



Merry Christmas to all in the Burleigh Parish



Choir of Hard Knocks in Burleigh

The Choir of Hard Knocks came to the Doyle Centre in October. The choir consists of homeless and disadvantaged people, addicts and people with mental illness. The type of people who are avoided on the street not the type of people who can transform through song. All are living proof that music can change anyone and transport any soul. All are living proof that anyone can find their voice, get in touch with their soul and change their life. The Choir was formed in Melbourne and has been in the spotlight since 2007. When the Choir was originally started organizers had no idea what a sensation such a risky venture would become. From the start it was 'grass roots' with recruiting by word of mouth through friends on the street and also through community organizations who were in contact with the homeless and addicts. The name is a reference to the School of Hard Knocks, i.e. learning by experiencing life, not through classrooms. And that experience of life comes through. That is what makes such a special performance.

And parishioners got that special performance with the Choir of Hard Knocks giving a great concert at the Doyle Centre full of Hope and Inspiration which is now the name they are known as. Here's hoping we can have more inspirational performances on the Parish Calendar for 2012.

"As we all commence our Advent Journey heading towards the Feast of Christmas, lets allow ourselves some time to reflect over the past twelve months both on a Spiritual and Personal level. Let's evaluate our own journey so far and look at our own Faith. Let's challenge ourselves over this Christmas Season to do our best with the Gifts that we already have. Let's Challenge ourselves and everyone around us to engage and use our own gifts in new and inspiring ways. Both within our homes and our Church community. Happy reading and have a Safe Happy and Holy Christmas."



Marymount Primary were 'flowering' at their celebration for Marymount Day 2011

Parish Christmas Calendar

Christmas at Palm Beach

Saturday 3 Dec Our Christmas Party is on. All welcome so come and be celebrate with us.

Christmas in Miami

Wed 7 Dec – 7pm Come and recall the Miracle of Christmas Sing Christmas Carols and enjoy a sausage sizzle and Christmas cake.

Christmas at Infant Saviour Church

Thurs 15 Dec- 5pm Burleigh are putting a Christmas BBQ. Come down to beautiful Burleigh and enjoy and relaxing time with us.

Christmas at Mudgeeraba is on too.

Christmas party 8th Dec 6pm

Saturday, 24 December - Christmas Vigil

5.00pm Mass - Miami

5.00pm Mass - Mudgeeraba

6.00pm Mass - Palm Beach

6.00pm Family Mass - Doyle Centre

7.30pm Mass - Burleigh Heads

Midnight Mass - Burleigh Heads

Sunday, 25 December - Christmas

7.00am Mass - Palm Beach

7.00am Mass - Burleigh Heads

8.30am Mass - Mudgeeraba

8.30am Mass - Miami

10.00am Mass-DoyleCentre, Marymount



Parishioner Monica Littlefield meets with some of the choir members after their performance at the Doyle Centre



Insights of Madrid's WYD

My WYD experience was completely different from my initial taste of Sydney. I think it was due to the fact that I stayed with a priest in Madrid. Father Alberto was an awesome guy. He opened his house and heart to another Aussie, Kiwi, Venusian, American girl and a guy from Holland. The cathetusises where all very well spoken by varies ministers but I found the most enlightening experiences talking to the cardinals I met from America and Madrid. Overall where the Sydney's experience was completely overwhelming, what I have taken from Madrid is a self growth and clarity which I felt I had lost over the past years since Sydney.

The night vigil was also horrendous with 2 million people trying to use the metro at once !!!! 38 degree day in the dry desert called airfield, fighting off the biggest ants I have ever seen and then to top it of a nice torrential summer storm which cut the Pope's Mass in half. But this was an experience I will never forget and cannot recommend it anymore highly for people to attend WYD in Brazil –

Blake Davies

On Sunday 20th July 2008, I attended the Morning Mass with Pope Benedict XVI for World Youth Day in Sydney. Three years later, and lots of money saved, I was the only one from my WYD08 group that made the pilgrimage again, this time halfway across the world! For my first trip overseas, and my second World Youth Day, there is not enough I can say about the experiences I had. I met so many wonderful people, and fought language barriers to make a connection with them. Seeing the Pope again was no less amazing than the first time back home in Australia. You really are in awe the whole time. On Sunday 21st August 2011, unfortunately I was unable to attend the Morning Mass once again as I had flights back home. However, the memories I have from the wonderful week in Madrid will be with me always. Here I come, Rio? – Rachel Jones

Christmas –
'For unto us a child is born,
Christ the Lord'

