Prayer to St Anthony
Saint Anthony, perfect imitator of Jesus, who received from God the special power of restoring lost things, grant that I may find (mention your petition) which has been lost.
At least restore to me peace and tranquillity of mind, the loss of which has afflicted me even more than my material loss.
To this favour I ask another of you: that I may always remain in possession of the true good that is God. Let me rather lose all things than lose God, my supreme good. Let me never suffer the loss of my greatest treasure, eternal life with God.
Amen

Prayer of St Thomas
I will love you, Lord, in every way and Without setting limits to my love. You set no limits to what you have done for me.
You have not measured out your gifts. I will not measure out my love.
I will love you, Lord, with all my strength, With all my powers, as much as I am able.
Amen
### Mareeba Parish (est. 1911)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Postal Address:</th>
<th>PO Box 308 Mareeba Qld 4880</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Telephone:</td>
<td>07 4092 1077</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email:</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Mareeba.parish@caims.catholic.org.au">Mareeba.parish@caims.catholic.org.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fax:</td>
<td>07 4092 3170</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Parish Clergy:  | Parish Priest: Fr John Sullivan OSA  
|                 | Associate Pastor: Fr Kim Phu Tran OSA |
|                 | Indigenous Connections: Fr Robert Greenup OSA  
|                 | Deacon Ralph Madigan          |
| Other Parish Contacts: | Secretary: Mrs Joan Schincariol  
|                   | Parish Pastoral Council_ Mareeba Chair: Mr Kevin Greensill |
| Mass Times:     | **St Thomas of Villanova Church**, 59 Constance St Mareeba  
|                 | **Weekend Masses:**  
|                 | Saturday: Reconciliation from 5:00 to 5:30pm  
|                 | Vigil Mass 6:00pm  
|                 | Sunday:10:00am  
|                 | **Weekdays Mass:**  
|                 | Monday 8:30am; Tuesday 7:00am; Wednesday 8:00am; Thursday 7:00am; Friday 9:00am  
|                 | **St Christopher’s Church**, 20 Barang St Kuranda  
|                 | **Weekend Mass**  
|                 | Sunday 6:00pm  
|                 | **Weekday Mass:**  
|                 | 1st Wednesday of the month at 6:00pm  
|                 | **Julatten Community Home Mass Mt Molloy** – for location contact Mareeba Parish – Ph: 4092 1077  
|                 | **St Stephen’s College Chapel**, Lot 3 McIver Rd, Mareeba  
| Schools & Colleges | St Thomas of Villanova Primary School, Mareeba  
|                   | St Stephen’s Catholic College, Mareeba |

### Dimbulah Parish (est. 1963)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Postal Address:</th>
<th>PO Box 308 Mareeba Qld 4880</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Telephone:</td>
<td>07 4092 1077</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email:</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Mareeba.parish@caims.catholic.org.au">Mareeba.parish@caims.catholic.org.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fax:</td>
<td>07 4092 3170</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Mass Times:     | **Weekend Mass:**  
|                 | Sunday 8.00am  
|                 | **Weekday Mass:**  
|                 | Wednesday 9.00am (except 1st Wednesday of the month) |
I am speaking at this Mass to make an announcement that is of importance for the people of Mareeba and Dimbulah parishes as well for the Augustinians.

The Order has served the parish of Mareeba since 1911 and Dimbulah since 2000 (even before being a diocesan parish the Dimbulah area was under the care of the Augustinians in Mareeba). The relationship between you and the Order has been enduring, strong and valued. For all your support for and friendship with us we are deeply grateful.

At the recent Chapter of the Australian Province of the Augustinians important matters were considered. Some positive directions that emerged included:

* Commitment to renewal of our Augustinian community life.
* Establishment of the first community of the Order in Vietnam.
* Acknowledgement of the life and ministry of the Order in Korea.
* Acknowledgement of the importance of our various ministries in Australia.

We were also aware of the significant challenge presented by a decrease in the number of our members available for active ministry as ageing makes a significant impact on our Province. Between the previous term and this one there have been retirements from ministry. While we have been gifted by vocations from Vietnam for our Vietnam mission, and four vocations from the Philippines for our ministries here, there have been no vocations locally that have endured since 2002.

Following the Augustinian Chapter meeting this past July, the Provincial Council and I realised that, as we prepared for the appointments in the 2019-2022 Provincial term, there was difficulty in providing pastoral leadership for all the parishes currently entrusted to our care.

The outcome of the Council’s discernment was a decision to inform the Bishop of Cairns that beyond mid-January 2019, the Order was unable to provide Augustinians for the pastoral and administrative leadership of the parishes of Mareeba and Dimbulah. Our coming to this decision has been one of sadness and regret. The Bishop and I have been involved in discussion regarding the future pastoral care of the two parishes. I wish to acknowledge my gratitude for the Bishop’s understanding in these conversations and his clear concern, shared with me, for the spiritual and pastoral welfare for the people of Mareeba and Dimbulah.

Bishop James has informed me that he will be appointing a non-Augustinian Parish Priest and
Associate Pastor to serve a new pastoral arrangement on the Tableland. They will reside in Atherton.

Even though Augustinians are not able to provide pastoral leadership for the parish, Fr Robert Greenup will remain a resident at the Priory so it will remain an Augustinian residence into the 2019-2022 period. Fr Robert, along with Deacon Ralph Madigan, will continue in the Indigenous Connections ministry which is the ministry established by the Diocese for Indigenous Catholics in the Diocese. Fr Robert as a Priest in Residence in Mareeba along with Deacon Ralph will also assist with Masses and other liturgies in the parish as worked out with the new Parish Priest.

I take this opportunity to thank Fr Robert and Deacon Ralph for their ministry in Indigenous Connections. I also wish to thank them both for their preparedness to assist in the parish under the new arrangements.

From 21st January, 2019, Fr John Sullivan will be Prior of the Augustinian Formation Community at Brookvale in Sydney so has a key role in relation to the community in which students for the Order are trained. He will also have part time parish duties at North Harbour parish.

Also, from the same date, Fr Phu Tran is the Prior of the first Augustinian community to be sent to Vietnam. This is an important responsibility for Fr Phu and the others in this community. Initially Fr Phu will undertake a course in formation (training of seminarians) in Sydney in the early months of next year before leaving for Vietnam during 2019.

Though there will be further opportunity later on, I take this opportunity to thank Frs John and Phu for their ministry in the two parishes.

Both Fr John and I will be outside after this Mass to speak further with you if you have further questions.

In conclusion, there has been heaviness of heart and concern for the wellbeing of the people of Mareeba and Dimbulah on the part of the Provincial Council and I in coming to this decision, in my conversations with the Augustinian community here and in my conversations with Bishop Foley. At the same time there has been resolution to positively prepare for the future.

You are very much in my prayers and I commend the Augustinians to yours.

Fr Peter Jones OSA
Prior Provincial
Order of St Augustine
Province of Australasia
Saturday 13th October 2018
My Dear People

We have finally finalized the priests’ assignments on the Tablelands. I thank you for your patience and understanding in these drawn-out times in your parishes. Fr Robert Greenup OSA is willing to stay on in this diocese after the Augustinian community (of three (3) priests) formally withdraws after 134 years – since 1884 – of service.

Robert however wishes to continue with his work among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholics (=Indigenous Connections). Such a missionary ministry was the primary reason why our area (now the diocese of Cairns) was established as a special and separate Vicariate as early as 1877. Indigenous Connections will have a high priority for Fr. Robert together with Deacon Ralph Madigan.

However, Fr. Robert, given his many years in Mareeba, has agreed to take on the pastoral care of the town area of Mareeba. In this he will also be assisted by Deacon Ralph, who has lived all his life in that community.

