



# DEEPPDENE & BALWYN AND CAMBERWELL PARISHES

2019





annual report











# Our Parishes at a Glance

2	-	Parishes	
3	-	Churches	
1	-	Retirement Village	
1	-	Administration	
1	-	School	

## Across the Parishes

9562	-	Residents identifying as Catholic (National Centre for Pastoral Research: 2016 Data)	
3621	-	Families (National Centre for Pastoral Research)	
30 +	-	Ministries	
591	-	People engaged and participating in parish ministries	

## Sacramental Life & Celebrations

69	-	Baptisms of infants and young children	
1	-	Adult received into the Church through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)	
4	-	Children/young people received into the Church through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Children (RCIC)	
70	-	Children received their First Eucharist	
103	-	Children Confirmed	
43	-	Children celebrated their First Reconciliation	
28	-	Couples Married	
48	-	Funerals	

## Our Partnerships

VMCH

Villa Maria Catholic Homes

basp

Brigidine Asylum Seekers Project

Brigidine Asylum Seeker Project



Youth Engagement Project (YEP)



St Vincent de Paul Society



CatholicCare

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# Welcome from the Parish Priest

Throughout 2019, the Church in Australia engaged in a year of listening and dialogue in preparation for the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference (ACBC) Plenary Council. The first phase of the Plenary Council will occur in Adelaide, in October 2020.

Plenary Councils are rare events in Australia and there is much expectation from Catholics around the country that our Bishops will lead us into reform and renewal. There are expectations that the role of women in the Church will be augmented and real leadership roles will be opened to them. There are expectations that the Church will bring in changes that demonstrate a desire to be more transparent and accountable for all its actions, which should be both missionary and pastoral. There are also expectations that the wounds of the historic sexual abuse of minors will be the impetus for change and renewal, and that the shameful response by leaders to that abuse will be reflected on and give way to a more open and compassionate Church.

At the global level, 2019 has been a year of ongoing reform of the Church by Pope Francis, who uses the word *synodality* to describe the future of the Church. The word *synodality* means ‘walking together’. Pope Francis is urging the Church to be a place where bishops, priests and laity walk the journey of faith together and listen to one another. Bishops should not teach and govern without listening to the experiences, insights, wisdom and struggles of their people. Listening and dialogue are characteristics of this synodal Church.

Here at Deepdene & Balwyn and Camberwell Parishes, over 140 people participated in listening and dialogue sessions. Our parishes’ submission, which can be found on our website, identified four major themes for future development – welcome and inclusion, faith and formation, governance and youth. These themes will continue to be developed in our own parishes and will shape the ongoing

plans we have for the future of our parishes.

I hope that this 2019 Annual Report gives all readers some indication of the vibrancy of the parishioners who participate in parish life and live our parish visions. The Deepdene & Balwyn Parish vision states that ‘each parishioner witnesses Christ in their own way, every day’. The Camberwell Parish vision is similar and complementary: ‘an open, caring place of people seeking to live in close relationship with God and where everyone is welcome’. I am sure that as you read the stories and look at the activities that have taken place over the last 12 months, you will recognise that each vision is becoming a reality.

I would like to thank all of those who participated in parish life in 2019, and particularly those who continue to work for the renewal of parish life and of our Church. Over the next few years, our ability to continue walking together and listening to one another in genuine dialogue are critical to shaping of the Church of tomorrow.



Rev. Dr Brendan J Reed





# Parish Organisational Framework

The Parishes of Deepdene & Balwyn and Camberwell share similar and complementary organisational arrangements, with one administration serving both the distinctive and joint needs of each parish.

A framework of five key 'pillars' provides the scaffolding for our staffing structures, resource allocations, pastoral programs and strategic priorities. Whilst the nomenclature of some pillars differs slightly across the two parishes, the intent and focus of the pillars unite both parish communities in achieving their vision and mission.

The five pillars are:

