

Lay Eucharistic Ministry

- Visiting the housebound and Residents at Nursing Homes

Our parish is blessed. We have several parishioners, who as lay Eucharist ministers, take the Eucharist to people in their homes - people who for one reason or another are unable to attend mass. In addition to these visits, lay Eucharistic ministers also take the Eucharist to residents in Nursing Homes and other Aged Care facilities in our area.

This wonderful Ministry has been a part of St Patrick's Parish for as long as I can remember. Some of the ministers have been doing this for many, many years and say that it is an honour and privilege to serve as they feel that they get so much more than they give. They go with an open heart and ready smile and are the human bridge to St Patrick's Parish. These ministers are the Church in action. They show that as a Parish, we care and love those who are not able to join us at Mass and that they are still valued and important members of our Parish. I know that the recipients are most appreciative and do look forward to these visits.

Currently, our ministers visit the following Nursing Homes and Aged Care Facilities either weekly, fortnightly or monthly. Our Parish Priest also celebrates mass on a monthly basis at the various Nursing Homes - times and dates are published in our weekly news bulletin

- Pimpama Nursing Home
- Jimbelunga Nursing Centre
- Beenleigh Nursing Home
- Bethania Gardens Nursing Centre
- Bethania Haven
- Connolly Court, Eden's Landing
- Woodbeck Village
- Palm Lakes Resort, Waterford
- Palm Lakes Aged Care, Bethania

At the beginning of 2006, Jean Tamblyn offered to coordinate these services. The aim was to be able to provide the service to all who request it within our Parish, especially those who are sick and are not able to attend mass for a short duration or to those who are house bound over a longer period. The service to the Nursing Homes and Aged Care facilities has set times and dates but visits to people in their own homes is by mutual arrangement between the recipient and the lay minister.

As mentioned, this service of taking the Eucharist to residents in Nursing Homes and to family, friends and neighbours in their own homes has been an established Ministry in our caring Parish for many years. The call of each Baptised person is to be on mission to proclaim the reign of God. Ministry brings the public voice and service for the Kingdom. All our lay Eucharistic ministers, past and present, give their time generously and serve with compassion. This ministry is a matter of the heart and that ministry is how we love and not just what we do.