

The Holy Family



Issue 4—2022



THE MAGAZINE OF ST ANNE'S PARISH

Seaford, Frankston North, Carrum Downs, Skye and Sandhurst



Welcome!



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Our Parish Prayer

We, the people of Seaford Parish

strive to be followers of Jesus

by being a welcoming and

supportive community in which

The talents of all can grow and

in which we live out our faith

Through word, sacrament and action

May the Holy Family

St Anne and St Joachin

inspire and intercede for us that

we may be followers of Jesus



Our parish respectfully

Acknowledges the Bunurong people,

who are the custodians of the Boon

Wurrung land on which we worship.

We acknowledge and pay respect to

the Elders: past, present and future.

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

It has certainly been a challenging time for the parish over the last couple of years! Since the publication of the 2020 edition of The Holy Family, we have had a number of lockdowns due to the COVID-19 pandemic and various restrictions introduced by the government. This has brought about a change in the demographics of the congregation who attend Mass in our parish. Unfortunately, some parishioners have decided to stay away and feel that they no longer see St Anne's Seaford as being important to them.

Despite these difficulties, and having a greatly reduced number of churchgoers, the parish continues to be a place where many people feel welcome. The greeters group was formed out of the COVID marshal concept that took place around two years ago. The idea of volunteers welcoming people as they entered church did indeed make many people feel like they were part of the faith community.

An important part of liturgical celebrations is music, and we have been very fortunate to have Irene as the parish musician and leader of the choir. As we approach Christmas, I can't imagine what it would be like without her musical talent and expertise.

Jonathan, St Anne's audiovisual specialist, has also been important to the celebration of Mass. He has a reputation for working tirelessly to provide slides and recorded music at weekend Masses.

Mention must also be made of Fr Martin, who was appointed our Parish Priest in May 2020. We are truly grateful for his presence in our faith community!

Frank Bartosy

EDITORIAL TEAM

Editor: *Frank Bartosy*

Graphic design and layout: *Irene Levangie*

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THANK YOU

The editorial team would like to thank Fr Martin Jeramias for becoming our Parish Priest.

We are also grateful to Fr Geoff Baron for celebrating weekend Masses while Fr Martin was on holidays.

Lastly, we would like to say a big "thank you" to Fr Andrew Kwiatkowski who was with us briefly during the year. We wish him all the best with his studies in Rome.

"What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived. It is what difference we have made to the lives of others that will determine the significance of the life we lead." - **Nelson Mandela**



A NOTE FROM FR MARTIN

What a year it has been! As I write this, there are only couple more weeks to go until the New Year.

At the beginning of the year, we had a singular prayer that COVID-19 might go away and life would be back to normal.

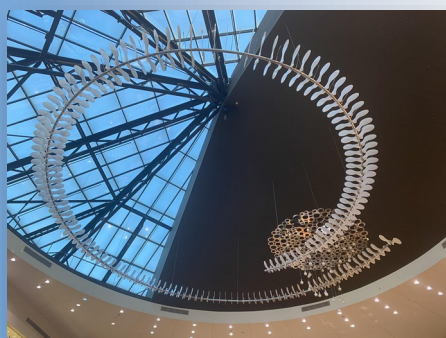
During 2020 and 2021, we lost many days in lock-down. We hoped things would change for the better. At the time of writing, many are going through a hard time. Many are catching COVID-19 and its complications. Again, we pray that 2023 will be a good one for us.

Last year we tried to publish a parish magazine as we did previously, but somehow, we were not able to succeed in it. We tried again this year, and the result is amazing! We thank the editorial team for their efforts.

When I moved into the parish during lockdown of 2020, it was new, unorganised and raw. Since then we have grown as a community to know and help each other. My hope for 2023 is the same to build up a strong community feeling, and to strengthen our ministries. With this in mind, I am aware that there will soon be a push from the Archdiocese regarding taking the 'Mission' to the next step.

We have done our church building renovation successfully thanks to *Building Committee members*. The church is beautiful now.

With the hope of bright future, let us receive the New Year as a gift from God and make every day count to spread the love of God.



Take the Way of the Gospel

Re-imagining our local church as Mission Communities

By Chris Long October 2021

Earlier this year Archbishop Peter Comensoli invited us into a new conversation about our common mission for the years ahead.

To begin this conversation, the Archbishop held two meetings, the first with the clergy of all parishes and the second with a lay representative from each parish. This was followed up with a Pastoral Letter issued at Pentecost. Copies were available at our church when we still were able to attend Mass.

First Meeting

I was asked to be the lay representative for our parish at that first meeting in May. In July 10th and 11th I spoke at all Masses about what had come out of the meeting. Here are the key points:

Many parishes are serving a diminishing number of parishioners and are not viable in the long term.

The plan is to change to 50 to 60 Missions incorporating the 208 parishes of the Archdiocese over the next 5 years. Earlier this year Archbishop Peter Comensoli invited us into a new conversation about our common mission for the years ahead,

To begin this conversation, the Archbishop held two meetings, the first with the clergy of all parishes and the second with a lay representative from each parish.

This was followed up with a Pastoral Letter issued at Pentecost. Copies were available at our church when we still were able to attend Mass. The target for each Mission is 10,000 Catholics with 1000 regularly at Mass. There is NO proposal to close or amalgamate parishes.

What is a Mission?

A family of communities working together for viability and vitality with a collaborative focus on evangelization, worship, formation and outreach.



A leadership of at least 2 priests working as a team.

A strategic and operational decision making mechanism with key lay leadership.

“Take the Way of the Gospel”

continued....

A pooling and sharing of resources and administrative functions.



The proposed Mission for us consists of the Parishes of *St Jude's Langwarrin*, *St John's Frankston East*, *St Francis Xavier's Frankston* and *St Anne's Seaford*.

