



St Martin de Porres

**Hallett Cove Catholic Community**  
**Church: St Martin de Porres, 1 Berrima Rd, Sheidow Park**  
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March, 2022

## Community Newsletter

No 34/2022

### Down Memory Lane..

Lately I have been reflecting on my journey of life. Constantly being aware more than ever before of God's presence in my life, and memories of growing up in the hill village back home. I invite you to walk with me as I share my story.

I grew up in an ordinary Kenyan family in the outskirts of Nairobi. My parents James and Priscilla Kyumu and with 5 siblings—Eva, Irene (late), Martin, Gabriel, & Patricia. I am the fourth born. No wonder I ask people too many questions even in the Church! By Kenyan standards then, we were a middle-class family.



### Primary School

For 7 years, I spent my life running to school every morning, with my school bag strapped on my back. Can you imagine spending your early life of life running 5kms every day, 5 days a week. Probably the reason my physical structure has remained the same, regardless of the amount of food I consume!! These runs were never without mischief and adventure, and it was during these moments that we formed bonds with peers and most importantly, learnt to look out for each other. The rest of my early life was spent playing soccer and looking after my family's animals including cattle, goats, sheep and chickens. Moreover, having 2 older sisters saved me from having to do household chores. I spent most of my free time quarrelling with my sister Eva who kept treating me like a baby well past 14 years of age!

### High School

Those of us who have visited Kenya know how beautiful and scenic Mt Kilimanjaro looks. For 6 years, I lived at the foot of this magnificent mountain, the highest in Africa. Snow and cold breeze would greet me every morning. I guess this is why winter is never my cup of coffee.

My high school time gave me the foundation upon which my adult life is built. We had good strong Christian teachers who had deep influence on me. There was too much writing in the library and on the cold nights. How I wish we had computers!



### Grown to manhood

As I was coming of age, it was imperative that I went through the traditional rite of passage that significant transition from boyhood to manhood. This was a time for exclusion and only carefully selected and respected elders were allowed to have access to us. My group was composed of 12 young men between the ages of 15 and 20. During this time young men are given instructions on the identity of the family and community. Also passed on were the values that hold a community together, respect, responsibility and sacrifice. I have kept connections with all the 12 to the present time.

### Formation

This took 8 years. In each year we had 3 months holidays which 2 of those were spent with diverse Catholic families within my diocese. The tradition for seminarians staying with families was to help them with establishing relationships with families and, earning to adapt and engage. I started in 1988 with a class of 120 seminarians and later only 38 were ordained priests country wide. I wonder what happened to the rest.

### Ordination

This day keeps playing in my mind over and over like a beautiful old song. Probably it was my happiest day in life. Now 25 years later, I still pray for the grace to continue trusting in the Lord. This day has fond memories of my mother. I miss her a lot.

### Ministry

This begun with my birth and still going! How can I repay God's goodness to me? 'I will lift the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.' (Ps 116). I still have questions and challenges but have never doubted my Vocation. Together let us continue to celebrate the life of our parish and spread the Good News. Your prayer and friendship is the oxygen that drives my ministry. Thank you all for being part of my life and please Keep it Up!

God bless you. Fr Michael

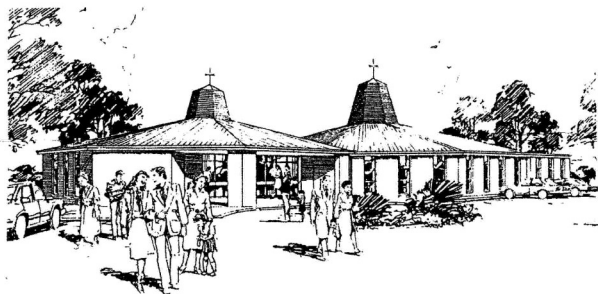


### Our Parish Vision

*A Catholic community enriched by, and centered on, the Eucharist, empowered to bring the Good News to all.*

