Father Jude Pirotta on our 'Future Weekend.'

At the start of the Program we were encouraged to use the Program to appreciate the past, engage in the present and plan for the future.

I am pleased to say that we made the most of the opportunity! The 'wash up' has been completed and the results are now in and I think by any measure it can

be judged to have been a resounding success!

From a financial perspective, our pledged Stewardship Income increased by nearly \$700 per week (27%). We thank the more than 230 existing contributors who renewed their commitments – many with increased pledges – and welcome the more than 20 new families who came on board for the first time. To all we say THANK YOU!

The Program also focussed on refreshing our Parish Groups and Ministries. We all have something to offer the parish – we are talented in so many ways – and the call of Stewardship asks us to use these talents for the benefit of others. So many of you responded in such a positive way and I once again say THANK YOU!

The Program brochure identified our key priorities for the next three years – with a significant refurbishment of St John's Church top of the list. The works will include the repointing of the bluestone walls and repairs to the sandstone on the

outside of the church; an upgrade of the lighting system, replacement of the carpet and refresh of the pews, painting of the walls and washing of the stained glass windows. These works will require significant funds and the increased Stewardship Income will help make them a reality.

On the way we won't be forgetting our strong commitment to pastoral care and outreach, and providing opportunities for faith development.

Of course the Program didn't just 'run itself' and I am particularly indebted to our wonderful Parish Leadership Team, led by Program Chair Mark Chetcuti, and the work of the Archdiocese Parish Development team – particularly our Program Coordinator, Lorella Di Paolo whose care and commitment was very much appreciated.

To everyone involved in making our Program such a success I say a heartfelt THANK YOU!

## Melbourne Cup Gems

Jan McCaffrey

Today eighteen people gathered in St Francis Xavier meeting room to celebrate Cup Day, but the afternoon was far more than drinking champagne, nibbling yummy food and sharing lots of chatter and laughter. Women dressed in their finery, including hats, participated in a \$2 sweep. We watched the Melbourne Cup Race and celebrated the sweep winner as well as the last running horse.

But underneath the frivolity was acceptance, welcoming and understanding of all present no matter each other's cultural, financial or educational

backgrounds. There was the opportunity to reach out to others, to simply enjoy each other's company rather than remaining isolated. In this group, we are people who have lost partners, lost family members and friends, lost contact with others, were lonely or who want to maintain contact with those they have known for a long time.

In this group, a small community is being formed that is Church in action. And for many in this group, this small community is part of a much bigger community, St John's Parish.





# My trip to Israel

Maureen Banfield

This year my sisters and I made an amazing journey through Israel and Jordan. As the one charged with recording our holiday digitally, I tried to capture as many wonderful moments as possible.

Our adventure began in Tel Aviv, an old city, established prior to the formation of the modern state of Israel. However after the Second World War, displaced Jews flocked to their new homeland and residential properties were thrown up quickly and cheaply, with more thought to function than beauty. Tel Aviv is on the coast with quite a young population and we were impressed with the cleanliness of the beaches where the local populace make good use of the exercise equipment, play beach volleyball & ride their bikes along the foreshore. Jaffa, the old part of the city is under reconstruction and is very beautiful. Haifa is a busy, modern city on the coast, with beautiful gardens maintained by people of the Baha'i faith.



Israel, like many of its neighbours, has many Roman ruins & we saw the remnants of Herod's Palace. He is recognised as a great builder and you can picture life as it was, from the scale of the ruins.

We also visited a Crusader Castle, which was amazing. There are caves nearby, where people still lived until recent times. We sailed on the Sea of Galilee, where fishermen still cast their nets, much as they would have in days gone by. Baptisms are still performed in the River Jordan too, on both sides of the Israel/Jordanian border. I was amazed to see a reminder of home, a big gum tree on the banks of the river. In the early days, agronomists studied the soil & climate to determine which crops could be grown successfully. Much of the hard work was done on Kibbutz, many of which are still in existence and very profitable. Jordanians will tell you that agriculture is more successful in Israel than Jordan because Israel controls the water in the Jordan

River, which forms the border between the two countries. Plantations of Date Palms are common, although more so in Israel than Jordan.

