

Heartbeat

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE FAMILY OF SACRED HEART PARISH

Our Parish Community – celebrating 60 years

This year commemorates 60 years since the establishment of the Parish in 1955. Celebrations acknowledging this significant event coincided with the feast of the Sacred Heart in June. St Anne's Primary School commenced the occasion with a Mass on the feast of the Sacred Heart in their School Hall, to which Parishioners were invited. The school also incorporated Flanagan Day – Flanagan being the name of one of their Houses, and in recognition of our present Parish Priest, Fr Kevin (pictured here at the Mass).



The Youth from Xavier High School led the Saturday evening Parish Mass concelebrated by Fr Kevin Flanagan and Fr Vin Walsh. Many students were involved throughout the Mass as commentator, readers, musicians, and with a dramatic presentation of the Prayers of the Faithful.

Sunday commenced with the Parish Mass concelebrated by Bishop Hanna, Fr Kevin Flanagan and Fr Jim Victory and assisted by Deacon Beltrame, with the singing ably led by the Parish Choir.

A luncheon at the Commercial Club brought 200 Parishioners together to celebrate this significant event and to launch the book outlining a snapshot of the 60-year history of the Parish. This book was compiled by Sr Anne Hagan and launched by Justin Clancy on behalf of the Parish. The book was dedicated to all our Parishioners: Those who have gone before us; our present members who continue the work; and those who will carry this Parish into the future. This dedication was reflected in a presentation acknowledging those shoulders on whom we stand.

Prayer for Creation

*from Pope Francis' recent encyclical:
 Laudato Si' - On the Care of our Common Home.*

All powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures.

You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.

Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty.

Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one.

O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes.

Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.

Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain, at the expense of the poor and the earth.

Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognise that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light.

We thank you for being with us each day. Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace.

... contributed by Sr Anne



Laudato Si', the Pope's encyclical on the environment and human ecology, can be read online, downloaded to pdf or ordered in paperback from: <https://laudatosi.com/watch>

Steven O'Connor

... in conversation with Karen Purtle



Steven O'Connor is the Principal of Trinity College in Thurgoona and has been so for seven years. Trinity is an Anglican College so it is interesting that Steven, who is a dedicated Catholic, is able to accommodate his own faith with the leadership role he has at Trinity. Steven attributes this ability to the wonderful witness of his grandmother. She was born into a well to do Anglican family but married a Catholic. She suffered for this decision as she was deprived of her family entitlements because of the narrow views of her family when it came to religion, understandable in the 1930's. Instead of being given some land to start a farm when she started married life, as were her siblings, his grandmother was given a cow and good wishes because of her choice. Steven explains that his Nan did not retain bitterness towards her family for this treatment, but that the pain was still evident when she rarely spoke of it. She was a model of righteousness and spoke very little of the discrimination she experienced. She later converted to Catholicism and she and her husband raised their family to believe in universal values of integrity, justice and good will to all.

Steven is highly qualified in education. He has two Masters Degrees, a graduate diploma in religious education and is considering a doctorate depending on the availability of time. He says he loves working with young children and

adolescents. His philosophy is based on working with the whole person and forming the character of each person. He has been strongly influenced by the Jesuits. Steven's wife, Trudy is also a teacher. They met when Steven was working at Saint Ignatius' College, Riverview in Sydney.

Steven explained that he undertook an ambassadorial role in the local Anglican church after he became Principal of Trinity, however when his children, Patrick (14) and Hilary (12) approached the time when they were ready for the sacraments, he decided to become more involved in our parish. He said that the children hold Fr Kevin with a great deal of affection and as a result, are very comfortable coming to Mass.

Trinity has a strong religious tradition that Steven believes contributes to holistic culture of the school. One of the teachers is an ordained Anglican priest. He is also the full time chaplain at the school. The school maintains strong links with both Albury and North Albury Anglican parishes and each semester conducts services which are attended by local clergy.

