

**ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT
SACRED HEART PARISH
NORTH ALBURY
2019 - 2021**



THE DIAMOND WINDOW

"I am with you till the end of time"

Created by Leadlight Artist, Rev Doug Rolls

October 2001

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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, present and emerging.

OUR PASTORAL LEADERS

A LETTER FROM OUR BISHOP

Dear Sacred Heart parishioners and Fr Martin,

I am excited by this annual report on the parish. The Church in Australia is working to understand better how we can offer ever better governance and what co-responsibility and synodality might look like at the parish level. Undertaking this project is exploring and moving in a direction that the Church wants to and needs to go in. Fundamental church imperatives such as discipleship, mission, sanctification and communion can only be assisted by doing something like this well. Our governance structures, including things like this annual report, must and will serve this mission.

This report recounts how Christ's triple work of teaching, sanctifying and governing is shared by all the baptised and by Fr Martin in this particular parish. It tells the North Albury tale of the sacramental economy of leadership as well as the nature and mission of the "institution" it serves.

I encourage you in this journey.

In Jesus Christ and Mary Immaculate

Mark Edwards OMI



FR MARTIN'S REPORT

Recently the priests of our diocese were asked to attend a seminar on Parish Renewal and Evangelisation in a Change of Era. One of the tools used for reflection was a paper indicating where a parish community is at and where the parish community desires to be.

For example, we are:

A Parish Community that -

- Has parishioners with faith
- Is a place where people can learn about Jesus
- Has parishioners who find comfort in their relationship with God
- Cares for the needs of those within the parish community

We desire a Parish Community that:

- Has parishioners who see their lives as a mission field and look for opportunities to share their faith with others
- Provides opportunities for people to have a personal relationship with Jesus and choose to intentionally follow him.
- Has parishioners who surrender everything to God, are prepared to make significant changes in their lives and evangelize others
- Is seen as a community of love and care, reaching out to others in an inclusive and welcoming way

As a parish community it is our celebration of Eucharist that gathers us together during the week, on weekends, and on special occasions. Thanks to all those who contribute to the liturgical life of our community with great creativity and commitment. Gratitude is also extended to those who participate in the various forms of ministry that enhance the life of our parish community, particularly those areas of outreach and service.

A special word of appreciation to those who carry out the mundane and everyday acts of service, from cleaning to maintenance and everything in between with generosity and grace.

Finally, a question for reflection:

What would you like to see happening in our parish community that would help parishioners grow closer to God and enable outsiders to take their first steps on the path to discipleship in our community? What gifts and talents do I have to offer in this regard?

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

It has been almost two years since our last Sacred Heart Parish Pastoral Council AGM, and 12 months since our church reopened after a four month hiatus. None of us imagined the disruption and challenges that the COVID-19 pandemic would bring to us, and perhaps many of us didn't fully appreciate the blessing of our faith community until we couldn't gather together.



Live streaming of our Mass was made possible thanks to Nick Manning (IT and Resource Manager at Xavier High School) with initial assistance from Cameron Adam and a willingness by Fr Martin to step out of his comfort zone and overcome his mild 'technophobia'. This has now become a regular feature of our weekend Masses, with Marjorie Serbinek coordinating the filming and recording, and Nick still taking responsibility for creating the YouTube stream. We express our thanks to these generous and reliable people who have helped us to adjust to 'a new normal'. We also express gratitude for the way everyone has assisted with meeting COVID requirements, and maintained social distancing, hand sanitizing and church cleaning and disinfection.

Upon our return to the church, our new heating and cooling system was installed which provides a more comfortable and homely environment for our parishioners, especially those who have contributed so generously over many years.

The Liturgical life of our Parish has continued to provide opportunities for encounter and transformation, and to encourage us to be people of mission who are called to reflect the image of God to others. We thank Fr Martin for his pastoral leadership, and our Liturgy Group for the thoughtful and reflective way they help us to embrace the sacred. This was especially evident this year in our Holy Week/Easter Services, our Christmas Masses and special Sacraments and Youth Masses.

We give thanks for the gift of our Parish school, St Anne's, for enriching and enlivening our community, and thank Bede and his staff for their ongoing commitment and

passion for Catholic education.

I extend my thanks also to the many Parish groups and individuals who respond to the call to serve and nourish others, including Vinnies, the Outreach team, the Alpha Course team, Spiritual Renewal/Prayer Groups, Gemma and Fran in the Parish Office and many others working 'behind the scenes'.

I thank in particular, members of the Parish Pastoral Council, past, present and future. Your generosity, energy and enthusiasm continue to help make Sacred Heart Parish '*a place that allows individuals to grow in faith as part of a welcoming community where each person feels valued.*' I thank especially Karen Purtle, whose role as Secretary has been performed exceptionally and whole-heartedly, Louise Fifield for her support as Vice Chairperson, and Sister Anne Hagan for her direction and spiritual guidance (including ensuring the weekly inclusion of our 'Acknowledgement of Country' which begins our Parish bulletin).

As a Parish Pastoral Council, we continue to focus on our three key goals:

1. Drive engagement
2. Provide a breadth of ways of expressing faith
3. Renew liturgical and parish structures and procedures

Finally, we express gratitude to Fr Martin for his ongoing leadership and care of our Parish. We are very blessed to have a Parish Priest who openly encourages full and active participation in the life of our Parish, and is a living witness of the heart of God. Together with him, we continue to celebrate that Christ is truly present in the people of God here at Sacred Heart Parish North Albury, and we strive to build an even stronger sense of community as people of heart and faith.

May the year ahead be filled with joy and every blessing.

*Ed Brown
Chairperson,
Sacred Heart
Parish Pastoral Council
5th August, 2021*



LITURGY COMMITTEE REPORT 2021

As it will be for most, if not all groups in the parish family, this will be the first report from the committee in nearly two years. Since that time the committee has continued to meet every six to eight weeks to prepare the liturgies for Sundays and other occasions. The committee members are Fr Martin, Sr Anne, Margy Brown, Judy Foley, Val Hayes and Brian Waters.

At its meetings the members discuss the results of their contemplation of the weekly scripture selections, and develop a list of hymns that relate to the themes and ideas raised in the readings. In this way it is hoped that the parishioners' experience of the Mass will be enhanced. Currently the committee is working on a selection of new hymns and will conduct practice sessions for cantors and choir members, so that these hymns can be introduced to the congregation. Unfortunately Covid has caused serious interruptions both to the celebration of Mass and the ability of the congregation to sing the hymns.

