

# *The* Parish *Voice*

THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF BRUNSWICK AND BRUNSWICK EAST  
APRIL 2019 – VOLUME 10 NO 1

## A fond farewell to Sr Diane



*Sr Diane (right) hugs and thanks Ann Saunders for her kind words on Sunday 24 February at the end of the 10.30am Mass*

**O**n Sunday 24 February, Sr Diane Cleveland RSM returned to the parish for a special farewell Mass and morning tea. Sr Diane retired from her ministry in the parish at the end of 2018, so we took the opportunity to thank her for her many years of dedicated work in the parish and also to wish her well for the future. At the end of the 10.30am Mass Ann Saunders, who has worked with Sr Diane in the parish for many years, offered the following words of thanks:

**A**s you are all aware we are here today not only to celebrate Mass but to say thank you and farewell to a very special lady – Sr Diane Cleveland.

*Diane is a very caring and faith-filled lady and this is shown in her day to day life and interaction with people of all walks of life. Diane's working life in the*

*past was mainly as a teacher and since coming to the Sydney Road Deanery area her work has been in pastoral care. She is a very caring, respectful and professional lady and follows up whatever is asked of her.*

*The last few years, in fact the last three, have been a challenge for her with the death of her only sister and her own health challenges, but she has come through them with dignity, and her sense of humour has also played a part. Her love of family, friends and her other big love, Geelong Football Club, have also helped her through this time.*

*Diane you will be sadly missed and I am sure whatever you do in your retirement it will be done with lots of love and laughter.*

*Ann Saunders*

# Mary Connell – a leader in the best sense of the word



Our Parish Peace and Justice Group in 2015 **L to R:** Fr Michael, Bernadette Murray, Sr Thérèse Power, Bernadette Kennedy (deceased), Maureen O'Brien, Bryan Cussen and Mary Connell.

**A**fter twelve years of exemplary service as secretary of the parish Peace and Justice Group, Mary Connell resigned at the end of 2018.

Since the group's inception, Mary has held it together with her ever reliable organisation of the meetings and her pursuit of government decision makers for information about what Australia was doing to seek justice for people on our society's margins.

Not surprisingly, Mary leaves the group in good order with Bernadette Murray taking over the position of secretary and members committed to the goals of the group.

The Peace and Justice Group under Mary's leadership has a record of lobbying parliamentarians on the plight of asylum seekers in detention both on and off shore. Government policies for too long have denied the rights of people to seek refuge from oppression

Currently the group is watching with interest what will unfold for asylum seekers held in off-shore detention since Federal Parliament passed the Medivac Bill.

Over many years Mary, with other P & J group members, attended rallies and demonstrations, including the Palm Sunday marches for justice and compassion for refugees.

Mary also encouraged all member of the P & J Group to pursue issues of particular interest to them and bring reports of their activities to the meetings.

Bernadette has been a constant visitor to asylum seeker families held in detention centres onshore. Therese has kept the group up to date with issues raised by ACRATH (Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans) on modern slavery with the exploitation of workers overseas in the chocolate and cotton industries.

The Parish Prayer Focus is an initiative of the P & J Group and Mary will continue to write one each month to be read at the Masses during the Prayers of the Faithful.

Mary has qualities of leadership which were noted by people who knew her when she worked as a school principal from 1988 to 2004. She has been described as 'a true leader, humble, supportive, approachable and caring yet strong when she needed to be.' A person who 'led by example' and was 'much loved by children, parents and staff'.

Not surprisingly Mary will be greatly missed by all in the parish Peace and Justice Group. We have learnt much from Mary and, while she has resigned from the group, we have no doubt that she will continue to be supportive of its activities well into the future.

*Maureen OBrien*

# Our Young Adults Group meets Archbishop Comensoli



*The SCRIPTI group: young adults of the parish with Archbishop Comensoli at the Youth Ministry Gala dinner on 27 February*

**A**s you might have read in our recent parish newsletters, at the start of 2019 our Parish launched a young adults group to offer young people a special place where they can gather and share their journey of faith throughout a variety of initiatives. At present, the group is small and cosy, yet very hopeful and determined to grow larger in the coming months. It was beautiful to hear during our first meeting how all the participants felt that the Parish needs a group of this sort to encourage the younger generation to actively participate in the life of the Church and to be “more visible” in our Parish.

