



To be on earth the Heart of God



Fr. Michael having fun in the snow at Corin Forest.
Photo taken by Fr. Norvin



Time out for reflection

Psalm 23 FOR BUSY PEOPLE

BY TOKI MIYASHINA

The Lord is my pace-setter, I shall not rush;
He makes me stop and rest for quiet intervals,
He provides me with images of stillness,
Which restore my serenity.
He leads me in the way of efficiency,
Through calmness of mind;
And his guidance is peace.
Even though I have a great many things to accomplish each day
I will not fret, for his presence is here.
His timelessness, his all-importance will keep me in balance.
He prepares refreshment and renewal in the midst of activity,
By anointing my mind with his oils of tranquillity;
My cup of joyous energy overflows.
Surely harmony and effectiveness shall be the fruits of my hours
And I shall walk in the pace of my Lord, and dwell in his hour for ever.

Submitted by Fr. Kimi

PASTORAL MINISTRY

Neighbourhood Communities and My Story

One day in 2000 I received a call from Marita Mahony asking if she could pay me a visit to talk about some voluntary work that was planned for St John's Parish in Kippax. I had mixed feelings. I was excited, anxious and a bit uneasy not knowing what all this was about and what role I would have.

Finally the day arrived. Marita visited me and over a cuppa she said she was visiting me on behalf of Fr. Chris Murphy (Parish Priest 2000–2001) and briefed me about what was planned for the Parish and asked me if I could be the contact person for the parishioners in my neighbourhood. She said this was a trial and the first, named BEC1 (Basic Ecclesial Communities). She said I may need to visit these parishioners twice or thrice a year, get to know them and their needs and find out the possible ways the Parish could support them. At that time the Parish included Higgins, Holt, Latham and Macgregor to Ginninderra Creek. The area was to be divided into 17 Neighbourhood community areas, and each one to have a visiting team and to be led by a contact person to the parish. I was the contact person for BEC1.

Four others (Dell Cowley Gary Potts, Liz Thompson and Lorrain Bateman) were also approached to join BEC1. They were to visit the people in the area chosen for BEC1. We had our first meeting lead by Ann Reynolds to get an overview of the work involved. The boundaries of the area for BEC1 were Moyes Crescent, Southern Cross Drive and Starke Street. About 70 families were listed in the parish for this area. With five of us in the team each one of us selected an area of about 10 to 20 households to be visited. Prior to our visit a letter signed by Fr. Chris Murphy was sent to each house explaining what was planned and why, and hence the reason for our visit. It also included a map of Kippax parish with the BEC1 area marked.

After making our first visit we met to share our experiences. Most neighbours were welcoming and wanted us to visit them again. Only a couple did not want any visits. The five of us continued to meet every 4 to 6 weeks each taking a turn to lead the meeting. We shared our experiences and discussed how support could be provided through the parish, in addition to our befriending visits. Our visits and our meetings continued during Fr. Chris Murphy's time in our parish (PP 2000-2001) and we had his full support for this work. He tried to commence other areas in the Parish but I am not sure how successful they were.

Fr. Chris McPhee (PP 2002 - 2004) who took over from Fr. Chris Murphy encouraged us too and gave us his full support to continue our work. During his time Dell Crowley and I attended the BEC conference held in Adelaide. In addition to talks and group discussions we were taken in small groups to attend the home held BEC meetings. We returned with a wealth of information to continue our work. We changed the format of our meetings to include our story and God's story. Below is the format we followed.

- 1. Opening prayer**
- 2. How are we? (each person to share how they have been)**
- 3. God's story (any inspirational story from the Bible or other)**
- 4. Our story (each share the stories of their visits)**
- 5. Our plans until the next meeting.**
- 6. Closing prayer**

