

'AM' Magazine

(Augustine & Monica)



Blossoming

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This page sponsored by "The Music Ministry"



Getting to know people in our Parish

Parish Introductions

St Augustine's is a truly magnificent church with a 100 years of stories to tell — if only the bricks could speak.

So many visitors return to our church each year, for one reason or another. For us, it is more than a building. It is a place where we meet in faith and friendship. It is a place where all are made to feel welcome. It is the home of our heart and soul.

St Augustine's is, quite simply, special. For those new to our parish, St Augustine's is a mix of locals, parishioners who chose to attend from other areas as well as tourists, who are constantly evolving, often returning annually, or more frequently.



Lee Niblett: Lee is our flautist. He was born in London but arrived in Australia in 2002. His first port of call was Brisbane. Lee told me that he was moved by the bells to come to our church. By chance, he had just moved into a rental property nearby after having sold his home in Currumbin. One Sunday morning, Lee was awoken by the sound of the church bells and so he decided to investigate. When he entered the church, he said that it was love at first sight. Lee now lives in Robina and commutes.

Matt, Jeanne and Shea Currie: Matt and Jeanne arrived in our Parish from South Africa. Sometimes Matt plays the guitar for us at mass. Jeanne said that they were struck by the welcoming community as well as by the beauty of the church's interior.



Carmel and Barrie Edwards:

Carmel and Barrie are two of our interstate visitors who have become very much part of our Parish when they are holidaying up here. Both play instruments, with Carmel regularly playing the organ for us



when she is in attendance. Barrie plays a Hofner bass guitar which, he said, was favoured by Sir Paul McCartney. They find us to be friendly, caring, welcoming community who carry out Christian values in a practical way. The only downsides, they feel, are the microphones which echo at times.

Marge and Dorothy: These two are indeed part of the heart of our Parish. Marge remembers that even though their home was closer to St Monica's, they moved to St Augustine's, around 48 years ago, to play the guitar at mass, together with Kathy Osborne. Although Dorothy was already a musical person, Marge reminisced that it was Maureen Delarue who taught Dorothy how to play the organ, which she did for many years until she retired. Marge sees the church as a treasure to be cherished. She hates the idea of it being pulled down and replaced with a more modern structure, because, she questions; "would this really entice the young of today to attend Mass"? Marge loves the friendship of the people in church, and the support that they give one another.



Carolyn and Brian Mercer:

When Carolyn met Brian at the age of sixteen, they went to the 5.30pm Sunday mass together at St Augustine's. Carolyn says that the church is part of her life and

heart and she has beautiful memories of the place. This is because she and Brian were married there, their children were baptised there, went to school there and received other sacraments there too. Today, Carolyn loves the place as much as before, but is saddened by the dwindling numbers. As we have become an ageing congregation, she ponders about how the young can be encouraged to return.

Dennis and Helen McCurtayne:

St Augustine's feels like home to Dennis and Helen. They live in Currumbin Waters but look forward to coming each Sunday, and seeing everyone's smiling, happy faces. It amazes them that people continually show that they are interested in each other, and regularly check to see how each is doing. To them, St Augustine's is quite simply family. It is a place where they got to know more people in one month than they did anywhere else over a long period.



CENTENARY UPDATES

Reported by Nicola

As the months roll by, we are quickly approaching the Centenary of St Augustine's Church, which is not only memorable, but also exciting. However, some people ask, when does the Centenary actually start? Is it when the first Parish mass was said? Was it when the foundation stone was laid or was it when the completed church was blessed and opened? It is obvious that all these dates are important because they are interlinked.



In essence....

"The birth of the Catholic Parish of St Augustine's, Coolangatta, was in 1924 with the appointment of Father Leo Carlton as the first Parish Priest, (who remained so for the next 16 years.) In those days there was no Catholic Church and the first mass celebrated was at the Surf Pavilion in Greenmount, on Rosary Sunday, 6 October, 1924. This was really a little old bathing shed on the beach front. The altar and vestments used were loaned by Mother Teresa, Superior of the Ursuline Nuns of Tweed Heads. The altar boy on this memorable occasion was Mr James Josephson.



After this, permission was sought, and granted, for Mass to be celebrated in a hall attached to the Council Chambers. This venue was used until the Capital Theatre was opened, when the proprietor, Mr J.M Cahill, allowed Mass to be celebrated there every Sunday and Holy Day for the next 2 years, until the church was built.

