

2011 AGM Report

by: Fr. JOSE S. ADRIANO

[11 September 2011]

A FEW NOTES:

1. Fr. John McHugh, appointed Assistant Priest, arrived in Inverell on the 20th of August 2010; he left to help Fr. John Willis [Mary Help of Christians Parish, South Tamworth] on the 2nd of June 2011.
2. Annual Statistics [based from the 2010 Annual Report submitted to the Chancery]:

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| -Baptisms | : | 42 |
| -Confirmations | : | 60 |
| -First Eucharist | : | 63 |
| -First Reconciliation | : | 23 |
| -Wedding | : | 1 |
| -Anointings | : | 561 |
| -Funerals | : | 38 |
3. 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].
4. Statistics and Numbers:

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| -Readers/Commentators | : | 57 |
| -Greeters | : | 46 |
| -Communion Ministers | : | 55 |
| -Collectors | : | 37 |
| -Money Counters | : | 10 Teams |
| -Sunday Morning Cuppa | : | 9 Filipino Teams [with the Parish PASTORAL Council; and the Parish FINANCE Committee] |
| -Offerors | : | 81 [individuals & Families] |
| -Mass Response Leaders | : | 5 |
5. Parish FINANCE Committee: Chaired by Jim Schliebs; members are: Bob Witherdin, Tim Newberry; Ann McCosker; Nola Turner; and Lyn O'Brien. They prepare the budget; administer the finances of the parish; constantly monitor and review the Planned-Giving Programme. The biggest undertaking of the PFC this year is the installation of the Solar System. Very recently, I have been informed that the system earned for the parish a net of: \$ 2,005.67 after deducting the usual bill.
6. The new Translation of the Roman Missal was started on the weekend of 27/28 August. Initially we used the Pew Cards supplied nationwide by the Bishops. But the prints are too small; the choices provided compound the confusion. Instead, the full mass is incorporated into the weekend Parish Bulletin. A special version is printed with bigger fonts for those who have difficulties reading smaller fonts.
7. The TABERNACLE and SANCTUARY Renovation: on hold. Thanks to the feedback from parishioners which were communicated to the Bishop.
8. Parish Ministries/Activities:
 - a. ADVENT/LENTEN Prayer Group: Led by Sr. Coral Hedley, rsm; those who come to these groups [5-8 parishioners] gather at the Parish MEETING Room mostly on Mondays at 10:00 in the morning.
 - b. Altar Servers: There are thirty-six [36] registered members; however, only those who regularly come to mass are usually the faithful ones who fulfil their commitment to serve as rostered. Sometimes, a few of them serve even when they are not rostered.
 - c. Altar Society: Roma Fenwick remains the Coordinator of the Altar Society involving 35 members. A few have resigned due to ill-health; Marion Sabine was a member of this group [she died on the 25th of August 2011]. 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-raising.
 - d. Anzac Day Mass: Twenty-nine [29] deceased members of the Armed Forces were honoured this year. Members of the ANZAC DAY Team this year are: Roma Fenwick; Marjory McMahon; and Ken Middleton.
 - e. Australia Day Mass: This year's celebration was highlighted by a Smoking Ceremony; followed by a WELCOME ADDRESS by Elizabeth Connors, an Elder of the Inverell Aboriginal Community. The Tree of Peace was planted by

Snow Wratten in recognition of his very long and dedicated service to the Parish Community. He was chosen by a confidential Team I formed for this purpose.

- f. **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. During school holidays, I take charge of the program. Sadly, two [2] babies were refused baptism this year because of their parents' failure to attend the programme. They have been moved to another date after attending the required Baptismal Preparation Programme.
- g. **Religious Education in the State Schools [Catechetics]:** There are 12 Teachers; and 5 Helpers in Inverell; Ashford; and Tingha. 180 children from Inverell Public School; Ross Hill Public School; Gum Flat Public School; Gilgai Public School; Tingha Public School; and Ashford Public School are given Religious Education once a week [some on Mondays; others on Tuesdays].

