

# 2012 AGM Report

by: Fr. JOSE S. ADRIANO

[9 September 2012]

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1. The most exciting event this year is the implementation of the **New Order of the Roman Missal** which was inaugurated on the **1st Sunday of Advent in 2011**. In order to implement it in an orderly fashion, the Parish LITURGY Group approved that the parts of the mass for the congregation be printed in full in the Parish Bulletin; a Response Leader is rostered; use only the first option from the missal if there are other options available.

For weekday masses and liturgical celebrations in the absence of a priest: a specially printed [and laminated] translation is made available.

In my judgment, the parish is now ready to go without the Response Leaders at Mass starting the 1st Sunday of Advent in 2012; and to stop printing the responses in the Parish Bulletin because of the installation of a digital Audio-Visual System in the church [the use of powerpoint].

2. The other exciting event this year is the inauguration of our website [<http://sacredheartinverell.org.au/>] on Easter Sunday [7/8 April 2012 weekend]; created through the **Gold Star Web Design** by **Melinda Plumb**. Currently, Melinda continues to help in uploading; two parishioners signed up to help: **Sarah Turner**; **Josephine Kelly**; and **Megan Gaukroger**. They will be trained soon by Melinda.
3. The **Parish YOUTH Ministry** was re-opened on the 4th of August 2012/Saturday under the leadership of **John Thivakon**. Various meetings were held, preceded by a Pulpit Campaign by John, to plan out the strategies and programmes for the ministry. At the moment, Guitar Lessons are being conducted by **Anne Tubb**. The number of young people participating remains the challenge.
4. Parishioners were asked, prior to the inauguration of the Parish Website, to sign their names in a form provided for the purpose: if they allow their names/photos to be published in the website. 135 individual parishioners; and 36 families signed up.
5. **Annual Statistics** [based from the 2011 Annual Report submitted to the Chancery]:

-Baptisms	:	41
-Confirmations	:	36
-First Eucharist	:	26
-First Reconciliation	:	40
-Wedding	:	4
-Anointings	:	550
-Funerals	:	28

6. **Mass Attendance Survey:** The result of the 2011 Mass Attendance Survey [held in March; includes Inverell; Ashford; Tingha; and Yetman] shows that there is a decline of Mass Attendance of 9.45 % from last year [402] to this year [364].

7. **Statistics and Numbers:**

-Readers/Commentators	:	54
-Greeters	:	58
-Communion Ministers	:	47
-Collectors	:	43
-Money Counters	:	10 Teams
-Sunday Morning Cuppa	:	33 [with the Parish PASTORAL Council; and the Parish FINANCE Committee]
-Offerors	:	83 [Individuals & Families]
-Mass Response Leaders	:	5
-Children's Liturgy Teachers/Helpers	:	

- 5 **Parish PASTORAL Council:** elected members are: **Brett Pischke**/Chair; **Maureen Newbigin**/Secretary; **Sr. Judy Breen**; **Paula Girle**; **John Thivakon**; **Tony King**; **Patsy Armstrong**; **Margaret Wales**; and **Sarah Turner** [there were 2 vacancies in 2011 which were not filled up]. Stepping down this year after serving for two consecutive terms are: **Maureen Newbigin**; **Sr. Judy Breen**; and **Paule Girle**.

Because there was no election [there were 6 nominees for the 6 elected positions] the following are the new PPC members who will serve for two [2] terms: **Karen Roberts**; **Sr. Coral Hedley**; **Megan Gaukroger**; **Michael Casey-Ransom**; **Tim Robinson** [representing Ashford]; and **Audrey McArdle** [representing Tingha].

- 6 **Parish FINANCE Committee:** Chaired by **Jim Schliebs**; members are: **Bob Witherdin**, **Tim Newberry**; **Ann McCosker**; **Nola Turner**; and **Lyn O'Brien**. The biggest undertaking of the PFC this year is the installation of the **Audio-Visual System** costing \$ 9,600.00. The next big financial undertaking the parish has to face are: the **new carpet for the church** costing \$ 30,545.00; human-size cross for the main altar [memorial donation under negotiation]; transferring of the Tabernacle to the centre of the Sanctuary [dummy stands are being prepared].