## 30th Anniversary of the Dedication and Opening of the St Martin de Porres church at Sheidow Park, 20th March, 2022

### Dedication of St Martin de Porres Church by Archbishop Leonard Faulkner



20th March, 1992

### St Martin de Porres Church

Architect	Mr Lynton Jury
Builder	Badge Construction
Date of commencement	September 4th, 1991
Laying of Foundation Stone	November 17th, 1991
Date of completion	March 6th, 1992
Dedication	March 20th, 1992

The Hallett Cove Catholic Community extends its thanks to the following:

- Archdiocesan Development Fund
- The Parishioners of Glenelg Parish for their generous donation of \$100,000 towards the cost of the Church
- The Parishioners of Brighton Parish for their financial assistance in establishing the parish
- Catholic Education Office for their co-operation and support
- Mount Barker Wistow Slate Pty Ltd for donating the stone for the Foundation Stone and Baptism Font
- BTH Industries (Edwardstown) for supplying many of the extra furnishings
- Mr John Camfferman for construction of the Font
- Mrs Deana Byrne for restoring the furniture
- Members of the Parish Building Committee:

Fr Tony Papps	Mr Peter Faulkner (Chairman)
Mrs Jan Crammond	Mr Shane Hogan
Mr Tony Schar	Mrs Chris Tierney
Mr Barry Thome	

### Welcome to

#### St Martin de Porres Parish Church

The Parish of Hallett Cove was established in January, 1988. Mass was celebrated in St Martin de Porres School.

In March 1990, the Parish Pastoral Council set up a Working Party to investigate the building of a parish Church. This was undertaken because of the increasing number celebrating Mass here each week.

This committee reported back to the Council in October, 1990. Parish meetings were held in November and December, and the decision to proceed was made by the Parish Pastoral Council on December 10th, 1990.

A Parish Building Committee was formed.

Our architect, Mr Lynton Jury, was commissioned to prepare plans. Approval from Catholic Church Office was obtained.

In June, 1991, tenders were called. Badge Construction were the successful tenderer with a quote of \$550,000.

Work began on September 4th, 1991.

The Foundation Stone was placed on November 17th, 1991.

The Church was dedicated on March 20th, 1992.

## Features

### THE FOYER

This is the gathering space for the community. Rooms off this area are a kitchenette, a book sales space, and sacristy.

The feature of this area is the wall banner of St Martin de Porres. The banner depicts the saint and his work among the poor, and was given to the parish by the Peru Mission of the Sisters of St Joseph.

It was made by a woman in the village of Huasahuasi, Peru. In this village, in May, 1991, Sr Irene McCormack RSJ and four others were killed by terrorists. This banner is a reminder to us of the suffering experienced by those who seek to 'bring the good news to the poor'.

St Martin de Porres is the patron saint of inter racial justice. He was born in Peru in 1579. He was a lay brother of the Dominican Order, working amongst the poor and sick of Lima, Peru. He died on 3rd November, 1639.



### THE CHURCH AREA

Seating capacity — 422

### THE SANCTUARY

The Altar protrudes into the nave area. We gather around the table of the Lord, to listen to His word and to be fed at His Table.

The lectern is positioned so that eye contact is possible for the proclamation of the Word.

The furnishings were originally made for the school chapel. They link us with the past, yet remind us of the sacred space we now have — in which to gather, to listen, and to be nourished by the Bread of Life.

Chairs were selected for the church because they allow for a greater freedom in Liturgy. If required for children's Liturgy, or special occasion they can be re-arranged.

**Early History of St. Martin de Porres Parish**

**1980:** Hallett Cove, Trott Park, Sheidow Park part of Brighton Parish. Mass celebrated at Sheidow Park Primary School.

**1986:** St. Martin de Porres School opens with 112 students and 7 staff. Mass is celebrated in St. Martin de Porres School.



**Jan '88:** Parish of Hallett Cove inaugurated. Fr. Tony Papps appointed Parish Priest.



**Mar '89:** Blessing and opening of the Parish House.

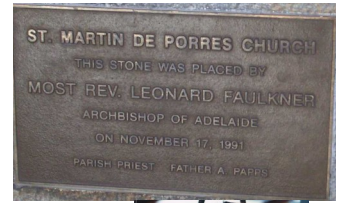


**Dec '90:** Parish Pastoral Council after consultation with parishioners decides to proceed with the building of St. Martin de Porres Church. Mr. Lynton Jury is appointed architect, and a building committee is established.