Next Steps

The next steps asked for 2 parish lay coordinators (one a parish staff member) to work with Fr. Martin over the next 2 years on this journey to Mission. Sumitha is the parish staff member. We asked for volunteers in the parish newsletter over several weeks but no-one came forward so I have filled the other coordinator spot.

We joined the Southern Region Meeting on September 7th and the follow up meeting on September 22nd, both held by Zoom. In those meetings we looked at the role of Parish Coordinators, the Parish Resource Pack that is available and the next steps in the parish discernment and consultation process.

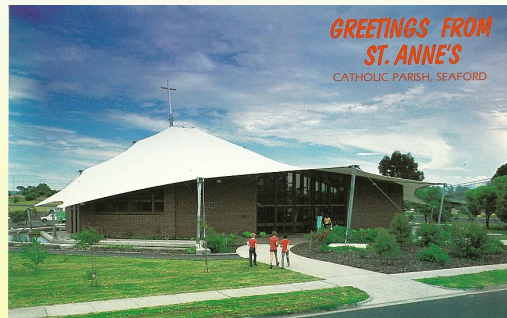
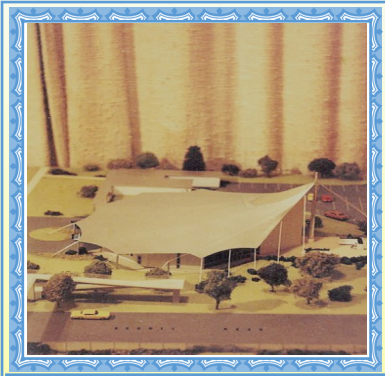
All priests in the Archdiocese had an opportunity to speak with the Archbishop about their hopes and concerns regarding the Mission process.

We have decided that we cannot move forward until we are able to gather together as a community face to face when we will be able inform all parishioners who attend Mass of progress so far. Parish discernment meetings will be held in small groups after we are able to meet freely. This is likely to be next year.

Changes are coming, whether we want them or not. It is better to be involved and have input into what we want rather than let someone else tell us. Change is always stressful but it gives us an opportunity to work towards making our parish more alive and attractive to new members. Please be part of the parish meetings and have your say. **For more information check out the page on our**

St Anne's website <https://stannes.com.au/> or

the Archdiocesan website <https://melbournecatholic.org>



Rejoice

A poem by Claire Gardner

Rejoice, Rejoice, St. Anne's survives.

1962 a church hall built,

1982 our tent church erected,

1992 officially recognised as a building of distinction

On National Register of Historical Buildings.

New parishioners join and add their talents.

A parade of priests of various cultures and accents

Encouraging us to be better people and have some fun too.

Baptisms, First Communions, Confirmations,

Nuptial Masses and Funerals

Our Christian community thrives.

Rejoice, rejoice St. Anne's survives.

**Note that the tent design is based on liturgical principles.*

Exodus (33:10) *Moses encountered the Lord in a tent, while in the New Testament St. John noted that "the Word was made flesh and pitched his tent among us". The twelve masts supporting the tent symbolised the twelve apostles while the cable network radiating from the cross resembled the influence of Jesus Christ.*

From: <https://stannes.com.au/did-you-know-history/>

BAPTISM

By *Jennifer Anderson*



A Sacrament is a sacred sign, instituted by Christ, to give grace to the soul. Each sacrament is a sign, which confers the grace it indicates.

In baptism, the pouring of the water and the words used are the sign of the soul's cleansing.

In baptism, the water is a symbol of God's sanctifying grace to cleanse the soul from original sin.

The sacraments imprint a character on the soul that cannot be lost. Over the years, I have had great joy being a part of the lives of families and their children in receiving this sacrament and then watching them grow and make the other sacraments through their faith becoming a part of St Anne's church.



LIVING WATERS

What was 'this water'? The woman took it to mean the water in Jacob's well, but Jesus was speaking to her heart. All those who look to draw their satisfaction from the wells of the world will soon be thirsty again!

If you look for deep, lasting satisfaction from any of these wells the world offers, you're wasting your time.

Ask God now to fill you with the Living Water of Jesus Christ.

Reference

Anderson J. Baptisms, The Holy Family Magazine, Issue 3, 2020, St Anne's Seaford Parish, Australia.

PARISH SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2022

By *Frank Bartosy*

Religious Education Team



As we emerge from enduring the COVID-19 pandemic, it has finally become possible to renew our routine Sacramental Program. Please see below for some photos taken during Communion and Confirmation ceremonies.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION:

First Holy Communion was received by a large number of children during 2022. Communion Masses took place over 5 weekends in June and July. All Masses were well attended by family, friends and parishioners.

CONFIRMATION:

Forty young people received the Sacrament of Confirmation on 23rd October. Bishop Tony Ireland officiated at this ceremony, and was assisted by Fr Martin.



We are grateful to the school leadership team for preparing the candidates, and to the Parish Pastoral Council for organising afternoon tea.



The Music at **St Anne's Parish Seaford**



Hi Everyone! My name is Irene Levangie. I come from Wellington, New Zealand and I have been teaching music for over 40 years. I moved to Melbourne in November 2020. I have been the leader of St Anne's church singing group since Easter 2021. At present, run a music tuition studio called Funtastic Music Studio in Carrum Downs. Prior to that, I taught music (World Music Academy) and Japanese language in New Zealand.

How did our music group begin? I recall Fr Sam Kono saying Masses at our church on a regular basis since Christmas in 2020 and after one of his Masses, he mentioned that he was interested in starting up a singing group/choir at St Anne's. Fr Sam is very talented and musical priest who inspired us to start this group. There was ten of us initially and we all love singing. However, there wasn't anyone who could assist in playing an instrument. Therefore, I had to accompany the group on the organ, keyboard or guitar depending on the type of hymn. Fr Sam said that we were not able to celebrate the Easter season properly when the pandemic was at its worst. However, we could celebrate Easter season in 2021 and it is so important to have live music during Mass.