In his spare time, Steven likes to ride a bike with a group of friends. Exercise is important to him and both he and his wife, Trudy, also enjoy cooking. He freely admits, life is very demanding and requires a lot of after-hours commitment including regular travel to Perth to attend Principal's meetings.

"Sacred Heart Parish is a very friendly parish under the well-recognised and much appreciated leadership of Fr Kevin" concludes Steven. "I enjoy my involvement and wish the community continued growth in the future".

Read *Heartbeat* in larger print size.
With Internet access  you can magnify the online pdf versions of *Heartbeat* and our weekly Mass Bulletins, at:
<http://sacredheartnorthalbury.com/>
For further information or help, contact the Parish Office.



St Anne's School News

... from Judy Foley

BUSY TERM 3 AT ST ANNE'S

With Bede Hart away enjoying a much deserved break Elizabeth Johnston has been leading staff and students through a very hectic term.

- The Term began with staff gathering at St Patrick's Albury with other teachers throughout our Deanery to learn about the new **History syllabus**.
- After wet weather postponed the **walk-a-thon**, beautiful sunny skies finally arrived on Wednesday 29th July allowing students, parents and teachers to enjoy each other's company walking around our oval.
- Our celebration of the **Feast of St Anne and Joachim** was a wonderful occasion and it was lovely to see so many parents, grandparents and great grandparents. Looking around our Hall, it reminded us of the special bond we share with our own families and as Fr Kevin said, "*How clever God was to create grandparents!*"
- On 7th August, **Years 3 and 4** competed in the Verse Speaking at the Albury Wodonga Eisteddfod. The Year 3 children came away with a Highly Commended certificate and the Year 4 students placed third.

CONFIRMATION

On Saturday night 15th August, Bishop Hanna led our Confirmation celebration. It was so lovely to look around our Church and witness the support provided to the children from their family and friends. At times we can find our faith a challenge but as Bishop Hanna said during his homily, "*it's important that we always keep the flame of our faith alive in our hearts.*" The Mass was a prayerful experience and the children participated with great reverence. A big thank you to the many parishioners who supported them with their prayers during their preparation.

CHILDREN'S BOOK WEEK

Book Week is the longest running children's festival in Australia, celebrating its 70th year in 2015. Children's Book Week 2015 was celebrated between 22-28 August (week 7) with the theme: 'Books Light Up Our World'. Many of the students came dressed as their favourite book character for the Book Parade. This year staff dressed as

characters from Alice in Wonderland to celebrate the 150 years since the book was written in 1865 by Lewis Carroll.

KINDER 'BEACH PICNIC'

Kinder classes have been reading 'Noni the Pony goes to the Beach' as part of their Book Week celebrations. Kinder children brought in their beach towel, hat and sunnies for the 'Beach Picnic' in their classrooms.

YEAR 1 - 'OLDEN DAYS' EXPERIENCE

On Tuesday 1st September, the Year 1 children visited the Jindera Pioneer Museum where children participated in some old-fashioned games and learning activities. To feel part of the experience students came to school dressed up in 'olden days' clothing for this day.

FATHER'S DAY BREAKFAST



The breakfast celebration we had on Friday 4th September was certainly special with 300 bacon and egg rolls served, and over 100 of our families in attendance. There was certainly a buzz in the air and a great sense of community. The display of cool cars, a motorbike and the availability of the fire truck added another dimension to the morning.

MERCY AND McAULEY DAY CELEBRATIONS

On Friday 18th September Mass at 9:30 am in the Hall will be led by the House Leaders from Mercy and McAuley Houses. The Sisters of Mercy will join us for the celebration. After recess, 'Student Busking Day' will return as part of these celebrations. Students show their support for their favourite acts by dropping coins in a bucket and the money raised supports the ongoing work at Mercy Health Albury. Also on this day, Stage 3 will be holding an **Art Exhibition** in the hall. Their art theme for this term has been the Australian Government with their gallery of works recreating poses of Australian Prime Ministers.



