

Parish Bugle



Issue 29,
January, 2021

Celebrations of special days are important. They symbolise for us the things that unite us as human beings. They are markers that help to define who we are and what we hold dear. They are part of the glue that binds a society together. It is therefore very important that at the national day of celebration we come together as a nation to celebrate Australia and being Australian.

Australia Day is the official national day of Australia. Australia Day is for all Australians; no matter where we're originally from and for me it felt overwhelmingly inclusive. Australia Day is, of course, each year on 26 January and celebrates the arrival of the First Fleet of British on Australian soil. It's a day of both pride and pain: there's so much to celebrate about Australia – but for many, "Australia Day" is a difficult day.

The conversation about Australia Day can get fired up, divisive and accusatory. But the further apart we get – the less likely we are to reach an outcome. Now, more than ever, it's important that we listen to one another, that we're informed about the facts, and that we seek to find a shared identity that includes all Australians, whether their ancestry reaches back tens of thousands of years, a hundred years, or they've just arrived.

Australia Day is also an opportunity to celebrate our cultural diversity and rich migrant heritage which is very much part of our unique Australian identity. This diversity shines on Australia Day and is celebrated and respected in myriads of ways. Our national day is a time, above all, for inclusion and respect.

Let's celebrate all the great things about Australia. For example, our people, land, diversity, sense of a fair go, lifestyle, democracy and the freedoms we all enjoy. Australia Day is a day to reflect on our national journey: acknowledge our past, rejoice in the present and look confidently to our future. On Australia Day let's recommit to making Australia an even better place.

Fr Subin Thomas, Your Parish Priest

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



**HAPPY
AUSTRALIA
DAY!**



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Q & A: Has science made religion unnecessary? Is it now Science and/or Religion?

'Science without religion is lame'. - 'Religion without science is blind'. Albert Einstein

Answer: Physicist Stephen Hawking suggested as much in an interview with the ABC back in 2010 when he said that Science has made God unnecessary and that Science will win over religion in the end. If it was a numbers game there is no contest, as more than 75% of the world's population claim adherence to one religion or another - people do not look to Science for their spiritual needs. They have voted with their feet to Mr Hawking's suggestion; they are dissatisfied with the idea that the world and everything around it, is here by "chance".

Many people do not realise it was Christian, Islamic and Confucian scholars who pioneered much of the early scientific work on which later scientists were able to build. Universities were set up by religious groups and education in Natural Philosophy, as Science was previously known, was greatly encouraged by church authorities. Even the word Religion is comparatively new to our vocabulary - in Hebrew for example there is no word for it - it is simply 'the Law'.

It was the churches who began the whole concept of the study of Science as we know it today. To suggest that one will displace the other is a whimsical notion not shared by most people.

Whilst Science has greatly increased our longevity, decreased our workload, improved our health, and a myriad other temporal and physical benefits it has not and cannot answer age old questions like "why am I here"? For all the powers of Science we are still plagued by war, pandemics, famines, and catastrophes. For every question that is answered a thousand others instantly spring up like Hydras Teeth. We should not expect anything else from such a discipline, because, after all its limited by man's vision.

Whilst there has been conflict between the two - witness the Galileo and Darwin trials for starters - these have been the exception rather than the rule. There need never be any opposition between science and religion. They are both concerned with same reality, but they ask different questions about it. Science asks the question 'what'? Religion asks the question 'why'?

In the past, some people thought that if you asked the question 'what' long enough, the question 'why' would go away. Science was simply a matter of making observations and measurements about the material world and it would only be a matter of time before everything was 'explained'. Einstein's theory of relativity shattered that view of science. Today scientists are much more wary about the claims they make. They are even questioning whether absolutely objective explanations are possible at all. Physicist Nils Bohr has said 'Physics is not an endeavour to discover how nature is but an endeavour to discover what we can say about it'.

This conflict thesis between religion and science is a relatively new phenomenon and in our time it has seen people like Richard Dawkins, Christopher Hitchens, Donald Prothero et al openly attack religious belief and do their utmost to discredit it.

However, today contemporary historians have moved away from this position with the resolution of the Galileo question due to more historical research showing the Church in a more favourable light and Darwin's theory being accepted by mainstream churches.