We began our first practice on 8th March 2021 at church on a weekly basis and we started singing for the church on Palm Sunday. We also sang on Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter vigil and Easter Sunday. We prepared thirty hymns to sing for the Easter season and since then, we were asked by the church secretary to sing on a regular basis. After Fr Sam left St Anne's church, I needed to create a roster for our singing group, as

we are busy people with different schedules. We got together during the week to choose hymns, verses, practice the hymns, then I had to send them to Jonathan Romer to include in the PowerPoint presentation for Mass. I am grateful for having guidance from Jonathan about setting up lyrics on the PowerPoint.

It was rather involved for a while and then came the lockdown again and again! During the lockdowns, we kept in touch with each other on the phone but no practice was allowed.

Future plans for our group? I hope there are some more volunteers who are able to play an instrument. I am happy to provide them with some free guitar lessons! More singing members would even be better! All ages are welcome to join our group. The more the merrier! As Christmas season is upon us, we would love to sing more carols. I hope that more children can come and join us as well.

In 2022 when lockdowns finally ended, we had the opportunity to perform again. However, I had COVID-19 after Easter and that really affected my breathing! I lost my voice several times during year, therefore I couldn't sing or organise the group for several months. I am grateful to be virtually fully healed after this long period of silence and now we have more singers at church to enjoy this Christmas season with the children's choir for the carols this year. Our group is multicultural and they are talented. I pray we can have additional choir members next year. Wishing everyone Joy, Hope, Peace and Love this Christmas season. May the power of music bring joy to everyone!

Keep the faith! God bless...



CHILD SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEE

By Frank Bartosy

CSC members are *Fr Martin, Sumitha Moses and Frank Bartosy.*

We are currently looking for suitable new members to join us in this very important committee.

Our parish fosters the wellbeing and safety of all children and adults at risk. We take the safety of our young and vulnerable parishioners seriously, and have a zero tolerance policy when it comes to all forms of abuse. We all have the right to feel safe and welcome.

The National Catholic Safeguarding Standards have recently been updated. These now incorporate guidelines to ensure that vulnerable adults are able to feel safe within any parish that they may wish to attend.

For the information see:

1. <https://www.acsltd.org.au/national-catholic-safeguarding-standards-edition-2-published/#content-anchor>
2. <https://www.acsltd.org.au/services/professional-and-safeguarding-standards/national-catholic-safeguarding-standards/>

Promoting free and open communication:

The Child Safeguarding Committee (CSC) has been altered to the fact, that there unfortunately continues to be barriers to free and open communication within the Archdiocese. The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse stated "Commissioners were satisfied that in relation to complaints of child sexual abuse there was a prevailing culture of secrecy...within the Archdiocese".

It is hoped that people in our parish won't be afraid to talk to others using any suitable means. In addition, the notion that it "is best to keep quiet and to not rock the boat" must be dispelled. Indeed, this can lead to an environment where secrets flourish and offences go unreported.



DAWN MASSES

By Grace Edwards

Dawn Mass or Simbang Gabi is a Filipino Christmas tradition. It is a series of nine novena Masses that anticipate the celebration of Christmas. It begins on December 16th and ends on the 24th of December. On the last day of the Simbang Gabi, which is Christmas Eve, the service is called Misa de Gallo or midnight Mass.

This tradition allowed the farmers to hear Mass before going to the fields early in the morning. The Masses can start as early as 4am. Back in the day, church bells would start ringing from 3am to wake parishioners up to start getting ready for the 4am Dawn Mass.

Filipinos celebrate this Mass with great solemnity and is of great importance in the Philippine culture. This cherished Christmas custom has become a distinct feature of the Philippine culture and has become a symbol of sharing. Dawn Mass or Simbang Gabi is not just a tradition that is celebrated because we need to do so; it is also the spiritual preparation for Christmas and commemorates the birth of Jesus Christ.

No matter how this celebration takes place, the Dawn Mass or Simbang Gabi provides a strong indication of the depth of Catholicism among the Filipino people around the world.

We encourage our parishioners both young and the young at heart to come and join us in this year's celebrations of the Dawn Mass. Come and partake in the sharing of a light breakfast with your fellow parishioners after the Mass. It is a celebration for all to be enjoyed let's celebrate as a community, as a parish, as one.





St. Anne's
Catholic Parish Primary School, Seaford

Pray Work Play



St Anne's has an excellent reputation, seen as the school of first choice by many, in the Seaford area. At the heart of our school, and evident in all our interactions, is our Catholic faith. We have a focus on using scripture to reflect on how we can take the example of Jesus to fully interact with others in the contemporary world.

The school has developed, and continues to enhance, strong parish and community connections. St Anne's is a school where there is an expectation of engaged student learning which is enhanced and extended through a 1:1 ipad program for the Foundation – Year 2 students and 1:1 Chromebook program for the Year 3-6 students.

We seek to deliver 'point of need' teaching. Data gathered from the students' learning is used to indicate what they need to learn next and this is used to develop future plans. Excellent teaching is expected in all curriculum areas including specialist classes in visual arts, performing arts, PE, Italian and Technology. Our physical resources were massively refurbished during 2020 with a new Library, STEM learning area and a variety of classrooms incorporated. With a large modern hall, sustainability centre and various playgrounds our students are very fortunate.

St Anne's Catholic Parish Primary School

Continued.....

At St Anne's we have a very well connected community which enhances the learning environment for our students. Learning is viewed as a partnership between home and school with parents acknowledged as the first educators of their children. We implement wellbeing programs that teach resilience and support the development of social skills. If you are considering enrolment for your child/children at St Anne's we have limited places from Year 1-6 but this year we closed enrolment for our Foundation students in May. We expect to do this again in 2023 so book tours and put in applications early! Please feel welcome to join us at St Anne's where the students really do learn to 'Pray, Work and Play'!



