Brighton Catholic Parish

May 2025 | **Community Newsletter** | No. 56/2025

Centenary Blessings!
"As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abider in my love" — John15:9

Dear Sisters and Brother in Christ,

Greetings!

God is good all the time and all the time God is good. As we continue to celebrate our Parish Centenary, we remind ourselves of the wonderous blessings happening in our Parish, in our families and individually. I would like to take this moment to express my heartfelt gratitude to each of you for your faithful witness and engagement in celebrating years of living and sharing God's Love. Our Parish community is being renewed and celebrated because of you. Thank you.
I now highlight some of the blessings that our Lord has bestowed on us and in our Parish since then.

Centenary celebrations.
This was a truly joyous and blessed occasion. The Organising team, Musicians, Liturgical team, Mass servers, hospitality team, those who decorated the church and the hall, and all who took distinct roles for the day thank you.

Lenten and Easter celebrations.
In celebrating these events, Jerus offered us the same love the father has given Him, inviting us to 'abide' in it-to dwell, remain and rest in that love. Jesus, we Praise you for your blessings.

Clergy Appointments

In obedience to the needs of the diocese and in the spirit of missionary service, changes took place within our Parish clergy. We farewelled Fr. Prathap Katta**,** who served among us with dedication and humility, and now been assigned to another Parish. In the same breath our Parish welcomed Fr Joash Okeyo into the life of the Parish community. We look forward to the gifts he brings and assure him of our prayers and support as he begins his ministry among us.

Sacramental celebrations.

We celebrate with joy the children who received Confirmation and looking forward to their First Communion at the end of this Month. May the graces of these sacraments deepen their love for Christ and commitment to the Church. Special thanks to their parents, Nirmanthi (PA), Mr Michael Ellul (MSC) and Annette Denton (REC-CTK) and our parish team who accompanied them on this journey. We continue to Pray for these young People.

Moving forward, the Parish Council has began the process of updating our parish strategic plan for the future. Our centenary celebrations invites us to invest in all faces of evangelization so that the future of St. Joseph Parish will have a privilege like we did to celebrate bicentenary.
Let us pray for a renewed openness to the Holy Spirit, so we may truly abide in the love of Christ and reflect that same love to all those around us. In times of change, we are reminded of God's constant presence. As St. Paul assures us, "Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus." (Romans 8:39)
Shalom.

Fr. Michael Kyumu.

Parish Centenary Mass March 16, 2025
A highlight for the Parish of St Joseph this year is the commemoration of 100 years since the creation of the Parish in 1925 during the See of Archbishop Robert Spence OP 1915-34, the 3rd Archbishop of Adelaide.
Under the guidance of Archbishop Patrick O'Regan (2020-), the 9th Archbishop of Adelaide, as principal celebrant, numerous former priests of the Parish along with the current Parish Priest, Fr Michael Musyoka Kyumu concelebrated. A joyful Mass was celebrated by a very large number of Parishioners and former Parishioners. Giving thanks and praise to God for the life and vitality of the Parish, remembering all those who had gone before us.
At the completion of Mass, the Archbishop joined over more than 200 Parishioners in the Parish Activity Centre for a luncheon to celebrate this milestone and to share personal memories and stories "of the road". Mr. Peter Whelan, Parish Pastoral Council chairperson recited some Parish history including numerous milestone events and celebrations within the Parish over the past century.

Our Parish Vision

To be a people of God working together to build a caring, faith-filled community.

Special mention was given to the Religious Brothers and Sisters who contributed, both to education and the spirit of Parish life; The Sisters of Mercy (Wilcannia/Forbes congregation), the Good Samaritan Sisters and the Marist brothers. An additional highlight was the celebration of the current and former parishioners involved in lay service and engagement, both within the Parish and to the wider Archdiocese. Not only were their works celebrated during our Mass but also during our luncheon, with great joy and laughter. As the luncheon lingered into the afternoon, our sense of community, as well as our spirit of communion, was re-lived, and refreshed in our shared journey of Faith, along the road.

