Brighton Catholic Parish

Living Catholic

January 2024

Community Newsletter

No. 52/2024

PUT ON A NEW SOUL IN THIS NEW YEAR

Dear people of God, we are already well into the first month of the New Year – 2024. We commenced this New Year with grateful and joyful hearts and minds; praying to Our Lord God and wishing well to each other. We may be uncertain of what this New Year will bring and how it will unfold but with good will, great hope and trust in God, we will abide under his blessing. A beautiful life does not just happen but is rather built by daily Prayer, Humility, Sacrifice and Love.

"The object of a New Year is not that we should have a New Year. It is that we should have a new soul**"** says **G. K. Chesterton**. Yes, the New Year provides opportunities for us to cultivate a new soul by gracing us with new occasions and prospects to develop ourselves and serve others as willed by the Infant Saviour. The New Year also presents us with an opportunity for a fresh start, a new perspective and the rediscovery of ourselves within the life of Christ. We remember and give thanks for the past year's blessings, despite its challenges, adversities and uncertainties, that through God's grace we remained steadfast. We also thank God for the wonderful Christmas celebration, renewing our confidence that God sent His only begotten Son, Our Saviour, to bring new light and life to our world.

"Stimulate prayer with simplicity and in accordance with Christ's heart**"** says **Pope Francis**. In preparation for the 2025 Jubilee Year, Pope Francis has designated 2024 as the YEAR OF PRAYER with a particular emphasis on the 'OUR FATHER'. The Year of Prayer is not a year about prayer, but a year for prayer. The image of Christ in the manger speaks of a God who wants an intimate relationship with His creation. This presents our Church with a significant opportunity to revisit the basics of prayer and for us to become even more a people of prayer. Prayer is our intimate relationship with God through which we develop and grow in a close friendship with Him. He has always been resolute with the necessity for us to constantly grow in a love of prayer on our journey of faith. Pope Francis also asks us to consider how we might help others to pray; so that they too, can experience a personal encounter with the risen Jesus.

To answer this call to spend more time in prayer let us meditate on the Lord's Prayer and be revitalised in the spirit of prayer as were the first believers and followers of Christ Jesus. Pope Francis stressed that the Our Father prayer be set as the cornerstone of our prayer life. If we are not able to begin our prayer with these two words, then our prayer will go nowhere. We must always begin our prayers with **"Our Father"** and be mindful that we are his children; we have God as our eternal Father, a father who loves us, and a father who knows all our needs. These words also convey the sense of us being as brothers and sisters; part of one human family rather than as Cain hating his own brother. We are also reminded to forgive, to forget offenses against us, and avoid feelings of anger or a desire for revenge. It is important for each of us to examine our own conscience, reflecting on these words as we ourselves petition the Father for our own forgiveness. **St. Mother Teresa** of Calcutta says, **"**Praying the Our Father and living it will lead us toward saintliness for Our Father.**"**

We continue in prayer that the presence of the Lord will fill our lives and our homes; that his Love and Peace will be felt within our families and throughout the world. We pray for the grace to live our life reflecting His love; a reflection that changes the lives of those around us; one that gathers the lost souls, one to heal where love is broken. May God use us in new ways for the Kingdom of God and all for the Glory of the Lord…! Be Blessed Abundantly..!

Fr Prathap

Ash Wednesday 14th February

Masses:

7.30am at Sacred Heart College

12 noon & **6.30pm** at Brighton

12 noon at Hallett Cove

Our Parish Vision

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

From our Pastoral Associate

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. *James 1:17*

It is once again time to stand in awe of all the good things we have received and the good times we were blessed with as a parish throughout the past few months and as St. James writes, we can agree that they are indeed beautiful gifts from God. While words do not suffice to explain them all, I hope that each moment captured in photos would tell our story of gratitude.

