



St Martin de Porres

Hallett Cove Catholic Community
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Community Newsletter

No 30/2021

Easter message in the Year of St Joseph

A few days from now we will celebrate the foundation of our faith—the Paschal mysteries. Easter makes us a church, a parish and a believer. Hence every day and every Sunday we gather to celebrate and proclaim the Risen Lord as the saviour and redeemer.

In the recent past, we have been challenged on various fronts, yet our faith and trust in the Lord has not been shaken.

I exhort you to celebrate this year's Easter festivities within the lens of our Parish Mission Statement. To be a Catholic community enriched by, and centered on the Eucharist, empowered to bring good news to all. With the friendship and prayer of St Joseph, may our ministries and faith be strengthened and renewed. Let each of us find space and opportunity to actively participate in making our Parish Mission statement a reality.

Peace be with you.

Fr. Michael M Kyumu



Isn't this a beautiful picture—taken from St Anthony's church in Queensland. This picture is made from individual photos of parishioners. What a great idea!

Fr Dominick Okwadha

I was born on the 29th April, 1968 in Kenya. I am the 2nd last of 4 boys and 2 girls.

I was ordained as a Roman Catholic Priest on the 9th July, 2000 in the Archdiocese of Kigali, Rwanda.

I have a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy and a Bachelor of Arts in Sacred Theology, Religious Studies from the University of Eastern Africa, in Nairobi, Kenya.

Whilst in Rwanda I served in 3 different parishes, after which I was sent to Barcelona in Spain to study for my Masters in Counselling Psychology. Returning back to Rwanda I was appointed to serve in the Psychiatric hospital sponsored by the Brothers of Charity as a psychologist and a chaplain, offering pastoral care and counselling to patients and hospital staff. I also taught Counselling Psychology to the novices of the Brothers of Charity, and teaching social studies and communication skills at St Vincent's Minor Seminary in Ndera, until the end of January, 2020.

I came to Australia on the 4th Feb, 2020, where I spent the first 6 months of transition in Adelaide. After 6 months I was appointed Assistant Parish Priest of St Pauls Catholic Church in Mt Gambier (part of the South Eastern Deanery). 2 months ago, I was appointed to Brighton & Hallett Cove parishes as Assistant Parish priest to Fr Michael.

Fr Dominick is interested to getting to know parishioners and talking to people and can offer advice if needed. His qualifications as a psychologist are not recognised by the Australian government, but he is willing to meet with and counsel in his role as Assistant priest. Contact the office or talk to Fr Dominick after Masses.



Our Parish Vision

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

Parish Pastoral Council 2021

We warmly welcome new members *Alex Szabo, Ansel Dsouza, Vegis Pribadi, Minh Nguyen and Glenice Fanning* to the PPC this year. *Helen Thompson, Jim Digance, Teresa Pascoe, Gary Pascoe, Rae Campbell and Albert Matti* will continue their time on the PPC. Fr Michael, Julie Staszyc/Marion Ryan-Crabb and Craig Fosdike will continue on the PPC as ex-officio members. We also welcome Fr Dominick to our parish and he has joined our recent PPC meetings.

We farewell Peter Smith and thank him for all his time and support that he has given during his time on the PPC. We also thank Peter McKenna who has worked tirelessly on the Parish Finance Council over the past years. They will both be greatly missed.

THANK YOU!
thank you!

We are currently working with Fr Michael and Brian Spencer on a Strategic Plan which revolves around closing the gap between where we want our parish to be and where it is at the moment. I would like to thank all the parishioners who took the time to fill out our recent Questionnaire. This questionnaire has been summarised into '*Our Desires, Hopes, Goals and Visions for our church. What would you like to see in 5 years times and What would you be willing to work on now to help us achieve this vision.*' The PPC will be working on the responses to these questions in the coming months and will keep you informed of the outcomes.

We had a recent visit from Sarah Morphett reminding us of the importance of the Plenary Council which was interrupted by COVID last year.

The Plenary be on our Agenda in 2021.

The Christmas and New Year masses went well considering the COVID constraints. Thanks to all who helped make these Masses a success in these difficult times.

Thanks to Brenda Digance who organised a very successful Filipino-Simbango Gabi in December 2020. It was a wonderful way to celebrate Christmas with our Filipino Catholic community.

The role of Pastoral Council is to participate in God's mission to live and communicate the love and values of Christ in the world around us. Our challenge for the Council is to operate in ways that produce fruitful outcomes for the enrichment of the parish community. Please feel confident to approach a member of the PPC with any concerns you may have during the year.

Thanks
Helen Thompson
Chair Person PPC

Hallett Cove 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, Hallett Cove Community Children's Centre and the Knights of the Southern Cross.

We received the following message after delivering a Christmas Hamper to a struggling family:

"Hi. I just wanted to say thank you so much for everything Vinnies gave us. I truly do love you guys. You are like a family to me & have always been there for me through my darkest times even when I have been close to suicide.

