



Advent Christmas Message From our Priests

Holidays and family gatherings can be a source of uneasiness. I have a friend who says, *"All I want for Christmas is that my family will gather together for dinner and there will be no arguments or conflicts."* I'm sure she is not the only one who holds those sentiments.

Conflict seems to be part of every news broadcast. Beyond personal and family issues, we are aware of increasing famines, hideous wars and deceitful, deviant behaviours among many people in authority. These distressing city, national and world situations grieve us and give us even more reason to ponder the Advent and Christmas readings. Isaiah's words on the Second Sunday of Advent are powerful. *"Comfort, O comfort, my people, says you God"* (Isaiah 40:1-12). The words of 2 Peter 3:8-15 are encouraging: *"God is patient with you."* Or the Angels cry of peace to all who are of Good Will. As we listen to these readings, we hear both the people's recognition of their sinfulness and their trust in God's promise to come with power to save them from their destructive behaviours. These readings are not just past tense situations. They beg us to look at our present-day situations, our need to change and our dependency on God to help us change.

Lament and promise also pervade Psalm 85. This Psalm could easily be missed or overshadowed because it is sandwiched between the powerful reading from Isaiah and 2 Peter. Furthermore, at the Eucharist, we only hear part of Psalm 85: the uplifting part of God's promise of faithfulness and love, righteousness and peace.

Psalm 85

**You once favoured, O God, your land, restored the captives of Jacob.
You forgave the guilt of your people, pardoned all their sins.
You withdrew all your wrath, turned back from your burning anger.**

**Restore us, God of our salvation; let go of your displeasure with us.
Will you be angry with us forever, prolong your anger for all generations?**

**Certainly, you will again restore our life, that your people may rejoice in you.
Show us, O God, your mercy; grant us your salvation.**

**I will listen for what God has to say; surely God will speak of peace
To God's people and to God's faithful. May they not turn to foolishness!**

**Near indeed is God's salvation for those who fear God; glory will dwell in our
land. Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;
Righteousness and peace will kiss.**

**Truth will spring from the earth; justice will look down from heaven.
Yes, God will give what is good; our land will yield its produce.
Justice will march before God, and make a way for God's footsteps.**

By excluding the lament portion of the Psalm, we could forget why we need salvation. So, I have included all of Psalm 85. This reminds us of our human situation: a situation that is at play today in our modern world.

Even though Psalm 85 ends on a hopeful note, it is a lament. It was written as a national/communal lament. With this understanding we can easily pray this Psalm with our nation and world in mind during these most disturbing times. As we ponder the Psalm, we also become aware that it is a good example of how to structure our own prayers.

First, according to the psalmist, we thank God for what God has done for us.

Then we acknowledge our sins and beg for forgiveness.

Lastly, we ask for the desire and wisdom to make God's vision a reality in our day.

Even though it is a Psalm of lament, it is grounded in a deep confidence in God's faithfulness. This God to whom we pray can be trusted to fulfil the promises God has made. Trust is the foundation of our faith and every prayer. The Psalm begins by reminding God of God's favour

and graciousness in the past.

It's as though the one who wrote this psalm, and we who will be chanting it on the Second Sunday of Advent, want to remind God of God's faithfulness in the past. God restored. God forgave. God withdrew God's anger. At the same time, as we chant these words, we are constructing a strong foundation for our present-day request. You have done it in the past. We trust that you still remember your promise. *"Restore us, let go of your displeasure with us. Will you be angry with us forever, prolong your anger for all generations? Show us your mercy..."*

As we pray this Psalm, we might want to stop and ponder our communal actions as a nation. *When have we prayed as a nation for God's forgiveness? When have we admitted that we are not on God's path? When have we prayed that God would show us the path towards God's righteousness? Have we ever prayed these words as a nation?*

Since this Psalm was written as a national psalm of lament, we, by praying it, acknowledge that as a community of people, we have wandered away from God's commandments of love and justice for all. Therefore, in the name of the community, we beg for forgiveness and mercy for the sinful actions of our nation and

we recognize our own responsibility. Over the years we have learned that God's steadfast love is a two-way street. If this vision is to come about, we have to be part of those working towards the vision. How do we do this? Well, the Psalmist reminds us that the first step is to listen.

"I will listen for what God has to say; surely God will speak of peace."

