

Journey



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



*And He said, “My presence shall go with you,
and I will give you rest” Exodus 33:14*

Welcome to the first edition of our Journey Magazine. This new magazine includes stories and events about the parishes of St James The Great and St Joan of Arc. Many thanks to all of our contributors. We have named the magazine 'Journey' as we now travel together as companions on our faith journey and with both parishes starting with the letter 'J', Journey seemed just right.
Elaine Bolitho, Editor.



Brighton Catholic Parishes Directory



Parish Priest: Fr Martin Dixon **Catechist:** Carole Cheng **Organist:** Mary Taylor
Cantors: Adam Kaczanowski & Marie-France Urruty.

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

Card Players:

First Thursday of the month St Joan of Arc
presbytery meeting room 11.30am.

Meditation:

Mon 10am presbytery St Joan of Arc

Prayer Group:

Thursday at 8pm St Joan of Arc Church

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

Parish Accountant: Marina Stevenson

Parish Office Hours: Tue-Fri:

9.30am-3.30pm.

School Principal: Tony McMahon

School Tel: 9592 3840

Cover photo St Joan of Arc Resurrection Garden.

A New Way Of Being Church In Brighton

As I write this, it comes as a surprise that it is already 12 months since the St James the Great and St Joan of Arc parishes were twinned. Change is always difficult for all concerned and change within the Church is no different. There is always a letting-go as well as the new forms of life that appear. You know I hoped for a long time to retire soon, and this change has put a different perspective to that! I am becoming more certain each year that God has a marvellous sense of humour – only at the moment I don't quite see it!

But this is the mystery we face: the death and resurrection of Christ Jesus is always part and parcel of the life of each and every Christian. The letting-go so that the new life can rise. Life for the Church is changing world-wide and Brighton is no different. The face of the Church is so different to 25 years ago and far different to when the parishes of St James the Great and St Joan of Arc were established. I have always held that in this Church of 2017 Brighton parishes are over serviced, with four priests covering such a small area of Melbourne and a congregation of around 2000, compared with outer areas of Melbourne with one priest with far more than that number attending Mass.

Over the past 12 months considerable time has been spent on structures to meet the demands of the two parishes and schools. The two schools are finding new ways of working together, with students and staff spending time together for social, faith and educational activities. Now we have to establish two combined groups to oversee the future running of the parish: a visionary group who will develop an horizon to give us a vision, and a stewardship group who will be custodians of the resources of the parishes.

Considerable time and effort has been put into the St James end of the parish. We now have a "pop-up" church building while the rebuilding of the burnt-out church continues. The "pop-up" is very comfortable, spoiling its worshippers with heating and cooling, padded chairs with no kneelers! The builders moved on site just after Easter, and now the exterior and interior are clad with scaffolding while the stone work is repaired. The final plans for the interior are now just finalised to accommodate the liturgy for the third millennium. A consultative group has been established to look at this task and a fourth consultation meeting is to be held in the very near future.



A welcome sight as rebuilding has commenced

St Joan of Arc is continuing well. Along with the revamped courtyard at the front of the church, the new doors, create a movement from the outside world to the Word and Sacrament that nourishes our faith. Our Easter ceremonies attracted many to the church to celebrate the Lord's Passion, Death and Resurrection. Despite my "walking out" at our early morning vigil, four people stepped forward for Baptism into the Church. This is always a great witness to faith and an inspiration to all of us who have been Church-people for most of our lives.

I am looking forward to the next two years for the continued growth between the two ends of the parish and a new way of being *Church* in this world of Brighton.

Martin Dixon, Parish Priest

Welcome To St James School

It is with great pleasure that I introduce you to St James Catholic Primary School which will provide you with an insight into our wonderful community at the north end of the parish.

At St James we value our Catholic identity and our role in the faith development of our families. We have a strong focus on social justice and creating students to become active agents of positive change and appreciation and understanding of others.

St James is a school of 170 families and this distinct size enables a close partnership between the teachers, students, parents, parish and local community.

The Primary school years are essential in the development of our children academically, socially, emotionally, physically and spiritually, equipping them to be outstanding, active and informed citizens beyond their primary school years. We are extremely proud of our Year 6 graduates every year knowing that they will make an imprint on the world in their own unique way.

Currently there are 241 students at St James, who are our greatest gifts. Every one of our students is treasured as individuals and for being part of the St James Parish community. We pride ourselves on the friendliness of our school community and that we genuinely care about every child and family within the school.



At St James we endeavour to provide holistic, challenging and engaging learning experiences. Through deep learning and powerful teaching our students become animated learners. Students should know themselves, flourish, demonstrate agency and make a difference. We are passionate about providing rich and authentic learning where students not only become informed, but active global citizens.

We offer many programs at St James. Personalised learning is supported through a variety of programs and resources such as Reading Recovery, Numeracy Intervention and Levelled Literacy. The school is well resourced with digital technology offering 1:1 devices. Our specialist programs are; Performing Arts, Physical Education, Art, Japanese. For busy families we also provide a Before/After School Care.

