

THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF THE

Holy Family

MOUNT WAVERLEY



Our Faith in Christ Jesus, is one that encourages us not only to live in communion with our God, but also in communion with one another, supporting and assisting each other as we continue to grow and deepen our love of God and neighbor.

holyfamily.melbourne

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Dear Parish Family,

As we reflect on 2024, we give thanks for the many blessings, challenges, and graces that have shaped our parish community. This past year has been a testament to our faith, resilience, and shared commitment to living the Gospel in our daily lives.

One of the most significant milestones of the year was my appointment as Parish Priest of St. Mary Magdalen Parish, Jordanville, in February 2024, in addition to Holy Family Parish, Mt. Waverley. Taking on the responsibility of leading two parishes has not been an easy task, but I am truly grateful for the support and understanding of our parishioners. Your patience, kindness, and willingness to work together have been a great source of encouragement.

We have also made great strides in improving our parish facilities, including the restoration of the Holy Family Parish Hall roof, ensuring our spaces remain welcoming and functional for prayer, fellowship, and ministry. Additionally, we have navigated challenges, such as wild weather affecting our properties, reminding us of the importance of stewardship and community support.

Our liturgical and pastoral life has continued to flourish. From the celebration of the sacraments to parish events like the Pentecost Multicultural Mass and Luncheon, Christmas Dinner Dance, the 'Get to Know Fr. Stephen' evening, and our various school and community Masses, we have deepened our sense of unity and mission. Special moments, such as our Holy Week and Easter celebrations and the blessing of long-time parishioners who celebrated their wedding anniversary milestones, have further enriched our journey together.

This year has also been marked by new beginnings, with the formation of a new Maintenance Committee and ongoing consultations on how to further our relationship with Jordanville Parish. These steps ensure that we continue to grow as a parish, responding to the needs of our present while planning for the future.

Through it all, our parishioners' generosity, faith, and commitment have been a source of inspiration. I am deeply grateful to our volunteers, parish leaders, and ministries who give their time and talents so selflessly. Together, we continue to build a community of faith, hope, and love.

As we step into 2025, may we continue to walk in faith, embracing the opportunities of the Jubilee Year and deepening our mission as disciples of Christ.

Thank you once again for your support, patience, and dedication. May God bless you and your families abundantly.

Fr. Justel Callos
PARISH PRIEST



SCHOOL REPORT

MRS. JULIE DAVID - PRINCIPAL

Holy Family school had a successful 2024 school year! Congratulations on the increased enrolment and the opportunity to welcome over 30 new students and their families into our school community—it's a testament to the strength of our programs and reputation. We had our largest Prep enrolment for the last 6 years - 43 students.

During 2024 the school implemented a Whole School Behaviour Curriculum based on work done by Tom Bennett and the Australian Education Research Organisation (AERO).

Our implementation of an evidence-based curriculum is also a big win, as it sets the foundation for impactful and effective learning outcomes.

Key achievements for 2024 were -

Education in Faith

- Whole school celebration of Holy Week — classes displayed a specific event that occurred during whole week and parents and parishioners were invited to attend
- Sacrament preparation of students in Year 4 for Reconciliation and First Eucharist and Year 6 for Confirmation
- Strong parish and school partnerships through masses, sacraments and special events
- Altar Servers from Year 5 and 6 attend class masses
- Social Justice — Caritas Project Compassion, Mini Vinnies
- FIRE Carrier School - Fundraising for Opening the Doors Foundation, supporting Aboriginal children in Catholic schools
- Mini Vinnies Science Extravaganza - raised money for St Vincent de Paul
- Mini Vinnies students regularly visited the local nursing home to play board games with the residents
- Student leaders, Deputy Principal and Religious Education Leader attended the mass at St Patrick's Cathedral on 24 November 2024 to launch the Year of Jubilee 2025
- School Choir sang at a local nursing home and in the streets of Mt Waverley during December
- School Choir regularly sang at Mass

Learning and Teaching

Melbourne Archdioceses Catholic Schools (MACS) Vision for Instruction has two goals:

Excellence - Teaching excellence where all teachers are empowered to implement evidence-based practices and deliver the knowledge that students need to become intellectual and moral citizens of the world.



Equity: Every student, regardless of background, achieves literacy and numeracy proficiency.

Our staff have participated in onsite and external professional development focused on pedagogical approaches needed to effectively teach literacy and numeracy.

Teachers across the school have participated in coaching cycles where they have reviewed their teaching in a specific area and gained feedback and insights from internal and external knowledgeable others.

Teachers are developing their evidence-based practice through the use of Daily Review, full participation engagement norms and explicit teaching of concepts.

