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Confession holds key to building a listening church

By Fr Fred

In March 2020, Pope Francis announced that the Synodal Process he initiated has been the most extensive exercise in church consultation in the 2,000 years of its history. However, reports from around the world put laity participation at well below expectation.

Each parish provides a special place for Catholics, where people of goodwill come to listen to others and be heard by others, but as we know, few have used that opportunity. The low participation in the Synodal Process is another missed opportunity for listening, discernment and accompaniment that is a part of the life of the church: the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

I believe the Sacrament of Reconciliation is the church's best 'listening place' as it is within this sacred space that we come to be heard, where someone can speak with total honesty about their personal reality of sin and wounds that weaken the soul. The priest who attends to this sacrament takes on the important role of the listening church.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is a sacred encounter in which the priest listens with patience, attentiveness, love and mercy to the humble person's soul. When listening not only for words, but also for signs of fear, worry, anxiety, rejection, unworthiness

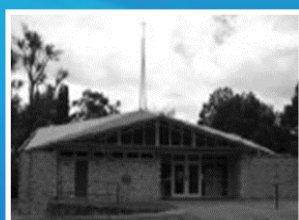
and more, he is better prepared to help the person discern between good and evil and journey with the person on the road to holiness. A further benefit is that the priest gains an understanding of where his people are and what struggles they face, thus preparing him to be a more effective preacher of the word of God.

The penitent also takes the role of the listening church. For while the priest listens to the person, helps him in the wounded soul and applies, like an ointment, words of comfort, consolation, encouragement and counsel, the penitent listens to the words of absolution and experiences an inner healing.

With many calling for a deeper understanding of the Eucharist as a remedy for the weak, we have almost forgotten about the church's most powerful medicine of mercy for the weak – the words that well up from the depths of the heart of Jesus Christ: *I absolve you.*

These restorative words lead to a fuller and more fruitful participation in the other sacraments. If we truly want to receive the Eucharist, it must begin with a conversation about the healing power of Christ in that 'listening place', the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Continued on page 2



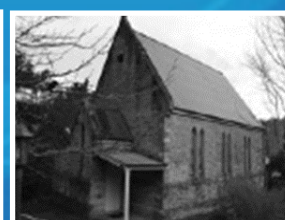
St Matthew's
Bridgewater



St Joseph's
Lobethal



St Matthew's
Birdwood



Our Lady of the Rosary
Stirling



St Catherine's
Stirling

Confession holds key to listening church

Continued from page 1

As the church seeks solutions where it can minimise and heal the wounds of the past, I think the church would benefit greatly from that listening space where reconciliation rather than divergence always seems to reign.

In the sacrament, both the priest and the penitent listen to bring about change both for the penitent and for the priest and make them aware of the problems facing our church today.

I want to state clearly that while the priest is always bound by the confessional seal, in confession he

becomes aware and reflects on where the church needs true healing. The confessional is the key place where anyone who enters with a humble and contrite heart is welcomed. It is the field hospital of which Pope Francis speaks so often, where wounds of the soul are treated and healed.

If we want to learn how to be a church that listens, maybe we should start to listen to each other a bit more in the context of reconciliation, where words spoken are not just words heard; rather, they are words that transform, heal and reconcile.



Everyone was deeply personally and spiritually affected by the experiences at the Awaken Youth retreat

Big turnout for amazing Awaken Youth retreat

By Youth Coordinator John Leeton

Gathering on the cold Friday night of 7 June 2023 at St Catherine's Catholic School were leaders, musicians and 20 youth from our parish and those of Glenelg, Murray Bridge and Aberfoyle Park for what was an amazing Awaken Youth retreat.

The leader team of Nathan Sachse, Daniel Trevino Hernandez, Georgia Farrugia and Asher Cobiac were supported by ex-leader Jade, who's studying in Sydney, and Jess Sachse, our 'godmother' there to guide us, while the musicians team included ex-member Liv. Each night had an hour of worship songs and music, with the initially quiet youth fully embracing the music by the Sunday evening close.

