

Welcome to the Winter 2023 issue of *The Bark*, a celebration of our parish and people.

Inside is news from our wonderful ministries including the:

+ Friendship Group + Catholic Women's League + Leadership Team
+ Welcoming Team + Altar Society + Lending a Hand +Liturgy
+ Sacramental + Playtime

As well as

+ Some personal and thought-provoking reflections from generous parishioners .

+ Updates about social media in our parish and the Saturday markets

Thank you to all our wonderful contributors for sharing your stories with us.



OLF Altar Society – beautifying our church

We are the Altar Society. There are only twelve of us. We dust anything that sits still in the church, and sweep foyers and porches which is sometimes a considerable task when the wind whips up all those leaves. We ensure that the Holy Water fonts are clean and water is refreshed. We also lightly clean the pews on a semi-regular basis.

We do floral arrangements and are thankful for having some very talented florists in our midst. We also do various displays for special occasions which can sometimes be a challenge in finding different materials, working around weddings and other happenings within the community.

Christmas is a particularly happy and exhausting time but we, along with the Liturgy Team, have gathered parishioners together who gladly give their time. First Communion and Confirmation are a great joy to be involved in. There are other important feasts during the year which we help to highlight.

If you have a talent that can help in any way to keep our church beautiful, you are most welcome to join us.

I am blessed to have members who come together at a moments notice to help with great ideas and their efforts. May God bless them.

Noelene Hammond

Friendship Group - more than 35 years of caring

The Friendship Group links older members of the parish (guests) with volunteers (helpers) who provide a morning of company, chat, connection, light entertainment, morning tea and lunch.

Transport is provided for guests. This group is 'love in action'.

We have an enthusiastic group of guests and helpers this year. One of our long-term guests, Margaret Ferra, celebrated her 95th Birthday on 21 February. We had a beautiful birthday cake which was enjoyed by all. Margaret, along with Helen Cozzi, Annette Dunn and Margaret Fitzpatrick were the original guests/helpers for our group when it was formed over 35 years ago.

Bingo is always a "hit" with a lovely selection of prizes after each game.

John and Maureen Dowd and Tony Girdler came to one of our gatherings with their music and we had a wonderful morning singing all the old songs; everyone enjoyed High Tea (lunch) after.

Many thanks to Noelene Hammond who distributes Communion to our guests before each gathering. Our drivers drop them off at the church, we partake in this special service and then head to the Parish Centre meeting room for morning tea and activities.

Some of our guests, Helen Geary, Nahi Ibrahim and Joan Millard have not been well. We look forward to seeing them back with us again.

We are sad to lose a very special guest, Neil Lucas. Rest in Peace Neil.

Pat Pfoeffler, Friendship Group.



Clockwise from left: Margaret Ferra, Helen Cozzi, Annette Dunn and Margaret Fitzpatrick; Friendship group ; Margaret Ferra cutting her 95th birthday cake and musical entertainment.



Our Catholic Women's League – hands up and hands on!



Mary and Judy enjoying their 'twin' 80th birthdays!

The OLF branch of the Catholic Women's League gathers the women of our parish to prayer, conversation, friendship, social activities and fundraising for worthy projects. Membership is open to all women in the parish – why not check it out?

Our meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month. The past few months have been busy with much socializing.

The Lugarno Uniting Church Fashion Parade was attended by our members. Mary Stevenson and Judy Davis celebrated their 80th birthdays with lunch at Grandviews Bowling Club before our April meeting. Mary is at present enjoying a holiday in Canada.

Members attended the Embark Restaurant at TAFE at Loftus and enjoyed a lovely meal cooked and served by the students.

Many of our group generously provided cakes and goodies for the Lending A Hand Team's Mothers' Day Cake Stall. Congratulations to the Team for a successful day.

Parishioners are advised that Silver Circle tickets go on sale in July with all funds raised going to the Sydney CWL Project of the Year – The Farm at Galong. The Farm is a not-for-profit charitable organisation located in country NSW. It was established to support women recovering from alcohol and other drug misuse. The work of the Farm is underpinned by the belief that whatever has been lost in a person's life can be restored.

