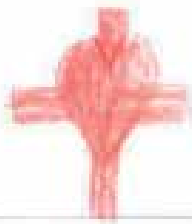
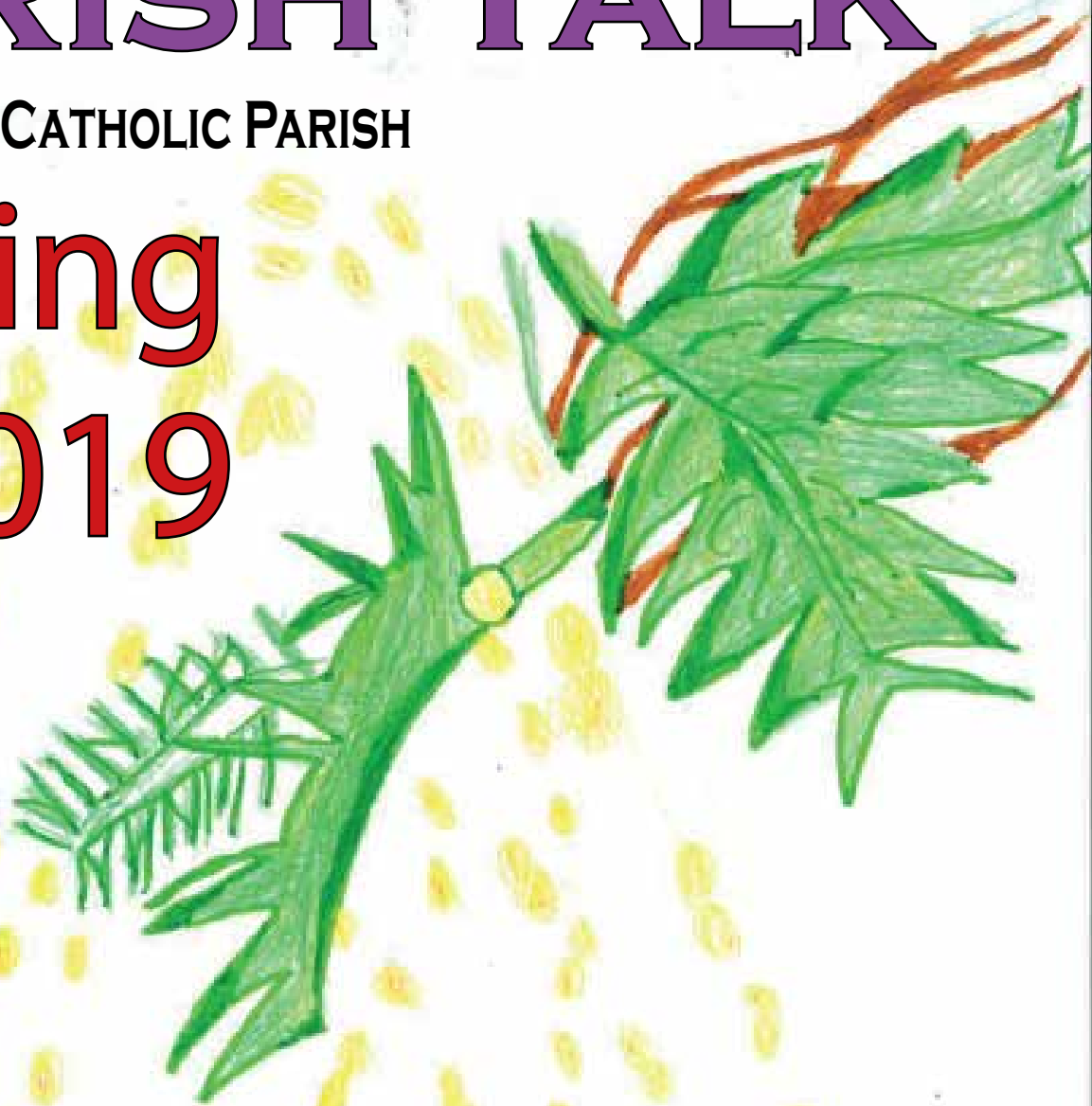


PARISH TALK

WODONGA CATHOLIC PARISH

Spring
2019



Spring



David Nguyen 3/4 SR St Monicas
primary school



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

No Masses

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

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FROM THE EDITOR

Hello everyone,

In this Spring, 2019 edition, the news that we will soon have a new bishop is prominent. In keeping with this theme of renewal, the story of fourteen people in our parish going through the process of becoming a Catholic is very uplifting.