Second, this listening is not just with the ear, but also with the heart. We must want to hear what God has to say and desire to make the changes that are required of us. God's requests, and our desire to fulfil them, raise the ante since God's prophets often arrive like John the Baptist: loud, uncouth, unexpected. Prophets often ask of us more than we are at first willing to give. So how do we get beyond our own limitations? We pray to surrender our own discomfort so that justice might come for all.

This Psalm and the Advent season invite us into the Christmas Season to join the Prince of Peace to continue working to bring God's vision into our world today. Whether we look at our personal lives or we scan our national and world situations, we might ask ourselves what in our lives personally and communally keeps us from peace.

What can I do to enable steadfast love and faithfulness to meet?

What can I do to encourage righteousness and peace to kiss?

Am I willing to make one change in my life that will help this commandment become more a reality?

This Psalm is not an either-or prayer. We can be conscious of both our personal and communal need for forgiveness, as well as our need for the strength to change what is in our realm of influence.

**The Blessings of the God of
Consolation be with all our
families this Advent and
Christmas Season and for 2019.**

**Padre Morgan Batt,
Fr Ladu Yanga, and
Fr Saji George**

Making a difference in the Solomon Islands

Burleigh Heads parishoner, Trevor Wallace, is a Registered Nurse based at the Gold Coast University Hospital and has also been working part time in the Solomon Islands for 14 years. Trevor has been making a difference in the Solomon Islands with an Australian registered aid project he set up simply called Solomon Islands Education Project, SIEP which is a division of World Relief Australia, www.wra.org.au.

Trevor was working and providing medical support for the Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands, RAMSI. The RAMSI movement was a partnership with the people of the Solomon Islands and 15 countries of the Pacific, lead by Australia and New Zealand, to help lay foundations for long term stability, security and prosperity. The team consisted of Police, Defence Forces and Government Officials from all these countries. It was during this time of working with RAMSI that Trevor could see a need to help young people in poverty to have an education and so set up the SIEP program 5 years ago.

The SIEP program has been helping young teenagers in poverty to attend St. Josephs High School at Tenaru on main island, Guadalcanal. St. Josephs is a Catholic Boarding School. The teenagers are mostly from subsistence farming/marketing families from remote islands and villagers who struggle to survive day to day, let alone have money to pay for education.

Currently there are 66 students sponsored for education, and over half of these have parents who have died due to poor living and health conditions.

THE SIEP PROGRAMME to date:-



The SIEP program has set up St. Joseph's first computer classroom. An old classroom was fully refurbished and now, with 45 desktop computers, is a huge success. Computer studies are part of the school curriculum with a full time IT teacher.

The SIEP program turned an old WW2 Hospital, which was on St. Josephs School grounds, into a chicken farm and currently provides over 4,000 eggs a month to ensure there is protein in the student's diet. Maintaining the chicken farm is also part of their school curriculum.

SIEP helps the Blind and Visually Impaired.

As well as the SIEP program at St. Josephs, a classroom was set up for the Blind and Visually Impaired students at a local disability school. The classroom was provided with new braille machines, computers for the blind as well as tactile teaching aids.

The program also introduced the knowledge and use of iphones for the blind, for the older students so they would have better communication with families and friends. The iphones have Voiceover technology to help the blind.



SIEP helps Nursing in the Solomon Islands

To help improve health care in the Solomon Islands, SIEP is sponsoring young people in poverty to study Nursing as well as help provide better education facilities at Solomon Islands National University's Nursing School. This year SIEP is sponsoring two trainee nurses and also has provided over 1.5 tons of nursing and medical textbooks for the school's library. Recently a training manikin has been purchased to help with nursing education.

SIEP is currently seeking donations to help train nurses and provide better health care and improving education in the Solomon Islands.

If you can help, please make a donation at <https://www.wra.org.au/1720nursing>.

All donations are tax deductible in Australia.



A New Chapel for St. Josephs

Trevor, his wife Margaret and family, funded the construction of the new "Our Lady of Fatima Chapel" at the school. As well as the legacy of education, Trevor and Margaret wanted to give a gift to the school to help the students spiritually.

The Lady of Fatima Chapel is a place where the students can pray, reflect and helps them to come closer to God through Mother Mary.

