

PARISH TALK

WODONGA CATHOLIC PARISH

Easter

2019

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

Parish Office Phone: 02 6024 3366

Email: wodonga@sandhurst.catholic.org.au

Assistant Priest: Father Shibhu Joseph Pezhumthottathil

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

ST AUGUSTINE'S WODONGA

Saturday	9.30am
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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

PARISH TALK ADVERTISING RATES

SIZES	ANNUAL (3 ISSUES + WEBSITE)
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Business card	\$150
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FROM THE EDITOR

Hello everyone,

Welcome to the first edition of Parish Talk for 2019.

In this Easter edition, a recurring theme is the connection that our parish and diocese has with Cebu in the Philippines. Previous editions have had articles about parishioners visiting Cebu and this one is no exception, with the story of three Year 12 students from Catholic College who embarked on an Alternative Schoolies trip to Cebu in November, 2018.

A story about a social justice immersion experience of a Wodonga teacher (and parishioner) in Cebu, and how people there survive in the face of poverty, is a reminder, particularly in this Lenten season, of how fortunate we are to live in Australia.

Until next time.

Greg Walsh

Parish Talk Roster 2019/20

Edition	Cover	Submission Date
Spring	St Augustine's	2019
Christmas	St Monica's	2019
Easter	St Francis	2020

Our Commitment to Child Safety

Our Parish is committed to child safety. All children who come to Wodonga Catholic Parish have a right to feel and be safe. The welfare of the children in our care will always be our first priority and we have a zero tolerance to child abuse. We aim to create a child safe and child friendly environment where children feel safe and part of our parish community.



From the Pastor's desk

Dear Parishioners



When I was still studying to be a priest, one question people would ask me is why do I want to become a priest. Almost automatically I would answer: *'I want to serve God and serve God's people, the Church.'*

With the news about Cardinal Pell's conviction (note: the appeal process is still underway as of writing this), my commitment to serve God and God's people was put to the test because of the pain and the sorrow I feel personally about the whole situation.

It hurts and saddens me because it involves not only the Church that I promised to serve and which I loved but more so because of the pain and the wounds that the sexual abuse victims, their families and their friends had to re-live once again as this news unfolded and as the judicial process continues.

In the words of Archbishop Peter Comensoli in his statement for the Archdiocese of Melbourne:

"You have every right to hold your own personal understanding of what has unfolded. I ask that you be mindful of the judicial process still underway. Our opinions must remain respectful of this process, and our speech offered in charity. As in all things, and at all times, let our actions and words be offered in truth with love (Eph 4:15)."

The Archbishop continues: *"In all this we must never forget those who walk with this pain everyday, whose lives remain devastated by the impact of sexual abuse inflicted on them in their vulnerability. **To the survivors, [my emphasis] to their families, and to their friends and colleagues, I again offer my deepest apology for wrongs that have been done by those who have abused their position of ministry and care.**"* (end of quote)

Friends, brothers and sisters, we live in hope. We are people of hope and we have reason to hope that if we resolve to make things right in our efforts and our commitment for truth, justice, and healing, and in our policies to safeguard our children and the vulnerable that our parish is trying to be, we can see the light in the midst of this challenging time for our faith and for the Church. We are Easter people. And we know, the joy of Easter is always preceded by the Friday of suffering and even death.

Let us *'never give in'* so St Paul said in 1 Corinthians 15. Let us *'keep working at the Lord's work always, knowing that, in the Lord'* our works are never in vain. (1 Cor 15:54-58).

While we acknowledge that everyone is equal under the law and respect the Australian Legal system, we hope and pray for the healing of those who are hurting, for the truth to prevail and for justice to be served rightly.

Moreover, let us pray for ourselves. Our faith may be challenged because of this. We might be shocked, saddened, disoriented, disillusioned, and confused. Let's keep up and keep going. God is always beside us walking with us in this journey.

Again, to quote from the Statement of Archbishop Comensoli: *"We will each experience any amount of confusing and conflicting feelings. At this time please reach out for support if you feel you need it, and be present to those around you who may need to talk, or even to have space, as they come to terms with what this means for them personally. Especially, can I encourage you to pour out your heart to the Lord, who holds each of us tenderly in His love and care."* (end of quote)

Let us stay close with Christ, because he knows so well, he understands so well how difficult it is to suffer with those who are suffering and to bear the burden of our sins, and forgive us still even if we don't know what we are doing. May this Easter remind us and motivate us that in Christ we all have reason to hope. Easter hope means **hold on pain ends** or **hang on problem ends**. Amen.

Father Junjun Amaya, P.P.



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Parish Pastoral Council

The Parish Pastoral Council warmly welcomes Fr Shibu Pezhumthottathil on behalf of the Parish community. Fr Shibu has been with us for several months now and has been a wonderful supporting presence within the parish and school communities.

Parish Council meetings resumed for 2019 on Wednesday 6th February with current members being Fr's Junjun and Shibu, Jacinta Bartlett (Chair), Marilyn and David Seiter, Sr Eileen Reardon, Lindsey Tremethick, Isabelle Swanson and Theresa Dorahy.

