

PARISHES OF CAMBERWELL BALWYN DEEPDENE & SURREY HILLS WATTLE PARK

Annual Report 2021



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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

410

Volunteers engaged and
participating in parish ministries

9

Number of Sunday Masses
across our parishes

997

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

Kate Baines
Stewardship Coordinator

Nanette Giovannini
Sacramental Coordinator

Sally McIntosh
Administrative Assistant

Kirsten Italiano
Administrative Assistant

Communication Insights



1970

Newsletter subscribers



94

Weekly online newsletters and other content



170

YouTube subscribers



8,534

YouTube views in 2021 *



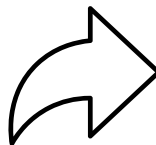
6,446

YouTube ongoing views **



196

Facebook followers



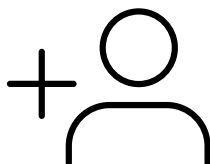
119

Facebook posts



80

Members Eastern Catholic Facebook Group



83

Instagram followers



56

Instagram posts

* Includes online Mass between January & November 2021.

** Includes content from 2020 – the Plenary Council series, the Marian Prayer Liturgy and the Combined Parishes Virtual Choir – Hail Mary Gentle Woman with the highest views.

Welcome from the Parish Priest

Fr Brendan Reed

Parish life in the year 2021 was a case of open and shut! After a year of many lockdowns in 2020 there was some hope that we might be coming through the Pandemic. Perhaps a vaccine was in sight. However, that would come later in the year. Instead in 2021 our parish life continued within the confines of another series of long lockdown periods. Despite this our parishioners continued to look out for each other, to support those who were in need and to keep alive whatever parish life activities could happen. As the year end emerged and vaccinations started to play their role in assisting us to live with the pandemic, we were able to celebrate the long awaited sacraments of First Eucharist and Confirmation. There are more reflections on these celebrations further in this report.



2021 also marked some major decisions by our Parish Councils. After a series of meetings in which our three Parish Councils reflected on the future of parish life, a number of significant decisions were made in relation to the future governance of our parishes. Four decisions were made in September 2021, at a combined meeting of the Parish Councils of Camberwell, Balwyn Deepdene and Surrey Hills Wattle Park. First, that we would embark on a process of establishing a single representative Parish Pastoral Council across our three parishes. Second, that we would establish the new ministry of Parish Life Teams to be the point of contact for each Sunday worshipping community for our five Churches. Third, that we would have a single staff group supporting and serving our three parishes and fourth, that the current councils would be decommissioned and a Transition Team set up to implement the decisions.

"Our parishioners continued to look out for each other, to support those who were in need and to keep alive whatever parish life activities could happen."

I would like to thank the outgoing chairs of our three Parish Councils for their incredible work and vision for the future. Thank you to Julie Douglas, Chair of Deepdene and Balwyn Parish Council, Vince Curatore, Chair of Camberwell Parish Council and Peter Collery, Chair of the (Interim) Parish Council at Surrey Hills Wattle Park. Julie, Vince and Peter worked tirelessly leading our Parish Councils and have left a great legacy for the new combined Parish Council to pick up in 2022.

Finally I would like to thank all parishioners and friends of our parish for their support of me and our parish community over what has been a couple of very challenging years.

With best wishes,

Brendan



"I would like to thank the outgoing chairs of our three Parish Councils for their incredible work and vision for the future."



Parish Team (from left): Fr Trac Nguyen, Nanette Giovannini, Tricia Norman, Kate Baines, Fr Frank O'Loughlin, Fr Brendan Reed, Sally McIntosh, Sophie Zebrowski.

Celebrating the Sacraments

"As the final Confirmation Mass ended and the Sacramental Program for 2021 drew to a close, there was a sense of achievement and delight to see the children take their next steps in faith initiation."



2021 was a busy year in our parishes for Sacraments as over 450 young people were presented for Reconciliation, First Eucharist and Confirmation. The parishes celebrated six liturgies for Reconciliation, 12 Masses for First Eucharist and 11 Masses for Confirmation, some of which were rescheduled on a number of occasions.

As our parishes and churches gradually opened later in the year, the focus was to complete the Sacraments of Initiation for school-aged children – First Eucharist, Confirmation – and many Baptisms and Weddings that had been waiting. We were fortunate that Archbishop Hart was part of our community and that he was happy to assist in confirming our children.

