



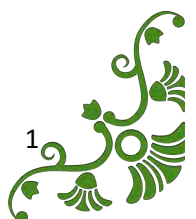
Acknowledgements

The 60th Anniversary of St Patrick's parish was a great opportunity to celebrate the history of the parish and its development into the great place it is today. The memories of parishioners highlight the importance of the church in their lives and the work of parishioners, present and past, is an inspiration to all of us.

Our thanks go to our sponsors, who made it possible for us to print this book, to our parishioners who have contributed their stories, to Father Joseph Kanatt for being encouraging and motivating, to the team editing all the contributions and putting the stories together, to the people working with the pictures and putting the finishing touches to the pages. Thanks also to all the people doing the many little tasks behind the scenes, as they are all important for the outcome.

We would also like to thank the Yugambeh Museum, Language and Heritage Research Centre and the Beenleigh Historical Village and Museum. The information gained from visiting these centres has helped us put the development of the parish into the context of historical developments in Australia, Queensland and the Logan area.

Editorial Board,
St Patrick's Parish, Beenleigh.





THE ARCHBISHOP OF BRISBANE

SIXTIETH ANIVERSARY OF ST PATRICK'S PARISH BEENLEIGH

In other parts of the world, 60 years is not a very long time. But in Australia it is a long time, and the anniversary of the parish of Beenleigh is very much worth celebrating. So much happens in a parish that only God could tell the full story of what these 60 years have meant; and in a real sense the story would be not only the story of what parishioners have done through the years but what God himself has done through that time. In other words, it would be a story of grace.

So much has happened in the Church and in the world since St Patrick's parish was established in 1955. The world of now is almost unrecognisably different from what it was then. But one thing that has not changed is the faith of the Catholic people who founded the parish and the faith of those who now make up the community. We think of the priests who have served in Beenleigh, and also the Religious men and women. But we think of so many others who have humbly contributed their time, treasure and talent to build not only buildings but also the community which is the true house of God with Jesus Christ as its corner-stone. We not only think of these men and women, but we give thanks to God for them – because it has been through them that the story of God has unfolded in Beenleigh.

May the God of peace continue to guide the parish through this time of change, and may the prayer of your patron, St Patrick, lead you joyfully and energetically along the path of mission, sharing with others, especially the most needy, the gifts that you have received from the hand of God.

Archbishop of Brisbane



The Most Reverend Mark Coleridge

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WITH GRATITUDE



There is a time for every season and the year of 2015 is the time for St Patrick's Beenleigh to proudly celebrate its 60th Anniversary.

As your Parish Priest, it brings me absolute joy and pleasure to be with you, the people of St Patrick's, on this momentous occasion.

Since the formation of this Beenleigh community, the people of St Patrick's Parish have ministered together bringing the mission of Jesus to all who pass through our community and beyond. We are multicultural, ecumenical, outreaching peoples who have learnt, been nurtured and encouraged, to build on the corner stone and foundations of previous parishioners and their experiences, and who now continue to outreach within our community and beyond, spiritually, practically, and as a community of faith, hope and love.

Over the years, there have been many blessings and joys, but also much sadness and bad times, but these "life events", good and bad alike, make up the fabric of our lives and community, inviting us to grow and move forward through the guidance and strength of the Holy Spirit, and in a spirit of sharing, education and mission, joining the Archdiocese of Brisbane and the global institution of the catholic church to enhance and share with all we meet daily, the love and protection of Jesus Christ, thus taking our part in the responsibility of bringing His mission into 2015.

This catholic faith community has journeyed far since St Patricks Beenleigh become a parish in its own right back in 1955. Despite the arduous earlier times we have arrived at 60 years!! To this end I wish to acknowledge with deep respect and gratitude the dedication and tireless work of the previous Parish Priests, Associate Priests, and multitude of parishioners those living and those in your glory, who accepted the call - and most definitely a very big challenge in earlier days - to foster, proclaim and spread the Good News and Mission of Jesus Christ. In the spirit of Faith and Trust, the community of St Patrick's Beenleigh has in 2015 successfully arrived at this joyous occasion to celebrate with each other and the wider community of Beenleigh all that is good and full of Gospel values.

We, the people of St Patrick's Beenleigh, should today feel proud of our journey and all that has been established within this faith community thus far. I reflect with pride and gratitude on the many vibrant community groups within St Patricks and all who serve willingly and selflessly to enhance and ensure the ongoing success of the Parish. I acknowledge the St Vincent De Paul, Care and Concern, After School Care, Library, the Prayer groups and Meditation group, Youth Ministry, Legion of Mary, the Choir, the Eucharistic and Visitation



ministry to private homes and the many aged care facilities within the area of Beenleigh, the Columbarium, and Gardeners.

The Finance Committee, the Parish Council, the Parish Administrative Team, and all the individual peoples whose skills and trades, make our multicultural home and church of St Patrick's a welcoming, safe, caring, respectful community reflecting yet again, the Gospel values of Jesus Christ.

By your example of strong convictions and talents being alive and well within the parish community, the children at our schools of St Joseph Tobruk Memorial, Trinity College, and Mother Teresa Catholic Primary School Ormeau, are encouraged and inspired to journey forward with the same great community spirit of deep respect and true value systems, and with a strong basis on which to foster the mission of Christ in the years ahead.

Our daily witnessing here at St Patricks and in the wider Beenleigh community send strong examples of Faith Formation and Ecumenism – seeking to bring Christians together, restoring unity amongst all – a principle challenge of the Second Vatican Council. It is about Evangelisation – the call we all receive – not just some – through our Baptism.

I am filled with pride and admiration to you my community, when I actively see you all so willingly outreaching and generously giving of your time to your neighbours proclaiming through actions and words, the Good News.

To each and every one of you, and to your families for their many sacrifices made for the Parish, I salute you, congratulate you and say thank you.

May we journey forward, reaching out in the years ahead with one heart through our many faces and cultures; living and spreading God's loving spirit to the wider community.

God's richest blessings upon you all. May His Light Shine Upon You.

Rev. Fr. Joseph Kanatt

MCBS, Parish Priest
St. Patrick's Catholic Parish, Beenleigh





St Joseph's Tobruk Memorial School

On behalf of the St Joseph's Tobruk Memorial School community, I offer warm congratulations to our Catholic parish of St Patrick's on the occasion of its 60th anniversary.

Only two short years ago, St Joseph's Tobruk Memorial School celebrated 60 years of Catholic education provision, and it was this recent milestone that served to remind the school community of both past and present staff and families, who have worked to build such a solid Catholic education reputation for St Joseph's.

Similarly, this year the parish rejoices in the men, women and children who, over 60 years, have established St Patrick's as a vibrant Catholic parish in which the Gospel message is exemplified through the lives of its parishioners. This was an aspect of St Patrick's Catholic Parish life that became plainly obvious to me when I first arrived with 'fresh eyes' as St Joseph's Tobruk Memorial School Principal, 18 months ago. I acknowledge the welcome that St Patrick's parishioners so readily and willingly deliver to all who seek to join them.

I also acknowledge the past and present clergy of St Patrick's Catholic Parish, who have supported the worshipping community and been faith filled evangelisers. Particular thanks to current Parish Priest, Father Joseph Kanatt, who has been most keen for the parish's 60 year celebrations to be worthy of its long and strong faith base.

Of course, parishes rely heavily on the support of laity, and I pay tribute to a long line of people who have answered the Spirit's call for them to be more fully involved as parishioners.

At this special time of anniversary celebration, I pray that St Patrick, who brought the Christian faith to the people of Ireland, continues to enliven the faith of his parish here at Beenleigh. May St Patrick continue to guide all who strive to do God's work within our parish, now and into the future. St Patrick – pray for us.

Mr Stephen Johnson

Principal,
St Joseph's Tobruk Memorial School

Trinity College-*“In God We Trust”*

With an unprecedented growth in the Brisbane south area in the late 1970's and early 1980's it became evident that there was need to build a Catholic co-educational secondary College to serve the educational and religious needs of the local church. After due consideration and debate as to where such a College might be situated in order to best serve a number of parish communities, namely the then parishes of; Daisy Hill, Woodridge, Beenleigh and Beaudesert, it was decided to build the College on a parcel of land, located in close proximity to St Patrick's Catholic Church, Beenleigh. Thus, Trinity College, and its long and close association with St Patrick's Parish, came to be.

Trinity College opened in 1982 with its first one hundred students, under the governance of Brisbane Catholic Education, with the assistance of the Marist Brothers. For the first 6 years, 1982 – 1987, the founding Principal, Br John Mullins FMS, along with a small number of other Marist Brothers lived in community at the College and taught at the school. The residence, in which the Brothers lived has remained on site and now exists as the Caretaker's residence. The Sisters of St Joseph were also prominent in the early formative years of the College. The mission and rich heritage of education, prayer and work, synonymous with both the Marist Brothers and the Sisters of St Joseph, and their emphasis on the provision of Christian education for, both girls and boys laid a strong foundation for education, both academically and in terms of Religious Education, at the College.

Under the leadership of Brother John Mullins and successive Principals, Mr Bob Peacock, Mr John Lamb and Mrs Catherine Thompson, the ties with the local parish community have become a feature of College life, as students from families actively involved in the life of St Patrick's Parish have taken up enrolments at the College. However, the ties with the Parish do not stop here. Constant across the years has been the support offered to the College by successive Parish priests. This support has been realised in numerous ways including assisting College staff in the planning of significant liturgical celebrations for the College, making themselves available to speak to classes or simply being a presence in the College grounds and involved in life at the College, particularly on special days such as Trinity Day celebrated each year. The College is indebted to our Parish priests not only for the way they have made themselves available to the Trinity community, in ways already noted, but particularly in their willingness to preside at all significant Masses and liturgical celebrations throughout the years. The College community treasures those times when as a whole school community are able to gather around the table of the Lord and give thanks for the many blessings in our lives.

Across the years the College has also worked to involve itself and lend support to parish life. This has been evident in numerous ways. For example some students from the College have taken up the opportunity to be involved in the Parish Youth Group, whilst others have attended significant masses in the life of the “In God We Trust” Parish as representatives of the College, including in years past, the Trinity Sunday Mass where the College choir would sing. In more recent years Ash Wednesday has seen staff and students,





from each year level in the College, attending the 7am Ash Wednesday Mass at St Patrick's in order to collect ashes to bring back to our school community. Most notably though the College's involvement in Parish life has taken the form of work done in the area of Social Justice. Since its early days Trinity College has worked each year to support the work of the St Patrick's St. Vincent De Paul group. Staff, students and families of the College are active in a number of ways across the year in order to offer their support to the important work of this Parish group. Each year the College community donates tins, in their hundreds, gives blankets and other warm items, food hampers and gifts for children at Christmas. All these make their way to the St Patrick's Parish St Vincent De Paul group.

Trinity College is committed to making Jesus known and loved through the ministry of Education. The close support given in the forming of our young people and reciprocal nature of the relationship between the College and St Patrick's Parish has played an important role, across the years, in doing just that in the lives of innumerable young people.

Mrs Nancy Rodgers

Asst. Principal Religious Education
Trinity College, Beenleigh



MOTHER TERESA SCHOOL ORMEAU

In April 2008, action was commenced on a long held vision to establish a catholic Primary school in Ormeau, through the publication of the Educational Brief for Mother Teresa School. There had already been considerable prior work in the defining of the need for a school, consultation with the parish, purchase of the site and research into the naming of the school. The Educational Brief was the blueprint for the Steering Committee to action until a school leadership team could be appointed. Links to the parish were made very early and outlined in the Educational Brief:

The Catholic Parish of Beenleigh welcomes the Ormeau community as an integral part of the parish. Strategies will be developed to meet the pastoral needs of this Catholic community. Initially, use will be made of school facilities for parish gatherings and worship.

A principal, Mr Peter Kerrins was appointed in May of 2010, the school financial secretary (Mrs Helen Day) and Assistant Principal (Mrs Kathleen Crawford) were appointed shortly after and had the



responsibility of actioning items in the Educational Brief in time for the school opening in January 2011.

The school marked the official turning of the soil in September of 2010. Parish Priest Fr Anthony Girvan conducted a liturgy on site

among the tall trees and long grass on a wet Sunday morning, prior to turning the first sod. In an inauspicious start, Fr Tony actually broke the shovel on the hard compacted dirt!

The broken shovel must have been an omen, because two days after construction started, it began to rain, and rained for 43 consecutive days, and more summer rain delayed the opening of the school, and our first five weeks of operation actually took place in the gymnasium of Assissi College, Upper Coomera. We spent a further five months in demountable buildings in the car park before taking possession of our buildings on June 24, 2011.

Even in our temporary homes, links with the Parish were being formed with Fr tony conducting liturgies with our children right from the start, in each of our 'homes'. We began making our annual pilgrimage to St Patrick's Church to celebrate mass at first on our own, but then combinin with St Joseph's, and in 2015, Trinity College.

The three schools welcomed Fr Joseph Kanatt in 2014, and have been working towards the building of closer ties. The children from both primary schools have attended very successful Open Day activities at Trinity College, our combined school masses have continued, and the leadership teams from each school meet regularly with Fr Joseph to plan events as a team. In 2015 the combined school leaders have developed a banner which incorporates the logos of the three schools and the parish.

Finally, in 2015 we celebrated our first full school mass in our library with Fr Joseph, and we look forward to our next big step which will be weekend Parish worship on site as our facilities continue to develop.

Mr Peter Kerrins

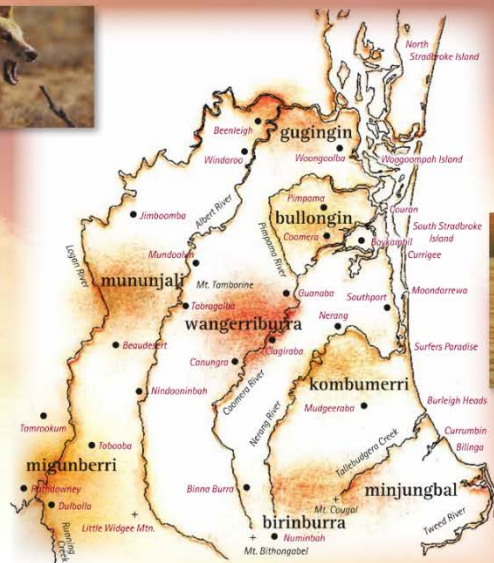
Principal,
Mother Teresa School, Ormeau

Yugambehnga Gaurema

The Yugambeh Story

The Yugambeh Aboriginal people live in one of Australia's most scenic and fertile regions – the areas now called the Gold Coast, Logan and the Scenic Rim.

Traditional life was in an environment abundant with seafood and wildlife. The communities trained dingos to help catch kangaroos and wallabies, and dolphins to help them harvest the fish from the sea.



The Yugambeh language area included a number of clans such as the Kombumerri, Mununjali, and Wangerriburra. United by a common language, they were known collectively as the Yugambeh people.

The first Europeans arrived in the 1820s. From this time, Yugambeh people found their survival options were very limited. Some openly opposed the new arrivals. Others hid in the remote areas of their lands or took refuge with the missionaries. The luckiest survived long enough to reach working agreements with local pastoralists and farmers.

All of them fought to stay on their country, as long as possible.



Yugambeh Museum
Language & Heritage
Research Centre

www.yugambeh.com

*ool – boat jeeoomgung – black snake koolumbil – bark
fish kowunday – porpoise kunniyah – bind to n'ungum
n'gundaroo – another mee – eye moolaim – crayfish m*

Courtesy of the Yugambeh Museum Language & Heritage Research Centre
Cnr Martens St and Plantation Rd Beenleigh 4207



The First Australians

Our Parish, like other areas of Australia, has been populated by Aboriginal people for an amazingly long time. Aboriginal culture forms one of the world's oldest continuous surviving societies. There is clear archaeological evidence that humans have been present in Australia as far back as 40,000 years and there are scientific finds suggesting that people were using fire to clear land as long as 120,000 years ago.

In the early 1800's the people to the south and east of the Logan River spoke the Yugambeh language. Studies indicate that there were eight family groups within the Yugambeh. Of these, the one which lived closest to our present-day parish was the Gugingin. The junction of the Logan and Albert rivers, now the Beenleigh area was called 'Wobbumarjoo', or 'boggy clay' by the Gugingin people.

In the 1820's the first Europeans, surveyors, timber cutters and missionaries arrived. These early arrivals and Aboriginal people were able to live side by side, but when by the 1850's pastoralists and free settlers started to claim the land life became very difficult for the Yugambeh people. Those who opposed the new arrivals were killed or taken as Aboriginal labour. To survive, Aboriginal people hid in remote areas or took refuge with the missionaries.

Bilin Bilin, leader of his people and ancestor of many of today's Yugambeh, made a treaty with the early missionaries promising to bring the people to church, so long as they were given protection. His tactics worked and many of his descendants live in their traditional country today.

Warri, spouse of George Drumley, survived on her land by working with Lutheran missionaries in the Eagleby and Pimpama area. This allowed her to stay close to her children and in later life she lived with her daughter Jenny Graham.

Emily Jackie was the daughter of Bilin Bilin and Nellie. She married Willie Williams and they took children orphaned by the frontier wars to live in the mountains around Christmas Creek. They deliberately removed themselves from danger, by hiding in the most remote region of their land.

Descendants of these Yugambeh still live in our area and have played a part in our parish life by participating in our celebrations and providing training about Aboriginal culture.

The Yugambeh Museum, Language and Heritage Research Centre is promoting the traditional knowledge of our region. It is open to the public (Wed 10am-2pm) and is well worth a visit for those who are interested in Aboriginal culture, present and past, and want to find out more about it.





Cover of Program for Aboriginal Sunday and NAIDOC Week 2001



Eileen Williams at St Patrick's on Aboriginal Sunday and NAIDOC Week 2001

In the background quilt made during Children's Liturgy



Fr Grundy blessing the Reconciliation Rock after Aboriginal Sunday Mass, 2002

Painting by Aboriginal artist Judith Nuriyn-Yumba

Penal Settlement

The first Europeans to come to Queensland and our parish area were in some way involved with convicts and penal settlements. In 1823 Surveyor General John Oxley explored Moreton Bay and the lower parts of a river, later named the Brisbane River after the then Governor of New South Wales. Oxley was looking for suitable sites for new penal settlements, to house convicts who had re-offended. He returned the following year and established a temporary settlement at Redcliff. Unfortunately this proved hard to defend and appeared to be malaria infested and hence it was moved in 1825 to where the Brisbane CBD now lies.

Transportation of convicts continued until 1839. Close to 2,400 men and 145 women, mostly English and Irish convicts passed through until its closure in 1840. It had a reputation for being a very harsh penal settlement, with very severe punishments being handed out. Convict labour was used for construction and farm work. Two buildings still remain today: the Commissariat Store, now a historical museum and the Old Windmill on Wickham Terrace.



*Commissariat Store Museum, convict built
Wikimedia Commons*



*The Old Windmill, Wickham Park, convict built
Wikimedia Commons*

Captain Patrick Logan



*Captain Patrick Logan.
Mitchell Library, State Library
of NSW*

Patrick Logan was the commander of the Moreton Bay penal settlement from 1826 till his death in 1830. He led several expeditions to chart the geography of the land and, as such, would probably have been one of the first Europeans to explore the Beenleigh region. Consequently, the Logan River and many other Logan localities are named after him. He was killed in 1830 during an expedition mapping the junction of the Brisbane and Stanley Rivers. There is a monument commemorating Patrick Logan at Mount Lindesay Highway.

Timber Cutters

The first Europeans to become interested in the Beenleigh area were timber cutters arriving not only from the Morton Bay colony, but also from the Tweed in the south, in search of cedar and hardwood. They were followed by teamsters with bullocks and wagons, who moved the logs to river locations such as Alberton and Luscombe Bridge where they were rolled into the river. In some shallow places the timber could only pass at high spring tide before being floated to mills in Brisbane. Timber milling remained an important industry in the area up until the 1940s when there were still six sawmills in and around Beenleigh and Bethania.

The First Migrant Ship

In 1842, the Moreton Bay settlement and the associated regions were opened to free settlers.

The first immigrant ship to Moreton Bay, the *Artemisia*, arrived in 1848, after a one hundred and twenty day journey, with two hundred and forty passengers on board from London and Plymouth.

It was soon followed by three ships organized by Reverend John Dunmore Lang. Another 35 ships followed in the 1850s, increasing



Deck of the Artemisia, emigrants on board, by Frederick Smyth from the Illustrated London News, 12 August 1848 p 96, John Oxley Library

the population by approximately 10,000 people.

The First Mission

The very first Christian mission and later free settlement in what was to become Queensland was a combined Lutheran/Presbyterian/ Pietist project. Zion Hill was established at German Creek (now Nundah) in 1838. The purpose of the mission was to bring Christianity to the Yaggera Aboriginal people, and also to prevent attacks on ship wrecked soldiers. Reverend John Dunmore Lang had managed to have 650 acres of land set aside and arranged for a group of 30 adults to start a mission.

It had some initial success in that some Yaggera worked as farm hands and some of their children attended school. Eventually finance was withdrawn as the land was required by the new immigrant arrivals. The mission was closed in 1848 and by 1850 it was abandoned.

The First Catholic Mission

The first Roman Catholic mission in Australia was established at Dunwich on Stradbroke Island by Archbishop John Bede Polding from Sydney in 1843.

The missionary group consisted of four Passionist priests, three Italian and one Swiss. They were new to Australia, unprepared for the local conditions and unfortunately had little ongoing support from Sydney.

The mission was using buildings which had previously housed convicts and soldiers.

Two of the earliest recorded baptisms in what is now Queensland took place at Dunwich on 20 June, 1944. Two sons of Irishman Dick Smith and Aboriginal Neli were baptised by Father Joseph Snell, one of the missionary priests.

The mission operated until 1847 when the last priest, Raymund Vaccari, left on 20 July.

The 170th anniversary was celebrated on May 20, 2013 by Archbishop Mark Coleridge.



Aunty Rose Borey, Archbishop Mark Coleridge and Aunty Ethel McKaskill celebrating the 170th Anniversary of the Church's presence on North Stradbroke Island.

Photo: Alan Edgecomb – May 20, 2013

Early Beenleigh

During this early period of white settlement, a variety of crops were grown in the area, including cotton, due to the world shortage created by the American Civil War in the early 1860s. Eventually, sugar became the predominant crop in the region, giving rise to a number of sugar crushing mills and rum distilleries in the area. Early settlers Francis Gooding and John Davy had a large plantation where the Albert and Logan Rivers met and named it 'Beenleigh' which is thought to be the town in England from which Davy originated. Due to

the property's location near the main roads and rivers, the name Beenleigh was eventually adopted for the entire local region, first appearing in the town survey of 1866. However, in 1868 Beenleigh was still largely bush, but it was the meeting point of roads to and from Brisbane, Southport, Bethania, Waterford, Eagleby and Yatala, making it the ideal point for a trading post. It was here that James Savage decided to build his home and the Beenleigh Exchange Store. By 1871 many other businesses had opened in the region including a state school and the Beenleigh Courthouse.