We are saddened by the closure of our Head Office and beautiful Chapel at Polding House (due to the sale of the building). City meetings will now be held in Harrington Street, Church Hill, commencing from August.

Please keep our sick members – Judy Eldridge, Yvonne Wicks and Betty Stanford in your prayers

Pat Pfoeffler, Catholic Women's League



Good Friday 2023

Stations of the Cross



Holy Week and the Easter Triduum are filled with extraordinary ceremonies with unique rituals, symbolism, music and, of course, prayer. It is easy to become overwhelmed by it all.

Attending the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday morning allows time to pause, to reflect and to prepare for the immensity of the Good Friday afternoon service and the Easter Sunday Mass.

This year's Stations of the Cross pictures were by Father Sieger Koder, a German Catholic priest who was imprisoned during World War II.

As we meditated on the life of Christ, we were challenged by the mystery of the cross and the unconditional love of God.

The introduction to the Stations invited us, as disciples of Jesus Christ, to walk in the steps of Jesus, each, and every day. Throughout this prayer journey, we are walking alongside Jesus from the time he was judged and condemned to his burial in the garden tomb.

The introductory prayer is one we can pray daily:



*In my journeying with you,
may I never lose my sense of direction,
never lose sight of the landmark
towards which I travel.
And should cloud or rain obscure my vision,
may I draw closer to you,
so that my feet may tread
in your footsteps,
your words be my encouragement,
and your love my protection
against the storms that assail me.*

As we listened, reflected, prayed and responded to each and every one of the fourteen Stations of the Cross, we were blessed with insight and hope that the lessons learned through this virtual journey would continue to sustain us.

The 2023 Stations of the Cross were prepared by Tosca Galluzzo who consulted many theology books, meditated and prayed as she wrote the commentary and reflections for each station. We thank her for her work and talents in providing our parish with such a wonderful spiritual experience.

Julia Goff



Leadership Team

focus on maintenance

Our Leadership Team (Daniel Craven (Chairperson), Bryan Doyle, Sandra Green,, Lauren Kozcek Frances Simon and Gina Whiley) are involved in every aspect of our parish’s functioning. One of the very time-consuming works of the LT is to do with maintenance – the work that few people notice until it is not done!

Many parishioners will be aware of the incredible work that Paul Moreton has done and co-ordinated over so many years in this area. In an effort to share some of this load, Anthony Rehayem is now on board. Meetings are being held between Daniel, Paul and Anthony this year to progress some major tasks and also look at how to manage the work in the future.

The “Bacon and Egg Breakfast” hosted by the Leadership Team on 28 May was part of the plan to raise awareness of this work and to involve many of the skilled and talented people in the parish.

There are many major works that have been occurring that parishioners may not be aware of:

- Upgrade of fire safety systems in the church, hall and parish house including new signs, fire-extinguishers and correct door handles.
- Replacement of outdoor lights around hall and parish house with LEDs, plus the installation of a new outdoor power point.
- Refurbishment of the children’s playhouse (new floor, repaired walls, freshly paint)
- Installation of the safety barrier for Playtime room and general repairs in that room.
- Replacement of dishwasher and microwave in the hall kitchen.
- New handrails installed in the sacristy and parish house steps.
- Major tree pruning and gardening spruce up.

There are also several other major works in the planning stage:

- Cleaning out of all gutters (a major task)
- Plans for a large LED sign to promote parish activities
- Repair of the asphalt section of the car park

Daniel Craven, Chairperson, OLF Leadership Team.



You're welcome!

How important is it to smile, say "hello" or make eye contact?

We are social beings and we need human contact. What does a smile cost you? Nothing - but that smile might be the only human interaction that the other person has had that day or that week. We tend to underestimate the impact that a simple gesture can have on someone's day.

I joined the Rural Bank of New South Wales in 1966 and their motto was "we do more for you personally". I believed that motto and in me the bank found a willing companion to smiling, greeting and service. I have tried to carry those traits with me, so that when Fr Tony asked me "Is it time to start welcoming again?" I promptly said "Yes".

