

INFANT JESUS PARISH

Parish Priest, Parish Pastoral Council, Finance Committee and Ministry Coordinators' ACM Reports
22 November 2021



Where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them

Matthew 18:20

PARISH PRIEST'S REPORT

We began the year affected by restrictions due to the pandemic. We have been careful in observing all that the W.A. Government and the Archdiocese of Perth require of us to protect the health and safety of all who come to our church or who use the Parish Centre. This has not been the best climate in which to make big changes or innovations. Notwithstanding this we have done well to maintain and then quickly return to our usual levels of activity. I am, therefore, very grateful for the support of all our parishioners. In comparison to 2020 the disruption caused to the parish have been minimal. For this we are grateful.

Frs John Pallipadan and Tadgh Tierney have been valued co-workers in the proclamation of the Gospel and the pastoral ministry of the church. Both are deeply appreciated by the parishioners and me.

Our parish staff led by Billie Dewitt have done a wonderful job in making sure the parish runs smoothly and efficiently. More importantly because of our staff and volunteers, the office is a welcoming face of the Church. So, it is not just work but a significant ministry of lay leadership.

Theresa Choo has added the Sacramental Coordinator position to her duties. The celebrations of the Sacraments of First Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation were greatly appreciated by the families of the children. I am very grateful for the wonderful support and facilitation we received from Infant Jesus School staff led by Miss Clare Moffat and our own Parish Religious Education Programme catechists led by Sue Goodwin. Andrew Davini has worked tirelessly to keep the church, parish centre and grounds maintained. Darren Parnell and Carol Smith have ensured that the financial and record keeping of the Parish are kept up to date. We are also grateful for those parishioners who have volunteered in the Parish Office: Sue Baile, Lyn Anderson, Pearl Chin, Angela Youens, Michelle Mok, Josie Gaudet and Mavis Boog. John Cogdon and Joe Versace have quietly done great work in the gardens.

The Parish Pastoral Council has served the parish community well. I want to particularly thank Josephine McManus for the terrific service as council secretary and our Parish Representative on the Infant Jesus School Board who is now retiring from these roles. The Parish Finance Council led by Bob Burns has been an essential feature of the prudent management of our resources and setting our practical priorities. Their experience and competence have been invaluable.

Our Parish Volunteers Mass and BBQ had about 300 people attend. It had a great atmosphere and was enjoyed by all. Before Easter we had a well-supported Busy Bee to get the grounds looking their best for Easter.

The Garden FunRaiser and Plant Sale scheduled for Mother's Day was the work of a very creative team led by Angela Youens. The event was delayed a week by Covid restrictions but was a great community builder and a financial success.

Our Christmas and Easter celebrations were affected by Covid restrictions, but both were well attended. Many people at Christmas and then at Easter chose to sit outside and had brought their own chairs so it was a comfortable and relaxed way to participate in the ceremonies.

The Dedication of our Church took place on 29 August 1992. Each year we celebrate that day as our Parish Feast. We shared the beautiful book *A little Guide to our Church* which tells the story of how our church came to be built and the meaning of each element of the building. Thank you to those who prepared this resource. I hope it leads us all to appreciate the church we have. This year our feast fell on a Sunday and so we organised coffee and food after each of the weekend masses. It was a very enjoyable feast. Next year it will be 30 years since the Church was dedicated. We intend to celebrate that anniversary! We will focus on refreshing the Church building and fixing what needs to repair.

A major celebration this year was Fr Tadgh's 80th birthday on 8 September. It was a very enjoyable, well attended occasion. As they say in Latin: *Ad multos annos* (for many more years).

Our normal parish schedule continued with two masses weekdays and five Sunday masses. We also celebrated: sixty-six Baptisms, forty-three Funerals and three Weddings during the year.

Clearly our Sunday and special feast worship is important to us. Here we also have significant lay leadership. I want to thank Jo McManus and all those involved in the hospitality ministry. They are the welcoming face of our parish to all who come. It is a vital ministry. I also acknowledge the teams of volunteers who clean our church and those who arrange flowers for the sanctuary. Our church is beautiful and loved and it shows.

Thanks to leaders of our Church and music ministries, Jocelyn Versace and Linda D'Cruz. The music ministries help us to truly celebrate. It cheers me to hear so many of the congregation joining in the singing, making a joyful noise which lifts our hearts to God. Thanks to all our musicians and choirs.

Thanks to all our ministers of the Altar both Acolytes, plus senior and junior Altar ministers. Chris Lambert does a great job leading these ministries. I look forward to instituting the first female acolytes as soon as we receive the new rite. It is important that those ministering on the sanctuary mirror the whole People of God and our own congregation.

I am grateful for the way our Lectors have taken so seriously their ministry of reading in church. Marina McLean has done a great of encouraging and stimulating our readers. The standard of reading is very good. The proclamation of the word of God is crucial in helping us meditate and reflect on the readings from Scripture.

We participated in the Plenary Council by having quite a number of mostly lay-led listening and discerning sessions. The Plenary Council recently met in Assembly both virtually and personally in a number of hubs. They have listened to one another, reflected in the issues raised by individuals and communities around Australia and will then meet again from 4 to 9 July, 2022 to make decisions for the Church in Australia. These will be sent to Rome for the approval of Pope Francis. In the meantime, we may well see some changes in the local church of Perth, like a Diocesan Pastoral Council, in our local diocese which reflect the need for participation of all the members of the Church. We in Morley have already been affected by the Plenary Council through our listening to one another. We have begun the journey together.

This year was also important as we had a number of people who wanted to be received into the Catholic Church. So with the help of a wonderful team we had an Alpha Programme which then led us to an RCIA programme. This is a cause of joy and hope.

I have mentioned many groups and ministries because I want to highlight how many lay ministers we have who already provide important leadership to our parish community.

The crucial question for us in Morley is what does God ask of us at this time? What are our goals and how can we achieve them? What structures help and what hinder our response to God's invitation.

Because I aim to be inclusive, I have tried to say 'yes' to new projects in line with the mission of the Church. A fruit of this is that we now have a book club, a yoga class and a meditation group. In the New Year we will hear about re-establishing an Outreach programme (Christcare) in the parish.

As we lay the foundations of the Kingdom/Reign of God here in Morley I am confident that we are walking with God and one another. May the Lord bless you and your families.

Thank you.

Your brother in Christ,

Fr Greg

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL REPORT

As a council we are small in numbers and look forward to new members joining up.

With gratitude we acknowledge the work of Josephine McManus. She has been the secretary for some years and is retiring from the role this year. Thank you Jo.