This is a rather unusual arrangement. Fr. Robert will be the Parish Priest of the town/urban area while the centers of Dimbulah and Kuranda and all their surrounding areas will be under the pastoral care of Fr Michael Szymanski and Fr Dariusz Osinski.

However, people from out of town of Mareeba township who have always considered St Thomas’ as their church should still consider themselves to be part of that parish and continue their associations with Fr Robert as their Parish Priest.

This somewhat unusual arrangement will come into place when Fr John Sullivan leaves us on the 21st January 2019, after four years of fine and friendly service.

Fr Michael Szymanski will take up residence in Atherton as Pastor on the 14th December 2018. Fr Dariusz Osinski is to reside in the presbytery in Herberton and will have pastoral oversight for the southern and western parts of the Tablelands. Fr Dariusz will also continue his pastoral care of Weipa. At a meeting in the past week, with the priests directly involved, we recognised the valuable gift of the four (4) deacons on the Tablelands.

Thanks again for your understanding and patience with all of this. However, the end result is by far the best outcome, respecting as far as possible, the current needs and the past traditions of long-established parish communities.

Yours truly in Christ,

+ James Foley

BISHOP OF CAIRNS
Fr John Sullivan OSA.

FAREWELL!

Four years ago, I was only back in Australia for a mere 20 days after 26 years missionary work in South Korea, when I was sent to be parish priest of Mareeba and Dimbulah. I was keen to discover this part of Australia after reading and hearing so much about it from the older Irish members of our Augustinian province and also, of course, from all those priests a generation ahead of me who were born and bred in the Cairns diocese.

I was used to country life, as I’d spent a number of years on Ganghwa Island just off the coast from Incheon, the port city of Seoul, South Korea. Ganghwa Island is only about 28 km long and 22 km wide but with a population of 65,500 people, half of whom lived in the principal town of Ganghwa. I wonder how we’d go at fitting that number of people into an equivalent area between Mareeba and Dimbulah? I was parish priest of the southern half of the island with 6 little churches and their communities to care for. The main farming activities involved rice growing, dairy cattle, pigs and fishing. Local delicacies were prawns (could be eaten live), eel (definitely not live) and yacon, a crisp, sweet-tasting tuber or ‘ground apple’. These have all been replaced by the local delicacies of FNQ - barramundi, coral trout, avocados, papayas, lychees and mangoes.

Country people have similar concerns and problems the world over, for example, the weather, the market and the time and labour-intensive aspect of their lives. As a result, participation in liturgies and other church activities have to somehow fit in with the demands of the work cycle of life on the land. In Ganghwa as in the communities of Mareeba and Dimbulah, families saw their children move away to the cities for higher education and job opportunities, in most cases not to return. As a result, much of the farming on Ganghwa was remarkably done by the elderly folk who didn’t have the luxury nor inclination to retire into the town as we do here. Mareeba, in particular, has quite an elderly retired population, many of whom are from the Italian and Croatian communities who took on the hard work of this land with the sugar cane and tobacco in the 50’s and 60’s. Many of these pioneering farmers are now in their eighties and nineties and are making their way home to heaven. In fact, we have had no fewer than 38 funerals in our two parishes so far this year.

I’m very grateful to the new Pastoral Council which formed last January for the next four years. I trust you will work equally as hard with Fr. Rob for the remaining three years which will include the 2020 Synod. New members also joined the old on the Finance Committee and the Liturgy Committee have made use of the Retreat Centre at Atherton to help them focus on how best to make participation in our liturgies a joyful experience. Thanks to our two young parishioners, Hannah and Scott, who took the initiative and started up a very successful youth club which has been meeting each Friday in the School Staff room. We need to see a similar initiative among our young parents so as to minister to each other. On your behalf I give thanks to Deacon Ralph, Marlene Loudon, Anne and Ray Walsh for their special ministry to the house bound and also to our Pastoral Assistant Anni Zazzi who every week visits our parishioners in the hospital and the Garden Settlement.

My one regret is I that I didn’t get to see a brolga – even a non-dancing one – in memory of Fr Rod Cameron who wrote poems about them. The closest I got was seeing plains turkeys. Initially, I’ll be joining Fr Dipi down at Brookvale in Sydney. Please know that you will be welcome to visit at any time. Farewell and don’t forget to take you bulletins home!
Fr Dipi Kattathara OSA
CHILLAGOE - A PLACE TO CHILL OUT

Now it is 7.30pm. It is deep silence and I’m writing this article from a sacristy table, holding a mug of Green Tea. I have been asked by Fr. Michael Endicott to write an essay on my memories of our Chillagoe ministry. Before I start, let me tell you all – finally I saw the SOUTHERN CROSS, tonight just few minutes ago – one of my Bucket List just ticked off. In this little town nobody is out at night, except for a few people drinking in the Post Office Hotel.

The Chillagoe routine.

Fr. John and I take turns to say Mass every 1st Tuesday of the month. Normally we get 4 or 5 people but tonight I had 8 because of some grey nomads. Whoever is rostered begins their journey Tuesday afternoon around 3 pm, carrying the Mass kit and our evening meal. Holy Mass is at 6pm. After the Mass we talk with people. We sleep in the small room (built by Fr Peter Hayes, I believe) near the sacristy in the missionary spirit. The next day we may visit people or go back to Mareeba for lunch.

People are very loving and caring, always appreciative of our pastoral care. This church of St. Nicholas of Tolentino and St. Mary of the Cross which replaces the original (1906- 1957) Chillagoe church, was consecrated by Bp. James Foley of Cairns on 28th July, 1996. It was originally a pioneer (1906) church at Wolfram Camp. It was relocated on the demise of that town to Dimbulah, where it served until the building of the new church there.

The church is well looked after by Silvia Cockburn (living almost 33 years in Chillagoe). She is the town librarian, teaches R.I in the State School and helps the local women and children like a missionary social worker. A Josephite nun, Sr Irene Harrison, is also living there almost 15 years alone in her house. She serves the community, the local Indigenous children and also helps the Gulf mission of the Diocese travelling the long distances in her four-wheel drive.

It takes 2hours to drive 141 km to Chillagoe. We drive slowly enjoying the nature. Some part of the Burke Developmental Road is dirt and gravel and some areas are very narrow and subjected to flooding in the Rainy Season. The drive towards Chillagoe in the afternoon is bit risky because driving west, the sun directly hits your eyes. After Dimbulah, the radio in my Subaru car slowly dies because of lack of airwaves, so to help ease the boredom of the dry landscape, I turn on my Bollywood CD songs and continue my journey. My first stop before my destination is an historical marker near Emu Creek. I take around 10 minitues there drinking water from my bottle. After the mini-town of Almaden, most of the road is dirt and you need to be very careful as there can be HOLY COWS AND HOLY KANGAROOS on the road. As I near the church there are lots of black rocky hills, so wonderful and spectacular more than Italian marble.

Now it’s almost 10pm. What more can I say? An awesome experience – I can’t speak or write about it. Silence can speak more.
Farewell and good luck

It was with great sadness that the parishes of Mareeba and Dimbulah bade farewell to Fr. Dipi Kattathara OSA in July of this year. He was overwhelmed by three, surprise farewell parties in Mareeba, Kuranda and Dimbulah held in his honour. Each of these occasions were special community gatherings complete with food, musical performances and personal tributes that brought together parishioners and students to thank Fr. Dipi for all his good work.

Fr. Dipi served in these respective parishes for four and a half years. During this time, he became a much respected and loved priest. He touched hearts with his kindness and devotion to living out his faith in his daily life, always making time for anyone who may have needed his wisdom and compassion.

The community was very much blessed to have Fr. Dipi as their priest and he remains in their prayers as he continues his ministry mentoring and support eh Augustinian Seminaries in Brookvale, Sydney.

