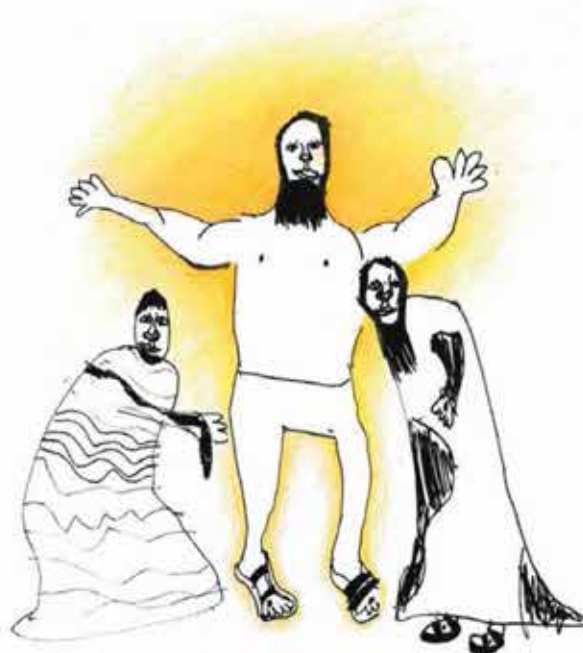
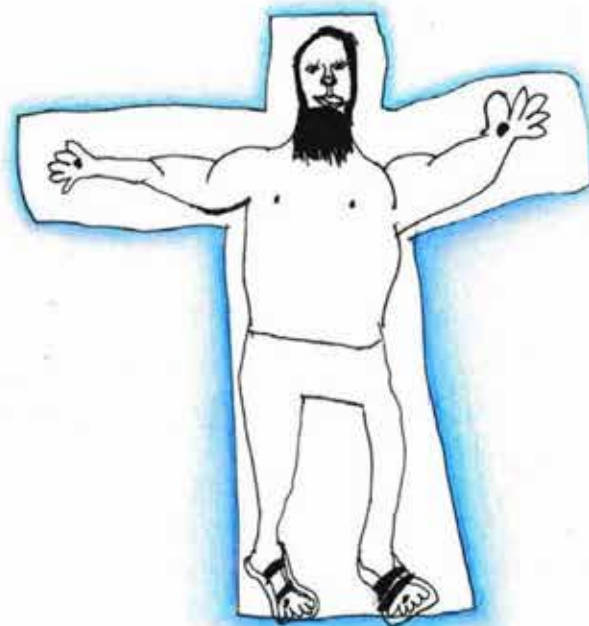


PARISH TALK

Easter Edition 2018:



St Monica's P.S



WODONGA CATHOLIC PARISH

Our Parish Vision Statement



We are a diverse and talented community drawing inspiration from the Jesus found in the Scripture and in the living tradition of his people, the Church.

In valuing, celebrating and promoting life, we support each other as we joyfully proclaim 'Jesus to the World'.

Parish Priest: Father Junjun Amaya

Assistant Priest: Father Junray Rayna

Parish Office Phone: 02 60 24 3366

Email: wodonga@sandhurst.catholic.org.au

Pastoral Assistant: Sister Eileen Reardon, Mt Beauty 0458 327 554

MASS TIMES

SACRED HEART CHURCH WODONGA

Saturday	6.00pm
Sunday	8.30am and 10.30am
Monday Liturgy	9:15am
Tuesday to Friday	9.15am

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS TANGAMBALANGA

2nd, 4th Sunday	10.30am
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ST FRANCIS' BETHANGA

2nd Sunday	12.00 noon
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ST JOSEPH'S DEDERANG

1st, 3rd Sunday	10.30am
5th Sunday	10.30am
Liturgy of the Word and Communion	

ST JOSEPH'S MT BEAUTY

1st to 4th Sunday	8.30am
5th Sunday	8.30am
Liturgy of the Word and Communion	

RECONCILIATION

Sacred Heart Wodonga	
Saturday	9.00am - 9.30am
Country Churches	before Masses

FROM THE EDITOR

Hello everyone,

This Easter, 2018 edition of Parish Talk has news from abroad and at home as well news from the the cradle (Nativity play at Christmas Eve Mass) to the grave. An article from Radcliffe Funeral Services gives some history of how their business came to be established in Wodonga, and also gives an insight into how they provide a professional and caring service at a time when we grieve over the loss of a loved one.

Parish Talk would not be possible without the support of local business who advertise their services in this publication, so please continue to support them. Another cause worthy of our support is the establishment of a community library for the people of the village of San Pio in the Philippines, where the Moffat family stayed during the recent Christmas holidays.

We welcome Fr Junjun and his message to use our *head, heart and hand*. This edition shows that there are many ways we can get involved in our parish.

Until next time.

Greg Walsh

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Full Page	\$1,500

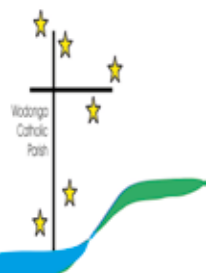
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Parish Talk Roster 2018/19

Edition	Cover	Submission Date
Spring	St Augustine's	2018
Christmas	Catholic College	2018
Easter	St Francis	2019

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From the Pastor's desk



Dear Parishioners

As I write this my first note in the Parish Talk (Easter edition), I have only been in this Catholic Parish of Wodonga for just over a week. But I am happy to announce that I have survived through my first week even though I feel that I have hit the ground running so to speak. I am not complaining. Rather, I just want to share my feeling of being blessed to be appointed to this great parish, following in the footsteps of the great priests who through the years have become your father, friend and companion in your own personal faith journey.