Contact Us

St Anne's Primary School

86-94 Austin Road

Seaford, Vic 3198

PO Box 2059, Seaford, Vic 3198

Phone: 03 9786 4736

Fax: 03 9786 8840

Website: www.saseaford.catholic.edu.au/

Email: office@saseaford.catholic.edu.au

A Miracle ?

By Frank Bartosy



*Note: This is an update of my article "**Fully Alive Again**"**

It is just over three years since my sudden and seemingly inexplicable recovery from unrelenting chronic fatigue syndrome (CFS). This is also called myalgic encephalomyelitis (ME) and other terms including post viral syndrome (PVS) and systemic exertion intolerance disease (SEID). My own doctor, like many others, still cannot offer any medical explanation for my sustained remission from over two decades of ill health.

When I was diagnosed with CFS in 1994, very few doctors were familiar with this serious physical illness. Unfortunately, our knowledge of this puzzling syndrome is still deficient in a number of areas, due to a severe lack medical research. In other words, doctors still don't have a universally acceptable diagnostic test and there is no medically effective curative treatment.

It is strange, that shortly after my remission was confirmed, the COVID-19 pandemic began. Since then, a small percentage people have succumbed to an illness that is very similar to CFS and appears to have many of the same characteristics.

It seems that a variety of viruses are capable of causing unrelenting fatigue symptoms. SARS-CoV-2 is the scientific name for the virus that causes COVID-19, and has been known to trigger long COVID in some people.

With illnesses such as long COVID and CFS, patients are often left to "fend for themselves" and many will try various unproven remedies with little success. However, sometimes people discover a supplement or medication that helps ease symptoms. In my case, I eventually found that essential fatty acids such as fish, flax and evening primrose oils were very important to my health.**

Chronic fatigue syndrome is an "invisible" physical illness that leaves some sufferers profoundly disabled through lack of energy. It is generally regarded as incurable, with many people getting worse over time. Some patients may get better, but remission rates are extremely low especially if one has been ill for over a couple of years. The longer that one has CFS, the less chance there is of full remission being achieved. This is because the body's systems often continue to deteriorate in a number of subtle areas.

Continued.....

A Miracle ?

By Frank Bartosy

Before CFS In my case, I had a very busy lifestyle that involved working full time while practicing taekwondo a few times per week. I also had my wife Rosy, and my son Nick, to look after. It seems that I had “everything going for me”, as I was achieving my goals in my career and in taekwondo. However, things changed dramatically in a few weeks when I suddenly became very ill and severely fatigued. In fact, I went from being super fit and busy to being barely able to find enough energy to stay out of bed. A feeling of overwhelming fatigue soon took over my life, as “everything changed”. To put it simply, I truly felt “half dead”.

Recent experience Before having the stroke in September 2019, I needed to have 13 hours of sleep or bed rest in every 24 hour period. I would usually sleep for 11 hours, and have a total of couple of hours of rest during the late afternoon and evening. It certainly seemed that I was going downhill and becoming increasingly disabled.

Time for prayer While I was ill, I was spending a great deal of time in bed, and I used the opportunity to pray. Often I would spend over 1.5 hours in daily prayer. The more I did this, the more I was drawn to spend quiet time listening to God and contemplating his influence. However, I doubt if I ever prayed directly to be cured but felt that if it was God’s will, it would happen. According to St. Francis de Sales (patron saint of writers), the key to love of God is prayer. "By turning your eyes on God in meditation, your whole soul will be filled with God. Begin all your prayers in the presence of God".**

Remission I had a minor stroke on 7th September 2019, and things changed dramatically. I was promptly given Atorvastatin (Lipitor) in hospital to reduce my chance of having further strokes. In about a week, a totally unexpected event happened. Fatigue started to reduce significantly, and soon I was sleeping for no more than 8 hours in any 24 hour period! I no longer needed any bed rest apart from normal sleep! After more than three years, I remain in durable remission and I no longer consider myself to have CFS. I have found very little information about using Lipitor to treat chronic fatigue syndrome. Some research has suggested that this drug has broad spectrum antiviral and other beneficial qualities. Despite an extensive search of the net, I have only found one doctor who has suggested that it might be helpful in treating the illness. However, this concept is theoretical only, and no clinical trials have been conducted to the best of my knowledge. I have been active in a very large CFS forum on the net, and I haven’t found anyone who has gone into anything approaching a durable remission by taking Lipitor or any other similar medication.

So, how does one explain my dramatic recovery? Could it be a freak, inexplicable occurrence or might God have shaped how events transpired? Could my immune system have responded in an unexpected way, so as to send me into remission? I asked the same questions in September 2019. After three years, and a lot of prayer I can reach no other conclusion apart from declaring that it was indeed a miracle!

References

*Bartosy F. *Fully Alive Again*, The Holy Family Magazine, Issue 3, 2020, St Anne's Seaford Parish, Australia.

**Bartosy F. *Victory over Chronic Fatigue Syndrome*. Australia: Seaview Press; 1998.

***Catholic Online website. Bakersfield, California, USA. 2020

https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=51

**** Bartosy F., Bartosy N. *Into Remission from Overwhelming Fatigue*. Australia: Busybird Publishing; 2020.

Gil Askey

by Patricia Upton



I was asked if I would like to join the choir around the late 90's. Fr Joe O'Shea was our parish priest and Anita Davies was organist and music organiser. She had the help of two cantors Anne and Kath Hill and, of course, we were very lucky to have Gil Askey, trumpeter and composer.

We sang every Sunday but took turns singing at the different Masses. We always sang for all Holy Communion and Confirmation Masses even if it meant more than one Mass on the day. Needless to say Easter and Christmas were very special.

However, I have fond memory of St Anne's 20th anniversary. Gil Askey who has quite a history composed a "Swing Mass" for the choir. This was a resounding success!