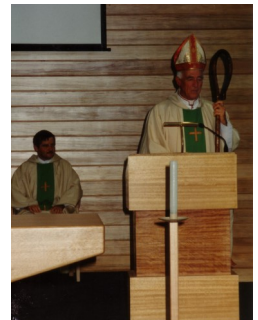
**Sept '91:** Work commences on St. Martin de Porres Church. Builder: Badge Constructions.



**Nov '91:** Laying of Foundation Stone by Archbishop Faulkner



**Mar '92:** Blessing and opening of St. Martin de Porres Church.



First Mass celebrated in Church, March 14th, 1992  
First Baptism celebrated in Church, March 22nd, 1992



First Marriage celebrated in Church February 20th, 1993.



### 30th Anniversary

We celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the opening of St Martin de Porres Church this weekend.

Over the thirty years many people, lay religious and priests, have worked together to build a community which is welcoming, unifying and supportive of each other.

All parishioners, past and present, should be proud of their efforts. Our Church especially is not just a symbol of God's presence in our midst, but also a gathering place where together we worship God as a community.

Regular parishioners, visitors, and the children, teachers and families of our school community gather in this sacred space to celebrate God's love for us all.

Over the years there have been many people actively engaged in supporting the parish. All of you by your very presence show your support. Others have been more actively involved as Parish Team giving support to the parish priests and keeping the office working efficiently, members of the Parish Council and Finance Committees, and many other workers, have had a very positive influence over the years to build and maintain this community.

It is a time to celebrate the success of our parish, to thank God for the blessings we have received, and to look forward to being a continuing caring community by living up to the example of our patron saint Martin de Porres. St Martin had a great devotion to a life of prayer, and a lifetime of commitment to those who were marginalized and less privileged in society. His caring nature for all God's creation even led him to establish a home for stray dogs and cats.

On this 30th anniversary we pray that we can live up to our parish vision statement  
*"A Catholic community enriched by, and centered on, the Eucharist, empowered to bring the Good News to all."*

### How did we get our name?

During the 1980's rapid development began to take place to the south of the Brighton Parish. The then Parish priest, Fr. Gavin Kinnare with an eye to the possible future needs of the Parish, visited the Sheidow Park/Hallett Cove area to look for suitable land on which to build a church. Father, with his then parish Secretary Maureen O'Shaughnessy after driving around the area, settled on the current site of our church as the most favourable land currently on offer. (a raised area looking out to sea with a commanding position)

Later when asked by a group of parishioners how St. Martin De Porres became our patron saint, Father explained that when Maureen asked how they would procure this particular piece of land, Father went back to the car and went through the contents of the glove box, the only suitable item he came up with was a medal of St. Martin De Porres. He said a prayer to St. Martin and threw the medal into the paddock, and said to Maureen that if it was supposed to happen it was in St. Martin's hands.

The Diocese later purchased the land and St. Martin's became a reality, eventually becoming a Parish in it's own right.



### **Pastoral Worker's Report**

How wonderful to be able to celebrate our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St Martin de Porres as a community.

Gradually we are returning to some kind of normal numbers and hope to have full capacity soon.

I am Blessed to be able to work alongside a great team and a fantastic community. Many have been here since the first stone was laid and still gather each week to celebrate. Once the school was built, the Hallett Cove/Sheidow Park community, quickly began work on our church.

It is great to hear stories of those days, I remember coming to Sheidow Park in 1989 from Ireland with 3 school age children and feeling very welcome here.



Fr Tony Papps was our first Parish Priest, we had Mass in the school classrooms each week and now, how great to see the school grow in numbers of about 500 children.

Principal Craig Fosdike, is very eager to build a strong connection with our church community. On the 20<sup>th</sup> March instead of the usual musicians, we will have some of the school music group led by Ben Ryan. After Mass we can now gather for a small celebration with Morning Tea.

