

DEBUTANTE BALL

Tony & Fran Butler were involved with the Tumut Catholic Debutante Balls which were held from 1970 until 2020 and which involved approx. 600 debutantes and partners. These Balls were only possible through the commitment and dedication by the many volunteers over the years and we thank them for their efforts. Recently they were guests of honour at a Debutante Ball at the Tumut Golf Club. After the presentation Tony spoke to the Debutantes and their partners.

Excerpts from Tony's Speech.....

“ For 30 years Fran & I, plus other members of the Parish organised the Catholic Debutante Balls. The traditional reason for partaking in a Deb ball was to display to your family & friends that you were of age to “enter society”. On reflection there seemed to be several themes that came through.

*Nerves & excitement...Pride & Achievement
.....Love & Happiness*

When we think about these themes, they are human feelings which we exhibit in our daily lives. Each debutante has come here tonight, with nerves & excitement, it's the first time gowned as a beautiful debutante & excitement to show family & friends the dances you have learnt. Pride & achievement for being here & succeeding to be a debutante.

Tonight, creates a special memory that you will take with you on life's journey. Your family & friends have loved and supported you and they will provide happiness & assistance in whatever you do in the future.

My advice is that you have “Strength of character”. Develop this personal quality which is your moral fibre and courage to do what is right, regardless of the challenges or consequences that come your way. Persevere, be respectful to yourself & others.

Surround yourself with positive people. Dream big, take chances in life but don't forget to aim for the highest peak that will bring you true happiness & fulfillment.

Genuine success comes from a joyful heart.”



Eamonn Moore, Principal at McAuley Catholic Central School, has been awarded a prestigious fellowship; the Blakeney Millar Foundation Churchill Fellowship to investigate best practice in delivering innovative Stage 6 curriculum through virtual learning.

Eamonn's fellowship project will take him to the USA in 2024 where he would like to connect with some large K-12 fully virtual schools including in the State of New York, where they aim to roll out virtual learning to more than 1 million students. He aims to discover international best practice and utilise those connections and that information to strategically enhance the virtual learning path for all country students.

As an accomplished educator who is deeply passionate about providing the best opportunities for the students in his school, Eamonn says the opportunities presented to us through virtual learning are amazing and he is very excited about a way of the future.

Many universities are offering fully virtual degrees now and we are preparing our students for that very different path; opportunities can be provided not only for ATAR path but also for TAFE and VET.



**CHURCH OF THE
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Hello Everyone,

Spring has arrived and new life everywhere, beautiful blossoms on the trees, little lambs dotted around our paddocks. Hopefully new life in our parish as we move towards the Christmas season. 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

Let us introduce..... Daniel Dahdah



Daniel, with his wife Gabrielle of 28 years and family, relocated to Tumut 18 months ago from Pymble, Sydney. Listening to the Lord and with Covid they decided this was their time for rebuilding and renewal and a need to look after themselves and family.

Having grown up in Taree NSW, Daniel spent the first 15 years of his life there, then progressed to St Joseph's in Sydney for schooling, then University. He has been a Chiropractor for 35 years.

Having spent three years in Port Lincoln, during which time he had a long distance engagement with his wife, Gabrielle, they married in Melbourne in 1994 and have eight children; Juliette (Secondary school teacher and marrying this year in December); Olivia, who studies and teaches dance; Simon (drama teacher and liberal arts student); Emmanuelle (who is on Youth Mission Team in Melbourne); Jude (Yr10 McAuley Catholic Central School); Raphael, Giselle and Luke (all home schooled) who are living here with Daniel and Gabrielle.

Daniel envisions a new Health Care model, where patients and physicians learn the importance of sleep, standing and sitting positions in regulating the body's symptoms. He is building an online academy (Our Lady's Healthcare) where he can share his observations.

Since coming to our parish he has joined the Working Together Committee, is a reader, assists with the maintenance of the church and joins in our parish activities.

Please say Hello and make Daniel and his family feel welcome

The next two PPC meetings will be 8th November 2023 & 6 December 2023. 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.

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

PPC September Meeting Report

Parish – The PPC discussed “Walking Together” and the progress of the parish in its various missions. The positive increase in the participation in groups and ministries within the parish was discussed and celebrated. Moving forward is a proposal to initiate a funeral and baptism planning group to assist Father with these important ministries.

