



## Parish Priest's Reflection

In the Christian community we are drawn into relationship with God and each other in and through our Baptism. This is the basic call for us to lead a Christian way of life and be part of a Church community. The call to faith can come at any time in someone's life. Infant Baptism in the Catholic Church is a response to families with infants who want their children to share in the life of Christ from their infant years. Parents are asked at the door of the Church "What do you ask of the Church for your child?" they answer, "Baptism of Eternal Life". They are then asked if they will teach their child what Christ taught us to love God and our neighbour. Their answer yes leads to the rest of the ceremony.

In our parish Baptism Presentation takes place at a Sunday Mass in the weeks leading up to the day of Baptism. The whole community meets the child and parents and we are invited to pray for each other. During the ceremony of Baptism, the parents are reminded of the other Sacraments of Initiation, Confirmation and Eucharist.



The ideal way for Adults to come into the community is through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults which is normally celebrated at the Easter Vigil where those who have been prepared (Catechumens) receive the three Sacraments of Initiation – Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist in the one ceremony.

It is important that infants and young children attend church and learn the rhythm and life of the community. The community and celebrations are learning experiences in themselves. In the communion procession often, parents bring children in their arms, sometimes the children realise they are not receiving Communion and put their hands out and even say "I want some too!" they know they are missing out and want to be part of what is going on.

Each parish community has its own distinctiveness. The community of Drummoyne was founded by the community who called for a church building in the early days, bought the land, cleared the ground and petitioned the church for a church. When Catholics are Baptised, they are also anointed with the oil of Chrism as a priestly people (holy), prophetic people (speak the good news of Jesus) and a kingly people (of service). These are the characteristics that should mark the life of all Christians. In different ways we are all called to be holy, prophetic and people of service. At different times in our lives we will answer the call of God in different ways. May God help us to live out our Christian vocation throughout our lives and to use all the gifts God has given us to build up the community of faith.

*Very Rev. Father  
Michael McLean,  
PP, EV*



# St Mark's School



The 2019 school year began smoothly and all students have settled in well. On the first staff development day, before students arrived, the staff explored the reason we educate in a Catholic school. In the words of Archbishop Fischer, *'our schools are Catholic because they profess a Name, a Name which is above every other name. At the heart of Catholic education there is always Jesus Christ: everything that happens in Catholic schools should lead to an encounter with the living Christ.'* This quote provided substantial discussion about how we as educators show the face of Christ to our students and all those we meet. Building relationships is such a vital part of an educator's role and when there are strong student/teacher relationships, students are able to learn in an environment that is positive, nurturing and academically challenging. This academic challenge means that teachers know where the students are in their learning and support them to have at least one year's growth or more each year.

At St Mark's the wellbeing of our students is an important part of our day to day teaching and social interactions. Ensuring that every child feels safe and happy at school is something on which we place a great deal of emphasis. To support our work in this area of student wellbeing we have implemented a School wide Positive Behaviour for Learning framework (SPBL). Our senior students are also supported in leading annual Peer support programs in Term 2 which involve vertical groupings of students from K - 6.

We offer many support programs for our students who require intervention in literacy and numeracy and these are outlined on our school website under Diverse Learning. We have gained acceptance into the Newman Gifted Education program due to our work with gifted students and the provisions we provide both in and out of the classroom. We are working towards full accreditation by the end of 2020.

All our students are provided with a variety of enrichment and extra curricular opportunities during the year which allows them to further develop their skills and interests across many domains: coding, chess, martial arts, art club, makerspace, choir, sporting gala days and band tuition. Our school community is further enriched by the many talents and gifts students share.

Many of you would know that plans have been underway for several years to build a two storey building to replace the demountables, which have required considerable maintenance due to their deteriorating condition. It appears that construction may commence in May or later this year. While building projects bring some disruption, safety and the ongoing learning of our students will not be compromised. The single storey demountable will be moved to the playground and will be an inconvenience on weekends for car spaces but eventually we will have a new library and six new classrooms.

When speaking with parents who wish to enrol their child at St Mark's, they often comment on the strong community. We realise that at times, there can be financial difficulties with families but we welcome all enrolments as we can support parents who would like to have a Catholic education. We are fortunate to have parents and friends who work together for the good of the whole school community and who raise money for additional resources for our students. The school would not exist without the Parish and the wonderful work that has been done in the past by generous parishioners. There has always been a good partnership between school and Parish and we look forward to this continuing in the future.

