

# Parish Bugle



Issue 26,  
July 2020

COVID-19 had been declared as a global pandemic and countries had taken urgent measures to stem the spread of infection. I wish I could say that my first impulse has been to pray. It's probably more honest to say that I've obsessively refreshed my news feeds. The crisis is urgent, and we feel powerless. But perhaps feeling small is the best reminder to pray. Prayer is how we actively practice believing, so simply, so confidently, that God has the whole world in his hands. It's where we "let petitions and praises shape our worries into prayers, letting God know our concerns" (Phil. 4:6-7).

Many years ago a group of seminarians were gathered and their Novice Master instructed them, "Now remember, you are not allowed to chew gum while you are praying." One of the seminarians asked, "But, Father, is it okay to pray while we're chewing gum?" "Of course," the Novice Master replied, leaving them wondering just how to follow these contradictory instructions.

This story illustrates that prayer is both an activity on its own as well as a way of living out one's entire life. Prayer can be formal or informal, verbal or nonverbal, active or contemplative. Prayer is communicating with God. Just as we talk and share with our best friends what is happening in our lives, so we talk and share with God. Just as we listen to our friends, so we listen to God.

As in human communication, our communication with God can be expressed in a variety of ways. We communicate with God using words and songs, in imagination and silence, and ritually or spontaneously. We can pray in church, our gardens, our cars, or while in the shower. We can also pray lying in bed, as the first thing we do when we awake, and as the last thing we do as we drift off to sleep. One of the characteristics of prayer we as Catholics believe is that with the right intention every moment of the day—all our hopes, works, joys, and sufferings—can become our prayer. Prayer is never the last resort of God's people. It is our first point of action.

*Fr Subin Thomas*  
*Your Parish Priest*

*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 emerging.*

**ST PATRICK'S**

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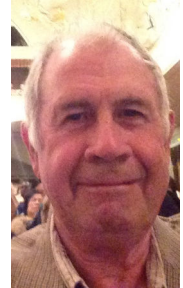
**Question:**

**If God knows everything why should we pray for our needs? Why should we pray to Mary or the Saints when we can pray directly to God?**

**Answer:**

We pray for our needs because we need to, not because God does not know our needs. God is continually inviting us to accept his gifts and his love, but we often fail to recognise this fact. Through prayer we grow increasingly conscious of his care for us and we learn to respond to his invitation. We begin to see our dependence and draw closer to him.

Our prayer shows us where we stand before God. If we simply ask for things in prayer, then we are childishly trying to use God as a slot machine. If we share our life, our feelings, our experience with him, we are setting the scene for a deep relationship based on loving trust. In such a relationship there is no need for a request, a shopping list. It's replaced by the confidence that our Heavenly Father knows what is best for us. He anticipates our prayer and takes it into account. He knows our hearts and he can unite his gifts with their real need.



Catholics can and do pray directly to God, but they also address prayers to Mary but not in the same way. Prayer to God is worship and worship can only be offered to God alone. Catholics do not worship Mary - what they do is to ask Mary to pray to Jesus for them, to intercede on our behalf. Catholics believe because of her special relationship to Jesus, Mary's intercession is particularly valuable. At the marriage feast of Cana, it was Mary who told Jesus "they have no wine" and this prompted Jesus to work his first miracle. In the same way Catholics ask her to make their needs known to Jesus.

Catholics look upon Mary as their spiritual mother, but the honour they show her does not arise from her own merits but from the special relationship she has with her son, Jesus.

Finally, the Saints – A Christian without a community is a contradiction in terms. Christians are essentially a family of believers. They become members of that family when they are baptised - and that is the original meaning of the word "saint". It simply means baptised. As time went on the word came to refer to those Christians who led lives of outstanding holiness and who were remembered and honoured after their deaths.

When Catholics talk about the "communion of saints" they are using the word "saint" in its original meaning. They mean ALL the baptised - those who are alive now and those who have departed from this world and now live on with Christ.