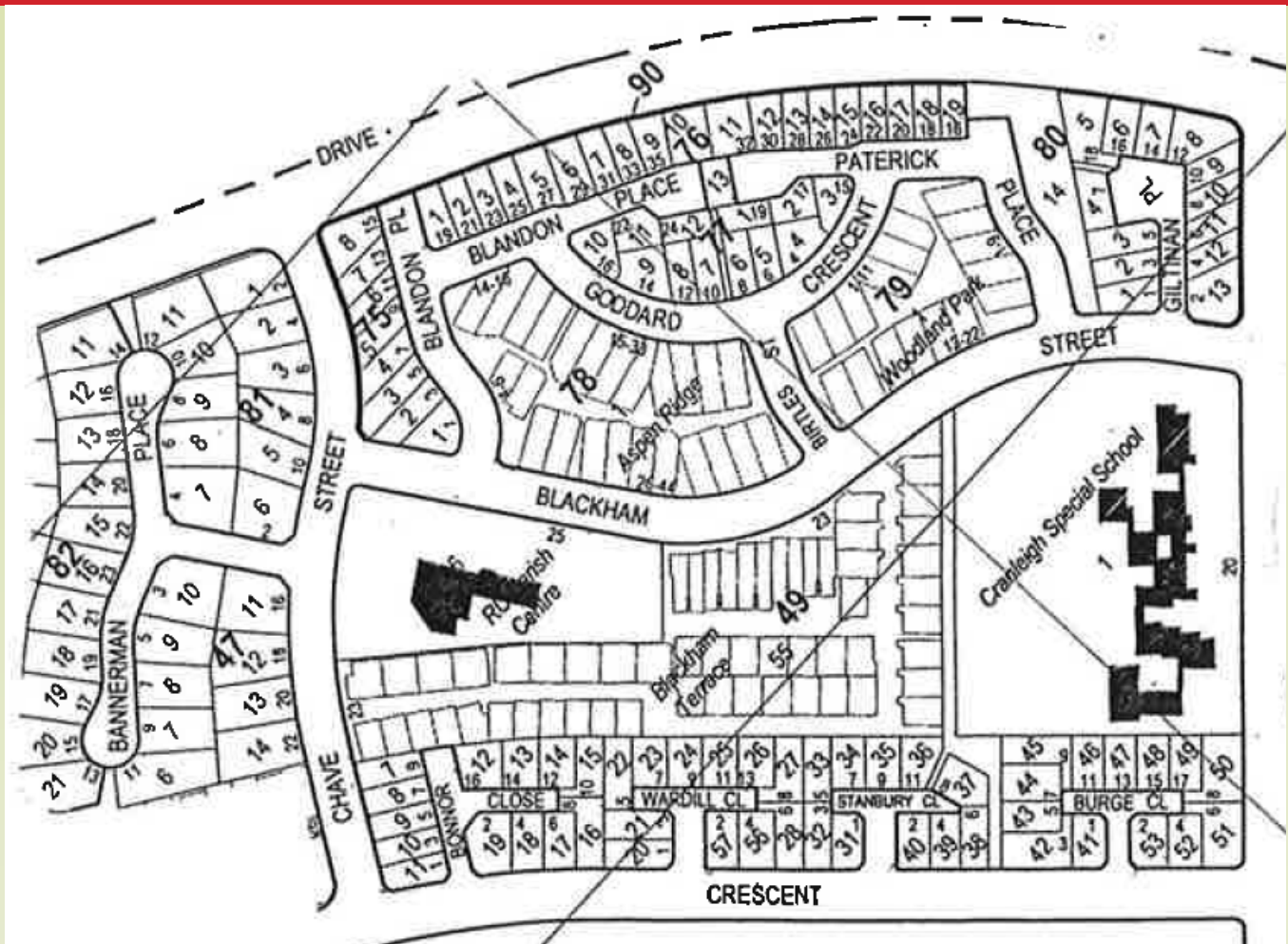
At our meetings we decided to drop Christmas cards to all the neighbours on our visiting list. A bookmark giving the Christmas mass times was included with the card. Everyone in my street received a Christmas card whether they were parishioners or not.

In June 2003 we had a meeting with Archbishop Francis Carroll in the parish library and gave him an overview of the work we were doing. Below is information that we provided him.

Our aim was to get to know our neighbours by listening to their stories, giving support at times of needs and making connections with one another to create a caring community.

Our meetings included prayer, reflection and sharing our experiences such as:

- What we felt about our visits
- Their stories, what has been happening in their lives
- How their needs were met or discussing how their needs could be met. For example if they were lonely the possibilities of linking people with the other groups in the parish such as The family groups, Charismatic Prayer group, Meditation group, Cursillo Movement, St. Vincent de Paul etc.
- Just spending time with them over a cuppa listening and sharing being a friend.



Archbishop Carroll was impressed and asked who knew about the work we were doing.

During this time we lost one of our members Liz Thomson, as she had to move to the southside, but we continued our visits and the meetings. We distributed areas that Liz visited amongst the four of us. Sadly as time passed Lorraine Bateman became ill and was unable to continue, with the visits.

In 2005, Fr. Michael Fallon became our Parish Priest (PP 2005–2006, 2008–2010). He inquired about our BEC 1 and he was provided with all the information about what was happening, our visits, our meetings etc. After much thought he decided the neighbourhood communities should be active throughout the parish. Having studied the maps and the boundaries of the parish he divided the parish area into 20 parish zones (Holt 1–8, Higgins 1–4, Latham 1–5, McGregor 1–2 and Florey) and he appointed a contact person to each parish zone. A street map for each zone with a list of street names and a list of the parishioners living in each zone were prepared and given to each contact person. He renamed BECs to Neighbourhood Communities NCs and BEC1 became NC HOLT1. He even walked all the streets in the parish and met most of the parishioners. Subsequently four zones Florey North, Florey South, Flynn and Dunlop were included.

I hope all the valuable documentation produced by Fr. Michael Fallon is still available to the parish.

I am not sure if all the NCs functioned the same way as ours did. Having lost two members, I wondered if we could join with another team for meeting and sharing. Julie and David Ritchie who were appointed to NC HOLT8 were quite pleased to join and we met every month at my place. After the meeting we enjoyed the company of each other over a cuppa and delicious cupcakes that Julie provided. We not only were supporting our neighbours but also supporting each other.