*Rachel Bourke - St Mark's Primary School Principal*

## Sister Antonia

There are many experiences of homecoming in my life. The very first one is, greatest fondness where I received the gift of life and the love of the people closest to my heart; my parents, brothers and sisters. Going home is and will always be something special and unique. As I grew up and left that home, I was called to live in one given to me through my vocation to consecrated life, a home of religious community. I had recently gone home for a holiday and I had wonderful time with the other Sisters (Myanmar Community), my delightful family and friends. During my holiday, I was privileged to be present for my sister's wedding, the great opportunity to attend our Sisters Profession Celebration, 5 young Sisters professed their Perpetual Vows and 7 young Sisters made their First Professed. The Sister who dedicates themselves as a religious (Sisters of Reparation) Golden Jubilee 50 years and Silver Jubilee 25 years celebrations were significant. I grew up in big family, to catch up with my aunt and uncle and visit others where I use my motor bike when visiting. It was pleasure time I spent at home. Home is the place of safety and joy and also sometimes of arguments, heartaches and tension. But home is most of all the place to which we all want to return; a relationship which we create with one another. It is always pleased to be back home. I think I am back in good time to start and get ready for the Parish Sacramental program for 2019 with the first Sacrament First Holy Communion enrolment letters out now. Numbers of parish-based Sacrament for Children last year First Holy Communion 69, Confirmation 72 and First Reconciliation 73. Our Sacramental preparation program run by parish volunteers who lead 10-12 groups. Also, we had 3 RCIA (Rite of Christian for Adult) and RCIC (Rite of Christian Initiation Children) who were received into the Catholic Faith through the Sacrament of Initiation last year at our Easter Vigil. This year we accompanied one candidate (who has been baptised) and who is enthusiastic and looking forward to their journey in receiving the Sacrament of Eucharist and Confirmation. We meet every Thursday evening 7pm at Parish Centre. We warmly welcome our parishioners to be part of a team or as sponsor. Every first Sunday of the month, we welcome our baptism families to a gathering and preparation at 4pm upstairs in the parish centre. The welcoming of the baptism family into our parish community is important event for the Parish. This we began last year and occurs during the weekend Mass. We are rich and blessed by 85 infants who have been baptised at St. Mark's Church in 2018. We are also fortunate to have many varied volunteers. However, we cannot afford to be complacent. We do have gaps and hard-working volunteers need to be able to step up such as pastoral ministry, to distribute Holy Communion to the sick and homebound in the parish. I enjoy this "little I can do" service. To carry Jesus and going to the places where He is awaited is always enriching. Most of the time those waiting for Holy Communion are elderly parishioners who cannot make it to the church. It is great to see how important it is for them to receive Jesus. Some of them wait with a cross and candles on the table. Usually the prayer finishes with a chat about what is on their daily agenda or upcoming parish activities etc. The presence of another person, the reality of our life relationships, can bring both the biggest joy and the greatest hurt and grief in our hearts. The presence of God in our hearts helps to heal us from those moments of grief and sorrow and brighten up those moments to keep us going. May you continue to experience the mercy of God in your lives.



With prayer and lot of blessings,

*Sr. Antonia*

# Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) was started in 1995 by Monsignor Vince Redden, the Parish Priest of St Mark's at that time.

During the Easter Vigil Mass of 1996 three people were welcomed as members of the St Mark's community.

Since then, many more people of various faiths have joined the St Mark's community. Some years have had a number of candidates, some years only a few and some years none.

It was my privilege to be asked to be a sponsor in 2004 when we had three ladies participating in the programme. I found the journey through the various stages to be exciting and enlightening. Although I have been a Catholic all my life, I learned so much more during that year. To travel the journey with my candidate and to see her faith grow was an amazing experience.

I have been on the RCIA team for some 10 years now. We had a few years when there were no candidates, but the programme was restarted when Father Michael joined our parish.

The programme is less formal than it once was and the candidates enjoy learning about our faith with lively discussion interspersed amongst the more serious contemplation of the Gospel.

Sister Antonia has joined the team and supplies the resources we need for our meetings. We now have another parishioner who joins the weekly discussions. This year, we have one candidate to be received into our Parish. Both Father Michael and Father Denis join us from time to time, if their schedules permit it.