Greetings and Salutations to all the people in Mareeba, Dimbulah and Kuranda.

The impact of the God’s people in Mareeba, Dimbulah and Kuranda on my life can’t simply be washed away. I miss you all. I miss the soft and kind hearts of you all, the beautiful coffee, pizza and wonderful fruits. I will never forget you all. Keep me in your prayers.

Now I am in our seminary at Brookvale in Sydney. At the moment, I have 4 young seminarians to take care of and after one month three will be added, then I will have a total of seven seminarians. They come from Vietnam, China and the Philippines. It took several days for me to adjust to the new system even though I had worked in a seminary before coming to Australia. They are all fine and studying both Philosophy and Theology at the Catholic Institute of Sydney (CIS). The beautiful memories that I have from all of you will always remain with me and I am sure that the lessons that all of you taught me with love and care will help me to move on in my life as a Religious Priest. I want to write more about my experiences as I have been asked, but can’t write because the joy in my heart keeps me silent….. Thank you.

I have only two things to tell you all - HAVE FAITH and ALWAYS BELIEVE THAT JESUS LIVES IN OUR HEARTS, then go on.

Yours Fr.Dipi OSA
Welcoming our newest Priest – Fr. Kim Phu Tran OSA

Fr. Phu is a Vietnamese Augustinian priest who was born in the South of Vietnam. He is one of nine children. Before joining the Augustinians in Australia, Fr. Phu finished his university and had a short time working at the DongNai University of technology in Vietnam.

He remembered well his first and happy day when he arrived in Australia, 31th December 2008. He said “I never forgot that day, because it seems to me that all Australians welcomed and celebrated my arrival.” On that day, after picking Fr. Phu up at the airport in the morning Fr. Tony Banks (Augustinian Prior Provincial at the time) took Fr. Phu to Sydney Harbour to see the fireworks on that night. That is why Fr. Phu got the feeling that the whole of Australia came out and celebrated his arrival. It was a remarkable day for him.

Fr. Phu entered the pre-novitiate in 2009 and novitiate in 2010. Fr. Phu had First profession in early 2011 and Solemn profession in 2015. He started to study his philosophy and theology at the Catholic Institute of Sydney (CIS) in Strathfield, NSW from 2011 to 2016. He was assigned to a new community in the parish of St Clair, a suburb of Western Sydney where he could learn and practice pastoral ministry before ordination.

On the 17th December 2016, Fr. Phu was ordained as a priest by Bishop Peter Comensoli at St Kieran’s church in Manly Vale. He served at Holy Spirit parish, St Clair until he was assigned to St Thomas of Villanova parish in Mareeba on 30th July 2018.

Fr. Phu said that he was in Mareeba about 7 years ago when he was a seminarian. He still remembered sleeping in a very old bus on the day he went to Coen with Fr. Robert Greenup and Deacon Ralph Madigan to minister to indigenous people.

A young priest with so much energy and enthusiasm, we wish him well in his new role and place.

Written by Fr. Kim Phu Tran

Cairns Diocesan News (Oct 2018)
MAREEBA-DIMBULAH PARISHES: PRISON MINISTRY TO LOTUS GLEN

The name, ‘Lotus Glen,’ conjures up a beautiful, if not exotic image hardly that of a razor-wire enveloped maximum-security correctional centre for some 800 men about 24 kilometres from Mareeba just off the road to Dimbulah. I suspect that the ‘lotus’ part just might refer to the native waterlilies growing in Granite creek which you pass over as you enter; the ‘glen’ in deference perhaps to the surrounding hills which are now being covered with wind turbines.

Lotus Glen is the northernmost and third largest jail in Queensland. Over 70 per cent of the prisoners are Indigenous and Torres Strait Islanders, dwarfing the Queensland prison average of about 30 per cent. Indigenous people in fact make up only about 3.5 per cent of the entire Qld population so the high incarceration rate is testimony to the failure of the prison system both as a deterrent and as a correctional tool.

Prison chaplains are very welcome to the prison but it can take quite a few months to get all the necessary documents cleared through the bureaucracy. Chaplains are the only ones who enter the units unescorted, armed only with their see-through bag of bits and pieces of Christian literature. The men always respect the chaplains because they invariably treat the prisoners themselves with respect. They listen to them, pray with them and offer them some hope.

Catholics are allocated Monday and the North wing of the jail, which has six prison units with about 50, cells in each, one man per cell, though they are nowadays being forced to have two to a cell when overcrowded. North wing is where the men go when they first come into the jail. If they behave, they move over to South Wing and if their behaviour is exemplary, they move into what is called ‘residence’ where life is somewhat freer and more comfortable. There is also a prison farm with low security for trusted prisoners, which can take some 124 men.

Deacon Frank Bedford and his wife Gael were doing chaplaincy work for many years travelling all the way from Cairns each Monday. Fr John Sullivan took over from them in 2016 and now the Parish has taken on this outreach with a team of 4 parishioners - Joe and Anne Serra, Graham Morrow and Bill White - going in each Monday and taking responsibility for an ecumenical service on the second Sunday of each month.

We all learn from our encounters with the inmates just by listening to their stories. Even though at times you might feel the futility of the whole mission, God’s Grandeur can on privileged occasions be glimpsed at Lotus Glen as even razor wire can take on a moment of glory in the morning sun as it morphs into multiple golden orbs of sunlight, a veritable chariot of fire to bear one’s spirit far from that place.

Written by Fr. John Sullivan OSA (Parish Priest)

Cairns Diocesan News (Oct 2018)
Our Committees
Pastoral Council – St Thomas of Villanova
St Thomas of Villanova new Pastoral Council – 2018-2022

Back Row: Harris Cabatingan, Christine Benjamin, Fr John, Hanna Zazzi, Anne Davis  Front Row: Helen Quintieri (Sec) Teresa Marinelli (VChair), Kevin Greensill (Chair) Michael Harnischfeger  Absent Scott Gilbert and Fr Dipi.

The year opened with the first meeting in February, marking the end of the four-year term. Some members stood down and new members came on-board.

Hanna and Scott are to be congratulated, for their dedication to the youth of our Parish, with the establishment of a successful Youth Group this year, numbers are steadily growing.

The parish secretary Monica Rizzetto resigned and Joan Schincariol was appointed to the position.

Early August we received the sad news that Fr Dipi was leaving the parish to take up a new position in Sydney. Fr Dipi was farewelled by parishioners at a shared meal. Fr Phu Tran was appointed as Fr Dipi’s replacement.

Three members of the Pastoral Council, together with members of the Liturgy Committee attended a rewarding in-service at Siloam, Atherton.

Fr Peter McHugh’s grave is finally finished with thanks to Miguel Samanes.

Early October we had a visit from Fr Peter Jones (Augustinians Provincial) who called a combined meeting of the Pastoral Council, Finance and Liturgy Committees to discuss the future of the Augustinians in our parish.

Fr Peter advised the combined meeting that the Augustinians would be withdrawn from Mareeba at the end of 2018.

Fr John Sullivan OSA will take up a position in Sydney early in the New Year; Fr Phu OSA will be founding the Order in Vietnam; Fr Rob Greenup OSA will be the new Parish Priest of Mareeba assisted by Deacon Ralph whilst continuing their work with Indigenous Connection.

The end of the year meeting closed on a sad note. The Thomas of Villanova Pastoral Council together with the parish in general has to come to terms with great changes that have taken place.

Kevin Greensill Chairman
St Thomas of Villanova Pastoral Council
Parish Finance Committee – St Thomas

Parish finance are in quite a healthy state at the present time. We have adequate working capital and we have managed to accumulate reasonable reserves for future commitments and unexpected eventualities.

Our Committee supervises the Parish financial affairs and checks the Accounts which are now processed by the Diocesan Office. It is our responsibility to report and advise the Parish Priest on financial matters affecting the Parish.

