

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish Henley Beach

On the Traditional Lands of the Kaurana People

Christmas—Nativity of the Lord

25th December 2023



Parish Priest: Fr Manu Kumbidiyamackal MSFS

Pastoral Care: Sr Helen Armstrong OLSH

Child safe contact Person: Jane Sage 0435062071

Alpha Programs Director: Barb Conlon

After Hours Emergency Number (for the sick and dying): 0417 584 336

Vinnies Emergency Hotline: 1300 729 202

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Website: www.henleybeachparish.com.au

Baptism Bookings: www.henleybeachparish.com.au

Office Hours: Mon & Tues: 9am–12pm; Wed & Thurs: 9am–2pm; Fri: 9am–3:30pm

Star of the Sea Primary School: Phone: 8115 7400 Email: info@star.catholic.edu.au

Web: <https://www.star.catholic.edu.au/news-events/enewsletters>

Mass Times: Monday 8 pm Candlelit Mass (Restarts from the first week of February)

Tues: 9:15am, Wed: 8:00am, Thurs & Fri: 9:15am, Reconciliation Saturday 8:45am – 9:10am

Sat 9:15am (qualifies as a Sunday Mass); Vigil Saturday 6:00pm; Sunday 9:30am; 5:30pm

COMING UP:

Christmas Mass Times

Sunday 24th:

6 pm : Family mass
8.30 pm : Vigil Mass
12 : Midnight

Monday 25th

8 am , 9.30 am

New Year Mass Times

Monday 1st January
9.30am

(Sunday 31st December
5.30 Pm mass remains
the same)

Readings

Christmas

Is 9: 1 -7

Ps 95: 1 –3 , 11-13,

Tit 2:11 –14

Lk 2: 1-14

The HOLY FAMILY of
Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Gen 15: 1-6, 21: 1-3

Ps 104: 1-6, 8-9

Heb 11: 8, 11-12, 17-19

Lk 2: 22-40

**Fr Manu and the Parish office
wish You All a Very
Happy Christmas and a
Bright and Prosperous New Year.**

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Christmas Eve
Sunday 24th December
6.00pm Family Mass
8.30pm Vigil Mass
12.00 Midnight Mass

Christmas Day
Monday 25th December
8 am Morning Mass
9am Morning Mass

New Years day Mass
31st December Sunday Normal 5.30pm mass
January 1st Monday 9.30 am.
There will not be an evening mass on the 1st of January.

OFFICE CLOSURE
Please Note that the Parish Office will close on Friday 22nd of
December 2023 and reopen Monday 15th January 2024

Wish you all a Blessed Christmas.....

Dear Parishioners,

I take this time to wish you and your families a happy and holy Christmas. As we gather to celebrate Christmas, another year has passed with many events, public and private, touching our lives and those of the people in our parish in different ways. No doubt this year has brought Joys and sadness in different measure to each person all colouring our memories of 2023. Despite all that, traditionally we see Christmas as a time of peace and joy, a time to celebrate with family, with friends and loved ones. I do hope that your Christmas will have something of that peace, joy and celebration.

Christmas is an opportunity to thank all who give generously of their time and talents in making this Parish such an energetic, faith-filled community that it is at present. I have already mentioned all that in the bulletin that we published on the volunteer's weekend. There have been so many blessings that I thank God for this past year. I thank God for a grace filled year in the new parish community for me. Thank you very much for the prayers, support, financial contributions, genuine love and concern. May God bless you for your goodness! Christianity is never a "spectator sport" in which we simply sit back, watch and cheer. Rather, it involves active participation and a life commitment, which I have experienced in the way you get involved in the various activities of the parish. A word of thanks to all for the greetings, gifts, prayers and support that was so personal for me as I celebrate this 11th Christmas in Australia, away from home and my homeland and the first one with you at Henley Beach Parish. Let me tell you most honestly, that I am so privileged to be in here at Henley Beach for this past one year.

As our parish stands in need of more help in the coming years, maybe the Christmas message this year is a challenge for all of us to become more involved. It is not only a question of giving more; it is also a question of giving more of ourselves. Yes, that's what God was doing when he got involved with us and our world at Christmas. Christmas belongs to believers, to those who believe that Jesus Christ, Son of God, was born of the Virgin Mary to reconcile us to one another and to God. This is why he came. God will fill us with his peace if there is room in our lives for him.