Words cannot describe how much you have made my day today as I got bad news from the doctors this week so I don't think I'll be here for another Christmas & I wouldn't have had any presents to give the kids. So I really, really appreciate it."

Other Activities

In early January some of our members shifted furniture from a deceased estate and delivered it to two refugee families. They couldn't stop smiling!

Three of our newer members are now assisting another Vinnies group in our region due to high demand for services. These members have made a generous commitment to support them this year.

Our group has also committed to support the Christies Beach Fred's Van & the Vinnies Refugee & Asylum Seeker Service. It's such a blessing that we are able, due to your ongoing support, to help the disadvantaged in our community and beyond.





**Items of interest from the meeting of 9th March
2021**

- An independent audit of the 2020 accounts was completed with no significant issues raised. The Auditor passed on their thanks for the excellent records kept by both Pat & Jenny. Final 2020 figures were better than budget showing a profit of \$38k primarily due to the sale of the Parish House Land.
- As we no longer have a loan repayment the 2020 budget is balanced. Staff cost are still a concern based on our current level of planned giving and will need to be reviewed. The school has committed to continuing their subsidy.
- I have agreed to continue in the Role of Chair for 2021 due to low numbers on the committee – we are seeking two (2) new members to help bolster the numbers. Terry Fanning has agreed to be the liaison with the Parish Pastoral Council and will attend the PPC meetings.
- Tony Barbaro tabled the Disasters Response Policy & Plan. Following some minor changes, Tony will present this at the next PPC meeting for sign off by Fr Michael & Helen Thompson. Signed copies will be provided to all council members and key stakeholders.
- In 2021 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 planned gifts, but also the generous sharing of our time and talents with the Church and community. The Parish Pastoral Council will be asked to consider how this program may be tailored in line with the Strategic Plan – possibly an August / September 2021 roll out in line with the release of the planned giving envelopes.
- Following funding from Church Office, the Parish House has been refurbished and Fr Dominick has now moved in. The total project cost was just over \$8k.

Maintenance:

Completed: Parish House Refurbishment

Alarm system repaired

Hydraulics replaced in the church doors

To be done: Painting gutters and fascia's on church

– working bee to be arranged

Carpet repairs (monitor);

Area behind the Carpark needs addressing;

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

Tag & Testing Completed

An audit is due shortly

Statements as at the end of February 2021:

YTD: Income - \$12,659

YTD: Expenditure – \$9,474

Available funds - \$100,463

Pete McKenna (PFC Chairperson)

Hallett Cove Parish report March 2021

Due to the virus pandemic and the risk to us older members, we still communicate by Zoom, but have had four meetings with faces, one being a mixed meeting!

Our Formation Program will be a continued discussion on the Six National Themes from the Plenary Council, and from the Oct 2020 Papal Encyclical *Fratelli Tutti*, the theme of Advancing on the Paths of Hope and Starting Anew. Pope Francis discusses the experiences that the global pandemic of COVID-19 has had on our spiritual, family, social, economic and fraternal cohesion.

With the Abortion Bill and Euthanasia Bill before State Parliament, we have continued to lobby our local politicians re the sanctity of EVERY human life from conception to natural death.

We have continued our support for the Vinnies conferences in our parish/s and donations were provided for many Christmas Hampers.

We remember in our Prayers the recently deceased and for those who are sick in our Parish, especially Ida Schar who is now in full remission again. Our special thanks to Pastoral Associate, Julie Staszyc (and Marian Ryan-Crabb) for bringing weekly Communion to Ida And Tony.

Sgt Peter Benn from SAPOL was the guest speaker at the recent branch mixed meeting, discussing SAPOL's COVID Operations Centre and the many incidents of the past year.

We again thank those parishioners who keep us in mind with the Knights bottle drive. Just a phone call to Tony Schar: mob: 0419127491.

Your support helps us to support the Vinnies and others.

Stay Safe and well.

Bro Pat Hodgson

Chairman

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St Martin's school happenings

School Theme

This year we have been using the theme "Build my Life, Build our school" A Giant Jenga set has been the symbol of all those that contribute to building our school into a place God desires.



Building update



We have settled into the new Middle Primary building that adjoins the De Porres Centre, and are excited to get into the new reception building which should be

complete towards the end of the term.

Masses/ Community prayer

After the disruptions of 2020 we have returned to regular liturgical experiences for all students and have established a pattern of Mass in even weeks and community prayer in odd weeks. 6 classes will attend each Mass in the Church to remain under the numbers cap.



Staff formation

Staff have commenced the Alpha program and will participate in sessions throughout this year led by Ben Ryan. This program offers a forum to discuss how the Gospel message intersects with modern culture, and how this shapes our Catholic Identity.

Sacraments

The Sacrament program will recommence in early June, with 42 students starting their preparation for Confirmation and Holy Communion. We have two groups coming together after the cancellation of Sacrament programs in 2020. Once we have the dates for the Confirmation ceremonies locked in with the archdiocese, we will advise families of the dates.