- 7 **2013 Episcopal Visitation:** The Bishop, in addition to his regular visits in a parish, holds an **Episcopal Visitation** in accordance with Canon Law. In Inverell, Bishop MICHAEL KENNEDY will conduct his 2013 Episcopal Visitation from **23-26 May/Thursday-Sunday** [4 days] next year. Activities included in these days are: Debutante Ball on the 24th/Friday and Confirmation on the 26th/Sunday; Home/Hospital/McLean Visits; Holy Trinity School Visit; socials with parishioners and Parish Leaders; visit to Ashford and Tingha; etc.

- 8 **Masses:** on weekdays, masses are now held at 12:00 Noon [from 12:15, previously] on Mondays to Thursdays and 1st Fridays; Fridays at 11:00 am at McLean Hostel. **Yetman Masses** are now held only every 3 months due to very low attendance.

## 9 Other Parish Ministries/Activities:

- a. **House Mass:** it should have started last week, on the 6th of September, in the room of Betty Cannons at McLean Hostel on the occasion of their [with Jim] Diamond [60 years] Jubilee of marriage. Sadly, Betty died on the 5th of September.
- House Masses are celebrated once a month for house-bound or bed-ridden parishioners. Rostered are: **Stella Spalding** [2 October/10:30 am]; **Joan Hockey** [6 November/10:30 am]; **Kath Hiscox** [3 December/2:00 pm]. On these days, there are no masses in the church.
- b. **ADVENT/LENTEN Prayer Group:** Led by **Sr. Coral Hedley, rsm**; those who come to these groups [12-15 parishioners] gather at the Parish MEETING Room mostly on Mondays at 10:00 in the morning; and at the residence of Sr. Coral at 5:30 pm on the same day.
- c. **YOUTH Altar Servers and ADULT Altar Servers:** There are 22 YOUTH Altar Servers; and 4 ADULT Altar Servers. YOUTH Altar Servers who do not appear on rostered days regularly [very rare] have been asked to withdraw from the roster. ADULT Altar Servers take over the role of serving at mass when there are no YOUTH Altar Servers.
- d. **Altar Society:** Roma Fenwick remains the Coordinator of the Altar Society involving 30 members. Their main task is to keep the altar; linens and brass items neat and tidy including the Working Sacristy. They have paid for many items that were purchased for our use in worship [linens; candles; etc.]. Source of their fund is the Candle Money and the proceeds from their fund-raisings.
- e. **Anzac Day Mass:** 28 deceased members of the Armed Forces were honoured this year. Members of the ANZAC DAY Team this year are: **Roma Fenwick; Joan Fleming; and Ken Middleton.**
- f. **Australia Day Mass:** This year's celebration was highlighted by a Welcome Address by **Elizabeth Connors**, an Elder of the Inverell Aboriginal Community. Guest Speaker was **Sen. John Williams**. The Tree of Peace was planted by **Greg & Bev Leach** in recognition of their loyal and dedicated service to the Parish Community.
- g. **BAPTISM Preparation Programme:** It is a prerequisite in this parish that the parent/s of those who are baptized must attend a BAPTISM Preparation Session. This program is conducted efficiently by **Jillie Rainger**. **Nick Baird** has indicated that, when **Jillie Rainger** is not available, he will take over the session. Unlike last year, no one was refused baptism this year for failing to attend the required BAPTISM Preparation Session.
- h. **Religious Education in the State Schools [Catechetics]:** There are 16 Teachers; and 5 Helpers in Inverell; Ashford; and Tingha. 278 children from Inverell Public School; Ross Hill Public School; Gum Flat Public School; Gilgai Public School; 15 children from Tingha Public School; and 20 children from Ashford Public School are given Religious Education once a week [some on Mondays; others on Tuesdays].
- Catechists are given an In-Service Training [and Meeting] by **Rickie Withers**, CCD Diocesan Coordinator, once a term. Likewise, I meet with the Catechists once a term to deal with local concerns and issues. An annual Prayer & Reflection Evening is likewise conducted by **Rickie Withers** [this year, it will be held on the 23rd of October]. On this occasion the catechists elect their Coordinator for the incoming year. Currently, **June Saint** is the Parish Coordinator. A Testimonial Luncheon is hosted by the parish [lunch at a Chinese restaurant] for all the catechists annually.
- Marjorie Manuel** [Helper] and **Patsy Armstrong** [Teacher] have both indicated their withdrawal from the ministry; **Nola Turner** has willingly offered to take on the class of **Patsy Armstrong** [Year-1 at Ross Hill]. To them all: THANK YOU for their dedicated involvement in the ministry.
- i. **Cemetery Mass:** Held on the 29<sup>th</sup> of October 2011/Saturday at 9:00 am last year, the mass was held at the kiosk in the middle of the cemetery. Mainly organised by **Ann Tubb**, as member of the Parish LITURGY Group, the mass continues to be well-attended and participated in by parishioners who set up the mass and the usual mass roles. This year, the mass will be held on the 3rd of November 2012.
- j. **Charismatic Prayer Group:** Led by **Dick and Margaret Wales**, the members of this Prayer Group faithfully and consistently meet on Thursdays at 4:30 pm at the Parish MEETING Room.
- k. **Children's Liturgy:** The new format, used since the first weekend of September last year, proves to be effective and "easier to handle". Involved are 31 Teachers/Helpers; about 30 kids are involved [every week the numbers vary greatly]. On two occasions, there were no Teachers/Helpers.