New sources of immigrants

Up until separation from New South Wales, most of the Morton Bay colony's European population consisted of British subjects. When Queensland became a separate colony in 1859, the need for more colonists became critical for the survival of the new colony. With so many British immigrants flooding to the gold fields in Victoria, new sources of immigrants had to be sought. Due to severe economic conditions in Germany, many German immigrants had been coming to Australia. They had been observed as hard working and similar in character to British immigrants, important in the somewhat xenophobic times. To meet this end, Governor Bowen employed two immigration agents to encourage immigration from Germany: Mr Jordan in Britain and Johan Heussler in Germany.

Heussler, a respected politician and businessman, was appointed Queensland Immigration Agent to Hamburg in 1861. He spent time in Germany promoting Queensland and instituted a scheme providing free passage and a land order on arrival. He was responsible for much of the early German migration to Queensland. Bethania, Alberton, Eagleby (German Pocket), Pimpama Island, Yatala and Gramzow (Carbrook) were all settled by Germans. German immigrants were very successful and up until 1914, Germans were the largest non-British population group in Queensland.

The Bethesda Mission

Bethesda, on the Albert River between Eagleby and Beenleigh, was the first mission to be set up in the separate colony of Queensland in 1866.

Its founder was Pastor Johann Gottfried Haussmann, who had been one of the founding members of the Zion Hill mission. The Bethesda mission operated until 1881, serving the surrounding German and Yugambeh Aboriginal population in the Albert-Logan region.

Bilin Bilin was a leader of the Yugambeh people, who spent time at Bethesda, where he learnt to read and write. He brought his people to the mission so that they could be protected.



This barn on the site of the German Mission Station called 'Bethesda' is believed to have been built in Pastor Haussman's era.

Source: Picture Australia



The missions offered the Yugambeh refuge from violence of settlers taking over the land. The isolation also gave some protection from diseases for which they had little or no resistance. Unfortunately the missions also suppressed the culture by discouraging the use of language and cultural practices. However, it did unintentionally help to preserve local indigenous culture in that it allowed Aborigines to congregate in safety. The descendants of the Yugambeh that lived on the missions are living and prospering in our community today.

Early Catholics

The first Catholics to arrive in Australia were Irish convicts and some British marines arriving with the First Fleet. Catholic convicts had to attend Church of England services and their children and orphans were raised as Anglicans as there was no Catholic Church presence at that time. Three Catholic priests were transported in 1800 and one of them, Fr Dixon was permitted to celebrate Mass on 15 May 1803. His permit was unfortunately withdrawn for political reasons.

The Catholic Church came to Australia in the late 1830's, when convict transportation became less frequent and free settlement started to develop. John Bede Polding was appointed the first Roman Catholic Bishop and then Archbishop of Sydney, both in 1842. It was Archbishop Polding who in 1843 established the Catholic Mission to the Aborigines at Dunwich on Stradbroke Island and celebrated the first mass there in May of that year.

Queensland was initially administered by the Archdiocese of Sydney. During this time Catholics were relying on occasional visits by itinerant priests. There were some priests based in Brisbane while others were travelling overland from Sydney or Northern New South Wales to minister to remote Catholics.

The separate Archdiocese of Brisbane was established in 1859, the same year Queensland was declared a separate colony from New South Wales. James Quinn was the first Bishop of Brisbane and served the archdiocese until his death in 1881.



Early development of our parish



Dr James Quinn

Dr James Quinn formed the Queensland Immigration Society to bring willing Irish Catholics from an overcrowded Ireland to underpopulated Queensland. Dr Quinn was concerned about the plight of Catholics in Ireland suffering from widespread famine as well as social and political problems. The first of Dr. Quinn's ships, the *Erin-Go-Bragh*, arrived in 1862. It was quickly followed by others and within twelve months almost four thousand Irish Catholics had settled in Queensland. A large number settled on the Logan, such as in Logan Reserve, Waterford and Tamborine.

This influx of Catholics to the south east corner of Queensland necessitated the formation of the Parish (or Mission) of Logan, with Fr J. Connolly the first priest to be given the responsibility for the region. This parish extended from Brisbane to the Tweed River in the south and Mount Lindsay on the west. Due to the vastness of the area, priests from other regions, including Brisbane and northern New South Wales also tended to the needs of parishioners.

Many churches were built in the region in this period. The first public building in Logan Reserve was a small bark Catholic church/school, the Church of the Assumption, erected in 1864-5, and later moved to become St James' Church in Waterford. It eventually became St Declan's, Eight Mile Plains. The building of St Mary's in Beaudesert also began during this time.

The First Resident Priests

In 1874 Fr Benedict Scortechini was appointed the first resident priest of the Logan Mission. He was recruited in Italy by Bishop Quinn during the first Vatican Council and he arrived in Queensland in 1875.



*Fr. Scortechini. Retrieved from:
<http://www.anbg.gov.au/biography/schortechini-benedetto.html>*

Fr Benedict Scortechini became the first priest to reside in the Logan Parish at Logan Village. It should be noted that Scortechini was one of the more exceptional priest of the early colonial days of our country. He was not only a priest but also a lawyer, a member of the Linnean Society and one of the founding members of the Royal Society of Queensland. His true passion was botany, describing and naming many varieties of plants in the Logan region. For many years the area of scrub between St Joseph's and Trinity College was known as Scortechini Park. In 1886, Fr Scortechini obtained leave from the Church and undertook a scientific expedition in Malaya, with fellow priest and scientist, Fr Julian Tennison Woods. On route to England to

publish his findings, Fr Scortichini became ill in Calcutta, India and died there.

Scortechini's home in Logan should be seen more as a base camp rather than presbytery as he regularly traveled on horseback to say mass for the parishioners of his far flung flock. This would necessitate staying in areas such as Boonah, Cleveland and the Tweed. He would often ride down to the coast through Coomera, Nerang, Southport and on to Tallebudgera and the Tweed.

For his Beenleigh and Scortechini originally Ferry Hotel, Yatala. In the old Masonic Hall in owned by Thomas the first Catholic Church Patrick's church, after most parishioners were Patrick's was on Saturday, 11th celebrated by Fr Fouhy, supported by a choir and instrumental performers from St Stephen's and St Patrick's churches in the city.



George Street, Beenleigh ca 1895

Yatala parishioners, Fr celebrated mass in Hanlon's 1875 Fr. Scortechini purchased Yatala (on property also Hanlon) and converted it into in the district. It was called St the patron saint of Ireland, as of Irish Catholic descent. St consecrated by Bishop Quinn December, 1875. Mass was



Hanlon's Hotel, Yatala, at the Ferry on the Albert River, ca. 1872. Courtesy of John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland.

Fr James Enright replaced Fr Benedict Scortechini as resident priest in 1884, when Scortechini left for Malaysia. Fr Enright was parish priest during the large 1887 floods when the Yatala Railway Bridge were swept away together with a nearby Saw Mill and Chardon's Hotel. Many residents along the Albert River lost their homes and some drowned. St Patrick's church, on higher grounds, became temporary refuge to people made homeless during the devastation.



Main Street in Beenleigh, ca. 1893

John Burke was captain of the S.S. Fanny during the floods and thanks to the efforts of the captain and his crew, fifty three residents were saved from drowning. Captain Burke received a gold watch and a testimonial letter from the Queensland Government in recognition of his efforts. He was also presented an illuminated address by the 53 residents whose lives had been saved.

John Burke and his wife had arrived on the Erin-Go-Bragh, the first ship engaged by Dr Quinn to bring Irish settlers to Queensland. John found work with the Honeyman and Sons shipping company, which traded along the Brisbane, Logan and Albert rivers. He was working for this company when the disastrous floods struck. Once the floods had subsided John Burke bought the *Louisa* and started his own John Burke Shipping Company in the river trade. John's brother, Peter, helped finance the venture by selling his own freight and passenger ferry.

John Burke is the uncle of the two Nurses Burke who treated the sick in Beenleigh for many years in the early 1900's for whom our parish crucifix is dedicated. Descendants of John and Peter Burke have lived in and served the parish ever since and are active in our parish today.



Reproduction of the illuminated address presented to John Burke by the 53 residents whose lives had been saved from the great flood of 1887. Photograph supplied by Val Rooney.



*Dr Michael Patterson,
Parish Priest of Southport 1892
– 1903.*

St Patrick's continued serving the community in its Yatala location for many years, with new churches developing in and around it. In 1892, the Logan Parish was divided into the parishes of Southport and Beaudesert, with Beenleigh and Yatala becoming part of the new Southport Parish and Waterford part of the Beaudesert Parish. The Southport Parish extended from Wynnum to the New South Wales border with a Catholic population of only six hundred and fifty souls. While under the direction of Dr Michael Patterson, it was decided that St Patrick's should be moved into Beenleigh as it was now a much larger town than Yatala. A block was purchased in Wharf St, approximately on the corner of where George and Alamein Streets intersect today. It was maneuvered onto a timber wagon and pulled by a bullock team to its new location.

Fr McCartney succeeded Dr Patterson (1903-1908) as Parish Priest of Southport and during his time the St Patrick's church was improved and enlarged. The improvements continued during Frs Burton and Goggins times as parish priests.

Another redrawing of the parish boundaries in 1925, placed Beenleigh in Yeronga Parish with Fr Owen Steele (later monsignor) as its parish priest, thus beginning a thirty year association. As one of the renowned 'Rats of Tobruk' Monsignor Steele notes in his book 'Altars and Artillery' that it was after benediction in Beenleigh, 4th September, 1939, that he heard the declaration of war and decided to enlist immediately. After his return home in 1943, Monsignor Steele was given the parish of Beaudesert. Around this time parish borders were again redrawn with Beenleigh now part of the Beaudesert parish.



Beenleigh 1954. Courtesy of John Oxley Library.

A Catholic School



Original school building, on the site of current school hall, late 1950s.

It was through the efforts of Monsignor Steele that the St Joseph's Tobruk Memorial School was opened in Beenleigh in 1953. He had asked the very dedicated Sisters of St Joseph to establish a Catholic primary school. The school got its name from the Sisters of St Joseph and its title, Tobruk Memorial, from Fr Steele. St Joseph's was built in memory of the men who served at Tobruk, as Fr Steele had. It has an ongoing association with RSL and has always been an important part of the local community.

The original brick building began its life as a residence for the Sisters of St Joseph and as a boarding school for boys. It was later used by the order of the Christian Brothers and when they left Beenleigh it became living quarters for the parish priests and office for the parish,



with the remaining space taken up by the school. A timber school building was also constructed using timber from huts that had been part of the Canungra jungle training unit.



Convent and school, circa 1965.

St Patrick's Beenleigh

Finally, in 1955, St Patrick's, Beenleigh, became a parish in its own right, with Fr. Vince Kiley the first resident parish priest, initially residing at the rear of the church. A house on the corner of Leville and Tobruk Streets was purchased from Joe Tracey for use as a presbytery (our current parish office).

As the school grew, it was decided that the church should also be on this site. In 1963 Fr. Kiley had old St. Patrick's moved to its current location at the end of Tobruk St. With trucks instead of bullocks, a much simpler task than its previous move!

In 1975 the parish celebrated the 100th anniversary of the opening of the church in Yatala. Archbishop Rush concelebrated with a number of priests who had been involved with the Beenleigh church over the years. There were also representatives of the choirs from St Stephens Cathedral and St Patrick's in The Valley just as there had been at the opening of the church 100 years previous.





Sister Kathleen with grade 1 class in front of the Old Church, 1975

A New Church Building

In spite of the dire predictions of the death of Beenleigh due to the highway being moved from the center of town to its current location, the area continued to grow and prosper. From the mid-1970s, the need for a larger church became evident. 1980 saw the building of our current St Patrick's under the direction of Fr. Bill O'Shea (Parish Priest) and Fr. Tom Elich (Assistant Priest). The new St Patrick's church was officially opened on the 3rd of August 1980.

The old church continued to serve the school and parish in a number of ways over the years, such as school hall, after school care center and a venue for the many functions.



Fr Bill O'Shea in his office, Parish Priest from 1979 - 1988



Trinity College

Trinity College opened in 1982, to provide a co-educational Catholic high school education for children in the south-eastern area of the archdiocese. It was, and still is, under the auspices of the Catholic Education Office of the Brisbane Archdiocese. It was administered in the early days by the Marist Brothers on the invitation of the Brisbane Director of Catholic Education. The first Principal was a Marist Brother – Br John Mullins. The Sisters of St. Joseph were also prominent on the staff of the College for the first three years.

St Matthews

The Parish of St Matthews was created in 1986 to serve the growing population of Catholics to the north of the Logan River. St Matthews includes the areas of Loganholme, Shailer Park, Tanah Merah, Carbrook and Cornubia. The connection between the two parishes are still maintained by many parishioners. Fr Gary Russell was the first parish priest at St Matthews.



Blessing at opening of St Matthews

Celebrant was Archbishop Francis Rush

Concelebrants: Fr Gary Russell, Fr Bill O'Shea, Fr Gerry Kalinowsky

Fr Gary was assistant priest at St Patricks, 1986-1986, while St Matthew's church was being built.

Fr Gerry was assistant priest, also at St Patrick's, during 1986





Later Achievements and Celebrations

St Patrick's Church has been continually improved since it was first opened. The stories from our parishioners attest to their dedication and to the importance of the church in their lives, the lives of their families and of the Beenleigh community.

The Blessing and Opening of the Columbarium was celebrated with a special mass in 2001 by the Dean of Brisbane South and Fr Dan Grundy.

In 2005 the parish celebrated its 50th anniversary. The Bishop of Brisbane, Joseph Oudemann was the principal celebrant with a number of concelebrants, including Fr Bill O'Shea and the then parish priest Fr Dan Grundy.



*Bishop Joseph Oudemann, Fr Bill O'Shea and Fr Dan Grundy at 50th Anniversary of the Parish
Fr Grundy was parish priest from 1994 until his retirement in 2007. He was preceded by Fr John Kilinko and succeeded by Fr Anthony Girvan.*

The building of a second primary school, Mother Teresa Catholic Primary School Ormeau, started in 2010, catering for the Catholic children in the rapidly growing Ormeau area. Fr Anthony Girvan blessed the land and "turned the sod" at a ceremony on 19 September. The school is named in honour of Mother Teresa of Calcutta, whose life was dedicated to the betterment of others.

St Patrick's Church has been had numerable improvements made to it. There were problems with flooding and dampness during the first wet seasons. A retaining wall had to be constructed to divert the water from the church wall. The garden with the beautiful statue was created at the same time. The Columbarium was added, the covered area was redesigned with the beautiful statue of Mary, the multifunction Truelson room with a well equipped kitchen, hospitality area, meeting room and a library, well established gardens, car parking, amenities and much more.





St Patrick's is a multicultural congregation with members originating from over 50 different countries. Our current parish priest, Fr Joseph Kanatt has made Multicultural Sunday an important event in the Parish Calendar. The Parish has a very strong faith community and at times there have been over 20 parish groups each using their convictions and talents to better serve God, other parishioners and the greater community.

Since its inception as a parish of its own, St Patrick's has been in the care of many good and caring parish priests and assistants over the years. These include:

1955-63: Fr. Vince Kiley PP
1963-68: Fr. James Quirk PP
1968-69: Fr. Brendon Dooley Adm
1969-76: Fr. George Ainslie PP
1975-76: Fr. Phil Grace
1976-79: Fr. Dermott Casey PP
1979-88: Fr. Bill O'Shea PP
1979-82: Fr. Tom Elich
1982-85: Fr. Brian Horton
1984: Fr. Michael Campbell
1985-86: Fr. Gary Russell
1986: Fr. Jerry Kalinowski
1987-89: Fr. Michael Doherty
1988-93: Fr. John Kilinko
1990-92: Fr. Jim Cosgrove
1993-94: Fr. Gerard Monahan Adm
1994: Fr. Pat McHugh Adm
1994- 2006: Fr. Dan Grundy PP
1995: John Sullivan
1995-97: Des Effeney
1998-00: Fr. Brian Burke
2001: Fr. Jan Wewersowicz
2003-2006: John Hong
2006-2012: Fr. Tony Girvan
2012- present: Fr. Joseph Kanatt





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Our Parish Pastoral Council



From Left to right: Vin Russell, Pat Maloney, Claude Rodrigues, Cheryl Evans, Monica Boucek, Chris Davis, Margaret Keast, Theresa Tarani-Greig, Angela Houghton and Grady Rodgers.

Our Finance Council



From Left to right: Theresia Houghton, Pipo Ng, Caroline McLean, Roslyn Mendo, Stephen Johnson, Renate Atkins & Baudy Verriest.





Nurse Burke and the Crucifix

Dolores Lightbody



In 1929, while Fr Owen Steele was Parish Priest of Beenleigh, it was decided, at a special meeting held in St Patrick's church, to place a large crucifix above the altar of the church in memory of Nurse Margaret Burke who had died on the 3rd June, 1929.

A plaque at the bottom of the crucifix reads:

ERECTED
BY THE CATHOLICS OF
BEENLEIGH
in memory of
NURSE MARGARET BURKE
R.I.P.
AUGUST 1929

In August 1929, the Catholic Leader newspaper carried the following article regarding the blessing of the crucifix:

"At the conclusion of the 10 o'clock Mass in Beenleigh on Sunday, August 25th (1929), Father Steele blessed a large crucifix that has been placed in St Patrick's Church by the Roman Catholics of Beenleigh, in memory of the late Nurse Margaret Burke."



The late Miss Burke will ever be especially revered, because of her untiring and unselfish labours on behalf of all who came as patients to her hospital in Beenleigh. For more than twenty years, without any thoughts of "hours off duty" or annual leave, she attended the sick at St. Monica's, and when her work for her patients was done, she was ready to assist in any other good work that needed a helping hand and in such a way that the left hand never knew the good that her right hand had done.

When Beenleigh was visited by the pneumonic influenza about ten years ago, it is said that Nurse Burke visited every home in the town to see what assistance she could give.

On all sides were expressions of sorrow and sympathy, when it was heard that her health was suffering from the strain of her daily care and work at her hospital. After her death the one wish of all was to do something to perpetuate her memory. At a meeting held in St. Patrick's Church it was decided to place a large Crucifix above the altar as a memorial."

In the early 1980's, after the opening of the new St. Patrick's church, the crucifix was restored by Tom Paino, a highly regarded statue maker from the Gold Coast. The crucifix, however, remained in the old church, then used as a hall, and was not placed in the new church until Fr. Patrick McHugh became parish priest in January 1994. Keen to get to know his new parish, Fr. McHugh made enquiries in regards to the history of the parish and its people. When he heard the story of Nurse Burke and of the crucifix, he had the crucifix brought to the new church and placed behind the altar. Shortly afterwards Fr. McHugh became seriously ill and was unable to continue in the parish. After his departure the crucifix was again returned to the hall (the old church building).

After becoming parish priest in 1995, Fr. Dan Grundy also heard the story of Nurse Burke and the crucifix. A couple of years later, Fr. Grundy had the crucifix installed in the church, on the wall beside the door of the sacristy. He directed parishioner John Truelson to change the black colouring of the cross to the brown wood colour we see today.



Margaret Ellen Burke



Mary Ann (Polly) Burke

From wedding photo of their brother

Beside the crucifix was placed a framed reprint of the above mentioned article from the 1929 Catholic Leader, together with the following information about Nurse Burke and her family:



Margret Burke was born on 2nd February 1878, the eighth of twelve children of Peter Burke and Mary Ann Walsh. They had been married in the Old St. Stephen's Cathedral on the 8th November, 1864, by Robert Dunne – who would later become the second Bishop of Brisbane.

Margret's parents were both Irish, he from Cork and she from Tipperary. Not much is known of Mary Ann. Her people were farmers. She was baptised in January, 1845. She either made the voyage to Australia at the age of fourteen or fifteen with her nineteen year old sister, Catherine, or else she came alone a year or two later. She was a domestic servant when she married Peter in 1864. She died in 1909.

Peter Burke, a seafarer, was twenty-one when he jumped ship in Moreton Bay in August 1862. He became a ferry-man, first on the Brisbane River, later on the Logan River. This expanded to a passenger and freight service on the Logan, Albert and Tweed Rivers. In 1887 Peter sold his ferry to help his brother John buy his first ship and found the John Burke Shipping Company. After a stint as a light-house keeper Peter took up dairy farming on a 300 acre property at Mt. Cotton called 'Green Hide Flats'. He died in the Mater Hospital on Christmas Eve 1917.

Peter and Mary Ann Burke were no doubt proud of their daughter when she founded her own hospital in Beenleigh. This crucifix reminds us that their pride was shared by all who came to know this dedicated nurse. We have great forebears!"

It was during his time as parish priest that Fr. Tony Girvan (2006-2012) had the crucifix returned to its place behind the altar. Having been in a heavy traffic area of the church, the figure of Christ had suffered minor damage. The crucifix was repaired, restored and mounted, on the wall behind the altar, by a handful of parishioners.

The story of Nurse Margaret Ellen Burke and her older sister Nurse Mary Ann (Polly) Burke has been published in "THEY CARED FOR BEENLEIGH, A TRIBUTE TO THE PIONEER MEDICAL CARERS OF BEENLEIGH QUEENSLAND AUSTRALIA", compiled by the Logan River & District Family History Society Inc.

The following further information about them is from the above book:

Nurse Burke graduated as a nurse from Lady Bowen Hospital in Brisbane in 1908. She founded the St. Monica's Private Hospital on York Street in Beenleigh. Although she never married, she did adopt and raise her niece Mary Ann Burke. Nurse Margaret Burke's elder sister (by five years), also named Mary Ann, dedicated her life to nursing, as well, and served in Beenleigh for some fifteen years.

In the book the society expressed special thanks to Burke Family members, Fr. Brian Burke, Val Rooney, John Wood and Joan Young, and also to Dolores Lightbody for their assistance.

Margaret Ellen Burke (2.2.1878-3.6.1929) and Mary Ann (Polly) Burke (27.4.1873-5.1.1926) are buried in Toowoong Cemetery; Portion 15A, Section 8, Grave Number 1. In December 2012, a new plaque was placed on the grave site by Burke family members and on Saturday, June 29th, 2013, the grave was blessed by Fathers Brian and Leo Burke in a small ceremony





in the presence of representatives of the Burke families and members of the Logan Rover & District Family History Society Inc.

The Nurses Burke are distant relatives of Fr. Brian Burke, assistant priest at Beenleigh from 1998-2000, his cousin Fr. Leo Burke, and of Anne Tracey, our liturgy leader, choir master and organist.

