



The crooks among us

By Fr Fred

Recently we had to remove the Vinnies Bin from our parish car park. It wasn't an easy decision, especially as the majority of the people were rightly using the bin in dropping off useful things which were then sold in the Vinnies Op shops.

Unfortunately there were people who used to dump all the rubbish they had in order to avoid having to pay the fees associated with taking their stuff to a council tip. At night other people used to come and steal all the good stuff they could find and only God knows what they did with it.

Furthermore, during winter so much stuff left around the bin had to be thrown away because of the rain. Sadly, in its efforts to help the less fortunate, this selfish behaviour by some members of the general public means that Vinnies spends almost \$100,000 annually just to take other people's junk to the tip.

On a similar theme, every Saturday for a good many years, a group of

parishioners took it in turn to collect the day's leftover bread kindly donated by a local bakery, with the loaves, buns and rolls bought by and distributed among parishioners and others in need.

The company suddenly decided to stop the whole process as it turned out that someone was selling the bread and making a profit when he was supposed to hand it to those less fortunate in the community.

Then there's the man who arrived on his motorcycle a while back, knocked on my presbytery door and asked for money, saying he needed it to buy petrol for his bike as he urgently needed to reunite with his family. Vinnies stepped in to help him only to discover that he is still going around the neighbourhood knocking on other ministers' presbyteries and spinning them the same story.

These three stories remind us that there are crooks around and because of them, innocent people suffer.



Vinnies spends almost \$100,000 annually just taking other people's rubbish to the tip

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Youth Group Report	3
Children's Liturgy Report	4
Forest Friends Report	5
Four altars at OLOR	7
Christmas spirit across parish	8
Jack O'Dea RIP	10
Wed. Masses at Birdwood	11

We feel helpless and frustrated in such situations and sometimes we fall into the temptation to question God as to why He permits such people to be crooks.

The man who wrote Ecclesiastes—the Preacher who called himself Qoheleth and who may well have been King Solomon himself—took careful notice of the world around him. He studied the seasons of life, learning when it was time for this and time for that.

He watched the way people worked and played. He saw how they lived and how they died. In Chapter Seven, he invites us to consider God's work in the world. Then he asks a rhetorical question:

Who has the power to straighten out what God has made crooked?

Continued on page 2....



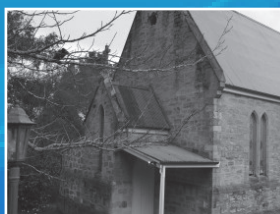
St Matthew's
Bridgewater



St Joseph's
Lobethal



St Matthew's
Birdwood



Our Lady of the
Rosary



St Catherine's
Stirling

The crooks among us

Continued from page 1

The answer, of course, is no one. It is still true that there is nothing we can do to straighten out what is crooked. We cannot change people; only God can do that. We do not have the power to edit God's plan for our lives. But far from driving us to despair, God gives us hope through all the trials of life.

We do suffer the frustration of life in a fallen world. But the Bible says that we suffer these things by the will of a God who is planning to set us free from all this futility, and who is working all things together for our good. We might assume that the righteous people are the ones that prosper, while the wicked always suffer adversity.

Yet sometimes exactly the opposite occurs: the righteous suffer adversity while the ungodly prosper. Living with this kind of uncertainty need not cause us anxiety or despair; rather, it should teach us to leave everything in the hands of God.

Martin Luther gave the following pastoral advice: "Enjoy the things that are present in such a way that you do not base your confidence on them, as though they were going to last forever ... but reserve part of our heart for God, so that with it we can bear the day of adversity."

Injustices are some of the crooked things in life that we wish we could straighten out.

But knowing that we cannot do this, Qoheleth gives us some practical advice: "Be not overly righteous, and do not make yourself too wise. Why should you destroy yourself? Be not overly wicked, neither be a fool. Why should you die before your time?"

I think we need to have a middle-of-the-road approach to life, not overzealous about wisdom or foolishness, righteousness or wickedness. When something in life seems crooked, we are usually very quick to call for it to be straightened out. Instead, we should let God straighten us out! We are called to trust in God, even for the things that seem crooked.

Birthline can do with your support

By Leonie Holmes

While Birthline Pregnancy Support Inc. is a telephone counselling service to women who find themselves in difficult situations, it also provides fantastic services to women who decide to keep their babies rather than have an abortion.

They provide a wonderful service, with no assistance from government, and are always looking for a little more support.

In one of their latest newsletters I came across, there's an article that celebrates Birthline's volunteers as "the most wonderful group anyone could be involved with".

