



PARA HILLS MODBURY CATHOLIC PARISH

PARISH TEAM

FR KYM SPURLING
(PARISH PRIEST)

SINDI KINLOCH
(PARISH ASSISTANT)

PAULINE LAI
(FINANCE OFFICER)

PARISH ADMIN OFFICE

50 RESERVOIR RD,
HOPE VALLEY 5090
PH: 8264 7590 OR 8264 7093

EMAIL:

office@paramodcath.com.au
bulletin@paramodcath.com.au

OFFICE HOURS:

TUESDAY-THURSDAY: 9AM-2PM
FRIDAY: 9.00AM -12.30PM

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

171 KESTERS ROAD,
PARA HILLS 5096

ST JOHN XXIII CHURCH

50 RESERVOIR RD,
HOPE VALLEY 5090

BAPTISMS

BOOKINGS TO BE MADE THROUGH
THE PARISH OFFICE.

MARRIAGES

BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

REGIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S
(PRIMARY) 8251 9500
CARIGNANE ST,
WYNN VALE 5127

GLEESON COLLEGE
(SECONDARY) 8282 6600
40-60 SURREY FARM DRIVE,
GOLDEN GROVE 5125

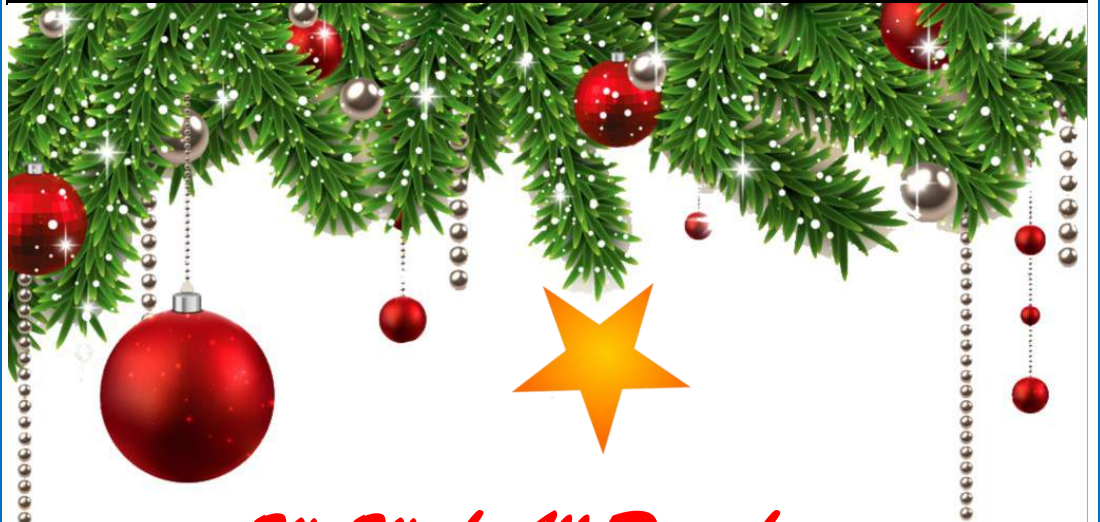
PARISH CHILD PROTECTION OFFICERS

THERESE MEYERS: 0421 533 761
ANGELA ZAKARIAS:
0401 205 636

25th December (Christmas) 2023
The Nativity of the Lord - White

Bulletin Vol.20
Issue 48

We acknowledge the Kurna people as the custodians of this region.
Let us share and learn together for reconciliation and justice.



*We Wish All Parishioners
A Very Happy Christmas
&
A Bright and Prosperous
New Year.*



*May God's love fill your
heart with the kind of perfect
peace only He can bestow at this
Christmas Season.*



MASS TIMES

Christmas Eve

Sunday 24th December

Holy Trinity Church - 6.30pm

St John XXIII Church - 7.30pm

St John XXIII Church - 10pm

Christmas Day

Monday 25th December

Holy Trinity Church - 9am

New Years Day

Monday 1st January

St John XXIII - 10am

Please note:

There will NOT be a Midnight Mass celebrated in the parish this Christmas.

