



ANNUAL REPORT 2022

PARISHES OF CAMBERWELL, BALWYN
DEEPDENE AND SURREY HILLS WATTLE PARK

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WELCOME FROM THE PARISH PRIEST

Welcome to the 2022 annual report for the Parishes of Camberwell, Balwyn Deepdene and Surrey Hills Wattle Park. The theme of the 2022 report is re-building. That is precisely what we needed to do in 2022 as we had experienced two years of long periods of lockdown due to Covid-19. However, our parishioners are resilient and you will see in this report that our parish bounced back. Sacramental life re-bounded, Sunday Mass goers returned, outreach to the sick and homebound resumed in person. Opportunities for deepening faith were picked up and the life blood of our parishes was palpable once again. Thanks to all who contributed to parish life in 2022. I hope you enjoy reading this report.



FR BRENDAN REED
PARISH PRIEST



OUR PARISHES AT A GLANCE

OUR PARISH

13,501

Total number of Catholics registered with our parishes

4,486

Total Catholic families registered with our parishes

42

Ministries across our parishes

625

Volunteer roles in parish ministries

9

Number of Sunday Masses across our parishes

821

2022 Weekly Mass attendees

SACRAMENTS IN 2022

108 *Baptisms*

79 *First Communion*s

100 *Confirmations*

41 *Weddings*

83 *Funerals*

COMMUNICATION

2054

Newsletter subscribers

74

Weekly online newsletters and other content

3,200

Unique visitors to website (month)

4,500

Website visitor sessions (month)

60.89% and 1 min. 41s

User experience - bounce rate and average visit duration (month)

OUR PARISHES AT A GLANCE

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 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 PARISH TEAM

Fr Brendan Reed
Parish Priest

Fr Hoang Dinh
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

Sophie Zebrowski
Youth Minister

A YEAR OF REBUILDING

BY FR BRENDAN REED

If there was a theme for the 2022 parish year it would have to be 're-build'. The previous two years had seen our parish churches in lockdown for most of the year. While we were able to keep in touch with each other through online newsletters, pre-recorded Masses and scheduled Zoom meetings things, were not the same. So the year 2022 saw us rebuilding our parish communities. We began re-building our worshipping communities. Many people had gotten used to online Masses and were still reluctant to gather in public places. Covid-19 had not just disappeared because lockdowns were over. Some people had just gotten out of the habit of coming to Sunday Mass. Others found that they were ambivalent to Sunday Mass or that their faith had been shaken by the previous two years. So 2022 was the year to rebuild our local parish communities.

Two initiatives had been taken by our parishes at the end of 2021 that served us well in our rebuilding phase of 2022. The first was the rebuilding of leadership. This meant that in 2022 we established the first Combined Parish

Council of the Parishes of Camberwell, Balwyn Deepdene and Surrey Hills Wattle Park. Mr Phil Mann took on the leadership of the Council as it commenced. We also consolidated our parish staff into one office at Balwyn. The second initiative was the establishment of Parish Life Teams.

These teams were set up at each of our five churches to be the consistent face of welcome and the conduit to our parishes pastoral staff. The Parish Life Teams became an important face of parish life in 2022 and have assisted in the welcome back to regular Sunday worship.

These teams assisted in the rebuilding of our parish customs and routines: hospitality after Mass, welcome to those preparing for baptism, encouragement in participation in parish liturgical ministries, sending people out with Communion to the sick, and taking care of the physical environment of our Churches as well as the community of the faithful.

The Parish Life Teams became an important face of parish life in 2022 and have assisted in the welcome back to regular Sunday worship.

2022 saw the beginning of the rebuilding of our parishes youth ministry. Youth Engagement Project (YEP) had served us well for over ten years. In 2022 it was clear that YEP had been weakened by the impact of the global pandemic. However, Fr Trac and then Fr Hoang led by Sophie Zebrowski were not giving up and in 2022 we saw the establishment of Encompass, our new youth engagement initiative. We look forward to seeing Encompass grow and become a regular part of parish life.



Phil Mann, Parish Council Chair

I am indebted to everyone who assisted in the rebuilding of parish life in 2022. I invite those who have yet to reengage to take the risk, make contact and come back. I am sure you will receive a very warm welcome from our Parish Life Teams!

I am indebted to everyone who assisted in the rebuilding of parish life in 2022.



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



LEARNING

Our parishes have had a strong history of ongoing formation and learning. Even through the lockdown months of the pandemic we gathered online to deepen our faith. 2022 was no exception. Our learning culture continued. On a monthly basis, on the first Saturday of the month, our Men's Scripture Group, led by Francis Bourke, continued to meet at Our Lady of Victories Parish to reflect on the word of God and pray together.

At Our Lady's in Wattle Park, Rose-Marie Prosser coordinated Faith and Life Questions with speakers on Scripture, Ethics and Theology.