Anybody wanting information about the SIEP project can contact Trevor at:-

trevorwallace@hotmail.com or Mobile: 0410 519 990



Parish Profiles

Bern, as she is affectionately named, was born on 7th June, 1928. Married to David Lane for 66 years, they have three children. The couple became involved in the Church and its Community almost from the first days of their marriage. Bern was a member of the Young Mothers Support Group The Holy Family Club.

Bern served on the Marymount Ladies Auxiliary in the '70s assisting the Franciscan Sisters managing the fledgling school. She helped establish the Secondary School Tuck Shop at Marymount College. She volunteered with Remedial Reading Group to assist secondary school students and taught Religious Education in State Primary and Secondary Schools in the Burleigh area. Bern took on Church Ministry, as women became active as Readers and Extraordinary Ministers of Communion.

In the late '70s, Bern became involved with the local Hockey

Association as Team Manager, taking the girls all over the State (usually at her own expense). She was Vice President of the Association from 1980 to 1985.

In 1983, Bern was Cofounder Coordinator of Care and Concern. At that time not only did CnC provide transport for the sick and elderly for medical appointments but also helped with shopping, visitations to the shut-ins, child minding in time of need, home help and home handyman.

Over the years the group's original services were relinquished due to increased Government regulations and duplication of services by other providers. That same year Bern began as a Volunteer Telephone Operator with Lifeline and later became a qualified Counsellor. She served with lifeline for approximately 13 years. In the 2015 Australia Day Honours, Bernadette Lane was

Bernadette Lane OAM



awarded the Order of Australia Medal for her service to the Community.

And last but not least she celebrated her 90th Birthday with family friends and Miami congregation in June.

At 90 years young, Bern is still active in the Community and her Church at Miami. She regularly attends 2 book clubs; takes Communion to the sick, is responsible for the washing and ironing of altar linen for Calvary Church Miami, and is always available for Church Ministry.



A movement for evangelisation and renewal based in the parish

Mini and Butch Enriquez

"Applying for immigration on a chance conversation with my brother-in-law saw our family set on a completely new path."

Butch Enriquez with his wife and family was sharing their story at one of the Multicultural Masses recently. Although his work as a dentist was going well in the Philippines, they left good jobs, their extended families, friends and possessions and migrated to New Zealand in 1996. The family then moved to Australia in 2004.

Both Mini and Butch's parents are conservative and devout Catholics. They gave the family a Bible, Rosary beads and prayer books as a going away gift, reminding them always to pray and seek the Holy Spirit's guidance every step of the way. Their parents reminded them that there would be challenges but to work hard, don't be afraid to try new things, do their best and God will do the rest.

Work was found doing any job just to survive; *i.e. care-giver, a courier, specimen collector in pathology, night filler*; to name a few.

Mini was fortunate enough to use her degree in Hotel and Restaurant Management. This enabled them to educate their children and give them a better future.

They felt there was no limit as to what they could do when living in a country where everyone is treated equally and given the same opportunity.

"We were blessed that we never experienced being discriminated, but rather were accepted just the way we were" Butch said.

Mini and Butch were invited to a Christian Life Seminar in New Zealand, and this changed their understanding of what it is to be a Christian. They were both so touched and empowered by the Holy Spirit that they took on the role of servant leaders in a community called Couples for Christ.

Just two years into their new home, Butch was diagnosed with a brain infection. Even though very serious, Butch recovered and with no major defects to his



health. He contributes his healing to the Lord allowing him to do the work God has destined for him in Australia since moving from New Zealand in 2004.

Butch and Mini's children, now adults with families of their own, have always supported their parents in their desire to serve the Lord through the community. Their daughter Samantha was one the first graduates to attend Youth for Christ Seminar and Camp in Auckland. Our prayer for our adult children is that they will pass their faith and values on to their own families.

Butch and Mini said that they felt very humble that God had chosen them to be part of his army here on the Gold Coast, spreading the good news through the movement called LIVE FOR CHRIST of which they are the Queensland Coordinators.

He finished with this biblical quote.

"Joshua:24:15—"but for me and my household, we will serve the Lord"

**For further information you can contact Butch and Mini at:-
edeii@bigpond.net.au
minieriquez@bigpond.com**

OUT AND ABOUT THE PARISH

We have farewelled our Parish Manager Jim Littlefield and welcomed Neil Segerdahl.

Marymount College celebrated their Golden Jubilee with Mass, a formal dinner and fun day.

