

HISTORY

The fine timber reredos at St Thomas Aquinas Church is the work of Victorian sculptor Walter Langcake (1889-1967).

It is carved with representations of flora and fauna motifs, saints and Eucharistic symbols. It includes St Patrick who has a snake at his feet; St Joseph holding a lily and baby Jesus; St Vincent de Paul with a child and holding a hat and St Benedict. The evangelists carved in the reredos are St Matthew with an angel's head under his right foot; St Mark with a lion's head; St Luke with an ox's head and St John with an eagle's head. Enjoy a closer look at this remarkable work.



Did you know?

Over the past 100 years, the number of Catholics around the world has tripled from 291 million in 1910 to 1.1 billion in 2010. Percentage wise, the population has remained relatively stable, constituting 17% of the world population in 1910 and 16% in 2010.

Andrew Balcerzak

FROM THE AUGUSTINIANS:

The month of August is always a significant time both for us as a religious community and as a parish, as we mark the annual celebration of the Feasts of St Augustine and his mother Saint Monica. The occasion was feted at our weekend Masses and celebrated in style afterwards with a well-attended luncheon.



FIRST COMMUNION

This year, the Parish of South Yarra had the privilege of welcoming seven children who received their First Reconciliation and their First Communion at St Joseph's and St Thomas Aquinas' Churches. Abbrie, Chelsea, Michaela, Thomas, Jack, Lucas and Winifred happily participated in the classes. They were interested in learning about the Catholic Faith and the meaning of their respective sacraments. The program lasted for eight weeks, full of discovery, laughs, questions and reflections.

CELEBRATING ST NICHOLAS OF TOLENTINO



On the 10th of September, the feast of St Nicholas of Tolentino, a lady called in to the parish centre to ask for a blessing of cookies she had made in honour of the feast day.

Josie had bought a booklet about St Nicholas and read about the tradition of blessing bread and the fact that he was an Augustinian. She located our parish and hoped to have a blessing for her biscuits which she intended to distribute to family and friends. Fr Brian willingly obliged.

Who was St Nicholas Tolentino?

Born in 1245, Nicholas joined the Augustinians at age 18 and was ordained a priest in 1270. His kind and gentle manner led to him being entrusted with the daily feeding of the poor and the needy at the monastery in Tolentino. He used to give them bread marked with a cross, which seemed to bring healing to many. This is the origin of the Augustinian custom of the blessing and distributing of what became known as St Nicholas Bread.

St Nicholas was also renowned for caring for those who were dying and praying for the souls of those who had died. He is known today as the patron saint of holy souls.

Here at St Joseph's, beside the church, we have a gentle reflective space called "The Tolentine Memorial Garden". Established about fifteen years ago, it contains plaques commemorating people of the parish who have died. The ashes of a number of parishioners have been placed in the columbarium area surrounding the old baptismal font there. Each year there is a Mass of Remembrance celebrated in the Tolentine Memorial Garden for our loved ones who have died.

Di Brebner

SAINTS FUN FACTS

by John Sheppard

St. Nicholas Tolentine became a monk at age 18 and was ordained a priest by the time he was 25. He is known for his preaching and teaching. He is also known as a peacemaker between the Guelfs and Ghibellines.



He ministered to his flock, helped the poor and visited many in prison. It is said he once prayed over bread and used it to feed the sick and cure them.

At his canonization, it was revealed he was credited with at least three hundred (300) miracles of which three (3) were said to be resurrections.

St. Nicholas is known as the patron saint of holy souls.

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St Peter's Toorak Consecration

Our participation in the Archdiocesan program of Parish Mission Renewal ("Take the Way of the Gospel") is manifested mainly through our ongoing relationship with the neighbouring parish community of Toorak and Armadale. The retiring pastor at St Peter's, Fr Brendan Hayes has been a good friend to the South Yarra community and we

were glad to be represented at the consecration of the church in July and have now been able to welcome his successor Fr Dean Mathieson. We continue to collaborate with them through our liaison with the sacramental program in our two communities.



The Korean wing of our ministry continues to blossom through the work of Fr Matteo at Mount Waverley, Caroline Springs, and now monthly masses in Hobart for the respective groups of Korean Catholics. The visit of members of our parish council to the Korean Community's Parish Day on September 22nd was a festive occasion and we were appreciative of their warm welcome and hospitality. The Korean Choir is also to visit and sing at St Joseph's this coming November.