We would specially like to thank Judy D'Astoli who recently resigned from Parish Council. Judy has been a greatly respected member of our council and has blessed us with her wisdom and the rich personal and professional experience she shared so generously with us all. Judy's engaging and humble presence will be sincerely missed. We wish Judy every blessing for the future and look forward to seeing you within the parish community.

Our goals for 2019 will address such matters as succession planning; Music ministry, liturgy support, youth ministry, child safety, social justice and the continuing growth of the parish.

Please feel welcome to speak to members of the Parish Pastoral council if you have concerns or wish to share your vision for the future life of the parish community. We will be inviting a member of parish groups to meet with us throughout the year in order to support and respond to the needs of those groups.

Fr Junjun has a clear vision to remain a vibrant and engaging parish community and with the support of the Parish Council will undertake new

initiatives that will educate and empower those people who so generously give of themselves in various ministries within the parish and outlying communities.

On behalf of the Parish Pastoral Council I would like to wish you all a very happy and safe Easter. Many will be preparing for celebrations, visitors and travel over this period and we pray this will be a time of blessing for you all.

Jacinta Bartlett

Our Commitment to Child Safety

Our Parish takes all allegations seriously and has appointed **Sonia La Motte-Schubert and Jacinta Bartlett** to be the Child Safety Persons with specific responsibility for responding to any complaints made by staff, volunteers, parents or children.



Sonia La Motte-Schubert

You may contact Sonia on 0434-179-411 or the Parish Centre 6024-3366. Jacinta may be contacted on 0418-470-532 You may wish to contact **The Commission for Children and Young People. Ph: (03) 8601 5281.**



Jacinta Bartlett



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For the kids



Christmas Eve Children's Mass 24th December, 2018.

What would Christmas Eve be without the annual Christmas Eve Children's Mass at Sacred Heart, Wodonga? With only 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 youth of our Parish were involved in presenting the readings and the Prayers of the Faithful, delivering the gifts to the altar, being altar



Archangel Gabrielle visiting Mary

reading the Prayers of the Faithful, Jacob Moffatt and Lochlan Moffatt for the difficult job of narrating the Christmas story, Caitlin Jones for assisting with

the power point, singing and even assisting with the collections at the Mass. The younger members of the Parish participated enthusiastically in presenting the Nativity play.

Thank you to Kieran Jones for reading a bible passage for us, Sophie Ebert and Emily Saric for

the collections, Sheridan Jones for her IT skills and Jessica Stewart and Sarah Herzina for leading the singing.

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 also to our musicians and singers. They added a relaxed and festive touch to the Mass so we thank them for their contribution.

Our Baby Jesus this year was Delilah Keene. She performed perfectly by sleeping through the whole play! Thank you to the Keene family for allowing Delilah to be the star of our Nativity play.



Joseph (Billy Stewart) with Jesus (Delilah Keene)

We look forward to seeing what happens at our next Children's Christmas Eve Mass.

Dianne Gibbs-Jones



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News from Abroad



Catholic Education Sandhurst - Social Justice Immersion Experience September, 2018: Cebu, Philippines - Ngaio Roa

There is a song called 'Cebu, where the heart sings'. It is a tourism jingle and I highly recommend you don't listen to it, as it will be stuck on repeat in your head for weeks! The song really resonates with me though as the people of Cebu truly touch your heart. I had never witnessed poverty as I did in Cebu, but I have also never witnessed happiness as I did in Cebu. Filipino people are very religious and the majority are Catholic. This is no exception for those in the depths of poverty.



These people have nothing. They struggle to get the necessities, such as clean water, food, shelter, medical assistance, and sanitary items. They are babies, toddlers, children, teenagers, adults and the elderly. They have great faith. They love God and they pray. If you have nothing, you need hope. God is hope.

This experience gave me the opportunity to reflect, evaluate and challenge myself. Challenge who I am, what I stand for and how I serve others. A social justice immersion experience is an opportunity to see the global impact of poverty and share in the mission of the Church. When looking at poverty globally you need to first appreciate another culture and approach it without judgment. It should not be 'us' and 'them.' We are all in it together and we have a responsibility to each other. It was the first time that I had experienced being in the minority. The only westerners we encountered in Cebu city were a few German volunteers in the housing projects. People stared at us, laughed at us, and were in awe of us. We are so lucky to have not only cultural diversity at St Monica's but also social diversity. It is so important for children to experience difference so that they develop a social

conscience and tolerance. We might think we are individuals living in our own little bubble, but we need to develop strong communities, safe communities, and prospering communities, and that can only be achieved if we are in it together.

This trip was a chance to begin to understand the complex issues of poverty and grow in faith, with



love and a deep respect for human dignity. Human dignity is for all to be respected. To respect yourself, respect others and respect creation around you. Father Heinz said that when you encounter people in need, you encounter God. On my trip to Cebu, I learned to understand this. A genuine concern for others connects you to what Jesus was all about. In a Catholic sense, everything we do should be in the spirit of Jesus. Kindness. We should treat everyone around us with kindness and a respect for all our uniqueness. All I could think of in my time in the Philippines was that if every person on this earth showed the people they encounter kindness, then possibly there would be no hunger, unsanitary living conditions, and homelessness.