A visit to Mary McKillop centre, Kensington

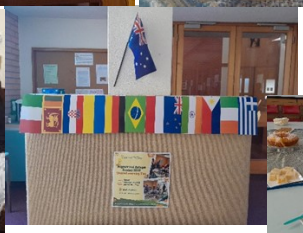
A small group of parishioners from St. Joseph's and St. Martin De Porres' visited the Mary MacKillop centre and this was a novel experience for all of us. It was a beautiful time of sharing, learning and forming new friendships.

Presentation of Candidates for Reconciliation

We had 21 children being presented as candidates for Reconciliation and celebrated the sacrament of reconciliation for the first time in October 2023.

Migrant and Refugee Sunday

We celebrated Migrant and Refugee Sunday and acknowledged the rich diversity we share in the parish. We heard the prayers of the faithful read in many different languages, and joined in singing 'We are one' at the end of the Mass. We enjoyed a variety of delicious food from different cultural backgrounds after Mass.



Mass for the Unborn

We celebrated a special Mass in remembrance of the unborn and joined in a shared cuppa after Mass. This Mass was well attended and provided much needed comfort for many.

Memorial Mass for the Dead

In the month of November a Mass was offered in the columbarium in memory of all the departed parishioners and it was a beautiful time of prayer that was followed by a shared meal. The members of the Bereavement Team worked hard as always to make this day extra special for the bereaved families and their work is one of great value in the parish.

Liturgy Group Gathering
This is a group of parishioners who gather on a regular basis to plan various activities in the parish, and this catch up was a small way to appreciate their wonderful ministry.

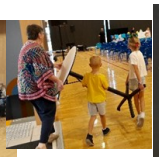
Ministers of the Sick and Bereavement Team- Thanksgiving Mass and gathering
Once again it was time to give thanks to the Lord for the ministry of the sick and bereavement group and a special Mass was offered for this cause. It was also a time of appreciation for the pastoral care provided by our beautiful group of parishioners to the sick and vulnerable as we gathered to share a meal together.

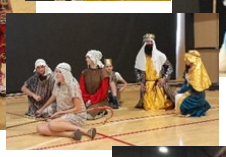
Volunteer Mass and gathering
It is with such gratitude and pleasure we organised a special Mass and a gathering for all the many volunteers who brighten our parish. Many were able to be present on the day and it was a success. A wholehearted thank you goes to each and every one of our volunteers who give their time and effort so generously to build our parish. Our parish is such a vibrant place because of your commitment and support, and we pray for God's abundant blessings on all your lives!

Christmas 2023
Christmas is a time of rejoicing, and a group of parishioners took it upon themselves to add a little extra festive atmosphere to the church. Without a doubt, their efforts added in an extra layer of Christmas cheer.

Christmas Carols event once again was a highlight in 2023. Our talented musicians and singers were able to keep the audience entertained for two hours and the guest singers from Tutti brought in another level of entertainment. The organising committee worked hard to make this day extra special with the addition of a Christmas raffle which was very popular and overall, the event was a great success.

The Christmas Vigil Mass at Sacred Heart College was another highlight of the year 2023 and the live music and nativity play attracted a lot of positive comments. A lot of hard work and planning went into making this day a success and once again this would have not been possible without the commitment of our wonderful volunteers





PPC and PFC Dinner

The Parish Pastoral Council and Parish Finace Council members gatherd to share a meal together to celebrate another successful parish year and there was a lot of laughter, cheerful chatter and tasty food.

Special visitor celebrating Mass on the 2nd Sunday of Ordinary time

We had Bishop Michael Odiwa celebrating the Saturday Vigil Mass for us and it was a such a special privilege.

Looking back, it was indeed a year full of action and we are looking forwards to another year filled with abundant blessings and rich community spirit.

As always, it is the mighty Hand of God that carried us through thick and thin and with a grateful heart, I entrust the coming days and months to God's powerful care trusting that God never fails us.

May God bless us all!