The heart-warming tradition, in the Catholic Church, of purchasing something needed in the church (statues, stained glass, pews, etc.) in the memory of a loved one is one way that our faith has been passed on to us. This is true in regards to the crucifix and Nurse Margaret Burke and the action of the parish back in 1929 in her memory. St Paul tells us in his letter to the Romans (14:7-12). *The life and death of each of us has its influence on others: if we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord, so that alive or dead we belong to the Lord. This explains why Christ both died and came to life, we live for the Lord. This explains why Christ both died and came to life, it was so that he might be Lord both for the dead and of the living. We shall all have to stand before the judgement seat of God; as scripture says; By my life – it is the Lord who speaks – every knee shall bend before me, and every tongue shall praise God. It is to God, therefore, that each of us must give an account of himself.*

But the final word will always be in the silence of the crucifix. St Bernard said that “*Calvary is the academy of love*”. And Jesus makes it very clear what it means to be his disciple in Matthew 16:24, 25: “*If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For he that will save his life, shall lose it: and he that shall lose his life for my sake, shall find it*”.

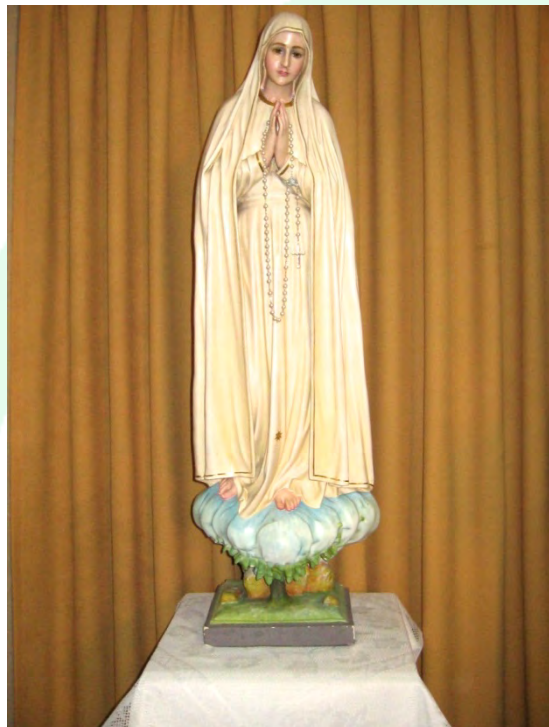


Blessing of the grave of Margaret Ellen and Mary Ann (Polly) Burke, Saturday 29/6/2013 From left: Two members of Joan Young's family, Fr Brian Burke, Joan Young, Fr Leo Burke, Ann McIntyre





**Saint Patrick's Parish, Beenleigh,
Consecrated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Dolores Lightbody**



In 1983 Pope John Paul II sent an invitation to all the Bishops of the world to join him in a consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary as requested by Our Lady at Fatima in 1917. Everyone was invited to join the Holy Father in this consecration including individuals, families, parishes and diocese. The consecration was to be held in Rome on the feast of the Annunciation, 25 March, 1984, and the statue of Our Lady of Fatima was brought from Fatima to the Vatican for the occasion. Saint Patrick's Parish, Beenleigh, joined in this very important event with Mrs Pat Bretz being the organiser.

Pat had previously had a very beautiful statue of Our Lady of Fatima made by renowned statue maker, Tom Paino, who lived on the Gold Coast. The statue was purchased with a collection taken up from parishioners and it travelled around the parish from family to family.

Sometimes the rosary was held at the home of the parish family that the statue was visiting and all were invited to attend with supper to follow.

The church was packed that day, March 25, 1984, and the statue of Our Lady of Fatima was placed on a table decorated with flowers in the church near the sanctuary. Father Bill O'Shea offered the Mass. Children from the Beenleigh Blue Army Cadets then processed down the aisle, each placing a flower before the statue which was then crowned with a beautiful crown of flowers and Father Bill led the Consecration prayer which the Holy Father was using in Rome. The Beenleigh Blue Army Cadets met every First Saturday for Mass, Rosary and catechetical instruction in the church. They then gathered in the Church hall for morning tea and a period dedicated to making craft items which were then sent to the missions. There were approximately 20 members under the direction of Pat Bretz.

In 1994, during his short period as parish priest at Beenleigh, and upon hearing that the parish was consecrated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Father Patrick McHugh had the statue of Our Lady of Fatima, mentioned above, installed in the church chapel so that all parishioners would be able to come to honour their holy Mother and special patroness and bring their prayers of petition and thanksgiving to her on any day of the year.

Devotion to Our Lady has been part of the Beenleigh parish from the beginning and included, as far back as the 1960's, the Rosary being held in parish homes each evening during May and October.

A beautiful carved statue of the Madonna and Child Jesus was acquired from Spain by Father George Ainslie when he became parish priest. This statue would be taken to the home of a parish family who would open their home to fellow parishioners to come and pray the rosary. Supper was held afterward and during his time as parish priest Father





Ainslie is said to have rarely missed a rosary evening. His enjoyment of ginger biscuits and ginger cake was well known so that either of these were included for him in the supper. When the rosary evening came to a close the statue of the Madonna and Child Jesus was taken home by the family who would host the rosary the following evening. Not everyone had a car in those days and families would walk to the home where the rosary would be held and then walk back to their home afterwards. From the early 1980's the parish rosary began to be said in the church either before or after daily Mass and continues today.

Amongst the many contributions she made to the parish, Maria Truelson organised and led the Stations of the Cross in the church each Wednesday afternoon for those caught up in abortion and to end abortion. She also organised and led a Holy Hour before the Blessed Sacrament in the church chapel each Thursday in honour of God the Father for priests and also babies in danger of abortion and their families, and the conversion of those in the abortion industry. She was involved in pro-life groups such as 'Walk for little feet' and joined in prayers outside abortion clinics. Together with her husband, John, Maria took soup to the homeless in Brisbane for five and a half years and they also prayed outside the Convention Centre during Sexpo.

Maria had a deep devotion to the Blessed Mother (as she would often refer to her) and she understood that the Consecration of Saint Patrick's Parish to the Immaculate Heart of Mary was not meant to be simply a one off recitation of a formula, but a way of life – responding to the love of our Blessed Mother Mary who always leads us to Jesus. Wishing to keep alive in the parish this love and consecration, in 2003, Maria Truelson met with parish priest, Father Dan Grundy, to organise all night vigils of Eucharistic Adoration in St. Patrick's Church Chapel from the feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus (the Friday following Corpus Christi Sunday) through to the feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary which follows the next day. Maria arranged the programme of prayers for each hour of the vigil which are still used today. Maria died in 2005 but the all-night vigil continues to be an important event in the spiritual calendar of the parish of Saint Patrick's Beenleigh – a parish consecrated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary and which has a long history of love and devotion to our Blessed Mother and especially through her rosary.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION AT SAINT PATRICKS, BEENLEIGH

JESUS IS HERE – HE IS WAITING FOR YOU, Dolores Lightbody

From the 1950's All Night Vigils of Eucharistic Adoration were held at the Carmelite Father's Church in Gregory Terrace, Brisbane. They were organised by the Blue Army of Our Lady of Fatima (now known as the World Apostolate of Fatima) in response to requests made by Our Lady at Fatima, during the First World War, for reparation for the sins of the world to obtain peace. Bishops and priests from around the Brisbane area took turns at offering the opening Mass and people came from as far as Gympie and the Gold Coast, including Beenleigh. The vigils were a challenge to the Godlessness which was sweeping the world.

Beenleigh parishioner, Mrs Pat Bretz, who attended the vigils in Brisbane, felt that if vigils were held in our parish it would give more people the opportunity to participate. Pat was the President of the Beenleigh Blue Army, she was a catechist, ran a weekly craft group with the elderly in the Beenleigh Nursing Home, had started the Beenleigh women's chapter of





the Saint Vincent de Paul Society and also started the Saint Vincent de Paul Shop in Beenleigh so she had a wide experience of the spiritual and practical needs of individuals, families and society. Pat and Mrs Dolores Lightbody met with the then Beenleigh parish priest, Father Bill O'Shea, who gave permission for a one-off all-night vigil. This first vigil took place on the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, Friday, February 11, 1983. So as to include those who would not be able to attend during the evening and night hours, exposition of the Blessed Sacrament began after Mass on the Friday morning. Throughout the day rostered parishioners kept Our Lord company in one hour shifts and were also joined by others who came for shorter visits. A special Mass was held in the evening and was very well attended by parishioners, people from surrounding parishes and including many who travelled from Brisbane. A large number of these people stayed for the whole of the all-night vigil which concluded with Mass the following morning.

Father Bill O'Shea announced at the following week-end Masses that, for some time, he had had three insurmountable problems for which there seemed to be no solution. These three insurmountable problems, Father Bill said, were resolved during the hours when Eucharistic Adoration was taking place in the parish church, therefore, the Eucharistic Adoration/All-Night Vigils would continue. This was a great joy for all those who were hoping that Eucharistic Adoration would be established in our parish.

Over the years that Eucharistic Adoration has been held here, at Beenleigh, many people have also experienced what Father Bill O'Shea experienced in regards to his problems – the awesome power of prayer before the Real Presence of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. Many stories have been shared of spiritual and practical blessing received when troubles have been brought to the throne of love and mercy – the Sacred Heart of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. Here in the peace and stillness of Eucharistic Adoration Jesus listens and He invites us to listen to Him speak to our hearts.

It is impossible to even estimate the number of people who have been involved in Eucharistic Adoration at Saint Patrick's, Beenleigh, however, here, during the hours of Eucharistic Adoration, a strong bond of unity by all who participate is very evident; priests, seminarians, men, women, teenagers, children, families, people from many nationalities and backgrounds, people from surrounding parishes, visitors, teachers with their classes, and people involved in many different aspects of community life as well as parishioners involved in parish ministries who bring their work and those they serve before the Lord in prayer and petition.

It has not been unusual for a parishioner on Adoration roster to be approached for prayers for spiritual or temporal needs and who has then passed on this request to the next person on roster who does the same so that those special needs, for which prayers have been requested, are included in the hours of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament at Saint Patrick's. Those who have asked for prayer help have included visitors who found themselves unexpectedly in the parish church and even non-Catholics, using the church grounds as a short cut, who have wandered into the church to see what is going on. The needs of the parish, our country and the world are also brought here and the number of blessings which have flowed from our parish Eucharistic Adoration are known only to God.

Eucharistic Adoration has been an important part of the fabric of Catholic history in the Brisbane Archdiocese. It was in Brisbane that Father Julian Tennison Wood together with



Catherine Gaffney founded the Congregation of the Sisters of Perpetual Adoration in 1874. From 15.8.1881 the Sisters continued prayerful Eucharistic Adoration 24 hours a day – 7 days a week, until 12.9.1997 when lay people (including parishioners from Beenleigh) known as Co-adorers of the Blessed Sacrament joined the sisters day and night. In recent years Eucharistic Adoration has been spreading from parish to parish in the Brisbane Archdiocese.

Amongst the famous people in the world who have been known for their daily holy hour of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament are Saint John Paul II, Saint Teresa of Calcutta and Venerable Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen – all very, very busy people through whom God achieves so much. It has been the selfless dedication of the Beenleigh parishioners to their commitment to spend an hour with the Eucharistic Jesus each Friday that has seen Saint Patrick's parish part of this beautiful Catholic Eucharistic history for the past 32 years! It will be the selfless dedication of parishioners now and in the future who will ensure its continuation and the many blessings which are received through this devotion in our parish, for individuals and families, for the various good works in our parish.

Currently, Eucharistic Adoration is held every Friday after the 7am Mass beginning with Benediction (on First Friday beginning at 7am with Benediction and Morning Prayer and the anointing Mass at 9am) and concluding at 7pm with Evening Prayer.

Eucharistic Adoration continues through an all-night vigil every year from the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus to the Feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary the following day.

The co-ordinators of the adoration roster can be contacted through the parish office. 'Jesus is here – He is waiting for YOU – He asks, "Can you not keep watch with Me for one hour"?'



A PLACE I CALL HOME

Virginia Se

After 21 years of being away from my birthplace, the Philippines, I am proud to say, "I'm home". In 1994, my husband and I arrived in Beenleigh, with the help of my cousin, Helen Thomas and her husband, who took us in while we were settling in. The first thing we looked for was a church. I remember there being a group of women involved in the prayer group and without question they warmly invited us in. One of them was named "Sigfred", and she took the time to welcome us after discovering we were newcomers. Ever since then, we have never missed an opportunity to come to St. Patrick's Church.

I can recall clearly when Fr. Dan Grundy, the first parish priest we met back then, invited me to read one Sunday. I was hesitant at first because of my accent, thinking that no one would understand me. He gave me that 'pope look' and said, "It does not matter what the people think, what matters is what God thinks", (and when I say 'that pope look, I actually mean a mixture of compassion, invitation, concern and sincerity). It was also in this very church that my three beautiful children were baptized and confirmed. As parents, we feel blessed to have seen them serving in the youth choir and Sunday masses. I remember clearly Fr.

Bourke baptized my youngest son, Joseph, and I opted to have his clothes taken off and be immersed in the water. He asked me, "Are you sure?", and I replied, "Yes, and please pray that he will be a priest." Fr Bourke ended up laughing.

After several years, numerous parishioners have approached me and said, "Your children are all grown up! The last time I saw them, they were in prams!" Others have also said, "I always see you sitting in the front row." My husband and I always preferred the front seats as we were able to focus better. It was the way my children also learned to behave themselves. I often teased them by saying, "Father is looking at you!" as a way to keep them still. There were times when they wanted to go outside to play with their friends and I would say to them, "When mass is finished." My children have always been early risers on Sunday and they never attempted to miss a Sunday for their own reasons. Now, I have to beg or push them to come at other times. For migrants like us, It is very important to find a community and a church where people accept you.



Se Family with Fr Dan Grundy

When I left the Philippines, one of the few things I missed was the companionship to be found in the parish. I grew up knowing young and old parishioners. During my high school years, my friends would go straight to the church on Fridays to help clean and or just chat, after praying the Rosary. We had seminarians and priests on weekends from the Divine Word Seminary, who taught us the Catechism and worship songs. I grew up making novenas with the older members of the parish and going to youth retreats and camps every school break. I always wanted my children to experience the same kind of loving Christian community.

My personal relationship with God has always been rooted, not just by individual prayer, but by being amongst a community of believers. I could be in one corner of the church

praying solemnly, but there is always a need to share the love and concern that other people have given to us. It's like 'paying forward.' Ever since this realisation, we have never stopped reminding our children that whatever they can give to the church, they give to the Lord. And one of the greatest things about St Patrick's Church, Beenleigh is the warm, welcoming smiles of friendly (and familiar) faces and the generous hands of close friends and acquaintances. When I came to St. Patrick's, I never expected to be served or



welcomed, but now, with persistent prayer and a deeper trust in God, I continue to pray that at least one soul finds Christ through me, my family and the rest of our amazing, devoted parishioners. As Mother Teresa of Calcutta once said, "If you can't feed a hundred, then just feed one."

House-work at the Presbytery of St Patrick's.

Anna Battle

In January 1975 my husband Alan and I came to live in Queensland from Victoria with our four school age children. As I had spare time, I volunteered to help a friend with house-work at the presbytery of St Patrick's.

First, it was Fr George Ainslie and Fr Phil Grace for two years followed by Fr Dermot Casey, then Fr Bill O'Shea and Fr Tom Erlich. In the 10 years I worked there, Fr Gary Russell and Fr Michael Campbell also stayed for some time. Fr Gary Russell until St Matthew's Church was built.

And then came the motorbike riding Fr Brian Horton!! 'The wild man from Borneo' as he was nick-named, was happy working with the poor. He would collect day-old bread to give to the needy as well as buying out-of-date groceries. Every so often, I would rid the pantry of weevils. Fr Brian would also visit the crematorium and return with funeral flowers. I would put them into a vase to make the presbytery look more homely and he would say, "Not too many as they are to give away to someone who needs cheering up." For Christmas day dinner, Fr Brian would entertain his needy friends.

If anyone could look less than a priest, it was Fr Brian with his long beard and often dressed in motorbike leathers. He was very entertaining and on one occasion shooting his shotgun "just to clear the air" as he put it. One morning I pulled back the sheet and a machete fell out. Thanks be to God that I still have all my toes. Another time I bought his clean clothes back to his room before 6pm Mass. Father's car was gone and there was enough light so I didn't need to turn on the bedroom light. As I walked past the bed Fr Brian sat up really slowly with his hands outstretched like a zombie, scaring the living daylights out of me.

In the time I worked there, sometimes with friends, I saw that each priest brought their own special gifts but Fr Brian was unique.

Pentecost weekend 1985.

Our third son Wayne 18 years old was working under his car when it fell on him causing serious injuries. The ambulance took him to the Princess Alexandra Hospital with a police escort. I was not going to leave my son alone so I rode in the front of the ambulance. As we came off the freeway there were police at every intersection to stop the traffic to allow the ambulance a clear run. Staff were waiting outside Emergency Department but they wouldn't let me near him. One of the staff whisked me off to a little room with a phone saying to ring anyone I wanted. I rang the presbytery asking for prayers. When Alan, my husband, came to the hospital, staff let us see Wayne in Emergency Department. We were shocked to him so still, wrapped in a silver blanket. The nurses monitored his heart and lung





as his sternum was pressing on his lung making it difficult to breathe. After some time with Wayne, the doctor said nothing that we could do and for us to return home. I hated leaving our son alone, so with a heavy heart we went home. We were supposed to be singing with the choir for Pentecost. It was very late when I was preparing for bed when I saw car lights coming up the driveway and wondered who it might be at that late hour. It was Fr Brian who had come to let us know that he had visited Wayne who was in bed in intensive care asleep. I can't describe what that meant to us, and how grateful I was for that news.

Next morning we sang for Pentecost Sunday in the choir before going to the hospital. Wayne had a slow recovery. Sometime afterwards Fr Brian gave me a poem that he'd written for Wayne. He called it 'The Pentecost child'

Fr Brian: unique, caring, non-judgemental, gentle soul with a kind heart.

May he rest in peace!

Beauty is in the Eye of the Beholder

Lucy Stanley

Our church of St Patrick's appears to be poor, there is no visible sparkle, not even a steeple. Unlike most churches, especially in Rome, everything that glitters there in the churches is sure to be Gold.

Our Patron Saint must feel at home here, he himself came from a humble life. Our St. Patrick's is carved out of a simple wooden log, not a scrap of gold to be found on that carving, hand carved with loving care, hanging on the side of the altar, besides, any sign of glitter would be out of place.

There are no beautiful coloured stained lead windows, however, there is a hand crafted lead light mantel surrounding the eternal light.

I believe a former parishioner lovingly designed and made this little treasure, it is situated above the glass doors leading to the Blessed Tabernacle Chapel.

The fragile Madonna and Child deserves recognition, one needs to look closer to see the loving care in the way Mary watches her child, again no glitter is to be found. The statue of Joseph and Jesus are also very befitting to our humble church.

Since the rafters have been stained the altar has a bright welcoming backdrop and the floor surrounding the altar has been replaced with tiles. This simple work has transformed this traditional area.

As the saying goes, "what you never had you can't miss", and so it is here at St Patrick's, we were never used to glitter so we don't miss it.

I remember the nativity scene of some years passed, built lovingly by the ingenuity of John Ely, it was crafted from native wood, very original.





In my opinion we do not need expensive dressing in and around our place of worship, the sparkle is there whenever the Mass is celebrated found in the eye of our dedicated priest, the Liturgical ministers and the friendly greetings of each parishioner.

I believe St Patrick's has bestowed special gifts on our community and given us strength during times of adversity. The simplicity of our church is a vision, a reminder to us all to be humble, thankful for small mercies e.g. the roof is not leaking, in some of Europe's churches I have seen puddles, we open the windows and doors instead of air conditioning.

My First Trip to Australia

Bette Graver

I first set foot on Australian soil in April 1966 at the ripe old age of 32 years. At the time I knew nothing about my family (that's another story) so I had nothing to lose by coming here. The journey took about a month on an Italian ship called 'Aurelia' – and what a fantastic journey!

An old custom was to be dunked in the pool when the ship passed the equator. Having not lived by the sea I could not swim so I hid until the ceremony was over! There were endless activities on board – four weeks of bliss with plenty of excitement with nightly parties, concerts, dancing and food – all for just 10 pounds!

On one evening there was a concert in honour of our Captain and not one to miss out on the fun I was chosen to perform the 'dance of the seven veils', an Egyptian dance. I wore a bikini decorated with seven silk scarves. Every time I danced towards the Captain I had to give him one of the scarves. When I got down to the last scarf I hung on to it and the Captain kept saying 'let go my wife's not watching!' Everybody roared with laughter – it really was funny and everybody enjoyed it.

The journey was fantastic, everybody was friendly and we had a wonderful time – so good that I did not want to get off the ship when we arrived in Sydney!

My Lot at St Patrick's: 26 Years

Betty Graver

Always when writing a story it is always hard to know where to begin...

Many years have gone by since I came to St Patrick's in Beenleigh - it was way back in 1987. I didn't know a soul until I joined a prayer group.

Oh! But first I must mention this. I was almost two years there and it was at a church meeting within the church and I happened to be in a small group and the first person who spoke to me was Maria Truelson. What a lovely lady! She could write beautiful poems.





Anyway, back to the prayer group. I met a man named Cedric who came from Bethania. He lived there many years before moving to a retirement village in Trinder Park. I also met Cathy (who looks after our youth). She was our leader and played guitar and she still does. She even made DVDs and has a lovely voice.

It was not long before I joined the choir. Anne Tracey was our conductor and still is. She had a break for a number of years and in the meantime we had Doreen Cormack as our leader. She was good, very good and it was through her that we started re-enacting The Stations Of The Cross on Good Friday and still do.

Anyway, I've been in the choir nigh on 25 years to my knowledge - that's another story. Another person who has played the organ for a long time is Aileen Eley, a staunch supporter of our parish who has played at many funerals, baptisms, etc., and she is most reliable.

Father Dan Grundy was our Parish Priest for over 11 years. I loved him and we enjoyed many an argument. He said he used to love bantering with me. We also had Fr Brian Bourke and he was a great man of God. He has since retired to Canberra. After him came Fr Anthony Girvan. He was with us I think for almost 7 years-an excellent preacher. Before Fr Grundy, we had Fr Kilinko. I didn't know him long but it was during this time that the toilet block was constructed.

Getting back to Maria Truelson, there was one year when she played Our Lady in the Stations of the Cross. Her husband, John, played Jesus. Everyone was mesmerised by it all. It was so real and was very powerful. People sat glued in their seats for 15 minutes and everyone was crying. It was absolutely fantastic and real.

So many things have taken place. In the meantime we had a lovely Priest. Many of you will remember Fr Gerard Monaghan. I remember to this day a sermon on one word, believe. He stood down near the people as he preached. He passed away in 2011 – R.I.P.

There are so many different groups in our Parish: Care and Concern, Vinnies, and the Family Groups to name but a few. There are so many different activities, you can't count them all!