For your information, there is a playgroup (0-5 years) held in the school each Tuesday morning during the school term from 9:15-11am.

The contact person is Kym Paterson

Kym's email is [kpateron@smdps.catholic.edu.au](mailto:kpateron@smdps.catholic.edu.au)  
phone:-83218300

Since our last newsletter, we have had the RCIA candidates Emma and Denice, introduced at our Masses. Thank you for making them feel welcome, please keep them in your prayers as they continue their journey of discerning their Catholic faith with Jesus as their role model.

I have been quite busy visiting a number of parishioners who, for one reason or another, can't get to Mass. If you know of anyone who is sick or who would like a visit with communion, please ring me or Pat at the office. We are slowly building a group of volunteers who would love to visit the sick.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Brian Spencer for all his hard work on our Strategic plan. Helen Thompson, Chair of our PPC will work with the groups to implement the many ideas and suggestions that have been gathered over the past months. Rest assured that we are listening and taking notice of your feedback.



The memorial garden seems to be over-run with the red rose creeper!

Thank you to Jim Priest who cut it back and it is still thriving. As you know, we are waiting until June/July to plant a couple of standard roses to complete the initial stage.

We will be putting our usual sheets in the foyer as we approach Easter and the resurrection of Jesus. Please consider putting your name to these.

Our community remains strong and generous through a lot of adversities but together we can each make a difference as we move forward.

Continuing our Lenten themes each week remember to support St Vincent de Paul and Project Compassion.

Greg Schar and all the Vinnies volunteers, work tirelessly throughout the year but particularly at Christmas and Easter and depend on your generosity. The De Santos family

are coordinating Project Compassion for our parish this year. It is so lovely to hear and see their enthusiasm as they keep us up to date with news and information. I continue to be



heartened by your kindness.

Thank you to all the people who help make our Parish a warm and inviting place to pray, reflect and spend time with Our Saviour and his family.

Take care  
Marion Crabb

### **BIOGRAPHY—Fr Prathap Katta**

I am Fr Prathap Katta SDM was born in 1982 to a pious couple called, Lourdashowry and Veronicamma, in Vijayanagaram village and parish, Adilabad diocese, Telangana state, India. I was brought-up in a traditional catholic family with religious values. We are four children to our parents, all of us boys and I am the oldest one. I had my schooling in the catholic institutions. Soon after my schooling, I joined in the seminary called SDM [The Society of St. Eugene De Mazenod] in the year 1999 and was Ordained on 13<sup>th</sup> November, 2011. I did my priestly formation and studies: Philosophy at Kotagiri, Ooty, Tamil Nadu (state) and Theology at Janampet, Eluru, Andhra Pradesh (state). Since my ordination, I was assigned in various ministries. I worked as an associate pastor in different parishes and dioceses, and in the institutions. I speak languages like Telugu, English and Tamil.

I am very grateful to Archbishop and Church authorities of the Archdiocese of Adelaide, who gave me an opportunity to come over here to Australia and, to do my ministry and render my service to the people of God in the Archdiocese of Adelaide. Particularly I thank for the new appointment to Brighton Parish as an assistant to Rev Fr Michael Musyoka, the parish priest. I am privileged and delighted to live and do my ministry amidst you. I gratefully express my heartfelt thanks once again to the Parish priest and all the Parishioners of Brighton and Hallett Cove communities for your lovely and warm welcoming. I assure that, I am always available to give my Pastoral care and Spiritual support to the parishioners entrusted to me with utmost care, commitment, respect, responsibility and devotion. May God continue to guide us to cherish His Love, Grace and Blessings.

THANK YOU!

Love and Prayers

Fr Prathap Katta



## Parish Pastoral Council

We welcomed returning members and thanked Gary Pascoe for his contributions during his time on the PPC. We welcomed Fr Prathap Katta and look forward to having him as our Assistant Priest in our parish. We also welcomed Rowan Thomas, the new Deputy of St Martin de Porres School.

