



To be on earth the Heart of God

KIT@Kippax





Time out for reflection

Reaching out and Connecting

A church was looking for a new priest, and the bishop sat down with church leaders to talk about what they wanted to see in this new person. "Someone who can attract young families," they said. This made sense, because the church had been in decline for many years, and the congregation was aging. So the bishop asked them, "What is it about your church that young families would find attractive now?"

They looked at each other, then at the floor.

"Well, what attracted you to this church when you first started to come here?" the bishop asked encouragingly.

"It's the fellowship. This is where I can see my friends every week, and we can catch up with each other's lives," one woman replied. "It's where I get a sense of belonging, where my friendships were formed."

The bishop thought for a moment, then said, "Yes, and these days, people who are under the age of 35 with children can get that same sense of belonging and friendship building at their kids' soccer games, or other sports activities. They build friendships with other parents whose kids are involved in the same things their kids are involved in."

They don't need church for 'fellowship,'" the bishop said. "What else?"

"Well, church is where I get involved in helping other people. We work at the food pantry or take a meal to the homeless shelter, and I get a lot of satisfaction out of that," said one man.

"Yes, and people who are under the age of 35 do those things, too. They just don't need a church to help them do it. They are very involved in social justice issues, but they work through secular organizations to get that same satisfaction," the bishop told them. "What else?" The room was silent. Someone coughed.

Finally, the bishop said, "What's the one thing that church has to offer that soccer teams and social agencies often don't? ... Anyone?" Still no answer. "Okay, look at it this way. What difference has being part of this church made to your faith? How has following Jesus Christ, as a member of this congregation, changed your life?"

"Oh bishop," one man grumbled, "You don't want to go there. That's getting too personal!"

"Well," the bishop answered, "it's the one thing you have going for you that other social groups and service groups don't. The one thing the church can claim as its own is Jesus, and if you can't identify how Jesus has changed your life, what makes you think anyone else would be attracted to your church?"

As we approach our parish 50th anniversary go back and reflect on how you were attracted to this parish what made you remain and what do you find good and bad and what is your participation and how are you connected to other parishioners.

This month we celebrated the feast of Mary MacKillop, she was a person who spent her life reaching out, giving and connecting. God's presence was a dominant feature of her life. The witness we have experienced in a nation's response is Mary's call to us in every day life.

God is with us in it all, good or challenging. Let us light a candle in our heart which reminds us that Christ is the light of the world. Take time to reflect and recount the blessings of the past days.

Pray in gratitude.

Submitted by Fr. Michael Stephan msc

PASTORAL MINISTRY

Altar Servers at St John the Apostle Kippax

Altar servers are a vital part of the liturgical ministry. They are vital because altar servers perform not just a functional role, but a symbolic role and symbolism is the language of worship. Their actions in the Mass are symbolic of much more than you think and the way they serve can lead others closer to God.

Servers should be mature enough to understand their responsibilities and to carry them out well and with appropriate reverence.

They should have already received the Sacrament of the Eucharist normally receive the eucharist whenever they participate in the liturgy.

**Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them:
for it is to much that the kingdom
of heaven belongs."**

MATT:19:14

Stories from Our Altar Servers

Chenelle Gonsalves

Hello Everyone, I started my journey as an Altar Server at St. John's the Apostle over a year ago after I received my First Holy Communion. I always wanted to be a part of the church and found myself drawn towards being an Altar Server. Watching the Acolytes serve every Sunday, I felt that was what I am meant to do too.

Sabina has guided and trained me to becoming the Altar Server I am today. Everyone at church have been very welcoming and supportive of me in my role.

I have served Altar Server for my brother's Confirmation Mass, Holy Thursday and Christmas in addition to Sunday service. I enjoy being part of the church and will continue to serve the church.