At St James there are many opportunities for our parents to become involved in the school such as: Parents Association, Parish School Education Advisory Board, Class Reps, helping in the classroom or attending social functions and school and community assemblies. We encourage parents to partner with us in their child's learning, a partnership built on respect, inclusiveness and pastoral care.

We invite parishioners to call in and find out more about St James.

Brendan Flanagan, Principal.

St Joan of Arc School Update

The school year has commenced smoothly and it is difficult to believe that the first half of the year has come and gone. This year we welcomed fifty two prep children to the school. They have settled extremely well and are enjoying being a part of our school community. The school enrolment is 367, which means our school enrolment is at capacity. We currently have fourteen classes in the school with each year level having two classes. We continue to have strong demand for enrolment at the school.

As Part of Catholic Education Week, the Grade 6 children celebrated Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral with other children from schools from the Melbourne Archdiocese. The children love their involvement in this Mass and the concert afterwards in the Fitzroy Gardens.

The school is continuing its involvement in parish events through each class level being present at a 11:00am Sunday parish Mass throughout the year as well the school attending other important events in the parish. The parish and school will continue to work together preparing the children for the sacramental programs. At a parish like St Joan of Arc we have both a large number of children from the school and outside the parish school involved in the sacramental program. The school is extremely lucky to have the support of the parish and especially Father Martin.

The social highlight each year for the school community is the annual JAFFA Ball which is the major fundraising and social event for the year. Over 230 parents and staff gathered at the St Kilda baths for a fantastic evening. Over \$30,000 was raised on the evening and this money will go towards the upgrading of the school playground. Many parents were involved in the planning of this event and the school is lucky to have such wonderful support from the parent community.

The children at St Joan of Arc continue to do extremely well academically and this is due to the fantastic attitude of the children, the support of the parents and the great work by the staff. As a school we are proud of their achievements but more proud of the fine young people they are becoming.

The school has participated in the South Central Catholic Schools swimming sports and cross country with the school winning both events; a great result for the children who had worked hard during the training sessions. This term our children will participate in Winter Sport on Friday afternoon. This year the school will be holding an Art Show during Term Four where all the children will have the opportunity to showcase their talent.



The school continues to work closely with the other Brighton and Hampton Catholic primary schools- St Marys, St James and St Finbars with the staff of the four schools meeting once a term and the children from Grades 5 and 6 getting together for a day once a term. The staff from the schools meet together for a staff meeting each term and the principals and deputy principals meet twice a term to look at ways to improve Catholic education in the Brighton area.

The school continues to support the work of Sister Frances in Botswana and the children take this responsibility very seriously. Over the past five years, the children were able to raise enough money to make a significant difference in a number of ways for the children in the village. Each year level has a project in the village that they fundraise for each year.

With every best wish,

Tony McMahon, Principal.

Wedding Blessings

Andy Lynch & Jasmine Tremblay

Andy & Jasmine were married in April 2017. They met while students at Ormond College at The University of Melbourne.

St Joan of Arc is the "Sacrament Centre" for Andy; it is where he has celebrated Baptism, First Communion, Confirmation and now Matrimony; it is where he was a regular Reader and Musician (under the influence of his late grandmother, Margaret Flynn).

Last year was spent working with a Japanese Law Firm in Tokyo and now he is with CorrsChambers in Melbourne and Jasmine is teaching Year 12 Chemistry at University High School. They are living in North Melbourne but have regular returns to Brighton to see parents Frank & Maggie Lynch.



Kate Flett & Ben Aaen Jorgensen

Kate and Ben met in 2011 at a Danish music festival "Roskilde Festival", named after the town where it is held. Sparks flew, but Kate was jetting off to Canada for a university exchange programme. Some months later, Ben wrote to Kate that he had been thinking about going on a trip to Canada, what a coincidence! They travelled together to see Toronto and Niagara Falls, and it was there that they decided to give this long distance thing a go. After three years of travelling around the world to see each other, Kate finished her studies and found a job in Copenhagen. Ben proposed and Kate was ecstatic and said yes! Ben says, "When I first met Kate, I knew she'd be worth waiting for. Now five years on, it has been the best decision I've ever made. Thank you Kate, for always staying strong."



Kate and Ben were married by Father Martin Dixon at Kate's childhood church, St Joan of Arc on January 5 2017. Kate and her family had a long connection with the parish. Kate says, "I can still remember Father McEntee visiting our house when I was quite young. I have many memories of Saint Joan of Arc Church, including my school days, my older brother Steven's wedding, my nephew Jai's baptism, and sadly also my grandfather Tom's funeral. We are lucky to still have Grandad close, as his ashes are buried in the parish Resurrection Garden. Having celebrated both my communion and confirmation in the church, I had a strong pull to follow my older brother Steven's footsteps, and also get married there. It was a beautiful service and Father Martin kept our nerves at bay! Thanks again Father for such a fun day".