A Labyrinth Walk with Sue Thomas.

The Mystagogia Retreat with the RCIA Team and parishioners.

Sunday Mass is now celebrated at Bond University.

The Sacramental Program commenced in May and saw over 140 children being confirmed in November.

Dr Paula Segerdahl was invited by Padre Morgan to speak on Mental Health at the Masses during Mental Health Week.

The Marymount Art Show, as always, was a great success for the school and community.

The Connect Masses for Marymount Year levels, have been very successful with students being actively involved in the Sunday Masses at Mary Mother of Mercy Church.

A Men ALIVE weekend was offered to all men of the Parish in September and was facilitated by Chris Kennedy.

Successful meetings facilitated by Mark Eustace were held in September for all to be informed on the Archbishop's Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Prevention and Protection Policy.

When Bishop Ken, was our Parish Priest, he commenced the process of updating the various Ministries within our Parish. Padre Morgan plans to continue this in 2019.

A Thank you BBQ was held for the Parish Altar Servers on Sunday 18th November. Archbishop Coleridge cut the cake.



CARE AND CONCERN Commissioning Mass

A BIG THANK YOU to all our volunteers, the Parish Office staff and our Priests that have made Care and Concern such a successful year in 2018. Seven chapters of the Care and Concern ministry from Brisbane and the Gold Coast attended the Commissioning Mass held in July at Mary Mother of Mercy. After morning tea, hosted by the Parish volunteers, there was time to share knowledge of activities from the different communities.



Morning Tea

Chairperson Di Taylor has successfully obtained a Harts Hand up Grant of \$200 from the Burleigh Electorate Office of Michael Hart. These funds will help to cover social activities costs.

Funeral Catering

The Care and Concern ladies now provide catering for the Parish. Feed back after our first two has been a resounding positive. Thank you, Ladies!!!

Please continue to spread the word throughout the Parish so everyone can make use of this wonderful service.

Anointing Mass Hospitality

Following the Anointing Masses (first Friday of every second month) Care and Concern plan to provide light refreshments.

A vote of thanks to all our members. **The next Anointing Mass Friday 7 December.**



Cultural Dress was encouraged at all five Mass centres to celebrate our Annual Multicultural Sunday Mass. Fr Ladu, seen here with Paul Gilroy after the 7am Mass at Infant Saviour is also photographed with some of the St Benedict's parishioners.

Music was especially chosen to be inclusive of all nations. Hallelujah was sung at one of the centres in Spanish, choirs and cantors led the congregation in singing "I am Australian".

Padre was heard speaking small responses in five or six languages throughout Mass. Cultural food was appreciated after the Masses.

Thanks goes to all those who came in cultural dress, donated food and generally made the day what it was, a great success!!



A SPECIAL ROSARY

Held at the Clear Island Church Hall in October annually, the Filipino Australian Community Gold Coast honour Our Blessed Mother Mary in a special way by coming together to pray the Rosary.

Make a note of the date to attend in 2019.





There was a pleasing number who attended the Parish dinner held in the Community Centre in September. Padre Morgan, after the first course was finished, led us through a slide presentation and commentary of his travels. He shared with the audience how he had met some wonderful people from other lands especially some year 12 students who were playing soccer with a ball made of plastic bags. Before he left the students, they were the proud owners of a proper soccer ball. Padre was relating experiences you will find in his new book now on sale for \$20. It can be purchased at the churches or the Parish Office. All proceeds will fund Social Justice Projects.



For those who were fortunate enough to buy tickets to the Chicken and Champagne breakfast held after the 8am Mass in July, enjoyed good company, food and the early morning rise. \$2,500 was raised for the upkeep of the Parish properties.



Flores de Mayo (Spanish for "flowers of May") is a festival held in the Philippines during the month of May. It is one of the May devotions to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The Santacruzán (from the Spanish santa cruz, "holy cross") is the ritual pageant held on the last day of the Flores de Mayo.

This Festival was

organised by the Filipino church group to honour the day, and also to bless the new statue of the Blessed Virgin in front of the Parish Office.

Following the blessing, the procession returned to the church to finish the day with a special Mass. The congregation was invited to stay for lunch.

Thanks go to Nelly Barretto and her team.



