

*“OUR PARISH
OUR FAITH”*



A Newsletter from the
Holy Family Parish
Faith Formation Committee

July 2021

CaFE (Catholic Faith Exploration) SUMMARY

The first Café series was held in May/June this year with two groups enjoying the 4-week program. "Joy of Hope" was the title of the series, and the DVDs were filmed on the beautiful Greek holy island of Patmos. St John wrote the Book of Revelations on this Island during the time he was exiled to Patmos (from Ephesus). His exile was a result of anti-Christian persecution under the Roman emperor, Domitian.

As the name "Café" suggests the morning group started with a yummy morning tea, before viewing and discussing the DVD each week. The evening group commenced their sessions with cheese and crackers.

Alpha reunion 20 April 2021

A reunion of the 2020 Alpha participants was attended by 25 Alpha graduates and other guests who all enjoyed a social evening on 20 April 2021. After Mass was celebrated in the chapel we descended upon the Commercial Hotel for a casual dinner and the chance to catch up and chat.



DID YOU KNOW?

- There are 1,755 Catholic schools in Australia, with more than 777,000 students, employing almost 100,000 staff.
- Catholic schools have been in Australia for 200 years and are a vital part of our country's educational landscape.
- Here's part of what the Prime Minister recently said:



Message from Prime Minister Scott Morrison on 200 years of Catholic Education

24 May 2021

"To the Catholic schools, early learning centres and universities of Australia, congratulations on 200 wonderful years of teaching and learning! I'm delighted to join you in celebrating this milestone.

"Over 200 years, your schools, preschools and now universities, have transformed Australia through the millions of lives you have influenced.

"I recognise the contribution of Catholic Education to Australian life and I join you in celebrating this anniversary.

"I send my best wishes to everyone celebrating this bicentenary.

God bless.

The Hon Scott Morrison MP
Prime Minister of Australia

**** See pages 6 and 7 for a report from our Parish School ****
Great things are happening there!

FROM POPE FRANCIS:

World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly

Pope Francis has declared a “**World day for Grandparents and the Elderly**” in the Roman Catholic Church to be marked once a year to honour them and to underscore their importance to society.

“They remind us that old age is a gift, and that grandparents are the ring linking generations, to transmit to young people the experience of life and faith,” the Pope said.

“Grandparents, so many times, are forgotten, and we forget this richness of safeguarding and transmitting roots,” Francis said.

Starting this year, it will be held on the **fourth Sunday of July**, close to the liturgical memorial of Saints Joachim and Anne, the grandparents of Jesus.

A MESSAGE from FR BARRY:

With the winter months upon us and a possible outbreak of the virus it might be a good time to stay indoors and use the time for a bit of relaxation and to restore our energy. Maybe a time to do some praying or spiritual reading as we nourish our spiritual life as well (even if we end up with a bit of a weight increase).

YouTube also has some short videos on the Catholic Faith, Spirituality, Meditation, and ways to relax. Fr. Brice Higginbotham, Bishop Barron and many others have interesting YouTube presentations of a few minutes, while others are somewhat longer.

I would particularly like to thank our many Parish Committees and secretaries for their excellent ministry in meeting the needs of parishioners. A special thank you to Lynn Rogers the editor of this newsletter and for her leadership of the Faith Formation Committee. There have been some very informative gatherings, often within a social context this year and more to come, so please join in.

A big concern is the need to attract more young marrieds and families to join in our celebrations, as well as people to help with the various ministries in the Church. The more involved we are the more we have a sense of belonging, ownership and commitment.

If you know of parishioners who may be housebound or lack transport, please let the office know or a committee member.

Please pray for the success of the Plenary Council in order that the Church of the present, and the future, will be renewed and flourish in the Spirit and with the mind of Christ.

We are the Church and it is only as good as its members so let us work together to build a better tomorrow.

With every blessing

Fr Barry

WHAT IS HAPPENING IN OUR PARISH?

CATECHISTS IN THE SCHOOLS (from Frances Scurfield)

Our Holy Family Catechists join with other faiths' catechists and teach an ecumenical Scripture-based program to children in the state primary schools in Parkes. The program is from "GodSpace" and is published by Burst Christian Resources in Sydney. We have a 35-minutes session time each week to present these lessons.

Holy Family Parish reaches out to the Catholic children in the state schools to offer the Sacraments of Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation each year.

On Sunday 23 May, 6 State School children joined with children from Holy Family Parish School to receive their First Holy Communion, with Fr Barry during 9.30 am Mass.

