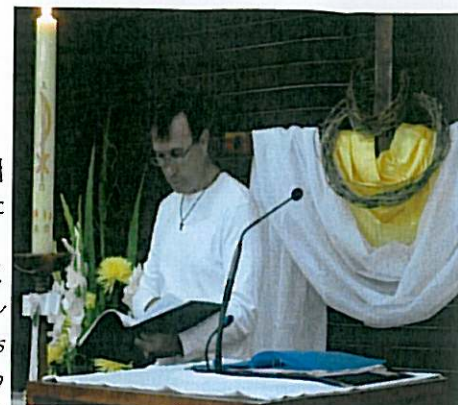


Connecting local church with schools, communities and each other.

A little history

Catechuminate is the ancient Christian name found in early faith history. The New Testament records the practices of the Apostles who initiated individuals and entire families into the new faith through baptism, sealed them with the gifts of the Spirit and shared with them an Eucharistic meal. As Christianity spread throughout the hellinistic world, a process to introduce pagans and philosophers to the revealed God started to formulate. *"and every day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved". ACTS 2:47* 150-200 AD *"We also pray and fast with them. Then they are brought by us where there is water" Justin Martyr APOLOGY 61.* 3rd-4th Century *"But if he says 'yes' ask him again, 'are you a catechumen or one of the faithful!" ST AUGUSTINE in Joan XLIV,2.* A revival in the 16th century and further development as Missionaries moved into the new world brought the restoration to Vat 11 Council. This was

overwhelmingly approved by Council in 1966 and in 1972 the council promulgated—Ordo Initiationi Christianae Adultorum (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults) as we know it—RCIA.



David Wilson opens *The Word* at the Easter Vigil Mass 2012
Calvary Church Miami

WELCOME TO OUR CATHOLIC FAITH

The RCIA – Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults – or is sometimes known as ‘The Front door of the Catholic Church’. Those who man it are to be commended for their dedication into bringing new candidates to the Catholic Faith. For those of us baptised from infancy may be in danger of taking our faith for granted, but I ponder as to what goes through the mind of those who inquire into our Faith and ask the question; and, then decide to Journey in their Faith to the Baptism Font. What were they looking for? Are they finding new light for themselves through this Journey? We were fortunate to obtain some thoughts from our present candidates who were received into the Catholic Church at Easter 2012.

From Damien *"I have embarked on the RCIA journey to formalise what began 24 years ago. I was baptised and received Holy Communion as an Anglican and then went to a Catholic boarding school and from that time have considered myself a Catholic. The RCIA program, though long delayed, because I didn't know what the process was, or even if there was one, will complete that transition. Formally becoming a Catholic will enable me to participate fully in Mass with my family."*

From Levi Lea *"Thank you for the learning experience. I look forward to the future and putting my RCIA learning into every-day life. I'm happy to have met so many nice people through the course!"*

From Catherine *"Two years ago I was sitting with my son at Christmas Eve mass. When it was time for Communion, we were the only ones in our pew that did not participate. He then asked me "Mummy, why don't we go and do that" – it got me thinking.... Why don't I go and do "that" As an infant I was baptised a Catholic, however our family were never "practising Catholics". Whilst I had a fair understanding of the religion and the happenings within a mass service – I decided to join the RCIA program to deepen my understanding of the faith and also to support my children's journey as they attend a Catholic School. Whilst I was eager to learn more about our religion I didn't quite expect the program to resonate with me on such a spiritual level. I have learnt that the readings of the Gospel can affect everyone so differently and that we can also find some truth and "light bulb" moments in all of them. I have learnt that the search for our Spiritual Self can be as easy as turning to the Church and attending Mass. The RCIA group is a supportive, non-intimidating environment to take our next steps in joining the Catholic Church. The guidance of our leader, David Wilson and also recently Father Peter allows us to ask questions, speak freely and never feel like our interpretations are "wrong". With only a few weeks of our "RCIA Journey" to go, I feel I am ready and am looking forward to becoming a member of our Burleigh Parish."*

At the 2012 Easter Vigil at our Miami Church, six people were baptised and confirmed into the Catholic Faith, supported by a large congregation. Fr Peter led the Liturgy and the Burleigh Heads Choir led the singing. A celebration was held after the Mass, and we were all grateful for the fine weather. There are five churches in our Parish, should you meet any of our newest Catholics, please make them welcome.



