

Journey



The magazine of St James The Great & St Joan of Arc Parishes

Issue No. 2 August 2018



Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honour God with your bodies. *Corinthians 6:19-20*



Brighton Catholic Parishes Directory



Services

Sunday Masses

Sat 6.00pm & Sun 9am at St James

Sun 11am & 5.30pm at St Joan of Arc

Weekday Masses

Tues at 7.30pm & Thur 9.15am at St James except first Thur of the month, Mass at noon at Cabrini Hospital Brighton

Wed & Fri at 9.15am at St Joan of Arc

Weddings & Baptisms by appointment.

Parish Groups

- **Altar society** operates most Fridays
- **Brighton Covenant of Christian Churches** includes Lent and Advent Bible studies and Pilgrims' Walk on Good Friday. Sonder young adult group meets regularly
- **Card Players** meet first Thursday of the month, St Joan of Arc presbytery at 11.30am.
- **Charismatic Prayer Group** meet Thursday at 8pm, St Joan of Arc Church
- **Children's Liturgy** at 11am Sunday Mass at St Joan of Arc during school terms
- **Meditation** each Monday at 10am, presbytery St Joan of Arc
- **Social Justice Group** meet regularly at St Joan of Arc
- **St Vincent de Paul Society Conferences** at St James and St Joan of Arc

Parish Priest: Fr Martin Dixon

Pastoral Care: Carole Cheng & Eileen Marchmont

Organist: Mary Taylor

Cantors: Adam Kaczanowski & Marie-France Urruty

St James The Great Parish

Address: 73 North Rd, Brighton. 3186

Tel: 9596 1334 **Fax:** 9596 8492

Email:

parishoffice@stjamesbrighton.org.au

Web: www.stjamesbrighton.org.au

Parish Secretary: Robyn Hirt

Parish Office Hours: Tue-Thur

9.15am-3pm. Entrance in Murphy St

School Principal: Brendan Flanagan

School Tel: 9596 4766

St Joan of Arc Parish

Address: 118 New St, Brighton. 3186

Tel: 9593 1703 **Fax:** 9593 3155

Email: Brighton@cam.org.au

Web: www.cam.org.au/brighton

Parish Secretary: Elaine Bolitho

Accounts: Marina Stevenson & Nici Bonning

Parish Office Hours: Tue-Fri:

9.30am-3.30pm.

School Principal: Tony McMahon

School Tel: 9592 3840

Welcome to the second edition of our parishes' magazine. Much has happened in the past twelve months and with your help we have tried to include many of the stories in our magazine. Thank you for making this faith journey with us. Elaine Bolitho, editor.

Cover photo: The altar of repose at St Joan of Arc on Holy Thursday; beautifully prepared by Franceen Kenny.

People Of Faith

I hope that by the time you finish reading this edition of “Journey” you will be amazed, as I was, at the breadth of talent, interests and history that lies within this parish. We are probably no different to many other parishes, but this is a treasure that lies too often hidden beneath the surface that we don’t explore.

So often we get caught in the web of everyday life that we fail to go beneath this surface and discover the richness that can enliven us as a parish and as people of faith.

We listen to the Word of God proclaimed at Mass that reveals God’s action within his people in what we call Salvation History. It is our story, the story of a faith people, of our faith. The history of salvation is creative and evolving, continuing over the millennia to each and every age, revealing a God whose love is a powerful creative force at work in our lives.

But on reading this edition of “Journey” I began to reflect on the history that is deep within our own midst. Silvana, in her article on our indigenous people, reminds us: “Don’t keep history a mystery”. As we discover more and more of the history of the indigenous people we see a story that is revealing a depth of spirituality that in its own way tells the story of God at work among a people.

The stories that are told in here this time also reveal a history that is rich and creative among us. Some are stories of the past, some of the present, some are stories that have ended such as the Scouts at Gardenvale; others are stories that are continuing to evolve, like that of our involvement with Papua New Guinea. But all are stories that make us a rich people.

As we conclude our Stewardship Program, or maybe rather as we embark on the fulfilment of our program, let us hope that this story will not be a mystery that is not heard. The richness of the resources that lie within us, the physical, the human, the emotional, and the financial resources, can spur us on to a faith life that enriches our world, just as the history of God’s love enriches our world.

We pray often that “the mystery that has been entrusted to us”, that story of God revealed in Jesus, may be fulfilled in our world. We are the stewards of that mystery, so let us proclaim it with boldness yet with humility. It is our story, but it is the story of God’s generosity at work in our lives.

Fr Martin Dixon

Fr Martin’s 75th birthday celebration with parishioners in August 2018



School Days – St James

The life of a school is always loaded with surprises, activity, fun, challenges, change and connection with others. The first half of the year again has confirmed that schools and in our case St James is a great place to be: full of love and life.

Over recent months our Year 4 celebrated First Eucharist and Year 6 students celebrated Confirmation. Our Year 6 students have extended their relationship with God in our community of faith in celebrating the final sacrament of initiation.

St James has participated in the NSIT (National School Improvement Tool). The NSIT Review is specifically designed to equip schools with the data they need to plot their school's current position against international effective practice and to plan a focussed approach to school improvement appropriate to the context of St James.

The Year 5s took part in a 'Sphero Measurement Challenge'. The objective was to design and create a track for a sphero to be navigated around. The tracks had to be drawn up in maths books and all the lengths measured accurately. Ratios were applied when constructing the real life tracks.

The annual fundraiser was conducted on 11th August and once again our magnificent parents ensured that the night was an overwhelming success. Gaining sponsorship from local and distant businesses, promoting our school in the wider community, organizing the auction items and creating a spirit of excitement about being a part of St James requires time and an enormous investment of energy.

The building project is now underway and Bowden Constructions are making effective inroads into the demolition of the first floor. They have had strip out crews, electricians and plumbers etc performing many early tasks to date. The plans for the school are placed in the corridor which details a few images of what we are creating. The colour scheme is also displayed. The architecturally designed spaces will be flexible and responsive to the learning and teaching needs of the students, teachers and parents.

During August the Telstra Drone Demonstration will come to St James as part of our ongoing STEM Partnership with CSIRO and Telstra. All classes in the school will see one of Telstra's expert pilots navigate a drone above our school and surrounds.

As part of our community partnership with Telstra and CSIRO, the Year 5/6 classes will be attending a Cyber Safety session presented by Mr Darren Pauli from Telstra's Cyber Safety Group, who is renowned for connecting with the younger generation.