Ben's family travelled to Australia for the first time to attend the wedding and experience the Aussie lifestyle. Ben says, "It was such a great experience to have our two families together in Australia." Kate adds, "living apart for so long had its ups and downs, but I really found out just how important Ben is to me. I'm so happy to be spending the rest of my life with Ben. Thank you Sanne and Jan for raising such a kind and loving young man, and for making the big trip to to celebrate with us, and thankyou to my mum Bernadette for so graciously hosting us all". Kate and Ben would like to extend a huge thank you to family and friends who celebrated their special day with them.

Des & Barbara Randall 70th Wedding Anniversary

It was a classic wartime romance when Des and Barbara met in 1943 while Des was on leave from the RAN. It was Barbara's 19th birthday and they "danced the night away" at the Embassy night club. After missing the last train home they caught the tram to Elsternwick and walked three miles to Barbara's house in Brighton Beach, chatting all the way.

Soon after Des returned to duty on board the HMAS Whyalla which then joined the US Pacific Fleet. They survived a typhoon near Tokyo and the nearby bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Des was discharged from the navy in 1946 and married Barbara on the 15th February 1947 in St Joan of Arc Church.

Des and Barb raised five children and now reside back in Brighton after 20 years at Nelson Bay in NSW. Still happily married after 70 years Des says "Barb and I love each other dearly and I am still in love with my wonderful Barbara".



Baptism - The Joy to belong

Every year our parish welcomes many children and their families through the Sacrament of Baptism. The number of babies being baptised remains strong with 58 baptisms in 2016. Many of those families are new to the parish and want to belong to the extended family of St James and St Joan of Arc Parishes.

It is great to see how families have grown close to our parish and its sacramental life. They experience the joy belonging to an active, welcoming community. Living their faith is a constant witness to the risen Lord. As we welcome more babies and children into our community through the waters of baptism let us pray that we continue to welcome those who seek God. May we grow in our own faith and serve by bringing the Gospel to everyone around us.

Cesar Lopez, Pastoral Associate.

Many thanks to Cesar for his great contribution to the parish. Cesar has now left to pursue his interests in hospital chaplaincy.



Of doors, their symbolism and the Commission that is the Sacred Entrance to the Brighton Catholic Church

The family who lived next door had a great sign on their front door – ‘A hundred thousand welcomes’. It is a cream wooden door, up the steps and across the weatherboard veranda hangs a handsome, polished brass bell. The sign twinkles its welcome in Gaelic: **Cead Mile Failte**, A hundred thousand welcomes or often translated as *You are welcome a thousand times, wherever you come from, whoever you be*, (they were hardly ever at home).

Front doors speak. They always have. *I am the door*, Jesus said in speaking of himself as the Good Shepherd (John 10:7); *so too, when you see these things, recognize that He is near, right at the door.* (Matt 24: 33).

The earliest Christians in Rome met together in the house of one of the group. The meetings were warm, deep, friendly and often held in secret. No signs on the door. To belong to the new religion was dangerous. As the movement gathered numbers, recognition and power, it became more common to meet in buildings, often old law courts (basilica) that were usually rectangular in shape with a curved, raised area holding the seat of the judge.

Our parish church at Brighton is strongly influenced by the early basilica in its simplicity and shape. It is rectangular with a raised area at one end, a long straight central aisle which terminates at its ceremonial doors. The narthex (gathering place) is inside these doors although the recent changes to the street front has created a second kind of gathering place. Architecturally, the church is significant. It opened in 1938 on the site of the 1921 church/school when it was named for the newly canonized warrior-saint, Joan of Arc, the Maid of Orléans. The architects of the new building were O'Connor and Brophy, and the parish priest, Father Patrick Fennessy. The Foundation Stone was laid on April 18, 1920 by Daniel (Dan) Mannix, the very famous feisty Archbishop of Melbourne. Martin Dixon, the present parish priest spoke recently about the need and the decision to commission new doors:



“Like eyes are to the soul, so doors are to the building. When the old doors began to disintegrate, and the glass ones became a trap for little hands, it was time to replace them. This proved a lot harder than going to Doors Plus! For two years we came up with sketches, designs and plans, but each was not quite right. We were seeking a design that, as we enter would lead us into the mystery of the church, and on leaving would open us to the world outside.”

In 2016 the Commission for the new doors was given to highly respected and innovative sculptor-artist, Anthony Russo (www.orcharddesign.com.au). We visited him in his studios in the centre of the family orchard outside Pakenham. Anthony is a youngish man, with a string of church and liturgical projects behind him who communicates enthusiasm and competence. He had independently visited the parish site and had roughed out some ideas. He is also a great *finisher* and respected as such among his peers and clients.

“Now that the Commission is complete”, Anthony said last week, “I wanted to do something that would pay homage to the architecture and the building. For starters, the doors need to have the same integrity as the building. Then I wanted to connect the theme to the patron saint, Joan of Arc, the young warrior-saint who wore armour and is pictured often as loyal and brave and never timid. The diamond bronze plates, so bright at first have now weathered in the rain into a soft, blue-green.”

The two panels of slumped, forged glass were created by Wayne Rayson, of Toucan Glass in South Caulfield. The technique is innovative; from the outside, the panel designs thrust upwards, completing the façade which culminates in the tower. Wayne said “ I also like the way the colour patters with its blues, soft greens and rich sandy golds which whisper, beach”.