During the weeks that it was not possible for the congregation to attend Mass we were fortunate to have the unique experience of Mass streamed on line. Our thanks must go to Ed and Margy Brown, Nick Manning from the technology staff at Xavier High School, Cameron Adam, James Burke and Marjorie Serbinek for their assistance in making this possible. The streaming of the 9.30 am Sunday Mass has continued since the end of lockdown for the benefit of those unable to be physically present and has enabled them to remain in contact with the parish.

MUSIC MINISTRY

Singing at Mass allows for the "full, conscious and active participation in liturgical celebrations by all the faithful" as decreed by Vatican II. We are fortunate at Sacred Heart Parish that we have dedicated people who provide music each week. Val Hayes, Judy Foley, Mary Hunt, Catherine Cutler, Bernadette O'Donnell and Wendy McFerran are a treasured resource in this regard, as are the cantors who lead the singing. On special occasions we are able to form a choir

and there are a number of people who are interested in joining it and having it sing more often. We also have a team of young musicians from Xavier High School who provide music for youth Masses. Music is an integral part of the liturgy.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Even though general intercessions were a tradition in very early Christian liturgy, they were firmly established as an integral part of the Mass by Vatican II. There are books of these intercessions available but they can only be general in theme. The ones we use are written for our use each week and are aimed at reflecting issues raised by the readings, local and world needs and special occasions as they arise such as Refugee Week, NAIDOC Week, Australia Day and Caritas themes during Lent.



EASTER

This year we were able to celebrate the Easter Ceremonies again, though some practices including the washing of hands on Holy Thursday, the veneration of the cross on Good Friday and the ecumenical Stations of the Cross also on Good Friday had to be omitted. The Stations of the Cross were held at Sacred Heart and Fr Peter Mcleod-Miller and some of the St Matthew's parishioners joined us and shared in the hospitality of the usual hot cross buns afterwards.

PRAYER RESOURCES

Sr Anne has found a number of prayers for special occasions which have alternated with our Parish Prayer following Communion. These have included prayers for the Winter Solstice, National Reconciliation, Anzac Day, NAIDOC Week, Grandparents and drought affected areas. The prayers highlight current issues and assist parishioners in their prayer life through the week.

LENT

Lenten groups have continued in spite of covid, as the protocols of social distancing and hand sanitising could be maintained. Two well attended groups met on Tuesdays and Thursdays during Lent and followed a program written by Michael McGirr (2020) and Christopher Monaghan (2021). A regular home prayer group also followed these programs.

Individual copies of daily Lenten meditations from the Diocese of Wollongong (2020) and the Archdiocese of Brisbane (2021) were made available for parishioners to prepare for the Easter season. Similar reflection guides were provided for Advent in preparation for Christmas.

READER PREPARATION

There is a project underway to develop a guide for readers and commentators. It will include a pronunciation guide for biblical names, suggestions for improved communication of the scriptures, use of the microphone, eye contact and preparation of the readings.

Our parish has coped well with the restrictions made necessary by the covid virus and we look forward to the time when these restrictions are gone. Sacred Heart Parish has a living and engaging liturgy and provides a welcoming spiritual home for all who come.

Brian Waters

THANK YOU

There are many who serve in various roles in liturgical ministry. There are lectors and commentators, Eucharistic ministers, altar servers, those who prepare and manage the overheads, flower arrangers, those who take communion to the sick, the elderly and the housebound, and those who care for altar linen. All of them deserve the thanks and appreciation of the Sacred Heart community.

SACRISTY VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are rostered to attend to the washing of the church linen and the cleaning of the church vessels. These duties are attended to once a week. Usually volunteers are rostered for approximately one month. If you are interested in being part of this service please contact the Parish office, 6025 1516.



PARISH MASS PICK UP

This service was started around 2016. At one stage we had two rosters; one for Riverwood, West Albury and one for North Albury and Lavington.

I would like to thank all the drivers that have been part of this programme and have allowed older parishioners and those that are unable to drive, to attend Mass.

The current roster has only one person on it and is on a five week turn around with the following people.: Peter and Dianne Treacy; Meg Byrne; Fran Kernaghan; Chrissie Trebilcock; Kevin Kennedy.

There have been other drivers in the past and I would also like to thank them for their effort.

Thank you all,

Kevin Kennedy



REPORT OF ST. CLARE'S CONFERENCE

The St. Clare's Conference based at North Albury Care & Support Centre, Mate Street provides social welfare services for the area of North Albury, Glenroy, Lavington, Thurgoona and Jindera. We currently have sixteen members and volunteers, and are supported by members of the Holy Spirit Conference Lavington. We offer emergency food relief, clothing vouchers ("Vinnies" shop), Manchester, household items, furniture, assistance with prescriptions and transport.

Since the beginning of 2020 when the Covid-19 Pandemic began, we have had to make changes to how we conduct interviews. These are either done by telephone or at the door to the Centre, with us keeping the 4 square metre rules. Clients don't enter the Centre. We operate five days per week for four and a half hours. The demand for assistance in the beginning was reduced due to the Job Keeper and Job Seeker Supplements, but we have noticed a steady increase over the past four months.

The statistics for the last 12 months are shown below. The aim of Vinnies is to give the disadvantaged members of our community a "hand up" rather than a "hand out". This sometimes is quite challenging for our members, who continue to attempt to give their all to those who seek our assistance. We would also welcome new members or volunteers.

During the financial year from July 2020 to June 2021 we have had the following:

- 1356 requests for assistance
- Food total \$49,804.00
- Med/Prescriptions \$907.00
- Clothing/Manchester \$3,536.00
- Accommodation \$165.00 (Emergency accommodation in Motels).
- Transport \$440.00

Christmas Vouchers, toys & gifts \$11,390.00

We have had enormous support from the Parishioners of Sacred Heart North Albury, Xavier High School, St. Anne's Primary School, Holy Spirit Primary School, Thurgoona Preschool, The Rotary Club of Albury and Albury Wodonga Private Hospital/Cancer Centre for our various appeals, for which we are extremely grateful.

- General donations \$875.00
- Winter Appeal \$2,755.00
- Sleep-out \$5,621.00
- Christmas Appeal \$8,023.00

Toys & gifts approximately valued at \$4,500.00

Trish Parkinson

Co-President - St. Clare's Conference,

North Albury.