Prior to COVID-19 restrictions I had been the leader of the parish Welcoming Team. During the pandemic we had all had a hiatus; now it was time to get moving again. I met with Fr Tony and Gina Whiley, who is my link person on the Leadership Team, and we talked about what welcoming would look like. You will be pleased to know that welcoming looks like "YOU".

"You" are the warmth that turns a building or a church into a place of comfort, and gives that place a sense of home but, of course, it isn't practical to have every parishioner standing at the church entrances saying "hello". To recommence the Welcoming Ministry we wanted to have 56 parishioners on board, so that every Mass had two or three welcomers at the church entrances and that no one person would feel overwhelmed by the task. I then held a meeting and asked who of those welcomers would be available to help run bi-monthly morning teas after the 9.15am Mass. The response was such that we will have two morning tea teams in operation. This means that there will be a morning tea held on the second Sunday of every month.

Our first morning tea will be after the 9.15am Mass on Sunday 9 July. On that morning and with all following morning teas we will offer parishioners labels with their names on, so that at the Sign of Peace you will know who you are saying "hello" to and also, if you stay for that welcoming cuppa, you can interact with others and be confident using people's names.

As well as welcoming at the church entrances and putting on a cuppa, the team tries to make new parishioners or visitors to our parish feel welcome. You may have noticed the Welcoming Book at the Piety Stall. This book is kept at the back of the church for new parishioners or visitors to sign. A member of the Welcoming Team then rings to say "welcome" and tell new parishioners about the activities and opportunities to get involved within the parish. We also invite them to our next morning tea, so we can introduce them to fellow parishioners.

"Thank you" does not seem a big enough word but it is the best one I have. We all lead busy lives so I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to all those who have responded to the call to welcome. As a parish, our arms are open and although you may not be on roster to welcome, I invite you to smile and say "hello" to any and all people. If you feel this ministry can help you, or you have ideas that can help it, please contact me through Clarissa in the Parish House.

Maria Vaux, Welcoming Team



Above: Welcomers Maureen Burgess, Margaret Fitzpatrick and Annette Dunn greet John Nelson, Tony Thorpe, Wendy Mullen, Marie Ryan and Maree Atkins

Right: Joe Pizzolato is welcomed to Sunday evening Mass by William Hill and Maddie McDermott from Cornerstone



OLF 'LENDING A HAND' TO FAR WESTERN NSW

Our parish, through the work of the Lending a Hand Team, has been giving support to the Diocese of Wilcannia—Forbes for some years.

Paul Napier keeps in contact with those who are working hard to assist those most in need at the parish level. He received the update below from Sr Elizabeth Young RSM, Parish Life Co-ordinator in Wilcannia Parish.

Dear Paul,

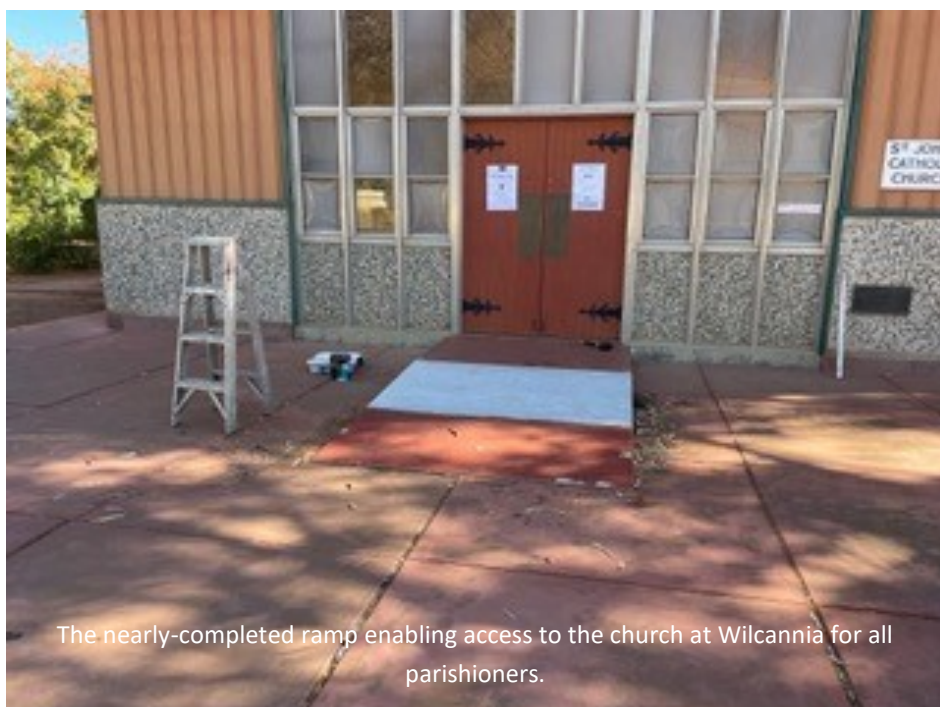
Hi! I hope you are doing well and happy Easter season!

