

Catholic Parish of Ivanhoe

Christmas Bulletin

December 2013



Message from Fr Thang

Dear parishioners and friends,
Pope Francis in his recent exhortation, *the Joy of the Gospel*, has encouraged more involvement of the Lay-faithful in various facets of parish life. This has truly been happening here at the Catholic Parish of Ivanhoe. I would like to thank each member of the various groups and teams and their families for dedication and collaboration in various ministries of the parish.

The Church in Australia is going through a long spiritual winter. Major mistakes have been made and many people have been hurt by the failures of many Church people. Countless apologies have been made, but many of the wounds remain. As members of the broken Body of Christ, we share in solidarity the brokenness of other members. We acknowledge the hurt and wounds that have afflicted the Body of Christ, and in making appropriate changes we pray for the journey toward healing.

In the midst of this, the story of Christmas brings new hope and a new beginning. The message of the Christ-Child is a message of love, peace, goodness and healing for our broken world. It is a message that our world desperately needs to hear today.

Christmas can be a challenging and lonely time for many of our parishioners who are alone or grieving over the death of a loved one, estranged relationships... The message of Christmas keeps hope alive in our hearts because it is a message that affirms us God-with-us, he is our Emmanuel.

In the name of the Catholic Parish of Ivanhoe, I sincerely thank you for your ongoing support and generosity, demonstrated in so many ways. I wish you and your families a very safe and holy Christmas and pray that these blessings will continue throughout 2014.

Merry Christmas

Christmas Mass Times

Christmas Eve, 24th Dec:

- 6.00pm** St. Bernadette's Family Mass
- 7.30 pm** Mother of God Family Mass (Carols 7pm...)
- 7.30 pm** Mary Immaculate Family Mass
- 9.00pm** St. Bernadette's Korean Catholic Community

PLEASE NOTE: There will be no later Masses on Christmas Eve

Christmas Day, 25th Dec:

- 9.00am** Mary Immaculate
- 9.00 am** St. Bernadette's
- 10.30am** Mother of God
- 11.00 am** St Bernadette's Korean Catholic Community

New Year's Day - Wednesday 1 January 2014:

- 9.15am** Mary Immaculate
- 7.30pm** Mother of God
- 11.00am** St Bernadette's Korean Catholic Community

Sharing the Christmas Spirit



December is Christmas Hamper time at St Vincent de Paul and following on from the great success last year, when we delivered hampers to 60 families, we will be collecting for the hampers through parish schools again this year. Following



on from the tragedy of the Philippines we are overwhelmed by the generosity of the parents, children and parishioners.

The St Vincent de Paul volunteers would like to thank you for your ongoing support of our Winter and Christmas appeals.

Contacts

Parish Priest: Fr Thang Vu
Priest in Residence: Fr Thanh Tran
Secretary: Mrs Ruth Villani
Ph : 9499 1515 Fax: 9499 9959
Parish Office: 4 Waverley Rd, Ivanhoe
Website: ivanhoecatholics.com; Email: catholicparishofivanhoe@bigpond.com

Ivanhoecatholics.com

Communication begins with the Word, and Liturgy, and extends throughout our community in various ways, including through the parish website. To be kept up to date you can join the mailing list and receive weekly online updates. *Email:* comms@ivanhoecatholics.com

Or just visit the website: www.ivanhoecatholics.com.

Thanks for your generosity and support

The Catholic Parish of Ivanhoe relies on the financial support of the parishioners for the maintenance and upkeep of our churches, halls and presbyteries, the operating funds of the parish and the salary of the parish priest. We would like to thank all those who have given this year and encourage you to be generous in your giving again this Christmas.

Parish Mission and Values

The Catholic Parish of Ivanhoe is a community of people :

- who are united in faith in Jesus and his values
- that gathers to celebrate the Eucharist
- that seeks to serve the needs of the community and the world; and
- that bears witness to the way life could be.

We name our Parish Values as:

Inclusiveness
Service
Mission
Hospitality

Sacramental Program

Sacramental preparation is an integral part of parish life which is run as a team approach between the parish primary schools and the Parish Priest, catechist and the parish Liturgy Group.

Children attending parish Catholic primary schools prepare through the schools.

Confirmation is conferred at St Patrick's Cathedral which provides an experience and sense of the wider church.

Parish Sacramental preparation involves children living in the parish who attend non-parish schools at primary or secondary level.

Sacramental classes are taken by Fr Thang assisted by a catechist teacher .

