



ANNUAL REPORTS 2018

Our Lady of the Pines
Annual General Meeting

16th June 2019 at
10.45am

Annual reports 2018

OUR LADY OF THE PINES PARISH DONVALE

2019 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**To be held on Sunday the 16th June 2019 at
10.45am in the Parish Centre**

***The Pastoral Council extends an invitation to all members
of our Parish community to attend and participate in this
important meeting.***

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Annual General Meeting

Minutes of the 2018 Annual General Meeting Agenda for the 2019 Annual General Meeting

PARISH PRIEST REPORT

It has been a great joy journeying with you as your priest over the last 5 years. Writing this report has enabled me to reflect on how fortunate I am to be part of this community. As it is mentioned in our parish website "Friendliness and enthusiastic participation in parish life are the hallmarks of Our Lady of the Pines parishioners". We come together to celebrate our faith and to connect ourselves with God and with one another and thereby grow deeper in our faith to reach out to the wider community with compassion.

Leadership Team

As always the Parish Council has been of great support to me during the year and I wish to thank all the members of the council, especially Peter Given the Chair of the PPC. The Finance Committee which is part of the PPC, under the guidance of Geoff Mullane, our Parish Accountant, looks after the matters pertaining to our parish finance field and I am grateful to them for their timely advice and action. I thank Garry McBride, our Maintenance Coordinator who takes a keen interest in looking after our never-ending maintenance issues.

Parish office

In September 2018, with the commencement of the schools refurbishment, the portable that was our Parish office was removed. The Parish office moved to the front office of the PEACE Centre. This has proved to be a good move as it is now more accessible to all. We have certainly seen more visitors to the parish office since then. No move goes without issues, and whilst we were fortunate to have had no issues with the internet, the phone system has however been down since then. Various issues with Telstra and other has resulted in the decision to transfer our phone system to an IP Phone. We hope to resolve this issue soon.

Parish Office

I would like to acknowledge the enormous efforts of our Parish secretary Liza and I thank her for her commitment, professionalism and all the extra hours she had dedicated for the smooth functioning of OLOP. I would especially like to acknowledge and thank Nan for her generous heart to help us in the Parish Office on Mondays from 9.00 am to 1.00pm.

Pastoral Worker

In April we welcomed Cheryl Tay as Pastoral worker for both parishes. She has been of great assistance to me since her arrival coordinating ministries between both parishes. She helped to set up our youth group at OLOP and Child safety Team. Having served for 10 months Cheryl decided to step down from her role. I would like to express my sincere thanks to her for all her contribution to OLOP.

Parish School

Faith formation and holistic education of our future generation is fundamental to the mission of the Church. It is of prime concern that our parish offers the best possible opportunities especially in our primary school for learning and preparing the young for secondary school and for life with an integrated formation of Catholic Christian faith. I would like to thank our school principal, Brenden Keeling, the leadership team and all the staff members for their ongoing commitment to provide the best quality education to our students and in supporting their wellbeing.

We also said to goodbye to a few long standing members of staff, who retired at the end of the year. Thank you to Juanita Monahan, Helen Johnson and to Joe Salamone who gave so much to the School and Parish. We wish them well in their well deserved retirement.

We continue to work together with the school and parents to build closer ties with the school and parish. Pastoral family visits before every sacramental celebration of the candidates helps me to know young families and encourage them to participate in an active parish life.

As you are all aware , the refurbishment of the school is taking place. The new school buildings are looking wonderful , there are still some internal work that needs to be done and once all the refurbishment works are completed , the school would like to organize a day to bless the newly refurbished building and to celebrate their 40th anniversary of OLOP primary school . This will be a wonderful opportunity for the parish families to visit the refurbished building and again this is seen as an opportunity for school parents to see the connection between school and parish.

Spiritual life

It is fair to say that our parish remains the primary experience of faith for many of us. The purpose of liturgy and worship is to connect real people to a real faith resulting in real change. We are blest to have an amazing group of people in our liturgy committee who takes such care in preparing meaningful liturgies for all our special occasions. I wish to thank every member of the liturgy committee for their time and commitment. They give of their time so generously and I am truly thankful.

We are also blest to have 2 vibrant groups who sing for us at the weekend's . Our Music and Choir group are absolutely wonderful and we thank them for their dedication to the music ministry and to our community.

The eucharist is the source and summit of Christian life. There are many generous parishioners behind the meaningful celebration of weekend and week day Eucharistic celebration. I thank them all , especially our sacristans for their dedication to this ministry. Your help is truly appreciated .

Sadly we also had to say farewell to Andy Sugeng, who went home to God in January. We miss his presence , his joy and laughter. But we most especially miss Andy. May he rest in peace.

We now have weekly Rosary after our Wednesday Morning Mass. This group started after our Pilgrimage to Medjugorje . This has been going strong and is still continuing. We have now started Rosary after Morning Mass on Sunday. We continue to prayer for and remember all our parishioners who are sick and elderly.

Our Baptism team continue to work hard to welcome new families into the parish through Baptism. Libby Coviello and her team continue to make visits to all families and make them feel welcomed and to feel part of our community. They are the face of the parish to these new families and they do such a great job. I would like to thank Libby and her team for their work and for making OLOP look so good.

We continue to provide after hours Catechist lessons to children who do not attend Catholic Primary schools in order to prepare them for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation. I would like to express my sincere thanks to Trish Gurney for her dedication to help our catechists candidates in their faith development and on their sacramental journey.

I also acknowledge the great efforts of our RCIA TEAM under the dedicated leadership of Mary Ann who welcomes faith seekers and encourages their faith development by their spiritual accompaniment. This team gives a lot of their time in helping all those who express a desire to become a Catholic through weekly evening meetings and liturgy during mass. Mary Ann especially does a lot of background work in order to provide our faith seekers with as much information as possible. My appreciation to Mary Ann and to her whole RCIA Team members.

Community life

We are so fortunate here at Our Lady of the Pines to have an ever energetic fundraising committee who not only raises much needed funds for our parish, but also provides by means of these activities, an occasion for parishioners to come together as a community. We thank them all very much for all the time and effort that they give us, especially to David Sowersby , the chair of the Fundraising Committee.

Our Ladies monthly lunch group continue to meet every last Friday of the month, providing an opportunity for our ladies to get together for camaraderie over a meal. Thank you to all of our various groups for giving the opportunity to so many people to come together for friendship. Thank you.

Youth and Children

It has always been a dream to start a youth group here at OLOP and this year proved to be the year that it happened. Through the tireless efforts and Teresina Yung, Rosanne Croker and Cheryl , this dream became reality. We have a Junior group between the ages of 6 and 10 looked after by Rosanne and Cheryl and a senior group between the ages of 13 and 22, looked after by Teresina and Andrea.

OLOP youth group provides opportunity to develop amazing friendships with their peers. It's a place where our young people can come to have some fun and enrich their faith as well. We continue to work on opportunities to engage more with our youth . A big thanks to all those parents who bring their children and volunteers and to our co-ordinators.

Children's liturgy continues to be a major part of the faith development of our children and we thank all of our children's liturgy teachers and Kathy for their commitment to this ministry. We also thank all the Altars Servers and to all the children who regularly take part in the children's Choir at Christmas. Thank you to Lizzy Kay and Andrea Quah for leading our children so ably.

Out Reach

Our Eucharistic ministers to the sick and elderly continue to provide communion and much needed support to a number of people. They also regularly visit a number of nursing homes, especially Bupa , The Heights and most recently Bap Car on Andersons Creek Road. Monthly masses at the Height continue. We thank all of our Eucharistic ministers for their efforts in making this possible.