Youth Ministry

Our youth ministry program has started the year with great enthusiasm, and we are fortunate to have Ineke Garton start as our new youth minister this year. Ineke hosts the social justice group called CIA (Compassion in Action) at lunchtime on Wednesdays, and this group has been focussed on raising money and awareness for project compassion.

Veritas, a night of friends, faith and fun on Wednesday nights, has also returned this year and continues to prove popular with students from years 4-7.

Caritas Fun Run

Eight Southern region schools are set to join SMDPS for the Caritas Fun Run on the 24 March at Seacliff Beach. The year 5 and 6 students will participate in a 6km run or 3km walk.

Ben Ryan APRIM



Fr Peter

We farewelled Fr Peter from our parish at the end of January. We thank him for his service and we wish him all the best in his retirement.



After Mass Gatherings

We are now offering COVID safe drinks and nibbles after Masses on the first weekend of each month. Wine and cheese after the Sat Mass and morning tea after the Sunday Mass. All welcome to join with us.



Hope

Optimism disappoints, but hope does not. We have such need in these times that can appear dark, in which we sometimes feel disoriented by the evil and violence that surround us, by the distress of so many of our brothers and sisters. We need hope. We feel disoriented and even rather discouraged, because we are powerless and it seems this darkness will never end.

We must not let hope abandon us, because God, with his love, walks with us. "I hope, because God is beside me": we can all say this. Each one of us can say: "I hope, I have hope, because God walks with me." He walks and he holds my hand. God does not leave us to ourselves. The Lord Jesus has conquered evil and has opened the path of life for us.—Excerpted from [On Hope](#) by Pope Francis



Fr Dominick— school Mass

One of Fr Dominick's first Masses in our parish was the Opening year Mass for St Martin de Porres school, which due to COVID limits on numbers in the church was held in the school Hall.



Fasting

Fasting has often been associated with Lent. It has been part of Christian and Jewish practice for thousands of years. It is also part of other religious traditions.

Fasting has also been proven, when practised right, to have health benefits. We evolved to feast and famine.

Uncontrolled eating has been proven to be unhealthy. There seems to be evidence that having periods of eating less gives the body a chance to recover and heal from certain health challenges. Jesus spoke about fasting being beneficial spiritually.

"We do not live on bread alone".

He spoke about combatting evil by prayer and fasting. Uncontrolled gratification can seriously distract us from a healthy, spiritual life.

St. Paul speaks about some people making Gods of their stomachs.

Healthy self-discipline is helpful for developing a life based on virtue.

Healthy balanced fasting can certainly be helpful in the spiritual journey.

However, the scriptures also speak of other forms of fasting.

Helping the poor. Looking after those in need.

Fasting from gossip.

Fasting from unhealthy sexual practices.

Visiting the lonely. Looking after refugees.

Being respectful. Helping the 'powerless'.

And so many other ways of going out of our comfort zone to help others.

Fasting without loving is not helpful. It is love that gives meaning to fasting.

Love is the most powerful way of practising self-discipline. It is called commitment.

OUR LADY'S ROSARY GARDEN

We are located on the corner of Fidler Lane and the Wellington Rd. Mt Barker, South Australia 5251. Phone 8391-1471
Open every day 10:00am to 4:00pm

Come and enjoy a friendly, relaxed and warm atmosphere, for you, with your partner or with friends. Enjoy a good coffee or tea with cookies or cakes, for \$ 5.00

ABOUT US

We also offer the following products:

OP SHOP - TEA ROOM - LIBRARY - PRAYER ROOM - DIVINE MERCY CHAPEL - LABYRINTH/ GARDENS, DOZULE CROSS - FIRST SATURDAY MASS.

START AT 11:00 WITH ROSARY AND RECONCILIATION, FOLLOWED BY SHARED LUNCH - MONDAY MASS START AT 11:00 - TUESDAY CENACLE 11:30, FOLLOWED BY SHARED LUNCH - Functions for Fundraising, run by volunteers.

R.S.V.P. for Devonshire Teas, meals, private functions
8391 1471 or t.jordans@live.com.au



Palms Australia
Reach Beyond



The need is acute!

Low-income communities are not asking us for money or gifts. They reject degrading dependence. They want you to share your skills to help develop self-reliance and sustainable solutions to poverty. The call is to all trades and professions to assist build the ability of their people and the capacity of their organisations. To properly prepare for a 2022 placement you do need to [enquire now](#).

Join our online [InfoZoom](#) on 2 May, visit palms.org.au, or call Palms now on 02 9560 5333

Easter Services 2021

Tickets are essential.

Collect a ticket after the weekend Masses or from the office during the week

PALM SUNDAY 27th/28th March (no tickets required)

Masses: 6pm Sat, 9.15am Sun

HOLY THURSDAY 1st April
Mass 7.30pm followed by Vigil before the Altar of Repose which will conclude with Evening Prayer commencing at 9.30pm.

GOOD FRIDAY 2nd April Stations of the Cross at 10am

Liturgy 3pm

HOLY SATURDAY 3rd April Easter Vigil 7.30 pm

EASTER SUNDAY 4th April Masses: 9.15am