It was appropriate that the first sacraments we celebrated for our reopening were baptisms. There were many families who waited to celebrate baptisms during the year. Both outdoor and indoor ceremonies were held with over 30 families with young children baptised over the coming weeks and months.

As the final Confirmation Mass ended and the Sacramental Program for 2021 drew to a close, there was a sense of achievement and delight to see the children take their next steps in faith initiation.

Congratulations to our young parishioners who celebrated their Sacraments during the year.

Sacraments in 2021

87	Baptisms
35	Weddings
211	Confirmations
177	First Communions
4	RCIA
54	Funerals

“Getting confirmed into the church was a really special moment for me and for it to go ahead was very lucky. Being there with my family was extra special and I know that it will be an experience that I will remember for a long time.”

Mikayla



Sacraments at Pentecost

The Pentecost Vigil was a beautiful liturgy for the four candidates – Miyuki Matsukazi, Patricia Watkinson, Mark Furnival-Jones and Lena May – who journeyed with the RCIA team (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) to become members of our church community.

Miyuki Matsukazi was baptised after the homily and all four candidates received the Sacrament of Confirmation and later, First Eucharist.

During Mass, Fr Brendan and Fr Trac led the candidates and sponsors through the Sacraments in a way that was both reverent and relaxed, allowing everyone to enjoy this very special and memorable time.



Congratulations to Miyuki, Patricia, Mark and Lena May and a special thank you to their sponsors and the RCIA team, led by Lyn Kane, who supported them along their journey.



Parish Life – Emerging from Lockdown

It was clear by the end of 2021 as vaccine rollouts continued that we were not in a post-Covid world but most likely a post-lockdown world! For parish life that meant that we could carefully and safely open while continuing to be vigilant around vaccination and safe practices. As our parishes opened up it became clear that community engagement, support, hospitality and welcome were the things that people had missed the most. So our parishes gradually reintroduced our monthly Youth Led Mass at Deepdene. At Surrey Hills Wattle Park, our Men's and Women's Breakfast Groups met up. They had continued to meet virtually throughout the year anyway, but as face to face meetings became possible people longed to gather again. The parishes Friendship Group made a comeback on a Friday morning at Deepdene and hospitality after Mass at each of our Churches was gradually re-introduced.

"As our parishes opened up it became clear that community engagement, support, hospitality and welcome were the things that people had missed the most."

Our Annual Remembrance Mass for those who have had a loved one die during the past year was particularly pertinent in 2021 as many people had experienced a funeral Mass during the year with limited attendees permitted. It was a highlight of the year to be able to gather together and support those who had experienced loss and grief during this time. And of course the celebration of the sacraments for the young of our parish was another highlight of 2021 as we celebrated almost two years of delayed Sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation. There is a whole section dedicated to those celebrations in this report.



Learning – Gathering the People of God

In 2021, learning continued across our parishes. Francis Bourke continued to convene the Men's Scripture Group at Camberwell, Rose-Marie Prosser led both a discussion group at Surrey Hills Wattle Park and a Lenten series and Fr Frank O'Loughlin continued to write!

In 2021 Frank launched, *Gathering the People of God: Renew the liturgy – renew the Church*. Fr Brendan Reed introduced the book at the launch with the following address.

"It is an interesting subtitle. 'Renew the liturgy – renew the Church' is like an imperative. Do it or let's do it! But this title is emerging 55 years after Sacrosanctum Concilium. So the title also begs the question – 'what happened?'. Did we renew the Church when we renewed the liturgy in 1965? Or maybe Frank is asking, 'in what ways have we not grasped the renewal?' What did not go far enough? Frank's contention in this book is that there were some deeply significant claims made about the people of God – all the baptised – in the renewal of the liturgy, that have not been realised. In fact we have seen attempts at restoring the liturgy (the fascination with the anachronistic Tridentine rite) or, on the other hand, the reduction of liturgical encounter to a common values sharing and mutual self-esteem building. Frank, I think wants to awaken us to the profound renewal of the liturgy that



grew out of the Second Vatican Council and its potential to truly and deeply renew the Church. He has been at this task for many years preaching, praying and presiding in a way that invites us on the journey of renewal with him. I invite you to join with me in congratulating and thanking Frank for this book and in delving into it over the next few weeks with and around him."