Congratulations

70th Wedding Anniversary



Claude and Maureen Hayson, long time members of the Mudgeeraba community, shared their 70th Wedding Anniversary in September with their family and friends.

Married at Saints Michael and John's Cathedral Bathurst in 1948, they now reside at The Terraces Aged Care Facility where Mass is celebrated at Easter and Christmas.

Maureen and Claude received a letter from the Pope for their 50th and 60th. There is one on the way for their 70th.

CHRISTMAS MASSES

24th December 2018

5PM - Calvary Miami
St Benedict's
Mudgeeraba

6pm—Mary Mother of Mercy
Burleigh Waters.
Our Lady of the Way
Palm Beach

Midnight—Infant
Saviour Burleigh Heads
Mary Mother of Mercy
Burleigh Waters

25th December 2018

7am—Infant Saviour
Palm Beach

8.30—St Benedict's
Calvary Miami

10am—
Mary Mother of Mercy.

Please Note:-
NO 5.30 Mass
CHRISTMAS DAY

VALE:
Vincent Leslie
McCahon



was a long time member of the parish and our Burleigh Heads Choir. A Requiem Mass celebrated the life of Vince in August. Many past and present Choir members were there to celebrate his life with family and friends.



Vinnies Refugee Picnic

Refugees from Syria, Sri Lanka and Myanmar attended the 16th Annual Refugee Picnic at Tallebudgera Creek which is organized by the Infant Saviour Conference of St Vincent de Paul Society at Burleigh Heads. SVPD planned and collaborated with the Refugee and Migration Conference in Logan.

Their aim:- *to make those attending feel welcome, and introduce them to the important part that beach life plays within our Australian way of life.*

The 97 Refugees were introduced to our lifesavers and water safety. Particular emphasis was placed on the importance of ALWAYS swimming between the flags and obeying any instructions from the lifesavers.

A successful day was enjoyed by all. There was laughter and big smiles from the children as each one was 'adopted' by one of the volunteer local Life Saving Nippers. The beach will always be a great memory for all those who helped. Marymount families hearts warmed as the children accepted gifts of beach wear and toys as they enjoyed a BBQ lunch together.



The Conference takes this opportunity to publicly thank all involved, especially Jane Lennon and her staff and families from Marymount School and Skye Bond and her Little Nippers.

Regrettably, at this stage some of the Sri Lankans have not been accepted as refugees by the Australian Government under current policy and are facing the prospect of being sent back to Sri Lanka together with their children including any born in Australia.



CHRISTMAS APPEAL

St Vincent de Paul will run their annual Christmas Tree gifting throughout the churches during Advent.

Thank you to all those who give and to those who volunteer to pack and deliver the hampers.

May you all have a very Happy and Joyous Christmas



Equipes Notre-Dame

**International
Fatima -
Teams of Our
Lady 2018**

"The size of the World Teams movement came into sharp focus, while sitting in Fatima's massive Basilica together with 8,500 members, from 80 countries. Attendees included over 400 Priests, with 18 Bishops, and 4 Cardinals who were speakers at the event. Teams speakers gave witness, covering a diversity of languages, cultures and ages."

Sue and Bren Milsom with 38 other Australians, toured by bus through Northern Spain and Portugal prior to their arrival in Fatima for 6 days. They had both attended the International Gathering in 2012 and stated how overwhelmed they were by the size of the movement now. Along the way, Monseignor Frank Marriott from Bendigo, celebrated Mass in many Churches and Chapels.

The Gathering focused on the joys and challenges of married life in the context of contemporary society.

Different Teams led the daily agenda with memorable moments like enthusiastic dancing and singing at an African Mass, and a jazz version singing of "When the Saints Go Marching In" from the English Mass.

Especially memorable, was the speech from Cardinal Turkson, who spoke on *Human Ecology: Fraternity and Communion*. The Emeritus Archbishop of Mosul, Iraq, spoke of the courage of ordinary couples in times of extreme adversity and shared his own personal story of his kidnapping, imprisonment and later his freedom by Islamic militants.

Married couples from around the world related to the every day reality of married life. South Australia's Vee and Rene Pols shared stories of their married life, focusing on forgiveness. Attendees remarked with admiration about the Australian way of speaking plainly and directly which touched the hearts of many. Accommodation was mixed and sign language to communicate was the order of the day, not to mention a glass of red which helped.