### Parish Pastoral Council -2022

Chairperson: Helen Thompson  
Deputy Chairperson: Alex Szabo  
Secretary: Teresa Pascoe  
Deputy Secretary: Glenice Fanning

### Parish Pastoral Council

#### Members:

Fr Michael Kyumu  
Marion Ryan-Crabb  
Rae Campbell  
Jim Digance  
Vegis Pribadi  
Ansel D'Souza  
Matthew Perry  
Craig Fosdike-Principal  
Minh Nguyen  
Terry Fanning ( Finance Representative)



### 'Living Our Mission' ( Our Strategic Plan )

In conjunction with the Parish Pastoral Council, the Parish Planning Group has now finalized our plan to help us in Living our Mission, based on the ideas and input received from you, our parishioners and the wider community.

A display copy of the Strategies and Initiatives has been placed in the church foyer.

Implementation Teams have been formed on each area of our Mission.

**Ministry** led by Kevin Liston which will commence with "*Continuing to develop Reflection and Discussion Groups*" as its first initiative.

**Community** led by Marion Ryan which will commence with "*Introducing regular family Masses in conjunction with our School*" as its first initiative.'

**Liturgy** led by Helen Thompson with "*Involving our School in community prayers at Mass*" as its first Initiative.

We thank you for your patience, participation and contribution to this process. Our aim is to continue to build the partnership between the church and the school and improved connections with youth and young families.

This Document is a living document and will be continually be edited and updated.

It will encourage interaction, engagement and participation of parishioners in our parish.

### St Martin de Porres 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary -20<sup>th</sup> March

We look forward to celebrating the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of St Martin de Porres Church on March 20<sup>th</sup> this year. Several suggestions were put forward. These included a photo display for the Anniversary and a leaflet with some of the Church's history. Many other ideas were discussed. A Morning tea will complete the celebration.

Helen Thompson ( Chair Person)



Strategies and Initiatives to help us live our Mission have been developed by our Parish planning group (Fr Michael, Brian Spencer, Helen Thompson, Marion Crabb and Kevin Liston) in conjunction with the Parish Pastoral Council and are based on the feedback from Parishioners and the wider community. This is led to the formation of 3 groups which are led by Brian Spencer and include *Ministry* (Kevin Liston), *Communication* (Marion Ryan) & *Liturgy* (Helen Thompson). We have used the feedback provided by the Parish and wider community to select Strategies. For these Strategies the groups have selected initiatives that will have the most impact and are achievable in the next one to three years.

### Vinnies Christmas Hampers

The Hallett Cove Vinnies group sincerely thank everyone that supported us with donations of cash, gift cards, food & toys for our Christmas Hampers through our Christmas Appeal & the Christmas Giving Tree. We received tremendous support from our parishioners, St Martin de Porres School community and the Knights of the Southern Cross.



The Hallett Cove Vinnies group, besides preparing & delivering their own hampers, assisted Noarlunga & Willunga in preparing Christmas Hampers of food & toys. Over 440 boxes and 100 bags of food were packed and toys picked for over 260 children.



It's an emotional time delivering Christmas Hampers and witnessing the joy and the tears on the faces of our companions who ask us to thank the generous people who made the hampers possible. For many children the gifts and gift cards we provide (on your behalf) are the only presents they receive.

### Farewell Fr Dominick

On the 29th & 30th January we farewelled Fr Dominick from our community as he moved to the Noarlunga parish. We wish him all the very best in his new community.



**St Martin de Porres Parish Finance Council**  
**Items of interest from the meeting of**  
**16<sup>th</sup> February 2022**

