

ST PETER AND PAUL CATHOLIC PARISH  
BULIMBA

PARISH REPORT 2010

Our gathering for the Eucharist remains the unifying and sustaining activity that shapes us as a community and as followers of Christ. In our response to our challenge “to love one another as I have loved you” we reach out to each other and to those in need in many differing ways within our Parish. We have many parishioners who volunteer their time, energy and skills in an effort to meet the needs and demands of our growing Parish. The support and services we offer each other and our local community are quite extensive (numbering some 29 groups) and can be clustered into four main categories:



## **SIGNIFICANT MOMENTS AND EVENTS:**

- **SACRAMENTAL LIFE OF THE PARISH:** Our communal participation in the Sacraments throughout the year affords us all the opportunity to be graced by our Creator in a special way. The Eucharist is central to our existence as a parish and our coming together is always a unifying and holy time. Our opportunities to share in the rites of Baptism, First Eucharist, Confirmation, Reconciliation, Marriage and in the saddest of times, through the sacrament of healing, all bring us closer to our God and each other. We thank Fr Tom and all the priests who assisted our Parish sacramental life throughout the year.
- **PARISH DINNER:** Once again a great night was had by all. This social gathering extends the sense of community and friendship and allows us to kick up our heels and enjoy each other's company amidst, good food, wine and music. Many thanks to everyone who organised and attended this gala night!
- **ST VINCENT DE PAUL:** Our local conference assisted many families and individuals throughout this year. They visit the needy (360 visits), provide emergency food parcels, financial support for students in India, collected glasses for shipping to New Guinea, Kirbati and Timor, and distributed 60 Christmas hampers and 65 children's gifts last Christmas. Many thanks for your dedication and service to our needy.
- **PARISH PLAYGROUP:** This ministry provides a wonderful outreach to young families with babies, toddlers and pre-prep children in our parish. 38 families have registered and currently 33 Other Playgroup members and casuals join the gatherings – a massive 807 visits this year. Social contact, mutual support and fun activities for the little ones are the main aims of this energetic group.
- **DROP IN FRIDAY:** A group of 12-16 ladies meets regularly each month to share fellowship and participate in relaxing activities. One activity that has been on-going – apart from the chatting, laughter and morning teas – has been the knitting of squares for blankets which are passed onto the St Vincent De Paul group for distribution. In 2011 this group may invite members of neighbouring churches in order to expand our ecumenical outreach to each other.
- **SOCIAL JUSTICE GROUP:** This year the group focussed upon the homeless and societal attitudes towards their housing needs. A collection of toiletries (the very basics of hygiene) was organised with assistance from parishioners.

**SINCERE THANKS:** We owe a debt of gratitude to many people in our parish – and we extend to every single person our heartfelt thanks for doing their part in shaping and making our parish a vibrant and welcoming community. It would remiss of me not specially thank Sr Mary Randle – our very hard working and very humble Pastoral Associate. Sr Mary has once again shared her incredible faith and gentleness with us and has supported so many of us individually and as a community. Her guidance over the last six months in particular has been selfless and boundless. Thank you Sr Mary – you are indeed a treasure among us.

Fr Tom is returning to us in early January. Whilst we have had the good fortune to have a number of priests to be with us in Fr Tom's absence – I know that we are looking forward to having our Pastor back. I am sure that Fr Tom too is looking forward to his return to be among friends and to continue to walk with us as we work towards the coming of the Kingdom in ourselves and the world around us.

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 am pleased to inform you that Deb Waldron has accepted the role of Chairperson of our Parish Council for next year and I thank her for her dedication and commitment to our Parish and wish her every joy next year. Thank you everyone for a very busy, holy and successful year.

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