St James also celebrated all that we love about reading during Book Week, 18th – 24th of August. This year's theme was 'find your treasure'.

Our St James Girls Soccer team will be attending the upcoming State Soccer finals for School Sport Victoria on Friday 7th September.

St James and St Joan of Arc dads are coming together to put on a Family and Football Fun Day on Saturday 1 September at Brighton Beach Oval from 1:30pm. The objective of the event is to bring the two school communities together and create a great event with something for all members of the family.



The excitement of the building program has created great interest and in time we would like to invite all parishioners to see first hand the significant change to our beautiful little school, St James.

*Brendan Flanagan,
Principal of St James*

School Days – St Joan Of Arc

This year we welcomed fifty four prep children to the school. The school enrolment is 375. In future years, we will maintain this enrolment number.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Sophie Middendorp, Olivia Martin, Levi Otto, Denise Gee, Jussahra Tragus and Natalie Cochrane to the school staff. We are fortunate to have a very dedicated and professional team of teachers who work tirelessly to provide educational excellence for the children.

As an educator I believe that the family and school need to work together to provide a safe and secure environment for the children if the children are to work to their potential. At St Joan of Arc, we are indeed extremely lucky with the support we receive from our parent community. There is certainly something unique and something to treasure about the support the staff and the children receive.

Last month both James Best, our Religious Education Leader, and I toured to Aitape in PNG with a number of parishioners. Father Martin wanted us to look at practical ways we could support the children in the village. We were lucky enough to have Sister Felicity Corder join us for this trip. Felicity spent more than twenty years living and working in the village and it was apparent she was still much loved by the community. The parish has had a connection with this area providing scholarships for students to undertake studies in nursing. The conditions in the village were very poor but the people in general were very happy. One of our dads at school, Gerard Warrener, joined us on this trip and has produced a video that the parish and the schools will use to raise awareness of the needs of the village as well.



The school will continue to support the children in Sefhare in Botswana raising money for the breakfast club at the primary school. Without these funds, these children would not get a meal for the day. The school continues to work with Sister Frances Boston in this initiative.

The school has participated in the South Central Catholic Schools sports network. We were delighted to have won the Swimming, Cross Country, Girls' Soccer, Netball and Football tournaments this year. This year the school will be presenting a school production during September. The show will be Madagascar-The Musical. All the children will be part of the show and rehearsals have already commenced.

St Joan of Arc held their annual Jaffa Ball in May with over 240 parents and staff attending the evening. The event was the culmination of many months of work by the organizing committee providing a great night to socialize and raise money for the school. There was spirited bidding on the evening with many of our parents taking home one of the many treasures for sale.

Over the past few years, our dads have come together for our annual sportsman night and football matches. Previously our dads have played in a round robin format against other local bayside schools but this year on Saturday 1st September they have organised a family day with St James. Not only will the dads play against each other but the school teams as well. We look forward to sharing the day with the St James community.

With every best wish,

Tony McMahon, Principal of St Joan of Arc

A Privilege To Serve

The Journey asked for a reflection on my life as a priest so I started thinking. Some calendar facts provide context. I went to Corpus Christi Seminary at Werribee in March 1953. World War part 2 had just concluded. A massive migration process was well under way with Australia a bewildered beneficiary. The Catholic Church had Pius XII, who looked infallible, and Daniel Mannix who had been Archbishop of Melbourne forever.

In 1958 (yes 60 years ago) John XXIII was elected, “To give us all a break” it was said. We had no idea! He called the bishops together in Council and they met in Rome, from all over the world on Oct 12th, 1962. John’s opening speech “Gaudet Mater Ecclesia” presented a vision of a dawning springtime in which “everything, even human differences, leads to the greater good of the Church”. I had been ordained in July 1960 so the abundant reporting from Rome formed the context of my first five years in the parish life. Council documents arrived 1964 and 1965. Archbishop Simonds (1963-7) was a good transition figure, then Archbishop James Knox (67-74) arrived with a commitment to giving shape to the Council that shaped my years as a curate (as we were called then).

In many ways it picked up themes we met in our seminary thanks to Charles Mayne S.J, the rector. He was determined to prepare us for a new world whose prophet would be Joseph Cardijn, a Belgian diocesan priest who had founded the YCW (Young Christian Workers) that celebrate our baptism commitment and the power of Christians, working together, to change things. The council endorsed that vision, lay apostolate became common talk among lay people, and clergy, and religious.

God had become incarnate in Jesus of Nazareth so our

world had to be seen differently. Our liturgy had to function differently.

The word of God was in scripture, to be read and reflected on and put into action, by lay and religious and clerical people working together.

The vision exhilarated and enlightened people. Liturgy was to be shared in, not just performed for the people, to be at, not in. Many did not welcome this. They saw their privileges questioned, their power threatened, and their possessions endangered. The Church was now spoken of not as “the perfect society” but as a Spirit-filled, generous community that enabled forgiveness to work through welcome and encouragement.

Science and technology challenge us. It enables real time connection across the planet, information management and sharing to a previously unknown level. There are downsides. We are now aware of oppression and discrimination everywhere in the world, not just here. Every human being really is my sister and brother, really is entitled to my level of housing, sustenance, education, healthcare, meaningful work. How do we govern this sort of planet?

The priest as a believing Catholic has to take “his” (perhaps soon I hope or “her”) place in these massive endeavours. Pope Francis encourages us to celebrate who we are in his letters *EVANGELII GAUDIUM* (The joy of the gospel) *AMORIS LAETITIA* (The joy of love) and now *GAUDETE ET EXULTATE* (Rejoice and be glad).

Notice the trend. Here is a priest’s agenda, and Christians’ agenda, according to the present pope. What a privilege!

Fr Barry Moran



Kenny Yang, Fr Barry, Jaques & Marie-France Urruty enjoy the St Joan of Arc feast day celebration

“Receive The Light Of Christ”

During the presentation and welcoming ceremony, those to be baptised are given a special baptism candle for their baptism. At the the baptism ceremony Father lights the candle from the Easter (Paschal) Candle. He gives it to either the godparent on the child’s behalf or to the newly baptised person, if old enough, with the words “Receive the light of Christ. Walk always as a child of The Light.” This is a blessing as well as a challenge.

This message is passed on daily in our classes and parish gatherings. When we light a candle at prayer time, it reminds us of the continuing presence of Jesus in our everyday life, as well as gently encouraging us to carry His Light in our life and our world.