- ◇ A review of the 2021 financial records was undertaken showing a total surplus for the year of \$5450. Total funds available now sit at \$97,600. An independent auditor has been appointed and will review the income and expenditure receipts as part of our annual audit process.
- ◇ A revised Budget for 2022 was tabled now that the ESL & Co-responsibly payments have been clarified. Copy attached.
- ◇ All committee members have agreed to continue to support the parish and remain on the Finance Council for 2022. Both the Chair (Pete McKenna) & Vice Chair (Tony Barbaro) were returned to these roles for 2022. We are actively seeking two or three new members to help bolster the numbers
- ◇ In 2022 we need to look at Stewardship Renewal. Stewardship is not a one-time act of giving, but rather a way of life that encompasses not only our weekly envelope and other gifts, but also the generous sharing of our time and talents with the Church and community – possibly an August / September 2022 roll out in line with the release of the planned giving envelopes.
- ◇ With the arrival of Fr Prathap Katta, approval has been given to purchase a new mattress, bedding and towels as he settles into the parish house.
- ◇ Options around the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary were discussed – Pat to provide the Pastoral Worker and PPC costs on replating the tabernacle as well as a number of other initiatives to help us celebrate this milestone.

**Maintenance**  
**Completed**

- ◆ Parish House gardens and surrounds weeded and mowed;
- ◆ External lighting improved at the Parish House;
- ◆ Parish House back fence repaired following a storm late last year;
- ◆ New kitchen tapware
- ◆ Replaced washers on two toilets in the church;
- ◆ Chairs relocated to maintain 1.5m social distancing – extra chairs currently stored in the room to the right of the tabernacle;
- ◆ Wheelchair spaces provided with extra arm supports;
- ◆ Spotlight globe replaced;

**To be done**

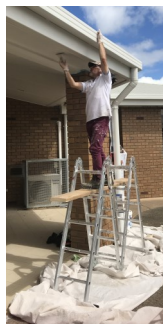
- ◆ Painting gutters, eaves and fascia's on church – this has commenced and will be completed over the next few months.
- ◆ A contractor has been engaged for late February to repair the remaining hydraulics on the doors which are currently locked as they are a safety risk.
- ◆ Carpet repairs (monitor);

**Work Health & Safety in Dec/Jan/Feb**

- ◆ Vandalism incident where five (5) windows were broken. Glass panes have been replaced and extra lighting installed as a deterrent.
- ◆ All outstanding audit action items have been completed and signed off by Church Office.

**Statements as at the end of January 2022:**

YTD: Income - \$5,734,  
YTD: Expenditure – \$5,682  
Available funds - \$97,414  
Pete McKenna (PFC Chairperson)



**Congratulations to**

Maurice & Betty Ralph  
Pat & Lionel Pugsley  
William Lee Hwi Siang & Christina Chua Soi  
Moey

Who have celebrated significant Wedding  
Anniversaries since our last newsletter



**Baptism**  
**Congratulations!**

Hudson Bourne,  
Adelyn Bourne &  
Lucas McNab



**Baptism**  
**Testimonial**

How was the experience for you?  
*The experience was empowering. Deacon Tim albeit challenging to communicate did everything he could to make it as comfortable and simple as possible. The day was incredibly exciting. Hudson, his sister Adelyn and cousin Lucas all got baptised. You could see in their faces how special they felt. Tim's communication style brought everyone together, included everyone bringing the family together on that day. Everyone left stating how great the celebration was.*

Esmae Lee





## **THE KNIGHTS OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS (SA) INC.**

Brighton – Marion – Hallett Cove -  
Glenelg Branch

After a short break the local branch of the Knights resumed their monthly meetings on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2022 at the McAuley Room of the Parish Activity Centre.

At the meeting, National Secretary, Ian Fleetwood, outlined developments for the forth coming National Conference and the need to arrange probable speakers and assist with the main Conference Dinner. The need to increase membership was raised and Branch Chairman Rod Roach was pleased to accept Past Chairman Pat Hodgson's offer to be Development Officer to canvass membership. Incidentally, this is the same indefatigable Pat (phone number 0412 259 3210) who is mentioned in our weekly Parish Bulletin for collection of empty cans and bottles. This dedicated work has raised an average of over \$2000/- annually which the Knights are happy to donate to Vinnies every year.

The last monthly meeting for 2021 was an open one on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November. It was attended by 12 members and Fr Michael and Sr Ali RSM. The Guest Speaker Chris Keane, a Maritime Lawyer, gave a very informative talk on the on the current limited ownership of the world's merchant shipping fleets and the difficult conditions faced by crews on board these fleets. However, in Australian waters and ports, due to the strong presence of the Australian Seamen's Union, the conditions for crews were well safe guarded. He concluded his talk with many other interesting anecdotes encountered in the exercise of maritime law. A vote of thanks for the speaker was given by Peter Kay followed by the traditional end-of-year round of an aged port courtesy of Tony Schar.