OUTREACH REPORT

The Sacred Heart Outreach Group was established by Barbara Goode in 2019 to support some of our parishioners who may live alone, in a nursing home or isolated from their family for support.

I have offered to continue this wonderful work as Barbara retires.

We have volunteers who have continued these visits working around COVID restrictions and rules at this time.

At the moment we have several generous parishioners who have volunteered to visit when the restrictions lift and it is safe to make contact and reach out to those in our parish who need a chat and a friendly face.

If anyone else is interested in joining this Outreach Group or would like to suggest someone who is in need of this service, please contact 60 251516 and leave a message at the parish office.

Jenny Griffiths

Outreach Coordinator

FRIENDSHIP IN THE SPIRIT—Interfaith Opportunities

Thanks for giving me the opportunity to say a couple of words about the “friendship of the spirit” between Sacred Heart and St Matthews, and how much I value the foundations that have been laid as we look to the future . Even during lockdown we have explored new ways of expressing that friendship in our virtual services that have helped to share the good news across our community and beyond. I would like to acknowledge the leadership of Fr Kevin so many years ago, and growing a culture of communication and understanding that was unknown in previous generations .

I am so grateful that the same spirit of friendship has continued and developed when Fr Martin came along , as we observed when standing together on the pioneer cemetery with all the different sections divided according to denomination. “In the old days we wouldn’t even have been seen DEAD together”. How things have changed for the better . Even our ups and downs have strengthened rather than weakened the friendships across our congregations, and this continues to be a real gift across our region. It may interest you to know that there are some features of our weekly services that are totally out of the same kitchen whether served up on Mate Street or Kiewa Street .

Acts of friendship and kindness continue to echo. Most people at St Matthews and at Sacred Heart will recognize Fr Kevin’s robes, because I wear them every week as a reminder to just some of his spiritual perspectives and also of the continuing kindness of the people of Sacred Heart that gifted them to me. I so value the Saturday nights when Fr Martin and the Sacred Heart family make me so welcome.



Fr Martin extends the welcome of Sacred Heart to Fr Peter from St Matthew’s Anglican Church

How precious is the gift of hospitality and what a wonderful sign to our younger people.

I have to admit that sometimes I have come to the 6pm Mass shopping for sermon ideas from Fr Martin, and I’ve left with a ‘basketful “to be served up from the pulpit at St Matthews”, still fresh the next morning .

We share a tradition of loving action and that runs on the rails of the friendship of the spirit and together, even during COVID 19, with all the separation and isolation, that friendship continues to flourish and grow.

Best wishes,

Fr Peter and many friends from

St Matthews Anglican Church Albury

BAPTISMAL PROGRAM

The parish has been continuing Baptism visitations throughout the year. During the calendar year 2020 - 30 Baptisms; to June 30, 2021—22 Baptisms. Either Fr Martin or myself visit first born children and their parents in preparation for their Baptism. It is most encouraging to meet these young families and experience their desire to bring up their children with strong faith-filled values.

The visitations provide an opportunity for discussion, often with a non-Catholic partner, on the commitment to practice and to ‘live’ their faith. Home visits are a means of welcoming these young parents and their babies to Sacred Heart. With their busy lives this often is a time for re-connection and reflection on their personal spiritual journey.

Ann Marie Whiting

PARISH LIBRARY

A Library is available in the reading room at the back of the Church. Parishioners are very welcome to borrow any of the books on the shelves.



Each shelf is marked with a sticker indicating the various types of books available.

These are Scripture, Popes, Church, Lives of People, Various Authors, Prayer and Spirituality.

As well, there are a variety of picture books for children to use.

PARISH COUNCIL INFORMATION

HISTORY

In September, 1970, the first permanent Parish Council was established. Fr Bongiorno was the Parish Priest. The President was Aub Fitzpatrick; Vic President was Harry Morton; Secretaries were Miss Hogan and Don Tynan. A series of committees was set up: Worship; Social; Adult Education and extra committees such as Contact; Finance; Maintenance and Community Relations. Reports were received from all three schools: St Anne's, Aquinas and St Joseph's. During this foundation period, the Parish Council was active in providing social support - setting up support for Asian refugees; setting up a 'Helping Hand' for young mothers; setting up a Playgroup. The Council was also instrumental in setting up a house in Glenroy with a religious presence. Initially 30 sisters volunteered for this.

In the early 80's under Fr Kevin's leadership, the direction of the Council changed to have a more missionary role in spreading the Good News.

Interest in participating in Council at the time was evident from the number of nominations accepted for the 5 vacancies in 1984. There were 34!

Interestingly, in 1988, the controversial issue of the girl altar servers at Sacred Heart received National Media attention.

Initiatives over time:

- The Family Groups were established
- RCIA offered
- Lenten and Advent groups introduced
- Fundraising through Silver Circle and catering
- Parish wide consultation and parish planning
- Outreach team establish

Parish Council is an advisory body and continues to fulfil a vital role in supporting the parish priest in pastoral, maintenance and administrative duties in the parish. It is also a vehicle for feedback

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS (2019—2021)

Fr Martin Cruickshank (Parish Priest); Ed Brown (Chairperson); Virginia Sykes (Secretary to 5/3/2020); Karen Purtle (Secretary 5/3/2020 >); Bede Hart (Principal St Anne's); Sr Anne Hagan; Brian Waters; Louise Fifield; Narelle Naughton; Barb Godde; Michael Regan; Catherine Cutler; Jane Ward; Lyn Hamilton; Margaret Gawen

ACTIVITIES OF PARISH COUNCIL 2019—2021

REPORTS: Parish Council regularly receives reports and updates from the Liturgy Committee, the Schools (St Anne's and Xavier), the Outreach committee, St Vincent de Paul, Spirit Weavers, the Plenary Council Representative. There are also updates related to the aspects of our strategic plan: Engagement (Children's Liturgy); Faith Formation (Alpha Program); Financial;

HIGHLIGHTS AND ISSUES: There have been many highlights and issues over the past two years that have been canvassed by Parish Council. This is not to repeat what is covered in other reports, but some others have been: the welcome appointment of our new Bishop, Mark Edwards OMI; the impact and management of Covid 19 issues; Revitalisation of Heartbeat and participation in Diocesan Newspaper "Together"; Accessibility assessment; Acknowledgement of Country introduced to the Parish Bulletin; 200 years of Catholic Education and appointment of new director of Catholic Education noted; Defibrillator purchased; Welcome visit of Seminarian, Connell Perry; Parish Council Minutes scanned; Upgrade of IT to the Church and the hall; Postponement of AGM 2020; Promotion of AGM 5/8/2021 and introduction of Annual Report publication; Promotion of Direct Debit process

WORK IN PROGRESS: Discussion on upgrade of screen technology in the Church; Parish Card; Model of Council after 2021 AGM

SCHOOL REPORTS

XAVIER HIGH SCHOOL, ALBURY

The past twelve months at Xavier High School have been eventful and challenging as we have been required to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and maintain a clear focus on student learning, well-being and faith development. Under the inspiring leadership of Principal Mr Gavin Dykes, the staff responded to the call to provide online materials for remote learning in Term 2 seamlessly and astutely, and the students were able to achieve learning growth in an environment of care and support.

