

Heartbeat

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE FAMILY OF SACRED HEART PARISH

Our Parish Community

Message from Fr Kevin

My personal thanks for all your good wishes, visits, prayers and support during my recent hospitalisation. It is good to be back at work with my Parish family, especially as our young people prepare for Confirmation next weekend.



Fr Kevin and Cassie Purtle
 on the occasion of Cassie's recent 90th birthday,
 which was celebrated at Mass with the
 presentation of a Papal Blessing

Prayer for Winter's end

from Sr Anne Hagan



*We breathe a new air,
 no longer cold with seeming death.
 The flowers respond
 to the strengthening Sun, your light.
 So may our hearts respond to your
 love and grace.
 The birds break into song and call us
 to your praise.
 So may our hearts give praise at all
 aspects of our lives.
 The frozen earth and water melt to
 new life:
 So may our hardened hearts be
 softened
 To gentleness and love.
 We are overwhelmed with images,
 symbols, confirmations of your
 resurrecting, your enlivening.*

BAPTISMS

We welcome into our Parish community all those who have been recently Baptised:

- Meihana Warner
- Patrick Copley
- Olivia Buete
- Jefferson Clements
- Chloe & Callum Richardson
- Alex Goonan
- Jasmine, Charlie, Lucy & Sam Duncan
- Mia Logue
- Beau Lieschke
- Gus Hayes
- Tarkyn, Rahni & Brock Hines

- Bethany Jacob
- Jarrah Hunter
- Scarlett Ritchie
- Ryder Duel
- Fletcher Keddie
- Angus Fankhauser
- Tess & Mia Knight
- Nyia & Xavier Hogan
- James & Lia Sheil
- Erin Hardiman
- Lila Fruean



Justin Clancy : *in conversation with Nicola Hanzic*

It was a dreary winter's day when Justin and I eventually managed to meet up to have a chat. However, the atmosphere was warm and convivial and this more than compensated for the day outside.

Justin told me that he comes from a farming family. In fact, his father originally farmed his family property in Urangeline, which, for the uninitiated such as myself, is near Lockhart. I was informed that this property had been in the family since 1924 and was predominately concerned with sheep and cropping. In 1985 Justin's family moved to Narrandera and then in 1986 relocated to a property in Bowna. This farm is mainly concerned with sheep and cropping and it is the place where his parents live and work to-day. Justin's own family also live on the farm in a small cottage.

"I was actually born in the Mercy Hospital in Albury, back when there was a maternity section there. It's interesting to think that it's almost as though a full cycle from birth to death has passed through these doors now that it is associated with Palliative Care as well as with other areas.

In my family, I was the second of four children and have two sisters and one brother. My early schooling was in Pleasant Hills, which is near Henty. I then had a year in Narrandera before moving on to a school in Albury. I remained here until 1994 after which time I attended St Joseph's Boarding School in Hunters Hill, Sydney. I remember to this day the time that my parents and I went there for our interview with Brother. In the background we could hear singing coming from the school chapel, this made such a defining impression upon us all.

When I had completed my schooling I was fortunate enough to be accepted into a Veterinary Science Course in Sydney University. Coming from the country I was able to board in St John's Residential College. Following graduation I was accepted into an internship at the Sydney University Campus at Camden, and it was during that time that I met my wife Tabitha as she was the senior veterinary nurse there.

I think that I probably decided to become a Vet because it meant that I was able to keep in touch with my farming background. However, I feel that my main area of expertise is with companion animals. I still like to help out on the farm at home although at times I'm more like a young sheep-dog that gets in the way!

I really enjoy working as a Vet because of my experiences with the people I meet. I feel that I am able to get a glimpse into their lives through their pets, and through the relationships that they have with them. Pets are so special and rewarding because they give us their undivided love and only ask to be loved and cared for in return.

I especially enjoy the challenges associated with being a Vet and I particularly like thinking through a problem when diagnosing a situation. I always endeavour to be like the mentor I had at University who was able to simplify a problem. He would take a complex situation, break it down and then present it in a way that made sense. This is what I try to do. I don't believe in bamboozling people with words as this often suggests that the answer is not really known and is possibly being made up. If I don't know something I simply say so and research the matter. After all, the human and animal body is very complex.

