

### *Prison Ministry* *by* *Damien Kinnear*

I am a member of St Monica's Tugun parish. I have been involved in Prison ministry for about five years. At present I am a **Catholic Prison Chaplain** at Wolston Correctional Centre, which involves one day per week in the institution, ministering to the spiritual and general pastoral needs of prisoners.

I am also involved in **Kairos Prison Ministry**, which aims to introduce prisoners to a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. In October 2015, I had the privilege of leading an ecumenical team of 22 committed Christian men into Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre, where we conducted a 5-day Kairos Short Course. It is an experience I wish for all Christians with a servant's heart. Forty hours of team formation, over four Saturdays, preceded the actual course.

On the night prior to entering Arthur Gorrie, we shared dinner and the team was commissioned. As the week proceeded, the palpable presence of the Holy Spirit grew. Residents responded to talks we delivered, "family" table dynamics kicked in, residents bonded with each other and with team members. By Friday, the whole cohort was working as one under the influence of the Holy Spirit.



There were many healings going on in all the family groups, both residents and team members. I felt the most tangible evidence of Jesus' presence during the

family circle prayers. There was an accepting reverent spirit of all who were present of the awareness of the presence of the Lord. One of the residents, who had not spoken since his incarceration, opened up and began to speak - another of the many "healing breakthroughs" of the week.

One of the most pleasing aspects of the time spent in Arthur Gorrie was the response of prison staff. A female officer said that she was "moved" and that it made the "hair stand up on the back of her neck", as she watched and witnessed through the window and on her security screens. Other passing staff made comments like, "they had never seen the inmates so happy", and that there should be more of it. The general consensus was the prison staff wanted more of what Kairos was offering - that management would like the Kairos program expanded at Arthur Gorrie.

Every second Saturday I return with a group to run an ongoing "Journey Program" for any prisoners who have completed a Kairos Short Course.

As parishioners of St Monica's, **YOU** could contribute to this amazing process by writing letters of encouragement to participants; by joining the "24 hour Prayer Roster". There is also a need for committed Catholics for the Chaplaincy Ministry. Please contact me on 0401 313 258

I am forever grateful for the support through the numerous prayers, of my fellow Christians around the various churches, local and international. Jesus is the driving force of all Prison Ministry.

Read Matthew 25: 31-46.....Verse 30

**'Truly, I say to you, as you did it  
to one of the least of these my  
brothers, you did it to me.'**

### *Do you think you can help?*

Care & Concern are looking for help transporting people to their Medical, Dental & Optical appointments - people who are unable to supply their own means of transport. Our volunteers use their own vehicle to take our client to their appointment, usually stay with them and return them home.

Care & Concern has been in operation here in Coolangatta/Tugun since 1996 but was originally started throughout the Archdiocese of Brisbane in 1978. If you are able to donate a few hours each week or so, please call **Tony Maguire on 0439 780 416**. You can choose what day or days you are available. Some of our drivers take people as far as the Gold Coast Hospital, whilst others wish to remain in the local area, your choice. Our drivers usually get a few days notice of an upcoming appointment.



If you are asked to help on your chosen day but are busy, that's fine, you are not locked into a "must do" situation. Any one of our drivers will tell you the pleasure they get meeting other folk and assisting them. At the moment we are very short of drivers, due to many of our volunteers not being well and have more important commitments within their families.

The school secretary answered the phone in the office. "I'm sorry", said a very deep voice.

"Eddie can't come to school today because he has a bad fever".

The secretary asked who was speaking. "My father", said the voice on the other end.

## Reflections



### Wave of Mercy

(Kind permission has been given from the Editorial staff of Contact Summer 2015:19)

Physiotherapist Nicholas Veltjens received the Distinguished Young Alumni Award from the University of Queensland. In his own words, he lives his life with one clear objective: "To demonstrate God's love to others through my example and through laying down my life in service to those who need it".

It's August 2012 and the Mercy Ships hospital is docked at Conakry in the West African nation of Guinea. A sea of people are waiting patiently to be assessed by the medical staff. They wait in their thousands; many suffering with severe orthopaedic deformities, some with burns, others with giant tumours, struggling to see and even breathe.