Quantum mechanics upon which much of the technical world now depends, is barely understood, even by its practitioners. First suggested by Bohr and doubted by Einstein, this branch of science is mysterious and confusing even to the finest minds on the planet. Far from coming up with neat and tidy explanations of the universe, modern scientists are faced more and more with its mystery. This is reflected in the language they use in which the logic of common sense is often turned upside down.

Today many people including some scientists believe that religion and science are moving closer together from their previous rift and may be mutually helpful to each other. For those who are interested in Quantum Mechanics, the TV series 'The Fabric of the Cosmos' might be helpful. There are several topics covered in the series, all of them interesting. YouTube has at least three including Quantum Leap.

Some Credit to Redemptorist Publications, Alphonsus House, Chawton, Alton, Hants, England & Wikipedia

Parish news

At the last Parish Council meeting of 2020 retiring members John Maksimas, Ken Maloney, Vin Russell and Peter Witham were given a warm thank you by Fr Subin for their years of devoted service.

New parish council members are Helen Bradford, Robert Collins, Meryline Croker-Falani, Troy Grindrod, Margaret Harburg and Mary Se. Remaining members are Monica Boucek, Denise O'Shea, Colleen Sheehan and Michael Zarate. Father thanked new and remaining members for taking up this important task in our parish.



Monica Boucek
Council Deputy
Chairperson, R.A.P group,
Bugle Editor and Choir



Helen Bradford
Meditation Group, SVDP
Conference



Robert Collins
Vinnies Volunteer,
Collection Counter



**Meryline
Croker-Falani**
Parish Council Member



Troy Grindrod
Parish Council Secretary



Margaret Harburg
Church Cleaner,
Collection Counter



Denise O'Shea
Meditation Group



Mary Se
St. Patrick's Youth
Ministry (SPYM)



Colleen Sheehan
Meditation Group,
Eucharistic Minister



Michael Zarate
Parish Council
Chairperson, Choir

Heavenly Father

You have chosen us to be Your beloved people, and gathered us to live in this parish. Be pleased with all our efforts to love You and serve You in word, worship, and work.

Give Your blessings to these members of our parish council, let them be pleasing to You.

Guide their activities by the light of Your Spirit, and help them to work for Your honour and glory and for the benefit of all Your people.

Father, we praise Your Name for ever and ever. Amen.

Blessing of Parish Council. (catholicdoors.com)



Christmas Raffle

Despite the challenges presented by Covid-19, Colleen Clune managed to run the traditional Christmas Raffle. Thank you very much to Colleen, her helpers and the parishioners who supported her by buying tickets. Also, congratulations to the winners.

The picture, left, shows a very happy Victoria Shutter & her baby Isabella - Winner of the St Patricks Christmas Raffle 2020 receiving her patchwork quilts from Colleen Clune.

Christmas at St Patrick's

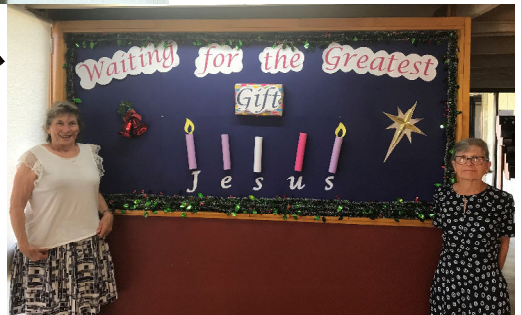
After Christmas Fr Subin thanked our congregation for their participation and their effort to assure a joyful Christmas church celebration.

From us in return we thank you Fr Subin for your beautiful homilies, making our Christmas lovely and very holy.

Your devotion to our Parish by providing us with the extra Mass service, making sure that no one missed the chance to attend a Mass and celebrate the welcoming of our saviour Jesus Christ and also for always making sure to protect and keep us safe around the church.

May God bless you Fr Subin and keep you healthy to serve your church and most of all to serve the Lord Almighty.

Marleine Azar



Christmas is peace, love



• NORMA McGovern.

CHRISTMAS is for many people a wonderful time of family reunion and gift giving. For many others including the lonely, the unemployed and homeless it is a dreary period when possibly they recall better times.

For refugees it is a mix of happy times and yearning for places and people left behind.

For others it is a time of trying to ease some of the pain by committing charitable acts attempting to spread some comfort to those in need.