During the current financial year, viz. January to October 2018, thanks to the generosity of our parishioners, we produced a surplus of income over expenditure even though the church collections for the period were a little less than expected. This was no doubt due to the current economic situation affecting many of our families, and we completely understand this. We urge everyone to continue to do their best.

Any newcomers to the Parish who wish to join our Planned Giving Program are asked to see the Parish Secretary who will arrange Envelopes for them. Similarly if anyone wishes to amend their pledged amount due to changed circumstances, they are also asked to contact the Parish Secretary, who will be happy to comply with their wishes. This will assist us in our future budgeting.

During this year, in addition to meeting the normal Parish running expenses, we have been able to carry out necessary internal plumbing repairs at the Priory, replace the hot water system and also completely replace sections of the roof guttering which were leaking badly. Trees adjacent to the Priory side fence which had become a problem for the neighbors and to Rosies’s shed, were removed. A leaky roof section over the Church side verandah and Priest’s Sacristy has been fixed and we are waiting until after the wet season to repaint sections of the adjacent walls that have been water damaged.
We have cleaned all of the fans in the Church, thanks to volunteer parishioners. Two fans were replaced with new ones. The old ceiling speakers have been removed and a lot of touch-up painting was carried out in the Church. A new computer was also installed in the Parish office.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all of my Committee members for their valuable contributions during the year. We also thank Father John and wish him well in his new role with the Augustinians in Sydney.

**Over 55 years of service to**

**St Thomas of Villanova Parish**

**John Harvey**

Our grateful thanks to John Harvey who has voluntarily looked after the Parish finances for more than 55 years, in his role as Consulting Accountant, Auditor and Chairperson of the Parish Finance Committee. John is still involved in the supervision of our financial affairs, even though the routine accounting records have now been taken over by the Diocese, and he remains the Chairperson of the Finance Committee.
Dear Dimbulah Parishioners.

On 8 October last, for the first time in four years, we had all ten members of our Pastoral/Finance Council present at our bimonthly meeting! This was to hear Fr Peter Jones OSA, Provincial of the Augustinian Order, tell them the sad news that the Order has had to pull back on our commitment to the people of Dimbulah because of our dwindling numbers and ageing. You were all very stoic in accepting your fate, but it is in no way an unpromising one. From 21 January 2019, two young priests, Fr Michael Szymanski and Fr Dariusz Osinski, will take over pastoral care of you all. I thank Robert Emmerson for his faithful leadership of the Pastoral Council over the past four years and welcome Lisa and Edda who have joined the council in the last year. Kath is in her second year and who knows how long Rita, Joe, Giannina, Adriano, Raimond and Rachelle have been soldiering on, on your behalf. Our last Pastoral Council meeting was a fizzer - we had no electricity.

I realize that Dimbulah town and district has been hit by a number of closures of town amenities and the drift of young families away. But like true country folk, I saw how you support and rally around each other as you did at this year’s St Anthony’s Graduation ceremony for the six children involved. What a great crowd and memorable meal at the soccer club afterwards. You have in your school principal, Kath and APRE, Rachelle, two women who will with great imagination fight to the death to keep open our Catholic educational service to our young families.

I can’t conclude without a special thanks on your behalf to Anna Trevestin who has been your one-woman liturgical committee DJ. What a difference her humble efforts make to our happy participation in our Sunday liturgies each Sunday with songs of Praise.

I pray God’s blessing on you all as you journey forward under new pastors.

Father John Sullivan OSA.
St Christopher’s Kuranda
Mass – 6pm Sunday

20 Barang St Kuranda Qld 4881 –
Phone: 07 40921077

“Come as you are - we'd love to get to know you”.

It has been an eventful year at St Christopher’s in Kuranda, where Mass is held every Sunday evening and on the first Wednesday of the month. Our little church has a friendly atmosphere and is inviting to all.

This year we enjoyed our Parish Picnic with Mass celebrated outside under the tree and shared a wonderful picnic lunch afterward. It was, however, tinged with sadness as we bade farewell to Fr Dipi who was much cared for and respected. We also welcomed Fr Phu who came to replace Fr Dipi.

Our small community works together to maintain the yard, clean the church and keep up the daily duties of a working church. One parishioner, Biny Heuker has been teaching religion at the Kuranda State School for many years. We are a small community who work together and support each other. We love seeing new faces and welcome all who join us.

Articles and photos by Anni Zazzi
St Anthony’s Dimbulah School

When reflecting on 2018 at St Anthony’s we have been fortunate as a school to celebrate many spiritual gatherings, cultural enrichments, community fund-raising events, sporting and academic highlights throughout the year. Being a small family orientated school we gather often to support and nurture our 37 students in their overall growth as young members of our community.

In Term 1, we had the first of our five inter-house competitions with the St Anthony’s Swimming Carnival and Cross Country between Wolfram and Mulligan. Our students showed their talents in both areas with Wolfram emerging as the winners on the day of the swimming carnival and Mulligan taking the lead in the Cross Country. From this event seven of our students then represented the school at a District level for Cross Country and five of those students then went on to represent the school at the Peninsula Trials in Cairns.

In Term 2, we held our own Inter-house Athletics Carnival as well as hosting the Walsh River Athletics Carnival for surrounding small schools. Fourteen students were selected to represent Walsh River District in Mareeba with five students then going on to represent at the Peninsula Track and Field Championships in Cairns and two students representing at State level.

Our students always proudly represent the school each year at the ANZAC Day Dawn service as well as remembering and celebrating special events at a school level with special Liturgies held for occasions such as Ash Wednesday, Easter Passion Play, Feast Day for St Anthony and Mary MacKillop, ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day.

Giving back to the community through fund raising is also something close to our heart. This year we helped raise over $1000 to support Mr T shave his head and beard in the Leukaemia Foundation Shave for a Cure as well as Tracky Dack Day to support TLC for Kids.

We received a grant from Northern Gulf to inspire our little gardeners to grow their own produce. Establishing garden beds with new infrastructure and a new shade house to compliment the area and producing our own seedlings has been a year long project. The produce grown is then used in cooking by our students. Our Year 3/4 class also held a World International Food Day. They researched
countries, presented their information to the rest of the school, parents and staff, and prepared international dishes on the day.

Ducklings Playgroup welcomed new families to our little group and learnt about letters, numbers, shapes, colours and so much more. Everyone enjoys the take home craft activities.

We celebrated NAIDOC at the end of Term 2 and welcomed three Djungan Elders who came in to share their stories and knowledge with us of the local area. We held a liturgy in honour of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and the influence of women through the 2018 focus, “Because of her we can…”

Each year we take our school on a Whole School Excursion with students, parents and staff. This year we went to Rainforestation and enjoyed Army Duck rides, the animal zoo and cultural performances.

It is not until we stop and reflect on a year that we realise what we have achieved and in it, all we continue to value the education of our young students and place it at the centre of all that we do.

Ms Katherine Porter
Principal
St Stephen’s Catholic College:
“*What are your fears? What worries you most deeply? An ‘underlying’ fear that many young people have is that of not being loved, well-liked or accepted for who they are. For us Christians in particular, fear must never have the last word, but rather should be an occasion to make an act of faith in God…and in life!*”

(Pope Francis’ message to youth: Vatican City: 22/02/2018)

INTRODUCTION

The core business of an educator is teaching and learning in an environment that also fosters perseverance, respect, integrity, dignity and excellence. In respecting these values, teachers are nurturing the whole person and giving students the confidence to discover new horizons, gain confidence and take risks with their learning, in a faith-based setting. The focus of this report is to highlight the achievements of our students in a myriad of events, both inside and outside the confines of the classroom during 2018. A very significant ingredient in the equation is the quality of our teachers who work tirelessly to guide, inspire, encourage, challenge and support students to achieve their personal goals.

