

Heartbeat

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE FAMILY OF SACRED HEART PARISH

Unexpected joy!

Easter has surprised us! So often we dwell on Good Friday without appreciating the joys and happiness that Easter Sunday and new life bring to us.

My personal experience was at a Mass early last week when a beautiful baby, Anariyah, was brought into the church by her mother, Griselle, who asked for a blessing for Anariyah. Her family origin is Lebanese and I made the remark that at this present moment there are beautiful babies like Anariyah, which means God's gift, being born into the turmoil of Lebanon today, and that Anariyah's sisters and brothers in birth in Lebanon, would be just as much loved as Anariyah is this morning here in North Albury.

We thank God for Anariyah and in the Easter resurrection of new life thank God she is living in this wonderful country of which her mother and father, Griselle and Larry, can ensure that she will be loved in God's name, just as she will mature and come to love them in her own wonderful, joyful womanhood.

We must be grateful for the gift of life and embrace it with joy and gratitude and have a heart and a mind that this is God's world. We give thanks for the joyful and unexpected incidents that reveal the love of God in our everyday lives, just as Anariyah's presence unexpectedly graced us that day. *Fr Kevin*



Fr Kevin surrounded by joy-filled kindergarten children

An Easter Prayer

... from Sr Anne

Lord of life,

*We pray for all who bring
 your word of life
 as a light to those in darkness.*

*For those who bring your word of peace
 to those enslaved by fear.*

*For those who bring your word of love
 to those in need of comfort.*

*Lord of love and Lord of peace,
 Lord of resurrection life,
 Be known through our lives
 and through your power.*

Christ the Lord is risen today.



Holy Week Ceremonies at Sacred Heart Parish, North Albury

Palm Sunday	6:00pm	Vigil Mass
	9:30am	Sunday Mass
Holy Thursday	7:00pm	Mass
Good Friday	10.30am	Ecumenical Stations of the Cross (starting at St Mark's Anglican Church)
	3:00pm	Solemn Liturgical Celebration of the Lord's Passion.
Holy Saturday	6:00pm	Celebration of the Easter Vigil
Easter Sunday	9:30am	Mass

Sacred Heart Parish, North Albury, pays respect to the Wiradjuri people, the traditional custodians of the land on which we gather to celebrate our faith and worship God. We acknowledge with respect elders past and present.

Barbara Godde

... in conversation with Nicola Hanzic

From the moment that Barbara welcomed me into her home and we started chatting, this article seemed to take on a life of its own. Everything really evolved around families and their significance in our lives.

Barbara told me that she was born and grew up in Albury. In fact she was a member of the Sacred Heart Parish before her marriage. Since she was an only child Barbara needed to make her own fun. Luckily she had a vivid imagination and was able to do such things as transform the back verandah of her home into all sorts of interesting places such as a library and a school. What adventures happened here! Dogs too have featured prominently in Barbara's life since the age of 15 months, the current one being an endearing Jack Russell named Pippa.

Barbara attended school at St Brigid's Primary and then went on to St Joseph's Ladies College, which later combined with Aquinas to form Xavier High School as we know it today. Once she had left school she went to work for Mates Limited Albury in the retail department and later on in the office. She thoroughly enjoyed her time there, especially the interaction with people.

Barbara met her husband to be, Barry, at a cousin's wedding where she was a bridesmaid and he was a groomsman. As the saying goes, it was love at first sight. In 1964 they had a ring ceremony where Father Bon officiated and then in 1965 they were married, with the Children of Mary being their Guard of Honour as they left the church. Barbara told me that once they started going out together she asked Barry if he would learn to dance. He, tongue in cheek, replied that he would do so if she learned how to milk a cow and this is what she did. One should never underestimate the power of a determined woman!

After their marriage, Barbara and Barry went to Culcairn to live and settled down on their farm named Rosedeem. They raised sheep for their wool as well as grew grain. In addition to this, Barry was a man of vision and became a grain merchant. He also diversified further by running a trucking business which involved the transport of both grain and fertiliser.

Barbara and Barry had 6 children over the years, Michelle, Andrew, Paul, Virginia, Nigel and Joel. (Andrew and Paul are still on the farm.) As her health has always been a challenge, all the children had to learn to do things around the place from an early age. This undoubtedly helped them to cope with vagaries of life in the future.