Nirmanthi Rupasinghe

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BRIGHTON BEREAVEMENT GROUP

As the Bereavement group in Brighton we would encourage you to consider a plan for your funeral Mass.

Many families find this is a stressful experience during their grieving at the loss of someone they love.

A member of our group would be happy to visit to discuss or organise how we can assist you in the preparation of the Liturgy.

We are here to help you and your family every step of the way.

Please contact the Parish office 82967292 to arrange contact with a member of the Bereavement group.

Parish Pastoral Council Report

The Council has continued to meet monthly, when our business includes considering reports from our priests, Father Michael and Father Prathap, the schools and our pastoral Associate, Nirmanthi.

At our September meeting Orla Wright and Monica Conway gave a report on the Diocesan Pastoral Council and made us aware of the considerable resources available to support the Parishes.

We have also received information relating to the renewal of the Passionist Group Movement in the Parish. Information about this is being made available at the Masses and will be further considered at our next (February) meeting.

Two highlights during the Christmas season were our Carols night in St Joseph's and the traditional Christmas eve Mass at Sacred Heart. Both of these events were well attended. Many thanks to all those involved in planning and putting on these events.

I am also pleased to report that we have finally found a new presbytery, located at Hallet Cove, in which Father Michael will reside. Father recently moved in and I understand that he has settled in well.

Peter Whelan
Chair, Parish Pastoral Council

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Date Claimer: Region 3 Diocesan Assembly Gathering

Please keep Saturday, 4th May, free so that you can join people from all the parishes of our region at Sacred Heart College, Champagnat Campus, Walter Street, Mitchell Park.

The gathering will begin formally at 11am, but people will be most welcome to arrive any time from 10.30am, so that we can begin promptly at 11. The day will be an opportunity to get to know a little better the people who make up the Church in our region and will include of a series of very short presentations about a variety of ministries and activities. After a sausage sizzle lunch, we will share our visions and concerns for the local Church and set in motion some actions and proposals for growth in our region. This is a time for *action* not just a time for more words!

Please come along. Your voice is important. Further information will be made available in the coming weeks, but put the date in your diary now!

'Jenny O'Brien, Region 3 Committee'

PARISH FINANCE COUNCIL REPORT

Since my last report in September, the Parish Finance Council has had two official meetings. Main items of business were:

- **Purchase of Presbytery**. Settlement took place on 6th October 2023. Some furnishings, security screens and doors were installed prior to occupation. Fr Michael moved into the 10 year old, 4 bedroom house at 1 Toby Court, Hallett Cove on 11th November.

- **Unit 3, 18 Strathmore Terrace**. Some repairs and painting are being carried out to bring the unit up to standard for renting out ASAP.

- **Columbarium**. The maintenance, development and overall functioning of the Columbarium has been discussed by the Finance Council. Further examination of the Agreement, the financial structures and upkeep is ongoing.

- **Planned Giving.** Parishioner contributions are of concern. While Planned Giving is near budget, unplanned or plate giving has suffered badly because of COVID and subsequent lower numbers attending Mass.
- The **Planned Giving Programme** this year will target specific areas needing funding as was successfully done last year. Thanks to those people who generously gave towards the Church sound system, repairs and installation of equipment in the Activity Centre kitchen, an irrigation system at the front of the church, repairs to church windows and doors.
- **Land and Property.** The Finance Council has examined two reports on property and land sales and usage and is waiting on a third before extending our contract with TUTTI. That decision will be made in the next few months.
- **Maintenance and repair of buildings and plant**. A report has been commissioned into the state of the church roof. Maintenance and repairs have been undertaken on church doors, windows and locks. Security measures have been changed.
- A fire control panel in the Tutti building had to be replaced.
- The **final figures for 2023** will be available soon and published later. The overall position is fairly close to our budget. We are down on collections and interest because of the property purchase but have come close to budget nevertheless.

Thanks are due to members of the Parish Finance Council: Michael McCarthy, Cami McGowan, Peter Whelan and Bill Spurling – with Fr Michael.