FOCUS ON IMPROVEMENT

In aspiring to achieve optimal learning and well-being for all students, St Stephen’s has embarked on an improvement agenda which involves the analysis of data and the development of an expert teaching team. With the assistance of Dr Judy Smeed from Education Outcomes and consultants from Catholic Education Services, our teachers are analysing Naplan data, provisional year eleven and twelve results and academic reports from all cohorts to determine the support that is required to assist students to progress to the next level. Not only are students well-supported by the Student Diversity Team, but some are also challenged to engage in studies at a higher level than their peers, such as students from year nine who are attending year eleven classes for those subjects in which they have demonstrated an exceptional aptitude.

One of the tenets of the college’s Mission Statement is to develop life-long learners. Our teachers are modelling this principle in the formation of an expert teaching team through profiling, mentoring and professional learning. In particular, there has been a strong emphasis on preparation for the new Queensland Certificate of Education system to be implemented with year eleven in 2019. As the greatest change in education since 1973, the new system replaces the Overall Position score with an ATAR (Australian Tertiary Admission Rank) ranging from 99.95 to 30.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

All students are encouraged to participate in activities for which they have a particular talent or passion in the academic, sporting, cultural or service arena. From an academic perspective, the year twelve cohort of 2017 achieved brilliant results, with 40.48% of OP-eligible students achieving a score between one and five, thus ranking St Stephen’s in thirteenth place in Queensland—the second highest ranked Catholic secondary school after St Joseph’s, Gregory Terrace, in Brisbane. All students who completed year twelve also received a Queensland Certificate of Education. This outstanding achievement was the result of the positive partnership that exists between students, teachers and our parents to work collaboratively to support students to achieve their goals.
This year’s cohort has also received accolades in academic, cultural and sporting fields. One of the College Captains, David Bin, reached the state final of the Lions Youth of the Year, narrowly losing to a competitor from Brisbane. Another of his peers, Sam Daniell progressed to the national final of the Plain English Speaking Award, while Nadia Falvo won the coveted Pierre de Coubertin Award for excellence in team work, fairness in sport and community engagement through coaching young swimmers. Earlier in the year, Keeley Mason and Dylan Cappella joined like-minded students at the National Youth Science Forum in Canberra. While the winners have been acknowledged, many others demonstrated true grit in competing in these events with confidence, resilience and perseverance.

Not to be outdone, other cohorts also performed well in class tests, national competitions, national testing (NAPLAN), Readers Cup, Spelling Bees, Optiminds, Rostrum, Mooting, chess competitions, and robotics at a regional and state level, to name but a few of the extra-curricular activities. For those with sporting prowess, there have been many individual success stories in swimming, cross country and athletics at a regional and state level. In particular, the 15 boys Futsal team was fortunate to qualify for the state final in Brisbane, a much coveted accolade. The willingness of students to participate in these events, which often require training and coaching in their own time, is commendable and I sincerely thank our teachers and parents for their generosity in assisting our students in these endeavours.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

The college has benefitted from the completion of the Music Block which was officially opened and blessed in February this year. This facility has greatly enhanced the experiences of our students in the study of music as an academic subject, and participation in the instrumental programme, Liturgy Band and College Choir. Prior to the college’s Athletics Carnival in June, spectator stands were erected on the bank of the oval, thus allowing students and parents a clearer view of the running track. With the completion of a covered walkway before the end of the year, students will be protected from the wet weather during the rainy season in 2019. An exciting development has been the commencement of work on a multi-purpose hall and auditorium which has a projected completion date of December, 2019. This facility will also provide much-needed space for functions, as well as serving as an examination centre for the new senior system. I thank our Business Manager, Mr Flynn, Catholic Education Services and the architect, Mr Farrell Morrison, for their valued input into these capital projects which are designed to improve facilities for our students.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Faith formation and service to others is an integral component of our Catholic identity. What continues to add richness to our liturgies and school masses is the choir and Liturgy Band. Senior students, fresh from their annual retreat, performed the Stations of the Cross with reverence on Holy Thursday, while the St Stephen’s Day celebrations in term three, reinforced what it means to be a student of this college. Service to others has taken on a variety of formats, with faith-based activities such as Project Compassion and the St Vincent de Paul Christmas appeal, as the main projects for 2018. As a college we have pledged to assist another two organisations—Rosies and the Hospital Foundation. To this end, the St Stephen’s Great Wheelbarrow Race team raised approximately $2800 for the local hospital, while a portion of the proceeds from the St Stephen’s Day mini-fete were donated to Rosies.
While students who attend St Stephen’s come from a large geographical area, the college is very much part of the Mareeba community. I would like to acknowledge the Combined Saints Band which played at many local events and all students who proudly represented our college at Anzac Day commemorations, Vietnam Veterans Day, the Multi-Cultural Festival and Seniors’ Week. By giving to others, our students are also finding meaning in their own lives and demonstrating faith in action.

APPRECIATION

Without the support of the wonderful staff at St Stephen’s, the College Board, the Parents and Friends, our students and their families, it would be challenging to lead the college community. I am very grateful for their assistance in making our college a nurturing, safe environment for our students, where not only their minds, but also their hearts, can be educated to enable them to build successful relationships and have the confidence to discover new horizons, without fear.

With Trust in the Lord

Mrs Ida Pinese

Principal
2018 has been yet another year of learning and of growing.

CURRICULUM: This year, St Thomas’ staff continued to journey professionally with JoAnne Dooner (Literacy Coach). JoAnne worked alongside our teachers to build efficacy and best practice in the teaching of literacy. This year, our leadership team also took time out of our school to visit JoAnne Dooner’s schools in Sydney to seek clarification and future directions regarding implementation of Morning Routine, Phonics and Literacy Block.

Making learning visible is a holistic approach across all Cairns Catholic Education schools designed to deliver excellent learning and teaching. The promotion of each student’s progress and achievement is regarded as everyone’s responsibility. Visible learning and teaching occurs when learning is the explicit goal and feedback that is given and sought from both teachers and students, is pivotal in moving learning forward.

Leaders, teachers and students all become actively and passionately engaged in learning. A shared language of learning is evident in all classrooms and effective practices are consistently implemented across the school.

Leaders, teachers and students are all walking the learning journey together. The greater the emphasis on visible learning and teaching across a school setting, the greater the likelihood of students reaching higher levels of achievement.

PRAYER & WORSHIP: Students and staff celebrate our faith life and our identity as members of a connected, worldwide Church. Our weekly school assembly begins with a Welcome to or Acknowledgement of Country our school prayer, led by our school leaders, to demonstrate our ongoing relationship with the original custodians of our school’s site and our faith foundations. Our whole school Formal Prayer Overview outlines Traditional and Liturgical Prayers and Responses and we draw on many other sources of inspiration including our links to Augustinian and Mercy Charism to nurture the prayer life of our school. Prayer may be used in classrooms to: begin and end each day, thank God for food and to recognise and celebrate God in our everyday life. Staff prayer takes many forms and is used to begin each formal gathering.

Students participated in Year Level Masses, Parish Anointing Masses, liturgies and our Feast Day celebrations throughout the year. Twenty-eight of our students completed the Parish Sacramental Program.

SOCIAL ACTION AND JUSTICE: Traditionally the land of the Muluridji people, today our school serves a variety of ethnic backgrounds. St Thomas’ School brings into focus Jesus’ vision for the coming of the Kingdom of God by working to build empathy (the capacity to stand in the shoes of another) and solidarity (the capacity to walk with another) with staff and students alike. Students are called to action, and have responded by forming a Mini Vinnies group, which focuses on raising funds and awareness about social justice issues. Each year, we use Harmony Day (March 21) to raise awareness, promote and celebrate, in fun ways, the diversity of cultures that we have
in our school community. Our school actively supports the annual Caritas Project Compassion and Catholic Mission Appeals in addition to preparing hampers for delivery to local families during the St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal. St Thomas’ continues to support students in international communities where poverty and isolation affect a child’s access to education. Each year a variety of events are held to support the School of St Jude in Tanzania.