Fr Marydas has now been with us for a full year and had the opportunity to experience a varied ministry between the parish, the Alfred Hospital and the contacts he has made with fellow countrymen among the clergy in the Archdiocese of Melbourne.

Fr Brian Buckley OSA



As always, it's a pleasure to journey with the children and help them understand and value their faith and tradition. I would like to congratulate once again the children and their families for receiving their sacraments this year.

I would also like to thank Fr Brian for his guidance and support through it all.

Stephy Coosnapa



ST AUGUSTINE'S FEAST DAY 2024

On August 25th, the Parish of South Yarra celebrated St Augustine's Feast Day during Sunday mass, followed by a bring-a-plate style lunch. This much anticipated day of the liturgical calendar was well attended by parishioners from the churches of St Joseph's and St Thomas Aquinas.

Lunch commenced shortly after the conclusion of St Joseph's 10.30am mass, when the Parish Centre Meeting Room filled quickly with eager parishioners. Following a prayer led by Fr Brian, a variety of savoury and sweet foods were enjoyed by all. On display were the culinary skills of our community, as well as its diverse background.



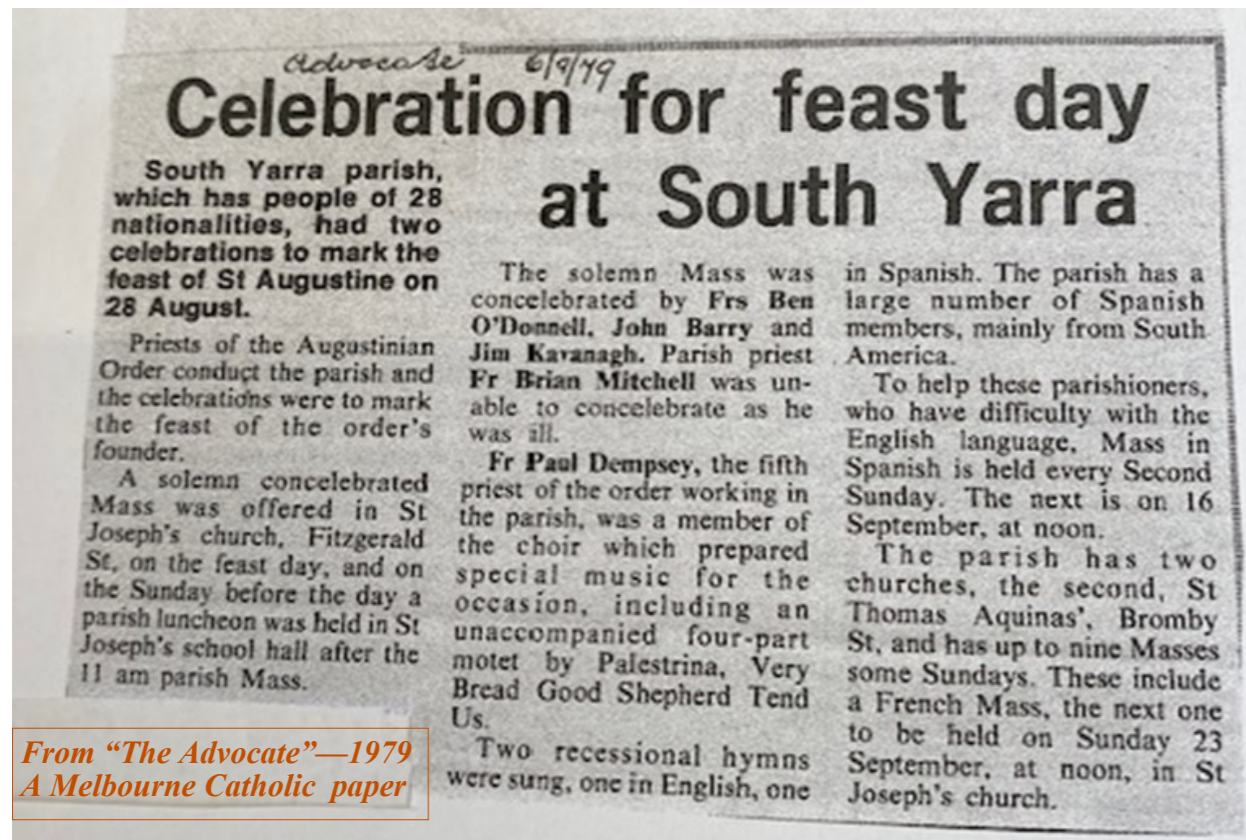
The event was also an appropriate occasion to welcome back Fr Marydas from his recent trip home to India. Many parishioners took the opportunity to catch up with old friends, and meet some new ones too. Notably, a few adorable infant parishioners celebrated their first feast day in honour of the saint whom this parish holds particularly reverent.