The RCIA gives people an opportunity to join the Catholic faith in a welcoming environment. However, the sessions are open to any parishioner who would like to come along and support the catechetical sessions and scripture reflections that are offered each Thursday night.

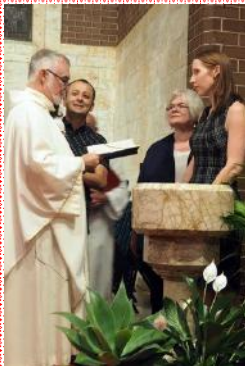
Members of the RCIA team volunteer their time to enrich their own understanding of our faith. Attending the sessions not only assists the candidates in their journey towards membership of St Mark's community, but increases their understanding of their own faith. Some of our volunteers have themselves been through the process which gives them a unique insight into what the candidate may be experiencing as their journey towards becoming a Catholic are varied and interesting.

We, as members of the Catholic faith, take so much for granted. We have always known what it is to be a Catholic. Although many of the Christian faiths are fairly similar, there are subtle differences which may be confronting for some people. Members of non-Christian faiths probably have more to contemplate during their journey.

It is important to note that the RCIA is a journey and that not all journeys finish in the same place. This may mean that a candidate who starts the RCIA journey may or may not eventually become a baptised Catholic – each individual must make that assessment and decision based on their experiences and responses to the RCIA journey; it goes without saying that there is absolutely no pressure on anyone from anywhere to make a particular decision, either way.

The journey culminates in the wonderful ceremonies at the Easter Vigil Mass when the candidates complete their journey by either being baptised and receiving the sacraments of Confirmation and Holy Communion or being Confirmed and receiving first Holy Communion if they have already been baptised into another Christian faith.

To sum up - in the words of Monsignor Vince Redden in 1995 "The RCIA is not the pastor's whim, or the Liturgy Group's, it is a natural process of evangelisation, showing the world at large at St Mark's believe our Catholic Faith has meaning for our contemporary world. We want to invite people to share our treasure. The RCIA is the way we want the local church to be always renewing itself and being born again".



If you are interested, we meet each Thursday night at 7pm in the Parish Centre - all are welcome and your input would be most appreciated.

*Noy Goodman  
RCIA Team*



## St Vincent de Paul

Over the past year, the Vinnies team undertook about 250 visits to families. That is roughly five visits per week throughout each week of the year.

Just over \$55,000 was spent which primarily covered the cost of food and furniture. We always visit people in their homes. The majority of help we provide is delivery of food hampers and support through listening. A number of the people we visit are quite isolated having few family and friends.

We have 18 fabulous volunteers. They are very caring people whom always go above and beyond. Most have been involved with Vinnies for quite some time. We are always looking for new volunteers. If you are interested in finding out more the please contact the parish office.

In addition to visits, we also hold two major events each year for the people we visit. Christmas in July and Christmas in the park in early December. A lot of work goes into these events - so people can help in many different ways. We also participate in major events that relate to social justice such as affordable housing and homelessness assemblies.

The Vinnies Ministry is about helping people and caring for people whom have nowhere else to go. These people could include people suffering from long term illness, those whom are unemployed, people whom have suffered a major setback and don't have any fallback savings, people going through marriage separation or domestic violence. The St Vincent de Paul society is all about assisting people experiencing poverty and inequality and we also work to shape a more just and compassionate society.

*Jacquie Erwin - President of St Mark's Conference of St Vincent de Paul Society*



# Macquarie Hospital

The St Mark's Macquarie Hospital Visitation Ministry goes back to 1980 with many dedicated parishioners contributing over the years.

Macquarie Hospital is a specialized residential mental health facility for adults with serious mental illness or disorder. It is a public hospital located in North Ryde.

This Ministry is currently shared by two groups. These groups are led by Tony Ficarra and Isobel Bocalatte, assisted by Deborah Swetz, Karen and Matthew Hope, and Katrina and Geoff Cramp.

Each group attends once a month to share a Christian Prayer Service with the residents at Macquarie Hospital, in the Hospital's Chapel. The groups' members provide morning tea, and enjoy a chat with the hospital's residents following the shared prayer time.



There are regularly some 20 residents in attendance and the prayer service is led by various Hospital Chaplains who are also associated with the local Anglican, Uniting and Catholic Churches. Sometimes a Mass is provided by a local Parish Priest. Members of this Ministry participate in collaboration with the Nursing Staff of Macquarie Hospital and with the Hospital Chaplains.