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News from Abroad



Catholic Education Sandhurst - Social Justice Immersion Experience (cont.) September, 2018: Cebu, Phillipines - Ngaio Roa

There are a select few that give up everything so that others might have something. They give their life to service. It is truly witnessing the word. The Missionary Sisters at the Missionaries of Charity Home for Sick and Malnourished Children are an example of this. We met young Sister Mary from Sydney, who happily left her life of privilege to serve others. This got me thinking...could I do this? I came to the conclusion that I was too selfish, but it didn't have to stop me from doing good. We can't always change the world, but we can touch individuals within it and help to make a small change. If more of us choose to do this, then we have a much wider



and deeper effect. It all comes back to 'Love your neighbor as yourself'. I met so many people in Cebu that were making extraordinary change by just choosing to acknowledge what had become invisible to so many. People had become invisible. Everybody wants to feel important, everyone wants to feel worthy. When you are homeless, people ignore you like you are unworthy. It is a

human right to feel worth. We are all made in God's likeness. We are equal. I was born, they were born. It was only luck that I was born into privilege and they were born into poverty. Everyone has the right to feel worthy.

I discovered that I knew very little about poverty, for there are varying levels of poverty. There are many ways that people's right to human dignity is violated on this earth. On our journey, we visited the Umapad dumpsite, Bankal Housing Community, Compostela Housing project, San Pio Village, Missionaries of Charity Home for Sick and Malnourished Children, Public Cemeteries, Balay Samaritano. Each with varying levels of poverty. There are thousands of people, families living in dumpsites and cemeteries in the Philippines.

At Umapad, the people live in shanties and wait for dump trucks to arrive to scavenge through the rubbish to find what they can to sell and make enough money to feed themselves. Children play on the piles of rubbish with nothing on their feet or a pair of thongs if they are lucky. Children run dangerously close to machinery delivering, crushing and moving the rubbish around the dumpsite. There are no medical facilities or option for medical help. They simply cannot afford it. People are cut by rubbish, burnt, ravished by disease, women give birth there, infants die there. Many people die there. There are so many children.



Father Heinz from Germany and Father John from Australia lived and spent time with the dumpsite dwellers. Both earned their trust and encouraged a sense of community and education for the children. We visited the preschool at the dumpsite and it was so welcoming. Everyone at the dumpsite was so warm and welcoming. There were smiles everywhere we went.

David Michael Avery

B.Comm LLB(Hons) LLM

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News from Abroad



Catholic Education Sandhurst - Social Justice Immersion Experience (cont.) September, 2018: Cebu, Phillipines - Ngaio Roa

I struggled with the sense that we were imposing. We walked through their community, past shanties whilst people were bathing and sleeping. I was told by people in the community that they very much wanted us there. They want people to witness their living conditions, they want to be acknowledged and they very much want help. These people work hard and in the worst conditions. Not to mention the overwhelming heat and humidity. They don't want handouts. They want a chance to transform their existence.

We visited housing communities that have been developed with money donated from around the world including Australia. These are self-sustainable communities that are housing people from the dumpsites. One of the most powerful things I witnessed in Cebu was Subsidiarity in action. Where people/groups who are directly affected are the ones who have a key decision making role. They make the decisions that run their communities. They all work within a Cooperative where the objective is to teach individuals in the community skills that can be used to boost livelihood activities. Education for children is valued and you get a sense of this when you see how proudly they wear their uniforms. Even in the middle of the unsanitary living conditions of dumpsites and cemeteries, the kids' uniforms are scrubbed clean and somehow crease free.

The hardest places to visit were the places where children were on their own. How can anyone expect a child to make good choices when there

has been no one to show them how? How does a child learn how to smile, if the child has had no one smile at them? How could a child ever show joy, if all they have experienced is suffering? If a child steals or is violent, are they to blame? Children who do not experience the love of a family cannot be blamed for not knowing how to communicate love. Family is so essential to the well being of a child. I can't even find the words to describe the hopelessness that was worn on the faces of the children without their families. It was like there was an emptiness inside them. No facial expressions. Some switched off to protect themselves and others aggressive to protect themselves. They should not need to protect themselves. They were just babies. The most vulnerable of society.

I have a responsibility to act. It will take time to find the right path, but I certainly have a renewed outlook on life that I hope will last a lifetime. There is a big difference between charity and social justice. They both work together. You do need an element of charity to carry out social justice. It can be easier to just give money and material items to help others, but without people willing to seek social justice, give their time, their energy, and their talents there would be no change. Ending poverty requires restoring people's ability to secure and protect their own basic human rights and to break the inherited social constraints that hold them back. Empowerment. (*The Hunger Project*)

This barefoot mummy has some good ideas to teach kids the difference between charity and justice.