It was at our meetings that we noticed Dell's fading memory. She had no family in ACT, but had a dear and close friend, Helen McLaughlin. As the situation got worse, Dell needed support and help. Helen came to her aid. She organised all the medical and the physical needs so that Dell could manage living on her own at home, for a while. Helen also kept in touch with Dell's family in Queensland informing them about her situation. A neighbouring couple who Dell used to visit were extremely helpful to Dell keeping an eye on her, inviting her for meals and helping her with some of her other needs. We all worked as a team with a huge part taken over by Helen. With her hard work Dell was moved to a nursing home in Queensland. She was there until her passing in 2017.

In 2007 while still working I completed a course in Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE—400 hour unit) at the Canberra Hospital. This is where I met the sick and the dying. While lying in bed people look back at their lives and go back to their memories of good and bad times. They ponder on their regrets, unfinished matters and on the uncertainty of life ahead and possible death. They needed a compassionate, empathetic listening ear. I remember some patients saying, “What is out there? Where will I go? Nobody has come back to say what death is about”. I continued to volunteer as a pastoral carer at The Canberra Hospital while working and after retirement. I also joined the Pastoral Care team at the Calvary hospital as a volunteer. By attending the Spiritual Care Australia Conferences annually I also broadened my knowledge on pastoral care work.

With the experience I gained I was able to effectively contribute to the needs of the neighbourhood community and whoever dropped in at my place to share their story when going through a difficult time.

During Fr. Paul Browne’s (PP 2011) time we continued our work in the NCs. Sadly in 2012 Julie and David moved to Wodonga to be close to their children and families. We were now unable to continue our meetings. However I continued to keep in touch with neighbours and drop the annual Christmas cards.

In 2012, Fr. Gerard McCormack (PP 2012–2020) started as Parish Priest. I approached him and discussed how we could resume the work for the neighbourhood communities. After much thought he explained that the majority of the parishioners were not getting the visits and the support. He proposed a restructure of the visiting process. Fr. Gerard initiated St. John the Apostle Care (SJA Care) and setup a core group to attend to the needs of the Parish. One area was to visit the lonely or take communion to the sick and the housebound. Two lists were prepared one with all the parishioners who were sick or housebound and the other with all the volunteers willing to take communion and or visit the needy. Until the COVID virus hit, there were about 15 volunteers visiting and or taking communion to about 30 to 40 parishioners. Retirement homes and nursing homes were included at this time. With the current COVID restrictions the numbers have dropped down to 11 volunteers taking communion to 14 parishioners living in their homes or in retirement villages. There is also a team of people providing meals to the housebound at times of need.

The dynamics of building community in the neighbourhood has changed. I am not sure what the future holds and that depends much on the directions that the future Parish Priests take. I will continue to keep in touch with my neighbours, dropping off the annual Christmas cards, visiting and supporting them in whatever way I can, while I can.

Below are some of the many stories of people in NC HOLT1, I journeyed with.

The Christmas card

He (not a parishioner) was my next door neighbour, probably in his 30s. He had a slight mental condition and was somewhat disorganised. He dropped into neighbouring houses to ask for tea, sugar etc. After Christmas one day he met and thanked me for the Christmas card. He said that was the only card he received. He even wanted to visit the church which he did. Before he moved he gave me his birdbath which is now in my garden. I can’t help saying a prayer for him when I see the birdbath.

The Last Day

A lady in her 70s suffered with extreme pain due to arthritis. She was confined to home but made use of her time making beautiful, colourful knitted or crocheted shawls. It was a privilege to visit and spend time with her. She decided she wanted to die at home. Family requested the last rights be administered. I accompanied Fr. Michael Fallon to administer this sacrament in the midst of all family members at her home. Her funeral was a colourful one with all her friends displaying the shawls that she had gifted them.

A Cancer Patient

A lady in her 60s was diagnosed with lung cancer and commenced treatment. Due to an unstable marriage she was unable to get the full support from family. She was going through period of great anxiety and pain. I visited her often and before the treatment days we sat, talked and prayed together. It was sad to see her deteriorate and her life coming to an end. We prayed for courage, strength and acceptance and her life ended peacefully.

The Lonely Couple

I have known this couple many years. They lost their only child a daughter when she was about five years old. The husband in his 70s developed Parkinson’s disease. It was a tough time for the wife (say Alice) caring for him without any family of her own. Alice loved her garden and spent a lot of time outside. Whenever I passed her place she called me in.

Over a cuppa she talked and I listened. I sat with her, so that she could unburden what went on in her mind. It came to a stage that she was unable to care for her husband and he had to be admitted to a nursing home. Alice was unable drive but she visited him twice daily at the nursing home until his passing. I had become quite close to this couple and Alice asked me to do the eulogy for her husband at his funeral. She became very lonely after he was gone. I popped in to see her almost daily. I gathered that she longed to go back to the country she came from. She wanted to be with her family. She spent a lot of time watching TV but I found that her memory was deteriorating and it became difficult to have a conversation. She had some friends visiting her, but most of them abandoned her as she was unable to make sense of what she said. Her sister, her only family living here took charge. After getting medical attention an inoperable brain tumour was diagnosed. The sister was able to fulfil Alice's wishes by taking her back to her country and she passed peacefully amongst all her family. I have precious memories of her. Alice was a caring, generous lady and a wonderful cook.