The little baby born in Bethlehem was born in poverty.

His parents were refugees and he spent his life spreading a message of love and hope.

We need to act out this message by spreading these gifts whenever and wherever we can.

We can enjoy Christmas in our own way but need to remember the true meaning of Christmas, which is peace and love.

A happy and holy Christmas to all.

Norma McGovern

This article was written by one of our treasured but now deceased parishioners, Norma McGovern. Norma and her husband Laurie were very active in the Beenleigh Parish and in the wider community. They were members of the Beenleigh Historical Society and Laurie contributed many articles on the history of Beenleigh.

I contacted a few people who I thought might remember Norma and there were many fond memories. Norma was a trained nurse and for many years assisted Dr Ian Robinson with the free vaccination of our school children.

She was a valued member of the Liturgy Committee and she prepared the floral decorations for the altar on a regular basis. Anne Tracey recalls that her special liturgical arrangements for the themes for Lent and Easter were like "still life paintings". I still remember the very old pitcher and basin she loaned to the parish for the washing of the feet ceremony on Holy Thursday - they looked as if they'd come from the pages of an illustrated bible!

Allan and Anna Battle spoke of her enjoyment in participating in the parish choir and her support for the parish priests. Anna mentioned that Norma was a regular contributor to Paddy's Press, the forerunner of the Bugle. Cathy Korzeniewski remembers her mother Muriel Fields being warmly welcomed into the parish community by Norma when she first arrived with her young family. With her nursing training, Norma was very involved in helping some people with their post-operative recovery.

ANNE ERBACHER

The newspaper clipping came from *Beenleigh & Districts Chronicle*, Tuesday, December 12, 2000.



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Family Scribbles

Before 2020 came to an end I did a thing. I shaved my head. That's right... I took the pair of clippers I'd used the day before on my sons' hair and shaved my entire head. Short. Like, real short. The only regret I have is not having used dad's amazing vacuum attachment - he is a smart man, and now I look so much more like him!

I was just over my hair. In all honesty, I have never enjoyed my hair. I hated it over my face. It got greasy very quickly. Took too long to dry. I could never get it to sit the way I wanted, and since having kids was profusely moulting and I only ever wore it up in a bun, away from the prying slobbery fingers of babies who took far too much pleasure in pulling hair.

The breaking point was seeing a picture of myself with one of my boys at a Christmas party. It was a really lovely photo, but my hair was a disaster. So to the clippers I went.

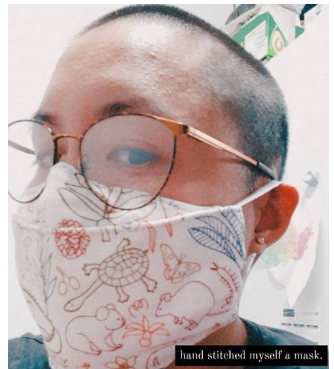
As I watched section by section of my long black hair fall to the floor of my bathroom and felt the weight on my head become lighter and lighter. I thought about how this was symbolic of me letting go of the year that was coming to a close.

2020 has been a tough year on all of us. It reared it's ugly head from underneath the rug where we usually sweep everything we don't want to acknowledge, and stared us down. Black lives matter, the failing US democratic system, climate change, public health, mental health, the list goes on and on. Much like my hair, these are things we just could no longer ignore by tossing up into a bun. Drastic change needed taking.

While we cannot control the world, we can control ourselves and our actions. We can make small individual changes that will make the world of difference. Jesus didn't change the world in a day. He didn't even really change things in his lifetime, but his actions had an impact so profound that it changed the course of history.

So this year, I suggest we move forward but instead of trying to change the world that we chip away at small goals. Like doing our part by reducing, reusing and recycling. Read and listen to the real history of this country as told by the Traditional Custodians of this land. Stop doomscrolling and for a moment turn the phone off so we can be present in the happenings in front of our eyes and not the crafted lifestyle on our screens. It won't change things immediately but over time it can have a big impact and change the course of history. If all else fails, you can always shave your head, because it's just hair and it'll grow back anyway.