School – School based Masses are running smoothly and well attended, as are the Sacramental Preparation programs through the school. Initiatives included feast days, grandparent Masses, Christian meditation and NAIDOC celebrations. Next Year the school will grow to a full K-12 across two campuses and enrolments are expected to increase to 460. This is a great achievement for both the Principal and his whole team.

Grants – The PPC and fundraising committee will explore the possibility of grants on a local and state level that may assist in the parish.

Church Restoration – The restoration and maintenance projects for the church were reported on and discussed. This will link in with the fundraising for initiatives and drawing on volunteers to continue this great work.

Report by James McDonald, Publicity Officer for PPC

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you

A true example of parishioners working together for everyone was the recent donation of a new projector for our church by a very generous parishioner, and then the installation done by three more parishioners.

There is the story of a preacher who got up one Sunday and announced to his congregation: *"I have good news and bad news. The good news is, we have enough money to pay for our new building program. The bad news is, it's still out there in your pockets."*

Parish Finance Update

As people might be aware our parish has obligations to service the costs incurred by our priest, and for the running and maintenance of our buildings. Our church, presbytery and St Mary's hall are old and require upkeep and repairs. We need to be sure our buildings are safe and comfortable.

The Parish Finance Committee works with our priests and with the Archdiocese to create and maintain an annual budget. The income derived in Tumut is solely through the collections as we have no other income streams.

This places a pressure on our finances. At the end of June 2023 we were running at a deficit. Unfortunately this has been the case for the last few years. To put it in easy to understand terms we need to pay (approximately) each year:

- For the support of our priest's superannuation and leave.
- Insurances
- Archdiocesan levies and fees
- Repairs and maintenance.
- Capital expenses – furniture & equipment
- Presbytery expenses, rates, repairs etc.

That totals somewhere around \$60,000. That equates to somewhere close to \$1200 per week.

Each week we publish the Sunday collection totals for your information. This only includes what is put on the plate. Contributions are also made by Direct Debit, Tap machine and internet banking. We are always grateful for your contributions in labour, donations and time; as well as financially. It is a reality that our Parish of Tumut needs to be financially viable to be able to support having a priest based here.

Report by Eamonn Moore, Chair, Parish Finance Committee

Financial Report 1 January 23 – 31 July 23

Total Income	\$37,078
Total Expenses	<u>(\$39,008)</u>
Operating Deficit	(\$ 1,930)

Parish Fundraising



Street Stalls have continued as a means of raising vital funds for the parish in 2023. Grateful thanks to the hardworking Fundraising Team and to the people who generously donated their time and products for the stall.

Fundraising is a part of what we do in the Tumut Catholic Parish. Its a way to supplement our income and maintain our beautiful parish buildings.

Do you remember.....in the 1940's and 1950's our church held an annual Bazaar in the Oddfellows hall in Fitzroy Street. Amongst the various stalls was a "Country Stall" co-ordinated by Mrs PS Kelly from Gilmore and my parents, Gus & Kath Clout, assisted on this stall.

One year the raffle was a magnificent cake made and iced by Mrs Kelly, and as a child of about 5 I won this cake and I gifted the cake to my grandmother, Alice Clout for Christmas.

Then in the early 1960's we had the launch of Planned Giving as a scheme enabling parishioners to all contribute to the parish in a fair and equitable way on a regular basis. This launch was a dinner in the Tumut Showground pavilion attended by a huge crowd. Guest speakers, both local parishioners and representatives of the Archdiocese spoke.

In the 1970's and 1980's Housie was another form of fundraising. One of our parishioner's recalls Housie being played once a week in St Mary's Hall. These nights would see the hall packed with people enjoying the night and the opportunity to be a lucky winner.

Housie was run by a team of volunteers, Maurie Norman, Mick Bristow, John & Ann Hickson, John & Bev Piper, Gordon & Maureen Young, Brian & Kathleen Rosetta & John Marzol and others and supported by their priest, Fr Fred Edwards. Many hours of preparation made this a great success.

Then there were the annual Fetes held in November each year adjacent to St Mary's Hall and on the church carpark. Everyone remembers Mick Bristow and the spinning wheel on the back of the truck, and the stalls in the Hall and the Tea Room headed by Clare Gordon.



Alice Clout cutting the "winning" cake with granddaughter, Kathleen Clout