

Parish Bugle

Issue 24,
January 2020



How could God allow such a calamity to take place?

Whenever there is a disaster such as the bushfire, we desperately want to know how God is involved. You have all heard the questions and perhaps thought them yourselves. "How could God allow such a calamity to take place?" The answer is, we don't know. But we desperately want to know and here is where things become dangerous. In our desire to know, in our desire to make sense, we can create a false god. Again you have heard these attempts to make sense out of this disaster in the media and in peoples' conversations. They will say, "The bushfire happened because God was angry, because God wanted to punish. God did this to teach a lesson."



These explanations contradict the things that we know for sure about God. We know that God cares for us, that God sees us as God's own children. We know this because God has revealed this to us. How, then, should a Christian view this disaster? We should view it sceptically and critically, but at the same time honestly and respectfully. Also, a Christian must remember that God is in control, that God is good and sovereign, and that Planet Earth will be our habitat for as long as God desires it to be.

As Christians we are called to limit our knowledge of God to those things that we know, to those things which have been revealed to us. God calls us to do what we can to relieve the suffering of those who have been affected by the bushfire and drought. And it is better to admit that we do not know rather than creating a false god to explain it. "Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging" (Psalm 46:2-3)

*Fr Subin Thomas,
Your Parish Priest*

ST PATRICK'S

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Q & A

Question:

In the light of the terrible fires and the suffering that's ravaging large parts of our country could we ask the question - if God is all-powerful and all-loving why does he allow suffering in the world?



Answer:

This is a common objection to a belief in God and there is no slick answer to it. It is a question which religious thinkers in every age have grappled with and no-one yet has come up with a fully satisfactory explanation. All we can do here is offer a few strands of thought which might point in the direction of a solution.

One starting point is to ask: What sort of world would it be in which suffering was eliminated? Clearly it would be a very different world from the one we live in now. First, the physical environment would have to be different. A world in which, for example, there could be no earthquakes, no droughts, no bushfires, no floods, no disease would have to be a physically different world from the one we currently inhabit. Is such a thing possible? Modern science seems to suggest that it is not. The basic laws of physics are so finely tuned that even minute changes in them could reduce the world to chaos. If this is the case, then it looks as though the laws which make it possible for us to exist at all are the same laws which create the conditions in which suffering is possible.

But even if the physical world **could** be changed to eliminate the possibility of disease and natural disasters, that would not solve the problem. There remains the suffering that human beings inflict on themselves and each other. To change that would mean changing people. Their freedom of choice would have to be destroyed, for people cannot have true freedom unless the possibility of misusing it is there. Would it be a better world if we had no free choice; if we were all programmed automatons? Would such an existence, with all suffering eliminated, be worth living?

Suffering then, seems to be a consequence of the way things are-but it would be a mistake to think that God is indifferent to suffering, or worse that he deliberately inflicts it. Christians believe that God has revealed himself in the person of Jesus Christ. And in Jesus Christ God has subjected himself to the consequences of the universe he has created. When Jesus died in terrible agony on the cross, he showed himself to be at one with suffering humanity. He also showed that suffering can be transformed into life; that evil can be overcome by love.

This does not fully explain why there is suffering in the world, but it does perhaps help us to glimpse the meaning of suffering: that is not a meaningless waste.

Terence O'Shea, Credits to Redemptorist Publications, Alphonse House, Alton, Hants, England

If You have a question about our faith, feel free to email beenleigh@bne.catholic.net.au. Please put the word Bugle in the subject line to help our office staff.

We welcome all to St Patrick's Masses:

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

St Patrick's Weekly Activities:

Mondays 6:30am Rosary in the Chapel
9am Adult Meditation
3:15pm Children's Meditation
7pm Choir Practice
Tuesdays 10:30am Charismatic Prayer Grp
Tuesday-Friday, Sunday 6:30am Rosary
Saturdays 7am Rosary in the Chapel
Sundays 9am Children's Liturgy

We acknowledge and pay respect to the land and the traditional families of the Yugambeh region of South East Queensland, including the Kombumerri, Mununjali, Wangerriburra and others, and their Elders past, present and future.

Christmas Memories

Fr Subin presided over a busy Christmas schedule. The Church had been cleaned and decorated with our traditional Nativity set, Christmas tree and beautiful floral arrangements. Many hands worked hard to make the church look so good.

The last Anointing Mass for the year was, as always a beautiful and solemn celebration. Afterwards there was a 'Christmas Party' for everyone including residents of Palm Lake Retirement Village. There was plenty of hot and cold refreshments, some singing and lots of socialising. Thank you Fr Subin and all the ladies who helped serve and everybody who helped to make the day special.



On the second Sunday of Advent we said goodbye to Sr Angela. She touched so many lives in different ways and we will miss her, especially the leaders of the Children's Liturgy group, the children and their families. As farewell the children performed a dance for her choreographed by Mary Se. Michael and Delia Zarate thanked Sr Angela and presented her with a lovely bunch of flowers.



For the last session of the Children's Meditation group Celine Kease, assisted by Tamara, organised a little party for the children. There was plenty of healthy food, followed by Meditation, Rosary, plenty of talking and not least decorating of the library board. Thank you Celine and Tamara for your effort through the year.



Looking back, what a busy Christmas it has been. Fr Subin celebrated five Masses between Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Morning. So we really do thank him again for wonderful memories that are carrying us into the New Year.



Photos: Sr Angela presented with flowers and card, Sr Angela with Children's Liturgy team, Fr Subin with parishioners after New Year's Day Mass, Denise setting tables for Anointing Mass refreshments, Nativity Set for Children's Meditation, Celine, Tamara and kids at party.



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In the New Year

PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

Dear Lord,

For everything the past year gave us, we give you thanks. The good things and the difficult things which happened, remind us constantly of our need for your presence in our lives.

Let us commence this new year of 2020 with a commitment to serve all those in need, regardless of race, colour or creed.

May our year be filled with peace, joy and love. May the blessings of Almighty God fill us with hope in this new year. Amen.

Vin Russell

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2020

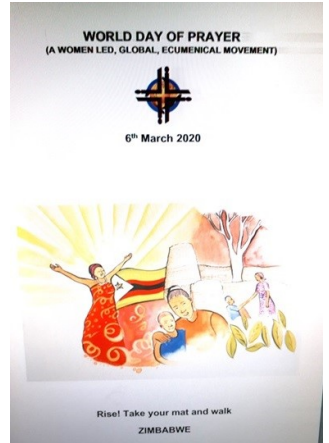
The World Day of Prayer is an international ecumenical initiative, celebrated in over 170 countries on the first Friday in March every year. It aims to bring together people of different races, cultures and traditions in a common Day of Prayer, to foster closer fellowship, understanding and action throughout the year.

This year's World Day of Prayer will be hosted by Beenleigh Baptist Church, Pheasant Ave, Beenleigh and will be held on Friday the 6th March commencing at 10am.

The host country this year is Zimbabwe with the Theme:- **Rise! Take Your Mat and Walk (John 5:2-9a).**

Everyone is welcomed to attend. Further reminders will be posted in St Patrick's weekly newsletter closer to the date.

Marian Ward



LENT 2020

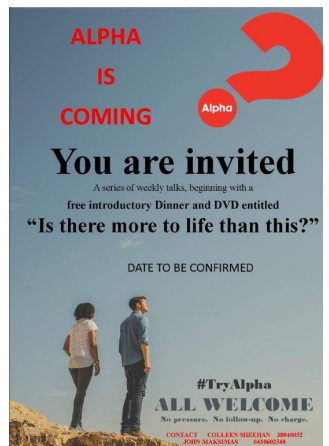
Lent is the 40 weekdays from Ash Wednesday (26th February) until Easter. It is a period observed as preparation for Easter, involving praying, fasting and penitence. In the Catholic Church lent runs until the Thursday before Easter (Holy Thursday).

During Lent, many Christians fast and give up luxuries in memory of Jesus and the 40 days he spent in the desert, fasting and being tempted by the devil. Many Christians also add a Lenten spiritual discipline, such as reading a daily devotional or praying through a Lenten calendar, to draw themselves near to God.

The Stations of the Cross are often observed. Many churches remove flowers from their altars, while crucifixes, religious statues, and other elaborate religious symbols are often veiled in violet fabrics in solemn observance of the event.

“Lent is like a long ‘retreat’ during which we can turn back into ourselves and listen to the voice of God, in order to defeat the temptations of the Evil One. It is a period of spiritual ‘combat’ which we must experience alongside Jesus, not with pride and presumption, but using the arms of faith: prayer, listening to the word of God and penance. In this way we will be able to celebrate Easter in truth, ready to renew the promises of our Baptism.” *Pope Benedict XVI*

Credits: My Catholic Life, <https://mycatholic.life/inspiring-quotes/>



Our Groups

THE BREATH OF THE SPIRIT PRAYER GROUP

Happy and holy new year to all parishioners and readers!

The Prayer group is starting up again on February 4th and we are welcoming everyone who would like to share their faith or need prayer.

We start at 10:30am till noon, followed by a shared lunch in the Truelson room. We look forward to meeting you there.

Mary & Barry McGrath, Prayer group leaders

CHILDREN'S MEDITATION GROUP

The Church has Children's Meditation on Mondays during school terms from 3:15pm to 4:30pm. We meditate for 10 minutes, we say a decade of the Rosary, talk about our faith and about anything the children want to talk about.

We have a free afternoon tea and everybody is welcome, including parents, grandparents and other relatives. If you have any questions, please talk to Celine or Tamara, or call me on 0402 199 201.

Tamara Maloney

THE CLEANING MINISTRY

The Cleaning Ministry ensures that our church is clean, organized, and welcoming.

The Cleaning Ministry here at St Patrick's is a very important area of service. When we consider that the purpose of any ministry is to bring glory and honour to God, we give Him our best. We want this building to be a blessing to God and to all who worship here. Serving on this ministry team is an opportunity to fellowship with others as well as with the Lord.

So join us in keeping the house, that God has blessed us with, clean and tidy. Cleaning is conducted on Saturday mornings before 8am Mass or after Mass. If you would like to volunteer to clean the Church please contact the Parish Office.

Peter Haack

CHILDREN'S LITURGY GROUP

Children's Liturgy of the Word ministers to children age 4 – 9 yrs Scripture readings that are age appropriate. The reading and discussion is followed with a craft to help the children reflect on the Bible stories for that Sunday.

Before the Scriptures for the Liturgy are proclaimed, the children are called forward. They then process to a separate liturgical space while the Scriptures are proclaimed and the Homily is presented to the adults of the Church.

The Parish is always looking for Adults to help lead or assist in Children's Liturgy of the Word. Training is provided. Children's Liturgy of the Word takes place every Sunday at the 9:00 am Mass during the school terms. If you would like to help the children of the parish learn more about Jesus please contact parish office.

Children's Liturgy Group

There are a number of other groups that always welcome new and old members; Adult meditation takes place every Monday at 9am in the Truelson Room. The Parish Choir will start practising for Easter in early February. If you like singing, please give us a go. Please refer to the weekly Parish Bulletin or the Parish Office for more information.

What did I do to deserve twins

In January the twins will turn 10 months. I honestly don't know how we got here! One day they were newborns the next the day they learnt to crawl- *When did you learn that?!! Could you not keep trying to crawl for my moulting hair on the tiles?* And more recently, stand... not without support yet, but I have no doubt that they will any moment now.



For the past 10 months I've lived in a state of monotonous repetition - I feed, change, play, sleep (or at least pray for it), repeat... and, if the babies will allow me, use the bathroom myself, so it's easy to forget the bigger picture. I get so caught up in the never ending stereo sound of babies crying, the mountain of nappies, the unrelenting exhaustion and the ever growing pile of drool drenched clothes that lay waiting to be washed for the third day in a row.

Being my first Christmas as a mother I really pondered over Mary's journey as a new mother. Did she ever have moments of disbelief that not only did she have a child, but she had the Son of God? Did she ever pinch her self like I do to make sure it's not a dream? Who's to say that she didn't? I still haven't come to fully accept that I have twins. I have many days where I think, *what did I do to deserve twins?* And just as many days where I think, **WHAT DID I DO TO DESERVE TWINS?** Does this disbelief ever stop? Will I ever fully come to terms with the fact I have twins?

Don't get me wrong, being a mum is great. Being a twin mum is even doubly great! It's just no one ever really prepares you for this ride that is motherhood. Everyone tries to prep you for it (All the pregnancy guide books, your mum, your friendly neighbour, the lady at the checkout...) and you go on this pregnancy journey imagining that once bub gets here it'll be some sort of river cruise when in actual fact it's a roller coaster ride that goes from 0 to 100km in a split second! And there's no getting off the ride once you've hopped on. It just continues forever and ever and ever!!



But you get used to life in the 100 zone. Life blurs past you. Days become weeks, weeks become months, and before you know it you end up at 10 months. I have no idea what lies ahead, but whatever it is I just hope it involves less hair moulting onto the floor for opportunistic babies to eat.

Erica Ng Philips

Dear Reader,

If you enjoy reading our magazine or if there is something you would like to see in it, please contact us on beenleigh@bne.catholic.net.au and please put the word Bugle in the subject line to make it easier for the office staff. We appreciate your feedback.

Please do not discard your Bugle copy, but forward it to friends, family or neighbours. Let them know what we get up to and invite them to join us.

The Bugle is available in electronic copy from our website <https://www.stpatricksevenleigh.com.au/> and through our parish app. (Search for 'St. Patrick's Beenleigh' in the App Store).

St Vincent De Paul Society

ST PATRICK'S CONFERENCE, BEENLEIGH

As we commence another year, no doubt busy once again, our conference welcomes all members to their role of helping those less fortunate than ourselves.

We take this opportunity to wish our parishioners a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

We also wish to advise the election of Mrs Fay O'Toole as our new president. Fay is taking on the role of president for the fourth time during her nearly thirty years of membership. We thank Fay for her loyalty and dedication and know that she will fulfil this familiar role with her usual enthusiasm and efficiency. We ask for your prayers for Fay and all of our volunteers.



THANKYOU:

Christmas Appeal. We conducted our appeal in early December and thanks to your generosity we were able to receive \$2165.20 in donations. Please be assured that this money will be put to very good use.

Christmas Hampers: We distributed 80 Hampers just before Christmas. Thanks to donations from families attending our three schools (Trinity College, St Joseph's Primary and Mother Teresa Primary) and a great response to our Giving Tree, we were able to provide many of the items at no cost to our conference. We also wish to thank Cathy and members of our Parish Youth group who provided a great atmosphere during collection time by singing Christmas Carols and helping out by carrying hampers to cars, as well as assisting with the clean-up. Well done!



DATE CLAIMER:

Vinnies Fundraising Dinner - Friday, 31st July, 2020. Hope to see you there!



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Our conference needs volunteers to join the St Vincent de Paul society here in Beenleigh. If you think you might be interested, please come and see us in the Vinnies House or ring Fay O'Toole (0407465478) or John Maksimas (0410602549) for further information.

John Maksimas

Bequests to the Parish

Should any Parishioner be considering making a financial bequest to St. Patrick's Parish, such a bequest must be included in your Last Will and Testament.

There is an exactly worded statement required to be used when making such a bequest. This exact statement can be obtained from the Parish Office.

Disclaimer

The views, opinions and comments expressed in the Bugle are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the Roman Catholic Archdioceses of Brisbane, the Catholic Parish of St Patrick's Parish Beenleigh, or any other agency, organisation or company.



BIBLE QUIZ

Q1: Which garden is the very first recorded in the Bible?

Q2: The remains of which tower stood for centuries after workers abandoned it? In Genesis 11, God is said to have seen this tower and felt that man was accomplishing too much on his own, so he confused their language.

Q3: To help create this miracle, Moses had to hold up his hands twice, on either side of the sea—once to open the sea and once to close it back up. Which sea is this?

Q4: Which Bible hero is known as the Father of the Nation of Israel, who followed God's command in Genesis 17 to create a nation in a new land?

Q5: What is the name of the Old Testament prophet, taken by God up to heaven instead of dying? And, centuries later, he appeared with Moses and Jesus at the Transformation.

Answers: Garden of Eden, Tower of Babel, The Red Sea, Abraham, Elijah

GRANNY'S THOUGHTS



Granny's Thoughts by Loius Dainese
Submitted by Tamara Maloney

St Patrick's Youth Group

Van's youth group experience

Hi, I am Van and I have been a member of St Patrick's youth choir since 2014.

Being a part of this youth group have given me an opportunity to make friends and spend time with different people who come from different ethnic backgrounds. This allows people to share and experience various aspects of different cultures within the group.

We participate in significant events with the church such as multicultural mass, Christmas Eve's youth mass and occasionally volunteer to perform for St Vincent de Paul charity dinner.

The experiences and relationship with people in the youth group make me realise that by praying and worshipping God together bring people from strangers to a group of youth that eagerly and enthusiastically participate in religious events all for the love and worship of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Van Tran

Photos are from the St Vinnies Hamper distribution day when members of the Youth Group played music and helped with carrying, loading and cleaning up.

Young people over the age of ten are welcome to join the group. Please refer to the Parish weekly newsletter for upcoming activities. Cathy is our youth group leader and you can reach Cathy on email youth.beenleigh@bne.catholic.net.au



back2school prayer

"Dear Lord, use my eyes to **see** new friends.

Open my ears to **hear** my teacher.

Open my mind to **learn** new things.

Let my heart **remember** YOU are near when I'm afraid.

Help me to **love** others like you do.

I want to **shine** your light so bright in my school."
Amen.

©Courtney DeFeo

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Back 2 school prayer by
Courtney DeFeo

World Community of Christian Meditation Australia (WCCM)

The World Community is a global and inclusive contemplative family. The roots of the World Community lie in the desert tradition of early Christianity dating back to the 4th century. In 1975 John Main, an Irish Benedictine monk (1926-1982), started the first Christian Meditation Centre in London. The first of the family of weekly meditation groups around the world began to meet then.

Bonnevaux Centre for Peace is now a meditation and retreat centre outside of Poitiers, France. It is the international home of The World Community for Christian Meditation (WCCM). Bonnevaux is a former Abbey in a former Cistercian monastery.

WCCM Australia invited groups to join a global online meditation session to pray for all who have been affected by the Australian bushfires. This included firefighters, volunteers and all who continue to work tirelessly to assist and support all those affected. Also, to pray for rain to assist firefighters and farmers who have suffered years of drought.



Many of us would have been involved or know of someone who has been affected by our devastating bushfires which continue to burn in our Eastern and Southern States. Many have lost homes, animals, and livelihood. We will pray silently for our lands which have suffered and for the recovery of flora and fauna

On **Saturday evening 11 January** an online meditation session was conducted by Bonnevaux residents. The call was answered by many groups around the world with 83 groups or individuals participating online via a conference tool. Some people arose in the middle of the night to attend. Those without technology were to offer silent prayers in their homes.

Fr Laurence Freeman lead the prayer summarizing a St Paul quote – when the health of one member is affected the whole body feels those affects. Therefore, the whole world is suffering with Australians. There is no sense of division and the body feels concerns for each other with empathy. Out of this tragedy can come wisdom and courage to face the hard job of rebuilding and peace to find solutions. We are all co-responsible in this environmental crisis. One body can grow from this tragedy. This was followed by 20 minutes of silent prayer.

Afterwards members of the online group who had firsthand stories spoke of being spared by a wind change which saved their house but lost 80% of their property. A feeling of despair was evident.

One member had created a centre piece/focal point for their group whose area had suffered fires in September. It consisted of charred wood and a piece of a green fir shoot as a sign of recovery and regrowth.

Another member told of charity group, near Gympie - Rainbow Beach Drought Runners – set up four years ago to aid struggling drought affected farmers of outback Queensland. One man with a small truck has delivered many loads of donated goods to grateful farmers. Another businessman Rainbow Beach man has donated mangoes on 2500 trees. A volunteer program was in place to pick the mangoes for delivery. These two men and countless others have answered the call of the Spirit to combine to assist those affected by drought and fire.

Denise O'Shea

The Meditation Group meets on every Monday morning at 9a.m at St Patrick's in the Truelson Room. If interested, please contact Denise O'Shea on Mobile:- 0423207662

Pope John Paul on Human Suffering

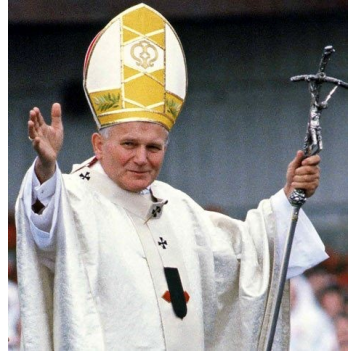
Further to Terry O'Shea's Q&A Answer on Human suffering—"There is also suffering that goes relatively unnoticed by the media and is continually with us.

The late Pope John Paul II had the following to say about Human Suffering when he visited Britain:"

Do not neglect the sick and elderly. Do not turn away from the handicapped and the dying. Do not push them to the margins of society. For if you do you will fail to understand that they represent an important truth.

The sick, the elderly, the handicapped and the dying teach us that weakness is a creative part of human living, and that suffering can be embraced with no loss of dignity. Without the presence of these people in your midst you might be tempted to believe that health, strength and power are the only important values to be pursued in life. But the wisdom and power of Christ are to be seen in the weakness of those who share in his sufferings.

Let us keep the sick and the handicapped at the centre of our lives. Let us treasure them and recognise with gratitude the debt we owe them. We begin by imagining that we are giving to them; we end by realising that they have enriched us.



Pope John Paul II was born Karol Józef Wojtyła on 18/05/1920 in Wadowice, Poland.

He became the 264th Pope of the Catholic Church, from 16/10/1978 to his death 2/04/2005. He was the second longest-serving pope in history after Pope Pius IX. He was the first non-Italian pope in 455 years. The last non-Italian pope was a Dutchman, Pope Adrian VI, who died in 1523.

He is the first ever pope to visit the White House, and a mosque. He travelled more than any other pope before him, visiting many of the countries of the world.

He is also famous for starting the annual World Youth Day. John Paul II was canonized by Pope Francis on April 27, 2014 which means that the Polish Pope is now known as Saint John Paul II.

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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.

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Anne Tracey—Our Quiet Achiever

Have you ever wondered who the person is that plays the organ, directs the Parish choir and seems to have a grip on everything that goes on during Mass? Well this article is written by her daughter Juliana Tracey:

When asked to write this article I laughed and was inclined to say no. Mum has never wanted to stand out from the crowd or be singled out.

Our family moved to Beenleigh Parish in the early 70's. As Mum was a trained pianist she stumbled into being the church organist. In those days we were in the old church with the old Harmonium at the back and the Parish Priest was dear old Fr Ainsley. To make sound come out of the organ you had to pump the bellows/pedals with your feet. I have a distinct recollection of seeing Mum pushing the pedals like mad before any sound came out.

For as long as I can remember Mum has played the organ or been doing something for St Patricks. It was a bit a joke with us kids when we were growing up. When anyone asked where Mum was, we'd always respond with "have you checked the church or the parish office".

During Fr Grace's time with the Parish he started the choir and a new electronic organ was purchased. The organ moved from the back to the front of the church. As Mum had us six children with her, I think she was a little worried what we'd get up to being now at the front. Many a stern eye was given to ensure we were well behaved.

It felt like Mum was always playing the organ for something, whether it be for Mass, Baptisms, Weddings or a Funeral. She would never say no as she enjoyed playing music but she also didn't believe any ceremony should go ahead without music.

Over her time with the Parish Mum's role has changed from being based at St Joseph's as a librarian/organist to being part of the Parish administration/organist where she selected hymns and prepared the Parish Bulletin.

In those days both had to be typed up and then run off. My sister and I would spend most Saturdays with Mum at the Presbytery helping getting them printed, sorted and ready for Saturday night Mass.

In 1989 Mum was stopped in her tracks by illness. It took ten years of practice and pure will-power to get back into shape so she could contribute once more. Getting back to playing the organ was a huge achievement for her personally.

I don't think any of us children understood why Mum put so much effort into her parish work when we were young. As adults we all now realise that for Mum this was part of her faith and not a chore but a way of contributing and enriching her faith. Playing music has always been Mum's first love and she will continue to play for as long as she can. We are all very proud of her even though we don't say it as much as we should.

Juliana Tracey, Daughter of Anne