But what I love about St Patrick's and its people of Beenleigh is this: their generous hearts. It's unbelievable! They are all so kind and loving. Their hands are forever in their pockets because they are always giving of what they have: generosity and goodness.

One year, I started helping a charity by having a Trash and Treasure stall. Back then, I worked for Mamre International Aid Inc. and have done so from 2005 to 2013 and have always had the heartfelt support of the people of St Patrick's.

I retired, or so I thought, and mentioned this to our assistant Parish Priest now our Pastor, Fr Joseph Kanatt, from India. What a wonderful Parish Priest he is (enough, enough). Anyway when I said I'd given the Mamre away he said 'Why don't you help us at The Blessed Mother Teresa Home for Orphans in India?' I should have said no, but of course I love helping people worse off than myself. So, here I am, hoping to visit the Home in Adilabad in India where they have fifty-nine children and I'm please to say we've raised quite a few dollars. This year so far I've sent them just over \$6000. They've supplied the children with new beds





and they also bought them mattresses. Next, I will be helping to put water pumps into the ground as for three months of the year it barely rains.

Getting back to St Patrick's, I want to say a big thank you to all of our parishioners for their generous hearts. May God bring them peace. Now Father Joseph Kanatt is doing a lot of work in our Parish and of course, items have again been bought with the help of the people of St Patrick's.

Many of our past parishioners would still love to be here, but circumstances have necessitated their moving away. Others have passed away but life goes on.

We have also many choirs. Firstly, there's the Youth Choir run by Cathy, then there's the Couples for Christ and our Filipino Choir who sing for us once a month. And of course, our St Patrick's Parish Choir with people like me in it.

And nothing would run quite right without the people in the office. We have Peter Haack, Pastoral Associate and Therese Houghton the Secretary and, of course, there's the boss, hm! Fr Joseph Kanatt. May he be with us for many a long year...well, at least until I'm a hundred!

Oh, we've a new tiled floor for The Altar! Next we need new chairs as the ones we have passed their use-by-date and I'm trying to raise finances for them, can you help?

This year 2015 we are celebrating 60 years-wonderful yet versatile years for in many ways. It's been different, but it's grown too, for you can't please people all the time.

God bless us all at St Patrick's!

One Story

Sue Hall

This story was born 30 years ago,
with a knock on the door of our new home
on a hilltop in the Pimpama Valley.

A bit lost were we,
moving away from all that was familiar and safe,
leaving well loved family and friends behind.

And then it came!
A knock on the door, a smiling face and -
"Hello! My name is Val Swan.





I live down the road and on behalf of St Patrick's
I would like to welcome you to our parish."

Little did I know
that these few simple words
would carry my family and I
into a journey of mystery and miracle,
of faith and friendship within this parish family.

Our lives well shared
in our school and our parish community,
in the Sacramental program, Children's Ministry, Care and Concern.

Our lives well lived
and
our faith well fed by our clergy,
calmly, simply.
Lives lived out in faithfulness and fidelity to our Creator God.

I sat in my Church today,
celebrating the Eucharist,
watching with my heart,
surrounded by familiar and unfamiliar faces,
family and friends,
A quilt, I thought!

A parish community
stitched by the hands of many,
hanging on a wall in my mind,
A kaleidoscope of colours and textures,
some dazzling, some new and bright,
others more worn, more frayed, more wise,





all stitched together,
shaping the wholeness
of my St Patrick's Parish.

I sat in my Church today,
listening with my heart
hearing the echo of voices long gone,
stored up as treasure.

fashioned into a quilt - our parish community,
whispering a story
of laity and clergy wondering and working and walking together,
woven with the threads of love and respect.

A story of a community of people
who
mended my fraying edges
and wrapped around me
a blanket of care and concern
when without any pushing or pulling from me
life changed my direction and my dreams
and left me hearing nothing but emptiness.

There is something to be said
about telling one's story.
It weaves the fragments of forgotten times of our past
into our present
where we can sit and listen and learn,
leaving our heart open to the way of God.





This story is my story,
one story among many others
shaped by being part of the St Patrick's community.

So 30 years later,
with a sense of blessing in my heart,

I thank my God
for sending Val to our door.

And in gratitude,
I say these few simple words -

St Patrick's community,
you have blessed my life
with such generosity of spirit,
such strength of character
and
such gentleness of heart.

May we as a Parish community
continue to live each day
as gift

in the joy and strength
of our God
who knows us by name
and
who carries us gently
for times yet unknown and times yet to come.





The Evans family

Cheryl Evans

Aubrey and I brought our first home in Eagleby and joined the Saint Patrick's community twenty two years ago. When we started having our little family, many a Sunday we would walk to mass and home again as it was our day trip out. As you can imagine, it was a fair walk!

All three of our beautiful children have been baptised and made all their sacraments at St Pat's. We were a big part of the St Joseph's community with all three children completing their primary schooling there. I remember one time going to mass with the school. Well, it was quite funny as the whole school was in the church and we're waiting for Fr Grundy to start mass and we discovered that he was missing. I was sent to see if I could track him down. As I walked outside, there he was driving into the carpark in his big four-wheel drive with a canoe tied to the roof racks. I went up to the window and he started telling me all about his awesome morning on the lake! As you may have already guessed, he had forgotten all about the school mass! The kids thought it was very funny, but eventually, we did have mass that day, even if it was a little late.

Another moment that sticks in my mind, is one Easter Vigil mass. My little Jacob was quite excited about starting mass outside the church around a big drum containing a fire. We had all started lighting our candles and taking our seats, after explaining the Easter ceremony to our children. As we sat down, Jacob must have thought this was the happy celebration part and seeing all the candles started walking between the seats blowing out everyone's candles singing happy birthday! I was very embarrassed, but couldn't stop laughing. Poor Father Grundy couldn't stop either and had to take a moment to regain his composure before going on!

Our A Jay was quite the inquisitive little man, and when he started school, he couldn't quite understand why we would call Good Friday 'good' as God dies on that day. Both Aub and I tried to give him an explanation but he still didn't get it. So when we saw Father Grundy after school that day we asked him. Father went into a long detailed explanation which at the end he asked the then six year old A Jay, "Now do you get it?" A Jay replied, " No, but for the love of God, don't tell me again."

We have had many funny, spirit filled and emotional moments in Saint Patrick's and look forward to many more.

St Patrick's Columbarium and Memorial Garden

Margaret Skerman

St Patrick's Columbarium and Memorial Garden have been built to provide a permanent resting place for parishioners and their families who have chosen to be cremated.

This area is situated within a gated area on the western side of St Patrick's Church.

The niches are set in a walled area within a tranquil and peaceful Garden setting.





The Columbarium and Memorial Garden came to fruition through the foresight and generosity of both past and present parishioners along with the support of our then parish priest, Fr. Dan Grundy. Our thanks go especially to Mary and Barry McGrath, Paul and Sharon Baxter, Peter Murfitt and the late Don Bravery.

The Columbarium was officially dedicated and opened on 2 November, 2001 by the Very Reverend Fr Bernard Gallagher.

Parishioners who may be interested in acquiring a niche are able to choose single, double or the larger triple size. These niches and the attached plaque have been kept at a very generous cost as a service to our parish families. As well as the niches parishioners are offered the opportunity to place a memorial plaque on the wall in remembrance of loved ones buried or interred elsewhere.

Niches may be reserved at any time prior to an interment with many parishioners choosing to purchase several years ahead. To purchase or to reserve a niche, families are asked to contact the Parish Office who in turn will put you in touch with a Columbarium Committee member.

Once the ashes of our loved ones have been interred, families are welcome to visit the Garden at any time. Loved ones interred in St Patrick's Columbarium are remembered in the Prayers of the Faithful at each Sunday Mass.

The columbarium and garden is maintained in a clean and dignified condition by members of our parish community.

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

Thank St Patricks

David Clarke

I was married in January 1989 at the Catholic Church in Gympie Bay, NSW. I was not Catholic at this time and I recall thinking partway through the full nuptial Mass that I was more of an observer rather than a participant! Returning to Cairns, I regularly attended Mass with my wife Therese but never really felt the desire to commit to becoming Catholic, even when our first child was christened in the Catholic Church. With a transfer to Brisbane, that was about to change.

I recall first attending St Patricks soon after settling in the area – Fr. Dan Grundy was the Parish Priest at the time. We were made to feel very welcome and were pleasantly surprised by the diverse range of cultures within the Parish – seemed all bases were covered! I also recall connecting with Fr. Grundy's homilies and the way he interpreted and presented scripture – a very wise man and gifted leader. We were soon befriended by several other young families within the Parish; some have become our closest friends. I saw in a bulletin expressions of interest for the RCIA program. After some serious thought and reflection I signed up! It was always going to be a great experience with a very passionate





facilitator (Marg Hatzis) teaming up with my mentor (John Giebels) under the guidance of Fr. Grundy – what a team! I still fondly remember some of the robust discussions!

So in my thirties, with 2 young kids (and possibly one on the way), I changed religion – caused some consternation in my family, but that’s another story! Shortly after, all hell broke loose. I was elected onto the Parish Council and ended up being the Chairperson for two terms. During that time, the Parish Council did some really good things including employing a Youth Worker (a tremendous investment for the Parish) hosted some very memorable Parish Balls and introduced the multicultural Masses, Family Groups and other Parish events. I was also the Parish representative at Synod (a humbling experience), continue to be involved as a Eucharistic Minister and was part of the 60th Anniversary Celebration Organising Committee. If not for the RCIA program and the encouragement I received before, during and after the Program I would not have had the opportunity to undertake any of these great experiences – and I am grateful for it and thank St Patricks Parish for nurturing and accepting my family and me. I guess St Patricks has become an extension of my family!

Some Parish Stories

Therese Flynn-Clarke

Harry

St Patrick’s Parish has had many ‘characters’ as part of the community. One of these was Harry Classens, our organist. He was an Australian Dutchman with a great sense of humour. Sometimes his organ playing actually sounded like a Dutch barrel organ! When the children returned to the church and community after Children’s Liturgy he’d play the song on the organ, ‘When the Saints, Go Marching In’!!

One Sunday at 9am Mass we sat right in the front row with our three little ones. It came to the Alleluia verse and Harry played and sang this particularly morning with great gusto (he didn’t usually sing). Then I heard some strange notes coming from the organ and looked up as people rushed to assist Harry. He’d had had a massive heart attack. As the ambulance and stretchers arrived we took our little ones outside....we all sat there at 9am Mass praying our hearts out.

After the ambulance left, Fr Grundy said, “Let’s finish this mass and offer it up for Harry.” All that day I kept thinking about him and his sweet wife Marie who stood beside him, and then that afternoon I learnt that Harry had died. It was such a shock. For me it the first time in my life I’d experienced death right there in front of me. It was so sudden. And if I felt such intense sadness, how on earth must his wife and family be feeling? And my heart went out to them.

I decided to attend Harry’s funeral. I felt compelled to. And if a funeral can be beautiful and moving and funny in a way, then Harry’s was. It was a true celebration of his life. As they





carried Harry's coffin from the church they played a chirpy, 'classic Harry' tune - a true reflection of Harry.

My children

We arrived in St Patrick's Parish in October 1995. I remember this date very clearly as I was pregnant with our second child and we'd just had a huge move from Cairns. I rang the presbytery not sure of where our parish was, Fr Grundy told me very clearly, "Here at St Patrick's!" It was meant to be. The only people I knew in the whole of Brisbane were my in-laws, so with a three year old and one on the way I felt extremely lonely. We arrived at 9am mass, (I still remember where I sat!) and the first hymn was one that was very significant to me 'Here I am Lord' and I felt an overwhelming sense of belonging. "This is where I'm meant to be," and cried (the pregnancy hormones probably helped here!).

Jacob at three years loved going to Mass because of the wonderful 'kneelers' – big foam 'building blocks' and the first week he set about collecting everyone's kneelers and making a tower. After that we had to put a limit on 'kneeler building'!

Miriam was born soon after and two years later Imogen. Both girls were baptised within the mass at our request, as we wanted them to be welcomed into our mass-going-community with whom we gathered every week. I remember Fr Grundy asked us to carry both babies around the church after Parents and Godparents had signed their foreheads with the cross and invited members of the congregation to do the same. For years after this two beautiful women Dorothy and Betty continued to sign a cross on our girls' heads whenever they saw them at Mass!

I became involved in the Sacramental Programme and loved the concept of the parents taking responsibility for the faith of their children by attending Cluster Groups with them and other parents and children going through each of the Sacramental Programme. Cluster Groups were inclusive, as no matter what school you went to, we gathered each week in the home of a family to share the sacramental preparation journey. I remember when we are at Confirmation practice with our son Jacob he turned and said to me "Mum, after Confirmation will my name be Jacob William St Francis of Assisi Clarke?!"

Fr Grundy

Fr Grundy was a great inspiration to me especially his challenging and stimulating sermons. But he was also very down to earth and would give anyone in need his last dollar. He often looked scruffy and this was part of who he was and what we all loved about him!

One Sunday at 9am Mass a phone could be heard ringing (before many people had Mobile phones and before we were given friendly reminders before mass to silence them!)

Fr Grundy was in the middle of his sermon. He said "Wouldn't you think people would turn their phones off before they came to Church?"





The phone continued ringing. Then he said, “Hang on... that’s my phone!” and proceeded to take it out of his pocket and answer it! The whole congregation roared with laughter.

Another time at a Parish Ball, Fr Grundy actually looked like a ‘real priest’ in a black suit and white collar. I don’t think I’d even seen him wear it before. I said to him, “You look spiffy tonight Fr Grundy.” Then he pulled out his white ‘priest’s collar’ and it was a piece of cut up ice-cream container lid he’s slipped under his collared shirt. “I couldn’t find my proper one, so cut this piece out instead,” he said!

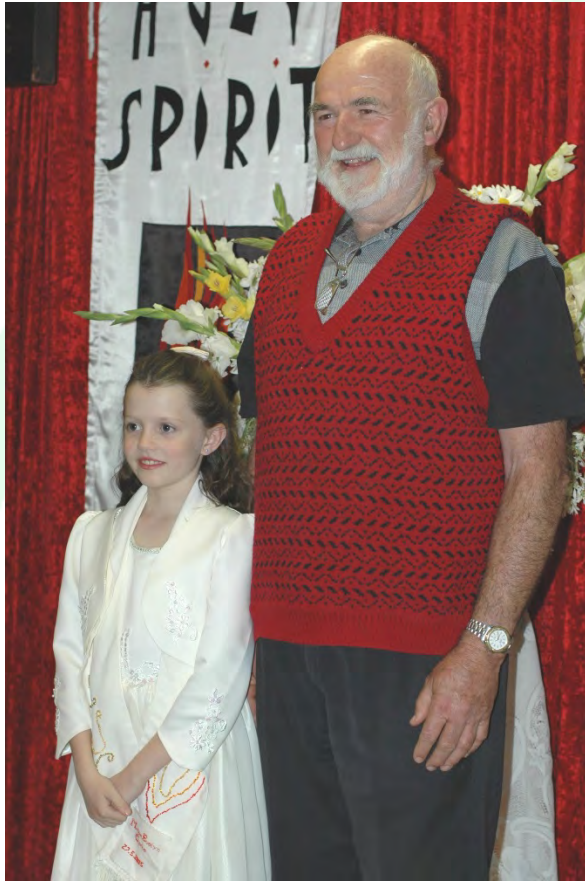
Following Photos by Therese Flynn-Clarke

1. 2005 First Eucharist and Confirmation
2. Cluster Group
3. Imogen Clarke and Kathleen O’Flanagan, 2007
4. Jacob Clarke receiving communion from Fr Grundy, 2005
5. Miriam Clarke with Fr Grundy









Sailing to Stradbroke Island, Summer 1995

Denise O'Shea

Around 1995 we were blessed with Fr Dan Grundy as our pastor. To make our Mass more inclusive Fr Grundy tweaked two words of the Creed, from “became man” to “become truly human”. The congregation initially displayed a range of reactions to the new wording - some refused to change belting out ‘man’ loudly, others embraced change, many remained silent and visitors were bemused saying to each other, “What did they say?”

After the usual hectic holiday preparations for the trip in our sailing trimaran *Firefly* at Amity -Point, Stradbroke Island (Straddie) - all the camping gear was packed in the hulls for the drive to the boat ramp. With the family of Mum, Dad and Jacinta, Vincent and Inez packed into car. Mum glanced around and discovered that Jacinta was hatless, not a good idea for boat trip or a beach holiday. Apparently, no suitable hat could be found. Mum raced back into the house, with no time for searching, spied Jacinta’s school hat, ripped off the band and replaced it with a scarf. When Mum returned, school hat in hand, a fourteen year old Jacinta was not amused. After all, it’s ‘uncool’ to have a slightly modified school hat on holidays but she took it well. At least, the rest of the family were relieved at being able to start their adventures.



Once on Moreton Bay, we had brilliant sunshine, a cloudless sky, hulls sliced the waves and a stiff breeze filled the sails propelling *Firefly* quickly towards Straddie. What could be better?

Jacinta had been sheltering in the cockpit and popped her head up to check progress. Instantly the wide brimmed hat was whisked off her head high into the air before settling on the water in our wake bobbing up and down like a tern. A range of exclamations rang out. Dad asked, "Will we go back for it?" "Yes, of course! That hat cost \$60 and we have four more years of high school to go," Mum replied. In a motor boat, it's not an issue. Just turn the wheel and then pluck the hat off the water as you pull alongside. But in a sail boat, it's very complex, involving a tack or jibe. So the decision came with a lot of implications. Vincent, an impatient eleven year old, was unhappy about the holiday being delayed at all. So he voted for forgetting the hat, but losing out to the 'retrieval' option.

Dad swung into action preparing for a tack. "Inez, you keep an eye on the hat. Vincent, you release the main sail rope after I've turned and when the sail begins flapping, Jacinta, you drag the sail rope to the port winch drum. Mum, use the winch handle to wind it taut, locking it in the cleat." Once *Firefly's* sails were again filled and gaining speed, then Terry instructed, "All hang out over the outrigger hulls ready to catch the hat." The hat loomed very quickly in the wind strong but it slid past out of our reach - a range of groans and yells rang out.

So we repeated the process but this time, with better tacking angle and direction signals to the helmsman, we again neared the hat. This time we were successful, as Inez clasped the hat with an iron grip, hoisting it back on board, albeit minus the scarf, to excited joyful whoops and 'fantastic crew' praise from Captain Dad/Terry. Vincent was not happy with the loss of time, "That hat cost us 1/2 hour." Dad saw the big picture "Well, it is just like the drill for Man Overboard and you did it well". Vincent added dryly, "You mean a Truly Human Overboard," and hearty laughter erupted.

It was interesting that Vincent had transferred the idea to the marine environment which still refers to Man Overboard. Fr Grundy was highly amused when he read the story.

A Friendly Parish

Frank and Barb Muggeridge

When we arrived at St. Patrick's Church, we found it to be a very friendly parish. Consequently, we became involved in ministry with reading, as Eucharist Ministers, visiting the sick and playing the organ. Over time, we have made some very good friends who we will keep for the long term. We also became involved with the welfare side of Vinnies which we also enjoyed. While we have now left this friendly parish to travel Australia in our caravan, we can remember our happy times with the parishioners of St Patrick's.





Blessed

Jean and Sean Ranieses

During the 10 years I have been with the Parish, I have met some wonderful people, sadly said goodbye to some great ones and welcomed young parishioners to their faith journey.

St Patrick's Parish is a part of my life and my family history. I will never forget the first time that I served as a minister of the Eucharist and a reader. I felt nervous, overwhelmed and blessed all at the same time. For me, serving at this Parish is always a great and humbling experience. I look up to those individuals who continually do it, as their devotion becomes a blessing to everyone.

Over the years, my son saw my involvement and dedication within the Church. At aged 3, he asked if he too could serve. We asked for Fr. Tony's blessing and from then on he became one of the youngest cross-bearer the parish had ever had and, as they say, the rest was history. I can never



Sean Ranieses with Fr Joseph Kannat, Fr Tony Girvan, Archbishop Mark Coleridge

thank Fr. Tony

enough for opening that door of opportunity for my son to be involved at Church and have the road of his faith journey so firmly paved. Not only did he gain a father figure with Fr. Tony, he also gained a friend.

We are truly humbled and blessed to be a part of this parish. Happy 60th Anniversary St Patrick's Beenleigh!



Sean Ranieses, 2010



Sean with Fr Joseph Kannat





Fr Tony with Jean and Sean

Fond Memories

Margaret Turvey

St Patrick's parish has a real sense of community and will always have a special place in my heart. I am sure that the friendship and good memories that our family have of "St Pats" is the same as a lot of families who were there.

Our first move to Beenleigh was just after our daughter was born in 1978. George was in the army and his posting was to Enoggera. After another posting south, we returned to Beenleigh in 1982. Fr Bill O'Shea was the parish priest. The parish had flourished and grown into a strong and caring community, with great people willing to participate and help each other. The presence and work of the Josephite sisters in the primary school, and then the Marist brothers in the high school, added loving and vibrant life to the parish.

I remember the lovely Jo Kelly, who alongside Peter Williamson began the Beenleigh Community Care. Parishioners volunteered their time and talents to help with removals, handyman jobs, meals, and housework. There was a "Bread run" which delivered free bread to needy families.

Jack and Judy Ward lived in the house at the end of Toorak St. He was a great musician who played the organ in the church. Mrs Louise Hutley played the guitar, and with Sister Kathy,



(a Josephite sister in Eagleby) sang like angels. That beautiful music and the generous giving spirit in the parish of St Patrick's parish will always be a fond memory.

Journey of Faith

Jenny McCormack

By the grace of God, many of us can witness to a life changing moment when the Lord has revealed His love to us in a remarkable way. This moment can be life changing; it can be so meaningful and powerful that we are changed through this experience. This moment can have a lasting impression that can draw us back into the memory and this can overwhelm us all over again. Such is the memory of my journey of faith through St Patrick's Catholic Community Beenleigh.

My journey of faith was rooted in Catholicism from childhood through Catholic schooling. However, in my teenage years I discovered that my faith was not rooted deeply enough to continue my faith journey. During this time I felt very much alone as I faced the struggles and difficulties of life and I was not aware of God's constant presence with me. Twenty-three years later, I returned to the church and was attending two different parishes, trying to find a place that I could call 'home'. It was during this time that I came to a crisis point in my life. In a time of sickness and despair, I called out to God 'from my heart'. I experienced an encounter with Jesus Christ, an encounter of forgiveness, mercy and love from a personal God who loved and accepted me no matter what, my God who was 'Emmanuel', my God who was always with me.

Shortly after this experience, I attended a Life in the Spirit Seminar at the Beenleigh Parish. I was deeply wounded physically, emotionally and spiritually. God gave the courage and grace to come just as I was, in my brokenness, and I completed the seminar. A charismatic prayer group was formed after the seminar. I had experienced a 'sense of belonging' through the love and acceptance of the prayer group members, and I wanted to be part of it. It was during this time of 'new life' that I had another defining moment when the Parish Priest asked me to assist with the cleaning of the candle for the altar. Through this simple act, I realized that I had something that I could offer back to God in gratitude for what He had done for me.

A new journey of faith followed as I began to serve God firstly through this parish and then into the parish community. I also entered into service through Catholic Charismatic Renewal (CCR) throughout this Archdiocese, then into State and Nation as CCR Queensland President; representing Queensland on the National Service Committee. This defining moment was really the beginning of my faith journey, a time when the roots of my faith were more firmly established and nourished. This was a journey towards healing and wholeness and a sense of 'wellbeing' as I discovered that God was leading me into an experience of a new life through service and ministry. My journey of faith was ever deepening, as Jesus invited me into a deeper trust through a revelation of His presence.

This revelation of faith was deepened again through an incident with my car on 7th June 2014 when God miraculously saved my life! I had parked the car in my driveway and was





standing inside the front door of the car when it started to roll back down the driveway. I had the assurance that everything was going to be OK and when I reflected later on this experience, I can acknowledge that the Lord was truly present with me. I managed to put my right leg into the car but at the same moment, my left foot was pulled under the car door and under the front wheel of the car. The ambulance man who attended the scene later told me, 'that in most cases, people go under the car and are crushed to death'. But this was not in God's plan for me. His plan was to save my life!

What followed was a miracle and I tell this story for the glory of God. As the right foot went under the car wheel, my left foot jerked upwards, and the top of my boot got stuck under the dashboard of the car. My faith tells me that God used my leg to save my life. There I was, one foot under the wheel, the other foot stuck under the dashboard, the rest of my body hanging out the side of the car, being dragged and thumped down the driveway, the open front door wedged just below the knee, to keep my upper body from going under the front wheel of the car. Amazingly, I sensed that I was in a miracle. There was no other way to understand what was happening, it was all very real and there was nothing I could do, but trust in the Lord!

There are some big trees running down the garden beside the driveway and I can remember thinking, 'one of those trees will stop the car'. Just at that moment, I had a sense of 'complete and utter powerlessness' and the car just stopped! As it was revealed to me later, I was very close to death at that moment. I was not aware of where I was laying. All I knew was that I was alive, that God had more plans for my life, that He had saved me from certain death, that Jesus was profoundly real and that I had a story to tell for His glory. I experienced a tangible awareness of the presence of Jesus, deeper than I had ever experienced before as praise and thanksgiving welled up within me through audible praise, and I was given a peaceful strength from the Lord.

The ambulance man later confirmed that this was indeed a miracle. On the way to hospital he showed me a photo of where I had been laying. In his words, 'laying at the base of that tree, just centimetres from being crushed to death'! The car had rolled twenty metres down the driveway, gaining speed and thankfully, into the garden where God had used a small clump of bamboo to stop the car. But it was on the brink of rolling further down two boulder walls and into the house next door. The fireman also attending the scene tied the car onto the house for stability before removing the dashboard, which released my foot and took the weight of the door from my leg. They told me to buy a lotto ticket and to put their name on it and, five months later, I was able to follow this through.

Many people have since told me that I am 'lucky', but I believe that God granted me a miracle and through this, He has given me a new purpose to live. My purpose is to live in the awareness of God's presence and to tell of His saving miraculous power, and thanks be to God, He has given me a new boldness to proclaim this message to all who will listen. God has continued to confirm His love for me through all the people who have loved, cared, supported, prayed and welcomed me back into my community. It is a deep joy to be part of St Patrick's Catholic Church Community for it is here that God has deepened my faith through many moments of experience and revelation of His presence with me. I am grateful





that God has given me a place that I call 'home' and I am thankful to the people of this faith community, who have shared my journey of faith with me.

Nourishment

Erica Ng

Nourishment - that's what the church provides. Nourishment provided through The Word and through the Eucharist for our body, mind, and our soul. However, tell an eight year old child that and they won't come to Mass, particularly if it means fasting (more like starving) for a whole hour beforehand! But, tell them that there will be tea and cake afterwards and they will gladly fast (to make more room for that delicious cake of course!).

Like most families, church was a weekly affair, and it was my only opportunity to seize a lollipop from Fr Gary, the former Loganholme parish priest. Every week I'd chase him down after Mass, plead with him for a lollypop, show him my best smile, and ninety percent of the time I'd win (the other ten percent he'd run out of lollypops, or so I was told!). So when my family up and moved to Beenleigh when I was eight, my weekly appointment with tooth decay came to an abrupt end. What was I to do? Would the priest at Beenleigh have lollipops? Maybe he would have better candy? Sadly, Fr Grundy did not. So for a time I tried to rebel. I didn't want to starve myself for an hour any longer (although, let's be honest, it's really two hours until dinner!). Some weekends I'd pull a sickie (*Mum... I've got a headache... Dad... my tummy feels sick!*). But it was no use - my parents were too smart and would see right through my lies! So off to church I would go, half glad because it meant I wouldn't be stuck at home bored by myself. I'd also have an opportunity to lovingly inflict sibling pain on my sisters while holding hands and saying the Our Father (unless Mum or Dad managed to sit between us... party-poopers!).

But going also meant the chance of a cuppa after mass. Oh, how glorious they were! So many scrumptious goodies that we never had at home, like Tim Tams, coconut jam drops, curried egg sandwiches! Oh boy! What a delight! All for coming to mass? Yes, Fr Grundy, I'll be at mass every week!

One cuppa I looked forward to the most as a child, was the one at New Year's Eve. After greeting the New Year in with a Mass at midnight, Fr. Grundy would hold a BBQ breakfast. I loved it so much because it meant that I got to stay up way past my bedtime, and I also got to indulge in delicious runny fried eggs and greasy bacon at a ridiculous time of day. What better way to greet the New Year?

As I grew older I was still partial to being bribed by food. I remember joining the youth group when it was in its infancy and joining mostly because it meant that I, 1) got to sing at Mass and 2) because I got to cook! Soup runs and sausage sizzles were our speciality! The smell of browning onions wafting from the rafters during Father's homily... how could they resist? And as the youth group grew, so did our culinary skills. We upgraded from sausages to burgers! A burger after 9am mass? Yes sir!





Over the years, the church has held many food focused gatherings. Like the Winter Wonderland ball, the World Youth Day dinner, the Multicultural lunch, the Pearl High Tea prayer group, and Cathy's many-a-wonderful fundraisers, just to name a few. I am much older and wiser than my eight-year-old self and I have become less accustomed to taking food bribes to attend church because I know that while the body needs nourishment, the soul needs nourishment too. As the scripture says, *"For where two or more are gathered together in my name, I am there among them."* (Matthew 15:20), and what better way to come together than with the Good News, good hearts and good food! Although, I still won't turn down an offering of curried egg sandwiches...

Our Stories

Marie and Maria Kuljanic

Hello, my name is Marie V. Kuljanic and I arrived in St Patrick's Beenleigh in 1979. My husband who was building the family house at the time, suddenly passed away soon after we moved to Beenleigh. With only the concrete slab and garage built, but no house, I was left with a big mess, needing to find a builder to complete my family home with three young children all on my own. I had no money in those days but with lot of prayers and Masses the bank gave me a loan to finish the home. Both Fr Bill O'Shea and Jo Kelly helped my family as we were new to the Parish. Fr O'Shea offered a Mass in my newly finished home and invited people from the Parish to attend. Father then blessed my house. I would like to take this opportunity to **Thank You** Fr Bill O'Shea and Jo Kelly.

Hello, my name is Maria J. Kuljanic and I was the first lady Alter Server in St Patrick's Beenleigh in 1986/87 assisting Fr Bill O'Shea. Back in those days, I didn't undergo any official training, but I learnt what to do 'on-the-job' by holding the Bible and assisting with preparations for the Eucharist table. I recall wearing the official gown on Sundays during summer times it was mighty 'hot'. I now better acknowledge the great sacrifices that our priests go to when they wear the official gown during Mass on those very warm summer days. Looking back, it was quite an honour to serve at Mass as a young lady still in school. As this great tradition has continued in St Patrick's Beenleigh, I would like to say a special **Thank You** to Fr Bill O'Shea for allowing to me to serve in our Parish at Sunday Mass.

The Family Group Movement

Maria and Joe Saraty

Joe Saraty, who died in August 2010, has left his legacy in the life of St. Patrick's. He arrived in the parish with his wife Maria eleven years ago. On Joe's suggestion, Fr. Dan Grundy, the parish priest at the time, invited Fr. Peter McGrath CP, the founder of the Passionist Family Group movement, to establish family groups in the parish. Joe knew the value of family groups from direct experience in Sydney. He was involved in setting up family groups in the Holy Family parish, Runaway Bay, and also in two parishes in Victoria. Family groups continue to operate in this parish, providing a sense of community and support to their members.





Joe's legacy is also evident in two gifts to the parish. After his death, his wife Maria donated a statue of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception in his memory, which originally belonged to Joe's mother. She brought it to Australia from New Zealand. Maria also intends to donate a Plaque of the Risen Christ, given to Joe by Fr. Coghlan in Mitcham, Victoria, for the many services that Joe made to that parish. Maria hopes it will be installed in the Columbarium at St. Patrick's.

Joe was always eager to help others. Many parishioners will remember him for his quiet gentle nature, for his involvement in the Easter liturgies and for his regular contribution to the Eucharist celebration as a reader.



Family Group Bowling outing 2013. Photo courtesy of Therese Flynn-Clarke

People of Influence

Libby Ariel

My experiences of St Patrick's started long before I moved into the parish. In 1979 my husband Lawrie and I, along with our two young daughters, moved to Daisy Hill. I'm sure my mother thought that we were moving to Mars. Daisy Hill was over half way to the Gold Coast from our Brisbane western suburb home. However, we soon settled into our new home and started our eldest daughter into St Edwards's school. In those days the school was at the end of the bitumen road and only had three classes... how things have changed! St Pat's at Beenleigh was the adjoining parish, along with St Peter's at Rochedale on the





northern side. Within a couple of years, two more children had arrived into our family and life was rather hectic.

I think our parish priest at the time, Fr Leo, thought I needed a little more to do with my spare time and suggested that we have a morning tea after Wednesday morning Mass for the older members of the parish. Of course, I had plenty of time...! It could have been at this time that I remembered my wish to become a nun when I was about seven. God has a great sense of humour.

So, onward and upward, next thing Fr Leo thought it would be wonderful if we started a Care and Concern group... and of course, as I'd done such a great job of the morning teas, who else would be able to run it. It was at about this time that I nearly did run off and join the convent!

I really needn't have worried. My experience with St Pat's was about to start in the form of one Jo Kelly. I think some people are put on earth to 'do' and others are to 'be.' Jo was certainly put there to 'do.' I learnt so much from that wonderful lady. Without Jo, Care and Concern at St Eddie's would have never come about. She gave her time freely, always willing to help without taking over, (even during those times I wished she would!) Jo taught me so much that I doubt that there are enough trees to make the paper to write about her. I know I wouldn't have done half as much without her.

Roll on a few years and our youngest daughter and only son, decided he was not following his three sisters to St Thomas More College for high schoolhe wanted to go to Trinity. About this time we sold our Daisy Hill home and moved to Beenleigh.

Somehow not long after our arrival in Beenleigh, Fr Grundy came knocking on our door. He started to talk to me about all things I'd done at St Eddie's. This should have been my cue to run for that convent yet again, but I'm a slow learner. Next thing, I am teaching a Religious Education class at Beenleigh State School, then Beenleigh High, then Mt Warren Park etc., until Fr Grundy persuaded me to take over running of the Religious Education for high schools in the area. I loved this job, but ran into quite a bit of hassle at times from our more spirited Pentecostal church leaders who were not very keen on having a catholic in their midst, let alone running the show. Fr Grundy made time to come to every meeting and stood up for me regularly. I will be thankful to that man forever for the help he gave me in forging a friendship with the other churches. I was born into a Catholic home in 1955. Back then you didn't really associate with other denominations. Now, I was attending services and speaking about what I did. Fr Grundy was always there to help with any questions I had regarding what I was doing. Did I say I'll always be thankful for his help?

Time went along, as it does, and things change. We started to have chaplains in our state schools. One of the members of St Pat's parish was the chaplain for Beenleigh High School. He was the only Catholic chaplain in Queensland at the time. In a short time, Windaroo Valley High also decided they would go down the way of having a chaplain. Chaplaincy was then, and still is, run by Scripture Union, an off shoot of the Baptist Church, although any Christian person is able to apply for the position. Once again, Grundy (by this stage I'd given up the 'Father' bit..... he was my mate) urged me to apply.





I got the job and this meant there were two Catholic Chaplains in the state schools in Qld, both from St Pat's. I'm unsure if the current parish realise what we had achieved in the infancy of school chaplaincy. I not sure we would have done this without the unending help, prayers and pushing of Fr Grundy. God bless you Dan!

This brings me to the third person from St Pat's who had a great influence on me, Maria Truelson. I had met Maria a few times at St Eddie's when she was supply teaching and had always thought that she had a natural love of children. They certainly seemed to sense it as well. Maria had a gentle way about her. You saw her love of God in everything she did. One of my fondest memories was of the times I used to take my then toddler grandson, Peter, with me to Mass. If Peter got a bit restless, Maria would sit with him and show him how to say the Rosary. I have never seen a two year old sit like that. You'd swear he knew he was in the company of an angel. To this day, Peter, who is now 14, still remembers those times. Of course, Maria is human and she had a tough part of her that hated the idea of people being unloved. She helped to alleviate this with her soup kitchen. Oh, the number of pots of soup we made and delivered... and the people we met! You could write a book, but Maria never made anyone feel that they were anything less than a child of God. When Matthew wrote the Gospel of the final judgement, I sometimes think Jesus was talking about Maria. Never would she have seen a person hungry and not fed them...

These are some of the wonderful memories of three wonderful people from St Pats.

Lots of fun was had by all!

Lola Wagner

My name is Lola Wagner. In mid-December 1980 my husband Jim and my three sons, Alan, Greg and David, arrived in Beenleigh and we began attending St Joseph's parish. I had only just become a Catholic in October 1979 in Dalby, so I was quite excited to become part of the parish. Fr Bill O'Shea was the Parish Priest then. This was a pleasant surprise to me because Fr Bill had given me my instructions at St Augustine's Parish, Coolangatta before I was married in September 1963, seventeen years previously.

The ladies in the parish were very friendly and I joined various groups in the parish. My youngest son, David, attended St Joseph's and years later, returned to teach there. Fete day and preparation for it were a real delight. Pam Cronk, Sue Schmitt and Colleen Goodwin were my main sewing partners in a sewing bee held under my house one day every week. I am not much of a sewer so I prepared lunch and cuppers for the workers. It was more like a meeting of friends rather than work and we had loads of fun. We made over \$3,000 the first year, which was an all-time record I was told. I think we continued sewing for the fetes for two more years.

We attended many Church dinner dances and my two boys partnered some girls when they made their debut at the Debutant Balls in the Memorial Hall, Beenleigh. Fancy dress dinner dances were very well attended and lots of fun was had by all.





Church cleaning was not a chore as it was more like a get together of friends.

My husband and I were special ministers for a time and always came back to St Patricks for the Christmas midnight mass to be with our friends.

I earned a badge, "Assistant Librarian" from Sr Marie, after spending a year or two in the library helping Hetty King, our school librarian back then.

Paddy's Press was our monthly Church paper with all the news of the Parish. Ann Tracey, Allan Battle and Helen Holmes were the helpers.

We had a wonderful Catechumenate program, sponsoring people on their travels to becoming Catholics. Jim and I both sponsored people over the years.

A welcome book was started and Pam Cronk and I drove to the homes of the new parishioners to welcome them to our parish.

Fr Bill who wrote for the Catholic Leader also had lectures in the Church which were very well attended.

We were extremely lucky to have had Fr Bill O'Shea as our Parish Priest.

Fund raising quiz nights were held in the old Church hall below St Patricks. They were well attended and a lot of fun was had at those nights.

Jo Kelly started Beenleigh Catholic care. She was a wonderful woman and loved by all.

We have many other Priests over the years who have made St Patrick's the parish that it is now.

The Baby-sitting Club

Marg Skerman

I moved to Beenleigh in late 1978 from NSW. I didn't know anyone in Queensland except my soon to be fiancée Russ and the people I worked with (all guys). Although I attended Mass regularly at St Patrick's church (now the After-School building) I was never really a part of the community. This was probably my own fault, as I was fairly shy in those days...

Russ and I were married in 1980 and moved to Beaudesert for a time, not returning to Beenleigh until early 1982 with our new daughter Jacqueline. As a new mother with no family around, I needed to become involved with the community, so I answered the Parish request for Religious Instruction teachers in the State Schools. I was introduced to some parishioners who assisted with baby-sitting to enable me to spend time working in the schools.

In October 1983 when our second child Aaron was three weeks old I saw a notice in the Church newsletter about a baby-sitting club run by some mothers in the Parish. I approached them and was eagerly accepted. This 'free service' ran on a points system with no cash outlay. Meetings were held monthly with each member having a turn of hosting and convening the meeting. These social gatherings gave not only us but our children the chance





to know those looking after them. They also acted as mini 'play-dates' with other children their ages. As well as monthly meetings we often arranged weekend picnics and outing to include the older children and the Dads.

Our Parish baby-sitting club ran for many years, providing a much needed service to many of us. Not only did we have an opportunity to have some time without our children, but a wonderful way to meet new friends (many of whom I would class as very good friends still). At the same time the Majellan Club was also very active in our Parish. This association named after St. Gerard Majella (well known as the patron of mothers) was a source of help and inspiration to many parents.

The Majellan Club also met monthly and was not only a social outing for many 'stay at home' mothers and our pre-schoolers, but often a very informative experience. We regularly had guest speakers on a varying range of issues from parenting, women's health to legal and financial matters. This was once again another wonderful opportunity for many of the parish women to share their personal lives with others.

Unfortunately, by the late 1980's interest in the Majellan Club waned - some of us had moved away (we moved to Dalby), started full time work or become involved with the school and sport activities of our growing families.

Our family returned to Beenleigh in 1991 and I was happy to find the baby-sitting club still very active. I had four young children and a very community involved husband so the opportunity to once again have "friends" looking after our children in a safe and loving environment was ideal.

Although time has moved on and many past members of both the Baby-sitting Club and Majellan Club have moved away I am very grateful to our St Patrick's Parish for the all-embracing opportunities given to me and my family all those years ago.

Marg Skerman

Molly

Mary McGrath





Molly

Around sixteen years ago our granddaughter commenced school at St. Joseph's School. She was the first disabled child afflicted with cerebral palsy to go to St. Josephs. It was a thrill to have her accepted into a real school and not a special school which was advised. With the determination of her mother Margie and the faith to see it through, Molly was in. The first problem encountered was with the toilets, so facilities for a disabled toilet were created. Steps were also an issue due to Molly's wheelchair. This required the construction of a ramp, since know as Molly's ramp. Changes were also made to classrooms changing upper level to ground floor. The school was so accepting and welcoming of Molly into the

school and this has paved the way for other children with disabilities. Molly had a great start at St. Joseph's. The family moved interstate and she completed her education at Catholic Ladies College where similar changes were made. Molly is now doing third year psychology at Latrobe University Melbourne and hopes to complete Criminal Law. Yea Molly, and thanks to St. Joseph's and St. Patrick's for giving her the chance to reach her full potential.

St Patrick's Parish Columbarium

Barry McGrath

Many years ago, when Fr Dan Grundy was Parish Priest, the Parish council was called on to solve the problem of a collapsed retaining wall between the school and the church. This wall had been constructed of old railway sleepers that had rotted with time and was in danger of collapsing on the children at St Joseph's. While it was possible to build another similar wall, which in time would do the same, it was decided to construct a brick wall for a more permanent solution.

I considered this site, which at the time was overgrown and unused. Nobody went around that side of the Church. I reasoned that since we were to build a wall, why not make use of this newly created space?

A friend had just had a traumatic experience with her husband's death, followed by the difficult and very expensive process of purchasing a niche and plaque in a columbarium. After spending over \$2000 she was told that ongoing costs would be required every few years to retain the niche.

I thought this was wrong, so I sought out information on turning our unused area into a useful addition to our Church Community: a parish columbarium. First of all, I had to find out if it complied with the Catholic Church's teachings on cremation, then to find if it was legal on church property.



The Gold Coast City Council was the authority at the time, and while they agreed it was possible, they had not had an application to build one outside a cemetery. However, before they could change their minds, with the aid of Don Bravery, I lodged an application, paid the fee and was granted a permit. Incidentally, Don is now a resident in our columbarium.

The next hurdle was organising the construction. For this, I found a good man who would not only donate his time but his workmen's time also. An added bonus was the donation of the required materials.

Then came the final hurdle, approval by the parish council. Unfortunately, on the night of the meeting, Fr Dan Grundy was away. I faced the council alone and they refused the idea.

About 2 weeks later, Fr Dan Grundy came back from holidays and learned of the decision to reject the notion of a columbarium. He suggested we take it to the whole Parish to decide rather than just the parish council. It was put to the vote and apart from two or three parishioners, the majority agreed.

We now have our own columbarium and it has been well appreciated by those who have called on its service, especially for the low, one-off cost.

Now many of our past parishioners now reside close to the St Patrick's in our columbarium, so I like to believe they share our Church with us still!

A Parish Called St Patrick's! Kevin and Mary McErlean

We arrived in Beenleigh over thirty two years ago, after emigrating from Ireland, with four children and one on the way. We couldn't believe that our Parish was called 'St Patrick's'! At our first Mass we were met by Jo Kelly who wanted to know if our older children would like to go to children's liturgy. We had never heard of this, so we declined her offer. After a couple of Sundays though, they went and enjoyed the experience, as some of their school friends also attended. It was through this and regular attendance at Mass that we met people like Frank and Rosie Holland, Dennis and Lyn Taylor, Lorraine Butler, John & Clare O'Donahue, Peter and Bernadette Enright and many others, who were so welcoming and made us feel part of the St Patrick's community. It also helped that some of their children were in the same class at St Joseph's as ours.

Fr Bill O'Shea was the parish priest at the time and he looked like my eldest brother, so that helped me to settle in. It was a huge undertaking to come to the other side of the world and to bring a young family, so every little thing that reminded us of 'home' was very welcome. Meeting some mums at school helped me to mingle while Kevin went to work.

Dianne Noonan suggested I join her church cleaning group, which I did. I would put my baby in the pram, walk with the other children to school on a Friday morning and spend an hour cleaning the church with Dianne and two other ladies before walking home again. I did church cleaning for the next fifteen years or so, until the job I had required me to work every Saturday morning. After that, Kevin and I volunteered to be counters, which we still do.





Kevin would help regularly at working bees for the parish as well as the schools. They were only little things but, over the years, the number of people we met was incredible. It's a great way to get to know people and help the Parish community at the same time. Our children went through St Joseph's and then Trinity College and they are now scattered over the world with their own families. We have watched others grow up, get married and have children, just as some of the older parish community would have watched our children. The people may have changed but the spirit of St Patrick's is as strong as ever!

Blessings in Disguise

Mavis Host

We are now members of the congregation at St Matthew's at Loganholme, but when we returned to Australia after working in Papua New Guinea for a number of years, I wasn't sure as to where the children would go to school. I thought they would be attending St Edward's at Daisy Hill, but no, I was curtly told that we were in the Beenleigh Parish and that the children would go to St Joseph's.

I was a little upset at the time, but it turned out to be a blessing with the special people and long lasting friendships I made at St Joseph's, Trinity College and St Patrick's. Brendan completed grades 5, 6 and 7 at St Joseph's and then went on to Trinity College for grades 8 – 12. As St Matthew's Primary School opened in 1983, Nathan only spent a short time at St Joseph's and then transferred to St Matthew's. However, he attended Trinity College for Grades 8 to 12 and I was a long time Secretary of the Trinity P&F.

Fr Bill O'Shea was Parish Priest at the time and Kieran was baptised at St Patrick's. Of course, Fr Bill was very involved in the establishment of the Loganholme Parish, and Fr Gary Russell, our first Parish Priest lived at the Beenleigh Presbytery until housing was available for him at St Matthew's. Tracey, our youngest child, was the first baby baptised in the new church at Loganholme.

With St Matthew's being opened and then Chisholm secondary college opening in 1992, Joanne, Kieran and Tracey all attended St Matthew's Primary and Chisholm College for their secondary schooling.

My vivid memories of St Patrick's are of us all arriving at Mass (always only a few minutes late!), and having to go right around to the music area to get a seat. But it was lucky that we got home safely from Mass as to return to Shailer Park we had to get across the highway, hoping that there would be a break – and you know how fast cars travel on their way to the coast. We said a prayer, held our breath and are still here to tell the tale. There were no overhead bridges to get to Shailer Park in those days.

Another memory is of the baby-sitting club. Through it I met some wonderful friends and when St Matthew's became a parish, we started our own baby-sitting club here. All these children are now adults with their own children – how time moves on.

My very best wishes to all in the Beenleigh Parish for their sixty year celebrations.





My thoughts on my time in St Patrick's Parish

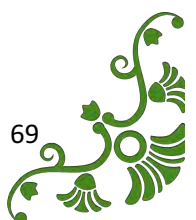
Moya McKeon

My Family came to Beenleigh in 1953 when my father bought the freehold title of Royal Hotel. The two hotels in contention were the Canungra Hotel and the Royal. The Royal won because it had stables and Dad had promised my daughter a pony. By the way, we were all too busy to buy the pony and it wasn't until she married and had daughters of her own she purchased a horse for them. My three children attended St Joseph's and later as there weren't any Catholic secondary schools in Beenleigh, the girls attended St Ursula's in Annerley and my son attended St Laurence's, South Brisbane. My two granddaughters attended St Josephs and Trinity College.

When St Joseph's School opened, money was short. The school offered piano tuition which I took advantage of for my girls. The tuck shop was started to help with school expenses. I have fond memories of St Gerard's Club for mothers from school and ladies of parish. We held parties to raise funds to buy necessities for the school and convent. Another service we provided was a baby bundle for new mothers in the parish. When it disbanded, I needed something to replace this community involvement. This is what attracted me to Quota International forty-three years ago, who do similar work. Quota's first donation after forming was to Trinity College, for whom we purchased a sound system when the school was new.

RCIA was another ministry I and my friends also enjoyed. The camaraderie was such that when the program was finished each year, we continued with other bible studies every Monday night at my home for over fifteen years. This group still meets every year to take part in Lenten program.

Cluster Groups met at my home for many years too. I loved this ministry.





Parish Debutante Ball, 1974.

The Catholic Balls conducted for many years were a social success and enjoyed by all. Fr Bill O'Shea always attended and enjoyed the social aspect of the event. He was a great influence on my life.

St Patrick's parish has given me many happy times. The old church is where all my children were baptised and received the sacraments. And my eldest daughter was

married there, while my youngest daughter was wed in the new church. As now, the parish ladies had a roster to clean the old church. We cleaned on our hands and knees, washing and polishing the aisle. When looking at the old church (our parish hall) recently it didn't seem quite as long as I remembered!

There are probably lots of other memories tucked away, but it has been a joy to think about the above today.

The Hull's Story

Roy Hull

We moved from Oxley to Tanah Merah around 1969. Our son Rodney started school in Oxley and while he was a little behind in learning, he got along alright. When we moved, he was transferred to the Slack's Creek State School. For the rest of that year he had a mature teacher who managed his learning fairly well. The next year his class was taken over by a young teacher who could not give him the attention he needed to handle the work and at the same time teach the rest of the class. Unfortunately, her answer to the problem was to put Rodney out on the veranda for a large portion of the day. Towards the end of the term, I went to see the principal and asked him to look into the problem only to be told that in his opinion, Rodney had reached the limit of his ability to learn. He made no attempt to follow up with the teacher.

We were very unhappy about this, so when one of Joyce's friends suggested that we try the Catholic school in Beenleigh we were quite happy to try anything even though we were not Catholics. So at the beginning of the next term, we went along to St Joseph's School with Rodney to meet the principal, who was Sister Julie. Of course, she wanted to talk to him, but



as soon as she approached, he ran away. Sister Julie caught up with him and soon had him settled down. After talking to her she agreed to have him but referred to the then parish priest, Fr Ainslie, who immediately said, "Of course he can come to the school." Rodney was the first non-Catholic student to go to St Joseph's School.

His teacher was Mrs Carroll and she did a marvellous job with Rodney. Because of the way he had been treated, he was afraid of the classroom and it took her nearly the whole term to get him to willingly come to the front of the class. He was not the keenest student but he completed his primary schooling at St Joseph's. Needless to say, our other three children all attended St Joseph's.

During this period, Joyce and I (particularly Joyce since she took the children to school had quite a lot to do with the people at St Joseph's. We took part in the school fetes and most other activities. What really impressed us was the way the children were encouraged to participate in activities, even funerals. We were so impressed that Joyce changed her religion to Catholic as well as all our children. This is a decision that we have never regretted because of the comradeship among the people we have come to be with and definitely the help our children received.

All things considered, St Joseph's and the Catholic religion have made a big difference in our lives.

A Story of the Statue of Our Lady with Baby Jesus

Tamara Maloney



The photo of Tamara and Raymond used by Roy Hull for our statue of Our Lady.

Before St Patrick's Church was built in Beenleigh, Roy Hull, who is a parishioner and potter, collected clay from the site foundations. Roy intended to sculpt a statue of Our Lady and baby Jesus for the new church and what better than to use the clay from the site. I, and my nine month old son, Raymond, were asked to be the models for the statue. Another parishioner, Barry Gordon, the photographer for the local newspaper, *The Albert and Logan News*, photographed us. The photos were used by Roy to sculpt and then fire the statue.

The statue is a simple depiction of Our Lady lovingly holding baby Jesus and now sits proudly in the western corner of the St Patrick's church.

Once the church was built the first baptism took place at the 9am Mass on August 10th 1980. We were one of three families to have boys being





baptised that day. The other families were Lagus and Weiks but only Raymond was fully immersed – with no clothes – by Fr Bill O'Shea.



Ken and Tamara Moloney with baby Raymond. Rosie and Frank Holland were the godparents.

My Life in the Parish

Lyn Giebels

So much of my life is tied to the parish of St Patrick's, Beenleigh. It was here that I met my husband, John, in the mid-seventies. We went on to become the first wedding in the newly completed St Patrick's Church in August 1980. All of our children (Beth, Hannah and Ellen) were baptised, confirmed and made their First Communions and Confessions here.

Many of our friendships were also made in this church. The Hollands, Taylors, Morris', Claytons, Halls, Weiks, Moloneys, Barkers, McCallum, Flynn-Clarkes, Hatzis' and other families too numerous to mention were met either through the parish or St Joseph's School.

We have seen many sad times here also. My parents, Frank and Val Swan and father-in-law John Snr all had their funerals here as well as those of friends and relatives of friends.

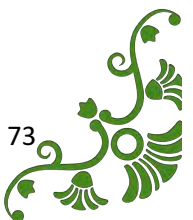
But this is what has made St Patrick's so special in our lives. It is not a mere backdrop to our lives, but centre stage, with much of the comedy and drama that makes up our day-to-day existence having its genesis there. Through joy and sorrow and even crisis of faith, St Patrick's continues to be part of our lives.





STP

John and Lyn Giebels, the first wedding in the new St Patrick's with Fr Tom Elich, Fr Bill O'Shea and Arch Deacon Swan, August 30th 1980.





PARISH GROUPS

Concerning Faith Foundation, Vin Russell

An initial question could obviously be “What is faith?”

In everyday human relations, faith means accepting something on the word of another. People believe what they are told by a person they know to be well-informed and truthful. But religious faith is more than that. It is a power given by the Holy Spirit which enables the Christian to accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour and readily to believe that he taught and continues to teach, through His church. The Christian must be ready to accept this, even when he cannot understand it, because he knows it is taught by God.

Faith is possible because God has graciously revealed or manifested Himself to us. God reveals Himself in many ways, but the fullness of His revelation is in Jesus Christ. “In times past, God spoke in many ways through the prophets, but in these last days He has spoken to us through His Son. He is the one through whom God created the universe, the one whom God has chosen to possess all things at the end. He reflects the brightness of God’s glory and is the exact likeness of God’s being, sustaining the universe with His powerful word” (Hebrews 1:1-3).

Jesus is the word of God, the perfect image of the Father. In the Gospel we have the mystery of Jesus in whom God has made known His presence in the word. As scripture says “The person who is put right with God through faith, shall live” (Romans 1:16-17). Through Jesus, God offers the gift of faith to us, the vibrant grace by which we are able to respond “yes” to God’s redeeming love.

Everything about Jesus reveals God to us. In the words of Vatican Council 2, Jesus “completed and perfected revelation and confirmed it with divine guarantees. He did this by the total fact of His presence and self-manifestation by words and deeds, by signs and miracles but above all by His death and resurrection from the dead, and finally by sending the spirit of Truth” (Divine Revelation 4).

Faith is the free human act by which a person commits his or her entire self to God. It is the Holy Spirit who enlightens our minds so we can see through the eyes of faith. It is the same Spirit, the Spirit of Truth, who guides us to all truth. Faith is not static, but dynamic. It strives to experience God as completely as possible in this life.

It is important to express our faith often, especially in the context of community. Each Liturgy calls us, as the People of God, to make our profession of faith.

Whilst the lay person does not preach, and does not administer the sacraments, he nonetheless has an apostolic role in the parish. Baptism and Confirmation give to each Christian the right and obligation to testify to the Faith and to care for the salvation of his neighbours. This carries the Christian person’s influence to an ever widening circle of friends and neighbours both within and outside the Parish. The Catholic person who takes part in Parish activities performs an important work. Membership of whatever groups or societies which may exist within a Parish helps to channel both physical and spiritual resources into





worthwhile channels. By finding various interests, his social environment and spiritual companionship in the organised Parish groups, the Catholic person helps to build up the Church so that it can be seen by the whole world. In a sense, the Catholic person testifies that his or her whole world is actively directed to the interest of the Church and to the work which the Church provides or him or her to do.

If in our daily lives we are presenting ourselves to our world as Christians- as men and women dedicated to Christ by Baptism and Confirmation- then the offering we make at Mass is fully complete. We are exercising our share of Christ's Priesthood in the best possible way.

Saint Vincent De Paul

The official beginning of St Patrick's Conference Beenleigh is a little clouded, but we believe that during the 1974 floods, a group of parishioners formed together to help those suffering at that time. They later provided assistance to local residents, from a small house in City Rd. Because of the great work that this small group of volunteers was doing, the Albert Council offered SVDP the present building which was being moved to widen the road. SVDP paid for this house to be relocated onto Parish land. Permission was given by the Archdiocese for this move at no cost to our conference. We believe that this happened in 1987.

At this time, St Patrick's Conference was part of Brisbane Head Office. On the 4th December 1994, the Conference, in its present position, was presented with a Certificate of Institution from the Gold Coast Country Diocesan Council and remains a member to this day.





Over the years many, many volunteers have willingly given of their time and skills in helping the needy in our Parish. Many of them were with the Society for many years. As an example, our past president, Fay O'Toole, has been with us for 27 years and has been the backbone of our Vinnies. There are many others, too numerous to mention, who have served us with unswerving loyalty, enthusiasm and dedication. As a rather humorous example, one of our members was admitted to Intensive Care at Logan Hospital with a heart condition, saw curtains being taken down and said that Vinnies could make good use of them, only to be told that they were being taken down to be washed. Such was the commitment of our members.

Today, many things have changed – different kinds of hardship and different needs. What hasn't changed is the work carried out by a very supportive group of volunteers (23 at present), working in harmony with fellow members and the people we care for. Our area is a large one, taking in Beenleigh, Eagleby, Edens Landing, Windaroo, Mt Warren Park, Ormeau, Jacobs Well, Pimpama, Waterford West and as far as Tamborine Village. We are one of the busiest Conferences in the Archdiocese and we try to assist hundreds of individuals and families. We do this without any Government Funding. We therefore express our appreciation for the help provided to us by our wonderful and generous Parishioners during our fund-raising endeavours and the Winter and Christmas Appeals.





Rosies in Beenleigh

Rosies Beenleigh, part of the Logan group, started in 2008 and now has some 40 volunteers who regularly go out on outreach.

Located originally at the Eagleby Shopping Centre, it moved in front of the Beenleigh District court before finally settling at the Beenleigh train station, where it now operates a van from 7:00 through to 9:00pm on Thursday and Saturday evenings. It also runs an outreach at the Beenleigh court on a Tuesday, and provides an outreach at the WACOL prison.

The volunteers on outreach provide hot or cold drinks to our patrons, and most importantly, someone to talk to for our 'friends on the street'. The aim is primarily to provide friendship and support to marginalized and disadvantaged people.

Our patrons feel a sense of friendship, inclusion and acceptance. It can be a fulfilling experience to know that at the end of an outreach, you may have made a difference to someone in need by simply being there for them.

Our volunteers work in a safe, supervised environment, reaching out to people in a friendly and supporting manner and welcoming them into our community.

An outreach is a place where others may feel at home with you, at a place where you and they meet. It is a very simple yet powerful ministry that our volunteers undertake.

Courtesy of Rosies - Friends on the Street, Rosies Youth Mission Inc., 124 North Road, Lindum Qld 4178





Lay Eucharistic Ministry - Visiting the housebound and Residents at Nursing Homes

Jean Tamblyn

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, I 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. I recently heard that ministry is a matter of the heart and that ministry is how





we love and not just what we do. On behalf of the Parish I thank each and every one of our lay ministers for your love, faith and commitment.

St Patrick's Care and Concern Group

Chris Davis

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 day. 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 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.

The 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



THE PARISH CHOIR

Anne Tracey

I arrived with my six children in the Parish in mid-1971; and with my parents moved to Bahrs Scrub in February 1972. I played the harmonium organ for Sunday Mass in old St. Patrick's. Fr. Grace commenced the Parish choir for the Easter ceremonies. We are still singing the Easter Vigil Psalm settings he introduced, which he had learnt at Banyo Seminary. The Choir went on to sing at midnight Mass and First Communion. Fr. Grace was instrumental in buying the Thomas electric organ, and moved the organ to the front of the church. When he was transferred at the end of 1976 I continued with the running of the choir. One of the highlights for the choir at that time was the St. Patrick's Centenary Mass (12 December 1975), and also the opening of St. John's Mass Centre at Woongoolba.

The next big event for the choir was the opening of the new St Patrick's Church, and the closing ceremonies for old St Patrick's (3 August 1980). At the solemn Blessing and Opening the choir sang: 'Behold Among Men the Dwelling Place of God', 'Isaiah 49', 'Psalm 89', 'Now Thank We All Our God'. For the first Mass: 'Glorious God', Kyrie Eleison, 'In Bread We Bring', Agnus Dei, 'One Bread One Body', and the usual Mass parts. At the Inauguration of Eucharist Chapel and turning on of red light, 'I Am the Bread of Life' was sung, and finally 'Let Trumpets Sound'.

During the time Fr O'Shea was parish priest, the Rite of Christian Initiation was introduced with its attendant ceremonies; the choir commenced singing at the monthly Baptismal ceremony, the Vigil service before Midnight Mass was introduced; Ecumenical events at Christmas and Lent/Easter took place; Brother Jeff, a Christian brother teaching at Trinity College, took his Final Vows at an evening Mass; and Fr O'Shea's installation Mass as Dean of Brisbane South (26 September 1984).

In 1985 Fr O'Shea celebrated his Silver Jubilee of Ordination. For this the choir learnt 'Tu Es Sacerdos', 'O Jesu Mi', and 'Veni Creator Spiritus', Catherine Erbacher playing violin. For Fr Ainslie's Golden Jubilee (21 October 1986), the choir was particularly busy learning Latin: 'Tu Es Sacerdos', 'Ave Verum Corpus', 'Pange Lingua', 'O Jesu Mi', the Kyrie, Sanctus and Agnus Dei'.

In mid-1989, I became ill and did not take an active role in the Parish life for a good number of years. During that time Doreen Cormack was co-ordinator of the choir. It was thanks to Doreen and the choir that the Stations of the Cross (tableau form) was started, and has continued as part of the Parish Good Friday observance.

When Doreen left the Parish, Fr Grundy asked me to continue the choir. As I was unable to both conduct and play the organ, Aileen Eley very generously agreed to be the accompanist. Besides Christmas and the Easter Triduum, the choir sang for the feasts of Pentecost, the Assumption, Christ the King, Confirmation and first Eucharist. The Parish started celebrating the parish patronal feast of St. Patrick with the choir singing at an evening Mass followed by a cuppa, and the Memorial Mass in November followed by morning tea. The choir was involved with the multicultural Mass, learning a Swedish and Lebanese hymn.



At the Blessing and opening of the Columbarium (2 November 2001) the choir had a major role in leading the hymn singing. The 50th Anniversary Mass (16 October 2005) at 1.30pm was another wonderful celebration, as was the 60th anniversary this St Patrick's evening.

Fr Grundy also started a men's choir for the 3pm Good Friday service, with Anne Erbacher on organ and daughter Catherine playing violin. The Deanery choral concerts commenced during the time that Fr Girvan was our parish priest. They were wonderful events in which our parish choir and 'Couples of Christ' contributed items. Also, the multicultural Mass became a joyous celebration of faith and togetherness, with the different parish choirs singing together for the Mass.

One other Parish choir memory; the Installation Mass for Fr. Kanatt. The choir learnt the Indian hymn 'Vava Yesu Nadha' – our teachers had to be very patient!

So many wonderful memories; heart-warming events, and spiritual experiences. Participating in the choir, one has the opportunity to reflect on the different liturgies, really pray the words of the hymns and depth their meaning, whilst experiencing the companionship, laughter and solidarity of fellow Christians.

Parish Choir practise in early 2015

Back row: Theresa, Alan and Aileen our organist

Middle row: Louise and Jenn

Front row: Marleine, Anne, Elizabeth, Bridget and Betty



ST PATRICK'S BREATH OF THE SPIRIT PRAYER GROUP

Margaret Keast

The Breath of the Spirit prayer fellowship is under the umbrella of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. Through Baptism in the Holy Spirit, which is a grace sent by God in our time to 'untie' the sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation and reactivate a dynamic witness to faith. We use the gifts of the Holy Spirit for the building up of the Church family.

The group meets each Tuesday at 10:30am. The meeting opens with prayer and praise, then a time of praying in tongues, then silence to listen with our spiritual ears to the direction of the Holy Spirit. The time of silence varies from week to week. A lesson is prepared for the group and given by the leader. A witness is given to the working of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Intercession follows and is a very important part of our meeting. Sometimes an entire meeting will be devoted to intercession. There can also be time after this for laying on of hands. The meeting closes with a song of praise. We will welcome anyone who would like to join us.

Pope John Paul said in 1992 as the Catholic Charismatic Renewal celebrated 25 years since its beginning. "I willingly join you in giving praise to God for the many fruits which it has borne in the life of the church. The emergence of the Renewal following the second Vatican Council was a particular gift of the Holy Spirit to the Church.

To grow in the knowledge of our faith

Mary McGrath

My name is Mary McGrath and I have been in St. Patricks Parish since 1987. I joined the above parish Prayer Group to help me grow on my faith journey, get to know the Lord and what my role in life is all about. I am constantly learning and everyday realize just how much I don't know, if that makes sense.

One of the first things I experienced was the love for each other and care to be found in this parish. In saying that, I found it necessary to grow in the knowledge of our faith and those around me. Therefore, it was necessary to venture outside our parish to learn from speakers from all over the world. This was made possible by a conference held in Sydney each year called 'Share the Holy Spirit.' The aim of the conference was to start in 1995 and build up to the year of the Millennium. Needless to say it was so successful that it continued on to the present. Unfortunately, our Prayer group no longer exists for the following reasons:-

When we first began the prayer group was organised by Jill Palmer. She was the spiritual director of the group. After Jill attended the first conference, she returned on 'fire' with a flame that we all wanted. The following year we had nine people from St. Patricks attend, the following year, thirteen and so on. Each year it grew to the extent we sometimes needed two buses to take us there. We would stay at St. Josephs College, Hunters Hill, and reside in the boarders quarters as it was holiday time. The various conference sessions





would be held in the class rooms. After some years, the prices became too high to hold the conference there, so they moved to St. Gregory's College at Campbelltown. This was an Agricultural College so you can imagine the beautiful grounds. This also was a boarding college. After some years, the organizers of the conference being The Servants of Jesus, purchased their own property minus accommodation facilities. This was a great disappointment to us as we had to find alternative accommodation. Unfortunately, it became too complicated for us as a group to continue attendance as we would end up in motels quite some distance from the centre and it became too expensive.

This brings me to how we were able to do this for twelve years. Remember the sausage sizzles we held after Mass? This certainly helped to offset the cost of the hire of the buses and motels for the overnight stay at Kempsey each way. Naturally, if we each had to pay the total cost of travelling, accommodation, registration and boarding at college, none of us would have been able to afford this on a yearly basis. I might add, at this point, we were very blessed to be able to take a priest with us each year who said Mass each day of our travels, be it in a park or the grounds of the motel we stayed at. We also took our own BBQ and had many meals going, coming and during cooked by the Masters Barry and Allan who were also the bus drivers extraordinaire.

The conferences themselves were so rewarding, we were able to share our faith with other denominations, pray with them and in some cases put them straight about Our Blessed Mother. The speakers were from all over the world including The Vatican representative, Fr Tom Forrest who closed with a question at the end of one conference. He said, "Think about this: when you die and you meet the Lord, He won't want you to tell Him what you have done on earth. He already knows that. He will say, "WHO DID YOU BRING?" Those words have been embedded in my mind ever since and from then I knew what I have to do, do you?

One year I remember vividly was The Year of The Holy Spirit. Our Prayer group asked the principal of St. Joseph's if we could run a poster competition at the school. Approval was given and so the children were asked to do a poster relating to The Year of The Holy Spirit. This would be displayed on the windows of the bus so all travellers would know what year it was or totally confuse them. When the results were in, we discovered that St. Joseph's had some very talented students, however, more than half of them drew a picture of the bus with all of us seated. This was both a privilege and a joy to have these posters with us on our journey. That was not the end either. When we arrived in Sydney, the conference organisers saw our posters and we explained the story to them. They then allowed us to display them around the main assembly hall during the conference. At the conclusion of the conference, we finished with a concelebrated Mass said by at least ten priests including the archbishop of Sydney. At the end of the Mass, our group was presented with a painted banner which had been made specifically for our St. Joseph's School from their St. Joseph's School to bring back and present to the principal plus photos for their archives.

There are so many stories I could share, however, this is but a glimpse. We do miss not going now, but we do believe there is a time for everything and that was our time.



TOGETHER-IN-FAITH PRAYER GROUP

Marleine Azar

'Together in Faith Prayer Group' was started by Marie Miller and Marleine Azar in November 2013 (which focuses on praying for the healing of those people who are grappling with addictions) is a great source of strength in this area to our church community. We appreciate and thank our Parish and our Parish priest, Fr Joseph Kanatt, for all of their love and support. We believe there is a great need to pray for those that are struggling with addictions and for the many challenges that their families also face. Past and current trauma, abuse and isolation are only a few examples of what triggers individuals to feel hopeless and turn to drugs, alcohol and other addictions.

Our group meets on the first and third Tuesday of the month at 7 pm and we now have approximately ten members. It is a special time as we pray and sing for all the names that are registered in our little book. We have already heard that a small number of people are making great progress in quitting their addictions. As the group develops, we also wish to assist the families of those touched by addiction. Our hearts' desire that this will be an extension to the hope we are building in feeding the needy and the homeless which we've recently commenced and acknowledge the opportunity we have been given to do this through Rosies Group.

Let us come together and pray as Jesus says! "Faith Moves Mountains".



*Together-In-Faith prayer group members,
Back row: Betty, Marian, Marleine, Ann, Monica
Front Row: Jenni, Marie and Jodie*

Confessions of a Disorganised Mummy-Brain Who Organises the Christmas Play

Priscilla Fitzgerald

I am the most disorganised person in the world (just ask my husband!), so imagine the shock to my laidback system when I agreed to organise Paddy's Christmas Play. Much to my husband's disbelief, I took the bull by the horns, gathered some poor children and started practise in October! Those poor kids, those poor parents!! I knew nothing. I kept harassing mums of former stars' in Joey's parking lot demanding video footage or at least finite details of the 'play'.

That was back in 2005 and the 'play' lasted nearly forty minutes. I've learnt much since then: start rehearsals in December, do the booklet ahead of time (apologies secretaries when I often 'forgot') and keep it short and simple. Over the years there's been some interesting plays and some more so than others:



- I cringe when I recall the time I led fifty kids screaming with 'joy' from the back of the church to the altar – we were angels celebrating Jesus' birth. We scared all the children sitting in front of the altar that night as they scampered away from the descending mob to seek refuge with their parents.
- Then when I 'opra-fied' our performance – I can still see Fr Tony's confused looks. Thanks Fr Tony for being so gracious in the homily. He recounted how his week had begun with Mamma Mia at Mass in the Northern Territory and concluded with One Direction at Paddy's.
- And the shortest play which caught everyone off guard as it went for just over four minutes - kids were still coming up to sit in front of the altar and it was all done and dusted.

I cannot go past my red-face moment. The play was over and mic in hand I led the congregation in song. The only problem, I was so out of tune that three-quarters of the congregation just stopped and waited with baited breath to see who would win the battle of the song: me or the organ. The organ won. But there's a silver lining to this story. Months later, a parishioner who was present on the night, approached me and said that that episode had made their Christmas. The parishioner had just lost their job and was feeling depressed. This parishioner said that they laughed so hard it lifted up their spirits and to this day the memory still lifts their spirit. It made me feel a lot better about this. Thank you.

2005 was a memorable year. We were new to the parish, our second daughter was born, and I agreed to be involved in children's liturgy and the Christmas 'play'. Thank you to the many children and parents who were a part of both children's liturgy and the play and those who supported our Mothers' Day morning Teas and Father's Day BBQs.

BUT a very big and sincere THANK YOU to past and present children liturgy leaders (2004-2015): Katrina Giebels, Jackie Hopkinson, Rachel Stevens, Katherine & Mark Lawlor, Eileen Raynor, Cathy Korzeniewski, Karen Andrews, Sharon Kennedy, Joanne & Larissa Hoban, Cheryl Evans, Jean Ranieses, Lisa Le Billon Therese Flynn-Clarke and David & Priscilla Fitzgerald.

Children's Liturgy

Therese Flynn-Clarke

I have been involved with Children's Liturgy of the Word for about 19 years now and I still love it!

As a group we gather in the MacKillop Room, listen to the gospel, sing the Alleluia and discuss what it all means for us as followers of Jesus in 2015. We usually respond to the word in a number of ways- using drama, mediation, song, drawing and creating in a meaningful way. We conclude with Prayers of the Faithful, often sharing our own prayers from the heart with each other.

I have to say I often receive more spiritual wisdom from the children that I do from a lot of adults!!



St Patrick's Arts and Craft Group

Margaret Everett

The idea for a St Patrick's Arts and Craft Group came during one of Therese Houghton's visits to Germany. Strolling through a church bazaar she saw some beautiful tablecloths for sale. Further enquiry revealed that these tablecloths were designed and embroidered by their local craft Group. All funds raised at the bazaar went to missionaries in Africa.

Being aware that there were many unfulfilled needs and wants in our parish, Therese thought that such a group could help our parish needs. On her return the idea of a St Patrick's Arts and Craft Group were put to Fr Grundy, who was the Parish Priest at the time, and was in favour of such a group. The basic idea was that parishioners would be asked to donate all kinds of materials to the Group, who would then create items out of donated materials. These items would then be sold at various weekend Masses. All funds raised were to remain in the parish. It was also hoped that the Craft Group would become a social group as well, where anyone could visit to have a chat and cuppa.

The Craft Group began in 2003-2004. With about ten willing ladies, initially we held sales at weekend Masses only three to four times a year. Then other venues were tried of which some were successful and others not so good, The St Patrick's Arts and Craft Group held three to four sales a year at all weekend Masses. In addition the Beenleigh Market Place had become a popular venue for the Craft Group ladies.

During the first year the Group raised \$800. We thought that was absolutely marvellous. The next year's fund-raising brought in \$5000.

St Patrick's Arts and Craft Group members were extremely grateful to our parishioners for their over whelming generosity. Without their tireless assistance, we would not have been able to function.

There have been so many things where the St Patrick's Arts and Craft Group has been able to assist.

Our first purchase was a computer, for the Parish Office, followed by new chairs for the Secretaries. A CD player for the Children's Liturgy, new stove and fridge for Fr Tony when he arrived at the parish. We paid for a nativity set, a data projector for the church, \$5000 for the Youth so they could go to World Youth Day in Sydney. We bought a TV, new vestments for the priests and many, many more things.

Our electrical system in the church was in urgent need of repair and once again the Craft Group came to the rescue and donated \$5000 to this cause.

The Craft Group organised for the parishioners to make squares for our Hung square of patches for our 50th Anniversary (which is displayed in the church from time to time)

Due to lack of numbers and help in general the Craft Group ceased in 2012.



The original members have remained firm friends and they still get together once a month for morning tea.

On the whole the Craft Group feels that in their small way they contributed too many things for the Parish.

Poem for the Craft Group

Iris Gerussi

Frau Teresa went to tea
With Catholic ladies, one, two, three.
St Patrick's Craft Club so was born
To meet each Thursday in the morn.

The needles they did fly so fleet,
A pair of slippers for your feet,
A cushion, throw and doilies too,
Tassel, toys, sticks and glue.

Father Grundy came down the stair,
With woeful face and bent with care,
Teresa smile, "What is the matter?
Where is your usual cheerful patter?"

"The parish news cannot be printed,
Our computer has disintegrated."
Teresa gave a joyful shout,
"We know the way to help you out."

Once more the hands were working fast,
More socks, more toys, all hand-made craft.
Christmas came and so did Lent,
Even easter and Advent

Teresa to the putpit rose
Prepared in hand some well-versed prose
"Good Catholics bring out all your cash
See our gift stall after Mass."

And so the dollars they rolled in,
Five and ten cents in the tin.
Perhaps by Christmas time next year
The parish clerk will give a cheer.

Now to The Chair, fine workers too,
Thanks so much for all you do,
Enjoy your Christmas in the sun,
Refract yourself for next year's run.



Women and the Australian Church - WATAC in the Parish

Therese Flynn-Clarke

Women and the Australian Church (WATAC) commenced in 1984 in NSW as a national project of the Religious women and men of Australia. While the WATAC organisation is Catholic by origin it is ecumenical by membership and has a commitment to working together with all churches and on an inter-faith basis.

WATAC's vision is to provide a forum for those searching for an inclusive church and to enable the voice of women to be heard on global and social justice issues. The aim of WATAC is to model new ways of being church, based on a "discipleship of equals".

My mother was involved with WATAC in NSW at its inception and I found a WATAC Group who met at Woodridge and Dutton Park for some time with a lovely Good Samaritan nun in the late 90's not long after we moved to the parish. In 2000 the NSW branch paid for me to fly to Sydney to attend their National Conference. I came home inspired to start a group in my own Parish Community and WATAC was born! We have met regularly now for at least 15 years taking it in turns to present something topical, challenging, enriching and renewing our spiritual and faith journey as women every time we meet in each other's homes. An afternoon tea of sharing and conversation is also very much part of our meeting ritual! Over the years we have welcomed women from the Salvation Army, Anglican, and Uniting churches providing interesting perspectives and opinions on a range of topics. Every year we celebrate an Advent lunch together and participate in symbolic prayer ritual and a meal as we begin the new Church year.

One year a member had a priest friend visiting from Germany. We decided to hold a mass and meal in our backyard together. I remember as we sang the Holy Holy the cockatoos joined in with raucous, noisy participation!

For me these beautiful women continued to provide spiritual companion ship and nourishment as we each travel our own faith journey.



The Library

Ann Hehir

Our new library is located in the Truelson room at the back of St Patrick's Church and we have extended opening hours so it can be a welcoming area and resource.

Our Together-In-Faith prayer group originally had the great idea of using the area in the Truelson room more and explored different ways to do that. Then it was an adventure of fundraising and coordinating to achieve getting the library finished.



John Truelson at opening of new library.

In the process we realized that the library wasn't a new idea. The very first library was in Fr Ainslie's office (perhaps), in the early 70's, at the time when the office was in the school admin building. John Truelson remembers building the solid pine shelves for the purpose. Anne Tracey was working in the office then and she remembers some of the books being donated and others left behind by teachers and priests.



Fr Joseph and parishioners at the opening of the new library

Later on, during Fr Grundy's time, the Parish office moved to where it is now. The library ended up in the downstairs meeting room. It proved to be a bit out of the way and although



the parishioners who knew about it found it very valuable, not enough people realized they had that sort of resource there.

We were very happy we were able to start with so many good books, which helped in a key way. God certainly helped us there. Then we want to thank everyone who has donated books and are still contributing in a number of ways to make the Library a success. And, even though we can't name everyone, special thanks John Truelson for building quality shelving on a tight budget.

Our church has a wonderful history of good hearted parishioners working to help others in different circumstances. Maria Truelson was just tireless working for homeless people and others and we honour her efforts and hope to highlight her poetry soon.

Our library is going forward and we love our potential to do a great job connecting with parishioners and different groups, so we ask that you aren't strangers as we'd love to hear your ideas.

Mother Teresa Primary school opens.

Madison Ennis, Year 3

Mother Teresa School became part of St Patrick's Parish in 2011.

Before it opened, Father Tony blessed the area in 2010.

The next year in 2011 Father Tony and the Archbishop came to bless the new buildings.

Nuns from Mother Teresa's mission came to celebrate the opening of the school too.

The following year in 2012, the kids from Mother Teresa School visited St Patricks church for the first time and they met some St Joseph's students were there too.

In 2014 Father Tony and Father Joseph blessed the new Stage 2 buildings at our school.

Father Joseph is our new Priest and leads our liturgies each fortnight.



Inaugural Blessing Mother Teresa School, Ormeau with Fr Tony Girvan and Archbishop John Bathersby



Mother Teresa School
Blessing Stage 2 -2014



Mother Teresa School By Kiele

George Harch- Builder

Andre Clemence

For ten to twenty-five years I worked with George Harch (born 19.2.1919 and died June 2012), mostly voluntarily or when he needed me. George was a well-known master builder around Beenleigh where he built many buildings and did many repairs in the region. He was born in Alberton to farming parents of German origin, and they lived in Alberton all their lives.

George was the first person to establish the Beenleigh Historical village where in the early days he removed buildings (aided by the Police and other community workers) which had been donated and were rebuilt on the village grounds. This is where I began working with him three, four, five days and sometimes the whole week on a voluntary basis till around 1989, until 2002 when I left the place for personal reasons. As a Carpenter myself with forty years' experience I learnt so much from my association with George Harch which taught me many things used over the years. He was a strong minded person, clever and no challenge was too impossible for him to crack.

Despite the fact he was a Lutheran church goer, in the mid 1950's George Harch was involved with some friends in the local building industry for weeks and weeks building St Patrick's Church for the first priest of the time Fr. Starch (sic).he was a priest with a very good sense of humour and a really easy person to deal with. The Parish used to put on refreshments and 'smoko' but when lunch time was on the agenda Fr Starch (sic) used to say, "Come on boys, we will go to the darn pub for a meal and a beer!"



Editor's note: As some detail is missing from this story I'm presuming that George Harch (along with Andre) donated his time and expertise to the building of the church.

World Youth Day July 2008

Maria Lennie

World Youth Day was a wonderful experience for the parish of St Patrick. Members of the St Patrick's community opened their homes to accommodate people from various countries. We enjoyed meals, activities and picnics on the Gold Coast during which I lost my three guests. They decided to go for a walk without telling anyone, but we eventually tracked them down. I couldn't reprimand them because they didn't speak English! Then of course there was the main event in Roma Street Parklands. We had to catch the train into the city, try to keep all our group together and to make sure we got them all off at the right station. Then we had to walk to Roma Street Parklands without losing anyone. It was a challenge, but we all had lots of fun. It was a fabulous day and everyone got home safe and sound.

Our 3 guests were from an island called Futuna where they lived in huts with the whole family living together in one room. It was a very interesting few days as these guys couldn't speak English and they were not accustomed to living in our style of housing. They were not used to the 'mod cons' of our lifestyle, hence we had a few problems trying to explain to them how to flush on the toilet, the difference between the hot and cold taps in the bathroom and the funniest of all was the shower. They had no idea how to use the shower so I couldn't get them to have a wash!! I had to get one of the supervisors who could speak their language to come over and explain how the shower worked. Then once they got the hang of that they were so impressed I couldn't get them out again! It was funny but we all had a laugh and with the help of Google Translate we managed to have some sort of conversation.

It was a great experience and wonderful community spirit was shared by all.



World Youth Day concert, St Patrick's Parish, held at Trinity College



St Patrick's Youth



Shared meal- World youth Day, St Patrick's Parish





World Youth Day

World Youth Day 2008

Maree Hendrickx

The best memory I have of the community of St Patricks' is during World Youth Day – July 2008.

It was unseasonably cold for Queensland when pilgrims from Wallis and Futuna arrived early in the morning.

Having come from the Pacific Islands with little more than t shirts and sarongs, the wonderful organisers from St Pats arranged for blankets and a visit to the second hand store to provide some much needed warmer clothing for them.

Our family was privileged to have three lovely young ladies stay, who spoke not a word of English and survived the time with us using sign language and my poor school girl French....unfortunately I didn't think to show them that they could pull the covers back and sleep under the blankets and duvet on the bed...which explained why the heater in the



room was cranked up to sauna level. They found it hilarious on the last night when I took in extra blankets and showed them.

The St Pats community were wonderful in organising the meals for them and many group outings for the pilgrims and us – their sponsors. It was wonderful to actually get to know the people from church who you nodded to for sign of peace. The BBQ at Pascals was a joyous and relaxed affair and one, these many years later, I still remember fondly, as a time of wonderful community spirit.

The highlight for me though was the mass in which the pilgrims sang. The beautiful, harmonious voices rebounded through the church like I had never heard before, and although I didn't understand the language, I understood the love for Jesus and each other that we shared that night.

To this day I am still in contact with one of my lovely pilgrims.

A Long History with St Patricks Parish

Patricia Finch

In 1950 my family moved to Beenleigh as my father had purchased a business here. At that time St Patricks was part of the Beaudesert Parish and a priest came from Beaudesert every two weeks to celebrate Mass. We had our own church situated in the Centre of Beenleigh located approximately where George Street and Alamein Street cross on a small block of land immediately behind the shopping area in Main Street.



Construction of original Convent Building, with timber classrooms in the foreground, 1954.

In order to develop the Parish, it became evident that Beenleigh needed a Catholic School and as such, my parents were part of a small group of parishioners that banded together to help raise funds to help build a Catholic School and Convent. Initially the parish purchased a second hand hut from the Army at Canungra. It was transported to Beenleigh and placed on

the land owned by the Diocese in Tobruk Street to become our first school. It was slightly modified by raising it on concrete stilts to accommodate a tuck shop and an extra class room for students. Unfortunately, this building was totally destroyed by fire some ten years ago. In conjunction with the establishment of the school, construction began of the Convent building. This building is still standing and is currently used as the Priests' residence and administration building. In 1955 Monsignor Steele from Beaudesert Parish officially opened both buildings naming them the Tobruk Memorial Convent School.



Three Sisters of St. Joseph came to reside at the Convent and were the inaugural religious and teaching staff at the school. Initially the school opened with a mix of local children and boarding students and eventually grew to what it is today. The Sisters moved their residence to what now is known as the Parish Office. In 1982 Trinity College was established by the Marist Brothers who were assisted by Sisters of St Joseph.

I was married in the little church in the centre of Beenleigh in 1954 this was just prior to Beenleigh obtaining its own parish priest Father Vince Kiley. Father Kiley was also the Army Chaplain at Canungra Army Base which meant he had to travel to Canungra weekly. In 1963 the church was moved to Tobruk Street and whilst still on temporary stumps it was opened to allow the christening of my daughter on a Saturday in early March and for Mass on the Sunday. Over the years many Eucharistic celebrations were held here. As the population grew it became necessary to build a new church which is currently in use. The original church is still in place and is presently being used for after school care.

My family have a long history with St Patricks Parish. My mother and father were some of the original parishioners, I was married in St Patrick's church and this is where my six children celebrated their christening and received first communion and confirmation. Two of my children celebrated their weddings at St Patricks and five of my grandchildren followed in the family tradition and have been educated at St Josephs and Trinity College.

We have many memories of St Patricks Parish however my children remember with much fondness Father Ainslie. He was so involved with the children at school and they absolutely loved him. He could never remember any of their names so everyone became "Daisy". He would race them in sprint races and went swimming with them at the local pool. My daughter came home one day absolutely horrified saying that, "Father Ainslie came swimming today and took his teeth out!!!" His constant companion was his cat 'Patrick'. Father Ainslie would often come to our home and my husband Kevin would take him fishing. He would sit on the water's edge for many hours and more often than not did not catch anything. On one particular day he caught a fish so Kevin decided he would clean and fillet the fish and cook it for Father so that he could enjoy his 'catch'. Imagine his surprise when he presented Father with the beautifully cooked fish and he said "Oh lovely, Patrick (the cat) will love that for dinner!!"

A Knock on my Door

Libby Ariel

My experience of St Pat's started long before I move into the parish. In 1979, my husband, Lawrie and I, along with our two young daughters moved to Daisy Hill. I'm sure my mother thought that we were moving to Mars. Daisy Hill was over half way to the Gold Coast from our Brisbane western suburb home. However, we soon settled into our new home and started our eldest daughter into St Edwards's school. In those days the school was at the end of the bitumen road and only had three classes... how things have changed. St Pat's at Beenleigh was the adjoining parish, along with St Peter's at Rochedale on the northern side.



Within a couple of years, two more children had arrived into our family and life was rather hectic.

I think our parish priest at the time, Fr Leo, thought I needed a little more to do with my spare time and suggested that we have a morning tea after Wednesday morning Mass for the older members of the parish. Of course, I had plenty of time..... it could have been at this time I remembered my wish when I was about seven was to become a nun. God had a great sense of humour.

So, onward and upward, next thing Fr Leo thought it would be wonderful if we started a Care and Concern group... and of course, as I'd done such a great job of the morning teas, who else would be able to run it. This is about the time I nearly did run off to the convent.

I really needn't have worried. My experience with St Pats' was about to start in the form of one Jo Kelly. I think some people are put on earth to 'do' and others are to 'be'. Jo was certainly put there to 'do'. I learnt so much from that wonderful lady. Without Jo, Care and Concern at St Eddies would have never come about. She gave her time freely, always willing to help without taking over..... even during those times I wished she would..... Jo taught me so much I doubt that there are enough trees to make the paper to write about her. I know I wouldn't have done half as much without her.

Roll on a few years and our youngest daughter and only son, decided he was not following his three sisters to St Thomas More College for high schoolhe wanted to go to Trinity. About this time we sold our Daisy Hill home and move to Beenleigh.

Somehow not long after our arrival in Beenleigh, Fr Grundy came knocking on our door..... he started to talk to me about all the things I'd done at St Eddies. This should have been my cue to run for that convent yet again, but I'm a slow learner. Next things I'm taking a class in Religious Education at Beenleigh State School, then Beenleigh High, then Mt Warren Park etc., until Fr Grundy persuaded me to take over running of the Religious Education for high schools in the area. I loved this job, but ran into quite a bit of hassle at times from our more spirited Pentecostal church leaders who were not greatly fond of having a catholic in their midst, let alone running the show. Fr Grundy made time to come to every meeting and stood up for me every single time. I will be thankful to that man forever for the help he gave me in forging a friendship with the other churches. I was born into a Catholic home in 1955. Back then you didn't really associate with other denominations. Now, I was attending services and speaking about what I did. Fr Grundy was always there to help with any questions I had regarding what I was doing. Did I say I'll always be thankful for his help????

Time went along, as it does, and things change. We started to have chaplains in our state school. One of the members of St Pat's parish was the chaplain for Beenleigh High School. He was the only Catholic chaplain in Qld at the time. In a short time, Windaroo Valley High also decided they would go down the way of having a chaplain. Chaplaincy was the, and still is, run by Scripture Union, an off shoot of the Baptist Church, although any Christian person is able to apply for the position. Once again, Grundy (by this stage I'd given up the 'Father' bit..... he was my mate) urged me to apply.



I got the job and this meant there were two Catholic Chaplains in the state schools in Qld, both from St Pat's. I'm unsure if the current parish realises what we achieved in the infancy of school chaplaincy. I not sure we would have done this without the unending help, prayers and pushing of Fr Grundy. God bless you Dan!

This brings me to the third person from St Pat's who had a great influence on me, Maria Truelson. I had met Maria a few times at St Eddies when she was supply teaching and had always thought she had a natural love of children. They certainly seemed to sense it well. Maria had a gentle way about her. You saw her love of God in everything she did. One of my fondest memories was of the times I used to take my then toddler grandson, Peter to Mass with me. If Peter got a bit restless, Maria would sit with him and show him how to say the Rosary. I have never seen a two year old sit like that. You'd swear he knew he was in the company of an angel. To this day, Peter, who is now 14, still remembers those times. Of course, Maria is human and she had a tough part of her that hated the idea of people being unloved. She helped to alleviate this with her soup kitchen. Oh.....the number of pots of soup we made and delivered..... and the people we met. You could write a book, but Maria never made anyone feel that they were anything less than a child of God. When Matthew wrote the Gospel of the final judgement, I sometimes think Jesus was talking about Maria. Never would she have seen a person hungry and not fed them.....

These are some of the wonderful memories of three wonderful people from St Pats.

My St Patrick's History

Marian Ward

St Patrick's Parish holds many wonderful memories for me.

I first became a member of St Patrick's Beenleigh in 1990. I moved here with my family of six children who were at the time aged sixteen, fourteen, twelve, ten, eight and six years old. They were all enrolled in St Joseph's and Trinity College respectively. I had another son born in 1996 who was Baptised here at St Patrick's and who also attended St Joseph's and Trinity College. I now also have seven grandchildren, four of whom were baptised here at Patrick's.

During my 25 years here at St Patrick's I have witnessed many changes and seen quite a few Parish Priests come and go. The two Priests that I got to know the best were Fr Grundy and Fr Tony Girvan. Fr Grundy was here for around ten years and Father Tony eleven years.

I served on the Parish Council for four years and was also the Pastoral Representative at the Logan Regional Dioceses Council for two years. I have also been a reader for a number of years.



Soon after joining St Patrick's, I was involved in helping out the Youth Group which was run by Matthew Lupi at that time, approximately 1992 to 1995. I enjoyed this immensely.

In 1998 I joined a Prayer Group at St Patrick's. The prayer group has changed a few times over the years. I remember in 2005 when my son Gerard nearly died in a car accident, the prayer group prayed hard for him. Fr Grundy came to the hospital and said the Last Rites prayers over him and a few days later he came out of his coma and the doctors stated they believed this was a miracle. He had extensive injuries and was not expected to live. Being part of a prayer group at that time was such a comfort and helped me cope with what had happened to my son. I thank God every day for the Miracle given to me and that my son, despite a few health issues, is living a full life.

I have always enjoyed being a part of a prayer group and the group I am currently a member of is "Together in Faith Prayer Group" (which focuses on praying for people who have addictions) is a great source of strength to me and to our church community. I believe there is a great need for people to pray for those with addictions. It appears many people are lost souls who do not have purpose and reason to their lives and therefore turn to alcohol, drugs or other addictions in the aim that these substances and things will fix all their problems. Praying each fortnight at the Prayer Group I hope is helping these people. We have already heard that some of those we pray for are already on the road to recovery.

St Patrick's is a wonderful Parish to belong to, and I have made many friends along the way. It is a Multicultural Parish and full of vitality. There are a range of groups within the Parish that people can join which also gives new members joining the Parish a wide variety to choose from. The different groups hold many functions throughout each year, so there always seems to be something going on, which is great.

I feel very privileged to be witnessing St Patrick's turning 60 and that I have been here for 25 years of those 60 years. It has certainly been a great journey so far and I look forward to being a member for many years yet to come.

Where the Holy Spirit resides **Marleine Azar**

"I can do anything! Watch you'll see my words come true." Numbers 11:23, CEV

Where there is LOVE the Holy Spirit resides, and it is here at St Patrick's Church where the Holy Spirit, it saved our daughter's life and transformed our lives forever.

This is my testimony of how God revealed his loving Grace, in a time where it felt like there was no hope.



My daughter was twenty six years of age when she was diagnosed with stomach cancer in 2005. Before she was correctly diagnosed, my daughter was constantly unwell and got down in weight to twenty-eight kilograms. After eighteen months of being extremely ill, she was finally diagnosed and given up to a year to live.

At a time where devastation and deep sadness took over us, the only thing that was within our control was our ability to pray and cry out for God's mercy.

It was at this time that the St Patrick's Charismatic Prayer Group reached out to our family and asked us to attend their prayer group. That night they laid their hands on my daughter and prayed. As they gathered around my daughter, I stood back with my hands out crying in desperation for God's miracle.

I was immersed in deep prayer when what seemed like a white fog began radiating from my daughter's head and shooting upward. It was then that God spoke to me and revealed that my daughter Raquel would be healed in three days, and that when the healing would take place, that it would be physically felt: as though God would be literally pulling it out of her.

What happened that night is difficult to describe and put into words. Admittedly, I initially doubted this holy encounter, thinking it was my desperation for my daughter's healing.

The three days that followed from that special night was as I was told, my daughter went through excruciating pain - as though God was literally pulling her illness out of her. After those three days, she woke up FREE FROM PAIN and has been healed since that glorious day. In spite of the doctor's disbelief my daughter was told that she was FREE FROM CANCER.

The Royal hospital and Raquel's specialist still to this day and after 10 years of conducting their yearly check-up scan on Raquel, have told her that with her condition and the type of cancer she had, they'll never be able to really understand how she is in remission.

Not a day goes by that I don't thank the Lord for the LOVE and GRACE that he has shown us.

I also thank the Parish for their love, support and prayers through this journey.

The Lloyd Family

Maureen Lloyd

The Lloyd Family become Parishioners of St Patrick's Beenleigh.

My family relocated to the Gold Coast from Papua New Guinea in 1974.

I met and married a Sydney boy while living and working in Sydney.



I am blessed that my husband is an old fashioned man who did not want strangers raising his children. Two incomes were necessary for financial security so with the birth of our second child in 1986, my husband & I decided to sell our home at Terrigal, NSW Central Coast, and relocate to the Gold Coast with our 2 children; Jason & Jacinda.

The purpose of the move was 3 fold: to be close to family, to enable me to be a stay at home mum and to purchase a business.

Mum & dad lived at Broadbeach so we rented a town house at Mermaid Beach.

My husband spent 12 months trying to find an appropriate business to purchase and was becoming increasingly frustrated. He had always wanted his own business but had been unsuccessful in his quest so decided that we should purchase a house instead of wasting money on rent.

As St Joseph is the Guardian and Protector of the family, I decided to do a Novena to St Joseph to ask his blessing and intercession to enable us to make the right decision. We couldn't afford both a house and a business; it had to be one or the other. God entrusted the welfare of Mary and Jesus to St Joseph so I decided that the best solution to this dilemma would be to also entrust our family to his paternal protection.

In 1987, Steve was working at Burton Cables, Burleigh Industrial Estate. He rang me and asked me to go and have a look at a new estate. I asked him where 'Edens Landing' was as I had never heard of it. He advised that it was somewhere near Beenleigh. I told him that I wouldn't live at Beenleigh if you paid me, as I used to pass it on the bus travelling backwards and forwards from Loreto and that that was the last place on earth I would want to live. Unbeknown to me at the time, St Joseph had other plans.

Steve insisted and so, dutiful wife that I am, I met with the real estate agent and was pleasantly surprised. Jarryd, child number 3, was born in May 1988 and we moved into the new house in July 1988.

I didn't know a soul in this 'neck of the woods' but was comforted by the fact that our address was number 3 Iona- that indicated to me that our location had something to do with Divine Intervention as 3 represents the Holy Family and the Holy Trinity. In addition, 'Iona' is famous for the Passion Play and is operated by the Oblates of Mary Immaculate.

I found the Catholic Church, St Patrick's, and attended Holy Mass with 3 little ones in tow.

My welcoming committee was Tamara Maloney and Lynne Lucas and these good ladies remain my dear friends to this very day. I learnt that Tamara was the model for the carving of the 'Mother & Child' statue that still graces our church today. I have never forgotten the kindness of Wilhelmina who came to the house to help me unpack boxes and get the kitchen sorted and who continues to remain a powerful prayer advocate. I was a stranger in their midst and they made me welcome.

Jason was 5 and needed to be enrolled in school to commence grade 1 in 1989.



I assumed that the school also enjoyed St Patrick's patronage due to its close proximity to the church but was delighted to learn, upon contacting Sister Kathleen for an appointment, that the school was actually called St Josephs and that Sr Kathleen was a Josephite nun. The subsequent history of Mary McKillop and her personal devotion to St Joseph validated my novena and I knew instantly that St Joseph had answered my prayers and that our family was exactly where we were meant to be. I felt extremely humbled in the confidence of his powerful protection.

Our youngest child, Jessica, was born in 1989. It is not by coincidence that our family has continued to enjoy the patronage of St Joseph these many years. Sister Jenny, Josephite nun and former Principal of St Josephs, continues to play an invaluable role in our church and school communities that are intrinsically linked. Simply by her presence amongst us, we are indeed blessed as she so generously, unassumingly and unselfishly shares her love, friendship, nurturing guidance and leadership with all.

In partnership, our school and church communities form an extended family that continue to nourish and support all its members in addition to practising Christian principle to all those who cross our path. The link between St Joseph and St Patrick seems to be further cemented by the fact that God has seen fit to bless us with a Parish Priest who is aptly named Father Joseph who will preside over this wonderful milestone in this our 60th anniversary year of celebration for St Patrick's Parish.

Saint Patrick's Parish does indeed enjoy God's favour and our parish community is truly blessed.

I feel both humbled and privileged to be included in its membership.

Beenleigh Parish History

Maureen Taylor

Before Beenleigh became a separate parish we were part of Beaudesert parish with Monsignor

O.B.Steele as the parish priest. (I think Monsignor Steele founded Boys town).

When my family moved to this area in late 1952, we had Mass once a fortnight alternately 7.00am and I think 10.00am. The church was then situated beside the railway line which was on street level near where they are now removing the round-about. In the middle of the sermon at the 10 o'clock Mass the train would go through heading for Southport. The priest had to stop and wait for it to pass by. This was in the days when the bell ringer would walk ahead of the train as it crossed the intersection of the five roads in the centre of the town. As we were a farming family having to milk cows before going to Mass, the early Mass was a bit of a rush, but the later one was good and we headed straight to Farrelly's Bakery before returning home this being in the days when we fasted before Mass.



The small wooden church was later moved to where it stands now, and was enlarged. It is used for before and after school care. A number of my family's ceremonies took place in this church such as confirmations, weddings, and my father's funeral. I also remember the boys from the boarding school coming there to Sunday Mass.

When I returned to Queensland in 1986, I found a new church had been built. Imagine my surprise when, on the first rainy day after my return the roof above the altar leaked badly. There were buckets placed strategically all over the place. Apparently a section of the roof over the altar had been built to allow light to enter. Unfortunately it allowed in more than light.

The Meerleveld Family- A sense of Community

The Meerleveldts

The Meerleveld family arrived at St Patrick's parish in the summer of 1981/1982 from Canberra. Peter arrived first with Ans and Helen to establish and build the family home (while living in a shed during the tropical summer heat and rain).

Alice arrived in early 1982 with Louis and Marita. Marita started school in Yr 7 at St Joseph's.

The family had come from a large parish in Waramanga, Canberra which was quiet and reserved. The first impressions of St Patrick's were amazement (from Alice and Peter) and trepidation (from the children). The upbeat organ music with Anne Tracey at the helm and the fervour with which the hymns were sung completely amazed the family. This seemed to be a parish where people participated actively and with great joy. It took a few weeks to get used to, and then we were all involved.

The thoughtful and relevant homilies of Fr Bill O'Shea were a delight to the family. His explanations worked *"to stir the hearts of our people, to deepen their knowledge of the faith, and to renew their living the faith in the world and participation in the Church and her sacraments"*. Pope Benedict XVI 2012-13

Peter and Alice had retired from work and had some time to devote to church activities. They contributed to Eucharistic Ministry and Collection Services.

Marita and Helen became active in parish activities through Antioch and Youth group attendance.

Alice and Peter were introduced to the Bellekom family and became great friends, with Alice and Marie volunteering at St Vincent De Paul weekly. They were instrumental in the development of the celebration of Eucharist with the residents of Pimpama Tricare Nursing Home.

Peter and Anton "Tony" Bellekom, along with other volunteers worked on the enlargement of the church carpark. This involved sorting out drainage as well as tree removal and clearing. They then prepared and organised all the asphalt work for the car park.



Peter and Tony teamed up again to work on the roof reconstruction-pitch alteration. They also were responsible for the construction, placement and design of wooden cross with Fr Dan Grundy after Fr Grundy saw the need for a large cross at the front of the church.



Later, Peter joined with John Truelson to complete a partial roof addition on presbytery.

The family have always shared special moments together at St Patrick's. From school graduations, funerals for friends (Marie and Tony Bellekom's especially), to Helen's wedding and Alice and Peter's significant wedding anniversaries. The family gets together to celebrate the Eucharist for other special occasions like Mother's and Father's Day and birthdays.

They have all enjoyed the sense of community and joy within the parish and have been honoured to be a part of this parish.

Significant women of St Patricks Parish

Moya McKeon

These three ladies made great contributions to the parish in their time. All are deceased but 60th year reflections wouldn't be complete without mentioning them and their value to the parish.

Jo Kelly.

Jo and her family lived at Ormeau and you would say she was a pillar of the church. When she died I did not know how everything would survive without her input. I didn't know Jo very well but admired the work and enthusiasm she put into the parish and I would have liked to be half the woman she was and she should not go unrecognised for her contribution.

The next two ladies I knew well.



Cath Saville was a character. Cath made it her business to know all the parishioners, and everyone knew Cath. You just couldn't help it. She was a tireless worker for the parish. She used to take my elderly mother to Mass when I was on holidays and when Cath had a stroke it was a pleasure for me to take Holy Eucharist to her every Sunday for about three years. She looked forward to my visit and I certainly loved my time with her. Even though she was ill she was always happy. I used to visit another day as well as she wanted to write her memoirs and she would dictate them and I would type them up for her. She loved clothes and we talked about them together, she was famous for her hats. When Cath died Tim her son gave me two of Cath's hats as a memento. I miss her so much.

Norma McGovern and I had a long friendship as we both had children at St Josephs at the same time. Norma was very artistic and was a painter of some renown. She and husband Laurie were fantastic workers for the parish. Norma supplied and arranged the church flowers for about twenty years and as a gift to me she did the church flowers for my youngest daughter's wedding in St Patricks, a gold and cream theme. Vases and urns of flowers everywhere I have not seen as many flowers in our church since. When Laurie died Norma was very lonely, she and I had lunch every month together and she stayed at my home many times. When we went for lunch I always had to find a venue that served a roast meal as she loved them and so did I. When she died her daughter Pat said to me "Moya I want flowers everywhere can you arrange it" I did my best but unfortunately I do not have Norma's artistic ability.



Our Parish Staff

*From Left to right: **Peter Haack, Cathy Korzeniewski, Theresia Houghton & Anna Whats.***

Photos of Therese Flynn-Clarke Below:

1. 2008 st Patrick's church
2. 2008 st Patrick's church
3. 2014 Multicultural Mass
4. 2014 Multicultural Mass
5. Fr Tony Girvan officiating at the Wedding of Lauren Hoban and Lee Hollis.







St Patrick's Youth – Then and Now

Cathy Korzeniewski, Parish Youth Worker.

I'd like to write a little about young people at St Patrick's and, as I was born here in 1960, I thought I'd start with some of my memories of *being* a young person at St Patrick's!

My parents, Gerald and Muriel Fields, moved to Beenleigh in 1958 with my 7 older brothers and sisters. They built a home in Hammel St, which was at that time a gravel road on the outskirts of town with no traffic – unless you count Mr Hammel walking his cattle. After it rained, we kids used to sit on the side of the road and make stuff out of the damp clay. We had a *very* big back yard, with cows, a horse, chooks, the occasional pig or goat and of course, the family dog – a gorgeous golden Labrador called Lassie. Many Beenleigh families received one of Lassie's pups 😊

We all attended St Joseph's School which, while I was there, had roughly 100 students and Mrs Rene Carroll was the only lay teacher. In my early years there, the Josephite Nuns not only taught us but cared for around 30 students who boarded in the Convent (the brick building now used as school admin and Presbytery).

Fast-track a few years and I was travelling by train and bus to attend Mackillop College at Mt Gravatt. On the Parish scene, we teenagers held a Youth Mass every Sunday night, with possibly one of the first electric guitars played in church in the Archdiocese! Some of us were also in the cheer squad for the Beenleigh Bulls Rugby League team, and I remember there were a couple of Sundays when we were late getting back from the game and, not having time to go home to change, arrived to sing at Mass in our cheer leading uniforms! God bless dear old Fr Ainslie – I don't remember him showing any annoyance or giving us any discouragement.

Another regular event we held was a monthly Rock n Roll Dance/Disco. This attracted young people from all over the district, and we used the money raised for things like installing ceiling fans and painting the (old) church. The annual St Patrick's Ball was still a highlight on the Beenleigh social calendar, with the young people lending a hand with advertising, decorating and ushering.

And then there were the camping trips to a property outside Linville, owned by an uncle of Lyn (Swan) Giebels. Anyone reading this who ever joined us on one of our Linville camps will smile with me right now and utter ahhh, the memories!

Fast-track a few (or a lot) more years, and I'm blessed to be back in the 'young' scene at our Parish. I'm not going to list all the things that we have done, or are doing in Youth Ministry here – you can check out the newsletter or give me a call, but I would like to say this...

During my 10 years of youth work at St Patrick's, I've been privileged to be a small part in the lives of many beautiful and amazing young people. I have been inspired by them, and sometimes challenged by them. They are all unique, with different natures, different levels of faith, different life experiences, different ways of expressing themselves and different dreams and aspirations, and each one is, or has been, a blessing to our community. I love their openness, enthusiasm, friendliness, courage, commitment and sense of fun, and I value my relationship with them.

Thank you to those young people who give of your time, and share your abilities and talents with us, and thank you to *all* our young people for simply being a part of our community. May God bless you all abundantly, and may you experience God's complete love for you over and over.

Also, thank you to all those parishioners who encourage and support our youth. Please continue to hold them in your hearts and in your prayers.



Therese Flynn-Clarke photos below:

1. 2007 St Patrick's Youth sing at the first Confirmation and Eucharist
2. Cathy K
3. 2007 St Patrick's Youth sing at the first Confirmation and Eucharist
4. 2008 st Patrick's Youth
5. 2008 st Patrick's Youth
6. 2008 World Youth day with Italian Pilgrims at the Clarke Family
7. 2008 World Youth day at the Verriest Family











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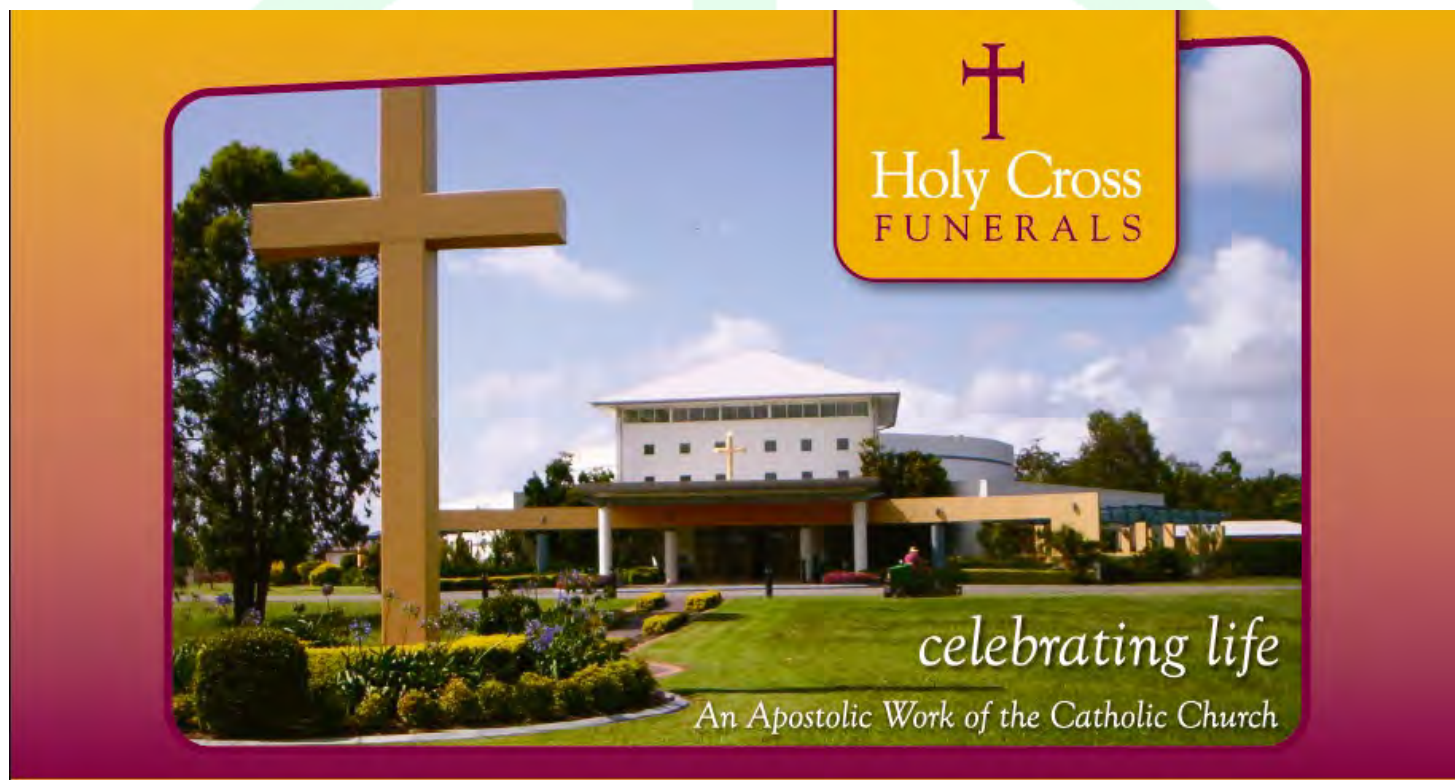
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