Much preparation went into the various spirit-filled personal presentations on the sacraments, which were followed by small group discussions, quiet reflections and prayers. Everyone present was deeply personally and spiritually affected by the experiences, with the Holy Spirit very much present and working in and through us. Fr Fred was with us on Saturday night to hear confessions after presentations and reflections on reconciliation.

The retreat was not all serious, with lots of games providing the opportunity to interact in a fun way

and develop social contacts with other Catholics and relationships full of good, clean fun.

The role plays, TV sports-style presentations, challenges and silliest of silly games generated laughter aplenty and the St Catherine's Tree House library, along with the hall, were excellent venues for meals and, of course, ball games.

As there is no retreat without food, a big thanks to the families who fed almost 30 people on Friday, Saturday and Sunday night. Fr Fred said Mass on Sunday followed by a gourmet sausage sizzle. There was plenty of healthy food for hungry mouths.

By Sunday afternoon, leaders and the youth were clearly tired but spiritually fulfilled. Great relationships had been formed by shared experiences, and the final Praise and Worship session on Sunday night evolved into loud singing and dancing, with no-one wanting to leave.

Where do we go from here? Training for a few new youth leaders starts as soon as others move on in their vocations. The youth members now become the youth leaders and we fundraise for the big one, the 'Ignite Youth Conference' in Brisbane from 21 to 24 September 2023.



Resilient Reniel realises career in healthcare

*Having recently obtained his undergraduate nursing degree, St Joseph's Lobethal parishioner **Reniel Alegre** reflects on his journey from his home in the Philippines to Australia, his beginnings as a slaughterman, family life and how his faith helped to keep him going and achieve his goal*

Originally from the Philippines. I graduated with a bachelor's degree in agriculture, specialising in plant breeding and genetics in the Philippines, thanks to the non-government organisation scholarship program.

While I never considered leaving the Philippines or envisioned myself elsewhere, my income was barely sufficient to support my parents and siblings, so I decided to work in Australia in preparation for my future family. I started as a slaughterman in WA in 2006, and two years later, after a four-year relationship, I married Cheryl.

My homesickness and cultural shock made me want to return permanently to the Philippines but Cheryl decided to venture to South Australia. We ended up in Bordertown in 2009 and it was here that our first child Rache was born and where we first made our acquaintance with Fr Fred.

When we travelled from Bordertown to the city to shop, we were captivated by the Adelaide Hills' beauty, particularly as we grew up in a mountainous region of the southern Philippines called Bukidnon. We moved to Lobethal in 2013, where I worked for six years as a trainer/supervisor in the Lobethal abattoir. During this time, we acquired our Australian citizenship, managed to mortgage a house and our son Airo was born.

As Catholics, we found great comfort in our faith at St Joseph the Worker church, where we reconnected with Fr Fred and met parishioners who all contributed to a strong feeling of community. With the physically demanding nature of my work contributing to frequent injuries, it was never a long-term career choice. I had wanted to become a doctor, but as this was not practical given my age, I explored other opportunities and decided to study nursing.

I required flexible hours to execute my plan, so I obtained a certificate in individual assistance and spent three years working in an aged care facility as a full-time personal care assistant while pursuing my undergraduate nursing degree.

Not everything in life works out as expected. I encountered unexpected roadblocks in pursuing my nursing career, from numerous assessments, placements and English language proficiency exams but I have kept my faith and determination strong. I am grateful to the Lord and those who have supported and prayed for me on this journey. I now work in a hospital under a year-long government transition program contract and look forward to a long-term role in healthcare.



Reniel Alegre and his family at his graduation

The busyness of Parish Team Meeting business

By WHS Coordinator Marianne Berry

Our parish has been holding Parish Team (PT) meetings since June 2012, the aim being to allow all key members of the parish staff to come together to discuss upcoming activities and events, share feedback for recently held events and reflect on topics discussed at the various meetings, and identify new topics for action and keep track of them until resolved or closed out.

As general business involves parish activity such as the Parish Pastoral Council, our northern, Bridgewater and Our Lady of the Rosary communities, the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, the Youth Group and the Children's Liturgy Group. We also reflect on pastoral matters, including the Sacramental Program, Baptisms, Ministry Renewal, Ministers to the Sick and Bereavement Team, the Liturgy Group, the Social Justice Group, the Team Parish School Meeting and RCIA.