The Prayer Service is held weekly on a Saturday morning, so St Mark's is represented twice each month. The Service is always relevant to the Liturgical Calendar and relevant to whatever is happening in the world, and in the lives of the residents for that week.

The Macquarie Hospital Groups are not funded by St Mark's. The groups' current members provide morning tea for the residents, just as earlier members of this Ministry have done over many years.

All members of each group enjoy sharing the company of the residents and praying with them. It is always a joyful experience being part of a broader Christian Family at these services, and having an opportunity to contribute a little, to the wellbeing of the residents.

The groups' members have collectively had a commitment to this Ministry for some years. Members of the groups attend because they enjoy bringing the spirit of Jesus to these residents in

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attending their Prayer Service ensuring its continued vitality. The willing volunteers from St Mark's continue this special Ministry with enthusiasm.

*Tony Ficarra and Macquarie Hospital Ministry Team*

# Catholic Women's League

The Archdiocese of voluntary women's organisation founded in 1913, which aims to promote positive outcomes for women of today.

At its heart are the areas of family; social justice; bioethics; equal opportunity; charity; and providing a voice for Catholic women.

As a member of the World Union of Catholic Women's Organisations, submissions are made to Local Government; Federal Government and all the way to the United Nations.

Our objectives are:

- Supporting the Parish Priest at all times; attending all Parish functions and inter-church ecumenical services; visiting sick or lonely parishioners; each year we present the Christian Leadership Award to a student at St. Mark's Primary School.
- Due to the ageing of long-time members, the present total membership has fallen to eleven. Depending on various fundraising activities funds fluctuate and it is the practice of the C.W.L. to divest funds by making official donations to charitable organisations as soon as possible.
- Attending Spirituality days and monthly Sydney branch meetings and functions in Polding Centre; also various branches' charitable fundraising projects. The Christmas function is an important event organised by the Sydney branch at the Burwood R.S.L.
- Certainly our Parish requires additional members; we recruited only two new members in 2018. Volunteers should be attracted to this Ministry purely because of the strong aims of this Organisation and also its involvement in the Parish community generally.
- The future of all the Archdiocese's Parish branches of the Catholic Women's Organisation is endangered due to its ageing membership and because today many eligible younger women are working or full-time carers of their grandchildren.

*Judith Brown - Catholic Women's League Drummoyne*



## Liturgy Committee & Liturgical Altar Ministries

Have you ever wondered who sets up (and cleans up!) the Nativity scene; changes the banners; prepares the Christmas and Easter leaflet for the letter box drop; and chooses the Stations of the Cross program? The Liturgy Committee does these activities and many others.

Most parishes have a liturgy committee with the purpose of enhancing the experience of the community as they come together to pray and celebrate in the liturgy. With the aim of achieving an active and full participation by the community, the liturgy committee plays a role with preparation; coordination; formation and evaluation of the liturgies.

The St Mark's Liturgy Committee is made up of a small number of parishioners who liaise with the various ministries and the Parish office to provide liturgies that are cohesive and insightful of the spirit and structure of the celebration and season whilst remaining relevant to our Drummoyne community.

You may feel you would like to be involved in some small way in our group but you don't feel confident in Liturgy. Please don't be shy, we are very supportive of each other. Some of us knew very little and have grown to contribute in many ways. This may be your way to help steer our Parish. Come, join us



*Jane Tregolgen - Coordinator of St Mark's Parish Liturgy Committee*



These consist of Adult Altar Server, Eucharistic Minister, Minister of the Word and Junior Eucharistic Minister (JEM). The Adult Server sets up the altar with all that is required for the Mass and assists the presiding priest in whatever capacity is required. Our Eucharistic Ministers give out Communion in the forms of Body and Blood of Christ. Ministers of the Word proclaim the Readings, welcome the congregation at the start of the Mass and also read the Prayers of the Faithful. Our JEMS assist the priest and the Adult Server. These ministries are for female and male members of our congregation. As the Guidelines to the Roman Missal say we should "actively participate in the Mass", performing one of these Ministries is one way of doing this. We have had a dedicated number of our congregation doing these roles for many years but perhaps, as you are reading this, you may feel you could "actively" participate in one of these ways and we would love to welcome some new members. We have rosters and it depends on how many people we have for a particular Mass as to how often people are on and, of course, training is given. Please think and pray about this.