<http://www.thebarefootmommy.com/2017/03/social-justice-kids-service/>



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Alternative Schoolies

As many of you may remember, at the end of 2018 three students, Alexia Brown, Marnie Matassoni and I, from Catholic College Wodonga participated in an Alternatives Schoolies trip which led the three of us to Cebu City in the Philippines. We cannot thank the Parish enough for the \$912 in donations which contributed to the \$3,000 we raised, and the approximate \$13,200 the 16 students from across the diocese were able to raise and take with us to donate to communities in the Philippines.

Upon arriving to Cebu many of us were unsure of what the next 10 days would hold, but each of us learnt so many things and know that the donations we made, and you made have made such a difference to so many. One such place was The Home for Sick and Malnourished Children ran by the Missionaries of Charity. Whilst visiting the centre the Sisters spoke to us about the work they would do over Christmas. They expected to spend approximately \$1,500 AUD on rice to give to those who couldn't afford a meal at Christmas. With the donations we raised, we were ecstatic to be able to donate 76,870 pesos (approx. \$1,900 AUD) to help the Missionaries of Charity and support the amazing work they do always expecting nothing in return.



A group sing along with the children of Compostela, done after they performed a dance for our group.

Integrity of Creation) community volunteers with all communities receiving at least 42,706 pesos (approx. \$1,100 AUD).

As a group we were tasked with dividing the money among the eight communities we visited. We based these decisions around conversations we had had with leaders in the communities and JPIC (Justice Peace and

Even though it has been over 2 months since our trip, so many things have stuck with me, and won't be going anywhere anytime soon. No matter where we were, or which community we were visiting, smiles were everywhere, which at times was unbelievable. This really put the life we have in Australia in perspective as so many of us search for more and find it difficult to be happy, but many in the Philippines who have so little find so much joy in the small things we could offer, even if it was only a smile or a small tube of bubbles.



Some of the 16 students with a number of our student ambassadors from the University of San Carlos who accompanied us in our travels at the farewell dinner.

The one experience I will personally remember for many years to come is the night I, along with a few others, was able to accompany Brother Paul Bongcaras on his nightly routine. Brother Paul each night walks the streets of Cebu providing medicine and other necessities to those who need it. When asked why he never stopped or took a break, he simply said that he 'saw the need'. I will also carry with me the message he told us, which was to not only look and listen, but to connect a feeling to what you are seeing and hearing, and it is only then that you will truly understand what is around you.

Once again we thank all of you for the amazing support you provided with your donations, and hope you have a wonderful Easter!

Natalie Barnes

Yr 12 student 2018, Catholic College Wodonga



St Augustine's



St Monica's



St Francis



Catholic College Wodonga

YEAR 7 WELCOMING MASS

It was a fantastic gathering of our new Year 7 students and their families at Sacred Heart for the Year 7 Welcoming Mass celebration on Thursday 7 February. With beautiful music and the church packed to the brim, our new Year 7s were announced in their communities, wearing their community stoles with pride as they entered the church.

Thank you to Chris Telford, Catholic Identity Leader, and Lachlan Horner, our Catholic Identity Trainee for their great efforts in preparing this evening. It was a wonderful mass and a great way to celebrate the start of our Year 7's journey with us at Catholic College.

Many families took the opportunity to meet each other and the teachers who will be working with the Year 7 students throughout 2019, as well students' Learning Mentors.

It was a most fitting beginning for the Year 7 students and we hope that their first year at CCW will be a fulfilling one.



YEAR 12 JUMPER PRESENTATION

On Wednesday 13 February we had the evening our Year 12s have been waiting for since... well since they started in Year 7. Our annual Jumper Presentation saw our Year 12s and their families full of anticipation and luckily, for the first time in recent years, not having to swelter in the Auditorium.



After an opening Liturgy from the Year 12 student leaders, our Principal, Darta Hovey, gave our 2019 Year 12 cohort words of

encouragement and presented our 2019 College Captains, Neve Hickey and Jakob Barlow with their badges.

Deputy Principal, Eamonn Buckley, called up the students in their communities one by one and finally, the jumpers were on for photos outside the auditorium. The design looks fantastic and they will wear them with pride all year. We wish our Year 12 class of 2019 all the best for the year ahead.





St Augustine's



St Monica's



St Francis



Catholic College Wodonga

SWIMMING CARNIVAL

Chisholm has stopped Hollows from claiming four wins in a row, taking out the 2019 CCW Community Swimming Carnival title. Well done Chisholm! With a new look event program, this year's carnival focused on community involvement instead of racing the clock.



The Albury Pool had an amazing atmosphere again with an array of community colours, as every Community had massive signs and chants on show. Over 800 students attended the event, with strong participation and competition results.

Thanks to all staff for their hard work both with official duties on the day and in the lead up to the carnival. Thanks to all Communities - staff, students and student leaders - for their involvement and contribution to making it a successful event!