Administration of parish events and maintenance of property works also come under the microscope, as do work health and safety matters. We consider accidents, incidents or near misses, prepare hazard reports and I ensure that all required tasks – from annual electrical testing and tagging and asbestos reviews and the six-monthly workplace Inspections, to internal and external audits, training and correspondence – are attended to.

We also ensure that we remain abreast of all legislative and procedural changes.

My faith journey following Chinchin Tano's death

By Fr Fred

It's not my intention to write a eulogy about Chinchin Tano's life after he passed away on the 13 June 2023 aged 10. Rather, I wish to share my own experience in my journey of faith, especially during Chinchin's funeral two weeks later.

A few days after Easter, I received a text message from his mother Ingrid saying that Chinchin had only been given a few days to live. I immediately went to their house and as we gathered around Chinchin, I anointed him and blessed him, thinking maybe this would be the last time I would see him. God surprised us all as he survived another seven weeks and celebrated his 10th birthday before God called him to be with Him in heaven.

Chinchin's death may sound unfair and we ask why this innocent child had to go through suffering and pain and finally pass away. We all live and suffer with mysteries we cannot put into words, questions which have no answer, and pain that too often knows no relief. At times like these, when we are at a loss for words, I found the funeral Mass helped me. I was under the burden of so many conflicting emotions – maybe anger and surely sadness – but the funeral liturgy gave me words, gestures and symbols to express myself with and to teach us all the ways of God. I felt and believed that it is for times like these that we are given the gifts of faith and hope: to give us strength to face life's senseless

tragedies and be able to live one day at a time under the burden of life's cruelty.

While an overwhelming burden, we all, slowly, have to find ways of coping with the loss of Chinchin. Although time passes quickly and some say time heals, we need to continue to be there for Chinchin's parents in their sorrow, to hold their hand in their grief and to hold them while they cry. At times like these, even when God seems light years out of reach, we still have a God who is willing to carry our burden. We must not be afraid to reach out to Him, as we always do, for help and strength.

Ingrid and Chinlou's faith has been so edifying for me. They never lost hope in God, even when our prayers for Chinchin's recovery didn't happen. Their hope and faith strengthened my faith that even in this loss, they taught me to always trust in God, whatever happens in my life.

God is meek and humble. God walks with us and bears our burdens in ways we can never know or understand. God will continue to surprise us and even overwhelm us with a sense of His presence and love. We must hold on to the hope that, though things will never be all right, they will get better – like when the almighty God, in the midst of this heartbreak, gave Ingrid and Chinlou a wonderful gift in the birth of their daughter Illana. She was a precious sister to Chinchin.

Moreover, God will surely bring blessing out of Chinchin's death, he will make us a blessing for others. Someday we will meet someone who has suffered a similar situation, and we will give tremendous comfort to that person. We will know what they are experiencing, and we can have the right words for them and be the right presence for them. We will help them carry their burden of grief in a way that no one else can.

During the funeral, hard as it was to celebrate, I come to Christ weary with grief and burdened with sorrow like everyone else in church. After the funeral, Jesus refreshed and gave us rest. Through faith, we know that Jesus is at work among us even though we can't see it or measure it. Chinchin now sees and knows the mystery we are unable to find words for. And we, too, will someday know.

These burdens we carry will someday fall from our shoulders, and we will know for certain the everlasting life that Jesus died to win for us. Holding onto that reality, no matter how far off it may seem, gives us the strength to carry on, one day at a time. As we continue to carry our burden of grief, may we continue to experience God's comforting hand on our shoulder and know that He will continue to bear our burden, especially with Ingrid and Chinlou.



Rest in Peace, Chinchin Tano



Reg remembered as a man for all seasons

Reg Hewish's funeral took place at Our Lady of the Rosary in Stirling, where his son Peter delivered the eulogy, an abridged version of which we share below

Our Dad, Reginald Henry Hewish, passed away on 1 July 2023 at the age of 96 and we, his children, chose this church as it was where he and Mum got married and we as a family attended Mass each Sunday.

Dad – or Reg – retired at the age of 64, had a stroke at 74 and life from then on was a struggle.