Thank you for helping us along the journey. May you be blessed with peace and joy this Christmas and may you enjoy a bright and prosperous New Year. As we adore the Christ Child in the manger at Christmas, may we be moved by the great love and humility that God showed to us in the birth of His Son!

Be assured of my daily prayers and Masses for all of you. Have a blessed and peace-filled Christmas and a bright prosperous New Year! I will be on holidays in India from 9th January 2024 to 15th February 2024. Please continue to keep me in your prayers.



Janakumbudramalekal

Sacramental Program 2024



We are excited to announce the upcoming Sacramental program for the year 2024 at our parish. This program is a significant journey of faith and spiritual growth, and we invite all eligible members of our parish children to participate.

For more information or if you have any questions, please contact parish office.

We look forward to a blessed and meaningful Sacramental program in 2024.

Please Note Candlelit Mass



Monday Candlelit Mass 8pm.
Monday December 18th was the last Mass for the year.

Monday February 5th 2024 first Mass for the new year.

Lost and Found



This Ukulele was found in front of the Office door.

If anyone who has lost it or knows someone who may have lost it please contact the church Office on 8356 888

Please Remember in Your Prayers this Week:

Recently Deceased:

Kay Clements, Robert Del Moro, George Robertson, Pauline Temby, Josie O'Leary, Des Fahey, Pamela Wolf, Jim Argue, Dragan Pribranic, Kathleen Mary Kuchel, Stanley Blackford, Noreen Fox, Monica Allen, Joe Scicluna, Bernado Forgione, Margaret Billing, Fr Peter Dunn, Savariya Pitchai.

Anniversaries

Veda Peters

Sick Parishioners

Sonia Bennie, Amelia D'Aloia, Terry Cashin, Pat Berti, Rene Young, Mary Kennedy, Sharon Barber, Brendan Taylor, Rose Oteng, Julie Green, Noel Hocking, Maria Tinus, Brian Barden, Joan Dignan, Brian Fitzgerald, Lola Pedler, Margaret O'Connor, Margaret Kennedy

The Southern Cross



The December Southern Cross is available at the back of the Church. Please take one

Police Checks Updating

Please contact Ivy Hill: 0413 081 421 if your Working with Children Police Check needs updating.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.



From the PPC

Dear Parishioners,
Warm greetings and blessings to each and every one of you. Christmas is a time of great significance and celebration for all of us. It is a time when we come together to commemorate the birth of Jesus Christ, our Saviour, and to reflect upon the profound love and hope that His arrival brought to humanity.

In the spirit of this festive season, our church has planned a series of Masses that aim to deepen our faith, foster unity, and spread joy within our parish. We invite you all to join us in these celebrations and make this Christmas a truly memorable one.

On Christmas Eve, we will gather for a beautiful service, where we will rejoice in the birth of Jesus and sing hymns of praise. This cherished tradition allows us to experience the warmth and peace that the birth of our Saviour brings to our hearts.

Additionally, we will be hosting a Christmas Day service, where we will come together to express our gratitude for the gift of Jesus and to celebrate His presence in our lives.

As we celebrate the birth of Christ, let us also remember those in need within our community. Our church has been organizing various charitable initiatives, such as food drives and gift collections, to extend our love and support to those who may be facing challenges during this time. We encourage you to participate and contribute in any way you can, as even the smallest act of kindness can make a significant difference in someone's life.

In conclusion, let us embrace the true spirit of Christmas by coming together as a church family, spreading love and joy, and reflecting upon the blessings we have received. May this festive season fill your hearts with peace, hope, and an abundance of happiness.

On behalf of our Parish Pastoral Council, I extend my warmest wishes for a blessed and Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New year to you and your loved ones. May the light of Christ shine brightly upon you, guiding you throughout the coming year.

With sincere regards,

Tim Jackson
Chairperson
Parish Pastoral Council



Baptisms in our Parish

We welcome into our Parish Community Ava Isabella Baggio being baptised this weekend and George Haydon being baptised next weekend. Please keep them and their families in your prayers.



Henley Parish's Team of Troopers our unsung HERO's



Gardeners, Altar Society and Church Cleaning, Set-up, Pack-up Teams for Masses and Events, BAPS, PPC, Finance, Counting Team ...