When Fr Joe's time as parish priest was up, he was replaced by Fr John Madden. Not long after this, Anita decided to take a sabbatical for family reasons and soon after the choir was discontinued. However, Gil still finished Mass with his signature piece of "The Saints go marching"

For more information about Gil see:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gil_Askey

THE FIRST "SAINT" OF MAURITIUS

By Marylin Villemin

Adapted for publication by Frank Bartosy

Photo: *Red roof church at Cap Malheureux, Mauritius*



**In 2020 I wrote about Mary Queen of Peace and this year
I will tell you a brief story of our first "Saint" of Mauritius.**

Jacques-Désiré Laval

Blessed Jacques Désiré Laval was a missionary of the Congregation of the Holy Spirit and Apostle of Mauritius. He was beatified by Pope John Paul II on April 29th 1979.

Many now consider him to be the "national saint" of Mauritius and is often referred to as the "Apostle of Mauritius". As a priest and medical doctor, he worked to assist the poor and those suffering from ill health. Jacques-Désiré Laval also was an educator, and related well to his congregation. Many of them were poor and uneducated former slaves who he taught with great skill and empathy.

The anniversary of Laval's death on 9th September has become a regular event. It was marked with a festival and a procession to the site of his tomb.

References:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sH7oNycMy6w>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jacques-D%C3%A9sir%C3%A9_Laval

<https://catholicleader.com.au/news/shrine-for-pere-laval/>

<https://mauritiusattractions.com/church-malheureux-p-1317.html>

FR MARTIN'S FIRST ANNIVERSARY

We celebrated with Fr Martin on his first anniversary of being in our parish.



EASTER VIGIL

The Easter Vigil is a wonderful ceremony. Some excellent photography made the occasion truly memorable.



WHERE IS GOD?

- AN EXPLORATION INTO RELIGIOUS THEMES IN MOVIES

by *Rob Hepworth*

One of my hobbies is going to the movies. Prior to covid, I would see a film at least weekly if not more. However, recently it has reduced significantly.

Religious themes occur in many movies whether overtly, or covertly with hidden clues. Our Creator reveals himself in many situations and the media is one example.

The Second Vatican Council on Communication (1.) states "The council further entreats all...of goodwill...Especially those who control these instruments (of social communication) to strive to apply them solely for the good of mankind..."Jesus Christ yesterday, today and forever (Hebrews 13:8)."

Whilst the document needed expanding, it points to the importance of social media. In this article I want to explore some of the diversity of films where there is a particular emphasis on God or pointing towards the possibility.

Some films obviously have very strong religious themes of redemption and forgiveness in a religious context. Les Miserable (2.). The film begins with Jean Valjean, a convict for over 20 years for stealing a loaf of bread to feed his sister and child, and later for attempting to escape captivity. In the opening scene the song "Look Down (3.) commences. The world seems hopeless and especially so for Jean's lot. Nevertheless the song points to Jesus being with them in their suffering. Shortly after Jean's release he is extremely vulnerable. He is contemplating the hopelessness of his situation but behind him there is a strong image of a crucifix. The bishop who rescues and protects Jean sets him on his long road to accepting God's grace and love.

In the end he is reunited with Fontaine in heaven. However his ordeal is long and hard. Throughout there are many scenes which show God is present. When he is being bullied by Javert, Jean is holding a rosary in his hands. It is very quick but it remains a strong image in this scene.

The finale song is triumphant "to love another person is to see the face of God...they will rise again in freedom in the garden of The Lord (4.)."

This scene reminds me of The Crucifixion and The Resurrection. That despite whatever evil befalls us, in the end, we will be reunited. It is a very strong and profound message of hope.

We now turn to a modern myth, that of the Spider-Man series (5.) It may seem surprising that I would include this genre of movie but there are a lot of themes running through the series. As Peter's Uncle Ben dies he says to him "with great power comes great responsibility. Whilst not specifically Christian, Peter is given a moral responsibility both for what he chooses to do with his power; and whether he can live up to it either intentionally or unintentionally. Peter's character is tormented by the duality of Spider-Man. However, throughout the films there is religious imagery. For instance one scene where he is sitting on the top of a cathedral he is contemplating his next move.

There is crucifix right next to him. Another scene he "dies" when trying to rescue a carriage load of passengers. The passengers remove his mask, but then replace it to maintain the mystery of Spider-Man.

"Spider-Man is endowed with a dual identity, simultaneously a supreme power whilst also being one of us... Spider-Man does what is right because it is right, not because he wants credit, a concept deeply embedded in Christian thought (6.)".

The epic, the journey which is part of all cultures, is also part of our modern lives. We are "running the race" as St. Paul says. It is one where we don't have to have all the answers. Mystery is a legitimate and necessary part of faith. I find this alive in the Spider-Man imagery and themes.

Our lives reflect The Paschal Mystery - life, Passion, death and Resurrection. We all suffer in varying degrees and manners. Peter reflects this in the series both intentionally and unintentionally.

Both in mainstream and art house films, in all cultures there are themes about God. Some are directly about God, or about The Devil. Some look at denying or rejecting God. Even with the latter, the films themes are searching for meaning. Art house films such as "Of Gods and Men (7.1)" which is totally religious in nature, and " C.R.A.Z.Y (8.) " the French/Canadian film have a mixture of religious and secular themes.

In the latter it asks the audience to reflect. The "Footprints (9.)" poem is on the wall of Zac's aunty. She sees Zac as having a healing gift. He connects people with God. During his teenage years Zac rebels. He is very angry with his father. He is exploring his sexuality. He eventually reconciles with his father, and is able to move into the adult world. He is both a child and an adult. Not everything is reconciled but it doesn't matter. The film ends on a very positive note but I see it very much as reconciling with God the Father also. It is a very moving film.

In next edition of the parish magazine, we will continue talking about contemporary and earlier films.