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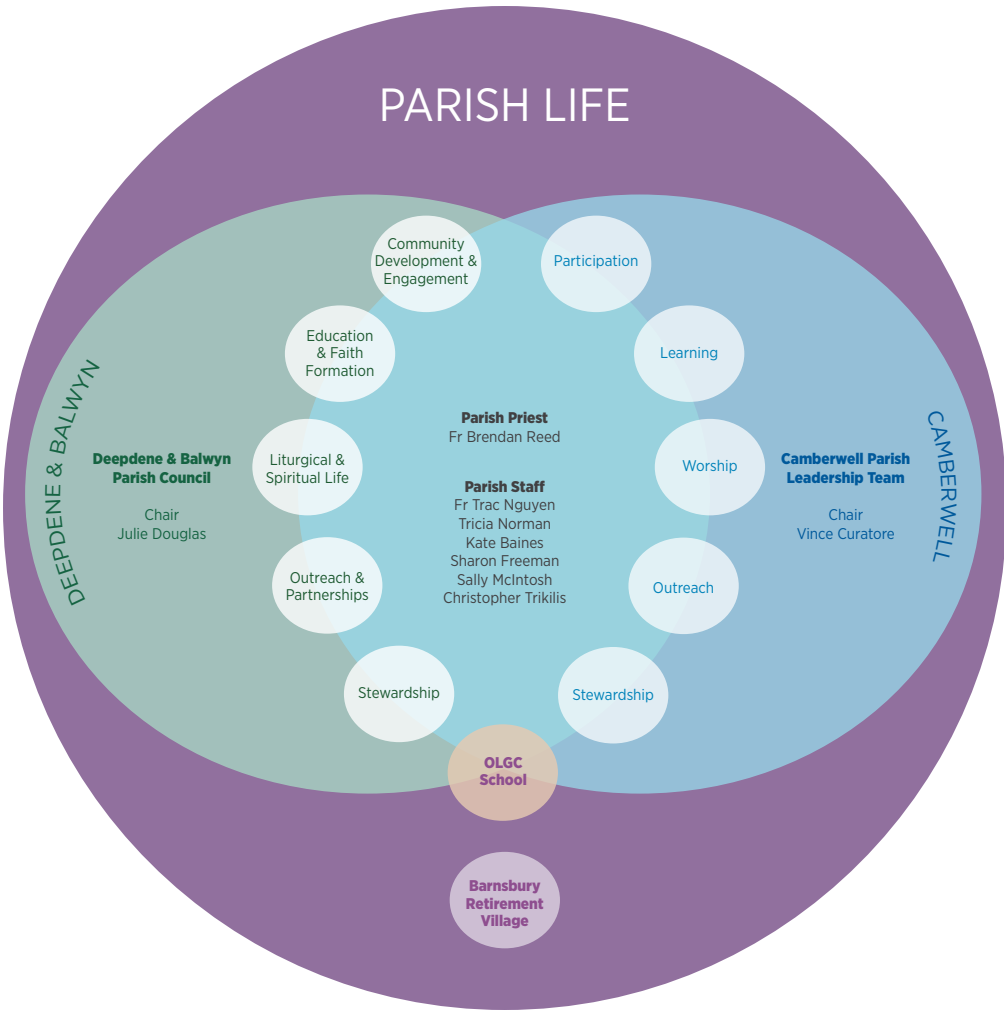
**Participation** – we seek to provide opportunities for each and every person to witness Christ in their own way and to support and recognise Christ in others.
- 

**Learning** – we seek to be a knowledgeable and articulate Christian community and understand contemporary issues related to culture and Catholic life.
- 

**Worship** – we seek to enhance the participation of everyone, touch people's hearts and strengthen their spirituality.
- 

**Outreach** – in response to the Gospel, we seek to love one another and to be of service, to stand in solidarity with people in need, and to proclaim and celebrate shared values and community spirit.
- 

**Stewardship** – we seek to manage and care for our assets and resources.



# Parish Governance

The Parishes of Deepdene & Balwyn and Camberwell have similar but distinct models of governance. In each model, the Parish Priest holds ultimate responsibility for the good governance and effective operations of the parishes. He is supported and guided in this responsibility through a Parish Leadership Team (PLT) at Camberwell and a Parish Council (PC) at Deepdene & Balwyn.

Both the PLT and the Parish Council are advisory and consultative bodies and both facilitate the achievement of the mission of the parish community. Their governance structure reflects a *synodal* Church which respects the co-responsibility of priest and faithful for the full life of the Church.



## Camberwell Parish Leadership Team

Our Lady of Victories (OLV) Parish Leadership Team (PLT) has primary responsibility for assisting to foster pastoral action within the parish, particularly as outlined in the pillars of Worship, Stewardship, Learning, Participation and Outreach.

A key priority for the PLT is the establishment and maintenance of a supportive, collaborative partnership with the Parish Priest, staff, parish groups and all parishioners in accord with the Parish Strategic Plan.

The PLT comprises a minimum of five members drawn from the parish community. Ex-officio members are the Parish Priest, Assistant Priest and Pastoral Associate.

The Chair of the PLT in 2019 was **Vince Curatore**. Vince is continuing in this role in 2020.

## Deepdene & Balwyn Parish Council

In 2019, the governance structure for Our Lady of Good Counsel & All Hallows Parish was reconstituted, with the Parish Leadership Team becoming a Parish Council (PC).

The Council's key responsibilities are to:

- > Ensure the achievement of the parish mission as outlined in the pillars of Community Development and Engagement, Liturgical & Spiritual Life, Education & Faith Formation, Outreach & Partnerships, and Stewardship
- > Participate in the partnerships of the parish
- > Provide oversight of the parish and school business operations
- > Provide oversight of the financial decisions of the parish
- > Facilitate the Parish Strategic Plan
- > Fulfil the Parish Vision and Mission

The Council comprises a minimum of six members drawn from the parish community. Ex-officio members are the Parish Priest, Assistant Priest, Senior Pastoral Associate and the Parish School Principal. The Chair in 2019 was **Julie Douglas**. Julie is continuing in this role in 2020.





# Leaders' Reports

## Julie Douglas

Chair: Deepdene & Balwyn Parish Council

The past year has flown for the members of the Parish Council. When I review the different things we have achieved, I feel we have a lot to celebrate.

We began the year finalising our Constitution, which is important to the governance of today's parishes. At all times we were mindful of the importance of focusing on our Parish Vision – *'All parishioners witness Christ in their own way, every day'* – and that we do this in a way that reflects excellent governance and oversight.