It goes on to say:

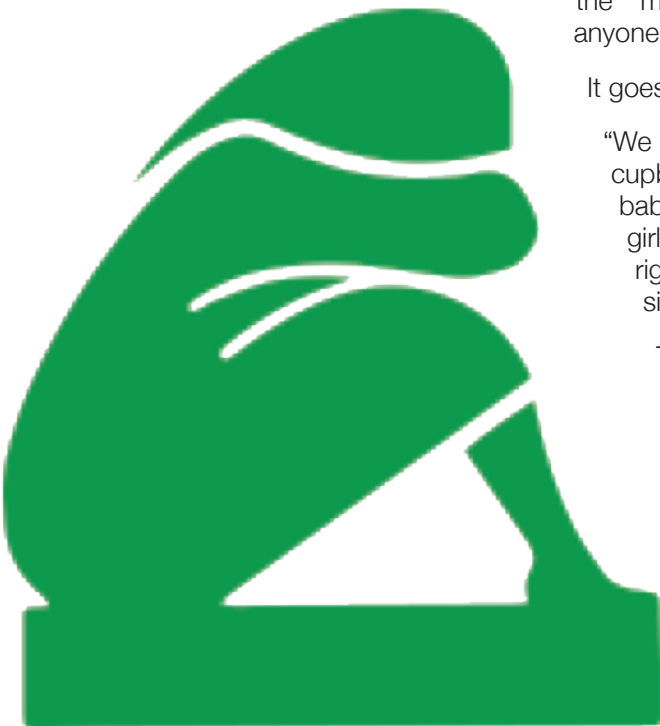
"We love coming to fill the cupboard shelves with baby bundles for boys and girls from the tiniest sizes right through to the larger sizes."

The smallest sizes are the ones in greatest demand and people so generously give to Birthline little knitted cardigans, hats and baby rugs and the like. They also give other baby clothes – both used and new – of all types.

What wonderful excitement a mother must feel when she opens the baby bundle, which is given with such love for her baby. Birthline is also able to give away strollers, cots, cribs, baths, toys, etc. to those in need.

**"We are called
to trust in
God, even for
the things
that seem crooked"**

If you are considering donating or volunteering to Birthline, which, as I said, is completely self-funded, please call 8431 8196, email birthline@birthline.org.au or drop off donations at Birthline's premises at 412 Magill Road, Kensington Gardens during office hours.





The last of the parish reports

As we were unable to accommodate all the parish reports in our December 2017, we conclude our review of the year by reflecting on the activities of the Youth Group, the Children's Liturgy Group, the Christian Life Communities and Forest Friends over the following three pages

One incredible year ends, another gets underway for Youth Group

By Elizabeth Kelly

This past year has been an eventful one for our Youth Group, with the members getting involved in many events around the parish.

At the beginning of the year, we went to the Cathedral to help pack the Caritas kits for schools and churches and as the year drew to a close, we were again packing – this time helping to put together Vinnies Christmas hampers for the Stirling Conference of the St Vincent de Paul Society. It was really rewarding knowing that the hampers were going to help people over the Christmas holidays.

Another initiative this year saw the Group start to play the music for Mass on the first and fifth Sunday of every month. We also had the opportunity to play at the parish picnic last year and at an Antioch praise and worship night.

In May we were visited by the Melbourne National Evangelisation Team (NET) which included our own Jess Sachse. NET, as you probably know, is a Catholic peer-to-peer youth ministry that puts into action the Church's mission to evangelise and disciple young people.

Among other things, they ran an encounter night, while some of our youth group hosted members of the NET team in their homes.

To finish the year off with a bang we went to the Australian Catholic Youth Festival (ACYF) in Sydney in December. The first morning of ACYF started with an energetic morning

plenary that began with a spectacular welcome to country and Lebanese drums.

It was followed by a talk from Most Rev Anthony Fisher OP, Archbishop of Sydney, and one thing that really stood out to me during his talk was when he said:

"On behalf of the bishops I say to all the young people here today or watching from afar, the church in Australia loves you, we long for your presence and energy in our parishes, our worship, our service to the world, we need your ideas for the future of our church, to make it the best church it can be for your generation and beyond."

I think it was so important for all the youth of Australia to hear this and to know that there is a place in the church for us.

Another ACYF highlight for all was Sr Hilda Scott who did a segment at almost every plenary called "Hangin' with Hilda" where she interviewed people on the topics of joy, mental illness and disability.

Sr Hilda also ran some prayer sessions in which she taught us different methods of prayer, one of which was called Lectio Divina. It's a form of prayer when you

meditate on the word of God and I personally found this a very effective method of prayer, so much so that I now use it daily.

Adoration was another amazing experience, especially when the entire arena fell silent. Steve Angrisano



Members of the Adelaide Hills Catholic Parish catch up with Sr Hilda at the Australian Catholic Youth Festival



The ACYF logo

introduced and explained Eucharistic Adoration and before the Bishop entered with the host, Steve led us in singing 'Worship His Holy Name' in the darkened room.