It has been a while since we first spoke, but I haven't forgotten you and your generous parish! It has just been taking a while getting the lay of the land here and build relationships and parish structures.

The good news is that we are moving ahead with making use of your generous donation. We have a quote (attached) for a local tradesman to do gutter cleaning and repairs to the ramp. These were seen as priority jobs and he should start next week when the materials come through. The other big project we are working towards is replacing the outside bench seating which is completely unusable at the moment. It is a critical thing, as many people use them during funerals and it is a good sign for the community that our place of worship (which is used by the whole town at funerals) is cared for. We probably had well over 100 outside during the funeral last week with nowhere to sit.

Thank you very much for your support once again and I will keep you updated. I can share photos of the work once it is done. God bless and Peace,

Elizabeth



The nearly-completed ramp enabling access to the church at Wilcannia for all parishioners.

I HAVE A DREAM

(...thanks to Martin Luther King)

I HAVE A DREAM that the legacy which started with Vatican II will continue to be revitalised and flourish with Pope Francis and that his successors follow his example. I hope that his dream of synodality for our church - of all in this together and all listening to each other - Pope, bishops, priests and the baptised, would be understood and practised faithfully.

I HAVE A DREAM that all of us, especially the baptised, begin to realise that each has wonderful gifts and that we overcome our fears of stepping out and sharing those gifts with the community. "Do not be afraid" is mentioned something like 360 times in the bible!

I HAVE A DREAM that our Eucharistic celebrations be ones of joy and friendship and that we find ways to enhance that loving relationship and realise that love comes before laws, rituals and ceremonies. I dream that we look for effective ways of CONNECTING with one another in love and support so all know that they are appreciated.

I HAVE A DREAM that we believe ALL will experience God/Love in the next life except those who refuse that experience and consequently there is no sending to hell. I dream that the words of the hymn "Come as you are, that's how I love you" be a wonderful source of trust and confidence.

I HAVE A DREAM that we learn not to be afraid of change and understand that change is the way we grow. I hope that we experience a new covenant that overflows with freshness and vitality after injections of the new, the daring and the untried. I dream that prophets rise up amongst us who can inspire us with original and life-giving words and to creatively give shape to the new.

I HAVE A DREAM that our church community becomes a welcoming one where people know they can be loved and appreciated for who they are. I dream that we try and "enlarge the tent" and be seen as all-inclusive and loving.

I HAVE A DREAM that evangelising means, as Pope Francis suggests, "you meet people where they are, you presume the good in them and hope they will presume the good in you, you have a conversation, you open your mind and heart, you prepare to learn something from them, you go where they are going if only for a short time trusting something good will come of it."

I HAVE A DREAM that we learn to LISTEN to each other's stories and be compassionate especially towards those who are suffering in some way or are broken and that we become sensitive to where people are at.

I HAVE A DREAM that the Lord raises up many more Fr Bob Maguires in our community and that we acknowledge and show gratitude to those involved in St Vincent de Paul, Lending a Hand teams, Friendship Group and CWL for their self-sacrificing care for the marginalised and those on the periphery; believing that's where Jesus would hang out!

