

The Holy Family

(Adult) Legion of Mary Altar Linen Washing Team Altar Servers Building Renovation Committee Cleaning Child safe committee Children's Liturgy Communion to Nursing home/Homes Community Get Together Group Counters Decorations Team Divine Mercy Group Eucharistic Ministers Finance Committee Frankston Filipino Seniors Support Group Frankston Winter Shelter Fundraising Committee Funeral Ministers team Gardening Greeters Holy Family Hall Hospitality Evangelisation Worship and Liturgy Faith Formation Service and Outreach Parish Safeguarding Committee Parish Administration Fellowship Parish Finance Council Service and Outreach Infant Baptism Preparation IT/ Audio Visual Junior Legion of Mary Music/Organist Office Staff/ Admin Parish Children's Choir Parish Choir Parish Magazine Parish Pastoral Council Pick up and Drop off Piety Stall RCIA Readers of the Word Religious Education Team Sacristans SHAC Social Justice Group St. Vincent De Paul (Adult) Legion of Mary Altar Linen Washing Team Altar Servers Building Renovation Committee Cleaning Child safe committee Children's Liturgy Communion to Nursing home/Homes Community Get Together Group Counters Decorations Team Divine Mercy Group Eucharistic Ministers Finance Committee Frankston Filipino Seniors Support Group Frankston Winter Shelter Fundraising Committee Funeral Ministers team Gardening Greeters Holy Family Hall Hospitality Evangelisation Worship and Liturgy Faith Formation Service and Outreach Parish Safeguarding Committee Parish Administration Fellowship Parish Finance Council Service and Outreach Infant Baptism Preparation IT/ Audio Visual Junior Legion of Mary Music/Organist Office Staff/ Admin Parish Children's Choir Parish Choir Parish Magazine Parish Pastoral Council Pick up and Drop off Piety Stall RCIA Readers of the Word Religious Education Team Sacristans SHAC Social Justice Group St. Vincent De Paul (Adult) Legion of Mary Altar Linen Washing Team Altar Servers Building Renovation Committee Cleaning Child safe committee Children's Liturgy Communion to Nursing home/Homes Community Get Together Group Counters Decorations Team Divine Mercy Group Eucharistic Ministers Finance Committee Frankston Filipino Seniors Support Group Frankston Winter Shelter Fundraising Committee Funeral Ministers team Gardening Greeters Holy Family Hall Hospitality Evangelisation Worship and Liturgy Faith Formation Service and Outreach Parish Safeguarding Committee Parish Administration Fellowship Parish Finance Council Service and Outreach Infant Baptism Preparation IT/ Audio Visual Junior Legion of Mary Music/Organist Office Staff/ Admin Parish Children's Choir Parish Choir Parish Magazine Parish Pastoral Council Pick up and Drop off Piety Stall RCIA Readers of the Word Religious Education Team Sacristans SHAC Social Justice Group St. Vincent De Paul (Adult) Legion of Mary Altar Linen Washing Team Altar Servers Building Renovation Committee Cleaning Child safe committee Children's Liturgy Communion to Nursing home/Homes Community Get Together Group Counters Decorations Team Divine Mercy Group Eucharistic Ministers Finance Committee Frankston Filipino Seniors Support Group Frankston Winter Shelter Fundraising Committee Funeral Ministers team Gardening Greeters Holy Family Hall Hospitality Evangelisation Worship and Liturgy Faith Formation

THE MAGAZINE OF ST ANNE'S PARISH

Seaford, Frankston North, Carrum Downs, Skye and Sandhurst

WELCOME



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 Joachim
inspire and intercede for us that
we may be followers of Jesus
Amen*

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A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

It has been a thought-provoking time for our faith community as we emerge from the era of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The nature of the parish is continuing to change, with many new people visiting St Anne's church on a regular basis. The forthcoming Mission concept will start to be implemented soon, and will further change the nature of our parish environment.

So, where do we go from here? What will our parish look like in five years time? What does it mean to be a Catholic at a time where Christianity is "out of fashion" in modern Western thinking? These are some of the questions that need to be examined as we move forward into the future.

Frank Bartosy

EDITORIAL TEAM

Editor: Frank Bartosy

Graphic designer: Irene Levangie

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.