Training

Children will be asked to attend two training sessions of about 30 minutes with a parent at the church on a Saturday afternoon. The first session will be with Sabina Van Rooy Server Coordinator and the second session will be with Sabina and one of the acolytes with whom your child will server with on their preferred time. At the end of the second session your child will be given an Altar Server's alb and will receive a Sunday Mass Procedures booklet explaining step by step what they will be asked to do when serving at a weekend Mass.

We currently have vacant Mass times over the weekends: Vigil Saturday 6pm (5pm winter time), Sunday 8:30am and Sunday 10am.

To join the Altar Server roster, please contact:

PARISH OFFICE

PHONE 0262543236

EMAIL kippax@cg.org.au

Sabina Van Rooy Server Coordinator

MOBILE 0428329951

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Aisling Straffon

The reason I became an altar server is because to me being an altar server means being a part of the Parish community. I have always wanted to do it, but Mum told me I needed to make my First Holy Communion first. While I am on the altar, I feel very happy, and I enjoy it very much. The adult altar servers that I serve with are really encouraging and whenever I need help, they know how to help me. Sometimes I serve at my school St John the Apostle Primary School, and I really enjoy doing that. I would like to say thank you to the Parish community for helping me to become an altar server.



Daven Martinez

I'm one of the newest altar servers, and I've always wanted to be one, and from the moment when my mum said, I am able to, I was filled with joy. This was the first time I started to serve, I was nervous, but I made it through. I feel blessed that I get to serve God at church, but when I first saw the bell, it frightened me. You have to hit the bell at a certain time, place, not too fast and too slow. When you do it for a while, which I haven't yet, it's pretty simple. It also brought me closer and learned more and more about God. And to really sum it all up, it is a great honour to serve God, and you can join in to.

VINNIES UPDATE – TWINNING

The Vinnies volunteers at St John's provide support and assistance to those in our immediate community who ask for support. Alongside this work we also provide assistance to our twin conference in India. We are twinned with Sts Peter and Paul Conference in Thuraiyur in Tamil Nadu.

TWINNING HAS THREE AIMS:

- to provide Conferences with both material and spiritual support, to assist them in undertaking their Vincentian work
- to facilitate communication between Conferences around the world, promoting a spirit of understanding, friendship and solidarity among all Vincentians
- to promote the establishment of new conferences by helping them in their formation, training and expansion.

Twinning endeavours to move a supported conference to self-sufficiency.

WHO BENEFITS FROM TWINNING?

The St Vincent de Paul Society in Australia is twinned in partnerships with 14 countries. Our Conferences and Councils express their twinning commitment by sharing their spirituality through prayer, their culture through letters, and their financial resources through a basic quarterly contribution and an optional grant at Easter and Christmas time.

Twinning is open only to those countries in which the St Vincent de Paul Society operates. Currently twinning commitments have evolved between 153 countries throughout the world.

HOW YOUR GENEROSITY HELPS

Money donated from St John's Parish has been used by Sts Peter and Paul Conference this year to provide rice, vegetables and other grocery items to ten poor families in their local community. The value of each of these parcels was Rs.600 (equivalent to \$11.00 Aus) per recipient. In a recent letter to St John's the President of Sts Peter and Paul Conference remarked:

WE ARE VERY MUCH GRATEFUL TO YOU FOR YOUR TIMELY AND PRECIOUS HELP, DURING THIS PANDEMIC



The accompanying photo shows the families that received the food parcels financed by donations from St John's parishioners.

Our twin conference is grateful for our prayers as well, especially during the current pandemic. You may like to include the "Twinning Prayer" when you next pray.