The schools of St James and St Joan of Arc together with the parishes, prepare the students for the other two Sacraments of Initiation, Blessed Eucharist and Confirmation. We appreciate the privilege it is to assist these young people in their knowledge and faith development.

Recently, we have seen the children preparing for and receiving their First Eucharist. They joined Fr Martin or Fr Barry on the altar during their special preparation Masses. The children appreciate and look forward to this privilege. It is very special for them to be part of the Mass, standing beside Father, who takes the time to include them, and explain simply, the meaning of that particular part of the liturgy.

Confirmation, the third Rite of Initiation is celebrated with the Bishop officiating. Once more we plan the program of preparation together. The highlight of both these preparation programs is the reflection day, when all students come together with their own parish group. This is a day of prayer, activities, and enjoyable interaction.

The Sacrament of Baptism, The First Sacrament of initiation takes place at both St James and St Joan of Arc Churches on alternate months.

It is wonderful to see how many past pupils of both primary schools returning to present their own children for baptism in the same church that they received the sacraments as babies and children.



Cousins Reilly Hayden & Heidi Merritt on their baptism day in May 2018

Recently, we had two families, one from St James and one from St Joan of Arc (all ex-pupils) and ‘old time parishioners’ come together, with three cousins bringing their children to be baptized here. What a wonderful and huge celebration that was!

We have welcomed both adults and children into the Church during this year in our RCIA and RCIC programs.

The RCIA Program culminates with the baptism being held during the beautiful Easter Vigil Ceremony, where every one present carries their Easter Light of Christ into the dark church. We wait for the dawn of a new Easter Day.

May we all carry The Light of Christ in our everyday lives!

Carole Cheng

Valuing Our Senior Years

What a privilege it has been to be welcomed into the St James and St Joan of Arc parish community. I am grateful to parishioners and other supportive and friendly people for the warmth of their welcome.

Some ask how I come to be here and what on earth am I doing. In answer I say that probably the story began many years ago in Frankston when Fr Barry Moran was parish priest and Fr Martin curate at St Francis Xavier's. Employed as a pastoral worker and having a background in education and family therapy in private practice and in local schools, it followed that my role involved relationship counselling and organizing short courses and reflective workshops around relevant issues.

At around the same time and complementing programs such as those mentioned above, a growing interest in more global themes surfaced. New questions around environmental issues, the new cosmic story, Carl Jung and his interest in dreams and most refreshingly our aboriginal heritage were being asked along with the query as to what if anything these questions had to do with our everyday lives.

To address this growing curiosity in general and our local interests in particular, The Gaia Foundation inc T/A Gatherings, a not for profit association for exploration and learning was established.

This newly formed group fitted well within a pastoral role and over the years Gatherings organised retreats, conferences and workshops around those areas of interest and pilgrimages similar to the one from this parish this August. We travelled often to Celtic countries, to Uluru, Lake Mungo and to other sacred sites around Mt Buffalo many times with our late friend and colleague, Pangarang elder Eddie Kneebone.

For many years now, Gatherings has been a member of the Spirituality Network of Australia and the Australian Network of Spiritual Direction, both supportive connections we value and which keep us in touch with what is happening in the bigger picture. At our association's core and what has held it together over the years is a diverse group that meets on a fortnightly basis to support each other as we explore the big and small mysteries of our lives.

As the word 'pastoral' implies I move around the area meeting interesting people making connections and whenever possible responding in small and hopefully supportive ways to whatever comes up within my area of responsibility. Mostly I am in the parish Monday evening, through Tuesday into Wednesday and follow up any loose ends from home.

Parishioners are my first priority, particularly the homebound or others in residential care who no longer are able to take part in a church practice that has sustained them over many years. The loss of this precious sacred part of life combined with the sense of isolation and the fear that it brings is obvious and felt deeply by many.



June & Eileen enjoy a chat

Being of similar age, I understand concerns around these issues including the need to 'let go' of familiar ways of being that aging brings and I relate to the struggles involved when trying to embrace the new. Hopefully, for residents feeling this loss and isolation, having some formal connection with a representative from their old church lifestyle is of some comfort.

Although undefined and evolving, my role is essentially one of listening. I am interested in current research into aged care by groups such as 'Pearls of Wisdom' and 'Exploring the Later Years' that aim to explore what 'quality of life' means for older people with high support needs. It is sobering to keep in mind that much research being trialled currently is more than likely to be of help to many of us in years to come.

I am delighted that from brief conversation at some of our local residential homes and encouraged by positive responses, I am to begin a pilot program in one of them next month. It will be facilitated with trained guidance in a supportive and non-threatening environment in ways that interest aging people. Research shows that making connections even in the most minimal of ways impacts more on 'quality of life' than we realise.

In early months, my task was made easier because of the generous support of committed Special Ministers who have been liaison people with both residents, residential staff and the parish over many years. My thanks go out to them for that support on more than one occasion and my gratitude also for understanding when I unwittingly step on a few toes.

Although the main focus of my time here is in aged care and support, I see the role as being relevant more broadly too and would appreciate any suggestions along those lines.

Eileen Marchmont

Contact: 9596 1334 or gather1@tpg.com.au

Working As One

Back in 2000 three Christian ministers looked beyond their church boundaries to listen to God's word, "Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life." *John 5:24*.

Fr Peter Cross PP at St Joan of Arc, Archdeacon Barry Martin from St Andrews Anglican Church and Vicar Russell Joyce from St Peters in Brighton established the Brighton Covenant of Christian Churches to work together as fellow Christians. The BCC has grown since then to bring together 10 of our local Christian Churches.



Brian Bailey, Bishop Terence Curtin, Heather Sanderson, Fr Martin Dixon & Fr Brendan Hayes

Last year, on the 500th Anniversary of Martin Luther, Bishop Terence Curtin delivered the 10th Anniversary Fr Peter Cross Memorial Lecture. He discussed the great

contribution of Martin Luther in identifying the relevance of the scriptures to everyday life in every age.

Every two months the ministers and lay representatives of the churches meet to discuss plans for events, issues concerning the churches, fundraising for charities and doctrinal matters. We are most grateful to Brian Bailey, Elisabeth Jahshan and Vin Underwood for representing our parishes.

Many thanks also to Margaret Fox and Sheila Vernon who are our organisers of the Bethlehem in Brighton annual event at St Andrews. This year the event will be held on December 1st. Bring along the children and grandchildren and share the true meaning of Christmas with a nativity play and photos, craft activities, animal farm and more.