Our Vinnie's conference are as active as usual, continuing to give "a hand up and not a hand out". Our Hamper Mass is still very much supported actively by parishioners and family groups. Our Grief support team also continue to prepare a reflective mass of remembrance every year. Thank you to all members of these team for all the wonderful work that you do.

Plenary council

Our Parish held five listening and dialogue sessions over a period of a few weeks, with the assistance of Survey Monkey. The results of the survey was collated in our Parish Submission which is available on our Website . A small group also participated in a joint parish statement with a number of other

parishes . I would like to thank Garry Nolan and the Parish Plenary team for all of their hard work on this submission.

Child Safety Policy

As a parish , we take the safety of our children seriously. We are in the process of implementing a Child Safety Policy with the assistance of the Professional Standards Unit of the Archdiocese of Melbourne. We are at present waiting for documents to be finalized.

Mass times

In October we undertook a survey on Mass times at both OLOP and SSPP. Following this survey , the decision was made to reinstate the Saturday Vigil Mass at an earlier time of 5.00pm and the Sunday 9.30am mass remained the same. This has now been operation since the beginning of December and we continue to monitor the mass numbers at the Vigil mass.

Supply Priest

I would also like to thank all our supply priests who have supported the parish over the past year. Many thanks to Fr. Arnold, Fr. Michael Morgan, Fr Eugene San, Fr Pat Jackson and Fr Martin Wallace and the Dominican Fathers for their assistance during Holy week and Easter and during my away services and preaching during the year.

Various Other Groups

Good stewardship of our property is important not only for us now but also for the generations to come. I would like to acknowledge those individuals who have contributed in a number of ways to our parish community this year through their time, talent and financial contributions. To all these people I would like to say a heartfelt thank you.

I hope that everyone has also had the opportunity to see how wonderful our Parish Website is looking. Trish Keley is now looking after our Website and is doing an amazing job with this. Thank you Trish for putting your time an effort into this.

To all those who I have not individually acknowledged, our Parish Library, Piety Stall, Late Bloomers Group, Craft Group, Family Groups , I thank you all for your commitment and dedication to our parish and for all the time that you give us. If I have missed anyone out, I truly apologize, it is not intentional. If any parishioner would like to consider joining any group within our Parish , I encourage you to get in contact with the co-ordinators or the Parish Office who can point you in the right direction. Giving and sharing of your talent is so worthwhile and enriching and I encourage you to think about joining one of these group.

Of course, there are concerns as we look to the future. We must continually adapt to the needs of our younger families, children and youth.

We will continue to encourage and engage with our school families in order to create a stronger tie with the parish and school.

With the onset of apartments being built in the area and more families moving in, we will endeavor to reach out to these families to offer them a new spiritual home. We also continue to reach out to those who are disenchanted with the catholic church.

Thank you all for your support and encouragement once again. I look forward to continue walking with you in faith over the next year.

God Bless.

Fr Jerald.

Parish Priest

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL (PPC)

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: 2017-2018

We remember those of our community of OLOP who in the last year have left this world for their eternal reward.

I want to commence with formal recognition of the work, time and contribution of the members of the various ministries across OLOP, and those who support the ministries. Some ministries are high profile, and some work away quietly in the background – each equally important to the fabric of our community. We are so fortunate to have members who, for the good of our community, dedicate themselves to OLOP. It is their efforts that have made us such a strong “Catholic” community.

I particularly wish to acknowledge the dedication and work ethic of our Priest, Fr. Jerald. Over the last 12 months he has had the responsibility of two parishes and school communities, an extremely demanding task. He has been there for us all, in particular for our Parish Pastoral Council. Finally, the parish could not function without the expertise and commitment of Liza in our Parish Office. Her support across the whole community is recognized and appreciated.

I have reviewed the minutes of the PPC over the last twelve months, and would highlight some issues, tasks/aims, milestones and achievements within OLOP in that period (in no particular order), not just by the PPC, but by many within our community through direct action or by contribution and input/feedback. This is not meant to be a list of all achievements/activities by all ministries, simply an overview of “business” within OLOP;

- Addressing Mass times – to be equitable between the 2 parishes
- The Plenary Council information sessions, collating feedback and preparation of the submission (special thanks to the Plenary Council team for this work)
- Filling of vacancies on the PPC (3 filled)
- Pastoral Worker – appointment and review
- Joint PPC & Finance Committee meetings with Saint Peter & Paul's (SP&P)
- Liturgy – Strong ministry developing meaningful and recognized liturgies, and as required, working collegiately with SP&P

- Child Safety Policy
- Parish Finance
- Focus on maintenance and O.H. & S.
- OLOP Primary School liaison (thanks to Principal Brendan Keeling)
- Forthcoming 40th Anniversary of OLOP Primary School
- Developing a Youth Ministry
- Mental Health Awareness training
- Future Direction planning (e.g. Finance, Adult Faith Formation & support of our Parish Priest)
- Managing the Parish House
- Hamper Mass tradition.

As we as a PPC and a community have learnt to adapt to change, OLOP continues to flourish within its own identity!

Whilst details will be in the Financial Report, OLOP is servicing loans as required. Thank you for your support through Stewardship and support of the Social Committee's work.

Within the next year, the focus of the PPC will be on the continued support of our Parish Priest. It is also our aim to ensure the PPC reflects a cross-section of our community. The PPC and Finance Committee will strive to ensure good governance and sound fiscal management.

Peter Given

Chairman – OLOP Parish Pastoral Council

OUR LADY OF THE PINES PARISH - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OUR LADY OF THE PINES PRIMARY SCHOOL
SCHOOL PRINCIPAL'S REPORT 2018

The 2018 school year was a highly successful one, at Our Lady of the Pines, with many programs implemented over the year aimed at continually building on our strong foundations. The year also presented many opportunities to put in place the vision of the school that was established in the new School Improvement Plan following our review in 2015. It is in this spirit that I present to you the 2018 Annual Report to the Community. In line with the Australian Government Accountability requirement, this report has been compiled in relation to the 2018 school year.

The Religious Education Program at Our Lady of the Pines is the cornerstone of the work we undertake with our staff, students, parents and parish community. Our school works very closely with our Parish Priest, Father Jerald Mariadas, to develop a strong faith-filled community that supports the school's vision and mission statements. The students regularly participate in liturgical celebrations and we have a strong social justice focus in our school. The staff have worked with Father Jerald in their understanding and preparation of liturgical celebrations.

The curriculum at Our Lady of the Pines engages the students in a love of learning and fosters their potential through a range of specialist, support and extension programs. Maths continued to be a very strong focus throughout the school in 2018. We were extremely pleased with the growth and development in this area, as reflected in our results. Science also continued to be a strong focus area, as it is taught both as a subject in the curriculum in every class, as well as a specialist subject. We continued to work closely with our 'Learning Technologies Consultant', who continued to develop our use of Google Apps for Education, coding and designing apps programs for Italian. We are able to provide an excellent and appropriate level of access to technology for all students. This year we have been able to further upgrade our technology area by purchasing new laptops throughout the school whereby we have a 1:1 program in our Year 5/6's, 90 laptops in our Year 3/4's and a class set between two classrooms in our Junior and Foundation years. We also have class sets of iPads in our Junior and Foundation levels.

Our Lady of the Pines has continued its great work in the area of Student Wellbeing, providing a safe, happy and supportive learning environment through our work with students on Peer Mediation, Circle Time and Restorative Practices as well as the further extension of our work in implementing the Positive Behaviour for Learning framework across the school.

