

# Baldivis Catholic Parish

## 2024 Annual Report

Our last three annual reports have been presented with a different parish priest presiding over our vibrant Parish each year. It is therefore comforting to note that Father Alexis has settled into his second year with us. This has not meant however, any slowing down of activity in our Parish.

The last year has in fact seen significant change. During the year foundation parishioners Bryan and Jan Evans left the Parish when they moved back to NSW. Bryan was the inaugural and longstanding Parish Pastoral Council chairperson and Chair of our Finance Committee. He and Jan were amazing volunteers and both were part of the Building Committee, overseeing the planning and construction of our new church. It was sad to say farewell to a couple who had been so instrumental in helping to build our Parish.

In a similar vein, earlier this year, we saw the retirement of the inaugural principal of Mother Teresa Catholic College, Geri O'Keefe. Geri contributed so much of her time and talent to not only building and running a beautiful new school, but in being an integral part of the Parish Council. Her drive, expertise and humanity were really important, not only in building a college community but in building our Parish. On behalf of our Parish community, I acknowledge and thank Geri for her wonderful and life-giving contribution.

This year we have had the privilege to welcome and host our newly ordained Deacon Jupiter Bin Justin who has formally been appointed to our Parish. We have greatly appreciated Jupiter's contribution to our community and his support of Father Alexis. We look forward with anticipation to his Ordination to the priesthood planned for May 2025.

In line with our Parish Plan, we continued to provide an opportunity for faith education with the delivery of an eight-week Faith Formation Catechesis for Youth and Adults.

This past year has seen the formation of a fund-raising committee with the specific aim of raising funds for air conditioning of the church. I acknowledge the hardworking efforts of this group coordinated by Joanne Hart. So far, the group has undertaken three successful events being a Curry Drive, Father's Day raffle and the International Food Festival Congratulations and thank you to all those who helped to make these events so successful, not just as fund raisers but also from a community building perspective. To date \$12,158 has been raised towards our goal. The Committee is always looking for more members and new ideas so please consider how you might be able to assist.

The celebration of Mother Teresa's feast day in September was again a highlight for us along with the successful recent screening of the movie Cabrini held on the Parish Green.

All Sacramental programmes continued to be provided in our Parish and it is great to see the RCIA programme re-commenced recently. In May we had some fun with our 'Say G'Day in May' initiative which helps to get people to say hello to parishioners they

might not know and we again donated gifts for children of needy families at Christmas time.

It has been very encouraging to see our congregation steadily growing over the last 12 months and it has been particularly noticeable that the Sunday evening Masses have gained in popularity.

Over the last year your Parish Pastoral Council has continued to meet on a monthly basis and I'd like to acknowledge the contribution of this group - particularly our secretary Catherine Conway. I also acknowledge the commitment and contribution of Simon Karginoff who recently retired from the Council. We greatly appreciated Simon's valuable insights during his years of service. With Simon and Geri O'Keefe's departure, we have welcomed four new members to the Parish Council - Anne Xavier, Emmanuel Ogbodo, Nisha Das and Danilo Henrique Costa E Silva

I note that several members will complete their maximum terms of six years in the coming 12 months, so we will be looking for additional new members to further refresh the Council next year.

Earlier in 2024, Father Alexis took the opportunity to establish a new Finance Committee. It would be remiss not to acknowledge the contribution made by the previous committee in steering the Parish through an important growth phase which included the building of our church. The dedication and expertise provided by those volunteers was significant in ensuring the capacity of the Parish to meet its obligations now and into the future. A sincere thank you to those retiring members for their years of service and to the new committee for taking on the role.

Further on the financial front, our Church loan currently stands at \$361,000 with the outstanding principal having been reduced by approximately \$15,000 in the last 12 months. Thank you to all our parishioners who continue to give generously towards the support of our priest, the servicing of the loan and the upkeep of our church and Parish.

After another busy year, thank you to Father Alexis for his guidance and spiritual leadership of the Parish. Thanks also to Deacon Jupiter for his support and Helen Tippet and several others who have helped out in the Parish office, keeping the administration of the Parish functioning smoothly.

Finally, our Parish simply would not function without the numerous volunteers who perform a great number of tasks each and every week, many without recognition. We are blessed to have the college staff continuing to clean the Church during the school terms, volunteers who assist or coordinate the sacramental programs, run the many groups in the Parish, those who prepare rosters, undertake maintenance, assist with liturgical tasks and serve morning teas. Thank you to all of you for your continued support of our Parish.

**Michael Parker,**

**Chair, Parish Pastoral Council**