Once again thanks to Andrea Machicado (our Business Manager) for her skill, dedication and hard work over the last year.

As this is my last Newsletter contribution (I concluded my time as Chair in December), I'd like to thank everybody who contributes to the running of the parish and wish you all a Happy New Year.

John Sullivan
Parish Finance Council

An update from the Parish administration:

As stated in the Finance Council report, 2023 was a challenging yet exciting year that required a lot of hard work. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our volunteers who contributed their time and talents throughout the year, and I am pleased to share some photos of the special gathering to show our appreciation to them.

I would also like to express my gratitude to everyone for their patience in adapting to the changes that were introduced last year. These changes included the new electronic lock systems in the Church and the Hall, as well as new payment methods such as tap and go, EFTPOS, and QR codes.

Our volunteers have also participated in St John's first-aid training, which was offered to the Parish staff. This training has equipped us with the necessary skills and knowledge to provide emergency life support and operate the new defibrillator installed in the Church in 2023.

I am happy to inform you that most of the items on the Parish needs list have been accomplished. These include Church doors and Activity Centre Kitchen repairs, sound system upgrades, front garden irrigation, a new lock system, new sensor motion lights at the back of the church, and a new filter water tap in the Sacristy.

As we begin a new year, I would like to assure you of my continued commitment and goodwill to work for the Parish, always praying to receive the Lord's wisdom and guidance.

Andrea
Machicado
Parish Business
Manager

THE KNIGHTS OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS (SA) INC.

Brighton – Marion – Hallett Cove - Glenelg Branch

The year for our KSC Branch closed with a range of important activities.

The principal event was the Annual dinner at the Tonsley Hotel on 14th September 2023. A highlight of the evening was the presentation by State Chairman , Paul Hawkes, to Gary Amott of a Certificate of Recognition for his 50 years of unbroken membership of the Knights. Recognition of a very distinguished record of work and quiet achievement in many branches of the Knights in Victoria and South Australia.

The dinner was attended by some 56 members and their wives, including about half a dozen members of the clergy. The event was ably MC'd by Peter Kay, assisted by Graham Workman, Bob Bryth and Graham Gurry. Outgoing Chairman Rod Roach and Incoming Chairman elect Andy Tamassy both spoke briefly thanking members for their various contributions to the work of the Knights in our region. Mons Bob Rice, at 91 the senior cleric present, said Grace and all those attending enjoyed a fine dinner fortified by an excellent selection of wines, intermingled with raffles of bottles of wine and boxes of chocolates the proceeds of which help bolster the branch contribution to the five local Vinnies' conferences. This will be the last annual dinner at the Tonsley Hotel as it is moving due to road developments connected with extensions to the North-South corridor.

The Brighton/Marion/Hallett Cove/Glenelg AGM was held on Wednesday 6th September 2023 at the Brighton Parish Activity Centre. The new Committee elected at the AGM was installed on Wednesday Ist November by State Chairman Paul Hawkes. Members are : Chairman Andy Tamassy, Deputy Chairman Peter Kay, Secretary Graham Workman, Treasurer Tony Schar and Councillors Bob Byrth, Gerry O'Shea, Gary Amott, Pat Hodgson and Rod Roach. Ian Fleetwood remains the State Council Representative.

The Branch 45 Club organised by Ross Bryant, Peter Temby and Tony Schar completed it's 79th Game at the end of 2023. It remains a very successful source of funds having raised over $15,000 since the first game was run. The Wine Tasting programme also continues to make a strong contribution to donations made to the five local Vinnies' Conferences, especially the Christmas Hampers.

Again this year members of the local branch enjoyed involvement with the Parish Christmas Carols programme on Sunday 10th December, assisting with the BBQ and serving drinks.

And last but not least, Pat Hodgson was awarded the Bill Keene Award at the KSC State Conference.