It would be remiss of me, not to mention the members of the centenary committee and their hidden assistants, who planned and prepared this event with enthusiasm and commitment. And I must also include our Parish workers, and their families , who were first to arrive and the last to leave on the day. Their contribution to the day and their ongoing engagement within the life of our Parish is beyond compare. We owe them, and God, a great debt of gratitude for their work and ongoing commitment to our Parish life. This vote of thanks also includes the many former Parish workers, including those who have gone before us.

May God continue to bless us all as we seek to bring Christ to the world around us.

David McCabe KCHS Chair,
Parish Centenary Committee

From the Parish Pastoral Council

Dear Parish Community

It is a privilege to introduce myself as the new Chairperson of the Parish Council. I have been a member of this parish for the past 25 years and my children attended both St Teresa's and Sacred Heart College. Our family has always felt a strong connection to this community.

Professionally, I have worked in Catholic education for over 20 years, and for the past eight years, I have been the Principal of St Patrick's Special School. I feel incredibly fortunate to take on this role, following the leadership of Peter Whelan. On behalf of the council and the wider parish, I extend our sincere thanks to him for his dedicated service as Chairperson.

I recently attended the 2025 Gatherings for Parish Priests and Parish Pastoral Councils (PPC). These gatherings, a key initiative of the Diocesan Pastoral Council, provide valuable opportunities to network, share information, and participate in formation for parish leaders. These sessions reaffirmed the importance of our local efforts in supporting the broader mission of the Church. A key topic was the Synod. The Synod on Synodality continues to be an important focus, and we will engage more deeply with its themes of communion, participation, and mission throughout the year. To support this, a new resource has been developed to help parishes explore the Synod Final Document, evaluate progress, and plan future actions. This will be a significant area of focus for our parish moving forward.

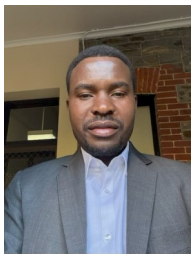
Locally, we are pleased to report that the long-awaited roof repairs will be undertaken. We have also made some changes at the front of the church to improve accessibility for parishioners who require this space to engage and be part of Mass celebration.

I would like to thank everyone who was involved in the preparation for our Centenary Mass which was such a wonderful parish celebration. It was lovely to see so many so many present and past parishioners in attendance.

As always, we warmly welcome your feedback and suggestions. Please continue to share your thoughts and ideas with the Parish Council—your input is vital in helping us grow and strengthen our parish life together.

Cathy Sires
Chairperson, Parish Council

Getting to Know Our New Assistant Parish Priest



I am Priest of the Congregation of the Passion (Passionists) about ten years, striving to live his religious and priestly commitments in service to God in his people through prayer and pastoral work. I am Kenyan and was born on 09/01/1985 to Mathias Okeyo and Patricia Atieno of Homa Bay county, Kenya. I am the third of the ten siblings.

I went through the elementary 8-4-4 education between 1991 and 2004. I joined the Passionist missionaries and started the formation journey in August 2005 for the aspirancy. The following year I enrolled for BA, Philosophy that took three years in Arusha Tanzania. Our Novitiate was one year at the end of which I made the profession of vows (09/07/2010). I then proceeded to *Tangaza* university for theological studies that lasted four years. I was ordained deacon on 11/12/2014, and a priest on 31/07/2015.

Just before my diaconate ordination I was sent for the formation ministry in charge of the aspirants and vocations' office, which I did for three years. I then went for training in religious formation. After the training I was sent to the Passionist theologicum in Nairobi as an administrator for three years. During this time I also got an opportunity to undertake a course on financial management. In 2021, I worked briefly (5 months) as an assistant parish priest in the archdiocese of Nairobi, and then a parish priest in Nakuru diocese for two years.

I came to Adelaide in July 2024 and was attached to the cathedral until December when I was asked to be a constant priest-supplier to the Lefevre parish (West Lakes, Semaphore and Taperoo). I reported to Brighton and Hallett Cove parishes on 24/04/2025. I am grateful to my superior and the archbishop of Adelaide for giving me this opportunity to work in the archdiocese and particularly in these two parishes as an assistant priest to Fr Michael Musyoka. I look forward to a good experience and uplifting pastoral ministry as we seek to build the Kingdom of God wherever we are, each according to her/his vocation and capacity. I am open and ready to learn the best practice in relevant areas, and to utilize the skills earned to realize a better result.