In 2018 Our Lady of the Pines Catholic Primary School continued to build on the great work of previous years with our staff, students and school community. In 2018 we

continued to be very fortunate to have a school community and culture that was progressive and one that valued the whole person. Our volunteers and staff were excellent role models for our students. They provided living examples of the qualities that we seek to promote amongst all children – humility, generosity, compassion, service and gratitude. These qualities are the ones we will always need in any future society. In the words of Nelson Mandela, *'What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived. It is what difference we have made to the lives of others.'*

I would like to acknowledge and give thanks to all members of our school community for their enthusiasm, dedication and support of our wonderful school during the 2018 school year. I would like to say thanks to the following people who I cannot thank enough:

- Fr Jerald Cecil for his support and guidance of our school throughout the year.
- Our committed teachers, for the extra learning opportunities, care and effort they provide all of our students which goes far beyond what they are expected to do.
- Also to the staff who consolidated learning through camps and excursions, often when these occur outside of normal hours; Vanessa Campbell, Jane Jones, Cathy Moroney, Anna Chiera, Sue Ford, Juanita Monahan, Jacinta Mylonas, Jenny Rhoderick, Monica Poulton, Sarah Ciurleo, Clare Davis, Maria Teasdale, Mel Whittle, Giulia Costa, Denise Kolokotronis, Amalia De Fazio, Sally Jenkins, Steve Nugent, Sarah Pedersen, Matt Green, Julie Carrick, Anne Jenkins, Danielle Saulsman, Bree Walker, Danielle Cuthbertson, Michael Zerbi, Pauline King, Judy Paul, Kathy Stewart and Rochelle Buckley.
- The Executive Leadership Team for their continual leadership and support of student learning and upholding our Catholic ethos – Rochelle Buckley, Giulia Costa, Anne Jenkins, Judy Paul and Kathy Stewart.
- The Leadership Team for their continual leadership and support of student learning and upholding our Catholic ethos which includes our Executive Leadership team and – Clare Davis, Sue Ford, Mel Whittle and Danielle Saulsman.
- The Administration staff, Noreen Forsyth and Helen Johnson, for their dedication and support of the school.
- The Learning Support Officers, Trish Gurney, Fiona Murphy, Dom Rausa, Nadia Vovos, Megan Plowright and Noreen Forsyth for their support.
- Our Library Technician, Maryanne Walker, for her work in the library and also Nadia Vovos who has replaced Maryanne Walker.
- Our Physical Education specialist, Danielle Cuthbertson, and Bree Walker earlier in the year, for their organisation of our sporting carnivals and students representing our school at zone carnivals as well as interschool sports
- Anne Jenkins and Linda Barker for their dedication, support and guidance of our choir.
- Judy Paul for her support and guidance of the Green Thumbs group.
- Mel Whittle and helpers including Anna Chiera for their support and guidance of the Code Club.

- Kathy Stewart for her organisation of the Games group.
- Michael Zerbi and Juanita Monahan as well as all our staff in setting up and performances on Journey to Bethlehem.
- Michael Zerbi and all our staff in preparing performances at our recent Fair.
- Denise Kolokotronis for her work on the Art Show for the Fair, as well as our staff who assisted setting up the area.
- Clare Davis and staff involved in the preparation and guidance of the Sacramental programs and Masses.
- Catherine Fyfe and her very dedicated volunteers who prepared and implemented a highly successful and profitable Community Fair
- The Du Toit family who have helped out with sound and lighting during many performances.
- The Fabbris family who continually support and provide donations of smallgoods for school fundraising efforts.
- The Year Six graduation committee for the fantastic efforts in preparing the Year 6 graduation dinner and Year Book.
- The team of mothers who regularly organise our icy-pole and chips each Wednesday at lunchtime.
- Our loyal cleaning staff, Anesti and Xavier and Alex from Proviron, who keep our school neat and tidy.
- James Manche who is our accountant and continues to guide and monitor our finances throughout the year.
- Amanda Smith, from Catholic Education Melbourne, who is my Principal Consultant, as well as Marwin Austerberry, our Eastern Region Manager.
- Joe Salamone who continues to do lots of big and little jobs around the school when needed and his amazing work throughout the year around the whole school.
- Joe Salamone, Aneste Kotsakidis and Adrian Ferris for their huge efforts and support during our move at the end of third term in preparation for our building project. Also to our dedicated family volunteers who helped with the big move of our library to the meeting room at the end of the third term.
- Tser Lin Hetheron for her hard work and dedication as our Information Technology consultant.
- Vu Dinh who provides weekly support to our staff around IT maintenance and work with our administration system.
- Liza Jansz and the parish for their efforts throughout the 2018 year.
- Our Advisory Board, who has provided guidance as well as direction in many areas of the school: Matt Coviello, Fiona Bussutil, Ellen Pearson, Vanessa White, Nathan Condie, Sam Giandinoto and Rebecca Reginato.
- Vera Scala from PSW, who manages our uniform shop and assists our families throughout the year.
- ALL our dedicated parents who volunteer their time and help in our classrooms, library and around the school.

- The parents who take the time to write a note, make a phone call or come into the school to discuss a concern, provide their thoughts and give positive feedback to the school.
- The parents for the wonderful work they do with their children, they are a credit to you. Thank you parents for the partnership you have formed at our school.
- And finally, and most importantly, to our students for their continual love of learning, positive improvements as a whole in behaviour and willingness to become responsible members of society. They all contribute to make Our Lady of the Pines a rewarding experience.
- To all other helpers, who have supported our school, my most sincere thanks. The 2018 school year has been a very busy one full of challenges and I have been impressed with how our school community has embraced these challenges and worked for the common good of our students, particularly as we have had moves in Term Four during the start of our building project.

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Brendan Keeling,
Principal
Our Lady of the Pines School

AGM REPORT BY PASTORAL WORKER

I thank Fr Jerald for his guidance, Liza for her assistance, and parishioners for your warm welcome and support during my short time at the parish as pastoral worker.

During this time, I had the privilege to:

- work with our dedicated liturgy committee to set-up meaningful reconciliation liturgies for Advent 2018 and Lent 2019.
- Establish a child safety committee comprising Fr Jerald, myself, the Principal of Ss Peter and Paul's School, Kathy Stewart, staff member of Our Lady of the Pines School, Annawee Tan, parishioner of Ss Peter and Paul's Parish, and Tereza Rada, parishioner of Our Lady of the Pines Parish. The team worked on the Child Safety Policy and Code of Conduct documents that take reference from policy documents by Archdiocese of Melbourne. The Archdiocese is currently reviewing their documents due to recent legislation changes. Our parish policy documents will take on board the changes made by the Archdiocese and be released thereafter.
- Help establish the parish youth group along with Teresina Yung, Rosanne Croker, and Andrea Quah. There are 5 regular members in the senior group for those aged 13 to 25 years, and 8 regular members in the junior group for those aged 7 to 12 years.

Cheryl Tay
Pastoral Worker

LITURGY MINISTRY GROUP REPORT – 2018

The Liturgy Committee at OLOP is a team of dedicated people who assist Fr Jerald in his role of delivering meaningful Liturgy to our Parish Community. The team members are: Corrinne Ng, Fiona Buchan, Gabrielle Collins, Rita Latimour, Vince Taranto and Nan Perreau.

'Coming To The Light' was chosen for our Lenten Theme in 2018 and the Reconciliation Service was for the first time combined with SSPP.

