

Gospels are read on a three year cycle. In addition to this we were given a shortened version of the Catechism and devoted several sessions to reading and trying to understand the meaning of the directives contained therein.

It was a most instructive time and I learnt a lot. Father Mario and Sister June were very helpful and supportive and I was very humbled to be accepted into the Catholic Church at St. John's and made my communion and confirmation (together with Tim) at a most joyful and spiritual celebration during the Easter Vigil at the beginning of April.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Father Mario for all his time and effort in providing me with an excellent basis and appreciation of the Catholic Faith which I hope to build on in the coming years. During our discussions together it was apparent to me that the Catholic Church is endeavouring to change to adapt to current times with all the challenges that this will undoubtedly bring to all of the church's members.

Colin Ingram April 2015

At our Easter Vigil we welcomed Colin Ingram into full communion with our church with his wife Mary as sponsor and Timothy Waud with Sister June as his sponsor. Receiving the gifts of the Holy Spirit in confirmation.



Reflection of our journey to Easter

This year to me, it seemed the celebrations had a little extra. There appeared to be more involvement, by more members of the community. There were new & different faces among the Eucharistic Ministers & readers. Among those that had their feet washed, those that organised the ceremonies & those in general attendance.

The choir provided an essential element to every ceremony, were very good & appreciated by the congregation. Being part of a faith community going in the same direction, is confidence building, reassuring, gives leadership to the community & promise for the future. The hard work behind the scenes was given a little extra by the presence & participation of Father Longinus.

To the celebrations he brings an uncomplicated faith & worship of its truths. His bursts of song call all the community to come together.

Finally, as leader of the community, Father Mario showed us his reverence of the Church's history, observance of ceremony & support of our faith. Easter brings many back to the Church, Father Mario's efforts were a step in that direction.

John McGrath

FATHER LONGINUS

I have been asked to tell you a little about myself. I was born Longinus Onyechesi the 2nd child of six children (3 girls and 3 boys), five of whom, live with my mother, in Nigeria. I have eight nieces and nephews and my father has gone to be with God in heaven since 2006.

I undertook my seminary training in Nigeria where I studied Philosophy and Theology and I was ordained a priest on August 15, 2002. After my ordination, I served the Nigerian Church as an assistant priest, a school teacher, a school Principal and a parish priest before travelling to Belgium in 2009 for further studies in Theology and Religious Studies.

After my studies in Belgium I applied to serve the Australian Church and was accepted by the Archdiocese of Melbourne. In February 2011, I arrived in Australia. Since then I have worked in Laverton/Queen of Peace Parish, Altona Meadows, St. Anthony's Parish, Noble Park and Resurrection Parish, Keysborough.

Currently I am studying Psychology at the University of Melbourne and also assisting here in the Parish of St. Johns in Heidelberg where I am enjoying meeting parishioners and celebrating the sacraments with them.

.....(cont'd page 5)

My hobbies are watching movies, playing soccer, going to the gym, running and swimming. I really enjoy the multicultural delicacies in Australia. My mission statement/prayer is that-

God may give me the grace,
always and everywhere, to make people happy.

Longinus Onyechesi

From the Parish Pastoral Council

Last year we elected four new members for our Parish Pastoral Council and together with the existing members we have journeyed forward together.

In March we met for a day of reflection and prayer led by Sr Helen Duffy who set about gently guiding us as individuals and as a group as we expressed our thoughts on what we thought we can achieve and how best to go about this as a team.

We shared and gained much in our day together and thank Sr Helen for her work with us. The day culminated with Fr Mario saying Mass for us in St. Monica's.

We hope that this reflection day will give us added strength of purpose and mission as we continue our forward journey as your representatives in our parish.

The council has been meeting monthly and agendas have a time for reflection, reports from different areas of our parish life including, liturgy, fundraising, social, building, maintenance, youth etc. Our meetings take about 2 hours. If you wish to submit any items for discussion then you can approach a member of the Council or put your request in writing.

Some of the aims for this year are to bring school and parish closer in our journey forward. We see the link of school and parish as vital for the continued life of St Johns.

As well as building stronger ties with our primary school we hope to reach out on our journey forward to the youth of our parish. Fr Mario has two young couples who have taken this on board and there will be meetings and social outings planned as part of this outreach.

Reflecting, Praying, Planning, Welcoming, Reaping, Sowing, there is much to do.

We know that “ **Together as Parish**” there are many willing labourers in the Lords field to assist us in ensuring a rich harvest for 2015 and beyond.

Michelle Penson – Chair (on behalf of the Parish Pastoral Council)

Thanksgiving Campaign

How old is our church? Yes, it is hard to believe, but St. Johns is now 164 years.

Next time you are in church I invite you to take a look around- if you look closely you will see that the church is in need of good paint, the pews a re-sand and varnish, the carpet is fraying in parts, plaster coming out of some corners and the beautiful wooden ceiling in need of clean and revarnish. Some of the stained glass windows are also beginning to crumble as is the sandstone around the windows.

Yes if we had the funds we would get ‘tore in’ to the restoration of all these items to ensure our church is preserved for future generations.

Building a new church costs millions of dollars. We have been blessed by those that have gone before us and we are the present custodians of our historic beautiful bluestone church. It is incumbent on us and our present generation to hand over our church to future generations in tip top order.

Over the coming months we will launch a Thanksgiving Campaign.

This campaign will endeavour to reach out to all; and ask you to think about what you give to the parish financially on a weekly basis.

Presently the Parish weekly income does not allow us to undertake ongoing maintenance and parish expenses.

You will hear more on the Thanksgiving campaign in the coming weeks.

God loves a cheerful giver 😊

Parish Luncheon- Sunday 21st June

ALL WELCOME

All Monies raised go directly to our missionary charities



Parish Family BBQ Lunch



JUMPING CASTLE

Come and enjoy our delicious parish lunch. Fully catered 2-course meal includes BBQ lamb, fillet steak, 3 salads and scrumptious desserts with tea/ coffee

Children's meal includes sausage in bread, pop-top drink, & an ice-cream

PRIZES

Highlights

- * Delicious BBQ Lunch
- * Jumping Castle
- * Children's activities inc. a Treasure Hunt & movie
- * String Quartet
- * Spot prizes
- * Major Raffle

B.Y.O.

Tickets on sale - through trybooking.com/HGWY or at weekend masses

Where? **St John's Church Hall**
 When? **Sunday June 21, 2015 at 12.00pm**
 Contact: Maureen Hegarty - 0423 877 736 Jeanine Andrighetto - 0403 248 162

\$25 per adult *Proudly sponsored by:*
 \$10 per child



Aid to the Church in Need



A Lifeline to...
 ...the Oppressed Church
 ...the Poor Church
 ...the Persecuted Church
Worldwide

Where does the Gold Coin and fundraising dollar go?



Building Churches

Aid to the Church in Need is helping build and restore hundreds of churches around the world which have been destroyed, burnt or desecrated. We depend on our benefactors to help provide Catholics with a house for God - where Mass can be offered, and families can come together to learn the Faith and pray before the Blessed Sacrament.



Supporting Sisters

Sisters know where the need is greatest. That is why one always finds them where people are in distress; it is there that they head for. The Daughters of the Resurrection in Africa, pictured above, also have this sixth sense for the needy of the world.

Every year, Aid to the Church in Need supports thousands of Sisters around the world, including every contemplative nun in Eastern Europe.



Supporting Seminarians

Every year, Aid to the Church in Need supports over 16,000 seminarians around the world on their journey to the altar of God.

Without the help of our benefactors, many of these young men, who feel called by God, would be unable to answer their priestly vocations.