Happy Days,

Darta

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Catholic College



St Monica's



St Francis



St Augustine's

A warm welcome to the 2019 school year is extended to all students and families. There are 40 Foundation students and many new students in other year levels starting at St Augustine's, taking our enrolments to 327. It is a time of new beginnings for many in our community. We welcome new staff:

- Sophie Wrath-Frank (3/4 Teacher)
- Kayla Hibberson (3/4 Teacher)
- Will McCarty (Learning Support Officer – 1/2 Learning Centre)
- Kelly Ferry (Learning Support Officer – 3/4 Learning Centre)
- Sheldon Smith (Learning Support Officer – 5/6 Health & PE Support)

Father Shibu led us in our welcoming Mass on February 12th. Prayers, reading and uplifting songs were complemented by the Buddy tradition that is



an integral part of this event. It is always touching to watch the Year 6 students pin a guardian angel on the collar of their Foundation buddies' uniforms. This bond between the older and younger students is strong, mutually beneficial and often lifelong. Inviting the Year 6 families to be a buddy family to the Foundation families who are new to the school, has been a most successful initiative.

With Lent already upon us, we are preparing for Easter in our school. On Shrove Tuesday the students enjoyed celebrating with pancakes. An Ash Wednesday liturgy commemorated the beginning of Lent. Our Easter Raffle is, as always, very well supported.

The relaxed and social Welcoming Picnic was attended by many. The hive of chatter and laughter echoed across Sumsion Gardens on a Wednesday in March. This is the annual occasion where we gather together and welcome new families into the St Augustine's Community.

The "Dads in Schools" Camp will take place over the weekend of March 30th and 31st. We anticipate a resounding success with the fun shared at the Lake Hume Resort in Bowna. Students in Years 5 and 6 made the most of their trip to Bendigo and Ballarat to enhance their classroom studies.

There is an optimistic feel as the new year begins. Reflection on and and streamlining of what we already do, and strategic planning for the future, are underway. There is always something to look forward to. We wish all students every success, and encourage them to take full opportunity of the experiences offered.

Joe Quinn

Principal

Belinda Evans

Community Coordinator



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St Francis of Assisi

"You are the light of the world; Let your light shine" Matthew 5:14-16

Our St Francis of Assisi Welcoming Mass this year combined the idea of letting your light shine and the Catholic Education Wodonga theme, 'Rise Up and Pray'. Our new students, staff and Foundation students processed into church holding candles and lanterns to symbolise the light they will shine in our school community.



Our staff, led by our Mission and Catholic Identity Leader Mrs Suzie Patralla prepared students to rise up and pray and fully participate in the Mass. Mass was celebrated by Father Jun Jun and Father Shibhu. At the conclusion of Mass we invested our student leaders, welcomed our new students and marked the start of the educational journey for our 2019 Foundation students. It was such a meaningful experience for all and it was wonderful to have so many families join us for the Mass and stay for morning tea.



Mrs Jennyne Wilkinson

Principal

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St Monica's Guardian Angels

At St Monica's we have welcomed 61 Foundation students to our school. Our Foundation students are very blessed to have a Guardian Angel to look after them and help them settle into school life. The Guardian Angels are our Year 6 students who have undertaken their role very seriously and they have been great role models to our new students. It has been lovely seeing the relationships grow and develop amongst the students.



Every morning for the first two weeks of school the Guardian Angels came over to the Early Learning Centre to spend time with their Foundation student and they worked on a booklet together. The Guardian Angels also supported their student by travelling on the bus with them to Sacred Heart Church on Friday 8th of February for our whole school opening Mass. Father Shibhu celebrated our Mass and it was lovely to see many of our parents there too. The Guardian Angels sat with their student and the care they showed them and how to be respectful in the Church was wonderful.



Thoughts from the Foundation students about their Guardian Angels:

My Guardian Angel is friendly.

My Guardian Angel helps me to draw.

I like my Guardian Angels because they are kind.

They help me on the monkey bars.

Thoughts from the Guardian Angels about their Foundation student:

We have fun together.

Being a Guardian Angel gives me another friend.

I get to teach someone to be kind.

They look up to me.



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Youth Ministry and St Monica's, Wodonga

As part of Year 11 Youth Ministry at Catholic College Wodonga, our students participate in various forms of community service and outreach. There are currently three full classes of students who have elected to undertake Youth Ministry in Year Eleven this year. This is our most successful year ever and we know that the Holy Spirit must be at work in our young people in order to draw them into this ministry. At St Monica's Primary school, one class of students work with grade one and two each Monday and also with Foundation students every second week.



The aim of this part of our community service is to build relationship and create community in your schools. The relationships that form over the course of the year are delightful to see and this felt from both sides of this story. For our teenagers in a busy

time of their lives this service opportunity nurtures their nature to give and be role models to our children in the most simply of ways, to be a friendly and helpful face in their lives.

For our children, the connection they make with our older students shows them that they too are important members of the community. They are cared for and worthy, and as a result, they too will grow up to be people of integrity and love one day.

