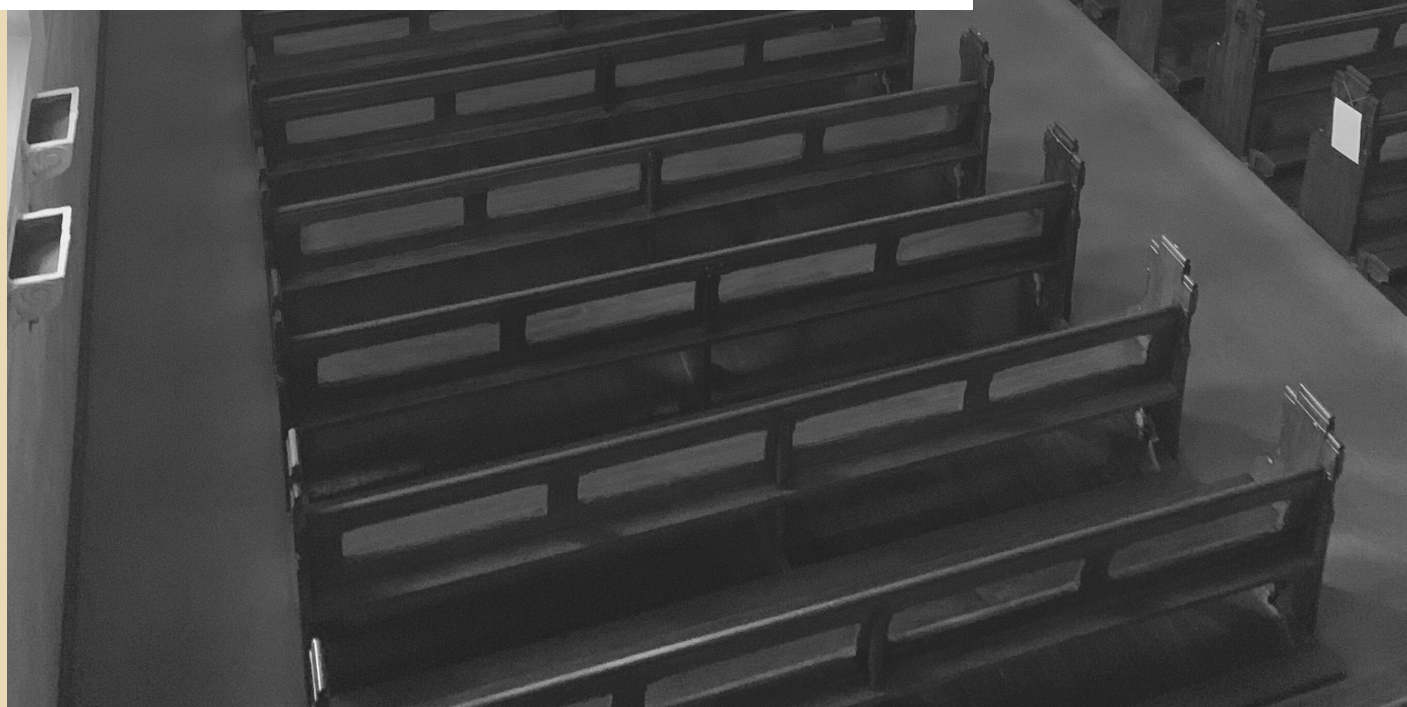


PARISHES OF CAMBERWELL, BALWYN DEEPDENE & SURREY HILLS WATTLE PARK

Annual Report 2020



Contents

- 03** Our Parishes at a Glance
- 04** Welcome from the Parish Priest
- 06** Parish Council Chair Reports
- 10** Staying connected while social distancing
- 11** Building our online community
Spiritual connection
- 12** Sunday Mass celebrated online
- 13** Pastoral care
Remembering our loved ones
- 14** Everything virtual
- 16** Safeguarding
- 17** Sacraments
- 20** Learning Team
- 23** Farewells
- 24** Welcome
Transition to MACS
- 25** Our Partnerships
- 26** Finance Report



Our Parishes at a Glance

14,810

Catholics

(National Pastoral Research: 2016 data)

5,290

Catholic families across our three parishes

(National Pastoral Research: 2016 data)