Our BBE young adults group has been named SCRIPTI, based on the four main areas of the Parish focus: **ServiCe**, **lituRgy**, **commuNity** and **ProclamaTIon**. *Scripti* also recalls the scriptures, the Bible, the Gospel as foundation of our lives and nourishment for our faith. The group strongly embraces the Parish’s vision and would like to make it relevant to young adults too.

The *Scripti Group* couldn’t have had a better start than this: a special blessing directly from the hands of our Archbishop Peter A Comensoli! On 27 February, the Archdiocesan Office for Youth hosted

a Youth Ministry Gala Dinner to acknowledge and celebrate the contribution of volunteers and employees in youth ministry in the Archdiocese of Melbourne. This dinner was hosted by our Archbishop and the evening included the presentation of the inaugural Archdiocese of Melbourne Youth Ministry Awards. Who knows, one day it might be our turn to go on the stage to receive an award!

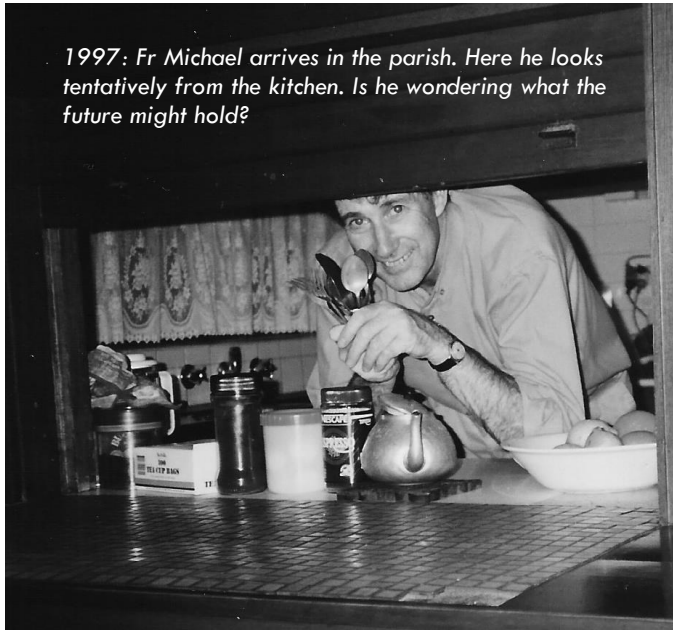
The Gala Dinner provided us with a beautiful opportunity to meet other parishes’ young people and youth ministers in a friendly atmosphere. Archbishop Comensoli gave a speech on the power of youth for the Church, especially in these challenging times; he also named some “young people” as examples to follow in our journey towards sanctity, including Saint Thérèse of Lisieux, Blessed Chiara Badano and Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati.

Archbishop Comensoli was happy to take a photo with us and bless our group with words of encouragement. Let’s pray all together for the group to grow larger and be inspired by the Spirit of Jesus.

*The Young Adults Group*

# A mix of memories over 22 years

As this will be the last *Parish Voice* with Fr Michael as Parish Priest, here are some memories of his time in the parish:



1997: Fr Michael arrives in the parish. Here he looks tentatively from the kitchen. Is he wondering what the future might hold?



Parish Fete 1997: You might also recognise a younger Paul Mercieca.