The first Alpha program, which was introduced at the beginning of this year, has been completed. The feedback from participants indicates that it was very beneficial. A new program has just commenced, and it is not too late to join.

Adi Indra, who recently spent time in our parish for the second time as a seminarian 'intern', has written a very thoughtful reflection.

Until next time.

Greg Walsh

Parish Talk Roster 2019/20

Edition	Cover	Submission Date
Christmas	St Augustine's	2019
Easter	Catholic College	2020
Spring	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



This is my second year in this parish, not that I am counting. What I am counting however, (or have lost count now), are the blessings God has poured on me in my ministry with you and among you. Such blessings have been and still are, for me, so enriching, encouraging, energising and giving me reasons to get out of bed in the morning. And I believe, just by looking at Fr Shibu's beautiful smile, he would share this same sentiment too.

I have been enriched and felt so blessed to see your sense of faith in God and your sense of being a community of faith journeying together in the face of life's ups and downs, lights and shadows, joys and sorrows, rainy or sunny days, cold winters or even hot summers. And I mean this, for EACH ONE OF YOU.

Furthermore, I am encouraged to see how you care for the Church. I am forever grateful to God for your care for our parish. Your wonderful sense of volunteerism and generosity of your time, talents and treasures as you commit to our parish ministries, initiatives, social outreach and engagements even if it means going beyond the confines of our parish, are indeed keeping our parish alive and a joy to belong to.

In like manner, I am also encouraged and indeed thankful for the commitments that the parishioners of Mt Beauty, Dederang and Tangambalanga put in as a way of faithful service to your respective faith community and as the Catholic-Christian presence in the valley.

Moreover, my hope is strengthened and I am energised to see our Catholic Education Wodonga (St Monica's, St Augustine's, St Francis and Catholic College) serving their role as the face of Christ and of the Church to many of our young people. Thanks to our amazing, dedicated and caring leaders in our schools, to our outstanding teachers and staff, to the ever-supportive parents and families of our students and of especially of course to our young people in our schools.

I encourage our young people to keep up as signs of hope for us. Find a steady bearing (i.e. life's purpose and direction) and come back to it when life seems to throw everything at you and when you may

find it hard to know which option is the right one for you.

I am also encouraged by the presence of different nationalities and their engagements in our parish celebrations. This reflects that in Christ it does not matter where do we come from. For him, what matters is we gather together not looking at each other's skin colour but on looking at the same direction together, i.e. EUCHARIST.

My dear parishioners, for all these and more, I THANK GOD FOR YOU AND THANK ALL OF YOU for you keep the faith alive in our day and making the Church relevant still today.

Let me assure you all with the words of St Paul, who, encouraged by the faith of the Christians in Philippi, wrote:

"I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. (Phil 1:3-6)." GOD BLESS YOU ALL.

Father Junjun Amaya, P.P.



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\$150 donated to the parish for every listing received from a parishioner

Parish Pastoral Council

The Parish Pastoral Council would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to all our parishioners who give so generously and in so many ways to make our parish a vibrant, welcoming and spirit filled community.

It is heartening to see the dedication and genuine care of others that reaches out to build and nurture the spirit that unites our very diverse community and supports others in need of help. This was particularly evident by the outstanding contributions made to enable backpacks to be sent overseas to assist children with essential educational needs.

The Parish Pastoral Council meets on the first Wednesday of every month and is made up of a representation of people from the parish community.

Our current members are: Theresa Dorahy, Abi Archer, Lindsey Tremethick, David Seiter (secretary), Marilyn Seiter, Isabelle Swanson, Des Loney, Fr JunJun, Fr Shibu, Sr Eileen Reardon and Jacinta Bartlett (Chair).

PPC members are working continuously to support the different groups and individuals to remain active and vibrant ministries within the parish. Some members of the PPC have recently done a Child Safety and WHS audit of the parish church, surrounding structures and external paths and gardens in order to ensure the safety of children and adults alike. The audit results have been collated to prioritise the works needing short-term action and others tiered according to need and financial availability.