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THANK YOU

The editorial team would like to thank Fr Martin Jeramias for being our Parish Priest. We also wish to thank our volunteers who continue their important work for the benefit of everyone in our faith community.

***Jesus said to St Francis of Assisi:
"Francis, go and rebuild my Church."***

Fostering a Welcoming Culture:

Celebrating Our Parishioners and Volunteers

By Fr Martin

In our cherished parish community, the heart and soul of our gathering lies in the warm embrace of our parishioners. The welcoming nature and spirit of our church family create an inviting atmosphere for all who seek solace, guidance, and a sense of belonging. Additionally, the invaluable contributions of our dedicated volunteers help to foster this culture of warmth and compassion. In this article, we celebrate the incredible efforts of our parishioners and emphasize the importance of cultivating a thriving volunteer community.

The Power of Welcome:

Within our parish, we pride ourselves on our open arms and open hearts. From the moment someone walks through our doors, we strive to create an environment where they feel welcomed and accepted. Our parishioners understand the significance of a warm welcome, for it can be the first step towards building a lasting relationship and nurturing a sense of community. Whether it is a smile, a friendly greeting, or a helping hand, our collective efforts to make newcomers feel at home are pivotal to our shared mission.

The Culture of Volunteers:

Volunteers form the backbone of our parish, selflessly giving their time, skills, and energy to enrich the lives of others. From serving at Mass and organizing events to offering pastoral care and lending a listening ear, these dedicated individuals embody the true spirit of compassion and service. They bring together diverse talents and backgrounds, creating a vibrant tapestry of support that allows our parish to thrive. Without their contributions, our community would be far less vibrant and nurturing.

Nurturing a Thriving Volunteer Community:

To foster a culture of volunteering, we must encourage and empower parishioners to engage actively in service opportunities. It starts with recognizing and appreciating the unique gifts and talents that each individual brings to the table. By providing a wide range of volunteer roles, we ensure that everyone can find a meaningful way to contribute, regardless of age or skill set. We are not only listeners but also doers.

Building Bridges and Extending Welcome:

Our commitment to fostering a welcoming culture extends beyond the confines of our church walls. As a parish, we have a responsibility to engage with the broader community, reaching out to those in need and spreading the message of love and inclusivity. By partnering with local organizations, initiating outreach programs, and actively participating in community events, we demonstrate our dedication to making a positive difference in the lives of others.

The welcoming nature of our parishioners and the thriving volunteer community within our church are the pillars that sustain our vibrant community. As we celebrate the warmth and compassion that define us, let us continue to foster a culture of inclusivity, appreciation, and service. By embracing newcomers and empowering volunteers, we not only strengthen our parish community but also radiate the love of Christ to the world beyond. Together, let us ensure that our parish remains a sanctuary of acceptance and a beacon of hope for all who seek solace and belonging.



Christmas Children's Mass

by Frank Bartosy

On Saturday 24th December 2022, we had the Christmas Children's Mass that was celebrated by Fr Sam Kono. This was preceded by carols at 5.30pm.

The children's choir put in a very commendable performance under the very capable leadership of Irene Levangie.

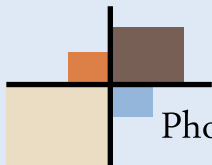
Thank you Irene for organising this wonderful event!

Children's choir at 6pm Christmas Eve Mass



Adult's choir at 8pm Christmas Eve Mass

Feast of Our Lady



Photos by Irene Levangie

By Frank Bartosy

On 30th May we had have a special celebration that included a Mass dedicated to Our Lady.

One highlight of the evening was this truly magnificent prayer:

MAGNIFICAT

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; **Because** He has regarded the lowliness of His handmaid; for behold, henceforth all generations shall call me blessed; **Because** He who is mighty has done great things for me, and Holy is His Name; **And** His mercy is from generation to generation on those who fear Him.

He has shown might with His arm, He has scattered the proud in the conceit of their heart. **He** has put down the mighty from their thrones, and has exalted the lowly. **He** has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. **He** has given help to Israel, His servant, mindful of His mercy - even as He spoke to our father - to Abraham and to his posterity forever.

Out of this world!