The Council and Parish Priest provide the governance and leadership for parish business and the ministries that involve our parishioners. Our key responsibilities include:

- > quarterly finance reviews and budget sign off for the Parish, OLG School and Barnsbury Retirement Village
- > looking at more ways that we can facilitate and provide for the mission of the parish community, particularly in the areas of Community Development and Engagement, Liturgical and Spiritual Life, Education and Faith Formation, Outreach (Partnerships) and Stewardship

The Council is delighted with the level of participation in our community. There are over 30 ministries available to become involved in, and we want to build on this, reaching all within our boundaries. In doing this, we recognise Pope Francis' call in his encyclicals *'Evangelii Gaudium'* (The joy of the gospel) and *'Laudato Si'* (Care for our common home). Both are so pertinent in our lives today.

Council members are looking at the responses provided through the Plenary Council Parish Forums, the Stewardship Appeal and the Sacramental Program to identify further needs in our parish. We will be reaching out to more Catholics in our community for their feedback and we will endeavour to increase parishioner engagement in the life of our parish.

We are fortunate to have a very active Parish Council and I thank the members for their hard work in all areas of parish life. I look forward to next year.



## Vince Curatore

Chair: Camberwell Parish Leadership Team

Our Planning Day in January was a wonderful opportunity for the Parish Leadership Team (PLT) to come together to discuss, plan and formulate ideas for the ongoing development and success of our Parish Vision.

We welcomed two new members to our Leadership Team, Kerrie-Anne Porreca and Jeff Philips, both of whom have been a great asset to the team.

An exciting development for the parish is the Basilica Enhancement Project, which involves increasing the space in the porch of the church as well as improving heating and lighting. These enhancements will provide the community with a more accessible facility and enable increased hospitality as well as strengthened parish engagement.

The Leadership Team continues its work in establishing the Basilica as a destination point for liturgy and cultural events. Music, through the direction of Chris Trikili, continues to provide spiritual engagement and enjoyment. In 2020, during the Easter period, we will have on display a number of Aboriginal paintings depicting the Stations of the Cross. The artist, John Dunn, a member of the Stolen Generation, has depicted his own journey through his artworks.

A key initiative for 2020 is the Camberwell PLT working closely with Deepdene & Balwyn Parish Council. Already the process of discussing and planning future collaborative directions has commenced and will be developed further at a combined planning meeting in February.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank the previous Chair, Mary McCloskey, for her invaluable work and dedication throughout her many years of service to the parish. Mary has been relentless in her efforts, instrumental in her leadership and a great facilitator, encouraging new community members to participate more actively in the parish.

It has been a great pleasure working closely with members of the PLT throughout 2019 and we are looking forward to the new challenges and directions during 2020.



## Jennifer Gray

Principal: Our Lady of Good Counsel School

It was a year of review for our school in 2019, beginning in May when I undertook a Principal Review to reflect on my eight years at Our Lady of Good Counsel (OLGC). What a positive and fulfilling experience! Margaret McKenna, a former principal and now Education Consultant, led a panel comprising two other experienced principals. The panel interviewed me, Fr Brendan, every staff member and groups of students, parents, Board members and Parish Council members. After two days of intensive work, the panel prepared a report with commendations and recommendations for my leadership at OLGC.

In August, the Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority (VRQA) reviewed the school's policies and procedures to ensure OLGC is compliant across a broad range of school regulations. We successfully completed the VRQA review, which was followed in October by a whole-school review conducted by Catholic Education Melbourne (CEM) and the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER). This review explored our approach to learning and teaching, use of data, community engagement, leadership and pedagogy. Using a National School Improvement Tool, two external reviewers interviewed every staff member and groups of students, parents and Board members. The reviewers affirmed and commended OLGC on our success and offered recommendations for future improvement.

I have found each process to be thorough and valuable in setting improvement agendas for our new four-year improvement cycle, which will commence in 2020.

Our enrolments in 2019 were 242 students, with 32 prep students, 11 class groups and 28 full and part-time staff members. Staff continue to lead strong learning and teaching programs and are committed to improving student outcomes. Academic excellence and student wellbeing remain a focus.

The School Board, led by Rohanne Innes, and the Parents' Association, led by Olivia Hemphill, remain strong and committed to supporting the school in its Catholic mission.

Thank you to staff, students, parents, Fr Brendan, Fr Trac and parish staff who work in partnership to live our vision as a *'leading faith community inspiring leaders to shape tomorrow'*.





# Parish Staff

## Brendan Reed Parish Priest

Fr Brendan is responsible for the effective management, stewardship and spiritual guidance and direction of the parishes and parishioners. Fr Brendan also ensures the successful implementation of both parishes' Strategic Plans, ensuring that the processes for consultation are adhered to and that the outcomes serve the good of all.



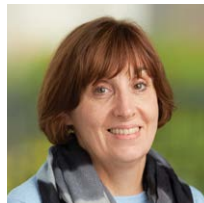
## Trac Nguyen Assistant Priest

Fr Trac supports the Parish Priest in the provision of spiritual and pastoral support to the parishes and parishioners. His duties include officiating at weekday and Sunday celebrations of the Eucharist, funeral liturgies and burials, marriage ceremonies, the Anointing of the Sick and other sacraments. Fr Trac plays a key role in the Baptism Program and in visiting parishioners who are sick and housebound.



## Tricia Norman Senior Pastoral Associate

Tricia collaborates with the Parish Priest in ensuring the overall pastoral care of parishioners and in animating, supporting and coordinating the gifts and talents of parishioners for the good of the parishes. She is a member of the Deepdene & Balwyn Parish Council and coordinates pastoral care to the bereaved; Communion to the Sick; pastoral care ministries (including managing the parishes' pastoral care registers); welcome and hospitality ministries; liturgical ministries and the liturgical life of the parishes; the Friendship Group; and the implementation of Child Safety Standards (as a Child Safety Officer).