I could tell that Barbara is so proud of her many children and 14 grandchildren, 2 of whom are now "angels in Heaven". I found out that Michelle, who was a hospital scientist, has just embarked upon a career change into education, whereas Virginia is an Occupational Therapist.



Barbara Godde and her family

Nigel and his family live in Beijing where he is the president of a German engineering company called the Big Dutchman. (I had to include these facts!) Joel works in Melbourne as a senior leasing executive with Vicinity Shopping centres, (of which there are 2 in Albury) and of course Andrew and Paul are the farmers still working the family property.

During Barbara's 46 years in Culcairn, she and Barry became very involved with their parish church of St Patrick's, as well as with St Joseph's School where 4 generations have passed through the school doors. As a family they enjoyed camping and caravanning when they were able to get away from the land, which was usually around January.

It was in 2007 that Barry was diagnosed with non-smoking lung cancer which was both inoperable and terminal. Even though this was heartbreaking news for all concerned, he remained positive throughout the 27 months he had yet to live. In fact he only missed work when he was hospitalised in spite of the many complications that he had to endure throughout; a true man of the land. In the end, this man, who always thought of others ahead of himself, died in 2009 in Melbourne whilst undergoing treatment.

A new chapter in life commenced after this. Barbara remained on the farm for a further 2 years and left when she was ready to do so. This had been decided at a family meeting before Barry had died. However, having spent 46 years in Culcairn she still returns quite frequently to visit her 2 sons and their families as well as catch up with her many friends as so many memories are there.

I had a most uplifting afternoon chatting to Barbara and I think that her last emotional words to me are the best way to conclude this article.

She said: "I would like to thank the many people of Sacred Heart Parish who have welcomed me back. Life goes on thanks to the caring of family, old friends still here and new ones that I have made. I enjoy being a part my children and grandchildren's lives, as well as being involved with Probus and my exercise group. I also appreciate being able to share Faith and fellowship at Sacred Heart. I give thanks.

PREPARING FOR EASTER from Sr Anne Hagan

HOLY WEEK gives us the opportunity to look at our own lives, to look at our own commitment to truth and justice and at our loyalty to Christ and His Gospel. Palm Sunday (Passion Sunday) is the beginning of Holy Week. On Palm Sunday the priest blesses the palms at all Masses. A procession sometimes takes place. This symbolises Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. During the Mass we have the reading of the Passion.

THE TRIDUUM is the three-day celebration of the death and resurrection of Christ—Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Vigil/Easter Sunday. The three days are counted as the Hebrews counted their days from dusk to dusk. Therefore the three days of the Easter Triduum are from dusk on Holy Thursday to dusk on Easter Sunday. We look at the Easter Triduum as one single celebration that lasts for three days. We cannot separate the death of Jesus from his resurrection.

Holy Thursday brings us to the conclusion of Lent. The Mass of the Lord's Last Supper is celebrated in the evening and could include the procession of the Holy Oils received by the Parish at the Mass of the Chrism, the readings consisting of the story of the Passover and the Last Supper, symbolic washing of feet or hands, and transferring of the Blessed Sacrament to the Altar of Repose.



Good Friday Stations of the Cross are usually held in the morning. In North Albury, we share an Ecumenical Stations which involves various local church groups and concludes with hot cross buns at Sacred Heart Parish hall.

The Liturgy of Good Friday is usually celebrated at 3pm. This ceremony will include the Reading of the Passion, Prayers, Adoration of the Cross and Holy Communion. The liturgy begins and ends in silence.

Holy Saturday / Easter Vigil consists of the Blessing of the Fire and lighting of the Paschal Candle. This is followed by a number of Scripture stories of God's interaction with humankind from creation through to the resurrection. The Baptismal Font is blessed as well as the Easter water and any Baptisms take place of those wishing to become members of the Catholic Community. The celebration continues with the Mass.

EASTER SUNDAY

Mass on Easter Sunday morning continues our celebration of the Lord's resurrection and commences the Easter Season of the Church which lasts for 50 days, through the Ascension of our Lord to Pentecost Sunday.