On this day, physiotherapist Nick Veltjens is one of the Mercy Ships' medics selecting patients they can help, and consoling others they can't. "Those screening days are one of the hardest days of the year when you're serving", Veltjens said recalling his experience on the ship. "When you are one of the people making the call of 'yes' or 'no', it's pretty tough to turn away those people. For us, sometimes all we can do is pray for them and hand them

back over into God's hands and trust that he'll take care of them".

With a crew of more than 450, Mercy Ships services some of the world's poorest nations for up to 10 months at a time. Serving in nations such as Guinea, Congo, Sierra Leone and Togo, Nick Veltjens works in post-operative rehabilitation for patients undergoing orthopaedic, burns and plastic surgery. More recently, Veltjens has been a member of the team introducing what is known as the Ponseti Method for treating children suffering from club feet. This technique requires surgery to lengthen the Achilles tendon as the child grows. "Treating and teaching in Africa is so relational", Veltjens said. "They won't trust the fact that you went to UQ and have a good degree. Until they trust that you care about them and you want to help them, they won't actually be open to what you are saying".



Veltjens said volunteering on Mercy Ships has been one of the highlights of his career so far – an environment where he could combine a desire with the skills he had learnt at university and in the hospital. He is currently volunteering on another mission with Mercy Ships, this time in Madagascar. "Mercy Ships have asked me to run a club foot program. We've taught people the Ponseti Method in the past but it hasn't been its own program," he said. "If we can leave behind a certain amount of skills that local doctors can use to help their own people, then that's way more effective than just coming in for 10 months".

### The Restless Spirit

Almost everything within our world inhibits our journey inward towards stillness and silence. Our culture invites excitement, not silence; activity, not stillness. Thus we find ourselves constantly titillated and over stimulated in our restlessness. Somehow the impression is out there that everyone in the whole world is finding something that you are not, that everyone's life is more full and complete than yours; that your life, as it is, is too small and timid, and that only if you bring many more people, things and experiences into your life will you find peace and calm.

The world suggests that the solution to your restlessness lies outside of yourself in building a bigger and more exciting life. If you are lonely find a friend; if you are restless, do something; if you have a desire, fulfil it. It trivialises our restlessness, inviting us in a thousand ways to forget that God has called us to make an inward pilgrimage. In the preface to Elizabeth O'Connor's book, *Search for Silence*, N. Gordon Cosby writes, "The one journey that ultimately matters is the journey into the place of stillness deep within one's self. To reach that place is to be home; to fail to reach it is to be forever restless".

**Cardinal Leon Joseph Suenens writes:**

Life is lived at high tension. Nerves get frayed. The pace of life is intense. Whatever it costs, we must learn how to stop and draw a quiet breath. We solve the problem of necessary recreation by taking more weekends and holidays. That is a step forward, but we must learn how to relax, how to avoid being unbalanced by amusements, how to measure out this rhythm of fatigue and response, work and recreation in the required mixture. It is most important that rest should be soothing...We must learn how to take advantage of the little opportunities life has to offer and become children at heart again. We must not live at such a hustling pace that we no longer have time to ...have time. To be relaxed makes us accessible to others. We must learn or relearn to have time. Jesus did not want his apostles to live in a state of perpetual tension. He urged them to retreat to a quiet place and rest (Mark 6:31). We need rest in the ordinary sense, and rest in God. We must find a place for God amid the day's bustle, a place of private prayer, for slow and meditative reading. We need this "oxygen". No luxury this: it is one of our vital necessities.

## Education



### Greetings from new faces at St Augustine's school



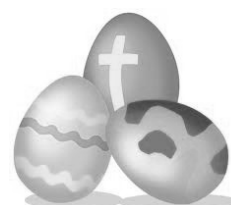
Hello to all of the Coolangatta-Tugun family of parishioners, I have already met a few of you and look forward to meeting many more. I have been a member of the Burleigh Parish for many years but look forward to sharing my time across the two parishes.

I have been in education as a secondary, primary and early years' teacher and a member of an administration team in various roles. I have been welcomed so warmly into the St Augustine's school family I feel as though I have always been here! This promises to be a very busy year and with the 90th celebration fast approaching it will certainly be a memorable one. I feel blessed to be a member of such a dedicated Administration Team, together with Fr. John and all of the staff here, who have made the start so smooth. The children are happy and friendly and this is a great reflection on both parents and staff.