[Catherine McKinley](#)

Youth Ministry Teacher - Catholic College Wodonga

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General News



Year 12 Prayer Cards

The tradition of the Year 12 Prayer cards was borne out of a suggestion from Diana McKinley to Marilyn Seiter (the then Religious Education Co-ordinator at Catholic College). Diana's suggestion was offered in the hope that the cards would help to connect and build the relationship between CCW (Catholic College, Wodonga) and the Parish and also provide a vehicle for Parishioners to maintain a connection with the College after their children may have completed their education at CCW. With the help of Sr. Imelda at the Parish level, the tradition began to evolve. The first lot of Year 12s to benefit from this tradition was in the early 2000s.

Each year the parishioners and students come together for a breakfast. This provides an opportunity for them to get to know each other. The tradition has been growing strongly each year and the breakfast has become an integral way to bring the communities together.

In the past two years we have begun to take our Learning Communities to join with the Parishioners to celebrate Eucharist together at daily Mass. This provides another opportunity for the parishioners who are praying for the Year 12 students to come together. Whilst in its infancy this ritual is becoming a significant part of the Year 12 students' learning journey.

This year our prayer cards list the dates for the Community Masses and we encourage those who are praying for students to gather with us at that time.

We appreciate the prayers from the Parish Community and the students are always keen to meet the person who is praying for them if they don't already know them. We encourage parishioners to pray for students they may not know rather than family members (we assume you will be praying for them anyway).

It has been great to see a suggestion flourish into a significant tradition in our Parish. May it continue to grow and bring our Parish closer.

God bless you for your concern for our young people.

Chris Telford

Catholic Identity Leader



MICAH PRAYER GROUP
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5:30 PM – 7PM ADORATION • 7PM – 7:30PM CUPPA
7:30PM – 9PM PRAYER MEETING

Catholic Charismatic Renewal (CCR) invites you to a new way of expressing our Catholic Spirituality and lifestyle. Is there within you a deep hunger for more? Jesus said 'I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full' (John10:10) Each week we come together to share and celebrate a new way of living by the power of the Holy Spirit through the gifts he has given us. We encourage and support one another in our journey to grow in the knowledge and love of Jesus and the Father. Our weekly meeting includes praise, teaching, sharing's, prayer and healing prayer. All welcome. Contact: **Brigita Hore 0412 042 196**

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Micah
Prayer Group



CATHOLIC ALPHA



ALPHA!!! COME AND EXPLORE!!!

LIFE, FAITH, MEANING

A DEEPER RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST.

WODONGA CATHOLIC ALPHA NOW RUNNING

WOULD LIKE TO KNOW MORE? CONTACT:

MARGARET 0458031903, GERRI 0438206082

What is Alpha?

Alpha is a series of interactive sessions that explore the basics of Christian faith.

WHO IS IT FOR?

Alpha is for anyone who's curious to explore the big questions of life, faith and meaning. The talks are designed to encourage conversation and explore the Christian faith in a friendly, open and informal atmosphere.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

Typically run over eleven weeks, no two Alphas look the same, but generally, they have three key things in common: food, a short talk and a discussion where you can share your thoughts. There's no pressure and no follow up.

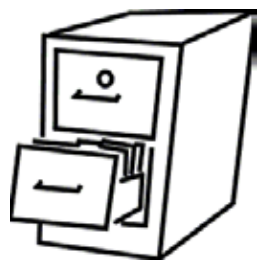
HOW MUCH IS IT?

There's no charge for Alpha, though a donation to cover food cost would be deeply appreciated.

From

the

Archives



Early history of St. Augustine's

Four days after reaching the Hume River, which Hume named after his father, Hume and Hovell found a suitable crossing. Charles Huon de Kerilleau (1810?-) established his property "Woodonga" in the same year that Batman sailed up the Yarra River to the future site of Melbourne. He named his homestead "Belvoir". Woodonga was originally known as Belvoir.

In October 1854 Francis Cadell (1822-1879) navigated the Murray River to Howlong. He returned to Goolwa and ordered two, one-hundred-and-twenty-foot steamers. The following year he arrived at Albury after navigating the "Albury" steamer the one-thousand-three-hundred- and-sixty-eight-miles up the Murray River from the sea bringing a load of stores for the Ovens diggings. The development of the river trade brought new and desirable benefits to the storekeepers and diggers as the service was quicker and more reliable than the bullock drays.