**There will be no Masses on
Tuesday 26th December
Wednesday 27th December
9.15am Saturday 30th December**

Readings for next Sunday, 7th Jan 2024

First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

Second Reading: Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

Saints/Feast Days Of the Month

25th Dec	The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)
26th	St Stephen
27th	St John, Apostle & Evangelist
28th	The Holy Innocents, Martyrs
29th	St Thomas Becket, Bishop & Martyr
31st	The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
1st Jan	Mary the Holy Mother of God
2nd	St Basil & St Gregory
3rd	The Most Holy Name of Jesus
7th	The Epiphany of the Lord
8th	The Baptism of the Lord
13th	St Hilary
17th	St Anthony, Abbot
20th	St Fabian and St Sebastian
22nd	St Vincent
24th	St Francis de Sales
25th	The Conversion of St Paul
27th	Ss Timothy & Titus, St Angela Merici
31st	St John Bosco

Our Community's Prayer Petitions

BULLETIN PRAYER LIST: Please note that names can only be added to this list by immediate family, or the ill person themselves (for reasons of privacy).

Please Remember in your Prayers

Those who are sick, especially:

Teresa McBride, Margaret Dunn, Clarence Rodericks, Sue Rodericks, Margaret Penny, Theresa Camilleri, Corrie Bowman, Martha Fernandez, Carmel Adams, Vesna Zagar, Kim Pope, Anne Hughes, David Truman, Bruce Tilley, Anne Valentine, Ken Randell, Mary Rose Probst, Emelia Pudelek, Maria Trotta, Joan Walmsley, Lil Buckley, Pat Collins, Margaret Pitt, Anne Van Der Arend, Patricia Kopf, Darcy Ridley, Jayden Lee, Maria Hand, Molly Holmes, Asher Caudle, Emma Gammon, David North, Elijah Neri, Marg Dolman, Sean Molloy, Antoinette Pascale, Reta Lockyer, John MacGrath, Mary Redmond, Graham Speed, Marlen Piineda, Rosa Maria Santos, Betty Roper, Imperia De Ionno, Julie Reimann, Gerry Canavan, Kay Kennedy, Gary Lockyer, Rita Robinson, Yvonne Summers

Recently Deceased

Brian Shirley, Ramon Corazo, Kathleen Ryan, Rodney Goodrich, Terry Hollis, John Wilson

Deceased Anniversary

Judith Delsar



Christmas Day Appeal for Catholic Charities

A special Collection will be taken up at Christmas Masses for Catholic Charities, which provides much-needed funds to Hutt St Centre, Centacare Catholic Family Services, Aboriginal Catholic Ministry, Our Lady of La Vang and St Patrick's special schools. These agencies play a significant role in bringing hope to people in need here in South Australia.

Your donations, regardless of their size, will make a profound difference in the lives of those who rely on the support of Catholic Charities.

OFFICE CLOSURE

Please Note the Parish Office is currently closed

and will reopen on

Tuesday 23rd January 2024

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.



Vinnies

good works

Merry Christmas everyone!

The calls keep coming – the most frequent reason for needing assistance is “Cost of Living”. Request numbers are much higher this year – 323 to date compared with 180 last year. This increase is largely due to providing assistance to Dernancourt Conference who have been struggling with their work load.

Again, the Giving Tree, which supports our Christmas hampers was generously supported at both Holy Trinity and St John XXIII. The Christmas hampers, which include toys for children (via the Vinnies Warehouse from the MRA Toy Run) and Vinnies Gift Cards for the adults, as well as a Drakes gift card to enable some purchase of perishables were packed and distributed on 21st December, our last activity for this year.

Both our pantry and hamper situation was greatly boosted with a generous food donation from St Francis Xavier’s School at Wynn Vale, and we have ongoing support from Baker’s Delight and Pathway who have allowed us to collect surplus bakery products fortnightly.

Without your support Vinnies wouldn’t be able to cover the needs in our Conference area for either the hampers or home visits. The Vinnies volunteers are all happy to represent the parish in their home visiting and other duties knowing that they have your support.

Fund raising this year has again been limited, with the main contributions from the Appeals, the Poor Box and the Concert. Our deficit has been met by funds generated through the Vinnies stores, the CEO Sleepout (\$930,000) and the Principals’ Sleepout. Our Christmas Appeal hasn’t been tallied yet – more news on that in the New Year – but thanks to all who were able to contribute. Don’t forget the opportunity to help through the Peoples’ Choice Credit Union raffle.

All being well, we’ll resume home visiting with assistance after Australia Day.

Here’s hoping all have a healthy and joyous Christmas

Michael Bone
Conference President Modbury



A Christmas Message from our Parish Priest



While Christmas is a time for giving it’s also a time to stop and count our blessings, whether it be a roof over our head or simply food in the fridge. No doubt we are grateful for the things we have shared and the love that has been both given and received. Sometime throughout this season I invite you to recall the joyful moments of 2023 and all the things that you have discovered and learnt and to be grateful to God for such moments. Let us be grateful for beautiful music, for this beautiful planet, and all life that lives on it, also for that beautiful birth that happened just over 2000 years ago in the most surprising of all places. Yes, God being with us Emmanuel. That’s worth celebrating.

