



COOLANGATTA - TUGUN CATHOLIC PARISH

Parish Community of St Augustine and St Monica



We recognise the traditional owners of this land - The Kombumberri people. 'Coolangatta' means place of 'Splendid Lookout'

Our Parish Cares.

St Vincent de Paul Society

The Conference operates within our parish. The Conference belongs to the broader network of St Vincent de Paul, and as such is not officially a parish ministry. The members meet weekly on Tuesday afternoon at St Monica's Centre, beginning with prayer and spiritual reflection. Faxes, which have come through from the central Help Line in Southport, are discussed, as well as the visits of the rostered teams of two for the past week. Discussion discerns how a person may better be assisted, and looks to the allocation of resources requiring Conference approval. All calls for assistance from Currumbin to Coolangatta are sent to the Conference, and sometimes, calls come from outside the area.

The rostered teams take to the road to attend calls for food assistance, clothing, blankets, bus fares or for other varied reasons. On Thursdays donated left-over bread is delivered to those in need. Some of those visited suffer with drug or alcohol problems, domestic violence issues, custody battles, financial problems or are just hungry. Some of the members make companionship visits to those who are lonely or house-bound. Little victories of love drive them on, and lessen the pain of being unable to help those who need more than they are able to provide.

After the meeting has ended with a closing prayer, there is a convivial cuppa together and a catch-up with one another's doings. They organise regular get-togethers for dinner, a barbeque or a card night – the social life of the Conference is important to members.

Youth ministry

Young people take part in the regular parish rosters of readers of the Word and commentators and provide hospitality in handing out newsletters and in providing a hot dog after Masses each term.

Functions for older young people are held at intervals due to the time restraints of study and work. There is interest in organising functions for Year 7/8 students.

Mini-vinnies

Students of Year 6 at St Augustine's parish school are invited to join Mini-vinnies who undertake to raise funds to support *Caritas* and the local St Vincent de Paul Conference, with whom they meet at times. Mini vinnies volunteers visit the sick, provide a sausage sandwich at some parish Masses, run a football tipping competition and wrap gifts donated for families at Christmas.

Care and Concern

This group has a Co-ordinator, secretary and treasurer. While this group is autonomous, they do meet with other Care and Concern groups on the Coast as well as groups from the Brisbane Archdiocese. The group also have a co-ordinator from Centrecare who assists and visits the parish.

The main role of Care and Concern is transporting individuals to their medical appointments when they do not have available transport. These appointments cover transport to hospitals, doctors, dentists,

opticians and radiologists. Members of Care and Concern could make as many as 40 visits each month and rely on donations to assist their volunteers with fuel costs.

Funeral Catering Group

The group have become involved with providing morning or afternoon tea at minimal cost after funerals and assisting the parish in other ways when requested

Bereavement Group

The Bereavement Group is a group of people who have experienced a loss in their life, and who come together for morning tea on the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 10.00am in St Monica's Centre, Tugun, to experience the healing power of togetherness and friendship. Anyone who has experienced a loss of any kind is free to come and meet with others in similar circumstances, bringing a friend if needed. No attempt is made at counselling but the group offers love, support and a listening ear.

Each November a Mass of Remembrance is held to pray for all deceased relatives and friends of parishioners, with special invitations being sent to those whose family members have been buried from the parish during the past 12 months.

Visitation and Communion ministers to hospitals, to the sick at home and to nursing homes

The practice of taking Communion to the sick has been part of the Catholic tradition since the early church. Here in our parish there are dedicated people who visit and minister to the sick in hospitals, retirement villages, nursing and private homes. Communion ministers bring the sacrament more frequently to those unable to attend Mass, than would otherwise be possible. The extraordinary minister of Holy Communion represents Christ, manifests faith and charity and embraces the sick person on behalf of the whole community.

Welcome to new parishioners

New parishioners are invited to complete a form on the notice-board at the front entrance of the church, giving their contact details and their interest in any ministries. A member of the welcoming team will contact you.