The winter months are behind us and we can embrace the wonders of spring as it lifts our spirits and warms our bodies and souls. We thank you again for supporting our parish in the many and varied ways you give of yourselves. It is the selfless energy you bring that has built the vibrant and loving community we all enjoy... Thank 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



Damien & Louise Robinson

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Bishop-elect Shane Mackinlay for Sandhurst Diocese

I have just spent a privileged 45 minutes with our new bishop-elect, Fr Shane Mackinlay. Fr Shane is Master of Catholic Theological College (CTC), where our seminarians undertake the academic studies that are part of their preparation for the priesthood. CTC is open to the laity and is a wonderful place to study if you want to know more about your Catholic faith. Fr Shane's parents, Helen



and Malcolm (pictured above) have three children: Shane, Karen a physiotherapist and Jason who is an engineer in Hamburg, Germany. He also has five nieces and nephews. All the family are all hoping to be present at Fr Shane's Ordination at Sacred Heart Cathedral, on October 16, 2019. Why don't you plan on being there? It will be a very special and wonderful occasion

Archbishop Mark Coleridge said Fr Shane "combines high intelligence with good strategic ability, deep faith with a capacity to engage the culture". He added that Bishop-elect Mackinlay will make a "fine bishop of Sandhurst". What more could we ask for? He is an Associate Professor,

specialising in philosophy. Fr Shane is also a Parish Priest at Bungaree in the Diocese of Ballarat. He grew up in Ballarat and attended St Francis Xavier Primary School and St Patrick's College, where he was dux. From there he went on to study physics at Monash University, priestly studies at Corpus Christi and later Master's and Doctoral degrees at the Catholic University of Leuven in Belgium.

He is a wonderful teacher, with an empathetic sense of being able to reach his listeners. He loves "teaching and being involved with people in their local parish communities". He looks forward to continuing this work, albeit in a different way, in his new role. We are in for a treat when he comes to Wodonga for Pastoral and Sacramental visits. He will take up a leadership role combined with a healing, restorative role in the church, helping those of us who have got lost in the current crisis. Fr Shane was the spokesperson for the Catholic Church during the Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry into the Handling of Child Abuse by Religious and Other Organisations. Our new bishop will emphasise the important role of community and the hope and richness, to which Jesus calls us in our lives. Bishop-elect Shane is looking forward to the new life that the Plenary Council will bring to our Church.

Welcome to our Bishop-elect, Shane Mackinlay. May the lord protect you and the Holy Spirit lead you in your exciting new role in our diocese.



Thank you, Bishop Les Tomlinson, for your pastoral care over the past seven years. We wish you a long and happy retirement. God bless..

Diana McKinley



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RCIA

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

With much excitement, anticipation and hope Sacred Heart Church in Wodonga filled with parishioners on Easter Saturday night this year to witness fourteen people be welcomed into the Catholic community. For our part, Catholic College Wodonga was blessed to have six young people either complete their sacraments of Confirmation and/or Eucharist and two students receive Baptism as well. This was simply an amazing journey for these students but it must be said that their journey reached far beyond the sphere of their own private faith and touched and inspired many, many others.....



This journey began in 2018 when enquires were made by young people about the process involved in becoming a Catholic. I for my part tried incredibly hard not to spontaneously combust with joy and we simply started the conversation about RCIA and what traditionally happens for younger people at primary school level. Knowing that neither of these programs was the right fit for our students, we consulted with our Parish Priest Fr Junjun and

our CCW Leadership team in order to find the right direction and path for our young people to take. With much excitement we began a new youth focused version of this program at the beginning of the year.

Meeting weekly the group of six discussed, discovered and debated, attended masses, prepared and were presented to the community in the knowledge that at the most sacred time of our church year they would be officially welcomed into the community. The importance of these young people sharing this experience with others their own age cannot be underestimated, their questions and wonderings, their curiosity and courage were free to be explored as they felt comfortable in their surrounding and companions.



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RCIA

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

I would like to thank both the CCW Leadership Team, Fr Junjun, the Wodonga Catholic Parish RCIA and Sacramental Team and the community for supporting these students-cum-candidates and now Catholics. Without your guidance and blessing, this journey would not have been as meaningful and, for some, simply would not have taken place.