During the year the Parish Strategic Plan was communicated to ministries within the parish with a request that it be referred to when making decisions. This is an ongoing process and will require a renewal. The information in this report has been divided up into the headings of the Strategic Plan.

Firstly, a reminder of our Mission and Values of the Infant Jesus Strategic Plan

OUR MISSION

To continually renew and ignite our faith through encounters with Christ in life and prayer, in Word and sacraments, in celebration and community, and to share God's gift with others.

OUR VALUES

Our values are at the heart of our community. We live these values, nurtured and nourished by our worship, prayer and relationships, which guide us and enrich our daily lives.

Living Faith

We have truly experienced God's saving love and so, are actively committed to putting God first in our daily lives and going out to proclaim that love to others.

Inclusion

We welcome, embrace and walk alongside others. We recognise the dignity of each human person and that we are all made in the image and likeness of God. We are committed to protecting and caring for all children, people with disabilities and vulnerable adults.

Discerning

We pay attention to one another's words, with an open heart and mind. We are enlightened by the Holy Spirit to listen and make decisions that bring closer the Kingdom of God.

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### **A Prayerful and Eucharistic Community**

The Liturgical Coordinators are proactively working towards the best practice for a prayerful experience of Eucharist. See relevant reports

Education on particular rituals and practices of the liturgy is being offered by regularly providing simple articles available to all in the narthex of the church.

### **A Missionary and Evangelising Community**

The hospitality team promotes an experience of inclusion and welcome at every mass and more particularly at the major feast days.

Alpha has again encouraged people to explore the Christian and this time in particular the Catholic faith.

There has been ongoing discussion regarding the establishment of a more appropriate Website for the Parish. This is a work in progress and will continue in the coming year with involvement by people with the appropriate skills.

### **A Community Committed to Nourishing and Strengthening Faith**

The priests, sacramental team and the parish religious education program are continually working alongside the staff and students to strengthen the partnerships between Infant Jesus School and Church.

A Book club has been established by Marion as an avenue to bring parishioners together to enjoy and discuss faith based publications. Information on the book club is published in the bulletin regularly.

### **A Humble, Healing and Merciful Community**

The Safeguarding Team is working towards educating all parishioners on the safeguarding practices in place in the parish. This work is ongoing.

Safeguarding is now a standing item on all future agendas for PPC meetings.

The Council is pursuing ideas for a Parish Outreach programme to best serve those in need. This is on hold due to a variety of difficulties resulting from Covid 19 disruption

Pope Francis's Encyclical 'Laudato Si' and its Action Platform will be investigated by Marion a parish councillor, so that we can, as a parish, respond to "the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor." There will be more information on this to follow.

All parish councillors have attended the formation days conducted by the Archdiocese of Perth Parish Renewal Team and have benefitted from the insights gleaned. Infant Jesus Morley is a step ahead of some parishes as a strategic plan has already been prepared by the former group of councillors.

### **An Inclusive, Participatory and Synodal Community**

The Parish Inclusion Coordinator, Sue Baile, is constantly working towards ways of inclusion of all people in parish life.

The PPC is a forum for Fr Greg to raise and discuss matters which effect the parish.

Some ministries are exploring the hub initiative and are working with people in nearby parishes. St Vincent's and Catenians.

Regular ongoing work has been carried out by the parish staff and volunteers to ensure the facilities at Infant Jesus are maintained, safe and are inviting for all to enjoy.

### **Looking to the Future**

As a group of people working in the parish we would like to thank the priests for their support and to the parish staff and volunteers who make our work easier.

Let us all work together to initiate ideas, listen authentically and promote the mission of the Church – our hope in Jesus Christ. —*Jocelyn Versace, Councillor*