I thank God for bringing me here at this point of my priestly ministry and giving me this amazing opportunity to serve and to walk with God's holy people in this part of God's vineyard [i.e. the Catholic Parish of Wodonga and the outlying parishes (Mt Beauty, Dederang, Tangambalanga & Bethanga)].

I am also thankful for the opportunity to work with Fr Junray Rayna in here not only because I've known him since when we were still in the seminary in Cebu together, but also because we have done pastoral work in my home parish in Cebu together. With Jesus Christ, Fr Junray and myself can form the Triple-J together (pun intended).

Whilst I am very grateful for your warm welcome and openness to me, as well as your gestures of friendship to me, I am looking forward to working with you all and to becoming your friend and companion in your personal faith journey.

As a parish, let us continue to live out our parish vision as a '*diverse and talented community drawing inspiration from the Jesus found in the Scripture and in the living tradition of his people, the Church.*' As our parish mission, *we value, celebrate and promote life and support each other in joyfully proclaiming 'Jesus to the World.'*

With this vision and mission as our grounding and motivation as a parish, I believe and I have confidence that with the many people in this parish and in our schools, investing your time, *talent and treasure* and putting together your *head, heart and hand* in volunteering for the various ministries in the Church, and in educating the young people in our Catholic schools to know Jesus and the message of the Gospel bringing them to a personal relationship with God, we contribute greatly in realising the Church's overall mission, which is '*to be on earth, the seed of the kingdom*' of God (*Lumen gentium* 5).

As I take on this new role as Parish Priest, please include me and Fr Junray in your prayers. This is my personal prayer to begin my ministry in here:

Jesus I ask for the courage to stand

To stand for the truth no matter what comes at hand

Help me to face the challenges, for God's sake,

That like you, pride and honour I would forsake,

Mary, my mother I beg you to obtain me the grace

To rely solely on God in his Divine Grace

Father make me become like your Son

Courageous and brave in proclaiming your love to everyone.

Amen.

Father Junjun Amaya, P.P.

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GodStart is a good start



GodStart Team: Dianne Gibbs-Jones

Hello Everyone.

With the heat of summer finally gone and the cooler days and nights of autumn approaching, I am looking forward to meeting you at our Welcoming Sunday morning tea at the start of April. We will co-host with the Children's liturgy team. This is a good chance to speak with representatives of both of these Ministries, to find out how we work to include the youngest members of our Parish and their families in our community.

We have mailed out our GodStart birthday and activity cards for several months now, and have experienced an unexpected problem. Due to the size of the cards it has cost us \$2.00 postage per card, which is double what we had calculated. This has greatly affected the anticipated costs associated with continuing this highly valuable program. Fortunately, CatholicCare, from whom we purchase the cards, has received feedback about this and have redesigned the cards to meet Australia Post letter dimension. The next set of cards that we order will cost \$1.00 per card to mail, halving our postage costs and hopefully keeping us financially viable for at least the short term.

The GodStart team will consider the viability of hosting a GodStart Mass in July after cancelling the event last year. The proposed date is Sunday 29th July at the 10:30am Mass at Sacred Heart. We will keep actively looking for new team members and will resume personal deliveries to the children of our Parish if enough assistance can

be found. If you are interested in joining us, please contact us via the Parish Centre at any time.

Thank you to all of our GodStart team for their continuing contributions to this wonderful ministry, especially those involved in the preparation and mailing of the cards.

Until next time,

GodStart is a good start.

Dianne Gibbs-Jones

GodStart Team

Wodonga Catholic Parish



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For the kids



Christmas Eve Children's Mass 24th December, 2017

With a couple of rehearsals under their belt, the children of the Wodonga Catholic Parish waited excitedly for the time to come to present the annual Nativity play. This year the play, written by Catherine McKinley, included all of the usual elements, but also some humour and the opportunity for over acting!



The Christmas story was narrated by Sophie and Molly Ebert (pictured below) who kept up with



the young performers which was not always easy. Henry Rotherham took on dual roles when he read the reading and then completed Altar serving duties. Caitlin Jones read the Prayers of the Faithful, while Sheridan Jones (pictured) ran the power point presentation. Thank you to all of these young adults for continuing to support the younger members of our Parish, by completing these roles at the Christmas Eve Children's Mass.

Thank you must also go to Timele Stewart for

the power point presentation. It consisted of over seventy slides, so must have taken considerable



time and effort to complete. The musicians added a relaxed and festive touch to the Mass so we thank them for their contribution.

Our Baby Jesus this year performed perfectly by sleeping through the whole play! We look forward to seeing what happens at the next Children's Mass.



People in our Parish



Jacinta Bartlett, Chairperson of the Combined Parishes of Wodonga

The first time I met Jacinta I was astounded at the burden she was trying to carry. Her husband, Bob was terminally ill and required full-time care. Her daughter, Emily, required specialist treatment in Melbourne. Jacinta and Emily flew down to Melbourne three times a week on an Angel Flight. The three boys, Ben, Tim and Matt, were still being educated. As a full-time carer and with the breadwinner so ill, Jacinta was struggling. John McEvoy asked our son, Stephen, if he knew of someone who could sit with Bob one day a week while Jacinta and Emily flew to Melbourne. So I stepped into the role.