Those involved in the parish sacramental program are very grateful for trust, support and assistance given by Parish Priest Fr Thang, parishioners, parish primary schools and Leadership Team.

Please contact the Parish Office with enquiries about the Sacramental program. Enrolments for sacramental classes should be lodged during term 1.

Pope Francis

Born and raised in Buenos Aires of Italian parents, Jorge Mario Bergoglio's early life experiences and subsequent Jesuit priesthood have uniquely impacted his thinking in ways that differ markedly from other Popes. At the same time he is steadfastly and traditionally focused on the fundamental teachings of Catholic faith.

Pope Francis has been observed for his humility, concern for the disadvantaged, and commitment to dialogue as a means of building bridges between people of all backgrounds, faiths and beliefs. In an historic initiative Catholics around the world were recently invited to express their thoughts on a wide and open range of Family issues to inform a Family Synod in Rome in October 2014. In response our Parish and many individuals have taken this unique opportunity to directly express views.

In his recent exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*, the Joy of the Gospel, Pope Francis offers a welcome fresh take on sharing the Gospel as good news. "I dream of a 'missionary option,' " Francis writes, "that is, a missionary impulse capable of transforming everything, so that the church's customs, ways of doing things, times and schedules, language and structures can be suitably channelled for the evangelization of today's world, rather than for her self-preservation."

In other new approaches he has opted to live in simple apartment rather than the Papal Palace and avoid many of the trimmings traditionally associated with papal lifestyle. While affirming the present Church

teachings he has stated that Catholics have concentrated officiously on condemning abortion, the usage of contraception and homosexual acts, while neglecting the greater need for tenderness, mercy and compassion.

All of this has happened since 13 March 2013. In moving in new directions Pope Francis has also, very understandably, asked for our prayers.



Journey of the Magi by T.S. Eliot

"A cold coming we had of it,
Just the worst time of the year
For a journey, and such a long journey:
The ways deep and the weather sharp,
The very dead of winter.
And the camels galled, sore-footed, refractory,
Lying down in the melting snow.
There were times we regretted
The summer palaces on slopes, the terraces,
And the silken girls bringing sherbet.
Then the camel men cursing and grumbling
And running away, and wanting their liquor and women,
And the night-fires going out, and the lack of shelters,
And the cities hostile and the towns unfriendly
And the villages dirty, and charging high prices.:
A hard time we had of it.
At the end we preferred to travel all night,
Sleeping in snatches,
With the voices singing in our ears, saying
That this was all folly.
Then at dawn we came down to a temperate valley,
Wet, below the snow line, smelling of vegetation;
With a running stream and a water-mill beating the darkness,

And three trees on the low sky,
And an old white horse galloped away in the meadow.
Then we came to a tavern with vine-leaves over the lintel,
Six hands at an open door dicing for pieces of silver,
And feet kicking the empty wine-skins.
But there was no information, and so we continued
And arrived at evening, not a moment too soon
Finding the place; it was (you may say) satisfactory.
All this was a long time ago, I remember,
And I would do it again, but set down
This set down
This: were we lead all that way for
Birth or Death? There was a Birth, certainly,
We had evidence and no doubt. I have seen birth and death,
But had thought they were different; this Birth was
Hard and bitter agony for us, like Death, our death.
We returned to our places, these Kingdoms,
But no longer at ease here,
in the old
dispensation,
With an alien people
clutching their gods.
I should be glad of another
death".



St Bernadette's



We staged our whole school performance of Winnie the Pooh at the Darebin Arts Centre earlier this term and a great time was had by

all. The children were amazing and Mr Carney did a fabulous job as well as our fantastic community working together on costumes and sets. We also had our sports carnival this term for the first time at the Collingwood Athletics Track, which was great experience.

The three schools attended the Catholic Parish of Ivanhoe end of year Mass at St B's on November 29th. This is always a fun day and the children from the three schools love getting together.

Our gardening program for Grade 3/4 is going from strength to strength and this term they have been fishing for carp and collected rubbish in the Darebin Creek, held fresh vegetable sales and cooked a variety of spectacular meals.



Our Grade 6 students will graduate on Monday 16th December and while they are well prepared, it will be sad to let them go.

Once again our families are organising a nativity play for the Christmas eve mass at St B's. The children love this tradition and many will participate. *Please contact the school if you wish to be involved.*

We look forward to 2014 and wish you a happy and holy Christmas!