To our young people, Harry Cox, Samuel Partridge, Darci Boyd, Riley Wise, Joe Forti and Page Forti, congratulations. On behalf of the entire CCW and Wodonga Catholic Parish I thank you for your commitment, your courage and your care for each other on this journey. Please remember that the journey is not over, it has simply begun with this most important step and will remain with you for the rest of your lives.

Catherine McKinley (CCW)



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LA Religious Education Congress 2019

With the wonderful and amazing support of CCW and the Sandhurst Diocese I am attending the Los Angeles Religious Education Congress this year. I am writing this on our last day here full of excitement and renewed spirit for our schools, parish, ministry and faith. Over the course of three days over 30000 people attended the congress to hear inspirational speakers, learn extraordinary ways to be an active part of our Catholic faith and build community from all around the world.



Through masses and liturgies, the inclusiveness of the congress shone through. English, Spanish and Vietnamese were all included in the speaking and written elements of the celebrations while a variety of other languages were employed in singing, and more cultures than I can list here displayed their proud Catholic heritage.

From praise and worship music at lunchtime in several places, to hundreds of stall holders in the exhibition space, to a creative, unique and reverent sacred space which included a labyrinth, reflective artwork and adoration the congress was a huge and very successful event.

The RE Congress has been running since the early 1960's when only twelve people attended to launch this incredible idea. Today they start with a dedicated youth day that brings over 11,000 young people to Anaheim, LA to celebrate and deepen their faith. The adult days are backed with opportunities to listen, participate and encounter. Selecting my workshops prior to the event alone took me hours as there was simply so much to choose from.

I cannot thank CCW and our Diocese enough for this amazing opportunity and I look forward to sharing my wealth of resources and experiences with our schools, parish and diocese in the near future. If this chance should ever be presented to you, I would highly recommend you jump in with both feet and be prepared to be ignited. I would also like to thank the wonderful Edna Daniher & Jeanie Lynch family for initiating the scholarship program that started me on this adventure, the incredible Joe Carthy for leading and preparing our team and the truly remarkable team I worked with over the congress from all over Victoria, we have great things in store for our world. Watch this space.

Catherine McKinley



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CATHOLIC COLLEGE
WODONGA | LIFE IN JESUS

40th Anniversary Celebrations

Sunday 13 October 2019

**10:30am Mass at Sacred Heart Church Wodonga
followed by tours and morning tea at Catholic College Wodonga**

Staff and students are planning a celebration at the College. You and your families are invited to join in the celebration and see how the College has grown over the last 40 years.

Remember, share, celebrate!



CATHOLIC COLLEGE WODONGA OFFICIAL OPENING , 1979



St Augustine's



St Monica's



St Francis



Catholic College Wodonga

'BEATING THE BIG FREEZE' FUNDRAISER

On a freezing cold and cloudy Wednesday 29 May, the 2019 Chisholm Leadership team hosted a 'Big Freeze' event to raise money for less fortunate people in our community through Carevan Albury/Wodonga.

The event was extremely successful with Mr. Buckley, Mr. Burt, Mr. Morrison, Mr. Dessman, Mr. Piper and our two school captains, Neve Hickey and Jakob Barlow taking the plunge into icy cold water in the name of charity.

We are very proud and humbled to announce that we have raised over \$540 to support the great work Carevan Albury/Wodonga does, as well as collected many blankets for them to distribute to people in need in our community.

We thank everyone who contributed to our great cause and a special thank you to Craig

McCulloch from Smiths Ice for donating all of the ice for the FREEZE event.

We hope this event could be even bigger next year!



BISHOP JOE SCHOLARSHIP

Congratulations to Sam Partridge (Year 11) and Rebecca van der Veeke (Year 10) for earning a Bishop Joseph Grech Scholarship for 2019. Sam and Rebecca are both in Malone



community and are two of twelve recipients from eight Sandhurst secondary colleges who were honoured at an awards ceremony and luncheon in Shepparton earlier this month.

The scholarship recognises exceptional young people in our Colleges who model exemplary behaviour and contribute to the life of their College, through their commitment to their faith and to social justice.