My Story

I was about 12 years old when my parents' marriage broke down. I was heartbroken, sad, helpless and utterly alone. It was my class teacher at that time who noticed that I was isolating myself and she knew that something was affecting me. We had a long chat one day and after that I met with her regularly, to share what was happening at home. She was not only one of the best teachers but also became my dear friend. Even after I migrated to Australia I kept in touch and visited her every time I went to Sri Lanka. This continued until her passing in 2003. I am utterly grateful to her for listening, understanding and being there for me at my time of need. She inspired me to become who I am. Yes, now it is my turn and my calling to befriend the lonely, sick and the bereaved to make a difference to their lives.

Here is one of the closing prayers we said to end our meeting:

We pray together:
 Whatever our hands touched
 We leave finger prints – on walls on
 furniture
 On doorknobs, dishes and books
 As we touch we leave our identity

Lord, please wherever I go today
 Help me to leave heart prints
 Heart prints of compassion
 Of understanding and love
 Heart prints of kindness
 And genuine concern

May, my heart touch a lonely neighbour
 Or a runaway daughter
 Or an anxious mother
 Or perhaps a dear friend.

I shall go out today
 To leave heart prints,
 And if someone should say,
 "I felt your touch"
 May that one sense be
 Love, touching them through me,
 Amen.

Manel Seneviratna

VINNIES WINTER UPDATE

2021 WINTER APPEAL

The theme of this year's Winter Appeal is 'Home Wanted'. The focus is on preventing homelessness, especially for children.

FACING HOMELESSNESS IS A DAUNTING AND TROUBLING PROSPECT. Placing children at risk of homelessness is something that all parents want to avoid. Sadly, some feel helpless and hopeless. They need help. They need hope.



The withdrawal of government supports and supplements for families, individuals and businesses to manage the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic has left many people in our community in a worse situation. Individuals and families are living below the poverty line, and some are facing eviction, unable to pay their rent. Children need a safe and secure place to call home. Families should not face a hopeless future. If they are engulfed by feelings of hopelessness, homelessness may not be far away, unless there is intervention offering hope. Giving HOPE and HOME underlie the support that Vinnies provides vulnerable families in our community.

YOU CAN GIVE A VULNERABLE FAMILY HOPE AND HOME BY DONATING TO THE VINNIES WINTER APPEAL

Help a child sleep safe tonight

Support the Vinnies Winter Appeal today

Donate now

Vinnies
good works

You can donate online at www.vinnies.org.au or by ringing **13 18 12**. You can click on the above image which will take you to the Vinnies Winter Appeal site. You can donate with a credit card using a Winter Appeal envelope (available in the church foyer). They can be posted or placed in the Poor Box in the church. When donating online or with an envelope please indicate that your donation is for the Kippax Conference.

YOU CAN DONATE AFTER MASS ON 24-25 JULY

Hope is a great motivator for change. The support that Vinnies members provide struggling families gives them hope – someone cares for them and wants to help them achieve a better future; they are not alone in their struggles.

YOUR DONATIONS FACILITATE HOPE FOR VULNERABLE FAMILIES AND HELPS THEM ALLEVIATE DESPAIR AND AVOID HOMELESSNESS. THANK YOU

FURNITURE DONATIONS

If you are considering donating furniture or other large household items to Vinnies, then you will be interested in the new arrangements for donors. From 1 July, 2021, the Vinnies Mitchell Warehouse will no longer collect furniture in the ACT, but will refer householders to the ACT Government's Bulk Waste Collection Service.



The Bulk Waste Collection Service is run under contract to the Government by Suez and is available across the ACT from July this year. The service includes collection of furniture. Suez selects items which are good enough to be repurposed and store them at their depot in Hume. St Vincent de Paul Society Canberra/Goulburn has online access to the catalogue of items and can reserve items that meet the needs of Vinnies' companions.

Vinnies has advised Conferences that those wishing to donate furniture should do so via the ACT Government's Bulk Waste Collection Service.

More information is available at:

- General information about the service: www.cityservices.act.gov.au/recycling-and-waste/collection/bulky-waste-collection
- On-line booking form for residents with their own bins: www.wsms.act.gov.au/bins/s/bulky-waste
- On-line booking form for residents with share waste enclosures: www.wsms.act.gov.au/bins/s/bulky-waste-muds
- **Email enquiries:** tccs.nowastebins@act.gov.au
- **Telephone:** Access Canberra on 13 22 81
- **Bookings** can be made for pickup from your premises on the next available collection date.

GIVIT

Another option is to donate furniture and other items to GIVIT. Vinnies Kippax Conference is registered with GIVIT and has used the service on a number of occasions to source items, especially whitegoods. For information on how to donate to GIVIT, please visit their website at: <https://www.givit.org.au/>. GIVIT Listed Ltd is a national not-for-profit connecting those who have with those who need, in a private and safe way, via registered charities.

