

HISTORY

Father Thomas English was the 6th parish priest of South Yarra (1927-1948). During his tenure he initiated building of a two-storey brick convent opposite the St Joseph's church. The land cost 2,000 pounds and the construction of the building 4,500 pounds. Archbishop Daniel Mannix blessed and opened the convent on 5th May 1935. The first community, the Sisters of the Good Samaritan, remained there for 6 years until in 1941. They were replaced by the Presentation Sisters, who resided there until 1999. For several years, the building provided accommodation for a group of tertiary students from Australian Catholic University.



Since 2011 the building has been occupied by **The Haven Foundation**, residences which are designed for people whose capacity to live independently is impacted by long-term significant mental health and wellbeing concerns.

Did you know?

The first Catholic pope to resign was Pontian, who headed the Church from 230 to 235. He was sentenced to hard labour in the Sardinian salt mines by Emperor Maximus the Thracian, who loved persecuting Christians. Pope Pontian voluntarily stepped down to prevent a papal vacuum in the Church.

Andrew Balcerzak



ST THOMAS AQUINAS COFFEE AT JARDIN TAN

It is now a tradition for the attendees of St Thomas Aquinas 9am Mass to get together for coffee at the end of each month, with occasional exceptions.

Unfortunately, last year, our previous venue decided to close on Sundays. We tried Jardin Tan in the Botanical Gardens Visitor Centre Café, opposite the Shrine of Remembrance and were not disappointed. The staff have been very professional and welcoming. The ambiance and coffee are first-rate. Many of our parishioners enjoy the short walk from our church to the café. All are welcome to join us.

Andrew Balcerzak

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Mass Times

Tues-Fri: St Joseph's 10am;

St Thomas Aquinas: 12.45pm

Sat: St Joseph's 9am & 6pm

Sun: St Thomas Aquinas: 9am; St Joseph's 10.30am

THANK YOU to the contributors to this edition:
Fr Luca Park OSA, Paul Simmons, Stephy Coosnapa,
Andrew Balcerzak. & Di Brebner (Editor)

NEW TO THE PARISH?

Welcome! New Parishioner Information forms are available in our churches to complete and return to the parish office or hand to the priest.

PARISH WELCOMES, CELEBRATIONS AND FAREWELLS

Through the waters of **Baptism**, the parish has welcomed Louis Morin-Leztissac, Chiamaka Nwoke, Sana Tanaka, Raphael De Mel, Rachel Walker, Maya & Rome DeClase, & Earl Falkingham

We rejoice that The Sacrament of Marriage was celebrated by Nicholas Walsh & Tamara-Jade Quarmbly, Jaimes Ruberto & Cassandra Connolly, Guy Simmons & Rochelle Maduni, Jason Burke & Rachele Aiello, Peter Karambelas & Coleen Paller, Ashwin Almeida & Pearl Menezes, Nathan Papson & Suchitra Meethunkij

We farewelled Ettore Giorgione, Margaret Lichtenberg & Margaret Quealy.
May they rest in eternal peace.

AN EASTER MESSAGE



Happy Easter to you all Parishoners. May the fullest of the grace of the Resurrection of Jesus be with you all and your families and friends.

On this happy occasion, if someone asks me "When did Christianity begin?" I would answer "Today" with the Resurrection, because this event is

the new beginning for us all. Some people still might focus on the passion and suffering and Crucifixion which led to the death of the Lord Jesus. But he overcame that death by his resurrection into his new life. We can be inspired by this to make our own new beginning, leaving behind the suffering and negative aspects of our own lives.

So in this Easter time I invite you all to come to Church to experience more fully the grace of the Risen Lord. We share in his Resurrection and we can pray and think about how the Risen Lord is present in our everyday lives and in the world around us.

Fr Luca Park OSA Parish Priest



OUR EASTER LITURGIES

Our Community had the opportunity to come together in prayer and service during the annual Easter Triduum. We were pleased to welcome Fr Tony Banks OSA - former Augustinian Provincial now working Rome, who joined us in the liturgies in both of our churches.

Holy Thursday was a moving celebration recalling the Last Supper of our Lord Jesus, and the Washing of the Feet followed by the adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

On Good Friday, *Ignite the Light Ministry* lead the annual Stations of the Cross. In the afternoon, the Parish welcomed Bishop Tony Ireland, who presided at the ceremony and afterwards met with the community. After six years, the Parish had the privilege to welcome two RCIA candidates, Michelle Lim and Aaron Rhodes, into the Church at the Easter Vigil. The Parish also hosted its annual Easter Vigil supper, which was a

great opportunity for parishioners and visitors to our Parish to get together and share the joy of Easter around delicious food.

On Easter Sunday, the Parish celebrated the Risen Lord at our two Masses. All our services were well attended.

