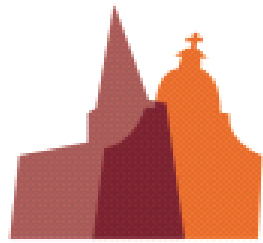


ANNUAL REPORT 2024



parishofsouthyarra

Churches of St Joseph and St Thomas Aquinas



Incorporating Korean Catholic Ministries

A Ministry of the Order of Saint Augustine



COMMITTED TO THE SAFETY AND PROTECTION OF THE YOUNG AND VULNERABLE

Caring for our community

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2025

AGENDA

Date: Sunday 23rd March 2025

Time: 11.45am

Place: Parish Centre

Parish Priest: Father Luca Park OSA

PPC Acting Chair: Narelle Ivers

PPC Acting Secretary: Benedict See

1. Welcome and Opening Prayer - Fr. Luca Park OSA.
2. Guest Speaker: Teresa Fels (representing The Haven)
3. Apologies
4. Presentation and Acceptance of Minutes of 2024 Annual General Meeting
5. Presentation of 2024 Annual Report
6. Presentation of Annual Financial Report
7. Questions arising from the 2024 Annual Report
8. Acceptance of Annual Reports
9. Acknowledgement of retiring Council members
10. Presentation and acceptance of nominees for Parish Council
11. Other business
12. Meeting Closure

(The Constitutions of the Parish Council may be found on pages 25-27 in this booklet)

PARISH PRAYER

Lord, Help us, your parish community of South Yarra,
to be open to the call of your word.

Grant us the grace to be sensitive to each others' needs
and to show a welcoming spirit to all.

Create in us a generous spirit
so that we may build, protect and affirm
a more loving community.

Amen



Parish Vision Statement

We the people of the Catholic parish of South Yarra aspire to be a community one in mind and heart on the way to God,

- where we are supported and sustained by the Gospel of Jesus through prayer and celebration of the Eucharist,
- where we are encouraged to share our gifts and talents in the service of others in the wider community,
- where we remain open and responsive to the guidance of the Holy Spirit and seek to draw others to God's love through our openness and hospitality.
- and where the care, safety and wellbeing of children and young people is a central and fundamental responsibility.

Amended April 2019



The Parish of South Yarra acknowledges the Wurundjeri people
who are the Traditional Custodians of the Land.

We also pay our respects to the Elders both past and present of the Kulin Nations and extend that respect to other Indigenous Australians who are present in our community.

THE AUGUSTINIANS

The Augustinians are a religious Order in the Catholic Church whose special call it is to live together in communities of love, humility, friendship and a sharing of the goods in the service of the Gospel.



Inspired by the teaching and spirituality of St. Augustine of Hippo, Fr James Aloysius Gould came to Australia in 1838 to work in the Sydney area. Later he moved to the colony of Victoria and became the first bishop and archbishop of Melbourne where he served from 1848 until his death in 1886.

The Augustinians came to the Parish of South Yarra in 1976 where they have become the inspiration of its Social Outreach to the poor, the homeless and the disadvantaged.

An Augustinian parish values...

- offering a personal and unconditional welcome to all and the opportunity for friendship and social interaction in different contexts
- the personal attributes of its members and the diversity of gifts they bring: their expertise and talents; their commitment and sense of shared responsibility and loyalty
- commitment to social justice within and beyond our immediate community
- the opportunities and encouragement provided for leadership and service in different ministries in the parish and broader community
- the leadership and service of the ordained ministers, religious and Parish Associates, support staff and volunteers
- the history and traditions of our faith drawn together under the Augustinian charism
- the ecumenical diversity of different faith traditions in the wider community
- meeting the challenges of the times, being open to change, and responding constructively
- the responsible stewardship of its resources

AUGUSTINIAN CHILD PROTECTION POLICY STATEMENT - PROVINCE OF AUSTRALIA

The Augustinians recognise and uphold the dignity and rights of all children and are committed to ensuring their safety and wellbeing.

The Province, in its communities and ministries, recognises and affirms that each child should be cherished as a gift from God with an inherent right to dignity which shall be respected, nurtured and protected by all.

The Province undertakes to do everything possible to create safe environments in our ministries where the welfare of children, young people and other vulnerable persons is paramount.

In our parishes, colleges and ministries in Australia and overseas we pledge to pay particular attention to the pastoral care and welfare of the young placed under our guidance.

(From a document of the Australian Province Mid-Chapter July 2016)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2024 MINUTES

Date: 24 March 2024

Time: 11.45am

Chair: Paul Simmons

Minutes: Mary Greene (assistant secretary)

Welcome and Opening Prayer: The Parish Priest Fr Luca opened the meeting with the parish prayer. PPC Chair, Paul Simmons chaired the meeting

Attendance:

Attendees: Mary Greene, Paul Simmons, Daniel Dorall, Ione Almeida, Anne Semple, Amy Yu, Benedict See, Joycelyn Castor, Maureen Grant, Tony Grant, Diana Burleigh, Cecil D’Cruz, Greer D’Cruz, Nancy Retnam, Muriel Wroblewski, Bernadette Dennis, Noel Abaricia, Averyl Menezes, Mary McCormick, Kristopher Marsh, Gillian Marsh, Narelle Ivers, Toni Stuart, Di Brebner, Stephy Coosnapa, Sonia Guzman, Carly Henriquez, Andrew Balcerzak, Grace Lipinski, Joseph Singson, Fr Brian Buckley OSA, Fr Marydas Arackal OSA, Fr Luca Park OSA.

Apologies: Aparna Nirmal Mangaadan, Eileen Monagle, Juliet Oei

Presentation and Acceptance of Minutes of 2023 AGM

Motion to accept minutes: Moved: Di Brebner; Seconded: Bernadette Dennis Motion: passed

Presentation of 2023 Annual Report - Paul Simmons and Fr Brian Buckley

The outgoing Chair, Paul Simmons, presented the 2023 Annual Report and provided a summary of the work of the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) over 2023 -2024 including the following projects and ongoing challenges:

An extensive review and update of the Parish Pastoral Plan - underway through a sub-committee led by Kristopher Marsh.