I’m pleased with the doors now; they bring a sense of security. I like the way they open fully both out and inwards, they are transition and threshold, internally offering a soft contemplative, safe place. Outwardly they acknowledge busy New Street with the constant buzz of life reminding us that to be Christian is to be called both ways.

Sr Rosemary Crumlin

Visit To The Holy Door

2016 was the Year of Mercy, and our previous Parish Priest, Fr Michel Corriveau had the idea of a parish visit to The Holy Door at St Patrick's Cathedral. We decided that St James' Day, 25th July would be appropriate for this pilgrimage. Terry & Margaret Lovick organised the event with the help of the staff at the Cathedral.



About 20 of us set off in the coach and arrived at The Holy Door. It was opened, especially for us, that day. Fr Martin met us there and we walked to the Sacred Heart Chapel for our Patronal Mass. Fr Martin was so caring and supportive, with a homily that really lifted our spirits.

After Mass, we toured the Cathedral. Terry was able to show parishioners where Archbishop Little is buried. Terry had been an usher at the Pontifical Requiem with The Knights of the Southern Cross, and was on duty when the coffin was actually laid. Then we toured the lovely grounds and

water courses, ending up at the Cathedral shop, which delighted everyone who visited. The lunch was served at the Cardinal Knox Centre - scrumptious.

It was a great opportunity for the long term parishioners to get together, to pray and to chat, the camaraderie was really inspiring. We compared notes all the way home.

A special note of thanks to our Parish Secretary, Robyn, who organised all the detail for the day. She helped to brighten us all by coming along and taking lots of photos. We hope to organise another outing before too long.

Margaret Wakeham

Parish Photo Album



Sonder, the ecumenical young adult group enjoyed a game of tennis at St Peter's Anglican Church in February.



Ecumenical Good Friday Pilgrims' Walk started at Majellan House, then travelled along the beach before ending at St Andrew's Anglican Church for hot cross buns.



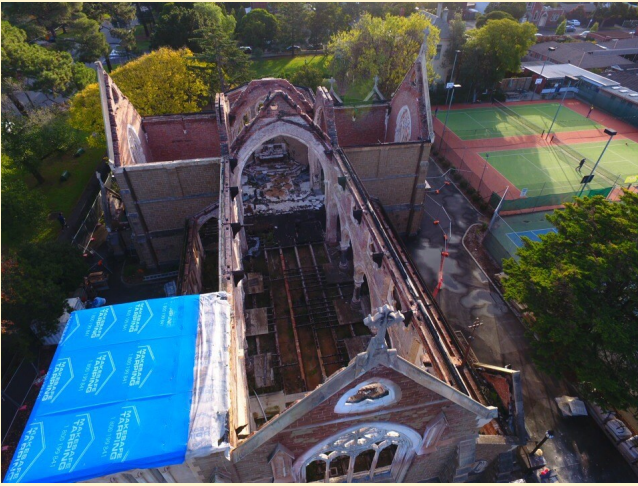
RCIA Candidate Lisa Redman was received into the Catholic Church on the same day as her baby William was baptised.



Brighton bikies? No, it's Fr Martin's brother Michael & wife Geraldine on holiday from Hobart.



St James 'Pop-Up' Church is enjoyed by parishioners as it's warm in winter & cool in summer.



Aerial views of St James & St Joan of Arc Churches



St Joan of Arc Feast Day celebration in May 2017 enjoyed by Alex & Peter Bolitho & Kevin Greelish.



Bernie & Helen Daffey, Peter & Sheila Howell chat to Fr Martin at the Feast Day morning tea.



2017 Parish award winners for outstanding service to the parishes presented by Fr Martin Dixon.

**St James: Carmel Sullivan, John Taylor & Alberto Sabato (not pictured)
St Joan of Arc: Sr Rosemary Crumlin, Helen & Bernie Daffey & Eve Walsh (pictured at right). Elaine Sexton received her award before returning home to Texas.**



Bringing Hope At Christmas

How much do you think the Australian government gives to help poor people in developing countries? Most people guess we would give away about 20 per cent of our gross national income in international aid. It comes as a shock to discover that we give a miserly 22 cents out of every \$100 of our national income to assist the desperately poor to get out of poverty.

While we can urge the Australian government to show greater generosity to those who have less by ramping up our international aid, we can also help our neighbours directly through buying their products and so increase their income.

St Joan of Arc's annual Christmas fair gives parishioners the opportunity to buy unusual, handmade Christmas presents and food, with the profits flowing to people in developing countries.

We source some of our gifts from the Good Shepherd's Trading Circle, whose motto is 'Empowering women to trade out of poverty'. Since 1995, The Trading Circle has been providing skill-based training and a market place for women in developing countries so that they can raise themselves out of poverty with dignity and respect.

The women in the Producer Groups work hard and are paid a fair and just price that enables them to provide for their families. In Thailand, the producers are located in the remote hill country where children are in danger from human traffickers. During the school holidays, children join the producers, learning to make cards like the one shown here. This was made by Nonnie, a healthy 8 year-old who lives with her mother and step father, both of whom are living with HIV. The money Nonnie earns helps to meet the costs of her education.