President's Annual Report

We have had another amazing year celebrating our 60th Anniversary as a Parish.



Gemma welcomes Bishop Hanna to our 60th celebrations

Sr Anne Hagan has done a wonderful job in creating a book containing our Parish history which is very much appreciated by all within our Parish and beyond. The book was launched at our Luncheon in June to celebrate our Parish milestone. This event was attended by 200 people. A banner and prayer to celebrate this significant event were created by Sr Anne. Thank you Anne.

During the year we have organised a 'Week of Guided Prayer', Lenten and Advent programs, Heartbeat quarterly, working bees, red carpet on the Sanctuary, Good Friday hot cross buns, morning tea after Sunday Mass, asphaltting on driveway in Presbytery area, a Library in the Church and much more.

It has been my honour and privilege to have been President of Sacred Heart Parish for the past 7 years. I will be resigning as President tonight and would like to thank everyone for their support over the past 7 years. We have achieved so many things to create a community

within our Parish. Our Parish is definitely a shining light in all our lives.

I wish to thank Fr Kevin who gives more to our Parish than anyone, and it is his continued spiritual direction that makes our Parish what it is today. We should all be very proud of our beautiful Parish that we are so blessed with. Thank you.

Gemma Whitehead

12 August 2015

Our Parish Council 2015

Chair: Justin Clancy

Vice Chair: Gemma Whitehead

Secretary: Virginia Sykes

New Members:

Narelle Naughton, Ed Brown

Continuing Members:

Kevin Kennedy, Brian Waters, Sr Anne Hagan, Lyn Hamilton, Anne Marie Whiting, Trish Parkinson, Gordon Robison, Bede Hart, Principal of St Anne's (replaced by Liz Johnston for Term 3 2015).

Message from Justin, our incoming Chair

As incoming Chair of our Parish Pastoral Council, may I firstly extend my appreciation to the wonderful efforts of Gemma and the Council members over the past several years. This has been a notable year for the Parish with the 60th anniversary, celebrating our past – but also looking to our future. We also continue to celebrate all that Fr Kevin is to our Parish and community.

At our first meeting of the new Parish Pastoral Council in early September we were led by Sr Anne in a spiritual reflection, focusing on who and what we are about as a Pastoral Council, and the gifts that each person brings to the table. As

a group we considered what elements make our Parish special. We recognise that our Parish is indeed blessed, but this requires ongoing work to continue in this way. Our Pastoral Council will focus on several elements: Outreach, Hospitality, Liturgy, Maintenance & capital works, Communication, Lay Spirituality and Sacramental Life. Members of Pastoral Council will take on responsibility for each of these areas, but we turn to our fellow parishioners to be involved in making sure our Parish is alive in each of these areas. **Justin Clancy**

Reflections on our 60th celebrations

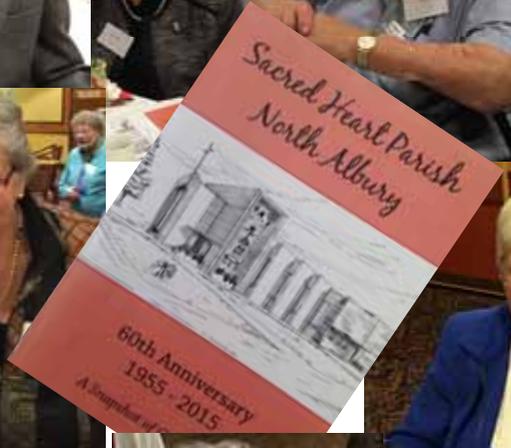
Sacred Heart North Albury continued to be "our" parish, even after we moved away. Fr Kevin inspired us always with his Gospel message: "God loves you. You are precious. You are forgiven and protected. You are good people, doing God's work in your every-day lives." The parish family exemplified this Good News.

I felt compelled to return for the 60th anniversary of the parish. The Mass was beautiful, with the people participating in full and joyful voice. The reception afterwards was well-organised, the meal delicious, the compilation of memories heart-warming.

