



## Real Social Justice

[www.cnn.com/2012/04/24/sport/Olympians-norman-black-power](http://www.cnn.com/2012/04/24/sport/Olympians-norman-black-power) by James Montague

*Sporting celebrities and stars have always featured centrally in the psyche of the Australian nation. This is the story of sprinter Peter Norman, silver medallist in the 200 metres at the 1968 Mexico Olympic Games and current holder of the Commonwealth 200 metres record. Norman's name does not appear in books which talk about the 100 greatest Athletes or the 100 greatest moments in Australian sport.*

He grew up in a working-class district of Melbourne. As a youngster, he couldn't afford the kit to play Australian Rules Football, his favourite sport. But his father managed to borrow a second-hand pair of running spikes, and his talent for sprinting was quickly recognized. Yet Norman was still an obscure pick when the 28 year-old arrived in the high altitude of Mexico City. It was the first time he had run on an Olympic standard track, and he thrived in the thin air.

It was events off the track that had dominated the lead-up to the 1968 Olympics. Revolution was spreading throughout the world – from Cuba to China. In the US, the civil rights movement fought running battles with the police and army across America against segregation and racism. Both Martin Luther King Junior and Robert Kennedy had been assassinated and the Vietnam War was raging. Meanwhile in Mexico, hundreds of protesting students were massacred in the run-up to the Games. The regime covered up their deaths as the athletes arrived. Australia, too, was in the midst of racial strife. The country's "White Australia" policy had provoked protests of its own. It put heavy restrictions on non-white immigration, and a raft of prejudicial laws against its indigenous aboriginal population.

America's two African Americans, Tommie Smith and John Carlos, strongly predicted to run away with the medals in the 200 metre sprint, had decided to make a political gesture on the medal podium. What was unexpected was the speed of Norman to fly into second place. The American athletes told the Australian that he need not be involved in the protest, but Norman, having seen black segregation and having a background in the Salvation Army, chose to make a protest of his own. Smith and Carlos were to wear black gloves to make the Black Power salute, but Carlos left his at the Olympic village. It was Norman who suggested they should wear one each on alternate hands. He then asked a member of the US rowing team for his 'Olympic Project for Human Rights' badge, so that he could show solidarity.

The fallout was immediate for Smith and Carlos, who were sent home in disgrace. They were, however, hailed by the black community as heroes, and a statue was built in their honour in the South. The step on which Norman had stood was empty on the statue. When offers were made to add Norman's statue to the memorial, he refused on the grounds that it should remain empty to allow "every man or woman" to stand there.

Norman was never picked by Australia to run in the Olympics again, though he qualified for the 200 meters 13 times and 100 meters five times. Norman retired from athletics immediately after hearing he'd been cut from the Munich team. He would never return to the track. Neither would his achievements count for much 28 years later when Sydney hosted the 2000 Olympics. Peter Norman died of a heart attack on October 9, 2006. The U.S. Track and Field association declared the day of his death to be 'Peter Norman Day' - the first time in the organization's history that such an honour had been bestowed on a foreign athlete. Smith and Carlos flew from the US to carry his coffin. For them, Norman was a hero.

In October 2012, Labour backbencher Andrew Leigh called on the Federal Parliament to "recognise the extra-ordinary athletic achievements" of Norman, to acknowledge his bravery for his stand of solidarity with his US competitors. This resulted in a motion, "[Parliament] apologises to Peter Norman for the wrong done by Australia in failing to send him to the 1972 Munich Olympics, despite repeatedly qualifying," the motion says. Tommie Smith told CNN, "He paid the price. This was Peter Norman's stand for human rights. He just happened to be a white guy, an Australian white guy, standing between two black guys on the victory stand, believing the same thing.



## *From Homily of Pope Francis in the Holy Mass and Rite of Canonisation of Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta, 4 September, 2016.*

"Mother Teresa loved to say, 'Perhaps I don't speak their language, but I can smile'.

Let us carry her smile in our hearts and give it to those whom we meet along our journey, especially those who suffer.

In this way, we will open up opportunities of joy and hope for our many brothers and sisters who are discouraged and who stand in need of understanding and tenderness".