Branch Council at its meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2022 discussed possible fund raising events such as more Crazy Whist nights and regular Wine tastings and sales.

This might have the additional benefit of greater community involvement. The question of a regular Chaplain was raised and Peter Kay accepted to follow up this matter with the Vicar General. Another on-going matter which concerns better contacts with youth in the parish through Antioch was also discussed.



The local Branch Annual breakfast "Breakfast on the Green" will be held on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2022 at 8.30 am on the western side of the Activity Centre. All parishioners are welcome, but please phone Graham Workman on 0429 812 049 to indicate attendance so space requirements can be met.

The first Wednesday of the month meeting was held on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2022. After regular items on the Agenda were processed, National Secretary, Ian Fleetwood, gave an update on events at the national level and some of the problems being faced due protocols involving the COVID virus.

This being another 'open meeting', business adjourned to welcome the Guest Speaker for the evening: the Hon David Spiers, Member for Black and SA Government Minister for the Environment and Water. In a most interesting, educative and often humorous talk David started with some personal details about growing up in his native Scotland and then moving to South Australia, settling in Hallett Cove. He took a degree in Law from Adelaide University and was a Councillor for Marion Council before being elected to the seat of

Bright in 2014. From Bright he moved in the last election to the seat of Black!

And was appointed to his present Ministerial position in 2018. In his talk he went on to cover the work of his department and the extent and nature of their responsibilities with an overview of the geography and demography of his electorate. It was surprising to realise the extent of government ownership of SA lands making the Minister, as David put it, the biggest landlord in the State. His department's work on National Parks, Reservoir

Parks, recreational reserves and other environmental initiatives made for a very edifying overall narrative. After the customary Vote of the Thanks, David, the Minister for Water, was presented with a specially processed bottle of Australia water, albeit fortified with the fruit of an Australian vine.





## Lent 2022

### Lenten Donations

During Lent we are looking for Donations for the homeless and those in need. These donations will be distributed through Vinnies.

We are looking for donations of:

19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> March: Pasta / Pasta Sauce

26<sup>th</sup>/27<sup>th</sup> March: Laundry Products  
eg Washing Powder

2<sup>nd</sup> /3<sup>rd</sup> April: Breakfast Cereal

9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> April: Tea/ Coffee/ Biscuits

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### Lenten Themes

3rd Sunday of Lent: Go out into the world

4th Sunday of Lent: Draw others back to God's presence

5th Sunday of Lent: Love the sinner but not the sin

Palm Sunday: Welcome the new life in Christ.

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### Reconciliation during Lent

Reconciliation is available before the 6pm Mass on Saturdays or at Brighton before the midday Mass on Fridays ie 11.30am and before the 10am Mass on Saturdays ie 9.30am

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### Good Friday Reconciliation

Individual Reconciliation will be available after the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday at approx. 10.45am

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### Anointing of the Sick Mass

Saturday 2nd April 10am at Brighton

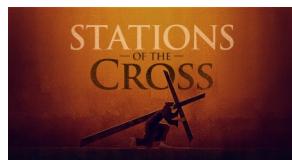
Friday 8th April, 9.30am at Hallett Cove

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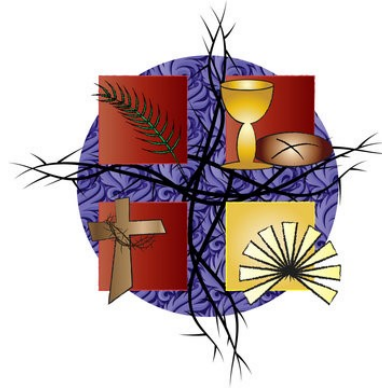
### Stations of the Cross

There is Stations of the Cross each Friday in Lent after the midday Mass at Brighton.

