

PARISH REPORT 2009

We have experienced another busy and fulfilling year here at Sts Peter and Paul parish. We gather as God's people each weekend to share communion and community, and it is from both these that we share in the work of making God's Kingdom here on Earth a living reality for ourselves and in our community.

As a Parish we have many active and dedicated groups of volunteers who serve the needs of so many people in the Bulimba area. Each year we are invited to step up and offer our time, our energy and our faith by volunteering to participate in one of the groups that form the heart of our parish. The list of groups is quite surprising with over 29 operating regularly and dealing with so many different needs, support and learning opportunities.

The Parish Pastoral Council invited each group to prepare a short summary of their activities throughout the year. This report will attempt to provide you an overview of what is happening in our parish. I trust that in presenting such a summary we do not diminish or devalue in anyway the marvellous efforts and contributions of all those who give so generously of their time.

The variety of groups operating may be clustered together under the four main Ministries - **Liturgical, Pastoral, Educational and Practical**.

Liturgical Ministries include our readers (60), servers (20), communion ministers (60), children's liturgy team (17), liturgy committee (7), Meditation Reflection group (15), hospitality and collections and Art and church décor members (5) Musicians and Singers (20)

The Pastoral Ministries include– Visitation/communion of the sick, transport group (15), hospitality(15), welcome group, St Vincent de Paul (14), Casserole Bank(40-50), Ministry to the bereaved and aged, play group, Youth ministry, Parish Pastoral Council (8) and the Deanery Pastoral council representatives (2).

Educational Ministries include – our catechists (4), RCIA team (5) Adult Faith Formation group, Social justice group, Baptism preparation, Sacramental Preparation team (8), and St Peter and Paul Primary School, Parents and Friends Association (15)

Practical ministries include – Parish Finance council, Counters team, Volunteer Office assistants, and communications group.

HIGHLIGHTS OF YEAR

- **COLUMABRIUM:** A major undertaking in this the 150th Anniversary of the Catholic church in Brisbane was the building and blessing of our Columbarium. A desire to honour Fr Canali gave birth to the idea of re-furbishing the space beneath the church into a very sacred and private resting place for the loved ones of our parish. Through diligent work by the Finance Committee and the generous assistance of designers and builders we can be very proud of having a sacred place within our parish site which will provide comfort, solace and peace to those who have lost a dear family member.
- **SACREMANETAL LIFE OF THE PARISH:** At the core of who we are and in our belief in our loving God, lay the sacred moments when we prepare for and celebrate the differing sacramental times throughout the year. As a community we experience the joy of infant and adult Baptisms, Reconciliation, First Eucharist, Confirmation, Marriage and, in solemnity, Blessing with Oils. Our weekly gathering around the table of the Lord enriches us through receiving the Body and Blood of our Saviour. As a community we then share in the faith journey of others as we witness and welcome

through the other sacramental times. Our parish lives the message of Christ and it is through the sacraments that we as individuals, and as a community, feel the touch of God in our lives. Many thanks to all those parishioners who assist in the sacramental life of our parish.

- **PARISH DINNER:** A social highlight for the parish this year was our Parish Dinner. Our desire to celebrate the sense of welcome and community that is such an integral part of our parish saw us dine, wine, dance and laugh throughout an evening of entertainment and friendship. One of the wonderful aspects of the night was the way that people jumped and assisted with serving the food and cleaning up – another example of the goodwill of our parishioners. Many thanks to everyone who helped make the night such a huge success – the caterer, the musicians, the waiters, the organising committee and especially all those who attended with the intention of having a great night!!!
- **YOUTH MINISTRY:** Following on from the busyness and excitement of World Youth Day activities last year, our youth set about establishing a regular pattern of meetings and activities this year. Inter-faith ecumenical meetings and events were organised locally as well as linking into the activities of nearby parishes and the Deanery. The growing involvement of the younger members of our parish is to be encouraged, supported and applauded by us all and we need to ensure that they have a voice and a place within our parish for the long term benefit of all our families and children.
- **DROP IN FRIDAY:** Thanks to the initiative and energy of a small group of ladies Drop in Friday commenced this year. On the first Friday of each month members of the community are welcomed to come along, share a cuppa, a natter and also engage in some fun activities – card games, crochet etc. The mornings are proving very enjoyable and successful and are a wonderful way for our parish to reach out to those who want some company and some activity in their lives.
- **CHRISTMAS CAROLS:** This year we hosted the Community Christmas Carols 5.00 on Sunday 20th December. Whilst in past years this event was staged in the local park, we decided to take the initiative and ensure that the event was not lost to the community, so we set up the evening on our bottom oval. The Carols night is not just for the members of our parish, but is open to all members of the local Bulimba/Hawthorne community. Many sincere thanks to everyone who helped in anyway – big or small – to ensure that the night was a success and a fitting way to prepare for the Christmas season proper.

STILL TO COME

- **WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT:** The Parish Pastoral Council is undertaking the seemingly smooth task of re-developing our parish website, with the help of a professional company that was trialling a website package for all parishes. The task has been a bit more involved than at first figured, however great progress has been made and the final design of the new website is being “tweaked” as you read this report. The new website will be more informative, more user friendly and interactive and will be of greater benefit to all website visitors.

SPECIAL THANKS: It is always difficult to thank individuals who give so generously of their talents, time and caring. Whilst not wishing to offend anyone who has contributed to our parish this year, it is only fitting that I pay a special thanks to Sr Mary Randle and Fr Tom for being the presence of Christ among us. Sr Mary has a heart of gold and her constant care, compassion and tireless support for all those around her, is truly amazing and humbling. Her gentle manner and witty sense of humour always makes you feel listened to, welcome, and valued. Many thanks Sr Mary for your selfless efforts on behalf of so many of us throughout this year – we are blessed to have you in our midst. Fr Tom’s belief in and passion for our

parish as a community of Christ's followers has once again supported, challenged and extended us in our understanding and knowledge of God's word and works in our lives. His drive and enthusiasm is matched only by his willingness to keep finding ways to assist our parish to grow and develop as a community. Through his prayerful liturgies and practical homilies, he has enabled us to reflect upon our own individual faith journey, whilst growing closer as a parish community. In 2010, our support of Fr Tom needs to focus a little sharper on his learning more about the spiritual benefits of sport!

On behalf of the Parish Pastoral Council I would like to sincerely thank you all for being an important member of our growing parish community. I look forward to being part of our continued faith journey in 2010 and I once again thank all those who have assisted, helped or enriched our parish this year.

Richard Grajczonek
Chairperson –
Sts Peter and Paul Parish Pastoral Council.