The Eucharist proceeded through the crowd, with everyone kneeling in silence making for a truly remarkable event.

While the closing year was incredible, filled with astonishing experiences, the year ahead promises to be just as big, if not bigger, for the youth of Australia. In Adelaide alone, the Catholic Office for Youth and Young Adults is planning many great events during the year, including a Pentecost rally.

It also promises to be very active for our own Youth Group.

"...to make it the best church it can be for your generation and beyond"

Learning about your faith at Children's Liturgy

By Jane van Mierle

Children's Liturgy has been going for over 20 years and at this stage there are 12 people involved, seven leaders and five helpers.

I became involved when my children were young and that is how several others have started. There are some who are or have been teachers or have a great interest in teaching children and we have a lovely group of young people still at school who have chosen to be helpers.

The Children's Liturgy team of leader and helper presents the Gospel of the day in an accessible way to the children, who come forward at the beginning of Mass, receive a blessing from Fr Fred and then go over to the parish meeting room where they listen to the Gospel.

The feast or season is explained, as is the point of a particular passage

related to the children's lives. The children then actively participate in the form of mime, drama, song and discussion to enhance the receiving of the Gospel.

On average we have about six to eight children attend each week during the 10.30am Sunday Mass throughout the year, including the school holidays.

This year, we will actively look to continue to build the Children's Liturgy and the faith, interest and participation of the children. To the children we say: come along and join in, learn more about your faith and enjoy the friendship of other children.



Some six to eight children attend Children's Liturgy each week

And to those who might be considering joining the team, we say: it is always good to have more involved to teach and help, we offer training and if you are interested, please let someone at the parish office know

Adelaide hosts CLC national gathering

By Helen Cantwell

Preparing for the Christian Life Community national gathering in Adelaide at the start of 2018 took up a great deal of time and focus during 2017, all the efforts thankfully delivering a most successful event over the weekend of 19 to 21 January.

I'd like to share with you an account of the event by Fr Iain Radvan...

The weather was mercilessly hot, barely dropping to 30C at night, but the presentations provided plenty of food for thought and nourishment for the spirit.

CLC members themselves made many of the presentations. Gabrielle Mercer spoke of her decision to abandon the mainstream social concern for housebuilding and homemaking, choosing rather the experience of a remote Indigenous

community in WA with its heartaches and struggles as well as its rewards and joys.

Anne Zevis and Chiara von Perger described their experience of offering the First Spiritual Exercises (FSE) in parishes and noted that while the

organisation can be a challenge, the reward of seeing the transformation many experience in doing the FSE makes it all worthwhile.

Kay Hooper, Kachig Kabakjian and Ann Hoare shared their experiences and ideas about CLC

leadership and how it can be taken into the secular world or other church work contexts. I then made a presentation about the Royal Commission on Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, which provoked debate about the response of CLC to the Australian Catholic Bishops.

"We witnessed the joy found in deep friendships, honest sharing about faith and life..."

Besides making a public statement about the RC and its recommendations, CLC members were also invited to participate as fully as possible in the coming national Plenary of 2020.

Guest speaker Fr Richard Leonard SJ explored 'The Signs of the Times' in Australia today and the task of the Church as outlined by Pope Francis.

Away from the presentations, there were also times of laughter, sharing stories, enjoying good food and playfulness. We witnessed the joy found in deep friendships, honest sharing about faith and life, the goodness of committed disciples of Jesus, and passion for making the culture of the Catholic Church today more relevant, inclusive and life-giving.

Christian Life Communities are found around Australia and always welcome Jesuits and laity of all faiths – and those of none – to join their fortnightly meetings of sharing and listening. For more, go to www.clcaustralia.org.au.



Forest Friends supports nature play

By Emma Beare

Forest Friends Nature Playgroup is a nature-based outdoor playgroup run by parent volunteers at St Catherine's Catholic School, it's passionate about the many benefits of outdoor nature play for young children and enjoys being outside together regardless of the weather.

As a group, we incorporate the 'Reggio Emilia' approach that's embraced by the school. It focuses on setting up beautiful ordered environments with lots of natural light and is all about following the child's lead and interests in play/learning.

Forest Friends Nature Playgroup is based in the "forest" area of the school. We have a big sandpit, a mud kitchen with pots and pans for making mud pies, soups and wonderful stews, a truck quarry and digging patch, cubbies, crafts, songs, stories and lots of pretend play.

Once or twice a term we visit the school "wetlands" area in which we walk down to visit the chickens, past the fruit tree orchard and explore the forest paths winding through the "wetlands".