The class of 2012 with
Fr Peter and Sponsors

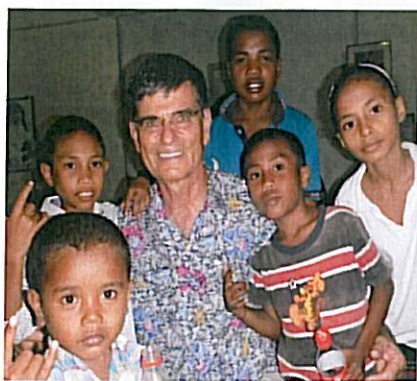
Our Parishioners visit the Parish of Ossu, Timor Leste

For the past 3 years Sue and Bren Milsom had read the invitation notice in the Parish Bulletin for parishioners to join a group on an immersion journey of solidarity to East Timor. Their daughter had been deployed there as part of the peacekeeping force, so they have always been interested to learn more about that country and how they could help. St Mary's Parish Coomera has had a solidarity relationship with the Parish of Soibada for 13 years, so in December 2011 they joined a group led by Damien Nelson from that Parish and along with 9 others departed on their trip. The flight from Darwin to the capital, Dili only took one hour, which was the first of many experiences over their two week journey, which reinforced for them the close ties that Australians have geographically and historically, with their northern Timorese neighbours. They visited the Parish of Ossu. Ossu in the District of Viqueque where Nobel prize winner—Bishop Carlos Belo attended school. Ossu Parish is about 150km from Dili, and ministers to approximately 21,000 people. A new church building for St Theresina's is slowly taking shape. There are 19 remote mission stations (small villages) where Mass is said once a month, each with its own catechist. They went to one of these remote villages, Nahareca for their Village stay. No water, no electricity, no sanitation, huts from local materials with earthen floors – two families had given up their homes for their group, where they stayed 3 nights. They conversed with our books in Tetum with children and families, watched and played local games, ate local food. Nahareca villagers have been building their Church for the ten years since independence. They need \$5,000 approx to weatherproof and complete it. Their Church is the focal point for the community and village life, used for meetings and gatherings and will give them hope in their future.

What these people lacked in basic facilities they made up for with their strong sense of community and hope in God's providence for their future. The children were a delight with their joy and ability to play and have fun



St Theresina's Ossu - Dec 2011



Friends at Dominican Orphanage, Bidau

with the simplest of things as "toys". The Soibada Parish (with funds raised by the Coomera Parish) assist with the further education of young people from the villages in the larger cities—Dili or Baucau. It costs about \$15 per month for board and tuition, uniforms etc for each student. Besides visiting these two parishes and engaging with these faith filled people our group visited a TB Clinic, a Leprosy Clinic, a Dominican orphanage, the new Dili Cathedral, the Commission for Truth and Reconciliation, the Santa Cruz cemetery, the site of the 1991 bloody massacre of Timorese. They were saddened and confronted by the pain and destruction, experienced by the people they met, who had survived the troubled years of Indonesian occupation. And yet, in spite of the past, these people have a will to move forward and rebuild their infrastructure, schools, hospitals.

In the face of such poverty, Sue and Bren cannot come home to their comforts and do nothing. They would like to build a strong connection between the Parish of Ossu and our Parish of Burleigh Heads. East Timor needs money not things - particularly not cast offs from our society such as clothes and English language books. Money is needed to fund their own programs and from what was observed, our group felt confident that the Church and religious groups are using their funds wisely.

Sue and Bren's action plan

To share their experiences with all Parish groups especially the Parish Social Justice Action Group to talk with teachers and students at Marymount College and Primary.

To encourage others in our Parish to visit East Timor. The next visits with Coomera Parish are scheduled for June and December 2012— cost \$3150 pp. Alternatively one of our Priests could join the visit or we could host a visitor from Ossu.

To personally assist the village of Nahareca finish their church by raising \$5,000 in 2012.

To have specially pledged \$3,000, already held, personally delivered by one of our Parishioners, to Ossu Parish by June 2012.

