



(Sunday 17th Feb 2019)

THANKS FROM FR BRIAN

Firstly, let me say how good it was to be back among the people of the parish at last weekends' masses. There were familiar faces and greetings, new faces and acquaintances to be forged, and names to learn. May I also express briefly my thanks and appreciation to my Augustinian community for their welcome, in particular Fr Michael's for his warm and helpful presence. I am grateful he will be with us for a little longer in South Yarra as I am re-familiarized with the community and its activities. I look forward to getting to know you all a little better.

Not only does our parish community continue to change but also the Australian Church environment and its challenges. As many of you will be aware, the Pope meets with the representatives of bishops' conferences around the world this week in Rome to again discuss and respond to the ongoing issues of child abuse. This is not just an administrative matter but also a spiritual crisis for us all, as Francis recently wrote:

"Lost credibility cannot be regained by issuing stern decrees or by simply creating new committees or improving flow charts as if we were in charge of a department of human resources. That kind of vision ends up reducing the mission of the Church to mere administrative or organisational function in the "evangelical business"

Brian Buckley OSA