GIVIT aims to alleviate poverty by connecting individuals with items to donate to charities that have specific needs.

GIVIT is an effective way of repurposing good quality household items that are no longer needed for a family in our community that needs such items but cannot afford to buy them. The transfer is facilitated by GIVIT in association with a registered charity such as St Vincent de Paul, Kippax.

WHITE GOODS

If you have a fridge or washing machine, in sound working order, that you would like to dispose of, before listing it on GIVIT, please contact our Vinnies Kippax conference to see if we have a current local need for one of our Companions (a smart way to give).

PLEASE CONTACT MIKE ON 0419 818 410



The flower of her smile

*In the Carmelite convent of Lisieux,
Saint Thérèse gave God praise
whenever she greeted
an obnoxious Sister with a smile.*

*For within such a woman Thérèse knew
Jesus had made his home
and so, in charity,
she acquiesced to His loving ways.*

*Like a person granted X-Ray vision,
she saw her Sister's heart;
therein her Lord waited
for another to show forgiveness.*

*And so she gave the flower of her smile,
a little sacrifice,
a sign of acceptance,
the only love she had to impart.*

Shane Murtagh

First Holy Communion Candidates



THURSDAY 29 JULY

Olivia Ayton • Ethan Balthazar • William Broadhurst • Bronson Dahler • Liam Downey •
Lucius Hayman • Rose Holding • Ky McNamara • Sophia Nott • Sean O'Neill • Abbey Richardson •
Jack Robertson • Emily Thexton



FRIDAY 30 JULY

Angus Burrell • Emma Duke • Liliana Givens • Michael Howes • Magdalena Johnson • Keijo Karhu •
Charlotte Klinicki • Ella Nurmi • Vanessa Onyekaike • Lorenzo Scarano • James Sephora •
Anabelle-Louise Trevaskis • Tessa Vera



Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor

Every year the Australian Catholic Bishops launch a statement dealing with a social justice issue. In past years, the themes have included homelessness, the elderly, and refugees. This year the emphasis is on caring for the earth and our human family.

Degradation of our world has been occurring on a much greater scale than ever before, and it is the poor who bear the burden. Wealthy countries use the earth's resources at a much greater rate, and often in an extravagant manner, while those in poor countries often have very little access to those resources. Take fresh water, for example: average daily use in the United States is 709 litres per person per day, while in a poor country like Mali it is only 13!

As Delhi-based environment organization, the Centre for Science and Environment, points out, if the poor of the world were to develop and consume in the same manner as the West to achieve the same living standards, we would need two additional planet Earths to produce resources and absorb wastes ... and good planets are hard to find!

For years, rich countries have been migrating some of their polluting industries to poor countries, but still producing for rich countries. It is cheaper to relocate than to pay for costly environmentally clean technologies that people in wealthy countries demand.

Much of the best agricultural land in the world (which could be used to grow food) is instead used for commodities such as cotton, tobacco, sugar cane,

tea, and cocoa, items which are not eaten or are only marginally nutritious, but for which there is a large market.

Millions of acres of potentially productive farmland is used to pasture cattle, an extremely inefficient use of land, water and energy, but one for which there is a market in wealthy countries. More than half the grain grown in the United States is fed to livestock, grain that would feed far more people than would the livestock to which it is fed.

In their Statement, the Bishops invite the whole Catholic community to join them in taking up Pope Francis' invitation to a seven-year journey towards total ecological sustainability, guided by seven Laudato Si' Goals. These Goals are:

- response to the cry of the earth;
- response to the cry of the poor;
- ecological economics;
- sustainable lifestyles;
- ecological spirituality;
- ecological education;
- and community engagement and participatory action.

**Everything is interconnected,
and this invites us to develop a
spirituality of global solidarity**

POPE FRANCIS, IN LAUDATO SI



Catholic Women's League KIPPAX BRANCH

The CWL was founded by Margaret Fletcher the daughter of a Church of England clergyman in England. She was a convert to Catholicism and passionate about educating women to reach their full potential.

I was elected President of Kippax Branch following in the footsteps of indefatigable Violet Duve on Completion of her 3 year term in office. I decided to conduct a membership drive in the hope of increasing our numbers. I was surprised to say the least at the less than generous comments I received from a few quarters. However persistence paid off and I welcomed 7 new members to the Branch.

For a small branch we punched above our weight with several members serving on both Central Region And Archdiocesan executives. Shelia Fitzgerald (A/Arch Sec.); Connie Thomas (Arch Sec.); Margaret Ohlin (Central Region); Pat McLinden (Arch Treasurer); Meike Foley (National Treasurer) and myself (International Sec/liasion officer of WUCWO; Central Region President and finally Archdiocesan President of Canberra/Goulburn).

Father Dominic Gleeson attended all our meetings at Kippax and he always sat next to Margaret Hill. She loved him like a son and the feeling was mutual.