The continuing work of the Parish Mission Renewal - co-ordinated by Stephy Coosnapa and Tony Grant. Whilst the discussions with neighbouring parishes are ongoing, the links with Korean Catholic Churches in Melbourne have continued to grow since Fr Matteo Cho OSA joined the Augustinian community in 2022. In October 2023 the Korean choir made a visit to the Parish to sing at Mass and, more recently, Fr Luca Park and Fr Brian Buckley were invited to celebrate Mass for the Korean Catholic community in Hobart. Further such events are planned for later in this year.

The PPC role in maintaining the parish in good working order. This has included work on the vacated Stables building and consultations with SJOS (St Joseph’s Outreach Services) regarding its best use in the future. This is still under discussion.

Lastly, important social events in the Parish calendar, such as the annual parish barbecue in November 2023. This was a great success. However, the social committee will be investigating ways to further improve this function in terms of parish participation and parishioner enjoyment.

Paul thanked the Augustinian priests – Fathers Luca, Brian, Marydas and Matteo for their work and pastoral care of the parish and acknowledged the unstinting support of the volunteers over every aspect of parish life. He expressed his appreciation for the work of the Parish Pastoral Council and the privilege which his term as Chair of the PPC has afforded him. Fathers Brian and Luca, in particular, were thanked for their support.

Annual Financial Report

The AGM attendees were directed to the **2023 FINANCE REPORT** contained in the **Annual Report 2023** prepared by the **Finance Committee**. Paul spoke of the excellent job performed by the Finance Committee in

ensuring and maintaining the financial viability of the parish. He suggested that any questions arising from the report be directed to Tony Grant and thanked the parishioners for the continued generosity in supporting the parish.

Fr Brian Buckley followed this address with some key point about the Parish of South Yarra. Fr Brian reported that the Parish had been under the care of the Augustinians for 48 years and highlighted a few statistics about the Parish's demographic profile and changes over the years. Two important issues currently facing the parish are:

The work of restructuring in the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne under the program of Parish Mission Renewal. The parishes with which the South Yarra parish has been liaising recently are Toorak/ Armadale in particular, and in the mind of the Archdiocese possibly East St Kilda in the future. Alfred Hospital Catholic chaplaincy – there is mooted a withdrawal of government funding for this role. The Augustinians provide end-of-life care, this is on a pro bono basis and cannot cover regular hospital visiting.

Questions arising from the 2023 Annual Report

There were questions concerning the statement in the Constitution that “The Council has no financial responsibilities...” Clarification was requested regarding how financial decisions in the parish were made, how expenditure by the parish is determined, how funds are allocated and how this is monitored.

Both Tony Grant and Fr Brian responded, explaining that the role of the Parish Pastoral Council was consultative rather than executive. In particular:

The Finance Committee meet each month and report to the Parish Pastoral Council with recommendations as appropriate.

The Parish Office staff deal with the regular financial business of the parish. The Finance Committee advise on other financial matters including the annual budget.

Further discussion of these issues was referred to the Parish Council for consideration.

Motion to accept all Annual Reports for 2023

Motion to accept annual reports: Moved: Bernadette Dennis; Seconded: Paul Mulqueen

Motion: passed

Acknowledgement of retiring Council Members

Fr Luca acknowledged the retiring members of the Parish Pastoral Council and thanked them for their work - Paul Simmons, Kate Chard, Noel Abaricia, Stuart Ralston-Phillips and Joe Herro. The retiring members each received gifts of appreciation.

Presentation and Acceptance of nominees for Council

Three new nominations were received for the Parish Pastoral Council and were presented to the meeting. Ione Almeida, Benedict See & Averyl Menezes

The nominees were accepted and welcomed.

Other Business: No other business requested

Meeting Closure: The Chair declared the meeting closed at 12.30pm and invited all to stay for refreshments.

PARISH PRIEST'S REPORT



Although the Holy Year officially began before the end of 2024, this report surveys the life of the parish community for the calendar year of 2024 prior to the Jubilee Year . The most significant aspects of the year were continuing transient nature of our parish community, and the diversity and relative youthful profile of the parish. We notice and often comment on the constant flow of new arrivals and also notice that many attend a few times and then seem to no longer do so. It probably reflects our local demographic, our social and economic reality.

I am grateful for the work of my fellow Augustinians, Fr Marydas, Fr Matteo, and Fr Brian, especially with the growing scale of the Korean ministry in both Melbourne and now also Hobart on a monthly basis.

The Parish Council under the conscientious leadership of Kris Marsh (Chair), Narelle Ivers (deputy chair) and Mary Greene (secretary) maintained a steady momentum. The loss of both Kris and Mary due to relocation and retirement is regrettable and their absence will be felt.

The Alfred Hospital ministry, since the retirement of the last lay Chaplain, Mr Brian Welsh, in May 2024, has become more demanding and challenging with new management in the hospital Spirituality Office and the lack of a Catholic staff member 'on the ground' to coordinate visitation and sacramental care. We are grateful for the continuing support of Fr Dean Mathieson of Toorak/Armadale and Fr Jerome Santamaria of St Kilda East for their generous commitment to the 'after hours roster'.

The RCIA program continues to attract young people from differing backgrounds, indicating the searching that is going on in peoples' lives in this changing times. Sincere thanks is due to our pastoral Assistant, Stefphy Coosnapa, for her untiring work with the sacramental program in general, the liturgy rosters, the child safeguarding monitoring, and age care facility pastoral care and coordination.

The much spoken of '*Take the Way of the Gospel*' Parish Mission Renewal program appears from our perspective to have lost some of its energy and sadly our relationships with neighbouring parishes have also diminished in recent months.

It is now evident that the Archdiocese is gearing up for an Assembly in 2026, another significant pastoral initiate of which we will hear more. In this regard we note that the Archdiocese is planning for the reduction of the number of parishes from the current figure of over 200 to a number about 130 by the year 2035. There are currently about 200 active priests and deacons in the Archdiocese, in addition to about 100 retired priests.

As Augustinians working in the Archdiocese, and as members of a religious congregation, witnessing to the charism of the consecrated life lived in community, there is ample scope for our continuing creative ministry in the Archdiocese.