Starting this year, the Children's Liturgy is conducted even during School Holidays; thanks to **Sharon Hollis; Ann O'Brien; Nola McLeod; and Sue Szumowski** who volunteered to conduct it. Note that in the past, Children's Liturgy were not conducted during School Holidays.

- l. **Debutante Ball:** Held on the 11<sup>th</sup> of May 2012/Friday at the RSM, there were 11 Debs this year. A social and a fund-raising event, the Ball earned \$ 3,166.82 for the parish. The Ball was preceded by one-on-one interviews by me; then a Pre-Ball Gathering of the Debs; their Partners; and their Parents on the 10<sup>th</sup> of March/Saturday: the Bishop had an informal session with them followed by an Afternoon Tea. At the 6:00 pm Mass, the Debs and their Partners were presented to the Congregation.

The Committee Members are: **Anthony Michael**, Chair; **Brett Pischke**, Secretary; **Emma Muggleton**, Trainor; **Anne McCosker; Bob Witherdin; and Lyn O'Brien**. This year, **Darlene Motum** and **Brett Pischke** assisted **Emma Muggleton** in training the debs and in organising the details of the event. **Anthony Michael** efficiently directed the entire activity.

- m. **Parish Bulletin Sponsorship:** initiated to help bear the cost of printing [stationary and photocopy cost] our weekly Parish Bulletin and inserts. From 9 previously, we now have only two 2 sponsors this year: **Thorley & Sons; and Macintyre Bread.**

- N. Parish FAMILY Group/Parish PICNIC/Fruit Cake Sunday:** There are 5 Family Groups in the Parish: **Casey-Ransom Family Group; Chie Family Group; Pryor Family Group; Gardner Family Group; and Carson Family Group.** Coordinated by **Gloria Baldwin**, the major activities of the groups, in addition to their individual monthly activities, are: the Parish Picnic [held last year on the 30th of October 2011/Sunday] and Fruit Cake Sunday [on the 24th of June 2012]. At the "Fruit Cake Sunday" Mass, the banners of the different Groups were paraded and displayed; at the Offertory Procession, the fruit cakes were presented together with the Altar Gifts. The main liturgy parts were played by members of the PFG.
- O. Parish FORMATION Programme:** Chaired by **Sr. Judy Breen, rsm**, the Parish FORMATION Team is composed of **Megan Gaukroger**, Secretary; **Joan Fleming**; and myself. With the participation of **Karen Roberts**, a Parish Survey, in response to a resolution approved at the AGM last year, was conducted only last weekend [1/2 September 2012]. **Sr. Judy** will present today a report on the survey.
- P. Garden Care:** There are 6 Teams composed of: **Tony King; Greg Fleming, Sr.; Greg Fleming, Jr.; Terry Manuel; Ross Tutt; Snow Wratten; Chic Lennon; Col Hoyt; Ken Middleton; Mary Middleton; Neville Cook; Allan Kinnear; John Henderson; Maurie Cody; Peter Marsh; Di Marsh; Anna Thivakon; John McCudden;** and **Helen Hewens**. The teams are rostered on Saturdays to tend the gardens. **Geoff Dodd** resigned as a mower; **Rowel Gascon**, who is currently incapacitated, does the mowing around the church and the presbytery.
- Q. Holy Trinity School:** The usual pastoral ministry [Reconciliations and Class Visits on Thursdays; and Mass on Fridays] are conducted as usual. I have made known, with sincere apologies, to the School Board that I cannot attend all the monthly meetings of the Board because they start the meeting at 7:30 pm and end, often, beyond 9:00 pm - very late for my daily 5:00 am start. Since I am alone in Inverell, I find this a bit demanding affecting my health and efficiency.