50

Ministries across our three parishes

453

Volunteers engaged and participating in parish ministries

09

Number of Sunday Masses across parishes

900

Weekly Mass attendees

OUR PARISH SCHOOLS

Our Lady of Good Counsel School

12 Whitehorse Road, Deepdene

Our Holy Redeemer School

311 Mont Albert Road, Surrey Hills

Our Lady's School

31 Erasmus Street, Surrey Hills

OUR RETIREMENT VILLAGE

Barnsbury

27-29 Barnsbury Road, Deepdene

OUR CHURCH COMMUNITIES

Camberwell Parish

Basilica of Our Lady of Victories

548 Burke Road, Camberwell

Balwyn & Deepdene Parish

All Hallows Church

17 Brenbeal Street, Balwyn

Our Lady of Good Counsel Church

10 Whitehorse Road, Deepdene

Surrey Hills Wattle Park Parish

Our Holy Redeemer Church

4 Barton Street, Surrey Hills

Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Church

301 Elgar Road, Surrey Hills

OUR PARISH TEAM

Fr Brendan Reed

Parish Priest

Fr Trac Nguyen

Assistant Priest

Archbishop Denis Hart

Fr Frank O'Loughlin

Assisting Clergy

Tricia Norman

Senior Pastoral Associate

Nanette Giovannini

Sacramental Coordinator

Kate Baines

Stewardship Coordinator

Sally McIntosh

Administrative Assistant

Kirsten Italiano

Parish Secretary

Welcome from the Parish Priest

Fr Brendan Reed

2020 was the year that no-one was expecting. The centre of parish life is the gathering of the community around the Sunday Eucharist. For much of 2020 our gatherings were limited to small numbers or none at all when we were in lockdown. Our churches were closed for the major part of the year. While this was difficult it also gave us the opportunity to learn more about who we are as a community and how we connect with one another. Our theme for the year was stay with us, pray with us and be with us.

While we could not gather for the Eucharist our communities turned to the Word of God, which of course is real food and nourishment for us. Each week we posted the readings of Sunday Mass with commentary and reflection. A prayer of the week also helped to connect us in prayer and solidarity. Many people participated in Mass online and connected in that way. Our annual report this year gives many examples of just how our communities supported one another and stayed connected in ordinary and creative ways.



2020 was also the year of partnerships. In May 2020 Father Trac and I were both appointed to the Parish of Surrey Hills Wattle Park in addition to Camberwell, Balwyn Deepdene. The challenges that are associated with a new parish partnership are always extensive but doing this in lockdown brought its own particular set of challenges. I am grateful to the parishioners of all three parishes, Surrey Hills Wattle Park, Camberwell and Balwyn Deepdene, for their incredible support during this time.

Our Parish Councils worked hard to open up dialogue and search for ways that collaboration could occur across our parishes while respecting the tradition and unique identity of each. I hope that this year's annual report will also demonstrate how that was achieved.

"The last year showed the resilience and strength of our faithful and committed parish communities."

I am grateful to each and every parishioner who supported our parishes financially during the last year. We have an incredibly generous community and our financial results for 2020 reflect that generosity. We were also supported by government grants and are grateful to the way in which our state and federal governments have supported so many of our communities over the last year.

The last year showed the resilience and strength of our faithful and committed parish communities. In the face of adversity many people displayed exactly what being a faith community is about.

I am grateful and proud of all three of our Catholic parish communities about which you will get a glimpse in this annual report.

"Of particular significance is the quiet, no-fuss and remarkable way five Churches have now been brought 'under one roof', giving us all a sense of belonging and knowing we are well equipped to grow in faith, an admirable achievement."

Janine Dobson



Parish Team (from left): Kirsten Italiano, Nanette Giovannini, Sally McIntosh, Fr Frank O'Loughlin, Fr Brendan Reed, Archbishop Denis Hart, Tricia Norman, Fr Trac Nguyen, Kate Baines.

Council Chair, Camberwell

Vince Curatore

2020 was an unprecedented year, where our lives changed dramatically due to the Coronavirus spreading throughout the world. Our parishes had to learn how to be innovative and agile in a short space of time. Before long we had online Mass being beamed to the homes of parishioners each Sunday. We quickly learned how to collaborate online, how to use Zoom, google meets and other online tools.

One of the areas for which I have had responsibility for the last few years is chairing the parishes' Learning Team. It became clear that the learning area was one in which our parishes could collaborate more during the lockdown period. It turned out to be a great opportunity to invite parishioners from Camberwell, Balwyn Deepdene, Surrey Hills Wattle Park and beyond to come together around topics that are important to all of us.

In 2020 we had planned to explore further the notion of 'Synodality' and the 'Plenary Council' and later in the year to explore a series on Social Justice. The Learning Team had to quickly readjust the way in which programs were going to be presented.

Our planned Plenary Council sessions would take a different direction. Instead of meeting face to face, Zoom meetings became the new norm and remained so for the rest of the year.



