

PARISH LIFE

SUMMER EDITION 2018

MOUNT BARKER/STRATHALBYN CATHOLIC PARISH

Christmas reminds us that life is a gift. It helps us to take notice of the beauty and love that is in our day.

During Advent we are drawn to prepare for Christmas and to appreciate that our faith is hope-filled. God's grace is present in the wonder and awe of each day.

Over Christmas we are called to share the love and peace of Jesus Christ and to reflect with gratitude on the beautiful gift that God gave us when Jesus shared in our humanity.

Loving God, renew our spirits and fill us with the hope and joy of Christmas. May the wonder of new life remind us that we are deeply loved. May we be guided by your love to bring hope and healing to others.



In our Winter edition of Parish Life we welcomed Olek to our Parish. Olek will complete his six month placement on Christmas Day when he will take a well deserved holiday before returning to Melbourne early February to begin his 5th year of seminary study.

A few of Olek's engagements whilst within the parish have ranged from volunteering at the Vinnies shop, visiting the residents at Oakfield Lodge, participating in various prayer groups within the parish, involvement in St. Francis de Sales College, visiting parishioners and attending various parish and diocesan meetings. Olek has found his time with our community fruitful and encouraging; -

'I have greatly admired first of all the generosity of each of the parishioners. I feel blessed with the openness and warmth with which I have been welcomed, and for this I thank each and every one of you. I thank you all for your witness of love. Please pray for me and my fellow seminarians'.

Olek, we are grateful for the time you have spent with our community. You have enriched our lives with your gifts, not only your love for God and dedication to your vocation but also your amazing musical ability. We have been blessed by your time within our parish. You have helped us appreciate that we are all called to share our gifts and through our actions help others appreciate the richness that comes from being faithful to God. We will continue to pray for you as you follow Christ and grow in knowledge and understanding of your vocation to priesthood.

God Bless and best wishes for the coming year.



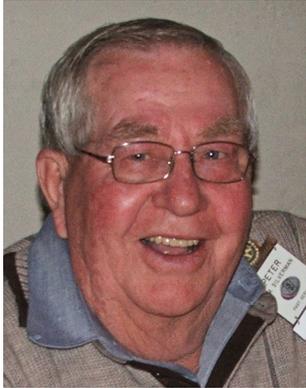
Merry Christmas

St Francis at the
Mount Barker
Christmas Pageant



We give thanks that we are a vibrant community with many stories to share. We are delighted to share interviews from Peter Silverman and Laveena Lobo. We appreciate these contributions from parishioners who have shared a part of their life or faith journey with us.

Peter Silverman Strathalbyn Parishioner



Peter was born in Port Augusta and started school there. He completed his last 4 years of schooling at Rostrevor College. He worked with the Railways Administration at Port Augusta.

In 1966, Peter married Lyn, for 12 years they enjoyed wandering around Australia as well as travelling overseas 14 times. They had 2 children, sadly their son passed away from an illness when he was 20. They lived in Darwin for 34 years where Peter had a newsagency, a travel agency and was also a bookmaker. In 1974 during Cyclone Tracey Peter, Lyn and the children took shelter in their car which was under their house, they watched the house collapse around them. After the cyclone they lived in a caravan while building a new house in Darwin.

In 1994, the family relocated to Strathalbyn. Over a period of time Peter was an owner partner of the Victoria Hotel in Strathalbyn.

In 2010 Peter's wife Lyn passed away. Now retired Peter enjoys being active with Rotary and playing bowls. His family and a busy social life keeps him in good spirits and helps maintain his zest for life.

(Interviewed by M. Galea)

Laveena Lobo Mt Barker Parishioner

I am Laveena Lobo, wife of Clarence, mother of Lorelai and Cruz. I was born in Bahrain. Clarence, Lorelai and Cruz were born in Kuwait. I met my husband Clarence in Bombay.



When I think of who influenced me most in my faith I think of my father. When I was 6, just before my younger brother was born my father joined Alcoholics Anonymous. That was the time that he introduced family prayer. My mother and grandmother went to Mass every day. I went when I could.

Why did we come to Australia you ask? Clarence's sister lives in Melbourne. She had her first baby in 2015. We were asked to be her godparents. Clarence went to the Baptism and when he came back said that we should move to Australia. One thing led to another. In 2015 we came for a holiday in Melbourne and spent three weeks in Adelaide. We came to Adelaide in 2016.

Why did we come to Mount Barker? We looked around and liked the environment of Mount Barker. There was land available and we bought a block on which to build a house. We are still waiting for the house. The community is different here: friendlier and more welcoming. We liked the smaller Church Parish Community. We can at least get to know the names of a number of people now. Lorelai and Cruz are preparing for Confirmation and Cruz for his First Holy communion. They are looking forward to that.

We encourage more parishioners to share their story. We are a rich community with much to offer each other. You may even like to interview a parishioner. It is wonderful to be connected and to deepen our relationships with each other.