The year has been a busy one for the BCC with our regular Lenten and Advent Bible Studies attracting up to 40 parishioners. Sonder, the young adults group also held regular Bible Studies and social activities. The Good Friday Pilgrims' Walk attracted over 200 people and a new youth group has started at St Stephens Anglican Church.

Another highlight this year was the biennial signing of the covenant at St Peters Anglican Church on Pentecost Sunday. The very inspiring sermon by Bishop Peter Danaher encouraged us to continue to move forward together as guided by the Holy Spirit.

Elaine Bolitho



Rev Jonathan Chamberlain (St Peters Anglican), Rev Victor Fan (St Andrews Anglican), Rev Kim Cain (St Leonards Uniting) Rev Sean Heldsinger (Brighton Baptist), Bishop Peter Danaher, Rev Kevin Kim (Trinity Uniting), Rev Jan Joustra (St Andrews Anglican), Rev Paul Carr (St Stephens Anglican), Rev Martin Dixon. Absent-Pastor Brian Holden & Fr Ian Ranson

Silver Anniversary Celebration

On Tuesday, May 15, Father Martin celebrated a special Mass at St James to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the foundation of the Kerala conference. Several of our Conference members were able to attend.

All St Vincent de Paul Conferences are twinned with conferences in developing countries. Our Gardenvale conference has been twinned with the St Joseph's Conference in Kerala, India for more than ten years. The Kerala conference is supported by quarterly donations of \$200. In past years, our donations have been used to buy a cow for widows and needy families in the village.

This year, the members of St Joseph's plan to build a small dwelling for country families who have nowhere else to stay when visiting and providing food and care for their sick relatives in the nearby hospital.

A congratulatory letter and card (written in Tamil) was prepared by Overseas Development Officer of the SVDP



Gardenvale Conference, Dr. Howard Kirsch. The card was signed by Conference members and sent, together with the photo of those present at the Mass, to our twin Conference in Kerala. We are committed to ongoing support for St. Joseph's Conference and look forward to our continued friendship into the future.

Lois White

Papua New Guinea- Land Of The Unexpected

Eleven intrepid travellers, representing our parish, schools, St Vincent de Paul and Social Justice Group, ventured to Aitape on the N.W. coast of PNG. last May. We wanted to become familiar with life in this remote place, to understand how best to work with people there, especially in their efforts to provide health care and education for their families.

On Monday, 7th May, we reached Port Moresby, where we stopped overnight. We toured by bus in the afternoon, visiting a beautiful Nature Park, then Moresby's Seminary where Fr. Mike McEntee, former parish priest of St Joan of Arc was rector for some years. The Bomana War Cemetery was next.



Thousands who died in WWII are buried there including many Australians. It was sobering to view hundreds of graves whose white crosses were inscribed, 'Known only to God'. There are two other large War Cemeteries in PNG and we were told that more Australians lost their lives in PNG in WWII than any other country. We reached the imposing Parliament House as it was about to close, but the friendly curator delayed closing to allow us to inspect this fine building.

Tuesday started early with a flight to Wewak on the North coast where we were met by a group of Presentation Sisters who greeted us with a special song of welcome, and provided refreshments while we waited for the two trucks and drivers to take us on a six hour drive to Aitape. The travellers finally believed that we would be crossing over 50 rivers, over half unbridged! Some experienced this trip as an adventure, others appeared somewhat jaded!

Sadly we arrived in Aitape after sunset so missed the decorations and welcome prepared by the Sisters and neighbours. Our hosts were sad to have to tell us that torches would be needed to find our way around as there had been a bad storm which had removed an important light pole which ended up in the river. We were to discover that most people in PNG don't have electricity anyway, except in some town or lucky villages with a generator or two.

We had just three days to visit the hospital and schools of Aitape. On Wednesday we went to the Haus Sik and Nurses Training Schools where we met the three students being assisted by the parish. We were very impressed by them and they are very happy to be able to undertake their Nursing studies thanks to the interest of our parishioners. Staff members were most gracious and showed us around the wards, the little operating theatre, physio room and other specialist areas. The nurses and two doctors are very committed, but work under difficulties, due to lack of amenities, medicines needed, equipment etc.

Thursday was busy, as our hosts wanted us to visit five local schools – two primary schools, a secondary school, a technical (trade) school and centre for the disabled which included a pre-school. In all of them we were struck by the friendliness of students and staff, but also by the lack of resources compared with our local schools. Important contacts were made, with plans to continue to exchange information and understand the needs as they see them. All became very conscious of how well-off we are when compared with our next-door neighbouring country, as their people receive very few of the government benefits we take for granted.

Friday, our last day, featured a trip to 'town' being a market day, plus a visit to the kalabus which is really a remand centre. However, the inmates often have a long wait for their cases to be heard and live in unfurnished cells, with only one meal a day. The police do their best under trying conditions, but the prisoners were pleased to see us and very pleased to accept the food offered to supplement their diet that day.



Some enjoyed a swim in the afternoon, others revisited the hospital then there was packing to do. Our new friends had been gathering to prepare a wonderful final meal, speeches and dancing. Each of us was presented with a beautiful gift – all the more touching when we understood that they had worked to raise the funds to cover the cost of these!

Our final day, Saturday, began at 2.30am! when we took off after a few hours' sleep for the return trip to Wewak. The Sisters there again looked after us, supplying us with breakfast and organising a quick tour of the town including the purchase of bilums and other souvenirs and a quick inspection of the war memorial honouring all who had died there during the war – Melanesian Nationals, Australians, Americans and Japanese. (Important Peace negotiations were conducted in Wewak in 1945).

Some slept during the three flights back to Melbourne, where we arrived about 10pm that night, worn and weary but much wiser and able to appreciate home comforts. If this sounds rather grim, we found PNG to be a beautiful country and enjoying its friendly peoples wherever we went and came to experience their richness of cultures.

Special thanks to Fr Martin who organised the trip, but was not well enough to join us; thanks too, to our parish secretaries Elaine and Robyn for all their work, and to Gerard Warrener, whose great photos and filming we hope you have a chance to see.

