

## *St Patrick's Care and Concern Group*

The current Chapter of St. Patrick's Care and Concern was established in 2014. Chris Davis, Anne Erbacher and Monica Boucek met with Fr. Joseph to approve our ideas; from there we had several meetings with Centre Care to ensure we operated within the Brisbane Archdiocese guidelines. After about four months of planning and organization, our very first function was in September, 2014. Our number has grown to thirteen registered

St. Patrick's Care and Concern Members. We have many willing parishioners who will cook meals etc. when we need an extra hand. Our meetings are held about every six weeks; we discuss what we have done since our previous meeting and plan ahead bringing new ideas to the table, enabling us to provide a better service to our Parish Community. We offer Pastoral Care to our Parish community in many ways; short term meals to individuals and families in crisis such as illness, etc. When long term assistance is required, we offer to liaise with Community Service Providers who can provide this service. Our members also take Holy Communion to people who are unable to attend Mass, and provide transport to Mass, medical appointments and grocery shopping for parishioners where there is a need. We visit those who are unable to get out and about in the community and are invited to their home to have a cuppa and a chat. We also visit parishioners in hospital. We can organize some home handyman tasks as we now have three handymen on our roll. Other group activities include: providing tea coffee and a light morning /afternoon tea style refreshments after small funerals, also light refreshments after extra special Mass celebrations and when VIP Religious visit us. Where there is a need we do our best to provide our St. Patrick's Care and Concern to the Parishioners of St. Patrick's Beenleigh.

### **A Brief History of St Patrick's Care and Concern Group**

Sixty years ago St Patrick's Catholic Church was established. It was 1955, WWII had ended ten years prior and the Korean War (1951-52) ended three years prior. Beenleigh was still pretty much a rural community and folks didn't just jump in the car to pick up something from a shop. It was a time when people relied on friends and neighbours pretty much entirely for help; that's what people did in those days. It was a slower paced world and people shared what they had with someone or family who were doing it tough. When St. Vincent De Paul society became established in the community, they assisted those who were in need. It wasn't until the 1974 floods that they got into full swing and haven't stopped since, providing food parcels, clothing, and bedding. For many years now St. Vincent De Paul has provided food parcels to the Parish Office so that outside S.V.D.P. operating hours, those in need could go to the Parish Office for food parcels, even at weekends, if needed, the Parish Priest could provide food parcels to those who came to the Presbytery for food because they were desperate. So for all of those years, St. Vincent De Paul has provided all they could to those in need in St. Patrick's Parish, Beenleigh. They have provided a great deal of Care and Concern for the Parishioners and the wider community of Beenleigh.

## **The Establishment of St Patrick's Care and Concern 2006**

In 2006 Francoise Kelly established St. Patrick's Care and Concern Beenleigh. Francoise continued in her role for six years when she became ill and had to retire. Francoise provided frozen meals for those in need, with the help of parishioners who would cook meals and leave them in the Parish Office Freezer ready to be collected and delivered. Assisted by Tom, Francoise's late husband, they would deliver the meals together, they also visited and assessed people who had other needs and then set about assisting the person/family in need. Francoise also provided morning tea after the Healing Mass on the first Friday of each month. When Francoise retired from St. Patrick's Care and Concern after six years, assisted always by Tom, Francoise passed St. Patrick's Care and Concern over to Joanne Hancock, the then Parish Secretary. Joanne catered for various events and assisted parishioners providing frozen meals to those in need: these meals were prepared by parishioners and kept in the Parish Office freezer. Joanne also organized transport to medical appointments and transport for parishioners to Mass. 2013 Joanne resigned to return to New South Wales, and St. Patrick's Care and Concern ceased to function. In September 2014 St. Patrick's Care and Concern reopened. We are ready and able to provide Care and Concern to Parishioners in need at St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Beenleigh.

## **Sharing the love of the Lord.**



*Current Chapter of Care and Concern was established in 2014. Our members are from – LEFT TO RIGHT: Francoise Kelly (retired), Steph Lemon, Veronica Ghidella, Betty Graver, Monica Boucek, John Gore, Anne Erbacher, Chris Davis.*

*Serving members whose photographs were not available are: Betty Cheeseman, Colleen Clune, Jan Tiley, Mick Foley and most recent new member; Darryl Buckley.*

*INSERT: Theresa Tarani Greig*

