

2010 AGM Report

by: Fr. JOSE S. ADRIANO

[12 September 2010]

- I. A few highlights this past year, in addition to the usual parish activities that have already been mentioned in my report last year:
- a. The arrival of Fr. JOHN McHUGH is the biggest highlight this year. He arrived on the 20th of August; and officially started as Assistant Priest of Inverell on the 21st of August.
 - b. The Parish CATECHETICAL Ministry in the public schools [Inverell Public School; Ross Hill Public School; Gilgai Public School; Ashford Public School; and Tingha Public School; Yetman has ceased this year] has ten [13] teaching catechists; and four [4] helper-catechists [including myself and Fr. John]. Last year, there were seven [7] teaching catechists [including Yetman]; and one [1] helper-catechist. Fr. JOHN now teaches catechetics at Inverell Public School and Ross Hill Public School. When he is not able, I take over his catechetical classes; when both of us are not available, one of the catechists takes the classes.

Joan Fleming is currently the Parish Coordinator for Inverell. In November, the catechists will elect the Parish Coordinator from among themselves. The elected Parish Coordinator will serve for one [1] year.
 - c. The monthly Parish BAPTISMAL Preparation Session is now conducted by Jill Rainger. When David and Deb McNeale left the parish in January 2010, I personally conducted the sessions [since no one took on the task]. When I went on holiday [21 June-13 August], Jill did the sessions and continued on. This is a mandatory session for Parent/s or Guardian/s of those who are to be baptized.
 - d. Fifteen [15] parishioners [9 in Inverell; 3 in Ashford; 2 in Tingha; and 1 in Yetman] have been given a three-year mandate [due for renewal in November 2012] by Bishop LUC MATTHYS to serve as Liturgy Leaders and Preachers when a Liturgy of the WORD and HOLY COMMUNION is conducted. Even now when there are two [2] priests, these liturgies are conducted, coordinated by Greg Leach, on days when there is only one priest available [who goes to Catechetics on Tuesdays]; and when both priests go away [Clergy Conferences and Retreats].
 - e. Starting the 1st of November in 2009: the Parish Morning Cuppa [after the 9:00 am Sunday Mass] was started. Thanks mainly to the Filipino Community in Inverell, this activity continues. We started by involving mandated groups and ministries in the parish. However: feedback was given to me that some senior members of these groups and ministries find it a bit hard to get involved in preparing the things needed for the cuppa. Hence: I asked the PINOYS to get involved; we thank them for their readiness to help the parish.
 - f. The Parish Picnic, held on the 1st of November, was mainly organized by the Parish FAMILY Groups: there was a Jumping Castle; plenty of spring rolls; games and fun; lollies and face-painting; raffles and prizes; big Door Prize [3-night accommodation in a Gold Coast Resort].
 - g. Home Rosary Ministry: a one-year roster is drawn [4 homes needed to complete the roster]. Special thanks to those who are leading the recitation of the Holy Rosary in various homes [Brian and Helen Baldwin; Helen Tutt and Pauline Croft; and Joyce Dickins].
 - h. Holy Trinity School Ministry: most Thursdays, Fr. JOHN or myself celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation at the AV Room followed by a classroom visit; most Fridays, a School Mass [or a Prayer Celebration for the Infants] is celebrated in the church. It must be mentioned with emphasis that Holy Trinity School is a parish school and, therefore, must be part of the parish's pastoral plans. HTS must be supported fully by the parish; we must be involved in all its activities.
 - i. Mass at the Cemetery on the 31st of October 2009: mainly organized by the Parish LITURGY Group. A good number of parishioners attended. A decision was made to hold this mass annually. This year, it will be on the 30th of October/Saturday at 9:00 am. Transport will be provided for parishioners who will need it.
 - j. Outside winter, we have started the beautiful practice of asking parishioners to offer fresh flowers from their garden. Hope that this practice will continue.