I would like to take this occasion to thank **Val Thomas**; the staff and teachers who are involved in the different ministries of the parish. Their involvement is a big help; a proclamation of the link between Holy Trinity School and the Sacred Heart Parish.

- I. Home ROSARY Ministry:** This ministry is led by 3 Rosary Team-Leaders: **Brian & Helen Baldwin; Joyce Dickins;** and **Helen Tutt & Pauline Croft**. 50 homes are involved in this ministry; 2 more homes are needed to complete the 52-Wednesday Cycle in a year.
- S. Home VISITATION Ministry:** **Pat Mather** visits with me usually on Thursdays at 3:00 pm. This year, we have done 26 visits to home-bound parishioners.
- t. Hospital Visitation Ministry:** Hospital Visits are conducted with **Margaret Wales** on Mondays; **Phyllis Nichols** on Wednesdays; and with **Jill McCormack** on Fridays until she asked to stop, due to health reasons. I am still waiting for someone to come forward to visit with me on Fridays. These visits are at 3:00 pm on Mondays and Fridays; and at 10:00 am on Wednesdays [when there are Sacramental Preparation Programmes at 4:00 pm].

From September to August this year, we have made 103 visits to the hospital. There should have been 156 hospital visits made but cancellations were inevitable when funerals; retreats; clergy conferences; parish meetings occur on the days when said visitations were scheduled.

- U. Parish LITURGY Group:** Meets on the second Saturdays of the month at 8:30 am. Chaired by **Marie Ward**, the members are: **Ann Tubb; Joan Fleming; Mary Jordan; Sharon Hollis;** and **Carmel McCosker**. A report from the Parish LITURGY Group will be tabled at the AGM.
- V. Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion:** Coordinated by **Greg Leach**, there are 10 mandated parishioners who lead the congregation in the celebration of the Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion when I am away in Inverell; Ashford; and Tingha. Their mandate is for 3 years [from 2012-2014]. A new mandate is due in 2014. The LW and HC were held mostly on weekdays when I am away on a break.
- W. Mail Drop:** Currently, there are 17 home-bound parishioners who receive the Parish Bulletin every week. A few is picked up and delivered personally by parishioners; the rest is mailed on Mondays.
- X. Marriage Preparation Course:** Couples who get married in the church go to Gunnedah for their Marriage Preparation Course.
- Y. MUSIC and others in LITURGY MATTERS/ROSTERS:** The celebration of our masses is always made beautiful by the assistance of our Music Groups: **Men's Choir; Ann Tubb's Group; Dom Gibson Group; Casey-Ransom Group; Carmel McCosker Group; Greg and Bev Leach Group.** Special mention has to be made in recognition to the dedication to the ministry: **Ann Tubb** and **Joan Fleming** for meeting regularly to determine the songs suggested to the different Music Groups to sing on weekends.

We started on Easter Sunday [8 April 2012] the singing of the Responses of the Responsorial Psalm. Every Music Group has a designated "Cantor".