By Frank Bartosy

This is the first in a series of articles about amateur astronomy, which is my often-neglected hobby. The night sky is sometimes taken for granted by people in the modern world. However, if one is willing to take a bit of time and look up at the sky after sunset a great variety of objects may be seen. Some of these, such as bright stars, planets and the Milky Way can easily be observed without expensive equipment. Certainly, a pair of binoculars can be very useful to help one see "what's up there"!

I have been interested in optical astronomy since I was a young boy and saw the rings of the planet Saturn for the first time through the toy telescope that I had been given for Christmas! It was an awe-inspiring sight!

Since then, I have had a couple of larger telescopes that unfortunately weren't of the best quality. Higher quality instruments were very expensive and beyond the reach of my budget for a long time.

First serious telescope

In 2011, circumstances allowed me to get my first serious telescope. It is a 10 inch or 254mm Newtonian reflector. This uses a large mirror to gather light instead of a lens.



The big disadvantage of this instrument is its large size. It is quite substantial and weighty! Moving around is not for the "faint hearted"!

It must be said views through this telescope are truly amazing, although it performs best under a very dark sky away from streetlights. It is often regarded as a "deep sky" telescope that can give truly fascinating views of faint celestial objects such as the nebula and star clusters.

New telescope

Fortunately, my backyard has a clear view of the setting sun. Planets and stars also set in the same region of the sky. The best time for viewing planets such as Saturn and Jupiter is around summer time when they are usually visible before midnight.

In May this year, I decided to purchase a 120mm refractor telescope for observing the planets. This instrument uses a large lens instead of a mirror to gather light. It is a design that is really well suited to viewing objects like planets in high resolution with good contrast, in a location such as my backyard.



Out of this world!



By Frank Bartosy



An unfortunate problem with amateur optical astronomy is that it relies on clear skies that are generally free of clouds. Melbourne's weather hasn't been kind to me lately, as it always seems to be cloudy!

The other issue is that it is time consuming, with a basic observing session taking at least an hour.

However, these negatives are greatly outweighed by the amazing views that can be obtained simply by looking through a good telescope located in one's backyard. Indeed, it may be said that the things that can be seen are really "out of this world"!



By Zeeta Andrew

St Anne's Parish is a blessed community with a diverse group of parishioners, each bringing their unique talents, languages, foods, stories, and ways to worship, celebrate, and pray, enriching our lives and our relationships with one another and God.

Among the many gatherings that Filipinos eagerly anticipate during the Season of Advent is the tradition of Simbang Gabi, a devotional nine-day series of Masses (16th December to 24th December) attended by Filipino Catholics in preparation for Christmas. Rising early in the morning to attend the 5:00am Mass is a profound expression of their devotion to God and to the Blessed Virgin Mary, who will bear and give birth to Jesus.

In 2020, Grace (a parishioner with a Filipino background) approached me with a request to lead the Liturgy of the Word for three days since they were unable to secure a priest to celebrate the Mass due to the lockdowns in Melbourne. As a religious education leader with experience in leading liturgies at school, I agreed to lead the Liturgy, but I was unsure whether anyone would show up for a Mass that early. The following day, I was pleasantly prised to see not only the Filipino community but also people of various cultural backgrounds, young and old present at the Liturgy. It was an absolute honour and privilege to lead the liturgy and share my testimonies during the homily, and I felt grateful that God had blessed me with the perfect platform to testify to Him.

The following year Fr Martin Jeramias was appointed as our parish priest and he has continued to joyfully grace this occasion and the community is truly grateful for his support.

The commercialisation of Christmas and the busyness of buying presents for family and friends often make me wonder if we are losing sight of the true meaning of Christmas. Simbang Gabi's devotion is a gift that the vibrant Filipino community offers not only to St. Anne's parish but also to the Catholic Church in Australia and the world. It is a reminder of the importance of devoting special time to worship God during Mass, even by waking up earlier.



Simbang Gabi has been a very joyful experience and now I look forward to this fellowship every year. May this tradition of Simbang Gabi continue to inspire to bring more souls to Christ and spread the gift of faith.

DEDICATION OF NEW ALTAR



On Tuesday 6th June Bishop Tony Ireland visited St Joachim's Primary School to dedicate the new altar. The previous altar had to be replaced, as it was damaged by floods in 2022.