Our members served in all facets of parish life. We conducted a Christmas raffle each year and sold tickets at Kippax Fair until the insurance company refused to cover our members 80 years and above. With the proceeds of the raffle we were able to provide 60 hampers for needy people in the parish. I donated new books for children every year.

To make our meetings more interesting I invited some of our parishioners to become guest speakers. The first person I asked was Jim Ohlin who saw war service in New Guinea along with my uncle George. Jim also spoke about his 50 years in the Saint Vincent de Paul Society. Jim was a very humble man and delighted with the little gift I gave him for his garden at the end of his talk.

Sadly due to age, illness and death the branch finally had to close but we were a POWER FOR GOOD at St. John's for many years.

Judith-Ann Sjostedt

50 years Celebrating MSC Mission in South Africa

As the Parish looks ahead to celebrate 50 years next year, I am drawing together information for another 50 year anniversary, that of the Diocese of Tzaneen in the northernmost province of South Africa. This Diocese has, like our Parish, a strong and enduring relationship with the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart.

In 1950 the Irish MSCs took responsibility from the Belgium Benedictines for the area that would become the Diocese when they sent out three young inexperienced missionaries followed in December that year by two more, but this time, experienced missionaries. Fathers William Cadogan and John Thomas Durkin had been missionaries in New Britain during World War Two when they were taken prisoners of war by the Japanese. Now in South Africa Fr. Cadogan took on the responsibility for this enormous, remote and very poor mission.

Within 12 years there were 17 Irish MSCs serving in the mission when it was declared an Apostolic Prefecture under the charge of Monsignor Durkin MSC who became the first Bishop of the Diocese of Tzaneen.

I thought it might be of interest to share Bishop Durkin's views on such anniversaries. Fr. Jerry Daly MSC who spent four years living with Bishop Durkin after he retired due to ill health, said that the Bishop "loved celebrations and jubilees and had this to say about them":

They are good and fulfil a human need to affirm and be affirmed on the pilgrim way. They fulfil a spiritual need in making us climb the mountain, survey the countryside and look into the horizon and even strain our vision. It is good to be alive on such occasions.

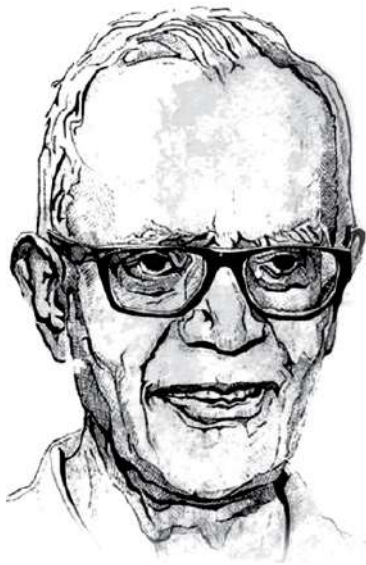
Elizabeth McDonald



Bishop J Durkin MSC with L.R Srs Eileen, Gretta, Kathleen, Magdalene, Emmanuel, Michael, Chanel, Vianney at Nzhelele Mission

Fr. Stan Swamy SJ

PROPHET, MARTYR AND SAINT FOR MODERN TIMES



FR STAN SWAMY **PROPHET AND MARTYR**

**Arrest, incarceration and
custodial death of Stan
betray the government's
vengeance towards those
who dare to question**

On 5 July 2021, India's human rights movement lost one of its dogged and principled workers, Fr. Stanislaus LourduSwamy SJ. The 84-year-old priest breathed his last in Holy Family Hospital, Mumbai. It is an irony that a division bench of the Bombay High Court was hearing his bail petition when word reached the court that Fr. Stan was no longer under its control as the Almighty God in His infinite wisdom had called him back to a place where he would live happily forever.

He was in Taloja prison as an accused in the Bhima Koregaon case; he was the oldest person to have been accused of terrorism by the NIA and was in prison under the draconian UAPA in which the hearing is not time bound and the person can be incarcerated for a long time, without any tangible reason. Authorities are not duty bound to present the evidence of the crime in a particular time frame. He was arrested nearly nine months ago.

Fr. Stan Swamy was suffering from Parkinson's disease. In prison he was being helped by prison inmates to take care of his daily bodily needs but his physical condition was deteriorating. For a long time, he was even denied a straw sipper to assist him with drinking as he could not hold a cup. He had also contracted COVID 19 which was causing him to become weaker and more debilitated.

Fr. Stan had been working among the Adivasis of Jharkhand. The BJP regime was taking away the forest land and passing it on to corporate business to exploit the natural resources. Thousands of Adivasis were put behind bars for opposing the Government on this development.

Fr. Stan stood tall in supporting the cause of these marginalised sections of society. He said, "If you question this form of development, you are anti-development, which is equal to anti-government, which is equal to anti-national. A simple equation. This is why the government calls me a Maoist, although I am completely opposed to Maoist methods, and have nothing to do with them".

