

PARISH SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

This year the Parish of South Yarra welcomed candidates for the Sacramental Programs for Reconciliation and The Eucharist. We had eight participants for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and seven participants for the Sacrament of Eucharist including one participant in the RCIA program.

Due to the pandemic, we have been unable to have live classes for the children so have adopted online teaching through Zoom since March; we are delighted to see how innovative, useful and creative this platform could be. Parents were happy to have their children login into our online classes every Thursday.

When the restrictions started to be lifted, we invited our children for Reconciliation to attend a small preparation class in the church followed by the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, given by our Parish Priest; Father Brian.

This month we had the joy of four of our children, Elsa and Arthur Phillips, Morgan Tanti and Clara Bycroft receiving the Eucharist for the first time on November 29, surrounded by their families and friends. Our RCIA candidate, Shenae Holloway, was welcomed into the Church and received the Eucharist on Saturday, December 5th.

A joyous end to a challenging year!

AGED CARE HOMES

Due to the pandemic, we were unable to visit people in the local nursing homes on a regular basis. However, the Parish Pastoral Assistant has been in touch with the lovely elderly residents by regularly writing to them, sending prayers and daily updates of the Church without being in physical contact with them.

We have received positive feedback from the supervisors of the nursing homes as well as the residents who felt supported and part of the community of faith despite the pandemic affecting our daily lives. We are still communicating with the nursing homes and are hoping to be able to visit them soon

Stefphy Coosnapa; Parish Pastoral Assistant

LITURGY

What a strange and, for many, an alienating experience to have lived through almost the whole year without being able to gather physically in our churches to celebrate Mass together, especially during Holy Week and Easter, when the ceremonies were cancelled and the emptiness of the churches was eerie!

Our renewed appreciation and thanks to our technicians, Robert, Terence and Shaun, who enabled us to come together so wonderfully via Zoom Mass from our own churches into our homes. Special thanks too, to all our musicians, singers and readers who brought us the Word and song remotely from the churches or from their homes, helping to keep our spirits up and our hopes alive as we prayed for an end to COVID 19. Our special thanks to Fr Brian for his leadership through this demanding year.

May this Christmas bring us many blessings and much delight as we gather again in our churches to celebrate and sing again the joys of Christmas!

Di Brebner