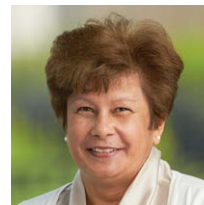
## Sharon Freeman Pastoral Associate

Sharon works closely with the Parish Priest in bringing together the team of Catechists who prepare young members of the community for the celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation and Reconciliation. She is a member of the Camberwell Parish Leadership Team. Sharon coordinates the Sacraments of Initiation Program for primary school age children and young people (RCIC); the Baptism Program; the Eucharist, Confirmation and Reconciliation programs across the parishes and school; and the implementation of Child Safety Standards (as a Child Safety Officer).



## Kate Baines Stewardship Coordinator

As Stewardship Coordinator, Kate coordinates many practical aspects of the running of the parishes. Her coordination roles include property maintenance across the parishes; financial management of both parishes; membership of the parishes' finance and investment committees; liaison with and support of the Barnsbury Retirement Village; support for the Asylum Seeker and Refugee Committee; and liaison with partners – CatholicCare and Villa Maria Catholic Homes (VMCH).



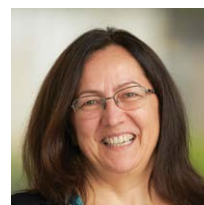
## Christopher Trikilis Director of Music

As Director of Music, Christopher encourages all who attend the parishes' liturgies to participate fully in song. Christopher coordinates and plans the liturgical music for both parishes and the music repertoire for significant liturgical events. He trains the three choirs at OLV Basilica, OLG Church and OLG Primary School.



## Sally McIntosh Administrative Assistant

Sally provides key administrative support across both parishes. She coordinates the communication and social media aspects of parish life, including the production and dissemination of the weekly newsletter. Sally also coordinates the weddings held at OLV Basilica and OLG Church, as well as coordinating the OLV Altar Society.



# Ministry Reports

## Music Ministry

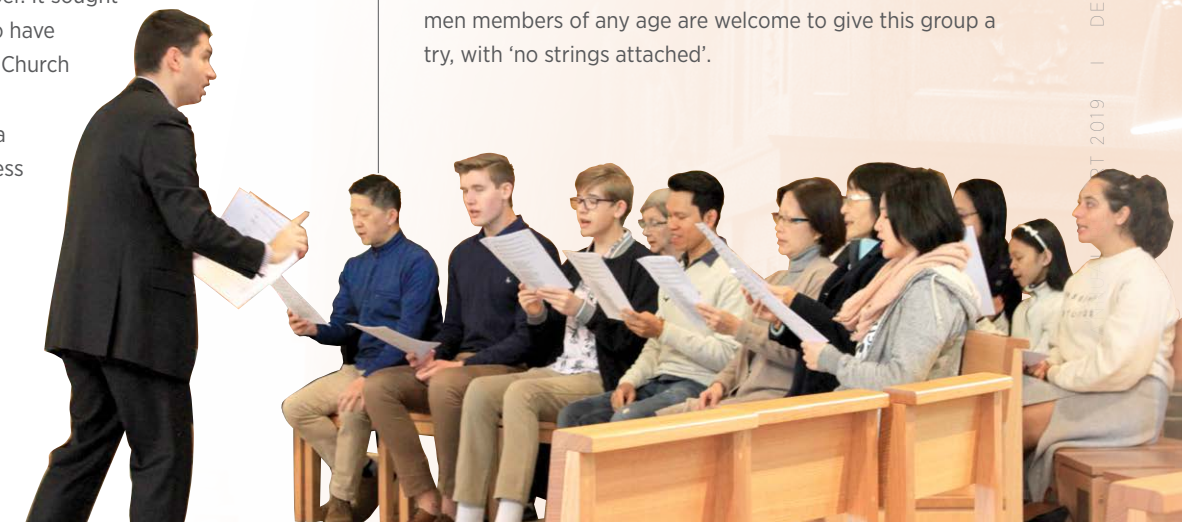
Sacred music plays a crucial role in the liturgical life of our parishes. It enhances our liturgies and assists in leading participants more deeply into the mystery of our faith. All weekend Masses, weddings, funerals and other liturgical events across our parishes have live music. This is achieved through the ongoing commitment of many music ministers, both paid and voluntary.



At Our Lady of Victories, our prized pipe organ accompanies the Basilica Choir and skilled cantors each Sunday and on special occasions. At Our Lady of Good Counsel and All Hallows, a similar group of organists and cantors lead the congregation in song each Sunday and at the major feasts of the year. The OLG Choir leads music monthly at 10.30 am Sunday Mass and has continued to grow in number and confidence during 2019. Live music at each of the school Masses has grown over the last year, introducing a new generation of young children to the liturgical repertoire (both old and new) of the Church.

During 2019, ten concerts were offered, providing beautiful and thought-provoking concerts by skilled performers. We have enjoyed choral concerts by leading Melbourne ensembles such as the Australian Boys Choir, Ensemble Gombert and the Tudor Choristers, as well as other instrumental concerts. In September, a dazzling performance by Korean organ virtuoso Dong-ill Shin was offered as part of the concert experience at the Basilica. As is customary, the Advent Organ Concert Series continued to draw people, allowing them to further explore the richness of our Catholic musical tradition.