In contrast, the Azaadi Project - 'Azaadi' means 'freedom' – was started by a group of friends in Queenscliff and Geelong who were supporting a number of young Afghani and Iraqi refugees in the Baxter detention centre. After their release, the young men came to live with their support families and shared food and memories of traditional Afghani cooking.

Supporters and refugees started the Azaadi project, making and selling chutneys following traditional Afghani recipes. The project builds bridges between cultures and provides opportunities to develop new skills and to regain self-esteem. Proceeds support refugees' families who live in precarious circumstances overseas while awaiting family reunion.

Timor Friendship coffee is sourced from Timor-Leste (East Timor) and packaged by Coffex. Buying this coffee helps to provide scholarships for disadvantaged students from Remexio, which has a twinned parish relationship with Sacred Heart parish in Sandringham. They visit Remexio annually to assist students and monitor their progress in completing their schooling or university studies.

Many thanks to our parishioners whose generosity supports those who need a helping hand to raise themselves out of poverty and lead dignified lives.

Sheila Howell and Helen Praetz-Daffey



From Aitape To Melbourne

When suggested I might contribute to the new parish magazine, I decided a comparison between Christmastime in Australia and our next door neighbouring country could be a most topical and relevant subject.

This time last year I celebrated Advent and Christmas in Aitape, a remote little town in N.W coastal Papua New Guinea, where it is about 30 degrees or more every day of the year. Our Sisters and their friends were preparing for the 50th Jubilee of Presentation life in the country, but also preparing a Christmas meal for the patients and carers at the Haus Sik. (hospital). They can often be hungry if they are a long way from home and have to wait until after the party! We had saved up, and helped by donations, had gifts ready for the 'sik manmeri', mainly soap, clothes, lollies, books and small toys. We spent from 8am till mid-afternoon, peeling vegetables and cooking the food over open fires.



Ready for singsings

There was a cordial fruit juice drink for everyone, while the meal consisted of buns, green vegetables mixed with tinned fish, sweet potato, pumpkin, taro cakes, rice, cooked bananas, beans and saksak (boiled or fried sago) all cooked in coconut milk. The Poor Clare Sisters, who keep chooks and sell eggs for their livelihood, always give us enough boiled eggs for the patients, on which our Novices practise their face-painting skills. Dessert was sliced pineapple, sliced cucumber, and bananas. You might like to compare this to the meal you enjoyed on Christmas Day, but, believe me, it was relished. As we entered each ward, a young Sister greeted the patients, said a Christmas prayer for the occasion, and the serving was accompanied by the singing of carols.



One group of helpers went by truck to the Kalabus, which is really a remand centre, but where those there might have to wait months for their cases to be heard, with conditions far from comfortable. There, inmates have just one meal a day which we, families and church groups try to supplement. The water tanks may be dry in the Dry Season, so water is rationed and we take extra water these days for washing, drinking and cooking. Our friends at the Kalabus were also served the banquet described above as were some families in need.

In situations of poverty, or perhaps because of them, Christmas and New Year liturgies are most enthusiastically prepared and celebrated in villages throughout the Province. Days are spent with nearly everyone involved in cleaning, decorating churches and worship areas, and the previous weeks in practising singing and dancing (singsings) and producing colourful, creative and often humorous dramas. People of all ages take part in these activities-from young children to the elderly.

All that said, and differences noted, I am very grateful for what is provided in our twinned parishes. I reflect on how lucky I am to have experienced such a rich church life in P.N.G for so many years, but now, back home, to be enjoying being a part of my re-vitalised parish of St. James

Sr Felicity Corder

“A Very Good Man”

Gerry Devine

(16.02.1938 – 18.10.2016)

On Friday, 25 October a Memorial Mass was celebrated at St Joan of Arc’s for the life of Gerry Devine. Gerry was a stalwart of the St Joan of Arc St Vincent de Paul Society Conference and served on our Conference for well over 30 years. Throughout this time, Gerry fulfilled various roles including visiting those in need, organizing the Piety Stall, acting as Assistant Secretary, participating with the Winter and Christmas Appeals and delivering our Christmas hampers.



For several years Gerry and I made fortnightly visits to Vincentville, six very basic fibro units in Baker St Brighton set up by the SVDP Society as temporary accommodation for refugees after the Second World War. Whilst our official task was to collect the \$20 rent, our more practical task was to check that all was well with the accommodation and to help the families with their assimilation and to sort out any schooling, medical or employment concerns. Gerry’s compassion and empathy were very much appreciated by the families we visited and I know that he experienced a deep sense of joy when these families were able to move on to more substantial housing.

Gerry had a wonderful sense of humour. I will never forget his address as our guest speaker at one of our St Joan of Arc Mens’ Breakfasts. At the time, Gerry, a journalist, had a public relations role with Tatts and one of his more pleasant duties was to phone the major winners with the good news. At our breakfast, Gerry related the story that one of those sole winners was most annoyed that there would be no publicity, no reporting, of his prize either in the newspapers, radio or TV – Tatts privacy policy. On inquiring why this upset the winner, he duly told Gerry that he had just completed his divorce settlement with his wife, who had almost cleaned him out, and now, with his \$2M win, his wife “wouldn’t get a penny of it” and he wanted his wife, her relations and all the world to know it!

