

**WE HAVE A NEW POPE —
AND HE IS AN AUGUSTINIAN!****FROM THE AUGUSTINIANS
AN AUGUSTINIAN KAIROS**

Kairos is the Greek word for a 'meaningful or opportune moment' used in the New Testament as a time of grace or divinely providential intervention. The past two months might well be described in those terms with regard to the world of the Augustinians. The election of Pope Leo XIV has thrust the word 'Augustinian' in general and the name of Saint Augustine into the limelight on the world stage.



Our own parish associations with the former Prior General Fr Robert Prevost go back some 25 years with at least two visits he made to Melbourne as leader of the Order world-wide, and also highlighted the presence of the Augustinians in Melbourne and Victoria since the time of the first Bishop of this Archdiocese James Alipius Goold OSA.

Our pride and elation at his election have overflowed into the decision to dedicate our parish hall (previously known only as the great hall of the old school) in his honour as the Leonine Hall on June 29th, the Feast of Saints Peter and Paul.

The same day saw Fr Luca Park our parish priest depart for well-earned sabbatical leave from which he will return at the end of the year. In May last we also welcomed a new member of our Augustinian community in the person of Fr Francis Park, as chaplain to the Korean Catholic Community at Mount Waverley.



Finally, the 5th of July saw the hosting of a book launch which presented a new biography of Pope Leo with a successful gathering and address offered by Fr Tony Banks, currently Assistant General of the Augustinians in Rome, but also himself a former parishioner and parish councillor of South Yarra, who joined the Augustinians in the 1970's and who acted as Provincial of the Australian Augustinians for two terms early in the 2000's.

It has indeed been a significant moment in the life of the Order, the parish and the Church more widely.

Fr Brian Buckley OSA

**PONTIFICAL INAUGURATION -
POPE LEO XIV****Robert Prevost OSA - Augustinian**

It is now two months since the election of our new Pope Leo XIV and the initial surprise and general delight is still with us. For us as an Augustinian parish the announcement of the first ever Augustinian as Pope remains a cause of

great pride. The fact that in years past the then Fr Robert Prevost OSA, Prior General of the Augustinians worldwide from 2001 to 2013, had visited the parish in person on one occasion in 2005 and possibly briefly another time, also made the news particularly significant and personal for us.

Although we have become accustomed to speaking of Saint Augustine, the Augustinians and Augustinian spirituality, to find the whole world suddenly eager for knowledge of our spiritual affiliation and legacy was and is equally a cause of great satisfaction.

Much has already been written and broadcast about the man, his background, his work as a missionary, a leader of his Order and then his time as a bishop in remote Peru, culminating in his appointment to the Dicastery of Bishops in Rome and his elevation by Pope Francis to the College of Cardinals. The general warmth of his reception as Pope, as a man, a bridgebuilder, a reconciler, a listener and a pastor of vast experience, is also reassuring and bodes well for the challenges he will surely face.

This choice of name, Leo, the fourteenth pontiff to choose that name, has also been a subject of much speculation and conjecture. His own explanation refers to Pope Leo XII as a man engaging with modern issues, concerned for the worker and the disadvantaged in the face of the industrial revolution, and his pioneering social teaching. For those familiar with Augustinian history, the knowledge of Leo XIII as

the revivor of the Augustinian Order at the turn of the 20th Century by his direct intervention, generosity as a benefactor and support, provides another insight into his decision. His Coat of Arms forcefully asserts his association with his Augustinian roots displaying the familiar symbols of the book of Scripture and the pierced heart ablaze with love of God.
Fr Brian Buckley OSA



the old school building for a ritual of dedication, the unveiling of a plaque and the cutting of a ribbon and a reception inside the hall for the 70 or 80 parishioners who had come for the celebration.



A special cake with the insignia of the new pope was cut and shared and a toast made in honour of the election of Cardinal Robert Prevost OSA, the now Pope Leo XIV. Fr Brian Buckley OSA

THE DEDICATION OF THE LEONINE HALL

The feast of the great Apostles, Peter and Paul, on June 29th was chosen as an appropriate day to celebrate the dedication of our parish hall to the name of the new Pontiff, Leo XIV, being especially associated with the origins of the Church of Rome and its two greatest saints. To the best of our knowledge the designation of a church or school building as dedicated to the name of the new pope is a first, but probably will not be the last such event.