The Church of the Annunciation in Nazareth is very beautiful and has stunning mosaics donated from countries all around the world, including Australia. When we reached Jerusalem, it coincided with the anniversary of the declaration of the State of Israel. At the Castle, we were lucky enough to see an amazing Sound and Light Show depicting the history of the city. The locals were also very excited, as a section of the Giro D'Italia was being ridden through Jerusalem for the first time. There is much to see in Jerusalem and high on our list was

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**JOURNEYS**

the wonderful and very moving, Holocaust Museum. Local young people, men and women, must do military service in Israel and as part of their training, revisit historical sites like the Museum. The thinking behind this is, that as high school students, they probably didn't take in as much of their history as they should, so they are given the opportunity to learn more as young adults. So it is quite common, at whichever place of interest that you visit, to see lots of young, armed, uniformed people among the crowds.

Of course a visit to the Wailing or Western Wall, was also a must. We had to pass through security barriers before we reached the Wall, as I suppose it would be a target for terrorists. You can, if you like say a prayer & leave a message at the wall and there are separate sections for men and women.



The Via Dolorosa was a little disappointing to be honest. Our guide explained that in times past, the locals realised that a business opportunity existed in targeting the many pilgrims visiting the holy sites. So to see the Stations of the Cross, you need to go up and down lanes and alleys, as the Stations are in the

midst of markets and souvenir shops. We also saw the supposed site of Jesus' Tomb and what is thought to be the Garden of Gethsemane, where olive trees, hundreds of years old, still exist. To be surrounded by so much history can be hard to take in at times and there seems to be a Church at just about every site.

Bethlehem is in Palestine, so we needed to cross the border and have our passports ready. The Church of the Nativity has services run by Catholic and Orthodox priests and they take turns to hold their services. We were taken to a store supported by the state, where souvenirs made traditionally from olive wood, were created by local craftsmen and women to a high standard. It was comforting to know that the souvenirs were genuine, because even here, a lot comes from China.

Shopping opportunities always seem to be high on the list for tourists. Everyone wants to take home a memento of their travels. When visiting the Dead Sea, you are able to purchase Dead Sea mud or soap to take home and there are lots of stores selling various skincare products. The Sea is amazing and much bigger than I imagined. Apparently it is shrinking, as the Jordan which feeds it, is diverted for agriculture and drinking water. The high salt content means that you can float, but trying to stand can be hilarious.

Israel is a country of contrasts, where Jewish, Christian and Moslem traditions are followed. We tried the local cuisine and Israel also has it's own vineyards, so of course we tried the local wines as well.



If you are thinking of visiting this wonderful country, take note of the weather before you leave. We went in May and it was already getting hot. Also, if you want to visit any of the Arab countries, visit Israel first. They will give you a ticket for your passport, because if it is stamped, you won't be allowed into the Arab country. If you have been to an Arab country first and they have stamped your passport, you won't be allowed into Israel.



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# F.I.R.E. Carriers

St John's Primary School is a F.I.R.E. Carrier school. (Friends Igniting Reconciliation through Education.) The dream of the FIRE Carrier program is to promote respect, fairness and inclusion for indigenous people. The FIRE Carrier promotes, enculturation and reconciliation in Catholic and Independent primary and secondary, Victorian schools.

At St John's we have a student leader and a small number of students that make up the FIRE Carrier action team. Together we have promoted the importance of acknowledging the country and paying respect to the traditional custodians of the land on which we gather to learn, the Wurundjeri people. We work towards recognising important days in the calendar such as National Apology Day, Sorry Day and NAIDOC Week where we highlight and respond to the stories which must be told.

We will continue to highlight the stories and traditions of our original custodians and hope to build our knowledge and create some visual responses to what we know.



## Term 4 Report

Mrs Maureen Stella

Thank you to our St John's community for a wonderful 2018!

I thank each one of you, students, staff, Fr Mario and parents for your many contributions to creating such a vibrant and positive school and parish community. We have much to be proud of at St John's, where our students are at the centre of all we do.