In the Gospels our Lord says:

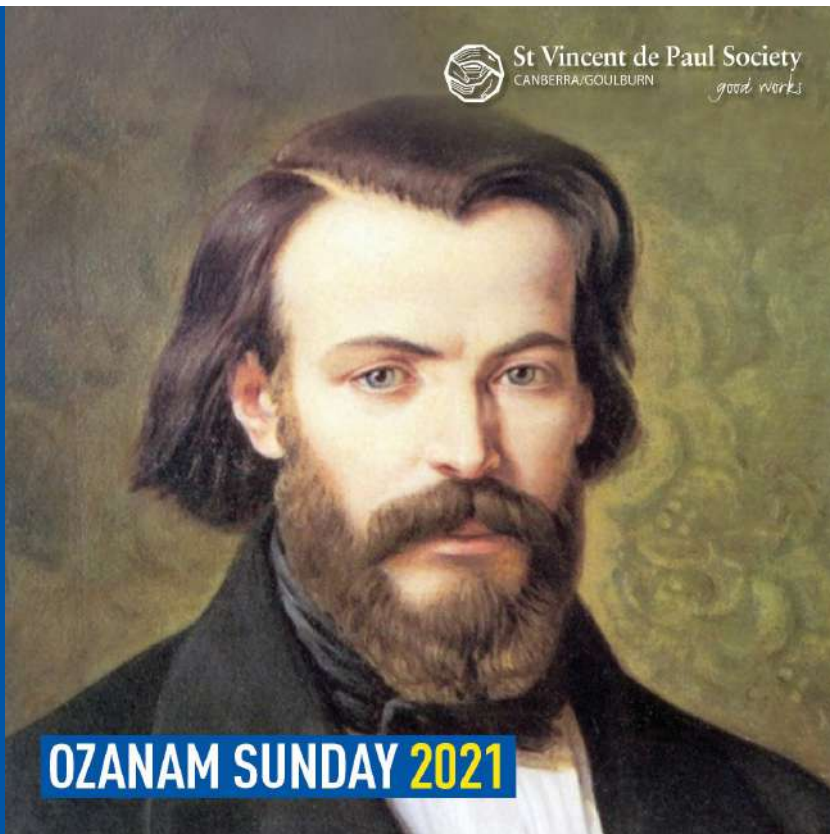
'I have come that they may have life and have it to the full'

We pray that developing nations achieve a just share of the world's food and resources.

May they promote the dignity of their people, lost through colonisation and exploitation.

May we work with them in love, respect, hope and joy, shaping a more just and compassionate world.

This we ask in Jesus' name, Amen.



OZANAM SUNDAY 2021

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT REBECCA ON:
BECATHOME@OPTUSNET.COM.AU

Every year in September, the anniversary of the death of the founder of the St Vincent de Paul Society, Blessed Frederic Ozanam, is remembered with a collection for our twinned conferences. Frederic died in Paris in September 1853 at the age of 40. He established the Society with a group of university friends in 1833 to assist the poor, the homeless and those suffering disease and starvation.

At St John's, we don't seek donations from parishioners for our twin conference every year and use other funds to meet our quarterly twinning commitments. However, as you know India has been hit very hard by the COVID-19 Pandemic and needs external support. So, during September all money received in the Poor Box will be for our twin Conference, Sts Peter and Paul in Tamil Nadu. Your generosity at this time is gratefully acknowledged. Receipts can be provided if required.

Surprise

A feathered flash across
 the breeze just landed on
 my window sill with calm
 and peace and easy pose –
 it took the morning by surprise.
 A welcome sight to tired eyes,
 a messenger from up on high
 reminding us that life is but
 a fleeting moment out of time.

And as it basks in freedom's
 sun proclaiming homage
 and delight, like lightning
 flash 'tis gone again onto
 another perch.
 My dove has lightened up the day
 and traced its tread of truth;
 like each surprise across our way
 'tis wine and song and youth!

Eamonn Murtagh





September

which heralds the coming of Spring,
has several dates which are related to creation:



- **1ST SEPTEMBER** is the **World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation**. Pope Francis has asked us to pray on the 1st of September each year for the care of creation. In *Laudato Si*, he asks us:

“What kind of world do we want to leave to those who come after us, to children who are now growing up?”

The World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation kicks off the Season of Creation, a time of sustained prayer and action which lasts a month and four days. We have many different ways of praying. Whether you will be taking time on September 1 to go on a meditative nature walk, feed the birds, or sing your prayers, it matters.