I HAVE A DREAM that somehow each of us experiences a God who loves us first and unconditionally and all we need to do is surrender to that love; that we don't have to be DOING THINGS to gain that love, believing it is already inside us and that we experience and know everything around us, people and creation is Christ-filled and should fill us with joy.

I HAVE A DREAM that our church and other Christian denominations search the reasons why many people and especially the young seem to be disinterested in what the churches are about. I dream that we do serious soul searching and question whether we are truly living Jesus's message of love or is it somewhat believing we have the answers without asking the questions; that numbers are less important than how each person resembles Jesus.

These are just a few of my dreams and I hope each of you has dreams and can express them. We need to have large wonderful dreams that have no bounds. We need ways and means to be able to articulate those dreams without fear.

Martin Luther King's "I have a dream" speech is a prayer and when we pray, we do so with love and trust.

John Dowd



Eyebrows UP!



A little “Vauxism” for which I am renowned within my family is “keep your eyebrows up”. When you have your eyebrows up it is very difficult to be angry, insulting or egotistical. You always look surprised and interested in what is happening around you.

I don’t say I hold this pose all the time but it has held me in good stead from the moment I heard it some 40 years ago. I had just had my second child and was working with a lady who was some twenty years my senior. She came into work one day and instead of her usual bright greeting, she headed straight to her desk and started writing. Something about her was different; there was something contemplative about her demeanour. This lady worked with numbers so it was unusual to see her writing large letters down a blank piece of A4 paper (I know you are impressed that I know what A4 paper is; so am I!)

I asked if all was well and she replied that she would not be beaten by a word. The letters she was

writing down the page were C A N C E R and next to each letter she started writing her favourite things. I know the first word was “Carnations”, but I cannot recall the others.

Her nature and approach to life was positive. We worked together for about eight years and during that time she showed me many things I had taken for granted and turned them into things of wonder.

One example is that there was a cement slab that protruded in the carpark at Westfield Hurstville (it’s probably still there), on the lower level, just as you started to go up the ramp from the carpark. I found it annoying, as I had to duck to get past it. I happened to be with my friend one day and she bent her knees and said “What a great excuse to exercise or do a Charlie Chaplin imitation”. I could not stop laughing. It was ridiculous, it was simple and after that the cement slab was never an obstacle but something to make me smile.

My friend survived the cancer and one of her joyful lines when times were stressful or there was a frown on a brow was “keep your eyebrows up”. I adopted it and it works.

Maria Vaux



Bring a cake – buy a cake – lend a hand

Despite the cold and blustery conditions, the Lending a Hand Mother's Day Cake Stall, held on Sunday 7 May, was an outstanding occasion with a large number of parishioners joining in for morning tea as we sold many delicious cakes, slices and biscuits and hundreds of raffle tickets to support the work of RizeUp Australia.

It was yet again a heart-warming demonstration of who we are as a people in terms of our commitment to each other and to the wider community. Lending a Hand chose RizeUp Australia to be the beneficiary of this year's Mothers' Day parish gathering. RizeUp has a focus on women and families impacted by domestic violence and its aims and goals fit within the scope of our parish outreach and commitment to all those in need of a helping hand along life's journey. To find out more: <https://www.rizeup.com.au/>

We sincerely thank all parishioners and our friends for the wonderful and mouth-watering assortment of cakes, slices, muffins and other sweets that were made with love and donated for sale on Sunday morning. Also, we are deeply appreciative for the great support of the raffle and for the many who made donations on the day with the simple request 'keep the change'.

To the individuals and Parish Ministries who with a glad heart assisted in the background and on the day, we say THANK YOU

- Angela Brady and her husband for donation of cake trays.
- Camille Philips and her family members for the inspiring Happy Mother's Day card which was handed out at the weekend Masses.
- Catholic Women's League and many parishioners for cake baking.
- Clarissa Finan for administration assistance.
- Natalie O'Connor for her wonderful accompanying music at the Sunday morning gathering.
- The Friendship Group for a raffle prize.
- The Music Ministry - Susie Paino for arranging the keyboard.
- The Welcoming Team and Maria Vaux for morning tea.