Come Celebrate with us on:

Sunday, October 6: A Mass to be held in both churches commemorating the birth of the Parish.

Sunday, 17 November: Mass for past and present parishioners, together with their families.

Wednesday **February 5:** Trivia with a Twist.

March 1: Socialising at the Ivory.

May 4: Centenary Mass at St Augustine's at 9am.
(This will be the only mass of the day.)

➡ **The best way to keep in touch is via our Facebook page. Why not check it out?**

Moving on....
in 1926... a community of Sisters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart arrived in Coolangatta to set up a rest home and open up a primary school as well as a boarding school for young boys. In 1949, the Sisters withdrew to do missionary work overseas. They were replaced by the Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Conception.

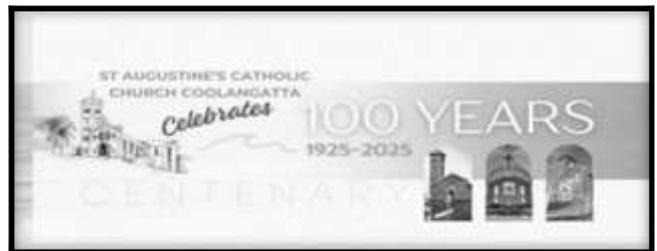


Reference, Kerrie Wrobel, *History of Coolangatta-Tugun Catholic Parish*. THE DAILY NEWS, October 10, 1924

Since then, so much has happened and so many wonderful people have been involved in making the Parish what it is today. From its conception, people have worked hard to raise money to build the church, extend it and now it is up to us to continue to maintain this majestic building.



At the moment, the resurfacing of the carpark and repairs to the retaining wall at the end of it are a priority. Work cannot be started on the carpark without the retaining wall rising from the land below, being repaired beforehand. Already subcommittees are being formed to handle the various tasks and activities being planned.



Tough times never last; tough people do!

SPONSOR NEEDED FOR THIS PAGE - If you cannot sponsor perhaps you would like to contribute to the 'CENTENARY FUND' BSB: 064 786. ACCOUNT NO: 100028114 REF: YOUR SURNAME

From the Office



Seminararian Sean Woods comments

Blossoming and Our Life in Christ



Spring is upon us once again. Living things are coming back to life'. The plants are blossoming. The vineyards flourishing. Brothers and sisters, I think our life in Christ is a kind of blossoming. Our friends in the northern hemisphere might more keenly feel the connection between springtime and the blossoming that comes from divine grace (Ps 80: 15-16; Luke 20: 9, Vulgate). For them, Easter falls in the spring; it was our Saviour's Resurrection that has made possible our rising into the Kingdom of God (Matt 27:52; John 12: 24; Rom 8:11). That is, of our 'coming back to life' through the grace of the Holy Spirit. I would suggest to you that this blossoming is already underway in the life of the Church (Mark 4:26-29; 1 John 5:11-13).

Consider that curious word 'virtue'. It crops up time and again in the sacred liturgy. In everyday speech, it can mean something like genteel, even affected. If someone calls you virtuous, they might be making fun of you! I feel that when we hear that word in our prayer, we ought to think instead of something like blossoming (Ps 128: 2-3). Our minds ought to think of strength, upward growth, a fulfilment of purpose (Ps 92: 8-16).

Because just as a tree grows upwards to reach its perfect stage so too a soul by growing in virtue (Ps 92: 13). Recall the four cardinal virtues. If someone is prudent, fortitudinous, temperate, and just, that soul is blossoming. She is growing towards her purpose.

Our sins uproot our progress in virtue. Furthermore, whatever heights of virtue we attain in this life our blossoming is always cut short by our frail nature — even if we were to live a hundred years (Ps 90: 5-6; 103:5-6). This, I think, reveals our great need for our Saviour. How good it is, then, that we have a Saviour to heal that which is frail (Matthew 9:6-8)! We have His Cross, the Tree of Life, and the Sacraments it unceasingly bears (Apoc 22: 2). These supply the graces of theological virtue. That is, of faith, hope and charity. These virtues enable a soul to reach full bloom in the Lord's Vineyard (Ps 34: 10-11; Eph 4: 11-13). So that a branch, one with the True Vine, might go on flourishing for ever (John 15: 5). Or, put another way, rise again by grace into the Kingdom of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, to whom be glory and honour for ever and ever.