As I mentioned earlier, I met my wife Tabitha when I was in Sydney. She is a very special

person who is completely understanding and supportive of my work. She is unique in that she gives herself wholly to her family. We now have two boys, 4 year old Xavier John and 2 1/2 year old Seamus Joseph. We chose the name John because it is a family name and Joseph because Seamus has the same birth date as his great grandfather, James Joseph. When I look at the boys, I know that I am very blessed in life and I do wish them good health and happiness in the years ahead. What is so special at the moment is being able to hear the boys talk to each other when they are in the bedroom together. It is interesting to see how they communicate when one child is not old enough to talk as well as the other. One thing I love doing is tickling them on the bed although this can become pretty boisterous at times. We are so lucky at the moment because both boys are good sleepers. They also have a clock in the bedroom which turns a different colour once it's daytime. This is a big help.



Seamus, Tabitha, Xavier and Justin

(continued on page 7)



St Anne's : from Liz Johnston (REC/Learning Support Teacher)

Here at St Anne's we have been involved in some wonderful events since the last issue of Heartbeat.

On Sunday 18th June, 43 of our Year 3 students, along with 8 children from the Parish, celebrated their First Communion. This celebration was so beautifully led by Father Kevin with all the children feeling a great sense of belonging and involvement. This was a significant occasion in the faith journey of these children and we ask that you continue to pray for them.



Trish and Richard Parkinson enjoyed Grandparents Day at St Anne's in the company of their grandchildren

On Friday 27th June we were able to join with our Parish community and celebrate our Parish feast, the Feast of the Sacred Heart. During Mass we prayed for our Parish and gave thanks for the wonderful work of Father Kevin.

Friday 25th July saw us celebrate the Feast of St Anne and Joachim, the Grandparents of Jesus. This Feast Day is one that is very dear to our school community and it gives us the opportunity to honour and give thanks to all of our grandparents. The day began with the celebration of Mass and we were blessed to have our School Hall overflowing with grandparents, parents and friends. Following Mass morning tea was shared and then Year 1 led us in an entertaining assembly. The celebration of Grandparents Day seems to be growing every year and we dearly thank, and are grateful for, the participation of so many.

Another lovely occasion was the feast of our Diocesan Patroness, the Feast of Mary of the Cross MacKillop, on Friday 8th August. We came together as a school community to acknowledge and pray for the wonderful deeds of Mary MacKillop. As we gathered in prayer we were reminded of her motto to: "Never see a need without doing something about it."

Presently the Year 6 children are preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation and the Year 2 children are preparing for Reconciliation. On Friday 22nd August we will welcome Bishop Hanna to our school as he visits the Confirmation candidates. He will then lead our Confirmation Mass on Saturday 23rd August at 6pm. First Reconciliation will be celebrated later in the term. Please keep all these children in your prayers.





Xavier High School : from Ed Brown (Religious Education Coordinator)

IMMERSION EXPERIENCE 2014

In Term 3, students from Xavier High School participated in three separate Immersion experiences.

A group of six Year 11 girls accompanied by teachers, Miss MJ Boyd and Mrs Terri-Anne Scott went to Santa Teresa in the Northern Territory to immerse themselves in that local indigenous community. The girls were in active service in support of the local community centre and assisted with providing meals on wheels. A highlight for the girls was participating in an outdoor Mass with members of the local community.

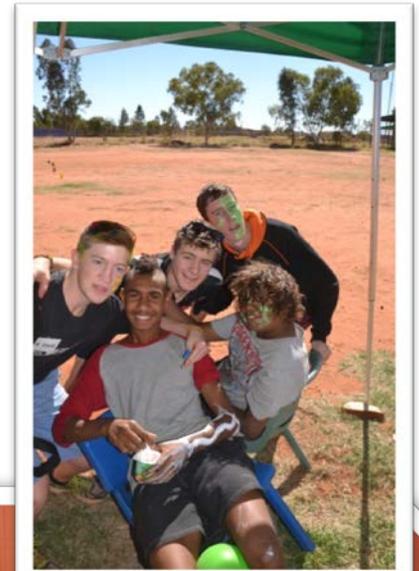
The second *Immersion group* travelled to Yuendumu with teachers, Mr Andrew Gibson and Mr Edmund Brown, and were actively involved in the local community school. They also visited sacred aboriginal sites and enjoyed time for reflection and deep listening.