May the Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ be always in our hearts.

Ad Majorem Glorium Dei
Fr. Joash Oloo Okeyo CP

From our Pastoral Associate

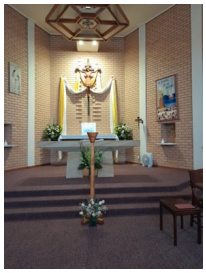
Give thanks in all circumstances;
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.
1 Thessalonians 5:18

As I pen a few words for the parish community newsletter, the words of St. Paul to the Corinthians resonate deeply within me, for indeed there is a lot to be thankful for, especially looking back at the last few months of parish life.

Parish Centenary

Without a doubt, the celebration that marked the beginning of the parish centenary was one of the best highlights, since our last newsletter. It was wonderful to have Archbishop Patrick presiding the Eucharistic celebration with many priests and deacons in the archdiocese in attendance. All those gathered shared in a beautiful meal after Mass in the activity centre that was full to the capacity. There was a deep sense of warmth and belonging among all present and the move of the Holy Spirit was a tangible experience throughout the whole event. My heartfelt thanks go to the centenary committee, parish staff and all the many parish volunteers who worked tirelessly over many months to make this event a great one.

The Easter Triduum



The Easter Triduum once again was a great success and highlight this year. A lot of preparation went into planning the liturgy and the commitment and support of the parish volunteers were extraordinary. Given the fact that Easter was during school holidays this year, we sadly did not gather at Sacred Heart College on Good Friday for the Stations of the Cross. Instead, there was a good number of people in attendance in the church for Stations of the Cross on Good Friday morning. The Easter Cross was decorated with flowers once again this year and the generous contribution of the parishioners helped cover the cost of fresh flowers which is greatly appreciated.

Anzac Day

The celebration of Anzac Day was small but a memorable one this year. We were mindful that this was within the Octave of Easter which took precedence but through the choice of music and the inclusion of the ode, minute's silence and the Australian anthem at the end of Mass, we honoured the Anzac Day. All gathered in the foyer for Anzac biscuits and a cuppa after Mass.

The Sacramental Programme

The children enrolled in the parish/school sacramental programme celebrated the sacrament of Confirmation in the month of May. Bishop Emeritus Greg O'Kelly presided the liturgy with Fr. Michael and Fr. Joash assisting. There were 27 candidates and over 150 family members, friends and parishioners in attendance on the night. It was such a special celebration that touched the hearts of the young and old alike and all gathered in the activity centre to enjoy some refreshments after the ceremony. Special thanks are due to the dedicated parish volunteers who helped feed the crowd, which was amazing. The children will celebrate the sacrament of First Holy Communion during parish Masses in the last weekend of June.

Celebrating Pentecost

During the feast of Pentecost this year, we invited the parishioners to come dressed in red, and during all weekend Masses, either the prayers of the faithful or the second reading were read in different languages. The children who attended the 10am Mass joined in the entrance procession carrying 7 balloons denoting the 7 gifts of the Holy Spirit. The church was decorated in red with a spectacular sacred space in the sanctuary to mark this very special day and this added extra joy to the atmosphere. There was a shared morning tea after the 10am Mass which was a huge success. Once again, the contribution of our very talented parish volunteers is worth a special mention as it is the gift of their time and talents that brought so much brightness to the day.

Altar Servers

The commitment of the small group of altar servers in our parish is outstanding and we are looking forward to recruiting new members as the current sacramental programme comes to a conclusion. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to David Gallagher who looks after the formation of the altar servers.

