

Newcomers Take the Easter Journey

The RCIA journey to Easter is a blessing for the church. It is a time of sharing, of getting to know each other, meeting parishioners and experiencing the wonderful accepting hospitality that our parish mass centres provide.

Preparation for Easter and the journey towards becoming a Catholic started long before Easter Sunday for our Parish Newcomers.

“In fact for most of us formation as a Catholic is a lifelong process which never reaches it's completion.”

However the RCIA course is the formal journey by which people seeking God in the Catholic Church travel towards their destination with support from the Parish. Each year, at the Easter Vigil, the Lord abundantly blesses his Church with new adult members who answer his call in their hearts and are drawn toward the Church. The RCIA journey to Easter is a blessing for the church and was especially a blessing for our Parish this year.

Our Parish journey had events and activity around sharing, and getting to know each other. Newcomers meeting parishioners and experiencing the wonderful accepting hospitality that our parish mass centres provide. Burleigh Parish this Easter had 7 adults come into the church. 4 were baptised, the other 3 became full members of the Catholic faith from other Christian faiths. The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is a course through which people become Catholics.

Also known as the RCIA or the Catechumenate process it has the elect complete a preparation period of 8 months and during that time newcomers become familiar with most aspects of the Catholic faith. There were 2 children of the elect baptised into the church as a result of the RCIA program. There are 2 other babies that are to be baptised as a result of the program.

The parents have elected to wait for the availability of their families to join them in the celebration. One of these babies was born over the term of the journey. It would be normal for the elect and the catechists to attend the baptism ceremony and pray for the newly baptised Catholics. All in all it has been a very exciting time for all involved.

Parish Welcoming



Sister Clara chatting with newcomers outside Infant Saviour



Newcomers from New Zealand at the Parish welcoming



Fr Pat Moloney also with newcomers

Baptisms over 300

2011 is well underway to matching the Parishes usual 300 baptisms per year.

We already have baptized over 100 for 2011 with last year Burleigh Heads Parish baptized 312. Burleigh has consistently baptized an average of 300 per year since 2005 and 2011 will be no exception.

Calendar of events

Let's read about your upcoming events. If there is an event or function happening in one of the churches in the Parish that you want everyone to know about Let us know about it. If it is happening within the next six months why not send it to us to include in the next edition of Catholic Life. Just email tramedia@bigpond.com with details of the event and include a contact person and phone number.

Welcome to Catholic Life Burleigh Heads Parish Newsletter

The Communications Unit is highlighting what we all want in the Parish and that is good communication and reporting of News and Events. We want to communicate between the different groups in our Parish. Our goal is to have parish life connect more with our schools and the wider communi-

ty. We want to connect strongly with each other as a church community. This newsletter will come out to update all of us on the incredible activities and events that happen. The Parish touches many lives in our groups, schools and community. So many of us in our busy lives don't realize what goes

on in our Parish and in other churches in the Parish. So often we find out about an event after the event or wish we could have been at that special day. We hope to keep you informed and will report on all the wonderful moments that happened around the Parish. Happy reading.

Parish People



Geoff Browne

FROM the sweltering heat of Darwin to the picturesque beaches of the Gold Coast, Marymount College's newest staff member Geoff Browne has made some big changes.

As the Assistant Principal Pastoral at Marymount he has come from a school of 500 students, to over 1100.

He has also come from a place where swimming at the beach is a near-fatal experience.

"It's nice to be able to swim at a beach where you don't get eaten or stung by box jellyfish," said Browne.

"I grew up in Cronulla, so I love the ocean and in Darwin it looks beautiful, but you just can't go in it."

Geoff moved to the coast at the start of the year with his wife Nicky and their six children, all boys and the eldest four attending Marymount primary.

Although he admits uprooting his large family in a short space of time was "extremely hectic", the Browne family are "loving" their new coast lifestyle.

"It just happened really quickly and we didn't have much time to think about it," he said.

"My oldest is 10 and our youngest is still very young, but it's a great environment here."

With over 16-years teaching experience, Geoff said he's relishing the opportunity to work with senior students in his role as Assistant Principal Pastoral.

"My role is more focussed on the students, whereas my last position as deputy principal was more administrative," he said.

"I like working with people and I like working with young people, especially within the senior school.

"They (the students) have a bit more maturity than the young ones and you can help shape their minds a little bit."

-MARIA LEWIS

Burleigh Heads Parish hosts the World Marriage Day for the Gold Coast Deanery



On Sunday 13th February about 170 people representing most parishes in the South Coast Deanery, gathered at St Benedict's Church, Mudgeeraba, for a Mass to celebrate, give thanks for and pray for their marriages on the day the Church has named, 'World Marriage Day'. The gathering was a good cross-section of married couples of all ages, with a number of young families.