Classrooms are set up to ensure students are placed to receive immediate and timely feedback from teachers throughout the lesson.

Foundation to Year Two implemented the OCHRE Mathematics resources from the beginning of the year and Years 3 -6 used a mixture of Australian Curriculum and OCHRE mathematics resources. These resources scaffold the science of learning pedagogy with Daily Reviews, Scope and sequences that implement Interleaved practice and explicit lessons.

Year 5-6 participated in a trial for OCHRE implementing a 3 week Science knowledge rich unit.

All year levels implemented a Read to Learn Unit of work based on the curriculum disciplines that were being taught. The units are created to deepen the students' knowledge across the curriculum and incorporate science of learning approaches.

Holy Family is well placed in the 2030 Vision for Instruction. Our teachers are lifelong learners who are committed to providing excellence in education for all students.

Student Wellbeing

- Weekly 'Wellbeing Hour' sessions
- Whole school use of the CASEL Framework to provide a consistent and whole school focused approach for implementing the Resilience Project & Respectful Relationships program as a school community
- Implementation of Resilient Youth Survey and ACER Social/emotional Wellbeing survey
- Whole school mixed age 'Wellbeing Hour' in term 2 focusing on social skills (games hour)
- Termly Bullying surveys and interviews
- Whole school Bully No Way Day
- Harmony Day
- Implementation of whole school behaviour curriculum
- Continued our relationship with Victoria Police and Inform and Empower to support cybersafety education
- Weekly class meetings led by student leaders
- Student led 'Kid's News' online presentation once a week
- Lunchtime clubs led by students
- Cooking Club, focusing on social and communication skills
- Introduction of 'Community Village Managers'- supervising play in cubbies

Please call (9807 3300) our Administration Team to book your tour of our incredible school.

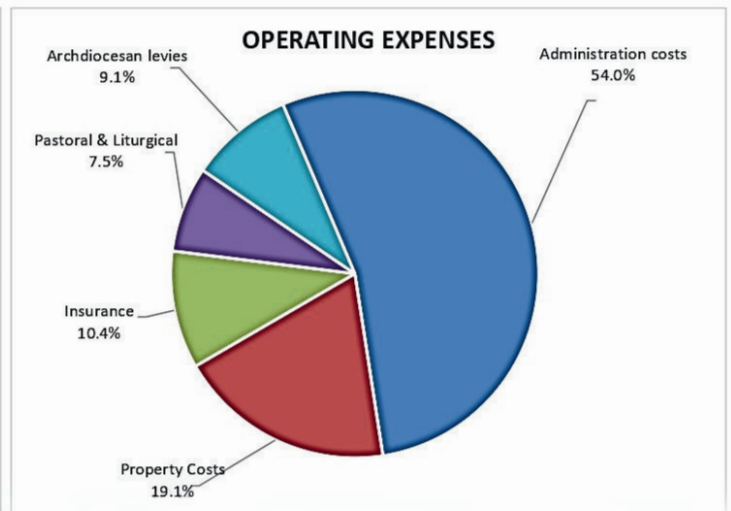
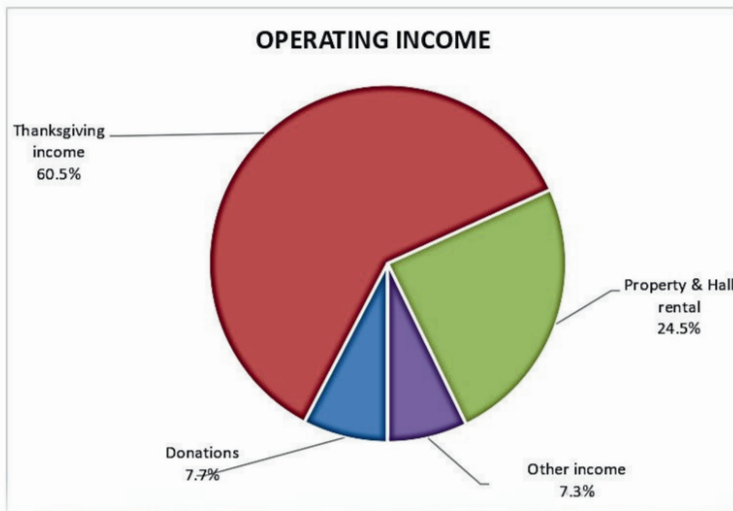