Nature play supports development in the areas of:

- Whole body motor skills – climbing, jumping, balancing, carrying
- Hand skills – feeling, banging, collecting
- Communication/social skills – naming, negotiating, describing, telling stories
- Play skills – exploring, pretending, engaging with the environment
- Sensory skills – feeling, exploring, smelling, listening, looking, experiencing a wide range of textures, temperatures, weights, sizes and shapes
- Problem solving skills – trialing and experimenting

The playgroup, which runs from 9.00am to 10.30am, spends the first hour in free outside play, after which everyone packs up at around 10.00am, washes hands and sits down for a bite to eat.



Now that's a tasty looking stew...

After a fruit snack at about 10.10am, the group enjoys a song and story session before the program comes to a close at about 10.30am.

"Forest Friends Nature Playgroup is... passionate about the many benefits of outdoor nature play for young children"

Please bring a piece of fruit/vegetable per child to share and a change of clothes for the kids. Please dress according to the weather as we will be outside and it is often cold in the mornings.

Coats, water proof clothing and gum boots are very useful.

The fees are \$5 per casual visit or \$30 per term per family and more information can be found on our Facebook page by searching "Forest Friends Stirling".



Gum boots are very useful when outdoor play – regardless of the weather – is what it's all about

We incorporate many "random" objects into play and we would love any donations. We're looking for nature items such as flowers, herbs, leaves, pebbles, sticks, gum nuts, seed pods, shells, wood etc., as well as metal or wooden kitchen items such as pots, pans, cups, bowls and spoons, making sure there are no sharp objects.

Any gardening items such as spades, wheelbarrows, carts, brooms and trucks will also be gratefully received.



We follow the child's lead and interests in play and learning

Please help us to give Afghani Antony a life in Australia

By Leonie Holmes

As many of you may not know, a young Afghani refugee who converted to Catholicism at St Francis Xavier's Cathedral last Easter has recently had his visa application rejected and is currently in immigration detention, fearing that he will be killed because of his religious beliefs if forced to return to Afghanistan.

A number of people across the local Adelaide Catholic community, among them Archbishop Philip Wilson who baptised the man, Mohammad Mahdi Rafee, less than 12 months ago; our former parish priest, Mgr John Swann; the Prison Chaplain in the Catholic Prison Ministry, Br Martyn Paxton; and the Catholic Women's League of South Australia President, Cecelia Quigley, have taken up the fight on behalf of Mr Rafee by petitioning the Minister for Immigration and Border Protection, Peter Dutton, to reconsider the case and show some compassion.

All reiterated the assertion that Mr Rafee, as a former Shiite Muslim who has converted to Christianity, would certainly face the likelihood of death if returned to Afghanistan – and noted that their understanding is that he has already received threats.

"This concern is shared by many people in the Adelaide Cathedral Parish, who have mounted a campaign of prayer for his safety," Archbishop Wilson wrote.

"I would like to express my concern to you in the strongest possible terms. Our people have come to know Mr Rafee well and they are praying for him and his safety."

Mr Rafee was born in 1986 in a village in Afghanistan's Ghazni Province and completed his education before commencing teacher training in Kabul in 2009.

After suffering several incidents at the hands of the Taliban he fled Afghanistan in February 2012 and arrived in Australia in June 2012. He was granted a bridging visa but subsequent attempts to renew his visa failed, as did appeals to the Tribunal and Federal Court between 2013 and 2015.

He became interested in Christianity in late 2014/early 2015 while living in Bordertown and after moving to Adelaide, he entered the Adelaide Cathedral Parish Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults program in late 2016. He received the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist at Easter 2017. This was no conversion of convenience as Mr Rafee went through the lengthy process of the Catechumenate, over several months.

As Mgr Swann noted, given Mr Rafee's rights under international covenants to change his religion and to practice his changed religion, Australia is duty bound to live up to its obligations as signatory to those covenants.

In proposing to return him to a place in which change of religion can be life-threatening and in which there is no possibility of him freely practicing that religion, Mgr Swann argued that he



believed the Minister would be failing in his duty were he to go through with Mr Rafee's deportation.

In a recent article in The Southern Cross, Mr Rafee is quoted as saying he reads the Bible and prays daily.

"“I'm really sure the Australian Government is human and won't send me back...because if I go back I am sure I will be killed by the Taliban because of my changed religion,” he told the newspaper through an interpreter.

I am also running a petition asking people to write to Mr Dutton and call on him not to deport Mr Rafee.

It would be great if Adelaide Hills Catholic Parish parishioners could get involved by writing to the Minister for Immigration, the Shadow Minister and our local member, Rebekha Sharkie, who is getting behind the effort.