To write to Institutions seeking scholarships for 1 Timorese student who wants to study agriculture.

To act as Ambassadors for Catholic Mission

To source medicines and equipment for clinics in Dili and Baucau.

To network with other groups currently supporting Timorese

To return to Timor and Ossu to further the friendship and work between our Parishes.

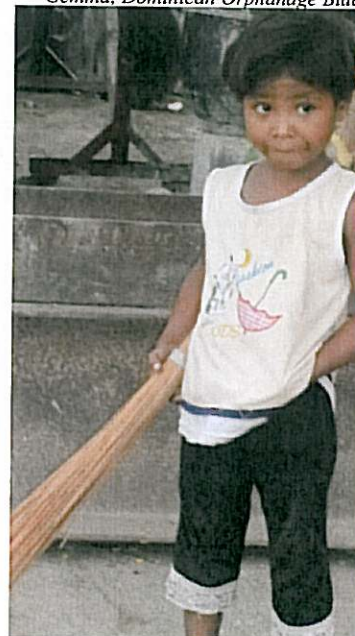
✓ Parishioners' suggested action plan

✓ Contact Sue and Bren Milsom 55224880 or milsoms@inet.net.au

✓ Assist with fundraising events

✓ Visit East Timor and experience all of this first hand.

Gemma, Dominican Orphanage Bidau





Our Children are busy in their Communities....



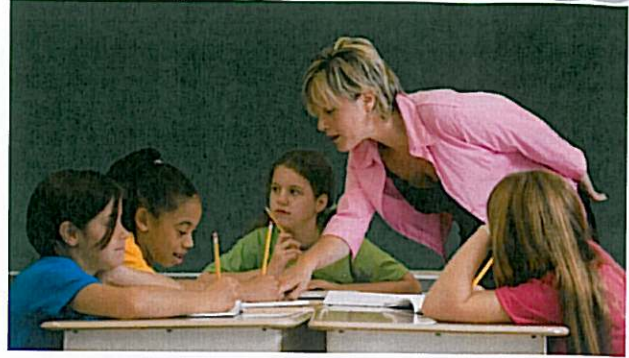
From Bev Tronc - Doyle Centre Children's Liturgy of the Word..... There are two Masses each Sunday and something is offered each Sunday to assist children in breaking open the Word in their lives. A "Children's Mass" is where the children proclaim the Word and offer the prayers of the faithful for the 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 an item that will enable family discussion after Mass. Our morning leaders are Jennifer, Joe, Toni, Dina and Sue with the afternoon leaders being Chris and Bev. It is a very rewarding role and all volunteers are warmly welcomed.

1st Sunday 5.30 pm Childrens Mass or Liturgy of Word

2nd Sunday 10 am Childrens Liturgy of the Word

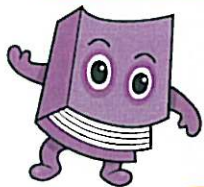
3rd Sunday 5.30 pm Childrens Liturgy of the Word

4th Sunday 10 am Childrens Liturgy of the Word



Tanya Allomes reports that on Sunday March 18 the Mudgeeraba Community held their first Children's Mass. It was organised and co-ordinated by the Children's Liturgy helpers of Mudgeeraba, along with guidance and assistance from the Parish Office and Bev Tronc who organises the Children's Mass at the Doyle Centre. The Reading, Responsorial Psalm and Gospel for the day all come from a special Children's Lectionary.

Many weeks were spent during Children's Liturgy time, practising and perfecting two songs which were sang and actioned during the Beginning and Conclusion of Mass. Eight children volunteered to assist with the Readings, Responsorial Psalm and Prayers of the Faithful. Each was very keen and did an excellent job. Four smaller children assisted with the Offertory Procession. In all, every child had a role—either big or small—it was carried out with reverence, respect and enthusiasm. During 2012 Mudgeeraba hopes to host a Children's Mass at least once per school term. With the continued enthusiasm of the children and the parents the frequency may certainly increase. We will continue to offer Children's Liturgy most Sundays to help the children understand the Gospel Readings at their level. The Children's Mass on March 18 was followed by an extra special morning tea—enjoyed by all. The next Childrens Mass mid May—all children are welcome.