*"By instituting in the form of a sacrificial meal the memorial of the sacrifice he was about to offer the Father on the altar of the cross, Christ made holy the table where the community would come to celebrate their Passover. Therefore the altar is the table for a sacrifice and for a banquet. At this table the priest, representing Christ the Lord, accomplishes what the Lord himself did and what he handed on to his disciples to do in his memory."**



From left to right:

Irene Levangie, Bishop Tony Ireland, Paul Dwyer and Fr Martin Jeramais.

Reference:

*Rite of Dedication of a Church and an Altar English translation © 1978, International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc. (ICEL)
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Congratulations to Jennifer

Jennifer Anderson was presented with a certificate of appreciation for her work as St Anne's Baptism Preparation Coordinator on 16th April. Her dedication to this volunteer task has been impressive!

It is also notable that she celebrated her 70th birthday a week before on Easter Sunday.

Congratulations to Jennifer for achieving both milestones!





Our Suffering Ocean

By Sam 5/6 St Anne's Primary School

Imagine if you ate your dinner but your food was toxic plastic. Fish and sea life eat too much plastic and die. If we don't stop now, sea life as we know it will be eradicated from our ocean.

Plastic is destroying our ocean right now and you can do something about it. Maybe you could use reusable straws, water bottles, bags and containers. Did you know that every piece of plastic ever made is still on the planet today? That means a lot of plastic in the ocean and then fish eat that plastic. So what do we eat? Fish. If we don't stop then we will end up with plastic in our stomachs too.

We need to stop producing plastic now! Because there is so much plastic in our ocean that 90% of all seabirds have consumed plastic. The record for the most plastic in a bird is taken by a 90 day old seabird. In addition, it had 276 pieces of plastic in its stomach. There is so much plastic in our oceans that the great pacific garbage patch is twice the size of Texas.



We produce 300 million tons of plastic a year and we use 25 million plastic water bottles every day. Moreover, Blue whales take in 75,000 litres of water every time they eat. Imagine how much plastic they take in, because they can't tell the difference between plastic and krill.

If we stop making plastic and start cleaning up our ocean then we will hopefully have a clean, blue ocean to swim in.



Meeting a cannibal

By Patricia Morecroft

I wonder how many of you have met a cannibal? Well, many years ago in the 1950's/60's I worked in Fiji, at the Catholic Mission Office in Suva. I had been there a few months and got the opportunity to go 20 miles (32 km) down the coast to the Mission Station of Lomari. At that stage the nuns there were of order of St Joseph of Cluny. This is the same order of nuns who used to lived in St Anne's Parish (when the priest was a Marist).

There was a church, convent; presbytery and primary boarding school, right on the beach with a river running close by. A shop was about 15 minutes walk along the road run by a Chinese family where you could buy anything from bread baked fresh that morning, fresh fruit and vegetables and also pork or beef that was killed for local consumption, clothing and sewing machines etc. If you were likely to need something, they sold it!



I was introduced to an elderly Fijian man (mind you being 17 years old, elderly could have been anything over about 30 years old!). He spoke no English, but it was explained to me that although he was now a devout Catholic, he had tasted human flesh as a boy! He said it tasted like pork! He had a good laugh about it and looked at me while he was talking to the Bishop, who translated for me. I do not remember anything else about our conversation – that was enough!

Annually, I even took my Girl Guides to Lomari in the May holidays where we slept in the dormitories and we would stay for a week. No camping under canvas, but cooking on an open fire, having campfires of an evening and singing the same songs known throughout the world by the Movement, all activities that Guiding used to do when off “camping”. These included: swimming in the river, looking for fish/crabs etc in rock pools on the reef at low tide. Learning to put into practice the first aid we had been learning during the year at weekly meetings etc.

One year when one of the patrols (5 girls) had gone to get firewood for the cooking fire, and one of the girls cut herself rather badly with the cane knife. The girls arrived back at the school carrying her, luckily the nuns were able to do more first aid than I could, and looked after her. Because of the commotion, our breakfast of porridge (local cassava style not oats) was burnt and we had to make do with toast. Later in the day, another of the girls was bitten by a stonefish when swimming in the river and was in agony. Again the nuns came to our aid by putting ‘Condy's Crystals’ in a bucket of water and keeping her leg in the bucket until the swelling and the pain had gone down.