If anyone needs more information, I encourage you go contact me via email at leon.leonie@bigpond.com.

Thank you and God bless.

ADELAIDE HILLS PARISH MASS TIMES

St Matthew's Church, Bridgewater

1 Wembley Avenue
Saturday Vigil Mass 6pm
Sunday Mass 10.30am

St Matthew's Church, Birdwood Shannon Street

First, Third & Fifth Sunday 8.30am

Church of St Joseph the Worker, Lobethal

Ridge Road, Second & Fourth Sunday 8.30am

Our Lady of the Rosary Church, Stirling East

135 Old Mount Barker Road
Sunday evening 5.30pm



The four altars at Stirling East

By Elisabeth Anderson

The altars at the Church of Our Lady of the Rosary in Stirling East have been the topic of some discussion and debate in our parish lately.

With the passage of time their history has become somewhat obscured and it has been agreed that a short history on the subject might now be appropriate...

The original altar in the Stirling East Catholic Church was dedicated by the Bishop of Adelaide Christopher Reynolds during his first episcopal visitation to the church on Sunday 3 October 1886. This altar was in memory of Laurence and Mary O'Toole, early Catholic pioneers of the district. It was a gift from their family, commemorated with a plaque which can be seen in the church even today.

"...Louisa, who was also baptised here, had carved the letter "M" on the front panel"

Upon the establishment of the Stirling Parish in 1957, Fr Gavan Kennare resumed Masses there after some years of disuse and neglect because of earthquake damage. The restoration of the church included the erection of a baldachin above the altar to protect it from bat droppings.

In the mid-1960s, alterations were made to the sanctuary in accordance with revised liturgical requirements. Until then the altar had been positioned against the wall and the priest had celebrated Mass with his back to the congregation.

The communion rails were removed and the altar was brought forward to a free-standing position to allow the priest to adopt the "westward" position while celebrating Mass. The baldachin was left in place at this stage but was removed following renewal of the church's roofing in 1979.

In August 1979 parish priest Fr Michael Doherty told the Parish Pastoral Council that a donation to the Parish would be used to erect a new altar in the church to suit the modern liturgy.

It was a gift from parishioner Mary Alver of Crafers in memory of her late husband, Herbert Charles Alver, and it was installed in June 1980.

Made by Blackwood Joinery, it was modelled on the altar at St Francis Xavier Seminary in Rostrevor.

The original altar was given to the Dominican Sisters, closely connected with the parish through their Stirling convent and school. It is thought that the O'Toole plaque was then placed in parish storage. It was discovered in a clean-up seven years later and restored to its original home.

Unfortunately in 1999 the new altar was destroyed by fire in a vandalism attack on the church. Upon the restoration of the building, a replacement altar was obtained from

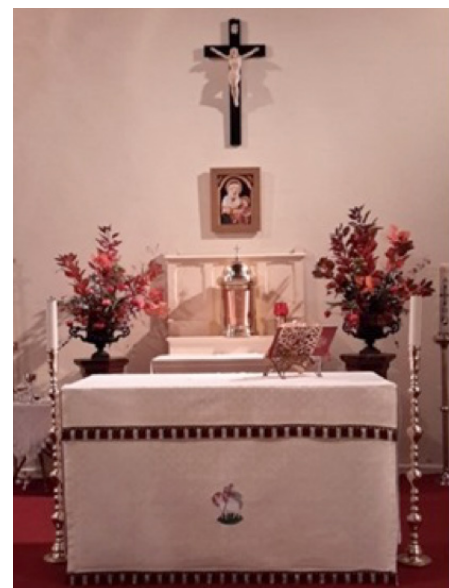
the church in Macclesfield and this continues to be in use today.

A side altar dated about 1920, sometimes referred to as St Mary's altar, was given by John and Louisa Miller of Pine Street, Stirling, who had been married in this church on 3 September 1919. It had been made by a relative of the family, John Devitt, and Louisa, who was also baptised here, had carved the letter "M" on the front panel. She was a member of the church's Altar Society.

This white and blue altar was scorched in the fire but it was successfully restored and since 2016 it has been positioned centrally behind the present-day main altar.

The Miller connection has continued through parishioner Mary Way and her family. Mary, a former organist in this church, is a daughter of John and Louisa Miller and her family have celebrated many sacraments here over the years.

(Source: the late Barbara Hanafin in "On Fertile Soil", Terry Thornton, The Bridge and Parish Council minutes)



The present day altar at the Church of Our Lady of the Rosary in Stirling East, with St Mary's altar behind it

Our Lady of the Rosary Church



Is an attractive, historic (1881) stone church in a lovely garden setting.

It is available for weddings.

The church has seating for eighty to a hundred.