For the Palm Sunday Mass the youth of our Parish took on many of the roles such as Welcoming and handing out Palm Crosses, Proclaiming the Word, collecting the offering and taking part in the Offertory Procession. It was a very well attended by our youth with a BBQ after Mass.

During the Holy Thursday Mass our visiting Celebrant Fr Arnold washed the feet of 12 children from our Parish Community. They represented children from around the world who are caught up in trafficking or conflict due to war or unrest. This was a very moving 'Feet Washing Ceremony' and a powerful symbol of humility.

The Stations of the Cross was again combined with Sts Peter & Paul's Parish on Good Friday morning, and the very powerful Passion Liturgy in the afternoon at OLOP. Both Liturgies were very meaningful, prayerful and also very well attended.

The Easter Vigil Mass was celebrated by Fr Jerald and we welcomed Ann Khoo and Mark Lim who had journeyed with us through the RCIA program into our parish Community. We thank Mary Ann Payne and the RCIA ministry for all the time and dedication they take in preparing our Candidates .

On Pentecost Sunday the Prayers of the Faithful were once again read in different languages representing the diverse nationalities within our Parish.

We acknowledged the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples with a special Mass on the 1st weekend in July which was the beginning of NAIDOC Week. This year the theme was 'Because of her, we can' which was a focus on Aboriginal Women. Natalie from our team delivered a very inspiring welcome at the beginning of Mass based on her visit to Broome a year earlier.

Our Parish Feast Day was celebrated on the 12th August and our focus was again on all the Ministries and Groups in our Parish. All 36 were displayed on our Parish Logo tree. Members of our congregation bought a plate to share for morning tea after Mass to celebrate our special day.

The Memorial Mass on the 11th November was prepared by the Grief Support Group and because it fell on Remembrance Day the ladies had made felt poppies which were handed out before Mass and special Prayer cards also made by the Group were distributed after Mass. This was a beautiful and uplifting Mass.

Throughout the year the School Grade and Sacramental Commitment Masses were well attended. The First Eucharist Masses were celebrated on the 19th, 25th and 26th August.

Natalie van der Sluys resigned in August after 8 years of very dedicated service to the Liturgy Team. Natalie was appointed to the team as the school liaison person during Peter Waldron's time as Principle of OLOP school and her willingness to take on any task was second to none. Thank you so much Natalie for all your hard work over the years.

Our newly appointed Parish Worker Cheryl Tay attended her first meeting with us early in the second half of the year and became a very valued member of the team. Unfortunately due to her commitments at Sts Peter and Paul's Parish has not been able to continue working for Our Lady of the Pines.

The 1st Sunday in Advent on the 3rd December was also the Hamper Mass which is an initiative of Family Groups. It is so good to see over 100 hampers donated to Centacare and VACRO by our very generous parishioners.

With Advent approaching it was decided to commission Geoff Symons to make a new Advent Wreath which was ready for the beginning of Advent. Pat Lazzari decorated it with greenery and ribbons. Many thanks to both Geoff and Pat for a job well done.

It was decided to have a combined Reconciliation Service with Sts. Peter and Paul's at OLOP using the theme "Holy Pause". As the theme suggested it was a time for prayerful reflection in a very busy time.

As part of the Christmas Vigil 13 of our school children re-enacted the Gospel. Thank you to Juanita Monahan for preparing the children who did very well considering the time constraints. Well done to all involved.

Thank you to Andrea Quah for preparing The Carollers to sing at the Reflection time during the Christmas Day Mass.

We are blessed each Christmas to have Clare Davis to decorate our Christmas Tree and Rose Tavenor for setting up our Crib, thank you so much ladies.

And last but not least a big thank you to Lizzy Kay who instructs the Altar Servers throughout the year, but particularly for special Liturgies such as Christmas and Easter.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our very dedicated Liturgy Team, along with everyone involved in the following associated groups:

Altar Servers	AV Team
Baptism Group	Children's Liturgy
Commentators	Environment
Eucharistic Ministers	Hospitality Teams
Music Ministry	Readers
RCIA Team	Sacristans
School RE Team	Welcoming Committee

Your time and dedication is very much appreciated.

Our meetings are held on the 1st Saturday of the month. Your thoughts and ideas about how we can enhance your liturgical experience should be directed to Fr Jerald or any members of the Liturgy Team.

Report prepared by Nan Perreau on behalf of the Liturgy Committee.

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT COMMITTEE GRIEF SUPPORT 2018 - 2019

The Grief Support Group continues its role of supporting bereaved families and those who need support due to ill health. We offer support and comfort to the recently bereaved and follow up with a first anniversary card in memory of the deceased loved one. We continue to maintain ongoing communication where possible subsequent to the passing of a loved one.

The Committee is composed of four members. This enables one of us to assist at funerals where possible, and share the task of supporting bereaved parishioners. Fr. Jerald attends our meetings when he is available, as he often has prior commitments due to his dual role of Parish priest to two parishes.

Our main celebratory role is the Remembrance Mass which is celebrated on the second Sunday of November each year. The Committee works in

conjunction with The Music Group and the Liturgy Committee to prepare the liturgy and music for a special mass commemorating loved ones who have passed away. We include our special prayers and remembrance of all those who have passed away during the year; some in violent and terrifying circumstances, others in the line of duty. The mass is a poignant reminder that those who have passed are remembered as part of the human family. Nan Perreau, the leader of the Liturgy Committee, and Andrew and Fiona Buchanan, the leaders of the Music Group have been regular attendees at our planning meetings and provide valuable input into the preparation for the Remembrance Mass, offering their ideas on the choice of hymns and prayers. On the advice of Fr. Jerald, the Committee initiated a "Table of Remembrance" at our Remembrance Mass. Parishioners are invited to bring a memento of a loved one, and place it on a table below the altar. This has been a successful addition to our celebratory mass.

The Committee has posted 17 condolence cards from the Parish to recently bereaved families over the past year. Eight first anniversary cards have been posted during the last year. We have visited six bereaved families to assess their ongoing well being. When we call on a bereaved spouse or family, it is our custom to present them with a decorative candle to light in honour of the bereaved. We have assisted at six funerals with serving refreshments at the end of mass. At times, assistance is also required in planning and preparing the Order of Service booklet. We have been in a position to offer assistance in planning the funeral celebration and assisting the bereaved families with a choice of caterers and musicians.

The Committee also ensures the Memorial Garden remains a place of remembrance for those who wish to install a memorial plaque in the garden. Thanks to the many parishioners who belong to the "Late Bloomers Club" the garden is well maintained. Our thanks go to the generous parishioners who weeded and prepared the garden before the Remembrance Mass in 2018.

Report written by Emmy Oakley on behalf of the Bereavement Group

CHILDREN'S LITURGY REPORT 2018

The Children's Liturgy Group has, as always, had a wonderfully enriching year. Every Sunday, during the School Term, the children come together to take part in the Children's Liturgy. They are divided into two age appropriate groups to hear the day's Gospel and Prayer, after which a short discussion is held. This is followed by an activity. A spokesperson is chosen from each group to report back to Father and the Congregation on what they have learnt, and this is always something that is thoroughly enjoyed by children and adults alike. The children's enthusiasm and joy shines through and lights up the Church in a very special way.

There is a dedicated team of teachers who willingly take on this task every week and we extend our deepest gratitude to them. We could not function without their support.