Thank the Lord for the nuns, who kept an eye out for us and helped us in emergencies. My future camps went with no great memories, but the date of that day was Friday 13th!



THE PIETY STALL

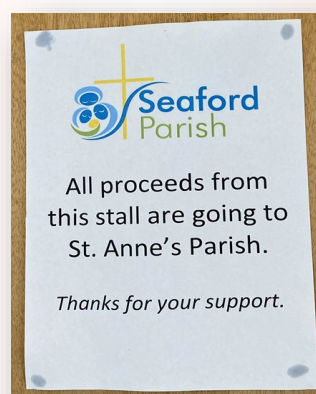
By Patricia Morecroft

The Piety Stall at St Anne's was restarted in May 2021. We now have a few people to assist with selling items and setting up on Saturday evening before the 6.00 pm Mass. They also operate the stall before and after 8.30 am Mass on Sunday, and close up on Sunday after 10.00am Mass.

I am very grateful to the women who help, but we need more people to assist. Ideally, it would be nice to have two people on a roster system after each Mass. Just $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ an hour after Mass is the needed to keep The Piety Stall open in order to sell religious items to parishioners and visitors who may be in the church.

Those who staff the Stall are only required to sell and take orders when they are on duty. Stock includes items suitable for gifts for the occasions of Baptism, First Communion and Confirmation. We have statues; medals; prayer cards and books; Bibles for various ages; Rosaries and other items as gifts or for personal use.

I try to order items for the stock of the Piety Stall that you might like and help you. Please let me know if there is anything that you require and inform the person on duty who will pass on your request to me.



PRAYING WITH YOUR MOBILE

By Frank Bartosy

The following article is a revised version of the piece that was published in issue 3 of The Holy Family magazine.

Some years ago, I ran a small prayer group at Holy Family hall. Rather than reciting familiar prayers such as the Rosary, Rob Hepworth and I decided to try something different. We resolved to pray using the appropriate text from the Breviary[1]. This is a book of prayers, hymns, psalms, and readings for certain times of the day. For example, there are morning, evening and night prayers for each day of the year.

This concept goes back to the early days of the Church when people had the custom of praying the Divine Office (also known as Liturgy of the Hours) at certain times of the day, on a daily basis. In this way the Church fulfilled the "Lord's precept to pray without ceasing..."[2]

Unfortunately, this prayer group was eventually disbanded as Rob and I found it difficult to get any participants apart from ourselves. We got the impression that things could have been different if a priest had been involved. Somehow, it was felt that Catholics are so used to the priest running things that any programs or groups without their presence is considered to be not really worthwhile.

It looks like having a priest always present is becoming less common these days, as the reality of the priest shortage becomes more evident.

Mobile app

In September 2019, I was in hospital for about a week and had plenty of time to find ways to occupy myself. I had a "newish" Android mobile and I decided to explore the Google Play store.

I found an app called "iBreviary" and discovered that it was excellent software that enabled me to pray in the same way as before. So, rather than referring to printouts from a website I had everything I needed on my phone.

Therefore, it is very possible to pray using your mobile and I highly recommend this approach

References

1. breviary: a book of the prayers, hymns, psalms, and readings for the canonical hours.

<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/breviary>

2. <https://divineoffice.org/liturgy-of-the-hours/>



Reflections

By Rob Hepworth



As I was reflecting on my father's life on what would have been his 96th birthday (he died in 2014), I thanked him and then thanked Mum for a wonderful life. They had raised 6 of us.

I had been working on the next article for our magazine, which was going to be a continuation of my previous one about films. However, I sensed Dad's presence, and felt that I should write about caring for my Mum, who was 91½ when I first started reflecting upon it. Mum has since passed away. Rest in peace, Mum!

She had come to live with me about 15 months ago, rather than going to a nursing home. I became Mum's carer. I had worked in the industry beforehand. Mum had lived with me since March 2022, following a serious fall at the retirement village she had been living at.

