

TRANSFIGURATION NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2024

Clergy Appointments

After seven years with us, Fr. John has been appointed Parish Priest of St Matthew's and St Vincent's, South Belconnen as of 3 January. Fr. James Antony CMI, Parish Priest of Corpus Christi, South Tuggeranong will be our new Parish Priest. Fr John was farewelled during a parish meal in the Parish Centre on Saturday, 14 December.

'Renewing our Parish Together'

The process was facilitated by Phil(omena) Billington, whose skills, energy and passion in concert with Fr John and the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) encouraged a heartening number of additional parishioners to volunteer to enhance the life of our parish in the foundational areas of:

- Ministries of the Liturgy
- Ministries of Pastoral Carer and Outreach
- Ministries of Leadership and Governance

Further, the following new ministries have been identified:

- Pastoral Care and Outreach
- RCIA
- Children's Liturgy
- Bereavement
- Welcome to new parishioners



Parishioners at one of the three **Commitment Masses**, 30 November-1 December, making their commitment to serve the Parish.

A key goal was the renewal of the membership of the PPC. The membership is now:

Margaret Bekema
Julie Bufalo-Long
Mark Calixterio
Jerome Hitchings
Geoff Joy (Chair)
Glenn Roff
Rob Shiner
School rep from Holy Trinity
School rep from SS Peter and Paul

Phil Billington led a formation and planning meeting with the PPC in early November. The written comments received during the Sunday Mass renewal discussions will be central to the PPC's ongoing directions and priorities.

How best to carry the parish renewal forward will need to be discerned with Fr James. The foundation is particularly encouraging.

Holy Week - Guatemala - Exhibition at the Parish Centre

For two weeks in June the captivating photographic display **Semana Santa**, inscribed in 2022 on the Intelligible Cultural Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO and exhibited in our Parish Centre courtesy of the Guatemalan Embassy, allowed parishioners to observe a cultural diversity yet united witness during Holy Week. Faith is mediated through culture.



Alan Escobedo, Charge D'Affaires of the Guatemalan Embassy in



Canberra and his wife, Amalia Escobedo, organised the event. Traditional Guatemalan food and coffee were on offer.

The display included an example of the rugs which the participants walk on. The rugs are made of flowers, sand and dyed sawdust.

Pentecost Celebration

Since 1908 around the time of Pentecost an international liturgy has been celebrated mindful of Jesus' prayer "that all may be one". In 2024, it was the responsibility of Burkina Faso to prepare the liturgy.

In Burkina Faso, a calabash is used to share water with guests who arrive tired from their journey. It expresses welcome, hospitality and friendship. After the visitor has been refreshed, conversation can begin and the purpose of the visit can be explored. Thus began our search for a calabash!



Locals in Burkina Faso described their lived experience as variously terrorism, loss of social cohesion, human trafficking, internal displacement, social suspicion, violence, destroyed infrastructure, many thousands dead, churches closed and clergy targeted by militia. The liturgy was inspired by the Gospel of the Good Samaritan. Fr John gave the homily.

Attendees came from the Woden Valley Uniting Church, St Alban's Lyons (Anglican), Good Shepherd Curtin (Anglican), and our parish, which also provided some musicians and a stunning supper, courtesy of the Hospitality Group.



ROD ANDERSON used his various skills to climb up to the church skylight and repair a water leak. Better him than me!

'Carols on the Block'

'Carols on the block' was held in Holy Trinity School Hall on Saturday, 7 December due to the predicted weather. Local folk enjoyed the singing, good company and the BBQ sausages.



Third Holy Trinity Show 'n Shine

Saturday, 26 October was a great success with 75 cars registering with the ACT Street Machine Association for display on a beautiful day in front of the church and in the adjacent carpark.



As a result, support for 'The Farm', Galong assisting women in need saw around **\$1,980** forwarded.

Noon Angelus Toll

You might have heard the ringing of the angelus bell atop the steel bell tower styled in sympathy with our church spire. However, you might not have read the plaque affixed to the tower in memory of Peter Kevin Kilby who died tragically at age 17 after being hit by a vehicle while riding his motor bike on Australia Day 1969.



Seasonal Colour

Seasonal colour has been and is present around the church, in our garden, as well as nearby. The colours of nature lift our spirits and offer cause to praise God. We are now in the liturgical season of Advent, a time of hope and preparation as we turn to the dawning light of Christmas. Next year we celebrate the **Jubilee Year of Hope**.



Neighbourhood Reflections



Have you noticed the bronze statue 'A Delicate Moment' (Suzie Bleach and Andrew Townsend, 2019) at Hughes shops evoking "a sustainable balance between humans and nature." Or how about 'Tree of Knowledge' (Pater Latona, 2010) at Garran shops



celebrating "Australian writers and the part played by landscape in our literature".

Our deepest aspirations reflect a desire for communion.

Catholic Humour