I wish you all the joys and blessing of the Christmas

season and we look forward to an exciting 2019!

God bless and warmest wishes.



## The Bread Run

Mrs Carmel Armiento

*"The visitation of the poor, the sick, the lonely and the underprivileged and to treat these people with love, with friendship, with dignity and with respect."*

St Vincent de Paul Society.

Since 2013, St John's Staff, Social Justice and Faith Team have encouraged all staff to participate in an authentic and practical activity that makes a real difference in our community. The "Margaret Oats Soup Van", a work of the St Vincent de Paul Society, provides meals to the homeless and disadvantaged people of inner Melbourne, including Collingwood, Abbotsford, Richmond and Fitzroy. St John's staff have been volunteering each Thursday afternoon, by collecting bread from the local



Brumby's bakery in East Ivanhoe and driving it to the Community Centre in Collingwood. At the centre, numerous dedicated volunteers proceed to prepare sandwiches for the night's run, making a difference to the disadvantaged just a few kilometres from our doorstep.

Although it is only a relatively small contribution of time from our staff, we are proud to be involved in this act of kindness and service to those not as fortunate as ourselves.

# Sacrament of First Eucharist



## Introducing Mrs Sandra Dabbous

Why did you choose to be a teacher?

I have often been asked this question over my years of teaching and this year marks 25 years of teaching for me. As a child with my cousins, we used to play schools and pretend to be at school. We'd put the chairs in rows; get a blackboard and everything else we needed to set our classroom up. I'd always take on the teacher role. Growing up, I had great role models and amazing teachers. I think it was these teachers that inspired me to become a teacher. When I told my parents and the careers counsellor at high school I wanted to be a teacher, they all thought I was joking as I was a handful as a student. Teaching has been rewarding, exhausting, challenging, given me some white hairs but I can honestly say I do love it and enjoy what every day brings. I have loved working with the many students I have taught over the years.

What's the funniest thing that a student has asked you?

You can be certain that in the life of a teacher, you are assured a laugh a day over something funny that has been asked, said or done! Some we can share, others we share with work colleagues and our teacher friends, leaving student names out! I would have to say one of the funniest things said to me and now and then I still hear it, is the younger students mispronunciation of my surname or their 'new surname' for me! I've had everything from Miss Caboose,



Mr Boose, Ms Bus, Miss Boose and other wonderful combinations!

Which one of your own teachers most inspired you and why?

Now that is a hard one. I had many amazing and patient teachers both in primary and secondary school. If I had to choose one, I would have to say my Year 5 and 6 teacher, Mr Brady. He brought out something in me that no other teacher could. Let's just say I wasn't the easiest or quietest of students, however he found a way to work with my interests and keep me focused. It was his faith in me that helped me focus. He taught me the love of reading, writing, problem solving and never giving up. He also instilled in me a love of mathematics - multiplication tables, quick thinking and mental maths. After having Mr Brady as

my teacher for two years, by the end of Year 6, I may have quietened down just a little, I received a scholarship for academic and school performance. This was all thanks to Mr Brady and the work he helped me put in. Many years later after I was teaching for several years, I happened to bump into Mr Brady and he remembered me. How couldn't he?! We had a great chat and he asked what I was doing. Lucky he was sitting down as when I told him I was a teacher just like him, he nearly fell off his chair!

What's one thing that your students have taught you?

Everyday students teach me something. It can be something technical like knowing how to crop a video, which the students are so good at compared to me! But most importantly, students teach me patience, teach me to breath, to enjoy the simple things and to stop and enjoy the relationships and friendships we have formed with each other as a class.

If you had the chance to meet one person who would it be and why?

There are many people I would love to meet for different reasons; Mother Teresa, Lady Diana or Nelson Mandela; all very inspirational people in their own way. I'll go with Nelson Mandela. After visiting his cold, tiny cell in South Africa on Robben Island, and walking through the prison, the eerie feeling I got. I have many questions I'd like to ask him about his time in prison.



# Our Christmas Traditions

## Vietnam

Ngoc Tran

It is my pleasure to introduce the traditional Christmas celebration of Vietnam (although it is now nearly 30 years since I came to live here in Australia).