Archbishop Coleridge has appointed 10 people from the Archdiocese of Brisbane including Sue and Bren Milsom to the Amoris Latitia Task Force to develop and implement a strategy to promote Catholic Marriage and Family.

Sue and Bren feel honoured to be included in this important work. They are enjoying the study of Pope Francis' letter Amoris Latitia (*The Joy of Love*) finding the book very readable with practical applications to the present circumstances of relationships,



marriages and family life. The Annual World Marriage Day Mass in 2019 will be held at St Benedict's church Mudgeeraba February 10th at 11am.

All married couples are invited to attend. The Mass is followed by a shared lunch. This will be the 8th consecutive year of this important celebration of the Sacrament.

Local heroes Maureen and Claude Hayson, 70 years married, hold the record for the Deanery.

For further information: ph: 55766466, the parish office



www.burleighheadscatholic.co

The ARCHBISHOP Visits Burleigh Parish!



"Do you know what the word Bishop stands for?" asked His Grace.

He went on to explain that it means to oversee and to make visitations to the Parishes in the Diocese.

Many gathered at Infant Saviour for Sung Evening Prayer, Friday followed by the Saturday Morning Mass and Confirmation. Afterwards it was off to The Terraces (*top photograph*) for an Anointing Liturgy, then on to Robina Hospital for visitation to the sick.

His Grace concelebrated the 5pm Mass at Miami with Fr. Ladu and greeted people afterwards. He then returned to Brisbane to attend a function.

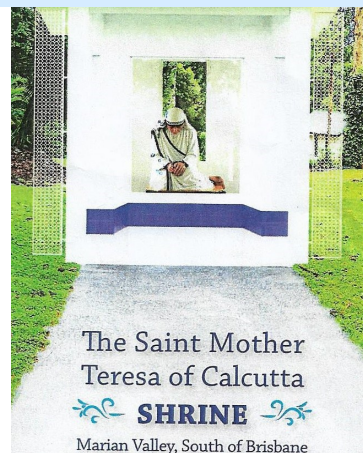
But wait, there's more!!!!

On Sunday His Grace returned to St Bendicts for the 8.30 Mass, sharing morning tea prior to the drive to Springbrook where he again celebrated Mass with members of the community. The Archbishop finished his big weekend again celebrating Mass for the Youth at Mary Mother of Mercy Church before returning to the Cathedral in Brisbane, possibly in a thoroughly exhausted state.



DEDICATION OF SAINT MOTHER TERESA OF CALCUTTA SHRINE = MARIAN VALLEY

The early October Saturday morning drive through the peaceful beauty of the Gold Coast hinterland to celebrate the blessing of the Shrine to Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta at MARIAN VALLEY, was showered in gentle rain. The scene was set for the rest of the morning. We arrived in heavy rain at Marian Valley and greeting us was a 'sea of umbrellas'!



The umbrella crowd led us to the Shrine from the Black Madonna Church where Bishop Ken was already robed and keeping dry under one of three canopy awnings erected to shelter pilgrims. He was accompanied by the Missionaries of Charity in their traditional white sari with three blue stripes. Their excitement was evident as they were a part of this special dedication of their Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta. During the dedication one of the Sisters unveiled the statue.

Emotions ran through the crowd as many cheered and gasps of awe were heard. It was indeed a special, momentous moment and I felt tears prickling my eyes at the simplistic beauty of this shrine. Especially moving was the beautiful witness one of the Missionaries of Charity paid

to their own special Saint, Mother Teresa.

With the rain still falling relentlessly, Mass and Benediction was celebrated in the Black Madonna Church following the dedication.

Bishop Ken greeted numerous people all seeking his blessing after Mass. Our parish representatives managed a short chat with our Burleigh Bishop as he spoke to "his Parishioners" still claiming him as Bishop of Burleigh!

Lunch followed, then it was home to Burleigh believe it or not, with little or no rain on the return journey!

It was a faith filled day for all of us, especially our Burleigh Parish Indian Priest Fr Saji George. We were all blessed in the heavenly downpour. .

Josee Hill

BURLEIGH HEADS YOUTH GROUP



Saint John Paul II once said, "Dear friends, if you learn to discover Jesus in the Eucharist, you will also know how to discover Him in your brothers and sisters".