A three part series was conducted in the form of lectures but still allowing plenty of opportunities for verbal and written participation. These sessions took place during May and June.

Later in the year, while still unexpectedly in lockdown we explored the topic 'Our Social Justice Response in a Covid World'. If you missed these opportunities you can find much of the material on our parishes websites and you can read more about them in this annual report. 2020 may have brought us many challenges but it did bring unexpected collaboration between our parishes in the area of learning, which I believe has strengthened all those who took part.

"Our parishes had to learn how to be innovative and agile in a short space of time."

Council Chair, Balwyn & Deepdene

Julie Douglas

Words that spring to mind when reflecting on 2020 are grateful, thankful and resilient.

The Camberwell Balwyn & Deepdene Parish Councils determined our projects at our annual planning day, forming sub committees with members from both parishes. The plan was to hold some council meetings separately and others combined, however this soon changed... Covid-19 restrictions began mid March and we responded quickly with all members present at our first online meeting on 25 March. From there the parish flowed from strength to strength, Fr Brendan hosting online Masses (his previous experience from 'Mass for you at home' proving very beneficial!), and the councils deciding unanimously to continue with projects and meetings together, adapting where necessary to the effects of the pandemic.



The Sustainability Group expanded to include members from the Youth Engagement Project (YEP) and Our Lady of Good Counsel School, working to advocate the messages from Pope Francis' encyclical Laudato Si' – "Care for Our Common Home" focusing on advocating less waste and celebrating the 'Season of Creation' over the month of September.

Our Community Engagement Group was charged with reaching out to our community. What does our vision 'that each Parishioner witnesses Christ in their own way, every day' mean to our parish members? We teamed with Christian Research Australia and developed a survey and received responses from 506 parishioners from Camberwell, Balwyn Deepdene and Surrey Hills Wattle Park.

Among other things, survey feedback indicated that the parish mission should be to create a sense of community in a safe environment amongst people who share the same faith; to celebrate Mass and to be a centre for social justice and outreach.

The opportunity to attend Mass regularly, with friendship in community and being nourished through education opportunities, homilies and readings were seen as important aspects of the parishes. In this challenging Covid-19 environment we endeavor to continue to grow hospitality after Mass, learning, social justice and sustainability opportunities. We aim for an inclusive and welcoming faith based community open to all those interested, reaching out to all ages to provide a connection of parishes and schools in sacramental programs, pastoral care and liturgy. We look forward to continuing dialogue with everyone.



Council Chair, Surrey Hills Wattle Park

Peter Collery

2020 saw a major curtailment of parish activities in response to COVID restrictions. Our community was also advised in the early part of the year that Fr Mark Reynolds would be transferring to Scoresby Parish and that our Parish would enter into partnership with the Camberwell, Balwyn & Deepdene Parishes to form a larger collaborative partnership. For much of the year we have not been able to function normally and to address the proposed changes and implications of them for our parish. The combined Parish Leadership groups are currently working to produce an Information which we will shortly distribute to parishioners for consideration.

"There are some real potential benefits that could come from collaboration with our partnering parishes."

We have demonstrated we want our parish and community to be there for us and there were still some positives from the year such as:

- We were blessed to have Fr Mark as our Parish Priest for part of the year.
- We have been supported by our parish group of clergy.
- We have been given an opportunity to shape a very different future for our parishes....when was the last time we were given this opportunity?
- Our parish grouping is blessed with a very strong financial and other resourcing position.



For the future, there are some real potential benefits that could come from collaboration with our partnering parishes, including but not limited to:

- Combining liturgies for big feast days, whilst still providing a diversity of liturgies for our worship.
- Combining to undertake significant social justice projects.
- Providing faith development activities which might be hard to do for a standalone parish but can be undertaken by a grouping of parishes.
- Broader community engagement amongst parishioners.
- Better administration of our parishes.

Finally, on behalf of all I wish to firstly thank Kirsten Italiano (Parish Secretary) and Nanette Giovannini (Sacramental Coordinator) for continuing to look after us under very difficult circumstances. They have done a wonderful job.

I also wish to thank Fr Brendan and his fellow priests for ministering to us and for being committed to working to create a sharing partnership amongst all our parishes. With their support and God's guidance and blessings, we can look forward to the future. It will be challenging at times but it will also be full of possibilities and opportunities.



Staying connected while social distancing

"A very big thank you for connecting with us in such a creative, interesting, varied and informative way over these many weeks."



The COVID-19 pandemic posed a challenge for our parish communities to find new and creative ways to stay connected and show support for one another.