A successful outreach concert, 'Inspiration', was held at OLG Church in September. It sought to encourage people who have become distant from the Church to reconnect with a local community and enjoy in a concert setting the richness of our Catholic musical legacy.



## Altar Servers Ministry

Some of our youngest parishioners are involved in this ministry. In 2019, there were 12 girls and 8 boys involved from both our parishes. Many of these young people are students at OLG Primary School and there are others from Genazzano FCJ College and other surrounding schools. Together they share and deepen their faith and understanding as they serve the community during the liturgy.



On behalf of the parishes, we thank our young altar servers, and our sacristans, for their service in 2019.

## Men's Scripture Group

This small group consists on average of six to eight men who meet regularly on the second Saturday of each month at the OLV Parish Meeting Room, immediately after the 9.30 am Mass.

The purpose of this gathering is to encourage like-minded men to come together to examine closely and discuss collectively the scripture readings of the day, so that a more thorough understanding of them can be gained, particularly through examining and understanding their historical and social context. This group participation can be a learning opportunity, with the range of input from members helping to provide a better experience for us all. Other topical issues are often discussed, and group participation occurs from time to time, such as providing a group submission to the current Plenary Council.

This meeting is run on a semi-formal basis, usually over a cup of tea or coffee, and lasts no longer than an hour. It concludes with the group singing a hymn together. New men members of any age are welcome to give this group a try, with 'no strings attached'.



# Ministry Reports

## Social Justice Series

### John Hassett Memorial Lectures

During October, our parishes enjoyed a joint program wherein the skills and expertise of 'one of our own' were front and centre stage.

Ashley Mitcham is a parishioner of Our Lady of Victories, a graduate of the Australian Catholic University (Bachelor of Theology with Honours) and an ACU academic tutor in Biblical Studies and Catholic Social Thought. In the 2019 *John Hassett Memorial Lectures*, Ashley welcomed about 40 people each evening, providing a wonderful exploration of the Church's social teachings. Parishioners in attendance were invited to engage with the subject in reflection and conversation.

Upon conclusion of the lecture series, there was a renewal of the John Hassett Social Justice Network. Many in attendance expressed their interest in getting this great network active again after the loss of its driving force, John Hassett, who passed away on 5 September 2018. John was a longtime parishioner of OLGC. His legal career along with his Catholic faith gave rise to his abiding interest and commitment to social justice, which he exemplified in his service not only to the parish but also to the Catholic Archdiocesan Commission for Justice, Development and Peace and the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council.

It is expected that John's legacy will continue in 2020 via the Social Justice Network, as well as in future annual presentations of the *John Hassett Memorial Lectures*.



## Scripture Series

In August, Sr Joanna Coleiro FSP (Pauline Books and Media, Hawthorn East) presented a series on the Gospel of Luke, Chapter 6, the *Sermon on the Plain*. The presentations were superb and offered multiple opportunities for interaction.

Across the three sessions, Sr Joanna focused on the background to Luke's Gospel, as well as Jesus' teachings on poverty and wealth. Those present came to realise the importance of understanding how people lived and related to one another, and how the social, cultural, economic and political context of the time has a significant impact on this text. Sr Joanna also facilitated a process of reflection and dialogue on the contemporary applications of the Sermon and on how we might respond to the teaching, both individually and as a community.

The Scripture Series was well attended by participants from both parishes. Feedback and evaluation data attest to the parishioners' high levels of gratitude for the new and deeper insights attained throughout the series. The participants remain grateful to Sr Joanna for the expertise, energy and passion she brought to each session of the series.

## Ministry of Communion to the Sick

Many of our parishioners across both parishes find themselves in hospital, are residents of one of the 10 aged-care facilities within the parish boundaries, or are house-bound. In 2019, our 41 Communion to the Sick Ministers conducted services and took Communion to approximately 395 people, each month. These ministers go in the name of the parish, bringing friendship and our community concern and prayers.

During 2019, our Communion Ministers were invited to attend a supervision afternoon. They were led through a process of reflection and sharing on the gifts and challenges of their ministry. Many found this opportunity to stop and reflect to be enriching and valuable for their ongoing service.



In addition to the visits to the sick, the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick was celebrated during 23 Masses for residents at the aged care facilities. We also celebrated the annual Mass of Anointing at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church on Sunday, 7 April at the 10.30 am Mass, followed by hospitality in the Gathering Space.

# Ministry Reports

## Sacraments Program

Across our two parishes, 216 children requested preparation for the sacraments in 2019. Upon the completion of all the programs, a review was undertaken to hear how we might improve our service to families and those seeking reception of the sacraments.

All the families involved in any of the three sacraments – Reconciliation, Confirmation and Eucharist – were invited to either attend an evaluation meeting or complete a short online survey. Children from the three programs were also invited to attend a focus group.

The response was pleasing, with 41 parents responding out of 172 families. We also gathered the views of children when the Year 6 students from OLGC Primary School participated in an evaluation session.

Across OLGC School and the two parishes of Deepdene & Balwyn and Camberwell, the feedback was positive. The Sacraments Programs drew a 4.6 rating out of 5, and the celebrations for the sacraments also drew a 4.6 rating. The accompanying comments offered by the respondents will provide us with the opportunity to reflect on how we might improve the programs in 2020 and beyond. Thank you to all who participated.