Fr Frank O'Loughlin led us in two series. Firstly we explored the Easter Season with a series of talks on *Why we Celebrate Easter*.

Frank continued his writing frenzy and produced another book in 2022. This time his topic was Sin. Fr Michael McEntee launched the book and Frank led us in a three part series exploring Sin in the Bible, the History of Sin and the Future of Sin. For those who missed out, the book is still available: *Does Sin Matter: Separation, Reconciliation, Redemption*, Coventry Press, 2022.

2022 was certainly a year of ongoing learning with opportunities offered to students, teachers, and parishioners right across our parishes.

Our three schools came together for learning in 2022 as well. On three occasions we gathered to explore our vision and mission for our Catholic Dialogue School, prayer as dialogue with God and sin as separation.

Our school children and those from other schools who joined us to celebrate the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation all participated in reflection days, in addition to their classroom learning, prior to the celebration.

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Our parishes have a strong history of ongoing formation and learning.



REBUILDING SACRAMENTAL LIFE

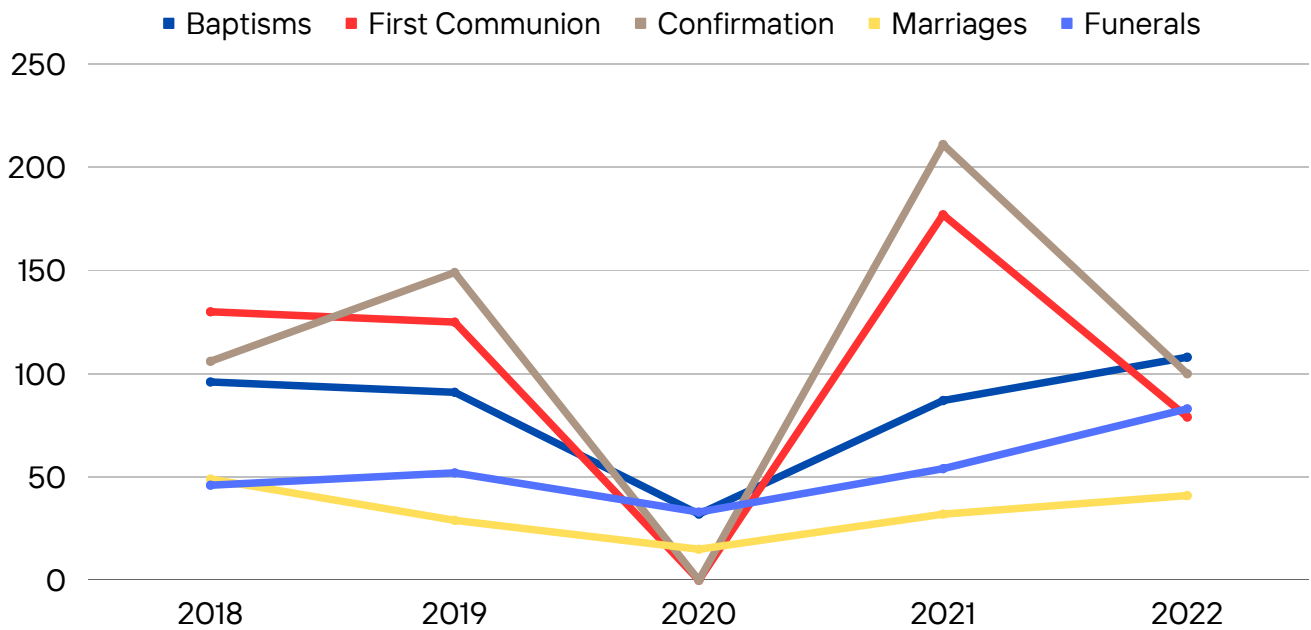
Sacraments in 2022

108 Baptisms 79 First Communions 83 Funerals
41 Weddings 100 Confirmations





SACRAMENTS BACK ON TRACK



Sacramental Statistics Summary 2018-2022



FAREWELL FR TRAC AND WELCOME FR HOANG

2022 was the year that we bid farewell to Fr Trac Nguyen, Assistant Priest of Camberwell, Balwyn Deepdene and Surrey Hills Wattle Park. Trac accepted an appointment as Parish Administrator of Our Lady of the Way in Kingsbury.

Trac arrived in the parishes as a deacon on placement with us in February 2019. Following his Ordination to the Priesthood in September 2019, he was appointed Assistant Priest. Parishioners from across the parishes gathered at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church, Deepdene to celebrate a farewell Mass for Fr Trac.



Trac made a wonderful contribution to our parishes and we are grateful for his ministry and for the way he generously shared his gifts with us.