FINANCE REPORT

BERNARD NEGLINE - ACCOUNTANT

Holy Family Parish Mt Waverley January to December 2024

Income	2024	Expenditure	2024
Thanksgiving income	\$ 141,070	Administration costs (Staff costs, stationery, telephone, office expenses)	\$ 152,418
Donations	\$ 17,958	Property costs (Utilities, Rates & taxes, repairs, etc)	\$ 53,886
Property & Hall rental	\$ 57,132	Insurance	\$ 29,255
Other income	\$ 16,899	Pastoral & Liturgical costs (Church requisites, Liturgical expenses)	\$ 21,230
TOTAL	\$ 233,059	Archdiocesan levies	\$ 25,720
		Total Operating Expenses	\$282,509
		Net Deficit	\$(49,450)
Capital donations	\$ 51,255	Debt repayment	\$ 9,900
Total income including Capital donations	\$ 284,314	TOTAL Net Deficit for the Year	\$(8,095)



THE R.C.I.A. PROGRAMME IN 2024

MICHAEL KING

The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults is a means for helping people who are interested in the Church. It does not always result in applicants embracing Catholicism, but is intended to inform them and, in most cases, does lead to what they were seeking in the first place: baptism and, or confirmation and First Holy Communion. People joining the programme might start at different stages of a journey. They could belong to a different religious tradition, or none. They might belong to a Protestant denomination. They might have been baptised in the Church, but have not progressed with their spiritual life since. All are welcome.

It is no doubt true that most people who join the R.C.I.A. classes have in view becoming a Catholic. However, they might simply not understand the Church's teaching about the Sacraments, especially the central part played by the Eucharist, or they might not follow the teaching concerning Our Lady and the Saints, and so on. Each important element is gone through, usually in weekly one-hour sessions, so that, at the end, all will understand about the Mass, the Bible, the hierarchy of the Church, prayer, etc.

Ideally, the whole course can be run over several months, but sometimes a curtailed period is necessary, and this can easily be accommodated, provided that at least a reasonable time is allowed. Candidates are also directed to outside sources to follow up themselves, and I even give details of sacred music by the great composers that can be sought out if desired.

The sessions are pleasant and informal, with discussion welcome. Still, at the end of the day, people want, and the Church, of course, needs, a sound grasp of doctrine. Applicants have to know just what they are joining and why! There were three excellent young men this year, who all came into the Church at Holy Family at the Easter Vigil (the traditional time). They exemplified the above: some having already been baptised, others not. One from a different religious background. I think that I can say that all were thrilled and moved.

Becoming a Catholic requires a sound knowledge of doctrine, but getting used to a background and culture is another matter. People can only do this at their own pace, but they can be helped, and this is important, too. At the end, those who come into the Church must feel that they are entering a loving, welcoming place. Being a Christian means following Christ, and His first teaching was of love.

If any parishioners know of anyone at all, in this Parish or elsewhere in Melbourne, who is interested in the Church, or is just curious, do encourage them to contact Holy Family and come along to the programme. They need only take it as far as they want.



DEACON HUBERT - BAPTISM MINISTRY, 2024

DEACON HUBERT FERNANDO

In 2024, 34 children were baptised in the parish. This is an increase of 7 compared to the 27 baptisms in 2023. While 18 were from Mount Waverley and Chadstone, 16 were from various other suburbs.

23 of the 34 fathers were Catholics, 5 belong to other Christian denominations and 6 were non-Christians. 22 mothers were Catholic, 2 other Christians and 10 were non-Christians.

50% of the children baptised were more than 9 months old, the average age being 19 months. Each child had at least one Catholic God parent. 25 of the 34 children had 2 Catholic God parents.

Parents seeking baptism for their children are invited to a baptism preparation meeting with the Deacon. The significance of the sacrament of baptism in the spiritual development of the child and the responsibility of the parents to bring up the child in the Catholic faith is explained to them. They are also given an insight into what happens on the day of the baptism. Baptisms are administered by a priest, or the deacon in their absence.

Apart from the baptism preparation, the parents of the child must be provided with on-going support by the parish after the baptism. In fact, it would be good if we can invite the families of the children baptised over the last two years, for a special mass and blessing on the feast of St. John the Baptist.

REPORT TO PARISH FROM THE MONASH INTER CHURCH COUNCIL

NOELLE SULLIVAN

During 2024 the Mount Waverley-Chadstone Inter Church Council, of which Holy Family Church is a member, was formally and constitutionally changed in accordance with regulations, to include the Glen Waverley Inter Church Council, thus becoming the Monash Inter Church Council. MWCICC was approached by GWICC as their area was diminishing in attendance which made it difficult to function successfully. After all necessary constitutional matters had been dealt with and approved at meetings during the year, we have now combined to operate as Monash Inter Church Council.