So, at this time, I pray that your Christmas Season will be one of happiness and joy for you and your family, and that God will continue to bless you all, for all that you do within the parish over the season and throughout the new year.

Fr. Kym



We welcome to our community,

Magdalena Emmins
Leo George McGee

who were baptised in December

We also welcome those families who are preparing for their children’s baptism during January.

Please show your support by remembering them and their families in your prayers.



DIVINE MERCY AT HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

The next Divine Mercy Devotion will be on Sunday, 31st December at 2.30pm at Holy Trinity Church, 171 Kesters Rd, Para Hills.



SAFETY FIRST

Please remember the carparks are shared zones and for safety the speed limit is 10kph (walking pace).

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Good News and great joy to all the world:
today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord**



From the Pastoral Team

Children preparing to celebrate the Sacraments of Initiation in 2023 resumed their formation in February with sessions led and coordinated by Tash Souter and supported by Aggie Marziale, Cindy Bradley, Rosanna Samarzia and Therese Meyers. It was a priority for Tash to become more familiar with the children and their families before the sacramental celebrations. Reconciliation in the first form was celebrated on a March Saturday afternoon, at the end of one of the formation sessions. The celebrations were simple and meaningful at the children's level.

First Communion celebrations were on the weekend of Pentecost, following Confirmation with Fr Dean Marin and Fr Kym Spurling as the celebrants.

To support families to make the celebration of Mass easier to follow, children's Mass booklets were made available at both Mass centres to be borrowed. Please feel free to use these and return them at the end of Mass.

As a parish, we continue to be active within the deanery and are happy to contribute to shared activities, like recommending the RCIA program at the Tea Tee Gully Parish, connecting our Youth Group to the new one in Pooraka, or celebrating Reconciliation during Advent.

Tash Souter resigned from her position as Pastoral Associate. We are grateful to the wonderful pastoral support she gave to us during her time in the role and we wish her well in her new ventures.

Support was given to the training of Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion such that the requirements from the Adelaide Archdiocese were met, that all ministers were trained and that they had a current Working With Children Check.

A commissioning of these people will be held in the new year.

A big 'thank you' to all those who have stepped up into roles other than their usual because of absentees. Hopefully, parishioners have enjoyed the smooth administration of activities in the parish.

After waiting with expectant hearts during Advent, please be pastoral with all those you encounter during the Christmas season and we look forward to what the new year has in store. Blessings!



PLEASE NOTE

Please make sure if you are the last to leave the church/hall at St John XXIII or Holy Trinity, ALL LIGHTS, AIR CONDITIONERS & DOORS are switched off/locked. Thank you.



The new cycle of children preparing to celebrate the Sacraments of Initiation began under the banner of Family Faith Formation.

An information session was held in late July. Families were asked to commit to six 90-minute sessions and seven Family Masses. Two hymns have been designated for the Family Masses to support more active participation during the actual First Holy Communion celebration. The two formation sessions held in 2023 culminated in the children celebrating Reconciliation in the first form for the first time during November.

Baptism Preparation is being offered to those families choosing to celebrate the Baptism of their child in our parish. This gives us the opportunity, as a community to take up our roles in supporting parents and godparents in bringing up their children in the Catholic faith.

CHRISTMAS



"God never gives someone a gift they are not capable of receiving. If He gives us the gift of Christmas, it is because we all have the ability to understand and receive it."
Pope Francis

Christmas is a time of joy and inspiration, celebrating the birth of Jesus, a symbol of love and hope. As we exchange gifts and enjoy festivities, let's remember the true spirit, Christ's message of kindness, compassion and selflessness. During our celebrations, why not extend a helping hand to those in need, for that generosity transforms those moments into opportunities for shared warmth and solidarity, fostering a sense of unity that transcends the joy of the season.

Let this Christmas strengthen our faith and values and guide us towards a purposeful life. May the coming year inspire us to see the beauty in every moment, find joy in the smallest gestures and embrace all situations with optimism.



Dear God, this Christmas we come before You with hearts full of gratitude. Thank You for the gift of Your love, symbolised by the birth of Jesus Christ. In the midst of festivities, help us remember the true essence of Christmas - love, compassion and the joy of giving. Bless our homes with warmth, our gatherings with laughter and our hearts with the spirit of kindness. Thank You for the hope and joy that Christmas brings. Amen.

Sourced from www.majellan.media



Seniors Social Group

Another year has gone and how fast they go the older we get. Our Seniors group has continued with regular weekly meetings on Wednesday afternoons.