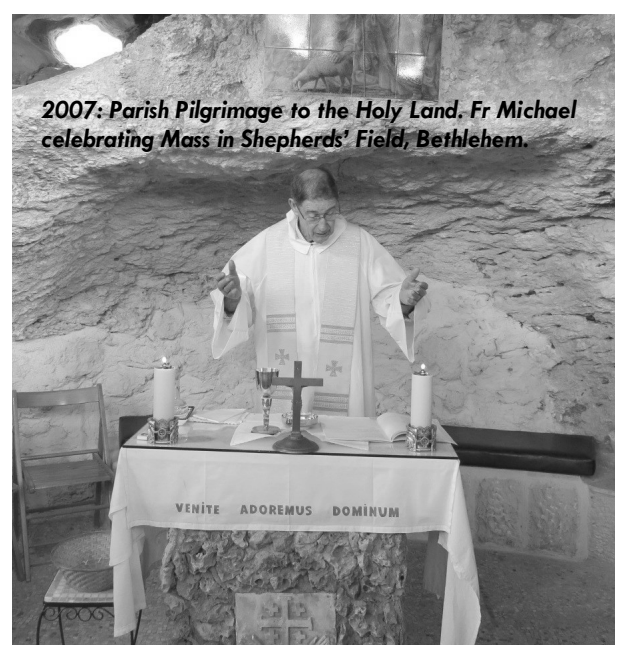
Early days in the parish: A bus trip for the Italian community



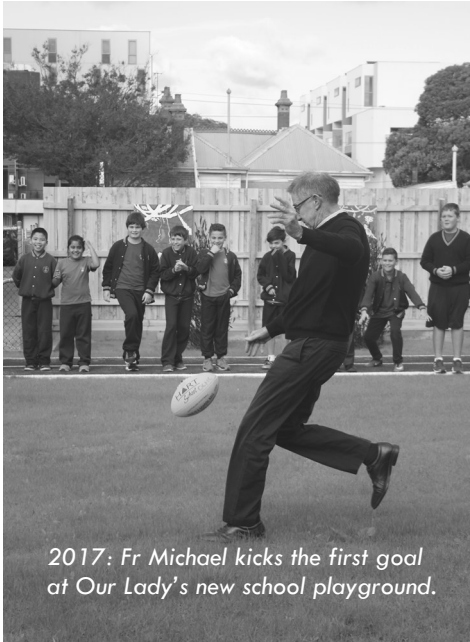
2011: The year of the Centenary of Our Lady's Parish



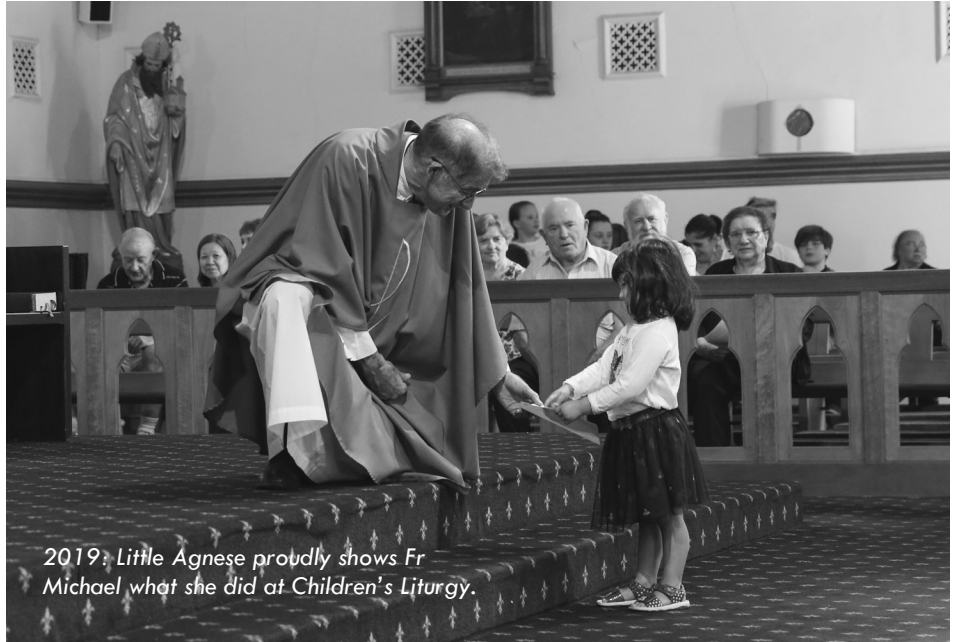
1997: Christmas party for parish seniors