Parish Pastoral Council Report

... from Justin Clancy, Chair

After a short break over the summer period, the Pastoral Council has been back to regular meetings.

- Lyn has been exploring ways in which our Parish may respond to Pope Francis' recent Encyclical: *Laudato Si'*.
- Gordon is liaising with the Breath of Life Ministry (organisers of our Week of Guided Prayer) and exploring this as a way of offering different forms of prayer.
- The Liturgy Committee have presented a wonderful Lenten series with talks from some well-known local contributors to our Albury community.

On a practical note, repairs have been carried out to the roof of the Church, the carpet has been replaced thanks to a special donation, and Fr Kevin has commissioned some improvements to the front entry of the Church with John O'Keefe's help. The hanging of the Tapestry and a selection of Eikons (Icons) has made the front entrance a much more welcoming area for parishioners and visitors alike.

On behalf of the Pastoral Council I hope that you have a safe and happy Easter. *Justin*

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.



Xavier Welcomes New Year 7's ... from Ed Brown, Religious Education Coordinator

The Xavier High School community welcomed the new Year 7 students to the 2016 school year by conducting the Year 7 Camp at Harrietteville in February. The experience was an overwhelming success!

The Year 7 students participated in a wide range of activities and reflections to help them to grow in their understanding of what it means to go to Xavier! In the process, they had lots of fun getting to know their peers better, and were a credit to themselves, their families and the Xavier High School community.

Special thanks must go to the wonderful team of staff and Year 10 student leaders who made this experience possible, and to the staff at Feathertop Chalet in Harrietteville for being so welcoming and accommodating. We look forward to seeing these students continue to grow in their understanding of what it means to go to Xavier, and to thrive as **Courageous, Challenged, Collaborative, Compassionate** and **Christ-like** members of our faith community."



Do you have an article, photo, or reflection that you would like published in Heartbeat? Your contributions are welcome. Photographer(s) at Parish events are also most sought after! Please contact Kathy (0427 413 804) or Fran (at the Parish Office).



St Anne's School News ... from Liz Johnston, Principal

Another busy year is well underway here at St Anne's and we are enjoying every moment!

Week 3 saw us celebrating two very important events: Ash Wednesday and our Opening School Mass. Both celebrations were very meaningful and the children participated with great reverence.



We were most thrilled to receive an email from a member of the congregation complimenting the behaviour of our students. The email read as follows: *"Hi I just attended Mass at North Albury and I would like to pass on how impressed I was with the students' behaviour. I have been to many school Masses over the years, this was my first at North Albury and the students were a real credit to your school. It was a lovely Mass."* It just goes to show what thoughtful students we have and how they value the important role that faith plays. It was also wonderful to witness our Kindergarten students being introduced to our Parish. Keeping with tradition, Father Kevin invited them to stand on the seats and be recognized and welcomed by all present; a lovely reminder that we are one community. We must also congratulate our 2016 Student Council who were presented with their badges during this Mass. I'm very much looking forward to working with these students throughout the year and know that they will lead by example.

- School Captains:** Brady, Skye (middle top)
- Vice Captains:** Joel, Desire (top L & R)
- School Councillors:** Sam, Harry, Sophie, Ashleigh, Shreya, Alex and Grace



On Friday of Week 5 we held a fantastic gathering at our Welcome BBQ. The evening was very well attended and provided a wonderful opportunity to welcome new and old faces. There was a great sense of community and I am very thankful that such an evening was organised by members of our parent body, with no fuss and great commitment. Thanks to all involved!

NSW Catholic Schools Week was celebrated between the 6th-12th March. This was an opportunity to share with the broader community the great things that take place in our schools every day. The theme this year was **'I belong. You belong. We belong.'** As part of this celebration we held our Kindergarten 2017, Open Morning. This was an opportunity for members of our community to visit our school, walk through our classrooms and capture a glimpse of what we offer here at St Anne's.



Term 2 will be here before we know it and it begins with the ANZAC Day public holiday. We will be marching in Dean St and hope to have a strong group of students present. The following two days, Tuesday 26th and Wednesday 27th April are Pupil Free Days.