The HSC results attained by the graduating class of 2020 were exceptional, and a testimony to the hard work of students and staff, and the exceptional support and encouragement from families. It was a joyful evening to celebrate their graduation at the Albury Racecourse in November last year.

We were delighted to welcome Bishop Mark Edwards to Xavier following his installation.

We farewelled our highly respected Assistant Principal, Mrs Nicole Morton in Term 4 as she accepted the role of Principal at St John's College in Dubbo.

We commenced the 2021 school year with numerous highly successful and rewarding experiences for our students, including the Year 12 and 11 Retreats, the Year 7 Camp, and our Opening Mass and Assembly.

We celebrated Holy Week with the staff and students from St Anne's and have continued to participate in Youth Masses and other Liturgical celebrations.



Our school Vinnies Team have been actively engaged in initiatives directed at providing practical support for those in need in our community.

As a school community in 2021, we are focusing on building a strong "Culture of Care" – expressed in care for one self, care for others and care for our environment.

As we continue to face the challenges of the pandemic, we are grateful that we are able to maintain student attendance at school whilst meeting COVID requirements. All members of our community are to be commended for their commitment to teaching and learning in challenging circumstances, and we look forward to a positive end to the 2021 school year and a bright future ahead.

Ed Brown

Director of Faith and Mission

ST ANNE'S PRIMARY

As we are all aware, the past twelve months have brought many challenges to both our Sacred Heart Parish and St Anne's School. The St Anne's School staff need to be commended on their commitment and flexibility to meet the many educational challenges that have arisen during this time due to the impact of Covid and the many ever-changing guidelines.

It has been our focus as a school community to endeavour to support our families and keep our students lives as normal as possible during this time.



We have strived to continue to provide a learning environment that supports both the Faith and Educational growth of our students. We have continued to reinforce the message to our students that we have a responsibility to care for all in our community.

We have continued our close and valued link with the Sacred Heart Parish through our Sacramental Program, work supporting St Vincent de Paul and other celebrated events.

St Anne's enjoys an excellent reputation across the Albury community. We have wonderful support from our parents and this combined with a committed and caring staff provides an environment which is a pleasure to work in. Our friendly and supportive working relationship with Xavier High School is also appreciated and provides a pathway for our students Faith Journey.

I would like to thank Lea Allibon and Cassandra Jones for their support as our Leadership Team. I would like to thank Sr Anne Hagan who has been a wonderful support for our school. I wish to thank Ed Brown and all of you on our Parish Council as well as our wider parishioners for your support of St Anne's School. I would especially like to thank Fr Martin for his generosity of time, support of our school and support for me personally. The importance of Fr Martin's role as our Parish leader should not be underestimated.

On behalf of the St Anne's School community, I wish everyone good health and happiness. Thank you.

Bede Hart, Principal

Do You Have Questions in Life...

TRY ALPHA

alpha.org.au



SACRED HEART ALPHA EXPERIENCE

Earlier this year, I was lucky enough to be invited to share in what was a wonderfully renewing, spiritually rewarding experience that I shared with members of our Sacred Heart Parish. I was approached one Sunday after Mass by Fran Kernaghan who extended an invitation to take part in an Alpha group. Not knowing what to expect, I accepted this opportunity to engage with members of our parish on a journey to explore questions of faith.

What followed was a series of gatherings that resounded with fellowship, prayer, reflection, discernment and renewal. Each week, our small group (of 6 – 8) came together to take part in the Alpha program – an initiative that originated in the UK that seeks to raise opportunity for discussion of the place and love of Jesus and the Holy Spirit in our lives. We gathered to share a meal and to pray together first, then we watched the provided video with a different focus each week, and then engaged in thought provoking and considered discussion about the role of the Holy Spirit in our lives. It was a chance to embrace an evangelisation – a chance to recognise the need for the Spirit and a chance to acknowledge the blessings that are afforded to each one of us.

This program joined us together in an opportunity to pray for ourselves and each other, to pray for the enlivening of our faith and to pray for our world. It was a most enlightening and invigorating experience that ignited a desire to grow this opportunity further in our parish and beyond. Alpha was a chance to learn spiritually and to reflect personally on my faith. It was a welcome connection with parish and it offered a chance to continue this growth.

We were very grateful to have been led in our sessions by Fran and Michael, who facilitated the opportunity for each of us to be embraced into the program. Alpha is certainly a program that will continue to grow and strengthen our faith.

Lorraine Willis

Over 24 million people have tried Alpha in over 100 countries and 100 languages. Alpha is free with no commitment and no follow-up, and can be run in Churches, Halls, schools, cafes, pubs and homes.

We intended to launch a Parish wide program in the hall early last year, however Covid lockdowns began. In the uncertainty we ran a small group Alpha program successfully and had hoped to run a parish wide program in the second half of this year, but Covid limitations have returned. We believe we will be able to launch a parish wide program next year, which we are looking forward to very much.

For further information check the website alpha.org.au or speak to Fran, Lorraine, or Michael.