Our group averages about 10 people each week and we are involved in conversation, a card games and scrabble .

Our group started 50 years ago as the Over40's and we have now become Seniors and it is becoming more difficult for some of our Seniors to get to meetings. Transport and mobility as well as health issues have meant a drop in numbers. We would welcome any new members who may be interested in connecting with a like minded group.

The end of the year came to a sad ending with the passing of our good friend Graeme Cooper. Graeme was a very special member and was always up for a laugh. Vale Graeme. We will miss him.

We hope the break over Christmas and January will give us all time to recover. Our group now takes a break until February

**We wish all our friends
a blessed and happy Christmas.**

Lorraine Thalbourne
Coordinator

DEVELOPMENT FUND



The Development Fund is a weekly "lotto" which helps to raise money to purchase items for the parish.

A number in the draw costs just \$1 per week and a winner is drawn every week.

New members are always welcome!

If you would like to join the Development Fund and be in the draw each week to win \$40, please contact Barbara Mathews on 8258 8806.

The following are the Development Fund winners for the last two weeks of December 2023.

Congratulations to:

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| 24 th December | No 32, Gwen Barry
Drawn by Sindi Kinloch |
| 31st December | No 87, Barbara Mathews
Drawn by Sindi Kinloch |

Wishing you a happy and a holy Christmas.

Barbara Mathews

MODBURY COMMUNITY & CRAFT GROUP



This year the Craft Group celebrated their 25th Birthday. It is a great group and many long lasting friendships have been made. The group averages between 40 and 50 people each week. We now have quite a few men coming each week. Most are in the Ukulele group but we also have a couple of dedicated artists.

We celebrated our 25th Birthday as well as The Biggest Morning Tea at the same time. Over the years we have raised thousands of dollars for the Cancer Council.

Our Trading Table supports Sister Sally Duigan at the Holy Family Care Centre in Limpopo, South Africa. They are very appreciative of our donations. They always seem to arrive when they are in a desperate situation.

A big thank you to all those who work so hard to make it a very friendly and welcoming group.

If you are looking for something to do on a Friday morning why not come along even just for coffee and a chat. You would be very welcome.

Catherine Kerslake
Parish Representative



Friendship Bowls

The Friendship Bowls Group wish all parishioners and their families
a Happy and Healthy Christmas and New Year!

We will be commencing bowls again on 5th February and new members are always welcome!

Enquiries to Judy Dalwood: 8264 3342 or
Kath Hampton: 8265 3484



Our Talented Musicians

As a parish we are blessed to enjoy the services of our many talented musicians. Their talents add a richness to our liturgies and, over the years have brought joy to our parish celebrations. Since 2020 we have missed whole of parish activities like the annual Craft Fair and Carols Night, but in February, we were indeed blessed to have all of our musicians represented in performances at the farewell for Fr Manu and throughout the year they have continued to enrich our Sunday and Feast Day Liturgies.

MERRY
CHRISTMAS



Mission Choir Christmas Message

Year 2023 sees the **Mission Choir** complete six successful years!

Mission Choir has gracefully transformed its musical journey from playing backtracks to the delight of live music and offering several new hymns making our shared spiritual experience even richer. These young musicians go beyond making melodies, encouraging all children and youth to join in the joy of making music and celebrating faith.

The young choir members show their dedication and passion to the music ministry by fitting in practices amid their busy lives, whether it be coming straight from work or even after a basketball game. Their ability to make time for church activities displays their devotion to God and making our shared spiritual experience even richer.

Members influence isn't limited to the choir, it extends other ministries including altar service, reading, commentating, and actively participating in the Parish youth group creating a sense of togetherness.

The Mission Choir isn't just about music, the members make a commitment to serving the community as a whole. As testament of this, members of the mission choir have been awarded the 'Young Parishioner of Inspiration' awards for the last three consecutive years. Members of the Mission Choir wish all parishioners a blessed, joyful and peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Here's to six years of beautiful melodies and the promise of many more to come!



Crossroads

Crossroads music Group would like to wish everyone a Happy and Holy Christmas and New Year, and a safe 2024. Thanks for your support during 2023 Love and Best Wishes from Carmel, Michael and Patrick

Youth Group

"As we approach the end of 2023, we are filled with joy and gratitude, reflecting on our youth group's incredible journey over the past 5 months.

Our journey started in August with our very first meeting, that set the tone for an amazing year of fellowship and spiritual growth.

In October, we celebrated friendship and community spirit with a memorable bonfire party. The laughter and strengthened connections around the fire made it an unforgettable evening.

on December 16th. We extended a warm invitation to all parishioners to join us in an Advent Retreat as part of our preparations for the joyous Christmas celebrations to come.