Blessings from Sr Moira CSB



Sr Moira speaking at Mudgeeraba

It seems a least a full year since I left themagical Gold Coast for the southern state, and it is a few months now that I have been with St Francis Xavier/St Clares Partnership Parish as Pastoral Associate. The position was to be 'part-time' but life has been on a roll with a number of big items so I have not really noticed the part-time bit!! However I am enjoying this large parish and it's good people. The Franciscan Priests have responsibility for the parish and our two priests are in the 'seniors' bracket as too the pastoral associate so we often have a laugh about the parish trio being youthful in mind and heart if a bilged in other ways! The parish house is always a buzz with people, meetings and activities so I am still learning "whose who" and "what's on" in any week; certainly things are constant for sure.

I was here about a week when Fr. Peter asked me to "spear-head" the St. Francis Xavier Church renovation project. This seems to have been in limbo for a few years with the on-again...off-again routine. After getting the ADF of the Melbourne Archdiocese to set up the loan! For the finances and bringing back the architect/builders the project is now underway! The clean-out of the whole site was a marvelous community building week-end in late September and we found bulletins from a Sunday in 1926! The church was built in 1925!! So these were only some of the heir looms hiding in cupboards and unused confessionals! A large tip truck headed off after the week-end and the storage removalists moved in to the store the pews, organstations of the cross, and all the heavy items. The plan for the renovations are great and we look forward to the Completion in the new year. At present we are planning an out-door Christmas Eve Mass for the families so we need prayers for Melbourne weather! Please oblige. My thoughts are often drifting north and I do remember you all in my love and prayers. Blessings and Love to all

Sr Moira.



WYD participants Madrid July 2011

A slip stitch, treble stitch
and chain stitch.



Earlier in the year I in our weekly Church Bulletin, I read about this year's project to send knitted and crocheted blankets overseas. I thought, "I can do that", so dug around the wardrobe and found the bag of wool, crochet hooks and a half finished knee rug from many years ago still in the bedding box and so started on this project.

After talking to Sister Moira who needed 28 squares, each to be 25cm by 25cm and then the squares get 'stitched' together. Seeing as there was 3 months before the blankets would go overseas I thought that I could make one a month. Each square takes about one and a quarter hours to make and generally when I have four I join them up. Saves hours of just joining squares after all 28 are done. So my target was reached and blankets duly handed in.

At Sister Moira's farewell, Maria was telling me about the older folks in Mudgeeraba who were cold and it was a pity we couldn't make something for them – people in our community. They only needed some knee rugs to keep warm, so I thought – I can do that. Each rug takes about a week and I've lost count of how many I have now made.

Together we can all make a difference.....
Thoughts from Clive



Christmas Eve
Vigil Family Mass
Saturday @ 5PM
Christmas Day 8.30am Mass
All Welcome.

St Benedict's Catholic Church
2 Wallaby Drive Mudgeeraba

Second Rite of Reconciliation

Monday 19 December
9am Calvary Church Miami
6pm Infant Saviour Church,
Burleigh Heads

Wednesday 21 December 2, 2011
6pm Our Lady of the Way Church
Palm Beach

Thursday 22 December
6pm St Benedicts Church Mudgeeraba

Christmas on the Road

A Message from Deidre Ackerly

As you read this I will be driving towards Melbourne where Scotty and I are having Christmas with my Aunt and uncle and their son's family. I expect my cousin Dean, ten, has a mind full of presents he hopes to receive. For me, Christmas is a time of giving, not receiving. I try to put thought into my presents so people really enjoy what they receive. I enjoy cooking the Christmas puddings which I give to several friends. I will be helping out in my Aunt's kitchen and she will probably be giving me orders as she is a far better cook than me. Scotty and I will be thinking of you all at Mudgeeraba, wishing you success with your Nativity and wishing we were there to see it.



Deidre Ackerly

Marymount Fete 2011 A big success.

Congratulations to the organizers of the Marymount Fete. On the day with warm barmy weather and clouds overhead the grounds at Marymount were packed with kids, parents, cars and plenty of activities. Music was a big event stopper with performances from Marymount Primary School Band through to the College bands. The gymnasts did a great show as well.



Face painting, one of the many fun activities

All the money raised from the fete will through the P&F fund many worthwhile projects at both the College and Primary School over the coming months. Not only was it a big hit with our school children but also the monies raised made it an even bigger hit for the P&F.

It's great to see combined events like this by the Marymount College and Marymount Primary School. It adds to the sense of community and cooperation that we have in abundance with our schools.