*Elisabeth Pidd - Liturgical and Roster Coordinator for Parish Masses*



# WYD Panama – January 2019



## Some key memories at St Mark's



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## Finance Committee

The St Mark's Finance Committee provides advice to Fr Michael in relation to the administration and finances of the Parish. Chaired by parishioner and the long-time Parish accountant, Lynette Brown, the committee members include Danny Moiso, Monica Fernon, Ajit Thillainathan and Brendan Bateman.

The skill set of the Finance Committee is intentionally diverse, to ensure that an appropriate pastoral and parish centred approach is brought to its deliberations. While knowledge of finances is valuable, it is not a pre-requisite for membership of the Committee, and we would welcome hearing from parishioners with an interest in joining.

Over the last twelve months the Committee was involved a number of important initiatives in the Parish, including:

- Completion of the financial separation between the School and the Parish, with the cessation of donations to the School Building Fund and transition of deductible donations to the Charitable Works Fund;
- Procuring lighting and audio-visual upgrades to the Church;
- Developing a program for maintenance and repair of the Parish, including developing plans for the refurbishment of the Church entrance; and
- Working with the Parish Pastoral Council on the Donation Recognition program.

Our Parish has always been blessed with an incredibly supportive and generous community. This is no better demonstrated than the response to our Donation Recognition Program to mark the 130<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of St Mark's Parish. The initiative raised donations totalling more than \$200,000. What was especially pleasing was that contributions came from a large number of parishioners.

The funds raised through the program will provide a platform on which to proceed with the much-needed repairs and refurbishment of our Church to ensure that it is here for our community for another one hundred years. Work has already commenced with the progressive refurbishment of pews in the Church, and the removal of the worn floor covering in the Gallery. More extensive refurbishments are being planned and the Committee will continue to consult with the community about the priorities and needs of the Parish.

*Brendan Bateman - St Mark's Finance Committee*



## Parish Pastoral Council

Firstly, a heartfelt thank you to John Perkins for his stewardship, energy and guidance as Chair of Pastoral Parish Council (PPC) over the last 4 years.

Key accomplishments of last year 2018:

- Commemoration of St. Marks first mass 130 years ago attracted 190 attendees – a wonderful success of community celebration and gathering
- Established Parish Restoration Fundraising - \$285,000 raised to date
- Approval of Parish restoration plans
- Sponsored and organised St. Marks' Christmas Carols on Lawn – another delightful community celebration



The mission of PPC in year 2019 is expanding the vitality and vibrancy of St. Marks' flame through collective engagement of our diversified and talented community.

We will start igniting the spark of change by:

- Celebrating 70 years of dedication of the Church (1949 – 2019). A community event is in the planning stage. More will be shared in the coming months.
- Reinforcing that our Youths remain a vital part of our community – they are our future. A search with Sydney Youth will be underway for a Youth Minister.
- Music - evocative and touching, brings much joy and colour to our worship and praise. We are actively looking for musicians and singers.
- Reaching out to our diverse community, the Marriage Preparation Program will be offered to soon-to-be married couples. We are calling on married parishioners to support the program and impart their wisdom, insights and practical advice.
- Listening humbly to the voices and responses of our community on Plenary Council 2020, and speaking boldly when formulating the next steps  
Commencing the restoration of our beautiful and graceful church - starting with the pews and sacred vessels

There are 8 PPC members, hailing from St. Marks School, St. Marks Parish and Drummoyne Public School ~ ***Vesna Vinski, Rachel Bourke, Dinuka Jayasuriya, Matt Lazarus-Hall, Danny Sukkar, Sally Carvalho & Ulysses Chioatto***

We welcome your contribution and participation – please reach out to any of us members. We look forward to meeting you.