KATHY WISSELO,

CHILDRENS LITURGY COORDINATOR.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY DONVALE CONFERENCE

"A Hand Up; Not a Hand Out"

Another year has come and gone but the Donvale Conference of the St Vincent de Paul Society continues to flourish in our OLOP Parish. Under the Society's motto of "A Hand Up; Not a Hand Out", we continue to grow and advance charitable works for the poor and disadvantaged in Donvale, East Doncaster, Templestowe, parts of Park Orchards, Warrandyte and a certain area of South Melbourne. This equates to about 60 home visits per month.

A team of two members visit Ozanam House each month on a Saturday afternoon to assist with evening meal service for homeless men in North Melbourne.

We currently have 24 members, and always invite enquiries from people within the parish if they have any desire to join us in this valuable work. Everyone is welcome, old or young, currently working or retired, male or female!

The most important work SVDP members do is to make home visits to people who have called the SVDP Call Centre for assistance. Visits to people's homes are always made with respect, compassion and without judgement to listen, empathise, provide advocacy and offer material assistance (eg, food

vouchers, clothing, furniture or a contribution towards outstanding debts) to assist these people/families get back on their feet, again re-iterating our philosophy, "a hand up, not a hand out"

As part of an international Twinning program, we financially sponsor a very poor parish in the Philippines, three in India; one being in Fr Jerald's home diocese in Kerala.

With virtually no Government funding; Society funds are derived from public donations, sponsors, generous gifts and sales through Vinnie's stores.

Funds for the work of our Conference are derived from the donations in the Poor Box, positioned next to the kitchen door. Thanks to the wonderful generosity of our parish and community for all the financial support given over the past year.

St Vincent de Paul Society members aim to serve others with respect, humility and generosity; providing an excellent practical opportunity to act out the Gospel teachings. Our Conference is a family of friendly and likeminded people. New members of all ages are always most welcome, please reach out to myself or any member if you are interested in joining.

Meetings are held on the 1st Monday of each month at 8pm in the Meeting Place; (next to the chapel) finishing around 9:30pm. Normally a nibble and drink is had after the meeting. If you would like to offer a "hand up" to those in need, please contact myself on contact details below.

James Beckford

Donvale SVDP Conference President

Mob: 0438 224 013

beckfords@inet.net.au

RCIA

RCIA (RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS)

RCIA is one of many brilliant initiatives of Vatican II and the process by which people who are interested in learning more about the Catholic Church are supported by dedicated parishioners in their Faith journey. RCIA comprises the Precatechumenate, a preliminary exploration of the Catholic Faith, and the Catechumenate, a more intense period of preparation to receive the sacraments, when weekly Catechesis to explore the Liturgy of the Word is added. Fortnightly study and Faith sharing evenings are held throughout the RCIA process. Catechumens and Candidates are affirmed in their Faith commitment at the Rite of Election celebrated at Saint Patrick's Cathedral. This beautiful ceremony is the highlight of the Catechumenate. Penitential Rites which include Scrutinies, the presentation of the Creed and the Our Father also take place during the Catechumenate. Preparation Rites on Holy Saturday lead to a climax at the Easter Vigil and the joyful reception of the Sacraments. A time of continuing Faith development termed Mystagogy is offered until Pentecost.

The RCIA process is patterned after the conversion experience of the first Christians and recognises that we are all on a Faith journey and are enriched by sharing our Faith and giving witness to the Rites and liturgical ceremonies of our rich tradition. RCIA affords parishioners the joy of welcoming new members to our parish community and gives them opportunities to renew their own Faith commitment. 32 adults at OLOP have become full Sacramental members of the Catholic Church through RCIA from Easter, 2006 to the present. Our newest Catholics have celebrated Catholic marriages and brought almost 20 children to the waters of Baptism.

The RCIA team in 2018 consisted of Jean Rive, Rita Latimour, Shinta Sugeng, Xiao Yang, Mary Wynack, Cath Arena, Shireen Seah, Ron Choong (Mary Ann Payne is coordinator). Peter Rive assists with the RCIA photographic record. Team members regularly participate in RCIA state, regional and national conferences, formation days and personal study for enrichment. Our parish contributes to local and national RCIA leadership initiatives and networks with other parish RCIA groups. An annual RCIA reunion Mass for present and past team members and all Neophytes (newly Baptised) is celebrated each year. The reunion Mass helps our newest Catholics reflect on their Faith experience and reconnect with fellow pilgrims on their journey. The RCIA Liturgy of the Word Sunday Catechists include Steve Kay, Neal Murphy, Vince Taranto, Peter Johnstone, Emmy Oakley, Suzanne Conway, Judy Brophy, Trish Gurney, Nan Perreau, Tricia Keley, Rita Latimour, John Evans, Margaret Bentley, Margaret Hughes, Mary Wynack and Mary Ann Payne.

In January 2019, RCIA at OLOP lost a wonderful supporter and friend when God called Andy Sugeng home. For many years Andy, a talented photographer, captured special RCIA moments and created a video of memories as a gift for participants. In addition Andy produced a video which outlined the RCIA process. This video was subsequently posted on the Archdiocesan website where it remained for several years. We give thanks for Andy's generous gift to the RCIA Ministry at OLOP. May he rest in peace.

Adults who are not Baptised, those Baptised in other Christian traditions and Baptised Catholics who have not received the Sacraments of Holy Eucharist and/or Confirmation are encouraged to contact Father Jerald or Mary Ann Payne (9842 6474) to find out more about RCIA, the pathway to becoming a full Sacramental member of the Church.

Prepared by Mary Ann Payne

May, 2019

PARISH LIBRARY

The Parish Library houses an in-depth collection of books related to – Spirituality, theology, prayer, scripture and Church history. There is a special children's collection too, which focuses on Bible stories, books about the Saints, and prayer books. There is a comprehensive catalogue of the collection under Author, title and subject to aid in finding resources, and Parishioners are most welcome to browse and borrow from the collection on a Sunday morning when the Library is open. We are always open to suggestions of new titles to purchase and also welcome donations.

Many thanks to the volunteers who help out each weekend with both the Library and Piety Stall – Corrinne Ng, Zeny Healy, Teresina Yung and to our advisor Mary Ann Payne.

Barbara Johnson

PIETY STALL REPORT

The Piety Stall has a wonderful selection of religious gifts. We specialise in gifts to celebrate the sacraments of Baptism, First Communion and Confirmation. We also stock - Greeting cards, rosary beads, medals, Bibles, Catechisms, candles, statues, holy cards, items from the Mary Mackillop Centre and more. Our Christmas range is always popular and many thanks to the Parishioners who patronise our stall at this time of the year. We take orders all year round and aim to supply within one week. It is most pleasing to see the increase of business at the stall.

Barbara Johnson

BAPTISM REPORT FOR 2018

During 2018 a total of 12 babies and children were baptised at OLOP. To allow Fr Jerald time to say Masses at both OLOP and Ss Peter & Paul's, baptisms are now held at 12.45 pm on the fourth Sunday of the month.

As a gift from the parish, all newly baptised children are presented with a child's bible or prayer book to keep as a memento of their baptism.

On the 10th November 2018, we held a Blessing and Afternoon Tea where children who have been baptised during the year and their families were invited to come together to celebrate and meet other families in the parish. Our Lady of the Pines' School Principal, Mr Brendan Keeling, also joined the celebration strengthening the connection between parish and school.

Whilst visiting families to prepare them for baptism, our Baptism Team also promotes 'Family Groups'. This is a way for families with children of similar ages to meet others in the parish, for socialising and support, and keeps their connection with the parish alive.