His life was very simple. He used to travel in the ordinary rail compartment to save money. He lived frugally, totally committed to the rights of the Adivasis among whom he lived. Even from prison he wrote more about those who were in jail without their cases being brought before the courts, basically left to rot, incarcerated for raising their voices for justice. We are living in times when policies are being manipulated to please those who are standing at the front of the queue.

Fr. Stan Swamy is no more. He is a martyr, who gave his life for a greater good, for others!" Unless a grain of wheat dies, it will not bear fruit..." He sacrificed his life – so that others may have new life. Today he lives in each of these 'the least, the lost and the last' having shed his blood for them. His mission continues because Fr. Stan Swamy will live forever!

From prison he wrote a poem:

Caged birds can Sing

Nothing is mine

Nothing is yours

Everything is ours

Lo, this commonality is wrought by compulsion

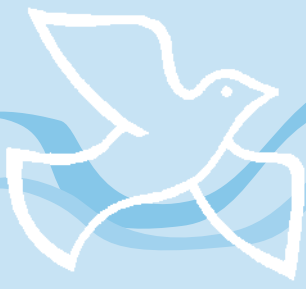
If only all humans would embrace it freely and willingly

All would truly become children of
Mother Earth

Taken from various contributors to
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www.indiancurrents.org

Submitted by Fr. Michael Stephan msc



July Baptisms

We welcome into the SJA Community of the Body of Christ the following children baptised during the month of July.

Halle Bol

Daughter of Brodie and Chantelle

Eila Mahina-Newman

Daughter of Kirk and Nancy

Knox and Kingston Oliver

Sons of Travis and Taylah

Hazel Berzins

Daughter of Michael and Rochelle

Freddie Hunter

Son of Matthew and Breeannen

Beannachtai Eile¹

As the river gently hugs its banks,
may peace of heart be yours always.

Let your smile spread happiness
like a candle in the dark.

May the goodness of your heart
bring joy to those around you.

Like a star in the night sky,
let your love of God shine.

Above the discord and turmoil
let your happy laughter ring out.

May your days be merry and bright
as the Lord's love embraces you!

Dia dhuit!²

Eamonn Murtagh

¹ Irish Gaelic for OTHER GREETINGS

² God be with you! to which the traditional reply is **Dia is Muire dhuit** (God and Mary be with you).

JULY Funerals



Maria Tina Martino

17 July 1943–13 July 2021



Marie Patrica Cowman

16 January 1931–15 July 2021

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

May they rest in peace.

Amen

Let's talk Financial Matters\$

The past 18 months has had its challenges. We are pleased to report from a financial perspective that our parish has negotiated these challenges well. While our planned giving receipts were down, we were able to achieve a financial surplus of approximately \$15,000 for the 2020 financial year. This was due primarily to Job Keeper payments. This meant that we were able to clear the sanctuary project loan and are now debt free.

On 26 February 2022 St John the Apostle parish celebrates its 50th anniversary. Our focus as the Finance Council is our financial viability. We want to ensure that financially we can meet our commitments and continue the pastoral care of our parishioners.

Since the completion of the original building, there have been a number of renovations and improvements to the premises. Our current focus is to address maintenance issues. In response to this we have formed a Building Maintenance Committee as an advisory group to the Finance Council. These parishioners have a background in the building industry. They are Peter Polkinghorne, Graham Erickson, Pat Keenan, and Nunga Umaru.



First on our list is addressing the proverbial "leaky church roof". We are pleased to advise that a contractor has been engaged to repair the roof at a cost of \$24,220. Work is scheduled to commence in late August, weather permitting. On completion, our next focus will be the windows in the choir area of the church. With the heavy rains over the past 12 months, water has leaked through these windows. The timber frames are deteriorating and rotting in various sections. Replacement of these windows will be a significant cost and we are still waiting to receive quotes. The advice received is that the cost may be over \$200,000. Once this has been done we will be able to look at other issues such as replacing the lighting in the church to energy efficient lights. Our projection is that we will need to raise a loan of \$225,000 to undertake these necessary maintenance works. We will advise the parish of the details of this project and the total expense once all the quotes are received.

Annually the Archdiocese's charges parishes a levy for the Canberra Catholic Schools Building Fund [CCSBF], which for our parish is around \$10,000. However, from the 1 July 2021 the Archdiocese will no longer charged this fee. This means that the parish expenditure will decrease by \$10,000 per year. However, this decision to not levy the CCSBF fee has implications for parishioner's tax benefits. As the CCSBF is a recognised charity with the ATO it is that percentage ratio of the planned giving that carries a tax benefit. This means that in the future there will no longer be a tax benefit applied to planned giving.

The Finance Council will continue to keep parishioners up to date with the progress of the projects and the amount of money it will require to undertake them. We look to the future with hope and trust that we will be able to meet our challenges.

Stewardship is the responsibility of every parishioner. Our mission is to meet the needs of the parish and to determine how we as a community can be on 'Earth the Heart of God'.

SJA Finance Council

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



KIT FROM ELAINE CARTER

I have gathered together some of the history of my family in the Kippax parish.