We welcomed Fr Hoang Dinh as Assistant Priest to the Parishes of Camberwell, Balwyn Deepdene and Surrey Hills Wattle Park in August 2022. Hoang was ordained a priest in December 2021 and since then had been Assistant Priest at the Parish of St Mary of the Cross Aspendale and Mordiallic.

*"I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible in the coming months, getting to know you more and working with you."
Fr Hoang Dinh*



OUTREACH

MINISTRY OF COMMUNION TO THE SICK

During the lockdowns of 2020 and 2021 we were able to keep in contact with our parishioners via phone calls and video link pastoral care. 2022 saw us re-building our Communion to the Sick Ministry with a return to over 100 weekly visits made to 11 aged care facilities, St Georges Hospital and 13 regular home visits.



SAFEGUARDING



CODE OF CONDUCT CHALLENGE

Being a safe and welcoming community continued to be a focus in 2022. Our safeguarding focus for September was the Code of Conduct around which our parishes operate. The *Safeguarding Code of Conduct Challenge for September* required all parishioners, engaged and participating in parish ministries and activities, to read and agree to abide by the Code of Conduct. With an update of current numbers each week, we were able to see how we were tracking towards our 100% target.

OUR PARTNERSHIPS

VMCH

Villa Maria Catholic Homes continues to manage our Barnsbury Retirement Village in Barnsbury Road. Our partnership with VMCH was further strengthened when VMCH signed a long term lease on the former All Hallows School site for St Paul's School.



Our partnership with CatholicCare assists in supporting asylum seekers and refugees. In this past year, our funding has provided financial, health and educational support for many asylum seeker and refugee families experiencing difficult life circumstances.



Brigidine Asylum Seeker Project (BASP) provides hospitality and practical support to people seeking asylum. Parishioners generously support the program with monthly donations of non-perishable foods, cleaning products, toiletries and baby goods.



Our Parish Conferences are strong and active groups involved in a range of outreach work which includes home visitation to those in need. Many parishioners are dedicated members of our Conferences, and also volunteer at the St Vincent de Paul Stores in Hawthorn, East Kew and Mont Albert. During 2022, our parishes generously supported both the St Vincent de Paul Winter and Christmas Appeals.



Our three schools - Our Lady of Good Counsel, Deepdene, Our Holy Redeemer, Surrey Hills and Our Lady's, Wattle Park - come under the governance of Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools Limited (MACS).

In 2022, we continued to work together in mission with our three schools in building up the life of our parishes and supporting each other in our distinct yet complimentary roles as parish and schools.

OUR FINANCIAL POSITION

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 \$18,484 to the various appeals held over the year. In addition, parishioners have generously supported our three St Vincent de Paul Conferences by contributing over \$29,921 to their annual Winter and Christmas Appeals during 2022.

BALANCE SHEET For the year ended 31 December 2022

	OLGC & ALL HALLOWS (\$'000)	OUR LADY OF VICTORIES (\$'000)	SURREY HILLS WATTLE PARK (\$'000)
ASSETS			
Current			
Cash at Bank	87	130	64
Receivables (net)	399	1	3
Investment monies	4,252	501	1,277
Total	4,738	632	1,344
Non-Current			
Barnsbury Development	30,400		
Properties non income producing (churches & presbyteries)	15,028	78,839	15,175
Properties income producing	12,665	12,533	5,645
Total	58,093	91,372	20,820
TOTAL ASSETS	62,831	92,004	22,164
LIABILITIES			
Current			
Creditors & Accruals	318	61	2
Total	318	61	2
Non-Current			
CDF Loans		760	
Other - Barnsbury Loans	30,400		
Total	30,400	760	0
TOTAL LIABILITIES	30,718	821	2
NET ASSETS	32,113	91,183	22,162

OUR FINANCIAL POSITION

Financial Performance Summary For the year ended 31 December 2022

	OLGC & All Hallows (\$'000)	Our Lady of Victories (\$'000)	Surrey Hills Wattle Park (\$'000)
Income			
Stewardship	236	88	64
Rents	373	332	89
Other Income	49	91	24
OLV Administration Fee	110		
SHWP Administration Fee	55		
Interest Income	1	1	4
Grants - external	20		
Total Income	844	512	181
Expenditure			
Learning	17		
Outreach	34	3	4
Participation	18		
Worship	45	38	7
Administration Expenses	345	10	13
Property Management	165	181	137
OLV Administration Fee		110	
SHWP Administration Fee			55
Interest on loans		33	
Archdiocesan Tax*	76	32	24
Total Expenditure	700	407	240
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	144	105	(59)

Notes:

The parishes' finances are based on a calendar year ending 31 December 2022.

*Each parish pays to the Archdiocese of Melbourne a quota to fund the agencies of the Archdiocese which in turn services parishes.



Parishes of Camberwell, Balwyn Deepdene and Surrey Hills Wattle Park

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

www.cbdparish.org.au