- k. Children's Liturgy: we now have a total of 15 Teachers [9 on Saturday Nights; and 6 on Sunday Mornings]. There is a need to recruit more teachers.
- l. In ADVENT and LENT: I went around to anoint the home-bound. During these seasons, the Sacrament of Reconciliation; and the Sacrament of Anointing are celebrated in all the churches on separate and designated weekends.
- m. Anne Finlayson led the Parish Prayer and Reflection Day on the 22nd of November held at the Holy Trinity Hall. 12 attended [11 women; 1 man]. This year, the Parish Retreat will again be conducted by her on the 23rd of October/Saturday. The venue is still being studied by Sr. Judy Breen who is organizing it in her capacity as a member of the Parish FORMATION Team.
- n. A Parish WELCOME Luncheon was held at the Dale Residence for all new parishioners on the 15th of November. 28 new parishioners [15 adults and 13 children] responded to our invitation. A few has signed-up in the Registry Book for New Parishioners.
- o. The Christmas Eve Mass for the Family was held outside the church for the first time. It was a success. The celebration was concluded by the appearance of Santa Claus [Shane O'Brien]; and the attendance of children in costume [as angels or shepherds]. The Nativity Story was dramatized under the direction of Cathy Lane.
- p. Parish FORMATION Team has been formed [Sr. Judy Breen; Joan Fleming; and Megan Gaukroger]. As a result of the survey conducted during Lent last year, small but steady steps are being undertaken to provide opportunities to strengthen the lay-leadership base of the parish [eConferences; Retreat; etc.].
- q. "School-Age" Baptism was held on the 19th of June by Bishop LUC MATTHYS: 5 school children were baptized by the Bishop.
- r. VAL THOMAS is appointed Principal of Holy Trinity School effective the beginning of the 2010 school year. She replaced David McNeale.
- s. Saint Patrick's Day: the Saturday Night Mass of the 13th of March was dedicated to Saint Patrick; the very special mass [celtic Readings; Prayers of the Faithful; and songs] was followed by a picnic and an informal program in the church grounds. Because Inverell has none, a statue of Saint Patrick was borrowed from Wee Waa. This activity was mainly organized by leading Irish-born parishioners with full support from parishioners.
- t. Twenty-one [21] joined the 2010 Debutante Ball on the 14th of May; Guest of Honour was Bishop LUC MATTHYS. Two [2] new features of the Deb Ball was added: a session with the Bishop with a BBQ after; and the presentation of the debs to the Parish Community after a Sunday Mass.

Thanks to Anthony Michael; Mark Harmon; Emma Muggleton; Brett Pischke; Ann McCosker; Lyn O'Brien; and Bob Witherdin. In its Evaluation Meeting, the Deb Ball Committee decided to limit the number of Debs this year to eighteen [18].
- u. The Parish SACRAMENTAL Programme has undergone a major change: the instruction for the state school candidates for 1st Reconciliation and 1st Eucharist in the past was single-handedly conducted by Joan Fleming [with the help of Jill Manuel and Megan Gaukroger]. Confirmation was likewise single-handedly conducted by Daphne Dasey.

Currently: the lessons for 1st Reconciliation and 1st Eucharist have been revised by Jo Peel upon my request. Different teachers now conduct the lessons. Those involved will meet to evaluate the 1st Reconciliation Programme on the 16th of September/Thursday at 4:00 pm. Confirmation will likewise be reviewed soon.