**INFANT JESUS PARISH INCOME & EXPENDITURE STATEMENT**  
**2020/21 vs 2019/20**

|                                                    |                     |                     | VARIANCE            |                |       |
|----------------------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------|-------|
|                                                    | 2020/21             | 2019/20             | \$                  | %              | NOTES |
| <b>INCOME</b>                                      |                     |                     |                     |                |       |
| PLANNED GIVING & WEEKLY SECOND COLLECTION INCOME   | \$242,663.53        | \$246,077.78        | -\$3,414.25         | -1.39%         |       |
| COVID-19 GOVERNMENT SUBSIDIES                      | \$203,671.79        | \$54,327.24         | \$149,344.55        | 274.90%        | 1     |
| CHURCH USAGE - WEDDINGS & FUNERALS                 | \$5,682.17          | \$5,496.81          | \$185.36            | 3.37%          |       |
| PARISH CENTRE USAGE                                | \$4,257.75          | \$7,020.44          | -\$2,762.69         | -39.35%        | 2     |
| GENERAL DONATIONS                                  | \$6,695.55          | \$12,244.65         | -\$5,549.10         | -45.32%        | 3     |
| INSURANCE                                          | \$0.00              | \$4,334.55          | -\$4,334.55         |                |       |
| SALES - PIETY & FAITH EDUCATION BOOKS              | \$2,997.93          | \$2,571.67          | \$426.26            | 16.58%         | 4     |
| FUNDRAISING, EVENTS & OTHER INCOME                 | \$37,398.59         | \$15,146.50         | \$22,252.09         | 146.91%        | 5     |
|                                                    | <u>\$503,367.31</u> | <u>\$347,219.64</u> | <u>\$156,147.67</u> | <u>44.97%</u>  |       |
| <b>Other Income</b>                                |                     |                     |                     |                |       |
| COLUMBARIUM - DONATIONS, PLAQUES, NICHES & RUNNING | \$6,317.85          | \$16,024.77         | -\$9,706.92         | -60.57%        | 6     |
| FAITH EDUCATION - SACRAMENTAL, PREP & RCIA         | \$9,253.15          | \$7,072.00          | \$2,181.15          | 30.84%         | 7     |
|                                                    | <u>\$15,571.00</u>  | <u>\$23,096.77</u>  | <u>-\$7,525.77</u>  | <u>-32.58%</u> |       |
| INTEREST INCOME                                    | \$1,127.53          | \$2,165.10          | -\$1,037.57         | -47.92%        | 8     |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME</b>                                | <b>\$520,065.84</b> | <b>\$372,481.51</b> | <b>\$147,584.33</b> | <b>39.62%</b>  |       |
| <b>EXPENSES</b>                                    |                     |                     |                     |                |       |
| EMPLOYMENT EXPS INCL SUPER, LSL & WORKERS' COMP    | \$205,265.04        | \$191,431.04        | \$13,834.00         | 7.23%          | 9     |
| <b>General Parish and Church Running Expenses</b>  |                     |                     |                     |                |       |
| ARCHDIOCESAN REQUIREMENTS                          | \$9,059.10          | \$13,200.00         | -\$4,140.90         | -31.37%        | 10    |
| PRINTING, COMMUNICATION, COMPUTING & OFFICE COSTS  | \$17,581.72         | \$16,332.39         | \$1,249.33          | 7.65%          | 11    |
| MASS & CHURCH REQUIREMENTS                         | \$11,519.58         | \$49,006.16         | -\$37,486.58        | -76.49%        | 12    |
| COST OF PIETY, RECORD & FAITH EDUCATION BOOK SALES | \$2,647.32          | \$2,721.30          | -\$73.98            | -2.72%         |       |
| PARISH, MINISTRIES & EVENT EXPENSES                | \$10,196.99         | \$22,638.70         | -\$12,441.71        | -54.96%        | 13    |
| UTILITIES - WATER, SHIRE RATES AND ELECTRICITY     | \$10,911.77         | \$10,947.16         | -\$35.39            | -0.32%         |       |
| INSURANCE                                          | \$21,809.63         | \$20,725.74         | \$1,083.89          | 5.23%          |       |
| BUILDING, CONTENTS, GROUNDS & MAINTENANCE          | \$79,534.00         | \$79,446.35         | \$87.65             | 0.11%          | 14    |
| DONATIONS & SUBSCRIPTIONS                          | \$390.91            | \$703.41            | -\$312.50           | -44.43%        | 15    |
|                                                    | <u>\$163,651.02</u> | <u>\$215,721.21</u> | <u>-\$52,070.19</u> | <u>-24.14%</u> |       |
| <b>Other Expenses</b>                              |                     |                     |                     |                |       |
| COLUMBARIUM - GARDEN PLAQUES, NICHES & RUNNING     | \$6,477.94          | \$16,437.05         | -\$9,959.11         | -60.59%        | 16    |
| FAITH EDUCATION - SACRAMENTAL, PREP & RCIA         | \$5,746.19          | \$2,119.59          | \$3,626.60          | 171.10%        | 17    |
|                                                    | <u>\$12,224.13</u>  | <u>\$18,556.64</u>  | <u>-\$6,332.51</u>  | <u>-34.13%</u> |       |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>                              | <b>\$381,140.19</b> | <b>\$425,708.89</b> | <b>-\$44,568.70</b> | <b>-10.47%</b> |       |
| <b>Surplus/-Deficit</b>                            | <b>\$138,925.65</b> | <b>-\$53,227.38</b> | <b>\$192,153.03</b> | <b>S</b>       |       |
| <b>Prior Years Adjustment</b>                      | <b>-\$18.70</b>     |                     |                     |                |       |
| <b>SPECIAL COLLECTIONS AND APPEALS</b>             |                     |                     |                     |                |       |
| Project Compassion                                 | \$13,555.90         | \$4,514.20          | \$9,041.70          |                |       |
| Holy Places (Good Friday)                          | \$4,695.10          | \$252.00            | \$4,443.10          |                |       |
| Catholic Mission                                   | \$5,726.25          | \$5,361.00          | \$365.25            |                |       |
| NSW Bushfire Appeal                                |                     | \$5,913.10          |                     |                |       |
| <b>NET CASH AVAILABLE AS AT JUNE 30</b>            | <b>\$115,800</b>    | <b>\$27,927</b>     | <b>\$87,873</b>     | <b>314.65%</b> |       |
| <b>SINKING FUND AS AT JUNE 30</b>                  | <b>\$132,041</b>    | <b>\$81,007</b>     | <b>\$51,034</b>     | <b>63.00%</b>  |       |
|                                                    | <u>\$247,841</u>    | <u>\$108,934</u>    | <u>\$138,907</u>    | <u>127.51%</u> |       |

## NOTES

### Income

- 1). Covid-19 Government Subsidies: a) In response to COVID-19 outbreak, the federal government provided wage subsidies to organisations forecasting threshold reductions in income. A (minimum) 15% reduction was the threshold for not-for-profit organisations. The parish met the conditions for participation and joined the scheme. Employees were paid the stipulated amounts and the parish was reimbursed the following month. As staff are currently paid (near) minimum wage rates, the scheme had the additional impact of them receiving wages more in line with industry standards. In 2020/21 \$199,300 was reimbursed through the Australian Taxation Office, with \$40,500 being payments for payments made in 2019/20. (See Note 9 - \$158,800 was paid through this scheme in 2020/21.)  
b) The state government provided organisations with an electricity tariff allowance. In 2020/21 the parish accessed \$4,371.79.
- 2). Parish Centre Usage: The Government's COVID-19 restrictions resulted in less parish centre usage in 2020/21.
- 3). General Donations: In 2019/20, the parish received a bequest of \$8,450 from a deceased estate. We also received a total of \$2,300, from four donors, during the COVID-19 restriction period from late March 2020 to 30 June 2020.  
In 2021/22 we again had many donors, nine of whom contributed \$5,733 of the total.
- 4). Sales - Piety & Faith Education Books: As COVID-19 restrictions were eased, more sales opportunities eventuated.
- 5). Fundraising, Events & Other Income: In 2020/21, the parish was granted \$14,480 under the COVID-19 'cashflow boost' program. The Mother's Day 'Garden Funraiser' resulted in \$18,230.81 gross income for the parish. In December 2020, in response to an appeal to parishioners, contributions totalling \$2,450 were received to cover the costs of a new freezer. In August 2020 our AV installer sold the old church-AV equipment on behalf of the parish, resulting in \$1,000 being received.
- 6). Columbarium - Donations, Plaques, etc: In 2020/21, income was transferred from the trust account for 11 niche plaques & two memorial garden plaques.
- 7). Faith Education - Sacramental, PREP, & RCIA: a) A five dollar fee increase was instituted from term one, 2020. b) In 2021, collections from Confirmation Masses, totalling \$1,018.15, were identified & allocated to Sacramental Program income. c) Due to changes in Sacramental dates, income from two Sacraments of Confirmation was received in 2020/21.
- 8). Interest Income: The prevailing economic conditions in both 2019/20 & 2020/21 led to four interest rate reductions. As a result the parish earned reduced interest income in 2020/21, even though cash levels rose.