Seen very much as primarily a parish community celebration, an invitation was nevertheless extended to local church and civic representatives. We were delighted to welcome Fr John Raike from St Martin's Anglican church Hawksburn and Councillor Kate Hely from Stonnington Council. In particular, the only other Augustinian community in Melbourne, the Sister Servants of Jesus and Mary, who reside in Sunshine, also joined us.



Following the regular Sunday morning Mass at St Joseph's the participants gathered outside the church facing

THE PARISH CELEBRATES

It was with joy that we recently witnessed the election of Cardinal Robert Prevost OSA and his inauguration to the pontificate as Pope Leo XIV.



It was in his capacity as a former Prior General of the Order of Saint Augustine, with overall pastoral jurisdiction of the Augustinians world-wide, that he visited Melbourne and South Yarra on at least two occasions in years past. So, we do have quite a special connection with the new Pope.

So, to celebrate this notable event, on Sunday 29 June, our Parish Priest Father Luca Park unveiled a plaque to dedicate the formerly unnamed parish hall with the name the **Leonine Hall**.



Up to 80 parishioners and visitors, including 5 Augustinian sisters from Sunshine, toasted the occasion with the opportunity of a glass of bubbles and a delightful morning tea. The event concluded with the cutting of a commemorative cake by Father Brian and Parish Pastoral Council Chair Narelle Ivers

Tony Grant



A TRULY ROBERT PREVOST RESPONSE!

Two years ago, a February edition of *The Tablet* newspaper reported in "View from Rome" the news that Pope Francis had chosen Bishop Robert Prevost, the 67-year-old Chicago-born Augustinian friar serving in Peru, as the next Prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops. My ears pricked up as I continued to read and I wondered. What would this mean for this Augustinian? What might this mean for the wider Church? As Christopher Lamb went on describing the role, one comment caught my attention in a special way. He wrote, 'The dicastery prefect has his own regular one-to one meetings with Francis to go through decisions, usually on a Saturday morning.' Captured by this idea of Saturday meetings I penned a letter to the then-Bishop with my promise of special prayer for their Saturday sessions, and not so long after I had sent the letter I received an email.

*Dear Mary,
Your letter from March 9th was given to me today (I just arrived in Rome early this morning, after celebrating Holy Week and Easter in the Diocese of Chiclayo, Peru). Many thanks for writing, and especially for your prayers. I appreciate your thoughtfulness and the intention to set aside time on Saturday morning for prayer. I was officially installed today as the new Prefect for the Dicastery for Bishops, and it is indeed a monumental task, a 'heavy responsibility' as you read in The Tablet. I will need all the prayers of so many good people like yourself, and as a good student of St. Augustine, I can only rely on God's grace. I hope you are well.*

Fraternal best wishes,+ Robert

That promise of Saturday prayer has now become a more constant, everyday prayer for this brave Augustinian in his new and glorious role.

Mary McCormick

Coordinator, Friends of St Augustine

GOOD WISHES FROM SOME FRIENDS

Dear Fathers,
Congratulations!! What a fantastic day for the entire OSA family with one of your own elected to the See of St.Peter. Whilst I now live in Melbourne,I grew up in Echuca where the Augustinians had the pastoral care of the parish from the mid 1880's to I think the early 1990's. The OSA's were also at Rochester and Kyabram so many northern Victorians have the Augustinians to thank for their faith development. Keep up the good work.
Many blessings,
Peter Golding
St.Benedicts, Burwood.

Hi Fr Brian! And Toni!

I hope this email finds you well.
How wonderful to have your friend and an Augustinian as our Pope! Alleluia!
I'm sure Fr Gerry, Fr Barry, Fr O'Shea, Fr Pat Bourke and all the Augustinians up there and down here are super chuffed and rejoicing and praying for Pope Leo and all of us.
God bless you always.
Big hugs
Anne

Congratulations and blessings on election of Pope Leo. There are many "firsts" and indeed some "seconds" BUT I wonder, in Church History, is he the first previous general of any order to be elected pope?
But we hold you in prayer and in much recognition of the order's ministry. I knew the parish, even in the old Monsignor's days and also Fr Jim Downey, OSA, visiting scripture lecturer.
Lindsay Rust, SAC

A LETTER TO US FROM POPE LEO XIV

On Thursday, June 5, 2025 the parish wrote:

Dear Holy Father,
Overwhelmed as you will be with well-wishers from around the Augustinian world, we wish to add our prayerful acknowledgement and support for you in the demanding times ahead.