The year was a busy one beginning with the annual Way of the Cross being held at Holy Family Parish on Good Friday. Our gardens and grounds, and surrounding streets, provided a very suitable space for the large crowd attending on a beautiful day. Hospitality was offered in the small hall following the Way of the Cross.

Holy Family welcomed members from other churches to our 10 am Mass on Trinity Sunday, as part of Ecumenical Visiting Sunday. Parishioners from Holy Family also went out to visit various churches in the area and said it was a very positive way to encourage ecumenism.

The annual Food for Friends appeal was again held for one week in November, outside Ritchies IGA in Hamilton Place, when donations of food were collected to distribute to those in need, through the various churches involved in the MICC. People were rostered on an hourly basis, five days of the week, from all the different churches. It really is a time of generous giving by the many people shopping at IGA. Thank you to the Holy Family volunteers and St. Vinnies.

The annual Christmas Street Stall was held on Saturday morning of 14th December. Proceeds were given to the Act for Peace Christmas Bowl, although takings were down a long way this year as it seemed to be a quiet morning in Hamilton Place.

On Christmas Day a festive lunch was held at the High Street Road Uniting Church, for those in need of companionship. This special occasion was organized by the clergy and members of St. John's Uniting Church in Virginia Street. Bravo to them all.

The conclusion of 2024 marked the end of an era, with Ros Faichney resigning as Secretary after a dedicated 15 year commitment. Ros is a member of St. Lukes Uniting Church in Essex Road, Mt Waverley. Doug Hastings, a member of St. Mary and St. Stephens Anglican Church in High Street Road, has taken over this important position. Through my role as a representative of Holy Family, I have met generous and faith filled people from many walks of life, and I would welcome someone from our parish to join me in 2025. Meetings are held bi monthly at various churches on a Thursday evening. If you are interested, please leave your name and contact details at the office.

KOREAN COMMUNITY

GREG CHEON

Korean Catholic Community in Melbourne (KCCM) began 48 years ago in 1977 when a few families gathered together and held the first Korean Mass with a priest who was studying abroad.

In 1982, the community began regular Korean Masses with priests from the Columban Missionaries. The first Korean priest sent by the local diocese to serve the community was Father Daniel Kim from the Gwangju Diocese, who arrived in 1994.

It was 27 years ago, in 1998, that the community settled at Holy Family Church. Since then, the community has been served by priests from the Gwangju Diocese and the Franciscan Order, and currently, the pastoral care is provided by the Augustinian Order.

Today, the Korean community celebrates four infant baptisms annually, and every Easter, we hold adult baptisms. We also run various ministries, including four Legion of Mary prayer groups, a youth group, a Sunday school, a choir, and a Korean language school. Our major events include the Korean-language Mass every Sunday at 1:30 PM, as well as a communal lunch on the third Sunday of every month. The biggest events of the year are the Easter and Holy Week celebrations, the parish feast day in August, and the Christmas event where Santa Claus visits to distribute gifts to all the children in the community, followed by a large-scale raffle. The Korean community also collaborates with Holy Family Church for the Pentecost celebration.

We hope to continue expanding our events and deepen our relationship with Holy Family Church in the years to come.



DINNER DANCE

CHRIS CULLINAN

The Parish Christmas Dinner Dance held on 29 November was a very successful event attended by approximately 160 parishioners. It was great to see parishioners of all ages and from the various cultural communities within the Parish come together and enjoy a delicious 'Middle Eastern' meal, some liquid refreshments and dance to the music provided by Melbourne DJ. Numerous hampers donated by parishioners and local businesses were raffled and warmly received by the lucky parishioners whose raffle tickets were drawn from the barrel.



THE FEAST OF PENTECOST AND MULTICULTURAL DAY

CHRIS CULLINAN

This event was celebrated on 19 May at a 10.00am mass followed by a luncheon in the Hall. Holy Family parishioners, our multicultural groups and Korean Community all took part contributing to a very successful event. A delicious banquet prepared by our parishioners and communities was appreciated by some 400 people in attendance. The Feast Day was an opportunity for a 'coming together' of our many cultures that make our Parish such a vibrant community.

TA PINU PILGRIMAGE – BACCHUS MARSH

March 2, 2024

NATALIE SILLATO



Holy Family parishioners made a Lenten Pilgrimage to Ta Pinu Shrine in Bacchus Marsh on a overcast Saturday morning in March. Some made their own way there like myself seeing I am from the west.

We were blessed to have been joined by, Fr Anil Roshan Mascarenhas and Parishioners of St Peter's East Keilor.