Sr Felicity Corder

Vivid Images Of PNG

There is a saying in PNG that “If anything can go wrong – it WILL go wrong” - and we were to learn the truth of this very quickly. We had a long delay whilst they traced our lost truck and driver – apparently he was in trouble with the police - but after a few hours our truck and a replacement driver appeared.
Margaret Fox & Sheila Howell



After rising at 1am to start the long journey back to Wewak, through the dark jungle and the 50 rivers, we held our breath when ten bandits (opportunists!) with machetes held up our vehicles and demanded money. More negotiations and more time lost but eventually we were allowed to continue our journey.
Margaret Fox & Sheila Howell



Our whole group learnt of the culture of PNG people, the strength of their Catholic faith and the vibrancy and warmth of their communities. Our final farewell dinner was an outside affair with the whole community gathered for feasting, singing, dancing and speeches - even though we still had no power!!
Margaret Fox & Sheila Howell

The level of poverty in the village is extreme and I honestly wasn't prepared for it. There is poor and then there is really poor. Luxuries such as televisions and other electronic devices are not part of the makeup of houses. In the village, health issues surrounding Tuberculosis (TB), HIV and other diseases impact greatly on life expectancy, which is 62 at the moment and even lower in remote villages like Aitape. What struck us towards the end was that we never met any elderly people. *James Best*

What became blatantly obvious was that Sister Felicity was Papua New Guinea's Mary Mackillop. Everyone who met her and saw the tireless work she did felt privileged, humbled and committed to helping her with the work. *James Best*



Facilities and resources in the school were very basic and the total school budget per annum for a school of 600 children was less than our school spends on our cleaning contract. *James Best*



Thank You

Each week we come along to Mass and know how fortunate we are to have Fr Martin and Fr Barry to celebrate Masses for us. But we are also very grateful to all of the parishioners who generously give their time by volunteering in the parishes. This year we recognised several parishioners who have made outstanding contributions by presenting them with parish awards.

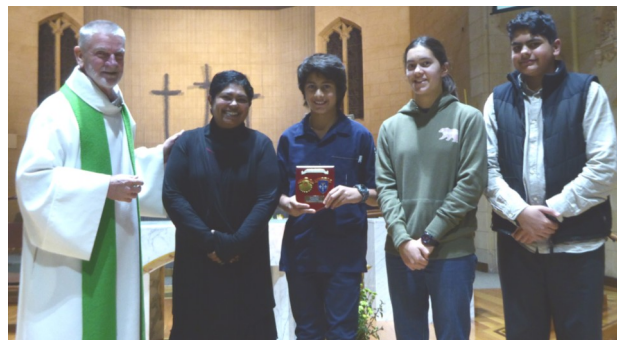
Thank you to Vin Underwood and Dot Pestana from St James Parish. Dot has been a Special Minister for many years, assists with the weekly banking and the prayer



group. Vin assists with Masses, is a very active representative for the Brighton Covenant of Churches and organises the local Spirituality In The Pub seminars.

Congratulations to the Hasker family and Cath Beckingham from St Joan of Arc. The Hasker family have the ability to jump into multiple roles at the 5.30pm Mass especially when volunteers have been unable to attend.

Alex Hasker has provided technical expertise with our audio visual needs which is crucial in the modern church.



Zuricka, Edward, Oriana & Thomas Hasker

Cath Beckingham is well known to all of our young families as the dedicated organiser of the children's liturgy program. Cath prepares the lessons and supports the group leaders each week. Great job Cath!

Elaine Bolitho



Cath, James, William & Matthew Beckingham

Philberth Foundation In Manila, Philippines

Parishioners may recall that Rev. Fr. Bernhard Philberth often concelebrated Holy Mass at Saint Joan of Arc; he now rests in God's peace in our Rose Garden. Way back in 1986, he and his brother, Rev. Fr. Prof. Dr. Karl Philberth, now 88 and living in Germany, started the Philberth Foundation for the education of underprivileged young people in the Republic of the Philippines.

For many years now, the Philberth Foundation has provided funds for the ongoing education of 500 young Filipinas and Filipinos who come from the poorest of the poor families with the aim that these young people, once they have completed their education, will become the breadwinners of their families.

The foundation is administered by the Missionary Benedictine Sisters whose Grand Priory is in Malate/Manila, where they also run their school Sta. Scholastica. The young scholars of the Philberth Foundation are being educated in Sta. Scholastica and in some 30 schools operated by the Sisters throughout the Philippines.

The funds of the Foundation have been invested in Australia and I have the honour of looking after these funds and ensuring the remittance of bi-annual contributions to

Manila in support of the education of the Philberth scholars. I make annual visits to Manila in early December each year at my expense to discuss all aspects of the Foundation with the Sisters, to hold an inspiring address to the Philberth scholars, and to meet with many of them personally.

The photo below shows some of the Philberth scholars in December 2018, including the Sisters in their white habits and the members of the Foundation staff in pink T-shirts.

Dr Walter W J Uhlenbruch AO



The Australian Sailor Who Saw Hiroshima In 1945

In 2017 Mr. George Carrington and his wife Barbara celebrated their 62nd wedding anniversary. George was a successful stockbroker; Barbara a professional cello player. This is their story.

George will turn 93 on 15th August. He was born in Portland, Victoria where his father, a former captain in the Australian merchant navy was harbour master. George completed his studies between Portland and Warrnambool and at age of 16 joined the Union Bank of Australia Ltd in Warrnambool (which was to become the ANZ bank). The year was 1941 and Australia was engaged in what was to be known as World War II.



Military service was compulsory at the time; conscription had been introduced by Prime Minister Alfred Deakin in 1909 for the purposes of home defence but the legislation did not allow soldiers to be conscripted by overseas service. In 1943, Prime Minister John Curtin overcame opposition with the Australia Labor Party and extended the geographic boundaries in which conscripts could serve to include most of South West Pacific and legislation was passed that allowed Australian soldiers to serve outside of Australia.

George joined the Royal Australian Navy in 1943, on his 18th birthday, and spent three months at Flinders naval Depot at Crib Point, Victoria, being trained to be a "coder". The job of coders to code and decode messages between ships and between ship and shore. There were coders on a ship, serving a "watch of 4 hours. Each coder was on duty with a junior man serving as assistant. Messages were sent via flags, lights or radio depending on the distance that the message must travel. George's job consisted of coding outgoing messages and decoding incoming ones. His ship was the HMAS Westralia.

On the 6th of August 1945, the first atomic bomb, nicknamed "Little Boy" was dropped from the American bomber Enola Gay on the Japanese city of Hiroshima. On August 9th, 1945, a second atomic bomb was dropped on the city of Nagasaki. Six days later, on the 15th August 1945, Japan surrendered. The formal surrender was signed on board the ship Missouri, an-

chored in Tokyo Bay on the 2nd of September 1945 and this ended World War II.