Our *third group of twelve* Year 11 students together with Mrs Michelle Milthorpe, Mr Peter Williams, Mr Erik Hamilton and Mrs Cerina Meredith headed north

to Moree, and revisited the 1965 Freedom Ride, which was a significant event in raising awareness of the rights of indigenous people in Australia.

All three experiences were highly rewarding and enriching for both students and staff. Everyone who participated would have developed an even deeper appreciation of our indigenous peoples, and a passion to see justice for all Australians. We look forward to the students continuing to emerge as leaders within our school and wider community.



A DAY OF SPIRITUALITY FOR WOMEN

with thanks to Together

“Spirings of New Wisdom” is the theme for a Spirituality Day for Women of the Diocese. All women are invited to this day of inspiration and conversation. Experienced and well-known presenter, Jill Gowdie, will be the keynote speaker for the day. Jill currently leads Mission and Formation Services for Brisbane Catholic Education, with her expertise grounded in long and wide experience in Catholic schools and parish life. Her focus is for the individual spiritual journey to the heart of God and the profound influence of the journey of spiritual formation in the ministry of leadership and fullness of life.

The day will be facilitated by Andrea Dean, who coaches and leads retreats to cultivate compassion, creativity and courage. She is committed to helping individuals and groups engage with the question:

“What is it that you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?”

which has been so beautifully posed by the poet Mary Oliver. Her focus is on deep transformation and attentive presence to the sacred.

Bishop Hanna is generously sponsoring this day so there will be no cost to attend. Donations can be made on the day if desired. Morning tea and lunch are provided. Gifts and books will be available for sale.

Event: Day of Spirituality for Women

When: 9am to 3.30pm, Saturday 20th September

Where: Sacred Heart Primary School Hall
235 - 245 Lake Albert Rd, Kooringal (Wagga)

Registration is essential:

online registration form: www.wagga.catholic.org.au

or phone Megan Moon 02 6953 4121

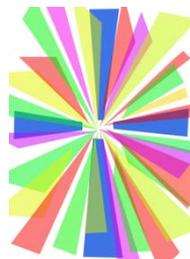
Treat yourself. Come along and bring a friend

OUR WEEK OF GUIDED PRAYER

Sunday 19th to Saturday 25th October

The aim of the Week of Guided Prayer is to help people deepen their relationship with God through the use of the Scriptures as a basis for their prayer. Participants meet on a one to one basis with a prayer companion each day of the week at an agreed time and need to commit to a 20 – 30 minute daily prayer time at home. There is an opening gathering and a closing gathering involving all the participants (pilgrims) and the companions. Pilgrims are encouraged to explore different methods of prayer such as Ignatian imaginative contemplation of the Scriptures, Lectio Divina, icons, religious art or the use of a journal. There is a small charge (to be advised) to cover the costs of the program.

from Brian Waters



Some thoughts about Palliative Care

prepared by Nicola Hanzic

Recently a number of us were very fortunate to be able to listen to a talk given by Dr Yvonne McMaster, a retired Palliative Care Doctor who is currently a Palliative Care Consultant still spending her time supporting patients who are palliative as well as doing all that she can to call for increased funding for these services across New South Wales. She feels that there are many misconceptions concerning this service and she does all that she can to set these straight. Dr McMaster is a wonderful advocate and these are some pertinent thoughts from her talk in Albury on Tuesday, July 1:

Definition: “Palliative care is an approach that improves the quality of life of patients and their families facing the problems associated with life threatening illness, through the prevention and relief of suffering by means of early identification and impeccable assessment and treatment of pain and other problems (which can be) social, psychosocial and spiritual. It provides relief from pain and other distressing symptoms; it affirms life and regards dying as a normal process; it intends neither to hasten or postpone death; it attends to psychological and spiritual concerns; it offers a support system to help people to live as actively as possible right to the end; it offers a support system to help the family cope during the patient’s illness and in bereavement; and it is applicable early on in the course of the illness, in conjunction with other therapies that are intended to prolong life.