Sincere thanks to all who have contributed to our parish vibrancy and welcoming spirit through the past year.

Fr Luca Park OSA (Parish Priest)

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

In many respects, 2024 has been a year of consolidation across the parish, including within the parish pastoral council. With the COVID pandemic seemingly behind us, daily worship has returned to the 'new normal'. At a planning level, there has been an emphasis on defining who we are as a parish 'walking the path of missionary discipleship', and on communicating the parish's purpose.

Commentary on the year past, and the period ahead.

The council discussed the importance of improving communication between the council, parish committees, and parishioners. This was prompted by feedback which suggested that it wasn't quite so easy to know how certain things came to be. We encouraged council members to actively engage in parish life, and ensure all areas of the parish could 'hear' and 'be heard'.

An observation of the council was that the parish's operations are somewhat decentralised. In many ways this is a strength, because at times things just seem to 'get done'. Although taken literally, the drawbacks are apparent. If you were to believe that things get done of their own accord, you risk overlooking the many people who contribute their efforts, great and small.

With this in mind, the council committed to inviting leaders of committees to monthly meetings to share developments in their respective areas. This 'cross pollination' intended to familiarise council and committee members, foster a sense of community, and encourage collaboration. Putting a name to a face, and facilitating insightful discussion, was to the benefit of everyone.

This spirit was also reflected in the finalisation of the parish pastoral plan for 2025-27. What at first was expected to be a review, turned out to be a rediscovery. Seeking inspiration, we located a planning document from 2000 that noted '[The parish has] to decide where we are going to put our energies. We need to decide our priorities.' 25 years later, we are charged with a similar task.

In response to mission renewal, the parish continues to liaise closely with neighbouring parish, Toorak/ Armadale, sharing initiatives such as the RCIA program at St Joseph's and 'An Evening with...' events at St Peter's. The parish also maintains Korean ministries in Mt Waverley and Hobart. Fr Matteo's presence certainly will be missed, but we wish him well in his new role.

Looking to 2025, there is a lot to be excited about. The church is celebrating a jubilee year, which will culminate in late November with the Australian Catholic Youth Festival being hosted in the Archdiocese of Melbourne. Then, as one celebration concludes another will begin, as 2026 marks the 50th anniversary of South Yarra parish being under the care of the Augustinians.

Thank you to all parishioners, committee and council members, pastoral staff, and of course parish priests – Fr Marydas, Fr Luca, and Fr Brian – for their contributions throughout the year.

*Kristopher Marsh
Chair (2024)*





Pastoral Plan 2024-2025



For some time a sub-committee of the Parish Council has been working on updating our Parish Pastoral Plan and reporting back to Council.

The work is ongoing. After the Parish Mission Statement, the themes of the document are arranged in terms of five aspirations relating to *Community, Spirituality, Outreach, Wellbeing and Mission Renewal*. Each aspiration enumerates a number of goals and means which in turn need to be translated into actions. We hope the document when complete will better reflect the current but also changing reality of our parish mission. The five aspirations are as follows:

Community - We aspire to be a community one in mind and heart on the way to God.

1. In communicating what we have to offer
2. In supporting existing and emerging ministries
3. In building strong relationships within and beyond the parish

Spirituality - We are sustained by the Gospel through our spirituality and the Eucharist.

1. In providing opportunities to worship through active participation
2. In accompanying those searching for God
3. In enriching the faith of parishioners

Outreach - We share our gifts and talents in outreach to others in the wider community.

1. In demonstrating our concern for others and provide practical care
2. In sharing our gifts, talents, and hospitality with the community
3. In partnering with external support services that share our values

Wellbeing - We are attentive to the care, safety and wellbeing of children and vulnerable persons.

1. In safeguarding the wellbeing of children and vulnerable persons
2. In ensuring the physical safety of persons and property
3. In committing to the *Laudato Si* Action Platform

Parish Renewal—We are committed to the missionary renewal of our parish life.

1. In engaging with the Archdiocesan Parish Mission Renewal process
2. In recognising our wider mission to the Korean Catholic community
3. In encouraging further collaboration between clergy and laity



MELBOURNE KOREAN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY



The news came this last January that Matteo Cho, our Melbourne Korean chaplain at Mount Waverley these past few years, had been appointed as the new Korean Delegation Superior meaning his sudden departure.

Fr Matteo's commitments include weekend and occasional weekday mass, spiritual direction of devotional groups, time spent with the younger people in the community and classes for adults to be received into the faith. His presence post-covid has been deeply appreciated and we are saddened at his loss to our ministry.

In the interim, till the appointment and arrival of a replacement Fr Luca and Fr Brian will assist with our Korean commitments.

The Mount Waverley community has grown during Fr Matteo's time as chaplain. Numbers around 200 persons now regularly attend the Sunday afternoon Mass and the Korean language school associated with the community is also continuing to thrive.

We wish Fr Matteo well with his new assignment and eagerly await the arrival of his successor.

Fr Brian Buckley OSA

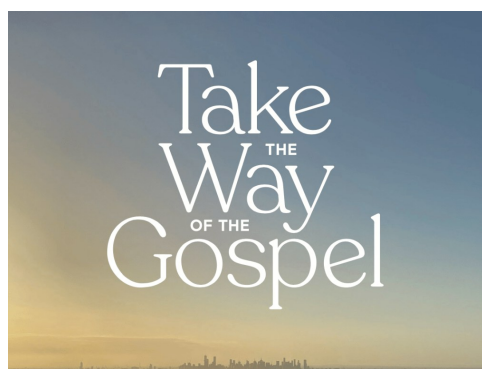
MISSION RENEWAL PROGRAM

2024 was a period of less engagement with the Mission Renewal Program of the Archdiocese. Although there were a couple of regional meetings and liaison with the Parishes of Toorak and Armadale, there was a noticeable drop on the level of enthusiasm despite our continuing to collaborate with our neighbouring parishes of Toorak and Armadale in regard to the sacramental program and the RCIA.