He spent some 40 years of his life at the family home he helped build in Willow Lane, Stirling, moving to Seven Oaks after his stroke and later Oakfield Lodge in Mt Barker.

Dad worked in various areas and was a grader operator with the Highways Department for 21 years. He and Mum raised us all at Willow Lane, a home through which a creek ran and in which we enjoyed many summer swims.

Reg was a man for all seasons – a family man, a community man, a sportsman and an entertainer.

As a family man, Dad and Mum raised five children in an era when times were tough. He attended multiple football matches with his three sons and countless netball games with his two daughters.

All his family that lived in the Adelaide area would gather at his parents, Edith and Percy, in Pine Street Stirling on Sunday nights for many years, where you'd often find 15 people sitting around the dinner table. The adults would play cards for a few hours after the meal while the kids would watch black and white television.

This tradition continued until his mother reached an age where she was not able to play the host anymore and, in more recent years, Mum and Dad kept family gatherings alive by making a habit of having the kids and their partners over for a Sunday Roast lunch.

As a community man, Dad served as president of the Stirling Football Club for seven years and a committee member for 12. He coached the juniors for four years and the senior colts for two, winning a premiership in 1969. He was also president of the Stirling Cricket Club and with the council doing little to maintain the ground, he took it upon himself to water and mow it, as well as mark the boundary.

Dad the sportsman played football at all levels and spent 13 years playing for Stirling, achieving greatness in 1955 when they won the A Grade premiership. Sport was part of the Hewish tradition and Reg and Mum, Vinna, were always strong supporters of their children participating in all sports, including school sports days, which they always tried to attend.



Reg Hewish RIP

As soon as we could catch a football, he'd have us outside, teaching us how to kick with both feet and handball with both hands. He also put in a netball hoop at one end of the property so his daughters could practice their shooting.

As an entertainer, Dad's venues included the family home at Willow Lane, the Stirling Football Club, the Stirling Hotel and many others, all of them playing host to and witnessing Dad, family and friends reviewing and reliving memories of the great Stirling Football Club. Then there was Australia Day, Anzac Day and many other regular barbecues under the willow trees along the creek at Willow Lane, with many celebrations going well into the night.

In closing, we wish to share an interview a local student conducted with Dad in 2006, as part of the young man's studies. Dad was quoted as saying:

"I have had an enjoyable life. I don't think I have had any dislikes. I am happy the way I am and have no regrets, I never tried to be anything but a foreman, an earthmover, a gardener, a husband and a father.

"I have lived a life of content."

With the need rising almost daily, Vinnies seeks more members

By Leonie Holmes, Sue Arthurson and Dan De Fazio

Thank you to everyone for the support we have received from our parish community, whether by donating to our Winter Appeal or helping with other fundraising activities.

Members have been extra busy visiting families in need throughout our region with the number of calls doubling in the last six months, due to rent/mortgage increases and cost of living expenses, particularly food and fuel. We have paid for ambulance cover where a potential medical crisis could occur and Leonie is assisting 21 men from Kiribati – they're working at the Lobethal abattoir – to keep warm by sourcing extra blankets for winter.

Sadly, we also hear stories of some renting companions on pensions whose rent increases whenever their pensions receive a CPI increase. Furthermore, we expect a surge in assistance requests as fixed interest rate periods come to an end and recent increases in electricity kick in.

It can be the little things and the love and care we can show towards those we help that can make all the difference. Leonie recalls how one companion told her she had never received so much care and

support in her whole life, a sentiment that made Leonie feel sad when reflecting on all the love and support she'd had all her life.

