

## **Father Ian's Pulse of the Parish report 18/19<sup>th</sup> February 2017**

As I present this report, I acknowledge the goodness of so many over the course of the past twelve months. There are a variety of things that happen on a regular basis that underpin all that we do as a parish family. There is no way that I could possibly mention each particular happening, let alone each particular person involved. What it means is that so much of what happens within our Church and within the surrounds of our Church and presbytery owe so much to those who attend to those things that make for good liturgy and for a well-kept Church and gardens. I am especially mindful of the great care of our Church by Ruth and by those who week-by-week attend to the cleaning of our Church in preparation for the Masses of each weekend. I also, with deep appreciation, of the great work of Ruth in providing the After school Program for young people from other schools preparing to receive the sacraments. I am also very mindful of those who kindly come onto the roster to attend to the various roles and ministries with in each Mass of a weekend. One very important element of each Mass, that requires a big commitment of time is the production of the Mass Bulletin for each weekend Mass. I believe that we are truly fortunate to have such a fine bulletin and I acknowledge the great work of Lily for almost three year, of Richard who stepped in to help and to Sherylee has now assumed the mantle and has made it her own.

A great service is provide to good liturgy at each of our weekend Masses by Richard in the putting together of the PowerPoint for each Mass. This is a task requiring a good deal of time and the effort of Ricard are enjoyed by all.

I am deeply appreciative of the marvellous spirit of each member of Pastoral Council. As Parish Priest, I write that it is a joy to participate in each meeting and I honour the commitment of each member to the advancement of the good of our parish family. I also express my thanks to the organising committee for the 25<sup>th</sup> Celebration of the blessing and opening our Church. Your efforts were rewarded in what was a wonderful celebration with the Mass and the luncheon at our school after the Mass. Of special note was the beautiful support of a number of school families for the luncheon. This support was deeply appreciated by the members of the organising committee.

I believe that there was a wonderful response by our parish the Pope Francis' call for a Year of Mercy in 2016. To each member of the organising committee, "Well done!" Your efforts resulted in two striking visual elements within our Church. The Heart of Mercy by Voytek within the sanctuary, the children's hands, that visually supported the Heart of Mercy, and the beautiful Hands of Mercy crafted by Mark Fisher. I note the creative flair of Christine Emerson, Chris Derrickx and Julie Birch and Carmen McFaull in the coming into being of each of the above.

As part of the 25<sup>th</sup> Celebrations of our Church a very fine result was achieved by all those who turned up for the busy bee to prepare the grounds and our Church for a fitting celebration. Part of that result was the opening up of the area leading to the grotto of Our Lady. What has enhanced the grotto area has been the provision of an apron of pavers in front of the grotto and the paved walk way to the grotto. The end result has beautified the area and made it more attractive to spend time at the grotto.

The Annual Parish Dinner at Caves House continues to grow from strength to strength. It is a wonderful atmosphere in beautiful surroundings with fine food and I thank Gemma for her organising of last year's dinner. A newer initiative is the Parish Social Dinner that began last year with an evening meal at the Dunsborough Chinese Restaurant. The first dinner for 2017 was at the Thai Restaurant, Bamboo Spice. Many thanks to Carmen for taking on this initiative and I look forward to the next dinner and to the venue that Carmen will choose.

Our prayer group, meditation group, Cenacle, Rosary group, new parishioner visitation group and Music for Toddlers are a remarkably diverse group who provide wonderful opportunities within our

parish family for people to feel welcome. Our parish is deeply committed to the growth of our parish family through faith and good works.

Both the Summer and Winter Schools are a great gift to our faith from the Diocese. I encourage your attendance at the "Healing through Mercy" Seminar to be held at the Busselton Youth Camp on Saturday the 11<sup>th</sup> of March. As a parish we are deeply committed to our school and to our young people. We are blessed in our school for their great support of our parish. I note the very strong support of our Principal, Des, Assistant Principal Administration, Adrian and our Religious Education Co-ordinator, Amie. The Family Mases now have the best participate rates ever and I acknowledge the great kindness of our school P&F who covered the cost of the pizzas after each family mass. As part of our deep commitment to the care of our young people, our parish invited Andrea Musulin, who works for the Perth Archdiocese in the area of the advancement of the Protection of Children to speak at a gathering at our school last year.

In conclusion, I note the good work and the generosity of many who have cared for and advanced our parish over the past year. Thank you Dot for entering all the details on MYOB so that we have a clear accountability for all that comes in and for all that goes out. Thank you Simon for running a professional eye over the figures and for your kindness in presenting the Financial Report. May we all take encouragement from the good works over the past year. Your generosity has been expressed in your support of the children in Tanzania and Myanmar, the establishment of a bursary for a child from OLC going into Year 7 at St Mary Mackillop, the children of Syria Appeal and the Esperance and Yarloop Bushfire Appeals, over \$8,500 was raised! Over the past year, over \$17,000 was provided for maintenance and improvement with the Heart of Mary in the sanctuary area, the paving of the grotto, the provision of LED lights in the Church, the replacement of the Church gutters, the painting and provision of a gutter for the patio area of the presbytery and the provision of lighting for the Church car park. This was in addition to all the usual costs associated with the care of both Church and presbytery. The biggest cost in this area is our annual insurance.

To one and all, thank you and God Bless!

Fr. Ian