The religious dimension of the Catholic School is therefore present, to some degree, in all the activities of our school community as the resurrected Jesus lives through, with and in each of us in the all of the events of our school day at St Thomas of Villanova Parish School.

SPORTING AND CULTURAL: On the sporting and cultural field, our students continued to perform well. In sports, we took out both the district Track/Field events and district Cross Country. Our Chess team travelled to Cairns for three tournaments throughout the year. As in other years, our students represented various sports in District, State and even National competitions. Our St Thomas’s and St Stephen’s Combined Band performed and represented our school at a number of events throughout the year with continued success.

This year, for the first time, students were able to join our choir. The choir has performed for the school on various occasions throughout the year.

This year, we have continued with our Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program and our Robotics/STEM Program both as part of our curriculum and as a lunchtime activity. Both programs have been well attended by students.

2018 has once again been a successful year. We’ve learned much and shared many experiences. St Thomas’ is indeed a special place!

We invite people to subscribe to our fortnightly newsletter using the following link and keeping up to date with what’s happening at our school.

https://stthomassvps.schoolzineplus.com/subscribe

Rita Petersen
Sacraments

2018

Holy Baptism

Mareeba: 48
Dimbulah: 3

Reconciliation

Mareeba: 38
Dimbulah: -

Marriage

Mareeba: 3
Dimbulah: -

Confirmation

Mareeba: 40
Dimbulah: -

Eucharist

Mareeba: 39
Dimbulah: -

Dimbulah

Mareeba

7
31

-
We give thanks for over a 120 years combined service to our community.

Toni Girardi - 38 years of service

Vera Jenkins - 35 years of service

Our parish is fortunate to have a large number of volunteers.

Your attention is drawn to a small group, who have served for a very long time at the Mareeba St Vinnies store, without seeking reward or acknowledgement.

Toni Girardi– 38 years; Sima Citinich– 36 years

Vera Jenkins – 35 years & Angelina Valvarso – 33 years

Thank you for dedication and service ladies.
Devotion to Santo Nino in the Philippines can be traced back to 1521 with the introduction of Christianity to the Philippine nation by Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan and is traditionally celebrated on the 3rd Sunday of January each year.

“Santo Nino de Cebu, is a celebration of prayer, thanksgiving, intercession and adoration in honour of the beloved Senor Santo Nino, the King and Saviour.”

The celebrations commences with a 9 day Novena and cumulates with festive celebrations on the 3rd Sunday of January.

Rose Vallier, leads a dedicated group from the local Filipino community who undertake months of planning and host a spectacular and inclusive celebration. Each province in the Philippines developed its own way of celebrating the feast of the child Jesus. Street dancing and merrymaking mark this event. This year we witnessed a glimpse of a Filipino festival in central Philippines, this time in Iloilo City. The festival is called DINAGYANG, meaning REVELRY OR MERRY -MAKING.

The Dinagyang Festival has its early beginnings in 1968 when the model image of Senior Santo Nino was brought from Cebu City. Dinagyang is celebrated every fourth weekend of January to honour the Christianisation of the natives and to respect the Holy Child Jesus. On this day, streets of Iloilo City come alive as the Ilonggos celebrate the annual festivity. It is a very colourful parade coupled with a dramatization in honour of the patron Saint Senor Santo Niño as the devotees
perform offerings and prayers amidst the cracking of drums and shouts of "Viva Señor Santo Niño." The thundering of "HalaBira" by the tribe members makes the celebration a lively one. It is also a very popular tagline used by Ilonggos to express their warm participation during the "Dinagyang" celebration. A tribute in honour of Señor Santo. Niño whom Ilonggos believe was miraculous in times of famine and drought.

At the completion of Mass, individuals were invited to have their personal statuettes blessed before the congregation joined in a procession around the church and school grounds, to the basketball court where celebrations continued and a shared meal was enjoyed by all.

Honoured guess Fr Saldie Resolado, OSA joined our local clergy Fr John Sullivan OSA, Fr Robert Greenup OSA and Deacon Ralph Madigan in celebrating the mass.

Article by Rose Valier

Photos supplied by Kay Morrow and Ernst Family
Easter 2018

Holy Week in Christianity is the week just before Easter and includes Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday.

- **Palm Sunday**: We remember Jesus’ triumphant entrance into Jerusalem. He is greeted by cheering crowds waving palm leaves and laying blankets on the road before him. This year Palm Sunday was celebrated in conjunction with Passion Sunday where we followed Jesus’ final journey to the cross as portrayed in the Gospel of Mark.

- **Holy Thursday**: It is the Thursday before Easter. Jesus celebrates his last Passover Feast with his disciples, parishioners re-enact Jesus’ washing of the feet of the twelve and Judas Iscariot betrays the ceremony, which we today call the Eucharist this is the night Jesus.

- **Good Friday**: March 30. Good Friday commemorates the crucifixion of Jesus Christ and his death. The congregation came together to remember the sacrifice and suffering of Jesus for our sake, following him on his journey as depicted in the fourteen Stations of the Cross. The Stations are followed by the Veneration of the Cross, a gesture of respect where the cross is unveiled in three stages and the congregation kiss the feet of Christ.
• **Holy Saturday**: It is the day before Easter and the last day of Holy Week in which we prepare for Easter. It commemorates the day that Jesus' body lay in the tomb. – The light has gone out of the church – Christ is dead.

• **Easter Sunday** – Celebrations commence on the eve of Easter Sunday – the Lord is risen and the light returns to the church. The Paschal candle is the first candle to be lit with a flame from this sacred fire, representing the light of Christ coming into the world. This represents the risen Christ, as a symbol of light (life) dispelling darkness (death).

From this candle, worshippers light their own candles and the light of Christ spread throughout the church.

Keith Rowbotham was received into full communion with the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil. The community of St Thomas’s welcomes Keith with open arms.

Photos supplied by the members of the Liturgy Committee
The St Thomas Catholic Debutante Ball Mareeba was held on Saturday, 12\textsuperscript{th} May 2018 at the Mareeba International Club. There were 18 debutantes that were presented to the Vicar General Father Frank Gordon together with other local dignitaries.

The traditional meaning of a debutante ball was a young women’s formal introduction to society which was usually restricted to the wealthy and socially influential.

Nowadays, traditions are maintained with a contemporary approach. The debutantes and partners demonstrate a great deal of dedication and commitment towards this ostentatious event with such poise, grace and elegance.

The debutantes line up their partners three months in advance, and together they prepare for the ball. Throughout this preparation, the debutantes and their partners are taught twelve dances, both formal and progressive.

It was a night of glitz and glamour for the debutantes and their partners with proud parents, family and friends watching on.

Our theme for this year’s ball was “Breakfast at Tiffany’s” exhibiting lots of jewels, pearls and the tiffany blue colour and created ambience within the ballroom.
Photos have been provided by Brendan McRae Photography and Mareeba Express
Bush Mass – 10 June 2018

Reminiscent of by-gone years, before we gathered in churches with four walls and a roof, parishioners from St Thomas’s Mareeba gathered as one people under God’s heaven to celebrate the mass and remember the gifts we have been given, and the good fortune we share in being able to call this country home.

The Catholic Aboriginals from St Thomas of Villanova organised the annual Bush Mass on the banks of the Barron River at Plowman’s crossing. On a beautiful Sunday afternoon, Christine Madigan an elder from the Muluridji people, outlined the significance of the location along the Barron River to her people and extended a welcome to country to over fifty members of the congregation.