The luncheon was hosted by the Director of Catholic Education Sandhurst, Mr Paul Desmond who paid tribute to students, highlighting their achievements, their community contributions and their exceptional leadership skills.

The Scholarships for Youth were established in 2011 to honour a former Bishop of Sandhurst. The scholarship enables senior students in Sandhurst Secondary Colleges to participate in spirituality or leadership programs beyond their schools, promoting young people as significant members of the church.



St Augustine's



St Monica's



St Francis



Catholic College Wodonga

CULTURAL DIVERSITY WEEK

Catholic College celebrated Cultural Diversity Week with a variety of activities from Monday 20 May through to Thursday 23 May. The activities included a staff pot lunch luncheon, EAL (English as an Additional Language) students playing football with Richmond representatives, visits from St Augustine's and St Monica's and the screening of the film The Merger and a multicultural lunch cooked by the parents of some of our Congolese, Nepalese and Indonesian students.



The kitchen was a riot of colour as twelve women made a selection of dishes which included African doughnuts, salads, stews, beans and rice. Meanwhile, some of our Year 12 students with a Nepali background were teaching us how to make momos (dumplings).



Food is the great communicator and it's what brings people together. It was wonderful to see so many students and staff enjoying both Nepali and African doughnuts and gaining more cultural understanding through the sharing of food.

Happy Days,

Darren (Darta) Hovey

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St Augustine's

Song of Songs 2:11-13

See! The winter is past;

the rains are over and gone.

Flowers appear on the earth;

the season of singing has come,

the cooing of doves is heard in our land.

The fig tree forms its early fruit;

the blossoming vines spread their fragrance.

By the time this reaches you, Spring will be upon us with the mercury creeping up, daylight hours increasing and blossoms appearing. At the time of writing we are right in the midst of winter, rugged up against the chill. Nevertheless, term three is fun-filled and busy.

Our school is always buzzing with learning, and every student is encouraged to achieve their potential. An array of exciting events complements all that is being achieved in the classroom such as class liturgies and assemblies, taking holy



sacraments, winter sports, welcoming Masses, Book Week celebrations, commemorating the Feast of the Sacred Heart, Stage Door performances, Footy Colours day and, the once-per-term Walk to School and breakfast. Our biannual School Production is arguably the most exciting on the calendar performed at a matinee and in the evening on Friday August 30th. A phenomenal number of hours has been spent learning lines, rehearsing, choreographing, sewing costumes and preparing

sets and promises to be highly entertaining.

It showcases the performing arts talents of all our students. Seussical Junior is, as the name suggests, based on Dr Seuss creations and tells the story of Horton the Elephant narrated by The Cat in the Hat through music, drama and dance.

St Augustine's has welcomed several new students and their families who have joined us during the school year. This always adds colour and vibrancy to any community, and we have enjoyed getting to know them all.



Under the capable hands of Angela Killingsworth, the whole community has been Strategic Planning. Put simply, the students, staff and parents have been invited to contribute to designing the key goals that will drive the school for the next five years. The staff have worked incredibly hard to ensure our plan truly reflects our aims. We are very grateful to all those who have been active in defining these. The final list has been perfectly worded, and we are all excited to work towards them.

The 22nd St Augustine's Primary School Art Show on Friday 20th - Sunday 22nd October. This is an event not to be missed. The artwork exhibited is of a very high standard and available for purchase. So put this in your diaries and come along.

Chris Lamb

Acting Principal

Belinda Evans

Community Coordinator



St Francis of Assisi

Celebration of International Mud Day, Friday June 28, 2019

Yes, there is such a thing!

Inspired by a recent ABC TV segment on the many benefits of mud-play and the abundance of mud on our school site, we celebrated International Mud Day on the last day of Term 2, Friday June 28. All students and staff were asked to wear 'very old clothes' to school and bring a pair of rubber boots, change of clothing and sturdy plastic bag on the day. Students were grouped in multi-age groupings and had the opportunity to create, play, problem solve and above all, have fun. We promised to send them home cleanish and happy! We certainly achieved the happy and well, they were mostly clean.



Associate professor at the University of Tasmania's Education Faculty, Dr Dyment reports that there is a growing volume of research supporting the benefits of messy, outdoor play. It's great for development of fine and gross motor skills, problem solving, creative thinking, socialisation, eye health and co-operative learning.