Of course, no important celebration at South Yarra Parish is ever complete without the gift of music. Young people's ministry, *Ignite the Light*, performed some well known songs to mark the occasion, with many parishioners (and some priests) singing along.

A special thanks to Ione, Stefphy, and the newly re-established Social Committee, for coordinating an enjoyable day that was truly filled with the Augustinian spirit of hospitality, friendship, and community.

Kristopher & Gillian Marsh

Celebrating the Feast of St Augustine & St Monica has been an annual event since the Augustinians arrived in the parish in 1976.



*From "The Advocate"—1979
A Melbourne Catholic paper*

ST JOSEPH'S OUTREACH SERVICES (SJOS)



St Joseph's Outreach Services (SJOS) held its annual general meeting in the parish centre on 1 September 2024. About 30 people attended and most stayed on after the formalities for tea, snacks and a chat. The AGM is always an excellent opportunity for the SJOS Board members to meet with members, volunteers, donors and interested attendees.



Demand for the food and accommodation services provided by SJOS has grown and, in line with the general cost of living, the costs of providing these services is increasing. As noted in the various reports, which will shortly be available on the SJOS website, the board is constantly considering the challenges presented by these issues and looking for ways to ensure the viability of the organisation into the future. Careful financial management and investment strategies are vital in this quest. Old and new provider relationships must be nurtured. Of course, our strong, ongoing partnership with the Parish is a critical component to the future success of SJOS.

In addition to other outcomes, the 2023 strategy and planning day resulted in new vision, mission and values statements which were launched in April, along with a refreshed "About Us" page on the website. The year also introduced new Board members who, with their diverse skills and backgrounds bring fresh energy and thinking to the opportunities and challenges faced by SJOS during the year.

One major announcement at the AGM was the planning associated with the departure of long time Operations Manager, Bernadette Dennis OAM, in December 2024.

Bernadette joined the board 2009 and over the intervening 15 years has generously donated her much valued skills, expertise and time in many roles on the board and



on various committees. She has served as both board Secretary and Treasurer. Her skills at organising fundraising events is legendary amongst those of us who have worked with her at sausage sizzles, film nights, afternoon teas and other events too numerous to mention. Nothing is forgotten!

Bernadette has played a pivotal role in stewarding relationships with major donors and is tireless in her own volunteering – filling in whenever there are gaps particularly in the bread collection or Food Store roster. After many thousands of hours of dedicated service, which contributed to her receiving an OAM in 2022, Bernadette is stepping back from her role as Operations Manager. Happily she will still be a part of SJOS. The end of year event on 3 December 2024 will be an opportunity to thank Bernadette on behalf of us all.

*Clare Taylor
Vice President & Deputy Chair of SJOS Board*

PARISH WELCOMES, CELEBRATIONS AND FAREWELLS

Through the waters of Baptism, the parish has welcomed Anika De Tissera, Hugo Hensman, Lucas Lim, Alexander Horgan, Amadeus Lefers, Dojun Yong, Poppy Shute, Isabella Mazzetti & Francesca Rutigliani.

We rejoice that The Sacrament of Marriage was celebrated by Matthew Cosentino & Akshayya Sitaraman and Alexander Mackenzie & Alexandra Walding.

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.

THANK YOU to the contributors to this edition: Fr Brian Buckley OSA, Andrew Balcerzak, Stefphy Coosnapa, Clare Taylor, Kristopher & Gillian Marsh & Di Brebner (Editor)

PARISH OF SOUTH YARRA

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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