To make a booking or to enquire, please call the Parish Office on 8339 1608.

Christmas spirit evident across all corners of parish

It was a particularly active Christmas period across the parish, with Fr Fred and visiting priests celebrating a record number of Masses at all Mass Centres; a Carols Evening at Our Lady of the Rosary in Stirling East; the packing of Christmas hampers for Vinnies' distribution to the needy, a Christmas raffle and a wonderful nativity play. Here, we provide a report on Christmas 2017 in the Adelaide Hills Catholic Parish

2017 Christmas Hamper and Gifts Program

By Wayne Broadbridge

It's one of our major fundraising and charitable endeavors and I'm thrilled to report that the St Vincent de Paul Society Stirling Conference's 2017 Christmas Gift and Hamper program raised an estimated \$25,000 in food, gifts and financial donations that all found their way to families and individuals doing it tough here in the Adelaide Hills, from Birdwood in the north to Mylor down south.

I'd also like to thank our parishioners, schools, business and the general public for their efforts in continuing to make Christmas, for those who may otherwise miss out at this time of the year, a happy one.

This program provided Christmas food gift hampers for 95 adults and 93 children, with ongoing food donations preceding hamper preparation day delivered to Hutt Street Centre.

We also coordinate with State Council in Franklin Street for the collection of food, clothing and furniture during the year.

During the year, members volunteer their time to visit, care and encourage those less-well-off around us and, in the spirit of Frederic Ozanam, empower them to take charge of their lives.

Conference members and volunteers actively raise funds to support other charitable endeavors such as the Twinning, Winter and Christmas Appeals, Badge Day and People's Choice Lottery.

At a time when social unrest, drugs and family instability seem ever-growing challenges, charitable organisations such as Vinnies always have an important part to play in our society.

Over the past year, our President Martin Klavins continued to represent the Conference at Eastern Regional Council, chair our meetings and engage in the visitation process, while our tireless Treasurer Fred Frazer finds time to track our finances, visit the needy, coordinate appeal strategies and conduct fundraising activities, as well as provide care for his son Luke.

Supporting our many clients and Society activities in the image of Frederic Ozanam are Leonie, Leon, Mirla, Kevin, Liz, Geoff, Paul, Wayne, Pam, Phil, Barb, Colleen, Rosalie, Sue, and other parishioners we call on when the "going gets tough".

Our 'Good Works' are yours and we thank you. And, of course, new members are always welcome!



St Vincent de Paul members, supporters and friends, along with the parish Youth Group members, gathered at Wayne and Pam Broadbridge's home on 18 December to pack food hampers and gifts that were then distributed to needy families and individuals.



Fr Fred called in to bless the hampers and Christmas gifts and join parishioners in the packing and wrapping



Nativity play tops our Christmas celebrations

By Renee Johnston

To celebrate the beginning of the Year of Youth, the Christmas Vigil Mass at St Matthew's Bridgewater began with a traditional nativity play presented by the children of the Sacramental Program.

They had spent many dedicated hours during rehearsals, determined to put on a great performance – and they certainly did!

The play was a great success with the children making a fantastic effort to bring the nativity to life.



The cast of the nativity play receive a standing ovation

Mary and Joseph were played by Amelie Harder and Austin Huxtable and they were joined by Mathilda Paine, Lucy Pfitzner and Genevieve Pugh as the angels; Max Moulding as the inn-keeper/shepherd; Zoe Moulding as another shepherd; Verity Farrugia, Matthew Tinkler and Henry Briggs as the wise men; Poppy Johnston as the donkey and yours truly as the narrator.

Special thanks to all involved, not least the Bridgewater Sewing Group who generously made all the costumes and the parents who assisted with costumes and rehearsals.

If you missed it, you're in luck – the nativity play will return by popular demand in 2018!

Still on a nativity note, all Mass Centres featured wonderful nativity scenes, with St Matthew's Bridgewater home to a beautiful and brand new scene brought back from Malta by Fr Fred as a generous gift for the parish.



Matilda Paine, left, and Verity Farrugia with baby Jesus in the crib at St Matthew's Bridgewater



Geoff Oliver, who turned 90 in January, with the nativity scene



The nativity crib at St Matthew's Birdwood

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John 'Jack' O'Dea's long and happy life

Jack O'Dea's three sons, Peter, John and Vincent, delivered a shared eulogy at his funeral Mass at St Matthew's Catholic Church Birdwood on 29 January 2018. Here, we share abridged versions of their speeches.

PETER

I would like to start by noting the sad passing of our dear mother Clare this morning. Jack and Clare were devoted to each other during their 57 years of marriage and we were very fortunate to have such loving parents.