In the past couple of months, Burleigh Heads Catholic Youth Ministry have taken a renewed approach in inviting youth to build a relationship with Christ through the Eucharist. We have successfully held the 5.30 Sunday Mass for Youth 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month. These Masses are completely led by young adults including the choir, readers and ministers and are followed by fellowship and faith-filled discussions on the weekly readings over a pizza supper.

Additionally, our 7 pm monthly Mass at Bond University (every 3rd Sunday night) have been well attended as anticipated.

As we come to the end of the Year of Youth 2017-2018, we would like to express our sincere gratitude to Burleigh Heads Catholic Parish, for providing us with the resources and support in all our undertakings.

Thank you to all Priests, volunteers, parents and parishioners. We could not have done any of this without you! We look forward to building our humble kingdom of God within the parish in 2019.

Until then, have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Iris Youth Coordinator



“Bom dia/boa noite/ Good morning/ Good evening”

These were the greetings ringing in the ears of our Catholic Mission Immersion Group to Timor Leste. Led by facilitators, Sue and Bren Milsom, Fr Ladu Yanga, Delfina Pereira, Tom Bourke, and young Cairns Teacher, Sam Benvenuti visited East Timor in May. The group visited many villages, schools, orphanages and kindergartens over twelve days.

Fr Ladu has contributed the following words to share his personal experience in Timor Leste

Going to East Timor with Catholic Mission Immersion on 13 May 2018, was one of my best experiences. I felt welcomed and connected with the Timorese people. Why? We shared the same experience of civil war. As some of you probably know - I came from South Sudan, a country devastated by civil war for nearly 25 years and still going on. But in the midst of their poverty, the Timorese people maintain their rich cultural hospitality to those who want to experience their culture. Every place that we visited did their best, welcoming us and



sharing their food and their lives with us, and that's what I called the heart of love. The people of East Timor may be poor, but they are rich with love.

On Independence Day, 20 May, Mass was celebrated at our Sister Parish, St Teresinha, in Ossu. Approximately 1,500 people fitted inside the church, young and old, and I was a concelebrant in that Mass. Just imagine all of them singing and praising God with their voices. I was overwhelmed with this act of worship, tears of joy started

dripping from my eyes. I have never, ever had this experience before, even when I was ordained at St Stephens Cathedral in Brisbane. It is a moment that I will never forget in my life, and every time I share this experience, I will remember the people of Timor Leste, the Parishes that I have visited, especially the Parish of Lacro which gave me a Chalice, hand-made from marble. The Timorese people will always be in my prayers.”

Despite the bone shaking roads, our group was welcomed with love, singing and dancing wherever we went. A letter and small donation was made to Fr Hipolito the new Parish Priest of Ossu. Money from our craft sales was passed back to the ladies of Cuiati. We spent a day with Fr Evaristo in his new Parish of Viqueque. We came back changed by the experience and challenged to be advocates for others and help to bring about the reign of God in our world.

The use of Music at Mass

The chief form of music in the Liturgy is the song that arises from the voice of the entire assembly.

All members of the Music Ministry use their talents and resources to “lift up the hearts” of God’s people. No other sign brings out the communal dimension so well as singing. Hearing the assembly in full voice is always pleasing to the musician and cantors. This year Burleigh Parish has added

a 2nd group of singers. Trained vocalist and musician Emma Tantgenco offered her talents and expertise and has become part of The Music Ministry (see Photo right.)

This group comes together to lead the 5.30 Mass on the 4th Sunday of the month. Practise times are Wednesday 4-6pm and Saturday 3-5pm, at Mary Mother of Mercy Church. Check the Parish Newsletter or contact the Parish Office for details.



On other Sundays, ministers from the groups cantor the Masses at different church centres.

At left The Burleigh Heads Choir was formed 18 years ago, and now, ably led by Cathy Carroll, has seen many changes. This group shares its musicians and singers to all five centres. Their ministry in music is there for no other reason than to lead the assembly. This group practise on Monday evening 5.30-6.30pm at Mary Mother of Mercy Church.

The hymns are revised for the following Sunday Masses.

The ministry acknowledges those not pictured who dedicate their talents to their specific church, and double up when musicians are short. They all put their Ministry above and beyond the call of duty for the assembly.

A BIG THANK YOU to all who contribute to the music for the Burleigh Parish. **MERRY MERRY CHRISTMAS!!**



www.burleighheadscatholic.com.au