Ministers to the Sick

Among the many thriving ministries in our parish, the ministry to the sick and homebound takes a special place. We have over 20 volunteers who take communion to the sick on a weekly basis at present and it is however a decline in number that used to be around 30-40 volunteers in the previous years. At the moment we are trying to stretch our resources to reach out to the sick and elderly in about 7 nursing homes and some parishioners who are homebound too and finding it difficult to cater to all the current needs. Those who are involved in ministering to the sick always claim that the satisfaction and blessing they receive outweigh their efforts and commitment, which keeps them continue this service and we would like to appeal to the generosity of those who can spare a few hours a week to consider joining this ministry. Margie Gallagher, the coordinator to the ministers of the sick, who has committed herself for decades of service would love to hear from you if you are able to help, or you can always talk to me at the office if you would like to know a bit more about this rewarding ministry.

Despite all challenges at present and obstacles that may come our way, our faith is that the Lord will bless us and fill us with God's own peace which surpasses all understanding, so that we may tread along with joy in our hearts. Therefore, our hearts must always sing God's praises, for God is good and his plans for us are perfect.

May God bless you!
Nirmanthi Rupasinghe

Parish Admin update

We are now over halfway through our budget execution for the year, and a lot is happening behind the scenes.

In the first quarter, we successfully completed the audit of the 2024 reports and prepared the budget for 2025. A full report for 2024, along with the current budget, will be distributed alongside the Planned Giving Programme at the end of June this year.

Additionally, during the first quarter, we celebrated the 100th anniversary of the Parish! This is a significant milestone, and I want to extend my gratitude to everyone who participated and contributed to the organisation of this wonderful celebration.

In July, we will launch a new planned giving program. I want to express my gratitude to everyone who is already contributing to support the Parish and keep it functioning for this wonderful community. I also invite those who haven't joined yet to contact the Parish office to register. Thank you for your support!
In the second semester of the year, the Parish will begin repairs to the roof and the grounds on the Memorial Garden side. We appreciate your understanding during this time, and once the work is scheduled, we will keep you informed to minimise the impact on the Parish's daily activities.

Andrea Machicado
Parish Business Manager

PFC Report – June 2025

The Parish's focus has been on repairing the roof and the grounds around the Church. After an extensive process of investigations, reports, and approvals, the application has been submitted to the Archdiocese of Adelaide. This process has taken up a lot of time for both the Finance Council and the Parish Business Manager, Andrea Machicado. We have been using the services of architect John Bray to assist with the organisation, project management and assessment of the repairs – we have now finalised repair scopes of work and quotes for the repair works. Progress has been slow as a result of the building industry being exceptionally busy. Once the application is approved by the Archdiocese, the repair works will be scheduled with a budget of $140,000, including contingency allowances. The repairs are being funded by drawing down the parish investment account.

The repair works are in three parts, namely:

1. Drainage works to mitigate the rising damp on the east side of the church building
2. Clean, apply rust converter, apply metal rust inhibitor primer and apply two coats of an elastomeric acrylic membrane system
3. Install a lockable access ladder to access the church roof for maintenance and inspection work to save the cost of hiring mobile access platforms

It is hoped that the repairs can be carried out as soon as possible after the necessary approvals have been obtained.

Michael McCarthy
Parish Finance Council Chair

Parish Bereavement Group

Around Easter time this year a visitor from Texas, USA brought to my attention an initiative which has been initiated in her parish, St Laurence Parish, Sugar Land, Texas, to bring some solace to the grieving at funerals. It is a small knitted or crocheted patch which consists of a cross, prayer and small charm called a Pocket Prayer Shawl. I brought this information to a meeting of the parish Bereavement Group in May this year and we discussed as to how we could introduce this in our parish. As a start we are putting the instructions for both the knitted and crochet shawls in this newsletter to ascertain whether any of our parishioners are interested in this.
Both the patterns state that they use a cotton yarn, but any 8 ply yarn can be used. It is a good way of using up left over yarn which may be lying around. The finished products can be dropped off at the parish office where the prayers and charms will be added later.
Many thanks to Josephine Vranish, sister of parishioner Cami McGowan, who was visiting from Texas and has sent us these patterns.

Bev Liebelt
Parish Bereavement Group.