The book launch was followed by a further two week series on how the liturgy can renew the Church. *Gathering the People of God*, is still available and can be ordered through Pauline Books in 7 Denmark Hill Road, East Hawthorn.



Safely Reopening

After many lockdowns during 2020 and 2021 we finally opened our Churches near the later part of 2021. The reopening gave us the opportunity to reflect on how welcoming, safe and COVID friendly our Churches could be. So began a reopening campaign, *Opening Our Churches Safely*. The campaign had four elements to it: creating a COVID safe environment, creating a child safe environment, creating a community safe environment and creating a cyber-safe environment. The last of these four was added as we were all spending so much more time in cyber-space during the lock down periods.

The campaign gave us the opportunity to make safety a holistic and whole of parish responsibility. It was a great opportunity to remind people about their obligations to read and sign our Safeguarding policy each year, to link their Working with Children's Check to our parish and to make sure that they were familiar with all our safety standards and protocols. Being a safe and welcoming community will continue to be a focus into 2022.

"The campaign gave us the opportunity to make safety a holistic and whole of parish responsibility."



Farewells

Kirsten Italiano

In 2021 we said farewell to Kirsten Italiano. Kirsten held the position of Parish Secretary at Surrey Hills Wattle Park Parish for a number of years. In 2020 she became part of the wider parish staff group across CBD and SHWP Parishes. Kirsten played a key role in our weekly newsletter, coordinating rosters and providing administrative support to many individuals and groups at Surrey Hills Wattle Park. At the end of 2021, Kirsten moved back to Western Australia to be closer to family and to pursue new challenges. We wish her every blessing and hope that she will come back and visit us one day.

Shanti Michael

Shanti Michael completed her time as Director of Music in May 2021. We are grateful for the contribution Shanti made to our parishes in the time that she was in the role. We wish her all the best for her continuing interest and love of Liturgical Music. Shanti is still involved in choir work around Melbourne.

Gilbert Keisler

Gilbert Keisler was farewelled from Our Lady of Good Counsel School at the end of 2021. This was Gilbert's second farewell.

He completed his time as Principal at OLGC School at the end of 2009. From there he became Principal at St Joseph's in Hawthorn from where he retired at the end of 2019. During 2020 he did some consultancy work with Catholic Education Office Melbourne. In 2021 Gilbert agreed to become Acting Principal at OLGC School until the search for a new Principal was completed. Little did he know that he would be with us for a whole year! We are grateful to Gilbert for his leadership and commitment to Catholic Education. We can now allow him to enjoy his retirement!

Welcome

Erin Macdonald

Erin Macdonald is no stranger to Catholic Education nor to our local parishes! At the end of 2021 we announced Erin as the successful applicant for the position of Principal at OLGC Parish Primary School. Erin comes to us from Sacred Heart Sandringham where she was Principal for over a decade. In the early part of her teaching career Erin was Principal at Our Lady of Victories, Camberwell. We are grateful to Erin for taking on the position of Principal and we look forward to welcoming her in 2022!



Farewell Mass for Fr Mark Reynolds

"Both the celebration of Eucharist and the supper afterwards brought back so many happy memories of three and a half wonderful and enriching years."



A year after Fr Mark Reynolds was appointed Parish Priest to St Jude's Parish in Scoresby, parishioners from Surrey Hills Wattle Park were finally able to host a farewell Mass and supper for Mark.

Our Holy Redeemer Church was filled with parishioners, representing both the parish and school communities as well as Greythorn Parish where Fr Mark had also ministered, with Mass concelebrated by Fathers Brendan Reed, Trac Nguyen and Frank O'Loughlin. Fr Mark reflected on the occasion:

"It was wonderful to be able to gather and celebrate with so many last Friday evening. Both the celebration of Eucharist and the supper afterwards brought back so many happy memories of three and a half wonderful and enriching years. I am particularly grateful to all those who went to so much trouble in preparing both the liturgy and the supper. We were all nourished by both. Once again I am enormously grateful for your generosity with the gift that was presented to me."

We wish Fr Mark every blessing for his new appointment both at St Jude's Parish Scoresby and as Episcopal Vicar for Catholic Schools.