Looking ahead to 2024, our first meeting is on January 20th. A warm invitation is extended to all parishioners interested in joining our youth group. Starting next year, our youth group meetings will be held every third Saturday of the month at 5:30 PM at the Holy Trinity Church Hall.

In the spirit of the season, we wish each one of you a Merry Christmas filled with love, peace, and joy. May the light of Christ guide us into a new year filled with hope and blessings."



We thank God for a year filled with Prayer, Fun and Activities



PARISH FINANCE COUNCIL REPORT CHRISTMAS 2023

It has been a busy year for the Parish Finance Council. We gained our new priest, Fr Kym, at the beginning of the year which required us to upgrade the bathroom to something more modern. This entailed removing the existing bath and shower which was located over the bath and installing a new shower and screen to make access easier and safer. Other modifications were made to open up access to the lounge and kitchen and new kitchen tap plumbing was also installed during the renovations. A lot of the other renovations, including painting and removal of the old oil heater which no longer worked were done by Fr Kym, and were also undertaken and paid for by some of his parishioners from a former Parish.

The sale of the land at St John XXIII was completed in August for \$1.1 million. After costs were deducted, the Parish received \$891,000. In accordance with the approval from the Archbishop, this money is to be set aside for much needed maintenance major projects for the Parish. These include resurfacing the lower carpark at St John XXIII, cleaning out the stones and debris which have been blocking up the storm water pipes caused by the degraded car park surface, removing and replacing the existing asbestos floor tiles within the church building and repairing/replacing the pelmet windows and seals which was identified when the ceiling and roof repairs were completed a number of years ago. The repairs to the pelmet windows is currently underway by some dedicated parishioners.

As part of the land sale, the Parish is committed to sharing the cost of a fence along the border with the new subdivided property. This may also involve some storm water drainage to ensure that any stormwater from our property does not flow into the new subdivision which is likely to be housing. We are yet to hear from the new owner and the Diocesan Property Office who managed the sale of the land on our behalf advised that this is likely to be in the new year. I feel 2024 is going to be an interesting year for the Parish.

Wishing everyone a blessed Christmas and a happy and safe New Year.

John Jarrad
Chair Parish Finance Council



ST. JOHN XXIII CHURCH CLEANING

For well over a decade now I have been responsible for rostering a small but very dedicated and reliable team of volunteers who vacuum the Church, Meeting Room and Chapel on a fortnightly basis.

Most have been doing this for over a decade too - not to mention the other volunteering they do in so many ways for our Parish.

I thank you for your loyalty and giving of your time to do this important work. May you be rewarded with many blessings this Christmas Season and throughout 2024. Thank you.

MARGARET EMERY



SATURDAY TREASURE MARKET CHRISTMAS MESSAGE 2023

The Saturday Treasure Market has had a reasonably good year although we missed 3 markets due to Easter falling on the second weekend this year and July and August rained out.

Up to November we have raised \$3500.

Thanks to all our regular dedicated volunteers who come along early in the morning to set up, sort during the morning and pack up at the end of the day.

While the aim is to raise money for the Parish, we have a number of regular customers who come along and enjoy searching through the items and clothes for a bargain or something they would like and also catching up with others socially. We also have our regular sellers who come along each month regardless of the weather.

Thanks also to those parishioners and others who donate the goods we sell which is what keeps the Market going.

I would like to wish everyone a happy and safe Christmas and a wonderful new year.

Kathryn Hudson





Message From Fr Kym

It is nearly twelve months since I was appointed to this parish, and you may recall that at the time church office, on inspection of the presbytery, deemed that the bathroom was not fit for purpose, therefore some serious renovations were required. In addition to that the priest's bedroom was very dark, small and claustrophobic. The kitchen had not been touched since the house was built, and the last time the walls saw a lick of paint was at least twenty years prior, while the carpets had moth holes the size of dinner plates. Personally, I found the building to be both depressing and uninviting, and still recovering from a heart attack I thought where on earth do I start?

While church office attended to the renovations of the bathroom it was with some hesitation that I reclaimed the meeting room in the house, I then asked for a new wall to be built, these plus a few incidentals though costly were the only expenses incurred by the parish.

The construction of a new wall created a new hallway, a more appropriate photocopying space, a better storage area, and most importantly a bigger brighter bedroom.

In the meantime, some friends of mine could see that I was worried about the amount of work ahead, they knew of my physical limitations, also my sense of unease about asking the parish for money. With that in mind they said don't worry Kym, we'll help you.