In Inverell, we use the "Walking with Jesus" Programme [Pathways of Discipleship] from the Diocese of Broken Bay. Catechists are given an In-Service Training [and Meeting] by Rickie Withers, CCD Diocesan Coordinator, once a term. This includes an annual Prayer & Reflection Evening. On this occasion the catechists elect their Coordinator for the incoming year. In addition: a Testimonial is hosted by the parish [lunch at a Chinese restaurant] for all the catechists.
- h. **Cemetery Mass:** Held on the 30th of October/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.
- i. **Charismatic Prayer Group:** despite this group's struggle with numbers, they persevere. Led by Dick and Margaret Wales, the members of this Prayer Group faithfully and consistently meet on Thursdays at 5:10 pm at the Parish MEETING Room.
- j. **Children's Liturgy:** A new format has been used since the first weekend of September. The parish has been paying about \$ 1,000.00 a year for a Children's Liturgy Programme from MediaCom. The new format comes from a resource: The Complete Children's Liturgy Book by Katie Thompson. It cost the parish a one-off \$ 37.97; all materials in the book can be reproduced. There will be a big adjustment for the Teachers and Helpers involved. All materials are made available which include sitwork materials; CD's; audio visuals. An altar is set up in the Parish MEETING Room for the purpose. The new format is for Kindergarten to Year-6 kids. The typical order of the programme is: Welcome; Introduction; Sign of the Cross; Saying Sorry; Gloria; Gospel Acclamation; Gospel; Discussion; Activity; Creed; and Closing Prayer. There is a great difficulty when assigned Teachers/Helpers are absent; it would really be a big help if I am informed when they cannot come so that alternates are requested to take over the session. The absence of a Teacher/Helper in a Children's Liturgy is likened to a teacher who is absent to his/her rostered class. In the new programme, there is a need now for the Teacher/Helper to study their session in advance so that they are well-prepared to conduct it: music/song materials and sitwork materials are chosen and prepared. There are 32 parishioners involved in this ministry.
- k. **Debutante Ball:** Held on the 13th of May/Friday at the RSM, there were 24 Debs this year. A social and a fund-raising event, the Ball earned \$ 2,926.00 for the parish. The Ball was preceded by a Pre-Ball Gathering of the Debs; their Partners; and their Parents on the 19th 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 and Tom Williams, Trainors; Anne McCosker; Bob Witherdin; and Lyn O'Brien. This year, Amber Henry and Andrew Boslam assisted Emma and Tom. Paul and Gabrielle Henry were this year's Chairman and Matron of the Ball; Gerry Taveira served as the Master of Ceremonies. There is a general feeling among those involved that we should limit the number of Debs to eighteen [18] in the future. More than this, it would be very difficult to manage and organise.
- l. **Parish Bulletin Sponsorship:** initiated to help bear the cost of printing [stationary and photocopy cost] our weekly Parish Bulletin and inserts. So far: nine [9] establishments support this undertaking.
- m. **Parish FAMILY Group/Parish PICNIC/Fruit Cake Sunday:** There are five [5] Family Groups in the Parish: Morris Family Group; Chie Family Group; Pryor Family Group; Gardner Family Group; 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 31st of October/Sunday] and Fruit Cake Sunday [on the 5th of June]. At the "Fruit Cake Sunday" Mass, a representative of the PFG speaks before the congregation encouraging parishioners to join the Group. At this mass, the banners of the different Groups are paraded and displayed; at the Offertory Procession, the fruit cakes are presented together with the Altar Gifts. The main liturgy parts are played by members of the PFG. New members of the parish, through the Parish WELCOME Gathering, are recruited to become members of the PFG. This year, four [4] Filipino Families signed-up.
- n. **Parish FORMATION Programme:** Chaired by Sr. Judy Breen, rsm, the Parish FORMATION Team is composed of Megan Gaukroger, Secretary; Joan Fleming; and myself. A report was submitted by Megan Gaukroger to the AGM.
- o. **Garden Care:** There are six [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. At a very minimal cost [\$ 50.00 per], Geoff Dodd mows the lawn around the church and the presbytery.