Looking for a way of celebrating the event in our Augustinian parish at South Yarra in Melbourne, we have decided to dedicate our, as to now, unnamed parish hall to your title as the **Leonine Hall**.

It will be a modest event on the Feast of Peter and Paul June 29th celebrated largely with our parish community and a few invited Augustinian sisters from Melbourne.

It will be our simple way of acknowledging this most significant occasion in the life of the Church and the Order.

Perhaps there may be an opportunity sometime in the future for you to pray in the Melbourne Cathedral at the grave of our Augustinian forebear, James Alipius Goold, the first Bishop of Melbourne.

Ad multos annos!

Brian Buckley OSA and community
Luca Park, Marydas Arackal and Francis Park.

And Pope Leo replied:

Hello, Brian!
Many thanks for writing. It's good to hear from you, after many years! I hope you are well.
Thanks for the gesture of naming the parish hall as the "Leonine Hall". And even more so, I want to say thanks to you and to the people of your parish community for your prayers.

On this feast of Pentecost, I send you and your parishioners sincere greetings and an assurance of my prayers.

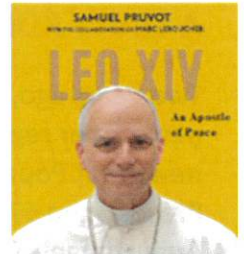
May God bless you all.
Fraternally, Leo XIV



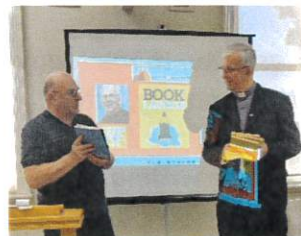
BOOK LAUNCH

A Book Launch which captured Parishioners' attention!

Curious as to know how a book about the recently elected Augustinian Pope could so quickly be available, a goodly number of parishioners and friends gathered upstairs at the Parish Centre on Saturday July 5th.



A most interesting story emerged as to how this book came to be written in France, written by people who knew Robert Prevost OSA, written well before there was thought of a Papal election or maybe not? The story of how the work was then offered to publishing houses across the world, of how it was promptly translated, checked by Augustinians and then how ATF, a South Australian Publishing Company, gained the World Rights, just as Cardinal Robert Prevost was elected as Pope Leo XIV.



After hearing how the book came into being it was time for Fr Tony Banks OSA to share some of his obvious excitement at the election of an

Augustinian Pope. Tony, who was once a parishioner here at South Yarra, went on to study for the priesthood, later becoming Provincial of the Augustinian Order here in Australia. Now he is a member of the Augustinian General Chapter living in Rome, and presently Assistant General for Asia Pacific for the Order of St Augustine.



At the time of the Papal election when photographers and media people made good use of the balconies at Augustinian headquarters next door to the Vatican, they asked the friars, "Why are you so excited?" Tony remembers saying, "This is where he has Lunch every day!"

For those of us who attended the Book Launch it was like hearing the news of Pope Leo's election all over again as Tony joyfully shared so much of that excitement, of the background to it all, and of the possibilities for this Papacy.

Mary McCormick

Co-Leader Friends of St Augustine

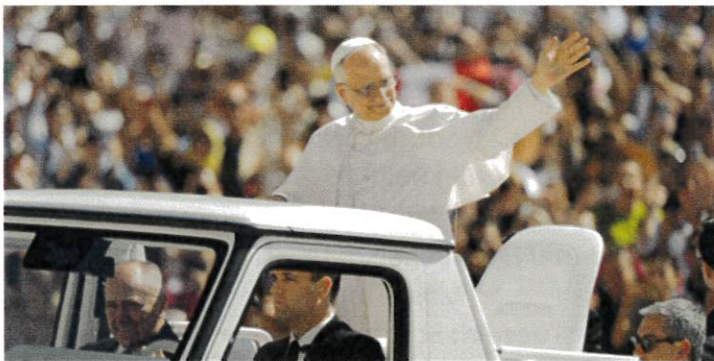
A POPE FOR THE PEOPLE



Archbishop Robert Prevost with Pope Francis following his appointment as Prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops (Source: Vatican News).