When Bob died in 2008, Jacinta's world collapsed. Emotionally, physically and financially she was shattered. So much of her life had been spent looking after others that she had lost her self-worth and confidence. Her nursing qualifications were out of date and she was unsure where to turn. Jacinta has a close friend, a Brigidine nun who suggested she use her massive caring experience and train as a pastoral carer. So began several years of study. In 2011 Jacinta obtained a Certificate III in Christian Ministry and Theology through Brisbane. Lyn Breen, the Diocese of Sandhurst's Adult Education Officer was her mentor. During 2012 and 2013 Jacinta continued her study at Charles Sturt University in Canberra where she completed a Graduate Certificate in Ageing and Pastoral Studies. During that time Jacinta was employed as the Pastoral Care Associate at Mercy Health Albury.

Having completed her studies, Jacinta's plans were almost interrupted in 2014 when she was offered a lucrative and rewarding position in the Rockhampton Diocese as the Director of



Pastoral Studies for the whole of Central Queensland. However, Jacinta's dedication to her four children convinced her it would be unwise to accept the position and she chose to remain close to her young family. In 2015 she undertook Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) through the Austin Hospital, which was conducted at Wangaratta. The following year she completed the advanced unit of CPE with the plan to eventually qualify as a professional supervisor. For the past five and a half years Jacinta has held the position of Pastoral Care Associate at Mercy Place Albury, where she works three days a week and at the Mercy Hospital one day a week. Not only is she responsible for the patients, but the families and staff as well.

Jacinta has been on the Parish Pastoral Council for approximately four years, the last three as the Chairperson. The function of the Pastoral Council is to support and advise the Parish Priest on parish matters. There are currently eight members on the Council, plus the P.P., Fr Junray, Sr Eileen and a secretary. Jacinta said the Council is excited about the arrival of Fr Junjun, our new P.P., and the Parish Council is looking forward to working with him.

Diana McKinley



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Parish Pastoral Council

The Parish Pastoral Council warmly welcomes Fr Junjun Amaya on behalf of the Parish community. Fr Junjun celebrated his installation Mass as Parish Priest of Wodonga on Saturday 10th February.

Throughout 2017 the Pastoral Council saw a significant drop in numbers due to changes in professional and personal commitments; however we begin 2018 with renewed commitment and the pleasure of welcoming five new members; Marilyn Seiter, David Seiter, Theresa Dorahy, Judy D'Astoli and David Liorentas.

The current members of the Parish Pastoral Council are: Fr Junjun Amaya, Fr Junray Rayna, Sr Eileen Reardon, Jacinta Bartlett (Chair), Lindsey Tremethick, Josh Baker, David Seiter, Marilyn Seiter, Theresa Dorahy, Judy D'Astoli, David Liorentas and Isabelle Swanson (secretary).

We would specially like to say thank you to Dianne Goonan who recently resigned from the PPC. Dianne represented the outlying parish communities of Wodonga and has been a greatly respected member of our council; her dedication, engaging presence and energy will be sincerely missed. Dianne has been a wonderful support to Sr Eileen in her ministry in the outlying communities of the Wodonga Parish. We wish Dianne every blessing for the future and look forward to seeing her at other events.

One question often asked is "What is the role of the Parish Pastoral Council?" therefore I will take this opportunity to share with you a short description from the handbook for Parish Pastoral Councils.

"One of the key roles of the PPC – in its advice to and in collaboration with the Parish Priest, is to support the other ministries in the Parish, to encourage them, to assist their continuing formation and to initiate new ministries. The role of the PPC is to have an overview of the Parish, to develop the vision for the mission of the church in the Parish, to plan for the continuing growth of the Parish, to advise on the arrangements that need to be in place so that the ministries can properly fulfil their roles. The PPC itself will model this dynamic in its own prayer, continuing formation, accountability, collaboration, planning, action - and its joy in the commitment to the mission of 'carrying

forward the work of Christ under the lead of the befriending spirit."

The Council members met with Fr Junjun for the first time on Wednesday 21st February and we look forward to working closely with him as he establishes his own ministry in the Parish of Wodonga. Father has a clear vision to remain a vibrant and engaging Parish community and with the support of Fr Junray and the Parish Council, will undertake new initiatives that will educate and empower those people who so generously give of themselves in the various ministries within the Parish and outlying communities

On Wednesday 28th February at 10am and 6.30pm Tuesday 6th March, Fr Junjun will facilitate a two hour 'refresher' meeting for the Eucharistic Ministers of the parish to support their ministry with a better understanding of the Eucharist and 'why we do what we do'. Following these nights, similar meetings are scheduled on the 14th and 20th March for the Lectors, giving people the opportunity to refine their techniques and establish a more universal practice among the ministers.

Following these sessions Fr Junjun will call the volunteer Ministers of the Eucharist and the Lectors to renew their commitment to these ministries during Mass on Holy Thursday.

On behalf of the Parish Pastoral Council I would like to wish you all a very happy and safe Easter. No doubt there will be many people preparing for celebrations, visitors and travel over this period and we pray this will be a time of blessing when you will feel the love and closeness of God always with you.

Jacinta Bartlett



Damien & Louise Robinson

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RCIA

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

Sheryl Phillips' journey to becoming a member of the Catholic Church and the Wodonga Catholic Parish culminated in her receiving the sacrament of confirmation on December 10, 2017. This is the story, in her words, of her journey

Becoming a Catholic and completing the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults Course was not a difficult choice for me. Working in Catholic Schools for the last 8 years has certainly been influential, however, with mounting curiosity and aspiration for a richer understanding of God and a stronger faith, the RCIA course was the perfect solution. The support and encouragement from the team, my sponsors and my friends has been unwavering and not once have I questioned my decision to become a Catholic.

Participating in the RCIA program has enriched and strengthened my faith and learning experience of the Sacraments, the life of Jesus and provided me with a resonant understanding of the power of prayer and the importance of our own personal journey of faith. Each meeting has seen a variety

of conversations relating to the topic, where we have discussed life experiences and observations that are intrinsically relevant to God's love and how we can serve Him.