Liz Phegan, Barbara Cameron, Michael Regan and Fran Kernaghan, part of the group that met in Sacred Heart Parish, celebrating after an Alpha gathering.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Members of sub-committee, developing and facilitating liturgies for children in our parish:

Narelle Naughton, Genn Hamam, Cassandra Jones, Lucy Clancy, Nicole Clancy, Jane Ward, Louise Fifield

Information regarding progress to date:

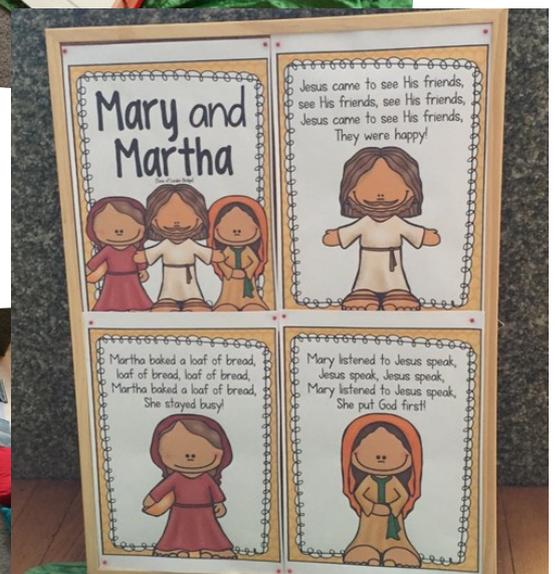
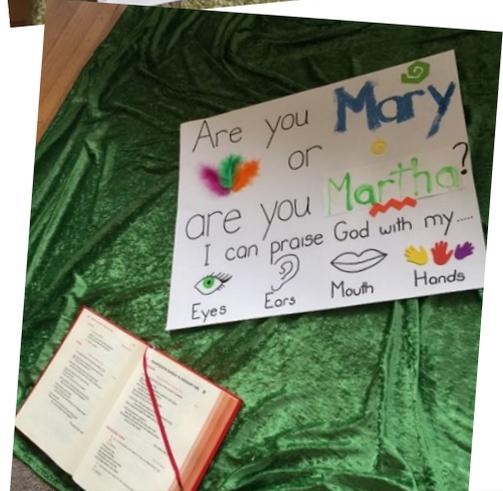
The Children's liturgy commenced in 2019 and interest from within the parish grew steadily. We hosted monthly liturgies and nestled them between our already established parish morning tea routine. This worked well and it gave our children and young families within the parish some wonderful opportunities to connect with each other, alongside of the regular liturgy with Fr Martin. The children enjoyed their chance to discuss the gospel in their own words, to listen to one another, and to display for the congregation, as well as bring home with them, some lovely activities and keepsakes each month. Unfortunately, the liturgies were paused early in 2020 due to the impacts of, and the restrictions imposed by, the COVID-19 pandemic, and we have not yet been able to resume. We are hopeful of splitting the children into a younger and an older group, as we move forward. This will allow us to better accommodate the level of understanding and to provide activities that are better suited to the younger vs. older children who attend.

Information regarding plan for future liturgies:

In 2021, a roster was developed to streamline our efforts and to share the load amongst our little team. Dates were set and responsibilities assigned through to November 2021, but our recommencement remains unconfirmed (due to COVID-19 restrictions). We continue to welcome any interested parishioners to take part in developing the activities for the children and/or simply helping to facilitate the group/s on the day. We cannot wait to get back into the liturgies as soon as we're able, and to have the young families in our parish once again connected through the joy of the gospel, as explored and understood through our children's eyes and ears, their minds and their heart

Louise Fifield

Photos from past liturgies (any children's images are used with permission):



SOCIAL GROUPS

MEN'S BREAKFAST



For the last several years, on the second Saturday of the month, a varying group of men has gathered for breakfast at 8am in St. James hall in Urana Road, Lavington.

In the interests of ecumenism, the attendance is from most of the various local parish congregations and the early arriving members cook breakfast for the hungry group.

Attendance numbers range from 15 to 40 depending on the date, weather and who the guest speaker is. Several of the Sacred Heart Parish men have attended at various times and addressed the group with their testimony as has Fr. Martin.

Cost is by donation and any surplus is donated to the local school ministry for promotion of the word of the Gospels in state schools. The invitation is always there for those men who wish to enjoy some ecumenism as is the intention of the group. Just turn up and you will be made most welcome.

Tony Smít

31 years on FAMILY GROUPS

Thirty one years ago Family Groups were started in the Sacred Heart Parish. Jim and I were approached by Fr Kevin Flanagan and Margaret Gawen. They decided it would be good for us to take on the role. We couldn't say no to two wonderful people.

Family Group started with seven groups. We are now left with just our group. We have met amazing people along the way. We have shared very sad occasions, and very happy occasions. This is what Family Group is all about, to be there for one another.

We have had many great weekends away over the years. Picnics, BBQS, Progressive Dinners, Christmas-in-July, Soup and Crusty Bread Lunches, Theatre Nights and numerous other activities.

Family Groups are for everyone. It doesn't matter what your circumstance . It would be wonderful to start another group in the Parish. If anyone is interested we will help you get started. It is very simple.

A very big thank you to all our group and the magnificent Sacred Heart Parish of North Albury. Jim and I will continue our work for as long as we are able.

Jim and Kaye Deanshaw



SPIRIT WEAVERS WAGGA WAGGA DIOCESE

previously CACW

HISTORY

The Council for Australian Catholic Women (CACW) was established by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference in December 2000 to promote the participation of women in the Catholic Church of Australia. A grassroots contact group was formed in the Diocese of Wagga Wagga in 2003 and has remained active over the years providing support and educational opportunities such as bi-annual Spirituality Days as well as other adult faith formation.

In 2019 the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference decided to merge several offices and positions within several Commissions due to a funding crisis, hence the CACW including, The Office for Women, was dissolved. The Role of Women in Catholic Church is now part of the responsibility of Bishops Commission for Evangelisation, Laity and Ministry.

During 2020 the local Wagga Wagga Diocesan CACW members met to discuss the future of this active group and decided to continue with the support of our current bishop, the activities and support for local women in the diocese under a new name and logo: *Spirit Weavers Wagga Wagga Diocese*.

SPIRITUAL REFLECTION SESSIONS

During the past two years Catherine Cutler and Cheryl Ryan have supported Liz Rothe with two spiritual enrichment sessions held in the parish hall:

1st February 2020 (an extremely hot day) twenty brave parishioners attended a session on the theme of *Love is Calling* – during this session we were invited to reflect on our lives at the beginning of a ‘New Year’ with the intention of being open to God’s love and mercy. Little did any of us know the challenge which would lie ahead with Covid-19!

This year as the feast of Pentecost approached, thirteen participants gathered on 15th May 2021, to reflect on *The Call of the Spirit* in our daily lives. Our reflection was enriched using an image and following a process of Visio Divina – whereby one gazes on an image and allows the image ‘to speak’ of God’s presence; inviting one ‘to engage with’ or experience a deeper knowing of God.

These sessions much appreciated by all who participated have provided an opportunity for community gathering as well as spiritual nourishment for our daily lives. It is hoped to hold more of these sessions in the coming months.