Together we made our way around the Stations of the Cross on the hill. In prayer and reverence we trekked through the 14 stations and then gathered inside the church for a combined Mass. The seats were full and the pray was strong.

Afterwards we gathered in our own community for lunch but ended up sharing food with St Peter's. Our lovely lunch was provided by Community Care along with treats from parishioners for all to indulge in.

Many other Parishes were there and it showcases how many, far and wide, come to this one location for prayer and reflection leading up to Easter.

Lent 2024

TERRY PAYNE



Coming up to this holiest time of the year, we focused on some additional prayerful times. We had usual Adoration time each Tues night and Wed morning, with another prayer aid saying together the Morning Prayer of the Church, Lauds, before each weekday morning Mass. We followed the Stations of the Cross on Friday evenings, walking with Jesus guided by our pictures at each Station. Another path of preparation towards Easter was opportunity available before Mass each Tuesday evening to reflect on the Lenten Sunday readings, guided by the booklet from Wollongong.

Following last year, we took again our Pilgrimage to the Ta' Pinu Shrine at Merrimu. Here, we joined others from several Parishes in praying the Stations of the Cross around the hill on which the Shrine is built, dedicated to "Our Lady, Queen of he Family". This was followed by Mass in the Shrine Chapel. We ended a wonderful prayerful day with lunch.

2023 notes on Holy Week.

We weren't here 2024, being in NZ for Holy Week!!

In Holy Week, in addition to the regular Tuesday evening and Friday morning opportunities for Reconciliation, the Second Rite was available on Wednesday with a number of priests. The Triduum again was a wonderful meaningful celebration of the Easter event. On Holy Thursday, we had 12 parishioners of all age groups representing us in the Washing of the Feet. Again, the Altar of Repose was beautifully set up by our Sacristans, Greta and Willy.

On Good Friday, our liturgy for the Stations of the Cross outside the Church was again wonderful, thanks to the work put in on signs and layout by Denis O'Halloran. Direction of the large crowd present for the reading of the Lord's Passion and Veneration of the Cross was helped by the seating and veneration ushers.

We had some issues and struggled somewhat at the start of the Easter Vigil because of rain during the lighting of the Pascal Candle outside and the candle-light procession into the Church. But the setting up and skill of Norbert at the fire got us through!

ANNUAL REPORT FOR VISITATION TO CALVARY THE REGENT RETIREMENT HOME FOR 2024

MAUREEN DUGGAN

I have visited the Home weekly throughout the year with Communion for 15 residents. We meet as a group in one of the lounges. There is 3 floors and we have residents from each of these floors join us. Some residents are able to find their own way there; otherwise staff will bring some in wheelchairs or with their walkers. We often have a couple of Non-Catholic residents join us as they enjoy joining in with our prayers and like to receive a Blessing.

I have a special set of prayers we all join in and one of the residents reads us the Gospel for the day, we do have a couple of residents that will comment on the Gospel, which is great. When I have finished, one of the residents leads us in a decade of the Rosary, which they all enjoy.

The residents really look forward to Father Justel visiting to celebrate Mass for them each month. We had a special Remembrance Day Mass when Father mentioned all the residents who had passed away during the year.

Father Justel organized the Filipino Choir who sing at our Sunday Mass to visit the Home to sing Christmas Carols. This was an amazing success. They had the residents joining in singing the Carols. And the children certainly entertained everyone. I watched as many of the residents wiped away a tear.



Maintenance

DENIS O'HALLORAN



Hall Roof Replacement

The major project was the replacement of the hall roof, which was in extremely poor condition. This work also included adjustments to the pitch of the roof in some sections, to facilitate more efficient water flow and improvements were made to the stormwater drainage system. The total cost of this project was **\$140179.68**

This project was made possible by the significant financial contribution from our parishioners.

Fencing (rear of property)

Two fences adjoining our neighbours' properties were replaced. The friendly cooperation with our neighbours was greatly appreciated.



Hall Plumbing

An upgrade of a toilet facility in the main hall was completed recently.

Garden Maintenance

The gardens around the church and within the Memorial/Columbarium area continue to be well maintained.

Our extensive property remains a maintenance challenge, especially during the warmer months when our trees continue to produce much debris for the wind to distribute. However, our small group of parishioners happily welcome the battle by attending our monthly working bees.

It would be great to see more parishioners sharing in this work. Your assistance would be greatly appreciated.

Tree Management

The large native trees in the Parish grounds can be a safety hazard and need constant management. While canopy weight reduction pruning has been undertaken in some instances, there is still work to be done. One large tree needed to be removed in September following storm damage. More recently another tree fell in the roundabout garden area. Further attention is now required on trees at the front of the hall.