Dad was born on 27 March 1928 at the Gumeracha District Soldiers Memorial Hospital, the second son of James and Johanna O'Dea and sibling to Jim, born in 1926. My grandfather, a returned soldier from World War 1, had recently taken up the home farm at Retreat Valley, Gumeracha.

Dad attended primary school at Gumeracha and obtained a high grade in the Grade 7 test before going on to secondary school as a boarder at Rostrevor College where he received a good education, including studying bookkeeping, which was a valuable skill when he took over running of the family farm with Uncle Jim.

Dad commenced working on the family farm during the Second World War when there were labour shortages and Dad would have provided great assistance on-farm. Those familiar with the farm will know that it is very hilly and Dad used to say that we would have had twice the land if it was flattened out!

It was not all work and no play for Jack. He was a keen sportsman playing cricket and football for Gumeracha and it was after a football injury and a trip to Gumeracha Hospital that he met a new nurse, Clare Abbott, who was to become the love of his life.

Jack and Clare retired to their home at Ivan Court, Gumeracha along with their sheep dog Clancy in the year 2000 and enjoyed an active retirement in the community, the church and sporting circles. Their garden, including a large vegetable garden, was a source of pride and pleasure for them.

Jack was a very humble and modest man, independent too. He didn't like putting other people out and when he got very sick he apologised for

putting his sons out when they assisted him. He was also a man of his word and very honest, and most welcoming of other people. My wife Heather, in particular, would like to thank him for always making her feel very welcome in the family.

Astute and intelligent, he was good natured but with a low tolerance for BS or sloppiness. During his last days when we were in his hospital room watching the tennis, I remarked that one of the players was acting in a 'magmanimous' manner. Dad, who'd previously been asleep yelled out, "it is magnanimous not magmanimous!", his exasperated voice suggesting the money spent on my education was wasted.

Dad loved a good time and one of my fondest memories as a young man was having a beer with him after helping on the farm with shearing and dipping.

JOHN

Dad loved his sport, especially football and the local club, Gumeracha. Like all good footballers, he started in the B grade and stayed there for a few years to hone his skills before moving onto the big time and making the As. As a six-footer, he was a ruck man and perhaps not the most skilled player but he played hard and had great bumping skills. Dad played in the golden era of the Gumeracha Football Club, between 1949 and 1959 the Gumeracha A Grade played in 8 grand finals and won 4 of these.

All three sons played junior football and Dad and Mum would be there helping out – Mum doing the jumpers for some 30 years and Dad umpiring across all grades and into his 60s before turning to timekeeping in his later years.

Last year I had to fill in timekeeping for the As and when I told Dad, he got out



RIP

Jack O'Dea

his old stop-clock and told me I had better have it as he probably would not need it again. Dad also served on the committee for many years and was the inter league delegate. He was made a life member in 1982.

He loved watching too, Peter playing super rules for Fitzroy and in his later years with mum driving they would come down to the oval on home games, where Kevin on the gate would have a space reserved for them on the fence.

Last season Dad was unable to come to the football so on a lot of Sunday afternoons I would drop off the HFL Football budget and we would discuss who was among the best players for the day and how the new players were going.

Jack O'Dea had a long and happy life surrounded by family, friends and familiarity of the local community. He was a father that I will be forever proud of and love.

Continued on page 11



John 'Jack' O'Dea's long and happy life

Continued from page 10

VINCENT

I am son number three and the most handsome of the three boys. I was born seven years after my oldest brother John and six years after my middle brother Peter so instead of being a mistake as some people – including my brothers – have suggested, I consider myself as a pleasant surprise when I arrived.

As you have heard, football was Dad's favourite sport and he was heavily involved in the Gumeracha Football Club for many years.

As a kid I remember once playing at Birdwood and having left my boots at home. Dad told me to play in my sneakers that I was wearing but I insisted that he drive home and get my footy boots. He wasn't too happy but ended up driving home, getting my boots and arrived back half way through the first quarter.

I quickly changed over from my sneakers to my boots and by the end of the game I had touched the ball twice and hadn't had a kick. These were stats that he quickly brought to my attention after the game. I never ever forgot my boots again.

As I married and moved to Kanmantoo I played against Gumeracha for Callington and didn't know whether Dad, being a Gumeracha life member, would disown me. Apparently he was okay with it, so long as Gumeracha won!

One of Dad's great interests was his veggie garden filled with a full range and including such child-friendly delights like parsnips, cabbages and cauliflowers. He himself was never keen on carrots so to return the favour I always made sure there were plenty of carrots on his plate whenever he was around at our house for a meal.

Even after we had all left home and it was just him and Mum, Dad continued to maintain a veggie garden big enough to feed the Red Army.

Dad loved watching quiz shows and Tony Barber was a week night regular on our TV.

