

PARISH AGM REPORTS 2020

PARISH PRIEST'S REPORT

Fr. Paul Manickathan SAC

It continues to be my joy and privilege to serve as the leader of this beautiful, complex and intricate parish. Thank you for taking the time to read this report and to glimpse some of what makes up of our parish. In doing so I realise that we could never do justice to the hundreds of unique individuals that make up the complete picture of who we are as a Church. I would like to express my gratitude to God for the privilege I had to celebrate my Silver Jubilee of priesthood in this parish. I am conscious of so much happiness and joy which I have found and been given. Indeed, I thank God for every moment. I thank God for the many blessings I have received in my life and ministry. I thank you all for your support and prayers which has helped me tremendously to carry out my priestly ministry. You have helped to shape me into the person, priest, and leader that I am today.

Serving at Queen of Apostles Parish, Riverton has been a true blessing. Your kindness, hospitality and willingness to adapt are signs that this community has been deeply formed to be participants in the building of God's kingdom. Despite the challenges that I had to go through; it is incredibly life-giving to serve here at this parish. It is life-giving because of the number of people who have responded to the call of the Gospel to become followers of Jesus Christ; to become, as Pope Francis is fond of saying, missionary disciples. There is something deeply satisfying when we know that despite our many flaws and weaknesses that each person has been called by God to fulfill a specific purpose and mission as part of God's kingdom here on earth. If you are still discerning how you fulfill this purpose and mission, or if you have taken a break from the mission, know that it is never too late to become active in God's kingdom again.

As Christians we are called to not only worship God, but also to be witnesses to the presence of God in our suburbs through charity and reach out to those less fortunate than ourselves. There are many organizations like St. Vincent De Paul Society, Faith Enrichment committee, Catechetical services and our Catholic school that provide outreach and support to parishioners and others in our community. Our **Religious Education Program** under the leadership of Mr. Ashley Almeida provides support and education to our parents and children as they grow in their faith and learn what it means to be a member of the Church and follow Jesus Christ. We also have an eager group of people who faithfully come in our weekly Bible study group, craft group and mother's prayer group. They are the heartbeat of every growing church and our continued support and encouragement of in small groups is critical to the maintenance of momentum in terms of growth in our church situation. I ask that you now consider how we could attract, invite and welcome people to our parish, people who have left or walked away from regular worship at our parish over the years. The mission, responsibility, and ideas to build God's kingdom are shared by all of us.

The parish continues to benefit from the commitment and assistance of Fr Ray Hevern whose presence at St. Vincent Pallotti Chapel for the pastoral care he provides. I am also grateful to Fr John Flynn for his faithful visits to several aged and frail members of our community. I know that this ministry is greatly valued. I thank our **secretaries** Mrs. Trish Wisolith and Lyna Chan for their administrative support over the year. For the last 20 weeks I had the firsthand experience of what it means to be a secretary and it gave me an insight into the type of work needed to be done in our office. Parishioners continue to benefit from the guidance and direction of Sr. Charla, our **pastoral worker** and I thank our sisters for their special care and love. The Pastoral Care Team continues to provide much-needed care and support to the frail and aged members of the parish. Many of our house-bound parishioners are now very accepting of the fact that the provision of pastoral care is not only the responsibility of the clergy. Thanks to our Parish **Safe Safeguarding Officers** Mike Kavanagh and Melissa Edmonds for their work in this vital and important area of parish life.

I thank our **caretaker and sacristan**, Mr. Agnelo Monteiro and his family for their dedication and the love for the parish. I pray that God will bless him and his family for their generosity, dedication and contribution to our parish, a generosity, dedication and contribution, I'm sure, that flows from their faith and love. The parish is really blessed with the extent of parish involvement in the liturgy and the different ministries

exercised. Despite my lack of acknowledgement, I am regularly humbled by the examples of service I see around me in so many ways in the life of our parish. I believe the quality of the **music** in our church, particularly in our weekend Masses is of a high quality. The different styles of music across our liturgy complement both liturgical style and intention. The quality of our **liturgy** is certainly enhanced and well served by the contribution of the various ministries, readers, Eucharistic ministers, acolytes, servers etc. I thank all dedicated people involved at various liturgical ministries.