In 2020 we experienced extended periods of lockdown and ongoing COVID safe restrictions. Our parishes did not lock down from their commitment to be there for all our parishioners. Online collaboration and the increased use of electronic communication enabled our communities to keep up to date with parish life. Fr Brendan Reed invited parishioners to 'stay with us, pray with us and be with us' in a new way over the coming months.

"Thank you for staying in touch with us during these tough and anxious times. The prayers, updates and streamed Masses all help to maintain hope and stay connected. "

Sandra Spurio

Building our online community

New website and online newsletter

A new interactive website was launched in April for both [Camberwell](#), [Balwyn](#), [Deepdene](#) and [Surrey Hills Wattle Park](#) Parishes followed by a fresh look online parish newsletter. Most of the newsletter stories are now interactive and readers are taken to the news section of the website. Visitors are able to comment or engage with stories, leave a message in the 'Contact Us' section of our websites and register for Sacraments and other programs.

Social media

A new Facebook Group, [Eastern Central Catholic Parishes](#) was launched. All parishioners and friends across the parishes were invited to join to share and discuss issues of faith and life. Parishioners also continued to follow the parish on Instagram and Facebook.

"To all involved with this weekly communication and your other "socially connected initiatives" ... they truly are fantastic."

Yolanda Torrisi

Surrey Hills Wattle Park Parish

HOME	ABOUT	LITURGY AND SACRAMENTS	MINISTRIES	EDUCATION	DONATE
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Parish Offices

4 Barton Street
Surrey Hills VIC 3127
Telephone: (03) 9890 2510
Email: shwp@cam.org.au

19 Brenbeal Street, Balwyn VIC 3103
Telephone: (03) 9816 9291
Email: cbdparish@cam.org.au

Office Hours:
Tuesday-Friday 9.00 am – 5.00 pm

Spiritual connection

There were a number of liturgical offerings delivered each week on the parish website. Members of our Sunday community were invited to find a quiet space and join in spiritual Communion with one another.

Spending Time with the Word

Liturgy resources for both adults and children were posted each weekend on the websites.

These resources provided a reflection on the Sunday readings with time to pray, reflect and deepen our understanding of the Word of God.

Prayer of the Week

Each week an inspirational prayer was sent by email to newsletter subscribers. We were invited to pray this prayer each day in solidarity with our community and our world.

Prayer Wall

A virtual [prayer wall](#) was set up on our website as a place for members of our community to share a prayer intention and come together to pray with and for one another.

Sunday Mass celebrated online

"There were dozens of people waiting for our Mass to begin."



Parishioners were able to continue to participate in our Sunday Eucharist online each week. Each Saturday just before 5.30 pm, there were dozens of people waiting for our Mass to begin and as the weekend progressed more and more joined us in a virtual assembly celebrating the Sunday Eucharist. With a link to the parish YouTube Channel, we were able to tune into Fr Brendan or Fr Trac celebrating Mass.

Small liturgical teams consisting of a reader, cantor, organist, camera operator and editor assisted with the recording of Mass in one of our five churches. The recordings continued until numbers in our churches gradually opened up.

Recorded liturgies were available for Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday. At Christmas, those who were unable to be with us in person could participate via live stream on both Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

"Congratulations and a big thank you to everyone involved in the live stream of the Mass yesterday. It made a difference to feel somehow not quite so isolated and still participating in worship."

Anna & Basil McGee

Pastoral Care

"What a beautiful difference your Ministry has made to the people you prayed with today."

Jane Monk, Pastoral Care
St George's Hospital

Our priests continued to be available for pastoral care visits to members of our community who were seriously ill or for end-of-life care. Fr Trac was called to the bedside of a dying patient in the COVID-19 ward at the Austin Hospital to pray the last rites.

The Communion to the Sick Ministry looked somewhat different during the COVID-19 lockdown. Communion Ministers were not able to take the Eucharist to members of our community who were housebound due to ill-health or advanced age, or those in hospital or aged care facilities. Many of our Communion to the Sick Ministers continued to make virtual contact with patients and residents. Each week they led Liturgy of the Word by telephone, Skype or Zoom hook up. A telephone ministry was activated to make contact with parishioners, particularly those who were alone, housebound or experiencing difficulties.

Remembering our loved ones

November is traditionally the month of remembrance in the Catholic Church where we are given the opportunity to reflect and pray for those who are no longer with us. The annual Remembrance Mass was held at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church, Deepdene and streamed live over the internet due to restrictions on numbers able to attend in person.