### Expenses

- 9). Employment Expenses: As described in Note 1, the parish was eligible to participate in the federal government's COVID-19 wage subsidy program. The 'JobKeeper' scheme, as it was known, ran from 30/03/20 to 28/03/21. In 2020/21, the parish passed-on \$158,800 through this scheme.
- 10). Archdiocesan Requirements: The Perth Catholic Archdiocese waived our April, July, & October 2020 instalments (\$19,800 in total) in recognition of the COVID-19 induced income reduction. In addition, the annual 'Peter's Pence' payment (used to fund the operations of the Apostolic Nunciature in Australia) was deferred till 2020/21.
- 11). Printing, Communication, Computers, etc: Variance primarily due to new data storage unit & two uninterrupted power supply units required in November 2020 (\$1,090.80).
- 12). Mass & Church Requirements: In November 2020, a new PC & peripherals (\$2,153.76) was purchased to tie-in with the upgraded audiovisual system. In December 2020, work was completed to construct & install safety rails on the Baptistry side of the church (\$1,362.15). In January 2021, replacement material for 22 damaged & worn kneelers was purchased & attached (total cost \$3,404.09). Cost of Altar bread-\$1,201.68.
- 13). Parish, Ministries & Event Expenses: Significant events in 2020/21: Fr. Greg's 50th jubilee, August 2020 - \$2,437.60  
Garden 'funraiser', May 2021 - \$2,282.32  
Volunteers 'thank you' Mass & bbq, February 2021 - \$973.15  
ALPHA, August - September 2020 - \$460.65.
- 14). Building, etc: a) The church & parish centre have been the subject of increasing acts of vandalism, particularly over the past few years. In addition, there have been more motor vehicle break-ins & incidents of harrassment & threats towards our Priests, parish staff, as well as congregants. Following careful consideration, the decision was made to engage a contractor to install a recordable CCTV system. The project was completed in two stages for a total cost of \$23,230. Parish centre / car park stage (including monitor & control unit) was completed in April 2021 at a cost of \$15,630. Church stage was completed in June 2021 at a cost of \$7,600.  
b) A decision was made to install air extractor units, in the parish centre, as an effective & more economical alternative to airconditioning. The units were fitted in December 2020 at a total cost of \$14,120.  
c) Over time, the main entrance alcove to the parish centre had become substantially water-damaged & weathered. A design flaw was identified & remedial works costing \$9,735 were completed in August 2020. To help prevent further weathering, & allow for more natural light to fill the parish centre atrium, glass double doors were fitted in December 2020 at a cost of \$4,258.51.

## NOTES (cont'd)

### Expenses

- 14). d) The asbestos-cladded large storage shed had become termite-infested & required replacing. A new prefabricated unit of similar size was quoted at \$15,500. To save funds, work was done to replace the timber & re-clad the frame at a significantly reduced cost of \$7,028.25. Asbestos removal (required regardless of which option was taken) cost \$990. Works were completed in June 2021.
- e) Other significant 2020/21 items were:
- replacement of parish centre lights with LED equivalents, relace wall lights, exit sign - \$1,885
  - COVID-19 compliance costs (disinfectant, sanitiser, single-use kitchen supplies, etc) - \$2,246.62
  - replacement & set up of office computer - \$1,407.82
- 15). Donations & Subscriptions: 2020/21 subscription to Liturgyhelp.com website for liturgical and sacramental resources.
- 16). Columbarium: In 2020/21, payments for 11 niche plaques (three of which incorporated ceramic photos) & three garden plaques were made.
- 17). Faith Education: 400 Sacrament of Confirmation sashes were purchased, at a cost of \$3,560, to take advantage of bulk discount price. Around 350 of these sashes are yet to be distributed, and will be used over the next five years.

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## MUSIC MINISTRY

Our Music Ministry has hit a bit of a low due to Choir leaders moving on for personal/work/family reasons. The 6pm Saturday evening Mass provide music for the 1st and 2nd Saturday of the month. This choir is led by Morag McPherson. The 9.30am choir has a full contingent and sing at all the Masses. Linda D'Cruz, Belinda Chia and Priscilla Smith are the musicians/leaders for this choir. Matthew Loo (Aini Loo) provide the music on the 3rd Sunday 6pm Mass. Lenny Ong and Raphael Thexeira make themselves available where they possibly can. I wish to thank all musicians and singers for their dedication and commitment. I have placed an ad in the Parish Bulletin for several weeks, so here's hoping we can fill in the gaps for the various Masses. I have had a few enquiries.

Christmas is just around the corner. Natalie and Shaun will provide the music for the 24 Dec, 6pm family Mass. Lennard Ong will provide music for 24 December Midnight Mass. Linda D'Cruz will provide Music for 9.30am Christmas Day Mass. There is no evening Mass on Christmas Day. Thanks also to Fr Greg for his support and encouragement. —*Linda D'Cruz, Coordinator*

## PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

*'We are all one body, each member serving in its own way for the common good of the Church'.  
(1 Cor: 12)*

Each weekend and on special days of celebration, the members of the 'Prayers of the Faithful' ministry, together with Fr Greg, write prayers that focus on the Readings of the Day as well as local or international events that concern us all. Keeping in mind that Jesus taught us to boldly ask our Heavenly Father for all our needs, we write prayers on behalf of all who are gathered in the church on that day.

Suchita, Michael and Sue use a number of different resources (Liturgy Help and Pastoral Liturgy) combined with our own prayerful consideration of the sacred texts for each weekend or Feast Day. We focus on the needs of the Church; our secular leaders; the local community; the sick and the deceased, and we ask for God's loving intervention in our daily lives. —*Sue Baile, Coordinator*

## MORLEY/DIANELLA SVDP CONFERENCE

1. The Parish has a very active conference that meets weekly on a Tuesday evening to pray and plan/review the regular visitations to the poor, homeless and disadvantaged in our community. Due to serious illness with two members and two others with major work commitments, a recent recruitment drive has been successful. We now have two new ladies and three gents who have committed to the conference. In total we now have 16 full and 4 auxiliary members
2. Both the catchment areas for the Morley and Dianella Parishes are serviced by our conference. This covers an extensive number of people in the community and we do not discriminate with our delivery to people on faith or other aspects of life issues.
3. This year as with the past 2020 year, has been a challenging time for all to operate according to ever changing government rules. In the circumstances, I thank parishioners with their regular donations to the poor boxes at the rear of the church and to the food collection boxes.
4. During this time, we have also met the needs of the Emberton/Bayswater community. This was because their conference has just recently commenced activity as they have been in recess for the past year.
5. We are currently preparing our commitment with the Christmas hamper appeal. This work is very important, especially with assisting struggling families with young children at the Christmas period. Both the Infant Jesus and Our Lady of Assumption primary schools are once again assisting us, as they have so generously done so over past years. In addition, St Columba's Catholic primary school has been included in this food drive.
6. Our Christmas appeal will be held on the weekend of the 4/5th December and once again, we ask all parishioners for their support.
7. In summary, I thank Father Greg and Father John, and especially Father Tadgh who regularly contributes and guides the conference as our chaplain. Thank you also to all the Parishioners with your support. — *Lou Daily, President.*

## MORLEY/DIANELLA CATENIAN CIRCLE

I am happy to provide the Parishioners of Infant Jesus with a report for the 2020/21 year regarding the work of the Morley/Dianella Catenian Circle.