Ladie Guild Pocket Prayer Shawls

Recommended yarn: Hobby Lobby I Love This Cotton (Each skein will yield about 14 Pocket Prayers)
Size 3 or 3.5 knitting needles
Cast on 16
Knit across three rows
Row 4: K2, P12, K2
Row 5 Knit across row
Row 6: K2, P4, K4, P4, K2
Row 7 and each subsequent odd row: Knit across row
Row 8: K2, P4, K4, P4, K2
Row 9: Knit across row
Row 10 K2, P4, K4, P4, K2
Row 11: Knit across row
Row 12: K2, P4, K4, P4, K2
Row 13: Knit across row
Row 14: K2, P4, K4, P4, K2
Row 15: Knot across row
Row 16: K2, P4, K4, P4, K2
Row 17: Knit across row
Row 18: K2, P4, K4, P4, K2
Row 19: Knit across row
Row 20: K2, P1, K10, P1, K2
Row 21: Knit across row
Row 22: K2, P1, K10, P1, K2
Row 23: Knit across row
Row 24 K2, P1, K10, P1, K2
Row 25: Knit across row
Row 26: K2, P4, K4, P4, K2
Row 27: Knit across row
Row 28: K2, P4, K4, P4, K2
Row 29: Knit across row
Row 30: K2, P4, K4, P4, K2
Row 31: Knit across row
Row 32: K2, P12, K2
Row 33: Knit across row
Row 34: Knit across row
Row 35: Knit across row
Row 36: Bind off
Work in ends.
Steam to block piece.

Another Ladies Guild member will sew on prayer and charm.

COUPLES FOR CHRIST AUSTRALIA

On October 20, 2024, the South Unit of **Couples for Christ Australia – SA** celebrated a remarkable milestone with the dedication of five couples and one handmaid. This joyful event marked the conclusion of a 12-week **Christian Life Program (CLP)** held at Brighton Catholic Parish—a program that brought renewal, deepened faith, and strengthened the bonds of community within the Church.
The CLP is a spiritually enriching journey that introduces participants to the basics of Christian life, exploring God's love, the role of Jesus, the power of the Holy Spirit, and the importance of family and community in faith. It is designed for married couples, singles, and families alike, and has helped countless individuals grow in their relationship with Christ.

Each week of the program included one powerful talk, intimate small group discussions, and moments of personal reflection, all culminating in a deep and lasting spiritual impact. While the adults engaged in the core sessions, their children participated in a fun and faith-filled "mini-CLP," learning about Jesus in a way tailored to their age and understanding. Shared meals and fellowship followed each session, fostering not just learning, but lasting friendships and community.

This recent CLP was the first traditional 12-week program held in South Australia in several years. Its success was made possible through the unwavering dedication of the South Unit service team and the support of Fr. Michael Kyumu, parish priest of Brighton Catholic Parish. Despite the challenges involved in organizing such a program, the experience was a clear reminder that when we say "yes" to God's call, His grace provides all that we need.

Building on the momentum and grace of that success, **Couples for Christ Australia is now inviting you to be part of its next Christian Life Program**, this time hosted at **Glenelg Catholic Parish**.

Beginning on **August 3, 2025, at 11:30 AM**, the new CLP will take place at **St. Mary's Hall, Glenelg Catholic Parish**, located at **17 High Street, Glenelg SA 5045**. Just like the last program, it will run for 12 weeks and is **completely free** to attend.

Whether you are new to your faith, returning after time away, or simply seeking a deeper relationship with Jesus, the CLP is a beautiful way to encounter Christ, understand His teachings, and connect with others on a similar journey. It's open to **all—couples, singles, young adults, and families**—and no prior experience or commitment is required.

You'll experience inspiring talks, meaningful group sharing, uplifting worship, and genuine fellowship. Each session will not only feed your spirit but will help you see how God is calling you to live with greater love, joy, and purpose.

Come as you are. Let God do the rest.

Brighton Vinnie Knitting & Sewing Group

Throughout summer and autumn, our sewing and knitting group has as busy as ever creating winter items for those in need; transforming fabric and yarn into warmth and colourful comfort in the form of cosy scarves, beanies, baby rugs and winter clothing for children—including flannelette pyjamas, track tops, and skirts.