Erica Ng Philipps



*The new Erica, with hand-stitched mask,
So much like her dad, Pipó*



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The Year of St Joseph

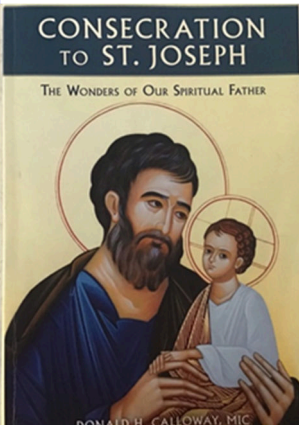
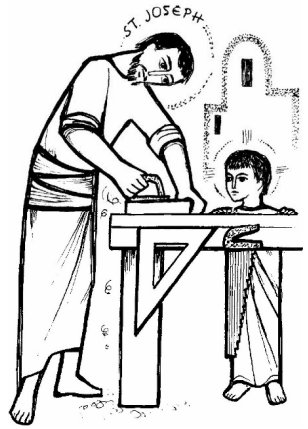
What do you know about the Year of St Joseph and what do you know about St Joseph?

Pope Francis recently announced that this is the year of St Joseph. What does that mean for you? Plenary indulgences for the usual things like Mass and reconciliation, praying the Rosary for the Holy Father's intention. This is particularly applicable on the Solemnity of Saint Joseph on 19th March.

Another way to obtain indulgences throughout the year is to meditate for 30 minutes on the 'Our Father' or taking part in a spiritual retreat of at least one day which includes a meditation on St Joseph. Those who perform a corporal or spiritual work of mercy will also be able to obtain a plenary indulgence. Reciting the litany of St Joseph and entrusting one's daily activities and prayers to St Joseph also brings to you plenary indulgences.

What do you know about Saint Joseph? Most of us know him as a man of very few (if any) words. We know that he was married to Mary and their relationship was a loving chaste marriage. We know that he happily adopted Jesus as his son, and raised him as his own. We know that God spoke to him in his dreams and he was obedient to God.

We don't know how old he was, but then there is some thought that he was only a few years older than Mary and not an old man as most of us were taught. We don't know when he died, but we know that Mary and Jesus were with him to lovingly help him to eternal life. He is our Spiritual Father.



Fr Donald H Calloway, MIC has produced a wonderful book called CONSECRATION TO ST. JOSEPH.

This book contains daily meditations based on the Litany to St Joseph and stories of the Wonders of St Joseph, as well as prayers asking St Joseph to help us in our daily life. It is available from Amazon.com.au, St Paul's online bookstore and Parousiamedia.com

Do yourself a favour and get a copy of this book. Why not purchase a copy for a male member of your family. After all St Joseph is the patron saint of families.

It is also recommended that you place a statue of St Joseph in a prominent place in your house. GO TO ST JOSEPH.

Helen Bradford

St Joseph,


I consecrate myself to your honour, and give myself to you today. That you may always be my father, my protector and my guide in the way of salvation. Please obtain for me a greater purity of heart and a fervent love of the interior life. After your example, may I do all my actions for the greater Glory of God, in union with the divine heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Dear St Joseph, please pray for me, that I may share in the peace and joy of your Holy Death. Amen


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Many Thanks

Congratulations St Patrick's!

Together, we have managed to continue our sponsorship of seven children through Destiny Rescue for another year. The cost of sponsorship is \$48 per month per child, which totals over \$4,000 for the year!

Thank you, thank you, thank you to all of you who have faithfully collected your change in the Silver SACs to donate it time after time. You have helped change the lives of these children from one of misery to one of hope and fulfilment. I am so grateful.

Unfortunately, the donations through our Silver SAC program have been decreasing a bit for a while, so we needed to come up with some new ideas to raise some more funds, or we would have had to decrease our sponsorship. I really didn't want to do that, because I believe so strongly in what is achieved through Destiny Rescue for these children. But thanks to the ingenuity and efforts of people like Patricia, Clare, Anna, Mary, Barry, and members of my own family, we are still ok.

I would also like to thank the youth families and other parishioners for your donations of goods and money which enabled us to make up 13 Christmas child shoeboxes (including delivery costs) and over 20 toiletries packs for homeless people in our area.

On behalf of all those whose lives have been changed for the better through the generosity of so many of our parishioners ... thank you and may God bless you abundantly!!!

Cathy



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.

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My New Year's Resolutions!

