

PARISH LIFE

SPRING EDITION 2018

MOUNT BARKER/STRATHALBYN CATHOLIC PARISH

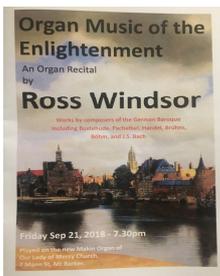
Welcome to our Spring edition of PARISH LIFE. Once again there is much to share as we journey with each other. As a parish we have also started the process of 'Listening and Dialogue' so we can help shape the process of the Plenary Council in 2020. We have been invited to reflect on the three questions which are:



1. What do you think God is asking of us in Australia at this time?
2. What questions do you have about the future of the Church for the Plenary Council to consider in 2020?
3. Do you have a story of your experience of faith or the Church that you would like to share?

As we pray and respond we are called to speak openly and with courage, and to listen to others with open hearts. This is a remarkable opportunity for each of us to have a voice. Those discussions that have already been held have been rich and rewarding. Please gather with others to share what you are grateful for and to speak about your hopes for the future. We are asked to share with a small group, to listen to others and to pray together and submit a response to the Plenary Council online at plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au.

Organ Recital



Wow! What a wonderful night we had when Ross Windsor came to town. We could feel the pews vibrating at times. We didn't know what to expect when we gathered to hear *Organ Music of the Enlightenment*. But in a beautiful way we became enlightened about the organ music of Buxtehude, Pachelbel, Handel and J. S. Bach. And there was that Italian composer who when he played a little organ in St. Peter's Basilica drew nearly as many people as were at the MCG on the night of the concert.

Ross Windsor made our new organ sing.

He demonstrated how versatile the Makin 'Rydal' classical Organ is. He has played organs all around the world, and he affirmed that we have made a very good choice. We are very grateful for the support that we have received from Kerry Morenos who provided and installed the organ and piano. She brought Ross Windsor and Jack Ho from Brisbane for our recital and workshops. We thank Hilary Raimondo for all the work she did at this end to make it all happen. Thanks to Delia and her helpers for a super supper. Laurie was a great MC. Quite a bit was raised on the night to pay for the two new instruments. It is not too late to add to their generosity. With Pat and Hilary playing our organ we cannot help but sing.



Christian Meditation at Our Lady of Mercy Church Mount Barker.



During Lent in 2017, Jan Sobotta hosted a series of sessions on ways of praying. When these came to an end some of us decided we would like to keep on meeting. We decided our form of prayer would be Christian meditation. Father Richard invited us to meet in the Parish House. Since that time, the group has met regularly. We start our session with a pre-recorded talk, which usually goes for about 10 minutes, then we begin our meditation of around 30 minutes. We welcome anyone who would like to try meditation with us. We are just beginners.

The recommendation is that a person should devote 20 minutes in the morning and 20 minutes in the evening every day for meditation. This is difficult for most of us in this busy world of ours. To begin with just sitting down for a few minutes twice a day to reflect helps one get into the routine. Being part of a group challenges and supports us in our endeavours to come to that silent place in our hearts where God is. There are plenty of Scripture passages which point to this quiet place within us.

Be still, and know that I am God! Ps. 46:10.

Our Lord, Come (Maranatha) 1 Cor.16:21

The Kingdom of God is within you Luke 17:21.

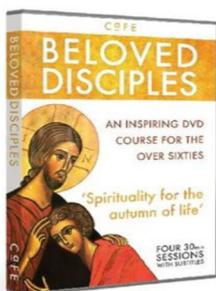
And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body Col. 3:15.



Tips for meditation

Sit down. Sit still and upright. Close your eyes lightly. Sit relaxed but alert. Silently, interiorly, begin to say a single word - "Maranatha." Recite it as 4 syllables (Ma-ra-na-tha) of equal length. Listen to it as you say it, gently but continuously. Do not think or imagine anything. If distractions - thoughts and images - come, keep returning to simply saying the word.

There are a number of CDs in the church foyer library for anyone to borrow. Feel free to do so.

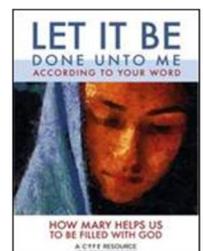


CaFE: It sounds like a good place to have a cuppa. But it is also a good place to deepen our understanding of our faith. CaFE stands for Catholic Faith Exploration. It describes the resources produced in the UK by Catholics for Catholics to help them understand and deepen their faith. Our Parish is the owner and distributor of these resources in Australia. CaFE has produced over 30 courses since it began producing videos in 1993.

The CaFE DVDs invite us to meet with others in a comfortable place, share a cuppa and enjoy a conversation about the ideas raised in the DVD. They are a bit dangerous. Before long we find ourselves talking about our own relationship with Jesus in a way that we may never have done before.

The CaFE resources are being renewed regularly. This year there is a 5 session DVD and book called *Let it be done unto me according to your Word*. It invites us to reflect upon how Mary modelled the openness to God that we are called to live.

All of the CaFE resources are available for us to borrow or buy. Some of the resources are on display in the Church foyers. We can view them all on the Parish web site www.barkerstrathalbyn.com under **CaFE resources**.





Knights of the Southern Cross

South Australia Inc.

MOUNT BARKER & STRATHALBYN BRANCH



The Knights recently held their Annual General Meeting, during which the current Executive Council stood down and a new Executive Council was elected. The new Executive Council consists of Andy Wajwoda (Chairman), Mike Galea (Vice Chairman), John Barton (Secretary) and Pat Hickey (Treasurer).