The most inspiring mark this year is the formation of a "Special Needs" Team [composed of Marjory McMahon and Carole McNeil]. Candidates with special needs are now able to participate in our Parish SACRAMENTAL Program more meaningfully and confidently.
- v. The Parish LITURGY Group is making an attempt to provide a kind of FORMATION Program for those involved in the different Liturgical Ministries. Currently sessions for Readers have been scheduled [13 October/Wednesday/10:00 am; and 27 October/Wednesday/7:30 pm].

w. 16-21 June: Episcopal Visitation of Bishop LUC MATTHYS. The visitation included a supper with the officers and members [and their spouses] of the Parish PASTORAL Council and the Parish FINANCE Committee; a visit to Holy Trinity School; Confirmation Masses in Ashford, Tingha, and Inverell; Visit to McLean Hostel, the hospital, and the home-bound; "School-Age" Baptism; meeting and BBQ lunch with parishioners; and inspection of Parish Registries.

x. Other Celebrations and Pastoral Activities:

- i. Australia Day Mass on the 26th of January
- ii. Adult Confirmation on the 15th of May: two [2] Candidates [Oscar and Adriana de Souza] were confirmed by the Bishop.
- iii. ANZAC DAY Mass [thanks to Roma Fenwick and Ken Middleton].
- iv. Mass at Saint Vincent de Paul Centre every 5th Friday of the month at 6:00 pm [followed by supper].
- v. Mass at McLean Hostel every Friday at 11:00 am [with anointing once a month; except on First Fridays – residents attend Prayer On Wheels].
- vi. On the Feast of the Sacred Heart [11th of June/Friday] the Year of the Priest was launched in Inverell. Bishop LUC MATTHYS, and a good number of priests, attended the celebration. The mass likewise featured the conferring of the Bene Merenti Medal to Roma Fenwick.
- vii. Hospital Visits [Mondays with Pat Hobday; Wednesdays with Phyllis Nichols; and Fridays with Margaret Allan].
- viii. Home Visits [on Thursdays with Pat Mather].
- ix. McLean Visitation of Residents [on Tuesdays with Judy Harris].

II. The FUTURE:

- a. The formation of a Parish SOCIAL JUSTICE Committee: a "brainstorming" meeting will be held on the 14th of September/Tuesday at 5:30 pm for this purpose. Hopefully: this committee will animate social justice and peace concerns in our parish.
- b. The establishment of a Parish LIBRARY in the Parish MEETING Room. Currently, the details on this project is on the agenda of the Parish PASTORAL Council.
- c. RCIA for next year: there was only one RCIA Candidate this year; she had to withdraw because of change of residence [to Western Australia]. The lessons have been distributed to parishioners who volunteered to teach the RCIA Lessons.
- d. Parish HISTORY Team: a few parishioners have responded to my call to submit to the parish any items of historical value [funeral booklets; old photographs; documents; etc.]. Likewise: a few parishioners have signified their desire to be part of the Team.
- e. The Prayer Warriors for Parish Intentions
[This is mainly for the home-bound: from those who will sign-up, a chain is created. Prayer Warriors are given 2 to 5 fellow Prayer Warriors to call if a Prayer Intention is requested – mainly from JOE] so that all Prayer Warriors would pray for a particular intention.]
- f. Parish MARRIAGE Preparation Team
[It is envisioned that this Team will be trained to conduct the Parish Marriage Preparation Programme for the parish.]
- g. Senior Altar Serving/Acolytes
[for complicated liturgies & Funerals; and for weekend masses]
- h. Parish FUNERAL Team
[To prepare cold water; and jugs & cups one hour before a funeral; as GREETERS: to hand out booklets; to usher people into their seats; to make sure the toilets are clean and ready for use; to prepare the charcoal for the incenser; to bring out the portable seats from the shed if there is an overflow of funeral attendees; and to clean-up after the funeral].
- i. Parish GRIEF Team
[To assist parishioners/families in a "GRIEF SITUATION" caused by death; illness; separation/divorce; etc.]
- j. Parish INFORMATION Brochure

- k. Bishop LUC MATTHYS expressed his desire to make our sanctuary more suitably arranged and furnished for the celebration of the Eucharist as defined by the General Instruction of the Roman Missal.