Most of the Parishioners are aware, that the Catenians are an association of Catholic laymen who meet monthly to pray, eat and drink together and enjoying friendship based on our shared Catholic faith. Our Catenians are committed to support their families, parishes, their communities and above all support each other's in both the good and bad times. The social calendar developed through the year, include at times, participation with wives, children, grandchildren, and our widows.

The Catenians also support young Catholics aged 16-24 to assist them with their expenses towards travel/projects to enhance their Catholic faith and scholarships with tertiary education. Recently the Dianella Circle has sponsored 17 Catholic youth to attend the "embrace the Faith" conference to be held by the Archdiocese Ministry of Youth on the 9th to 12th December.

Our membership has now grown to a total of fifty-four men, a majority are Parishioners at Infant Jesus, and we are always looking to attract other Catholic men to grow the Circle.

The Circle normally holds an annual Clergy lunch each year to thank our hard-working Priests and Nuns. Unfortunately, due to government rules, the opportunity was not available earlier this year. Earlier in October this year, the Circle held the 400th meeting and both Fathers Greg and Tadgh along with many Wives/Ladies enjoyed the lunch at the Mt Lawley Golf Club. In fact, all monthly meetings are held at the venue.

This year the annual President's Mass will be celebrated at the 9.30am Mass on Sunday the 12th December. After the Mass, Parishioners are invited to join us in the Parish Centre and a morning tea will be provided.

Currently the President is Peter Kora. If you are interested in obtaining further information about the Catenian Association, please contact Lou Daily on 0419953507 or [lou.daily@bigpond.com](mailto:lou.daily@bigpond.com) —**Peter Kora, President**

## SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

Due to the ongoing pandemic that is gripping the world, the parish is very fortunate and blessed to be able to serve the community and that includes celebrating the sacraments as we gather in the church.

Enrolment is implemented online via the Microsoft form link sent out to parents and booking of the masses is via Eventbrite. Feedback has been very positive and we will continue with this system down the road. There is no more filling of physical forms thereby reducing cost, time and storage space.

The table below shows the number of children receiving the sacraments:

|                                               | <b>Infant Jesus School</b> | <b>PREP Children</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|-----------------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|--------------|
| <b>Sacrament of Reconciliation (November)</b> | 52                         | 10                   | 62           |
| <b>Sacrament of First Eucharist (August)</b>  | 59                         | 11                   | 70           |
| <b>Sacrament of Confirmation (June)</b>       | 58                         | 8                    | 66           |

The Sacramental Masses for First Communion and Confirmation this year were held separate from the weekend masses to ensure they can go ahead in the event there are restrictions on capacity imposed due any lockdown. The families involved have responded well to the situation. Overall, the celebrations are felt to be more intimate and involved.

The 24.7 Youth Ministry has been organising the Sacramental Retreats for the children for some years now and have been doing a wonderful job at it. Their contract with our parish ended in June 2020 and starting from this year, they have been charging for their services. Infant Jesus Primary School has generously absorbed the cost of the retreats for each of the Sacraments (Reconciliation, First Eucharist and Confirmation) for 2021 amounting to \$2500.

Acknowledgements are forthcoming for the following ministries without which the sacramental program cannot be implemented: Acolyte & Altar Servers Ministry, Hospitality Ministry, Music Ministry (Special thanks to Ralph Thexeira and Lenny Ong), Flower Ministry, Environment Ministry and Proclaimers Ministry.

The parish staff (Billie, Andrew, Darren, Carol, Sue and Hafeez) has been invaluable and such a great help in making the programs a success for all the children and their families. Special mention to Angela Youens and Sue Goodwin for their advice. The facilitators who stepped up for the workshops (some for all three workshops); Linda Yapp, Joanne Bryde, Peter Sigle, Marion Wayne, Linda Doyle, Tung, Sylvia Brough, Julia Chiam, Darren Parnell, Angela Youens, Margaret Koeberg, Tanya Davis, Lyn Anderson, Sandra Jones, Caterina Canova, Gus Formato and Barbara Taylor. This is truly a communal Sacramental Team!

The Infant Jesus School staff and teachers especially Ms Clare Moffat, Ms Melanie Myles and Mr Frank Colangelo, have been very helpful and supportive throughout. Last but not least, my special thanks to our parish priests Fr Greg, Fr John and Fr Tadgh for their guidance and advice. —**Theresa Choo, Coordinator**

## BAPTISM PREPARATION FOR PARENTS

Baptisms are held every 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month in our parish. To date, we celebrated 66 baptisms for children below 8 years of age.

This year, we had Marion Wayne, Marina MacLean, Paul Hille, Sue Baile, Cheryl Davini and Chris Andrews facilitating the meetings for the parents which are held once a month. Marina and Marion left the team due to their other heavy commitments. Thanks for their dedication and faith sharing! Cheryl and Chris joined the team this year and we welcome them wholeheartedly. — ***Theresa Choo, Coordinator***

## CLEANING MINISTRY

There are 4 teams cleaning our church on a weekly basis and the parish wishes to thank them keeping the house of God spick and span. Many of our kind volunteers have been committed to this for years and we hope for younger and committed ones to step up one day soon to this very important ministry. - ***Theresa Choo, Coordinator***

## LITURGY TEAM

The liturgical ministry coordinators have all met regularly to prepare and review the liturgy at Infant Jesus. Within the requirements from the Archbishop and Covid health restraints we were able to gather for the Easter celebrations in great numbers though many of the familiar rituals that we love were missing or were adapted. The feedback on the Easter liturgies has been positive.

The parish staff and the hospitality group managed the responsibility of compliance to the Covid large gathering instructions with grace and respect.

Over a period of time Fr Greg has been ensuring our liturgies align with what the Church directs in The General Instruction of the Roman Missal. Recently you may have noticed that there is a bulletin notice and a handout available for personal education on many things liturgical. Hopefully this will help in an understanding of why we do things.

The periodical 'Pastoral Liturgy' is freely available for interested people for liturgical formation. In the current issue there is an article on Advent. Here is the link. <https://researchonline.nd.edu.au/pastoral-liturgy/>

Although we have prepared for Advent and Christmas is the usual way we have to keep not far away in our thoughts, the possibility that we may have our preparation disrupted by a lockdown. We have a plan B.