At this meeting it was decided that we were in a position to support Tina Cobiac with the new Atrium at St James the Less, Macclesfield in the way of some financial support and with a barbecue at the official opening of the Atrium on October 12.

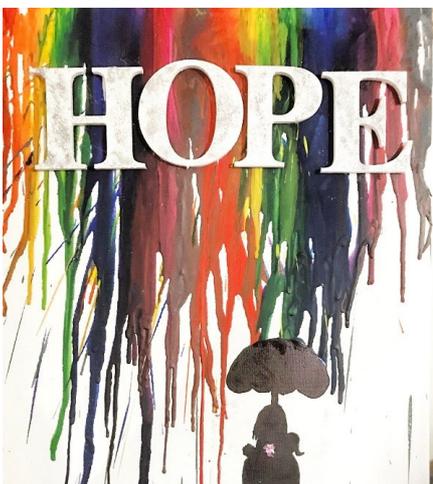
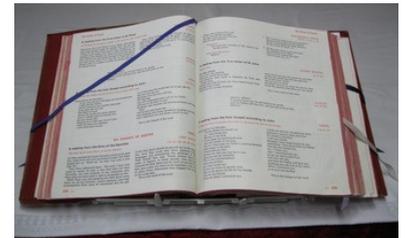


The Knights purchased and have now erected a small tool shed, which will house their fundraising equipment. All funds raised go to support our parish and the wider community. Our next main fundraising event will be a Christmas raffle. More details will follow in the parish bulletin. If any gentlemen in the parish are interested in joining our vibrant branch for social and spiritual gatherings, please contact any current members or Fr Richard.

Retreat day at Our Lady's Rosary Garden - an encounter with Jesus We gathered on a cold and wintry day at Our Lady's Rosary Garden, Mt Barker for Mass, prayer and reflection, food and fellowship. It was great to be able to set time aside to get away from the humdrum of life.

During our time together we had the opportunity to reflect on our journey of faith with Mary and our relationship with Jesus. Fr Ian Wilson led the group of approximately 15 people in spiritual exercises, with reconciliation offered throughout the day and closing with benediction at 3pm.

We look forward to our next retreat day - date to be advised - and we hope to see you there. Sr Patricia Sexton.



Alia Windebank a Year 5 student at St Francis de Sales College was a winner in the inaugural Vinnies Art Competition - Hope through Art in the Year 3 - 5 category.

Vinnies received over 450 entries and the standard was very high. Alia's artwork was inspiring and beautiful and Vinnies are very excited to be able to hang it on the walls at the Vinnies Women's Crisis Centre. It will create hope and happiness for the women and children who are staying there. As part of the recognition at the assembly Alia has earned co-curricular points for her house towards the co-curricular shield.

Congratulations Alia; the St Francis de Sales community is very proud of your achievement.



St Francis de Sales COLLEGE



This term has been very exciting for the College's Vinnie's Youth Group. Recently we visited the Vinnies Men's Shelter in the city to cook a BBQ lunch for the men who live there. The Men's Shelter is a place where men can stay for up to 3 months until they can take care of themselves, such as getting a job, house and any other needs. The people who run the shelter help these men and it takes them only a few weeks to get them back on track to have better lives. It's wonderful to know that there are people in the world willing to help others who are less fortunate than us.



The reality is that people are losing their homes everyday but there are places and people who can help those in need to get back on track. We learnt that the people in the Men's Shelter look like the people you see at the shops or down the street. People think of the stereotype that homeless people are meant to look old, wear trashy clothing, smell bad, and look horrible. So some of the stereotypes about homeless people aren't true. In conclusion this experience was a real eye opener, and helped us to see and hear what these people have been through, and how others are trying to help. Eva Rigney.

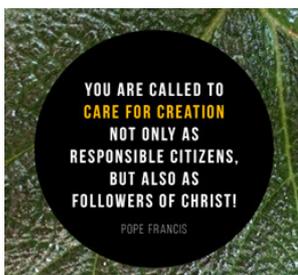
On August 28, the College's St Vinnies Youth Group went to St Catherine's Primary School in Stirling with the Social Justice group of St Joseph's Primary School (Murray Bridge). The Social Justice group of each of the three schools shared their ideas and also discussed ways to work together on social justice projects. The main thing we discussed was the 'Naturally Smart Coffee' project, which St Catherine's School is involved in already. It is a coffee program that many Catholic schools are linking to. The coffee is organic; fair trade; and all packaging from bags and pods is totally compostable.



Our Vinnies Youth Group aims to sell bags of coffee and also pods to teachers and parents at our College, as a Vinnies fundraiser.

By the end of the excursion we came up with lots of ideas and a plan for the future. In conclusion, the excursion was very educational and interesting. I believe that the coffee program is going to be very successful and effective in taking care of people and the environment. Sophie McCallum.

The recent Yr 7 Reflection Day was titled 'Creation Connected' and focused on our call to be custodians of creation, following the insights of Pope Francis in his encyclical, Laudato Si.



The students experienced a variety of activities that presented the destruction that our behaviour sometimes causes to our natural world and the people within it. The students were provided the opportunity to reflect on what God is calling us to do, to be mindful of our behaviour towards the environment and be protectors of it. The final activity of the day focused on each student making a commitment to a specific action which will benefit people in need and the environment. Oreste Farrugia.