*Celine Cheng* - Chair of Parish Pastoral Council



## Catechists

In reflecting on the role of volunteers in our society and our parish in particular, I was reminded of the Armistice Day commemoration of the centenary of the end of World War 1, in which 60,000 perished from a population around 5,000,000. Remember well that most were volunteers. There was no conscription. Similarly in World War 2, Australia lost around 9,000, again mostly volunteers

My thoughts then turned to volunteers in the Church. The workload of the Parish Priest has changed so much from my youth, the Parish Priest had an assistant or more, able to take much of that workload. Nowadays, you only have to read the Parish Bulletin and you

## Catechists continued

get the idea that there are volunteers for just about everything. My own involvement as a Catechist began under Mons.Vince Reddan and continues under Fr. Michael McLean. Our parish of St. Mark's has responsibility for Drummoyne Public School with Special Religious Education in our Catholic Faith. We are a small group, less than ten, and always welcoming of new teachers or helpers. S.R.E teachers are not usually professionally trained teachers, such as Tony Ficarra, a retired Principal from the State system, now a Catechist for many years. Our longest serving teacher is Isobel Bocalatte, now over twenty years a teacher, especially of Kindergarten children newly starting school.

All Catechists are required by our State Government to have completed an induction course and obtained a Working With Children Check, which is free and countersigned by the Parish Priest. This WWCC is obligatory for anyone working with children, including, for example, bus drivers on school excursions. The training course is conducted by the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD) singly or in groups, and also on-line and provides Manuals and Activity books with a curriculum geared to class age groups from Kindergarten to secondary High Schools. The CCD is a non-profit organization funded by the Charitable Works Fund. In the Archdiocese of Sydney it caters to an average of 27,000 students in 330 schools with up to 2000 SRE Catechist volunteers.

You are invited to join this select group as a teacher or as a helper. You may also consider "sitting-in" on a class as a visitor to see for yourself how well this system is working

God bless you for taking time to read this article

I am indebted to Kirsten Castorina for the photos from an Orphanage in India and school in Tanzania. The work of Catechists does not stop at the local school!

*Terry McNamara - Catechist Coordinator for St. Mark's*





Domremy College, is tranquilly set on extensive grounds and provides a safe and nurturing environment for the education of young women, empowering and enabling them to grow, learn, embrace opportunities and strive for excellence with confidence.

The College which is rich in the history and traditions of our founder Nano Nagle and the Presentation Sisters, continues to provide young women of faith, an education that is contemporary and relevant. Through quality teaching and learning experiences we strive to empower our girls to recognise their self worth and reach their potential, work towards independence, promote gospel values, human dignity and justice and become women of courage and integrity.

### **Enrolling Now for Year 7 – 2020 and 2021**

**Solais Building Development due for completion mid 2020:** Domremy College is undergoing an exciting new development which will deliver modern, new and dynamic teaching and learning spaces to enhance our students' learning experience.

As part of the College's Solais Masterplan, this Stage 2 development will house new learning spaces specifically for Years 7 and 8, tutorial rooms, 'incubator spaces', presentation and maker spaces, quiet senior study spaces, a library and theatrette.

This follows on from the successful Stage 1 redevelopment of four traditional classrooms into our Solais Sandpit which commenced in 2017 and was trialled in 2018. The transformation of the 200sqm space to a more dynamic range of educational settings includes a tiered presentation space, boardroom, tutorial room and smaller incubator spaces. Each of these areas work together to provide a comfortable environment where students are encouraged to be more collaborative and are empowered to be more proactive and engaged with their learning.

Both the Sandpit and the new development have been designed by Hayball architects who engaged with the wider school community (students, staff, parents), to prepare the educational brief for the refurbishment of the Sandpit.

The Sandpit was extensively used in 2018 and continues to be used as a prototype to provide feedback for the next phase of building works. It is an educational project of its own.

The Solais Sandpit was awarded Winner for the Renovation/Modernisation Category of the NSW Association for Learning Environments Awards in December 2018. This is a wonderful achievement for the College and Hayball and one we are immensely proud of.

Stage 2 of the development will include improved natural light, air and ventilation, new fittings, fixtures and furniture, all designed to enhance the learning experience of our students.

On current estimates these wonderful new buildings will be completed by mid 2020.

**2018 HSC and tertiary pathways:** The College curriculum offers a range of subject and specialist enrichment programs and maximises student potential for TAFE and University.





## Domremy College continued

- 80% of all results were in Band 4, 5 or 6.
- 100% of students in English Advanced, Drama, Food Technology, Hospitality, Italian Continuers, Legal Studies, Visual Arts and Music 1 were placed in the top 3 Bands.
- Jane Kent in Music 1 and Elena Piazzolla in Italian Extension placed first in the Diocese.
- Congratulations to the College Dux, Veronica Barbagallo, who received an ATAR of 98.05.