A recent Newsletter from the Office of the Vicar General has this to say and gives some indication of the way forward:

"At the recent Clergy Workshop at Malvern Valley Golf Club there were helpful reflections on our current practice with the presentation by Mons. Joselito Asis on the integration of migrant chaplaincies into our parish life. It also involved thinking about the future and where Take the Way of the Gospel will lead us with a predicted right-sizing to 129 parishes divided across our four regions by 2035. The Archbishop's announcement of an Archdiocesan consultation culminating in an Archdiocesan Assembly to be held towards the end of 2026."

In the light of this our continuing involvement with the Korean Catholic ministry in Melbourne and Hobart seems well-aligned with the spirit of Mission Renewal.



LITURGY AND PRAYER

Dear Parishioners,

The Liturgy Committee at the Parish of South Yarra is made up of the following dedicated members: Rosaleen O'Brien, Eileen Monagle, and Stefphy Coosnapa (Parish Pastoral Assistant), under the guidance and support of Fr Luca Park, Fr Brian Buckley and Fr Marydas Arackal. I would like to thank them all for their contributions, and also a special thanks to Toni Stuart (Parish Secretary) for being our source of any required information.



We are also pleased to welcome Keith Neubronner, who has joined the committee this year.

We coordinate the running of liturgies within our parish, mainly Sunday masses and special occasion liturgies, which may include RCIA and institution of sacraments.

The liturgies are based on The Liturgical Year, which starts on the first week of Advent (usually late November) and finishes on the Feast of Christ the King (November the following year).

This year we are in Year C, so our Sunday gospels are mainly sourced from Luke.

2025 is the Jubilee Year, "Pilgrims of Hope." Here at South Yarra parish, we blessed our own Holy Doors, as a representation of Pope Francis opening the doors at St Peter's on Christmas Eve 2024. In his homily at that mass, Pope Francis said, "tonight, the door of hope has opened wide to the world,...for Christians, hope is not a 'happy ending,'... but a promise to be welcomed here and now in our world of suffering and sighs." We sing the Jubilee hymn at our masses and have the Jubilee banner displayed with the themes of MERCY, FORGIVENESS, JOY, and HOPE.

We ensure that the prayers and commentaries for each mass are written, rostered and delivered by a team of volunteers from the parish. This list of volunteers includes writers, readers, and commentators. Also needed are sacristans, musicians, choristers, gift bearers, eucharistic ministers, welcomers and collectors. Thanks to everyone for all their contributions, and to Stefphy for coordinating the rosters. Please feel free to step forward to assist with any of the above, if interested. You can approach anyone of these people at mass to find out more.

We are so lucky to have live music at our masses, a privilege not enjoyed by many parishes. Thanks to our musicians and choristers, and a special thanks to Amy Yu, who is celebrating her 80th birthday very soon. Amy is one of our most loyal and long serving musicians, who started playing the organ at St Joseph's in 1970!! Congratulations Amy!

In the words of Pope Francis (*from his hospital bed to liturgical students on 26 February 2025*), in liturgy we "have at heart the people of God, whom we accompany in worship with wisdom and love. And do not forget to pray for me."

With hope and love,

Margaret Ricardo, Chair

PASTORAL ACTIVITIES

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN



Last year, we had the privilege of guiding seven children as they took the next step in their faith journey by preparing for their First Reconciliation and First Communion. These two sacraments are foundational moments in the lives of young Catholics, marking a deepening relationship with God and the Church.

First Reconciliation: Before receiving the Eucharist, the children were introduced to the sacrament of Reconciliation, which is a beautiful opportunity for them to reflect on their actions, seek forgiveness, and experience God's grace in a tangible way.

First Communion: After the children had received the sacrament of Reconciliation and were prepared spiritually, we then focused on preparing them for their First Holy Communion. This sacrament is a celebration of receiving the Body and Blood of Christ for the first time, an important event in a young Catholic's life.

The culmination of their preparation came during a joyful ceremony, where the children received their First Reconciliation and then celebrated their First Holy Communion. It was a moment of profound grace, not only for the children but also for their families, the parish community, and all who witnessed these young individuals taking their next steps in faith.

I would like to thank the priests for their guidance and support throughout the preparation classes.

Stefphy Coosnapa (Pastoral Assistant)

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

SHARE GOD'S WORD



Over the past year, the parish has shown a strong commitment to **Children's Liturgy**, a key aspect of its ministry that focuses on engaging young members of the community in the liturgical life of the Church. Children's Liturgy provides an opportunity for children to learn about the teachings of Jesus in a way that is tailored to their developmental stage and helps them understand the Mass and its significance in a meaningful and approachable way. I would like to thank Diana Jeske and Luz Bacaicoa for their devotion and support by running the classes.

Stefphy Coosnapa (Pastoral Assistant)

RCIA



Last year, our parish had the honor and joy of accompanying six individuals who embarked on the RCIA journey, ultimately being baptized and confirmed in the Catholic Church. This process is a profound spiritual and communal experience for all involved, marking a new chapter in their lives of faith and commitment to Christ.

Welcoming these six individuals into the Church through the RCIA process was not only a life-changing event for them but also a moment of renewal and joy for the entire parish community. It reminds us of the richness of the Catholic faith and the ongoing call to evangelize and support each other in our faith journeys.

The RCIA celebrations, particularly the Easter Vigil, was an expression of the Church's faith in the death, resurrection, and ongoing presence of Jesus Christ. Through their baptism and confirmation, the new members were drawn more fully into this mystery, and the whole parish shared in the joy of their new life in Christ.

Stefphy Coosnapa (Pastoral Assistant)

PARISH VISITATION

AGED CARE FACILITIES

Last year, the parish had the opportunity to visit local aged care facilities, including Mecwacare and The Royal Freemasons, which proved to be an enriching experience for everyone involved. These visits not only brought much-needed companionship to the residents but also allowed the parish community to engage in a tangible expression of Christ's love, reaching out to those who may feel isolated or forgotten. One of the most important aspects of these visitations is the creation of personal connections. For many elderly individuals, especially those in care facilities, the opportunity for meaningful social interaction can be limited. Regular visits from the parish community offer much-needed companionship and create a sense of belonging and connection.