Most of all, it was a blessing indeed to meet up with old friends, to honour Kevin and to thank God for the many ways the parish supported us at various critical moments in our lives.

The spirit of Sacred Heart Parish has spread to the entire community. ... **Rose Marie Crowe**

Liz Johnston's A/V presentation to "*Standing on the Shoulders*" by *Joyce Johnson Rouse*, was a powerful record of the energy, work and commitment of our Parish pioneers. ... **Marg Gawen**



60th Anniversary luncheon & book launch



Xavier High School is passionate about social justice

... from Ed Brown

At Xavier there is a committed group of young people passionate about making a difference. For several years Xavier has been running a Vinnies group who dedicate many hours of their time to making our local community a more sustainable and better environment for those less fortunate.

Under the guidance of Mrs Michelle Milthorpe, and the leadership of Emma Aldrich, a group of students responded to a cry for help from a worker at Broughton House earlier this year - they have been cooking meals ever since. Every Wednesday at lunch time a group of Senior and Junior students rally around one another and cook various meals which are then personally delivered to Broughton House.

**“Cooking for Broughton House gives us a sense of connection to the wider community, enabling us to give back to the community.”
Sarah C and Cassie G.**





Fr Kevin baptised Olivia Cooper, with help from her parents, Daniel and Allie, and her God-parents, Anthony Murphy (hidden) and Chelsea Pfeiffer

Recent Baptisms

Alice Wilson	Sophie Hanley	Parker McDonald
Thomas Green	Katarina Dennis	George Lethbridge
Billie Muggivan	Max Hamilton	Zander Widdett
Lara & Isaiah Klepiak	Arlo Lethbridge	Alana Duffy
Sonny Bell-Chambers	Remi Colquhoun	Theo Carter
Mitchell Gibson	Elizabeth Miller	Lylah & Rylee Rentoule
Torah Bryant	Hudson Simmons	James Dunkerley
Tate Cahill	Beau Byrne	Edward & Imogen Burnett
Alice Finlayson	Jack Toohey	Lincoln & Oliver Barrett
Olivia Cooper	Evie Packer	Oakley Wilcox
Georgie Greiner	Dylan Kent	Mia & Archie Griffiths

Papal Blessing for Lucy

... from Maria Evans

Lucia (Lucy) Fornasiero was married to Emilio (Emil) Fornasiero on 14 July 1938. She left her home town in northern Italy as a new bride that same day, to make her journey to Australia on the condition she only stay for two years. After a month at sea, the 23 year old arrived in Melbourne and then made her way to Albury. Emilio had previously come to Australia in 1924 and was already a British subject. Lucia knew nobody in Australia and spoke no English. One of her first friends was the sister of Father Bongiorno the first parish priest of Sacred Heart.

Lucia's first child (John) was born a year later. She did miss her homeland and family in Italy and as the war began she found it extremely difficult to get news and was unable to tell them of the other babies she had – Michael, Maria and then Peter.

Lucia and Emilio had a further three children (Paul, David and Christine) who died as infants. Lucia's faith in God got her through a lot of hardships. With her growing family it was not feasible for her to return to Italy so that the two year journey is now 77 years. As one of the first Italians in Albury she was often called on to help newcomers with visits to the doctor or solicitor. On several occasions, especially after the creation of the Bonegilla



Migrant Camp in the 1950's, the police would call on Lucia and Emilio to come and act as interpreters at the station where the offence was mainly fishing without a licence. Emilio often brought migrants home from Bonegilla for a home-cooked Italian meal.

Lucia devoted her life primarily to her family and assisting her husband with his business. She was widowed when she was 54 and worked at St Vincent de Paul for 20 years.

Lucia, who still lives alone, recently celebrated her 100th birthday with her four children, 11 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren, some coming from Ireland, Indonesia, New Zealand and various parts of Australia. The presentation of a Papal Blessing by Father Kevin at Mass attended by her family was a very special occasion.

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