This year an invitation to our Christmas celebrations will be printed. There just may be people who are feeling more alone than ever in these strange times so please help in sending it out within our parish boundaries of course. — ***Jocelyn Versace, Coordinator***

## ALTAR MINISTRIES

I would firstly like to thank Chris Yapp for all the time and dedication that he put into looking after our Altar Server Ministry over the past several years. He has built up a huge group of enthusiastic young people that bring so much to our celebrations here at Morley. He has passed the reigns over to me so that now all our different ministries at the Altar – Acolytes, Senior Altar Ministers and Altar Servers are now under one coordinator. I plan next year to start having training and activities combining these groups to bring them together closer as a ministry.

On the rosters, we currently have 43 altar servers and another 5 to join their ranks soon and we have 10 acolytes and 6 senior altar ministers. Our ministries are truly blessed with this great number of women, men and children who freely offer their time to serve our community.

One big change to the Ministry of Acolytes and Senior Altar Ministers is that earlier this year, Pope Francis amended Canon Law so that women can now serve and be called Acolytes the same as men. Originally, the ministry of Acolyte, along with the ministry of Lector, was considered two of the minor orders on the road to priesthood. In 1972, Pope Paul VI replaced minor orders with ministries two of which were the ministries Acolyte and Lector. These were still only open to men. Now officially, these are open to men and women over the age of 18. We are looking forward to our Senior Altar Ministers soon being recognised officially as Acolytes. I hope to gather more men and women into this ministry next year.

It was great to be able to celebrate all our major festivities in the Church after a year of uncertainty and cancellations in 2020. Christmas last year was fantastic and even though there were still restrictions on numbers, all the different ministries in our parish worked together to create an environment of welcome and inclusion. It is with this is the same attitude that we approach this year's festive season. I look forward to another year serving our community as part of such a diverse and vibrant ministry. —**Chris Lambert**  
***Altar Ministries Coordinator for Acolytes, Senior Altar Ministers and Altar Servers***

## **SAFEGUARDING OFFICERS REPORT**

I would like to start with extending my thanks to Lyn Anderson for passing the baton to me as the new Safeguarding Officers co-ordinator. We now have 9 fully trained SGO in our parish, meeting quarterly to support, discuss and implement the procedures required by the Perth Catholic Archdiocese Safeguarding Office. This Project was initiated in 2014 by Archbishop Timothy Costelloe in response to the Royal Commission in Institutional Child Sexual Abuse. In fact, the Archdiocese of Perth was the first of the Australian Catholic Diocese to begin to establish SGO across its network of parishes. We are the link between the Safeguarding Office and Infant Jesus parish.

We have been working through the audit requirements as set out by the Australian Bishops and have noted several key areas we need to actively work on. Public awareness of our role and how to contact us is one of our primary focuses. Although we have our posters inside the church foyer and the parish centre and wear our badges at Mass, we must take every opportunity to insert ourselves into parish life to ensure we are available and approachable to our parishioners.

In partnership with our Parish Priests, we are responsible for ensuring the safety of children, young people and vulnerable adults within our parish. However, we seek to raise awareness of our collective responsibility as a parish to do the same. So you will see us at community events, masses, on the IJ website and other areas of the parish. We are also happy to come and speak at any of your gatherings within the parish if you wish.

Child Protection Week was held in September and 5 of us had an opportunity to attend a special breakfast thanks to a subsidised offer from Father Greg. We gratefully acknowledge this offer and to be able to hear former Commissioner Karl O'Callaghan and his Grace the Archbishop speak and also a school choir's rendition of special safeguarding songs was fabulous. A beautiful story book, titled "You Are God's Marvellous Creation" was released aimed at children 3 – 8 years of age. If anyone would like a copy, please let me know.

One of the key areas we are addressing is attending the training sessions within the church for our young people. For example, I attended the altar servers training last weekend and spoke with the parents and children to let them know what we do and who we are. We asked the parents to be involved with their children while they participate in this ministry. Over a cup of tea later on, I asked the children if they could remember what the SGO do, and one of the young boys said "You are a church lifeguard!" Well, that was fantastic!

Another area for us to work on is ensuring that all church workers and volunteers attend a short training workshop to understand and recognise the importance of the National Safeguarding Standards and how they work to keep our children, young people and vulnerable adults safe. Again, this is a collective responsibility.

We must ensure if these people also work or are around children that they have signed a safeguarding declaration and a procedures document and have a current Working with Children's Card.

There is a great deal to be done in this space, however we are a group of well trained, compassionate and supportive group of SGO here in Infant Jesus. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us if you would like to know more about what we do or if you have a concern about a child, young person or a vulnerable adult within our parish. Thank you. —**Julie Lambert, Coordinator for SGOs**

## ALPHA MINISTRY

This year we held only one Alpha program. The winter program commenced on 25<sup>th</sup> of June with team meeting. We have with 11 guests, 6 helpers and two kitchen teams facilitated by Fr Greg. The majority of the guests are non-Catholic and seven of the guests continued on to join the RCIA program.

As always, the enthusiastic support of parish volunteers made the weekly meals possible and without this support, the program could not thrive, so our thanks go out to all those involved —**Billie Dewitt, Coordinator**

## COLUMBARIUM COMMITTEE

As in all other areas of our lives over the past twelve months, COVID has left its mark on the Columbarium. The committee ceased to attend the parish centre weekly to take applications and enquiries, instead meeting families by appointment only when an internment or reservation was necessary. This meant that it was a very quiet (and COVID safe!) year.

There was a total of 15 niche reservations, 8 internments and one new memorial plaque placed on the memorial rose garden.

The committee has now resumed the practice of being available once a week in the parish centre. We are available from 9.30am - 11.00am to assist in completing a reservation application or for general enquiries. We are also available to meet at other times on request. Please contact the parish office if you would like to make an appointment with one of the committee members.

The new walls which were completed in 2019 and all other walls are rapidly being filled. The committee is currently considering the construction of new walls to meet the continuing demand.

During the year we were gifted a large donation for the upkeep of the columbarium gardens, and this will be spent on replenishment of the woodchips which are becoming degraded. We would always welcome donation, big or small, toward assisting us in keeping the gardens looking beautiful.

We have been very fortunate in maintaining a group of willing volunteers who assist in the annual rose pruning, which is a big task. We thank them sincerely for their cheerful help. However, there are many other tasks involved in keeping the columbarium looking good and we would love to hear from anyone who could give a little regular time toward helping out.