*"May you be blessed with the spirit of the season, which is peace,  
The gladness of the season, which is hope, And the heart of the season, which is love."*





## Alices' Journey



For the first 3 weeks of this school term (19 July to 6 August), I was lucky enough to travel to Poland and attend World Youth Day 2016. I travelled with a diverse group of 47 other people, led by Most Rev Geoffrey Jarrett DD, Bishop of Lismore. I am a Youth Ministry Officer at Woodlawn College, Lismore. World youth day is a Catholic celebration that happens every 2 to 3 years in different parts of the world. St John Paul II started this back in the 80's.

This year, WYD commenced in the Polish city of Krakow, one of the oldest and the second-largest city in Poland, where over 2.5 million people attended. The Scripture theme was: 'Blessed are the merciful for they shall obtain mercy.' (Mt 5:7) There were many highlights during this pilgrimage which included visits to: Wadowice (the home town of St John Paul II); the Shrine of Divine Mercy, the Shrine of the Black Madonna (a revered icon of the Blessed Virgin Mary); and also a very moving experience exploring the history of Auschwitz.

The main part of this pilgrimage was when the WYD week began: With the Opening Mass; the arrival of Pope Francis; the Papal vigil with 2.5 million people; and the Closing Mass, with the Holy Father in front of 3 million pilgrims. On the day of the Papal Vigil, the 2.5 million people walked to this massive area that was called "Campus Misericordiae," or "Field of Mercy". On this 20km walk on a really hot summer's day, with hardly any water, starting to feel blisters on my feet and shoulder-to-shoulder with some people I had never seen before, I came to the realisation that this is what people from third world countries have to endure every day. You know, if it's to get a drink of water or to find a safer home or a safer place to sleep. I was standing there complaining about the blisters on my feet!

When we arrived we set up camp, and began to celebrate the joy of WYD with fellow pilgrims around us from different countries. Then we slept under the stars for the night. In the morning we woke up with the sun and continued the celebration by dancing with nuns and celebrating mass with the Holy Father and 2.5 million other pilgrims. On the afternoon when we arrived, I was even lucky enough to be hand picked with 4 others from my group to go up the front and celebrate the Papal vigil closer than most people around us. The vigil was a time of prayer, meditation and singing in preparation for the celebration of the Eucharist at the final Mass that was to happen the next day.

This is a photo of the 5 of us and behind us is the stage. On my shirt it says: *Syria - Peace is possible*. Now I won't tell you the full story but, the day before, this man from Syria gave me that shirt, so I decided I would wear it. And it was kinda like it was meant to be. As the ceremony started a young girl from Syria, shared about her life. The traumas she had been through, the family that she had lost. And my heart went out to her. In a challenging and inspiring address, Pope Francis told the young people, 'the times we live in do not call for young couch potatoes but for young people with shoes, or better! Boots laced'. He said, 'we didn't come into this world to make our lives a comfortable couch to fall asleep on. No! We came for another reason! To leave a mark'. Pope Francis continued to encourage everyone to 'build bridges not walls', 'to be courageous and free' and to 'not confuse happiness with consumption'.

In the final Mass, Pope Francis continued to express his emotions as he told the young people, "I worry when I see young people who have 'thrown in the towel' before the game has even begun, who are defeated even before they begin to play, who walk around glumly as if life has no meaning. Deep down, young people like this are bored... and boring!" He continued to inspire us by saying, 'to find fulfilment, to gain new strength, there is a way. It is not a thing or an object, but a person, and he is alive. His name is Jesus.'

I think this is so fitting - not only for young people, but also for people of all ages. There are so many people who live like this, who wander through life like it has no meaning, who build walls not bridges. I see it every day and it hurts me. I still struggle in faith all the time, I can always find myself building walls instead of bridges. But I don't want to throw in the towel! I don't want to be boring! I want to be courageous and free! And the only way I'm going to be able to do that is through Jesus, through his love and mercy. Blessed are the merciful for they shall obtain mercy (Mt 5:7), the theme of World Youth Day. The Pope encourages all of us to just open up our hearts to Jesus. He will be the one to lace up your boots and send you on your way to make the mark he has chosen for you. Put your feet on the ground, lace up your own boots and go make your mark!