ST VINCENT DE PAUL

1. CEO sleepout on 20/6 at Brisbane, Gold and Sunshine Coasts raised **\$1.92 million** for homelessness support services and our 500 homes in 5 years project.

2. St Vincent de Paul is partnering with Queensland State Government to build 60 one and two bedroom social housing units at Nerang due for completion at the end of 2025.

3. The May 50% off sale across Vinnies shops sold more than 230,000 items Qld wide.

4. Good news re the 'father and son who were living in a tent' story of our Winter Appeal. Vinnies supported them into crisis accommodation and have now assisted them to find permanent secure accommodation so their dog, Ruby, can rejoin them.

Our Parish's generosity has raised \$6,000 for the Winter Appeal.

Thank you all.

"When you've seen one shopping centre, you've seen a mall!"



STOP PRESS: Scientists are trialing a drug that switches off the protein related to ageing.

In laboratory mice, the research has increased the mice's healthy lifespan by more than 20% on average. The mice's nickname is "supermodel grannies." Human clinical trials are yet to be conducted. So while death remains inevitable, an extended life as a healthy mouse may be beckoning!

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Music is a universal language: Pope Francis sings Praises of Catholic choirs.

Pope Francis praised Catholic choir members of all ages on Saturday, calling music “a universal and immediate language.”

Choir members and musicians provide a “precious service” to the Church, he said on the morning of June 8 in an audience with parish and diocesan choirs, scholæ cantorum, directors, and musicians.

Speaking in the Vatican’s Paul VI Hall, the pope said: “Music creates harmony, thereby reaching everyone, consoling those who suffer, rekindling enthusiasm in the downhearted, and bringing forth wonderful values such as beauty and poetry, which reflect God’s harmonious light.



“Music, indeed,” he added, “is a universal and immediate language that requires no translation of elaborate explanation.”

Approximately 300 singers and 80 musicians took part on that weekend in the Fourth International Meeting of Choirs at the Vatican.

In addition to the meeting with Pope Francis, participants in the June 7–9 gathering put on a free concert in the Vatican’s Paul VI Hall on the evening of June 8 and sang at Mass in St. Peter’s Basilica on the morning of June 9. The event also had two days of talks on topics such as sacred music and the history of Gregorian chant with practical workshops for musicians and choristers.

“You have come together in the Vatican to explore more deeply the significance of music in service to the liturgy,” the pope said. “It is very good to see you here, coming as you do from many different places yet all united by faith and a passion for music.”

Francis encouraged the musicians and choir members to spend time in prayer and meditation on God’s word “to maintain the lofty spiritual tenor” of their vocation to enrich the Mass and other liturgies with music.

You enrich and add beauty to the Mass “not only with your voices but also with your minds and hearts,” he said, “and by enthusiastically living your daily lives accordingly, so that your music may increasingly be a joyful self-offering to God, who with his love attracts, enlightens, and transforms everything.”

The weekend was organized by the Choir of the Diocese of Rome, which was celebrating 40 years since its foundation. The choir’s director is Monsignor Marco Frisina, a composer whose works have been hugely

influential in the Church both in Italy and on the world stage — particularly at World Youth Days.

Frisina’s “Jesus Christ You Are My Life” gained international recognition in the Catholic world after it was the anthem of World Youth Day during the Great Jubilee in 2000.

The music director and composer told EWTN News that he has written a new song for young people titled “Christ Is My Hope” for the 2025 Jubilee Year.



Frisina said he was thinking about “how important it is to sing about the joy of hope.”

“Because everyone thinks with sadness about the things that happen — war, violence, hatred, enmity — but it’s good to sing instead to counter all that, [to sing] that Christ is our joy and our hope,” he said. “And Christ is risen.”

Parishioners involved in the Parish Music Ministry



During his speech on the Saturday, Pope Francis said the singers “are custodians of a centuries-old treasure of art, beauty, and spirituality,” and he encouraged them to “not let the mentality of the world taint it with self-interest, ambition, jealousy, or division.”

The pontiff also praised the spontaneity and innocence of children, which he said “speaks louder than the best of speeches.”

“We must take care of children because they are the future, they are hope,” he added. “Children are the privileged ones. For this reason, Jesus said: It is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs.”