- p. Holy Trinity School: The usual pastoral ministry [Reconciliations and Class Visits on Thursdays; and Mass on Fridays] are conducted as usual. The Sunday Mass for Holy Trinity Sunday was held at Holy Trinity School. Parishioners who usually attend the Sunday Morning Mass attended mass at the HTS Hall; cuppa followed; and a “guided tour” was conducted by Val Thomas, Principal, for parishioners who wanted to know and see more of the current constructions going on. It was decided by the Parish PASTORAL COUNCIL that a parish mass be held at Holy Trinity School annually to highlight the link between the parish and the school. However, it does not have to be on the Feast of Holy Trinity because the school would have a School Mass on the Friday before the said feast. It was suggested that it could be on a major feast of the Church.
- q. Home ROSARY Ministry: This ministry is led by three [3] Rosary Team-Leaders: Brian & Helen Baldwin; Joyce Dickins; and Helen Tutt & Pauline Croft. Forty-nine [49] homes are involved in this ministry; three [3] more homes are needed to complete the 52-Wednesday Cycle in a year.
- r. Home VISITATION Ministry: Pat Mather visits with me [and Fr. John McHugh when he was here] usually on Thursdays at 3:00 pm. This year, we have done forty-one [41] visits to home-bound parishioners.
- s. Hospital Visitation Ministry: Hospital Visits are conducted with Margaret Wales who took over from Margaret Allan on Mondays; Phyllis Nichols on Wednesdays; and, when Pat Hobday died, Jill McCormack on Fridays. Mostly at 3:00 pm, these visits are also at 10:30 am on Wednesdays when there are Sacramental Preparation Programmes at 3:45 pm. From September to August this year, we have made 128 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. In some instances, when Fr. JOHN left for Tamworth, JOE was away for his monthly breaks.
- t. Parish LITURGY Group: Meets on the second Saturdays of the month at 8:30 am. Chaired by Rosemary Breen, the members are: Ann Tubb; Joan Fleming; Marie Ward; Mary Jordan; Sharon Hollis. There were several attempts this year of providing Formation/Education Sessions to parishioners involved in our masses [Readers/Commentators]. The improvements in the way we celebrate our liturgies are largely because of decisions made by this Group. A report from the Parish LITURGY Group was tabled at the AGM.
- u. Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion: Coordinated by Greg Leach, there are twelve [12] mandated parishioners who lead the congregation in the celebration of the Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion when I am away. Their mandate is for three [3] years [from 2009-2011]. A new mandate is due in 2012. The LW and HC were held mostly on weekdays when I am away on a break. When I had to go to the Philippines [29 August-9 September], a Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion were conducted on the weekend of 3/4 September. The Saturday Liturgy was led by Sr. Coral; the Sunday Liturgy was led by Jo Peel and Reflection by Greg Leach. It was warmly welcomed by many parishioners; although a few parishioners are not very keen on these liturgies.
- v. Mail Drop: Currently, there are nineteen [19] 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.
- w. Marriage Preparation Course: Marie and Mike Ward have served notice that they could no longer conduct Marriage Preparation Sessions for couples who intend to get married in the church. The only option left is to send them to Gunnedah or to the Hunter Valley where these courses are held regularly. I would like to take this occasion to thank Marie and Mike for the service they rendered to the parish by conducting the said course.
- x. 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; Jo Peel 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 Feming for meeting regularly to determine the songs suggested to the different Music Groups to sing on weekends.
- y. Migrant and Refugee Sunday: Held on the 28th of August/Sunday; participated in by migrant-parishioners. The attendance of visitors was most edifying and encouraging; flags were displayed in the church. A multi-lingual mass was the highlight of the day. 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.
- z. 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. This year’s Garage Sale, held on the 28th of May/Saturday, yielded \$ 1,500.00 for the Leadership and Skills-Training Programme at the Women’s Development Centre in St. Gerard’s Parish of PNG. Mainly animated by Sr. Coral Hedley, this fund-campaign is organised by the Mercy Associates of Inverell. A lot of goods were donated by parishioners for this purpose. The other source of funds for this programme is the sale of Christmas Baubles for \$ 1.00/bauble. \$ 1,500.00 was initially transmitted to the programme.
- aa. Parish HISTORY Group: Chaired by Julie Regan, members of the Group are: Nola Turner; Bill and Beth Sutton; Megan Gaukroger; and Judy Pischke. I would like to acknowledge the donation of Bill & Beth Sutton: a scanning