My parents and Siblings (Cockroft's) came to the parish in 1979, my father a senior police officer and my mother a nursing sister and four of their seven children. During this time both my parents worked long hours. My mother Olive contributed her talent arranging flowers, in the early days as the parish was growing she took some of her vases which served many years after she left.

My mother worked at the Old Canberra hospital in the newborn to two-year olds ward, she always remembered her patients and families, especially in our parish, and was always interested in their progress, many whom I came to know.

When I moved to Canberra with my 3 children in 1981, on the weekends we would come to mass and after that we would have my father's famous family roast dinner. I remember the body of the church as we know it today was screened usually off, we sat where the choir is today, behind the altar and another group where the baptismal font is now. The parish grew fast with many young families, we had three morning masses. Mass at 9:30am was the largest and you had to arrive early to get a seat.

We saw so many changes not only in growth but also architecture. The photos show the wedding of my brother Justin and Carol and my son's 21st in the parish centre.

My youngest brother joined Antioch and between us there have been weddings, christenings and so much more, including my daughter Louise's funeral, Christmas Eve 1993.

At this time the support from the parish community and school was at its best. My husband died early 1994, and the steady stream of people offering support and meals meant so much to me. The best way to explain the parish compassion is: I will hold you in the palm of my hand, and indeed they did.

I know the seeds are sown in so many ministries that change our lives as we grow. Together with Joe, we have been involved in many aspects of the parish from church cleaning, greeting ministry, Eucharistic minister, altar servers, acolyte and training altar servers. No ministry or person is less than another in our faith journey or lives, and all are blessings.

There are many special moments: being part of the charismatic group, family group and many spiritual growth opportunities, as well as support groups and retreats.

After being away for a while, being welcomed back has touched me. Thank you to the many people who remembered my journey and the many kind words of encouragement and new friends I have made.

I can safely say St John's is my family, my home and I am blessed.

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

A TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE

I will never forget the kindness and support I received from Fr. John Rate when my son disappeared.

Mass was being said by the MSC Provincial and our choir started to sing the beautiful hymn "Come Back to Me".

I burst into tears and Father left the altar and escorted me outside where he learnt of the whole sorry saga. I had just returned from the morgue in Sydney where I was asked to come and identify a dead body.

Fortunately it was not my son but an islander over 6 foot tall. Due to all the stress I had been under for months I ended up in Calvary Hospital and Father John gave me the last rites.

Father John's 50th birthday was drawing near and I asked him what he would like. With a smile on his face he replied, "I have enough socks". My husband has just returned from a fishing trip and we decided to give Father 2 huge crays plus a good bottle of white wine. He said to me later "it was the best gift he had ever received".

One morning when Father John was saying Mass in the library he went as white as a sheet. After Mass I asked him when he last saw a doctor. I reminded him that even Jesus had a day off each week. After seeing a GP the next day he joined a gym for a much needed change of pace.

When Irishman Fr. Roger Duggan arrived at St John's we hit it off immediately. I loved his sense of humour. One day he received an invitation to a gathering at a private residence and the hostess asked him "to bring a plate". He told me later that he was mortified when he arrived with a plate but had not realised there was

supposed to be something edible on it. He related this after his homily the following Sunday at Mass. The congregation could not stop laughing.

On my way back to my car one Sunday after Mass I noticed Father Jim Fallon hiding behind a tree and enjoying a cigarette. He called me over and said "don't tell Michael I am smoking". "As if I would father" I replied. I did not have the heart to tell him that Fr. Michael would smell him coming.

I was running a bit late for the healing mass and found a seat next to Professor Eamonn Murtagh deep in conversation with Paddy Clarke. I said to him "and what part of old Ireland are you from?" Eamonn said "Oh a little place you have probably never heard of: Lough Key. I said, JMJ that is where my father's family is from. What were the odds – and from memory I recall a family member of Maureen Craddock's hailed from the same place. The Murtagh family became my best friends in the parish and we miss him so very much.

When Fr. Michael Fallon heard that my father's family, the Macdermotts, came from County Roscommon, he called me Miss Roscommon from that day forward. We became firm friends. One Sunday after a very long homily I said, "Father Michael I hope you don't mind me saying but that homily was far too long. He asked me to give him a signal if he was getting carried away. I had to signal him several times. After another operation I was gravely ill and Father gave me the last rites once again.

He sat with me for many hours on several occasions and I will never forget his kindness.

Judith-Ann Sjostedt

Errata

There were a couple of errors in the June KIT. The main one being on Page 4, Albert Namatjira *never* painted with purple. Should have read Albert Namatjira *even* painted with purple. This error has been corrected and you can access the updated KIT at the link:

http://www.stjohnkippax.org.au/uploads/KIT%20-%20Keeping%20In%20Touch/KIT%20MONTHLY/2021/KIT_JUNE%202021.pdf

Born and raised at the Hermannsburg Mission near Alice Springs, his home was the area around the MacDonnell Ranges. His richly-detailed paintings blended the styles of the two worlds in which he lived – the Western influence of the watercolours and the detail and colour of his feeling for country be the sacred sites.