As a kid I was convinced that Sale of the Century was always repeats because before Tony had half-finished the question Dad had fired off the correct answer. Dad loved crosswords and puzzles, too, along with a good port, which made buying him a birthday present easy – a bottle of Galway Pipe and a crossword puzzle book always did the trick.

In conclusion, my memory of my father is that he was a gentle and generous person who loved his community and would have loved to have had a talk with everyone here today.

Wednesday Masses at Birdwood a winner

By Leonie Holmes

One of the best things that happens at the northern end of the parish is our Wednesday Masses. We gather in our beautiful new air-conditioned Mary O'Dea Centre so that we're warm in the winter and cool in the summer and we set up a temporary altar.

Fr Fred says the Mass for us as we gather around just like the disciples did around Jesus on that first Holy Thursday night. There are usually around 10 or so of us and we are like a big happy family. Fr does not rush the Mass and gives us plenty of time to discuss the readings and to each have a turn with the Prayers of the Faithful, so that we can each pray for the things that are in our deepest hearts.

It is also a great opportunity to share the sign of peace with one another on an intimate level.

When Mass is over, we clear away the sacred vessels and share a cup of tea or coffee and a chat with Fr, which gives us a chance to get to know him better and for him to share his joys and frustrations, which he does not have time to do on a Sunday when he has to rush off to Bridgewater!

We very much value these gatherings on a Wednesday morning and we are very grateful to Fr Fred that he is prepared to drive out here every Wednesday to give us the privilege of the Holy Mass.

Don't Miss the
DEADLINE!

Deadlines for forthcoming issues of *The Bridge*

If you're planning to submit something to The Bridge for the next three issues of the year, please note the following deadlines:

- March – Friday 23 February
- April – Friday 30 March
- May – Friday 27 April

Thank you.

Paul Robinson and Jeremy Roberts (co-editors)

Estee Fiebiger-Briggs (graphic designer)

This directory is constantly changing. If you want to volunteer for any of the Parish activities please contact the Parish office.

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W: www.adelaidehillsparish.com.au

E: adelaidehillsp@ozemail.com.au

Parish Priest

Fr Alfred Farrugia 8339 1608

Pastoral Coordinator

Renee Johnston 8339 1608

Parish Secretary

Therese Franco 8339 1608

Baptism Teams

Helen Cantwell 8390 3290
Maria Thompson 8388 7742
Anne Moore 8568 2800
Sue Streich 8568 2858
Deb Stapleton 0408 835 990
Pam Broadbridge 8339 5013
Claudine Clark 0404 209 247
Orma Paine 8339 7690

Catholic Women's League

Rosalie Jenner (Bridgewater) 8370 8252
Anne McEvoy (Birdwood) 8568 2394

Child Protection

Teresa Hudson 8301 6629

Children's Liturgy

Jane Van Mierle 8339 2609

Choir

Damien Mansfield 8339 4133

Christian Life Communities

Helen Cantwell 8390 3290

Finance and Maintenance Committee

Chairperson - Paul Howe 8388 5281
Birdwood Contact
Leon & Leonie Holmes 8568 2319

Forest Friends Playgroup

(Monday mornings, St Catherine's School)
Emma Bear 8339 2222
Mel Farrugia

Hills Combined Christian Churches

Rosalie Jenner 8370 8252
Leonie Holmes (Northern Area) 8568 2319

Liturgy

Bridgewater - Renee Johnston 8339 1608
Birdwood - Fr Alfred Farrugia 8339 1608
Lobethal - Fr Alfred Farrugia 8339 1608

Men's Spirituality Coordinators

Paul Somers 8339 5118
Dan De Fazio 8339 3393

Music Coordinator

Sean Van der Linden 8339 8195

Our Lady of the Rosary Community Rep

Debbie Somers 8339 5118

Parish Atrium

Sue Sachse 0431 117 840

Parish Pastoral Council

Chair Philip Schultz 8339 5025
Secretary Christine Farrugia 0467 426 360

Prayer Group

Christina Way 8339 1825

Sacraments

Please contact Parish House 8339 1608

- Baptism
- Weddings
- Reconciliation
- Communion to the sick
- Religious Education

St Catherine's Catholic School

22 Ayers Hills Rd, Stirling SA 5152 8339 2222
Principal - Jason Mittiga
School Board Chair - David Hutton

St Matthew's Sewing Group

Stasia Duszynski 8339 4396

St Vincent de Paul Society

Martin Klavins 8370 8156

Social Justice Group

Kevin & Liz O'Leary 8131 0303

WHS Volunteer

Marianne Berry 0407 903 382

Youth Group

Sam Sachse and Renee Johnston 8339 5891

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