"Thank you so much. We were able to view the Mass. It was so beautiful and meaningful. We appreciate this wonderful gesture to remember our loved one Dominic."

Danni & Mimma Ceravolo

Families who held a funeral in one of our churches during the year were invited to join us, together with parishioners who experienced the loss of a family member or friend and those who continue to grieve for loved ones.

Everything virtual

Parish life zoomed along!

Parish life took on a new dimension with so much activity going on via 'Zoom'. The parish slogan of keeping socially connected while practicing physical distancing became a reality. Many parish groups continued to meet regularly on Zoom, including our Parish Team, the Parish Councils and School Boards, the St Vincent de Paul Conferences, the Men's Scripture Group, the Learning Team and the Friendship Group.

Virtual learning

The offer of adult learning opportunities online proved to be a great success, with many people coming together from across our parishes on Zoom to participate in these programs. The three-part series, 'Plenary Council 2020: What Can We Expect?' was offered in May and June, and explored expectations of the Plenary Council and the notion of synodality in the life and mission of the Church. In August, a three-part Social Justice series on Social Justice Response in a COVID environment, led by Sr Angela Reed rsm was also held on Zoom, followed by meetings of the newly formed Social Justice Network.





Virtual liturgies and choirs

Choir members and cantors across our parishes participated in a number of virtual choirs during the year.

The 'Irish Blessing' was performed as a farewell tribute to Chris Trikili who accepted a new position with St Stephen's Cathedral in Brisbane. 'Hail Mary, Gentle Woman' was performed on the Feast of the birthday of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Christmas carols were recorded by soprano Georgia Wilkinson and organist David Agg at Our Lady of Victories Basilica, Camberwell and by our Parishes Virtual Choir. We also enjoyed the virtual tours of Our Lady of Good Counsel Church and Our Lady of Victories Basilica with Ave Maria performed by Jacinta Ryan and Andrew Ryan.

Our three school communities of Our Lady of Good Counsel, Deepdene, Our Lady's, Surrey Hills and Our Holy Redeemer, Surrey Hills came together to create a virtual Marian Prayer Liturgy.

Virtual outreach

The St Vincent de Paul Conferences across the three parishes launched their Winter Appeal in June amid fundraising challenges posed by COVID safe restrictions. The appeal was promoted and supported through the parish newsletter, website and on social media, with a link to an online donation platform.

Virtual hospitality

Hospitality was usually held at each of our Churches, both on a weekend and during the week with the Friendship Group. This was replaced by virtual hospitality offered on Zoom. All members of the parish community were welcome to come together for a virtual catch up.



"We enjoyed the beautiful 'Tour of Our Lady of Victories' on Mother's Day."

Kerry & Francis Bourke

Safeguarding

Covid Safe, Child Safe, Community Safe & Cyber Safe

Across the Parishes of Camberwell, Balwyn Deepdene and Surrey Hills Wattle Park we are committed to the safety and wellbeing of everyone in our care. The Archdiocese of Melbourne's Safeguarding Children and Young People Framework forms the basis for implementation of safeguarding policies, procedures and practices across the three parishes.

Greater collaboration occurred with our three Parish Councils, Parish Team and safeguarding teams in implementing safeguarding initiatives. Shared activities included completing a Child-Safe Organisations self-assessment tool and developing a Terms of Reference for a combined Safeguarding Committee across the three parishes. Safeguarding continues to be a priority and is an agenda item at all Parish Council and Parish Team meetings. Parish Team members attended safeguarding workshops during the year, facilitated by the Archdiocesan Professional Standards Unit. Regular communication about safeguarding occurred with parishioners via newsletter articles and through current policies and information available on the parish websites.

Safely Reopening

Our churches and parish life gradually opened up at the end of 2020. A 'Safely Re-Opening' campaign was launched around four C's: Covid Safe, Child Safe, Community Safe and Cyber Safe.

This was an ideal opportunity to ensure that our whole community was a safe place for all. All members of the parish community were asked to gather and minister to one another with care, respect and clarity around our roles. This involved understanding the Code of Conduct around which our parishes operate, and voice any concerns about our parish life, the physical environment or particular concerns around everyone's safety.

It is anticipated that during 2021 further work will continue on clarity around roles in parish ministry and how each of us support child safeguarding values in practice. More opportunities exist to involve the whole community. We look forward to the work of the combined Safeguarding Committee, in conjunction with the continued leadership of Fr Brendan Reed and our Parish Councils, to oversee and guide safeguarding initiatives across our parishes.