Stefphy Coosnapa (Pastoral Assistant)



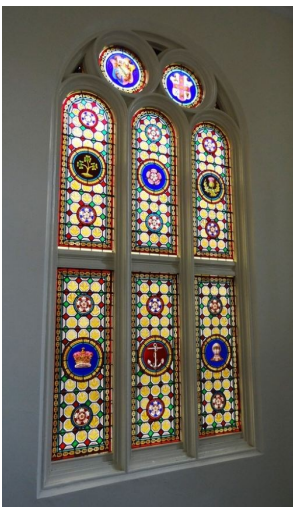
SOUTH YARRA MINISTRY TO THE ALFRED HOSPITAL

The most significant and lasting outcome of 2024 involving our ministry at the Alfred Hospital was the ending of funding for a Catholic Chaplain and the retirement of the last lay Chaplain Mr Brian Welsh last May, ending a period of 20 years or more of pastoral care by an onsite lay chaplain. The reality being that all funding from state or church, also including the Church of England, has ceased and there being at this time no internal hospital stipend available for pastoral care beyond the non-

denominational staff in the Spirituality Care office. The lack of a Catholic chaplain with "feet on the ground" has had a profound effect on our involvement as local clergy. Even the relatively simple matter of providing Holy Communion for a patient has become complicated without a Catholic on staff to visit the wards, receive requests and distribute Communion themselves, or to organise a roster for Sunday Communions as in the past. In addition, the disruption caused by a change of pastoral care management has also been a challenge, despite best intentions of all involved and adjustments made.

Naturally, we as the parish primarily assigned to the Alfred, will respond as best we can to the requests for sacramental and pastoral care but the system under which we have operated for many years has undergone significant change.

Masses at Christmas and this Easter time for patients and staff are offered as a new initiative but it does seem that the level of pastoral care and the precise role of the parish community is unclear. The process of accreditation of visiting clergy and lay visitors has also become more demanding with increased compliance and training protocols.



Fr Brian Buckley OSA

IGNITE THE LIGHT MINISTRY

The transitory nature of our local demographic in South Yarra brings with it the joy of ever welcoming new faces to our community and the sadness of farewelling others who have been a part of our lives. This applies very much to the younger generation of Catholics from overseas whose presence enriches our community, our festivities and our worship. We are most aware and grateful for their presence on the weekend enlivening our liturgies and well as their attendance at events such as our annual BBQ.



With the greater freedom to travel again after the challenges of Covid we also find that many do return to their overseas homes at year's end and at the Christmas period. For various reasons, aside from changing membership and departures, other events, such as retreats, social occasions, and pastoral or volunteer work have noticeably lessened in the past year. We hope that a new generation of leadership and a renewed interest in being together and serving others will come again to the fore in the years ahead.

THE HAVEN

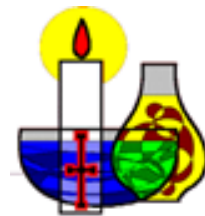
The Haven was established in order to provide appropriate residential accommodation for those who have a mental illness, and to enable them to live independently in the community. Planning of the Haven began in 2003, and the present building was opened in the former convent in April 2011. Since then the Haven model has been adopted in a number of locations. The Haven facility is housed in the former Presentation Convent, South Yarra. The Haven South Yarra Family Hub Committee convenes regular meetings every two months. Father Brian Buckley, also attends when time permits.



In recent years the Haven has come under the auspices of **Mind Australia**. Although the transition has entailed some challenges, on the whole this move has been beneficial to the Haven and well received by all stakeholders. One of the ongoing challenges for Haven is the administration of the NDIS scheme as it applies to residents in the Haven. There are now 19 further Haven facilities around the wider Melbourne Metropolitan area. Conscious that as time passes fewer parishioners are aware of the existence of the Haven and its purpose, an approach was made to Professor Alan Fels to address the Parish Council and/or the Parish AGM at a convenient time but as yet that has not been able to be arranged.

BAPTISMS AND MARRIAGES

Zoom meetings for first time parents preparing for baptisms are working very well, being convenient for parents to attend whilst their children are happy and safe in their own environment. We welcomed 40 children and 4 adults into the church through the sacrament of baptism in 2024.



During the year, 10 couples were married in our churches. All couples are required to do a Marriage Preparation Course provided by the Archdiocese or an accredited relationship agency, while we are responsible for the paperwork and assistance with preparing for the ceremony itself, choosing readings and preparing a booklet, if so desired. In this latter form we also assist many other couples whose wedding is to take place overseas or in another diocese in Australia.



SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND THE VULNERABLE

Last year, the Parish Safeguarding Committee worked tirelessly to ensure that the parish adhered to the Victorian Child Safe Standards, providing a secure environment for all—especially children and vulnerable members of the community. These standards are vital in fostering a culture of safety, where every individual can feel protected and respected. The committee's commitment reflects the parish's deep responsibility to safeguard those in its care and to promote the dignity and rights of every person.



The Victorian Child Safe Standards are a set of guidelines that help organizations, including churches, ensure that they have the necessary systems, policies, and practices in place to protect children from harm. For the parish, adhering to these standards meant reviewing and updating policies, offering training and education to staff and volunteers, and ensuring that there are clear and safe procedures for reporting any concerns about child safety.

In addition to ensuring compliance with the Child Safe Standards, the Safeguarding Committee worked diligently towards completing the Parish Self-Assessment Tool. This tool is designed to assess the effectiveness of the parish's existing child protection and safeguarding strategies and identify areas for improvement. Once the self-assessment process was completed, the safeguarding document was submitted to the Archdiocese of Melbourne late last year for assessment. This submission was an important part of the parish's commitment to accountability and transparency. The archdiocese's review will help ensure that the parish's safeguarding strategies are robust and effective, while also providing guidance on any areas that may require further attention or improvement.

The work of the Safeguarding Committee is an ongoing commitment, and last year's efforts are just one part of the long-term process of building a culture of safety and care within the parish. The committee's work not only protects children and vulnerable adults but also builds a community where everyone can feel safe, respected, and supported. It's a reflection of the parish's call to care for one another and to live out the teachings of Christ, who championed the dignity and safety of every individual.