## St Vincent de Paul Society

*good works*

### *The Story behind "Vinnies"*

*By Sharon Cabban and Pat Mullins*

Paris of the early 19th century was in the grip of great upheavals. During and following the French revolution 1788-1799, Paris was profoundly affected by social unrest. A new type of society was being formed - a republic based on liberty, equality and fraternity. The 1830s brought the collapse of the old Bourbon monarchy which had dreams of strengthening the throne with the support from the Church. Religion was on the decline and atheism increasing. Large numbers of the country people were moving to the cities to find work in the factories. Many arrived to discover that there was no work, little pay or that the factories were closed due to revolution. In 1832, an epidemic of cholera swept through Paris killing up to 1200 people each day. Large slum areas were forming in Paris; thousands of people lived without work, some without clothes, and many alcoholic. Homelessness, disease, and starvation were common.

A young student, Frederic Ozanam, had to walk through the poorer suburbs on his way to university lectures each day and he soon became deeply moved at the hopeless state of families who had been left without the support of their breadwinners after the epidemic. It was the taunt of an anti-religious opponent in a debating society founded by the students that stung him to action: "You are right Ozanam when you speak of the past! In former times Christianity worked wonders, but what is it doing for mankind now? And you, who pride yourself on your Catholicity, what are you doing now for the poor? Show us your works."

Frederic Ozanam gathered a few friends around him and, on 23 April 1833, they met to decide what they could do to assist the poor. After the meeting, Frederic and his flat mate took the remainder of their winter wood supply and gave it to a widow. These young men attracted the comment, "What can seven young men hope to achieve in alleviating the suffering of Paris?" Fortunately, Ozanam paid little heed to their comments, determined to satisfy his own conscience that he was doing what he could to bear witness to his Christian upbringing by assisting those less fortunate in the community.

The small group decided to adopt the name The Society of St Vincent de Paul after the Patron Saint of Christian charity. St Vincent was a priest who lived in southern France between 1581 and 1660, and who was inspired to work with those marginalised and powerless. Ozanam and his friends sought the advice of Sister Rosalie Rendu, a Daughter of Charity, who was visiting poor families in one of the poorer districts. Sr Rendu introduced the young men to people they could assist. They agreed to meet weekly to strengthen their friendship and to respond to the needs of those they served. It was not long after that other good citizens of Paris took note of the charitable works of the students. Within a year, membership had expanded to 100 and it became necessary to split the conference (group) into three separate conferences. At the same time, other conferences sprang up in parishes around Paris. In its first decade the Society spread to 48 other cities in France and Italy and numbered over 9,000 members. After some years the Society reached Rome (1842), England (1844), Belgium, Scotland, Ireland (1845), the United States of America (1846) and Australia on 5 March 1854. The tradition continues today and, we

like Frederic, are members of the Society visiting those in need. However, we are only the visible members of the Society. The supporters of our charitable works are our benefactors who help us with donations to continue this work. In doing this, they are heeding the message Jesus gave us all, "Love one another as I have loved you."

The St Vincent de Paul Society is a lay Catholic organisation that aspires to live the gospel message in serving Christ, by offering a 'hand up' to people in need with love, respect, justice, hope and joy, and by working to shape a more just and compassionate society. Our values acknowledge the presence of Christ in all individuals; the human rights of all individuals; and a commitment to social justice. We welcome as members Christians of other confessions, or people of other faiths, who sincerely respect and accept the Society's identity and its principles. Our ministry, through person-to-person contact, embraces every form of aid, including social justice, to alleviate suffering and to promote the dignity and integrity of all. We serve those in need regardless of creed, ethnic or social background, health, gender or political opinions.

Last year, the Society in Queensland supported almost 288,000 people and provided approximately \$11 million in financial assistance to those in need. The Society differs from most charitable organisations in that our members, known as Vincentians, and volunteers, are the core of our work. In Queensland, we have 210 Conferences (local branches) within our eight Diocese, or regions. The members and volunteers are supported by some staff; however costs are kept to a minimum, meaning more money goes directly to those who are requiring the Society's assistance. The Society's assistance is only possible by the generosity and compassion of our supporters. Together we can make a difference to many lives. Without our members and volunteers, and without your generous donations, our services and assistance would not be possible.

#### **Christmas Appeal**

This is the second of our annual appeals. You were most generous in supporting our Winter Appeal donating over \$5,000. Our Christmas Appeal consists of two parts: the Giving Tree which is fully subscribed every year; and the envelopes, which will be on the church seats on the 27th/28th Nov and 3rd/4th Dec. With the rising costs of rent, utilities, food and even the most basic essentials of living, there are many in our community who are challenged to cope in their daily lives.