My sponsors Chris Darmody and Maureen Lonergan have been extremely helpful in terms of their knowledge and experience, which they have calmly and expertly passed onto me. I only hope that I can return their grace and generosity in the future. They are truly examples of how we can serve God by serving others. I am also grateful for the wisdom and fruitful conversations that I have had the privilege of engaging in with Father's Junray, Dennis, Junjun and Bishop Les. We are truly blessed to be provided with the guidance and insight of our Parish leaders.

Of course, it goes without saying, the support, advice and expertise provided by the RCIA team has been nothing but firm and resolute from the very beginning. They have taken me under their wing as we have explored the traditions of the Catholic Church and they have facilitated new experiences and understanding. I look forward to discovering and uncovering more of the mysteries of our faith, a life-long quest full of wonder and richness.

Finally, I would like to thank my friends, my colleagues (both at Galen Catholic College and Catholic College Wodonga) and the Wodonga parishioners who have been pillars of support, warmly welcoming me into the fold and encouraging me with inclusiveness and friendship. For this I am truly grateful. God bless you all.

Sheryl Phillips



Renewal Day

The Apple of the Father's Eye'

A time of healing & infilling of the Fathers Love

Presented by Maree Sobolewski

Saturday March 24th 2018



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St Brendan's Parish, Shepparton
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Please bring a shared lunch and afternoon tea.

Tea & Coffee provided

Donation kindly appreciated for the day



St Augustine's



St Monica's



St Francis



Catholic College Wodonga

WELCOME 2018

Each year we celebrate the beginning of the new school year, which can mean incredibly different things across our College community.

On Tuesday 6 February our Year 12 cohort was presented with their jumpers, an important symbol of their last year with us at Catholic College Wodonga. We wish them all the best for the year ahead.



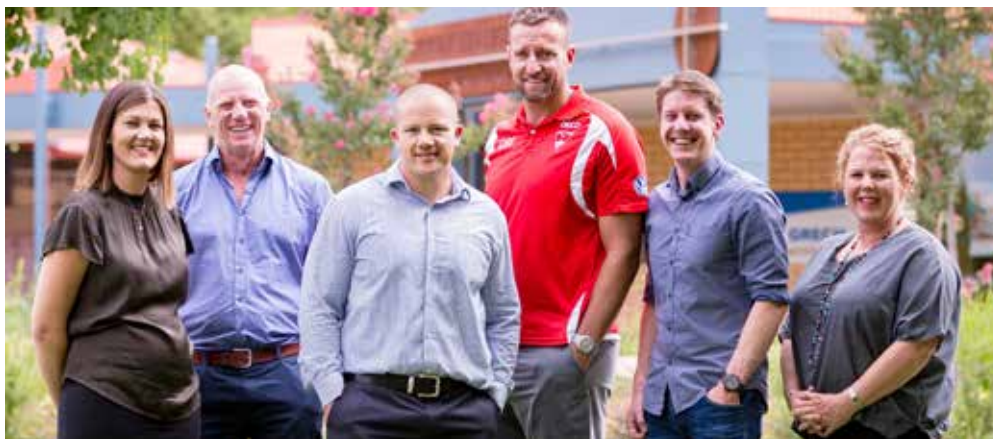
For our new Year 7 students, it's the beginning of a new chapter! Exploring a new school campus, meeting new class mates & teachers and taking that first step into their secondary schooling journey. This occasion was marked on Thursday 8 February with our Welcoming Mass held at Sacred Heart with students, families and staff.



NEW LEADERSHIP TEAM & LEARNING COMMUNITY LEADERS (LCL) TEAM

It is with great pleasure that I inform the parish community of our new Staff Leadership Team for the next three years. We thank the continued participation of the seven returning members and we warmly welcome our three new additions. Karen Coates who is our Administrative Services Manager, Learning Diversity Leader Ronnie Davies, and our newly appointed Malone leader Chris Darmody.

There are also some new faces to welcome to our Learning Community Leaders Team. Congratulations to our three new leaders da Vinci – Kieran Mullins (2nd from right), MacKillop – Shane Piper (3rd from left), Malone – Chris Darmody (right) and welcome back our three continuing leaders Chisholm – Aaron West (3rd from right), Gandhi – Caroline Burney (left), Hollows – Markus Busch (2nd from left).





St Augustine's



St Monica's



St Francis



Catholic College Wodonga

QUEEN'S BATON RELAY CELEBRATIONS

"It was a great experience and I loved every bit of it. Anyone who gets this opportunity is very lucky as it's just an amazing thing to be a part of", said an excited (and relieved) Sophie Weppner.

Sophie was chosen to be the first runner in the Queen's Baton Relay that journeyed through Wodonga on Thursday 15 February. The Year 9 Catholic College Wodonga student was selected as a

baton bearer due to her community participation with Wodonga Girl Guides and Baranduda Scouts.

Sophie's individual honour was matched by her school's pride when we were invited to be the 'Start of Day School' for the relay. To celebrate, Catholic College staged a community breakfast barbeque, mini soccer games, and music – energetically played by school band 'Pozer' – on the sports oval.

It was a proud moment when Catholic College's Junior QBR Ambassador, Chelsea Knight, presented Sophie with the baton. As Sophie left the stage to walk a lap of the oval before starting her official leg of the relay, students created a guard in her honour, cheering her on along the way



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Catholic College



St Francis



St Augustine's



St Monica's

What's happening in the Early Learning Centre (ELC)

Opening School Mass

On the 9th of February, the Foundation students travelled by bus to participate in their first Opening School Mass at Sacred Heart Church. The students enjoyed their bus ride to the church, singing along the way. The students listened respectfully as they absorbed their surroundings during the Mass. Well done Foundation students.