Stephy Coosnapa (Pastoral Assistant)

2024 FINANCE REPORT

The Parish is grateful that Parishioners, suppliers and donors continued to support us in the last year.

We also thank our Finance Committee members, Fr Brian, Fr Luca, Paul McSweeney, Loida Alcantara, Michael Phillips, Maureen Grant and Tony Grant. Juliet Oei has recently left us to go back to her home country Indonesia, as she finishes her studies here in Australia. We expect to appoint a new Business Manager.

Details of income and expenditure are shown below:

Expenditure (\$)	2023	2024
Printing/Stationery	4,782	3,970
Maintenance/Equipment	5,499	20,938
Telecommunications / IT	4,400	5,065
Computer Expenses	3,139	3,923
Diocesan Levies	26,392	31,550
Insurance	29,952	11,994
Other Administration Expenses	11,029	7,833
Cleaning Parish, STA & SJC	10,931	16,198
Gardening	6,053	9,063
Utilities Parish	23,801	22,912
Council Rates	7,839	9,465
Repairs	25,210	48,281
Salaries, Workcover & Superannuation	141,912	143,902
Donations to other organisations	3,283	5,053
Other Expenses	16,703	15,295
Total Expenses	320,925	355,442
Net Surplus	38,487	4,905

Income (\$)	2023	2024
Bequests	10	0
Collections for other organisations	4,720	1,075
Grants	0	0
Interest and Investment Income	75,882	68,444
Rental - Cottages	45,818	53,516
Parish Centre Facility Rental Income	64,534	66,684
Parish Car Park Income	8,579	3,930
SJOS Rental Income and service fee	47,460	47,460
Wedding Income	5,250	14,000
Thanksgiving	103,172	103,050
Other Income	3,990	2,190
Total Income	359,415	360,349

2024 FINANCE REPORT (Continued)

Some points worth noting on major items of income:

- Wedding income has a major increase in 2024.
- Our overall income has been steady throughout 2023 to 2024.

And on expense:

- Our Maintenance/Equipment and Repairs cost are higher due to a major elevator repairs (over \$15,000 in total) and major repair to the very high ceiling in the Parish Centre.
- Diocesan levies are a direct relationship to thanksgiving income.
- Donations to other organisations – these include Project Compassion, Catholicare, Catholic Missions and the like.
- Insurance costs are spread over the year rather than taken up as one lump sum. The annual cost has not increased markedly.

Juliet Oei (Parish Business Manager)



Memorial Mass

ST JOSEPH'S OUTREACH SERVICES (SJOS)

St Joseph's Outreach Services Inc (SJOS) was established over 25 years ago by the late Fr John Barry OSA and a number of dedicated parishioners and community members. Their vision, which continues to this day, was to assist the marginalized and disadvantaged within the community, through the provision of transitional housing and food services. SJOS is registered as an Incorporated not-for-profit charity with Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) and tax deductibility status. Space is rented from the Parish in which to provide the outreach services.



**St Joseph's
Outreach
Services**

Respect | Welcoming
Service | Integrity

30 - 54 Fitzgerald St
South Yarra VIC 3141
info@sjos.org.au
www.sjos.org.au

The transitional housing comprises twelve (12) fully furnished units available for individuals or families who require temporary accommodation whilst waiting for permanent housing. HomeGround Real Estate and Launch Housing work together with the SJOS Board of Management to provide case management support and other related services to the residents.

The key support services continued to operate throughout the year, thanks to the generosity of volunteers and donors. These essential services include a Food Store, which provides a selection of food staples and other items to those in need; a Harvest Garden which supplies seasonal vegetables, herbs and fruit for the Food Store; and a Bread Bank, which operates via an accessible 2-way fridge.

Last year saw a 14.3% rise in the number of visitors to the Food Store, from 2681 families in 2022/2023 increasing to 3065 families in 2023/2024, the first time we have seen over 3000 visitors in a year. Additionally, the cost per visitor also increased by 29% to \$22.13, reflecting the challenges we all face with inflation. The Harvest Garden - serviced by volunteers from the SJOS Garden Club – continued its success by delivering over 1800 bags of vegetables, herbs and fruit to the Food Store. Last August the Garden Club introduced a beehive in the Harvest Garden – I'll be looking forward to tasting the honey it produces.



A garden bed from the Harvest Garden

2024 saw the organisation continue to fundraise via Bunnings Sausage Sizzle events and our Annual Appeal. New relationships were formed with Food Bank (to assist with stocking our Food Store), and our existing partnership with the University of Melbourne Medical Students Association (UMMSA) continued with additional health expos held in June for visitors to receive eye and ear checks, and general health advice.

Throughout 2024, I have been working on a strategy for the operations of SJOS – which included the transition of our SJOS Outreach Operations Officer, Bernadette Dennis. After 15 years of continuous dedicated service, we farewelled Bernadette Dennis at the end of 2024. Bernadette has been generously

providing her much valued skills, expertise and time to SJOS, since joining as a Board member in August 2009, and taking on roles as Secretary and Treasurer for many years. She has contributed greatly by organising numerous fundraising events, being a very active volunteer, and eventually taking on the operational outreach role on a volunteer basis. After what is likely thousands of hours of service (which contributed to her receiving a well-deserved OAM in 2022), Bernadette has stepped back from her operational role - but continues as a volunteer in the organisation.

As part of the transition, we commenced a month long recruitment and competitive selection process, and were successful in finding and appointing a new SJOS Operations Manager – Joss Honour. Joss commenced on 15 October and brings a wealth of experience from her background in operations, project management and financial services. Joss has also been an active volunteer with SJOS, regularly helping out at the Harvest Garden.

In November, we held our 2024 SJOS Strategy and Planning Day to reflect on our achievements and talk about the risks and challenges we face in the organisation. The Board discussed the progress on our lease negotiation with the Parish (acting on behalf of the Archdiocese) to renegotiate our lease and services agreement – which expires at the end of 2025. We are aiming to come to an agreement which is fair and sustainable, to allow us to continue providing essential assistance to community members in need of support. The Board also renewed the initiative for redesigning the SJOS Food Store. This very valuable service and space will be transformed to align with our SJOS values, making it safer, more comfortable, more assessable and welcoming to both our visitors and volunteers – whilst allowing the organisation to operate more effectively. Our investment in this project reflects a commitment from SJOS towards our long standing relationship with the Parish.