A huge thank you to Irene Deady and Tereza Rada for giving up their time to be part of the Baptism Preparation Team by assisting with the home visits and helping out on the day of the baptism. Your help is truly appreciated.

Libby Coviello
Baptism Co-ordinator

OUR LADY OF THE PINES DONVALE FUNDRAISING AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2018

We are very happy to again report a successful year in 2018.

We held 4 functions during the year. They were: a Trivia Night, a Bee Gees tribute band night, a pleasant Sunday afternoon featuring Adam Cursio and his band and a Sports Night.

All these functions were well attended and all very enjoyable fundraisers.

As well as the social fundraising we also ran a Father's Day stall, a Christmas Raffle, a Grog Wheelbarrow Raffle which was drawn at the Fete, and a Car Raffle.

We can happily report a profit of \$26,492 for the year.

Firstly, we would like to thank all the members of the Community who supported our fundraising which gives the committee the encouragement to keep going.

Secondly, I would personally like to thank our hard-working, dedicated committee who work tirelessly throughout the year to make sure everything we try works. A lot of our committee members have served on this committee for many, many years and their services to our community have been nothing less than outstanding.

We look forward to 2019 and hope we can encourage the new members of our community to participate in the functions that we will be holding to help our great community go from strength to strength.

**David Sowersby,
Chariman
Social/Fundraising Committee**

OLOP LADIES LUNCH

The objective of this group is to reach out to parishioners in their senior years and to meet on a monthly basis for a social get-together lunch.

This is held on the last Friday of the month, usually at a local venue, beginning at 12.30pm. It is a chance to make new friends and to bring along any new comers to the parish. There are many holiday tales to be told as we have a travel loving group of ladies. Our Christmas lunch is the highlight of the year, 2018 was again celebrated at the Warrandyte Hotel, which has become a favourite for this day over the years.

if anyone would like to join this group please give me a call.

**Sue Separovic,
Co-Ordinator
0418 542 871**

NETWORK MINISTRY

The Network Ministry works through the Holy Spirit to strengthen ties between the parish and -

1. other local Catholic communities;
 2. other local Christian communities; and
 3. other faith communities in our region,
- with the aim of nurturing God's love for all.

This is achieved through -

1. representing Our Lady of the Pines in the broader faith communities in which we live;
2. participating in activities that support the Gospel message, particularly the call to love thy neighbour and peace on earth to all; and
3. bringing back to the Our Lady of the Pines information and ideals that may be of interest or value to the OLOP Community.

The Network Ministry is made up of four key elements -

YARRA DEANERY

The Yarra Deanery is our link with our neighbouring Catholic parishes.

The parishes in our Deanery are:

St Clement's, Bulleen

St Gregory's, Doncaster

Sts Peter & Paul's, Doncaster East

Our Lady of the Pines, Donvale

St Pius X, Heidelberg West

St John's, Heidelberg

The Catholic Parish of Ivanhoe, comprising –

Mary Immaculate, Ivanhoe

Mother of God, Ivanhoe East

St Bernadette's, Ivanhoe West

St Kevin's, Lower Templestowe.

The Yarra Deanery seeks to bring parishes together in cooperative activities, sharing resources and avoiding duplication.

For those parishioners of Our Lady of the Pines who go away for a weekend, the closest Sunday night Mass in the Deanery is at St Gregory's, 71 Williamsons

Road, Doncaster at 5.00 pm. Members of the OLOP community are most welcome to attend.

Fr Jerald and Garry Nolan are our representatives on the Yarra Deanery Leadership Team. We are in need of another representative of OLOP on the Yarra Deanery and would welcome any enquiries from members of the OLOP community. Please call Garry Nolan on 0408 074 782 or email garrynolan7@gmail.com for more details.

MANNINGHAM INTER-CHURCH COUNCIL and MANNINGHAM CHURCHES WORKING TOGETHER

The next element of the Network Ministry is the Manningham Inter-Church Council and Manningham Churches Working Together which are our links with 25 other Christian churches and communities in our geographic region.

The Inter-Church Council is involved in a wide range of activities, including the distribution of Bibles at Australian Citizenship Ceremonies; a Christmas Carol Service; and gatherings with excellent speakers.

"The divisions which exist among Christians are a scandal to the World" - Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI. Pope Francis has continued this theme saying: "While we are moving towards full communion among Christians, we can already develop many forms of cooperation to aid the spread of the Gospel. By walking and working together, we realise that we are already united in the name of the Lord."

We do not currently have a representative of OLOP on the Manningham Inter-Church Council and Manningham Churches Working Together. We would welcome any enquiries from members of the OLOP community in this regard. Please call Garry Nolan on 0408 074 782 or email garrynolan7@gmail.com for more details.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

The third element of the Network Ministry is the World Day of Prayer which is a global ecumenical movement which brings Christians of many traditions together to observe a common day of prayer each year on the first Friday in March. Through preparation and participation in the worship service, we can come to know how our sisters of other countries, languages and cultures understand the Biblical passages in their context. We can hear their concerns and needs and can feel ourselves in solidarity with them as we pray with and for them. In this way, it is possible to enrich our Christian faith as it grows deeper and broader in an international, ecumenical expression.

In 2018, the World Day of Prayer was held on Friday 2 March. The service was prepared by the women of Suriname and the theme was All God's Creation is Very Good! Suriname is a small country on the north eastern coast of South America.

In 2019, the World Day of Prayer was held on Friday 1 March. The service was prepared by the women of Slovenia and the theme was Come – Everything is Ready!

In 2020, the World Day of Prayer will be held on Friday 6 March. The service is being prepared by the women of the Zimbabwe and the theme will be Rise! Take your Mat and Walk.

Nan Perreau is our representatives for the World Day of Prayer.

MANNINGHAM INTERFAITH NETWORK

The fourth element of the Network Ministry is the Manningham Interfaith Network which is our link with people of other faiths and cultures. The Interfaith Network brings together people from the Baha'i, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Islamic, Jewish and Sikh faith traditions in our local community to promote respect, harmony and the understanding of each other's beliefs, and to live together in peace and goodwill.

The Interfaith Network conducts a wide range of activities, including the annual Manningham Harmony Day celebration; a range of open days at various faith centres; participation in a range of Manningham City Council events; and a Youth Soccer round-robin competition based around the theme of 'Respect'.

The Interfaith Network supports a strong social justice agenda. Many of the refugees and asylum seekers coming to Australia at the present time are not Christians, but they desperately need our prayers and support. Pope Francis' unflinching support for people fleeing persecution was evident with his first official papal visit taking him to Lampedusa, Italy's equivalent of Christmas Island. The Pope characterised himself as a voice for the voiceless. In his message at Lampedusa, he demonstrates how we have fallen into the hypocrisy of the priest and the Levite in the parable of the Good Samaritan, saying:

"We have become used to the suffering of others: it doesn't affect me; it doesn't concern me; it's none of my business! ...Their condition cannot leave us indifferent."

For Catholics around the world, this event served as a direction changer in understanding how our faith promotes a duty to care for those who suffer, including people seeking asylum.

Our Lady of the Pines follows the direction of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI who called for an "authentic dialogue" between Christians and Muslims.

"There will be no peace among the nations without peace among the religions and no peace among the religions without dialogue." -- Hans Kung

OLOP has provided two Presidents of the Manningham Interfaith Network. We are now in need of another representative of OLOP on the Manningham Interfaith Network and would welcome any enquiries from members of the OLOP community in this regard. Please call Garry Nolan on 0408 074 782 or email garrynolan7@gmail.com for more details.