A special thanks to all volunteers who participated in our liturgies, especially our musicians and choir who provided beautiful music at our services.

Stephy Coosnapa (Pastoral Assistant)

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

The Parish Pastoral Council AGM was held on Palm Sunday, 24 March 2024. It was well attended; parishioners accepted the minutes of the 2023 AGM and received various reports including the Parish Priest Father Luca's report and the Parish Pastoral Council, Finance, Mission Renewal, Safeguarding, Ignite the Light Ministry, Liturgy and Prayer and others.

The reports and associated commentary would indicate that the Parish is in a good state, spiritually, socially and financially. Father Brian presented an interesting snapshot of the Catholic community in Melbourne sourced from census data and provided by the Catholic Archdiocese. Father Luca reported on, among other things, the difficulties being experienced in the Ministry to the Alfred Hospital, given the prospect that State government funding may be withdrawn, and the future for the Ministry remains uncertain beyond June 2024.

A number of members of the Parish Pastoral Council retired, including Paul Simmons, Noel Abaricia, Kate Chard, Joe Herro and Stuart Ralston-Phillips. We thank them for their service.

We welcomed three new members to the Council, Ione Almeida, Averyl Menezes and Benedict See. We thank them for their preparedness in taking on this fulfilling role and look forward to their contribution.

Paul Simmons, PPC Chair



WE REMEMBER THEM WITH THANKS

Our parish has been deeply saddened at news of the deaths of three of our long-standing parishioners who each made great contributions to the life of our parish.

ETTORE GIORGIONE 17/01/1941 28/12/2023



Ettore came to Australia from Italy in 1967. He had met Pauline in Italy and soon after his arrival in Australia they were married and settled in South Yarra. They had three much loved children. Ettore was a very familiar face in St Joseph's on Sunday mornings, quietly kneeling towards the back of the church long before Mass would begin.

His contributions to the church were unassuming, generous and thoughtful. For many years he took up the collections at Mass each week, always warmly thanking people for their contributions as he moved down the church.

When St Francis Xavier's Church Prahran was linked to South Yarra parish, for several years Ettore offered his services to drive the bus bringing Prahran parishioners to St Joseph's for 10.30am Mass.

For many years Ettore was on the parish Alfred Hospital Eucharistic Ministers roster, regularly taking Holy Communion to the sick Catholics in the Alfred Hospital. He loved this ministry and the patients whom he visited loved him too for his warmth, his gentle manner and his pastoral care for them.

Many people possibly did not know that Ettore had been an antique furniture restorer at the Vatican before coming to Australia. He owned an antique furniture store in High St Armadale and was renowned and greatly respected in the Australian antiques world as the most highly skilled craftsman and specialist restorer of European antique furniture.

After a short illness, Ettore was admitted to hospital on Christmas Day 2023, where he died three days later. Requiescat in pace, Ettore. We extend our sympathy to Pauline and the family.

MARGARET LOCHTENBERG 4/8/1931 – 23/2/2024



When Margaret and Ben Lochtenberg moved into South Yarra after a number of years living overseas, they were delighted to discover that the Parish Priest was Margaret's cousin, Fr John Barry OSA. They soon became very involved in parish activities.

Both very committed to social justice and the plight of refugees, Margaret and Ben were instrumental in the

formation of the Emergency Housing Association (EHASS) with Fr Barry and its further development to SJOS (St Joseph's Outreach Services).

Margaret was a marvellous, hardworking woman. A midwife in her younger days, she loved caring for mothers and their babies, especially refugee women. As the first President of EHASS, she played a vital part in fundraising for, and the setting up of apartments in the former school building, and in the ongoing works of the EHASS. As well, she and her daughter, Maggie, regularly took their turns cleaning the parish homeless shelter and the EHASS apartments. Margaret didn't court the limelight; she just got on with things needing to be done. She had a great sense of humour and enjoyed the company of other people. She and Ben often opened their house for meetings and end-of-year celebrations for the parish volunteers.

Margaret and Ben were married for over 65 years, 30 years of which were lived in South Yarra. They shared a long, full, loving and very fortunate life with their seven children and their extended family, and with the parish. We rejoice that they are now reunited in the everlasting love of God.

Vale Margaret and Ben; rest in peace.



MARGARET QUEALY 31/1/1935 – 28/2/2024

Margaret and Patrick Quealy moved to South Yarra in the late 1980s and regularly attended St Thomas Aquinas Church. At the invitation of Fr John Barry, they very soon became involved in many

parish activities. Both Margaret and Pat each served several terms on the Parish Pastoral Council and were involved in the PPC-based activities in the parish. Over the years they were regulars at parish celebrations, discussion groups and events and were deeply committed to the parish.