We are so blessed as a parish community to have so many wonderful people who work tirelessly in the background, setting up our church, cleaning, gardening, washing, doing what needs to be done ... without being asked, often without being thanked. Please know that we are grateful for what you do to make our church a beautiful, welcoming space where we can all come to worship and receive the Eucharist together.

Our Parish is a Child Safe Organisation

We are a Child Safe Organisation which is committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children and young people. We believe that all God's children and young people have the right to be healthy and safe, and to have their voices heard, respected and valued. A Safe Environment for All.

To find out more about our child safe policies and procedures please contact the Parish Office or the Archdiocesan Child Protection Unit on 8210 8159.

Knit & Natter



We had another successful year with approximately 12 attending each fortnight on Thursdays from 10am to Midday. The Knit and Natter group provided rugs, beanies and scarves for abused families and those in need. The group also provide baby clothes and bassinets quilts to Birthline and knitted puppets to underprivileged schools and as a Christmas gift to the youngest members of our parish at Henley Parish Playgroup. We would like to thank all the generous parishioners for their donations of wool. We are very grateful.

-Carmel Kay

Giving App



Download the Adelaide Archdiocese's Find a Mass App on your mobile phone and set up direct giving to the first and second collections, as well as special appeals.

Or go to adelaide.goodgiving.com.au to set up direct giving from your computer.

Please note: 1st, 2nd and Special Collections are available on the app.

The QR code will automatically select the Henley beach parish.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, alleluia! Good News and great joy to all the world: today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord. Alleluia!



The Henley Music Ministry

The Henley music ministry is a joyful group in our community. They generously give of time & talent to make our liturgies alive with music that opens our hearts to prayer and to a relationship with Jesus. We are a mixed bag, reflective of our community, with young and older from many different backgrounds.



Our children's choir, led beautifully by Nichola & Craig, is a joy for all our community. Their young voices lift our spirits and create such positive liturgies.

Our young adults continue to offer us a contemporary flavour to their songs of praise & worship while Steve & Pat bless our masses with familiar songs enhanced with their wonderful musical talents. Hearts & Harmony choir is a dynamic group that reflects our wider community and continues to grow in numbers. All are welcome. They are committed to creating relevant and uplifting liturgies. We look forward to having Tim Donovan back on board next year at the 5:30 mass.



Behind the scenes it is Dan Donovan that keeps the ship steady. Each week he creates a PowerPoint for all to use, across all masses, which offers Lukas, Dan and Vania the opportunity to bring music to some masses for which we don't have singers available.



Certainly, it takes many hands & many creative spirits to bring our liturgies more alive through music and yet it is all done with joy & love. If you would like to be part of this ministry, please contact Geraldine on geroreilly23@gmail.com or speak to any of us after mass.



-Geraldine O'Reilly

Sacramental Preparation Team

Henley Beach Parish welcomed 80 children into full communion with the Church during 2023. The candidates received Confirmation and First Holy Communion in ceremonies, completing their journey of Christian Initiation which began at Baptism. They were all confirmed with the fullness of the Holy Spirit with the laying on of hands and the anointing with Chrism Oil by Fr Manu.

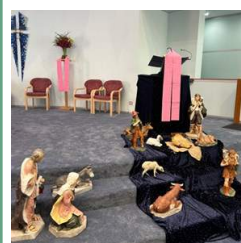
The Sacramental Preparation Team supported the candidates and their families alike to expand their understanding in Catholicism and grow their faith through catechesis. The ceremonies were celebrated in our church at Henley Beach and everyone was delighted with the connection and joy that filled the church.

Liturgy Committee ...

The Liturgy Committee is made up of a small number of interested parishioners who meet to brainstorm and discuss creative ideas of how to enhance the personal and communal experiences of our masses especially during special seasons of the Church's calendar. We wish everyone

a blessed Christmas season filled with the joy and hope that Jesus' birth brings to our lives and the world. Merry Christmas to all!

-Lucina and Marcia



Children's Liturgy of the Word ...



During Term 4, the Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLOW) Team began offering the youngest members of our parish community an opportunity to reflect on the Gospel message in a creative manner.

Every week the team welcomes the children, they listen to the Gospel and then together they break open the message from Jesus. The team are highly skilled and adaptable. They support the children in prayer and allow space for them to connect with each other and build community.