Raffle winners were John Oxley, Jeanette Moreton, Sue Roberts, Wilma Baroni and Anthony Rehayem who were all thrilled with their prizes. Hazel Horan, granddaughter of Sharran and John, was the lucky winner of the Lolly Jar Guessing Competition. (Mum and Dad were not as impressed!)

Thanks to Father Josh for drawing the raffle – he did it with flair!

It was wonderful to join together in community, to share our talents, time and care for others.

John Horan for The Lending a Hand Team.



Thank you to all our amazing bakers...what a delicious array!



GOOD NEWS FROM ACRATH

(Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans)

On 22 August last year, the Lending a Hand team put on a High Tea in the Parish Centre with all proceeds donated to this important and very worthy social justice issue. We received wonderful support from our church community and an enjoyable afternoon eventuated.

Sister Noelene Simmons SM was a powerful guest speaker on the day. We were informed and challenged greatly by her stories and the information she shared. Lending a Hand, on behalf of the Parish, was able to donate \$5800 to ACRATH to support their work to eliminate human trafficking.

Given the great interest from all who attended the High Tea in the work of ACRATH, I would like to share some wonderful news.

ACRATH has hailed the Federal Government's latest Budget decision, to offer victims and survivors of Human Trafficking the opportunity to access support without involvement with law enforcement, as a momentous achievement. This comes after a 17-year battle by ACRATH. Before this announcement a trafficking victim's ability to access the Support for Trafficked People Program (STPP) was dependent on their capacity to assist police in a criminal investigation or prosecution. Victims had been left to find care and support from members of community and religious organisations. Victims of trafficking have many and complex needs, are often frightened of police, have fears about their family's safety and are worried about their immigration status. ACRATH believes that the STTP should be extended to all victims of trafficking.

The program announced in the Budget means a victim/survivor will be able to ask for support with accommodation, healthcare, counselling, legal matters and other issues because they have been trafficked and need a hand. Included in the Budget, to be sponsored by the Department of Social Security, was the provision of \$24.3 million over four years for the Support for the Trafficked People Program with \$5.9 million per year ongoing.

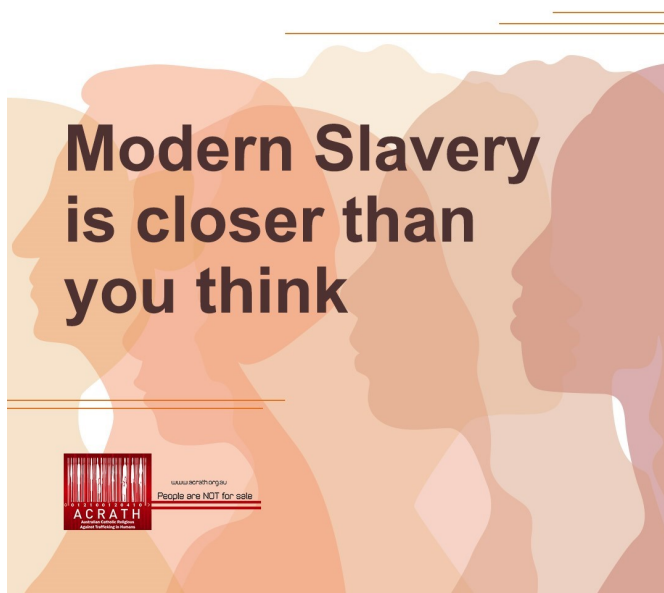
Another long-held advocacy target for ACRATH was achieved in the Budget when the Government delivered on an election promise to establish an Anti-Slavery Commissioner.

The Budget provides \$8 million over four years with \$2 million per year ongoing, to set up this important role. The Commissioner will work across government, industry and civil society to support compliance with the modern Slavery Act and also to improve the transparency of supply chains and help fight the scourge of modern slavery in Australia and globally.