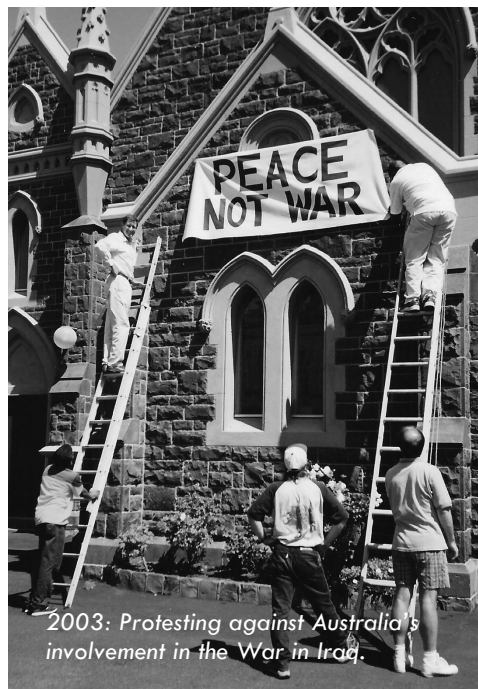
2007: Parish Pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Fr Michael celebrating Mass in Shepherds' Field, Bethlehem.



2017: Fr Michael kicks the first goal at Our Lady's new school playground.



2019: Little Agnese proudly shows Fr Michael what she did at Children's Liturgy.



2003: Protesting against Australia's involvement in the War in Iraq.



2000: Deep in conversation with Jo Bennett and Enrico Costantini



2012: Engaging in the 'Looking Forward' process in Our Lady's Hall.

# Making music for our Liturgies

We are blessed to have the talents of Margaret O'Neill and Marta Arquero adding a prayerful quality to our parish liturgies.

Music has played a huge role in Margaret's life in many different ways and in many different places. She began learning piano at age 7 and fifty years later began learning flute. In between she's been responsible for music in one parish for 25 years, been involved as a pianist/organist in another, and now in our parish. She's also taught piano and is now teaching flute and is a member of the Princes Hill Community Band. She's been a keen concert goer for many years and is enjoying this more than ever in her retirement.

Margaret been involved in the Music Ministry at St. Ambrose since Easter 2013 when she tentatively volunteered to play her flute for Mass. This was the beginning of her current commitment across both churches in the Parish to try to continue the legacy left by Br Michael Herry, who encouraged her in her fledgling flute playing. She loves being able to support the singing in the hope that this enhances the spiritual experience for everyone at Mass each weekend

Marta was born in the Philippines to a family of musicians. At a young age, she found her passion for music thanks to her father, a professional guitarist, and her brother, a violinist. As per family



Margaret O'Neill on flute and Marta Arquero on violin at the 10.30am Sunday Mass

tradition, she learned the piano at the age of 5 and continued on until she decided to switch instruments. After watching a film about violinists when she was 9 years old, she found her love for the instrument and started playing the violin. After 6 months, Marta started performing at their local parish with the choir that her father founded. From 6th grade onwards, she has joined and led her high school and university orchestras. She continued her service to her community by performing in masses and special events in the parish or in schools. After moving to Melbourne in 2018 to pursue her master's degree, she started playing at the Sunday mass in St. Ambrose, Brunswick.

*Written with the help of Margaret and Marta!*

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## Blessing of the Rivers

The Blessing of the Rivers event took place on 16 February at the junction of the Murray Darling Rivers as a prayer service to draw attention to the plight of the rivers.

Local Mercy sisters in Mildura, Helen Nolen and Carmel Setford, together with Adele Howard from Melbourne helped organise the event at the request of a farmer from near Warrnambool, Rob Rowley, and musician Shane Howard.

Local Barkindji elder Badger Bates welcomed the large crowd and spoke of the dying Darling River and the mass fish kills that had occurred. He then went to Canberra the next day to engage in discussions with decision-makers about the plight of the Darling River.

Water came to the ceremony from many Mercy places in Australia, including the Institute Centre at Stanmore (New South Wales), Mercy College and Mercy Convent at Coburg (Victoria) and Mercy Creek Seville in Cairns (Queensland) and Pascoe Vale!