- **1ST SEPTEMBER** is also the beginning of **National Biodiversity month**. Biodiversity has been described as the ‘web of life’. It encompasses every living thing that exists on our planet. From the smallest microbe to the enormous blue whale, from the depths of the ocean to peaks of our tallest mountains, biodiversity forms part of an intricate and interdependent web of life in which we are all a part. We depend on biodiversity for our health, well-being and enjoyment of life. We derive all of our food and many medicines and industrial products from both the wild and domesticated elements of biological diversity.

We have all seen what happens when the diversity is out of balance: overfishing, for example. It can change the size of the fish remaining, as well as how they reproduce and the speed at which they mature. When too many fish are taken out of the ocean, it creates an imbalance in the food web and leads to a loss of other life, including vulnerable species like sea turtles and corals.

- **5TH SEPTEMBER** is the start of the celebration of the **Season of Creation**. The theme for 2021 is *‘Restoring Our Common Home’*. During this season we are asked to join together to celebrate creation and protect our common home through prayer, reflection and action. Catholics are invited to sign the [Home - Healthy Planet, Healthy People Petition \(thecatholicpetition.org\)](https://thecatholicpetition.org) as a key action for this year’s Season of Creation. This petition has been endorsed by the Vatican Dicastery for Integral Human Development in the hope that millions of Catholics will raise their voices in the public sphere to help Restore Our Common Home in the run up to vital UN Conferences on biodiversity and climate change taking place in Spring.

- **7TH SEPTEMBER** commemorates **National Threatened Species Day** to raise awareness of plants and animals at risk of extinction. Australia is home to between 600,000 and 700,000 species, and many of these are found nowhere else in the world. Changes to the landscape and native habitat as a result of human activity have put many of these unique species at risk. And over the last two hundred years, many species of plants and animals have become extinct. National Threatened Species Day also celebrates the amazing work that is being done to save them by passionate conservationists, researchers, volunteers, and community experts.





Mary's secret is Humility

Mary's secret is humility. It is her humility that attracted God's gaze to her. The human eye always looks for grandeur and allows itself to be dazzled by what is flashy. Instead, God does not look at the appearance, God looks at the heart (cf 1 Sam 16:7) and is enchanted by humility. Humility of heart enchants God. Today, looking at Mary assumed into heaven, we can say that humility is the way that leads to Heaven.

The word "humility", as we know, comes from the Latin word humus, which means "earth". It is paradoxical: to arrive on high, in Heaven, what is needed is to stay low, like the earth! Jesus teaches this:

"the one who humbles himself
will be exalted" (Lk 14:11)

God does not exalt us because of our gifts, because of our wealth or how well we do things, but because of humility. God loves humility. God lifts up the one who humbles him or herself; he lifts up the one who serves. Mary, in fact, attributes no other "title" except servant to herself, to serve: she is, "the servant of the Lord" (Lk 1:38). She says nothing else about herself, she seeks nothing else for herself. Only to be the servant of the Lord.

POPE FRANCIS

Feast of the Assumption 15 August 2021

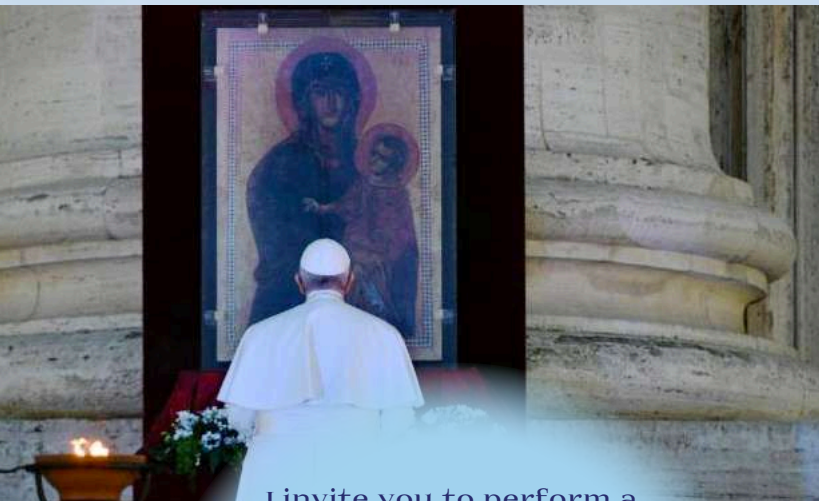
The Salus Populi Romani image is considered miraculous because.....