During winter the Murray River was the most reliable form of transport for trade as, for over half the year the river was navigable up to Wahgunyah and Belvoir. It could take weeks or months for the

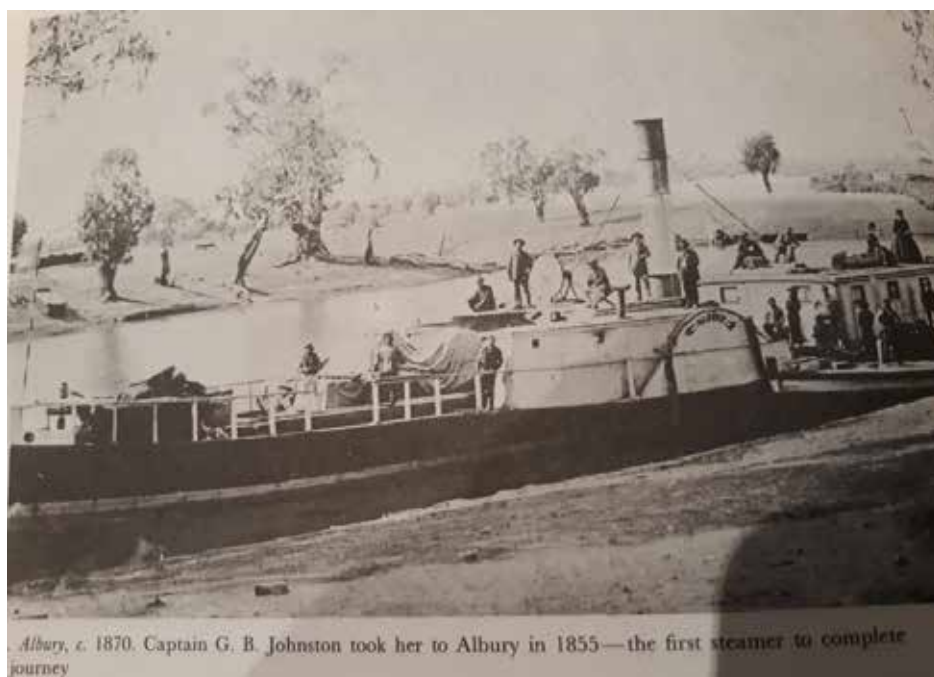
laden drays to travel along the boggy tracks from Melbourne to Beechworth.

Jolting over bad roads and bush tracks, wading through creeks, threading through the forest by the light of lamps which made the dimness a little way off, denser and darker, rattling along at ten mph just clearing the stumps, avoiding the trees, falling into the ruts.

The Port of Belvoir existed between 1854 and 1859. In 1860 Crawford and Connolley did a deal with Cobb and Co. to provide a regular coach service between Melbourne and Wodonga, which greatly improved transport for the North-east.

St Augustine's Catholic Church

Fr Lovat, a professor of physics and moral theology, came to the Colony of New South Wales in 1837 as the Director of St Mary's Ecclesiastical College Sydney at the invitation of Bishop Polding. When he was appointed to Yass, he spent seventy-five percent of his ministry in the saddle. He travelled as far as the Ovens River and said the first Mass in Victoria at Belvoir in the home of Charles Huon in 1843. Fr. Smyth travelled from Beechworth to say Mass for Wodonga Catholics when the Beechworth Mission was established in 1854. Belvoir (Wodonga) became part of the Wangaratta Mission ten years later, at which time young Fr Galen would ride from Wangaratta to Wodonga to say Mass. Fr. Van der Velden who became the resident Priest at Chiltern in 1877 was then responsible for Wodonga. Fr J. Ryan was appointed the first Parish Priest of Wodonga in 1898. Both Fr Ryan and Fr D. Tobin, who took over in 1906, continued to travel up from Chiltern until Fr. Tobin moved into the Railway Hotel. The third priest, Dr. F. Flynn who remained in Wodonga for thirty-nine years built the first presbytery in 1913.



Albury, c. 1870. Captain G. B. Johnston took her to Albury in 1855—the first steamer to complete journey

From

the

Archives



Early history of St. Augustine's (cont)

The first Catholic Church in Wodonga was St Francis' chapel, which was a rather unpretentious building. St Augustine's is built on a Crown land grant. Foundations for a new Catholic Church were laid in June 1874. The brick church was to be of modest dimensions with the capacity for extensions if required. It is possible to see from the photo of St Augustine's below that the church was originally built with the nave only. The roof line is the giveaway, at the far end can be seen a cross where the sanctuary has been built. Both the front and side porches were probably added at a later date. When entering the sacristy from the sanctuary there is a step down which is indicative of a later extension. On the far side of the church is another

small chapel attached to the church. Presumably this was added for the Sisters of Mercy because a passageway from the chapel adjoined the convent.

Dr. Crane, Bishop of Sandhurst, consecrated St. Augustine's on May 13, 1878. £100 was received as a government grant in 1876. As late as 1904, there was still a heavy debt on St Augustine's Church, so a bazaar was held in March 1904 to assist in reducing it. Catholics have always been expected to raise money for church needs outside their own parish. The proceeds of the Wodonga St Patrick's Day races, bazaar, ball and supper in 1879 went to assist in the building of St Brigid's convent in Beechworth.

Diana McKinley



General News



Bereavement Support Group

In the late 1990s Fr Joe Taylor expressed interest in setting up a Bereavement Support Group in our Parish. He discussed this with Sr. Imelda Gain and it was agreed that she approach parishioners who may be interested in joining a group. Sr. Imelda contacted people who either had nursing experience or were involved with the Mercy Palliative Care Group in Albury.