Father Rafal celebrated Eucharist and based his homily on the rather unusual first reading, for a Marriage Day Mass, of the Genesis story, of Cain and Abel. He urged couples to reflect on how life giving, they are, in their marriages. He asked the question of the couples present, whether they give the best of themselves to their spouse or saved it for their careers, hobbies or parenting.

He concluded with the statement that couples who live out their sacrament faithfully and joyfully are a powerful sign of God's presence in the world today.

At the beginning of Mass couples signed their names in the Anniversary book and stated how many years they had been married. The book, representing all their years of Marriage, was then placed on the altar for the remainder of the Mass.

Sue and Bren Milsom representing the Gold Coast Team for Married Spirituality,

pledged on behalf of their Team, that the intentions of all couples registered in the Anniversary book, would be prayed for, at each monthly meeting, of the Team during 2011.

Following the homily, Fr Rafal asked all married couples present to stand, face each other and renew their Marriage Vows. Father also gave a solemn blessing to the couples. At the conclusion of the Mass, couples were acknowledged for the numbers of years, that they had been married and the four couples who had been married for over 60 years received a great applause. Special acknowledgement was given to the anniversaries of: Joan and Kevin Hickey 60 years, Joan and James Hargreave, 61 years, Desiree and Kevin Kilby 63 years and Joan and Warrock Patterson 63 years. The total number of years of marriage, of those attending, added up to over 3500 years!

Mass was followed by lunch on the beautiful breezy verandah surrounding St Benedict's Church. The very successful and happy event, was hosted by Burleigh Heads Parish, the Mudgeeraba worshipping community, the Gold Coast Team for Married Spirituality and supported by the South Coast Deanery. The organisers hope that the WMD Mass will be an annual event on the Gold Coast, to support married couples.

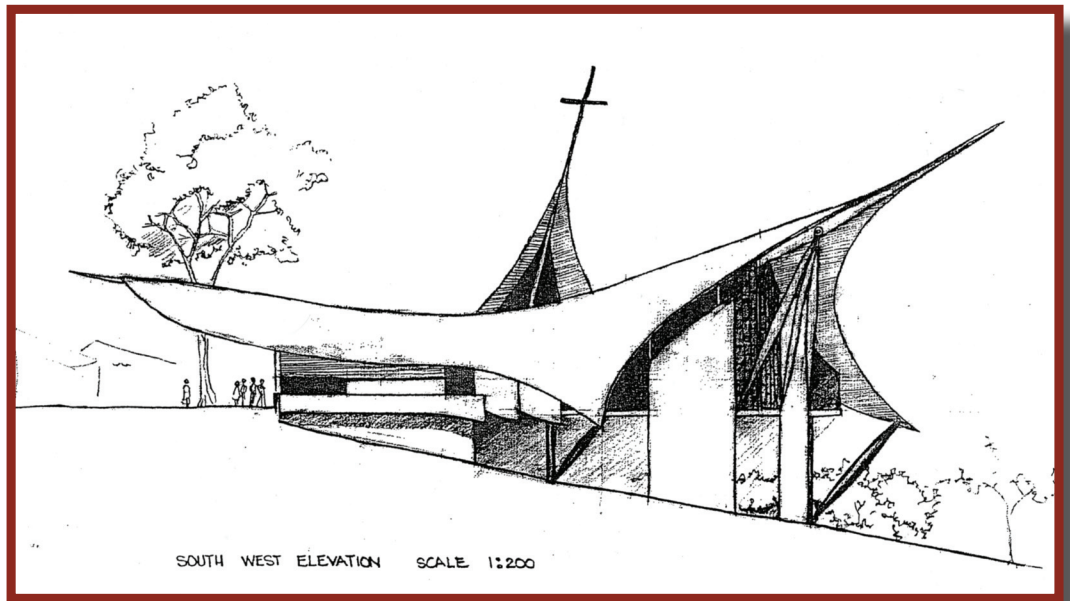
"On this Rock I will build My Church"

The Master Plan for the Burleigh Heads Parish which is being put together by many Pastoral Groups will be completed by mid year. Part of the Plan is to provide a Parish Centre which incorporates the new Church. After many years of waiting to build the Burleigh Parish's new Church on the Marymount site the process is now up and running.

Thanks to the sale of the Bermuda Street subdivision which is expected to be completed by June, the Parish moves forward with the new Church.

There has been delays with the sale of the Bermuda Street subdivision including delays with the purchaser Property Commercial Pty Ltd, Main Roads and Gold Coast City Council. Fr Pat advises that once the subdivision is registered at the Titles Office it will move rapidly from there with construction possibly commencing during 2012.