Sacraments

Sacraments play a major role in the life cycle of our faith. The Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation); the Sacraments of Healing (Reconciliation and Anointing); and the Sacraments of Service or Mission (Marriage and Holy Orders). The final ceremony in the life cycle of our faith are funerals.



Each Sacrament is an opportunity to gather for a celebration, to mark a milestone in a faith journey, while funerals farewell and celebrate the life of a loved one.

This year started like many others, infants were baptised, weddings were celebrated and the deceased farewelled. Children were prepared and ready to celebrate Reconciliation, one of the Sacraments of Healing, for the first time ... until March 2020 when Victoria went into lockdown and the celebrations were postponed until further notice. For the period of this annual report, no Sacraments for school aged children were celebrated.

Sacraments

When our doors opened again in June for a few weeks, families came to have their infants baptised and two couples chose to celebrate the Sacrament of Marriage with 20 guests in the Basilica. One couple, Bryan Over and Rebecca Martin, chose to share their wedding across the globe via Zoom. When asked, 'Why get married now?' Bec responded, "We believe marriage is between us and God, and ultimately our families will understand," and Bryan, "It took a pandemic for us to realise, we were ready to stop letting life pass us by."

Most Sacraments can be postponed or rescheduled to a more convenient time, but funerals need to proceed. This year funerals were held with limited numbers. Some funerals had only 10 mourners in the church to celebrate the life of the deceased, whilst the rest of the mourners watched a livestream of the service from the comfort of their homes. There was no opportunity to gather and tell stories over a cup of tea.

"The ceremony went off without a hitch. We had close to 100 people dialling in from across the globe, Canada, the US, UK and all States of Australia. Fr Brendan was awesome, he made our 20 guests and everyone dialling in from abroad feel a part of the day."

Rebecca Martin & Bryan Over



Sacraments



Thirty-one years of Priestly service

Fr Brendan Reed and Fr Trac Nguyen celebrated a combined thirty-one years of priestly service in 2020. In August, Brendan marked thirty years as a priest, while Fr Trac's first anniversary of priestly ordination took place in September. Congratulations and thank you to both Fr Brendan and Fr Trac for their devoted and generous leadership and service to our parish communities and the wider church.

Ordination to the Priesthood

Jude Johnson was ordained to the priesthood at St Patrick's Cathedral, Melbourne on Saturday, 5 December by Archbishop Commensoli. The following day, Jude celebrated a Mass of Thanksgiving at Our Lady of Victories Basilica. This Mass was livestreamed for those who wished to join Jude in celebrating his first Mass.

Jude's family and friends in Myanmar were sadly unable to travel to Australia for his ordination and first Mass due to COVID-19 travel restrictions but joined both celebrations virtually via the livestream. We wish Fr Jude every blessing for his ministry as Assistant Priest at Christ the Light Parish comprising Doreen, Kinglake, Mernda and Whittlesea.



Learning Team

Plenary Council



Moving to an online form of delivery and interaction our learning team first of all ran a three part lecture series focussed on what we could expect from the upcoming Plenary Council of the Catholic Church in Australia and on the particular themes that have emerged through listening and dialogue across the country.

Our first evening was presented by Fr Brendan Reed explored 'Synodal process and expectations'. Cathy Jenkins followed up on a second evening on the theme 'Applying what we have heard and learnt about synodality to our parish context', Kevin Lenehan completed the series with the topic: 'Looking at the nature and practice of discernment and the six themes'.

Prior to the commencement of each lecture, we were provided with personal reflections on what it meant to be part of a Plenary Council writing group. Simon Donohue shared his experience as a member of the writing group: 'Humble, Healing and Merciful'.

Cathy Jenkins reflected on her experience of belonging to a writing group made up of bishops and lay people.

The three part series provided participants with informative and thought provoking issues with ideas and directions for the future.



"Congratulations to the parish on this initiative."

Cath Place

Social Justice Response to COVID-19

In August and September the Learning Team turned its mind to Social Justice and organised a three part series on 'Social Justice Response to COVID-19 and building our network.'

This series was presented by Sr Angela Reed RSM and ran throughout August with the fourth session devoted to the commencement of building the Social Justice Network. Working through the Mercy Justice Advocacy Approach, Sr Angela focussed on the following:

- Reflecting on the experience of isolation, fear, grief & loss, anxiety, the poor and vulnerable
- Listening to and sharing experiences with others
- Identifying who we are and where we stand (we stand for: all that face discrimination & violence, well-being of families, rights of women, a just and merciful leadership at all levels)
- Analysing our findings through a human rights framework and other systems
- Applying our knowledge and experiences in light of the Gospel Traditions and Catholic Social teaching



- Discerning pathways to action which enables us to express both our lived experience and our faith.