During the pontificate of St. Gregory the Great (590-604) a plague viciously attacked the people of Rome, killing entire families. The pontiff fervently prayed to the Blessed Mother. During the Easter festivals he carried her image in solemn procession. Arriving at Hadrian's Mausoleum (now called San Angelo), an angelic choir was heard singing the joyful Resurrection hymn:

Regina coeli, laetare, alleluia;

Quia quem meruisti portare, alleluia;

Resurrexit sicut dixit, alleluia.



I invite you to perform a beautiful gesture today: go to a Marian Shrine to venerate the Madonna. Those who are in Rome could go to pray before the icon of the Salus Populi Romani, in the Basilica of Saint Mary Major.

Happy Birthday!!!!



Come rain or shine

MATCH STUDY WITH THE WEATHER PHENOMENON

Paeleotempestology	clouds
Nephology	climate
Anemology	the sun
Brontology	weather
Climatology	past tropical cyclone activity
Cryology	lightning
Heliology	rain
Hyetology	thunder
Meteorology	fogs and smogs
Miasmology	Rainfall & snowfall
Ombrology	movements of the winds
Fulminology	snow and ice

WHERE WOULD ONE FIND THESE WINDS?

- A** Roaring 40s
- B** Ferocious 50s
- C** Screaming 60s
- D** The Doctor
- E** Scirocco
- F** Mistral
- G** Samoon
- H** Brickfielder
- I** Foehn
- J** Chinook
- K** Vendavel
- L** Berg

ANSWERS

Paeleotempestology past tropical cyclone activity • Nephology clouds • Anemology Movement of the wind • Brontology thunder • Heliology the sun • Hyetology Rainfall & snowfall • Meteorology weather • Miasmology fogs and smogs • Ombrology Rain • Fulminology lightning

ANSWERS

A Southern Ocean B Southern Ocean C Southern Ocean D Fremantle, WA E Mediterranean F France G Sahara, Israel, Palestine, Jordan, Syria, and the deserts of Arabian Peninsula H Southern Australia I European Alps J Rocky Mountains, USA K Strait of Gibraltar L South Africa

Treasures from the Archives



The Ballarat Diocesan Historical Commission holds an unusual set of field vestments which belonged to Fr Henry Nolan, a Military Chaplain in Vietnam. The vestments are 'unusual' because they are not a liturgical colour, but army khaki. This unexpected and surprising feature supports the claim made in a short article dated 29 November 1944 (p4), in the *Advocate* [the Catholic newspaper of Victoria] that the Right Reverend Monsignor James H. Griffiths, Chancellor of the Military Ordinariate, had requested silk in the colour of army uniforms be found, and vestments be made as quickly as possible. The request followed the Vatican sanctioning the wearing of camouflage vestments in the field during World War II because vestments in white and liturgical colours were highly visible and posed a danger in the field. The article goes on to say that the permission was apparently only for the duration of WWII, and priests were required to wear vesture in correct liturgical colours for indoor services. This unique variation in the mandated liturgical colour code is still in place. The photographic collection at the Australian War Memorial contains several photographs of chaplains ministering in the field including images of chaplains celebrating the Mass 'in camouflage'. Sadly, the predominance of black vesture in these historic photographs highlights the chaplains' essential role in funeral and burial rites and commemoration services. Interestingly some of the chasubles appear to be reversible, white on the outside and black on the inside (or vice versa) making them multi-occasion vestments.