By Hannah Brockhaus

Rome Newsroom, Jun 8, 2024 / 13:50 pm



Blossoming

by Phil Kimmins



Shed those winter skins and pack away the scarves, shrug off your heavy coats for the seasonal moth buffet and wheel the heater offstage. Now crank up the ceiling fans 'cause Summer's almost here and the livin' is easy, or so the song goes, but if fish are

jumpin' I really can't say. Not from here anyway and there's certainly no cotton, high or low. But there are other blooms. Blossoming, as one might say.

Spring has brought fresh shoots, rich green foliage, fragrant blooms to dazzle the eye with colour and make all new again as Nature renews itself, making our God-given world even more beautiful. As metaphor, the growth cycle of plants is an easy fit for the human condition—from life to death and everything in its season. Usually, we think of the days of one's youth as a time for blossoming - all wide-eyed and keen with the sap rising, showing the world who we may become and coming into our own with a more fully-formed sense of ourselves and where we're headed. Or, would like to be headed. However, I've come to think of this time as mere first growth in the human life cycle, not a true blossoming, and here I should make it clear that the life cycle to which I refer is not a thing of cellular decay, that headlong rush from foetus to the final fluttering of eyelids. No, it's the life of Spirit which runs parallel but is totally dissimilar in its essence.

The human body - saving that of Christ - was made for death. From the day of conception we begin to die, even as we are given life. But this life, all shiny and new, full of promise and God's unconditional love, is not yet fully activated, 'batteries' have not been included. Those of us with Faith understand that we have no power until we're plugged into the Divine through Baptism. By water and Spirit do we truly begin our lives, animated by the only true life source. As young humans we may indeed blossom in appearance and wisdom as we enter the Spring of our earthly existence but the seasons will pass quickly and all too quickly; the Winter of our lives will be upon us.

The movie *Saving Private Ryan* begins with Ryan, now an old man, visiting the graves of comrades who died that he may live. He is overcome with emotion when considering his debt and his worthiness, or lack of

it. "Have I been a good man?" he sobs, a cry torn from the heart, choked with emotion and survivor guilt. We are invited to believe, by implication, that he has been a good man, that his spiritual journey has kept pace with his physical accounting of the years. Ryan is depicted as a man whose spirit has grown in strength and light even as his body prepares to lose both. These then are the two lives in parallel, Spirit and body and, as we know, parallel lines never meet - life ends, the Spirit moves on.

Would I be game enough to ask if I've been a good man? Not yet. With still so much to work on, I doubt I could be so bold and can but pray God grants me the time to be able to ask that question one day in hopes of a positive response. However, I've not yet run the race. It's a three-legged race by the way, Jesus' and my arms about each others' waists and bound by the leg so that a true fall is impossible. This connection can only be severed by an act of will on our parts and God grant that we never do that. Of course, there are times when we may feel we've come adrift, can no longer feel the warmth and closeness of our race partner. This is natural and should not be a cause for despair. Perhaps we are simply further advanced on the spiritual path than we think and not in need of as much affirmation as we think we should have. There can be many reasons for feeling this disconnect as we progress in the Spirit, but less and less will we be given to dark nights of the soul and more and more be able to walk in the Presence without fear of a major misstep as our Spirit life matures.

A doctor once told me: "you can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear but you can make a useful piece of leather". He was treating me in the final stages of a long drug withdrawal and doubtless thought he was giving me some form of encouragement. For years afterwards I lived with that, content, after all I'd gone through, and mindful of my many transgressions, to be that useful piece of leather. He was wrong. I was wrong. God doesn't claim, or reclaim us, as 'used goods' but as new creations whose past sins are forgiven and forgotten as though they never existed. If we are God's, we are never second best; if we are God's, we are handed no consolation prizes; if we are God's, we inherit everything.



For this realisation to take a firm root in our hearts and minds can take a lifetime, but when it does, God's love and mercy will engender in us the most magnificent blooming imaginable.



**Do you know a Catholic who isn't attending Mass in our parish?
The Parish Office has support tools to help you reconnect these people to the Eucharist.**

**BEWARE - ACTIVITY AT THE OLYMPICS: If you jump off a Paris Bridge, you are in Seine!
Marathon Runners with bad shoes suffer the agony of de feet!**

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