SJOS is grateful for the support from many generous donors over the past year, as well as the support given in goods and donations from schools, businesses and individuals. These contributions have ensured the sustainability of the overall outreach program.

Finally, the SJOS Board of Management sincerely thanks all volunteers for giving their time and enthusiasm to ensuring the continuance of the work of SJOS. Special thanks also to the parishioners of the Parish of South Yarra and surrounding areas and the Parish team for their ongoing support and commitment to the Mission of SJOS.

Daniel Dorall
President & Chair of the Board (2024/2025)
St Joseph's Outreach Services



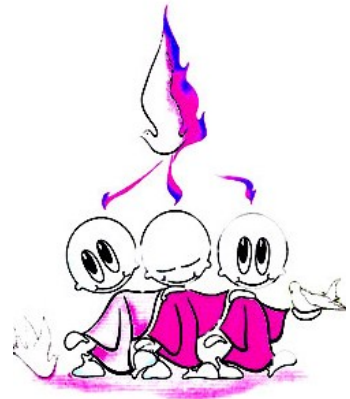
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FRIENDS OF ST AUGUSTINE

In July last year the 5th International Congress of Lay Augustinians was held at the Augustineum in Rome. Delegates came from many countries and continents, with eight from Australia, and I was privileged to be one of them, with assistance from the Order. The sense of joy at being there and sharing the journey with other members of the Augustinian family was quite inspiring. The theme of the Congress was *Walking together in communication, participation and mission*, with a day of conference sessions and workshops devoted to each of the three elements. The title of the workshop on the afternoon of the first day gives a flavour of the appeal and relevance of the topics. It was *Our role as lay Augustinians: walking forward together, listening to the Holy Spirit and the Word of God in daily situations*. As a journey planner, this resonates strongly with the 2025 study program developed after feedback from members for Friends in Australia by our National Formation Co-Ordinator, Maureen Atkins. It's entitled *My spiritual journey with Augustine as a guide* and focuses on four stages in Augustine's life, considering his faith development during each and the parallels in our own lives. This program builds on the two-year study program of *The Spiritual Exercises of St. Augustine* developed by Fr. Andres Niño OSA and adapted for Friends in Australia by our Maureen Atkins, which our South Yarra group of Friends completed in the latter part of 2024. This Study Guide for 2025 is now available to parishioners whether attending a Friends gathering or not.



With the aim of building a sense of Augustinian community across Australia, my National Co-Leader, Mary McCormick, and I have held a number of Zoom conferences with leaders of groups of Friends in Mareeba, Cairns, Coorparoo, Gold Coast, St Clair and North Harbour. As it was at the Rome Congress, the sense of sharing the journey with other members of the Augustinian family nurtures our faith. In our local group this is recognized as vital, and we continue our sessions with quiet enthusiasm, despite losing some valued members due to relocation or illness. They are sorely missed. In this Jubilee Year, as Pilgrims of Hope, we raise our voices to sing the Jubilee Hymn, whose writers went to Augustine for inspiration.

Traditionally, Friends of Friends of St. Augustine have held National Lay Congress every three years, and the most recent one was hosted in Brisbane in July 2023. So we hope to prepare some form of Laity Congress in 2026. We also look forward to 2026 as the Parish heads towards 50 years of an Augustinian presence. This synchronicity merits consideration of the possible development of joint opportunities.

We are most grateful for the unwavering support of Fr. Brian Buckley OSA, the chaplain for our local group and also that of Fr. Dave Austin OSA our National Chaplain.

Judith Duncan

Catholic Mission South Yarra
St Joseph and St Thomas Aquinas Churches
Incorporating Korean Catholic Ministries
Mount Waverley and Caroline Springs

A Ministry of the Order of Saint Augustine Australia

Mission Statement

“We the people of the Mission of South Yarra” are committed to continue to walk the path of missionary discipleship (“The Way of the Gospel”) and address the missionary call, inviting all to the fullness of the Gospel of life, with a sense of vibrancy and vitality, such that:*

- *The Gospel is at the heart of our life, worship and outreach.*
- *Our faith communities are arranged in a way to flourish*
- *And are sustainable—spiritually, pastorally and materially.*

In the spirit of Mission Renewal:

A Mission Statement has been added to our Pastoral Plan

We are conscious that our mission is closely aligned with the Korean Catholic Community in the Archdiocese of Melbourne

We continue to engage with our neighbouring parishes – Port Melbourne/Middle Park, South Melbourne, Toorak/Armada

We affirm the role of our nominated lay Mission Coordinators

Our pastoral teams involve clerical and lay leaders

We are alert to the need to communicate with our faith communities

We liaise with Archdiocesan offices for Mission, Properties, Finance

We affirm our close ties with our Outreach Services (SJOS)

We affirm our role assisting with pastoral care at the Alfred Hospital and local nursing homes

Our ministry is enriched by the tradition of Augustinian spirituality

(Citing the address to a meeting of South Yarra Catholics in 1887)*

Parish of South Yarra Parish Pastoral Council Constitution

Vision Statement

We the people of the Catholic Parish of South Yarra aspire to be a community one in mind and heart on the way to God, where we are supported and sustained by the Gospel of Jesus through personal prayer and celebration of the Eucharist, where we are encouraged to share our gifts and talents in the service of others in the wider community, where we remain open and responsive to the guidance of the Holy Spirit and seek to draw others to God's love through our openness and hospitality, and where the care, safety and wellbeing of children and young people is a central and fundamental responsibility.

Role of the Parish Pastoral Council

To provide leadership by promoting the concept of Christian community

To provide the Parish Priest and the Augustinian community with advice and to represent the views of other parishioners in respect to pastoral matters pertaining to the operations of our parish.

