



**CHURCH OF THE  
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION  
TUMUT  
Vol. 2/24**

Hello Everyone,

What a wonderful Easter celebration we have enjoyed. Let's keep this renewal of our baptismal vows front and centre of our lives as we move through this year. Please (phone 0428 941 773 or email [kathleenshanahan38@gmail.com](mailto:kathleenshanahan38@gmail.com) with any articles you would like included or if you would prefer to receive a digital copy of this Newsletter) Best wishes to you all, - Kath

**CHRISTMAS IN THE PHILIPPINES**



It had been a long wait for the Moreno family (Francis, Racquel, Jude, Franzi and Karl) to return to the Philippines to spend Christmas with their families. The last time they were there was 2019, then Covid interrupted life and it was 2023 before the opportunity arose again.

As explained by Racquel, preparations for Christmas in the Philippines commences in September. Decorations are hung in their homes and planning commences in earnest. There are presents to be selected and food planned. They love to eat and prepare the most amazing food.

In December a 9 day Novena is held from the 16<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> December. It is called the Anticipated Mass and held each day at 3 a.m. or 9 p.m.. Those attending then partake of street food after they attend Mass each day.

Christmas Mass is a Vigil Mass at 10 p.m. on Christmas Eve, after which families sit down to a Christmas Feast about 11 pm then Christmas presents are given at midnight. During Christmas Day relatives visit each other in their homes and partake of food.

On New Year's Eve, Mass is at 11 p.m. then at midnight they celebrate, seeing the old year out and welcoming in the new year. Fireworks are let off and food is partaken of. In their culture fruit is deemed lucky. For their Chinese friends they make eggs and put money in them which is another tradition.

The Moreno family spent five lovely weeks in their homeland, divided between Francis' family, Racquel's family and their wider family. As there was about 200kl between both families, they would spend one week with one family, and another week with the other family. During their time there Racquel's parents celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary ,which is 50 years, and her whole family gave them a surprise party.

Thank you Racquel and Francis for sharing this lovely story with us and thank you for participating in our church community life.

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**The first Street Stall for this year is Thursday  
9<sup>th</sup> May. WANTED – Saleable items and  
volunteers to work on the stall.**

**Parish Councillors** – Fr Joe Neonbasu, Eamonn Moore, Anita Mason, Trish Matthews, Patrick McCabe, Francis Moreno, James McDonald, Barry Jeffries, Evelyn Cisneros, Tony Butler

## CHRISTMAS IN THE PHILIPPINES



**The next PPC meeting will be Wednesday,  
22 May 2024.**

We offer prayers for Theresia Beli (Fr Joe's Mother) who passed away recently. Please also remember, in your prayers, all those in our community who are recently deceased and those parishioners who have gone before and given us what our parish is today.

Our thoughts are with Father being so far away from his family in Indonesia at this sad time.

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### **Parish Financial Report 1/1/24 – 31/3/24**

**Direct Giving** **\$11,102.57**

*This is Planned giving, 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection & Tap*

### **Income & Expenditure for 1/1/24 – 31/3/24**

**Income** **\$20,371.66**

**Expenditure** **(17,829.33)**

**Operating Surplus** **\$ 2542,33**

**Income = Direct Giving + Other Income**

Your ongoing financial support of the Parish & Clergy is required and greatly appreciated.

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### **PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL RENEWAL**

Important information about the Parish Pastoral Council has been provided in the parish bulletin over the last three weeks. This has covered:

- Who PPC members are
- PPC Role
- Function of PPC
- Responsibilities of PPC members
- Qualities of a PPC member
- Parish School
- Membership of PPC

This information has been provided to assist parishioners who would like to nominate for the new PPC.

The next steps in this process will be:-

- Nominations: 28<sup>th</sup> April
- Return of Nomination forms: 5<sup>th</sup> May
- Installation of new Parish Pastoral Council: 19<sup>th</sup> May

### **Dates for Sacraments - 2024**

Sacrament of Holy Communion – 10<sup>th</sup> April- 6pm  
 Sacrament of Confirmation - 12<sup>th</sup> June-6pm  
 Sacrament of Reconciliation - 22 May-6pm



## Vale Merle

Our community was saddened with the recent passing of longtime parishioner, Merle Sturt. Merle was one of our Liturgical Singers during the time that Maureen Norman led the music liturgy. We will miss you very much.



Merle Iris Sturt

## Parish Pastoral Council – Report March 2024

**Parish Priest Report** – Father Joe is working across the different parishes and juggling his responsibilities in the sacraments, schools, home visits, aged care and hospital visits.

There is a new priest coming temporarily to the parish for cultural training (he is originally from India). We hope he will be here for several months.

**Easter Celebrations** - The preparation for the Easter Triduum was discussed and finalised.

**Church Restoration** – A great thanks to Daniel Dahdah and Barry Jefferies for their work on the restoration of the church, particularly fixing and painting the walls. This included so many hours but the fruit is so great.

**Fundraising** – The Fundraising Committee has managed to raise over \$10,000 towards the restoration of our church. This has been put to

great use in the work done by the guys restoring the walls of the Church.

The Committees discussed our fundraising so far and into the future with representatives from the Archdiocese via skype.

Parish PFC and PPC need to continue to investigate income streams. Previous work on investment building, rental of any property, hall use, school use and so on, needs to be done in earnest. Income from planned giving has remained strong which is a bonus.

**School Report** – 2024 has begun as an historic and exciting year as we finally become McAuley Catholic College – Tumut. Our new name pays homage to our humble beginnings as a Mercy School in Tumut as well as to our growth as a K-12 school.

The establishment of Year 11 and 12 has brought a flood of enrolments across the year levels. We are of capacity in all classes with wait lists in some. Our enrolment this week is 461 with around 20 students on the wait list for 2025.

Tenders have closed on the next Primary BGA project which calls for the demolition of the Kinder and toilet block as well as the staff admin block and the reconstruction of classroom, administration and toilet areas.

This project is anticipated to take 40+ weeks to complete and cost somewhere more than \$5m. We are in the process of discussing with CECG Facilities about re-housing staff and students. There is a strong chance we may need to utilize the toilets, St Mary's Hall and some aspects of the carparks as a temporary measure while the building works take place.

**Staff Mass and Commissioning**- Seven new staff members joined the mission of McAuley this year and were commissioned in a beautiful Liturgy for staff. McAuley now has 52 staff members. Student leaders were commissioned in February focusing on their service of the community.

**Sacraments** – A Sacramental Enrolment meeting was held on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March in the church for all students and parents wishing to receive a Sacrament in 2024.



Thirty five ladies from our Parish gathered in St Mary's Hall on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April for the inaugural Sisterhood brunch.

Evie and her team's transformation of this venue was nothing short of amazing. Those attending thought they had been transported to a High Tea at the Hyatt. Very Classy.

From the beautiful tables, the gift bags, the sumptuous food for brunch, champagne, entertainment from an accomplished classical guitarist, a wonderful MC and an inspiring Guest Speaker. It left everyone looking forward to another wonderful function at some time in the future.



Sarah McDonald was the Guest Speaker and she gave an inspiring talk about Womens' hearts, the main points being:-

- Mary our Mother
- What do we store in our hearts
- What do we leave in the tomb, to be better in our faith

She gave a little overview into her life and family, telling us she attended World Youth Day in Paris in 1997 when she felt that she had a foot in both camps in relation to her faith. This for her was a turning point. She has been a member of the Emmanuel Community for the last 26 years.



Sue Bulger capably performed the MC role. She showed us a painting that she began as stress relief during Covid, which has become a family tree of the female members of her family.