We have continued work together with Vinnies Head Office to support new mums by providing layettes containing nappies, singlets, jumpsuits, rugs, knitted garments etc. The support we receive from our parishioners for these layettes is *'just wonderful; thank you".*

We continue to receive incredible support from community members who knit, sew, and crochet at home, sending in their delightful handiwork to support our mission. Those contributions increase the warmth and joy we aim to spread across our communities, and we really appreciate the unseen skill and generosity - *"thank you".*

Now, as the cold takes hold, we are distributing our winter stock to ensure warmth reaches those who need it most when it is needed— e.g through Vinnies stores, the women's crisis centre, and Treasure Boxes. Every stitch we create carries the love and support of our Brighton community; it is intended to remind people they are not alone.

Though winter is just setting in, next month our focus will shift to sewing summer garments yet as keen knitters/crocheters we will continue making beanies, scarves and rugs in readiness for winter 2026.

In addition to our craft work, we have reorganised our workspace and, together with the ever-happy to assist office staff and the helpful, skilled Men's Shed team - we have made space for the St

Mary's ladies to use on Wednesdays. We applaud the hard work they have undertaken to make this move to Brighton and offer our warm welcome. Also, in May we took a craft-free morning and enjoyed the Library Group's Biggest Morning Tea aimed at fundraising efforts in the fight against cancer. "*Congratulations Library Ladies on surpassing your fundraising goal".*

We really appreciate the support and comfort that Brighton Parish provide for us; thank you – please know that we include you in our weekly prayers.

THE KNIGHTS OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS (SA) INC.

Brighton – Marion – Hallett Cove - Glenelg Branch

The Brighton/Marion/Hallett-Cove/Glenelg Branch of the Knights has had a busy first quarter and second quarter of the year with good attendance at all monthly meetings. They supported the parish with meaningful and fun filled experiences.

Walk for Life – Standing in Solidarity

On February 8, 2025, Gary Amott participated in the *Walk for Life*, joining more than 4,000 people who gathered to peacefully advocate for the sanctity of life. The event, held prior to a march to Parliament House, was a powerful display of unity across generations and denominations. Gary described the experience as "absolutely amazing" and was deeply moved by the sight of both young and old standing in solidarity with the Holy Innocents, tragically lost to abortion.

Congratulations on 60 Years of Service – Bill Keen Award Presentation

Warm congratulations to Bro Tony Schar, who was recently presented with the prestigious Bill Keen Award by Bro Paul Hawkes (State Chairman) in recognition of his outstanding service to the KSC Brighton Branch.

In a special moment on behalf of Bro Andy Tamassy (Branch Chairman), Bro Tony also had the honour of presenting Bro John Milnes with his KSC SA 60-Year Service Certificate.

Bro John began his journey with the Knights in Penola in 1964 and has remained a dedicated member ever since. He continues to enjoy reading *KnightLife* and reflecting on his many years of active involvement. Now retired, he is a valued member of the Brighton KSC Branch.

Blood Matters Presentation

Educational and social meetings were held in this parish by the Knights to offer enriching opportunities for fellowship and learning. Last 2nd of April 2025, Professor Brendon Kearney AO, a distinguished haematologist and Rostrevor old collegian, who spoke on the topic *"Blood Matters."* Prof Kearney shared insights from his extensive medical and leadership career, including his role in establishing physician-led responses to international crises and his research on acute leukaemia survival rates in South Australia. His data-driven presentation prompted thoughtful discussion from the 28 attendees. Bro Gary Amott offered a warm vote of thanks on behalf of the branch. Looking ahead, our June speaker will be Marist Br Bryan Leak FMS, who will share reflections on Catholic Schools.

Stations of the Cross – A Sacred Lenten Tradition

On Thursday, 10 April, eighteen members and their wives gathered at the Sacred Gardens of the Monastery for the annual Stations of the Cross. The liturgy was led by Fr Leon Czechowicz (State Chaplain), with assistance from Bro Gary Amott and Peter Kay. It was a deeply reflective procession, culminating in a poignant meditation on the 12th Station, where Fr Leon invited all present to contemplate Christ's sacrifice and the hope it offers. The gathering concluded with a wonderful morning tea at the monastery café.