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- (4.) *Finale (op.cit)*
- (5.) *Spider-Man (2002) Dist. By Sony Pictures/ Columbia Pictures Spider-Man 2 (2004) Dist. By Sony Pictures Releasing Spider-Man 3 (2007) (Sony pictures releasing)*
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- (9.) *Footprints by Margaret Fishback Powers (1964)*

WHERE IS GOD?

Continued page 3.....

The film follows *The Order of The Mass*, and uses it to segue into the next scene, as the monks maintain their regular schedule of daily work and prayer. In the beginning their daily lives are regimented (in a positive manner). The monks participate in the villagers' celebration. Unfortunately, after a series of events some revolutionaries take over the town. The monks anticipating the changes must decide whether to return to France or remain. Each monk is free to choose. The majority choose to remain; and in fact one returns to France, then makes the decision to return to the community.

If you get to see this film there is a scene with the music from *Swan Lake* I will always reference this film when listening or watching *Swan Lake*. It was a profound turning point in the film. The monks continue their daily routines knowing their fate is probably sealed. It is a beautiful reflection on the ongoing day to day normalcy, contrasted with extreme situations, the most likely outcome is their death.

The film shows each monk reacting both as an individual and a community. It is a reflection of the diversity of the Order and the humanity of the situation, as well as a faith reaction. Despite the inevitable, they clearly are not alone. Jesus on the Cross is precisely how the monks choose to live their lives.

Another recent film is "1917 (11.) - This is a horrific story filmed in real life motion, initially following two young soldiers on a perilous journey on a mission in a warzone. Throughout the movie it can be seen despite the evil surrounding them, Jesus is there with them. For instance, in one scene there is an horrific shooting scene which never seems to let up. In the background is a scene of a crucifix on an altar on fire. It is clearly a symbol of light despite the darkness of the scene. It also reminds me of the crucifix in *The Notre Dame* fires. As the film draws to an end, one of the soldiers sings a beautiful rendition of the redemptive song "Wayfaring Stranger" (12.). As Jos Slovic sings there is complete silence and the forest is filled with worn out soldiers, all very young. It is very moving, and once again despite the intense suffering and evil they are witnessing and participated in, there is still hope.

"I know dark clouds will gather behind me, I know my way is hard and steep
Yet golden fields lie just before me Where God's redeemed shall have their sleep."

The following two films are from the 1940's, the first is "It's a Beautiful Life (13.)" Starring Jimmy Stewart who reflects on his life with an angel. When his life is falling apart, through the angel, God's grace and redemption is realised by his character. He also realises how important his life has been to so many people.

In "The Keys To The Kingdom (14)" Gregory Peck plays Fr Francis Chisholm, a missionary in pre-communist China. Vincent Price plays Bishop Anselm "Angus" Measley, who is an adversary throughout the film, despite being closer earlier in the film. Chisholm, whilst remaining loyal to the faith, offers help and friendship to a wide range of people. His best friend, a doctor comes to help him. He is an atheist but despite their differences work together. He never gives up on his friend returning to the faith, but they remain loyal friends despite some opposition.

At Chisholm's funeral, many of the people he had helped comes to his funeral. Throughout the film, the bishop complains about the lack of obvious conversions. However it is apparent that God has worked through all these people, and they have had a conversion of heart, which will lead them to accept God's grace and redemption. The original "Poseidon Adventure (15.)" has a tension between two men of faith. As the Poseidon is sinking the Catholic priest (Arthur O'Connell) remains giving succour to all the weak and injured passengers.

Where the Protestant minister (Gene Hackman) lead some of the survivors to the top of the ship (which was the reverse initially of course). Whilst the priest remains, the minister leads them up and out (similar to what Moses did during *The Exodus*). Whilst he eventually dies, he enables a small number to survive.

Both men have legitimate roles. We are made aware of the Good Shepherd with his Flock and The Redeemer/Saviour. Both men have deep commitments to their faith, and both are successful in their ministry.

I am not a huge James Bond fan but "Skyfall (16.)" changes that. The Indian word "skyfall" means where heaven and earth meet. This film has themes about aging, including our relevance as we age. It is very powerful. In one scene, James has returned to his childhood home in Scotland (which also has significance thematically). We see James's mother's grave under her maiden name De La Croix ("of The Cross").

I love musicals, and "Fiddler on The Roof (17)" its one of my favourites. Tevye (Topol) has a unique and healthy relationship with God. He talks directly with God about all his anxieties, as well as his happier moments. He can also be extremely stubborn and ignorant. Despite the evil occurring especially in the latter part of the film when the pogroms (Russian word for violent riots) commence, we are reminded that we can still communicate with God no matter how harsh our life becomes.

There are many films with religious themes I have barely touched on.

In fact, I am trying to point to the abundance of films with religious themes. God works through film. Sometimes very obviously, sometimes subtly. I love the fact that there is such diversity in media, and when I am analysing films continue to look for these themes.

Unfortunately time did not allow me the chance to do this. The next article I will be looking at women in films which have religious themes.

Filmography/Bibliography

(10.) Silence (2016) Dist. by Paroma and (international) Studio Canal (UK) amongst others

(11.) 1917 (2019) Dist. By Universal Pictures and Entertainment One

(12.) Wayfaring Stranger. First published 1858 unknown songwriter. Lyrics changed and sung by Craig Leon and Jos Slovic

(13.) It's a Wonderful Life (1946). Dist. By RKO Radio Pics

(14.) The Keys to The Kingdom (1944). Dist. By 20th Century Fox Film-Corp

(15.) The Poseidon Adventure (1972). Dist. By 20th Century Fox

(16.) Skyfall (2013). Dist. By Sony Pictures Releasing

(17.) Fiddler on The Roof (1971) Dist. By United Artists

THE PARISH PRESS

Few people realise that The Holy Family Magazine was not the first regular publication that the parish has had (apart from the weekly bulletin or newsletter). Thanks to Rosie Vyverberg for the copy of **The Parish Press** from June 1992.