Death does not destroy our union with Christians who have gone before us. We remain members of one family because we all share the life of Christ. That is why Catholics feel able to ask the Saints in heaven to pray for them.

Terence O'Shea

**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](mailto: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).*

## News from our Parish Office

**Sacramental Preparation:** There will be a parent information session for the Sacrament of Confirmation on Tuesday 14 July 6:00pm & Thursday 16 July 6:00pm at the Church. Confirmation is for any Baptised child 8 years and above.

First Rite of Reconciliation will be on Wednesday 15 July 6:00pm. Parents can defer to next year's Confirmation & Reconciliation programs if they choose.

**First Holy Communion:** A date for First Holy Communion will be announced in the next month in the Parish and school newsletters & on our website. Children that have received the Sacrament of Confirmation can receive First Communion.

**Baptisms:** the sacrament of Baptism can be celebrated with maximum capacity of up to 100 people. Baptisms are on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month at 10:30am. Contact the parish office or visit the parish website for an application.

**RCIA:** Are you, or someone you know, wanting to know more about the Catholic faith? Been thinking about becoming a Catholic but never got around to doing something about it? Have you been away, and want to come back to the Church but not sure how? Have you been baptized in the Catholic or other Christian Church, but now would like to receive the Sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation as well? Contact the Parish Office for information 3287 2282.

**Reconciliation** is available by appointment until restrictions ease. Contact the Parish Priest to make an appointment by calling 3287 5168.

**Holy Mass:** If you would like to attend a Weekend Mass over the coming weeks you can make a booking in the Church Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday's 7:30am - 11:00am and Saturdays 8:30-11, or after each Mass on the weekend. **Mass times are:** Saturday Vigil 6pm, Sunday 7am, 9am & 6pm.

**The Church is open for private prayer Mon - Fri 7:30am & 11:00am & Sat 8:30am - 11:00am.**

*Peter Haack,  
Pastoral  
Assistant*

*Right: Photo  
from confirmation  
in 2017*



# Brisbane Catholic Archdiocese Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan

Over the next months, we will hear of the proposed launch of the Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP). It is purely coincidental, yet timely, that the Action Plan's development is happening at this time of "Black Lives Matter" rallies. The Action Plan development had begun in 2016 and had received conditional endorsement from Reconciliation Australia in May this year.

St. Patrick's Parish Beenleigh is to be one of the six Parishes across the Archdiocese to pilot the proposed Action Plan.

Over the decades the term "Reconciliation" between First Nation People and other Australians has been politically contentious, even volatile. Whilst we will have no actual input into the Draft Action Plan, we do have time to pause and consider what Reconciliation with First Nation's peoples means to us as individual Catholics, living in this twenty-first century.

What do we know or understand about Aboriginal beliefs, customs or spirituality? Does it extend as far as an Aboriginal Elder extending a "Welcome to Country" at the start of a major football game? Are there similarities between Aboriginal cultural traditions and Catholic Church Spiritual rituals? If so, what are they and how do we learn about them? How are we, as Catholic Christians expected to demonstrate genuine reconciliation if we have limited, narrow, even narrow-minded understanding of Indigenous Australian Aboriginality.

As we examine our consciences on such issues, we can pray that the proposed Action Plan will be enlightening, uplifting spiritually and enduring.

*Vin Russell, St Patricks Parish Council*

## NAIDOC Week



On the 4th and 5th of July we celebrated NAIDOC week at St Patrick's. Our church was beautifully decorated with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artefacts, lovely native floral arrangements and of course our flags. Big thank you to everyone who helped prepare and who helped out during the Masses.

Special thank you to Vin & Prue Russell and to Therese Flynn-Clarke for letting us display the artefacts and for sharing your knowledge. Thank you also to Fr Subin for making it all happen.

*Monica Boucek*

## Parish Council Renewal

I'm Peter Witham. I am married to Irene and we have 3 children, 2 attending Trinity College and 1 in year 6 at St Joseph's. I became a member of the St Patrick's Parish Council in early 2017. It has been a wonderful opportunity for my family and I to be involved in our Parish.

