

# Time to say Farewell

It is with some regret and trepidation that I will be retiring from my job as Parish secretary. Wednesday, 10th January 2018 will be my last working day.

It seems incredible that I have had the privilege to work for St Patrick's for some 15 years. Initially as an office cleaner. There was the odd occasion when I was asked to relieve in the office which I enjoyed. In March 2004 your former secretary Denise O'Shea said she was "grooming" me for the Parish Secretary job, especially when it became known that I had a Bachelor of Commerce and a good background in finance and administration.

However, I was not keen on the job offer because both my parents were ill and my father was not expected to live to the end of the year. I had plans to visit them in Germany in mid 2004 to meet with my dad while he was still relatively well. At the time I did not realise just how very ill my mum was. Also my husband was a chronic asthmatic and it took a fair bit of my time to care for him.

After returning from Germany I gave the Parish job offer some serious thought and finally agreed to take the job on 15th September 2004. Fourteen days later I received the news that my beloved mum had passed away. Off to Germany I went again to say a final goodbye to my mum. A very sad journey for me.

On my return I started to settle in to my new job and enjoy the challenge of a Parish Office. The variety of work and meeting with people was a tonic for me after losing my mum. Sadly my dad followed her three months later which necessitated a third trip to Germany. However, after those trips I was finally able to settle down and concentrate on my job as your Parish secretary and I loved it!!!!

Some eleven years passed and life seemed to have taken on a routine. Three days work at the office and home for the rest of the week. That all changed when my husband passed away unexpectedly on Tuesday 29th September 2016. While he had always been a semi invalid, nobody had expected him to pass away after just having turned 65 years of age. He had been so proud of the fact that he had achieved retirement age.

Well life certainly changed for me then. On 22nd February 2017 I was allowed to move in to the 'Granny Flat', which has been a huge blessing for me. I found peace again; and the support I received from parishioners, friends and my own family has been overwhelming but also very appreciated and has helped me heal and come to terms with losing a lovely person with whom I spent altogether 18 years.

At the beginning of 2018 I will be ready to start a new life in Victoria. My daughter is in the process of purchasing a house with enough land for a granny flat for me. This way I will be close to my daughter and my adored grandson and my daughter will be able to keep an eye on me while I assist looking after my grandson; and I will need care in the future as I am losing my eyesight due to severe Glaucoma as well as Macular Degeneration.

Let me assure you all, I will miss you all terribly even though I am starting a new venture. Life at St Patrick's has been fulfilling and rewarding. Being your parish secretary has been the best job I've ever had the privilege to have. I am forever thankful to Denise O'Shea for 'grooming' me for the job and feel especially fortunate to have served Fr Grundy, Fr Tony Girvan and best of all Fr Joseph Kanatt.

Bye my friends—I will miss you all so very much and will think of you all often—**Theresia Haughton**



Issue 11, November 2017

## Parish Bugle

24 Tobruk Street, Beenleigh, Q 4207  
P O Box 84, Beenleigh, Q 4207  
Phone: 3287 2282 or 3287 5633

Fax: 3287 2472  
beenleigh@bne.catholic.net.au  
www.stpatricksbeenleigh.com.au

### THE JOY OF CHRISTMAS

Once again, God is gently calling to our hearts this Christmas season. He is whispering.... "Slow down and breathe in deeply of my peace, my joy, my victory as you trust me for everything you'll need".

We are called to open our heart and experience the Joy. The joy of Christmas comes through receiving God's gift of the Saviour, Christ the Lord. Even if you haven't received Christ as your Saviour, you may have good feelings at this season. It is a wonderful time of the year. It is always good to be with family and friends, to enjoy good food, and exchange gifts. But the true Christmas should be something different and deeper. The true joy of Christmas lasts all year long. It is the abiding joy of knowing for certain that things are right between you and God. It is the contentment that comes from knowing that you have a hope that holds constant beyond the uncertainties of this life. That kind of joy comes only to the one who has personally received God's gift of the Saviour.



*The Birth of Jesus Christ in Manger*  
<https://iamachild.files.wordpress.com/2010/12/the-birth-of-jesus.jpg>

**Fr. Joseph Kanatt mcbs**  
**Parish Priest**

#### **St Patrick's Mass Times:**

Mondays and Tuesdays 7am  
Wednesdays 7pm  
Thursdays and Fridays 7am  
Saturdays 8am and 6pm  
Sundays 7am, 9am and 6pm  
1st Friday of month, Healing Mass  
Fridays Exposition of Sacrament 7am-7pm  
Saturdays Mass/Novena 8am  
Rosary in the Chapel 9am

#### **St Patrick's Christmas Masses:**

##### **Christmas Eve:**

Sunday Mass—7am  
Sunday Mass—9am  
Children's Mass—6pm  
Youth Mass—8pm  
Christmas Carols—11:30pm  
Midnight Mass—12am

##### **Christmas Day:**

Mass—7am and 9am

## The Christmas Story as told by Luke

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria.