While addressing the above six points, there was tremendous and valuable heart-felt dialogue between the participants. Throughout the three sessions, Sr Angela took us through a process that will provide us with the necessary skills and knowledge to set up a Social Justice Network. By collectively looking at where we stand and establishing a clear vision and mission as to where we are heading, the Social Justice Network will be able to assist, support and advocate for change.

"Congratulations to Angela and team as the series was stimulating and challenging."

Sr Catherine Brabender RNDM

Social Justice Network

Our focus for the remainder of the year was on forming a Social Justice Network. Between August and September, four Zoom meetings were held where participants were led in discussion to establish common themes/platforms that the network could become involved in and also develop a shared identity of what we mean by Social Justice – such as, advocacy, education, partnership and action.

Sonya Smart (CEO of Villa Maria Catholic Homes) was a guest speaker at one of our Zoom meetings and discussed the world of aged care and its issues. Topics discussed included: voice of the older person, funding, ageism, choice and decision making, connection and inclusivity and diversity.

Denis Billings, parishioner of Surrey Hills Wattle Park, was another guest speaker who focussed on ‘Social facts and problems and issues facing young adults during and after Covid.’ Main points discussed included: financial hardship, mental health and resilience issues, loneliness and isolation.

Throughout the Social Justice series, some common themes identified were: aged care, women, young adults, environment and asylum seekers and refugees. These themes will be further developed.



It is envisaged that the work commenced this year will continue into 2021 with the main goal of forming a Social Justice Network.

The results of the Learning Team activities are available on our [parish website](#) and [YouTube Channel](#) for those who would like to access them.

Thank you to all who were involved, those who presented, those who participated and those who planned the evenings. Despite the challenges of 2020 it was a great year of learning across our parishes.

Farewells

Fr Mark Reynolds

2020 was the year that we bid farewell to a number of members of staff across our parishes. First of all, we farewelled to Father Mark Reynolds, Parish Priest of Surrey Hills Wattle Park and Greythorn Parishes until May 2020. Father Mark accepted an appointment as Parish Priest of St Jude's Parish in Scoresby. Due to lockdown Father Mark's farewell did not take place until April 2021. We are grateful for everything that Mark brought to Surrey Hills Wattle Park and we wish him well for his future roles as Parish Priest and Episcopal Vicar for Catholic Schools.



Jennifer Gray

We bid farewell to Mrs Jennifer Gray after 10 years as Principal at Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish Primary School, Deepdene. Jennifer made an incredible contribution to the life of our school and we wish her and her family every blessing as they return to Queensland where they will be reunited with family and friends.



Chris Trikilis & Sharon Freeman

Camberwell, Balwyn Deepdene staff members, Sharon Freeman and Chris Trikilis left us during 2020. Chris Trikilis took up the role as Director of Music at St Stephen's Cathedral in Brisbane where we hear he is making beautiful music for the Diocese of Brisbane. Sharon Freeman left us after a number of years as Sacraments Coordinator. Sharon is now a part time carer and completing her doctorate in the area of parish catechesis. We look forward to hearing from Sharon in the future when she has completed her research.



Welcome

Fr Frank O'Loughlin joins our community



We welcomed Father Frank O'Loughlin into our community. Father Frank arrived in August 2020 and took up residence in Barton Street, Surrey Hills. He has joined our team as 'part time retired assistant priest'. Father Frank has made a wonderful contribution to the liturgical life of our parishes and we look forward to many years of his presence among us.

Transition to MACS

New governance model for our schools

During 2020 we prepared our schools for the change in governance from parish governance to the newly formed company, Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools Limited (MACS), of the Archdiocese of Melbourne. An incredible amount of work was undertaken by our schools and parishes as 'agreements for use of land and buildings' and 'school transition' documents were completed. All documentation was completed by the end of 2020 and our three schools now come under the governance of MACS. Of course, our school still remain parish schools and we will continue to work with each of them in building up the life of our parishes and supporting each other in our distinct yet complimentary roles as parish and schools. MACS came into full effect on 1 January 2021.

Each of our schools completes their own annual report and you can access these on the various website of our schools.

Our Partnerships

VMCH

Villa Maria Catholic Homes (VMCH) have managed our Barnsbury Retirement Village in Barnsbury Road since 2013. Our partnership with VMCH was further strengthened in 2018 when VMCH signed a long term lease on the parish's former All Hallows School site which in 2019 became the new home for St Paul's School.