In 2019, the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) Team journeyed with one person wishing to be Confirmed in the Catholic faith. In addition to this adult seeker, there were four young people who undertook the Rite of Christian Initiation of Children (RCIC) and journeyed to Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. This was celebrated after Easter.





# Ministry Reports

## Hospitality

Hospitality is a significant ministry that invites inclusion and offers welcome to all. Across our two parishes, some of our 47 volunteers provide hospitality on most Sundays, giving us all the opportunity to meet and greet each other over a cup of coffee or tea.

When we have special events happening in our parishes, the hospitality group rises to the occasion, providing food and service for parishioners and visitors. One such occasion was the celebration of Fr Trac's first Mass. The Gathering Space at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church was bulging, while the Atrium in the school was serving a wonderful hot lunch hosted by Trac's family and supported by both parishes' hospitality groups. Other significant events at which hospitality played a significant role in their success were the celebrations for the Sacraments of First Eucharist and Confirmation, the Opening of the Parishes and School Year and the family-led Masses.

Parishioners are most appreciative of the catering and culinary skills of our volunteers, not to mention their generosity of time and effort. Once again, in this 2019 report, we express our gratitude.



## Funerals

For all of us, death is a normal part of life, but we all know how much the death of a loved one can affect us and leave us with a profound sense of loss. As families join with friends, colleagues and parishioners to farewell a loved one, the funeral rites of the Church provide an opportunity to pray in hope for eternal life offered to us all by Jesus Christ. In this time of loss and grieving, families are supported by each other and the parish as we mourn.

In 2019, we celebrated the life and death of 48 individuals across our parishes. The families of the deceased were on occasion accompanied during the illness of their loved one, and they were assisted in planning the funeral Mass or liturgy.

November, traditionally the month of remembrance of the dead, saw those who had experienced the loss of a loved one during the year being invited to a Mass of Remembrance on 15 November at 7.00 pm. During

the Mass we prayed for deceased relatives and friends and supported one another where the loss was painful. Following Mass, we gathered for supper, with the opportunity to share stories and memories that connect us with one another and the faith community.



# Ministry Reports

## Youth Engagement Project (YEP)

In 2019, YEP engaged on a number of levels with young people across the two parishes and school communities.

High school student gatherings, young adult ministry events and a Youth Mass provided opportunities for faces, familiar and new, to come together and be welcomed. Once again, our Winter Sleepout gathered together students with a passion for social justice to raise awareness of homelessness in Melbourne. This was coordinated by an inspiring group of student leaders.

YEP's commitment to the town of Bourke continued in full strength, seeing Melbournians, both students and post-school, driving up to the rural location five times in 2019 – that's over 100 hours of travel time! This year, we worked closely once again with the youth centre and schools and forged new connections at the local swimming pool. We facilitated many activities to provide positive recreation for the Bourke youth, and, as always, each volunteer returned home inspired by the beautiful community.

A major event of the year was journeying as pilgrims to Perth for the Australian Catholic Youth Festival. Here, we immersed ourselves in a myriad of thought-provoking workshops, enlightening talks and powerful music sessions. Some pilgrims described adoration as the highlight of their experience, while others benefitted from the inclusive, non-judgmental atmosphere of the festival as a whole. Overall, it was a chance for our youth to experience the vibrancy and joy of the Australian Church community, and we are very grateful for our parishes' support for giving us this opportunity!

Thank you to the parish community for your ongoing support of YEP. We look forward to sharing the excitement and potential of 2020 with you!

## The Boroondara Deanery

In 2019, Simon Donahoe represented the Parish of Camberwell and John Morkham represented Deepdene & Balwyn Parish at the Boroondara Deanery meetings. The main initiative for the year was a seminar, held in October, that explored the topic of 'Women in the Early Church – Implications for Today'. The keynote speaker was Dr Rosemary Canavan, Dean of Catholic Theological College. In addition to Dr Canavan, there was a panel of speakers made up of a religious sister, a married woman and a single woman. The seminar exceeded expectations, with almost 100 people in attendance.

Representation on the Deanery enables our parishes to connect with other parishes in the area and to share and learn from our respective initiatives. It is expected that this valuable network will continue in 2020.





# Events' Highlights

## Fr Trac's First Mass

**Our Parishes of Deepdene & Balwyn and Camberwell have been privileged this year to share in Fr Trac Nguyen's journey to ordination.**

After a Deacon has completed his studies and shared in the liturgical and ministerial life of a parish, he then presents himself for Ordination to the Priesthood.

Many parishioners joined Trac and other deacons at St Patrick's Cathedral for their ordination. Following this, Trac chose to celebrate his first Mass of Thanksgiving with us, at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church on Sunday, 8 September.

Here are some reflections from Trac about this event in our parishes.

### Unforgotten Moments!

*The 8 September 2019 was a date I had been waiting for and knew I would never forget. After a long journey of faith, inspired by faithful parents, family, friends and communities and surrounded by wonderful examples of the priesthood, I celebrated my first Mass at Deepdene Church with a grateful attitude for those who have played a vital role in my faith journey. Celebrating the Eucharist for the very first time, offering and leading people in prayer, is an emotional and fantastic experience.*

*The parishioners of Deepdene & Balwyn and Camberwell, the OLG School community, various ministry groups such as hospitality, altar servers, Eucharistic Ministers, professional standards officers and parish staff, made this day of thanksgiving unforgettable, particularly with their warm welcome and hospitality towards my family and guests. There was a large gathering of about 450 people from across both parishes, along with my guests. The Vietnamese food and Aussie dessert was well received. I ask and pray that God who has begun this good work, bring it to the fruitful service of these parish communities.*



## Friendship Group Visits Fr Sang

**On a Friday in November, a group of about 30 parishioners journeyed down to Belmont, in Geelong, to visit Fr Sang in his new Parish of St Bernard's.**

Fr Sang greeted us at the doors of the church and we joined some of Sang's local 'flock' for Mass at midday. We were then invited to share in lunch, provided by the St Bernard's parishioners.