In Vietnam, Christmas preparation begins on the 1st of December. Christmas traditions were adapted from French traditions many years ago as Vietnam didn't have many of their own.

Decorations are hung around almost every house as well as the local church. Everyone in town looks forward to decorating their houses and celebrating Christmas as a community.



On Christmas Eve, we gather together for midnight mass. Afterwards, everyone goes home to eat a family meal that consists of traditional Vietnamese food as well as a Bûche de Noël, a log cake.

These meals are very special as they only happen a couple of times a year. Celebrations continue for young couples and friends as they go downtown and hang out in the decorated city.

## Philippines

Leo & Charito Cosio

For many, Christmas is a time centred around family and food and ours is no different. As the classic poem goes, 'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house, not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse.' If you can picture this, the exact opposite is occurring within our household on Christmas Eve every year.

Following the vigil mass, the house is slowly filled by extended family who come with grumbling empty bellies eagerly anticipating the late night feast awaiting them. In Filipino Christmas tradition, we call this 'Noche Buena,' a feast (usually enough to feed a hundred!) lovingly prepared over days comprising a mix of traditional Spanish/ Filipino cuisine and family favourite classics.



Grandmother's glazed pineapple ham recipe continues to remain at the core of this 'midnight' feast. When the clock strikes twelve, adults and some very excited children gather around the sweetly smelling pine tree for gift giving over cups of indulgent Spanish hot chocolate.

When the kids are found strewn and asleep under piles of ripped wrapping paper, it's finally time for bed at dawn, and a nice long sleep in before Christmas Round Two!



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## Sri Lanka

Treshini Kurukalasoc

December is a very festive month in Sri Lanka despite Sri Lanka being a Buddhist country. Almost all families never fail to decorate a Christmas tree at their house to partake in the festive season.

We decorate the Christmas tree on December 1st and start to make our Christmas cake the as well. Another important tradition to us is that before Christmas we go to confession so that we celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ with purity.

On the Christmas Eve we attend midnight mass and soon after mass we have a bite of the Christmas cake along with some wine, then we light up crackers and sparklers to celebrate the joy of the birth of our Lord. A platter of food is shared with our neighbours.

Christmas lunch is often shared with close family members. The lunch table is full with Sri Lankan delights and curries. Gift exchange is also common within family members. After Christmas it is also common to visit other family relatives as well. Our festivities continue until 1st of January.



## Sri Lankan Christmas Cake

### Ingredients

250g raisins, chopped  
 385g sultanas, chopped  
 250g mixed glacé fruit such as pineapple, apricot and quince, chopped, (avoid using fig)  
 260g preserved ginger, chopped  
 500g chow chow preserves, (see note)  
 120g mixed peel, chopped  
 260g glacé cherries, halved  
 260g raw cashews or blanched almonds, finely chopped  
 60ml brandy  
 375g butter  
 500g caster sugar  
 12 egg yolks (reserve 6 egg whites)  
 2 tsp lemon zest, finely grated  
 1 1/2 tsp ground cardamom  
 1 tsp ground cinnamon  
 1 tsp nutmeg, freshly grated  
 3/4 tsp ground cloves  
 2 tblsp natural vanilla extract  
 1 tblsp natural almond extract  
 2 tblsp rosewater, or to taste  
 1 tblsp honey  
 250g fine semolina  
 6 egg whites  
 1 quantity Almond Paste for icing (optional)

### \*Note

Chow chow preserves can be purchased at Asian grocery stores. If unavailable, substitute melon and ginger jam or ginger marmalade.



### Method

Line a 25 cm round or square cake tin with three layers of brown paper, then one layer of baking paper liberally brushed with melted butter. To insulate the tin even more, wrap the outside with a sheet of newspaper folded into three and secure it with kitchen string.

Combine the raisins, sultanas, mixed glacé fruit, preserved ginger, chow chow preserves, mixed peel, glacé cherries and cashews in a large bowl. Pour over the brandy, cover, and set aside. (This step can be done the day before, allowing the fruit more time to soak in the brandy, if desired.)