The inaugural meeting of our new Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) took place on 5th May 2022. Although we haven't had a PPC for a very long time, Fr Martin felt that it would benefit our faith community.

Current members are: Fr Martin, Chris Long, Frank Bartosy, Irene Levangie, Marylin Villemin, Rob Hepworth and Maureen Lim.

It was decided that the chairperson role would be a shared responsibility amongst members with Chris Long and Frank Bartosy taking turns to fulfil this function during the year. Irene Levangie has now kindly accepted taking on this challenging role, and is the current chair of the PPC.

Chairing the PPC is time-consuming but important role within our parish. Doing this role properly requires great communication skills and dedication to serving our faith community.

The initial document that Fr Martin circulated amongst PPC members stated that "...Pastoral Council shares in the responsibility for the ongoing life and development of the faith community, working together with parishioners to provide support for their efforts to live as followers of Christ."

In addition this document emphasised that "...Parish Pastoral Council exercises a ministry of 'servant leadership' for the Parish community".

Everyone within our faith community is encouraged to talk freely to the current members. Let us work together, while trying to live as followers of Jesus.



ST ANNE'S BUILDING COMMITTEE

by Kevin Burke

The committee began meeting in March this year. The members are *Fr Martin, Julie Swanson, Jeff Harvey, Peter Vyverberg and Kevin Burke*. The brief of the committee is to oversee the four properties the parish owns and the maintenance and future development of the five buildings, namely, **St Anne's church, the Parish Centre**, the parish house, and the hall and house on the Holy Family site.

The two parish schools (**St Anne's and St Joachim's**) are now financially and managerially independent of the parish and are the responsibility of Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (**MACS**).

Apart from the Parish Centre, the other four buildings were in need of immediate repair and being brought into compliance with current regulations, such as Occupation Health and Safety.

St Anne's church was the first project undertaken due to damage caused by possums during the **COVID** lock-downs when there was no resident priest. The church is now fit for the celebration of the Eucharist. The possums have been removed and preventive measures installed to ensure they cannot gain entry. Laboratory tests indicated that the air quality within the church met all health requirements. The damage caused to the back wall of the sanctuary and the inner liner has been repaired or masked by major painting of the area so that the church is now clean and ready for use.

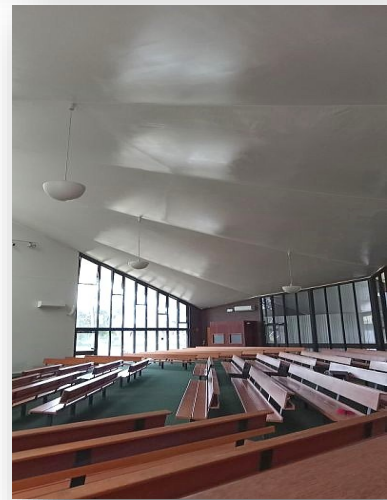
Health and Safety issues about the moats are of concern. Many options to overcome these issues have been explored and finally the decision has been made to install balustrades adjacent to the air-conditioning units.

The roof of the church poses challenges. Originally, the covering was given a recommended life of forty years. We have now passed that period. Cleaning the roof is now problematic as the only option for cleaning involves the use of extendable booms as no company would now allow personnel to be on the roof.

Work has been carried out on the parish house as it was usually unoccupied during the **COVID** period. Structural brick work needs attention but all rooms are now suitable for occupancy.

On the Holy Family site, electrical and plumbing inspections will be undertaken on the house to ensure it is compliant for rental purposes. The condition of the hall has raised many issues. The proposal to use the hall as a winter shelter for the homeless of the area for two nights a week required many inspections by professional experts and Frankston Council authorities. A full electrical upgrade, the installation of a disabled toilet, access for challenged or disabled people and illuminated exit signs were some of the requirements. As compliance could not be achieved in the short-term, the hall has had to be closed until Council approval can be gained. To date, several expert consultants have been engaged. We are currently waiting on a report from an Access consultant.

The engagement of several consultants and various trades people has significantly depleted the financial resources of the parish.



SEAFORD HOUSING ACTION COALITION

(S H A C)

by David Moloney



SHAC, a coalition of St Anne's parish and community groups, welcomes parishioners to join its meetings at St Anne's, at 7.30 on the second Thursday of the month. For nine years we have advocated on behalf of homeless people (with the homeless themselves wherever possible), and at different times have provided direct services to them. On a number of occasions this year, we addressed Frankston council, which has now set up a Housing Advisory Committee. We continue to advocate for various forms of safe, affordable and dignified accommodation as an alternative to rooming houses, and have recently asked Council to investigate the possibility of leasing the former Belvedere medical centre on Seaford Road (or another suitable premises) for crisis accommodation, perhaps in conjunction with the Frankston Winter Shelter program. We also canvassed local candidates for the State election regarding their positions on homelessness.

This year some members participated in the pilot Frankston Winter Shelter (FWS) program, convened by the Peninsula City Church, which provided stretcher beds, dinner and breakfast for homeless people over the winter months. Another member provided new socks for the guests, and a lady from another parish who had seen notices in the St Anne's newsletter has knitted beanies for next year.

Council building and planning requirements prevented St Anne's, and the Gateway Church (Heversham Drive) from joining the program this year, so accommodation could only be provided on four nights a week.

Some people sleeping on the streets seem to know the heart of one another's story. Pope Francis urges that we also meet the poor, which he says will be transformational for us. It was moving to encounter so closely the plight and bravery of the homeless at the FWS. One told of breaking a window of the Frankston police station so that he would be given a place to sleep. Another serene man, a retired "brickie", joined in the conversation, saying that he had been so cold in a bus shelter one night he had considered cutting off a finger to get into a hospital bed. (A few weeks later, he died of a heart attack, alone on the street; Winter Shelter accommodation, with a defibrillator, wasn't available on that particular night of the week).