WEBSITE

In order to reach out to as many people, in particular women, of all ages and backgrounds it was decided to establish the *Spirit Weavers Wagga Wagga Diocese Website* thus providing support and information both locally and globally. It is hoped this website will be a resource for connecting; community building around faith formation; spiritual nourishment and living out our Christian commitment to grow in awareness of and spreading of God’s abundant Love for all. It is anticipated the website will be launched in the next few months – see the TOGETHER for further updates.



ROOM IN HALL

During 2019 two needs emerged requiring a suitable venue: Offering of Spiritual Direction by Liz Rothe rsm and the need to find an appropriate place for relocating the books from what was the Breath of Life Library. Catherine Cutler after consultation with the Sacred Heart Parish Council and Fr Martin suggested that the small room in the Parish Hall would be a solution. Subsequently with the generous help of several Parish Councillors, Margaret Walsh pbvm, Cheryl Ryan, Catherine Mahedy and Liz Rothe the Library books were relocated to the small room which is set up for use by small groups as well as Spiritual Direction sessions. The library books have now been accessioned and are ready for borrowing soon.

SPIRITUALITY DAY

Saturday 28th August

Narrandera High School

0499 425 970

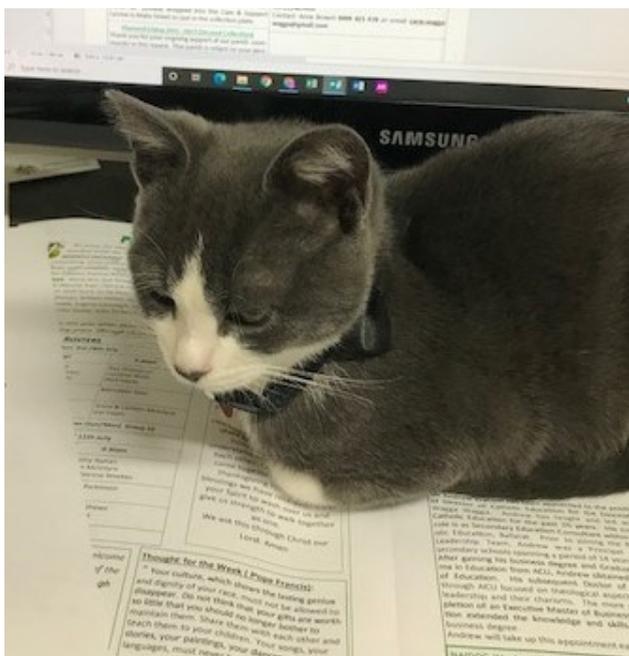
PARISH SECRETARY'S REPORT

Being parish secretary is very rewarding and there is never a dull moment at the office. Since *Darcy* the *Parish* cat has arrived at the presbytery there have been quite a few challenging moments but it is great to have him around. He has even been known to walk across the keyboard and make his stamp!

Bringing Gemma Whitehead onto the team has been a great asset and helped with the workload. I am very grateful to Gemma for all she does.

I love meeting and chatting with parishioners who come to the office wanting help with one thing or another.

Fr Martin's hospitality is exceptional (I'm sure you would agree) with a lovely cup of coffee ready to be had at morning tea and sometimes a pie or sandwich for lunch.



Darcy, the Parish cat

We also have the 'door knockers' who come for help wanting milk, milo and a can of spaghetti (thanks to Vinnies) sometimes forgetting they had been only a few days ago! They have their stories too which is why I love the diversity of parish life.

How blessed am I to be a part of the Sacred Heart Parish community.

Fran Kernaghan

OUR FOURTH DAY FUTURE

Our Sacred Heart Parish has been involved in the Cursillo Movement from the early days of the Movement in the Wagga Diocese until Catholic Cursillo began to decline nationally for all the usual demographic reasons. Anglican Cursillo made two attempts at revitalising some form of ecumenical Christian short-course with somewhat mixed results. A few of those earlier Cursillistas in our Parish regularly mutter wistfully about how good Cursillo was and why can't it get going again and, while I share that rosy nostalgia – considering the usual demographic reasons- I think it's unlikely.

The best known continuing fourth – day movement in the Riverina is the Kairos Prison Ministry, but Kairos ideally recruit new team members from people who have shared in a previous fourth – day experience, so the decline of Cursillo is becoming a problem for Kairos too.

The Protestant version of Cursillo is called the Walk to Emmaus and it's been offered in Australia for over forty years; well, not exactly "offered", Emmaus has stayed under the radar until recently because they were initially, denominationally exclusive. That has changed.

The Walk to Emmaus is evolving into an ecumenical opportunity for all Christian people. I have been invited on to the current Riverina Emmaus Team by men who know me from the Kairos Ministry. I've seen nothing in the content to scare the horses in terms of Catholic dogma, but considering that I failed Theology 101, I might not be best qualified to assess this.

To all of you who say that you are sadly missing Cursillo and yearning for the spiritual enrichment of the fourth-day experience to build your personal faith in fellowship with like-minded people; consider the Walk to Emmaus.

Joseph Kipper



MAJOR CAPITAL WORKS



The roofing works were completed earlier this year to replace the whole of the roof to the church. Extra insulation was included to assist with keeping the church warmer in winter and cooler in summer. The work included ladder brackets and a walkway platform, which make access to the roof safer and easier for future maintenance work to both the roof and air conditioning.

The heating which was installed during the same time period, that services were not permitted due to Covid earlier in the year meant we didn't need to close for the several weeks while this work took place. There was considerably more work involved with installing the floor heating than originally envisioned. With large areas of the floor needing to be removed and replaced along with refitting the carpet.