Men's Fellowship

Up to about two dozen regulars still get together every Tuesday and Friday, with perhaps even more on Fridays when the BBQ is fired up and the aroma of frying onions makes it hard to not come in and sample the appetising lunch being cooked up.

November saw the usual draw for the Melbourne Cup watched on a TV generously donated by one of our well-known parishioners, just that morning. Of course, the customary sweep added to the excitement.

The high light of the year was the annual Christmas Lunch which was held on the 8th of December and was attended by forty-six guys, including Fr. Michael and Fr Prathap. Everyone was treated to a delicious and very generous lunch which included a lovely desert. There were some very excellent wines duly quaffed and many bottles raffled. The Christmas spirit took the convivial gathering through to around four o'clock. A great credit to the organising team.

Vinnies Christmas Hampers

At Christmas each year the Brighton Branch of the St Vincent de Paul Society delivers food hampers and children's gifts to the needy. At this recent Christmas 45 food hampers were distributed. Also many gifts were given to our companions so that their children/ grandchildren receive some gifts at Christmas, that they otherwise may not receive.

The hampers we delivered contained a wide range of foodstuffs including longlife milk, cereal, fruit juice, jam, preserved fruit, tea/coffee, fruit mince pies, Christmas puddings etc. A special addition in recent times has been mini Christmas cakes decorated by the Cake Decorating Group who use the Activity centre for their meetings.

These hampers and gifts are eagerly looked forward to by our companions and are very much appreciated. As parishioners will be very much aware, there is considerable cost of living pressures affecting all levels of society today, especially those with limited incomes and those renting housing. Vinnies is a significant contributor in helping to offset the effects of this.

In the last couple of years Brighton Vinnies has assembled our own hampers so that they contain items that are more useful and so we can target better the families or individuals they are prepared for.

All of the food and gift donations used are totally the result of the generous donations of food, money and gifts made by the Brighton parishioners and the schools in our region ie Sacred Heart College, McAuley Community School and Christ the King School. Food donations go directly to the hampers, donated money is used to buy other food items to top up the hampers. Gift donations from the schools are given to the needy families to use as gifts for dependent children/grandchildren.

Brighton Vinnies is very grateful for the incredible generosity of the Brighton parishioners and school. Without your help many needy families and individuals would have a much less enjoyable Christmas.

Thank you
Damian Gallagher
President, Brighton Vinnies

VINNIES KNITTING & SEWING GROUP.

This year we will mark our 40th year Anniversary of the Group's commencement.

Pat Nettleton and some other "Ladies Conference" members got together each week in Pat's "shed" to knit baby jackets, booties etc.

They also knitted scarves, beanies, and small jumpers for young children in need in our Parish & surrounding district.

Over the years the Women's Conference merged with the men but the ladies still continued on and we now have 6 Sewers, 8 Knitters and 2 ladies who cut out the fabric ready for the sewers to make PJ's, Shorts, T Shirts, girls skirts and dresses, bunny rugs and cot sheets. In fact anything that a family with young children may need to clothe them during the year.

We would love to welcome more sewers (machines, all cottons and fabric supplied). Also we will welcome anyone who can sew on buttons, thread elastic into shorts and pj's pants etc. We meet each Tuesday between February and December from 9am - 12 noon. Coffee, Tea and biscuits break about 10.30ish. And of course always knitters. Wool and needles available, along with patterns and lots of "Chit Chat".

During 2023 we supplied around 1,600 garments to Vinnies Shops from Elizabeth in the North to Morphett Vale in the South, and Baby Layettes to all different parts of the state.

To allow this great group of ladies to continue please consider joining us. We can't all attend each week but when it is best for you is our way.

We recommence on Tuesday 6th Feb'24, upstairs in the Teresa building, entry via the carpark off Old Beach Road.

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Speaking Group, Activity Centre from February to June 2024

An invitation is extended to ladies of the Brighton Parish (and beyond) who are looking to speak in public or read confidently at Mass.