All of our staff will be attending a Whole System Conference run by the Catholic Schools Office. The conference, being held at the Mater Dei Campuses, Wagga, will be attended by all staff of the 27 primary schools, 5 secondary colleges and 2 boarding houses in our Diocese. The purpose of the conference is to gather, participate, learn and, most importantly, to be nurtured as a Christ-centred community. The theme is "Nurture to Thrive: I have come that you might have life and have it in abundance (John 10:10)". We are very much looking forward to this.

Finally, Easter is fast approaching and we invite you all to our **Stations of the Cross evening which will be held on Wednesday 23rd March from 7pm-8pm.** Each classroom will depict a Station of the Cross, and those who attend, will be able to walk, at their own pace, through each station and reflect on the journey Jesus took on his way to Calvary. In previous years, this has proved to be a very prayerful experience and we hope that you can join with us.
Warm regards, Liz

♪ MUSIC MINISTRY ♪

... from Catherine Cutler, et al

Music forms an integral part of ritual, and singing within ritual celebrations serves to enlarge the limits of everyday awareness... (The Summit, Nov 2015). According to Vatican II, liturgical music ... "adds delight to prayer, fostering oneness of spirit... and invests the rites with greater solemnity". The simple act of singing together teaches us that we are linked intangibly by our voices joining us together in shared expression (The Summit).

Sacred Heart is extremely fortunate to have a team of volunteers who sing, play and use technology to bring music to the congregation each weekend. A team of about 12 people work consistently to enhance the liturgy. Approximately every three months the Liturgy Committee, Brian Waters, Sr Anne Hagan and Val Hayes, meet to decide on the responses and hymns that will be sung at Mass. With careful thought and consideration of the Readings for each week, the music is chosen and sometimes extra rehearsals are sought to teach any new music.

A copyright fee is forwarded to Word of Life each year, together with the list of the hymns that are sung.

Val Hayes is one of the driving forces behind the music ministry. She does the rosters, attends the meetings and organises the practices. Val originally hailed from Queensland and it was there she learnt to play the piano, and played for dances. Today she plays the organ and maintains a steady tempo which helps the congregation join in more easily but also she keeps an eye on the pitch of each hymn so that everyone can manage it. Val is often called on to play for funerals and occasionally weddings.

Both men and women act as cantors and at some celebrations a choir is formed and we are joined by up to

eight more members of the congregation. We are also fortunate to have guitarists to aid our ministry.

With the advent of technology we have a computer and a large screen to enable the congregation to effectively see the words of the hymns and responses.

Again all this takes a volunteer and Rachel Bourke has been willing to do this valuable work for each weekend Mass. Other volunteers operate the computer during Mass, including young Xavier Clancy, aged 5, under the steady eye of his Dad.

The music ministry is fortunate to have a number of fine musicians.

Judy Foley is one of the organists and occasional conductor. She currently teaches music at St Anne's and plays in the Albury city band. She was trained as a music teacher in Newcastle.

Baritone, Brian Waters, and tenor, John Van Lint, are regular cantors on the weekend and both are current members of the Murray Conservatorium Choir and of the Con Men.

Judy Lindsay is another regular cantor and leads the singing very ably with her fine soprano voice. Judy was born and bred in Albury and is currently singing with the Mirambeena Activities choir and performing in homes for the aged.

Bernadette and Wendy are our resident guitar players and they add a little bit extra to the ministry. Bernadette often adds a descant to the hymns and keeps Wendy and the congregation on their toes.

Ed and Margaret Brown and Simon Goss have recently joined the team as cantors and are a welcome addition to the Sunday Mass with their fine voices and willingness to learn new hymns and responses.



Some members of our Choir in action

Ann McIntyre has been a regular cantor and the team was delighted to have her son Lachlan join us some years ago. Anne is a member of the Murray Conservatorium Choir and a high school science teacher.

Catherine Cutler is both cantor and organist. She trained at the Sydney Conservatorium, majoring in singing and taught music at various high and primary schools in the Riverina.

Timo VanKerkOerle is an organist and donated an organ to the church some years ago. Timo has been a valued member of our music ministry for a long time and has also been responsible for keeping organs, past and present in good working order. Until his retirement, Timo was also called upon by other churches to do running repairs to their organs.

In recent times, Mary Minchin, organist, has been helping out at the Vigil Mass which has been appreciated.