Gerard Coyle



TOGETHER WE CREATE COMMUNITY

If you would like to become an active part of the parish,
phone the Parish Office Mon, Wed, Fri 9.00am—2.00pm

ph 6025 1516

Florrie's
Legacy 

*providing a personalised catering service
when most needed*

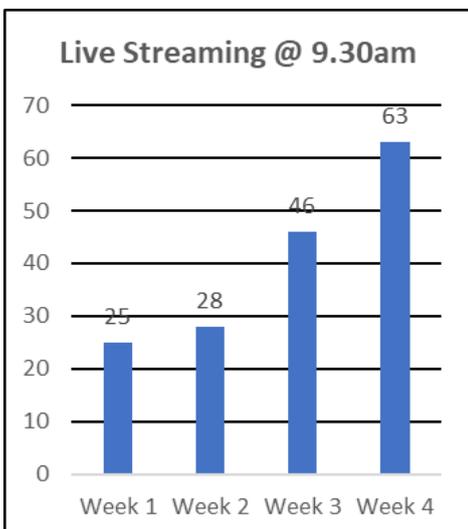
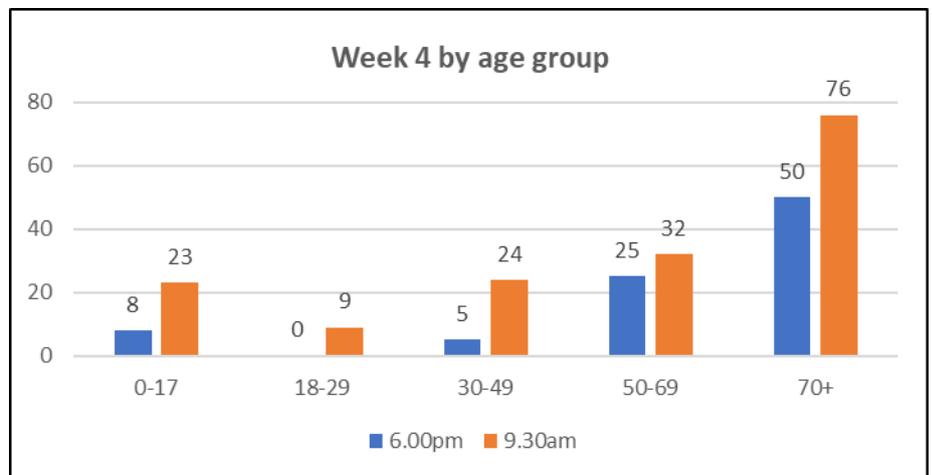
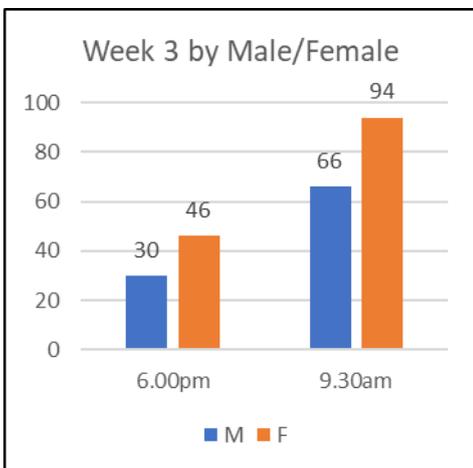
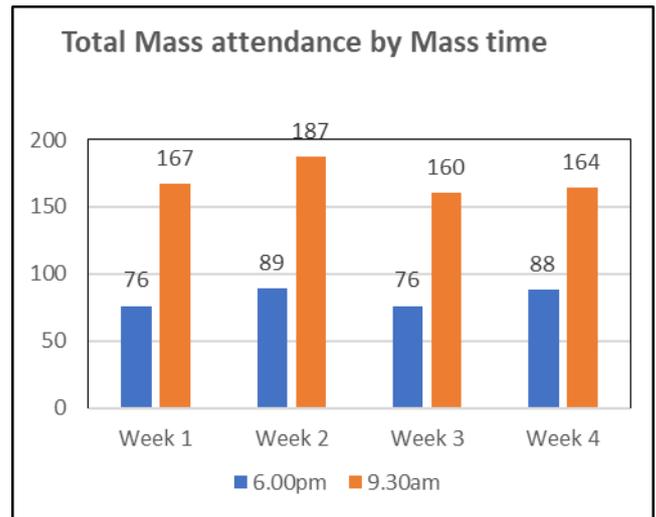
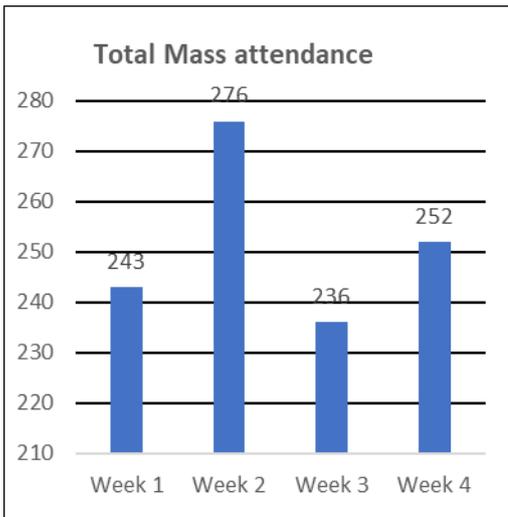
Florries Legacy is a homebased catering business owned and managed by Sandra Dick servicing Albury/Wodonga and surrounding areas.

Sandra provides quality and convenience when organising a catering event, specialising in Funerals, Memorials, Anniversary celebrations, Weddings, High teas, Family celebrations, Birthdays as well as providing select catering for business for staff meetings and celebrations

Sandra can be contacted at any time on her mobile: 0427 214 927

THE FIGURES TALK ... our statistics

National Count of Mass Attendance, held every five years since 2001, is a simple head count of attendees at all parishes and other Mass centres across Australia over the four weekends of May. The count takes in Masses as well as Sunday assemblies in the absence of a priest. The National Count of Attendance is held in the same year as the Australian census, which will take place in August. That allows for information gathered from the two projects to be analysed together. The first two weeks comprises a simple head count of all attendees, the third week includes the number of male and female attendees and the fourth week includes a calculation of attendees in age groups. Our count took place at weekend Masses on 1/2, 8/9, 15/16, 22/23 May. As you can see from the infographics below, total attendance at Sacred Heart peaked at 276. Approximately twice as many people attend 9.30am Mass as do 6.00pm. Two thirds of the congregation are women. Half the congregation is over 70 yrs. The results of the National Census will reveal if these statistics are replicated in other parishes across Australia.



LIVE STREAMING

For the period under review the Live Stream figures show a core group of 11 viewers (15 on the 16th) who are joining the stream "live". Other views counted above these figures are watched after the event at a time convenient for the viewer.

It is worth noting that those watching live have a high engagement rate (amount of video watched) meaning they are watching mostly for the duration of the service. The views of the recording have a much lower engagement rate suggesting people only start watching or are selecting which sections they wish to view.

While parishioners remain competent in operating the stream, and no further monetary investment is required, this shows to be a worthwhile service to maintain and support the engagement of those no longer able to attend physical services. It is also worth noting that stats increase for both Live and recorded viewing during periods of "lock down" in either NSW or Victoria.