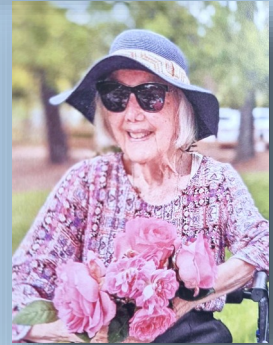
Mum's deteriorating condition meant she could no longer live independently. She had been a very active person, involving herself in many activities including gardening, reading, opera, antiques (especially Wedgwood), artwork, and table tennis amongst other things. Mum took an active interest in all her children, as well as 14 grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Following time in hospital, rehabilitation and respite, Mum, myself and my siblings discussed the possibility of her coming to live with me. I offered that option and everyone agreed. We all felt that was a way of giving back to her, after all both her and Dad had done for us all.

When Mum finally moved in, I could only leave her for short periods to attend to my own needs - spiritual, physical, social and medical. However, as Mum became frailer and frailer I was barely able to leave her. Despite this, she was still keen to walk down at the beach and have a coffee at Oliver's Corner. The staff loved her, and when they learnt she had died were quite devastated.

Unfortunately, Mum sustained a severe fall when I was out. I could only leave to do some quick shopping, but we still had visitors, family, friends and neighbours visiting her. It fluctuated...some days we could go out for a short time, other days Mum stayed in bed or got up for a short while.

In addition, I was unable to attend Mass, parish activities and so forth. Attempting to resume my activities with Vinnies was also fraught with difficulties. It felt like it was like COVID-19 lockdowns again! In many ways, lockdowns had prepared me for this. Fortunately, I could tap into Fr Rob Galea's Mass through YouTube via the NBN onto the telly. I could also do this on weekdays Masses via Shalom TV and their daily Masses. (How I connected it all up I have no idea - but it worked!!!).



I still feel connected. It was so uplifting. The only aspect missing was the physical reality of missing receiving Holy Communion, and the physical gathering as a community. I feel there is the awe inspiring spiritual act of receiving Our Lord's Body and Blood. As the hymn Taste and See brings to mind:

TASTE: Our Lord's Body and Blood.

SEE: Our Lord's Body and Blood

FEEL: Our Lord's Body and Blood

HEAR: The Words of The Consecration

LOOK: The Words of The Consecration

On the television we miss out on "Taste and Feel". However, the other senses allow us to consume indirectly. I missed the physical reality of this but still felt connected.

On a final note, the beautiful prayer we said as a response also meant I felt spiritually connected. This was an important part of my caring for my beloved Mum... Rest in peace, Mum!

An Act of Spiritual Communion

"My beautiful Jesus, I believe that you are present in this most Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things and I desire to receive you into my soul. I cannot at the moment receive you Sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already here, and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen."



Trip to Vietnam

By Marylin Villemain

At the end of April I did a trip to Vietnam which was an early 70th birthday present for my husband. We stayed in Singapore on the way for four nights. Our highlight in Singapore was the “Garden by the Bay”. The Flower Dome was amazing, and it is one of the world’s largest glass greenhouses where you can discover 9 different gardens from all continents. At night there is an amazing light show. We also took the chairlift to “Sentosa Island” and visited Madame Tussaud Wax Museum, amongst other things.

Then we preceded to Hoi An in Vietnam for the next ten days. We travelled from the airport to the hotel, and I never saw so many motorcycles in my life! It was school pick up time, and it was incredible to see the parents picking up their children. One small child would be in the front standing, older children at the back. First thing I noticed was that they were not wearing any helmets. They also ride on the right side of the road. There are not many traffic lights, and they just weaved their way in and around each other by just beeping! There is no road rage either. I forgot to mention that it was stinking hot, and my glasses just fogged up when I got out of the car.

The hotel we stayed at had the biggest pool I ever saw, and we could also swim in the sea which was great. We visited the old city of Hoi An, the night markets and we did a trip on the river at night. The Vietnamese were also celebrating their “Liberation Day” so it was very crowded. All the boats had lanterns on them and the whole surroundings were lit up. It was magical! We did day trips and we went snorkelling at “Cham Island” and actually got to ride a motorcycle behind a driver. It was so much fun. Another trip was to the Marble Mountain, but I had no strength to go exploring the caves. The highlight in Vietnam would be the trip to “Ba Na Hills”. We took the chairlift up to the mountain and what awaited us was just incredible. Medieval buildings, street entertainment, decorations, water fountains, to name a few. There were floral displays everywhere we went. One last excursion was to the Vin Wonders Amusement Park. By that time my legs were so sore from two weeks of walking I was ready to call it quits, and it was time for a good massage to help me on my journey back home.