-Barb Conlon





HENLEY BEACH VINNIES CONFERENCE and 2023 ADVENT GIVING TREE PROGRAM (AGT)

From this....



On behalf of the Henley Beach Conference, I would like to offer our heartfelt thanks to all parishioners for your incredible and generous support throughout 2023, including St Michael's College and Star of the Sea primary school, Cheryl Wedding and the Social Justice group and so many other individual supporters.

... to this



Intertwined is our common belief in supporting the most disadvantaged and this was once again exemplified by the generosity and goodwill displayed to support our AGT program where in excess of 360 gifts (including gift cards, hampers, Metro cards, supermarket and butcher vouchers, etc.) were provided to 202 adults and 180 children.

Your continuing support for the marginalized, homeless and most vulnerable brothers and sisters in Christ allows us to continue the good works of our founder, Blessed Frederic Ozanam: "Christianity is not about ideas but about deeds inspired by love".

The message of Christ's birth is love, hope and peace . . . a legacy for all of us to cherish this Christmas and throughout the entire year.

AGT recipients: Seafarers / Vinnies Men's Crisis (Homeless) Centre / Vinnies Women's Crisis (DV) Centre – including 26 children / Refugee & Asylum Seekers / and those most in need living in our Henley Beach Vinnies Conference suburbs.

-John Stoiber – President, Henley Beach Conference

Henley Parish Playgroup ...

Join us at Henley Parish Playgroup where parents, grandparents, carers and children come together for a fun morning of learning through play, exploration, song and dance.



Our Educators & volunteers support families to enjoy a variety of stimulating activities which aid with the development of fine and gross motor skills, as well as social skills.



During the school term we meet in the hall on Tuesdays from 9.30-11am. An hour of free play is followed by story time, nursery rhymes and singing. Tea and coffee are provided, please bring a healthy snack and

water for your child. Come along and make new friends and have fun!

-Kylie Casey



Lost Property



We have a labelled box in the hall on the Piano for all lost Property can you please place anything left in the church in this box.



Baptismal Preparation Team ...



The Baptismal Preparation Team at Henley Parish is a busy group and supported almost 100 children, with their families, during 2023 to receive the first Sacrament of Initiation into the Catholic Church.

Being a Baptismal Team leader is a truly rewarding ministry. I believe we are truly blessed to assist families to

begin their child's faith journey, by instructing them on the meaning of their child's baptism. When we are talking to the parents, we are very mindful of what Christ is saying to us, and constantly reminding the parents that they are their child's first teacher.

When Jesus was born in the Manager, on that first Christmas morning, Mary and Joseph, as new parents, knew they had a very special child to care for and raise. They knew that they were to be Jesus' first teachers. In Australia, we are very fortunate to be able to celebrate our faith freely, and so I would like to wish everyone a Blessed and Holy Christmas.

-Tonina Dipilato

Alpha @ Henley ...



The tool we use for evangelisation at Henley Parish. Alpha is a safe place where people come, connect and explore faith. We share a meal, watch a short movie and then chat about faith. The content is designed to engage people from all walks of life and inspire conversation. They explore the big issues of life and faith and unpack the basics of Christian belief, addressing questions like "Who is Jesus?", "Why and how do I pray?" and "How does God guide us?"

We ran two Alphas in 2023. The first began in February with an average of 30 participants for the 11 weeks.

Two thirds are under 50 years of age.

20% don't identify as Catholic.

50% identify as ONLY attending mass (sometimes, Christmas and Easter).

Our Second Alpha began in Aug with 47 people attending for most of the 10 weeks. We saw an increase in the number of attendees in the Youth category of 20%. However the 30-49 age group was the largest at nearly 35%. Mostly young parents.



Interesting nearly 80% of all guests identify as being Catholic however, most are not attending weekly mass and therefore are our perfect target as an Alpha guest. Alpha is an opportunity to hear from others and contribute your own perspective in an honest, friendly and open space.

We even had our First Ever Alpha engagement!



-Barb Conlon

Henley Parish Dinner Dance

What a wonderful community night 196 people shared at the Dinner Dance in May 2023. We gathered as a community to help raise some funds to assist the girls attending World Youth Day in Portugal. The night did raise around \$7500 and we all had a wonderful time connecting over amazing food. So many people contributed to help make the evening a great success.