- Z. Migrant and Refugee Sunday:** Held on the 26<sup>th</sup> of August 2012/Sunday; participated in by migrant-parishioners. The attendance of visitors was most edifying and encouraging; flags were displayed in the church. Most of the flags were acquired through the effort of **Colleen Graham** who wrote to all the Consulates/Embassies in Canberra. A multi-lingual mass was the highlight of the day. **John McDonald**, CEO of Bindaree Beef, delivered the Reflection during the mass. The mass was followed by the usual cuppa then a multi-cultural meal at the back of the church. Special thanks to all who participated and attended this event; especially those who prepared food which are special to their own ethnic origin.
- aa. MISSION OUTREACH:** Leadership and Skills-Training Programme at the Women's Development Centre in St. Gerard's Parish of PNG through the auspices of Mercy Mission. We have, so far, remitted: \$ 2,323.00 since we started this outreach.
- bb. Parish HISTORY Group:** Chaired by **Julie Regan**, members of the Group are: **Nola Turner; Bill and Beth Sutton; Megan Gaukroger;** and **Judy Pischke**. A new set [20 pcs] of albums were ordered from the Philippines in addition to 10 smaller ones.

With the approval of the Parish FINANCE Committee, the current Housekeeper's Room at the presbytery will be turned into an Archive Office [accessed from the Parish Office, the door on the kitchen-side will be permanently closed]. Currently, archived files are in the Presbytery safe.

- CC. **Parish JUSTICE and PEACE Team:** No activity was organised this year; the last activity of the group was the Forum on the Biblical Foundation of the Social Teachings of the Church conducted by **Fr. Mark O'Brien** on the 30<sup>th</sup> of July 2011/Saturday.

This year's Justice and Peace Statement is entitled: "*The Gift of Family in Difficult Times: the social and economic challenges facing families today*"; for distribution on the 30th of September 2012. Basing from last year's count, we ordered only 10 statements this year.

- dd. **Parish PRAYER Chain:** From 8, there are currently 6 parishioners involved in this undertaking. While not too many are involved, the Chain is effective because those who commit to pray for the intentions requested by me are prayed for very ardently by the members of the Chain. So far, there have been no breach of confidentiality regarding the intentions being prayed for nor the identity of those involved in the Prayer Intentions compromised.

- ee. **Parish RETREAT:** Held on the 1st of September 2012/Saturday, the retreat is organized by the Parish FORMATION Team. Facilitated by **Ann Finlayson**, it was held at the residence of **Rosemary Breen**. There were 18 participants this year. Being the Year of Grace in Australia, the focus of the retreat is on ICONOGRAPHY; and the study of the icon being used in the Diocese of ARMIDALE: the **PANTOCRATOR** - Sinai [the oldest known icon of Christ; found at Saint Catherine Monastery at Mount Sinai].

- ff. **Parish WELCOME Committee:** Headed by **Anthony & Anne Dale**, there 19 members of this Committee: **Ian & Jackie Martin; Janet Wedlock; Ken & Mary Middleton; Rosemary Breen; Phil & Di Whan; Val & David McMahon; Kaye & Brian Gardner; Mary Schofield; Greg & Marie Chie; Gabrielle & Paul Henry; Shayne & Sue O'Brien**. The Welcome Gathering was held again at the back of the presbytery on the 17th of June 2012/Sunday. It was attended mostly by Filipinos who are new arrivals in the parish; and holders of the 547 Visa.

- gg. **Sacramental Preparation Programme** [1<sup>st</sup> Reconciliation; 1<sup>st</sup> Eucharist; and Confirmation]: This continues to be run through the auspices of Holy Trinity School, particularly by **Jo Peel**, Religious Education Coordinator. **June Saint** is the Parish Coordinator for the state school children. The Preparation Sessions are conducted during regular Religious Education times at HTS for the Trinity children. The Candidates from the state schools are prepared on Wednesdays [4:00-5:00 pm] at the Parish MEETING Room. The 1st Reconciliation and 1st Eucharist sessions for the state school children are conducted by: **Cathy Lane; Joan Fleming; June Saint; Sharon Hollis; Leanne Bremner; Carole McNeil**; and myself.

2012 Confirmation sessions were conducted by **Daphne Dasey**. In 2013, the model for the Confirmation Preparation Sessions will follow the 1st Reconciliation and 1st Eucharist models [different teachers for each session].