I thank all the **youth leaders** and parents for overseeing the youth activities. The Youth Council brings together young people serving in youth related roles to ensure a coordinated approach to the Youth Services in the Parish. They offer a range of activities which engage young people in their faith formation. A young adults group meets regularly. This group has built up a strong connection with each other and has laid a foundation for us to continue to develop in our parish life. Our **social committee** organized some wonderful parish gatherings and we had great time in socializing with each other. Thanks to all members of this active, deeply committed, and hard-working group. I extend my heartfelt thanks to the Parish **Pastoral Counsel**, particularly to Mr. Chris Leon for his role as chairperson. Thank you so much for your constancy, perseverance, faithfulness and joy. A special word of thanks to Susan Regnard and Elizabeth Fisher who are retiring from the Parish Council. Thanks to our **Finance committee**, under the leadership of Mr. Vince Ialeggio has looked after the matters pertaining to their field and I am grateful to them for their timely advice and action. Queen of Apostles is also a community that responds to worthy causes. Once again, this year Project Compassion, Propagation of the Faith, Lifelink and Missions appeals were well supported. We have continued to support this worthwhile work. The Apostlecare Sunday offerings have enabled many needy families to benefit from this generosity.

Despite the many restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, we were still able to conduct our Holy Week and weekend Masses- although in a much-reduced format. The interesting thing is that we engaged with many more people through our broadcast services than we would do normally. I especially thank David Tham and Peter White and all other helpers who have greatly improved the quality of the recording, presentation, and delivery of our Masses. They have responded in a timely, effective and creative way to the current crisis. We are indeed blessed to have a dedicated team of musicians and others who offer their skills in God's service and for the benefit of us all. There are lots of positive comments given by outsiders who have viewed us over these weeks. We often don't know who we are and what we have until we go out of our own territory and outlook.

I take this opportunity to thank the members of the **project committee** whose assistance and timely intervention in repairs and projects is greatly appreciated. Many facilities at Queen of Apostles are dated and in need of renovation. As we maintain our church buildings and other facilities, we are now faced with the greater challenge of ensuring that our parish community remains vibrant. We are trying to preserve the fabric of the church for generations to come. However, evidence across the wider church shows that it takes a great deal of work and visionary leadership to attract anyone to church in the twenty-first century, a fact that particularly applies to younger generations. I look forward to ideas that will help us to focus on our future. Last year's main project was building of our columbarium. I would like to include in my report an overall view of this completed project. The total expenditure for this project was 89560.00 and we have sold 66 niches as per today bringing 67200.00 to our income. So far, we have interred the ashes of nine people in our Columbarium.

I thank God every day for the privilege of serving among such talented and gracious people. I look forward to continuing our shared task in the building up of God's kingdom in this place. I am optimistic, hopeful, and even excited about the future of this parish. May our patroness Mary Queen of Apostles, bless us all abundantly and watch over our endeavours. God bless you all.

PARISH COUNCIL'S REPORT

Chris Leon

As I am writing this report, we are in Phase 4 of the COVID 19 roadmap to recovery. Hopefully when this report is read out, we will have proceeded to Phase 5. Life as we know it will never be the same again. We are living through this historic time where drastic changes to our routines and lifestyles must be made to combat the COVID 19 crisis that is wreaking havoc around the whole world.

Despite the turbulent times we are facing now, it is somewhat pleasing to note that we have had some events that were successfully organised before changes had to be made. The second stage in preparations for the Plenary Council 2020 was held in our Parish. A total of 3 sessions were conducted to gather feedback from our parishioners. These are then forwarded to the Panel within the Plenary Council for collation and submission to the Council members.

It is very pleasing to see a very energetic and vibrant youth movement in our parish. They are slowly growing and are an integral part of our parish. The ACYF (Australian Catholic Youth Festival) was held at the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre where some youths from our parish attended as delegates.

Fast 24 is now a permanent fixture in our Church calendar and this year is no different, with the involvement and participation of our youths. Fast 24 which was held on March 6 and 7 is growing in status and was well attended by parishioners from our parish and the surrounding parishes. Special thanks go out to the organising Committee led by David Tham and Peter White. The Valentine's Day Dance held on the 15th of February organised by the Social Committee was a huge success. Everyone had a fabulous time showing off their dance moves.

Then the COVID 19 crisis arrived at our shores and dealt a vicious blow. The following events had to be cancelled:

1. Regular Masses on weekdays and weekends
2. Fish and Bingo night on Friday 20th March 2020
3. St. Vincent Pallotti's Feast day Celebration on Saturday 18th April 2020
4. Stations of the Cross on Fridays during Lent.
5. 2nd Rite of Reconciliation prior to Easter.
6. Fr. Paul's Silver Jubilee Celebration on Friday 24 April 2020.
7. Parish Religious Education Program on Saturday mornings.
8. Rosary & Benediction at 7pm on Wednesdays.
9. Reconciliation Service at 4.00pm on Saturdays
10. Lenten discussion & Bible study on Thursdays

During these difficult times, it was a welcoming initiative to have live streaming Masses from our own parish. Special thanks to Fr Paul, David Tham, Peter White and their fabulous team for bringing the Masses into our homes. Many parishioners (both local and overseas) were very impressed and deeply grateful for all your endeavours. They also provided positive feedback on these streaming services.