A Plenary Council is the highest formal gathering of all local churches in a country. As we know, Australia is holding a Plenary Council in 2020 so that we can dialogue about the future of the Catholic Church in Australia. The last time the Catholic Church in Australia held a Plenary Council was 1937.

Recently, parishioners have been invited to lead a listening and dialogue process with small groups of people to gather their views about the important issues facing the Catholic Church at this time. In addition, during parish masses at Macclesfield, Mount Barker and Strathalbyn, we all participated in the process, when we responded to the guiding question: *“What do you think God is asking of us in Australia at this time?”*

The Parish Pastoral Council received and reviewed all of these responses and, as you might imagine, they were many and varied, depending to some extent on who we interpreted the “us” to mean – is it me personally, us as a parish, us as Australians, or even a combination of all of these?

To help organise the responses, and provide the parish with a possible way of responding to the issues and opportunities raised, the Parish Pastoral Council went through each response to see if it could be categorised under one or more of the gospel characteristics or “pathways” that we are familiar with and have been working towards. Interestingly, almost every response could be connected to at least one of the gospel characteristics. These are:

The parish is a community in which each member is called to a personal relationship with Jesus.

Eucharistic liturgies are prayerful and fully participative.

The Word of God is proclaimed in good preaching and in faithful lives.

There is a warm sense of community outreach and welcome.

The parish community is visibly engaged with those who experience poverty and need, and with those at the margins of society and church.

The parish witnesses to God’s love for all the creatures of Earth.

The parish is led by a priest with a pastoral team.

Eucharistic communities that are viable will be enabled to continue.

The Parish Pastoral Council will now consider the best way of submitting the responses from the parish to the Plenary Council website, and how as a parish we might use a continued focus on the gospel characteristics to help grow our parish and contribute to the broader renewal of the whole of the church in Adelaide and Australia.

Advent is a time to reflect on the joy, hope and love that comes from following Christ. As we prepare for Christmas we are drawn to think about our faith and to be thankful to those who have shared God’s love with us.



The PPC thanks those who have helped us connect further through their contributions to Parish Life Magazine. It has been evident that we are committed to sharing our journey with each other.

If there is anyone who would like to take on the task of compiling and editing Parish Life in 2019 please let a member of the Parish Council know.



Knights of the Southern Cross

South Australia Inc.

MOUNT BARKER & STRATHALBYN BRANCH

The year is quickly coming to an end and everyone is busy readying themselves for a joyous Christmas period.

The new Council Elect have been busy with their Christmas raffle of a 'CART FULL OF GIFTS' There is still time to get tickets as The Cart continues to grow. The Knights were also present at the opening of the new school Gym and can attest to the magnificence of this stadium and look forward to utilizing it in the coming months.



Chairman Andrew Wajwoda presented the Knights of the Southern Cross award for Social Justice to Joseph Basso in the year 12 Graduating class and has presented another similar award to Sophie McCallum in the R-11 Awards night.

Some Knights up and coming events for the new year to keep in mind are the Annual Dinner and the Car Boot Sale.

Wishing all a happy and joyous Christmas and thanking you for all the support given to us through out the year.

Andrew Wajwoda

Gavin McLaughlin, St Francis de Sales College Principal

We asked Gavin some questions about his life and faith.

My family consists of myself and three girls, my wife Lidia and daughters Cara and Sophie, aged 19 and 16. Our Parish is the Parish of the Nativity at Aberfoyle Park, where we have been since building our house very nearby in 1991.

My family and I are season ticket holders for the Adelaide Crows and Adelaide Strikers and in the SANFL I have been following North Adelaide Roosters (the mighty reigning premiers!) since I was aged 5. I also follow Adelaide United and Tottenham Hotspur.

My dream holiday destination is the village in Campania, Italy where my wife's family emigrated from, Zungoli. It is an awesome place to visit; a magnificent centuries-old village built on the side of a hill overlooking the beautiful lands of Avellino, and when you are there you are guaranteed to be the only non-locals. A truly authentic experience!

During the holidays I enjoy spending time with my family doing all the things together that are not normally possible during term time. There is usually a list of jobs around the house that have accumulated as well.

I have been a Principal since 2010, working at Mount Carmel College Rosewater until I came to Mount Barker to join the St Francis de Sales College in February last year. Prior to becoming a Principal I held roles as Deputy Principal for Wellbeing at Mount Carmel and Acting Deputy Principal at Blackfriars Priory School, Prospect. I also spent many years in the areas of Careers Education and Vocational Education and Training at Blackfriars and Cardijn College, Noarlunga. I also worked for 2 year at Aquinas College North Adelaide, a residential College for students coming from country SA to undertake studies at the University of Adelaide. My other leadership roles have included Science Learning Area Coordinator.

A dream job would be a professional sports commentator, but as a wise man once reflected, those jobs seems to unfairly go to ex-sports stars and people who work in the media. I very much enjoy working with my hands and if I had not been called to work in education I could see myself working as a carpenter.