ACRATH's Executive officer Christine Carolan said, "the Budget announcement was one of the most important decisions ever made by Federal Government in support of victims/survivors of human trafficking".

It gives me much pleasure to share this wonderful news with you all.

Paul Napier, Lending a Hand



Playtime is back at OLF

Our youngest parishioners and their carers are once again enjoying time together every Tuesday morning from 10am to noon using the room under the church and outside playground area.

Starting back in Term 1 this year, a small but growing group of children are enjoying free play, a craft activity, morning tea and story time while their parents, grandparents and other carers have a regular scheduled outing and time to share the joys and challenges of the pre-school years.

Jess Laundry is a regular attendee. As a mother of three children under 5 years of age, she is well aware of the benefit of community to parents and carers. She feels that the Christian focus of the OLF playtime group is part of the group's vision of creating a space for families to feel welcomed and it is also a wonderful way for our parish to show the love of God through hospitality.



Ministry snapshot

Bark asked Judith Kennedy to provide a brief outline of **evangelisation** at OLF.

B: What is the name of your ministry?

JK: Evangelisation

B: Who else on the Evangelisation Team?

JK: Fr Tony, Fran Simon and Careena Craven

B: What are the aims/objectives/goals/work of your ministry?

JK: To invite people to opportunities to encounter God for the first time or to deepen their relationship with Him.

B: What is a specific project you are working on at the moment?

JK: We are wrapping up the first Search program for 2023 and launching Connect groups.

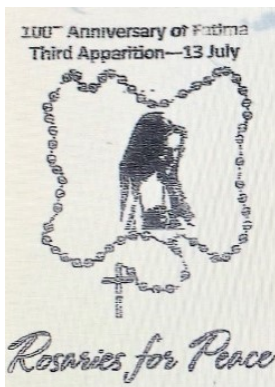
B: What is the best aspect of being involved in this ministry?

JK: There are many great aspects: meeting people from our parish and hearing their stories of faith and their personal testimonies; witnessing people encounter Jesus and the Holy Spirit and working with an amazing team of people.

B: What is the most challenging aspect of this ministry?

JK: Inviting people to events who are scared of the programs we offer and are not yet open to wonderful new opportunities in the parish.

Another letter from God's waiting room



Father Tony knows about us, Noelene and Maria, the Communion ladies know about us, and now I'm letting the rest of the parish know about us.

There is a small faith-filled group of seniors, down here in the IRT village, praying Rosaries for Peace.

We first formed the group at the time of the centenary of Our Lady of Fatima in 2017, when the call went out for home groups to pray the Rosary for Peace.

I was fairly new here in Peakhurst, and in the village, but I spoke to Filippa Palazotto and offered my home for a group here. Together we talked to Niall Dwyer who was still living here in the village at that time; he agreed and so we were a group of three!

Our numbers quickly grew. Of course, each of us says at least one Rosary every day individually, but we have been getting together once every month on the 13th, in my home, to say a group Rosary ever since.

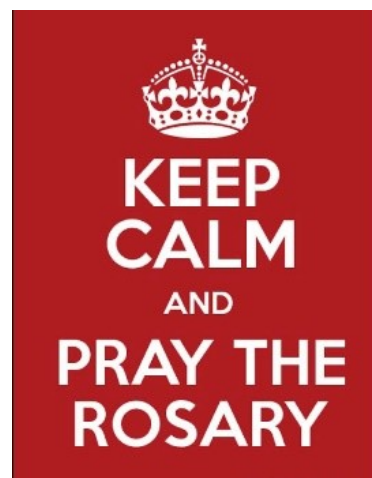
For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them." - Matthew 18:20

Our numbers come and go, what with unexpected trips to hospital and other events. The group is usually about six to eight people and of course since COVID - 19 reared its ugly head, we have had to keep an eye on our numbers. We had to miss meeting for a couple of months at the height of the pandemic, but it didn't stop us for long!

We all firmly believe in the power of prayer, praying for each other's needs and those of our families and friends but especially we pray for peace.

