



# PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL NEWSLETTER ISSUE #4

## JUNE 2018

### 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

## ALPHA



This is the sixth week of Alpha in our Parish. The topics that we have been discussing each week include, "Who is Jesus?" and "Why and how do I pray?". Each week is an enjoyable experience for all with a meal provided by one of our Parish Community Groups involved in catering, an Alpha video and small group discussion. We have approximately 50 guests coming each week to Alpha and of that group, 40% are not connected to the Church or attend Mass regularly. The feedback that we have received has been overwhelmingly positive with one of the attendees mentioning to Fr Duane that she "wouldn't have come if he had asked her to Mass but was very glad to have said 'yes' to trying Alpha".

Alpha is successfully connecting people and drawing people into a relationship not just with God, but our Church community. So far, we have had a Young Adults group start up with the young adults attending Alpha, and we have had people enquire after other groups, such as the Youth Group for their children.

We are looking forward to our Alpha retreat on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> June and so far have 30 people planning to attend. Please keep Alpha and those attending in your prayers.

Thank you to all those involved in the enormous job of catering for Alpha! The warmth and friendship that is formed over the meal is vital to the success of Alpha and we couldn't do it without you!

Please contact Frances Fairs, via the Parish Office, if you have any questions about Alpha.

## YOUTH UPDATE

The Year of Youth continues to bear fruit in our Parish. During this past 3 months:

- The Youth Group for Year 5 to Year 8 continued to build, with over 30 young people coming along for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Youth Group and Youth Mass. Like us on Facebook for regular updates "St Michael's Parish Youth Group"
- A group of youth from Year 9 to Year 12 went together to i-Stand Wollongong which is the Youth Group run by the Youth Mission Team, and they had a great time. This will happen on a larger scale and more frequently starting Term 3
- The post-school Young Adults Group (ages 18 to 30s) have started meeting regularly, including their first "games night" which was a great success

Each of these initiatives combines food, fun, friendship and faith, and it's wonderful to see young people connecting more with God and with each other during this Year of Youth.

Thank you to the Parish Youth Team and to all who have been supporting these new initiatives.

For more info please contact Fr Duane at the Parish Office, or any of the Parish Youth Team.

Parish Youth Team: Meg Davis, Val Lewis, Dylan Anderson, Andrew Allmark, Emma-Kate Callaghan, Gemma Irwin, Megan Turner, Martine Mathieson, Melissa Firkin, Molly Porter, Chriselle D'Mello



*All parishioners can play a role in "youth ministry" by simply warmly welcoming our youth and young families to Masses and encouraging them for their presence and involvement – and please continue to pray for our youth*

## CELEBRATION OF CULTURES MASS



Bomaderry Sacred Heart church will be hosting a 'Celebration of Cultures Mass' in spring (date TBC).

All are invited to 9:30am Sunday Mass at Bomaderry to celebrate the different cultures and countries that we come from to be one in our faith and parish life. Adults and children can wear their traditional dress.

We will also celebrate with refreshments after mass so please bring a plate, to share, of finger food from your culture. All welcome! Enquiries to Carmen Gauci 0403686536.

## PARISH WEBSITE



The Bishop's office has confirmed the Diocesan website is being upgraded, over the next 6 months. This will include a template for all parishes to use. In the meantime, small changes will be made to the current Parish website. Continue to check the website [www.nowraparish.org.au](http://www.nowraparish.org.au) for social and community activities.

## MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS FEAST DAY

Our Lady Help of Christians celebrated its 40th Anniversary and Feast Day, commencing with an inspirational Mass, followed by dinner at Culburra Bowling Club attended by 68 Clergy, parishioners and guests. A great night was enjoyed by all.



**Pray As You Go and Sacred Space are free Apps, available to download on iTunes and Google Play. You can listen in the car, out walking or any time of day. It offers a reflection on the daily Scripture reading and a reflective review of your day before you go to sleep.**

*The PPC meets quarterly and the next meeting will be 16<sup>th</sup> August.*