The Speaking Group meets twice monthly in the McAuley Room on a Monday at 11.00am.

The first meeting for 2024 is scheduled to be held on **Monday, 5th February at 11.00 am finishing at 12.00 noon.**

The cost per meeting is $2.00 to cover room hire.

Any further inquiries can be directed to

Maureen Carpenter on 0408 628 899

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"Girl Power at its Best!"

Erica is so proud to introduce you to her Four Generations of **"Korotcoff Women."** Who all live here in Adelaide.

Erica Korotcoff, holding Isobel Kate (born 10.05.2023), Alexandra Woodland and Ruth Korotcoff.

The Pastoral Meaning of Blessings

Almighty ever-living God, who in the abundance of your kindness surpass the merits and desires of those who entreat you, pour out your mercy upon us to pardon what conscience dreads and to give what prayer does not dare to ask (Collect for Twenty -Seventh Sunday of Ordinary Time).

The Vatican recently issued a document to elaborate on Pope Francis' innovative teaching on spontaneous or pastoral blessings offered by clergy (*Fiducia Supplicans*: On the Pastoral Meaning of Blessings, 18 December 2023). What follows is a paraphrase of some sections of this profound document.

The Holy Father's contribution broadens and enriches of the classical understanding of blessings, which are typically linked to the liturgy (recall the Solemn Blessing at the end of Mass, or the Nuptial Blessing given during a wedding ceremony). By contrast, pastoral blessings are simple and brief, responding to the faith of people who, even in the midst of their everyday life and sins, open their hearts to ask for God's help. Most common is asking for a blessing for rosary beads, a house, a car—or yourself on your birthday!

Clearly, Pope Francis is encouraging clergy to support the faith of people (faith which may be small or great) by assisting them in their weakness with a divine blessing, and to channel their openness to transcendence (which may well lead them to become more faithful to the Gospel). No one should be refused a humble request for the saving presence of God in their lives.
Remember the person in the Gospel who responded to Jesus, *Lord, I believe—help my unbelief* (Mark 9.23-24)? In such pastoral settings, those seeking a blessing are not required to have prior moral or spiritual perfection.

When we seek a blessing, we show ourselves to be people who worship the Lord and deeply trust in God's mercy. With confidence we constantly seek the gift of God's blessing that flows from the Heart of Christ through God's Church. The great blessing of God, the source of all blessings, is Jesus Christ. Jesus warmly embraced and blessed little children (Mark 10.16). His last post-Resurrection act on earth (as he was carried into heaven) was to offer a blessing (Luke 24.50-51). Jesus' treasury of blessings provides comfort, care and encouragement in the mist of our everyday lives.

Blessings **descend** from God, mediated through God's ministers. One of the earliest and best examples is the Aaronic (priestly) blessing: *May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you. May the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace (Numbers 6.24-26).* At the heart of blessings is God's abundant delight in us. Another type of blessing, common in the Psalms, **ascends** from earth to heaven toward God: *Bless the Lord, my soul, and all that is within me, bless God's holy name (Psalm 103.1).* We discover our true vocation when we turn to God with praise. Through God's graciousness, we can also **extend** a blessing toward others. Imagine a parent or grandparent praying: *Lord, look upon these children of yours, grant them health, work, peace and mutual help. Free them from everything that contradicts your Gospel and allow them to live according to your will. Amen.*

Here's my favourite quote from Pope Francis on blessings: *We are more important to God than all the sins we can commit because God is father, God is mother, God is pure love, God has blessed us forever… Even if [our] closest relatives have abandoned [us], because they now judge [us] to be irredeemable, God always sees [us] as God's children.*

Our world longs to experience God's peaceable blessing, and the Body of Christ can pass on this blessing as much as it lavishly receives it from God. Our Father loves all of us richly. The only thing that remains is for us to rejoice in God's blessing, to thank God, and to learn from God to bless.
May the Lord bless and keep you, now and forever!

Deacon Tim Grauel