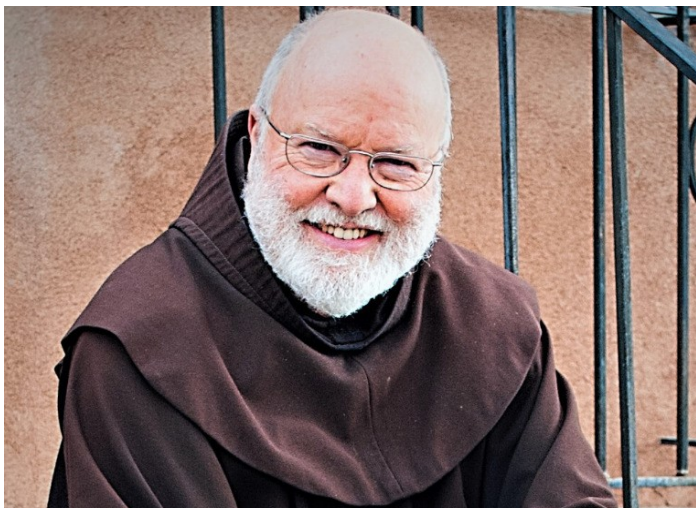
Another companion told us that the help would be wonderful as he would be able to buy some meat and vegetables. He mentioned, too, that his winter shoes are worn out and all his socks have holes, his jeans and underwear are falling apart, adding that the help will allow him to catch up with himself.

The Franciscan, Richard Rohr, writes of three responses to the circumstances of injustices that bring about suffering, which he compares to a river flooding out of control. At the first level, we rescue drowning people from the flooded river, dealing with the immediate social problem. On the second level are ministries of education, healing and social services that help prevent people from falling into the swollen river; and third builds and maintains a dam that stops the river from flooding. This is the work of activism and social advocacy.

All three are needed to respect the dignity and dreams of those in need, while also working towards systemic change. This is the aim of our Stirling Conference. On a practical level, our members can write vouchers to allow our companions to attend the Foodbank food van that visits Mt Barker, Lobethal and the Barossa once a fortnight.

The St Vincent de Paul Migrant and Refugee Centre helps those migrants and refugees who still have not been given work permits or Medicare cover and consequently rely on agencies like the St Vincent de Paul to exist. Our parishioners' generosity has allowed us to support them, while past president Sue Arthurson has been volunteering weekly at the centre and would be happy to share her experience there.

It is a privilege to help God's beloved poor. As we're looking for more members to do this rewarding work, if you'd like to join us, please call Dan on 0418 838 057 or Sue on 0417 899 606.



Franciscan, Fr Richard Rohr

Vinnies Winter Appeal nudges \$3,500 in donations

By Paul Somers

Our Annual Vinnies Winter Appeal 2023 has delivered a fantastic result, with a total of \$3,457 in donations received from parishioner generosity (\$2,903) and an equally generous St Catherine's School community (\$554), bringing our running total to \$3,457.

The donations are very much appreciated, none more so than by those we assist, and we sincerely thank everyone who helped in this regard.

St Catherine's School further donated a wide range of grocery and toiletry items to the Birdwood United

Church's Community Care Pantry.

The Pantry provides food assistance to those in need in the Birdwood area and further gives Vinnies members immediate access to food hampers which we give to those requesting food assistance in the northern end of our parish.

The Pantry was initiated by one of our previous Vinnies members, Fred Nixon, many years ago.

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Holmes' bring long PFC chapter to a close

By Fr Fred

With Leon and Leonie Holmes having decided to resign from the Parish Finance Council (PFC), may I take a moment to thanks them for their long and valued service and wish them well in their 'retirement'.

Besides being an important link for the Northern End of the parish, they were so generous, always arriving at the monthly meetings with a tray of finger food and an assortment of drinks, which we all appreciated and enjoyed as we considered financial matters.

There are no words to thank them for travelling from Mt Pleasant to attend the Bridgewater meetings. While true to form, both have promised to continue to help in the Birdwood community.

Gayle Raven has agreed to serve as the new PFC representative for the Northern End.



Leon and Leonie will continue to help in the Birdwood community

Fantastic Winter Appeal result

Continued from page 6

The money we receive through our Winter Appeal helps those we support with supermarket gift cards and petrol and Foodbank vouchers. Occasionally, we also pay for things such as ambulance cover, utility bills, phone bills, vehicle registration, prescription medications and Metro public transport tickets.

Given the cost-of-living crunch, we find that we now provide the people we support with twice the amount in supermarket gift cards compared with 12 months ago...and the number of people we support is much higher.

Additionally, we carried out 60 percent more home visits in the first six months of 2023 when compared with the last six months of 2022.

It is for these reasons that we need your support as we seek to continue to help those in our local area requiring it more than ever.

On behalf of the Stirling Conference Vincentians, I thank you all once again for your generosity.