We are delighted to share in our graduates' news about their tertiary pathways for the coming year. These include many and varied disciplines such as Law, Education (Primary and Secondary), Forensic Science, Psychology, Nursing, Political Science, Media and Communications, Creative and Fine Arts – music, dance and drama, Medicine, Interior Design.

At Domremy we recognise the importance of STEM as a career path, and STEM is a strategic priority for the College which offers study opportunities which link STEM subjects to real life scenarios. Domremy has a rich co-curricular program which includes Debating, Duke of Edinburgh, Bands, ensembles, choirs, drama and dance. The College boasts an excellent music program. We offer sporting opportunities at both representative and school level, and teams are entered in a range of inter-school competitions. These include netball, hockey, basketball, football, athletics.

**Social justice:** Service to others drives the College's Social Justice Committee which is very active, with our students and teachers regularly involved in visiting the elderly at the local nursing home, Vinnies Sandwich making on Friday afternoons is regularly oversubscribed as our students give up their afternoons to make sandwiches for the St Vincent de Paul night patrol. As part of its social justice and community service program an immersion to Fiji is offered to Year 10 students, fostering qualities of responsibility, leadership, resilience and service to others.

**Wellbeing:** Wellbeing is at the heart of Catholic Education, enabling a learning environment which provides for the spiritual, physical, emotional, cognitive and social growth of its students and staff. The College is committed to assisting its students to mature in every area – spiritually, intellectually, physically, socially and emotionally. It targets the individual needs of students through its enrichment and acceleration programs. Support is also provided through its well resourced Learning Support Program. The wellbeing of all students is facilitated by Year Co-ordinators, Home Room teachers and College Counsellors. Student leadership is fostered through a variety of Peer Support programs, Student Representative Council, and a vertical Homeroom Program.

**Domremy College Principal, Ms Vivienne Awad,**  
**invites you and your daughter to come and experience what our College has to offer.**  
Telephone 9712 2133 or book online at [www.domremy.catholic.edu.au](http://www.domremy.catholic.edu.au)



## Family Groups

Our family group has been together for 4 years this coming August. In that time we have grown in numbers to 40 strong.

We are a very diverse group of likeminded people. We age from 4 to 80+ and come from many different cultures including English, Irish, Lebanese, Polish, Italian, Australian, Croatian, Malaysian and Bosnian. (Our own real United Nations)

Many of our members were already actively involved in the parish community when they joined in August 2015. Amongst us we have ministers of the Word and Eucharist, a Junior Eucharist minister, a St Vinnies volunteer, a volunteer in the school, St. Canice's kitchen and a register writer just to name a few.

In the past 12 months not only have we met up once a month for the likes of a Chinese meal for Chinese New Year, an Easter egg hunt, a Vivid cruise, a Christmas in July, a parish dinner and a Christmas gathering (with special guests Fr Michael and Santa in no particular order) to name a few, but we have shared/supported each other in major events in each other lives.

We had new members, some had new jobs and new houses and kids starting kindy and highschool.

We celebrated milestone birthdays (we even organised a surprise party). We celebrate the birthdays of the month at each gathering and an email on each person's actual birthday.

We had a grandchild born, no weddings, and sadly a few family group members lose siblings.

We had one member survive a very serious accident, thank God.

We had our kids representing their schools both academically and in sport.

We even had one of our own in the Christmas pageant as Mary.

I believe Family group is a very important ministry with a future.

It has enriched our lives having a local family we can rely on for advice or help.

There is a key to its longevity, and that is not only do you need dedicated leaders but you need willing members, which we are blessed with. The success of the group is making the time in our busy lives to catch up and connect once a month and taking turns in organising events otherwise it will easily fizzle out.

I am looking forward to the new family groups starting up so others can be a part of this experience.

*Monique La Gerche*



## Altar Society

Altar Society is one way that you can help our Parish Community. We are a small group of volunteers that help keep the altar, sacristy and sanctuary within the church clean and tidy. We are there to help maintain the liturgical needs of our daily worship, to beautify our worship area and to grow in the community and common service. We usually work as pairs, but it can also be an individual, on a weekly rostered basis. It is a great opportunity to quietly reflect, give thanks and prayer while we clean. It is also a great way to establish friendships and to catch up with a friend. The work is very rewarding and provides an insight to the behind the scenes working of the church. Some of our duties include cleaning the holy water fonts and refilling them, general tidy up of the church pews, sweeping and mopping the vestibule and side door entrances. The one tedious task is cleaning the melted wax from the candle holders and surrounding floor areas – but this is where you can catch up!