The Melbourne Diocesan Historical Commission also houses an item of clothing with a military connection – in this case the military cap belonging to Archbishop Daniel Mannix. Archbishop Mannix was Chaplain-General (Catholic) of the Australian Armed Forces from 1917 until his death in 1963. Mannix was a controversial choice for Chaplain-General given his views on conscription – he was the only Catholic bishop to speak out against conscription during both debates surrounding that issue during World War I. Despite refusing to wear his uniform, Mannix was greatly respected by the military and the Army honoured him with a final salute of 13 guns fired at one-minute intervals as his body was being laid to rest in Melbourne's St Patrick's Cathedral.

Submitted by Margaret Ferguson



August Baptism

We welcome into the SJA Community of the Body of Christ the following child baptised during the month of August.

Ben Masterman

Son of Peter and Pip

Seek first His kingdom

'Preoccupy yourself not
with thoughts of food and garments,
for your heavenly Father
already knows you need them.
All you need do,' says Jesus,
'is to seek first His kingdom.

To learn, contemplate nature.
The birds neither sow nor reap
yet they receive sustenance;
the lilies toil not, nor spin
yet Solomon's glory can't
compare to their fine clothing.

Thus, behold God's providence
and worry not; tomorrow
will worry about itself.
Just trust in God's care and love,
for sufficient unto the
day is the evil thereof.'

Shane Murtagh

AUGUST Death notice

Eileen Boyldew

9 AUGUST 1941– 8 AUGUST 1921

**Eileen was a long term member of the
Sunday Afternoon Bookclub**

Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine
upon her.

May she rest in peace.
Amen

Parish Pastoral Council Matters...

What's happening in the Parish Pastoral Council?

From time-to-time people ask, what does the PPC do or what has the PPC been discussing.

When I started on the PPC it was explained to me like this, the Pastoral Council is not so much a “doing body” as a “discerning body” that can help in co-responsibility with the Parish team for setting the pastoral plan and mission for the parish. In some ways that might seem obvious or easy or nothing much at all but actually, because of so many worthy needs, voices and valuable opinions it's not always as straight forward as one might presume. The PPC's primary role, then is one of discernment for Parish life and sharing the responsibility with the Parish team/Parish Priest.

Of course, the overall Mission and purpose of our Church is clear – we are to be missionary disciples under the Lordship of Jesus Christ but what does that look like in the day-to-day activities of parish life? Actually, it looks different for every one of us because of our unique gifts and vocations. So, the question then becomes, how does the parish life facilitate all the various giftedness and spiritual hungers of its people.

As the PPC, we are not so much a bunch of representatives of differing groups in the parish (as one might think) but we are intended to be more of a representative group for every parishioner to help

facilitate and encourage every part of parish life where possible.

Therefore, when we discern steps and ideas for Parish pastoral needs we need to think about everybody's voice and various needs not just a sort of “making-up” our own agenda from someone's latest good ideas.

Our current Strategic Plan that we have been discerning and working on since our big planning day back in February, contains the following groupings that every “time and talent” can fit into and we can all play our part in:

- Worship & Spirituality,
- Building Community,
- Education & Mission,
- Pastoral Care & Outreach,
- Finance & Sacrificial Giving, and
- Parish Administration.

So, let us know your thoughts and heart desires.

Carl Madsen

CHAIR – PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL



The Laudato Si' Goals are:

1. Response to the Cry of the Earth
2. Response to the Cry of the Poor
3. Ecological Economics
4. Adoption of Simple Lifestyles
5. Ecological Education
6. Ecological Spirituality
7. Emphasis on Community Involvement and Participatory Action

The streets where we live....

The ACT's suburb, street and place names pay tribute to Australia's people, its geography, heritage and history. Some of the people commemorated were well known, while others were quiet achievers.