All welcome



## Easter 2022



### Palm Sunday 9th/10th April

Masses: 6pm Saturday

9.15am Sunday

### Holy Thursday

Mass 7.30pm

### Good Friday

Stations of the Cross 10am

Individual Reconciliation to follow

Service 3pm

### Easter Vigil—Saturday 16th April

Mass 7.30pm

### Easter Sunday

Mass 9.15am

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### Flowers for the Church

If you have any flowers to decorate the church for Easter, please bring them to the church on Sat 16th April at 10am.

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**Volunteering for Easter services**—sheets are up in the foyer to volunteer for ministries and roles for our Easter services and working bees—please write your name where you may be able to help out. Thank you.

### Palms

If you have a Palm tree and may be able to donate Palms for Palm Sunday, please contact Marion on 0405 000 350 ASAP

### Thoughts!

1. If God had a refrigerator, your picture would be on it.
2. If He had a wallet, your photo would be in it.
3. He sends you flowers every spring and a sunrise every morning.
4. Whenever you want to talk, He'll listen.
5. He could live anywhere in the universe, and He chose your heart.
6. What about the Christmas gift He sent you in Bethlehem, not to mention that Friday at Calvary. Face it, He's crazy about you.

## God always precedes us

*Earth's crammed with heaven,  
And every common bush afire with God;  
But only he who sees takes off his shoes.*

Aurora Leigh (1856) Elizabeth Barrett Browning



Some believe that families bringing forward young children for baptism are probably not true people of faith. If they were, as some believe, then surely these families would attend Sunday Mass regularly.

Participating in the Sunday Mass is an undoubted blessing, always to be encouraged. Our longing to share the precious gifts of God that we so treasure is commendable. Yet God's grace unfolds in our world in many different, even surprising

ways. It is not simply the case that more 'effective evangelism' might compel these families to become regular Mass attenders. This is not a weak concession to the times that we live in: God has always worked in this way.

During his December 2021 trip to Athens, Pope Francis recalled the 1<sup>st</sup> century visit of St Paul to ancient Athens (Acts 17.16-34—well worth a read!). St Paul did not judge the pagan Greeks and insist that they come along to church with him. No, he accepted their religious spirit. He graciously dignified his hearers and welcomed the minute seeds of God in their own religiosity (a religiosity involving idols that deeply distressed St Paul). St Paul humbly engaged with these people. He acknowledged the desire for God hidden in their hearts and gently proposed (not imposed!) the amazing gift of faith through Jesus Christ. Is not something similar happening as parents bring their children forward for baptism in our parish?

Such an attitude is not spiritual laxity. Rather, it is mature faith—**confident trust** that appreciates the seeds of grace that God plants in people's hearts before we ever encounter them. God precedes us always, abundantly. The Holy Spirit always sows silently before we ever do. *'Earth's crammed with heaven, every common bush afire with God.'* Let us pray to see this more clearly, so that we may know to take off our shoes on holy ground. To search for and respect, with a **disposition of acceptance**, the mustard seeds of faith that God surely plants. The families I encounter are never empty vessels awaiting my input. While I try to help them to appreciate the remarkable faith that they wish to share with their child, I also affirm what God has already begun to accomplish in them.

This attitude of welcome, hospitality and creating communion is different to a colonising drive to increase the size of the 'Catholic Club'. Instead, it is an attitude that deeply trusts that the 'Holy Spirit always does more than what we can see from the outside'—and that is enough. God is at work. I am but an assistant. I treasure these families—and they know it. They are Children of God passing on the faith to a new generation—invited to widen their faith as their children grow.

In St Paul's day, the majority who heard his preaching laughed at him and went away. Some few became believers. This is how God has always worked in salvation history. With meekness, Jesus continues to present the merciful face of God to the world. The Lord accompanies all in loving patience—and does so through us. *Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!*

Deacon Tim Grauel

This article summarises a message of Pope Francis in his *Address to Bishops, Priests, Religious, Consecrated Persons, Seminarians, Catechists* at the Cathedral of St Dionysius in Athens on 4 December 2021.