Ash Wednesday Liturgy

Lent is a season of forty days, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday, the evening before Easter. The Foundation students learnt that the colour of Lent is purple and participated in an Ash Wednesday Liturgy in the Sacred Space at St. Monica's. The students' received ashes on their forehead and also learnt that Lent is a time to focus on how we can have a change of heart.



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St Augustine's

We would like to welcome all students and families to the 2018 school year. It is a time of new beginnings for many in our community with fifty Foundation students and many new students in other year levels starting at St Augustine's, taking our enrolment to 331 to start the year.

We also welcome new staff. Ashleigh Shanahan takes the role of Payroll, Budgets and Finance in our office finance team, Katherine Herbig as a plus one classroom teacher in the 1/2 learning centre.

Our Year 6 leaders have made a wonderful start by welcoming their Foundation Buddies at the beginning of the year school Mass. Their acts of care and compassion for the new students over the past few weeks show us they are living the 2018 CEW theme 'Serve God by Serving Others'. Preparation



for Easter is underway across our school. Some units celebrated Shrove Tuesday with pancakes. The beginning of Lent was commemorated with an Ash Wednesday liturgy. We are all very excited to meet Father Junjun.

Our annual Family Picnic takes place in Sumsion Gardens on Wednesday 7th



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March. This is a relaxed and social occasion where we gather together and welcome new families into the St Augustine's Community.

The beginning of the school year comes with the anticipation of new experiences and discoveries. Staff are enthusiastic about the implementation of innovative changes to the teaching and learning strategies and methodologies. We encourage every student to take full opportunity of the experiences offered and to wish them every success.

Joe Quinn
Principal

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St Francis of Assisi

Opening School Mass – “Serve God by Serving

On Friday 23rd of February Father Junjun celebrated our Opening School Mass and we warmly welcomed all our new students, families and staff into the St Francis of Assisi community. Mr Jason McPherson, Mrs Kim Saunders, Miss Emma Johnson, Mrs Gaye Smith and Ms Tess Pedley have joined our staff this year as well as 44 very enthusiastic Foundation students and 18 students in other year levels. It was a warm and enjoyable way to welcome everyone and start the year.

Serve God by Serving Others, with Joy, with Compassion and with Peace was the theme of our Mass and it was lovely to hear our students respond to questions about the theme. Father Junjun asked what it meant to serve God by

serving others and one of our students responded with, ‘when we look after each other and are kind to our friends we are serving God.’ It is such a beautiful theme for our students to discuss and aspire to in 2018. Mrs Suzie Patralla our Leader of Mission and Catholic Identity did a wonderful job of planning such a meaningful Mass and involved lots of students in the prayers, songs and readings. At the conclusion of Mass our Foundation students and their ‘Buddies’ presented one another with a small gift to acknowledge their commitment to one another this year. Our student leaders were commissioned and given their badges and our new staff received a blessing from Father Junjun. In 2018 we commit to *Serving God by Serving Others*.

.Mrs Jennyne Wilkinson (Principal)



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Knights of the Southern Cross

In January the Members of Wodonga Branch were guests of Rutherglen Branch. Members from Wodonga, Rutherglen, Wangaratta, Myrtleford Yarrowonga, Corowa and Euroa gathered for a wonderful social evening followed by a meeting.

We assembled for a meal at the Star hotel on January 11th with 32 members present which included the State Chairman of Victoria. Diocesan Councillor for Sandhurst and the local District Chairman were among the guests. It was an enjoyable meal with discussion around family events during Christmas, Nativity events, celebrations in various towns and then some very serious sports like cricket, tennis and football.

A short meeting followed in the Monsignor Lawless Centre where there was an address by our State Chairman who thanked the members for their contribution to society for contacting local politicians with regard to Euthanasia in Victoria and

Same Sex Marriage Federally and we as a group should stand up for Christian values.

One member received his 50-year membership award, and this was followed by another conducting an economic segment with numerous items being sold. A very enjoyable evening was had by all present.

Some of our members were present at Fr. Dennis Cramer's parish send off and despite the warm weather conditions, a very enjoyable time was had by all. We as a group wish Father well in his River Change and many years of happiness. It is with pleasure the Knights of the Southern Cross welcome Fr Junjun as our Parish Priest.

Like all organisations our membership is aging, Therefore enquires would be most welcome. I can be contacted on mobile 0429 009 595.

Michael McCormick (secretary)

Farewell for Father Dennis

On Sunday 21st January Fr Dennis celebrated his last Mass at St Joseph's Dederang before moving to Mitta Mitta. Parishioners from Tangambalanga joined present and past parishioners of Dederang for Mass and afterwards enjoyed a very pleasant lunch at the Dederang Hotel. We all appreciate the support Fr Dennis has given our communities during his time here and we pray that he will be blessed with a peaceful life in Mitta.



A farewell sausage sizzle was held at Sacred Heart after 10:30am mass on Sunday 28th January.



People in our Parish



The Radcliffe Funeral Services Story

As a Catholic family and now as parishioners of the Sacred Heart Community we would like to share our story of how Radcliffe Funeral Services came to be. Growing up as a young boy I was an Altar boy serving at Mass on weekends and at funerals, my primary school was next to the St Joseph's Church in Warragul. Serving for funerals during the week we thought was great as the Funeral Director would always give us a \$1.