Gerry was loved and admired by all who were privileged to know him and when Alzheimer’s took him away from us, he was sorely missed. Our sincere sympathy to Gerry’s wife, Jackie, and his son, Anthony, and other members of Gerry’s family who have had a difficult time over the past few years.

Gerry Devine was such a very good man and he epitomized all that is good about the St Vincent de Paul Society.

Peter Toms, SVDP Brighton Conference President 2014-16.

For Healing & Reconciliation

On Sunday the 4th December last year, Fr Martin planned to conduct a very special service on the lawn at St James, a *Service of Lament for Healing and Reconciliation*. He hoped that this time spent together to share the happy memories and acknowledge the sadness would give comfort to those whose lives have been shattered by the horrendous actions of a trusted pastor. Then we could take positive steps in acknowledging the past, embracing the present and move forward as a community, restoring the church building after the devastating fire.

Yes! We hoped to gather on the lawn, but God had other plans! It was pouring rain. So we gathered in the little pop up church. We were cocooned closely in a warm protected, safe place. It was a sacred place. We prayed, we listened to the words of Isaiah, promising us God's peace, as well as to those of St Peter acknowledging us as God's people.

Fr Martin spoke words of comfort, and prayed with us a most beautiful prayer of reconciliation. So we prayed, we sang, we listened. It was a deeply moving and reverend occasion that resulted in many shedding tears; tears of sadness, of comfort, and finally, joy. In that ceremony we faced the sadness and were comforted in the knowledge that our children are at peace, 'in the palm of God's hand'.

At the end of the ceremony, gathering a damaged tile, to keep carefully and lovingly until it will be made part of a mosaic in the 'new' church, was challenging initially. But once the congregation quietly took up this challenge, I came to the realization that it was in fact an act of healing.



Many thanks to Fr Martin for a beautifully thought out and carefully and lovingly planned ceremony. His sincerity was palpable, as was his pain and sorrow. There was no need to feel guilty for deeds of others.

After the service I felt at peace.

Carole Cheng

Greetings From Texas



Steve and I arrived back to McKinney, Texas this past April 18th after spending 30 (glorious) months in Brighton, Victoria. It was difficult to say goodbye to our church family and friends we made in Australia; a bittersweet feeling as it was very nice to reacquaint ourselves with family and friends in McKinney, Texas and our Parish family at St Gabriel the Archangel. St Gabriel's was a new parish (without a sanctuary) when we first moved to McKinney in 1999 but now has over 3200 families and is in the process of building a massive church costing about \$18 million.

Currently our worship area (pictured) where Mass is held and special services like Divine Mercy Sunday can seat 750 people or a total of 3,000 over 4 weekend Masses. Steve and I are enjoying our family and friends, a beautiful new home, and returning to our routine here in the states, but we will never forget the experiences we shared there and the friendships we will cherish for a lifetime. May God continue to bless St. Joan of Arc Parish.

Peace of Christ, Steve and Elaine Sexton



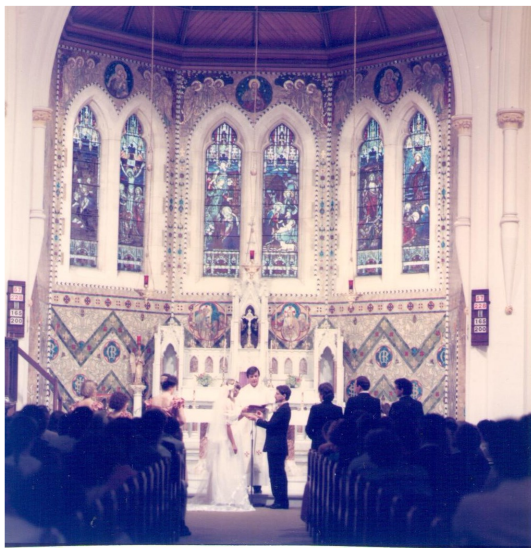
St James- looking back with Bob Semmel

Bob recalls that parish life has changed greatly since he was born in St James parish in 1925. The parish was served by up to three priests with three Sunday morning Masses starting at 7am. On Sunday evening there was Benediction before the Blessed Sacrament. Mass each week-day was at 7am.

The church was full at all Sunday Masses including the choir loft. It was the duty of some parishioners to usher the crowd to make room for everyone. A large number of Presentation Nuns would also be in attendance.

Mass attendance was strongly encouraged and priests regularly visited parishioners at home. Parishioners also enjoyed the opportunity to socialise with the clergy.

In stark contrast to our privacy laws today sermons included reading the names of contributors and the amounts donated for the Easter and Christmas offerings.



Parish groups included Sacred Heart Sodality one group for women and one for men in addition to a Holy Name Society for the men and boys. Monthly attendance at Confession was also recommended.