Another divulged to his companions that he didn't like praying, as he always cried. 'That's ok' encouraged another knock-about young man, 'that's part of prayer'. The life of another who had experienced abuse at a Catholic boarding college began to unfold, and he jumped at the opportunity of a warm bed and meal.

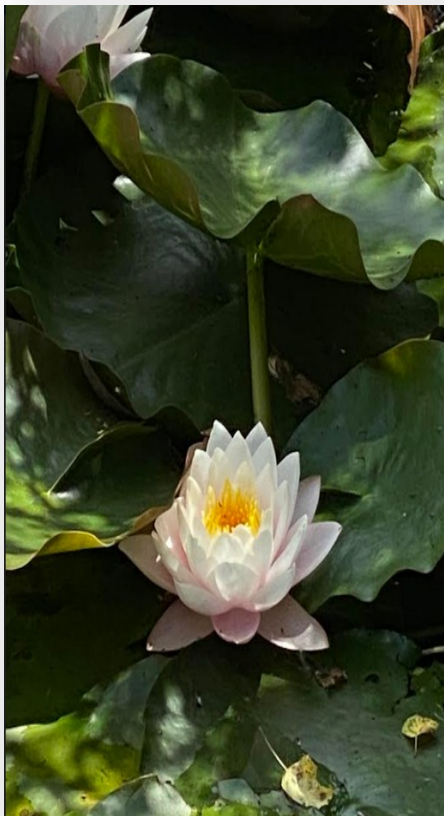
'I feel like my heart is expanding' reported one volunteer. A welfare worker was also excited to observe the complementarity between her own professional services and a faith-based Winter Shelter program (at Toowoomba) this year. The guests not only found shelter but also, unexpectedly, some began an inner transformation, moving from suspicion of all this kindness to taking responsibility, investigating prospects for improving their circumstances. A psychology study of the program found that the 'x-factor' was the 'values and norms' of the volunteers – their non-tokenistic relationships of 'equality' and 'authenticity'.

St Anne's is currently investigating the financial viability of building modifications to enable Holy Family church-hall to become a venue, perhaps for two nights a week over the 13 weeks of winter 2023. If this becomes possible, there will be wide range of opportunities for parishioners to volunteer, or to make a donation.

A Lifelong Interest

By Frank Bartosy

Who would have thought that the activity that started as a way to learn self-defence and to keep fit has resulted in a lifelong interest?



The Korean martial art of taekwondo became a lasting passion of mine, since I was introduced to it when I was a teenager. Amongst its unexpected benefits, I found that there was a sense of inner peace that I often felt after training. Although this sensation is difficult to explain, it is quite different to how one normally feels after many other sports or physical activities.

After many years of practice, together with numerous bruises and a lot of perspiration I finally passed my black belt grading (or test). I had finally achieved what many people strive for, yet only a tiny proportion of students attain! However, I soon realised that I was still very much a beginner and there was no reason to boast.

After further training, I qualified as a level 1 coach and later became a government licensed taekwondo instructor.

I have always felt very privileged and humbled to have been a student of Grand Master Young Youl Oh
(see <https://ohstaekwondo.com.au/>)

The values that taekwondo seeks to promote include courtesy, self-discipline, perseverance, indomitable spirit, patience, integrity, humility and courage.



Mulled Wine

By Kate Chan

RECIPE....

Here is a great recipe that you can make this Christmas with or without a Thermomix!

I used a non-alcoholic wine for market goers to sample at a stall at St Anne's Primary School Market Day. You can choose whatever red wine you like for this great recipe:

Ingredients:

- ◆ 50g raw sugar, (adjust to taste)
- ◆ 250g water
- ◆ 60g orange juice
- ◆ 2 x cinnamon quills
- ◆ 12 x whole cloves
- ◆ 2 x star anise
- ◆ Zest of 2 oranges in strips
- ◆ 750 grams dry red wine

Thermomix Method :

- ◆ Add all ingredients except wine to the mixing bowl and cook 10min/100deg/sp1
- ◆ Add wine and heat 6min/80deg/sp1
- ◆ Strain using simmering basket into a serving jug
- ◆ Garnish with orange slices and cinnamon quills

Conventional Method :

- ◆ Add all ingredients except wine to a saucepan over medium heat and simmer for 8 minutes while stirring.
- ◆ Reduce heat and add wine, stirring until it comes back to a simmer
- ◆ Strain into a serving jug
- ◆ Garnish with orange slices and cinnamon quills



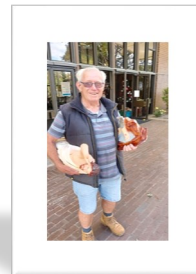
Risen Lord Statue



Unfortunately, our statue of the Risen Lord was broken in half during the recent renovations to the church. Fortunately, Peter Stewart (an experienced model maker) has now repaired it.



Thanks to **Peter Vyverberg** for

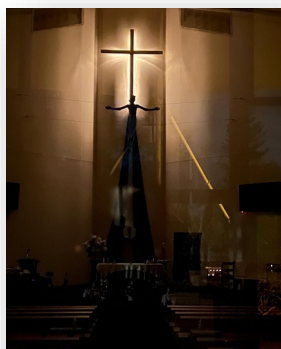


Fr Andrew Kwiatkowski

Fr Geoff Baron



Afternoon tea after confirmation



Jonathan helped out at concert



Celebration after mass



Greeters social group lunch



ADVENT

2022



Merry Christmas

and

Happy New Year!

May this Christmas season

bring you happiness,

peace and joy



The Holy Family

Seaford | Frankston North | Carrum Downs | Skye & Sandhurst

Greetings from St. Anne's

Catholic Parish Seaford



Parish Priest Fr Martin Jeramias **Parish Secretary** Sumitha Moses

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday Wednesday & Friday 10:00am—3:30pm

Telephone 9401 6398

Office address 84 Austin Road, Seaford 3198

Email: seaford@cam.org.au