- hh. **Saint Patrick's Day:** This year's weekend mass [focusing on Saint Patrick] was on the 12<sup>th</sup> of March 2012/Saturday. Primarily organised by: **Patsy Armstrong; Josephine Kelly; Ken Middleton; and Mike Ward**. The readings and Prayers of the Faithful were in Irish; the concert was organised by **Mike Ward** and hosted by **Patsy Armstrong**; Pride of Erin by **Ernie & Margaret Muggleton**; the BBQ Meal organised by **Ken Middleton/Bob McGuire/John Henderson**. Sausages were provided by the parish; parishioners were asked to donate and bring salads/dessert. **Cahill McGuire** managed the sale of softdrinks [proceeds were donated to the PNG Mission]; prices donated by **Kay & Jim Harmon**.

- ii. **Feast of the Infant JESUS:** Held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of January, this is a new devotion in our parish. The new wooden statue [carved in the Philippines] of the Infant Jesus was donated by **Jojo Gabinete**, a Filipino journalist; and was blessed by **Bishop Luc Matthys** within the mass. It was attended mainly by the Filipinos from Inverell; and a few from neighbouring parishes.

The mass which was preceded by the dancing entrance of participants holding the images of the Infant Jesus at the start of the mass. This mass was "multi-dialect" [dialects spoken by Filipinos]. The celebration was followed by a meal mainly of food native to the Philippines.

- jj. **Year of Grace:** A Year of Grace Parish Team has been organised: **Srs. Coral and Judy; Joan Fleming; Ann Tubb; Megan Gaukroger; and Carmel McCosker**.

The activities: **ICON VISIT** from the 16th of February/Saturday [coming from Warialda] to the 15 of March/Friday [to Tenterfield]. **Parish Retreat** on the 1st of September/Saturday, by **Ann Finlayson** centred on the Year of Grace particularly on the **ICON** [please refer to the report mentioned somewhere]. **"A Day of Reflection and Prayer for Men"** on the 24th of November to be held at Holy Trinity School; facilitated by **Fr. Mark O'Brien**. **Rickie Withers** conducted a session with the **Parish Catechists** on the Year of Grace on the 14th of August/Tuesday from 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm. Launching of **TAIZE PRAYER** on Wednesday/5th of September held at 7:00-8:00 pm. **Year of Grace banners** and **Year of Grace Candles** were purchased for all the churches [Inverell/Ashford/Tingha]. After the Prayer of the Faithful at the weekend masses, the Year of Grace Candle is lighted by a member of the parish while the song "Face of Christ" is being played softly. When the candle is lighted, the Year of Grace Prayer is prayed by the congregation.

Planned: a **Reflection Forum** in Advent and Lent to be conducted by **Sr. Helen Baguley**.

- kk. **TAIZE Prayer:** Taizé prayer is a quiet simple way of prayer designed for people of all Christian traditions. These meditative candlelit services include simple chants sung repeatedly; rich silence; and prayers of praise and intercession. In celebration of the Year of Grace, it was inaugurated on the 5th of September organised by **Carmel McCosker**; it will be conducted every 1st Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm henceforth.

- ll. **Funeral Greeters/Ushers:** in response to my campaign in early 2012, the following signed up: **Viv Lennon; Cliff Kennedy; and Ann Casey-Ransom**. There is a need for more parishioners whom I can call if a particular funeral is anticipated to be big.

mm. **still on the WISH LIST or forthcoming:**

- i. **Mass for the Unborn:** needs careful planning as it involves a team of Helpers who must be prepared to assist those who might need help as a consequence of the mass.

ii. **Parish GRIEF Team; the publication of an updated Parish INFORMATION Brochure.**

I would like to acknowledge all parishioners who are involved in the different Parish Ministries [including those not mentioned in this report]; and the Parish Leaders who help me run the different facets of parish management and pastoral ministry.

Inverell is too big a parish for one person to run and to manage. We were able to attain our goals because parishioners are involved. We must continue cultivating and strengthening the participation of parishioners in the life of the parish.

GOD BLESS and THANK YOU for your involvement in our many undertakings.