At the moment we have a committee of only two people. We would be very happy to hear from anyone who would like to be part of this rewarding work. **Andrew Davini, Angela Youens – Committee Coordinators**

## PIETY STALL TEAM

Our piety stall in the Church opens regularly at all weekend Masses. We are very fortunate to have the dedicated volunteers helping out with stall after Mass. I would like to thank Rose, Stella, Sue Baile, Linda Yapp, Annette Nathanielsz, Roma Bamford and Rita Pinto for your support. This year we welcome another volunteer, Fay Colum to our team. Thank you to Peter Sigle who has been purchasing and collecting our orders from Gatto's shop throughout the year.

Our piety stall stocks a wide range of items; cards for all occasions, rosaries, gifts, reflection books, adults/children's bibles, children's activities books and stories, statues, medals and a lot more. Please come and visit us after mass one day. – **Billie Dewitt, Coordinator.**

## PARISH OFFICE REPORT

2021 has been another remarkable year in the parish office as we continue to learn to live with the unprecedented health pandemic. With three lockdowns, it has been a challenging time for everyone. Despite the circumstances, we were able to achieve many things in the parish office.

We came together to plan and celebrate a COVID-safe Christmas and New Year working with the Covid restrictions. Our Masses were at capacity, with only 300 people allowed in the Church and many more worshipping outside the Church ground. The new audio system and festive decorations in the garden ensured that we had inclusive and joyful celebration for everyone.

In February, we were able to acknowledge our volunteers at the annual Thanksgiving Mass and BBQ, thanking them for their dedication and commitment to our parish. It was very well-attended, by with nearly 300 parish volunteers and their families enjoying a joyful Mass and a relaxed dinner.

The Parish busy bee went ahead this year, after cancellation the year before. Many helpers turned up on the day to help spruce up the Church and grounds, ready for the Easter celebration. The Easter Triduum celebration reached capacity again, with 375 people in the Church with plenty more joining in the Mass from outside the church.

Our parish registered for 'Containers for change' this year, doing our bit to make a difference in our communities and environment. With our Scheme ID, parishioners can choose to donate the return of their containers directly to the parish account. Our parish also took part in the National Count of Attendance this year, counting mass attendance over four weeks. This count is held every five years and held in the same year as the Australian Census. The statistics from this year's count is expected to be released nationally in 2022.

All the parish staff were very involved in the planning and preparation of our major fundraising event this year, the 'Garden FunRaiser: Mother's Day Fair and Plant Sale', which was a huge success. We had to change the date and postpone the event due to yet another lockdown and a change of limit on crowd capacity. With thousands of plants being nursed by volunteers, the logistics of collecting the plants and craft items and the management of a team of volunteers, they were not easy tasks. The garden fundraising team led by Angela Youens has excelled themselves with this amazing effort.

Two other events which kept the office and staff very busy were the 29th Anniversary of the Dedication of our church, over the weekend of 27/28 August, with all Masses being followed by a community meal in the parish centre and the celebration of our much-loved priest Fr Tadgh's Irish themed 80th birthday, on 11th September. All of us enjoy serving our parish by bringing the parish together in celebration and thanksgiving.

Once again, the office had a role in supporting the Archdiocese fundraising appeals; Project Compassion, Good Friday Collection, Catholic Mission and LifeLink. We also supported Vinnie's Christmas and Winter Appeals, Worldwide Marriage Encounter and Aid to Church in need. We provide administrative support to parish coordinators in their important roles.

The easing of COVID restrictions has allowed us to lift the temporarily suspended hire of the hall for private functions and group activities. Today, except for the mandatory contact register, parish life has returned to pre-COVID time and it is wonderful to see the parish centre alive with people again.

These achievements would not have been possible without the assistance of the parish office staff and volunteers. I am grateful to be supported by Frs Greg, John and Tadgh, Theresa, Carol, Andrew, Sue, Darren, Angela Youens, Pearl Chin, Sue Baile, Lyn Anderson, Michelle Mok, Mavis Boog and Josee Gaudet. I look forward to a joyous and peaceful year ahead. - **Billie Dewitt, parish secretary**

## EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

Thank you to all ministers for helping our Priests in the important task of distributing the Body of Christ to our parishioners each day.

We started 2021 with 69 commissioned ministers in our parish and 34 were rostered for the 4 Sunday Masses (in English).

We have had lockdowns, restrictions, Church closures and any number of difficulties, so we are pleased to still have 33 ministers on our Sunday roster.

In addition, we have 8 ministers attending at the Italian Mass, co-ordinated by Vienna Pizzino.

Severe restrictions have also been placed on the 13 Extra-ordinary ministers who previously visited the sick and frail in their homes and in care facilities resulting in reduced service. This group is co-ordinated by Brian Yeo.

With the ever-present threat of a Covid-19 outbreak, we have been working with a 2-month roster, allowing ministers to make themselves available as health and circumstances permit, without committing long term. Ideally, we could use more ministers at our evening Masses, we are actively recruiting in preparation for the Covid normal of 2022.

As part of the Covid-19 directive from the Archdiocese, Communion is to be received in the hand, please assist our ministers by not insisting on receiving on the tongue, we could be placing our Parish at risk, especially as our borders re-open.

“Extra-ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion” is a parish-based ministry. Ministers must hold a current Working with Children Check Card and be familiar and agree with the Archdiocese Safeguarding Programme. Prospective ministers would normally attend a training day run by the Centre for Liturgy, as well as undertaking practical training in our parish church before being commissioned.

We thank Fr. Greg as Parish Priest and Fr. Tadgh and Fr. John for their continued guidance and support and also the parish office staff, Billie and Carol, for keeping our registers up to date.

—*Andrew and Cheryl Davini, Coordinators.*

## PROCLAIMERS of the WORD MINISTRY

*‘Help me embrace this ministry with the full commitment that it deserves,  
that the people hear your voice instead of mine and be transformed.’*

Excerpt from a prayer for proclaimers

### **Our Team**

This year we saw our Sunday group of proclaimers grow to 40 in number!! An increase of more than 7 over the year. I welcome all the new proclaimers and take this opportunity to thank each proclaimer for their commitment to this ministry.

I would especially like to acknowledge our 3 new young (school aged) proclaimers. Their commitment to preparation and attendance at practice sessions for each rostered occasion is to be commended. My sincere thanks to their parents for their support.

Once again, my thanks to the weekday roster coordinators; John Orzanski (7:00am Mass) and Sylvia Brough (9:00am/8:30am Mass) for their contribution in facilitating proclaimers at these Masses. Also, I thank those who proclaim at the weekday Masses. We are so fortunate to have proclaimers at all our Masses.

### **Mentoring & support for growth**

A big thank you to the proclaimers who have been involved in the mentoring and support of the young and not so young new proclaimers. Their warmth, knowledge and encouragement have helped to put the new proclaimers at ease and build their confidence.