Special Mass marks Grandparents Day

The World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly, and initiative of Pope Francis, first took place in 2021. This year, the celebration fell on 23 July, the Sunday closest to the Feast of Saints Joachim and Anne, grandparents of Jesus.

With the theme a line from Mary's prayer, the Magnificat: "His mercy is from age to age," the Pope noted that it "takes us back to the joyful meeting between the young Mary and her elderly relative Elizabeth." The meeting of young and old is particularly relevant as this year's celebration fell just days before World Youth Day, which kicked off on 1 August in Lisbon, Portugal.

At St Matthew's Bridgewater, we celebrated with a special Mass for grandparents and a sausage sizzle. Next year, we plan to have a grandparent share their experience with us.

St Catherine's Catholic School News

*YELP, aka the Youth Environmental Leaders Program, is one the school's powerful eco initiatives and this month, **APRIM Krystina Dawe** looks at recent activities to further educate students on protecting our precious earth. She also welcomes newcomers to the school and takes a peek at St Dominic's feast celebrations. Read on...*

A warm welcome to newcomers

This term we have welcomed many new families and students who have joined our school community. What a privilege it has been to get to know these new faces and to be a part of their educational journey.

As well as students who have commenced across the year levels, we also welcome our new group of Bambini students who will be with us each Friday morning ahead of their transition to school.

It has been lovely to meet these young people and see them enthusiastically step into this next stage of their schooling.

Gathering to celebrate St Dominic's feast

Our school captains were privileged to be invited to Cabra College to join them for a St Dominic's Day Mass.

As always, these young people represented our school well and showed their leadership as they reflected upon the life and mission of St Dominic.

Being about to share in an event such as this, with the wider Dominican community, is a wonderful part of being in Catholic Education SA.



Beeswax wraps and lunchbox waste

Our student ECO leaders and YELP leaders were involved in a beeswax wrap workshop facilitated by KESAB.

Learning how to design and make beeswax wraps fits beautifully with the work these students have been doing around reducing our lunch box waste.

Each student was able to decorate and then make their own beeswax wrap, as well as learn more about why these are a great alternative to plastic wraps such as cling wrap.

The finished products looked amazing and will be a great addition to their daily packed lunches.

Thank you to Erin and the team at KESAB for bringing such an engaging and valuable experience to our student leaders.



Youth Environmental Leaders Program

Some of our Year 5 students attended a workshop day at Stirling East Primary School, along with many other YELP students from other schools.

The day was full of hands-on environmentally focused activities, which included conducting pH testing of soil samples collected from across our school environment, identifying character strengths of our YELP team, making clay models and studying flora and fauna charts to identify key features of native animals and plants.

Our YELP representatives worked amazingly well as a team and showed excellent leadership skills in communicating their team goals and their learnings from the day.





Amazing work of Birthline shared at CWL Regional Meeting

By Leonie Holmes

On Wednesday 12 July 20, members of the Catholic Women's League (CWL) from Murray Bridge, Stirling, Birdwood and the State Executive gathered at 9:30am, despite the freezing cold, in the Mary O'Dea Centre for the annual Regional Meeting and were welcomed with a hot cuppa and a finger bun.

Each branch brought items suitable for babies, as the guest speaker was Barbara Engelhardt, Chairman of the Board of Birthline, a 24/7 telephone answering service for the support of pregnant women.

Reports were read from each of the branches and we were all amazed at the wonderful work done by these women who continue to support their parishes and one another and raise money for a variety of causes. All business was finished by 11am, giving visitors a chance to make purchases from our continual trading table.



Barbara Mott, President of both the Archdiocesan and Stirling branches of the CWL draws the raffle with help from Leonie Holmes

We gathered in the church for Mass with Fr Fred at 11:30am and visitors mentioned how much they enjoyed the intimate atmosphere in our beautiful old St Matthew's church. Fr Fred joined us for a hot lunch with fruit punch and delicious cream cakes from the Lobethal bakery, while donations for Birthline were left in a bowl on the table.

The raffle, with 10 different prizes, was drawn, causing much excitement deciding which prize to select.