The Masses were suspended from 18th March 2020 and resumed on 18th May 2020, albeit in a much-controlled fashion. Parishioners are slowly getting used to the sanitising and socially-distancing measures implemented in our Parish (as per the Government's directives). It is pleasing to note that the attendances are slowly but surely growing for every Mass.

The first post COVID 19 lockdown event was on the 24th of June, when we held a talk organised by the Faith Enrichment Committee titled "Inquiry into the Children & Community Amendment Bill 2019" by speakers James Parker and Daryl Blakemore. It comes at a critical time where the Church's Seal of Confession is being targeted.

The project committee is always hard at work with the repairs and upgrades in and around the church. Some notable projects completed were the Columbarium, the sliding doors for the church's entrance and the hall's kitchen renovations.

They are now looking at the glass infill around the crucifix in the church and the painting of both the inside and exterior of the church. This is in preparation for our Church's 70th anniversary next year. Despite the COVID 19 pandemic which caused so much pain and anxiety, there are so many things to be thankful for. We are blessed to have so many wonderful people and organisations – Fr Paul, Servite Sisters, Parish Pastoral Council, all committees and groups, parishioners and everyone who have helped in making our Parish a place where we are one – as a parish and one with God.

Special thanks to Susan Regnard and Elizabeth Fisher who will be leaving the Parish Pastoral Council after having served in the Council with love, dedication and distinction. Your time, effort and contribution have been significant and much appreciated. We hope to see you back.

I would also like to thank each and every one in the Parish Pastoral Council with Fr Paul as our Spiritual Leader for being kind, supportive and caring over all these years. It is indeed a privilege to be given the opportunity to serve in the capacity of Parish Chair. May God bless us all. Thank you.

Parish Council Members:

Fr Paul Manickathan (Parish Priest & Spiritual Director)
Chris Leon (Chairperson & St Vincent de Paul Society))
Elizabeth Fisher (Secretary, School Rep & Liturgy)
Peter White (Vice Chair and Youth)
Fr Ray Hevern (Rector Rossmoyne & UAC Rep)
Sr Chitra OSM (Pastoral & Liturgy)
Ray U'Chong (Social & Liturgy)
Carlton Byrne-Quinn (Project & Social)
Susan Regnard (Youth & Faith Enrichment)
Brendan Mulvey (Faith Enrichment)
Chris Griffin (Finance)
David Tham (Youth Apostolate)

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Vince Ialeggio

On behalf of the finance committee, I wish to present the financial report for the year ending 2020. The Queen of Apostles parish and the work of the finance committee are guided by a set of statutes as identified by the archdiocese of Perth to enable and support the parish priest to for fill his charge as the designated administrator of the parish. The archdiocese has several policies which guide the management of financial matters.

As a reminder to the community in regards to weekly collections; the first collection is for the priest of the parish to meet their everyday living costs and also contributes to the finance of the Australian region of Pallottines should the funds become available. The second collection meets expenses incurred in ongoing operations of the parish including liturgy, pastoral expenses, building and property upkeep, administration costs and this includes the planned giving through envelopes or direct debits as well as donations. The parish finance report provided today contains details across board categories of income and expenditure specific details are available upon request.

The parish has been able to meet and continues to meet its current financial obligations despite these unprecedented times of covid-19. This has been mainly attributable to the generosity of our community as well as the prudent administration by efforts by Father Paul.

Behind the scenes, Father Paul has been exemplary in his additional duties taken on by him in these extraordinary times this includes the physical administration of the parish and the extraordinary success he has had on the online streaming services he and his team has provided to the community.

The financial income for 2020 was \$251,526. Plus, an additional \$10,000 from the Australian government.

Despite these difficult times, the parish continues to contribute to charities to the value of \$38,000. And also support our own community in liturgy, youth and postural activities totalling \$33,368 dollars.

The operational expenses such as power and lighting office expenses insurance, wages, rates and taxes etc. totalling \$60,443.

Repairs and improvements, part of which includes the featured artwork in the Sanctuary of the Church totalling \$58,711

All in all, the total operating expenses for the parish for 2020 totalled \$203,230. Realising a surplus of \$58,295

CURRENT FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Vince Ialeggio	Allen McMahon
Terry Robson	Ernest Wohlsein
Benjamin Tholath	Chris Griffin
Fr. Paul Manickathan	