The band had everyone on the floor: Pepperwater Revival donated their talents and time. A special shout out to those who came along to set up before the event, those who sold items and tickets on the night and especially those who stepped in to help in the kitchen when help was needed. So many were involved from those who donated gifts and alcohol, folded serviettes, greeted and helped the evening run smoothly. What fun was had, what a wonderful community we have.



Have Happy Christmas and a wonderful New Year!



Henley Parish Seniors High Tea

What a wonderful way to spend a Saturday! In August, over 100 parishioners joined together to share delicious treats, share stories and sing along to some old favourites. Thanks for the organising team who worked many hours to ensure this was a wonderful event for all that attended.



Advent Program ...

Cheryle Douglas hosted an Advent Program which began on Wednesday, 22nd November.

We had a team of 14 enthusiastic participants who supported the five-week program. The purpose was to help people grow in their Christian lives in preparation for the coming of Jesus at Christmas.

Everyone enjoyed spending time together and looked forward to connecting each week.



-Cheryle Douglas



Henley Men's Gathering ...

In March 2023, as part of our Blokes program, 15 blokes participated in the menAlive weekend. This was the fourth program hosted by the Henley Beach Parish. The purpose of menAlive, a national Catholic Ministry is to bring men together, to renew our faith in God and to be encouraged to be an active force of renewal in the Church.



-Dennis Hoiberg

"A wonderful event for the blokes in the Parish".



Henley Praise and Worship



This year our parish hosted two Praise and Worship (P&W) nights in May and November, where not only parishioners from Henley attended but also people from many other parishes. Close to 100 people attended each event where we had guest speakers. The first evening Fr Anthony Beltrame shared a little about what it is to Know Jesus and to make Him known to others.

Jesus and to make Him known to others.

Our Vicar General, Fr Dean Marin shared at our second P&W event with the theme "What are you waiting for" reminding us that the time is now to prepare ourselves in our relationship with God and to share this faith with others.

Praise and Worship is a beautiful opportunity to recharge and refill, these events offer something for everyone: Live music led by David, Mirachel and Sharina, a guest speaker on an element of faith, a testimony from a parishioner, silent prayer, being prayed for by prayer teams and reconciliation and preceded and followed by Henley hospitality in a shared supper. ... Lock in the first date for 2024 – 15th May 2024

- Eileen Giles

Scam Alert – Phishing Messages and Emails

Please note that priests and parish staff will not send you emails or texts asking for help in the form of money or gift cards. **Please Do not reply or click on any links and block the email or phone number.** These emails and messages are designed to look legitimate from trusted sources, but they are actually attempts to steal personal information or infect your device with malware.

- Avoid clicking links or downloading attachments from unknown or suspicious sources
- Verify the authenticity of any email or message that seems suspicious by contacting the sender directly.

Our Rosary Prayer Group

The Rosary is prayed every Tuesday at 2pm. in the church. This Rosary Group began over 30 years ago and has answered the prayers of many in need. We present to Our Blessed Mother Mary, the concerns of individuals, community, and the world, in prayer through the Rosary.

Once a year in October, the Rosary group with other Rosary groups around Australia, celebrate the Feast Day of Our Lady of Fatima, by praying the Rosary in a public place. The caring and friendly members of the rosary group welcome and encourage all, to join and experience the power of prayer through the rosary. We hope to see some of you join us in 2024.

- Anna Papillo



Morning Tea / Hospitality Team ...

We are so blessed to have a team of angels that nurture us on Sunday morning with a cuppa.

When we are preparing the morning tea for the Parishioners to have after mass, I feel that we are gathering together to celebrate our time together as a Parish family, like we do at Christmas with our own family and friends. It is a good way of catching up and enjoying a cup of coffee or tea along with a little treat. It is so great to have the opportunity to share our stories with one another and maybe share just a little of what has been happening in our lives.

Just like at Christmas, staying back after mass is a time of sharing and I think we do that very well at Henley. Also, a time to look out for others who might not have the family support.

-Tonina Dipilato



Youth and Young Adults

This year, the parish was able to host a few different ministries to provide young people with opportunities to engage with their faith. In May, we hosted Parish Crawl- a ministry started by young people that attended the Diocesan Assembly last year. The night began with our usual 5:30 mass and ended with Praise and Worship in the hall. Throughout the year we were also able to host a few Matchat sessions, a women's ministry that started this year to provide young women with the opportunity to listen and engage with other women around Adelaide. During Lent our young people also organised weekly adoration for the parish community, as well as a full day of adoration for parishioners to spend time in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. We wish everyone a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year.