PLENARY COUNCIL

A major activity for the Network Ministry during 2018 and 2019 has been in relation to the Plenary Council.

We live in a significant moment in the history of our church in Australia, and around the world. Our Church has been through very difficult times in recent years. A number of bishops and archbishops have acknowledged that there has been a failure in leadership in our church, and propose to hold a Plenary Council in 2020 – 2021 to develop the future direction for our church in Australia. A Plenary Council is effectively a meeting of bishops that has the authority to make changes and enact church law, within certain limitations. This special moment in history comes about because the bishops of Australia have invited all of us to contribute to the planning and to help set the agenda for the Plenary Council.

Our Lady of the Pines held five Listening and Dialogue Sessions and developed an online survey by the use of the tool - Survey Monkey. The results of these meetings and the survey were collated into Our Lady of the Pines' Submission to the Plenary Council. A copy of the OLOP Submission can be seen on the OLOP website.

OLOP also participated in a Joint Statement by a number of parish communities in Melbourne which set out what was seen as the Key Themes on which the agenda for the Plenary Council could/should be based.

If you would like to know more about the Network Ministry at Our Lady of the Pines or join one of the above ministries, please contact –

Garry Nolan

Network Ministry Coordinator

Phone: 0408 074 782

Email: garrynolan7@gmail.com

FAMILY GROUPS

OLOP Family Groups are part of the larger Passionist Family Group movement in Australia.

Family Groups continue to function well within the OLOP community, with 12 F.G.s. Each family group tries, in its own way, to realise the basic ideals of Christian living to be, "A Family for All".

Passionist Family Group movement is an important part of many Parishes throughout Melbourne and beyond. Trish and Roger Gurney, Leaders of one of our Family Groups, have accepted the important role of joining the PFGM Southern Region formerly known as the State Team. Trish and Roger provide support for the following Parishes:

- Our Lady of the Pines, Donvale
- Sacred Heart, Diamond Creek
- St. Francis of Assisi, Mill Park
- St. Francis Xavier's, Montmorency
- St. Kevin's, Templestowe
- St. Mary's, Greensborough
- St. Luke's, Lalor
- St. Peter and Paul, Doncaster East

The Hamper Mass continues to be a major focus of F.G.s, and thanks to the efforts of our project co-ordinators and the support of the wider OLOP community (parish & school), again many families in desperate need enjoyed some pleasure at Christmas.

Thank you to Fr. Jerald and Principal Brendan Keeling for their continued support in allowing this important ministry be publicised and function.

There is a place for you in Family Groups. "Family Groups is inclusive, not exclusive (married, single, divorced, children, no children, sole parent, catholic, non-Catholic - it does not matter). It is not "religiously" focused or demanding - by simply living by our community principles we are living by our Christian values."

Have a look at the Family Group Movement web page at.....
<http://www.pfgm.org>
There is "family" fellowship and support for you in Family Groups.

Peter & Kathy GIVEN
John & Judy BROPHY

MAINTENANCE AND OH&S ACTIVITIES

During the period the following items were addressed,

- Chapel Air Conditioner was replaced.
- Chapel internal walls and ceiling painted
- New Mat installed at the front of Chapel door.
- Worship Area and Meeting Room sprayed for Spider Prevention
- Stored items in the Storeroom no longer required disposed of.
- Shelving in Storeroom repaired, and items arranged in orderly fashion.
- New Safe installed in Sacristy.
- Dead Gum tree at rear of Worship Area cut down
- New External Light Fittings installed on Driveway poles
- Car Park lines repainted.
- Broken external lamps replaced.

Special thanks and appreciation to Geoff Symonds, Keith Delzoppo, Pat Goodwin and Arthur Williams.

Garry McBride

THE GARDENING CLUB – “THE LATE BLOOMERS”

We have been meeting over the last 8 years.

Approx 6-8 members meet on a regular basis to provide maintenance and care for the Rose Garden at the front of the Church.

Also we tend to the Memorial Garden along the side of the Church, tidying-up the area around the plaques, dedicated to past parishioners.

We regularly prune and feed the roses. We weed the gardens, put in new plants where necessary and water the garden over summer months.

We endeavour to make the church and its surrounds a peaceful area - a place of tranquility and colour for parishioners.

Also, we aim to provide a welcoming and colourful space for visitors to the parish.

We encourage new members to help with the upkeep, as “many hands make light work.”

By Joan McDonald on behalf of the Late Bloomers

CRAFT GROUP "CRAFTY LADIES"

The “Crafty Ladies” is a group for Ladies of the Parish to meet on a regular basis / to get together to share craft ideas and friendship. We have met monthly over the past 12 years.

We meet on the third Friday of the Month, in family homes on a roster basis.

Most people work on their own projects - yet we do assist with Parish festivities, when required.

Eg: Craft for the Parish fete and

Stalls for the Parish Fund Raising.

We help to make its items requested by the Parish for special events eg - Woven crosses for Palm Sunday.

We are always ready to welcome new members and to share ideas

By Joan McDonald on behalf of the Crafty Ladies

YOUTH GROUP

The senior youth group commenced on Saturday 4 August and the junior group commenced on 1 September 2018 with 5 senior members aged between 13 and 22 and 8 junior members aged between 6 and 10. Due to the ongoing sports commitments for most of the members on Saturday, the youth group gathering changed to 1st Sunday of each month after the 9:30am mass during school terms.

The senior group was led by Teresina Yung and Andrea Quah, while the junior group was led by Cheryl Tay and Rosanne Croker. The groups meet once a month separately with different activities but had several combined gatherings to allow the social circle to expand across all ages.

A balloon rosary with the combined efforts of both junior and senior group members was made during the October gathering and was enjoyed by all present. The senior group gatherings involved group games, board games, casual and spiritual talks and sports. The junior group activities involved ball games, paper planes making, various group games and the recent basketball games played with the senior members. Recently, both groups also commenced praying the rosary in the chapel prior to the activities.

There have been a number of youth masses in the last year when the youth group members have actively participated. We are planning to set up a youth choir soon and would invite all youth members and non-members in our parish to join in playing the instruments or singing.

We welcome Leroy Godinho on board to co-lead the junior group to replace Cheryl who sadly no longer works for OLOP. Currently, we have 5 senior and 11 junior members and we are hoping to expand the youth group in the coming years with the assistance of the Archdiocesan Office for Youth.

Teresina Yung



AGENDA

Our Lady of the Pines Annual General Meeting Sunday 16th June 2019 at 10.30am

- 1. Welcome**
- 2. Apologies**
- 3. Minutes of 2019 Annual General Meeting**
- 4. Business Arising from Minutes**
- 5. Annual Reports - Parish Priest
Chairperson of the Parish Servers
School Principal
Financial Reports**
- 6. Business Arising from Annual Reports**
- 7. General Business**
- 8. Close**



Our Lady of the Pines Annual General Meeting

Minutes of Annual General Meeting

Time: 10.30am
Date: 15th April 2018
Place: Our Lady of the Pines, Parish Centre
Chair: Peter Given
Minute taker: Liza Jansz

Agenda item 1: Welcome

1.1 Welcome

Peter Given welcomed everyone to the meeting .