Successful Bunnings BBQ Fundraiser

A big thank you to Bro Ian Fleetwood for coordinating a successful BBQ fundraiser at Bunnings Airport. The event was well supported by Bros Peter Kay, Paul Hawkes, Graham Workman, Declan Dunlevy, and Andy Tamassy, whose combined efforts helped raise approximately $1,200 in a single day.

Well done to all involved for their time, teamwork, and commitment to supporting the community.

Stations of the Cross at the Monastery Sacred Garden

The Stations of the Cross were once again prayerfully observed in the beautiful Sacred Gardens of the Monastery on Thursday, 10 April at 10:00 AM. Bro Gary Amott met with Fr Leon Czechowicz (State Chaplain) to prepare the liturgy, which was reverently led by Fr Leon, assisted by Bro Gary Amott and Bro Peter Kay.

Eighteen members and their wives took part in the reflective procession, journeying through Christ's Passion. A moment of deep reflection came at the 12th Station – Jesus dies on the cross, where Fr Leon invited all present to contemplate the profound sacrifice of Jesus and the enduring hope it brings.

The morning concluded with a warm gathering and delicious scones at the Monastery Café, adding fellowship to a spiritually enriching experience.

"Crazy Whist Night" - A Fun-Filled Night of Trivia and Games

Once again, the event was a great success, filled with laughter, lively competition, and clever puzzles. Bro Pat Hodgson deserves special thanks and recognition for the many hours he dedicated to preparing the evening's entertaining questions and challenges.

While card-playing skills weren't essential, participants enjoyed a night of fun, fellowship, and fantastic prizes. The event also raised $510, contributing to a wonderful evening for a great cause.

Vinnies

The Brighton Vinnies would like to thank the Parishioners for their generous support of the 2025 Vinnies Winter Appeal. As usual the Parish has been very enthusiastic in its response to the appeal for food and money. We are now able to continue on with our deliveries of food and assistance to the needy. Prior to this our stocks were quite diminished.

The photo here shows that our cupboards where we store food are full. All of this will be used in the near future. The money donated is used exclusively in our parish to restock food when our supplies are low but also to help in supplying furniture, refrigerators etc., to those who are placed in empty accommodation and have none of their own. Parishioners may not be aware that Vinnies are the only Charity in the state the takes food assistance directly to the needy in their homes. By doing this we can supply help quickly and react to other needs in good time in what are often quite desperate situations.

A Heartfelt Farewell to Fr. Prathap Katta

On Sunday, April 13, 2025, our parish community came together in a beautiful and heartfelt celebration to bid farewell to our beloved Assistant Parish Priest, Fr. Prathap Katta, as he begins his new assignment in Mount Gambier.

Following the 10:00 AM Mass, the parish hosted a Sending-Off Morning Tea, which was warmly supported by parishioners of all ages. The hall was filled with joy, gratitude, and a sense of deep appreciation for a priest who has left a lasting impact on our community. It was a simple gathering, true to Fr. Prathap's spirit, yet filled with heartfelt tributes, warm fellowship, and shared memories.

Fr. Prathap has been a true gift to our parish—a humble, holy, and simple man, known and loved for his gentle nature, sincere faith, and quiet but powerful witness to Christ. His dedication to the spiritual and pastoral care of our parishioners has been unwavering. Whether in his reverent celebration of the sacraments, his thoughtful and reflective homilies, or his kind presence in moments of both joy and sorrow, Fr. Prathap served with a heart rooted in prayer and love for the Church.

During the celebration, several parishioners offered words of thanks, sharing stories of how Fr. Prathap's presence had brought peace, guidance, and inspiration into their lives. The overwhelming turnout and warm atmosphere spoke volumes about the love and respect he has earned during his time with us.

As Fr. Prathap begins his ministry in Mount Gambier, he does so with our prayers, gratitude, and heartfelt best wishes. Though he will be greatly missed, his legacy of faith and quiet service will remain a treasured part of our parish history.