Preheat the oven to 130°C. Cream together the butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Add the egg yolks, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Add the lemon zest, spices, vanilla and almond extracts, rosewater and honey and mix well. Add the semolina and beat until well combined.

Transfer the mixture to a large bowl or pan and use your hands to mix in the fruit until thoroughly combined — it's much easier than a spoon and professional pastry cooks do it this way.

In a separate bowl, beat the egg whites until stiff peaks form, then fold through the fruit mixture until just combined. Pour into the prepared cake tin and bake in the oven for 2¼–2½ hours, covering the cake with foil after the first hour to prevent over-browning. The cake will be very rich and moist when done. If you prefer a darker and drier result, bake for 4½–5 hours — it will not be dry, but certainly firmer than if you cook for a shorter time. Allow to cool completely, preferably overnight, then remove the paper and wrap the cake in foil. A tablespoon or two of brandy may be sprinkled over the cake just before wrapping. If desired, ice the cake with the almond paste. This cake can be stored in an airtight container for one year or longer.



# Carols on the Lawn

Tuesday 11th December





# Fr Mario

Parish Priest, St John's Heidelberg

## Home, Age and Christmas...

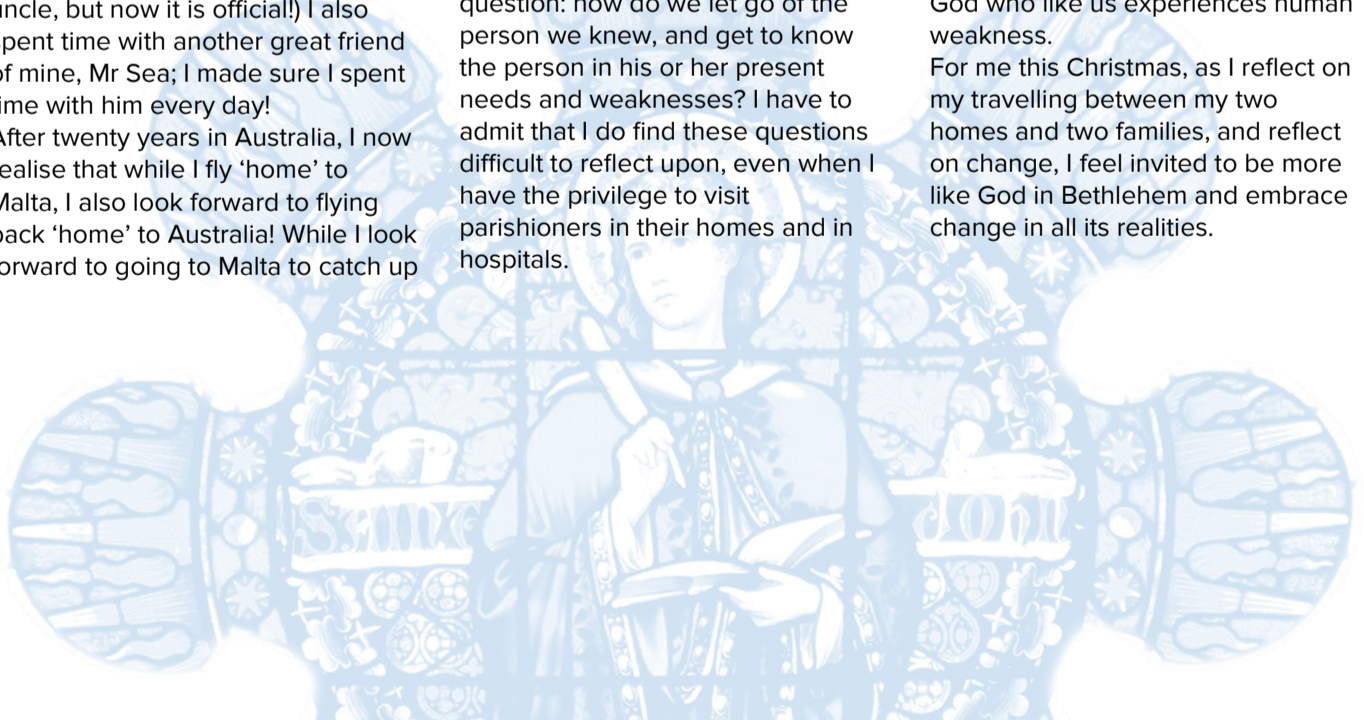
You might be wondering what might be the connection between these three topics; there probably is not much in common, but this year they came together in my experience.