For some, Christmas, which for most of us is a time of joy, family sharing and peace, can become one of stress, sadness, loneliness and disappointment. We thank you for your ongoing generosity, as do all those we visit who always comment on the goodness of our parish which assists them when most other avenues of help may seem distant.

This Appeal is the reality of *Christ in Christmas*.



**MEMBERS NEEDED – WE NEED YOU!**

# Blessings

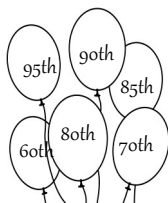
## Celebrations!



The following celebrations have blessed our Parish life since our last edition. Please let us know your important occasions so that we can publish them and acknowledge significant events in our Parish.

### Happy Birthday to...

Maureen Maguire - 70yrs  
Sheila O'Rourke - 90yrs  
Fr. Anthony Ekpo - 35yrs  
Dorothy Owens - 75yrs



### Marriages

Matthew Duncombe and Kate Brierley  
Matthew Ford and Maree Duranjo  
Brett Archer and Lindy Flynn  
Jilliam Hudson and Louise de Bono



### Wedding Anniversary

#### Welcome to the Golden Oldies!

Les and Gwen Dunlop  
celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary  
on 22nd October 2016



### Returned to the Father

We mourn with the loved ones and pray for the following parishioners who have died:

Esther Warden      Leonard O'Shea  
Alice Miners      Anthony Mercieca  
John Crawford



### Baptisms

Frances Warton      Luna Rappa  
Henry Fowler      Thomas Fields  
Louie Smith      Skyla Coates  
Bailey Philpot      Bodhi Coates  
Janiyah Pilapil      Charlotte Brown  
Filipo Havili      Olive Croker  
Bianca Morris      Charles Hampton  
Austin Roberts      Miroslava Bimr  
Conan Cowley      Billie Karam

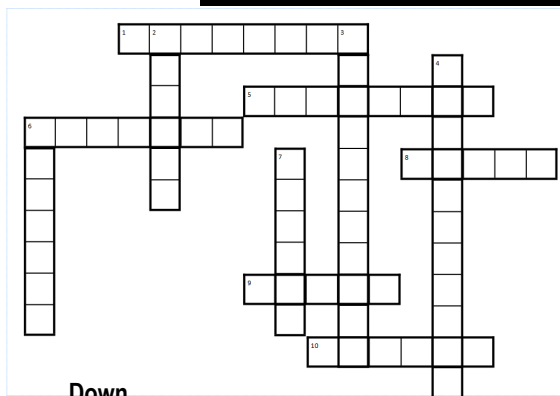
### 'LADYBIRDS' - Social Ministry for Widows

Contact Del Sutton Ph: (07)5536 8905 or  
Carmel Elms Ph: (07) 5536 5023

## Not Your Age

You are not your age,  
Nor the size of clothes you wear.  
You are not a weight,  
Or the colour of your hair.  
You are not your name,  
Or the dimples in your cheeks.  
You are all the books you read,  
And all the words you speak.  
You are your croaky morning voice,  
And the smiles you try to hide.  
You're the sweetness in your laughter,  
And every tear you've cried.  
You're the songs you sing so loudly  
When you know you're all alone.  
You're the places that you've been to,  
And the one that you call home.  
You're the things that you believe in,  
And the people that you love.  
You're the photos in your bedroom  
And the future you dream of.  
You're made of so much beauty,  
And it seems that you forgot,  
when you decided that you were defined,  
By all the things you're not.

## Christmas Crossword



### Across

1. Hang it up on Christmas Eve.
5. They're covered in fur and pull the sleigh.
6. Pull with a bang to get the hat and toy inside.
8. It's green and spiky with red berries.
9. Little helpers.
10. Open this calendar one day at a time!

### Down

2. If you eat too much you'll be stuffed like the bird.
3. Christmas cookie made into houses or men?
4. Put these on the tree before the lights.
6. When santa comes down this, watch out for the soot!
7. 'Silent Night' and 'the Holly and the Ivy'



\* Solution to crossword in the next edition of the 'AM'.