We believe that unstructured outdoor play during school hours is increasingly important as students spend more time in front of computers and less time climbing trees and getting dirty. Here at St Francis we embrace creativity and learning through play and the natural environment.

Mrs Jennyne Wilkinson Principal



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Sensory Garden

St Monica's Primary School is very fortunate to have recently added a new Sensory Garden to the students' outdoor play spaces. This garden, designed by Paediatric Occupational Therapist Sally McNamara, can be used for both exploration and sensory regulation.

All students are able to make use of this space in the breaks or it can be used by whole classes or small groups of students as an outdoor learning space. From a teaching or learning perspective, teachers can observe what students may specifically be drawn to and incorporate this element into a learning plan.

There are several different elements to the Sensory Garden.

The Chat Circle. A low scent, tactile area with logs that surround the area for both balance and coordination. It can be used socially and as an outdoor classroom area.



The Cosy Domes can be used for climbing over and balance or crawling into to block out noise and visual stimulation. The holes in these domes are designed for the "Peek a Boo" aspect.

The Noise Zone comprises three elements,

1. A rainmaker that produces a low frequency sound
2. The bongo drums which produce lower frequency sounds and are good for both rhythmic deep pressure sound production and upper body strength.

3. The xylophone produces higher frequency noises and promotes bilateral movements.



The Sandpit is wheelchair accessible and encourages tactile, imaginative and creative play with the sand digger promoting upper body control and grip strength.

This area is also surrounded by logs enabling balance activities and can also be used as a teaching space with a small blackboard nearby for use by either students or teachers.



The Sensory Garden has been planted out with plants chosen for their taste and visual and tactile elements. There is a dedicated edible garden for students to explore.

Sensory Garden

Here are some student reflections on the different elements of our new Sensory Garden.

I like the drum because it lets energy out of your fingers when they're feeling very intense.

I also like the feel of the sand when you tip it on your hand because it is gentle and calming.

There is also an area of logs where you can sit down as a class and do work outside for fresh air and if you are working about something outside you could also sit out there.

There are plants that smell nice and grow things sometimes, if you're lucky you can taste them if you get permission.

I enjoy walking down the path of logs next to the plants and you can smell them.

I also like the blackboard where you can draw and write things on them. We are very lucky to use chalk for the chalk board also.



What is your favourite thing to do in the Sensory Garden? from two Foundation Students:

Achai: Climbing up on the castles(cozy domes) - you can be King of the Castle. Sit down on the logs and relax. The sand feels smooth and cold. I like all of the instruments that make noise.

Hailey: I like everything. I like playing in the different parts. Realest best fave part , burying myself in the sandpit to make myself a mermaid. It feels nice and warm like at the beach

Our new Sensory Garden is a very popular space to be.



David Michael Avery

B.Comm LLB(Hons) LLM

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FAX (02) 6056 5577

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General News



Teams of Our Lady - A group for married couples

Wodonga Catholic Parishes has been at the forefront of the "Teams Movement" with Team 1 being in existence for in excess of 35 years and still going strong. "Teams" was founded by Fr. Henry Carafel, a French priest, in 1939 as a way of focusing on marriage and what strengthens it. Teams now has a presence in 82 countries with around 66,000 couples.

Teams is an enrichment movement for marriages. Wodonga currently has three Teams but is always looking to expand and offer opportunities to others to enjoy the personal, social and faith enrichment. A Team comprises, as a general rule, 4-6 couples and a spiritual leader (i.e. priest or nun) and meets on a monthly basis at a member's home. There is a set format for the meetings, which begins with a Mass or paraliturgy, generally the latter due to limited numbers of priests and their parish commitments. In the paraliturgies I have been privileged to be part of, they have always had a strong theme that reflects our faith and can have a message for the married couple.

A meal is usually shared casseroles or maybe a barbeque. It is meant to be minimal in preparation for the host couple. Discussion around the table of shared food and drink comprises a section of couples reporting on the highs and lows of that person's month or expression of an issue that person or couple is dealing with in a non-judgemental way. Homework follows with a specific subject as nominated by the hosts to be discussed,

with all members given an opportunity to express their views / ideas on the topic. Some topics can elicit long discussion and debate. Meetings generally finish around the 10.00 mark. Some go longer, some briefer.