Community Care at Holy Family, 2024

VERONICA NICOLL



As explained many times before, we are limited in our ability to enter homes, make meals or transport parishioners these days so our focus has shifted to funeral catering.

We still make the best fresh sandwiches! And we purchase other food to serve families wanting to come together to tell their stories after a bereavement - allowing people the time and place for them to grieve.

By offering catering, the parish also benefits financially if larger gatherings hire the hall. We ensure food costs are very reasonable, but there is a small margin to cover other parish events, and for charity.

In addition to this year's funerals, we have contributed to catering & costs (ranging from 'a little' to 'the lot') for the:

- Australia Day Breakfast/Brunch
- Parish Luncheons,
- a new church vacuum cleaner
- Multicultural Day and SMM Transnational Day
- The Dinner Dance
- Help with the InterChurch Council refreshments on Good Friday for the "Way of the Cross" and the Ecumenical Visiting Sunday
- Father's Day sausage sizzle
- Purchases for the piety stall
- Some gifts to parishioners who have served our parish
- Topping up supplies in church & hall kitchens
- Lunch for Bacchus Marsh trip
- Top up of Vinnies food bank & Christmas Hampers
- Occasional sandwiches/refreshments for parish house meetings/parish events
- Dropping in to some of our parishioners - no catering required!

Our main aims are still:

- a) looking after our parishioners, and
- b) helping those in need, if we can.

But there'd be nothing without the people who boil eggs, spread, pour, serve, wash dishes & tablecloths, stack plates/ chairs and empty bins and drive around the whole community, shopping, visiting and dropping off items. Enormous thanks to you all.

Friendship and Hospitality Gathering

SAMANTHA MORRISON

On Saturday 7 September 2024, the Parish held the first ever Friendship and Hospitality event directly after the 5:00pm Mass. The aim was to build camaraderie and community amongst the regular 5.00pm Mass attendees. Canapes and light refreshments were provided by a small volunteer group. There were home-made party foods from many cultures, much to the delight of the crowd. Unlike the Sunday morning masses which are followed by a morning tea, there had not previously been any social event on Saturday evenings. It was acknowledged that people generally rush off to dinner on Saturday evenings, so the event was succinctly timed to run for only one hour, although some lingered a bit longer, enthralled by new friendships formed.



Anniversary Milestones

This year in our Parish we celebrated some major milestones for couples who epitomise what **"married for life"** means.

70th Anniversary - In May the Henri & Maria Vollebergh celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary and received their blessing from Fr Justel.

60th Anniversary - In April John & Joan Cotter celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary and received a blessing from Fr Thinh Nguyen.

In December Laurie & June Ryan along with Joe & Lina Cincotta together celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary and received their blessing from Fr Justel.

50th Anniversary - In October Joe & Sarina Bonnici celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary and had their blessing from Fr Justel.

Here are their stories in brief....



Joe and Sarina Bonnici This year in October we celebrated our 50th Wedding. We were married at St. Anthony's Church in Hawthorn on the 19th October 1974. We have been blessed with 3 children and 7 grand children. Our children told us that they had organized for Father Justel to give us a special blessing at the 5 O'clock Mass. We weren't aware that it was in the newsletter. As we walked in, we were surprised at how so many people were congratulating us. It was a very special day for us and glad to be celebrating in our parish of 44 years. A very big thank you to the Holy Family church staff and Father Justel.



Joe & Lina Cincotta got married at Sacred Heart in Kew on 5th December 1964. They have lived in Mount Waverley all that time. They ran a successful Fruit business on Stephenson's Road until late 1971. In that time, they had three children, Tom 1965, Maria 1967 and Robert 1971. The fruit shop was too small for the growing family so in late 1971 they purchased the property near the Parish. They still live in that home now. All three children went to Holy Family. Tom & Robert then went to Salesian and Maria went to Avila. Over the years the family has grown. They have 9 Grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren. Joe and Lina ran successful Fruit businesses for over 30 years and retired in late 1990's. They continued to work part time locally in the Fruit business in Mount Waverley. Family means everything to them and nothing gives them greater pleasure to see family drop in. They are devoted to their faith and have been contributors to Holy Family for over 50 years. They will be spending the afternoon with their family celebrating this wonderful occasion. Compromise and working together both in business and on a personal basis have been the key to their longevity.