It was as an altar boy when I decided I wanted to be a Funeral Director. When I was serving at a funeral for a young boy my age that was killed accidentally riding his bike, it was an extremely emotional funeral as you could imagine. I watched how the Funeral Director handled such an emotional time, I watched as the coffin was placed in the hearse, the mother extremely emotional, the Funeral Director placed his arm around the mother as she placed her hand on the coffin, it was like he was lifting the emotion and helping the mother cope as she began to calm down, it was in my mind then that I decided that that was what I wanted to be.

From that point on I was determined to chase that dream, the stars aligned when I met Mr John Leckey a good friend of my grandfather, I completed work experience at the funeral home, and at the age of 17 Mr Leckey offered me a position with his company. John Leckey felt that

he could see I had a heart of gold and felt that I was just the type of person he wanted to represent his business regardless of my age. I moved to Melbourne to complete my Embalming studies, working for 2 of Melbourne's largest funeral homes. At the age of 22 I was awarded my Embalming certificate, the youngest ever to gain that which still stands to this day.

After the Port Arthur incident, I was asked by the Victorian Government to go to Tasmania to embalm and prepare the deceased for their journeys home. At the age of 25 I was the youngest location manager for Melbourne's largest funeral homes, Le Pine Funeral Services, that also still stands to this day.





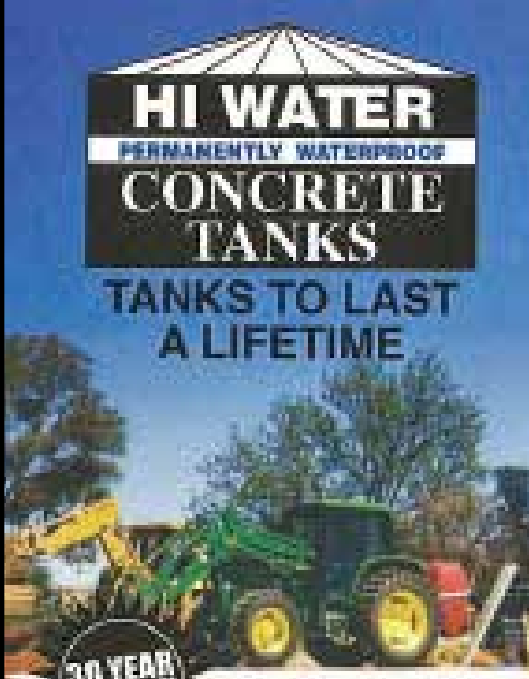
RADCLIFFE

Funeral Services

Lindsay F. Radcliffe FAIE
Funeral Director

Ph: 0260560649 4 Moorefield Park Dr
Wodonga, Vic, 3690

Email: lindsay@radcliffefuneralservices.com.au



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People in our Parish



The Radcliffe Funeral Services Story (continued)

Eight years later, Tony Conway called me and invited to come to Wodonga to work with them. It took quite some time to make that decision as I had never been to Wodonga. Eventually I did, and I think I fell in love with Wodonga at that time. I'm very passionate about Wodonga and the people that make it the community. After Tony and Monica sold Conway Funeral Home, I worked with the new owners for a short time, I then spent some time with Lester and Sons in Albury, and it was at this time my passion to own and run my own Funeral home reignited with the help from my parents and some of my family who also moved to Wodonga.



We established a lovely Funeral Home at 4 Moorefield Park Drive, Wodonga and our business has grown from strength to strength with mainly word of mouth advertising, I have done this to offer a genuine from the heart business to serve the Wodonga and surrounding district with the best possible service. Lindsay is the only qualified embalmer working in the Wodonga and Albury communities.

If you find yourself in the position of needing the service of a funeral director, please call Radcliffe Funeral Services. We word the funeral notices correctly as set by Catholic Church, and we always offer to hold a Rosary Recital in our Chapel. The coffin lays in state in the chapel the evening prior and a rosary recital is held regardless of whether the family is in attendance. We always give the family the choice to take the crucifix home with them on a timber mount and of course being fellow parishioners, make sure the service is conducted to the standards set by the Catholic community.

For the best service for the Catholic Community of Wodonga and districts please call Lindsay or Gabrielle Radcliffe of Radcliffe Funeral Services Wodonga. 02 60560649 for 24/7 care and attention.

Lindsay Radcliffe



David Michael Avery

B.Comm LLB(Hons) LLM

Keating Avery Solicitors
72 High Street Wodonga VIC 3690

PHONE (02) 6056 5533

FAX (02) 6056 5577

EMAIL davidavery@keatingavery.com

From the Pastor's desk



My pilgrimage to the Holy Land, November, 2017

“Lord, it is wonderful for us to be here.” (Mt 17:4). These words from Peter at the moment of Transfiguration encapsulate my Holy Land pilgrimage few months ago. It was so wonderful to visit this



Church of Transfiguration
Mt. Tabor

place, that is close to the heart of our Lord Jesus. This is a place where Jesus chose to be born, to establish his friendship with his first disciples and to found his Church and ultimately to express his final act of love for us. There are several significant sites and churches to visit. However, Bethlehem, Nazareth, Galilee and Jerusalem truly touched the depths of my whole being. During the whole time of my

pilgrimage, I would wake up early in the morning and walk around these places. I started thanking the Lord and reflecting on the significance of these places in the light of the life of Christ.

“There was no room for them.” This line describes to most pilgrims and tourists when they come to pay homage to where Jesus was born, Bethlehem. There were hundreds of people from different parts of the world who came and pay homage to our Lord in the grotto, where he was born. People would be queuing for at least two hours to reach and touch the stone and to pray at the grotto. For the three days of my stay in Bethlehem, I chose to visit the Church of Nativity before 5:00 in the morning. Inside the church at dawn was the chants of the Armenian Orthodox priests saying their morning prayers, while on the outside there were calls to prayer from the mosques around the Church. Indeed, I realised how faith in God is vital to the people of Bethlehem.