Reconciliation and Confirmation will be offered in October.

HOLY FAMILY PARISH SCHOOL (from Denise Gersbach)

Athletics Carnival in June

Holy Family School held its Athletics Carnival in Week 9 of term. The results were as follows:

JUNIOR GIRLS:

Champion - Emily White
Runner up - Alyra Williams

JUNIOR BOYS:

Champion - Angus Jones
Runner up - Rory Fisher

11YR GIRLS:

Champion - Annabelle Baker
Runner up - Piper White and Heidi Jones

11YR BOYS:

Champion - Khan Jackson and Hudson McGuire
Runner up - Phoenix Robson

SENIOR GIRLS:

Champion - Harper Lawryk
Runner up - Evie Barnes

SENIOR BOYS:

Champion - Hayden Arndell
Runner up - Dylan White

WINNING HOUSE - Bushman

SPIRIT AWARD – Phoenix

50 children have qualified to compete at the Central Cluster Athletics Carnival at Trundle next term.

Special Achievement - NSW Hockey Representative

Congratulations to Hayden Arndell who was named in the NSWPSSA Hockey Merit Team after competing at the NSWPSSA Carnival in Newcastle recently. This is an amazing achievement!

Marcellin Champagnat Celebrations

In Term 2 we celebrated the Feast of St Marcellin Champagnat with a special Mass in our school hall. We were delighted to welcome Mr Nathan Ahearne from Marist Schools Australia to the celebration.

At the end of the Mass special certificates were presented to staff for reaching milestones in years of service in a Marist school. Certificates were presented to students who this year have displayed the qualities of St Marcellin - doing good quietly, hard working, faithful, simplicity, humility, persistence, and generosity.

Student Awards: Joey Hazelton, Farrah Edmonds, Rhys Hetherington, Harvey Gray, Issac Allen, Lillian Townsend, Zahli Gillingham, Willow Culhane, Ashton McQuie, Louis Smith, Gracy Allen, Holly O'Bryan, Ruby Hackett, Bea Tomson, Marshall Munn, Victor Ilechukwu, Adelaide Terry, Ruby Heraghty, Eilish Neville, Adrian Day, Annabelle Baker and Eva Smith.

Staff milestones:

10 years - Helen Vousden-Airey

20 years - Judi Cannon, Andrew Berger and Beverly Berger

Upcoming Event

Holy Family is looking forward to celebrating Grandparents' Day in Term 3 on Friday 30th July. There will be a special Mass at 9.45 am in the school hall which parishioners, grandparents and families are invited to attend. There will be morning tea on offer and open classrooms where the children are looking forward to sharing their work with their grandparents.

How to Contact the School

Email - admin.parkes@wf.catholic.edu.au

Phone - 0268621610

Principal - Denise Gersbach

Assistant Principal - Andrew Berger

Religious Education Coordinator - Beverly Berger

Website - <https://www.wf.catholic.edu.au/schools/parkes/>

Facebook - Holy Family School, Parkes

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL (from Sherree Rosser)

Along with two new members, Luke Nash and Karolina Kosmicki, the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) has continued to focus on possible solutions to the challenges we face as a Catholic Community.

We have asked the following questions:

- What are today's challenges?
- Why are families disengaged with our church?
- Do new members of our Holy Family Parish feel like they belong?
- Are we welcoming to new parishioners?
- How will we build up a faith community?

It's clear from the surveys completed and through the suggestion box, that our young families are the key to growing the Holy Family Parish.

Three strategies have been identified as positive steps in achieving enhanced engagement by young people:

- Reconnecting with Tom McKeon who supports youth groups across the Diocese,
- establishing a Social Media platform for dissemination of relevant and timely information, and
- ensuring close connections with Holy Family School

These will be our focus during 2021.

HOLY FAMILY BAPTISMAL MINISTRY (from Felicity Abbey)

There are many volunteers and groups that help Father Barry attend to the daily functioning of our Church. One of those groups is the baptismal ministry.

The baptismal team assists Father Barry in running the monthly baptismal workshops for the parents and godparents of the children being baptised in our Parish. The evening workshops are very enjoyable. Information about the meaning of the sacrament of baptism and the ceremony itself is given in a relaxed and interactive way by discussion and videos.

This ministry currently has three teams, with two people in each team. They are Libby Neville and Gillian Calabro, Felicity and Alex Abbey and two recently joined volunteers, Nicola Kite and Marian Toohey. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Nicola and Marian and to thank them for volunteering their time in this rewarding ministry.