This year I really want to:

I really need to:

I want to be better at:

I want to learn how to:

Signed: _____

PIC•COLLAGE

Science Quiz:

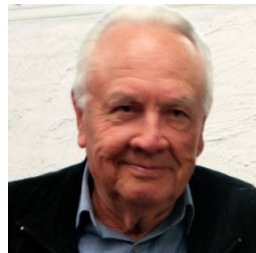
- True or false? Sound travels faster through water than air?
- Water is made up of what two elements?
- The solid state of water is known as what?
- Does water cover more or less than 50% of the Earth's surface?
- When water is cooled, does it contract or expand?
- The deepest point in all of the world's oceans is named what?

Answers: True, Hydrogen & Oxygen, Ice, More, Expand, Mariana Trench



St Vincent De Paul Society—St Patrick's Conference Beenleigh

In this issue of The Bugle, I would like to share with you some of the underlying principles under which the Society operates in its efforts to help those in need. I do this in the hope that it resonates with some of our wonderful parishioners and as a result we may be able to entice some of you to consider joining our wonderful organisation.



The Society is Catholic

The Society is part of the Church in its apostolic work. We are reminded that “whenever we approach any suffering person, help alleviate their suffering, and put balm on the wounds inflicted by life, we claim nothing else than to bring Christ and his Church’s message of love.”

Spirituality- A sense of vocation.

“Vincentians hope that through their caring, the poor may catch a glimpse of God’s great love for them.” “Vincentians are called to journey together towards holiness because holiness is perfect union with Christ and the perfection of of love, which is central to their vocation.”

The Society supports ecumenism.

Vincentians cooperate “when appropriate” with other Churches and charities in an effort to help people in need and “accept the call to ecumenical and interfaith dialogue.”

The Society welcomes as members people of other faiths.

The Society welcomes as members people of other faiths who sincerely respect and accept its identity and its principles.

Social Justice.

Members affirm the dignity of each human being as created in God’s image and Jesus’ particular identification with those who are excluded by society.

Eligibility to become a member.

Anyone who wishes to live their faith serving the poor is welcome to join the Society.

Ways we serve and relate to the poor, our companions.

Members are reminded to seek out the poor, to serve anyone in need without making distinctions, to listen and seek to understand the poor and help them to help themselves whenever possible.

Conference Activities

This is a brief summary of assistance provided during December’20 and January’21:

Christmas Hampers.

Despite COVID 19 restrictions, we still managed to provide more than 50 Hampers to those in need. This was achieved with the generous assistance of our Parishioners through the Christmas Giving Tree and financial donations from Trinity College, St Joseph’s Primary and Mother Teresa Primary schools.

Thankyou to everyone!

Food costs for December - \$4056.74

Food costs so far in January- \$1353.00

Our finances are stretched more than usual at this time of year because of the number of people asking for help with Education Expenses - School Uniforms as well as books and stationery. Like everyone else we cannot be sure what 2021 will bring but we shall continue to offer assistance with food, clothing etc. whenever we are able.

John Maksimas

Work in isolated Aboriginal communities

The following article is based on memories, thoughts and experiences of having lived in and worked with Aboriginal communities in isolated and remote outback Western Australia for 12 years.

Over time, we became increasingly aware of the similarities and connections between Catholic rites and Aboriginal spiritual traditions- traditions which are over maybe 60,000 years old.

Some of the more obvious similarities are: the use of fire. At the Easter vigil the priest lights the Easter fire from which the Paschal candle is lit and carried into a darkened church. It is a solemn occasion, recalling the Resurrection of Jesus. Aboriginal people use fire to burn off old vegetation and encourage new growth to regenerate. The connection seems quite apparent.

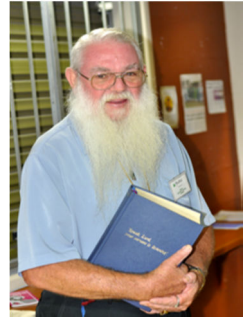
In the Catholic tradition the Liturgical year has specific colours of the chasuble which the priest wears. Some of the other vestments such as the cincture, amice and stole, all have a symbolic purpose. In Aboriginal culture, the lawmen paint their bodies in the particular colour of ochre. Other painted body parts, using dots, lines or whole handprints have various levels of significance. Some might only be the same as one of us putting on special party clothes for a special celebration. Many Aboriginal Nations have their elders wearing various styles of unique headdress, with various names. There is the ngumuru - a tall cone like headdress or the more well-known dari worn by people from the Torres Strait Islands. In our Catholic tradition, our Bishops and Archbishops wear a tall headdress - the mitre. In past years, at their Papal Ordinations, the Pope have worn the three tiered Papal Tiara.

The use of Smoke is a further common similarity between Aboriginal tradition and Catholic ritual. When an Aboriginal person dies, their dwelling is smoked. An elder will carry a container with fragrant smoking leaves throughout each part of the dwelling, as a symbol of cleansing and purification. At a Catholic Requiem Mass the priest slowly moves around the coffin with the smoking thurible as a symbol of cleansing the soul of the departed ascending heavenward.

In the year 2000-the Jubilee Year, my aboriginal students had the honour to perform the Penitential Rite for the Jubilee Mass held in the Geraldton Cathedral. They entered the Cathedral through the Jubilee Doorway which was covered in an archway of painted Aboriginal designs decorated by a Yamatji elder, who was my students' art teacher. With boys playing didgeridoo, girls slowly processing in with waving sprigs of gum leaves and one meticulously painted boy slowly walking down the nave wafting a smoking coolamon from side to side. It was a beautiful, yet spiritually solemn part of the Mass.

In future editions of the Bugle, I may possibly relay further memories of our time living and working with and in Aboriginal Communities.

Vin Russell—RAP



Vin Russell is a retired Catholic Primary School Principal, who spent 12 years working in remote and isolated aboriginal communities in Western Australia. He has been a Parish Councillor (2014-2020), a member of the Sacramental Team, Eucharistic Minister and a Reader.

Vin is a champion of the Aboriginal Reconciliation Action Plan implementation at St Patrick's and his experience and wisdom has made him an invaluable member of the team.





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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.

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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

Funerals with Faith

World Day of Prayer 2021

This year the World Day of Prayer 2021 host country is Vanuatu and the theme is "Build on a Strong Foundation".

The WDP service will be held at Bethania Lutheran Church, 5 Church Road, Bethania on Friday 5th March at 10:30am. St Patrick's is responsible for the Entrance procession, so please feel free to come and join us. Hope to see you all there.

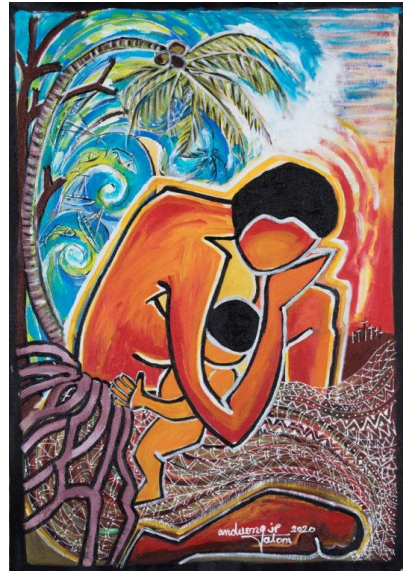
Marian Ward (on behalf of St Patrick's WDP committee)

The theme invites us to focus on the Bible story in Matthew 7:24-27. Jesus tells about the kingdom of heaven using the image of a house and the land on which the house is built.

Choosing the land on which to build the house is an important decision for people in Vanuatu. The combination of considering the terrain and the climate is crucial in a tropical archipelago located in the South Pacific Ocean prone to earthquakes, cyclones, volcanic eruptions and rising sea levels.

Vanuatu's susceptibility to cyclones is highlighted in the painting chosen to represent WDP 2021, titled "Cyclone Pam II: 13th of March, 2015". It shows a mother bending and praying over her child. The waves crash over her but a palm tree bends protectively over them. The woman's skirt is modelled after the traditional clothing on Erromango. On the horizon you can see small crosses representing the lives taken by cyclone Pam in 2015.

The artist, Juliette Pita, born in 1964 on Erromango Island, is currently the most well-known artist in Vanuatu. Her talent was discovered early on. She was the first woman to graduate from the Institut National de Technologie du Vanuatu (INTV).



Cyclone Pam II: 13th of March, 2015
Artist: Juliette Pita



By wisdom a house is built, and through understanding it is established"
(Proverbs 24:3)