*Saint Zita (c.1212-1272) also known as Sitha or Citha, is an Italian saint who is the patron saint of maids and domestic servants.* At St Mark’s we are looking for more people to join the Altar Society to lighten the load. If you can spare an hour or two and want to help with our Parish community, please contact the Parish Office.

## Sunshine Club

Although the Sunshine club was not formed as a spiritual group in 1987; it serves a special purpose in our Parish community as it was felt that there was a real need for some form of social activity for senior parishioners.

Its objective is to get together once a month; share a meal; and communicate with one another generally. Friends from outside the Parish, including non-Catholics, are most welcome, as are gentlemen.

Our local Catholic Women’s group has always strongly supported this activity. As there is no formal membership, no funding is required.

Meetings are held at 12 noon on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month at the Oxford Hotel, Drummoyne.

*Judith Brown - Coordinator - Sunshine Club*

### St Mark's Parish Drummoyne celebration of Sacraments 2018

Item	Sacrament	Details	Total
1	Baptism	Number of children who received the Sacrament in 2018	<b>85</b>
2	RCIA	Number of persons who were welcomed into the Church	<b>3</b>
3	First Communion	Number of children who received the Sacrament in 2018	<b>69</b>
4	First Reconciliation	Number of children who received the Sacrament in 2018	<b>73</b>
5	Confirmation	Number of children that received the Sacrament in 2018	<b>72</b>
6	Marriages	Number of couples that were married at St Mark's in 2018	<b>33</b>
7	Funerals	Number of funerals at St Mark's in 2018	<b>24</b>
8	Anointing	Number of Parishioners who received Anointing of the Sick	<b>21</b>
		In addition to our Saturday Anointing Masses celebrated during the year	<b>4 Masses</b>

# St Mark's Community - Parish Volunteering

## Would You Like to Volunteer?

You are invited to share your own gifts and talents that God has blessed you with. You can use those gifts in the work of a community of faith that is eager to have your assistance.

There are many needs to be filled within and beyond the parish.

**You have the means to meet those needs as a volunteer.**

You have skills, interests, and expertise and life experience worth sharing.

**Taking part in our community and volunteering is a way to enrich your experience of the church by sharing yourself with others.**

Volunteering at St Mark's Church and Parish is one of the ways to live out the Gospel.

### Please Circle:

Catechists Teacher <i>(Training provided)</i>	Parish Pastoral Council	Altar Society
Catechists Helper <i>(Training provided)</i>	Liturgy Committee	Adult Altar Ministers
Children's Liturgy <i>(Training provided)</i>	Finance Committee	Eucharistic Ministry <i>(Training provided)</i>
Catholic Women's League	Music Ministry	Junior Eucharistic Ministry <i>(JEMS)</i>
Sunshine Club	Youth Group / Youth Ministry	Ministers of the Word
St Canice's Kitchen	Children's Liturgy   Family Mass	Eucharistic Ministers to the Sick
Macquarie Hospital Group	Greeters & Welcomers Ministry	Sacramental Programs <i>(Training provided)</i>
Family Group	Offering Collectors / Ushers	RCIA Supporters <i>(Training provided)</i>
St Vincent de Paul	Money Counters	Italian Prayer Group
Social Justice Group	Hospitality / Morning Tea	Prayer Network
	Handy person	Rosary Group

If you would like to know more about any of our groups please contact the parish office.

### Details:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

WWCC Number: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please return to the Parish office.*

*Thank you in advance for your valuable time.*

**Note:** Due to changes within the law, programs to make our parish compliant volunteers will require a Working with Children Check (WWCC) and a signed CAS Code of Conduct for Working with Children & Young People and to have completed The Safeguarding & Ministerial Integrity Office Safeguarding Induction Training for workers and volunteers of the Parish Community which can be found on our parish website. Safeguarding . When providing your WWCC the parish office requires your date of birth for verification. Contact the Parish office for assistance.

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE



*Blessings to all this Easter to our Parish Community*



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*(All Photos in this edition have been used with permission)*