Fr Rob Greenup and Deacon Ralph Madigan officiated over the mass, with readings by Bill and Noela Eales, Prayer of the Faithful where read by Dana Caulfield. The sounds of hymns floated down the river as we all joined in the singing to music, provided by the Coleman family and Imelda Wagner.

Members of the congregation were invited to place small river rocks in a coolamon in front of the altar as part of the Prayer of the Faithful, to symbolize the offering of their individual prayers to our Lord.

In true Aussie tradition, following mass we joined each other for afternoon tea, sharing a cuppa and some fresh damper for a friendly conversation. Our sincere thanks to all those involved in organising this was a very relaxed and moving afternoon.
2018 marked the 58th anniversary of The Feast of Our Lady of the Chain and it was a huge success with record crowds attending.

A generous amount bequeathed to Our Lady by the late Carmela Barrese in her will, enabled us to completely refresh the Varra (the carriage which is used to carry the statue during the procession) – giving it a fresh coat of varnish and new carpet, it looked amazing. The Statue of Our Lady was also given a fresh coat of paint.

The Mass was celebrated by Fr John Sullivan OSA, our Parish Priest and Fr Kim Phu Tran OSA, a visiting Augustinian. Once again, Fr John’s homily was very thought provoking! He said “In the prayer to Our Lady of the Chain. We ask Mary to ‘break the chains that enslave us, so that we may ever enjoy the freedom of the children of God.’ So here, we have the meaning of the ‘chains’. Are we living the freedom of the children of God or are we bound by the chains are our fears, our anxieties, all our self-destructive thoughts, jealousy and, of course, our bad habits or addictions? An addiction exists wherever a person is internally compelled to give energy to things that are not his true desires. Psychologically, addiction uses up desire, sucking our life energy into specific obsessions and compulsions, leaving less and less energy available for other people and other pursuits. Spiritually, addiction is a deep-seated form of idolatry. These idols take our time and attention rather than love. They replace God's love as the source and object of our deepest true desire.”

Brendan Wright sang “Ave Maria” and did an amazing job of it, considering that it was his first time singing this beautiful hymn. The Italian Choir once again filled the church with song and 14 students from St Thomas’s School joined in the procession. Nina Raggett, the combined St Stephens, and St Thomas’s School Band performed brilliantly for the procession and later on for the crowd.

Huge crowds flocked to the school oval and soon availed themselves of the delicious food on offer. The cannoli ran out early in the night while the hot food shed was kept busy right up to the end. The Gnocchi were a big success!

Once again, Fortunato Isgro and Claude Portelli treated us to music and this year, Frank Maugeri joined them on drums. A wonderful repertoire of Italian and English songs had the crowd really enjoying themselves and many were up dancing.

Children lined up to have their faces painted and have a go on the Jumping castle. A lovely fireworks display ended the evening.

All in all, it was wonderful to see so many people attend and we look forward to their returning next year

By Rena Ceola
Aboriginal Mass

Intro:

Good morning to you all.

Firstly, I acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land, past/present and emerging on which, we are gathered today.

My name is Sabrina-Ann Stevens, and I am a proud young woman from the Kuku Yalanji and Yidinji nation tribes in North Qld. I am also the National Youth Councillor/Youth Representative for the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council.

I would just like to start by saying what I privilege I feel it is to be asked to be here speaking with you all today. I have been volunteering with NATSICC for the past 7 years, and I have just recently accepted the offer of staying on as the national youth rep for the next 3 years.

Over the last few years, I have often been asked about my journey in regards to what contributes to me living out my faith and what is it that helps me hold onto that as a younger person. My story is one that isn’t solely mine but a shared collection of faith from my mother’s side of my family.

Growing up, I felt that my mother’s family have always had strong catholic faith due to reasons before my time, including good connection to own homelands and our spirituality. My grandmothers were the leading influence in our catholic belonging and my mother has always guided my brother and I onto this track. Sometimes it feels that your link to church and faith is usually passed down from family, but I believe it is an experience you need to have for yourself in order to fully appreciate where God and your ancestors have been present.

I started my faith journey in my teenage years – I attended WYD 2008 in Sydney with my younger brother, my mother and my grandmother who was 70 at the time. Being in the atmosphere, I felt some stirring within my heart that I wanted to let out, but I struggled to find a place to carry that feeling with me. I returned to school after this major event where nothing had changed, settled back into the noise of high school and society, as we know it.

Later that year, an incident took place, which heavily affected upon myself, a 17yo who was just starting out in life following graduation from high school. This particular event changed my life and direction forever. Looking back now, I can see where God and my old people were present in my darkest times. But in the years following, I really struggled to find where I was going.

Throughout it all, my mother always encouraged me to attend church throughout those hard times and I am grateful she never gave up on trying to get me there. Her efforts over the years gave God the opportunity to chip away at the walls I had built, to start forming cracks in my darkness where the Holy Spirit eventually shone through.

As I began to search for belonging within the church, we came across an organisation called NATSICC. NATSICC is the peak advisory body to the Australia Catholic Bishops regarding Indigenous catholic issues and is made up of three parts: local level, state level and the national level. NATSICC has been one of the best things to assist me along my faith journey and gave me the opportunity of travelling to world youth day 2011 in Madrid. This is where I realised that we truly belong to the universal church because order of the mass is the same all around the world.
regardless of the language it is being said in. I felt drawn to share this with other young indigenous Catholics, because we are not alone in our faith journeys.

Since then, I have attended many catholic youth gatherings such as the Australian Catholic Youth Festivals and NATSICC events over the years, but my turning point came at the last NATSICC Assembly in Darwin, 3 years ago. I met so many amazing young people who are yet to experience all that Jesus has in store for them. Many of those young people who were still finding where they belonged especially within the church as indigenous people. It was after the 2015 NATSICC Assembly that I decided to return home and enrol at university to help become a better role model to others. I am now over half way through an Arts degree with double majors in Politics and Human Services. I absolutely love combining my faith journey with my career path. My passion lies in wanting to help Indigenous Australians understand how policy and legislation governs us and the impacts this has for us, but also ways that we can have greater involvement in those processes.

It’s funny because sometimes people ask me how can I have faith and belonging within the Catholic Church considering historical events. But Indigenous people understand the stories or parables within the bible because as Indigenous people we have our own creation stories for guidance; we understand the blessing and healing ceremonies within the church because we have our own ceremony too. We understand the concept of the Holy Spirit because we too have our own ancestral spirits looking out for us as well. That is part of the reason we find it so easy to connect with the Catholic Church sometimes. That is what I witness when I get to help young people see where they belong within the church and the importance of their individual selves.

The most common way I see young people turning to the church is when they get to play an active role in jobs whether its readings or offertory.. and the thing that allows young indigenous Catholics to create that sense of belonging is when we get to use some cultural aspects within the mass through the use of art work, water blessing with gum leaves, or even having our musical instruments included.

There is a quote Pope John Paul II’s visit to Australia in 1986 and his address to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people became a pivotal point in the journey of Indigenous Catholics... He states:

“And the Church herself in Australia will not be fully the Church that Jesus wants her to be until you have made your contribution to her life and until that contribution has been joyfully received by others.”

To me this is a beautiful time for us to share this together.

I also want to let you know that this year has been the “Year of Youth” within the Catholic Church of Australia in the lead up to the next Australian Catholic Youth Festival. The imagery for the year of youth is an incredibly stunning piece of aboriginal artwork complimenting the relationship of indigenous Australia and the Catholic Church. I encourage you to see out the image as it is being used as a focal point of prayer for all young people.