I look forward to many happy years at St. A's.

Regards,

**Diane Anderson** Assistant Principal Religious Education



Dear Parishioners of Coolangatta-Tugun Catholic Parish,

Leading St Augustine's Parish Primary School as Principal from 2016 (where the school is celebrating 90 years of quality catholic education) will be very rewarding. I look forward to marking the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary with you in the coming year and highlighting the great efforts and sacrifices made by people in the community over that long period of time for Catholic education. During the past four and a half years, I have been Principal at Our Lady of Fatima School, Acacia Ridge. While loving every moment of this time at OLOF, I am looking forward to commencing the next phase

of life back on the Gold Coast at St Augustine's .

I hope to see you at Mass soon!

Blessings,

**Warren Fields, Principal**



During the recent floods, a young girl was perched on top of a house with a little boy.

As they sat watching articles float by in the water, they noticed an old hat go past.

Suddenly, the hat turned and came back, then turned around and went downstream.

After it had gone some distance, again it turned and came back.

They watched as it did this a number of times.

"Do you see that hat?"

said the girl in amazement.

"First it goes downstream, then turns around and comes back, then it goes back downstream and then it comes back again!"

"Oh, that's nothing, it's only my dad," replied the boy.

"This morning my Mum said that come hell or high water, he had to mow the lawn today."

### School Captains for St Augustine's for 2016

are as follows: Captains, Sophia Murray and Oliver Willson, centre of photo; Vice Captain Holly Favot, immediately left; Vice Captain, Benji Suddes, furthest right.

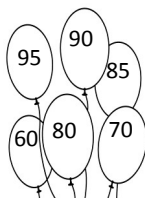
# Blessings

## 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 your life.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY to

Brian Mason - 90th  
Elena Ormond - 80th  
Laurien Thomas - 85th  
Helen Day - 75th  
Keith Preston - 75th  
Margo Pembroke - 70th



### Wedding Anniversary



Helen & Tom Day - 55yrs  
Norm & Carmel Mavor - 45yrs  
Michael & Robyn Curran - 30yrs  
Irene & Mike Snee - 30yrs



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

Marie Rixon	William O'Keefe	Joyce Skelton
Shirley Pollard	John Ormond	Vivienne
Stephen Dick	Michael Tynan	Lockley
Mary Matthews	Valerie	Baby Boyd
Trevor Elms	Edwards	Kowal
Bill Wiggins	Juozas	Siobhan
Robert Gill	Songaila	O'Connor

### Baptisms



Patrick Bechaz	Poppy Mac-lean	Eden Tracey
Winifred Busby	Darcy Drinkwater	Ashton
Bailey Carroll	Alessa Edwards	Collingwood
Jayden Curtin	Dusty Harnett	John-Michael
Ryder Dansey	Bronte Davis	David
Mitchell Rhodes	Havana Silvester	Emmett
Oliver Drake	Luca Dart	Horchner
Grace Moore	Lahni Swain	
Delilah Johnson		



### Vale Shirley Pollard

Shirley, much-loved wife of Dennis, was a treasured member of our parish community, sharing the role of Mass co-ordinator for the 9.30am Sunday Mass. As an eight-year old, she arrived in Victoria from Lincolnshire, England, under the Ten-pound migration scheme. Shirley was diagnosed in infancy with a rare congenital heart disease, and was not expected to have a long life. Her family moved to Australia, hoping to give her a better opportunity, and she underwent major surgery the year after her arrival here. Unable to attend school regularly resulted in her life-long passion for reading.

Despite her interrupted education, Shirley enrolled in Melbourne University High School and studied among other subjects - biblical studies, her great love. In 1974 she and Dennis married, and Shirley again underwent major heart surgery in 1988. After the death of her parents in 2001, they moved to Tugun and Shirley became a Catholic in 2005. In childhood, she was also diagnosed with kidney disease, and in 2006 her left kidney was removed.

Shirley could be seen to have had a life burdened with illness, but such was never apparent. She was an inspiration to us all in her gratitude to her God, her cheerfulness, her care of so many others (including those in aged care) and her positivity. Thank you, Shirley and Dennis for your gift to our parish.