Belmont Church has a lovely space overlooking the gardens, where chairs and tables accommodated us as we shared the beautiful lunch, which finished with delicious home-cooked pavlova!

Other highlights of the day included:

- > someone being trapped in the toilet and having to unscrew the door handle with a screwdriver which was passed through the window
- > the lovely snacks provided for the bus trip
- > the extra long trip home
- > the artwork in the visitors' room where we had lunch
- > touring the adjoining parish office and the lovely rose garden

Fr Sang is very happy in his new parish, which has a special ongoing project of support for a village in Africa. It is producing amazing results for the previously struggling community there.



## Heritage Sunday

**The introduction of 'Heritage Sunday' was an initiative of the Camberwell PLT.**

The event was seen as a way of providing parishioners with the opportunity to meet and chat with each other while sharing a meal. How much we love our 'family recipes' and traditional foods. This was certainly the case on Heritage Sunday as families shared recipes and explained the ingredients in a particular dish.

Heritage Sunday was celebrated on 22 August (Refugee and Asylum Seeker Sunday). It commenced with Mass, celebrated by Fr Brendan. The liturgy featured a welcoming and inspirational homily and Prayers of the Faithful were read by parishioners in different languages. The celebrations continued in the hall, with foods from different countries and regions on offer. Parishioners mingled with one another, made new friends, exchanged recipes and talked about their stories of migration.

With the positive feedback from parishioners, Heritage Sunday will become an annual event.





# Ministries – Gratitude

In our partnered parishes of Deepdene & Balwyn and Camberwell, many of our ministries are facilitated and/or strengthened by volunteers, some of whom work collaboratively across both parishes.

Our Lady of Good Counsel, All Hallows and Our Lady of Victories can rightfully claim strong pride in the broad range of ministries operating within our parishes, and in

the high number of people contributing to, coordinating and/or supporting the ministries.

On behalf of all parishioners in both parishes, and the staff who assist with the coordination of the ministries, Father Brendan thanks you for your generosity of spirit and kindness of heart.

## 20 – Parish Lay Leaders

Includes members of the Camberwell Parish Leadership Team, the Deepdene & Balwyn Parish Council and the Parish Staff



## 207 – Liturgical Ministers

Includes Lectors, Leaders, Special Ministers of the Eucharist, Liturgy Committee members, Sacristans, Altar Servers, Altar Society members & Linen Care volunteers



## 66 – Music Ministry Members

Includes Choirs, Cantors, Organists and Instrumentalists



## 41 – Communion to the Sick Ministers

Includes ministers from both parishes



## 59 – Financial Administrative Support Volunteers

Includes Collectors, Counters, Finance Committee members and Investment Committee members



## 95 – Outreach Ministry Volunteers

Includes members of the Asylum Seekers & Refugee Support Group, Social Justice Network, St Vincent de Paul, Legion of Mary and Care Group



## 27 – Learning & Youth Engagement Leaders and Volunteers

Includes Men's Scripture Group, Catechists, RCIA Leaders and the Youth Engagement Project



## 76 – Other Parishioner Group Volunteers

Includes Press Club, Craft Group, Friendship Group, Welcome and Hospitality Group



# Gathering in Gratitude

The Christmas 'Thank you' evening on the first Friday of December is an annual event hosted by Fr Brendan and Parish Staff. It is seen as an important expression of gratitude for all those who give their time and expertise to support the ministries across our parishes.

As expressed by Fr Brendan in his address to guests:

*Tonight is a night to say thank you from me as your parish priest, from our parish staff with whom you all collaborate and work so well, and from our Parish Council and Leadership Team with whom the staff and I work so closely. I would like to acknowledge the ministry and many hours of hard work of all of those involved in these ministries across our parishes.*

Approximately 240 of the 500+ volunteers were able to share the evening together. Fr Brendan and the Chairs of both the Parish Leadership Team and the Parish Council spoke appreciatively of the efforts of volunteers to make their respective parishes successful places of welcome and effective in fulfilling their respective visions. The joint initiatives of the parishes and the collaboration across the groups were acknowledged.

The evening was a great success, with the paella stall providing both theatre and aroma, and a delightfully enjoyable meal.

As the evening light faded, the Christmas lights took over, creating a fairyland of flashing lights and reindeer. Such a fabulous atmosphere contributed to the laughter and shared conversation and stories of a year enriched by spiritual growth, liturgy, friendship, community gatherings and musical events.





# Finance Report

Each parish is responsible for its financial health and vitality. Our parishes income is derived from the generous giving of parishioners and supplemented by the wise and good management of the assets which we have inherited over the life of the parishes.

In 2019 the average giving from 440 givers was \$17.66 per week, compared to 2018 when we had 450 givers giving an average of \$19.67 per week.

A summary of the finances is found below.