All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see-- I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favours!"



*Hark the Herald Angels Sing b | Ammey's Art Attic blackwidow12.wordpress.com*

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.

But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

*Luke 2:1-14(15-20)*



**Holy Cross  
FUNERALS**

The friendly staff at Holy Cross Funerals assist families at the death of their loved ones, to ensure that the funeral rites are conducted with dignity and with love. For Christians, the funeral rites assist the family to farewell their loved one through worship, praise and thanksgiving for the gift of a life now returned to God, the Creator and the hope of the just. The Church, through the funeral rites, commends its beloved to God's merciful care and the celebration brings hope and consolation to the bereaved family and friends

\*Burials \*Cremations \*Repatriations  
\*Pre- Arrangements \*Funeral Bonds

**Phone: 07 3293 0555**

Email: [info@holycrossfunerals.com](mailto:info@holycrossfunerals.com)  
[www.holycrossfunerals.com](http://www.holycrossfunerals.com)

*An Apostolic Work of the Catholic Church* *Celebrating life...*





When a family experiences the heartache and difficulty of the loss of a loved one, funeral arrangements can be a stressful time for everyone involved. Organising for a prepaid funeral can lighten some of that burden and relieve your family in a time of sorrow.

### Planning for the future is a prudent approach

Nobody likes to think about it, but the fact remains that we are only on this earth for a short time. Pre-arranging a funeral is no different from saving for a holiday or putting money away for an investment. Pre-planning a funeral is a logical and sensitive way to ensure your passing can be celebrated with as little stress possible on the ones who love you. Our professional and helpful funeral director can guide you in completing the appropriate paperwork – nothing morbid or sad, just like filling out a will – practical, sensible and easy.

### Holy Cross Funerals can ensure you have the funeral you want

Many people have personal requirements or guidelines they would like their funeral to follow. Often this is something that's thought about in passing and not discussed with loved ones or family. Pre-arranging a funeral gives your family the ability to follow your wishes as they are outlined in your pre-arranged funeral documentation.

### Sureplan Funeral Insurance



Sureplan has managed funeral funds since 1935 and understands what is required when a family loses a love one. That is why Sureplan pays the funeral benefit within 24 hours of being advised as to the passing of a member as we know this relieves the financial stress for the family. In 1999 Sureplan launched a funeral savings fund called Sureplan Gold that had been designed specifically to cater for the needs of people who wanted to pre-fund their funeral.

Call us today on (07) 3293 0555 or  
Visit our website: [www.holycrossfunerals.com](http://www.holycrossfunerals.com)

## The first Christmas Nativity scene



*Nativity of Jesus,*  
Sandro Botticelli (1445-1510)  
[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/  
File:Botticelli\\_Nativity.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Botticelli_Nativity.jpg)

The first nativity scene was demonstrated in 1223 in Italy, by Saint Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals. In those days Mass was said in Latin and the common people had a poor understanding of the meaning of the Christmas story. St Francis himself had been inspired by his recent visit to the Holy Land, where he'd been shown Jesus's traditional birthplace.

St Francis, who was living in the town of Greccio, Italy asked and got the permission and blessing of Pope Honorius III to proceed with his plans. He asked his close friend, John Velita, to loan him some animals and straw to set up a scene to represent Jesus Christ's birth in Bethlehem. The nativity scene could help people imagine what it may have been like to be present on the very first Christmas, when they came to worship at Christmas Eve Mass.

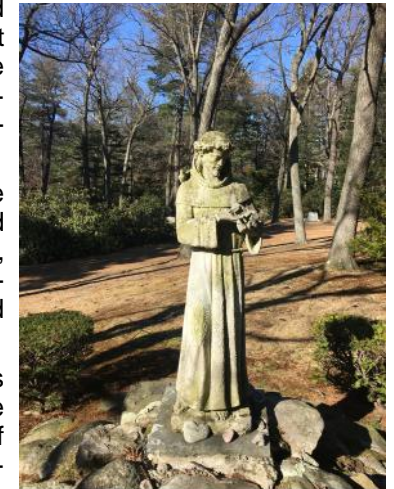
The scene, set up in a cave just outside Greccio, was a living nativity scene. It featured a wax figure of the infant Jesus, costumed people playing the roles of Mary and Joseph, and the live donkey and ox that St Francis had borrowed from his friend. Local shepherds watched over their sheep in nearby fields, just as shepherds in Bethlehem had watched over sheep on the first Christmas when the sky suddenly filled with angels who announced Christ's birth.