Let's not forget about the face paintings. It was the most popular activity for our

Youngest fete goers. What a creative lot the face painting artists are.



huge crowds on the day



Our Lady's Birthday Celebrated for Marymount Day 2011

Marymount's school feast day – Our Lady's Birthday was celebrated traditionally with a combined schools' Mass in the Doyle Centre. College Principal Chris Noonan later acknowledged Fr Pat Molony's always strong commitment of Patience & wisdom' as well as 'his experience, timing & grace to minister to such a large congregation ranging in age from 4 to 18.'

Franciscan Sisters, including Sr Clara and Sr Rita, Parents and Friends, Parishioners, and St. Vincent de Paul Society were formally welcomed.

A 'Creative Drama' 'to enliven the Scriptures joined forces with the award-winning Marymount Choir (Meagan Pearse, Music Co-ordinator) through a feast day of hymns:

"Hearts of Fire", "Gloria", "Open my Eyes", "The Magnificat", "Shine Jesus Shine" and the beautiful "I sing to Mary"

The elevated Altar was dressed in Our Lady's traditional blue with a festive surround of blue and white balloons.

After Communion, Marymount College's A.P.R.E.- (Assistant Principal Religious Education) Dolores Maitland introduced another Marymount Tradition – "Ave Maria, which is Latin for Hail Mary... The Hail Mary we all say"

Jodie Young, Teacher and herself an ex – Marymount student, filled the venue with glorious sound, so dear to older parishioners present, and for the students a short exposure to Latin.

To crown the day, College Representatives of "The Mini Vinnies" Group presented St. Vincent de Paul Burleigh Heads Parish, with the schools' annual gifting for the needy and homeless. Dozens of baskets of basic food and toilet necessities were handed over to be packed into trucks for later distribution.

Lea Dunlea.



L-R Tommy Sheehan Vice Captain, Joshua Fitzpatrick Captain, Samantha Wilson Captain and Kate Coombes Vice Captain.



Marymount Choir performing on Marymount Day



Parish Profile

Brian Dunlea so far....

Reflecting on one of our retired parishioners is a life full of involvement in the Church and overseas travel. Brian grew up in Brisbane doing most of his schooling at St Joseph's College Gregory Terrace. He left his family in Brisbane to join the Christian Brothers Order in Sydney in 1948. After 4 years training at Strathfield he taught at Christian Brothers Manly 1952-54 and St Patrick's College Strathfield. 1955-57. From there he was transferred to the Catholic Mission near Rabaul, New Guinea for the most part of 11 years. During that time Brian lectured at the Catholic Teachers College, training teachers and catechists for remote mission schools throughout New Britain, New Ireland and New Guinea. Brian enjoyed in those days travelling by small mission boats, often through mountainous monsoonal seas, to remote mission schools, checking standards of teaching and enduring bouts of malaria and dengue fever. He didn't enjoy that part of the journey of course. One of the extra curricular activities was running a fifteen bed infirmary for the surrounding sick. He studied tropical medicine for two years while being guided by a doctor 25 miles away. Brian left the Christian Brothers in 1968 and journeyed to the Gold Coast where over the years he taught at Aquinas College, St. Vincent's School, St. Francis Xavier School and before retiring was principal of St. Kevin's School at Benowa. In retirement Brian still travels. Enjoying many trips with his wife Lea which have included many study tours to Israel a country he finds fascinating after having studied scripture for many years as a brother.

A bit of history ...

In 1869 following a visit to Rome Bishop Quinn from Brisbane enlisted a group of Italian Priests for his Archdiocese.

Amongst them the talented Fr Beneditto Schortini reached Brisbane in 1871. He was appointed Pastor to the Logan Mission.

Mass was out of saddle bags, arranged on the dining table of a network of bush dwellings called "Mass Houses". It took the immigrant Priest two or three months to complete his circuit. As communities, Mass was celebrated sometimes in the dining parlour of the local Irish publican's establishment, like Thomas Hanlon's pub in Southport, now the Pacific Hotel.

From there some permanent bush churches emerged, namely

St Malachys Tallebudgera in 1878
Southport in 1882
Nerang in 1882





This Christmas Banner from the Infant Saviour Church is titled Jesus is Born in the Stable-Lk2:6-7

Church Images

'And while they were in Bethlehem, the time came for her to have her baby. She gave birth to her first son, wrapped him in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger – there was no room for them to stay in the inn.'