Due to being on the Parish Council, my Family have been involved in Family Mass BBQ's and Soup nights, St Patrick's Day pot-luck dinners, the Multicultural Mass, the St Vinnie's Annual Dinner and even Church cleaning. These have allowed us, a young and busy family with school and sporting demands, to be involved and contribute to Parish life.

Creating and putting on events that allow the Parish to come together is a key reason I wanted to be on the Council. It has been wonderful working with and learning from fellow Councillors. In the past 3 years the Council has established the Alpha program as an annual offering. Led by Colleen Sheehan, this program enriches our relationship with Jesus and, for some, reintroduce Jesus into our everyday.

To be a member of St Patrick's Parish Council all I needed to commit was my existing talents and a little of my time. The Council meets one evening a month for about 1 hour and work with the Parish Priest. If you have been looking for a way to be involved in the Parish, why not be a part of the Parish Council.



*Peter Witham,  
Parish Council Secretary*

Peter's article was first published in the March issue just as Covid-19 struck. As we are slowly moving towards a new normality we thought it timely to republish it and ask parishioners, who feel that they are ready to take a leadership role to consider joining the Parish Council.

Despite the restrictions brought on by the shutdown, things have been happening at the church. The gardens are being maintained by dedicated parishioners and a couple of large trees have been cut down by Tom the Tree Cutter.



### **Tom the Tree Cutter**

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### *Did you hear the one about?*

A couple who had been married for forty years were entertaining friends at a dinner party when the conversation turned to marriage counselling.

"We'll never need that", said the wife confidently. "George and I have a great relationship. You see, its all a question of education".

"What do you mean?" asked one of the friends.

"Well", she continued "at university, George did a communications course and I studied drama. So he communicates really well and I act like I'm listening".

*From Majellan Family Magazine, a Redemptorist publication*

## St Patrick's—our village

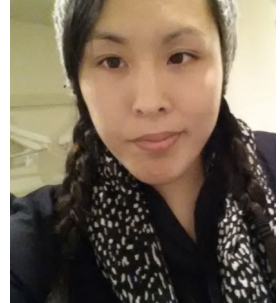
It's been an interesting last couple months to say the least, but I find it funny to think that my last little blurb was about it taking a village to raise a child, and yet here we are in the midst of a global pandemic, stuck in isolation away from said village. While I am no stranger to being stuck in isolation with the boys, as it's been pretty much my life since the boys have been here (with the exception of my extended family coming to visit every so often), I can't imagine it's been easy for everyone in our church community.

I recently had a friend add me to a mothers group chat and it was as if it had been perfectly timed. The last month the boys have decided to take things to the next level. They have decided crawling is no longer cool and to give walking a red hot go. James has almost conquered walking more than 10 steps at a time and Ollie is not far behind him. So, with this new found skill of walking it seems to have completely thrown their little brains out of whack and the idea of any sort of nap in the day has flown out the window. My one solace is talking to these ladies about my frustration that I can't have my tea hot because the boys cry their hearts out if I try to leave the jail I confine them to during the day. Having this group of women at my fingertips to talk to about baby issues has been a huge game changer for me.

We live in a world where access to our friends is at our fingertips, and we have the ability to send an email or text message with the simple click of a button. We can even attend Mass online! While it cannot replace being in the physical presence of the Lord's house, for someone like myself who can't always get to the church for mass through no fault of my own, or even someone who is elderly and unable to leave the house, having the ability to be part of Mass online is something extraordinary.

I really pray it doesn't stop once all the restrictions have lifted because if there's something that this pandemic should teach us it is that the idea of a "Village" must reach out beyond the confines of the physical space we live in. That while we may not be able to physically reach out to someone, we shouldn't feel limited because we have the ability to reach out and connect. That access to a village is just one click away.

*Erica Ng Philips*



*Mum Erica*



*Twins James & Oliver  
(in no particular order)*

### **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.*

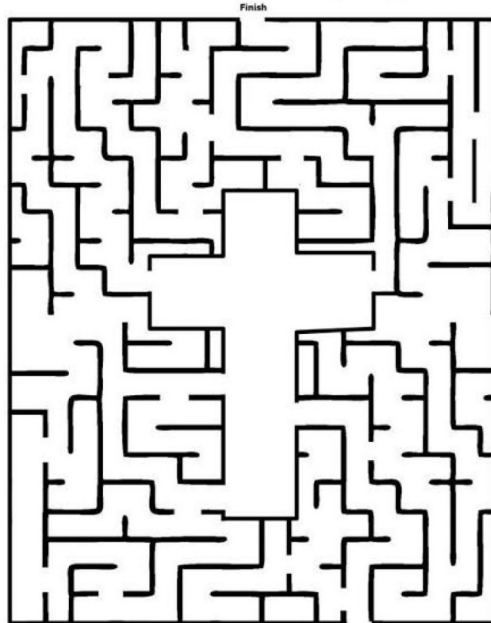
### **Bequests to the Parish**

*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.*



Cross Maze Activity Page



Submitted by  
Asha & Amala Saju

# Parish Youth Stuff

This is a short article about what the youth group have been up to over the last few months.

Before we had to close shop because of the Rona, we were meeting upstairs in the SVDP house every fortnight on a Friday evening, also having weekly band practices in the parish meeting room, and regular Youth Masses.

When the lockdown came along, we kept in contact with each other via our Messenger chat group, and then started weekly Zoom meetings. This was good as a means of communication, but we really missed actually being gathered together in person.

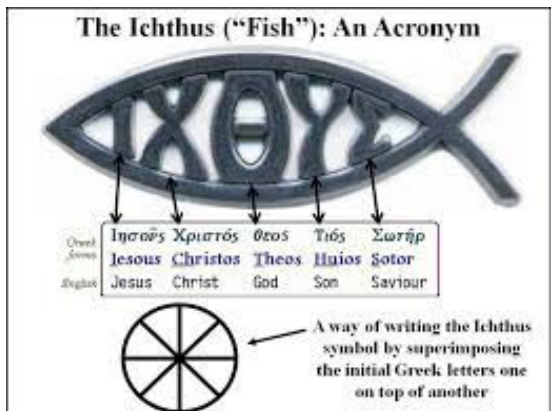
...then, at last, we were able to meet again. So, last Friday, June 19<sup>th</sup>, we gathered in the Truelson room, where it was a little easier to spread out. It was wonderful to see each other again face to face, although the social distancing regulations made it a little less homely. Even so, we had a great night, with lots of laughter, fun games, and some serious (and not so serious) discussion.

We're not back to our regular band practices yet, as the regulations stipulate that if you're singing you need to keep even further apart! We have however, been able to provide music for the last 2 Sunday evening Masses, which we enjoyed very much. Our band members have a passion and love for ministering to our parish community in music and song, especially when we're praising God at the same time!

So, for now, we will continue meeting in the Truelson room from 6pm till 9pm every 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> (and 5<sup>th</sup>) Friday until the restrictions are eased further. We are always very happy to welcome newcomers, so please let me know if you'd like to join us. You just need to be aged somewhere between 10 and 30. My phone number is 0400 494 943 for anyone who would like to know any details about youth ministry in our parish.

Thanks and God bless,

*Cathy Korzeniewski, Youth Leader*



<https://brettfish.files.wordpress.com/2015/01/ichthus.jpg>



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## Our Schools

As we come to the end of the first semester, who would have thought as we began 2020 that the world would be in this current situation. Term 2 has been unique like no other and one that we could never have envisaged. It has been a term where resilience, innovation, collaboration, patience and creative thinking were crucial as we moved to an online environment to enable learning to continue. We may not have always got it right, but the way our staff took all this on board along with the students and parents has been remarkable.

This term, new norms became routine and phrases such as 'social distancing' a normal part of our vocabulary. Some of us have been able to spend quality time with our families while others are still very isolated. We keep in our prayers members of our community who are separated due to the COVID-19 travel restrictions or due to employment. We pray too for those who are suffering financial difficulty and those who have lost their jobs.



*Maree Wright—  
APRE St Joseph's*

Whilst this term we couldn't gather for Masses, liturgies, assemblies or other gatherings, we have endeavoured at St Joseph's to keep the religious life of the school alive using different mediums. We celebrated Easter, ANZAC Day, Mother's Day, National Reconciliation Week and Pentecost through the Office 365 tools of Sway and Teams. We streamed staff prayer for those staff members who couldn't be with us and our classes tuned into Mass from the Cathedral or Burleigh Heads Parish each week. The following prayer was shared on the last day of term by one of our teachers which perhaps sums up the term.

*Maree Wright, APRE - St Joseph's Tobruk Memorial School*

Loving God,

We thank you Lord, for this term. For the challenges, the successes and the mistakes from which we have learnt. Be with us as we spend our time with family and friends. Give us strength and courage to do what is right; to be witnesses to our faith. Help us to appreciate what others do for us, to give time and effort to help others, to be peacemakers in our family. Bring us back refreshed and ready for the new norm. We thank you for our students, colleagues and the Joey's community that holds us all together. Amen.



### **Mother Teresa School**

**Principal:** Leigh Mirto

**Assistant Principal Religious Education:** Ben Torenbeek

**Phone:** (07) 5549 5000

**Email:** pormeau@  
bne.catholic.edu.au

### **St Joseph's Tobruk School**

**Principal:** Tony Barron

**Assistant Principal Religious Education:** Maree Wright

**Phone:** (07) 3287 2798

**Email:** pbeenleigh@  
bne.catholic.edu.au

### **Trinity College**

**Principal:** Chris Raju

**Assistant Principal Religious Education:** Nancy Rodgers

**Phone:** (07) 3442 5222

**Email:** sbeenleigh@  
bne.catholic.edu.au

# St Vincent De Paul Society

## ST PATRICK'S CONFERENCE, BEENLEIGH

Statistics for the period 23-03-20 to 30-06-20:

Due to Corona Virus restriction regulations, our conference has been closed for normal call center operations from Friday, 20 March.

Due to the age of our members and distancing requirements, the decision was made to operate in a different manner. Anyone needing assistance in our area calls the Vinnies Helpline. All details are noted and the referral is sent to us. We contact the person by telephone and establish the circumstances and details of their request. If food is needed we then drop off some Coles or Aldi gift cards into the person's letter box.



This is a brief summary of assistance provided since we closed the house in March:

Total Number of Contacts - 145

Total Number of people assisted - 344

Single - 237, Partnered - 44 Single, Single with children - 63

Total Value of assistance provided: \$12 983.95

Still a great effort despite the trying circumstances!

### Vinnies Fund-Raising Dinner

Usually held at the end of July, the dinner has been cancelled. We are hoping that an alternative function can be organized for later in the year or early in 2021.

### Vinnies House

Due to Workplace Health and Safety regulations, we are no longer allowed to operate from the upstairs area of the house. We hope that some alternative accommodation for our conference can be found in the not too distant future.

### Winter Appeal

At this stage we have not received any advice for a Vinnies Winter Appeal in 2020 usually held in June. We could certainly use the money to assist those in need.

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# Queensland Community Alliance

I along with four other Parishioners recently attended a Zoom Meeting with the Queensland Community Alliance. With amazing technology 75 people gathered via their computers or Smart phones.

We all came together as part of the Queensland Community Alliance which is an Organisation that engages in broad based community organising, which means that we bring together a wide range of civil society organisations, which includes faith groups, labour, education, immigrant and other civil sector institutions that are essential to a vibrant democratic society. We work together for the common good. We work on issues that are deeply and widely felt in the community, and then train and support leaders to work together to build power and solve their own problems.



I have been a member of the Alliance now for 4 years and during that time I have witnessed the Alliance growing stronger and stronger with some great outcomes being achieved. Some of the QCA activities I have been involved in was winning funding for better public transport in Logan and fighting for community-based maternity hubs in Logan that have a continuity of care.

The Alliance continues to listen to community and faith groups and gather stories about their concerns. After listening to hundreds of stories from people from all walks of life in the Logan areas the following themes emerged:

- Safe and connected Communities
- Real Jobs for a Real Future (which brings together jobs and climate action)

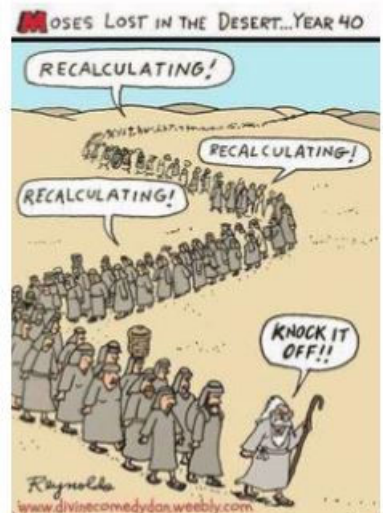
It was with these themes in mind that the Alliance came together in a Zoom Meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> June at 6.30pm to decide on what course of action we would take to achieve the desired outcomes.

By the end of the night we had achieved the forming of action groups who would be involved in further research and others taking action through meetings with local council members and also meeting with Federal and State members.

It was agreed upon that the smaller action groups would have a number of meetings before coming together again in a large group at 6.30pm on 9<sup>th</sup> July on Zoom. The Alliance is expecting another large turnout with local council and state leaders being invited to attend and listen to our issues.

If you are interested in knowing more about the Alliance please contact the Parish office for further details.

*Marian Ward  
St Patrick's Beenleigh*



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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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*An Outreach of the Catholic Church*

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## DEDICATED PARISHIONER—FAY O'TOOLE

By way of introduction, this is how Fay summarizes her involvement with St Vincent de Paul Society here in Beenleigh:

"In 1988 Frances Schmidt spoke at church asking for volunteers to work in the phone room at our parish St Patrick's SVDP conference call center. I said to myself 'I could do that' and here I am, 32 years later, still here.

Many things have changed over the years mainly due to the state of the economy. Young couples both now have to work to make ends meet, which affects our membership and we are now unable to do as many home visits as we once did.

However, we still have a team of willing, committed members and I believe we are able to do a lot to help those in need.

I do love working with the people we serve and have made so many wonderful, supportive friends over the years."

In 1952 Fay married "my airline pilot husband Bryan". They lived in Melbourne and they were both involved with voluntary work- Bryan joined a St Vincent de Paul conference (all men in those days) and Fay volunteered her services through the Catholic Church or the schools their five children attended in Melbourne and then in Brisbane. They moved to Queensland and joined St Patrick's Parish in 1983 and have been a part of our community for 37 or so years. Sadly Bryan passed away in January 2017.

During her years as a member of our conference, Fay has served 3 full terms as president and this year is president for a fourth time as no one was willing to take on the role. She has been Vice President, Treasurer, Regional President of the Albert/Logan region and training officer for the Society travelling to other parts of Queensland conducting training seminars.

She has shown great leadership, compassion, generosity and love for those in need.

Fay has been an active member of St Patrick's Parish. She has willingly fulfilled numerous roles within our Parish Community- Special Minister, Pastoral Council member, counter, Parish banking etc., etc.

Is it any wonder therefore, that in 2016 her tireless efforts were recognized by Logan City Council when she was named CITIZEN OF THE YEAR?



We thank Fay for her years of involvement in our Parish and declare her the

**2020 PARISHIONER OF THE YEAR**

*John Maksimas*