The presentation proved to be so popular that people in other areas soon followed suit. They also added more figures to their nativity scenes than St Francis had been able to do and now, in nearly every Italian town and village there are regular awards as a result of "best nativity scene" contests. It is said that there are more animals in public squares in Italy during Advent, than perhaps in the rest of the world combined.

800 years later nativity scenes and traditions have been created around the world and are displayed during the Christmas season in churches, homes, shopping malls, and other venues. Christians worldwide celebrate by visiting live nativity scenes and praying at nativity scene statues everywhere.

The Vatican has displayed a scene in St. Peter's Square near its Christmas tree since 1982 and the Pope has for many years blessed the manglers of children assembled in St. Peter's Square in a special ceremony.

Source: *The First Christmas Nativity Scene: Created by Saint Francis of Assisi,*  
<https://www.thoughtco.com/christmas-nativity-scene-saint-francis-assisi-124443>



Jp16103 ([https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/  
File:St\\_Francis\\_Statue\\_2.JPG](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:St_Francis_Statue_2.JPG)),  
[https://creativecommons.org/licenses/  
by-sa/4.0/legalcode](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/legalcode)



# Breath of the Spirit Prayer Group

## Jesus, through the lens of Peter Forgiveness & Mercy

On Thursday, 14/09/17, we invited a guest speaker named Aneel Aranha to our parish. We had 60 people attend to hear his words.

The evening covered a witness of the journey into the faith of Aneel who had been an atheist for 25 years, and the catastrophic events that took place which landed him in jail. He was transformed from a hedonistic unbeliever to a fiery proclaimer of the Gospel across the globe. His message came across loud and strong that forgiveness and mercy is a must if we are to move on in life. Un-forgiveness eats away at you alone.

His powerful and life changing talks are available on DVD and online at [www.aneelaranha.com](http://www.aneelaranha.com)

## A Journey of Hope and Healing Catholics Come Alive

Another exciting event was held in our Parish, namely a Life in the Spirit weekend. How grateful we are that the entire team travelled near and far for us. They consisted of 6 speakers, a husband and wife music ministry, Anne and Martin Costigan, and the leader Roger L'Huillier.

The weekend was a series of talks:

1. God's personal Love for You
2. Salvation—How do I know?
3. Forgiveness, Why should I, Why Must I?
4. We Need the Power Of The Holy Spirit Today.
5. Living the Life and Growing in the Holy Spirit.
6. How can I come alive?

For those who attended they have a story to tell, how their life has been effected and changed. The afternoon concluded with the celebration of the Eucharist. We need to grow in our Faith and share it. 'My people are destroyed for lack of Knowledge' Hosea 4:6.

All books and manuals are available through website [www.catholicscomealive.com](http://www.catholicscomealive.com)

**Barry and Mary McGrath**

## I always wanted to become a Catholic

As a youngster I always wanted to be a Catholic. My father was a Catholic and I used to go to the old St Patrick's Church with my Aunt, in the days when it was in Wharf Street, Beenleigh. While working at the Brisbane Post Office I often joined the girls in the office to go across the street to the Cathedral for Mass.

I worked for the Sisters of St Joseph's at the convent from mid 1963. I was cooking meals for the 25-30 boarding students and five sisters. My mother-in-law worked there before me and when she retired she recommended me for the position. They were good years and I worked there until the convent closed at Christmas 1970, At that time I was expecting my third child, so that suited me fine.

I have been a member of the Breath of the Spirit prayer group for a long time, inspired by Jill Palmer and other members. In the mid 1980's the group would have Melbourne Cup and St Patrick's Day parties in my garage, They were great fun.

In 1983 I eventually got my wish and I became a Catholic through the RCIA program, led by the late John Sheehan.