Agenda item 2: Attendees and Apologies

1.1 Attendees

Present at the meeting were: Fr Jerald, Peter Given, Geoff Mullane, David Sowersby, John Evans, Fiona Buchan, Andrew Buchan, Marie Christensen, Keith and Marlene Delzoppo, Bob and Jenny O'Hallaroran, Helen and Frank Swan, Alex Alexander, Kevin and Judith Lawlor, Sue Separovic, Frank Croker, Barbara Johnson, Mary Ann Payne, Tony and Helen Tome, Peer and Helen Hannay, Joan McDonald, Jan and Ted McAluliffe, Jean Rive, Gabrielle Collins, Nan Perreau, Rita Latimour, Margaret Bentley, Peter and Laurien Johnstone, Garry and Cheryl McBride, Bruce and Kathy Stewart, Liza Jansz and Cheryl Tay

1.2 Apologies

Apologies were received from: Rod McDonald, Margaret Hughes, Brendan Keeling, Trish Keley, John and Suzanne Conway.

1.3 Meeting open

Peter Given officially opened the 2018 AGM. Peter Welcome Cheryl Tay to the community as our new Pastoral Worker. Cheryl introduced herself and is looking forward to working with everyone.

Agenda item 3: Minutes of previous meeting

Confirmation of minutes

Proposed resolution: That the minutes of the general meeting held on Sunday the 2nd of April 2017 at 10.50am be accepted.

Moved by: David Sowersby

Seconded by: Frank Swan

Decision: Minutes of 2017 AGM were approved.

Agenda item 4: Business Arising from Minutes

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes

Agenda item 5: Annual Reports:

5.1 : Parish Priest

Fr Jerald presented his report. He thanked everyone for all their support during the year, especially to Peter Given and Geoff Mullane. He also thanked the Parish Fundraising Committee especially to David Sowersby for all their hard work in bringing in much needed funds to the community. He also thanked Garry McBride for looking after the maintenance of our Church and Nan and the Liturgy committee for all their hard work as well. But a special thanks to all those who do so much in the back ground, who go unnoticed. We do appreciate all that you do. Fr Jerald highlighted a few points from his report, namely the Stewardship program from 2017 and thanked everyone for their participation in this program and for their patience during this period. Fr Jerald also highlighted the Plenary council which is being planned for 2020. He gave some background to the Council and the importance for all of us to have our say and encouraged all of us to do so.

5.2 : Chairperson of the Parish Council

Peter thanked Fr Jerald, the Parish Council Members and the Parish Finance Committee for their support during the last year. Peter briefly touched on his report. We are still working closely with Ss Peter and Paul's Church. Peter pointed out how blessed as a community we are to have so many who help out in so many ways to ensure that our community flourishes. He thanks all those who do so much, especially the Liturgy Committee and the Fundraising

Committee. He thanked the maintenance committee for keeping our church in a good condition and for addressing the OH&S issues. Peter also thanked Manningham Council for the \$1,500 grant towards the defibrillator which sits in the foyer. He also thanked Brendan Keeling for his keenness to get the school to work more closely with the church. With the last of our parish loans due to be paid up by the end of the year, the next major cost for the parish will be recarpeting the church. This will be considered and all options looked at over the year.

5.3 : School Principals Report

In Brendan's absence , Peter encouraged everyone to read Brendan's report in the AGM Booklet.

5.4: Financial Reports

Geoff Mullane advised in the last 12 months, we have not done to badly. Our income in up slightly and our expenses are down slightly. The income from the rental of the Presbytery will now help towards our share of the cost for the Pastoral Workers salary . Our Last remaining loan will be repaid by the end of 2018. Most of our expenses are in line and some have in fact been reduced.

Agenda item 6: Business Arising From Annual Reports

Peter invited all those present to table any questions that they might have.

Q: Tony Tome's question relates to the carpets- He asked if we could take out a loan to have the carpets replaced.

A: Peter advised that some of the quotes received were around the \$50,000 mark. We therefore need to look at all the options available.

Q: Janet Goodwin asked if we could just repair the parts of the carpets that need repairing.

A: Peter will check on this after all the options have been explored.

Q: David Sowersby's question related to the reinstatement of the 6.00pm masses. He would like to have the Saturday Masses reinstated. We have a bigger school at Our Lady of the Pines (OLOP) and we have twice as much chances to grow. He feels that Ss Peter and Paul's (SSPP) has more masses and that we at are mere offshoot. There is an inequality in this.

- Marlene Delzoppo also feels the same on this . She also does not feel that the level of pastoral care is now the same, she certainly has not felt that she has received that much of pastoral care and has felt quite lonely. She is also worried about Fr Jerald , as he is looking a little tired.

- Frank Croker advised that the 1st Saturday mass attendance is about 35. He feels that the numbers are dropping as people need more consistency of the masses rather than just on the 1st Saturday.
- Peter Johnstone asked what will happen over the next 5-10 years?

A: Fr Jerald pointed out the difficulties in finding supply priest, but of course we will have to reconsider this issue. Regarding the future, there are no plans to combine the parishes. 5 new priests were recently ordained but they still need training. We might get one.

Q: John Evans question also related to the masses, he asked why we can't just have 2 masses at OLOP and 2 at SSPP . The mass times need to be sorted in order for this to work. We can then bring back the 6pm masses. This would be difficult to combine, but it is not correct that SSPP have all the mass slots.

A: Fr Jerald advised that he has spoken with the Vicar General . Allocation of time for Fr Jerald during the day is an issue. Fr. Jerald use to have time to visit with all First Communion and Confirmation families at OLOP , but does not now have the time to do so. There are a lot of funerals at SSPP. It takes at least 2 days for a funeral preparation, one day is taken up with meeting with the family and making arrangements, and the day of the funeral itself it taken up with the funeral and committal. The Vicar General has assured Fr Jerald of an assistant priest at some point.

Q: Frank Swan feels that with all the changes to our community, it has taken its toll on our community. He feels that we should have a joint meeting in order to ensure the long term viability of our community.

A: Peter Given will put this on the PPC agenda and will meet with David Ng, the PPC Chair of SSPP to discuss and will give feedback at a later date.

Q: Joan McDonald advised that the "Late Bloomers" were not acknowledge in the Parish AGM reports. She feels that they need to be acknowledge as this group do a lot for the maintenance of the parish grounds and have saved the parish a lot of money. Also the Craft Group does not get acknowledge, as they also serve as an outreach for lonely people .

A: Peter Given apologised for this oversight and thanked these groups publicly for all that they do. We will ensure that this gets rectified in the future.

Q: Jean Rive also indicated that the RCIA group is also not mentioned or thanked. We have a fantastic RCIA program at OLOP with one of the best videos on our website.

A: Peter Given apologised for this oversight. He thanked the RCIA group especially Mary Ann for all the time and effort that she and the team put in. We will get this rectified for the future.

Comments:

- Peter Johnstone referred to the Plenary Council – he is very happy to see this step being taken and reiterated the importance of participation from the Parish Community.
- Ted McAuliffe refers to the PPC. We need to welcome new PPC members and pointed out for anyone who might consider this that, the task is only a commitment of about 2 hours per every 6 weeks . So asked all those present to consider this.
- Marlene Delzoppo commented on what a great parish we have and thanked everyone for everything that they do. She would like to see more representations from Family Groups as we need to reach out to new families in the parish.
- A: Peter Given advised that we have about 10 new families from the school.

Agenda item 7: General Business

No General Business items were brought forward.

Agenda item 8: Meeting close

The meeting was declared closed at 11.45 pm.

Notes Page

Sharing

Lord, we come before you not alone,

But in the company of one another.

We share our happiness with each other,

and it becomes greater.

We share our grief and burdens with each other,

And their weight becomes possible to bear.

Soften our hearts to always give.

Humble our hearts to always receive.

For in giving and receiving we

learn to love and be loved.

And we learn something of the truth of your love.