### Vale Leo Flynn



As we closed the August issue of A.M., Leo Flynn passed away. He was well-known over many years in St Augustine's parish community as a big man, not only in stature, but also in his courage, strength, determination and love.

Leo's grandfather, Patrick Russell had 20 children from two marriages. The first marriage was to Molly, who passed away, and Patrick married Ann, one of whose children was Julia. She passed away when her son, Leo Francis Russell was 2 years old. Leo's sister, Lil and her husband Dan agreed to rear Leo as their own son. Later they had a daughter, Mary, and she grew up as Leo's sister.

Leo lived 90 years. There is longevity in his family. His uncle Jim Russell died at 99, still working, as the cartoonist of *The Potts Family*. The family story was passed on to us by Russell Burns, (well-known at our neighbouring parish of St Joseph's Tweed Heads), a cousin of Leo's, who worked for 30 years at the slaughter yards on the property now occupied by John Flynn Hospital.



*Where do we find resurrection?*

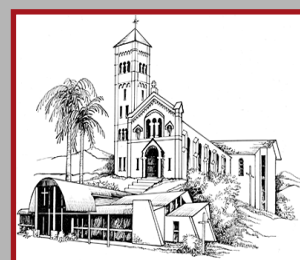
Fr Ron Rolheiser answers that, whenever we feel our faith is fantasy, and our ways of living and knowing God appear to be crucified, resurrection happens in returning to the moments when first we felt the warmth of the dream of God within us. Fr Rolheiser says we are like the women seeking to embalm the body of Jesus, only to be told to return to Galilee; and like the disciples walking away from the crucifixion towards Emmaus. ("Emmaus was a Roman Spa, a place of human comfort, a Las Vegas or Monte Carlo"). They are told to return to Jerusalem, and we are called to return to the heart of our faith experience. Pope Francis asks a similar question: *How can we fearlessly navigate the streets of the contemporary world, if our driver's license has expired?* We do not find the answers in Las Vegas or Monte Carlo or on the streets of the Gold Coast, but in returning to the dream and the hope with which discipleship once inflamed us.

Meg Fennell in Peter Cossins' story and the prayer from an anonymous parishioner appear to have captured something of the resurrection return. The return of the Pope to Rome from exile in 1814 in Mary-Jean's article on Our Lady Help of Christians celebrates resurrection. An invitation to return to our hope and enthusiasm

for discipleship is offered in the Pilgrim Days at Santa Teresa at Ormiston, Brisbane, and in the opportunities to visit the Holy Doors of the pilgrimage churches of Mercy, among them the Sacred Heart church at Clear Island Waters.

Examples of mercy alive in our world are given in our parish by Damien Kinnear in his ministry to prisoners, by the joyful Stephanie Santos in her enthusiasm for youth ministry, in the ministry of Care and Concern desperate for caring helpers, and in the wider community by Nick Veltjens, a young physiotherapist on Mercy Ships. We share their enthusiasm in welcoming our new Assistant to the Principal Religious Education at St Augustine's school, Di Anderson, and our new school principal, Warren Fields, AND the incoming school captains for 2016.

To return to the fire of love within us which first sparked our belief in God, we need to still our restless spirit by resting in God. May your Easter days bring a true sense of resurrection and hope for the future. With thanks and many blessings to the team who produced this A.M. and to the contributors and sponsors, without whom we could not exist, a peaceful Easter!

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

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*Too True*

The light turned amber, just in front of him.

He did the right thing and stopped at the crosswalk,

Even though he could have beaten the red light by accelerating through the intersection.

The tailgating woman behind him was furious and honked her horn, screaming in frustration, as she missed her chance to get through the intersection.

As she was still in mid-rant, she heard a tap on her window and looked up into the face of a very serious police officer.

The officer ordered her to exit her car with her hands up.

He took her to the police station where she was searched, fingerprinted, photographed and placed in a holding cell.

After a couple of hours, a police man approached the cell and opened the door.

She was escorted back to

the booking desk where the arresting officer was waiting with her personal effects.

He said, "I'm very sorry for this mistake. You see, I pulled up behind your car while you were blowing your horn, giving the guy in front of you the finger and cursing at him.