So, while we were waiting for decisions on the bathroom, we started our backyard blitz, removing old vines, removing rusted rainwater tanks, and disused oil tanks, and repositioning the clothesline. By projects end even though we repurposed much of what was there, we still carted away three, three cubic metre bins full of rubbish. The end result was a new lawn with watering system and pop-up sprinklers plus a raised vegie garden. My friends approached Stratco, and they gave us \$500 plus 25% worth of plants, all other costs were born by my friends, there is for example sixty square metres of lawn, you can do the sums.

Eventually we moved inside, I gave my friend cart blanche with the kitchen, here she partly removed a wall, patched holes, sanded down cupboards, added overhead cupboards, fitted a range hood, fitted new locks and cupboard handles, added a layer of tiles and finally painted before fitting a wooded blind over the kitchen window (clever little vegemite) again all at their cost.

Meanwhile I started pulling up old carpets, patching and painting the walls and woodwork fortunately for me Therese Meyers came along and offered her talents, so I allowed the Michael Angelo in her to come to the fore, here she painted every ceiling in the house, thank you Therese.

With the painting completed it was then time to put down the new flooring, so the professionals moved in laying ninety-five square meters of floating floors, again my friends who have no connection to the parish put their hands in their pockets.

About this time some interested parishioners saw the progress that had been made and offered to purchase new curtains for the front room, once these were hung and a few other finishing touches were completed I finally moved in on the 14th of June 2023.

So, I'd like to sincerely thank my two friends and their son, Therese Meyers, Michael Carter, Shaun from Stratco and various anonymous generous parishioners for their support shown to me in different ways, also the support given to me by John Jarrad and church office for without their help we could not have accomplished such an amazing result.

A couple of interested parishioners saw the changes that had been made then suggested that I should go on Nines Backyard Blitz, to which I replied I'd rather go on Father wants a wife.

Fr. Kym



Prayer Warrior

We invite you to our daily zoom Rosary

Zoom ID: 513 801 0979

Password: 4027

Monday to Friday

We start sharp at 7:30 am
please join 5 minutes in advance

Contact: Angela Zakarias

0401 205 636 or

amtzakarias@gmail.com



PARISH BULLETIN

The next parish bulletin will be published on
28th January 2024

Messages for publication in that bulletin must be
received at the Parish Office
by 2.00pm Tuesday 23rd January

If you would like to receive the bulletin via email
please contact us at
bulletin@paramodcath.com.au

Second Collection Amounts for November

Planned Giving Envelope	\$4579.20
Planned Giving Online	\$4426.00
Unpledged (Loose)	\$2575.05

Liturgy Committee Report to Parish, 2023

Christmas feels like the end of the year, with New Year just around the corner. For the Liturgy Committee, the liturgical new year arrived with Advent and started another busy year of planning and involvement in parish activities.

The Liturgy Committee comprises seven parishioners, who are all active in ministries and bring those experiences to the discussions. This year, Fr Kym joined us for meetings. Led by the Chair, Therese Meyers, Committee members discuss many aspects of parish life and liturgy.

Here's a glimpse of some of our activities during 2023.

- Choosing a theme and preparing images for the annual Memorial Mass.
- Writing Universal Prayers focusing on the environment, in response to Laudato Si'.
- Arranging for many people to read Universal Prayers in their first language on Migrant and Refugee Sunday. Our decision to not provide English translations gave many people a brief experience of being unable to understand what was said – a situation some others experience frequently.
- Assisting with preparations such as music selections for each Sunday's Mass.
- Conducting formation for Eucharistic Ministers.
- Preparing invitations to Masses on significant occasions, such as Father's Days.

This year, during Advent the liturgy has included a focus on the Advent Wreath, following the Jesse Tree in 2021 and O Antiphons in 2022. Next year, the cycle will begin again.

In preparing meaningful liturgies, the Committee is supported by parish office staff, musicians and others. Liturgy Committee members value our opportunity to contribute towards parish life. While meeting, we pray together, share and learn from each other.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 7 February 2024. New members would be warmly welcomed.

Members of the Liturgy Committee wish everyone in the Para Hills Modbury Catholic Parish community a joyful and blessed Christmas, and a happy New Year.

Historical Context – The Nativity scene

St Francis of Assisi is credited with setting up the first nativity scene and thus establishing a tradition that is carried on today in homes, churches and public spaces in Christian communities everywhere. In 1223, in the town of Greccio he created a life size tableau of the nativity scene to heighten the awareness of the celebration of the birth of Christ. It included statues of the holy family and a live ox and donkey.

The inclusion of the livestock has no scriptural support and it is to Francis that we owe the array of sheep, oxen and donkeys that have become standard inclusions in our nativity scenes.