Our Parish Conferences are strong and active groups involved in a range of outreach work, including home visits to the needy, locally and in North and South Melbourne. Many dedicated members of our Conferences also volunteer at St Vinnies Stores in Hawthorn and East Kew as well as providing support with the soup vans.



We are now in the fifth year of our partnership with CatholicCare who assist us in supporting asylum seekers and refugees. Our parish provides CatholicCare with financial support which enables the funding of transitional housing as well as providing for food, clothes, utility bills, education programs etc. in the Dandenong and surrounding areas for families in need.



Brigidine Asylum Seeker Project (BASP) was established in 2001 with its aim being to provide hospitality and practical support for people seeking asylum. Since the inception of BASP our parishes have contributed to this project with donation baskets on a monthly basis providing goods such as non-perishable foods, cleaning products, toiletries and baby goods.

Finance Report

Each of our parishes is responsible for its own financial health and vitality. Even with the multiple challenges our parishes endured during 2020 we have much to be thankful for. Our parishes worked diligently to ensure that expenses were managed with only necessary expenses incurred.

Our places of worship were closed for most of 2020 which changed the way many of us continued our contributions. The move to online giving across our parishes was generously supported by parishioners together with the Government Stimulus Package and the wise and good

management of assets we have inherited over the life of the parishes allowed us to weather the storm of 2020.

In 2020 the average giving from 551 givers across the parishes was \$15.78 per week:

- Camberwell Parish - \$14.55 (130 givers)
- Balwyn & Deepdene - \$17.49 (285 givers)
- Surrey Hills Wattle Park - \$11.97 (136 givers)

This compared to 2019 when we had 581 givers across our parishes contributing an average of \$16.99 per week.

A summary of our finances is found below:

BALANCE SHEET For the year ended 31 December 2020

	BALWYN & DEEPDENE (\$'000)	CAMBERWELL (\$'000)	SURREY HILLS WATTLE PARK (\$'000)
ASSETS			
Current			
Cash at Bank	311	154	160
Receivables (net)	12		
Investment monies	4,032	401	1,169
Total	4,355	555	1,329
Non-Current			
Barnsbury Development	29,800		
Properties non income producing (churches & presbyteries)	13,711	66,854	13,207
Properties income producing	12,625	9,455	3,890
Total	56,136	76,309	17,097
TOTAL ASSETS	60,491	76,864	18,426
LIABILITIES			
Current			
Creditors & Accruals	51	64	5
Total	51	64	5
Non-Current			
CDF Loans +		938	
Other - Barnsbury Loans	29,800		0
TOTAL LIABILITIES	29,851	1,002	5

Finance Report

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE SUMMARY

	Actuals Jan- Dec 2020 BALWYN & DEEPDENE	Actuals Jan- Dec 2020 CAMBERWELL	Actuals Jan- Dec 2020 SURREY HILLS WATTLE PARK
	(\$'000)	(\$'000)	(\$'000)
Income			
Stewardship**	260	105	95
Rents	349	313	28
Other Income	23	29	38
OLV Administration Fee ***	58		
Interest Income	2	2	8
Grants - external	184		97
Total Income	876	449	266
Expenditure			
Learning	58		
Outreach	18		
Participation	19	13	
Worship	77	21	36
Administration Expenses	314	8	70
Property Management	134	138	62
OLV Administration Fee		58	
Interest on loans +	0	37	
Archdiocesan Tax^^^^	48	26	20
Total Expenditure	668	301	188
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	208	148	78

Notes:

The parishes' finances are based on a calendar year ending 31 December 2020.

** Deepdene & Balwyn School Building and Maintenance Fund & Our Holy Redeemer and Our Lady of Perpetual Succour School Buildings Funds have Deductible Gift Recipient status. For Deepdene & Balwyn Parish, 20% of all Stewardship giving during 2020 went to this fund. For Surrey Hills Wattle Park, 10% of Stewardship giving during 2020 went to the School Building Funds for each school.

*** Our Lady of Victories did not qualify for any stimulus payments from the Government. Deepdene & Balwyn Parish did not charge OLV the full year administration fee of \$116,000. + OLV has a loan with CDF, capital repayments are \$89,436 p.a.

^^^^ Each parish pays to the Archdiocese of Melbourne a quota to fund the agencies of the Archdiocese which in turn services parishes. This figure does not represent the full 2020 year quota as in light of the challenges all our churches experienced during 2020, the Archdiocese provided parishes with some relief in that the June quarter quota payment was waived.



Parishes of Camberwell, Balwyn Deepdene & Surrey Hills Wattle Park

Thank you for engaging with our Parish Annual Report.
Your feedback is welcome.