On that day, George's ship, the Westralia, was also anchored in Tokyo Bay. About a month later, George with one of his friends, while on shore leave, travelled to Hiroshima and saw the destruction caused by the bomb. George is one of the few living Australians with direct memories of that tragic day.

George remained in the Navy for another year, after the war ended. During this time, the Westralia and many other ships sailed between Japan and various islands in the Pacific to bring supplies to the occupation forces.

On 15 August 1946, George left the Navy and re-joined the Bank but a few years later decided to change career and joined a share trading company. He worked as a dealer for many years until finally in 1983 he had saved enough money to purchase a seat on the stock exchange and form his own share trading business.

Barbara and George were married in 1955. Their first child was born in 1956; three more followed. In between children, Barbara used to play the cello with Lesley McGarvie (viola) and Judy Poole (piano), of Red Hill. When Lesley's husband Richard was Governor of Victoria, they sometimes played at Government House. Barbara still practices to this day. They have been blessed with 11 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

Alberto Sabato



Colourful Caring

Our dear parishioner, Clare Davison has a beautiful granddaughter named Emily Somers. Just like Clare, Emily is a can-do kind of girl with a warmth and kindness which seems to run in the family.

Emily is a talented Art Director who has faced and won her battle against cancer not once but twice. During the course of treatment she lost her hair three times. Emily found wearing wigs were itchy and bandanas unattractive.

Having to face this ordeal, Emily fought back with a passion by developing a range of fashionable scarves by talented illustrators. The super soft scarves can be tied into a variety of turban styles.



Emily felt like herself again.

Each scarf comes with a 'How to Turban' guide and 10% of profits are donated to Peter Mac. Emily's blog also includes very helpful articles such as "tips for getting through chemo", "dealing with cancer anxiety" and more.

Take a look at Emily's webpage and help to brighten up someone's day: braveryco.com.au

Elaine Bolitho



Commemorating Our Nation's History

Fifty-one years ago, I was mapping shorelines of an ancient basin I later named "Lake Mungo". I found evidence of past Ice Age climates and ancient shorelines, but no water. Instead I saw stone tools, ancient fireplaces and food remains, but no people! Clearly I was walking in the footsteps of ancient people!

The July 1968 discovery of cremated human bones, now known as Mungo Lady - 40,000 years old, the earliest example of cremation burial anywhere in the world - changed the way we thought about ancient occupation.

In 1974, a complex burial emerged by erosion nearby. It revealed the remains now known as those of "Mungo Man". Its special nature indicated that he was an important community figure. He had been buried with extraordinary ritual, anointed with red ochre while smoke from a nearby fireplace swept through the mourners.

His burial rites symbolise a highly sophisticated communal response, via ochre and fire, defining a spirit-based connection with the earth. That legacy is retained today in Aboriginal Australia's Connection to Country, a deeply spirit-held connection to Nature.

For forty years, the Barkantji, Mutthi Mutthi and

Ngiyampaa tribal groups, bonded by culture and place to their ancestral Mungo people, have generously assisted scientists in joint collaboration. We rejoice as one in the contribution of Mungo Lady and Mungo Man.

In our Brighton parish, we are preparing to install carved message sticks made by Vicki Clark, a Mutthi Mutthi woman, to celebrate in conjunction with Aboriginal brothers and sisters our new definition of what it means to be Australian.

Jim Bowler



Joan & Jim Bowler present the message stick

The Need Is Greater Than Ever

Sr Brigid Arthur began helping refugees and asylum seekers 18 years ago and is still at it. The Brigidine Asylum Seekers Project (BASP) now has a team of volunteers who welcome refugees, find them accommodation, visit them in detention and at home, help them learn English and provide them with basic necessities.

Five years ago, Catholic parishioners in Brighton decided to support BASP 'feed the hungry' by collecting food stuffs, toiletries and gift cards at Mass on the first weekend of the month and delivering them to the Brigidine's headquarters in Port Melbourne.

Recently, I met with Sr Brigid to ask if things were getting better or worse for refugees. 'Much worse,'



she said. 'From the middle of June, 750 single refugees will have work rights but no financial support while they are looking for work. What refugees need above all are housing and jobs.'

What about the donations that the Brighton parish has been making?

'I really want to thank the parish for their wonderful donations. We rely on the generosity of people in the community to support our efforts. All donations go straight to the people who need them. There are no overheads or admin costs.'

At present, BASP delivers our gifts to 15 sick and housebound refugee and asylum seeker families every fortnight and invites those refugees who call in to take what they need. 'The supplies go down pretty fast', said Sr Brigid. BASP uses donations of money to buy fresh food to distribute. Donated gift cards are particularly welcome as refugees can buy meat and other food to top up their diet.

While we always include a notice in the parish bulletin about the monthly BASP collection, some people, including me, forget to bring their gifts on the day. We will now take donations at any time that you put them in the box and we will deliver them as soon as possible to Sr Brigid.

Gifts of money are greatly appreciated. You can make a direct deposit into the BASP bank account-

BSB 083-004 Account number: 5692 46603. Receipts for tax deductible donations will be issued if you email queries@basp.org.au and let them know that the amount you have deposited.

I went away from our meeting full of admiration for Sr Brigid's work and her optimism and perseverance. Meanwhile, if anyone has spare accommodation or a job going that a refugee could do, Sr Brigid would love to hear from you!

Helen Praetz, Social Justice Group

Living With Faith

It is with deep faith and appreciation that I write this short article. It is just 41 years since God healed me. I should be deaf, blind and in a wheelchair. I had fallen down a flight of stairs and was put in traction which was set up wrongly for five days – then my spine manipulated unsuccessfully and I slowly paralysed and lost my sight, hearing and ability to even turn my head. On the 17 May 1977 I was miraculously healed by prayers of a priest and became involved in the Charismatic Renewal 6 July 1977.

I have been to America to speak as well as every state in Australia as well on Priests/ Religious retreat team. Through these years I have also witnessed many healings take place through prayer. I no longer go out at night to meetings but I would be delighted to hear of other people who believe in God's healing love.

I still go to the Renewal Centre on Wednesday and do help in St James Parish in the Church.