Each month the Children of Mary group of young women in the parish would attend Mass together wearing their blue cloaks. As Bob recalls "it was a good chance for the young men to keep an eye open for a future bride".

The parish also provided men and women opportunities to socialise at parish picnics and dances.

The Presentation Nuns operated the parish school which was originally located on the site of the present car park. Parish facilities were limited as the school was also used for parish dances and parish meetings of groups such as the Catholic Young Men's Society (CYMS).

With the rebuilding of St James Church we can now look forward to a very bright future for the parish.

Steffie's Book

Local artist, Steffie Wallace, was in St James' choir for many years and is now a St Joan of Arc parishioner. Her novel *The August Months*, has been recently re-published with a preface by Professor David Penington AC. Set in Melbourne, the Gold Coast and Port Douglas in the late 1980s, the story centres around addiction and recovery. It is a story of hope, of optimism and of the ability to rise above tragedy and adversity. Locally, it is available from Thesaurus Books, Brighton, and Dymocks, Southland, with 25% of each copy sold donated to charity.

For more information, go to www.theaugustmonths-steffiewallace.com.



**Bob Semmel & Pamela Haddad
married at St James 1 Dec 1951**



Making A Splash With Tanya

My swimming journey began while growing up on a farm. As part of a large family I spent a lot of time outdoors. Most of our family holidays were either at the beach or near a body of water. I started swimming at a young age, mainly because summer time in the Wimmera was hot. My Dad built us a pool out of an old water tank and we would also swim in the dams on the farm.

My parents have always placed great importance on having a career and I moved to Melbourne after Year 12 to complete an Applied Science undergraduate degree I then worked in schools as an Integration Aide and After School Care Coordinator while studying for a Bachelor of Primary Education.

Joining a gym with friends led to the opportunity to swim with a group of people who inspired me to set goals. These ranged from open water swims, triathlons, Ironman competitions and swimming across the English Channel.

I started to become involved in competitive swimming because of an email that was forwarded to me about a sporting talent day run by the Australian Paralympic Committee. Within a year I had joined a swimming club and competed at the selection trials that resulted in competing internationally. I was fortunate to be selected for the Australian Swim Team for the 2016 Rio Paralympics and also competed at the 2012 London Paralympic Games.

I made the most of the opportunity to train at the AIS in Canberra and took leave from teaching for 18 months in the lead up to London 2012. Managing teaching (at St Joan of Arc School) and training was a tight routine in the lead up to Rio 2016 and setting an early alarm on cold, winter mornings is not always an easy task. I have taken the year off from competitive pool swimming for 2017 and next year will contemplate the possible journey to the 2020 Tokyo Paralympic Games.



London 2012 Opening Ceremony

I have met many amazing people as part of these ventures. I think it is the 70+ year old triathletes and swimmers (some being Brighton Icebergers) that are my true role models as people who are motivated to do something they love for reasons that are not focused on podiums and winning. Having seen first-hand the issues that professional athletes are facing with leaving sport, it is a relief to see the community talking openly about supporting retiring athletes and the importance of having a range of interests and a career outside of sport. I am glad that I enjoy swimming for fun and have great role models around me. It has definitely made me appreciate the values my parents instilled in me and I will always be thankful for that.

Tanya Huebner

*“Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.”
(Matthew 25:40)*

I was invited to join the Military and Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem in 1998 and was invested as an Officer when I attended the Order’s International Grand Reunion in Prague. The Order has its origins in a leper hospital, founded by St. Basil of Caesarea, just outside the North wall of Jerusalem in the fourth century AD. When the Crusaders brought the major chivalric orders to Jerusalem, a need was created to cater for the knights who had contracted leprosy and so the Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus became the body responsible for their care. Because leprosy was an incurable disease and because of constant threats to the hospital from marauders, it became necessary to convert what had been a nursing order into a military and defence organisation. The Order historically came into existence as a chivalric order in 1098 AD and thus marked its 900th anniversary in 1998. It is now an ecumenical order and His Eminence, George Cardinal Pell, has been the National Chaplain of the Order in Australia for many years.

Members of the Order wear the eight-pointed Cross, each point stands for one of the eight chivalric values: Faith, Hope, Love, Mercy, Gallantry, Justice, Wisdom, and Moderation. Since my investiture, I have been promoted to the rank of Commander and am now a Chevalier (KLJ) as well as an Officer of the Order’s Companionship of Merit (OMLJ).

Shortly after my joining the Order, I became Chairman of a charitable organisation formed by members of the Order, called Green Cross Project Inc. (www.greencrossproject.org). We started with one outreach bus, an old Volvo bus, converted to a mobile clinic including a consulting room, to assist the homeless, the destitute, the drug users, and the marginalised members of our society.

Originally we worked closely with Southern Health and the bus was regularly seen in the Dandenong-Springvale area. When Southern Health was no longer able to use the bus, we teamed up with Western Region Health, which merged with kindred organisations and became “cohealth”, which provides services to the communities in Collingwood, Fitzroy, Carlton, the CBD, North Melbourne, Kensington, Moonee Ponds, Essendon, Strathmore, Niddrie, Reservoir, Footscray, West Footscray, Braybrook, Sunshine, St. Albans, Deer Park, Hoppers Crossing, Laverton, Werribee, Sunbury, and Melton.