machine; and for providing a computer on loan for use by the Group. The materials submitted by parishioners as well as those already in our possession are being copied into the computer for a more secure filing system.

- bb. Parish JUSTICE and PEACE Team: The Forum on the Biblical Foundation of the Social Teachings of the Church conducted by Fr. Mark O'Brien on the 30th of July/Saturday was organised by this Parish Justice and Peace Team led by Greg Leach. Although this group has no definite membership, a few parishioners attend meetings when they can; and support the activities when they can.
- cc. Parish PRAYER Chain: There are eight [8] parishioners involved in this undertaking. When it was started in June 2011, four [4] Prayer Intentions have been transmitted to those involved with very positive results. 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.
- dd. Parish RETREAT: Held on the 23rd of October/Saturday, the retreat is organized by the Parish FORMATION Team. Facilitated by Ann Finlayson, it was held at the residence of Shayne and Sue O'Brien. There were about 15 participants.
- ee. 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. For the first time in many years, the Welcome Gathering was held at the back of the presbytery on the 22nd of May/Sunday. A report by Anne Dale was tabled at the AGM
- ff. Sacramental Preparation Programme [1st Reconciliation; 1st 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 [3:45-5:00 pm] at the Parish MEETING Room. The sessions for the state school children are conducted by: Cathy Lane; Joan Fleming; June Saint; Sharon Hollis; Leanne Bremner; Carole McNeil; and myself.
- gg. Saint Patrick's Day: This year's weekend mass [focusing on Saint Patrick] was on the 12th of March/Saturday. Primarily organised by Irish members of our Parish: Patsy Armstrong; Josephine Kelly; Anna Kneipp [with Bob]; and Maurie Cody. The mass was [readings and Prayers of the Faithful in Irish] efficiently organised by Josephine Kelly; the concert was organised by Mike Ward and hosted by Patsy Armstrong; Pride of Erin by Anna & Bob Kneipp; 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].
- hh. Feast of the Infant JESUS: Held on the 2nd Sunday of January, this is a new devotion in our parish. Motivated by my desire to rally the Filipino parishioners and to provide them with devotional activities of which they are familiar, Filipinos outside the parish are likewise invited. Attended by Filipino Priests, Bishop LUC MATTHYS celebrated 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.
- ii. YOUTH Ministry: We do not have a YOUTH Programme since the departure of Janelle Allcock last year. However a few of our pastoral initiatives are geared toward the youth in our parish: Holy Trinity School is a partner of the parish in reaching out to the youth of our parish; Children's Liturgy; Religious Education [Catechetics] in the public schools.
- jj. still on the WISH LIST or forthcoming:
 - i. Men's Retreat: to be facilitated by Fr. John Sullivan, a retired priest from Sydney, on the 7th to the 9th of October.
 - ii. 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.
 - iii. Parish Library: this was brought to the PPC's attention in 2009. Hopefully, this will materialize this coming year.
 - iv. The formation of a Parish MARRIAGE Preparation Team; GREETERS at Funerals; 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.