The Bishop is coming to Inverell on the 21st of October/Thursday at 5:30 pm to meet with parishioners concerning this undertaking. An architect has been commissioned by him to make designs and suggestions in consultation with parishioners and local artists.

The matter on the TABERNACLE will be covered by this project.

- l. The biggest challenge facing us all this year and on to the next year [2011] is the implementation of the now approved **New Translation of the Roman Missal**.

The new translation will be used sometime next year. In the meantime, I have distributed [and will continue to do this] Parish Bulletin INSERTS to help us all prepare for this big change in our Liturgical Celebrations.

III. Other Concerns and Challenges:

- a. With the resignation of Janelle Allcock as Youth Ministry Animator, the Parish YOUTH Programme folded up. Currently the Parish PASTORAL Council is discussing how to best proceed at this stage in connection with the youth of the parish.
- b. The Catholic WOMEN's League of Inverell folded up last year because of their failure to attract new and younger membership. They held their final meeting on the 16th of November; preceded by a mass on the same day. We acknowledge with gratitude their presence and their contribution to the life of our parish through the years.
- c. \$ 1,871.80.00 was remitted to Bishop RODOLFO BELTRAN of the Vicariate Apostolic of Bontoc-Lagawe in response to our fund-campaign to help the victims of flooding and landslides in Kayan and Betwagan, Mountain Province in the Philippines.
- d. The wearing of BADGES has waned [about 150 badges were distributed]: very very few parishioners are now wearing them.
- e. The monthly mass for Brazilians stopped when Fr. Paul Mahoney left the Diocese to take on a new appointment. Our contact with Brazilians is now extremely limited. Only one family consistently attend weekend mass; a new family has started to come. Most of them now go to a Brazilian Pentecostal Church.
- f. The Novena in honour of Our Lady of Perpetual Help was discontinued because the Filipino Community finds it extremely hard to consistently attend the said novena. They are too tired from work to come at 5:00 pm on Wednesdays [they start work at 5:00 am].
- g. Through the initiative of some parishioners: roses are now planted in the church/presbytery grounds. I expect these roses to be the source of flowers to adorn the sanctuary in the future. Thanks to all the Lawn and Garden Carers [headed by Snow Wratten]; Ernie Muggleton; and Geoff Dodd.
- h. The Altar Society remains, like the Garden Carers, as the unseen hands that make our church beautiful, clean and orderly. But, as one of their members bluntly pointed out to me, most of their members are not young anymore. There is a need for younger parishioners [male and female] to get involved.
- i. Bishop LUC MATTHYS expressed alarm over the fact that very few are now getting married in the church. In 2009, we only had two [2] Weddings; one [1] in 2010. Hopefully, we will have two [2] in 2011.

National Marriage Day is celebrated by the church in Australia in August. This year, we made available in the paper table a copy of the Pastoral Letter of Archbishop Barry Hickey of Perth entitled: **"Pearl of Great Price"**.

IV. for STRENGTHENING:

- a. ADVENT/LENTEN Prayer Groups: it would be beneficial to many parishioners if these groups re-group. It is important that our many parish activities is accompanied by reflection and prayer.
- b. RELAY for LIFE: it was our 1st time to participate in this activity; thanks to Brian Baldwin and Maureen Newbiggin. We hope to do better in terms of raising funds and campaigning for more involvement by parishioners next year.
- c. Mothers Day/Fathers Day: special attention was made in the liturgy but the cuppa for Fathers Day was a flop. No **“Mums in the Parish”** organized the cuppa; no bikkies/cakes were served. Peter Constable and some Pinoys hurriedly set it up. Unlike Mother’s Day when it was, more or less, organized and well-set up.
- d. The Parish CHARISMATIC Group is struggling with membership. However, through the leadership of Dick and Margaret Wales, the group faithfully meets every week [on Thursdays at 5:00 pm] to pray. Some Thursdays, the group meets to watch recorded speakers on DVD.

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 [now two, thanks to Fr. John McHugh] 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.