Mudgeeraba Childrens Mass

Miami's Monica Purdon reports We are well underway with our Children's Liturgy. The children are always enthusiastic and happy. It is a pleasure to teach them each month. The children are keen to join in, answer questions and take home any work to finish. We enjoy the liturgies and are privileged to have such beautiful children at Miami. The children are reading the Prayers of Intercession so well. Any other children interested in reading at Mass, please let us know. We look forward to more Sundays this year. As the children moved through the weeks of Lent, they were rewarded with Certificates of Excellence, Achievement and Accomplishment—all of which were proudly displayed in our Church.



Miami Children—Wall of Excellence Achievement and Accomplishment in the Lenten Season.



Fr Pat and our Children share Morning Tea

CDOGC (Community Development Office, Gold Coast) reports on...

"Every Senior Counts" was held on March 29 at The Pines Shopping Centre with the aim to build a happier and healthier community. Did you know that the ABC reported on 29/7/10 that people who lack friends and relationships are as likely to risk an early death as heavy drinkers and smokers. One way we can achieve "Every Senior Counts" is by encouraging and supporting those people who are active in the community to assist those who are not. **"FACES Expo"** will be held on June 2 at Tugun Community Centre. This expo is in its third year and highlights all the services available for people living in the southern end of the Gold Coast..



"Youth Homelessness Matters" was held on April 18 at Evandale. This is a community education campaign to raise awareness that approximately 700 young people are without permanent accommodation on the Gold Coast every night. **"Homeless Connect 2012"** will be held on August 1 at Albert Waterways Broadbeach. We will be calling for volunteers and donations of goods shortly after Easter. The goals of Homeless Connect Events are to: (A) Improve access to service providers by homeless people. (B) Engage, increase the collaborative involvement of homeless consumers, business, community agencies and volunteers working together to find solutions to homelessness. (C) Improve the system of care by creating opportunities for collaboration and sharing of best practice among the homelessness service sector. (D) Build upon business and corporate sponsorship and in-kind support to enhance the Government's housing options and build service capacity for homeless people. This initiative will engage the whole of the community to increase awareness about the issues relating to homelessness. The project will partner with a range of Services to enhance service delivery to homeless people, and create pathways to support them to find solutions to their cycle of homelessness.

For any further information on any of the above please contact our office by phone 55760956 Monday to Thursday or email Sandra on cdogc@bne.catholic.net.au or Lauretta on admin.cdogc@bne.catholic.net.au

Our friends at Oznam Villa Community Easter Communion Service



HOPE was the message conveyed to the Seniors of the Ozanam Villa on Easter Sunday. Hospital Chaplain Joan Morton was instrumental in organising a Liturgy of the Word with Communion for the Senior residents at the Home. Following the reading, Joan delivered a reflection that spoke of Hope in the Resurrection of the Risen Christ.

"I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full" (John 10:10)



**Born 30.10.1927
Born to Eternal Life 19.02.2012**

A Prayer for Tom

Having received the food of immortality, we ask, O Lord, that, glorying in obedience to the commands of Christ, the King of the universe, TOM may live with Him eternally in His Heavenly Kingdom. Amen.

THOMAS HILL

The Rosary was Tom's daily prayer, prayed over many times.



Tom was a man of integrity and deep faith. Tom spent many hours of everyday in prayer and meditation. He prayed for everyone in need and had a prayer list of requests from across the parish family. For a period of 25 years plus Tom dedicated himself to bringing people to God by immersing himself body and soul into the catechumenate process or the RCIA. His favourite saying was **"You can bring people to belief in God if you yourself FULLY believe"**! Tom believed. He was proud to be a Catholic. He was a great evangelizer. A rough count of people initiated into the catholic faith in our Burleigh Parish during the time Tom was both catechist and co-ordinator is somewhere in the region of 200-250 individuals, not including the many accompanying children who were also baptised along with their parent. Tom's other special project was the Doyle Centre Sunday Morning Mass Community. He was a great believer that God was waiting until we had built up the Doyle Centre Community before the go ahead would be given for our new church at Burleigh Waters. Tom is survived by his wife Josee of 56 years, their six children, 11 Grandchildren and 5 Great Grandchildren.

from Josee Hill