© Creative Ministry Resources Pty Ltd



Legion of Mary



On the 1st Sunday in January the Legion of Mary will lead the Rosary after the 10am Mass for peace in the world.

Our Lady of Fatima tells us to pray the Rosary every day if we want peace in the world.

Please join with us and support us as we pray through her to Jesus our Saviour.

We will continue on every 1st Sunday of the Year.



REACH OUT 2023



The first and third Tuesdays of each month in 2023 saw Reach Out gather to share companionship and friendship over 'a cuppa' after the 9.15 a.m. Mass at St. John XXIII.

A few outings continued this theme when we went to the Lutheran Homes Coffee Shop on a couple of occasions for morning tea Luncheons at various Hotels, including one for our Birthday in August - a bit of fun with a Melbourne Cup brunch and the usual Sweep.

We also had a few Reflections throughout the year which proved very meaningful and inspiring.

We ended our year on the 5th December with a Christmas Morning Tea where the 'Reach Out Choir' amazed themselves when singing 'mostly in tune'!!!! We thank those who joined us on any occasion throughout the year - your presence meant a lot.

At our final gathering we sang this GRACE BEFORE MEALS - to the tune of Edelweiss. We hope this may be used at your Christmas gathering.

BLESS OUR FAMILY, BLESS OUR FOOD,
COME O LORD AND SIT WITH US.
MAY OUR TALK GLOW WITH PEACE,
COME WITH YOUR LOVE TO SURROUND US.
FRIENDSHIP AND LOVE MAY THEY BLOOM
AND GROW - BLOOM AND GROW FOREVER.
BLESS OUR FAMILY, BLESS OUR FOOD,
BLESS OUR FRIENDS TOO FOREVER.

Have a Blessed Christmas and look forward to seeing you all again in early 2024.

**Maureen Kenny
President**

Parish Pastoral Council 2023

The calendar year began with the departure of Fr Manu as our Parish Priest and the welcome of Fr Kym Spurling into that role. The parish hosted an entertaining and joyous celebration of Fr Manu's ministry over the previous ten Christmases across nine years. It quickly became apparent that parts of the parish house were due for upgrading and refurbishing for the house to be comfortable and to meet health and safety requirements. The archdiocese oversaw the upgrades.

At the end of the first PPC meeting, Carolyn Ost indicated that she would be resigning from the PPC. Following appropriate protocols, Therese Meyers assumed the role of Chairperson of the PPC and Hans Woznitza accepted the role of Deputy Chairperson. The PPC welcomed two new members, one from the 8:00a.m. Eucharistic Community and one from the 10:00a.m. Eucharistic Community. Representation of the Parish Finance Committee on the Parish Pastoral Council changed. Then one of our new members signed as she changed parishes.

Our good relationships with Gleeson College and St Francis Xavier's Regional Catholic School continue, with our mutual representation on the various committees and with the activities that mark the life of the school and Church communities. The termly St Francis Xavier's Family Masses are a strong statement about Parish and Schools working together. The presence of Gleeson College at one of the Family Masses was also welcomed. We have welcomed the opportunity to share the highlights of life at the schools through our parish bulletin.

Our parish continued with the momentum from recent diocesan assemblies, paying attention to the feedback received from Catherine Smith and Rosanne Walston-Leo, who had participated in the 2022 assembly, to drive our mission for 2023. We commend Alesia Sala for the great work that she did to assist with the facilitation of the Regional Assembly, including being a co-Master of Ceremony on the day, and also greatly appreciate Catherine Kerslake for doing a presentation at one of the workshops. Norie Neri took up the invitation to participate in the regional assembly on behalf of the PPC. One of the initiatives was to have a 'family friendly' space at the back of our Mass centres, so that pre-school aged children could have somewhere inviting to go.

A fundraising policy was drafted and amended through the PPC and the honorarium for sacristans on occasions outside the Mass schedule was arranged.

For the third year in a row, the PPC launched the Parishioner of Inspiration 2023 Award. We thank those people who nominated other members of the parish who give so generously of their time in volunteering for the parish and becoming more deeply involved in the life of the Church to the point of being inspirational for others looking for ways of making Christ present in our world. On the Feast of Christ the King, Joseph Selvan and Ethan Neri were recognised as Parishioner of Inspiration and Youth Parishioner of Inspiration respectively and their service leadership is very much appreciated. Similarly, we thank and acknowledge all

of you who volunteer in one way or another; many of you do this in unseen ways and yet you make valuable contributions.