Unfortunately many doctors and the community in general tend to perceive palliative care as the alternative to life-giving or curative care. Another major hurdle appears to be a misconception as some doctors and patients alike only associate palliative care with the end of life. As a result, not only do patients balk at the mention of it, but (some) doctors are slow to refer them. Palliative care suffers from an identity problem as many believe that it hastens death. (This is not the case.) Palliative care isn’t increasing morphine when you think someone is dying for any reason other than pain.”

Palliative care is a wonderful service, as I know personally. As Dr MacMaster says, it should be available to all members of the community, both rural and urban. We are so lucky that it is being provided for us in Albury through Mercy Health.

Dr McMaster is passionate about this service and is a great advocate doing all that she can to support it, not only within the community but also through organising petitions calling for increased funding from the government for these services. I do hope that she and others like her will succeed.

OUR PRESIDENT'S AGM REPORT

13th August 2014

What an amazing journey the last 6 years have been. I say 6 years as tonight Gerard Coyle, Vice President, will resign from the council and Ann Marie Whiting will resign as Secretary but will remain on the council. I wish to thank both for their never ending encouragement and energy which have contributed to so many achievements within our Parish.

To list a few, Parish Council achievements include:

- organised for the Hall floor to be sanded and recoated;
- planted Manchurian Pear trees at the front of the Church;
- red carpet runner laid down the aisle and new mats for all entries to the Church;
- new organ;
- new computer, screen and data projector for the Church;
- painting of the exterior of Church, Hall and Presbytery;
- cleaned out and refurbished the room at the back of the Church to create a Library;
- designed and organised the building of the Memorial walls, and the blessing;
- organised Masses for All Souls day held in the Memorial Garden followed by morning tea;
- arranged for Monsignor Tony Doherty to come and share his knowledge into the Catholic faith with us;
- working bees held to tidy up around the grounds;
- replaced rear fence supports at the Presbytery;
- purchased a BBQ and outdoor setting for the Presbytery;
- organised celebrations for Fr Kevin's 50th Anniversary of his Ordination;
- leased a colour photocopier for the Parish Office;
- arranged for Parishioners to direct deposit their Planned Giving into our bank account;
- set up a database of Parishioners;
- organised for the pine tree to be removed from the front of the Presbytery and a new garden created with artificial grass around;
- had the car park resurfaced and parking lines marked;
- Sunday Masses organised by the Liturgy Committee;
- Lenten and Advent programs organised by the Liturgy group;
- Ecumenical Good Friday procession finishing at Sacred Heart;
- updated our web site so we can upload Parish Bulletin each week and add dates to the calendar;
- updated Parish Plan three times;
- conducted a consultation survey for Parishioners to have their say;
- organised dinner for Parishioners to celebrate the Feast of the Sacred Heart;
- organised many morning teas and sometimes BBQs after 10.30am Mass on Sunday;
- changed the name of the newsletter from Our Special Heart to Heartbeat;
- Developed the Heartbeat newsletter to what it is today including Xavier and St Anne's contributing and many more;
- Greeting cards distributed at Christmas, Easter, Mother's day & Father's day.

A thank you to Karen Purtle for her contribution to the Parish over the last few years on the Parish Council. Karen will resign from Parish Council tonight but will continue to help with Heartbeat each quarter. Also her commitment to the consultation survey and collating the results is appreciated.

I would like to thank everyone in our Parish who contribute in any way to make it the vibrant Parish it is. The highlight of the last 12 months would have to be the celebrations for Fr Kevin's 50th Anniversary of his Ordination. The weekend of celebrations showed everyone who took part that we have a remarkable sense of community within our Parish.