A large star, formed from bright gold satin fabric rests above the cave, the stable and the angels, in cream satin, hover near. Openings in the wall of the cave allow the brightness of the star, and the mystery of the birth, to reach the world beyond. The sheep, the rough landform, the trees and the shepherds path are in basic cotton fabric in a variety of tones and patterns. The inn is more structured in basic shapes but again in simple cotton fabric. The landform is neater and more ordered but again, formed with basic cotton fabrics. The design of the quilting gives life to the land and excitement to the sky.

www.burleighheadscatholic.com.au

Information on the Children's Liturgy of the Word

Three of our five centres offer Children's Liturgy. Following is a short outline of the work done at each of the centres.

Doyle Centre There are two masses each Sunday in the Doyle Centre and something is offered each Sunday to assist children in breaking open the Word in their lives today.

- 1st Sunday: 5.30pm Children's Mass or Children's Liturgy of the Word
- 2nd Sunday: 10am. Children's Liturgy of the Word.
- 3rd Sunday: 5.30pm Children's Liturgy of the Word.
- 4th Sunday: 10am Children's Liturgy of the Word.

Children's Mass is where children proclaim the Word modified in the Children's Lectionary, and offer the prayers of the faithful for the community. Fr Pat always calls the children together on the carpet and breaks open the Word for them.

Children's Liturgy of the Word is where the children leave the community and read the modified readings of the day and respond in a variety of ways through song, drama, discussion or activities. A variety of resources are provided and the main focus is the gospel. Children generally return with something to enable family discussion later.

Leaders at the 10am are Sandra Green, Jennifer Horsburgh, Joe Thesseira. and Val Mc Tyre, while the leaders at 5.30pm are Chris Mc Cane and Bev Tronc. It is very rewarding and any volunteers are warmly welcomed.

Calvary Church, Miami. Monica Purdon and Hilary Hulett take children's

liturgy at Miami Calvary Church every second Sunday of the month. Attendance of children ranges from 5 to 18, and varies according to seasonal local club activities along with visiting holiday makers. Lessons are adapted to meet the range of ages and at times older children have assisted with the younger children. Monica presents families with an overview of the year's program. This has been beneficial. Morning tea along with soft drinks for the children is provided by the church community also on this Sunday providing an opportunity to communicate with families. Now in its third year Children's Liturgy is an integral part of church life at Miami.

St Benedict's, Mudgeeraba. 8.30 am Mass has had Children's Liturgy for some time, but it became a weekly event with reorganisation and support from Sr Moira.

We currently have 8 sets of helpers (some Mother and daughter pairs on the roster) each taking turns approximately once every two months. We are always keen for more helpers.

Tanya Allomes is mainly in charge of organizing each Sunday's lesson. We are using paid internet downloaded worksheets to help explain and deliver each Sundays' Gospel reading and message to the children at their level. On average 20-25 children are attending Children's Liturgy each Sunday at Mudgeeraba. They enjoy attending and learn from hearing the Gospel and doing the activities more at a child's level of understanding.



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| Bathtub, tiles, and benchtop | Electrical | 2 Pack spray for Aluminium | Renovations | Wallpapering |
| resurfacing | Plumbing | Windows | Roof | Faux Finishes |
| Floor Sanding | Tiling | Cement Rendering | Restorations | Painting |
| | Carpentry | | Mowing | Plastering |

Confirmation and First Holy Communion May 2011.

The first group of Confirmation and First Holy Communion candidates for 2011 met in February. There were two Parent Meetings and four workshops for the 33 candidates from the 5 church venues. The 1st Workshop reminds the children of their Baptism and the ceremony with their parents and godparents. The following Sunday they are presented to the congregation of their church in an Enrolment Ceremony held during mass. The 2nd Workshop focuses on Reconciliation and is followed by a family based Reconciliation with Father Pat. The 3rd Workshop outlines the promises made at their Baptism by their parents but which the children are now making for themselves and the 4th is a preparation for their First Holy Communion. Father Pat presided at the Confirmation Ceremony held at Calvary Church, Miami, on Friday, May 27th and the church was decked out in red, the liturgical colour for feast days and celebrations. The children looked very special, many wearing a cross which was a gift from their parents or sponsor.

The ceremony began with the Blessing of the Water and the sprinkling while the Parish choir sang. Candles were lit and the children made their promises. The sponsors placed their right hand on the shoulder of their candidate and the prayers for the Laying on of Hands were made. Each child was presented to Father Pat for anointing with the Oil of Chrism, and then a representative from each church group read a prayer of intercession. Finally, each candidate was called out to receive their Confirmation Certificate from their Catechist and a medallion from Father Pat.

The evening closed with a Prayer and the children processed out with Father Pat for the cutting of the cake and supper, and the noise level rose as people took photos and excitedly discussed the evening.