It was an amazing experience, and the people are so friendly that I was actually sad leaving those we came close to. There was the young 15 year old girl across the hotel who helps her mum with the ‘mini mart’ when she is not at school, and who acted as our tour guide once. The supervisor of the dining room told us she earns our equivalent of \$330 a month and they don’t have many holidays. Then there were the taxi drivers who answered so many of our questions. They are so humble and even though I was there as a tourist. I felt for them and their daily struggle.



Ba Na Hills



Golden Bridge





St Anne's Primary School

By Rod Shaw

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.

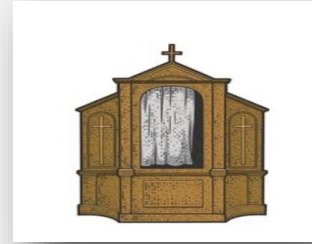
We seek to deliver 'point of need' teaching. Data gathered from the students' learning is used to indicate what they need to learn next and this is used to develop future plans. Excellent teaching is expected in all curriculum areas including specialist classes in visual arts, performing arts, PE, Italian 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.

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 for the second year before the end of June! We expect to do this again in 2024 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'!

Truth or Myth

By Fr Martin



When I visit homes, occasionally I am asked about the removal of the confessional from the church. To answer this question, I would like to say that we have removed it based on the following considerations:

The Health and Safety of Our Parishioners

In an effort to prioritize the health and safety of our parishioners, we have made a difficult decision to remove the confessional from our church. We understand that this might have raised questions and concerns, so we want to take this opportunity to address both the truth and the myths surrounding this decision.

Truth: Safety Considerations

The removal of the confessional is based on our commitment to create a safe environment for everyone who visits our church. Over time, it became apparent that the confessional's location was obstructing the flow of foot traffic within the building, potentially posing a safety risk during crowded Masses like Christmas, Holy Week, and other special celebrations. By removing the confessional, we aim to improve the overall safety and accessibility of our church space.

Truth: Alternative Solutions

While the physical confessional structure has been removed, we want to emphasize that the Sacrament of Reconciliation remains an integral part of our faith and is readily available to all parishioners. We have made alternative arrangements to ensure that the Sacrament of Reconciliation can still be conducted in a confidential and respectful manner. The chapel is the perfect space for this, where there is more air in the room and no congestion should be felt.

Myth: Disregard for Tradition

We want to assure you that this decision was not made lightly and does not signify a disregard for the traditions of our Catholic faith. Our intention is to adapt to the changing needs of our parishioners while upholding the sanctity of the sacraments. We are committed to finding innovative ways to enhance the spiritual journey of our community while maintaining the rich traditions that have shaped our faith.

Truth: Removed the Confessional Due to Unsuitability for Its Purpose

The decision to remove the confessional was not easy one, but was based on careful evaluation and consideration of several factors. The confessional space was found to be also unsuitable for its intended purpose due to its limited size and lack of proper ventilation.

Spatial Constraints:

The confessional area was constrained by limited space, which made it difficult for both the priest and the penitent to have a comfortable and confidential experience. The cramped conditions were not conducive to fostering a meaningful environment for the Sacrament of Confession, which requires privacy and tranquility, of course for the priest who remains a long time inside.

Inadequate Ventilation:

Furthermore, the confessional space lacked proper ventilation, which is essential for maintaining air quality and ensuring the comfort of both the priest and the penitent. Fresh air circulation is crucial to create a serene atmosphere for the sacred act of confession. This was all the more evident when COVID-19 struck, and we have to consider safety measures. The absence of adequate air passage was deemed incompatible with the intended purpose of the confessional.

The removal of the confessional may spark a mix of emotions, but it is crucial to understand the underlying reasons for this decision. The health and safety of our parishioners are at the forefront of our minds as we strive to create an inclusive and secure environment for all who walk through our doors. The spatial constraints and lack of adequate ventilation rendered the confessional unfit for fostering a peaceful and comfortable environment. We remain committed to preserving the essence of our faith while adapting to the evolving needs of our community.





The Holy Family

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Greetings from St. Anne's

Catholic

Parish



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

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