One of the keys of Teams is the friendship, support and camaraderie that exists and is so often exemplified in times of difficulty.

If you would like to know more about this incredible organisation you can contact either David Gill 0408 638 818 or Des Lonergan 0408 575 825 an enquiry you will never regret.

ONCE A YEAR, TREAT YOURSELF TO A WEEKEND AWAY



Each year, Teams couples go on a retreat. It's a great opportunity to give prayer and faith the place that it deserves, refreshing our faith and our marriage.

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General News



Teams Cross Roads

On a somewhat cold Friday evening members of Wodonga's three Teams of Our Lady gathered at the Parish centre for the annual Crossroads meeting where individual teams gather for prayer food fellowship and entertainment. Organised by Team 3 this year, all Teams were represented and Fr. Shibu was our special guest.

The evening started off with welcoming drinks and nibbles before the Paraliturg, prepared this year by Team 8 who presented a thought provoking combination of readings and music. Pizza was the main dish at mealtime, followed by a brief summary of the individual teams' year to date. There was discussion of, among other things, The Oven Bake, which takes place under the stars (weather permitting) in mid November with Wangaratta members making the journey up the Hume to join us. One of our "Nights of the Year".

All teams joined discussion on recruiting new members to the organisation and what would be required to form a new team in our Parish. All enjoyed the variety of slices and hot drinks as well

as catching up with fellow parishioners whom they don't have the time to do so at weekend Masses.

A quiz prepared by Helen & David Gill had a few heads being scratched. Timele & Graeme Stewart took home the first prize. The evening concluded with a rousing rendition of the "Magnificat" with Joe Moran on piano accordion and Graeme Stewart on guitar.

It was a great way to warm up before braving the chill that awaited as we made our way home.

Des Lonergan



Team 3 on their 2019 retreat

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General News



Alpha 1: Comments from participants

In what ways do you think you benefited from the Alpha course?

It brought me closer to God.

*Reaffirmed that I am heading in the right direction.
Got to know guests better.*

Friendship and fellowship.

Very affirming.

New friends and a new awareness of Faith.

I now have a greater purpose and meaning in my life with Christ.

I brought friends to benefit like me.

Certainly gave me real food for thought.

I was strengthened in my resolve to work in my relationship with Jesus and with others.

Stronger faith, much better understanding, more relaxed and at ease with religion.

Met some inspiring people on the life journey.

Renewed contact with Jesus.

The opportunity to meet different people.

A new perspective and a different view point.

Very affirming.

A connection with others on their faith journey.

I became more aware of the church and how strong prayer can be.

What did you enjoy most about the Alpha course?

Interaction with others and listening to their views on subjects.

Group discussions, new connections, the videos.

Company and food.

Everything. The retreat was amazing.

Learning, furthering relationships, movies were great, easy relaxed conversations.

The fellowship, the open conversations with my table in the areas I need to explore.

The lectures, videos were excellent, very thought provoking.

The meal, fellowship and the sharing of our beliefs.

The friendship.

Making new friends, new faith adventures.

Friendship and sharing.

Friendship and fellowship.

Laughter, the films, and dinner as well as fellowship.

Videos (inspiring) and fellowship.



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General News



Alpha 1: Comments from participants (cont.)

A brief description of your faith after Alpha:

Knowing how more important God is in our lives.
 Closer to God.
 I am continuing to be open to new experiences.
 Challenged to be more open with Jesus. Share what I learn.
 More renewed.
 More nourished.
 New friends, new understandings.
 I feel loved again.

Renewed. I want to know more and enjoy Wodonga fellowship.

I feel a stronger understanding of my journey, of what it means to me.

Stronger faith, greater understanding of religion and my place with God.

Full of the Holy Spirit.

I feel like I have better understanding of certain facets of my faith.

Rejuvenated.

More understanding.

How would you rate your retreat experience?

Amazing, very reflective, emotional.

Intense.

Amazing, how some people don't have any faith are ill and able to embrace the presence of God.

Amazing, felt the Holy Spirit.

Powerful.

Wonderful Holy Spirit experience.