Sister Eileen Jones



Brighton (St James) Scout Group

In 1938 the St Vincent de Paul Conference of Gardenvale recognised the need to establish a scout group for the young men of the Parish of St James. Society members Brian & Kevin Phipps, Jim Hamilton, Jack Neale, James Bullock and John Casey are credited with forming the 10th Brighton (St James) Scout Group encouraged and supported by the Parish Priest, Father Keenan. In 1940 he allowed the scouts to use the original St James school hall, on the west side of Brickwood Street for their meetings. This heralded an era of wonderful camaraderie in the parish. Great friendships and many adventures were enjoyed by the parish youth as they matured from boyhood to adolescence. Along this path they learnt responsibility and leadership, mentored by their leaders.

10th Brighton was the only scout group allowed to use the parish name on their shoulder patch at that time. The Fleur de Lis symbol was adopted as an identifier for 10th Brighton scouts competing in athletic, swimming and gymnastic sporting events of which they were very successful.

Camping and hiking trips throughout the years were eagerly looked forward to and enjoyed immensely by all the scouts. The Pan Pacific Scout Jamboree held at Wonga Park Victoria, 1949, enabled us to meet other scouts and form new friendships from within the Pacific Region. The rugged mountainous areas of the Victorian and New South Wales high country and of SW Tasmania were popular venues for hiking, camping,

biking and rock climbing expeditions. John Vidulich, one of our respected Scout Masters and inaugural leader of the "Bosco Rovers", died whilst attempting to climb Mt Cook in 1955. Twelve months later John Stuart a popular scout perished in a snow storm whilst hiking in the Arthur Ranges in SW Tasmania. Stuart Saddle is now named in his memory.



When the new St James primary school was built in 1962 the scouts were not offered room in the new hall for their activities and were told to find another home. A hall at Hurlingham Park became available which wasn't particularly suitable, it was distant from their homes and outside of the parish, and finally the decision was made, in 1965 to disband.

Brian Taylor one of the early leaders of 10th Brighton from 1938 remains an active member of St James Parish today.

In 2014 the "Story of 10th Brighton (St James) Scout Group" was published and copies are available at Bay-side Library and St James Presbytery.

John Taylor



Back:- T Fordyce, D Semmel, B Watson, B Phipps, J Sullivan, R Wilson, P Wheatley
M Taylor, R Champion, K Whitty, M Shelley, G Randall, J Hamilton, G Shelley, B Sullivan, C Bullock
K Champion, S Griffin, B Lefebvre, B Cook, E Shelley, J Blair, J McGinley, R Bell
Obscured, P Hoinville, J Farley, A Delves, G Randall, J Clancy, J Taylor, D Lim

Visionary Developers

The Buxton family has a long history with the Brighton parishes. The second generation of the Buxton Family came to Brighton in the early part of the 20th century and joined the Parish of St James. It was not until the late 1960s that Michael Buxton came to live in the St Joan of Arc Parish where his children went to school at St Joan of Arc and then on to Star of the Sea College and Xavier (Koska Hall Campus).

Michael recalls “in that period of time we have seen many celebrations including the baptism of my children and step children, the funeral of parents Dick and Pat Buxton and the Confirmation of the children.

The funniest story I can remember was when I was on the Parish Council with George Carrington, and in those days the parish was run on a shoe string and struggled financially, before we had the current sacrificial campaign and regular income. George and I came up with the idea of demolishing the presbytery and building a block of flats which would have made the Parish completely financially self-sufficient forever. However when it was put to the Archbishop his reply back to us was ‘Keep your hands off my property’.



My recollections, or my memories of the parish and the school have always been good, I had a great relationship with all the Parish Priests. Especially the current Parish Priest Martin Dixon, I am a great admirer of his and a very close friend.



Buxton Contemporary is at the corner of Southbank Boulevard & Dodds St, Southbank

My interest in art goes back to my relationship with my mother who was a great collector of antiquity, and I of course collected stamps when I was very young. My first major art collection started in 1976 with the acquisition of Jeffrey Smart “Sunday in Rome”. But the collection that I have recently donated to Melbourne University was commenced as an Australian Contemporary Collection started in 1995 as a Museum Collection.

This Collection of about 380 works of art by 70 artists has been donated to Melbourne University together with the money to build the new museum which we have built on the VCA Campus and to provide them with enough funds to finance the management of this Museum for the next 20 years.

We recently released the Buxton family history, *The Buxtons 150 years of Developing Melbourne.*”

The book is available at all good book shops.



Becoming a Yabby

As I reach the top of our street and turn left, the view opens up to trees and green fields, early morning mist lingering in the valleys. Moments like this remind me why we took the leap of faith and made our Treechange.

Spencer and I had talked about a Sea/Treechange for some time. I'd lived in semi-rural areas during my childhood and always wanted a similar environment for my children. But it was never the right time: work commitments, family commitments and the children were so well settled at SJA. Then early last year, with our middle child Arielle soon to finish primary school, we decided it was now or never.

After more than two decades living in Brighton, in that time becoming well and truly part of the school and church community, moving away was not an easy choice. We included the children in the decision and I think the lure of a pool, an extra-large backyard and more animals may have swayed them a little. We considered the Sunshine Coast and Ballina, but that's too far from family and friends and too hot for me. I spent hours researching schools, public transport and health care availability in various places closer to home. The Mornington Peninsula proved to be a good option, particularly as Spencer is a keen SCUBA diver and dives at Portsea regularly.



So we became 'Yabbies' the week before Christmas 2017. A Yabby, apparently, is a nickname for residents of Tyabb. Once the decision was made, it all happened really quickly. We found a house that we all love, in a location we love and got the children into wonderful schools all in less than two months. We now live on six acres with our two dogs, eight chickens and a varying number of stick insects (which all came with us from Brighton). Since moving we have acquired a small cat, a



Arielle, Angela, Spencer, Stirling & Lailah Denyer at home

friendly Blue-tongue lizard and we have two lovely horses agisted on our property. We have a huge 'front garden' with a 'lakelet' (too pretty to be a dam, too big to be a pond) complete with frogs and a functioning windmill. We have a pool, machinery shed and an enormous barn which is soon to become an art studio. We also have a self-contained guest room for visitors, which I'm happy to say has been well-used. We've planted fruit trees and are planning a large vegie garden. We'll have alpacas or goats in the near future too.

