

**THE PARISH CHRONICLE –
LEGACY OF FR ABEL VAN DER VEER OSA**

When Fr Abel moved to South Yarra in 2011, he thought he was coming into semi-retirement, having served many years in several Augustinian parishes as well as spending some years as a chaplain to the RAAF. How times changed! One of his many achievements was the establishment of the St Joseph's Parish Chronicle which he faithfully edited four times each year. His final edition, for Christmas 2018, was edition no.26 – a mammoth effort by Abel and a lasting legacy to our parish. The Chronicle has recorded a huge number of stories about parish people and events. This year, after a hiatus of some months, Fr Brian has encouraged several parishioners to take up the challenge and continue production of the Chronicle. Thanks to the ravages of COVID19 our usual parish activities have been cut to almost nothing in 2020. So, as we recommence publication we will take up some different perspectives: we will highlight the wonderful stories of the parish involvements of our long-serving parishioners; we remember those who died during 2020 and whom we were not able to celebrate together. We'll include some historical snippets and some thought-provoking articles that will give us food for thought as our churches reopen and our parish returns to "normal" life.

Honouring Fr Abel, we continue the title, extending it to include the names of both churches: Parish of South Yarra: The Chronicle. It will continue to be published four times each year. We hope you will enjoy this Christmas rebirth and encourage to you consider writing an article for future publications. Thank you Fr Abel!