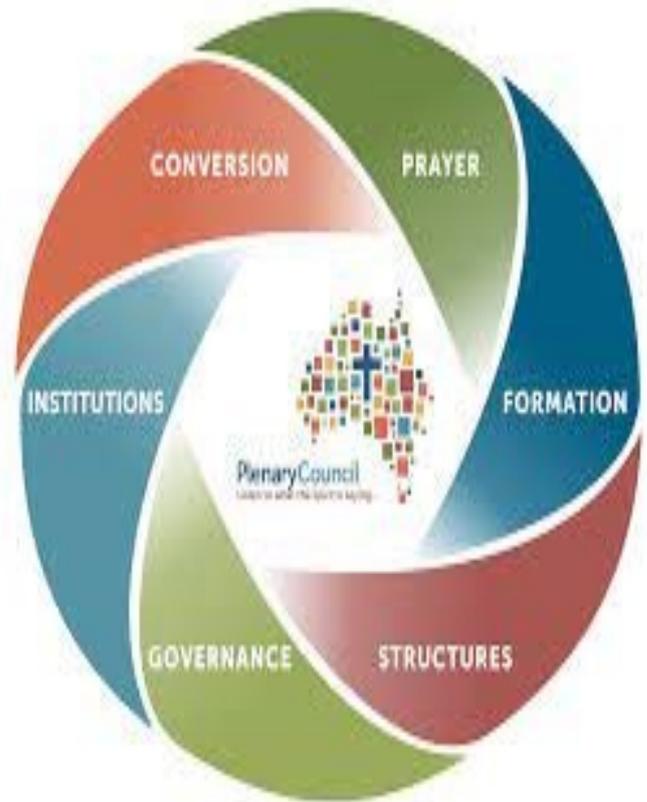
PLENARY COUNCIL REPORT

Last year consolidated the journey of listening to God by listening to others by engaging in an open and inclusive process of dialogue and discernment about the future of the Catholic Church in Australia. Approximately 300 delegates across Australia have been called to participate in the Plenary Council, which commences with the First General Assembly in October, 2021 in Sydney. In a spirit of 'synodality', Pope Francis is calling us to participate in spiritual conversation and discernment, as we 'develop concrete proposals to create a more missionary, Christ-centered Church in Australia at this time.'

In January, the 'Instrumentum Laboris' (Working Document) '**Continuing the Journey**' was published to 'offer an account of what the People of God have expressed ...in the Listening and Dialogue and Listening and Discernment phases of the Plenary Council journey.' This was followed by the release of the Plenary Council Agenda which featured six themes: Conversion, Prayer, Formation, Structures, Governance and Institutions. Key questions have been posed for each theme and these will become a focus for prayer and discernment at the Plenary Council.

As a delegate from our Diocese, I have participated in a commissioning ceremony with Bishop Mark Edwards and the other chosen delegates to the Plenary Council, and then took part in Formation Sessions with a view to discerning what the Spirit is saying to us at this time. As the journey towards the First Assembly continues, please continue to pray for its success in achieving renewal and transformation of the Church.

With faith and guided by God's Holy Spirit, we journey together, toward the future.



PLENARY COUNCIL PRAYER

Come, Holy Spirit of Pentecost.
Come, Holy Spirit of the great South Land.
O God, bless and unite all your people in Australia
and guide us on the pilgrim way of the
Plenary Council.
Give us the grace to see your face in one another and
to recognise Jesus, our companion on the road.
Give us the courage to tell our stories
and to speak boldly of your truth.
Give us ears to listen humbly to each other
and be a discerning heart
to hear what you are saying.
Lead your Church into a hope-filled future,
that we may live the joy of the Gospel.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord, bread for the journey
from age to age. Amen.

Our Lady Help of Christians, pray for us.
St Mary MacKillop, pray for us.

*Ed Brown,
Diocesan Plenary Delegate*

In October 2021, the Catholic Church in Australia will gather for the first Plenary Council to be held since the Second Vatican Council.

In 2018, the entire People of God in Australia began preparing for this historic moment by listening to God, by listening to one another's stories of faith.

PARISH OF SACRED HEART - NORTH ALBURY
Statement of Receipts and Payments
For Year ended 30 June 2021

<u>2020</u>	Line No.		\$	\$	\$
		Receipts			
74,308	1	Planned giving	76,193		
13,119	2	Loose - 2nd collection	<u>10,492</u>	86,685	
12,681	3	Interest		8,340	
3,955	4	Hall Hire		1,801	
3,000	5	Donations		1,050	
4,580	6	Fees - Funerals, Baptisms etc		8,410	
7,399	7	Rebates		7,000	
- 140	8	*Net Wall Plaques	-	7	
-	9	Insurance claim		3,218	
<u>3,243</u>	10	Special Collections		<u>-</u>	
122,144	11				116,497
		Payments			
2,488	12	Administration		4,238	
18,816	13	Insurance		20,224	
10,430	14	Office		12,114	
24,578	15	Employment		23,418	
5,482	16	Liturgy		5,540	
6,205	17	Diocesan Levies		5,680	
	18	Property Costs			
7,320	19	Church	8,218		
3,279	20	Hall	1,546		
<u>4,003</u>	21	Presbytery	<u>5,111</u>	14,874	
<u>82,601</u>	22	Total Payments			<u>86,088</u>
39,543	23				30,409
3243	24	Less: Special Collections			-
36,300	25	Sub total			<u>30,409</u>
3,733	26	Less: McGrath Scholarship			1,485
<u>32,567</u>	27	Net Operating Cash Surplus/-Deficit			<u>28,924</u>
98,744	28	** Less Capital repairs church & presbytery			<u>92,483</u>
<u>\$ (66,177)</u>	29	Overall Cash Deficit			<u>\$ (63,559)</u>

\$ 1,681 <<<<<< 2nd Collections - Weekly Average >>>>>>>> \$ 1,667

Note	**	Over two years >>>>>>>	Totals
	30	Church - New Roof	68,062
	31	Airconditioning	48,939
	32	Heating	42,500
	33	Consultants	19,125
	34	Electrical	26,550
	35	Concreting	11,076
	36	Presbytery	3,935
			<u>220,187</u>
	Less:	Bequests	- 20,000
		Parishioner specific contributions	- 8,960
		Paid from invested funds >>>	<u>\$ 191,227</u>

Prepared by Tony Smit for AGM on 5th August 2021