Mother of God

MOG turned 50 in October and we celebrated with 123 people attending a Dinner Dance at



the Ivanhoe Centre on the 15th October. Current parents and staff celebrated along with many past parents and students and members of our community.

A group of senior students and two staff members attended the 2013 Melbourne Water Conference 'Kids Teaching Kids' at Etihad Stadium and the Collingwood Children's Farm on the 28th and 29th October supported by the Banyule Conference, with senior students, Jane Gough and Brian Anderson showing an imovie they had created, in collaboration with representatives from Jemena, on the dangers of fallen branches on electricity lines. Our school choir performed proudly and with enthusiasm at the Banyule Citizenship ceremony on the 31st October and were supported by music teacher Melody Bell. During the last week of term 3 we held a Family Dance at the IEPS Space centre, managed collaboratively with Ivanhoe East Primary School showcasing dances they had created for songs from each decade over the last 50 years. We had around 95% of our families attend this event and had a very enjoyable evening.

Currently, we are preparing to farewell our Grade 6 students and have around 140 enrolled for 2014 and space for accept more students. Happy Christmas!

Mary Immaculate

We have had another busy year! Our Year 3 students received their First Reconciliation and First Eucharist and our Year 6 students received the Sacrament of Confirmation at St Patrick's Cathedral with the other children from the Catholic Parish of Ivanhoe. Thanks to Fr Thang for his considered preparation and Merle Gilbo for her time and effort in supporting our school's links with the parish.

Other highlights include our annual Italian Day, at which the children dressed in Italian inspired costumes, enjoying a performance of 'The Barber of Seville' followed by a lunch of pizza and gelati – bellissimo! As part of our camping program, our Year 3 and 4 students enjoyed an overnight stay at Camp Sunnystones, Bacchus Marsh and our Year 6 students spent two nights at Camp Wyuna at Queenscliff. The whole school performance this year was the 'MIPPS Circus Spectacular' led by the Little Devils Circus which taught then showcased the students' many circus skills! An Art Show on the theme of 'The Elements' – fire, water and air included art from every child and recently Prep student William Lynch, won the Prime Minister's Award for Indigenous Art! We hosted the Melbourne Cup in our school in November, and with a cup-winning jockey and a steward. Our Community Choir has been in full-swing this term involving many students, parents and staff members meeting each Thursday evening and our students are now practising for our annual Carols night, next week. We wish farewell to our year 6s. Happy Christmas.

Our Liturgical Year begins with waiting for Christmas

In recent years our liturgies have been coordinated across our three communities and major liturgies have been rotated between the communities. They are given so much life and meaning because so many parishioners share their gifts: readers, singers, musicians, decorators—the named and the unknown—all contribute to real prayerfulness. We welcome families bringing children for Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation. And week after week classes from the schools join us for the parish Mass and take leading roles. Our ageing parishioners were invited to three anointing Masses during the year, with the school children lovingly serving morning tea afterwards. The housebound were visited regularly with Holy Communion. For those called back to God we shared their funerals and united with them in the annual memorial Mass.

As we prepare for Christmas, the new liturgical year and a time of waiting starts. We mark the preparations by lighting the four candles in the Advent wreath, each with its own message. Soon we will celebrate the coming of Christ in our world with joy, prayer, and hope for the new year.

Interfaith Community

As we look back on 2013 we give thanks for the ways we have been able to gather with members of other Christian faith communities here in Ivanhoe, through membership of the Ivanhoe Churches Together and the East Ivanhoe Ecumenical Group. These groups regularly arrange interfaith events. Talks and lectures included the McKinney lecture series and talks by Dr Muriel Porter and Fr Brendan Byrne. Gatherings included a meal on Maundy/Holy Thursday, the Walk of Witness on Good Friday and the World Day of Prayer which strengthen our recognition of the significance of the Eucharist in all our Christian traditions.

And wonderfully, we reach beyond the Christian traditions to other faiths, with the Banyule Interfaith network. Most recently we discussed how all communities strive to pass their faith to the next generation. That rings true, doesn't it!?

In memory of former PPs FR John Cunningham and Fr Len Egan

The funeral mass of former Mary Immaculate Parish Priest (1985-1993)

Fr Leonard James (Len) Egan was concelebrated at 11 am on Friday 21 June, at the packed church of St Clement of Rome in Bulleen, his prior parish. The Eulogy was by Fr Bren Donahue showed great understanding of Len and his impact, and is available through the parish website.