We thank Fr Kevin for his continued commitment and amazing energy to all in our community. His non-judgemental ability is truly an asset to all. This is demonstrated within the Aboriginal community who feel at ease to farewell loved ones in our Sacred Heart Church and use the hall for their wakes; they do call Sacred Heart their Church.

Ecumenism is a very important part of our Parish and Fr Kevin is always promoting this. Our biggest event each year is the Good Friday Stations with the other Churches in our area followed by hot cross buns at Sacred Heart Hall.

Our ongoing support both spiritually and financially to our Parish School, St Anne's, is appreciated by all. It is lovely that all Parishioners are invited to share in days like Grandparents Day and School Masses that continue to develop the connection between the School and the Parish.

I would like to recognise Xavier students and their immersion into stations of central Australia and beyond. Their talks to Parishioners at Masses after their visits are very enlightening.

Fr Kevin is an apology tonight but would like to thank all those on the Parish Council and all Parishioners for their support and contribution to our Parish.

We all should be very proud of our beautiful Parish that we are blessed with.

Thank you.

Gemma Whitehead, Parish Council President



Parish Council Executive Members for 2014-2015:
Gemma Whitehead, President (centre); Kevin Kennedy, Vice President; Virginia Sykes, Secretary

Parish Councillors 2014-2015

- Fr Kevin Flanagan - Parish Priest
- Gemma Whitehead - President
- Kevin Kennedy- Vice President
- Virginia Sykes - Secretary
- Bede Hart – Principal St Anne’s School
- Ann Marie Whiting
- Brian Waters
- Lyn Hamilton
- John O’Keeffe
- Sr Anne Hagan
- Trish Parkinson
- Gordon Robison

Visit the Parish website for regular updates:
<http://sacredheartnorthalbury.com/>

2013 Sacred Heart Parish Consultation AGM Report – 13 August 2014

ITEMS COMPLETED or IN PROGRESS	STATUS
Pastoral Plan & Constitution	Have been updated. To be reviewed in 2016
Statement of Parish Council Roles	Work In progress
Regular Parish Council reports in bulletin	Ongoing
Parish Councillors photos on the noticeboard	At back of the church
List of activities/groups	Ongoing in bulletin
Welcome Kit	Work In progress
Social Justice – Xavier Immersion program	Work In progress
Support for Missions, Caritas Appeals	Ongoing
Guest speakers e.g. Richard Leonard	Work in Progress
Lenten small and large groups	Completed
Promoting e-conferences	Ongoing
Celebration of the Feast of the Sacred Heart	Completed
Welcomers at Mass	Occasional eg Easter cards and Mothers Day etc
Outreach to identify people who need a lift to Mass	Recruited volunteers
Outreach to identify those who need a friendly visit	Ongoing through the bulletin
Ecumenical Activities	Lenten Program and Good Friday. Liaison with Anglican Church
Prayer Life	Week of Guided Prayer
RCIA, Invitation to prospective Catholics, Catholics Returning Home	Work in progress – volunteer needed
Social Activities (Pew Parties/Family groups/Shared Passover Meal)	Work in progress

ITEMS STILL TO BE COMPLETED INCLUDE: Social Justice Committee; short courses and study groups; engage with youth e.g. Antioch, prayer group; promotion of prayerful websites e.g. Madonna, promotion of ‘apps’.

Conversation with Justin Clancy (continued from page 2)

I actually don’t see myself as a practising Vet all my life, I’ll just see what opportunities arise in the future. As the sole owner of The Family Vet Centre my life is very full at the moment. When I am not working I enjoy reading, particularly historical books and biographies. At the moment I am club president of The Albury Steamers, a rugby union club. I am also involved with the local Rotary Clubs.

I do believe that there are chapters in our lives and know that I am very fortunate to have come from the family that I have. I also feel the need to make a contribution to life in order to repay all the good things that I have received. At least, this is my philosophy and something that I try to do.”

After we said our farewells, Justin’s enthusiasm and commitment to life remained with me. As it usually happens, our talk concluded with thoughts about our Parish and Father Kevin in particular who is so very much one of the driving forces and inspiration in our lives. Our parish is indeed blessed in so many ways. Long may this continue! *Nicola*

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