



**CHURCH OF THE
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
TUMUT
Vol. 4/23**

Hello Everyone,

So much has been happening in our Parish in recent months, like a spring of new life, no doubt the Holy Spirit has been working, Enjoy this newsletter which is packed full of great stories. Please (phone 0428 941 773 or email kshan@southernphone.com.au) 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

Three Parishioners welcomed to PPC



**L/R: James McDonald, Evelyn Cisneros,
Barry Jeffries**

Earlier this year Fr Joe asked parishioners for expressions of interest to consider self-nomination for the Parish Pastoral Council. In June at the PPC meeting three parishioners were congratulated and welcomed to the council.

Role of the PPC is to:

- Promote the Church's mission to live & communicate the love and values of Christ in our world.
- Share responsibility for ongoing development of the faith community.
- PPC is not a management or administrative body.

Function of PPC is to:

- Enrich the quality of parish life.
- Provide opportunities for parishioners to grow in their faith.

Responsibilities of the PPC members:

- Responsible for pastoral planning. Ultimate responsibility of planning is the parish priest.
- Define parish goals/set strategies for implementing these goals.
- Provide input to deliberations of the PPC.
- Understand issues affecting parishioners.
- Embrace opportunities for personal faith development.

The next PPC meeting will be 6th September. If you have matters that you wish the council to deal with, please inform one of our councillors (listed below) and you can be assured that your matter will be tabled at a PPC meeting.



We had our very first Street Stall for the year in July, run very brilliantly by Patricia Mangelsdorf and her team of volunteers. It was such a fun and blessed day with so many of our parishioners donating either their time, food or goods. Thanks to everyone for a very successful day.

Let us introduce..... Peter Malone



Peter was born in Tumut. He has lived his whole life at Tumut Plains initially with his parents, Frank and Eileen and siblings, Frank, Ron, Marie & Celia.

His great, great grandfather, Edmund Malone, came to Tumut from Ireland in 1852 with his family. After settling, he had further children. Sadly about 8 years after arriving he and his horse drowned in the Tumut river while attempting to cross down near where the Tumut racecourse is today.

Peter attended the Tumut Plain's one teacher school, then attended the Catholic school for his high school education. In those days St Mary's Hall was divided into three classrooms to house Yr 1 to Yr 3 of High School. Leaving school at age 15, Peter's occupation has been as a dairy farmer all his life until the age of 70.

Besides the dairying, the Malone family grew sweet corn for Mountain Maid Cannery in Batlow. During the years of the Snowy Mountains scheme they supplied milk into the camps in the mountains. In 1975 the Malone family installed a rotary dairy, being just the 8th of its type at that time in Australia. It proved to be a big tourist attraction and a place where many students on school excursions attended.

Marrying the beautiful Joan from Melbourne in 1969, he had five children, Julia, Danny, Lucy, Phillip and Molly. Sadly Joan passed away when his youngest, Molly, was a small child, but Peter nurtured and reared his family until they all left home.

Carrying on the traditions of the Malone family, who were always avid supporters of the Tumut Catholic community, Peter has been very involved in his church all his life. He was a member of the CYC and then the YCW in his early years. In 1975 he and other parishioners were ordained as acolytes by Bishop Eris O'Brien at Galong, this being organised at the time by the current parish priest, Fr Tiernan.

Peter was an acolyte until 2021, he was a member of the PPC, was in the church choir, and a member of the maintenance committee, overseeing with others so many restoration projects over the years. During the 3 months lockdown for Covid, Peter undertook to fill in cracks in the inside walls of the church during this period. His generosity both in time and financial support to our parish has been admirable.

In the Community Peter was a member of Sing Australia and the Tumut Plains Agricultural Bureau and he exhibited at the local Tumut Show.

In 2021 Peter suffered a very serious tractor accident on his farm. He really thought he would never walk again. He was in hospital for 7 months. He said he cannot begin to thank everyone for the support he received during that time, people visited him in hospital including Fr George and Fr Sijo, he received cards and letters and many prayers.

It's truly wonderful to see Peter back to good health and being active in our parish once more, a very resilient man.