The suburb of **HOLT** was gazetted on 2 July 1970 and was named after Harold Edward Holt (1908–1967), Prime Minister of Australia 1966–67. The streets of Holt are named after sportsmen and sportswomen. The nearby streets to the site of St John the Apostle, Kippax record some lesser-known sporting personalities.

- **Cecil Alfred Chave** (1911–1971): Queensland tennis player and commentator for the BBC at Wimbledon for 17 years.
- **John McCarthy Blackham** (1853–1932): Victorian cricketer and member of the first eight Australian teams to tour England.
- **James Joseph Giltinam** (1866–1950): Sydney sportsman and sporting entrepreneur; prominent in cricket, horse racing and other sports; one of the founders of Rugby League in Australia, 1907.
- **William Paterick** (1893–1973): Australian Skiing Champion in 1923; goldminer and postmaster at Kiandra.
- **Francis Birtles** (1882–1941): Cyclist and motorist; cycled around Australia, 1907; cycled from Sydney to the Kimberley and then to Perth, 1908; delivered first letters ever carried by land from Western Australia to Sydney, 1912; pioneered England-Australia motor car route via Europe and Singapore, 1927.
- **Merv Blandon** (1912–1939): Australian Bantamweight Boxing Champion, 1933; later became Featherweight Champion



Blackham



Birtles



Giltinam

Down Memory Lane AS WE JOURNEY TO 26/02/2022

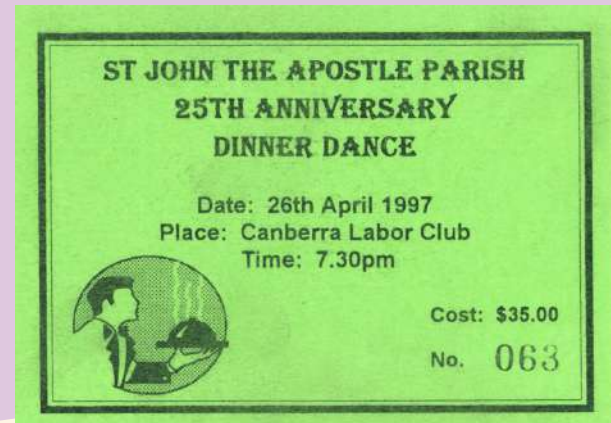
KIT FROM COLLEEN REED

The Story of our Eucharistic Stoles

During the mid-2000s a small group of us got together, at Janelle Brice's initiative, to pursue our patchwork hobby and to renew old friendships. This was the origin of 'The Champagne Quilters'. It was Janelle's husband Derick who I believe, in a moment of wry humour, decided on the name. The group quickly grew to over ten people which was as large as it could be to squeeze into one or other of our homes, with sewing machines, for sewing one whole day each month. Our beginnings were humble and of course we did, and still do, share a bottle of champagne with our sandwich and coffee. We would also meet and continue to do so, for Lent and Advent reflective prayer as we were all part of the parish of St John's. Our children had gone to school together; in many ways we formed a 'family group' in the absence of extended family and grandparents.

Needless to say, we were more than saddened by the death of our founder Janelle on 1 April 2010. Father John Bosman was the parish priest at the time and presided at Janelle's funeral. Each of us had a role in the celebration of her life at her Requiem Mass, predominantly as Eucharist Ministers. As a group we wanted to reflect the love we had shared with Janelle. This was expressed through creating stoles for the Eucharistic Ministers to wear for the occasion, with Fr John's permission of course. The stoles were of either red or white fabric with wheat ears or grapes embroidered on the tips symbolic of the precious body and blood of Christ. The stoles were originally made just for Janelle's Requiem, but somehow their use was accepted and appreciated by the parish.

Since 2010 they have been replaced several times but have continued to provide a special ritual for each Sunday's Eucharistic Ministers. Thank you Janelle for our ongoing reminder of you and how much you gave to our group of great friends and 'patchwork' companions.



Down Memory Lane AS WE JOURNEY TO 26/02/2022