Our buses are used by a variety of health teams, including the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Team, the Homeless Community Support Team, the Assertive Outreach Homeless Allied Health Team, and the Supported Residential Services Assertive Outreach.

The services offered include delivery of food to Aboriginal elders for distribution to individuals and families, assessments and referrals to cohealth and other services, allocation of support and case management, health checks and cultural appropriate response to squatting sites, mobile health checks, counselling, housing assessment, information and referrals to singles, couples, and families with children.

There are teams offering oral and dental health screening & referral to dentists, as well as mental health screening and counselling.

The work we do is best described in our Mission Statement:

“Green Cross Project Inc. works to provide a health management service to meet the needs of homeless, disadvantaged, and marginalised young and adult members of the community in relation to health maintenance, disease prevention, primary care and support of the highest standards, which, with Christian values of compassion, justice, honesty, and benevolence, recognises the needs and rights of the individual, regardless of gender, race, creed, and social standing. It provides Green Cross Outreach Buses on a regional basis to assist health workers and community members to gain and provide information about issues to people at risk.”

Dr Walter W J Uhlenbruch AO (Chairman of Green Cross Project Inc.)

Racing To Mass

Eric Tymms has been a parishioner of St Joan of Arc for 45 years. Eric is well known in the parish for his powerful voice, a skill he developed as a bookmaker on the racetrack. Starting as a bookmaker in 1951, Eric retired from the track in 2005.

Eric was not alone in the Church for his enthusiasm for racing. Fr John Pierce from St Teresa's Parish Essendon was a keen racing fan and back in 1958 he started a committee linking religion to racing. All denominations were welcome. Frank Mc Cann, Frank James and Eric organised a Bookmaker Retreat which still takes place each year and will celebrate 60 years in 2018.

Following on from the success of the retreat they established the first Racing Mass in 1959 at St Francis Church in Lonsdale St, Melbourne. Every year on the Sunday before Cup Day the Racing Fraternity Mass is attended by trainers, jockeys, owners and strappers. The Melbourne Cup is brought to the church for a blessing. Over the years there have been three Racing Chaplains: Fr John Pierce (1959-1970); Monsignor Bernie O'Reagan (1971-1991) and the current chaplain Fr Brendan Dillon.

Eric extends a warm welcome to parishioners to join him at one of the Racing Fraternity Masses.



Archbishop Frank Little,
Brent Thomson,
Bill Collins and
Eric Tymms

St James Tennis Players

Rejoice In Unprecedented Victories!

In June the St James tennis club Representative Mens' and Juniors' teams played off against each other in their respective divisional Grand Finals for the Autumn Season in their Bayside Tennis Association competitions. They were premiers and runners-up in both Grand Finals which has not happened before and is a fantastic result for the club.

Juniors' Grand Final

St James Team 1 was undefeated during the season which is amazing given they are such a young team (7 to 9 year olds) and St James Team 2 made it through to the Grand Final. St James 1 represented by Maddison King, Samuel Shedden, Marcel Szyrkowska, Barney Smith, Lachie King (brother of Maddie); defeated a very competitive St James 2 represented by Bridie Hill, Isaac Walsh, Vaughan Bodnar, Lukas Morfeld and Leah Burns (played the whole season, but was unable to play finals as moved OS) – We are so very proud of these terrific and talented kids and their parents for the long mornings.



Mens' Grand Final

The Bayside Division 1 Mens' Grand Final was played with the top two finishing teams, both from St James battling it out and providing an epic and entertaining season finale. The St James Premiers not only took out the minor premiership having leapfrogged the All Stars in the final home and away season, but they also won their 3rd consecutive Division 1 Flag in a row beating an improved and ascending All Stars team, 4 sets to 2.



The final was played at St James in beautiful dry winter conditions with little wind and the Premiers were challenged from the outset with the All Stars hungry for their first Division 1 flag after a number of failed attempts. It was a close contest with 1 set all after the first 2 sets and then again it became 2 sets all with 2 sets to play. The Premiers held off the challenge and were victorious in the last 2 sets with some brilliant play from both sides.

The Premiers side was Jamie Pfahl, Andrew Clements, Matt Stein and Jarrod Harrington (Ari Nimorakiatakis, Cameron Eldridge was Captain and Marcus Doherty absent). The All Stars had playing Anthony Forster, Steve Visic, Dan Tehan and Mick Cunningham as Captain (Adam Ockwell, Tony Nowell and Theo Ioannidis absent). It was great to see a large gallery of St James club members come down and support both teams as well as the healthy rivalry that has now been created in this regular "derby" between the two St James sides. This has not only increased the interest in tennis from our local community at all levels but the club has definitely become stronger as a result.

Unfortunately our other juniors and ladies teams didn't make finals but will be back next season ready to have a go. Well done to all!

Marcus Doherty, Club President St James Tennis Club