Consciousness of the crisis of the Darling River was raised in the preparation phase and among those who went to the trouble of sending or bringing water to the river for the blessing ceremony where healing and action was prayed for.

Sr Thérèse Power



# Modern Day Slavery Act

Under new federal legislation, introduced late last year, companies with a consolidated annual revenue of more than \$100 million must provide a written statement on what steps they are taking to ensure their supply chains are slavery-free. Companies have until July 2020 to comply with the changes.

The Chair of the Sydney Archdiocese's Anti-Slavery Taskforce, John McCarthy QC, said: "As one of the largest employers in the country, the Catholic Church is taking a leading role in working to ensure our supply chains comply with the new laws.

Paul Sharkey, from Catholic Education Melbourne, along with *Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans*, made the decision to focus on a few initiatives to raise awareness of modern slavery and encourage schools to make more informed choices. "It is easy to think of slavery as a remote issue, either not much to do with Australia or not much to do with our time in history. In fact, the choices we make very much support or discourage slavery and so we need to become much more educated in this area," Dr Sharkey said. "The campaign around purchasing fair trade tea and coffee seemed like a good place to start as did the campaign to buy slavery-free chocolate for Easter eggs."



Dr Sharkey said the campaign will not be an entirely easy feat. "The first hurdle is for people to realise that slavery has many forms and that it is real and that we are involved in it, at least to some degree, by the clothes we buy, the chocolate we eat and so on," he said. "The second hurdle is more practical: Which products should we buy? Are there issues around quality or price?" Dr Sharkey said some schools were already making the switch to fair-trade goods before Catholic Education Melbourne embarked on the campaign. "I know others have been encouraged to get on board because they have seen some merit in the position that we have put to them," he said. "My hope is that the campaign gathers good momentum in the coming months."

*Sr Thérèse Power*



## Some Women of the Parish

At a recent parish function our photographer Paul Mercieca captured this beautiful image of women from the Parish.  
L to R: Maureen O'Brien, Agnes Dodds, Sr Thérèse Power, Margaret O'Neill, Gaye Swinn, Alison Heap and Bernadette Mercieca

# Five years with Francis

In early February, our Parishioners were invited to the Festival of Evensong at Christ Church, the Anglican Church in Brunswick, where Anglican Archbishop David Moxon delivered the Philip Harris Memorial Lecture. David is the former director of the Anglican Centre in Rome and was the Archbishop of Canterbury's representative there. He spoke of his five years in Rome, particularly of the occasions he met with Pope Francis, and gave many examples of Pope Francis' warmth and some delightful examples of his sense of humour.

During Archbishop Moxon's time in Rome a very important gathering occurred. All the faith leaders from across the world breached cultural, religious



*Anglican Archbishop David Moxon is greeted by Pope Francis at the Vatican*

and political divides to come together in Vatican City to pledge an end to modern slavery and human trafficking. They were joined by leaders from many countries of the world representing the business, political and civil sectors. In this watershed event global leaders from the Christian Catholic Anglican and Orthodox religions as well as Buddhist, Hindu, Jewish and Muslim faiths signed the Joint Declaration of Religious Leaders Against Modern Slavery.

*Sr Thérèse Power*



# A catechist for 40 years

We offer warm congratulations to our parish catechist, Janice O'Rourke, who has faithfully prepared children for the Sacraments for 40 years. She currently teaches children in the Clifton Hill and Northcote parishes, as well as our own parish of Brunswick and Brunswick East.

Janice's mother also worked as a Catechist and was the inspiration for her commitment. Janice describes her volunteer work as 'an ongoing love affair'. She is also a gifted dressmaker and designer. She worked in the Commonwealth Public Service for many years before retiring to care for her elderly mother.

We are most grateful to Janice for her commitment to spreading the faith through her generosity and living example.



*Janice with a group of children preparing for the sacraments in the 1990s*

**Thanks to all who have contributed to this issue:**

Maureen O'Brien, Sr Thérèse Power, Fr Michael Casey, Tricia Murray, Young Adults Group, Margaret O'Neill, Marta Arquero, Paul Mercieca (photographer)