*From the Editors Desk by Pat Mullins*



As we celebrate Christmas 2016, like many of our community, the age of the parish is showing! In the last issue of A.M. we celebrated the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St Augustine's school. This 40<sup>th</sup> issue of A.M. marks 90 years since the Solemn Blessing and Opening of St Augustine's church at Coolangatta on 26<sup>th</sup> December, 1926. The quote on the cover of the 2006 Spring edition of A.M. described the church as, "More than a building, the foundations of so many people's lives". In that issue, Bishop Gerry wrote of St Augustine's as standing "solid and substantial – a symbol of the faith community, preserving and forever renewing itself". Archbishop Bathersby reinforced that thought with, "As we all know, church buildings, no matter how beautiful, are only that - buildings – unless the community of faith makes them come alive with prayer and worship". With some sadness, we note that some of our older parishioners are now not able to worship at St Augustine's. Despite their years of faith, sacrifice and generosity, the promise of renovations to provide disabled access and safer surrounds has still not come to pass.

The buildings, and many of the

parishioners, have aged, but the Spirit does not! This issue introduces the new Pastoral Assistant, Julie Pead, and two new members of our A.M. editorial team, Nicola Hanzic from Albury and a local, Sharon Cabban. Much energy has been spent in the work of the Parish Pastoral Council, as set out in Glenda Rodgers' report on Faith and Spirituality activities, the Parish Picnic and much more. Our vision is expanded in the travels of Fr John, Bernadette Duffy and World Youth Day's pilgrim, Alice Tate. We are inspired by the ever-faithful silent outreach of St Vincent de Paul society in Sharon's report, and the Knitting Group's care for the homeless. With the artistic work from the students of St A's school, we offer some thoughtful holiday reading with *Pinocchio*, *Walking in the Garden* and *Real Social Justice*.

At Christmas, we celebrate Jesus Christ becoming human, poor in his every-day humanity. Yet his life excites us to mystery and wonder, in hope and passion. With thanks to all the team who produced this issue, contributors and sponsors. May each of our readers know the true joy of Christmas.



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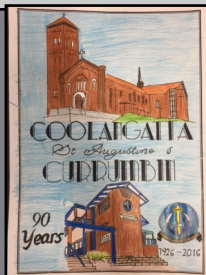
**Editorial Committee**

Pat Mullins, Brenda Hindmarsh,  
Marg Walgers, Mary-Jean Brill,  
Colleen Cutcheon, Peter Cossins,  
Nicola Hanzic and  
Sharon Cabban.

The material in this journal  
remains the property of the editor.

*Published by the Catholic Parish of Coolangatta & Tugun*

*Runners-up in School Art Competition for 'AM' 90th Anniversary Cover*



Natasha  
Workman



Sophia  
Murray



Ben  
Irvine



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*From The School Principal*

Reflecting on the 90th Anniversary of St Augustine's Parish Primary School, it is heartening to know the passion, enthusiasm, dedication and commitment to Catholic education that existed on day one in Coolangatta is still visibly present 90 years later at Currumbin Waters. In this momentous year we reflected on and strengthened our link to the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart and the Missionary Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Conception.

Over this time, St A's has been blessed with fantastic Parish Priests, visionary Principals, high quality teachers, supportive families and students who are eager to grow in faith, learning and community. St Augustine's promotes Respect, Acceptance, Persistence and Truth. These dispositions will remain our focus to ensure children develop holistically.

Throughout the year the main celebrations were held:

1. Staff Professional Development at Coolangatta Catholic Church
2. School community Progressive Dinner
3. Whole community celebration with Bishop Joseph presiding.

At each, we acknowledged the past, celebrated the present and dreamt of the ideal vision for our future as a learning community.

Great thanks is extended to Fr John, students, staff, parents and parishioners who have joined us in marking this occasion. Our focus now turns to the centenary year in 2026!

*St Augustine's Parish Primary School wishes all a peaceful, relaxing and spirit filled Christmas.*

Warren Fields (Principal, St Augustine's)



# St Augustine's Pastoral Activities



*Julie Pead -  
Pastoral Ministry  
Co-ordinator*

It is hard to believe how quickly the time has gone since I started in this role as a first year Pastoral Ministry Co-ordinator on the 1<sup>st</sup> February this year.

Following my completion of the Foundations for Lay Pastoral Ministry Course last year, I was excited to be offered this role at the Parish to continue my learning by getting practical hands-on experience in pastoral ministry. Fr John has been a wonderful teacher and role model as I learn so much about parish life and pastoral ministry, especially with the children's sacramental programs, as well as baptisms, weddings and funerals.