Laugh Along.....*Three sisters aged 92, 94 and 96 live in a house together. One night the 96yr old runs a bath. She puts her foot in and pauses. She yells to the other sisters, "Was I getting in or out of the bath?". The 94yr old yells back, "I don't know. I'll come up and see". She starts up the stairs and pauses "Was I going up the stairs or down?". The 92yr old is sitting at the kitchen table having tea listening to her sisters. She shakes her head and says, "I sure hope I never get that forgetful, knock on wood". She then yells "I'll come up and help both of you as soon as I see who's at the door."*

Vietnamese family reconnects with Tumut Parish



Vietnamese families & John Marzol at St Bridget's School

Parishioners may recall that in the mid to late 1970's, refugees fleeing the War in Vietnam arrived in Australia via boat and plane. Many of these families fleeing persecution were Catholics or ethnic Chinese. A total of 41,200 Vietnamese arrived in Australia under legal settlement programs. Australia became their new home. These refugees faced many challenges in Australia including, rejection, hostility, cultural and linguistic barriers.

In the early 1980's our Tumut parish was fortunate enough to have the opportunity to sponsor/resettle several Vietnamese families. This involved providing support to these families through housing, work, education and social integration through family networking within our parish. Since this time Australia has become home to a thriving Vietnamese community.

For this resettlement program to be successful, the parish required parishioners to be willing to embrace these families and support them in their adjustment and settlement in a new country. Dot and John Marzol, Pat and John Scroope, Von and Richard Hargreaves and other families in our parish opened their homes to these families. Together with Sisters of Mercy- Sr Celine McCormack, Sr Kath Ibbotson and Sr Clare Morton provided spiritual, ongoing support & guidance to these families in times of need. the gospel values of faith, love, hope, compassion, inclusion and

justice were in action to assist these Vietnamese families in need.

Recently one of these families, William, Fern, Co and Tu Chau returned to Tumut to catch up with friends. The Chau family settled in Tumut from 1980 to 1982; William Chau attended St Bridget's School; Co Chau worked at Tumut Pyneboard Mill. The Chau family are now settled in Sydney.



Chau Family – L to R: William, Fern, Co, Tu Chau with Tony Butler in Tumut 2023

Information and photos provided by Tony Butler.

Book Review – Let Us DREAM – The Path to a Better Future by POPE FRANCIS.

In this revelatory, uplifting and practical book, the preminent spiritual Leader explains why we must – and how we can – make the World safer, fairer and healthier for all people now.

Quote from Mary MacKillop-Love one another, bear with one another, and let charity guide you all your life. God will reward you as only He can. Find happiness in making others happy. Never see a need without doing something about it

Fundraising Committee Report

A few months ago we gathered to find out how we can support our community and our parish. In that meeting we discussed what our goals are for the coming months and years and our top priorities remain:

- To build connection and community and
- To be good stewards of what we have been given.

Some of the priorities are;

- The upkeep and renovations of the church and hall
- Investing in a good quality projector and sound system
- Raising much needed funds for general bills like electricity.

We also are looking forward to the celebration of the 150th year of the church. This will be a big event, showcasing and honouring the hard work of those whose shoulders we stand on.

We are trying our very best to come up with fundraisers that build connection and raise much needed funds. We recently had our first street stall for the year. We are so blessed to have such a generous community. Stay tuned for our next fundraising event. If you have any ideas, please come and have a chat, we value your ideas and desire your help.

Report provided by Evelyn Cisneros, Patricia Mangelsdorf, Daniel Dahdah, Rob Hall



Fundraising Committee members L to R, Evelyn Cisneros, Patricia Mangelsdorf, Daniel Dahdah, Rob Hall (Absent)

Maintenance Report

As you would have seen, an attempt to increase the lifespan and beauty of our church was undertaken 3 weeks ago.

With a fire-fighting unit and a boom lift, we were able to clear gutters on Capper St side of the church as well as paint the eaves, sloping capstones and circle above St Joseph's chapel entrance.



The impact was significant. Gutters are clear and future cleaning can be accomplished via the bell tower. A circular window exits onto the roof, the site of 15-20cms of bird droppings and debris. This was directly feeding into the rain head gutters and blocking them. When full, these gutters have caused considerable damage to St Joseph's chapel below.

Work has also continued in the church and the wall facing the congregation with flaking paint had largely been scraped and patched. Whilst the work is being done, I'm aware that anyone interested in the restoration is invited to collaborate and share their wisdom. So far, work done to date, has cost less than \$400. That includes both inside and outside repairs, boom and paint.

Report provided by Daniel Dahdah, Francis Moreno, Barry Jeffries, Tony Butler