Excellent, thought provoking.

A blessing.

Enjoyable.

Informative, illuminating and fun.

Very good.



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General News



Knights of the Southern Cross

Branch 60 of the Knights of the Southern Cross held their annual election of office bearers and reports' Chairman Des Lonergan Deputy Peter Dixon Secretary Michael McCormick and Treasurer Bernard Gehrig.

The branch report showed that they have continued to contribute to causes that warrant support. Our group has supported the Seminarians annual raffle along with Priests, Support and Education Fund. They have also supported

charitable organisations including the Christmas Lunch program & St. Vincent de Paul Society and others. We congratulated Pat Toole on his 50 years membership of the knights, and also conducted a barbeque at Bunnings.

Meetings this year will be held on a quarterly basis.

Des Lonergan



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From the Seminarian's desk



Dear Parishioners

"Contemplation in Action": a seminarian's parish experience in Wodonga

This year, I returned to the Wodonga Catholic Parish as a seminarian 'intern' after having been here last winter. I am glad to be back here, this time with some sense of familiarity. Being at a parish in Sandhurst helps me to reconnect with the Diocese, in which I will, God-willing, serve as a priest in the next few years.

I have chosen the phrase "contemplation in action" as a theme for my reflection, which is closely associated with the Ignatian spirituality of the Jesuits. In a nutshell, "contemplation in action" is a way of life in which a Christian unifies various aspects of his or her life so that he or she can realise the presence of God in all things. Being contemplative does not take you out of your usual work, but instead integrates it so that we can live our lives to the full (cf. John 10:10). It seems to me that St. Ignatius of Loyola himself tries to summarise this slogan in his famous saying: "Act as if everything depended on you; trust as if everything depended on God."

In a more secular term, we can say that "contemplation in action" is comparable to work-life balance, of which the relationship with our Loving God is the foundation, because without Jesus we can do nothing (cf. John 15:5).

A typical week in the Parish is packed with numerous ministries; Mass; hospital, nursing home and school visits; meetings and casual encounters (like parish office morning tea!). If we are not being contemplative amongst all these 'actions', we might miss the encounter with the Living God himself, who are constantly present, especially in the most vulnerable amongst our brothers and sisters (cf. Matthew 25:40).

Being in the parish has also taught me how to unwind and rest. We seminarians were told once, "Be faithful to your day off, it is not about selfishness but self-care." If we never stop working, when will we have the time to be alone with God in solitude? A good seminarian friend of mine says, "We are running a marathon and not a sprint. We are here for the long run". We have had enough cases of burnout!

After all, our life on this earth is a preparation

for the eternal life that God has prepared for us. Therefore, let us direct our life here on earth to God alone, as Saint Paul exhorts us, "...whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God." (1 Corinthians 10:31). Being contemplative in our actions hopefully will bring us closer each and every day to fulfil the most important commandment: the love of God and the love of neighbours as ourselves (cf. Matthew 22:36-40).

I am grateful to learn about "contemplation in action" in Wodonga parish, thank you for being great witnesses of the faith. "Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ." (1 Corinthians 1:3).

Adi Indra

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Levi Newley
 Spencer Crothers
 Dorcas Furaha
 Paul Mazambi
 Onesphone Mazambi
 Victoire Mazambi
 Sheryl Phillips
 Sean Tagapan
 Phurba Sherpa
 Parmila Sherpa
 Nawang Sherpa
 Karma Sherpa
 Nina Sherpa
 Riley Wise
 Harrison Cox
 Chantelle Doughty
 Leo Selwood
 Caolan McCluskey

Evelyn Fitzgerald
 Hugo Burt
 Dallas Walker
 Oliver Oates
 Lockyer Clarke
 Willow Watson
 Clea Merrett
 Noah Merrett
 Cambell Meehan
 Rhiley Meehan
 Isaac Maher
 Eva Palhares
 Laura Toole
 Isabella Nacu
 Annabelle Graf
 Hamish Gray
 Archie Jackson
 Lillian Svarc

Marriages

Bridegroom

Andrew Creamer
 Edward Collyer

Bride

Maddison Hallet
 Natasha Wardley



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	Parish Centre	6024 3366
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	Des Lonergan	0408 575 825

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