I noticed the 'What Would Jesus Do' bumper sticker, the 'Choose Life' license plate holder, the 'Follow Me to Sunday-School' bumper sticker, and the chrome-plated Christian fish emblem on the trunk, so naturally....I assumed you had stolen the car."



Heritage Brothers Funeral Services [www.heritagebrothers.com.au](http://www.heritagebrothers.com.au) Ph: 5535 8758

## Youth Ministry



Stephanie Santos

### Thoughts about Young People

by Stephanie Santos

Full-time Youth Worker for the Gold  
Coast Deanery

Imagine seeing everyone on the Gold Coast come to know Jesus Christ in a personal and intimate way. Imagine changing the current culture of the Gold Coast. Instead of partying on the weekend, high schoolers and young adults go to a youth group to learn about their faith and be surrounded by other Catholics their age. Imagine seeing the pews at Mass being filled with young people who are on fire for their faith. This is my vision for the future of young people in the Catholic Church on the Gold Coast, and I truly believe that with God's grace we will one day get there, and now is the time for this to begin.

The 'party culture' on the Gold Coast continues to grow and the amount of young people who are lost and go to search for fulfillment in these temporary and empty places is heartbreaking. Young people need to have as many opportunities as possible to find out who God is to them, and who they are as a child of God. A new kind of culture needs to be reinforced so the next generation of Catholics are formed, have a heart for Jesus, and are excited about their faith. It's up to us, the Church, to be able to provide these opportunities for the youth of the Gold Coast. Creating communities for them, and meeting them where they are at and providing them with formation and fellowship, is where we can start to get the ball rolling in our Deanery. Through this way we can transform the culture, where we can enrich a whole new generation of formed and faith-filled young people, knowing the good news and knowing the truth, and really living out their Catholic faith. What inspired me to get involved with

youth ministry was that growing up I didn't feel I had a place where I could really discover my faith for myself. I didn't realize the truth, love and fullness of God, and so I went searching in other places for that fulfillment. It wasn't until I found a youth group when I was in grade 12, that I realized how I could be living my faith, and who my identity was in Jesus Christ. I only wished I would have been able to discover this earlier in my teenage years, to save myself pain and heartache.

It's so imperative for us to share our faith with young people today, and I don't mean just young people ministering to young people, but young and old - all the different members of the body of the Church. You never know when God will use you to reach someone else. We as members of the Church are constantly showing the face of Jesus to others, a lot of the time when we don't even realize it. But it's integral for us as a community to bring the light of Christ to all those we encounter, especially the younger generation of the Church.

My current work in youth ministry and my role as the Deanery Youth Coordinator involves the establishment of youth groups across all the Parishes on the Gold Coast. It didn't feel right that there weren't many opportunities for faith formation and fellowship for young people here on the Gold Coast. The youth ministry that I have been working with to establish is Veniré Youth. Veniré is a Latin word meaning, 'to come'. This name was chosen with the aim to create a youth group that would be an ongoing invitation to all. This year Veniré will be in four parishes: Surfers Paradise, Burleigh Heads, Coomera, and Coolangatta-Tugun. I'm praying that Veniré will really flourish and that young people have the desire in their hearts to choose Christ and hunger to know more. Please join me in prayer, as we pray for the young people of the Church and the transformation of their hearts, and all the hearts on the Gold Coast.



### Where 'NET MINISTRY' Took Alice

Alice, and many other young Catholics across Australia and the world, left their lives in 2015 and volunteered to join NET MINISTRY which is an Annual Evangelising Program based from Brisbane that reaches out across Australia. Training is arranged and volunteers have to meet their costs from voluntary donations (Alice still owes about \$1,000, having raised \$5,000). Alice found it to be a challenging year but thoroughly enjoyed the experience. She was based in Canberra-Goulburn Archdiocese for most of the year and attended retreats, prayer sessions and ministered to many young people along the way. Alice said, "It was awesome and challenging, but it made me realise the importance of faith. The opportunity to share that with many young people and help them on their journey, was a very rewarding experience". Alice developed some amazing friendships and is now completing a traineeship in Lismore at Woodlawn College as part of CSYMA – Catholic Schools Youth Ministry Association on their National Team, as a Youth Ministry Officer. Alice still lives in the Parish and catches up when she can.