Barbara gave an amazing talk about the compassionate, professional way the highly trained volunteers deal with the calls, most of which are made at night when women have difficulty handling the fact that they are inconveniently pregnant and need a caring, non-judgemental person to listen to them. Frequently, volunteers do not know the results of their efforts as they take no particulars. However, if callers reach out for help, they are given things like second-hand bassinets, prams and baby bundles, and are thrilled to receive items of any kind that might be useful for a baby.

Barbara urged us to donate goods as soon as they are no longer needed, as things like car seats only have a life of 10 years and then they cannot be offered to clients. Birthline also counsels women who have had abortions as they often suffer great loss and depression. Often a woman has an abortion because the father does not want a baby, but this depression can cause a breakup of the relationship, so that what the abortion was supposed to prevent happens anyway.

Barbara took time to answer lots of questions and we were delighted to be able to give her more than \$500, which we collected on the day. An extra donation of \$200 is to follow. Please feel free to call Birthline on 83311223 if you have anything you would like to donate.

New mats put end to slippery problem at OLOR

By Debbie Somers

Fr Fred has once again persevered with many difficulties in relation to solving a hazardous slipping problem on the pavers surrounding Our Lady of the Rosary Church (OLOR), Stirling East, by successfully procuring commercial style non-slip black mats from an interstate supplier.

These have been laid on the ramp and walkways from the front gate to the front door of the Church and the second instalment went down last month along the front garden side, to the Sacristy and toilet (see right).

With all pedestrian walking areas now safe and compliant with occupational health and safety regulations, we sincerely thank Fr Fred for his hard work and commitment, as well as his efforts in securing the required donations.



Youth gets its fundraising sizzling ahead of upcoming Ignite Youth Conference in Brisbane

By Youth Coordinator John Leeton



Cooking up a fundraising storm to get to Brisbane...our youth recently hosted a sausage sizzle at Bunnings Mount Barker. From left are Bella, Daniel, Asher, Nathan, Georgia and coordinator John Leeton. Jack, Viv and Bede are missing from the photo

They say nothing beats a good sausage sizzle to make money – and so it was on Sunday 23 July when our Awaken Youth group hosted a sausage sizzle at Bunning Mount Barker to raise funds for 11 members keen to attend the upcoming Ignite Youth Conference in Brisbane from 21 to 24 September.

It costs about \$800 per person in airfares and accommodation, and while families are contributing where they can, we still need about \$3,600 to cover all expenses. The sausage sizzle was a promising start, raising a profit of \$900 and allowing our members to display their skills as they set about rotating through different roles during the day, always with a smile on their faces.

Our local Vinnies, with experience in organising sausage sizzles at Bunnings over the past two years, provided the kit and, more importantly, their

experience, with Des Stapleton cutting onions, setting up and dismantling the stand, Paul Somers coaching the youth leader team and me showing them how to use the EFTPOS machine.

We are blessed to have some 20 youths aged between 12 and 17 – along with five leaders – attend our Awaken Youth Group. The youth are our future and my experience from attending their recent retreat is that we are blessed to have these gifts of the Holy Spirit.

While we have a few more plans for fundraising, if you'd like to make a donation to help us get these wonderful young people to Brisbane for what promises to be a life-changing few days for those who wish to live more deeply their Christian faith, your contributions will be greatly appreciated and can be channelled through the parish office.

What to expect from the October Regional Assembly

By PPC Chair, John Leeton

With the Regional Assembly set for Sunday 29 October at St Catherine's, I thought I'd share a little about this event, which is open to all parishioners.

The purpose is for our parish and the Mount Barker parish to work towards common goals and share ideas and information to enhance ways to build our parishes, work with and for our communities to help the needy, the lonely and poor and to care for the environment.

The three discussion sessions will look at building our understanding of parish; enhancing the senses of welcome, hospitality and belonging in our parishes; and growing our commitments to mission, outreach and social justice.

It's an opportunity not only to discuss but to find ways to act, as we explore questions such as aspects of the parishes that are challenging; opportunities for change and innovation in parishes, including in relation to prayer, liturgy, and formation; what should be celebrated and acknowledged as good examples; and opportunities for change and innovation in mass centres and schools to mission, outreach, and social justice.