The Blokes Lunch ...



This activity begun some years ago was abandoned owing to its organisers age and ill-health. It was revived after the Parish meeting held in 2019 identified among other things, the need for the men of the parish to have a venue for interaction where they could meet socially and share stories.

Howard Pronk accepted Noreen's invitation to revive it. In its new form, it didn't include a guest speaker or a fixed venue. In the relaxed atmosphere of a local restaurant which makes it easily accessible, it has brought together members of the parish who in normal circumstances might not have crossed paths. Every three months, twenty or so men together with the priests, MSCs initially and Fr Manu from the beginning of the year, making the gathering a truly representative group of male members of the parish. Their practice of holding a collection each time has benefited worthy charities who have been most appreciative of the donation. Importantly, it is wonderful to see the camaraderie that has developed as a result of it.

The Blokes' group wish you all a blessed Christmas and a Happy New year.

-Howard Pronk



Advent and Lenten Preparation ...

Another spin off from the 2019 Parish meeting was the existing need to build upon traditional and personal preparation for the two great feasts of the church-Christmas and Easter. Identifying these needs required initiative on the part of parishioners to respond. I offered to lead a group of interested parishioners to walk with her through the weeks prior to the two feasts. A handful of people showed their willingness to commit to the morning sessions.



The resources used were materials put out by the Archdiocese and the Wollongong group both of which offered much content for discussion. This coupled with many years of devotion to the faith have provided the group with enough discussion material. Despite the interruption thrust upon it by Covid, the group has continued to meet each Advent and Lent since. The relaxed yet spiritual atmosphere in the room during each session is testament to the fact that this form of spiritual enrichment continues to draw members of the group together twice a year. It is hoped that this will serve as an invitation to others to commit to this worthwhile practice.

-Yvette Faria Pronk



World Youth Day



We were very fortunate in 2023, to attend the 37th World Youth Day in Lisbon, Portugal. This experience was only made possible through the generosity of this parish. We were blessed to meet a couple of very special friends to Henley Parish on our Journey.

Our time at World Youth Day brought us closer together and showed us the power of the Holy Spirit working in the hearts and minds of youth all around the world.

Thank you all so much

-Mirachel, Sharina, Shahani



Monday Candlelit Mass ...



"Candlelight Mass" on Monday nights at 8pm until 8.35pm. is a time for people to draw closer to God in quiet contemplation and prayer, and to be uplifted, nourished and strengthened by gentle music, the scriptures and the Eucharist. It is a beautiful mass and in November as is the tradition at Henley, the Annual Memorial Mass was held for all those we love who have passed

away during the year.

We will recommence our Candlelit Mass in 2024 on Monday night Febuary 5th at 8pm. Look forward to seeing some of you there.

-Jeanne and Ron Palmer



Star of the Sea Primary School



We are blessed to have the children from Star of the Sea school in our community. They celebrate mass as a community with us on Feast Days and often attend daily mass. They are here with us

on every third Sunday of the month to celebrate the family mass with us.

We wish them a blessed Christmas and a fun filled holiday time.



Connecting Stories Brunch



What a great day we shared at the Connecting Stories Brunch on 29th October. Our church, hall & breezeway areas were all decorated to reflect our cultural diversity as a community. We had fun activities for young and older, great music, tasty food, terrific coffee and the best of company.

In the preceding weeks we had a taste of what was to come as each week in October we heard different stories at the end of mass - this was our invitation to come along & share our story with others. We met and chatted to people in our community that perhaps we'd never spoken to before. Our young people had great fun discovering stories from far and near. The space was welcoming to all, it was casual and friendly and a truly joyful gathering.

Thanks to the Connecting Stories team for pulling it all together.

- Geraldine O'Reilly



Pastoral Care

All of us have been called and chosen to continue the mission of Jesus in our world.



During the past year many parishioners have been involved in bringing the presence of Jesus into the lives of others through pastoral outreach particularly to the sick, the frail and the lonely. For example:

- * Each month Mass has been celebrated in three of the nursing homes located in the parish. Additionally, Holy Communion is distributed weekly to the residents of two of these nursing homes.
- * Several times during the past year Mass with the Anointing of the Sick has been held in the parish hall.
- * Each week dedicated parishioners take Holy Communion to thirty housebound parishioners.