## Balance Sheet

For the year ended 31 December 2019

	OLGC & ALL HALLOWS	OUR LADY OF VICTORIES
	(\$' 000)	(\$'000)
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Current</b>		
Cash at bank	109	483
Receivables (net)	6	13
Investment monies	3,756	
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,871</b>	<b>496</b>
<b>Non Current</b>		
Barnsbury development	29,452	
Properties non income producing (churches & presbyteries)	14,261	66,854
Properties income producing	12,700	9,455
<b>Total</b>	<b>56,413</b>	<b>76,309</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>60,284</b>	<b>76,805</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
<b>Current</b>		
Creditors & Accruals	(37)	(123)
<b>Total</b>	<b>(37)</b>	<b>(123)</b>
<b>Non Current</b>		
CDF Loans	0	(1,028)
Other - Barnsbury Lease Loans	(29,438)	
<b>Total</b>	<b>(29,438)</b>	<b>(1,028)</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>(29,475)</b>	<b>(1,151)</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>30,809</b>	<b>75,654</b>



## Financial Performance Summary

Our Lady of Good Counsel & All Hallows Parish, Deepdene & Balwyn

Our Lady of Victories Parish, Camberwell

	Actuals Jan-Dec 2019	Actuals Jan-Dec 2019
	OLGC & ALL HALLOWS	OUR LADY OF VICTORIES
	(\$' 000)	(\$' 000)
<b>Income</b>		
Stewardship**	270	148
Rents	331	304
Other Income	67	98
OLV Administration fee	110	
Interest Income	6	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>784</b>	<b>552</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Learning	124	
Outreach	37	
Participation	47	21
Worship	254	80
Administration Expenses	224	16
Property Management	62	234
OLV Administration Fee		110
Interest on loans		44
Archdiocesan Tax***	34	43
<b>Total</b>	<b>782</b>	<b>548</b>
<b>Surplus / (Deficit)</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>

Notes:

- > The parishes' finances are based on a calendar year ending 31 December 2019.
- > \*\*Deepdene and Balwyn School Building Fund is a Deductible Gift Recipient Status fund. 20% of all Stewardship giving to Deepdene & Balwyn Parish goes to this fund.
- > \*\*\*Each parish pays to the Archdiocese of Melbourne a quota to fund the agencies of the Archdiocese which in turn services parishes.



# DIRECTORY - PARISH GROUPS & PERSONNEL

## PARTICIPATION



**Boroondara Deanery**  
John Morkham, Deepdene  
& Balwyn  
Simon Donohoe, Camberwell

**Craft Group**  
Stella Robinson

**Friendship Group**  
Parish Office

**Kitty Craft**  
Barbara Arbon

**Press Club (Newsletter)**  
Parish Office

**Tennis Club**  
James Wilton Jnr

**Welcome & Hospitality**  
Judy Lees

Christine Dennis

Kathleen Curtain

Karen Synon

Antoinette Monaco

**Youth Engagement Project**  
yepmelb@gmail.com

## STEWARDSHIP



**Communication Group**  
Parish Office

**Counters**  
Kate Baines

**Finance Committee Camberwell**  
Michael McCloskey (Chair)

## OUTREACH



**Asylum Seeker  
& Refugee Support Group**  
Helen Darrer

**Care Group, Deepdene & Balwyn**  
Parish Office

**Indigenous Australia Project**  
Anne McIlroy

**Social Justice Network**  
Parish Office

**St Vincent de Paul Society**  
Terry Janes, Deepdene & Balwyn  
Conference  
Kevin Rogers, Camberwell  
Conference

## WORSHIP



**Altar Servers**  
Deepdene & Balwyn  
Mieke Lochrie  
Kerry Hersom

**Altar Society Camberwell**  
Sally McIntosh

**Baptisms**  
Sharon Freeman

**Communion to the Sick**  
Tricia Norman

**Legion of Mary Camberwell**  
Parish Office

**Liturgical Ministers**  
Tricia Norman

**Organists/Cantors**  
Chris Trikilis

**Piety Stall Camberwell**  
Julianne Kelley and Mary Gurry

**RCIA**  
Lyn Kane

**Sacraments**  
Sharon Freeman

**Sacristy Linen**  
Kate Baines

**Weddings**  
Sally McIntosh

**Liturgy Group**  
Fr Brendan Reed

**Sacristans**  
Kate Baines

## LEARNING



**Adult Education**  
Parish Office

**Catechists**  
Sharon Freeman

**OLGC School Parents' Association**  
Olivia Hemphill

**Men's Scripture Group**  
Francis Bourke

## PARISH COUNCIL DEEPDENE & BALWYN

Fr Brendan Reed  
Fr Trac Nguyen  
Nicholas Boyhan  
Julie Douglas (Chair)  
Ben Fung  
Jennifer Gray  
Anton McKernan  
Tricia Norman  
Arthur Cheng  
Liz Tehan  
Geoffrey Rankin  
Maurizio Borgobello

## PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM CAMBERWELL

Fr Brendan Reed  
Fr Trac Nguyen  
Adrian Anderson  
Vince Curatore (Chair)  
Simon Donahoe  
Sharon Freeman  
Aaron Lane  
Jeff Philips  
Kerri-Anne Porrecca

## PARISH OFFICE

19 Brenbeal Street Balwyn  
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## OLGC SCHOOL

Principal : Jennifer Gray  
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catholic.edu.au  
Web :  
www.olgcdeepdene.catholic.edu.au