Marg Hickey agreed to be the Co-ordinator and stayed in the role till she was no longer able to continue. Sr. Imelda then asked me, as I was already a member of the group, if I would become the Group Co-ordinator.

We are a small group and meet on the first Monday of each month to report on Parish Deaths and arrange to contact the families who have suffered a bereavement. In 2018, our priests officiated at more than fifty funerals

A Memorial Mass is held in Sacred Heart Church during November at 7.30pm for our deceased parishioners and relatives of parishioners who have died during the twelve months. An invitation is sent out to the families and a notice is placed in the parish bulletin inviting parishioners to attend.

Marg Whitehead



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Wodonga Catholic Parish

Something to ponder

SIZE of God

A boy asked his Father:- Dad, what is the size of GOD?

Then the Father looked up at the Sky and saw a Plane and asked his son:- What is the size of this Plane?

The Boy replied:- it is very small. I can hardly see it. Then the Father took his son to the airport and as they approached a plane, he asked:- Now, my son, how big is this Plane?

The boy replied:- Wow dad, it's huge!

Then the father told him:-

GOD's size depends on how close or far you are to him. The closer you are to him, the Greater and Greater he will be in your life!

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Baptisms

Penelope Furst
 Billy Svarc
 Nate Gentile
 Mason Taylor
 Ivy Jamison
 Jase Barry
 Ella Bramley
 Lia Haddrick
 Olivia Turner
 Isla Dalley

Samson Flynn
 Kensley Furst
 Adaline Lamb
 Charlotte Jacobsen
 Sophia Juric
 Annabelle Bramley
 Henry Slater
 Pippa Zumbo
 Ellie Turner

Marriages

Bridegroom

Benjamin Lewis
 Edward Dunlop
 Stephen Courtney
 Thomas Condon

Bride

Sarah Doolan
 Dinah Paraggua
 Tuyen Than Nugyen
 Anastasis Thomson

 An advertisement for Garvan Financial Planning. It features a background image of a hand dropping a coin into a white piggy bank. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

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Wodonga Catholic Parish



Parish Directory 2019

CLERGY:

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

PASTORAL STAFF:

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

CHILD SAFETY OFFICERS:

Jacinta Bartlett	0418 470 532
Sonia La Motte-Schubert	6024 3366

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 3366
Lectors / Commentators Rosters	Parish Centre	6024 3366
Children's Liturgy	Mez Moffatt	0478 154 252
Altar Servers	Michael McLinden	6059 2924

CHURCH SUPPORT GROUPS:

Altar Group – Sacred Heart	Parish Centre	6024 3366
Church Cleaning – Sacred Heart	Parish Centre	6024 3366
Vestments Group	Juliana Vaughan	6059 7689
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:

Catholic College	Principal	Darren Hovey	6043 5500
St Francis	Principal	Jennynne 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

PARISH ORGANIZATIONS:

Baptism Preparation	Marilyn & Dave Seiter	6024 5114
Bereavement Group	Marg Whitehead	6024 4697
Catholics Returning Home	Gerri Boldrini	6056 2442
C.C.R. Micah Prayer Group	Melinda Clifford	6024 3366
Evangelisation	Gerri Boldrini	6056 2442
Godstart	Parish Centre	6024 3366
Mass of Anointing Group	Helen Hanrahan	6024 2024
Mothers Prayer Group	Kath Moate	6043 9797
Parish Bulletin	Sonni La Motte-Schubert	6024 3366

wodcath@bigpond.net.au

Parish Talk - Editor	Greg Walsh	wcptalk@gmail.com
Advertising	Kevin Tracy	6059 1854
Pastoral Council Chair	Jacinta Bartlett	0418 470 532
Rite of Christian Initiation Adults	Marg Hannebery	6059 4669
Sacramental Program	Anna Moran	0400 434 285
Sandpiper Diocesan Magazine	Parish Centre	6024 3366
Social Justice Diocesan Representative		6024 3366
Youth Ministry	Parish Centre	6024 3366

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS:

Albury/Wodonga Ecumenical	Parish Centre	6024 3366
Tertiary Chaplaincy		
Catholic Women's League	Beth Crothers	6027 5263
Country Victorian Family Groups	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: April 11th 7.00pm The Community celebrates Reconciliation - Sacred Heart Church Wodonga

Palm Sunday: April 14th - Blessing of the palms at all Masses this weekend

Chrism Mass: April 16th - Sacred Heart Cathedral, Bendigo 11.00am

Holy Thursday: April 18th - 8.00am - Tenebrae - St Augustine's Church, Wodonga
(Extended Morning Prayer of the Church)

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 night prayer of the Church at 9.00pm

Good Friday April 19th - 8.00am - Tenebrae - St Augustine's Church - Wodonga

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

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 April 20th - 8.00am - Tenebrae - St Augustine's 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 21st -

Sunrise Service - 6.30am Ecumenical Service Tawonga Gap - Led by St Joseph's Catholic Church

8.30am & 10.30am Sacred Heart Church Wodonga

8.30am St Joseph's Church Mt Beauty

10.30am St Joseph's Church Dederang