“Galilee is the place where they first called, where everything began.” (Pope Francis, Easter Vigil 2014). With its simplicity, Galilee captures the hearts of every pilgrim. It is where our Lord performed most of his miracles, gave his best teachings, and above all, this is the place where he developed his friendship with his disciples and established his personal relationship with each one

The Sea of Galilee



of them. Still, I maintained my routine of walking, reflecting and praying at dawn in this place. What I have found in my heart about this place is **“the true friendship found in Christ.”** I have found how deep and penetrating is his friendship to his disciples; he was not only walking, journeying with his disciples, enjoying a meal, performing miracles in their presence, but he was ready to lay down his life for his friends: “No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.” Because of this friendship with Christ, his disciples ultimately became missionaries of the gospel to the world, but it all started in Galilee.

Serve God by serving others. This final reflection I will share with you is this beautiful story about “serving God by serving others.” One day our group went to Jericho, which is a Palestinian territory. When you go to a Palestinian territory, it is generally a Muslim community. I went there to celebrate a mass in a Catholic School run by the Franciscan nuns. The children in the school called me ABOUNA, ABOUNA! which means Father, Father! Then they continued asking me, “What is

From the Pastor's desk



My pilgrimage to the Holy Land, November, 2017

your name?" I smiled and I said: Fr Junray. This Catholic school had a great reputation. Around 70 to 80 percent of their students are Muslims. There were only a few Franciscan nuns running the school and yet their hearts are filled with courage, dedication and service. Serving God sometimes requires us to follow his will beyond our comfort zones. They are truly serving God by serving others: not only Catholics, Christians but also Muslims. I bring their story to our parish community, for this is an invitation to all of us who are called to serve God by serving others, especially in our parish.

With Fr Alfred Yap, we celebrated a mass for the renewal of marriage vows of our fellow pilgrims at the church in Cana in Galilee. Then I finally saw the whole panoramic view of Mt Tabor. It is so overwhelming to visit this place which is so very close to my heart because whenever I climb and have a quiet time in the mountains I always reflect on the story of transfiguration.

. Father Junray Rayna



This photo was taken after I celebrated mass in a cave in Gethsemane, Jerusalem.



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News from Abroad



San Pio Village, Philippines

During the recent Christmas holidays, the Moffat Family travelled to the Philippines and was able to assist the people in “San Pio Village” in Cebu, and the organisation of “Bethlehem Communities.” We were able to live within the San Pio Village and were fully immersed in the life of this very ‘alive’ Catholic community. Jacob, Lochlan and Callum had raised \$625 through an Icy Pole Day at their school, Victory Lutheran College, and this money was taken over and shared in a number of ways.

Firstly, we were able to purchase some rope and other materials to put up two ‘tyre swings’ in the playground area of the Village for the enjoyment of the local children. These brought much joy and we are informed that they are still used every day.

After visiting the “San Pio Bethlehem Learning Centre Foundation,” we donated a sum of 3000 pesos which is approximately 75 Australian Dollars. This money was to be put towards a new PA system for the centre. This learning centre welcomes the children whose families work as scavengers on the rubbish tip. The volunteers there feed them, and give them a basic education. They receive nearly 200 children every day.

One of the incredible community leaders in San Pio Village also works in the Cebu city jail. Each week she runs bible study courses for over 500 of the inmates. She has 50 inmates in each class and she teaches them how to read and study the bible. They are given bibles to take back to their cells and read but due to the shortage of bibles, five people must share one bible at a time. So, with the funds

raised by Victory, we purchased and donated 100 new bibles to Glenda and her Bible Study Ministry.

Throughout our time at the village we developed a relationship with another community leader named Ellen. She works as a librarian at a university and had a dream to start a library in the village for the use of the children who live there. She already had a few books collected and so, with some crude tools, Aaron and Jacob made two bookshelves (pictured) to store the books. We started what is to be the San Pio Community Library.



The small amount of funds that remained was then donated to the village with the instruction to be put to where the most pressing needs were apparent.

The people of the village and surrounding communities were incredibly grateful for the generous donations and we have committed to helping them more. Overall, this immersion experience was truly a life-changing one for our family and we are working on ways that we can continue to help the families within the San Pio Village and Bethlehem Learning Centre.



News from Abroad



San Pio Community Library - Appeal

If you would like to support the cause of establishing the San Pio Community Library, please donate any children's books that you no longer need. We also financial assistance to be able to cover the cost of sending a pallet of books to the Phillippines.

Ellen (pictured with me) would love to fill her library with a range of reading material. If you have something to offer, whether it be books or financial assistance, please contact the Parish Centre or contact me on 0478 154 252.

Mez Moffat



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Caspar Dole
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Wodonga Catholic Parish



Parish Directory 2017

CLERGY:

Parish Priest	Fr. Junjun Amaya	6024 3366
Assistant Priest	Fr. Fr Junray Rayna	6024 3366
Hospital Chaplain	Parish Centre	6024 3366

PASTORAL STAFF:

Office Manager	Sonia La Motte-Schubert	6024 3366
Parish Associate (Mt. Beauty)	Sr. Eileen Reardon	0458 327 554

LITURGY:

Liturgy Group	Parish Centre	6024 3366
Eucharistic Ministry	Parish Centre	6024 3366
Eucharistic Ministry to Sick	Parish Centre	6024 3366
Eucharistic Ministers Rosters	Parish Centre	6024 7772
Lectors / Commentators Rosters	Parish Centre	6024 7772
Children's Liturgy	Mez Moffatt	0478 154 252
Altar Servers	Michael McLinden	6059 2924

CHURCH SUPPORT GROUPS:

Altar Group – Sacred Heart	Marg Whitehead	6024 4697
Altar Group – St Augustine's	Neta Lawson	6056 2737
Church Cleaning – Sacred Heart	Marg Whitehead	6024 4697
Vestments Group	Juliana Vaughan	6059 6670
Sacred Heart Gift Shop	Parish Centre	6024 3366

FINANCE:

Planned Giving Co-ordinator	Marg Whitehead	6024 3366
Planned Giving Recorder	Marg Whitehead	6024 3366
Parish Finance Committee	Terry Smith - Secretary	6059 6106

SCHOOLS:

C.E.W.C Executive Officer	Vanessa Williamson	0428 380 879
Catholic College Principal	Darren Hovey	6043 5500
St Francis Principal	Jennyne Wilkinson	6020 9100
St Augustine's Principal	Joe Quinn	6024 2711
St. Monica's Principal	Jacqui Partington	6024 3151

MT. BEAUTY:

Pastoral Assistant	Sr Eileen Reardon	0458 327 554
Finance Committee	John Svarc	03 5754 4191
Pastoral Council Chair	Jenny Svarc	03 5754 4929

BETHANGA:

Church Committee	Brian Benson	6026 4513
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DEDERANG:

Church Committee	John McEvoy	6028 9293
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TANGAMBALANGA:

Church Committee		
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PARISH ORGANIZATIONS:

Baptism Preparation	Parish Centre	6024 3366
Bereavement Group	Marg Whitehead	6024 4697
Catholics Returning Home	Gerri Boldrini	6056 2442
C.C.R. Micah Prayer Group	Melinda Clifford	6054 3366
Evangelisation	Gerri Boldrini	6056 2442
Godstart	Parish Centre	6024 3366
Mass of Anointing Group	Helen Hanrahan	6024 2024
MenAlive Team	Rob Horner	0429 917 766
Men's Ministry Team	Marty Clifford	0437 454 211
Mothers Prayer Group	Kath Moate	6024 7071
Parish Bulletin	Sonni La Motte-Schubert	6024 3366
Parish Talk - Editor	Greg Walsh	0422 673 946
Advertising	Kevin Tracy	6059 1854
Pastoral Council Chair	Jacinta Bartlett	6059 8685
Rite of Christian Initiation Adults	Marg Hannebery	6059 4669
Sacramental Program	Parish Centre	6024 3366
Sandpiper Diocesan Magazine	Parish Centre	6024 3366
Social Justice Diocesan Representative		6024 3366
Youth Ministry	Fr Junray Rayna	6024 3366

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS:

Albury/Wodonga Ecumenical Tertiary Chaplaincy	Fr Junray Rayna	6024 3366
Catholic Women's League	Beth Crothers	6027 5263
Country Victorian Family Groups	Neil & Bryony Bright	6020 8451
Knights of the Southern Cross	Des Lonergan	0408 575 825
Marriage Education Program	Parish Centre	6024 3366
Pastoral Care for the Separated and Divorced	Michael & Pauline	6024 3366
St Vincent Centre	Second Hand Goods	6056 5174
St Vincent De Paul	Welfare	6024 3493
Teams	Michael & Heather McNamara	0457 114 095

Every endeavour has been made to verify the information presented in this document and it is made available according to the privacy practice of this parish. We trust that it will assist you to a full and active participation in parish life.

Wodonga Catholic Parish



Holy Week & Easter Mass Times

Thursday: March 22nd 7.30pm The Community celebrates Reconciliation - Sacred Heart Church Wodonga

Palm Sunday: March 25th - Blessing of the palm at all Masses this weekend.

Chrism Mass: March 27th - Sacred Heart Cathedral, Bendigo 11:00am

Holy Thursday: March 29th- 8.00am - Morning Prayer- Sacred Heart Church Wodonga

5.00pm — until 5.45pm Reconciliation - Sacred Heart Church Wodonga

7.00pm Reconciliation - Mt Beauty

7.30pm Mass of the Lord's Supper — Mt Beauty

7.30pm Mass of the Lord's Supper — Sacred Heart Church Wodonga

"The Watch" before the Blessed Sacrament will conclude with Evening Prayer of the Church at 9.00pm

Good Friday March 30th - .8.00am - Morning Prayer Sacred Heart Church - Wodonga

9.00am Outdoor Ecumenical Stations of the Cross - St Francis of Assisi Primary School, Baranduda Blv

1.00pm Outdoor Ecumenical Stations of the Cross - Woodland Grove , High street, Wodonga

10.30am Stations of the Cross — Dederang followed by Reconciliation

3.00pm Liturgy — The Lord's Passion — Mt Beauty followed by Reconciliation

3.00pm Liturgy — The Lord's Passion — Sacred Heart Church Wodonga
Reconciliation 4.00pm — 5.00pm

Holy Saturday Vigil March 31st - 8.00am - Morning Prayer Sacred Heart Church - Wodonga

9.00am — until 9.30am Reconciliation - Sacred Heart Church Wodonga

7.30pm Easter Vigil — Sacred Heart Church Wodonga

7.30pm Easter Vigil — St Joseph's Church Mt Beauty

Easter Sunday April 1st -

8.30am & 10.30am Sacred Heart Church Wodonga

8.30am St Joseph's Church Mt Beauty

10.30am St Joseph's Church Dederang