Hopefully, the Regional Assemblies and the Synod of Bishops in Rome later this year call for a synodal church—and that means walking together on the journey, walking with Christ.



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FUNERAL DIRECTORS

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precious moments become precious memories

DEADLINE AHEAD

Please take note of the deadlines for the next three issues of *The Bridge*.

September: 1 September
October: 2 October
November: 1 November

Your contributions can be emailed to me at paul@wordcafe.com.au or dropped off at the parish house. Thank you.

Paul Robinson (editor)

ADELAIDE HILLS PARISH MASS TIMES

St Matthew's Church, Bridgewater
1 Wembley Avenue
Saturday Vigil – 6.00pm
Sunday – 10.30am

St Matthew's Church, Birdwood
Lot 95 Shannon Street
First & Third Sunday – 8.30am

St Joseph the Worker Church, Lobethal
38 Ridge Road
Second, Fourth & Fifth Sunday – 8.30am

Our Lady of the Rosary Church, Stirling East
135 Old Mount Barker Road
Sunday – 5.30pm



Our Lady of the Rosary Church

An attractive, historic (1881) stone church in a lovely garden setting in leafy Stirling East, the church is available for weddings and has seating for 80 to 100 people.

To make a booking or to enquire, please call the Parish Office on 8339 1608

As this directory changes from time to time, anyone wishing to volunteer for any of the parish activities listed below is asked to please contact the parish office.

1 Wembley Avenue (PO Box 713), Bridgewater SA 5155

P: 08 8339 1608 W: www.adelaidehillsparish.com.au E: adelaidehillsp@ozemail.com.au

PARISH OFFICE

Parish Priest

Fr Alfred Farrugia 8339 1608

Parish Pastoral Coordinator

Cathie Oswald 8339 1608

Parish Secretary

Judith McPhee 8339 1608

Awaken Youth

Coordinator: John Leeton 0419 243 814

Leader: Nathan Sachse 8339 1608

Baptism Teams

Helen Cantwell 8390 3290

Maria Thompson 0408 898 357

Anne Moore 0417 861 373

Sue Streich 8568 2858

Deb Stapleton 0408 835 990

Pam Broadbridge 8339 5013

Catholic Women's League

Barbara Mott (Bridgewater) 8339 1083

Anne McEvoy (Birdwood) 8568 2394

Child Protection

Mark McGeough 0491 150 758

Children's Liturgy

Jane van Mierle 8339 2609

Choir

Damien Mansfield 8339 4133

Christian Life Communities

Helen Cantwell 8390 3290

Faith Formation Team

Fr Fred (Chair) 8339 1608

Paris Huffman (Secretary) 0400 283 683

Finance and Maintenance (F&M) Committee

Paul Howe (Chair) 8388 5281

F&M Birdwood Contact

Gayle Raven 8389 8410

Hills Combined Christian Churches

Cathie Oswald 0428 244 958

Francis McEvoy 8568 2394

Liturgy

Birdwood - Fr Fred 8339 1608

Lobethal - Fr Fred 8339 1608

Men's Spirituality Coordinators

Paul Somers 8339 5118

Dan De Fazio 8339 3393

Music Coordinator

Sean van der Linden 8339 8195

Our Lady of the Rosary Community Rep

Debbie Somers 8339 5118

Parish Atrium

Sue Sachse 0431 117 840

Parish Facebook Page

www.facebook.com/adelaidehillsparish

Parish Pastoral Council

John Leeton (Chair) 0419 243 814

Sacraments

Baptisms

Weddings

Reconciliation

Communion to the Sick

Religious Education

Please contact the Parish House 8339 1608

St Catherine's Catholic School

22 Ayers Hill Rd, Stirling SA 5152 8238 8238

Principal - John Low

School Board Chair - Miriam Whitford

St Matthew's Sewing Group

Stasia Duszynski 8339 4396

St Vincent de Paul Society

Dan De Fazio 8339 3393

Leonie Holmes 8568 2319

Social Justice Group

Cathie Oswald 0428 244 958

The Bridge

Paul Robinson (Editor) 0408 855 178

Email: thebridge@ozemail.com.au

WHS Volunteer

Marianne Berry 0407 903 382