If any of you here have young people from any background who are looking at learning more about faith, there is a national catholic youth event happening in Perth next year called the Australian Catholic Youth Festival. This event is the largest catholic youth event in our country attracting over 3500 people from all parts of our great southland. Please come and see me afterwards if you would like some more information regarding this.
In conclusion, I would like to you all for coming and supporting this Mass today and every year it is held. It’s so wonderful to see some familiar faces and I always get to meet someone new.

I would also like to thank Deacon Ralph and Father Rob who I’ve known for as long as I can remember for not only asking me to share today but for also being strong figures of guidance along my journey.
All are welcome

St Thomas’s Church

The dedicated members of the St Thomas’s Church Choir Practice in the church every second Tuesday evening between 5:30pm and 6:30pm. New members are always welcome to join us.

Rosary Group

We are a small group (sometimes up to 16) who meet in the Rosie’s room at the Priory, on Tuesday at 6pm to pray the Rosary, followed by a cuppa and a chat. Any and all are welcomed. We’d love to see your there. Marlene and Vera

St Thomas Italian Choir

St Thomas Italian Choir - meets on the last Wednesday of the month at 9:30am at the church - all welcome to join contact the priory.
Youth Group

The St Thomas’ Parish Youth Group began in May of 2018, and has grown in numbers and strength ever since. The Youth Group welcomes all high school aged youth from Mareeba and Atherton in order to create a welcoming space for young people to be in community together. Gathering every Friday night at 6:30pm in the St Thomas’ staffroom, the group enjoys playing games, having faith-filled discussions and sharing a meal of pizza together, which is very generously donated each week by the St Thomas’ Parish. In 2019, the Youth Group will continue to be run each Friday night by Scott Gilbert and Hannah Zazzi, both members of the Parish Pastoral Council, who are very welcoming of new members and new leaders. The Youth Group is hoping to organize several social outings in the New Year, in order to foster a sense of community and belonging. If you wish to make a donation towards the cost of weekly pizzas and social outings, please contact St Thomas’ Parish. The Youth Group also asks for your prayers in the New Year for new members and leaders for the group.

By Hanna Zazzi

Rosies

2 Corinthians 9:6-7 “The Cheerful Giver
Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

Dear all, pray this finds you and families keeping well. Another year of continuous presence of Rosies in Mareeba. We have had local youths sitting for a chat and having a bite to eat. Good to see more adults, parents and grandmothers have been coming along over the last few months. Enjoyed the Samoan families for awhile when practising for the multicultural festival. Many backpackers have also been joining us

We live in a world where the common factor seems to be “Busyness”. It is a pleasure to see the special time each group takes to willingly present for their Rosies monthly and for some, weekly outreach.

Monday court outreach has proved to be an asset to Mareeba. This year we have welcomed new Rosies members, Margery and Bruce Rae, Robyn Vogler and Liz Carter. Dot Shea has been co-ordinating Monday’s together with Bernadette and Kevin Greensill. They have been continuously coming out on Mondays with fresh, homemade sandwiches. Kevin is taking the van for a run to overcome continual problems with the battery going flat. Many thanks to this team with dedicated new Rosies members who have cheerfully taken on Rosies Mareeba court outreach. We are grateful to the Priestly family supporting Jake’s tremendous achievement of raising over $2000 running solo in the wheelbarrow race! A replacement van now promised before Easter. The lights at the skate park are now fixed thanks to Angela
Toppin attending to this. We appreciate the St Stephen’s day donation of $2000 given to Rosies in November. This generous amount was a great effort raised by the whole school. Very encouraging to see this money donated so directly to our local community!! People coming on Friday to the Rosies van continue to enjoy Eileen’s egg sandwiches and Teresa Marinelli’s focaccia. Thankyou both for your perseverance in this. We have sourced some bakery items from Coles second bite. Thank you to Rena Ceola for her tasty donation of spaghetti, roast beef in gravy and lasagne of which there is still some in the freezer. This year we saw the tragic death of a young lad who came to Rosies every Friday for about the first four years of our presence. We at Rosies reflect in pray for his family and friends, that they may turn to Jesus Christ for true comfort and peace. The many encounters and stories of those we have met at Rosies are special opportunities to stop and experience seeing the face of Jesus in our fellow people in need of simple companionship. May the people who have come to Rosies be a continued presence in our prayers. We pray they may be blessed with peace and joy in the celebration of birth of Jesus Christ our Lord. We pray for each other in this Rosies outreach that we may continue to be a presence in Mareeba. We had planned for a Rosies gathering in December, however with the exciting arrival of our tenth grandchild due any day I am busy babysitting little ones. We will have a celebration early in the new year.

Thank you to all for the pleasure of belonging to such a wonderful group! Each of you give time generously to make Rosies in Mareeba happen. Joyous blessings to you and families for Christmas and a happy, peaceful New Year.

God bless, with thanks, Anne.

“The fruit of Silence is prayer. The fruit of Prayer is faith. The fruit of Faith is love. The fruit of Love is service. The fruit of Service is peace.” Mother Theresa

By Anne Serra
Celebration of a job well done.

To members of the St Thomas of Villanova Pastoral Council, Finance Committee, Liturgy Committee and all those behind the scene helpers

We have thanks for your dedication and support throughout 2018

THANK YOU.
Kid's Corner

Jesus Heals a Blind Man

So the man went and washed, and came home seeing. John 9:7 (NIV)
The puzzle is based on John 9:1-34 (NIV).

BLIND HOME SILOAM
EYES MUD PARENTS
SPIT LIFE RECEIVED
POOL NIGHT OPENED
WASH BORN LIGHT

SREXTBSDLWORLDWT
RPBNHDEIAMABIRTH
IPRCEYRWGVXVSOL
LOPNITDBRHVLRDQ
BKNEHUPOOLTIGEU
EICGBAKMVXPGMLZ
SEISLFAEPKAHWHE
RNIGIQIOWARTYMV
FCQDNDHZSXEOOLP
XOUDDGTTIANHTTK
LMPZEQKRLETCRGC
PIWEWASHOZSSPIT
CCFENWKJAURORY
PQDEUEKEMQNSHO
TNEYESDSELADMZ

Trust your heart
and embrace the path you are on.

MAYBE I SHOULDN'T HAVE BROUGHT THE TERMITES.

Jesus Loves ME
Help the shepherd find his lost sheep.
**Invitation to Join Us**

Do you feel that something is missing in your life? Do you feel you want to share your skills and or time to help others?

St Thomas of Villanova has a number of groups that would greatly appreciate your time and skills.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Altar Servicers</th>
<th>Church choirs – English and Italian</th>
<th>Church Collectors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Church Maintenance Crew</td>
<td>Children’s Liturgy</td>
<td>Church Cleaning Crew</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church Smoko - Sundays</td>
<td>Church Soloists</td>
<td>Church Welcomers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communion to the Sick</td>
<td>Eucharistic Ministers</td>
<td>Finance Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flower Arrangement Crew</td>
<td>Friends of St Augustine</td>
<td>Assist with Garden Settlement Mass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liturgy Committee</td>
<td>Liturgy Roster Co-ordinator</td>
<td>Mareeba Catholic Ladies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organists - Musicians</td>
<td>Our Lady of the Chain Committee</td>
<td>Pastoral Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Power Point Ministers</td>
<td>Readers</td>
<td>Rosie’s – Food to the needy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sacramental &amp; Baptism preparation team</td>
<td>Santo Nino Committee</td>
<td>State School RI Teachers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Vinnies</td>
<td>Youth Group</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Or maybe you have some ideas on how to enhance our church? We would greatly appreciate your input.

I would like to help with… (Please return to the Priory)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name:</th>
<th>Contact Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Email:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fr. I would like to help by:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name:</th>
<th>Contact Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Email:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I would like to suggest…. (Please return to the Priory)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name:</th>
<th>Contact Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Email:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I would like to suggest: