

Parish Bugle



Issue 37,
July, 2022

God has given every human being freedom of choice. This does not mean that we have the right to do whatever we please. Our conscience is the inner voice that helps us to know the law God has placed in our hearts. Our conscience helps us to judge the moral qualities of our own actions. It guides us to do good and avoid evil. We form our conscience by studying the teachings of the Church and following the guidance of our parents and pastoral leaders.

The Holy Spirit can help us to form a good conscience. We can live in true freedom if we cooperate with the Holy Spirit, who gives us the virtue of prudence. This virtue helps us to recognize what is good in every situation and to make correct choices.

How do we form, educate and guide our consciences? Catholics believe that “the education of conscience is a lifelong task.” (CCC, No. 1784) Our living tradition teaches us that “In the formation of conscience the Word of God is the light for our path; we must assimilate it in faith and prayer and put it into practice. We must also examine our conscience before the Lord’s Cross”.

As participants in the life of the civil community, we Catholic citizens try to follow our consciences, guided by reason and the grace of God. While we deeply respect the freedom of our fellow citizens, we nevertheless are profoundly convinced that free will cannot be cited as justification for society to allow moral choices that strike at the most fundamental rights of others. Such a choice is abortion, which constitutes the taking of innocent human life, and cannot be justified by any Catholic notion of freedom. May the gift of counsel help us to make correct choices in life!

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.

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What is the Church's position on Abortion?

With the recent overturning of the precedent-setting Wade vs Roe case in the US Supreme Court, questions have been asked as to what position the Catholic Church will now adopt.

Answer

“Since the first century the Church has affirmed the moral evil of every procured abortion. This teaching has not changed and remains unchangeable. Direct abortion, that is to say, abortion willed as an end or a means, is gravely contrary to the moral law.” (CCC 2271)

Abortion is now decriminalised in all states of Australia. However, although abortions can be obtained legally, the Catholic Church works from the premise that human life ‘must be respected and protected absolutely from the moment of conception. From the first moment of existence, a human being must be recognised as having the rights of a person-among which is the inviolable right of every innocent being to life’ (CCC 2270).

Too often women report being pressured by their circumstances into having an abortion: they feel they have no other option. Some women will also say that they have the right to determine what happens to their own body. However, the rights of the unborn child who cannot advocate for himself/herself, must be considered. Similarly, due consideration should also be given to the father's role in the life of the unborn child.

“The inalienable rights of the person must be recognised and respected by civil society and the political authority. These human rights depend neither on single individuals nor on parents; nor do they represent a concession made by society and the state; they belong to human nature and are inherent in the person by virtue of the creative act from which the person took his origin. Among such fundamental rights one should mention in this regard every human being's right to life and physical integrity from the moment of conception until death.

The moment a positive law deprives a category of human beings of the protection which civil legislation ought to accord them, the state is denying the equality of all before the law. When the state does not place its power at the service of the rights of each citizen, and in particular of the more vulnerable, the very foundations of a state based on law are undermined..... As a consequence of the respect and protection which must be ensured for the unborn child from the moment of conception, the law must provide appropriate penal sanctions for every deliberate violation of the child's rights” (CCC2273). *Terry O'Shea*

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.

First Communion & Family Mass



The Family Mass on 19th June was a memorable occasion for the 25 young people receiving their First Communion. They looked marvellous in beautiful dresses and handsome suits. The teachers, parents and family looked very proud and happy and the youngsters were very excited.

Fr Subin in his homily said to the children "This is the happiest day because you are receiving the biggest celebrity, Jesus our God and Saviour, as guest of honour into your hearts and lives, for the first time, in Holy Communion. It means somebody very, very big is coming to stay with you, bless you, protect you and guide you."

The church was beautifully decorated and filled to the last seat by family and friends and regular parishioners where they fitted in.

After the Mass there was a celebration with a special cake, sausage sizzle and lots of sweets and other refreshments served on the new lush lawns in glorious sunshine.

Thank you Fr Subin, the Families, the Sacramental program team and the schools for a wonderful effort. Thanks also to parish council members and parishioners for helping to make this a memorable occasion.

Monica Boucek, inside church photos Mary Se





Spirits of the Red Sands Outing

Forty four St Patrick's parishioners and St Joseph's school staff members attended the Spirits of the Red Sands outing, organised by the St Patrick's RAP Group on the 25th of June.

Attendees were treated to a multi-media and multi-sensory 'roving' theatre experience through the Beenleigh Historical Village of the collision between the Aboriginal and British worlds during colonisation in Beenleigh in the 1800's.

The evening ended with a beautiful bush foods inspired three course meal and invitation for further reflection of how this history in Beenleigh influences our feelings and thoughts today and how we can work together for reconciliation in our community and Country

Fiona Rowe-Minniss

Thank you Fiona for all the effort involved in organising such a great combined parish and school event.

Pictures below: Attendees meeting a new friend, an Eastern Coastal Python! Troy and Jean Grindrod (St Patrick's Parish Council) and Philippa Burns (St Joseph's School)



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The Pope—Solemnity of Pentecost



Solemnity of Pentecost, Pope Francis in his homily “how to distinguish the voice of the Holy Spirit from “the voice of the spirit of evil.”

The pope provided examples of how to recognize the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, who “at every crossroads in our lives suggests to us the best path to follow.”

“The Holy Spirit will never tell you that on your journey everything is going just fine. ... No, he corrects you; makes you weep for your sins; pushes you to change, to fight against your lies and deceptions, even when that calls for hard work, interior struggle, and sacrifice,”

“On the contrary, the evil spirit, pushes you to always do what you think, and you find pleasing. He makes you think that you have the right to use your freedom any way you want. Then, once you are left feeling empty inside – it is bad, this feeling of emptiness inside, many of us have felt it – and when you are left feeling empty inside, he blames you, becomes the accuser, and throws you down, destroys you.”

“The Holy Spirit, correcting you along the way, never leaves you lying on the ground, never. He takes you by the hand, comforts you and constantly encourages you,” he added.

Pope Francis underlined those feelings of “bitterness, pessimism and negativity” never come from the Holy Spirit, but from evil, which “stokes impatience and self-pity ... complaints and criticism, the tendency to blame others for all our problems.”

“The Holy Spirit on the other hand urges us never to lose heart and always to start over again. ... Get up! How? By jumping right in, without waiting for someone else. And by spreading hope and joy, not complaints; never envying others, never – envy is the door through which the evil spirit enters - but the Holy Spirit leads you to rejoice in the successes of others,” he said.

The Holy Spirit is “practical” and “wants us to concentrate on the here and now, because the time and place in which we find ourselves are themselves grace-filled.”

“The spirit of evil, however, would pull us away from the here and now, and put us somewhere else. Often, he anchors us to the past: to our regrets, nostalgia, our disappointments. Or else he points us to the future, fuelling our fears, illusions, and false hopes. But not the Holy Spirit, he leads us to love, here and now,” he said.

The twelve fruits of the Holy Spirit are charity, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, generosity, gentleness, faithfulness, modesty, self-control, and chastity.

Pope Francis said that the Holy Spirit “rejuvenates and teaches the Church “to be an open house without walls of division.”

“Brothers and sisters, let us sit at the school of the Holy Spirit, so that he can teach us all things. Let us invoke him each day, so that he can remind us to make God’s gaze upon us our starting point, to make decisions by listening to his voice, and to journey together as Church, docile to him and open to the world,” he said.

full text <https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/homilies/2022/documents/20220605-omelia-pentecoste.html>

Denise O’Shea



~ CLOSER THAN EVER ~

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight.” PROVERBS 3:5-6

It was just seven months ago, that I was encouraged by my youth leader Cathy Korzeniewski to join the parish council in order to represent our parish youth ministry (St. Patrick's Youth Ministry).

**ST PATRICK'S Beenleigh
Mary Se**

To say I had mixed feelings that included willingness, faith, fear and self-doubt was an understatement. At first, I was plagued with thoughts like, “I’m young, what could I possibly have to offer the parish community?” AND “I don’t think I’m leadership material...”

But if there were **THREE THINGS** my loving and faith-filled parents Joel and Virginia Se have taught me (and always remind me to this day) and they are to:

- (1) **Rely solely on PRAYER,**
- (2) **Put GOD FIRST and**
- (3) **Let the HOLY SPIRIT guide [you] me. ---**

So, after A LOT of time spent in prayer, wise counsel, a push and some encouragement from my parents and my youth leader Cathy K, I decided to step-up and give leadership a chance.

Now, fast forward seven months. As the youngest parish council member; in spite of its challenges, I can indeed say I am becoming more open-minded, where I am learning to acknowledge the viewpoints of those leaders older than me; I’m learning to seek wisdom from authority figures in my inner circle if I’ve ever felt confused or frustrated about the Faith or the Church.

I’ve even developed a much stronger, deeper and more consistent prayer life because of my desire to be a better member of the community and in ministry. In addition to all this, I’ve even grown the ability to respectfully and confidently communicate children’s and youth ministry concerns forward, plus of course, listening and engaging in polite, structured and somewhat formal conversation.

Being a parish council member and representative of SPYM has led me to constantly fall on my knees in worship and give everything I am in seeking a stronger, deeper and more consistent relationship with my Lord Jesus Christ. It can be a struggle and a privilege to be a voice for both children and young people. Heck, there have been so many times where I’ve questioned my own purpose, felt small or just wanted to leave. But no, I’ve remained committed because I’m a woman of my word.

For as long as I live and breathe and as long as I humble myself at the Father’s feet, I’ll continue to respect those who are older than me (vice versa), and find it in my heart, mind and soul to allow the Holy Spirit to work through me. Why? Because I’m in love with my Heavenly Father.

Mary Se, Parish Council Member

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~ Invitation to SPYM ~



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and each **O**ther as
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Engage in conversation
and **R**eflect on God's word



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- AGES 15 AND OVER
- Contact Cathy at 0400 494 943 or youth.beenleigh@bne.catholic.net.au



*By MARY SE, SPYM Senior Leader & member
& Parish Council member*



*Congratulations to Ken & Tamara
retaking their vows on their 50th Wedding Anniversary*



St Joseph Tobruk Primary School

Happy Retirement Sr Jenny!!

In May our school community gave thanks for Sr Jenny Scari and her many years of service in our Joey's community. Sr Jenny retired in April from her role of pastoral worker at St Joseph's. In recognition of all she has done for our school community, Sr Jenny was nominated for a Spirit of Catholic Education Award for 2022. Below we share some words from her award nomination.

Sister Jenny Scari RSJ has worked tirelessly for over 40 years in Catholic Education, with the last 20 years as a School Pastoral Worker at St Joseph's Tobruk Memorial School at Beenleigh. She has embodied the true spirit of Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop through her compassion, humility and generosity of spirit.

Sister Jenny may be small in stature, but her heart is huge. Her calm presence and openness allows others to freely voice their concerns. She has a true passion for helping people and building community spirit. Sister Jenny has been an inspiration to all.

Over the years she has been the listening ear to many students, staff and the wider school community. She has built strong relationships with families welcoming them in the morning and again in the afternoon, introducing families to one another and just being there if someone wanted a quiet word. She also instigated the weekly morning cuppa to build community, allowing parents to connect with one another. This has become a school tradition. Families know that she always has time to listen to their worries and that in times of hardship will lend a supporting hand whether it be through the Providence Bag or helping them contact outside agencies. She has been invited to their homes to sit and pray with the sick or dying but has also celebrated their joys...

Sister Jenny has been a true role model, inspiring hope amongst staff, students and community. Her genuine warmth and sense of humour has endeared her to all. Our community is stronger and richer because of her presence amongst us.

In the coming weeks a plaque will be blessed and placed in the area where the 'Sr Jenny Cuppa' still happens every Friday morning for our school parents fostering welcome and connection among our families.

Kathryn O'Toole,
APRE, St Joseph Tobruk Memorial School



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NAIDOC Week at Mother Teresa



NAIDOC Week is always a fantastic event at Mother Teresa. The students learnt how to Get up! Stand Up! And Show Up! As part of our NAIDOC Week celebrations.

We started the week off with a Welcome to Country which was delivered by Kombumerri man Uncle Clinton Brewer. Kombumerri woman Emerald Brewer spoke beautifully to the students about what NAIDOC Week meant to her.



We also had a flag raising ceremony and our choir sung our National Anthem in Yugambeh language. The students then painted their faces in ochre and participated in a smoke ceremony which is a cleansing ritual to ward off bad spirits or omens.

The students also participated in a range of activities with Clinton and Emerald about living off the land and the proud Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who have driven and led change in our communities.

Throughout the week, the students also participated in a range of lunch time activities including face painting, trying some traditional Aboriginal food like crocodile and kangaroo as well as participating in a series of rotational activities where they had the opportunity to participate in boomerang throwing, creating collages for their house totems, Dadirri- deep listening and performing dances for their houses.

*Adam McCoy,
APRE, Mother Teresa School*



St Patrick's NAIDOC Raffle

A beautiful painting by well known N.T. artist Tommy Crowe was donated by a generous parishioner.

Marian Ward organised a raffle and the happy first prize winner was Esther Thompson, congratulations!

The raffle raised \$413, which will be used towards artefacts and events for the RAP project. We thank everybody for your most generous support and thank you Marian for your effort.

*Marian Ward and Monica Boucek,
St Patrick's RAP Group*





St Vincent De Paul Society—St Patrick's Conference

CONFERENCE UPDATE

Our conference here in Beenleigh now has 13 active members and as we have no base, the conference operates from home. This is not ideal but we are still able to respond to all referrals from individuals and families seeking assistance.

Although local conferences, which provide emergency assistance, are the basis of the Society, it is important to note that Vinnies offers a vast range of other services:

Some of these include Aged Care, Child and Family, Disability, Disaster Relief, Housing and Homelessness, Migrants and Refugees, Shops, Youth, Education and Employment, Prisoner Support etc. The Society has certainly grown in the 170 years since its inception in France by its 20 year old founder Frederic Ozanam.

FUND RAISING

Winter Appeal

We conducted the St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal in our Parish on the weekend of 18/19 June. Thanks to the generosity of our parishioners, we collected \$ 1790.70. We again wish to assure you that this money will be used to assist the people in need in our conference area. Thankyou.

Bunnings Sausage Sizzle

Our next allocated day for this fund raiser is Saturday 30 July.

CEO Sleepout

On 23 June, business and community leaders throughout Australia traded their warm beds for the cold ground in support of the 2022 Vinnies CEO Sleepout. In Queensland sleepouts were held in many locations including Brisbane (Riverside Stage), Gold Coast (Cbus stadium), Toowoomba and Sunshine Coast.

This year's CEO sleepout was the most successful in the event's 13 year history in Queensland, with more than \$2 million raised state wide.

The funds will go directly to our Society's homelessness response efforts, including building new homes to provide to Queenslanders in need in response to the ongoing housing crisis.

SUMMARY OF CONFERENCE ASSISTANCE

for April, May and June.

- ◆ Total number of contacts 141
- ◆ Value of assistance \$12 189.74.
- ◆ We assisted 111 single parents with children and 50 partnered.



Tamara and Fay on duty at the Piety Stall



WE NEED YOUR HELP TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE—NEW MEMBERS NEEDED

The St Vincent de Paul Society is a lay Catholic organization that aspires to live the gospel message by serving Christ in the poor with love, respect, justice, hope and joy and working to shape a more just and compassionate society.

St Patrick's Conference here in Beenleigh is a small community which constitutes the front line of the Society. We cover a huge area and need new members in order to adequately respond to the ever growing demand for our services.

Our Conference needs people to carry out face-to-face interviews, home visitations and visits to those who are socially isolated.

TIME COMMITMENT - As little as 2 or 3 hours per week. Induction and training will be provided.

BENEFITS TO YOU

- *A chance to make a difference in people's lives.
- *Meaningful social action.
- *Opportunities and development.
- *Connections with like-minded people.

READY TO INSPIRE CHANGE?

For more information please contact: Our conference President **FAY O'TOOLE**. 0407465478 or Vice President **JOHN MAKSIMAS**. 0410602549

John Maksimas, Vice President SVDP



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I CAN DO THIS, I'M READY

There's a park near our house with this very tall rope climber (it has to be at least 2 storeys tall) with a massive slide to go down once you reach the top tier. The park was put in over a year ago but the rope climber had somehow not been registered by the boys... until just a few weeks ago.

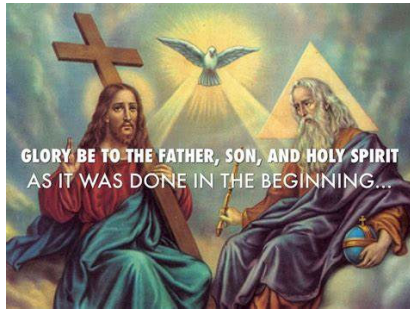
I was fine with them climbing the lower part of the climber, no dramas, I can deal with that; but then they got confident- SUPER confident. James just kept going. I panicked and climbed up after him, grabbed onto him and tried desperately to get him to let go. I told him he wasn't big enough to do this yet. James just held on tighter and yelled at me, "I CAN DO THIS! I'M READY!!!" I hesitated, took a deep breath and let him go. Up, up he went... with Ollie in toe.

They had absolutely no fear, yet I was shaking in my shoes (especially when I was forced to go up against my will to help them get to the top tier where the slide is. When you have a fear of falling, it's not fun).

Letting go was hard, considering the dangers... but at some point you have to let them go. Let them experience. Let them see just how capable they are. Let them know they can do it by themselves, but I'm here if they need me.

I can only imagine that God must have the same anguish as he watches us every day climbing our own personal rope climbers. Knowing full well what's at risk, but also what there is to gain. He lets us do as we choose, but reminds us that he's there if we need him. It's just lucky for him he has no fear of falling. *Erica Ng Philips*





Trinity Sunday, 7th June

On Trinity Sunday we let the Sign of the Cross remind us of everything we received at our baptism.

"In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." (Matthew 28:19).

The sign of the cross is a very simple prayer, but it reflects one of the most complex truths of our faith: the one true God is a Trinity of divine persons.

In the name of the Father: Remember the Father who loves you. He sees you not as a slave to order around but as a child to be loved. He wants you to know that everything that separates you from him has been forgiven.

And of the Son: Remember the Son who redeemed you. Sent by the Father in love, he made the ultimate sacrifice so that you could join his family. He wants you to understand that you are an essential part of his body, the Church.

And of the Holy Spirit: Remember the Holy Spirit who gives you life. Gift of the Father and the Son, he actually dwells in you. He wants you to experience, even now, the wisdom and power and presence of God within you.

*From The Word Among Us, The Spirit of Catholic Living.
Submitted by Anna Battle*



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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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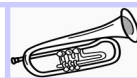
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New Outside School Hours Care Building



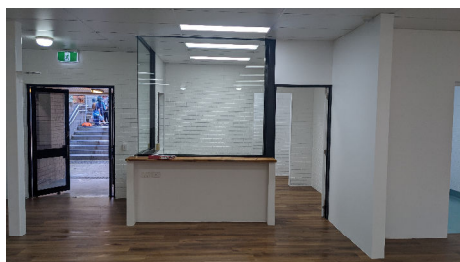
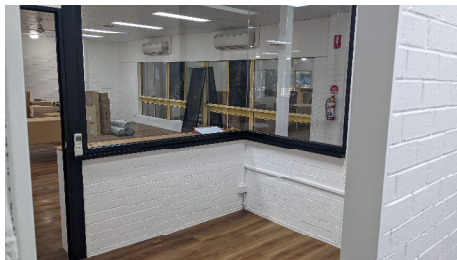
Work is being completed on the new Beenleigh Outside School Hours Care (OSHC) space in the “Steele Building” (former School Library).

OSHC provides fun, stimulating and safe care for primary and secondary school children before and after school. At out of school hours care, children have the opportunity to participate in lots of fun and rewarding activities.

The OSHC program generates an ongoing income for the parish, while providing a service to families in our local area.

The new building has been renovated and repurposed for OSHC, to meet all the standards and goals that the old building could no longer do.

The old building was the first Catholic Church in the Yatala and Beenleigh area. It was bought by the first resident priest to the Logan, Fr Benedict Scortechini in 1875 and was opened the same year in a ceremony by Bishop Quinn. The building has served the parish over a period of 147 years!



St Patrick's Mass times:

Mondays	7am Mass
Tuesdays	7am Mass
Thursdays	6pm Mass
Fridays	7am Mass
	8—11am Adoration

Saturdays	8am Mass & Novena
	6pm Mass
Sundays	7am Mass
	9am Mass
	6pm Mass