As well as assisting at the workshops and on the day of the Baptisms we are also representing the wider parish family. The workshops and baptisms gives us an opportunity to celebrate and welcome these children into our parish community. Many of the team members have been helping out for many years and so have participated in many workshops and baptisms, but we are constantly learning and being inspired by the blessing of this important sacrament.

The baptismal ministry invites other parishioners to help us expand this important ministry. If you think this is something you would like to be involved in, please contact Felicity Abbey on 0427677445 or the parish office.



MAKING CONNECTIONS:

2021 FAITH FORMATION COMMITTEE		
Frances Scurfield	0412 103 597	fscurfield@yahoo.com.au
Lynn Rogers	0439 934 667	lynnandwayne@bigpond.com
Marlene Freeman	6862 3638	marlenefreeman20@gmail.com
Kittie Dwyer	6862 2038	kittiedwyer@gmail.com
Felicity Abbey	0427 677 445	felicityabbey30@gmail.com
John Hanstock	6863 3164	
Bernadette Bonham	0423 760 086	bernadetteb@skymesh.com.au
Dymphna Buckley	0412 552 808	peterbuckley@ozemail.com.au
Fr Barry Dwyer	Parish Office, 6862 2469	parish.parkes@wf.catholic.org.au

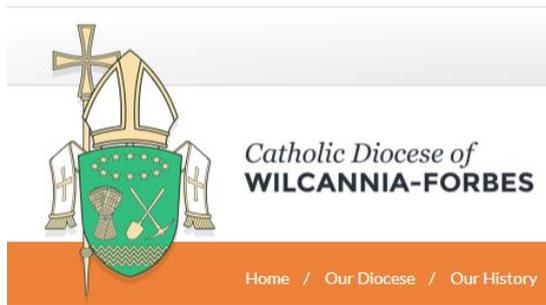
Parish office hours are:	
Monday and Tuesday	8.30 am-12.30 pm
Thursday and Friday	8.30 am-1.30 pm
Secretaries: Mandy Finn and Trish Pritchard	
Phone: 6862 2469	Email: parish.parkes@wf.catholic.org.au
Planned Giving Details:	
BSB: 082 105	Account No. 001058119



	Facebook		Please LIKE these pages and support our Parish.
Here's an easy way to keep up with what is happening in our Parish and even in the Wilcannia-Forbes diocese:			

Who is on Facebook?	What can you find there?
Holy Family Parish, Parkes	Information and news about weekday and weekend Masses (times, venues, etc), including the full Mass bulletin each week. Other news about events and activities as they occur.
Holy Family School, Parkes	Fabulous photos of the children, plus all the news you need to keep up to date with school events.
Catholic Diocese of Wilcannia-Forbes	Bishop Columba puts lots of interesting information, snippets, messages, and photos on this Facebook site.

WHAT'S ON FOR KIDS AND YOUNG PEOPLE:



Check this website to see how our Diocese is connecting with young people. The Diocese of Wilcannia-Forbes **Youth Office** collaborates with clergy and parish committees as well as parish school communities to promote a culture of youth discipleship in the Diocese.

Youth activities are held regularly in a number of parishes.

See the following Youth Facebook Pages for further information about Parish Youth Groups.

Parkes

<https://www.facebook.com/Holy-Family-Parish-Youth-Group-Parkes-423519331336637/>

Condobolin

<https://www.facebook.com/condojoeys/>

Forbes

<https://www.facebook.com/St-Laurences-Youth-Group-Forbes-154573815035492/>

2021 Sacrament Dates

21 October – First Reconciliation – Year 2

31 October – Confirmation – Year 6

Children who wish to receive these sacraments and do not attend Holy Family School, will need to contact the Parish Office on 6862 2469.

Please phone the office at least six weeks before the sacrament your child wishes to make as there will be preparation classes prior to each sacrament.

WHAT'S IN THE 2021 FAITH FORMATION PIPELINE?

Movie afternoon

Don't let winter weather keep you cooped up at home. Come out for a movie and afternoon snack at the Fr Pat Centre on Sunday, 11 July at 2 pm.

"I Can Only Imagine" is the movie, starring Dennis Quaid. A story of father and son, forgiveness and hope, and the power of music in our lives.

Bring a friend - All welcome.

Laudato Si (Care for our common home)

- Thursday, 12 August, 7-8.30 pm
- Fr Pat Centre
- Sr Elizabeth and 2 Red Bend Students will facilitate this program
- Gold Coin Donation
- Supper included
- Bookings essential: Lynn on 04399 34667

Pope Francis's encyclical *Laudato Si* is a worldwide wake-up call to help us understand the destruction to our environment and to our fellow man. He says, "we can shift to a more sustainable approach".