Joan met John at a CYMS dance at St Augustine's in Yarraville in March 1957 and had their first date on 5 April 1957 when they went to The Regent Theatre to see Oklahoma the Musical. In 1963 we purchased the block at 42 Wilga Street where we built our current house and got married at St Augustine on Saturday 4 April moving in on 24 April 64. On May 1, 1965, Karen arrived followed by Peter on 30 September 1967 in the following years Karen and Peter both attended Holy Family with Karen going onto Avila and Peter attending Salesian College. In our 60 years at Holy Family we have both been heavily involved in Parish and School responsibilities with Joans involvement in the Primary School tuck shop and making and repairing Priest and Alter boys outfits along with altar decorations and John involvement in the Parish Council, Finance and Fete committee. Our 60 years in the parish have been a great part of our life and would like to thank all Holy Family Parishioners for their great friendship. And we still have the same love for one and other as we did to 67 plus year ago.



Laurie & June Ryan We were married on 3rd December 1964 at the Immaculate Conception Church in Hawthorn. Fr Frank Curley, the then Parish Priest at Mt Waverley presided. We established our home in Gwynne St Mt Waverley and were blessed with 4 children. We were foundation members of the Holy Family Parish. June was a member of the Holy Family Council and Church Planning Committee for many years. She was very involved in the landscaping of parish complex and together were instrumental in the final siting of presence church. Laurie was one of the first readers at Mass appointed by Fr Curley and remained a regular reader till recent times. The original part of the Parish complex was owned by Laurie's parents, Matthew & Mary Ryan. When additional parts were added over the years it became convenient to have access from St Albans St via David Ct. Laurie and June enjoyed their respective careers as civil engineer and occupational therapist and were proud of the fact that their 4 children (now all in their 50's) have all acquired tertiary qualifications and embarked on substantial occupations.



Maria van Eijk and Harry Vollebergh lived in the town of Venray in the south east of the Netherlands. One of Harry's sisters befriended one of Maria's sisters which meant Harry also ran across the van Eijk family. This was late in World War II. The Allies were advancing across the Netherlands and the Germans were withdrawing. It was then that Maria's other sister stood on a landmine and lost her leg. A little later, Maria and her sister approached Harry's father who was a furniture maker, to see if he could fashion a timber prosthetic for Maria's sister. This was when Harry and Maria really noticed each other. Harry was impressed by Maria's beauty and her care and compassion for her sister. After courting and 7 years of dating (for several of which Harry was doing his national service elsewhere in The Netherlands), they finally married in Venray in May 1954. Within 3 weeks they had left for Australia. Maria and Harry first lived in Northcote, then Thornbury, then Brunswick. Harry moved for work to Notting Hill in 1958 which is when they moved to Mt Waverley and the newly created Holy Family Parish. They celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary on 22 May 2024.

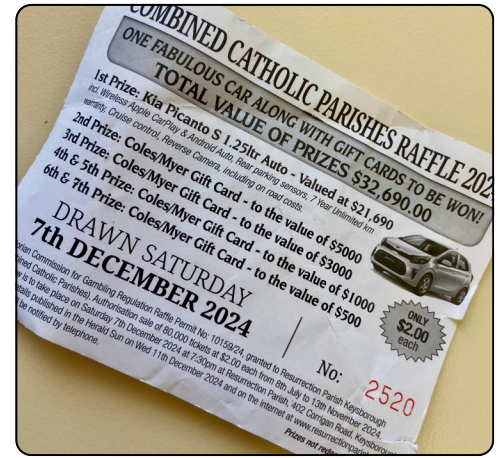
Parish Luncheons

NOELLE SULLIVAN

The regular luncheons for parishioners resumed in March 2024, with our guest speaker being Constable Sara Coe from Victoria Police. Sara spoke to us about Neighbourhood Watch, and gave us valuable information about security in our homes, and in our neighbourhood whilst out and about. Parishioners enjoyed catching up with one another again, over a simple lunch and a cuppa. More than this though, I believe everyone is truly appreciative of Father Justel's welcoming Anointing Mass which regularly precedes our get together.

Guest speakers at subsequent luncheons in May, September and November were varied. Michael Brasher, a parishioner who generously spoke to us about his travels in the Australian Outback and the beauty, birds and animals he has encountered, kept us enthralled with wonderful photography and descriptions. David Cox from Guitars 4 Vets, spoke about his passion for assisting returned veterans who are dealing with trauma, through music therapy. David's music and his slides informed us just how important music can be in the recovery process of those who have returned from active service in many parts of the world. In November we were entertained by the choir of Holy Family Primary School, and brought up to date with all the good things that are happening at the school by the Vice Principal, Eithne King.