Peddle Thorp Architects have come up with the initial design but that hasn't been finalised. The design includes the New



Church and administration as well as car parking.

So anyone who has had to park up at the Marymount Primary School in the past 20 years will no doubt be relieved to hear the car parking issue will finally be behind us.

On seeing the proposed design of the New Church all parishioners will delight in how functional and visionary the New Church will be.

We will keep you posted on any future developments as soon as we hear.

The Sick in our Parish and the Robina Hospital Chapel

In March a wonderful Liturgy was held at Infant Saviour Church. It was for Ministers to the Sick bringing together all those who are on the Robina Hospital Roster. Well over 30 in our Parish administer the Eucharist to the sick.

With the addition of 20 palliative care beds in the Robina Hospital it gives us the

opportunity as a Parish to look at our involvement with the Robina Hospital Chapel. We are encouraging all involved and those who are interested to get together at these regular liturgies and support this great Parish work.

These new beds at Robina Hospital represent vulnerable people in 'life changing

stages' of life in our community, needing support. We can reflect on how do we care for people in need in our Parish and the level of support available. What message of comfort do we bring as a Parish to the dying? What can we do and how can we support patients who are using the Chapel in the Robina Hospital.

We as a Parish carry out this wonderful work regularly with visits to the Hospital and it seems we have to meet the challenge of an ever increasing need in our community.

The chapel at the moment is used by patients, their families and staff at the Robina Hospital. With the introduction of the altar donated by the Burleigh Parish there is more of an opportunity to use the chapel for celebrations, prayers, liturgy and mass. At the moment our over stretched priests provide Pastoral Care for the Robina Hospital patients however is there something else that we as a Parish can offer?

The Chapel is a great opportunity for us. It is a small space for prayer and reflection in the middle of a clinical complex. With lighting reflective candles, praying in the Chapel, liturgy and mass all this offers much comfort and support to the sick at the Hospital. With our huge list of activities through out the Parish we could easily direct some to the Robina Hospital Chapel. More presence there will have its own effect. Should we be asking what does such activity offer patients and what does it offer us?



Fr Pat Moloney does mass every Friday at 9am in the Robina Hospital Chapel

Marymount College students reflect on Ash Wednesday and Lent

Recently in one of the Marymount College newsletters Natalie Lane reflected on Lent and we thought it would be great to share with the wider parish community.

Natalie Lane - Year 12 Reporter and Participant wrote "Ash Wednesday reflected the beginning of Lent, a part of the year where we give up something in our lives to develop as a person and to focus on giving back to other people instead. Lent in 2011 is essential to our journey as Year 12 students and I personally saw it as the beginning of changes in my life at school.



Church Images

Over a number of editions of Catholic Life will explain some of the beautiful images that are in our churches starting with the banners that are displayed in Infant Saviour Church Burleigh Heads.

The banner is a symbol of the Risen Christ as is explained here in Lk. 24: 6 – 11

Such a day for celebration for us but of disbelief and uncertainty for the followers of Jesus. The women gave the message but trust did not come. Peter and John ran to the tomb and 'went back home amazed at what had happened'.

The imagery is largely symbolic and the colours and textures also play a part in explaining the overall theme.

Gold and silk are the fabrics and braids used to convey the glory of this event. The rich yellows, golds, and oranges and purples radiate from the deep burgundy centre. The light enhances the depth of colour of the silk and the gold draws the eye out to what is beyond our imagining. The simple off-white cotton background allows the richness of the silk to fill the eye.



"You don't create a smart and confident Australia by taking to people with the stick" – Vinnies

St Vincent de Paul Society National Council CEO, Dr John Falzon, responded to the 2011 Federal Budget with the following statement: "A harsher welfare compliance regime and the extension of compulsory income management are measures that assume that if you are disadvantaged your problem is idleness. Idleness is not the problem. The problem is entrenched inequality.

"The Government has stated its good intention to train Australians. We support this investment unreservedly. But you don't cre-

ate a smart and confident Australia by taking to people with the stick. This might have been the educational philosophy of years gone by and it might be a clever way of scoring political points, but it will not build a stronger, smarter economy or a fairer society.

"For a single unemployed person, the battle to survive on \$34 a day is a battle that is waged from below the poverty line. The government is right to look at this and say that life should be better, but wrong to claim

that the answer lies in making life harder.

"We encourage the Government to seriously analyse the actual causes of unemployment, especially in areas of concentrated disadvantage. We applaud place-based initiatives that support people who have been left out or pushed out. We also welcome the boost to mental health spending.

"But we cannot condone the Dickensian rhetoric of needing to take a stick to the backs of the poor."