We were represented at the introduction to the Archdiocese of Adelaide's 'Drawn into the Joy of the Gospel: the Archdiocesan Vision for Formation' in the middle of October and then at the launch in November. Hopefully, you have picked up one of the Vision-Mission cards that have been available as you enter the churches. The PPC will be keeping this front and central as we move into 2024.

Following the time of waiting with expectant hearts, may the celebration of Christmas be joyfilled, peaceful and full of wondrous love for you and your family.
Para Hills Modbury Catholic Parish Pastoral Council



Congratulations to Joseph Selvan and Ethan Neri who were, this year, recognised as Parishioner of Inspiration and Youth Parishioner of Inspiration respectively. We thank them for their service and leadership within our parish community



TREASURE MARKET

**Second Saturday of each month
8am to 12noon**

Next: 13th January 2024

St John XXIII Centre

Sellers \$10—Buyers free!

**PLEASE SEND SMALLER GOODS OUR WAY,
THEY CAN BE LEFT ON THE SHELVES IN THE
MARKET WALKWAY.**

**OR IN THE BOX AT THE BACK OF ST JOHN XXIII
CHURCH, ALSO IN A BOX IN THE CRY ROOM
AT HOLY TRINITY CHURCH.**

**All monies raised from the Market
are donated to the Parish.**

**WE CAN NO LONGER ACCEPT LARGE ITEMS
SUCH AS TVs, MATTRESSES, SOFAS, LOUNGE
CHAIRS & WARDROBES AS WE ARE NOT ABLE
TO SELL THEM.**



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY
DECEMBER BABIES**

- 24th** Gail Martin
- 26th** Natalie Green, David Truman (Senior)
- 27th** Ashwin Benny
- 29th** Michael Marafioti, Jamie Watkinson
- 30th** Kelly Longshaw
- 31st** Manuel Cruz

JANUARY BABIES

- 1st** Christine Rogers, Susanne Orschulok, Andrew Finch
- 2nd** David Truman (Jr.), Rachel Kenny
- 4th** Julie Spencer
- 6th** Rebecca Lee, Mateusz Ball
- 7th** Denise Palmer,
- 8th** Joshua Bock
- 9th** Joy Knowles
- 12th** Lawrence Grima
- 13th** Benjamin Rogers, Jane McConnell, Nicholas Viceban
- 16th** Maureen Frost
- 17th** Theresa Norris
- 21st** Kevin Burke, Christine Andrew
- 22nd** Heather Hage
- 23rd** Jason Viceban
- 25th** Paul O'Reilly
- 27th** Declan Moore, Matthew Augustyn
Miriam Jackson, Cecilia Ager

Mark Your Diaries — 2024



- January**
- 23rd** Office Reopens
- 26th** Australia Day
- February**
- 14th** Ash Wednesday
- March**
- 28th** Holy Thursday
- 29th** Good Friday
- 31st** Easter Sunday
- April**
- 25th** ANZAC Day
- May**
- 26th** Feast of the Most Holy Trinity
- June**
- 23rd** Confirmation and First Holy Communion
- August**
- 15th** The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- October**
- 11th** Feast of St John XXIII
- November**
- 1st** All Saints
- 2nd** All Souls

SECURITY

**PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE
ANY VALUABLE ITEMS
VISIBLE IN YOUR CAR WHILE
ATTENDING MASS AT EITHER
MASS CENTRE.**

**Young Adult Summer Eco Camp
February 7-12 2024**

This four-day event is for students and any young adults (18-35) who have a concern for the care of Earth. Participants will engage with the local natural environment, hear inspiring speakers and have time to reflect and share. Through attentiveness to Earth and each other, it is envisaged that participants will feel empowered to act for the care of our planet with hope.

For more details see

<https://jisa.org.au/2024-young-adult-summer-eco-camp/>

**Confession and Prayer for Peace,
on Friday Night at St Laurence's**

Every Friday at 7pm there will be an hour of silent adoration of the Blessed Sacrament exposed at St Laurence's Church, North Adelaide. The intention is to ask for peace, especially in the Holy Land and Ukraine. St Laurence's Church is on the corner of Hill St and Buxton St, North Adelaide. Come when you can, even if only for a few minutes. Confession will be available from 7.30pm.

Our Parish is a Child Safe Organisation

We are a Child Safe Organisation which is committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children and young people. We believe that all God's children and young people have the right to be healthy and safe, and to have their voice heard, respected and valued; A Safe Environment for All.

To find out more about our child safe policies and procedures please contact the Parish Office or the Archdiocesan Child Protection Unit on 8210 8159.



THE SOUTHERN CROSS

The December edition of the Southern Cross is free and available from both Mass Centres or online at www.thesoutherncross.org.au