This coming year I hope we will welcome many parishioners, both old and those new to our parish, when we start the year off with a Quiz in March. Many thanks to our dedicated group of wonderful volunteers who prepare fresh and delicious sandwiches for us, and to those who willingly give of their time and effort to work at the hall and in the kitchen. Kath and Terry Payne, Geraldine Wain, Kate Henwood, and other generous parishioners who often help out- you are much appreciated. We all mourn the recent death of our lovely Marion Armstrong, who was with us through 'thick and thin' for many years. Marion's courage and stoicism was incredible, and she will always be missed.



Parish Raffle 2024 - A Successful Year!

ROSY LINDEN

The 2024 Holy Family Parish Car Raffle was once again a great success, with two lucky Holy Family parishioners walking away with incredible prizes. Congratulations to the grand prize winner who parked a brand-new car in their driveway and to the fourth prize winner who can go on a shopping spree to Myer, with a \$1,000 voucher!

This year's raffle raised significant funds for the parish, \$6,552. This was not possible without the support of the parishioners and the great team of volunteers involved to make this such a success.

We thank all those who participated in making the 2024 Parish Car Raffle such a success, and we look forward to continuing this in the years to come.

Your ongoing support helps us ensure that Holy Family Parish can continue to serve and grow within the community.

Thank you again for your generosity and commitment to Holy Family!

1st Prize Car & 3rd Prize Gift Card were both won by Holy Family. Not the first time this has happened!

Getting to Know

FATHER STEPHEN BATTAL NIGHT

NANETTE DAVIS



In March 2024, our joint parishes of Holy Family Mount Waverley and St. Mary Magdalen, Jordanville, welcomed Father Stephen Battal to the role of Assistant Priest, working alongside Parish Priest Father Justel Callos.

Father Stephen came to Melbourne from the Brisbane Archdiocese to take up the role of Chaplain to the South Sudanese Community in Melbourne - Victoria having the largest South Sudanese Community in Australia.

On the 23rd October 2024, our joint parishes held an evening to 'Get to Know Father Stephen - The Story of a Journey from South Sudan to Australia' in the St. Mary Magdalen's hall. Around 200 parishioners attended this truly inspiring and powerful evening, that was a remarkable testimony how the power of faith, forgiveness of others and the power of God's love to lead and heal, can overcome the direst circumstances.

Father Stephen was born during the civil war in Sudan and throughout his life he encountered violence, prejudice, and great personal loss. Constantly seeking safety by moving and hiding were part of life for him, yet despite this, he held strongly to his faith in God to bring him through and with God's grace and power, he was able to complete his studies to become a priest and to remain safe. Despite his personal suffering, Father Stephen brings deep wisdom, peace and faith in God's power to heal and forgive.

On the evening, Father Stephen was supported by members of the South Sudanese Chaplaincy, as well as by a talented group of South Sudanese choir members and musicians who came from all over Melbourne to celebrate his life and his faith. We were led in prayer and with hymns by the vibrant choir, providing an insight into the strength of the South Sudanese community to support one another.

Holy Family St. Vincent de Paul Conference

DARYL CRAMER

Once again, this past year, our Conference has continued to be called upon to assist the needy individuals and families within the local area, taking calls for assistance on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

These calls are generally seeking help with food vouchers (for perishable supplies) which we offer to Companions to use at our local IGA store as well as non-perishable items we can deliver from our Food Bank.

However, when additional support is sought to assist with medical supplies, dental work, utilities payments, rent and the like, we make every endeavour to help when it is considered appropriate.

Of course, our ability to offer this support would not be possible without the generosity of parishioners who offer both financial support through financial donations as well as their continual offering of supplies for our Food Bank.

Additionally, the support we receive from the local schools, Avila College, Holy Family Primary School and Mount Waverley Secondary College is significant and greatly appreciated.

And we cannot forget the work of the Holy Family Primary School Mini Vinnies who again this year have raised substantial funds with their Science Extravaganza being extremely successful.

Our Piety Stall is also a source of income for us and again the support from parishioners is greatly appreciated.

Our hard-working Conference members meet in the Church library on a monthly basis and continue to give a call out to parishioners who would be willing to give a couple of hours each week to help us in our work.



Acknowledgment

We want to express our deep gratitude to the wonderful contributors from our diverse ministry groups for sharing insightful articles that have enriched our community. Special thanks to the dedicated staff and volunteers whose selfless efforts have played a crucial role in making our parish vibrant. Whether organising liturgies and events or supporting various activities, their hard work has contributed significantly to our community's warmth and sense of belonging. A big thank you to everyone for their commitment, as it is through their collective dedication that our parish continues to flourish as a place of connection and shared purpose.

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