To assist our parish leadership in planning for the future needs of the parish

To provide practical assistance and support to our parish leadership in day to day pastoral activities

To represent the parish in the wider community in both spiritual and secular activities

Composition

Council Members

The Parish Council shall be composed of between seven and 12 members to include ex-officio or nominated.

The members will include:

A maximum of 3 ex-officio members: The Parish Priest, assistant priest, and/or a pastoral support person.

Nominated parishioners up to the complement of 12 members. If there are more nominations that positions vacant, there will be an election at the Parish Annual General Meeting. Nominated and elected members are confirmed and accepted at the AGM.

Invited Representatives:

Representatives from parish groups such as the following may be invited to attend from time to time by agreement:

Finance Committee

St Joseph's Outreach Services (SJOS)

Liturgy Committee

Young Adult Ministry or similar organization

Parish Mission Renewal Coordinators

Safeguarding Committee

(Members of the Augustinian community may also be invited to attend)

Eligibility for Election

Any Catholic who is a regular attendee of Mass at St Joseph's or St Thomas Aquinas' is eligible to be nominated to the Pastoral Council.

Term

Each elected member may serve two consecutive terms unopposed. The length of each term is of two years.

Limitation of Tenure

No nominated member will serve more than two terms consecutively. A member may be re-nominated after a one year hiatus.

Office Bearers

Office bearers shall comprise:

Chairperson

Deputy Chairperson

Secretary

Deputy Secretary

Roles of Office Bearers

The Chairperson's role is one of leadership of the Pastoral Council, and as chair of the council meetings, should be one of encouragement to all members to offer their opinions and contribute to decision-making.

The Chairperson needs a close liaison with the Parish Priest, and to be involved in the preparation of the agenda for each meeting.

The Chairperson of the Pastoral Council prepares a report for each Annual General Meeting of the Parish of South Yarra, and presides at that meeting.

The Deputy Chairperson presides at meetings of the Pastoral Council when the Chairperson is unable to attend, and assumes any other relieving responsibilities which may be necessary.

The Secretary participates in the preparation of the agenda for each meeting of the Pastoral Council and ensures that the agenda is available for distribution to members prior to the meeting. The Secretary is also responsible for recording the minutes of each Pastoral Council meeting and the Annual General Meeting and for their distribution.

Nominations for the Parish Pastoral Council

Nominations of Council members shall be presented at the Parish Annual General Meeting. Nominations shall be given in writing by any parishioner at least two weeks prior to the AGM.

All nominees must be present at the AGM to be eligible for election.

Election of Office Bearers

Election of office bearers shall be at the first Council meeting after the Parish Annual General Meeting. The Parish Priest will preside at this meeting until a Chairperson is elected. Election will be by simple majority of the elected members present.

Quorum

Quorum will comprise one office bearer, two elected members, the Parish Priest or his nominee and five other members of the Council.

In the absence of a quorum any decisions thus made will be deemed to be interim decisions and will be ratified at the subsequent Council meeting unless objections are received.

Meetings

The Council will meet at least ten times a year. The Chairperson will be in the chair.

In the Chairperson's absence, the Deputy Chairperson will chair. In the Deputy Chairperson's absence, the Parish Priest or his nominee will chair.

Meetings – Standing Agenda Items

The agenda of each ordinary meeting of the Council shall contain standing agenda items. All reports are to be written and provided to the Council members for consideration at least 48hrs prior to the meeting. Length of reports not to exceed one page.

If any parish committees or parishioner have made a recommendation on any matter to the Council, that recommendation should be considered by the Council and either endorsed or further advice given.

Motions

All motions will be carried by simple majority of those members present.

Absences

If a Council member misses three consecutive meetings without leave from the Chairperson, that member's position may be declared vacant at the next Council meeting.

Casual Vacancies

The Pastoral Council may appoint an eligible parishioner to fill a vacancy at any time during the year.

Annual General Meetings

A general meeting will be held annually to review the activities of the parish during the preceding year, to present future strategies, and to confirm elected members to fill vacant positions on the Pastoral Council. The Chairperson of the Council will chair the meeting. All parishioners are eligible to attend and vote. Twenty-one days advance notice of the Annual General Meeting must be given.

Submissions by Parishioners

Parishioners wishing to have any matter considered at the Annual General Meeting will be required to submit such a matter in writing to the Secretary of the Council not less than fourteen days before the Annual General Meeting.

Extraordinary General Meeting

An extraordinary general meeting may be convened at any time by the Parish Priest, the Council, the Chairperson of the Council, or on the written request of not less than ten parishioners who shall sign the notice of request and append their residential address. Not less than fourteen days notice shall be given of any extraordinary general meeting.

Change to Constitution

The Constitution of the Council can be changed only at the Annual General Meeting or at an extraordinary general meeting provided that at least seven days notice is given, and at least two-thirds of those present at the Annual General Meeting or extraordinary general meeting, who are eligible to vote, agree to such a change.

Financial Management

The Council has no financial responsibilities whatsoever; however, the Parish Priest may at his discretion seek the Council's advice on items of expenditure.



CATHOLIC PARISH OF SOUTH YARRA **Incorporating Korean Catholic Ministries**



ST JOSEPH'S PARISH CENTRE

30 Fitzgerald St, South Yarra

P.O. Box 21 South Yarra VIC 3141

Tel: 03 9826 9677

Email: secretary@parishofsouthyarra.org.au

Website: www.parishofsouthyarra.org.au

MASS TIMES

St Joseph's Church

30 Fitzgerald St, South Yarra

Saturday Vigil 6pm; Sunday 10.30am

Weekdays Tuesday to Friday 10am;

Saturday 9am

St Thomas Aquinas' Church

43 Bromby St South Yarra

Sunday 9am

Weekdays Tuesday to Friday 12.45pm

Korean Masses Holy Family Church

236 Stephenson Rd, Mount Waverley

Sunday 1.30pm

Thursday 7.30pm



AUGUSTINIAN COMMUNITY

Parish of South Yarra

Fr Luca Park OSA (Parish Priest)

Fr Marydas Arackal OSA (Assistant Priest)

Fr Brian Buckley OSA (Prior)

Fr Matteo Cho OSA (Korean Chaplain)