Saturday evening or Sunday, each child made their First Communion at their own worship centre. They wore their medallion and went to Communion in a group with their family. All the candidates in my group had big smiles and their parents looked extremely proud. Most venues had a special "cuppa" and a cake after mass, to celebrate the special occasion with the children and their families.



The Anointing for Confirmation from Bishop Oudeman



A sincere moment at First Holy Communion

July's Confirmation

The second group started in July, following the same format. Confirmation was celebrated on October 28th at St Benedict's with Bishop Joseph Oudeman presiding and the children celebrated first Holy Communion in their own church centre the following Saturday or Sunday. Again, a special "cuppa" and cake was enjoyed after mass. There were over 80 candidates this year.



First Holy Communion graduates



Cutting the cake with Bishop Oudeman



St Vincent de Paul Society

Annual Report 2011

In the past year our own Infant Saviour and St Benedict's Conferences continued to help over 1000 families and to provide assistance with a value of over \$80,000. The Special Works Conference at Ozanam Villa continued to serve the 186 low and high care beds existing there today. The recent news that the Society will shortly regain control of the Ozcare facilities including Ozanam Villa has given that Conference renewed enthusiasm.

Once again this past year, help with basic accommodation on the Gold Coast was the greatest reason found for those seeking the Society's help. While the Government provides more and more low cost accommodation for families and the frail, the need remains great.

Of special interest, we can report with some joy the success of the new venture to assist migrants and refugees with free advice on visa issues that they might have. In its inaugural six months, that service (provided through Infant Saviour Conference) interviewed 62 cases at the two centres in Burleigh and in Logan. Those seeking assistance came from over 20 different countries and most would not be able to afford

the services of a migration agent. For those that do not meet Australia's immigration requirements, they have been informed exactly where they stand, and for those that do meet the requirements they are told what they need to do. A majority of cases were assisted positively, but 27% of cases were advised that their cases had a high probability of refusal. Overall, it is assessed that the service is valuable. It is intended to continue the service, and to investigate its expansion to other areas of the State using computer technology to provide the necessary communication to overcome the tyranny of distance.

We were again able to host and provide a day of entertainment at Tallebudgera Creek for some 100 refugees from Myanmar and Africa and now living in the Logan area, and our Conferences will once again prepare and deliver food hampers and gift packages for 60 to 80 families on Christmas Eve.

We are fortunate in this Parish to have wonderful support for the work of the Society, including some 100 baskets of food and living essentials collected by the students on Marymount Day. We acknowledge the assistance given so willingly by friends

of the Society at each of the Mass Centre Piety Stalls which enables provision of that service to parishioners. The support we enjoy, includes some 36 active members in our three conferences in the Parish. However, we are always seeking new members with the ever increasing demand, and all three of our Conferences would be delighted to hear from interested parishioners.

The collection for our annual appeal will be taken up next weekend. Envelopes are available today and will also be available next week. Credit Card facilities are available on the envelopes. In addition, you can make a credit card donation directly to the Society website (<http://www.vinnies.org.au/home-qld>) – if you do, we just ask that you write "Burleigh Heads" in the comments box.

We thank you sincerely for your generosity in the past and again seek your support to enable a hand-up to be offered to those in need.

Infant Saviour Conference
Ozanam Villa Special Works Conference
St Benedict's Conference

Community Development Office in Burleigh Heads

The Community development Office is located in Burleigh Heads where we operate our office out of the Burleigh Heads Parish building. We are small, but committed to developing community throughout the Gold Coast region. Community development is about working where people are at in their lives, acknowledging their strengths, experiences and knowledge. Community development is the belief that movement from the grass roots level is the most important and meaningful to the community in general and we are here to offer any support required.

The Community Development office operates across the whole of the Gold Coast region on projects from all areas of community such as Seniors projects, Homelessness, Families and Community Expos, Arts projects, Youth Forums, website creation, student placement/experience, university course content discussions, assisting with writing funding applications etc. etc.

As part of our membership with the Gold Coast Homeless Network we have recently been involved in the beginning operations of the Street Library. This project was developed after a need was identified by people affected by homelessness at Homeless Connect (a one day event for people who are homeless or at risk of being homeless) and we have been collecting books and applying for funding over the last year. People who are homeless have very limited opportunities to access reading materials and the Street Library is a fabulous way of connecting with people, regardless of their living circumstances, which allows easy relationship building based on favourite authors/genres etc. For further information about the Street Library please visit www.gcstreetlibrary.org

Homelessness is everyone's business.

www.burleighheadscatholic.com.au