Young people in particular are very concerned about the future of the earth (our common home), even to the point of protest marches, etc.

Come along to this important presentation and hear what the three young speakers have to say. Be informed. Ask questions. Discuss with others.

Spirituality in the Pub (SIP)

The next event is planned for Monday, 11 October and we are currently organising speakers for the topic, "*Faith, Family and Fathers Still Matter*".

Our new 'SIP home' is the larger room at the Coachman Hotel. It is not "just talk!" We buy a drink, enjoy the presentation and discussion, ask questions, and even stay on for dinner.

Updated information will be in the Mass sheets in September, sent out on email, and posted to the Parish Facebook page.

AND, THERE'S PLENTY MORE COMING UP!

These are all in the planning process. Watch out for updates in the Mass sheets and on the Powerpoint slides in the Church.

- International dinner, September
- Spirituality in the Pub, October
- Garden morning tea, October
- Picnic, November
- Meditation – Advent themed – 2 mornings in December

If you would like to assist in the planning and preparation of any of the above, please contact anyone on the Faith Formation committee (see contacts on page 9). Your input will be welcomed.

Praying the Rosary:

- Tuesdays at 5.30 pm, prior to Mass in the chapel
- Throughout the year, on the 3rd Sunday morning of every month, John Hanstock leads prayers of the Rosary in the Fr Pat Centre, after Mass. All are welcome.
- Before each Sunday morning Mass during October.

Adoration and Benediction:

1st Friday of each month: In the Chapel after 9:45 am Mass

**ARE YOU LOOKING FOR INSPIRATION? SICK OF
FAKE NEWS AND WANT SOME REAL NEWS?**

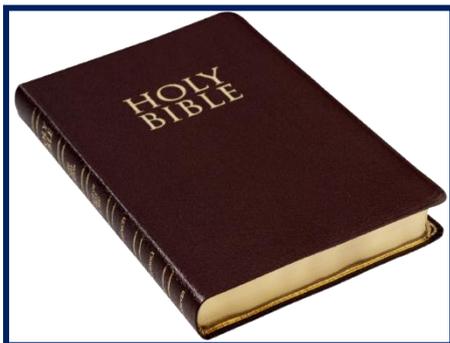
FREE Online - <https://cathnews.com/>



Try CathNews, which is the most frequently visited Catholic website in Australia. A daily news service featuring Catholics and Catholicism from around the world; Mass on Demand and on line; prayer; meditation; reflections; opinion; and reviews.

AND IT'S FREE!

THE BIBLE



The BIBLE has had an unbelievable impact on civilisation. It's perhaps a strange old book, cobbled together over thousands of years but it has outlasted kingdoms! Who would think that a book could be more durable than stone, more durable than castles, more durable than an empire!

Here is an easy way to get to know the Bible better:

THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

"The Bible in a year" with Father Mike Schmitz is a wonderful podcast that can be downloaded onto your phone or electronic device. It has been put together by Ascension Press, a leader in Faith Formation in the United States.

The podcast follows a 365-day reading plan inspired by The Great Adventure Bible Timeline, developed by Catholic Bible scholar Jeff Calvin.

This podcast helps you understand the history and stories of the Bible. Each daily episode starts with Father Mike Schmitz readings from the scriptures, followed by a prayer, reflection and commentary. His readings and commentaries are enthusiastic, engaging and Inspiring.

Each episode takes between 17-25mins. It is well worth the time. I first heard about this podcast from another parishioner and started listening to it in March. I have found this podcast life changing. I have developed a greater understanding of our Catholic history and a deeper and stronger relationship with God. Anybody who takes the time to listen to this podcast will find it time well spent, in fact I look forward to listening to this podcast each day.

Felicity Abbey



Check out YouTube where you will find a selection of all sorts of free material. If you don't have YouTube on your TV, download it from the Menu options or just get a young person to do it for you. Technology is so easy for the young!!

Happy Year of St. Joseph!

*Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted his only Son;
in you Mary placed her trust;
with you Christ became man.*

*Blessed Joseph, to us too,
show yourself a father
and guide us in the path of life.
Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage,
and defend us from every evil. Amen.*

FATHERHOOD
is a vocation in
God's service,
to be not held
lightly or frivolously,
but with the
serious determination of
SERIOUS MEN.

-Father Lawrence Lovasik
saints365.blogspot.com

*Till next time, growing in faith together, your Faith Formation
Committee.*