Rural life has its drawbacks: there are no shops within walking distance and we live on a dirt road so my car is NEVER clean. I am yet to get used to the size (seriously!) and number of spiders that invade our house and outbuildings during the warmer months, but I am coming to terms with my arachnophobia. Our cat keeps the mouse population under control and is doing his best with the rabbits and fortunately we have yet to see a snake.

But the advantages are many. Being between two bays, Port Phillip and Westernport, the air is fresh and clean; the roads are quieter. The children have made new friends and settled well into their new schools - St Brendan's Primary School (Somerville) and Padua Secondary College. The shops are only a few minutes' drive away. Our dogs think they are in paradise, having an enormous garden complete with rabbits to chase (they never catch any). Our chickens love the extra space and are laying plenty of eggs. We go to sleep at night listening to the frog chorus from our lakelet and we can have bonfires in the winter. And best of all, even though we miss our Bayside friends, we are really not too far away. Life is good and we are blessed.

Angela Denyer

Don't Keep History a Mystery

On 26 May seven members of the Social Justice Group attended the Flag Raising Ceremony in the gardens of the Bayside Council in Sandringham. The raising of each flag of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people marked the start of National Reconciliation Week. The theme for the week was “*Don't Keep History a Mystery*”.

Carolyn Briggs, Elder of the Boonwurrung people who inhabited Bayside for many thousands of years, was the first speaker. She spoke about the importance of learning the history of the indigenous people in Victoria, including their culture, spirituality, language and artwork. To show respect for each other was also highlighted. She concluded her speech by asking all those present to say with enthusiasm: “Wominjeka” or Welcome!

Ellen José (1951 – 2 June 2017), an important Indigenous artist and photographer, was renowned for spreading this theme through her artwork. Her son Joshua spoke on her behalf, remembering how Ellen’s work explored the heritage and political aspects of the Australian Indigenous life.

Ellen’s husband Dr Joseph Toscano announced 4 bursaries offered through the Ellen José Memorial Foundation. Four students from Bayside will be offered the chance to win \$500 each by entering a drawing and writing competition. Ellen’s hope was that by starting with the children of today, there will be a better chance for true reconciliation in the future. The mayor of Bayside, Cr Laurence Evans, offered his full support of the project. The first competition will be held in 2019 prior to the next Flag Raising Ceremony.



Attending this ceremony is one of the ways our Social Justice Group is supporting our “Aboriginal Project”. Our aims are to educate ourselves and the parish community about the Australian Indigenous people and to make connections within the Aboriginal community. We wish to understand the gifts they have to offer us especially Aboriginal spirituality and connection to the land. Members of our group have attended the Aboriginal Mass at the Aboriginal Catholic Ministry and we are reading books and viewing films relevant to our Project.

The Social Justice Group is looking forward to more activities and events that are in the planning stage. We hope all parishioners will extend a warm welcome to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and their culture.

Silvana van Leeuwen
Social Justice Group member



Paintings pictured above by Ellen José
‘Weris’ & ‘Indentured Labour’

Ancestry- The French Connection

Most of us know that printing was invented by Johannes Gutenberg in the fifteenth century somewhere in Germany. It actually happened in 1434 in Strasbourg in the Alsace region of the North East of France which was under German rule at the time.

The Germans and the French are the best of friends now but this friendship is relatively new. Over the centuries, Alsace was fought over by the two countries. There was the thirty-year war from 1618 to 1648 which ravaged this cradle of learning and humanism. From 1648, Alsace remained French until the Franco-Prussian war of 1870 and in 1871, it reverted back to the Reichsland. In 1919, after the first world war, it became French again. In 1940, it became German again. In November 1944, it became French again...and still is!

In 1872, two brothers from Lille, Joseph and Marcel, sick and tired of all this fighting, decided to leave France and go and try their luck "in the colonies". They opted for l'Isle de France (now Mauritius), the uninhabited island where, since 1715, the French had settled with their African slaves. They crossed over to Brest in Brittany where they boarded the sailing ship *L'Alouette* which took them to their destination in three short months.

On the same ship, were two sisters from Alsace, Eva and Maria-Louisa who had made the same decision to escape their "always at war" region to seek a better



Marie-France with her parents, Flo and Raymond and her brothers in Mauritius

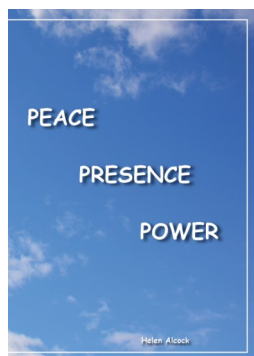
life in an exotic place where they were to be governesses to the children of two rich colonial families.

You can guess what happened: Joseph fell in love with Maria-Louisa and Marcel with Eva! Fast forward to now...Joseph's and Maria-Louisa's great-granddaughter is a parishioner of St Simon's, Rowville. I am Marcel's and Eva's great-granddaughter and a parishioner of St James Parish in Brighton.

Marie-France Urruty

Finding Peace

"The presence of grace", a wonderful article in a recent Parish Newsletter has prompted me to share about my book, *Peace Presence Power*. Never believing I could write, this book is a testimony of what is possible for anyone!



As a result of applying what has been learned, my life and the lives of many others over the past 19 years have not only been changed for the better but some even transformed.

The topics covered relate to real life situations and relationships, giving proven practical keys that work...it's no wonder though as they are founded from the Word of God!

Having been a parishioner for 34 years, I am grateful to have been involved in the St Joan of Arc school, many other groups and on the first parish council. If anyone is interested in purchasing a copy just ring me, Helen, on 0408 866 806 or purchase it from Book Depository as a hard copy or Amazon as an ebook. The hard copy is \$19.95.

Helen Alcock



Even Supergirl joined the disciples on Holy Thursday



**Bernice & Kevin Greelish
celebrated Kevin's 50th
birthday in April 2018**

**Fr Barry Moran
helped to prepare the
Year 3 students for
their First Eucharist**



Parishioners enjoy the St Joan of Arc Feast Day in May



Sr Frances Boston, Maria & Joe Reilly



**Steffie Wallace, Joan Corcoran
& Pauline Condon**



Cecelia McClean & Agnes Hughes



Sheila Vernon & Clare Davison



Adam Kaczanowski & Mary Taylor



Building works continue at St James

Snapshot of 2017

Baptisms: 75

First Eucharists: 113

Confirmations: 108

Marriages: 22

Funerals: 32

The final word

Jesus walks into a restaurant: “Table for 26, please.”

“but there are only 13 of you.”

“Yeah, I know, but we’re all going to sit along one side.”