### **Welcome ...**

We warmly welcomed Sabrina D’Cruz, Valerie Wales, Naethan Marino Dayan (Sat 6pm), Shirley D’Mello (Sun 7:30am), Paul Stephan, Eloise Lambert and Dorothy Bao (Sun 6pm). Thank you for committing to this group!

### **As proclaimers we are required to follow the General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM) by..**

Including brief periods of silence when proclaiming the Word of God, to favour meditation. This is now the expected practice for proclaimers.

Initiating the recitation of the entrance and communion antiphons at the appropriate time.

### **Commissioning**

On the weekend of May 30, at all Masses, our congregation commissioned/recommissioned our proclaimers. They were presented with a certificate and shared in a morning tea. Thank you to the IJ community for your support for those who have responded to God’s call to serve in this Ministry.

If you are interested in learning more about being a proclaimer or know of someone who is interested, please let the parish office know and I will be in contact.

*When the Scriptures are read in the liturgical assembly, God speaks to us and calls us to respond in faith and love.*

—**Marina MacLean, Coordinator**

## **HOSPITALITY MINISTRY**

With the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the Hospitality Ministry continued to assist at Infant Jesus Church in Morley, in line with the directives and requirements of the Archdiocese of Perth and in accordance with the instructions for the IJ Parish Office, namely Marshalling the Parishioners and ensuring that the COVID-19 requirements were strictly followed and met. Post the relaxation of these rules, the ministry has reverted to their new normal of welcoming everyone back to the Church.

The Hospitality Ministry was also called upon to assist at the Christmas, Easter, First Holy Communion and Confirmation Services and amid the pandemic, I am proud to say that the Ministers did a stellar job.

This year, we had the opportunity to carry out a recruitment drive and we had 7 new members join our Ministry. The Ministry requires a few more volunteers namely at Saturday and Sunday evening Masses.

We say goodbye to: Rennet Taylor, Luisa Dhue and Rose Farrell

We welcome: Denise D’Silva, Marisol Rapy, Emily Dayan, Lyn Anderson, Jeanette Smith, Francisca Scully, Zina Bidawid, Julia Chiam, Marion Oh, Pramila Crasta, Brenda Fernandez, Julie Lambert & Eloise Lambert

Pope Francis says: *“The Church, as desired by Jesus, is the home of hospitality. And how much good we can do, if only we try to speak this language of hospitality, this language of receiving and welcoming.”* ... I personally experience this in our Church and echo the thoughts of our many Parishioners and would like to take this opportunity to thank all our Hospitality Ministers for their dedication and selfless service in making Pope Francis’s vision a reality.

Thank you. —**Josephine McManus, Coordinator**

## PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM (PREP)

The Parish Religious Education Program (PREP) is mandated by the Archdiocese of Perth and overseen by Catechist Services under the Catholic Education Western Australia. Any family who wishes their child/ren to receive religious education and/or to be prepared for the Sacraments of Reconciliation (Confession), First Communion (Eucharist) and Confirmation should apply for PREP.

PREP is open to school aged children from Prep-primary/Year 1 and requires preparation to extend over a two-year period for Reconciliation and First Communion and over a further two year period for Confirmation. Classes are held in the parish centre each week on Wednesdays from 4.15 - 5.20pm during the school terms. Each week we start PREP with a group 'Gathering Time' for 10-15 minutes of talking/meditation/singing/prayer before the children head off to their separate rooms/hall for lessons. The children generally seem very happy to come along and catch up with their PREP friends, learn their prayers and about the love of God. This spiritual journey of our children is progressing well considering the limited time we have with them each week and the occasional lockdown.

Our parish catechists are a generous group of parishioners who volunteer to teach the children their faith and love of God. As a parish we are very blessed with their dedication and care of our parish children. On behalf of the parish, I would like to thank Genevieve Herft, Gus Formato, Morag McPherson, Linda Yapp, Sandra Jones, Linda Doyle, Joanne Byrde, Angela Youens, Sylvia Brough, and Manisha Mascarenhas who have taught the children over this year. These wonderful people have given so generously of their love of our God and their time. This year Gus and Sandra were Commissioned as Catechists, and Joanne and Manisha received their Provisional Certification.

When teaching PREP the catechists use a wonderful catechism resource program called Gathered in My Name which was written by our talented WA Catechist Services team through Catholic Education. The program is very organized with scripture quotes and reflections plus all the wording, questions and answers that catechists use to teach and the activities for the children to complete during class time.

This year we have had 55 children enrolled for PREP of which the following have received Sacraments –  
Confirmation – 8 children in June  
First Communion – 9 children in August  
Reconciliation – 8 children in November.

On the last week of Term 2, 3 and 4 we organize a family mass for the all the classes, their families, and friends together in the church. Any parishioner is very welcome to join us for Mass as well.

**Rite of Christian Initiation of Children (RCIC)** program has continued again this year and we thank Mrs Linda Doyle for her commitment to this and dedication to these children. This year she has prepared 6 children for their Sacraments. These children are generally 10 + years of age, Baptised and require preparation for all 3 Sacraments, although, one also needed to be prepared for Baptism this year.

Thank you also to our parish priests Fr Greg, Fr Tadgh and Fr John for their guidance and support during the year and with our Masses. Also, to our parish office staff thank you for your valued friendship and support throughout the year. — *Sue Goodwin, PREP Coordinator*

## PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM

The Planned Giving Program forms part of the second collection and is essentially where parishioners commit to contributing a fixed amount in the second collection.

This contribution is very important as it enables the Parish to budget based on the contributions it receives. It goes towards the day-to-day expenses such as:

- Maintenance of the Church, the Parish Centre and the grounds.
- Salaries for staff
- Electricity and Water
- Shire Rates
- Insurance
- Special Events and
- Other general expenses
- 

The funds are also set aside where possible and used for major Capital expenses such as:

- Painting
- Replacement of carpets in the church which is expected to cost in the order of \$100,000 plus.
- Resealing of the wooden floors in the Parish centre,
- Lighting in the car park
- Replacement of the Projector/Screens in the church.
- 

Covid – during Covid with the church being closed several months, this proved problematic as collections were down. Thank you to those who continued to contribute through direct debit and bank transfers as this enabled the parish to continue paying its bills. We are slowly returning to normal with the level of contributions.

Current Position- to date, the planned giving program is covering the day-to-day expenses however with the number of large capital items planned for the next few years as listed above it is essential that the program continues to grow in collections.

Challenges for the future – Currently 76% of the parishioners in the Planned Giving Program are over the age of 60. This gives a challenge to encourage the younger parishioners to join and contribute to the program so that parish expenses can continue to be met. Thank you. —*Ivor Byrde, Coordinator*