

A NEW PARISH WEBSITE

One practical way of making it easier for youth and young families to connect with the Parish is to make our website more attractive and user friendly. For most young people who aren't yet connected with the Parish, the website will be their first point of contact if they start looking to connect. The Parish Pastoral Council has established a working group to focus on plans for a new website in 2018.

The Parish Pastoral Council will meet quarterly in 2018, with the first meeting scheduled for February 15th.

To make contact with the Parish Pastoral Council, contact any of the members or send a message via the Parish Office.

***Come Holy Spirit of this Great Southland,
Inspire our entire faith community
As we prayerfully discern new horizons for spreading joy
in the lives and communities of the People of God...***
(from the Prayer for the Year of Youth)

The PPC thanks Ivor Davies and Carole Ward for their contributions and for their continued work in the Bomaderry Community Group, and welcomes Carmen Gauci and Gemma Irwin as the new Bomaderry representatives.

THE PPC:

Berry: Barry McAndrew; Roland Tudor
Bomaderry: Carmen Gauci, Gemma Irwin
Culburra Beach: Pep Palucci; Harry Ray
Nowra: Nigel Porter; Bernadette Pullen
Vincentia: Brian McCarron; Alan Burrows

Fr Pat, Fr Leo, Fr Duane, Deacon Peter Presdee, Sister Sue Barker, Melissa Mazzo, Sandra Hogan (Principal St John's High School), Lindy Nelson (Assistant Principal St Michael's Primary School), Frances Fairs (Catechist Co-Ordinator).



PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL NEWSLETTER ISSUE # 2 DECEMBER 2017

FOR ST MICHAEL'S PARISH COMPRISING:

ST PATRICK'S CHURCH BERRY
SACRED HEART CHURCH BOMADERRY
OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS CULBURRA
ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH KANGAROO VALLEY
ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH NOWRA
HOLY SPIRIT CHURCH VINCENTIA

THE YEAR OF YOUTH HAS BEGUN!

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC YOUTH FESTIVAL (ACYF)

The theme for ACYF was "Open New Horizons for Spreading Joy" and it was truly a joyful experience for all involved, beyond all expectations! Almost 20000 young people attended, including about 50 young people from the Shoalhaven. Even though the Catholic faith is not "popular" amongst most of their peers these young people stepped up and showed great courage to firstly sign up for the event, then commit to the preparation sessions, and finally to enter wholeheartedly into the 3 day festival. They spoke powerfully after the event about the joy they experienced in coming closer to God and forming new friendships with other like-minded young people. We will now seek to build on their experience; please keep them and all youth in your prayers!

A big thank you to Val Lewis for organizing the St John's youth for the festival, and to Shannon Chittick, Jody Le, and Nigel Porter for leading other local youth to ACYF.

PARISH FOCUS 2018: YOUTH AND YOUNG FAMILIES

The Australian Bishops' Conference have officially launched the "Year of Youth" to mark the 10 year anniversary of World Youth Day in Sydney. As such, the Parish Pastoral Council has identified "Youth and Young Families" as the focus area for our Parish for 2018. The National Church Life Survey 2016 confirmed that many of our own parishioners would dearly love to see more youth involved in our parish.

Pope Francis said that the Parish is called to be "a centre of constant missionary outreach", "a sanctuary where the thirsty come to drink". The success of ACYF shows that our youth are thirsting for the living waters Christ has to offer, even if they are not coming in large numbers (yet) to Sunday Mass. Let's do all we can to support those who are already coming, and constantly reach out to other youth in new and creative ways.

THE PARISH YOUTH COMMITTEE

A Parish Youth Committee was formed about a year ago, led by teachers Val Lewis from St John's and Meg Davis from St Michael's who were selected for World Youth Day 2016 and were eager to build on their experience after returning. The Youth Committee has already done some wonderful work including running the first Nowra Youth Day at St John's, supporting Mini

Vinnies at St Michael's and Vinnies Youth at St John's, recruiting and supporting 25 new altar servers, and supporting the involvement of our Parish in the Australian Catholic Youth Festival (ACYF).

They have big plans for 2018, including:

- Reflection Days at St Michael's school
- Concerts and twilight retreats at St John's school
- Connecting St John's students with St Michael's students
- Connecting state school Scripture children with each other
- Continuing to recruit and support altar servers
- A monthly Youth Group and Youth Mass

The key Parish connection for youth will be the monthly Youth Group and Youth Mass. The Youth Group will be open to young people from Year 5 to Year 12, starting with food and fun from 4pm and leading in to the 6pm Mass in which young people will have special roles. This new Youth Group and Youth Mass will be launched on Sunday February 18th from 4pm at St Michael's School Hall.

All parishioners can play a role in warmly welcoming our youth and young families to Masses and encouraging them for their presence and involvement. If anyone would like to contribute more specifically to support new initiatives for youth and young families either in leadership roles or behind the scenes, please contact the Parish Pastoral Council.