Our Financial Position

2021 was another challenging year for us all. The year started off well with the reopening of our churches but come midyear, we went into another lockdown resulting in a fall in face to face church attendance. Though we anticipate that attendance numbers will increase over time, they will not return to pre-pandemic levels in the short term. COVID-19 has been a challenge for our parishes but we have come through this experience well with our finances remaining healthy and

many of our parish activities adapted to the changing circumstances. In 2021 the average giving from 542 givers was \$14.78 compared to 2020 when we had 559 givers across our parishes contributing an average of \$15.78. Our parishioners have been generous with their continued support of our parish and in addition to their Stewardship commitment to the parishes have contributed over \$9,700 to the various appeals held over the year. A summary of our finances is found below:

BALANCE SHEET

For the year ended 31 December 2021

	OLGC & ALL HALLOWS (\$'000)	OUR LADY OF VICTORIES (\$'000)	SURREY HILLS WATTLE PARK (\$'000)
ASSETS			
Current			
Cash at Bank	62	120	1056
Receivables (net)	72	0	0
Investment monies	4,600	500	359
Total	4,734	620	1,415
Non-Current			
Barnsbury Development	30,153	0	0
Properties non income producing (churches & presbyteries)	14,178	72,115	13,898
Properties income producing	12,665	11,125	4,985
Total	56,996	83,240	18,883
TOTAL ASSETS	61,730	83,860	20,298
LIABILITIES			
Current			
Creditors & Accruals	190	64	6
Total	190	64	6
Non-Current			
CDF Loans *	0	849	0
Other - Barnsbury Loans	30,140	0	0
Total	30,140	849	0
TOTAL LIABILITIES	30,330	913	6
NET ASSETS	31,400	82,947	20,292

Our Financial Position

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE SUMMARY

For the year ended 31 December 2021

	OLGC & ALL HALLOWS (\$'000)	OUR LADY OF VICTORIES (\$'000)	SURREY HILLS WATTLE PARK (\$'000)
Income			
Stewardship	240	100	76
Rents	366	322	75
Other Income	33	56	18
OLV Administration Fee ***	87	0	0
Interest Income	1	3	9
Grants - external	51	0	0
Total Income	778	481	178
Expenditure			
Learning	9	0	0
Outreach	49	0	2
Participation	10	0	0
Worship	92	38	5
Administration Expenses	305	7	79
Property Management	99	126	117
OLV Administration Fee	0	87	0
Interest on loans *	0	31	0
Archdiocesan Tax^^^^	57	40	22
Total Expenditure	621	329	225
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	157	152	(47)

Notes:

The parishes' finances are based on a calendar year ending 31 December 2021.

*** Our Lady of Victories did not qualify for any stimulus payments from the Government. Deepdene & Balwyn Parish did not charge Our Lady of Victories the full year administration fee of \$116,000.

* Our Lady of Victories has a loan with Catholic Development Fund Melbourne. 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.

Our Partnerships



Villa Maria Catholic Homes continues to manage our Barnsbury Retirement Village in Barnsbury Road. Our partnership with VMCH commenced in 2013 and has been 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. St Paul's is a specialist school providing education for children aged five to 18 years with a wide range of intellectual, physical, profound multiple and sensory disabilities as well as complex medical needs.



Brigidine Asylum Seeker Project (BASP) was established in 2001 with its aim being to provide hospitality and practical support to people seeking asylum. Since the inception of BASP, Camberwell and Balwyn Deepdene Parishes have contributed with monthly donations of non-perishable foods, cleaning products, toiletries and baby goods. In 2022 it is envisaged that the Parish of Surrey Hills Wattle Park will join this ministry.



We are now in our sixth year of our partnership with CatholicCare who assist us in supporting asylum seekers and refugees. In 2015, Deepdene and Balwyn built two town houses to aid our asylum seeker and refugee ministry. In this past year, our funding has helped significantly with support in the way of rent, payment of utilities, health and educational support as well as material aid in the form of supermarket vouchers for many asylum seeker and refugee families experiencing some very difficult life circumstances.



Our Parish Conferences are strong and active groups involved in a range of outreach work which includes home visitation to the needy, locally and in North and South Melbourne. Many parishioners are dedicated members of our Conferences, also volunteering at the Vinnies Stores in Hawthorn, East Kew and Mont Albert as well as providing support with the soup vans. During 2021, our parishes have contributed over \$14,800 to the St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal and over \$22,900 to the St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal.



Parishes of Camberwell, Balwyn Deepdene & Surrey Hills Wattle Park

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