Margaret had a beautiful speaking voice and was a regular reader at St Thomas Aquinas' on Sundays, while Pat was a welcomer and Eucharistic Minister. As a member of the Liturgy Committee for several years, Margaret also helped to train new Eucharistic ministers and readers for both churches.

Margaret and Patrick were married for sixty five years, more than half of which they lived in South Yarra. In recent years, deteriorating health and the harsh impact of COVID meant that Margaret was not able to be so involved in the parish. Like numbers of other senior parishioners, she and Patrick, her loving carer, tended to retire from many of their former activities. Margaret was much loved by her three sons and their families. We extend our deepest sympathy to Patrick and the family.

Rest in peace, Margaret, filled with God's abiding love.

PEOPLE OF THE PARISH OUR PARISH PASTORAL ASSOCIATES

In the Spring 2023 edition of The Scribble we paid tribute to June Cochrane, the first Pastoral Associate in the Parish of South Yarra. June began her formal ministry in 1992. In this edition we pay tribute to the wonderful people, mostly women, who have continued to fill this most important ministry in our parish.

SR MAUREEN CULLEN PBVM: MID 1990'S TO 2012



After a long and dedicated ministry in Catholic Education in Melbourne where she served with distinction in a number of Catholic primary schools run by the Presentation Sisters, and at the Catholic Education Office, Sister Maureen Cullen worked for several years as a Pastoral Associate in the Greensborough parish.

On her retirement in the 1990s, Maureen became very involved in the life of our parish as a part-time Pastoral Associate. She worked closely with Fr John Barry and June Cochrane, serving on the Parish Pastoral Council, leading parish discussion and prayer groups in the Presentation Convent opposite St Joseph's Church (now the Haven Foundation) and regularly visiting numbers of the elderly and frail homebound parishioners. Maureen retired in 2012; she was much loved in the parish.

MONICA MEAGHER: 2002 -2011



A country girl from near Hamilton in the Western District, Monica moved to Melbourne, took up a career in banking and settled in South Yarra, joining our parish in 1973. The Parish of South Yarra was a large, vibrant, multicultural parish. Monica joined the Youth Group, the Fete/Social Committee and became a Minister of the Eucharist.

When, in 1976, the Parish came under the care of the Augustinians, some parish groups began to arrange Home Masses, parish barbeques, film nights and other social activities and Monica was very involved in many of these activities, a number of which became parts of the annual parish program. The archdiocesan RENEW program was established in the parish and this led to the introduction of several Small Christian Communities. Monica chaired the Argo St Neighbourhood Group for seven years; they met for prayer, reflection and parish action. One of their many actions was to set up donation boxes in each church for parishioners to give food items for the Parish Food Store. This small venture has since grown to the SJOS

Foodstore, the volunteers giving out bags of food to over 2,600 callers each year.

When Monica retired from her bank career in 2002, Fr John invited her to take up parish pastoral work. She first worked at St Francis Xavier's Parish Prahran, which had been amalgamated with South Yarra in 1997, sharing this role with Paul Abbott and Gemma Schooneveldt. Monica took over as Pastoral Associate after June Cochrane's retirement in 2004. She was committed to Pastoral Care visitation to MECWACARE and Royal Freemasons Aged Care Centre and to housebound parishioners. For 20 years she was a team member of the RCIA and an ex officio member of the Parish Pastoral Council.

Monica was significantly involved in the establishment of the Friends of St Augustine in 2000, sharing the initial leadership and the organisation, along with Mary McCormick. of a National Congress She still maintains her parish connection through The Friends organisation.

Monica served the parish faithfully as Pastoral Associate for ten years. retiring in 2011 after belonging in the parish for almost 40 years.

Continuing the work of June and Monica, over the past 13 years the Parish Pastoral Associates have been carrying out a wide range of parish ministries. Ex officio members of both the Parish Pastoral Council and the Liturgy Teams, they have organised liturgy rosters, been involved in the seasonal decoration of the churches and preparation for major liturgical feasts.

They have assisted Parish Social groups in catering for many parish celebrations and instrumental in coordinating the parish Pastoral Care visitation to MECWACARE and Royal Freemasons Aged Care Centre and to housebound parishioners.

The Pastoral Associates have worked closely with the priests and other parishioners in leading the RCIA each year and, since the school closure in 2002, the annual Sacramental programs for the children.

We thank God for our dedicated Pastoral Associates and for their wonderful leadership and care in the parish:

June Cochrane: 1991-2004
Sr Maureen Cullen: 1996-2012
Monica Meagher: 2002-2011
Paul Abbott: 2000- 2003
Gemma Schooneveldt: 1998, 2008, 2009
Joyce Flint: 2012-2015
Ona Stewart: Dec 2015- 2016
Stefphy Coosnapa: 2019 - the present.

Di Brebner