Opportunities for our young people (who attend state schools) to meet Jesus and develop a relationship with him were offered. During 2023 five children were prepared for the Sacrament of Reconciliation while eight children were prepared for the Sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation. The parents of all the children involved attended the weekly classes with their child/children over a period of 3 months.

Preparation for the Sacrament of Baptism is held every month for parents presenting their child/children for Baptism. Seven parishioners assist with this ministry of accompanying the families at this important time.

We are always in need of volunteers to assist with these pastoral ministries.

Please call the Parish Office if you are able offer your services for any of these ministries. Many thanks

-Sr Helen Armstrong

The Living Waters Prayer Group

The Living Waters Prayer Group wish Fr Manu, Staff, and all Parishioners all the Blessings of Christmas and a Blessed New Year. We take this opportunity to say thank you for your support throughout the year with the Healing Mass, Lenten Retreat, Life in the Spirit Seminar, Day of Prayer, Healing Weekend, Advent Retreat, and Prayer Meetings.

We look forward to 2024 with

Healing Mass on the 2nd Thursday night of each month except February in 2024 will be on Thursday 22nd Rosary at 7pm, Mass 7:30pm including the Sacrament of Anointing, followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Reconciliation, Prayer Ministry with Candlelit music in the Spirit of Taizé, individual blessing with the Blessed Sacrament in the Monstrance, and Benediction. Tea/coffee and light supper available. Lenten Retreat Saturday 16th March Spiritual Growth Weekend on Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th May. Discipleship Weekend on Saturday 15th and 16th June. Day of Prayer on Saturday 27th July. Discerning Gods will in my life on Saturday 14th September Life in the Spirit Seminar Weekend. Healing Weekend on Saturday 19th and Sunday 20th October Advent Retreat on Saturday 30th November Prayer Meetings each Thursday night 7pm - 8:30pm Intercessory Prayer Phone for prayer Requests: If you need prayer message your prayer request to 0435899572 and our prayer team of intercessors will pray for your request.

The prayer group has now broken up for the year, and will resume on the 8th of February but our Intercessory team will still be available for prayer requests Thank you, God bless

-Pauline Cotton
Coordinator Living Waters Prayer
Group 0403002240



The Women of the West & the Family Group



The Women of the West group meet monthly for lunch at a local venue. There is a membership of about 32 and they are always happy to

welcome newcomers. Some members of this same group provide refreshments after parish funerals, and many are welcomers at the weekend Eucharist. Others visit the shut-ins of the parish and take Holy Communion to those who desire it. Sometimes a small group gather informally after weekday Mass for coffee.



Organising the quarterly Healing Mass for Seniors is also an important ministry. Additionally, they participate in gatherings of the Churches of the Western Shores. This includes attending the world wide annual World Day of Prayer.

The Family Groups gather monthly for a meal and social and offer mutual support to its members.





From the Parish Finance Council

The Parish Finance Council would like to wish all parishioners and their family members a joyous and holy Christmas.

The Parish Finance Council thanks all parishioners for their generous and continued support and participation in the life of our Parish throughout the calendar year, despite ever challenging financial conditions.

Your financial support assists in the upkeep, administration and pastoral works of the Parish.

The Parish has recorded a modest surplus despite increased costs and declining Planned Giving receipts. Further details of the results for the calendar year will be provided in the new year after the financial statements have been finalised.

Planned Giving is the major source of income for the Parish. There will be a Planned Giving Renewal undertaken in the new year and the Parish once again thanks those who have pledged generously in the past and looks forward to their continued support. We invite those who have not previously joined the Parish Planned Giving to consider joining and share more fully in the mission of the Parish.

Michael Smith
Chair Person
Parish Finance Council



Henley Beach Parish Social Justice Action Group

The Social Justice Action Group have had a busy year, raising funds for clean water projects overseas and also active in our local communities with the Vinnies Bunker Restock and Winter Dignity Drive – supporting both Hutt Street Centre and Catherine House.

Our parish community along with both Star of the Sea School and St Michael's College, have actively supported these endeavours and many thanks to them and all our wonderful parishioners for their support. Your many donations of food and pantry items, along with your support of the many fundraising activities like the Gingerbread Houses, Christmas Table, Parish Cook Book, raffles and "Small Change for a Big Change", have helped make all these endeavours a great success.