The music ministry is there to enhance the Liturgy and to encourage and invite the members of the congregation to join in the singing. The music ministry is particularly looking for volunteers who would be happy to help with the computer and to operate it at Mass. Just as the musicians are rostered on to each Mass the computer could operate on a rostered system.

Anyone wishing to be part of the ministry be they organists, singers, instrumentalists or computer operators, would be most welcome. Please contact the Parish Office and leave your name and contact details.

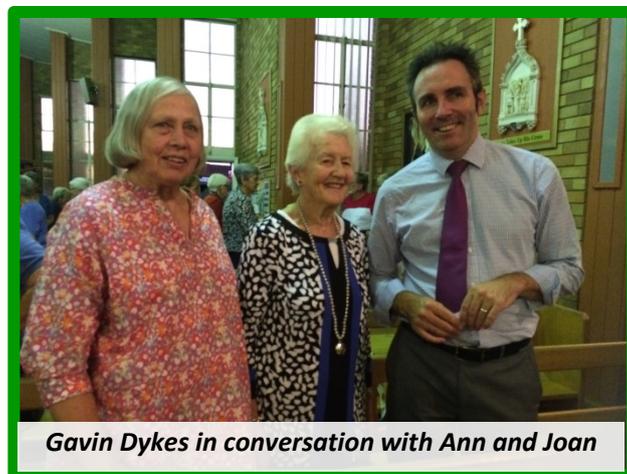
Tuesday Evening Reflections

Thanks to the Liturgy Committee, many parishioners and visitors to our Parish took advantage of the program of reflections and guest speakers on Tuesday evenings across Lent. We were stimulated and encouraged by the stories from Caritas, and by all our speakers who brought the Gospel message for each week truly alive in our midst.

On Pancake Tuesday, Dr John Brabant shared his journey with *The Carevan Foundation*, an organisation that helps to feed the needy of our community. *Carevan* is now reaching well beyond the borders of Albury and Wodonga.

Leading up to Sunday's gospel of the Transfiguration, Gavin Dykes, the Principal at *Xavier High School*, inspired us with his passion for teaching and vision of transforming the lives of his students; encouraging us all to be "transformed" people.

Joel Nagle spoke of the work of *Headspace* in supporting young people in our region. *Headspace* is the National Youth Mental Health Foundation providing early intervention mental health services to 12-25 year olds.



Gavin Dykes in conversation with Ann and Joan



Penny Vine with Leonie, Nano and Pat

Penny Vine, President of the *Murray Valley Sanctuary Refugee Group*, offered us new insight into the parable of The Prodigal Son (or the *Lost Sons*) as she reflected on the plight of refugees and the need for a compassionate and merciful response, such as that offered by the Sanctuary Australia Foundation network.



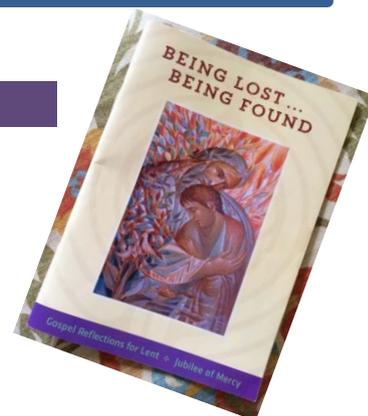
Jenny Black holds the Brave Hearts dragon boat model with Fr Kevin, John & Denise

Our final speaker, Jenny Black, President of *Brave Hearts on the Murray*, moved us with her recounting of the formation of Brave Hearts, the building of 'Brave Hearts', their signature dragon boat which was built by the *brave hearts*, and the journeys of so many who participate in dragon boating as they courageously support each other through their cancer treatment and beyond.

Small Lenten Groups

A couple of small groups have also been meeting weekly guided by the Lenten program published by the Archdiocese of Brisbane: *Being Lost... Being Found*. This program, which directed us in reflection on the Sunday Lenten Gospels from Luke, has inspired, consoled and moved us. The focus of the program was taken from these reassuring words of Pope Francis: "Jesus Christ is the face of the Father's Mercy". What a privilege it has been to spend a short while each week in wonderful company, sharing, listening and reflecting on God's constant mercy.

... from Kathy Robison



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