Fr Egan retired in 1993 as Pastor Emeritus from what later became Ivanhoe Parish and died at St Catherine's Aged Care Facility, Balwyn on June 16, 2013 aged 94 years. In a number of ways he was ahead of his time, speaking with honesty but gently about things that needed to be said about disturbing trends in church participation, things that were subsequently acknowledged. Whilst very much a priest and a modest man of quirky humour his challenging perceptions generated many followers. A dedicated priest for 68 years he was committed to the Gospel and to the people entrusted in his care. Pastoral visits were a regular part of his ministry. Prior to Bulleen Father Egan was appointed Assistant Priest at the parishes of Deepdene, Alphington and Kew and then became Administrator of West Melbourne Parish. He was subsequently appointed Parish Priest of Sunshine North, and then Yarraville. May he rest in peace. — John Costa.



Father John Cunningham PE died peacefully at St. Bernadette's Aged Care, Sunshine North on Saturday 13 July 2013. Fr John was born in Derry, Ireland on 17th April 1934 and studied for the priesthood as a student for the Archdiocese of Melbourne at St. John's College, Waterford being ordained on 14th June 1959 at Holy Trinity Cathedral, Waterford before arriving in Melbourne in November 1959 and serving in more than eight parishes before becoming Parish Priest of the Ivanhoe Cluster 2001 until his retirement as Pastor Emeritus in 2011.

Fr John will be well remembered as a thoughtful, encouraging, humble and faithful priest. Throughout his fifty four years of priesthood, he was always prepared to engage with new pastoral projects, to place his trust in his co-workers and lay people. He empowered others by allowing them to embrace the gift of baptism and to bring their gifts to the service of others. He loved to read, to listen attentively, to share ideas, to gently form and to reflect deeply upon the Church. He did not accept thanks or praise easily, but chose the pathway of humility. Fr John understood human frailty and was attuned to the action of God's grace witnessed in the gift of friends and those with whom he had shared his pilgrim way.

On the day of his death, we give thanks for the young man John Cunningham who chose to leave his homeland and to be ordained for the Archdiocese of Melbourne enriching others by his kindness, trust, generosity, friendship and priestly witness.

- Adapted from article by the Vicar General, Mgr Greg Bennett

Ford Street Developments

The Parish has recently received a copy of the "Parish/Catholic Homes Partnerships – Principles and Guidelines – A vision for Aged accommodation in Catholic Settings" from the Archdiocese. This document will be used to determine the form of development on the Ford Street site.

The original plans developed by the Parish to build eleven two and three bedroom units on the Ford Street property (former St Bernadette's tennis club), for which a permit was issued by the Council is now unlikely to proceed. The Archdiocese and Catholic Homes are suggesting that the site can be developed to a higher density and are keen to pursue this option with Catholic Homes in control of the project. The Partnerships document will be used to determine the income stream that the Parish will receive from Catholic Homes, and the Parish will ensure that it is adequately reimbursed for its costs to date if a larger scheme is adopted.

Catholic Homes has applied to the Federal and State Governments for funding to construct 42 one and two bedroom units on the site to house people on low income. They are about to commence discussions with the Council regarding a Town Planning Permit for the project.

A decision on the Government funding is expected early in the New Year and this, with the attitude of the Council towards a permit, will influence the form and timing of the development on this site.

The PLT will keep parishioners updated in the New Year with any developments regarding this project.

The Convent—a new partnership with MIND



Six months ago we were welcoming ARAFEMI as our new lessees at the convent in West Ivanhoe. ARAFEMI has recently merged with MIND Australia and we would like to welcome MIND to our community. We hope for a strong partnership and welcome the opportunity to continue the mental health ministry in the parish.

Spotlight on our Volunteers—Funeral Ministry

As a church we rely on volunteers to share their gifts with many ministries, including assisting families prepare for baptism, taking communion to the sick, running outreach programs, and so on. We have run out of volunteers for the funeral ministry and this is falling solely on Fr Thang.



If you think you could help families prepare for the last rites for their loved one, please contact the parish office to discuss being involved in the funeral ministry.

With thanks...

To the East Ivanhoe branch of Bendigo Bank for grants to enable improvements to the facilities in the Mary Immaculate hall which is used by so many organisations. Please look out for our new kitchen in the new year!

To the City of Banyule for support of the Senior Citizens' Week activities, such as a bus trip and entertainment at a country location.

See the parish bulletin for current outreach events and activities.