Laudato Si' Water Forum

The Laudato Si' Water Forum, hosted by the Brighton Catholic Parish Ecology Group on Tuesday, 13th May 2025, was a great success, drawing a good number of parishioners and community members to the St Joseph's Catholic Church Activity Centre.

The evening featured a lively and engaging Q&A discussion, where attendees explored a wide range of important environmental topics. A speaker brought valuable insights and perspectives, helping participants reflect on both the scientific and spiritual dimensions of caring for our common home, as inspired by Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si'*. Thought-provoking questions from the audience sparked meaningful conversations, highlighting the community's strong interest in ecological issues and practical solutions.

The event was well-received, with many attendees expressing appreciation for the opportunity to learn, ask questions, and engage in a respectful, solution-focused dialogue.

The Brighton Catholic Parish Ecology Group extends its sincere thanks to all who attended and contributed to the success of the forum. Events like this affirm the importance of coming together to deepen our understanding and commitment to environmental care in both faith and action.

Mercy Associates Group

Photo 1: Cynthia Griffin RSM with (LtoR) Anne Roberts, Emmy Smyk, Mary Mutlow RSM, Mandy Bosson, Marie Ralph RSM and Liz Storoschuk.
Photo 2: Jenny O'Brien thanking Cynthia for her beautiful and enlightening presentation.
Absent on the day: Catherine Seward RSM

Pictured above are the Mercy Associates of Adelaide.
Since 2022 Mandy Bosson, Jenny O'Brien and Emmy Smyk have been meeting monthly, at Brighton, initially joined by Sisters Mary Mutlow, Marietta Green and Catherine Seward. Sr Marietta can no longer attend meetings but Anne Roberts, Liz Storoschuk, Angie Tomlin, Margaret Senyszyn and Sr Marie Ralph have joined the group.
The aim of the Mercy Associates group is to live and share the loving kindness of God revealed in the life of Jesus, in Scripture and through the vision of Catherine McAuley, foundress of the Sisters of Mercy.
The group had been considering having guest speakers at some of its meetings and inviting other people to attend. The guest speaker who spontaneously accepted the first invitation was Cynthia Griffin RSM who was asked to speak on a topic other groups have enjoyed with her, "Praying with Icons". The event was publicised through the Parish and those who came thoroughly enjoyed the presentation and the opportunity to meet the Associates and hear about the purpose and function of the group.
We asked Cynthia to write about her presentation and she obliged with:

> "It was a great pleasure for me to join our Mercy Associates, together with a number of women who were attracted to this presentation called 'Praying with Icons". I had invited those attending to bring their own Icons with them and together with those of mine, we had a beautiful and colourful display for our sharing and reflection.
>
> With the aid of a Power Point featuring aspects of our Mercy visit to Russia in 2018 (thanks to Margaret Broadbent RSM), I began with a brief introduction of the Icons' history and their development and central importance in the faith and liturgy of the Eastern and Russian Orthodox traditions. The focus was on their writing, their theology in colour and their reading as a deep source of spirituality and prayer.
>
> There were many questions from this engaged group of women and they were pleased to have a helpful handout to encourage and support their future 'Praying with Icons'."

Those of us who brought our Icons to the session were delighted to learn so much more about them. Thanks to Cynthia, we feel a greater depth, a deeper inspiration to pray with our icons. In the photo showing the icons, the one of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour was painted for me by Margaret Broadbent. It enriches me daily.
The trip to Russia, that Cynthia referred to above, was organised by Margaret Broadbent RSM and Natalia Pecherskaya from St Petersberg. Through her friendship with Margaret over many years, her trips to Australia, and the trip to Russia of a group of our Sisters, Natalia became acquainted with many of our Australian Sisters of Mercy and expressed a longing to belong to a group of people who shared the charism of Mercy. Directed by Anne Pate, Coordinator of Mercy Associates in Victoria, Natalia participated in a formation program to become a Mercy Associate. There was just one other participant in the Zoom meetings which spanned a year - Mandy Bosson of Adelaide! The Circle of Mercy!

Sr Marie Ralph RSM

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GLORIOUS LIVES

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