Successes include:

3 carloads of items to Catherine House

3 carloads of items to Hutt Street Centre

\$9200 raised to assist with a bore & equipment in Bangalore India.

Funds were also sent finishing off 2022 projects for a water tank Papua New Guinea and another project completed early 2023 for India.

Our next project is assisting Caritas and a clean water project in Zimbabwe – more information to come in the New Year.

Thank you to all who helped in so many ways throughout the year – we are always happy to have more people join this small group too!

Wishing Joy and Christmas Blessings to you all.

-Cheryl Wedding



Security Reminder

Please **DO NOT LEAVE** any valuable items visible in your car while attending mass or any other programs in the church, especially late evenings and night programs.

JOY
LOVE
PEACE
BELIEVE
CHRISTMAS

I will be on holidays from the 9th of January to 15th of February 2024. Please keep in your prayers that I have a safe and happy travels and a relaxing time during this holidays.

-Fr Manu

Happy Holidays



Stewardship Reflection

December 31, 2023
The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

"...as the Lord has forgiven you, so you must forgive."
- Colossians 3:13

Forgiving is one of the hardest things for people to do. We can't give what we don't have. We need to receive God's mercy and forgiveness first before we can give it to others. Go to the sacrament of Reconciliation and receive God's mercy and forgiveness. Then, share the gift of forgiveness with someone – a family member, a friend, or a co-worker. Pick up the phone or text someone right now.

January 7, 2024
Epiphany of the Lord

"They fell down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh." - Matthew 2:11

Notice the order of events in the Magi's visit. First, they knelt before Jesus and prayed to Him. Then they presented Him with their gifts. We, too, must take time to pray before we present our gifts to the Lord. We never know what God may be asking us to share!

January 14, 2024
2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Jesus turned and saw them following him and said to them, 'What are you looking for?'" - John 1:38

When we recognize who we are, it's easier to find what we are looking for. Once we see ourselves, and others, as children of God, we spend less time looking for the material comforts of the world. Instead, our hearts long for something deeper that can only be filled by God. Ask God daily how God wants you to live the life God intended for you.

The Planned Giving Program Renewal team would like to wish you all a blessed Christmas and a happy New Year.



Emergency



In the case of an emergency warning during an event in the Church or Parish Hall parishioners are asked to **leave in an orderly fashion** and gather at the **designated emergency sign in the carpark.**

Weekly Bulletin

If anyone would like the weekly bulletin emailed to them please contact the office at:

welcome@henleybeachparish.com.au

BAPS Committee Wish You all A Happy Christmas and New Year

The former BAPS Committee (Building and Property Services) was stood down with the Advent of COVID in February 2020, but there is now a need for it to be re-assembled to tackle the ever increasing list of Parish maintenance tasks.

The role of BAPS can be broadly summarised as follows:-

- Determine and prioritise the list of maintenance works requiring action in the Parish;
- To cost these works and report to the Parish Finance Committee (PFC) for approval of expenditure of funds;
- Then proceed with awarding contracts for these works and supervising the work of contractors; and
- Assist the PFC with preparation of annual budgets and regular reporting on the progress of works and expenditure.

If you have a building or trade background and would like to utilise your skills to assist the Parish as a member of the BAPS Committee / Team, please contact Fr Manu at the Parish Office on Ph 8356 8888 or Email at parish_priest@henleybeachparish.com.au or contact Angelo Piovesan on Mob 0401 122 778."

-Angelo Piovesan



Funeral Notice



The funeral of Kay Clements will be on Tuesday 9th January 2024 at 11.30 am. Please keep Kay and her family in your prayers.

Social Justice Action Group

"Small Change for a Big Change"



All Funds raised assisting with clean and safe water, sanitation etc. for 4,959 people in 4 villages in Zimbabwe!

Water Bottles will be available at the back of church in the New Year for anyone wishing to take them now to collect their loose change over the next few weeks.

Please return these by the end of February.

Opportunities for Business Promotions

The Parish Finance Council would like to advertise businesses owned by our parishioners in the parish bulletin for a minimal cost.

If you would like to do this please contact the parish office.

It will be a mutual help in presenting your business to the parishioners, Making connections with fellow parishioners and a financial help to the parish.