With Youth in Sydney 2008



Pope Leo XIV greets the people

FROM LEO XIV'S FIRST HOMILY AS POPE, ADDRESSED TO HIS FELLOW CARDINALS:

“God has called me by your election to succeed the Prince of the Apostles, and has entrusted this treasure to me so that, with his help, I may be its faithful administrator for the sake of the entire mystical Body of the Church. He has done so in order that she may be ever more fully a city set on a hill, an ark of salvation sailing through the waters of history and a beacon that illumines the dark nights of this world. And this, not so much through the magnificence of her structures or the grandeur of her buildings – like the monuments among which we find ourselves – but rather through the holiness of her members. For we are the people whom God has chosen as his own, so that we may declare the wonderful deeds of him who called us out of darkness into his marvellous light”.

FAREWELL ROBERT HUGGINS

6 December 1951 – 21 June 2025

Robert Huggins was a very much loved member of the Parish of South Yarra for many years. His family and friends were shocked and saddened to hear of his illness in 2024 and his death in June this year.



Robert's professional skills as a DJ and compere at weddings and parties were put to great use in the church, especially at St Joseph's, where he worked tirelessly in maintaining and helping with upgrading the sound system and, for some time, in the production of slide presentations for Sunday Masses. During the Covid shut-down of the churches in 2017 Robert was integral to the streaming of Sunday Masses from St Joseph's as he videoed the Mass with his phone each week and zoomed it out to appreciative parishioners. Who could ever forget his impassioned reading of Pilate in the dramatized presentation of the Good Friday Gospel reading at St Joseph's each year?

Robert's family spoke lovingly of their relationship with him. His brother, Tim, reminded us of how much Robert had always loved music and performing right from his childhood days. Being a DJ at people's celebrations suited him down to the ground!

Robert was a kind, gentle soul who had a great love for his friends and the community and was loved in return. He had a great sense of humour and was a witty, even quirky story-teller and entertainer.

On Thursday 17 July 2025, a large crowd of friends and parishioners gathered at St Joseph's Church with his extended family to farewell Robert and to inter his ashes in the Tolentine garden. We celebrate and thank God for the gift that Robert was to our parish. Vale, Robert. Rest in peace and happiness with God.

Di Brebner



HISTORY

AB's HISTORY CORNER

The life-sized figure of Christ carved from Queensland beech wood and the reredos in St. Thomas Aquinas' Church is the 1937 work of Walter Langcake.



Walter Langcake was born in Warragul in 1889 and was one of the last Australian classical school of carvers. His grandfather migrated from England to Victoria to join the gold rush. Although Langcake's family or parents were not artistic, Walter showed interest in wood carving at an early age and was apprenticed to a German woodcarver who influenced his artistic style. Langcake was well known for his abstinence and would not even eat in a place where alcohol was served. He was involved in a pacifist movement and despised anything to do with war.

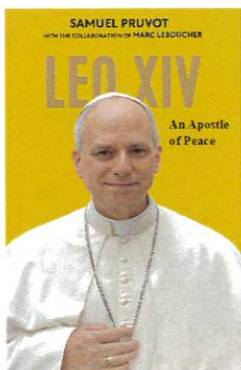
Langcake's work was often adorned with Australian flora and fauna just like our reredos. He died of a heart attack during his sleep in Frankston aged 78.

Did you know?

The crime rate in Vatican City is 133%, which means there are more annual offenses than there are people living in the Vatican (about 500 people). Almost all the crimes are committed by visiting tourists.

Andrew Balcerzak

Let's hope Pope Leo will make a difference to this!! (Editor)



LEO XIV An Apostle of Peace

If you are interested in purchasing a copy of this book it is available from the parish office: \$25 Paperback or \$35 hardcover.



COMMEMORATIVE TEASPOONS

Teaspoons to commemorate the Holy Year and the Papal election of Leo XIV are available from the parish office for the price of \$25 a set of two.

THANK YOU to the contributors to this edition:
Fr Brian Buckley OSA, Andrew Balcerzak, Tony Grant, Mary McCormick & Di Brebner (Editor)

PARISH OF SOUTH YARRA

30 Fitzgerald St, South Yarra. Vic. 3141
PO Box 21, South Yarra. Vic. 3141
(03) 9826 9677

www.parishofsouthyarra.org.au
secretary@parishofsouthyarra.org.au

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

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 Charlie Podkriznik, Noemi Elneser, Lillian Tucek, Victor Duvivier & Raphael Paoletti.

We farewelled Ben Broekman, Peter Reddie & Robert Huggins. **May they rest in eternal peace**