A highlight of my role, so far, was being involved in our Parish Ministry Expo this year. This gave me the perfect opportunity to meet so many of the wonderful parishioners

working in ministries in our Parish and learn more about the ministries that they provide. I am inspired by the number of willing volunteers and ministries at work in our Parish and truly grateful for their sheer hard work and dedication. The Ministry Expo was a wonderful success and a great showcase for our parishioners to also see what is available to them through our Parish.

I wish to thank everyone for their help and support as I continue to be trained in this role and pray, that going forward, I am able to meet the sacramental and ministry needs of our Parish. I also wish to thank my family who have been very supportive and helping out at home when I attend various meetings, either after school or in the evenings. I am the mother of five beautiful children and wife to my wonderful husband, Alan. I look forward to getting to know everyone better through my work with you now and into the future.

*Julie*



## *Parish Pastoral Council Annual Report 2016 from the Chair*

Our current Parish Pastoral Council was formed in September 2015. Office bearers include Glenda Rodgers as Chair, Mary Davies as Deputy Chair, Veronica Kearney as Secretary and Maureen Maguire, Bernadette Duffy, Rina Wintour, Damien Kinnear, John Logan, Julie Pead (Parish Ministry Co-ordinator) and Warren Fields (St Augustine's School Principal) who meet monthly with Parish Priest Father John. *The Pastoral Council's role is to promote the Church's Mission to live and communicate the love and values of Christ in our world. The PPC shares in the responsibility for the on-going life and development of the faith community, working together with parishioners to provide support for their efforts to live as followers of Christ.* ("Handbook for Parish Pastoral Councils" by Sr Cecilia Anning rsm) It has been a great joy for me to work collaboratively with PPC members for the on-going development of our parish community which continues to grow and thrive. PPC members continued their focus on the strategies identified by parishioners on the Vatican II Day on 31 October 2013, namely **welcome and inclusion, youth ministry, lay ministry and social justice.**

Our response to **Social Justice** Sunday's 2015 theme ("We've boundless plains to share") was to engage the whole parish in a **Refugee Support Day** when under the leadership of Bernadette Duffy around 25 adult and children refugees were bussed down from Brisbane's Romero Centre for a Saturday with our parish. Thanks to the support of SVDP who funded the cost of the bus and to the generosity of parishioners who provided endless plates of food for morning tea and lunch, our guests were well nourished and felt most welcome. Entertainment was provided by "Voice Weavers", an 'a capella' choir, and then it was off to the beach for a swim! A beautiful sharing of cultures was the theme of the day! Donations of \$1000

worth of Christmas gifts were also delivered to the Romero Centre in December! In October last year, a Parish Ministry Co-ordinators' Contact List was developed so that Fr John could personally send to all those involved in Parish Ministries a letter of invitation to the Deanery 'Forming Liturgical Ministers of Gospel Joy' workshops to be held in February 2016. Over eighty people from across the South Coast Deanery attended these workshops which were organised and hosted by our parish. This in turn led to the staging of a **Parish Ministry Expo** weekend in August where Ministry Co-ordinators promoted their particular ministries in St Monica's Centre before and after Masses and at St Augustine's Church as well.

The PPC was delighted when Julie Pead was appointed to the position of **Parish Ministry Co-ordinator** in February this year. Julie has made a valuable contribution to the PPC. Hospitality Rosters have been updated by Veronica Kearney as has the Parish Website by Marie Hansen.

Earlier this year, Father Tim Harris (South Coast Dean) announced that a **Deanery Youth Co-ordinator**, Steph Santos, would be available to our parish and funded (by the Deanery) to provide leadership formation and training for Youth Leaders. We are grateful for the support Steph has provided to our parish throughout the year.

The **Adult Faith Education** Group, chaired by Rina Wintour, took responsibility for co-ordinating the Lenten Discussion Groups for 2015-2016 and also hosted a number of faith education opportunities including Women's Retreat Day, international guest speakers like Monica Brown and Dr Kevin Treston, small discussion groups, liturgical workshops and a Spirituality Network.

In 2017, a **Parish Assembly** is planned for May and will draw upon the data gathered from the National Church Life Survey, held in November this year. At the Parish Assembly, parishioners will be invited to contribute to the development of future goals for our parish. Let's continue to work together in bringing about the Kingdom of peace, love and goodwill!

*Glenda Rodgers PPC Chair*