**Josie Huth**



Josie with Fr Joseph

*The Breath of the Spirit Prayer Group meets every Tuesday at 10:30 in St Patrick's Church., with a shared lunch afterwards. Everybody is most welcome to join or visit.*

# Kalavara

TRADITIONAL INDIAN CUISINE

(07) 3805 2551

0421 620 064

3/311-325 Loganlea Road,  
Meadowbrook  
[info@kalavara.net.au](mailto:info@kalavara.net.au)



Weekdays:  
10:30 AM to 2 PM, 4 PM to 9 PM  
Weekends: 4PM to 9PM



**South African Cuisine**

with a touch of Aussie foods

**Pies just like Grandma used to make!**

Gluten free chips & burger to order

[dinewithjoy.com](http://dinewithjoy.com)



Weekdays: 6:30am-5pm  
Sat: 8am-5pm Sun: 8am-4pm  
Phone: (07) 3806 2787  
Address: 1 Bryants Rd, Loganholme

*Thai Manola*  
Restaurant  
*Dine In (BYO) and Take Away*

Vince & Malay Phongthai

Shop 1, 140 Mt. Warren Boulevard Shopping Village  
Mt. Warren Park QLD 4207 PHONE: (07) 3382 0333

**EDDIE'S LECHON & CATERING SERVICES**  
Owned & Managed by Eddie & Flor Dechavez

Phone: 07 3287 1625  
Mobile: 0415 191 193  
0422 485 382

Email: [josedechavez@bigpond.com](mailto:josedechavez@bigpond.com)







# Maintenance & Restoration

BSA Licence No: 736459 - ABN: 88 160 187 116

35 Years Experience

Tony (Proprietor)

Mobile: 0402 312 345

E-Mail: [tony@tcgrestoration.com.au](mailto:tony@tcgrestoration.com.au) - Web: [www.tcgrestoration.com.au](http://www.tcgrestoration.com.au)  
All Services - All Local Areas - Domestic - Commercial - Industrial

### Specialists In:

Concrete, Terrazzo, Marble, Sandstone, Repairs/Restauration Showers, Grinding, Polishing, Honing, W/Blasting, Sealing, W/Proofing, Stencilling, Laying Epoxy

### Handyman Services:

Building, Welding, Roofing, Plumbing, Plastering, Drainage, Carpentry, Gardening, Fencing, Gates, Lawn & Paving, Replace Light Globes, Rental clean ups

Fully Licensed and Insured

## MOYLE PLUMBING & GASFITTING



RICHARD MOYLE

Mb: 0416 125 317

Phone: 07 3807 7327

[admin@moyleplumbing.com.au](mailto:admin@moyleplumbing.com.au)

QBSA GOLD CARD No. 1077154

Fax: (07) 3807 0736

PO Box 305 Ormeau Q 4208

ABN: 77 105 255 534 ACN: 105 255 534

[www.moyleplumbing.com.au](http://www.moyleplumbing.com.au)

Hot Water Systems (Gas, Electric, Solar, Heat Pumps) installed & repaired  
CCTV drain inspections | Electronic water leak detection | Gas Installations  
Blocked Drains | Burst Pipes Repaired | Storm Water | Dishwashers  
Garbage Disposals | Hot Water Systems Repaired & Replaced  
Leaking Taps & Toilets Repaired & Replaced  
Leaking Roofs, Gutters & Downpipes Replaced & Replaced

\* Providing prompt quality plumbing service to the local community\*

GET MOYLES TO DO IT!  
No call out fee...



### St Patrick's Columbarium



Margaret Skerman 0408 882 888

## All Souls Day



Fr Joseph celebrating Mass.  
Memorial candles lit on the cross

St Patrick's celebrated All Soul's Day on November 2. It is a day when we commemorate our Faithful Departed, the souls of Christians who have died.

Fr Joseph celebrated a beautiful Mass and all of us, parishioners and visitors, lit a candle in memory of our deceased relatives and close friends and prayed for them. The choir sang beautifully under the direction of Anne Tracey and created a wonderful atmosphere.

Afterwards we had the opportunity to write the names of our loved ones on little angels, which we pinned to material on the wall, where they will be displayed and prayed for during the month of November.

There was a shared supper and chat in the Truelson room, which we all very much enjoyed.

Monica Boucek

The funeral of Margaret Keast was held on Tuesday the 21st of November. Margaret will be much missed by family and friends, not least all parishioners who's lives she touched so lovingly. Margret was a strong lady and made great contributions to the experiences we all have in our Parish. Thank you Margaret.

PROFESSIONAL - HONEST - RELIABLE

TROY GRINDROD  
9000 1054037

The Best Building and Pest Inspections

0479 172 708

[troy@thebestbuildingandpest.com](mailto:troy@thebestbuildingandpest.com)  
[www.thebestbuildingandpest.com](http://www.thebestbuildingandpest.com)

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK



## COLDWINDS

AIRCONDITIONING P/L  
ABN 18115014090 BSA Lic No 407 8432

Install, Service & Repair  
Domestic & Commercial  
Air conditioning

Joel Se

Mobile 0401 024 985

Fax (07) 3805 8593

## JQ PINOY AUTOMOTIVE

ELECTRICAL & MECHANICAL REPAIRS

Jun Quinones

41 Moloney Road  
Waterford West, QLD 4133  
[GuillermoJunQ@Gmail.com](mailto:GuillermoJunQ@Gmail.com)

Mob: 0 450 800 062  
Land: 07 3299 7361  
ABN: 21 259 447 790



Share & Enjoy More @ QuotesDump.com

## The Gift Of God's Love



It can't be bought,  
it can't be sold,  
It can't be measured  
in silver or gold —  
It's a special wish  
that God above  
Will fill your heart  
with peace and love.

HELEN STEINER RICE





## Thank You for the Music

There is nothing more beautiful than the sound of music that is uplifting, spiritual, prayerful and soothing for the soul. The sound of the black and white keys on the organ when pressed together makes music sound so magical. Worshipping in songs and music is a powerful prayer.

So is the uniqueness of the people and members of the choir who are so motivated to use their spare time (if any) to sing for the Lord throughout the year, rain or shine, far or near, there is no stopping them.

What's especially inspirational are the effort and the leadership of the Choir Master who is so precious about the music in every note. Not to mention the accuracy of the Organist who can not be fault at all. St Patrick's Parish Beenleigh is very blessed to have such talents and motivation.

Such a ritual most Monday nights, the Choir coming together to offer their prayers, using their voices to serve the parish through the choir. Every members enjoying their time as a group especially when mastering a song that is taught for a number of practices.

This little choir community leads and demonstrates a message of togetherness as every member gives it their best of talents despite different ages, different cultures and variety in volumes.

On that note, it is an opportunity to say a big thank you to the Choir Master Anne Tracey who also celebrated a huge milestone this year with the members. Thank you for never failing to prepare the music, especially your patience to keep the members in order when requires..they can misbehave :).

May God bless everyone and hoping to get more voices in the year to come.



**Loa Su'a**



The choir celebrating Anne's recent birthday

The Choir practises Mondays at 7pm in the Church. Please feel welcome to join us for the upcoming Christmas celebration. It will make your Christmas feel so very special.



# J. G. Lohrisch

## Burial & Cremation Directors

100% Australian Family Owned Since 1870

### Ph: 32872030

*Pain and loss define us as much as love and support  
When you lose someone, our family will reach out to yours.*

**PRE ARRANGED FUNERAL PLANS AVAILABLE**



## Yarrabilba Legal

### FIXED FEES – WE COME TO YOU

*(SENIORS CARDS DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE)*

- \* WILLS, POWERS OF ATTORNEY
- \* PROBATE & ESTATE ADMINISTRATION
- \* RETIREMENT LIVING & AGED CARE
- \* BUYING OR SELLING PROPERTY
- \* DEBT RECOVERY
- \* LITIGATION (INCLUDING QCAT CLAIMS)

Phone: 0478 635 727 – Jessica Mills

[www.yarrabilbalegal.com.au](http://www.yarrabilbalegal.com.au)



8:30am to 5:30pm Mon-Fri  
9:00am to 1:00pm Weekends

Unit 18,  
2 Carl Heck Boulevard  
Windaroo, Qld 4207

**MULTI-LINGUAL DOCTORS**  
Hindi, Sinhalese, Filipino and English

**SICK OF WAITING TO SEE A DOCTOR?**

Walk in / New patients welcome  
Same day appointments  
Male / Female doctors

Acupuncture & Skin Checks

Dr Vikram Anand  
Dr Josephine A. Ching  
Dr Krishani Perera

Book online at  
[www.windaroodoctors.com.au](http://www.windaroodoctors.com.au)  
Phone: 3804 1700

Email: [reception@windaroodoctors.com.au](mailto:reception@windaroodoctors.com.au)

## OUR SCHOOLS

### Vision for Religious Education

The *Vision for Religious Education* emphasises the complementarity of the two dimensions of Religious Education and articulates a school's aspirations for students in terms of their religious literacy and faith formation. In that sense the Vision begins with "the end in mind".

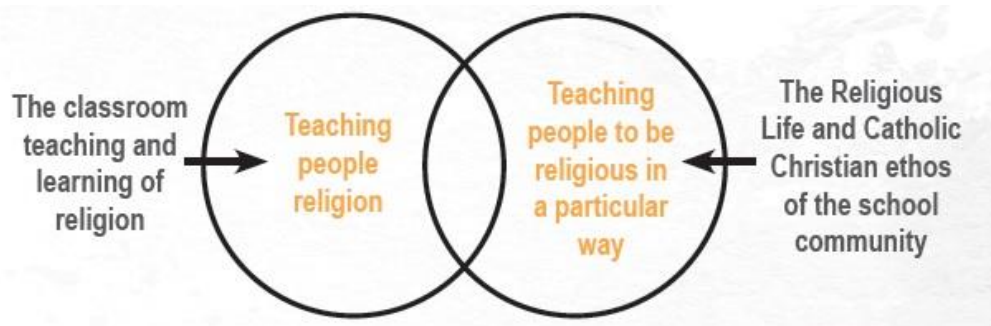
*The schools and colleges of the Archdiocese of Brisbane aspire to educate and form students who are challenged to live the gospel of Jesus Christ and who are literate in the Catholic and broader Christian tradition so that they might participate critically and authentically in faith contexts and wider society.*

The *Vision for Religious Education* appropriately aligns with the goal for learning and teaching as articulated in the Brisbane Catholic Education (BCE) *Learning and Teaching Framework* (2012):

*As a Catholic Christian community we educate all to live the gospel of Jesus Christ as successful, creative and confident, active and informed learners empowered to shape and enrich our world.*

### Model for Religious Education

Since 2008, the distinct and complementary nature of both dimensions of Religious Education has been conceptualised in the following *Model for Religious Education*.



Source: <http://www.motherteresa.qld.edu.au/documents/religiouseducation.html>

#### Mother Teresa School

Principal Mr Peter Kerrins  
5549 5000  
porneau@bne.catholic.edu.au

#### St Joseph's Tobruk School

Principal Mr Tony Barron  
3287 2798  
pbeenleigh@bne.catholic.edu.au

#### Trinity College

Principal Mr Chris Raju  
4332 5222  
sbeenleigh@bne.catholic.edu.au

*Do small things with  
great love!*

Mother Theresa

*Never see a need without  
doing something about it!*

Mary McKillop

*In God we trust!*

Trinity College Motto

## Kid's Stuff

### COLOUR ME IN!



### CHRISTMAS JUMBLE!

Can you figure out what Christmas words these jumbled letters make?

YJO

RTAS

SEBLL

BBYA SUSEJ

RYAM GINRIV

VGGINI

GANEL

TYVITANI

Answer: Joy, star, bells, Baby Jesus, Virgin Mary, giving, angel and nativity

Submitted by Erica Ng



# Vale Roy Hull

I only came to know Roy closely in the last 18 months or so. Before that, he was a man who sat opposite me at 6 o'clock Mass on Saturdays, and whom I greeted at the Sign of Peace. Although he was Church of England, he drove Joyce to Mass and attended it himself with devotion. He probably observed the Sunday obligation better than many Catholics.

I came to admire a man who was an artisan in wood and stone, who restored vintage cars and motorbikes only to sell them to help pay for an overseas trip or two. You can see some of his woodcarvings to the right of the altar, in the shape of the Holy Family. He was proud of those, and rightly so.

I got to know Roy well during his protracted stay in the Mater and in St. Vincent's. I admired his acceptance of the hand he was dealt. He was unable to move his legs, and on one occasion said how he wished he could change their position. When I asked if it would help if I moved them to another spot in the bed, he said OK. When I did this small task, he was so grateful, you would think I had cured him!

Roy taught me a lot about how to cope with adversity. He was concerned more about how his family was getting on than about his own predicament.

Roy was an optimist. He looked for the things he could do, rather than dwell on what he could not. "I'm better off than a lot of others here," he said on one occasion. "At least I can see and talk and things like that." "I've had a good life. I've lived 86 years and done a lot, and if this is the way I am to go, that's OK."

On another visit, he said with a touch of pride, "I've got the doctors baffled trying to work out why I can't move my legs. They can't work it out." This seemed to give him a feeling of a celebrity! He was such a simple man, in the best sense of the word.

He also thought he put one over them when, having been told he had only a few weeks to live, he was still there a few months later. He enjoyed that.

On one of my early visits, I took along some of my cooking in the form of a lemon and passionfruit slice. I made some coffee and we had a slice each. Soon after, Roy complained of a pain in his midriff. He said, "that was real good going down, Don, but it has hit problems down there." We called the nurse who got the doctor on duty, who was dilly-dallying around the problem, when all the while Roy was rubbing his stomach in agony. At last, I asked him the obvious question, "On a scale of 1 to 10, how bad is the pain, Roy?" "10", he said, without hesitation. That got results and he was given pain relief. I'd learnt that from my own experience with my late wife, Amy, when she was in hospital. My cooking? His stomach? No connection? Who knows? He did have some more of my cooking on later visits. No problems there.

Roy was so appreciative of my visits, and commented that it was good to have something different to talk about. I know we covered a lot of topics, from religion to sport to politics and the state of the universe and solved many a problem to our satisfaction. I was unable to visit as much as I would have liked, but that didn't matter to Roy. If I came, well and good. If I was lax, it didn't matter; I was there now. He was that sort of man. I will miss him and his selflessness.

The world will be the poorer for his passing, but he is in a better place and enjoying a well-deserved reward, please God.

Farewell old friend. Rest in peace. **Don Robertson**



On the second last day we visited the Dutch Museum, followed by a walk around the Portuguese buildings of Cochin and then a Theatre performance. We watched as the actors painted their faces in bright and elaborate face paint prior to the performance. We were also able to spend a few hours at a Shopping Centre (similar to ours) so that we could spend our remaining Rupees and ensure that last pocket of space in our luggage was filled up!

On the 17 September we were very privileged to have Father Joseph join with Father David from Woodridge and Father Emanuel (who had been with Father David in Woodridge but was now working in India) celebrate Sunday Mass at Mount Carmel Church for us.




*The group after Mass in Mount Carmel Church*

In conclusion, India was much more than I had expected. Yes we saw poverty. People were very welcoming, smiling and friendly. Also we found the Churches large, beautifully decorated with gold and paintings. The people were very devout and the religion is an integral part of how they live their daily lives, attending church and praying in great numbers in their local Churches.

We always felt safe and although I did not learn to speak the language I can bow and join my hands in greeting.

Thank you to Father Joseph and Fly World Tweed Heads for a powerful, safe journey, an enlightening experience of India and allowing me to be part of it.

## **Carmel Cunningham**



**FIND US**

25 Bay St  
Tweed Heads, New South Wales

@FlyWorldInternationalTravelAndTourism

Call [0411 070 043](tel:0411070043)



Our Tour Guides were wonderful each day supplying us with as much bottled water as we needed as did our hotels. Our hotels were all excellent and very comfortable meeting all our needs.

I found the Golden Triangle temperatures to be much warmer than Cochin in the south which appeared to be more tropical. Down south the lush forest growth was thick and green, there were steep hills coming down to valleys of creeks and rivers and because we experienced a few days of rain there were amazing fast flowing waterfalls just by the side of the road as well as mudslides which our driver very carefully negotiated. On one occasion our bus could not reach our resort accommodation because of the rain so we loaded into jeeps (no seat belts or number limits) and our driver made us laugh and scream as he speeded, dodged potholes and overhanging tree growth along the 1km narrow road to our resort. I think the driver enjoyed it as much as we did!



*The group in front of Taj Mahal*

We had amazing experiences e.g. Swaminarayan Akshardham, Lotus Temple, Qutub Minar, Parliamentary and government buildings in New Delhi, The Indian Gate, Taj Mahal (only cleaned 6 months previously and the white marble shone), Agra Fort, Mahatma Gandhi's last residence and where he was killed, Marble Factory, Pink Palace of Rajasthan, Carpet and fabric factory (cashmere, wool and silk), Amber Fort in Jaipur, snake charmers, Munim Tea Plantation and Museum, spice plantation.

Father Joseph surprised us all by arranging an elephant ride. We visited St Alphonsa Church and Tomb followed by lunch with Missionary Congregation of Blessed Sacrament Fathers at their Novitiate. Then Father Joseph took us to his home to meet his mother, sisters and brothers who gave us a wonderful dinner. The following day we visited a coir (coconut fibre) factory before spending most of the day drifting on a houseboat in the Kerala Backwaters (very restful and therapeutic). We had so many wonderful experiences. One highlight was visiting St Francis Assisi Church and Cathedral where a baptism was taking place, followed by morning tea with the Bishop who gave us each crystal rosary beads.



*Ken and Tamara Maloney on elephant back*

## ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

### ST PATRICK'S CONFERENCE – BEENLEIGH

As we approach the end of yet another year, I would like to ask for your assistance with the following:

#### CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE

Our conference here in Beenleigh will be providing 100 Christmas Hampers to families less fortunate than ourselves. These hampers have a monetary value in excess of \$5,000 and as well as food items (suitable for a Christmas Dinner), we provide toys for every child (12 years and under).

Where do these food items and toys come from?

We wish to thank parents, students and staff of our three Parish Schools – Trinity College, St Joseph's Primary and Mother Theresa Primary for their assistance in running Christmas Appeals.

We spend conference funds to buy food and toys as required.

We ask our parishioners to assist (if you are able) by taking a tag from the Giving Tree at the front of the Church. The tag may be for an item of food or a toy for a boy or girl. Donated items can be placed in the box provided.

#### CHRISTMAS APPEAL

The Australia-wide Vinnies Christmas Appeal will be conducted in our Parish on the weekend 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> December. Information about the appeal together with donation envelopes will be distributed the week preceding the appeal.

By helping the St Vincent de Paul Society Christmas Appeal, you will assist in two ways. At a local level our members and volunteers will be able to offer assistance directly to families and individuals. At a broader level you will be contributing to the large and varied network of short and longer term support services for people in Qld. St Vincent de Paul told his followers that there are no people so rich that they have nothing to receive, and none so poor that they have nothing to give. Support for this Appeal will benefit recipients and address poverty and disadvantage in our communities. At the same time it is an endorsement of the concern and generosity of donors. Your donation can be:

Put in an envelope provided and then placed on the collection plate at any Mass on any weekend.

Returned by mail to the address on the envelope.

## Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible.

#### PIETY STALL

The following items are available at our Piety Stall:

2018 Columban Calendars. Only a few left. Only \$9.00 each.

The Little Blue Advent Book. \$6.50 each.

Christmas Cards. Pack of 8 (all different). \$3.00 per pack.

#### THANKSGIVING MASS

Parishioners are invited to join us for our end-of year Thanksgiving Mass to be held on Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> Dec at the normal 7.00pm Parish Mass. Mass will be followed with a cuppa etc.

**John Maksimas, president**





# Incredible India

In March 2017 I began my journey to India having paid a deposit on our 12 September departure from Brisbane flying Singapore Airlines on our 7.5 hour flight to Singapore. The tour was organised by Fly World Travel and Father Joseph Kanatt. After a couple of hours exploring the airport we were on a 5.5 hour flight to New Delhi. On arrival, and being not of Indian decent, our Visas were verified and we were allowed onto Indian soil as tourists for 12 days. Outside of the airport the heat knocked us all and our bus driver began very busily handing out bottles of water.



Fr Joseph and Tamara at the airport



Swaminarayan Akshardham  
a Hindu spiritual-cultural campus in New Delhi

We were up early each day, lots of light and warmth in our room, before boarding the bus usually by 8 or 8.30am for our full day tour. A visit to Swaminarayan Akshardham showing Indian art, wisdom, heritage and values. This was set in a 100 acre site and took 5 years to build in marble. The intricate carved marble was outstanding.



The group in front of the Lotus Temple



Qutub Minar,  
part of a large UNESCO World Heritage site

We then visited the Lotus Temple (shaped in the form of a Lotus flower and had a resemblance to our Sydney Opera House) where we sat quietly and reflected. The gardens surrounding were beautifully manicured and very lush. We then visited ruins and the 73 metre high Qutub Minar built in 1193AD.

We drove past the Parliamentary and government buildings, the Indian Gate (a memorial to those killed by war) all the time relishing the bus air-conditioning.

The traffic in India is overbearing to us Aussies and has to be seen to be believed – motor bikes are the most popular transport and we were amazed to see Mum, Dad and 4 children all happily relaxed riding together on a smallish bike/scooter. Tut Tuts (a 3 wheeler covered version of a motor bike and running on gas ) were the next popular and smallish cars were fewer. We realised why bikes were so popular - they could weave in and out of the traffic, stop within an inch of any other vehicle and change direction frequently. Bikes were multipurpose as they carried goods, materials, cartons and anything else that could be tied to them and transported.

Every vehicle has a horn and no one has a problem using them and so there is a constant blaring of horns which makes for lots of noise. Road rules do not seem to exist as they do in Australia and all are in a hurry to get from A to B. In the cities where traffic is very heavy it was familiar to see a 2 lane road as we know it divided into many lanes with each driver looking after himself and if he saw an opening then would converge without hesitation. We found ourselves giving the bus driver a loud cheer when he successfully manoeuvred in the smallest of spaces. Amazingly I only saw 1 accident during our whole trip and this still confounds me!



The highways abound with trucks transporting goods and far outweigh the number of motor vehicles on the main highways. Because of this the roads, although tar sealed, are not in good condition and mostly we were not able to do any more than 60kmh. Cattle are sacred and have the right of way, lay by the side or in the middle of the road, cross whenever they like and are not phased by the traffic.

Each morning we had a buffet breakfast at our Hotel (sometimes even fried eggs complete with eyes, nose and mouth features!) and each evening a buffet dinner.

Each of these meals allowed us to experience many different dishes in the Indian culture. I think most of us were conservative but really appreciated the experience. Butter or mango chicken from the Lego's bottle goes down well with me.