**Home.** For my annual leave in September, I flew back to a small island a long way away. At times it is lovingly referred to as 'the Navel of the Mediterranean!' It is a small island, blink and you miss it! Going back is important for me to re-connect with family and friends. This time, apart from catching up with my step-mother, four sisters and their families, uncles, aunts and cousins, I also got to know Jake, my first grand-nephew, with whom I quickly made friends! (I always knew I was a great uncle, but now it is official!) I also spent time with another great friend of mine, Mr Sea; I made sure I spent time with him every day! After twenty years in Australia, I now realise that while I fly 'home' to Malta, I also look forward to flying back 'home' to Australia! While I look forward to going to Malta to catch up

with my natural family, who I love very dearly, I also know that now the family and friends that support me are here in Australia. Here in Australia many of us were born overseas, and at some stage we had to make the transition between our first home, family and friends to our second home. I am lucky that I am still able to visit Malta quite often, I realise that not everyone is as lucky!

**Age.** While in Malta I stayed with my step-mother. I have known her for the past fifty years, but in recent years I have noticed a great change happen to her; this is what we call 'getting old.' This makes me ask: what is age? Why do we have to get old? It is not easy to watch as our loved ones grow weaker and change; they seem to become a different person to the one we knew when we were younger. I only get to spend time with my step-mother once every two years, but perhaps one question that comes to mind is: how do we journey with and support our relatives as they mature and grow weaker? Perhaps, even the question: how do we let go of the person we knew, and get to know the person in his or her present needs and weaknesses? I have to admit that I do find these questions difficult to reflect upon, even when I have the privilege to visit parishioners in their homes and in hospitals.

**Christmas.** I have not included Christmas in this reflection because of the season we are in, but because I was led to by my two previous reflections. For me, Christmas is not just the celebration of Jesus being born in Bethlehem, but the great miracle and mystery of God becoming human in Jesus. The mystery of the incarnation – God taking on human flesh – fascinates me and keeps me grounded. Divinity and humanity are two realities so ontologically diverse that you almost cannot put them side by side in one sentence. God, the eternal and unchangeable perfection; humanity, weak, mortal and totally imperfect! Yet in Jesus the impossible is made possible: Jesus is truly God and truly human! Earlier I wrote about the change we partake in when we migrate and as we grow older; change is an intrinsic part of who we are as human. In Jesus, God who is unchangeable, consecrated change. Like us he moved from being with God to pitching tent among us humans. In Jesus we see God the migrant and God who like us experiences human weakness. For me this Christmas, as I reflect on my travelling between my two homes and two families, and reflect on change, I feel invited to be more like God in Bethlehem and embrace change in all its realities.



# The Eyrie

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The views, thoughts and opinions expressed in this publication are those of the individual authors and should not be interpreted as theology or moral and ethical teaching.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### February 2nd & 3rd 2019

Blessing of School Children—uniforms and bags—at all masses.

### February 16th & 17th

Blessing of families with young children—at all masses.

### Saturday February 16th

Serve the Servers Movie Night—after 6pm mass.

### Thursday 28th February

Parish Annual Meeting, Francis Xavier meeting room at 7:30pm.

### Wednesday 6th March

Start of Lent. Masses at 9:15am, 2:30pm (primary school), 7:30pm.

### Thursday 4th April

Mass of Anointing of the Sick 9:15am and 11:30am.

### Thursday 18th April

Holy Thursday Mass at 7:30pm.

### Friday 19th April

Good Friday celebration at 3pm in Naleijerring Centre.

### Sunday 21st April

Vigil Saturday at 8pm; Sunday Masses at 7am, 8:30am and 10:30am.