PAX et BONUM! Peace and all Good

Cath Sponberg



Markets update

During the COVID-19 pandemic special permission was granted by Georges River Council for the Foodies and Farmers Market to be held on Saturdays on our church grounds. The operators of the Saturday markets paid the church an agreed fee and they managed the conduct of the markets.

This special COVID-19 permission meant that the Saturday markets could operate without the need for a formal Development Application (DA).

However, the easing of the COVID-19 pandemic meant that this special permission also lapsed. As a result, the Saturday Markets were operating without any appropriate consent.

This situation was brought to the attention of the Georges River Council via a complaint from the community.

Council investigated and made an order directing the Church to stop the use of our grounds to run the Saturday markets without a DA.

Council noted that the Saturday markets were also having an adverse impact on the local community due to noise and traffic congestion on local roads.

The Church and the market operator have complied with the Council order.

Friday Markets

There is an existing DA in place for the monthly Friday Markets and this is not impacted by the Council order.

Bryan Doyle, Leadership Team

First Holy Communion—a day to remember and reflect



There wouldn't be many Catholics who cannot remember their First Holy Communion Day: the family and friends in attendance, the special clothing, the celebration afterwards and, most importantly, the moment when they received the Eucharist from the priest. For many, this was a very nerve-wracking moment filled with reminders of what to do and what not to do!

At 2pm on 4 June this year, 31 of our younger parishioners celebrated their First Holy Communion in a faith-filled church, surrounded by family and friends. The Mass, celebrated by Fr Tony Alex MGL, was a joy-filled liturgy in which the children fully participated by delivering the readings, responsorial psalm and prayers of the faithful.

As each child approached to receive the Eucharist for the first time, they were fully focussed and reverent. Their understanding of the Sacrament is the result of a four-week program conducted by Tosca Galluzzo and the Sacramental Team – Ruth Meagher, Deb Cummins, Yvonne Hancock, Therese Harrison, Maureen Hyland and Lynne Taylor. Their commitment

to these children and our parish sacramental program is outstanding and we, as a parish, are very grateful for their time and effort.

The Mass was wonderfully enhanced by the music provided by Susie Paino and her family, as well as Ravilya Sedlar. The finale – “This little light of mine” sent us all out inspired and delighted.

Being privileged to be a guest at this year's Mass, I left thinking how wonderful it would be if we could all approach each Eucharist with such innocence, excitement and awareness?

Julia Goff, Proud Grandmother!

Social media and our parish



So often we hear the term ‘social media’ these days; seemingly part and parcel of modern life. However, for many people, social media can be a mystery, a nuisance or just not relevant to their lives. **Bark** asked Ravilya Sedlar, from the OLF Social Media Team, to help us understand the use of social media in our parish.

Asked to define social media within the parish context, Ravilya explained that it is a means of “reaching out to the wider community using technology to communicate what we, as a parish, do by using a combination of photographs, videos and words”. Our Lady of Fatima currently has a Facebook page and an Instagram account. The Facebook page is accessed by parishioners and friends ranging in age from 16 to their mid-80s while Instagram tends to appeal more to the 16 – 35 years’ age group.

Bark was concerned that many people who do not engage with social media might feel excluded from parish matters. Ravilya was reassuring, pointing out that all the information which is featured on Facebook and Instagram is drawn from the weekly parish bulletin so is available to all. The social media posts are often more visual but deliver the same message and have the advantage of being accessible to people who are not able to attend Mass, who may be travelling or living outside the parish; we even have people overseas following the activities of our parish!

Those who may be concerned about how our parish and parishioners are presented ‘online’ can be assured that we have a strategy team which is managing our social media with care, seeking only to spread the good news of our parish's activities in an accessible and interesting manner.



This June 2023 issue of ***The Bark*** is brought to you by:

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How to contribute to the Bark

Articles: please submit your articles as a Word document (not as a pdf.) or as hand-written copy. Articles may be edited for reasons of space; you will be given an opportunity to review your work before publication if this occurs.

Photographs: please submit medium /high resolution photos with captions provided.

Please send your articles or suggestions via email to Julia Goff at goffam1@optusnet.com.au or call 0412 809 313.

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