



The Blossoming of Faith: Nurturing Religious Belief and Practice



In the tapestry of human experience, the theme of blossoming holds a profound significance, particularly within the realm of religious belief and practice. Like the flower that gradually unfurls its delicate petals to the warmth of the spring, religious belief and practice responds to the warmth of divine guidance in order to achieve its full glory.

Within our Catholic community this blossoming is marked by a deepening relationship with God, an unwavering commitment to living out the teachings of Christ, and a profound sense of spiritual growth and transformation. Despite the somewhat florid prose which you will readily identify as completely unlike my normal style, this is a true statement. The style is reflective of my inability to express such deeply spiritual feelings in everyday words.

At the core of the Catholic faith lies belief in the Triune God – the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, a concept that many find they are unable or unwilling to accept unreservedly. In a world of steadily increasing secularism, political corruption on a grand scale and the growth of the individualistic ‘me first’ consumerism merely ‘holding the faith’ becomes an achievement, let alone finding that one’s faith has actually blossomed! One has only to pick up a newspaper or read the online news, or the latest census to hear the underlying message that Christianity is in its death throes. Churches are empty, religious vocations are in steady decline and ‘the Church’ should be held responsible for a myriad of the world’s worst woes. Instead of throwing the baby of faith out with the bathwater of humanity’s bad behaviour, should not those who dwell in the realm of the finger pointing zealots of post Christian modernity be able to consider the incalculable value that the Christian faith has gifted to the world? Even should such consideration only take in the architectural magnificence of the thousands of awe inspiring chapels and churches; or the beauty of the art inspired by religious belief; or the many Christian charities that provide care and support for the less fortunate; or the glorious beauty of the psalms and spiritual music; any or all of these should be credited to the gifting of religious belief, without which the world would be the poorer.

Oops! Please forgive that exceedingly long sentence. I do get a bit carried away sometimes. Hopefully you will stay with me so we can explore some of the ways to develop the “blossoming” process together.

In the Catholic tradition, Scripture holds a central

place as the Word of God. It is where we learn the Old Testament stories that underpin the Christian tradition. The Gospels tell us Christ’s story and are a source of divine wisdom, revelation and guidance to all who care to read them. Just as plants require sunshine to photosynthesise and grow, so too does faith require the nourishment of Scripture to mature and bear fruit in our lives. It deepens our knowledge and understanding of God’s will, Christ’s teachings and the path to salvation.

The sacraments were instituted by Christ as visible signs of invisible grace, and serve as sacred moments of encounter with God’s love and mercy. Through the sacraments of the Eucharist and Reconciliation we can experience the real presence of Christ, receive forgiveness for our sins and gain strength and spiritual nourishment on our journey.

The blossoming of faith also requires the regular practising of prayer. To my mind the greatest way to grow one’s own faith is by the practice of prayer. To me, that doesn’t mean necessarily only those prayers that we have all been taught and sometimes may recite by rote. A personal prayer murmured in thanks, in sorrow, or in joy, are all sacred moments of personal encounter with God.

The fruits of faith such as love, joy, peace, patience, goodness, faithfulness and gentleness become evident in the lives of those who have begun to experience the ‘blossoming’. They are available to everyone. Let us all try to radiate the love of God, by tending the garden of our souls so we transform into ever more faithful disciples of Christ.

Once again AM readers, I have enjoyed our chat...hopefully you have too. I would be delighted to hear your thoughts. Send them in to The Editor of the AM.

Until next time, I am your Digital Nomad.....Mary



Solving homelessness!

Finland more or less ended homelessness nationwide with a genius idea.

They decided to provide people with a small apartment and mental health counselling—without any preconditions. Four out of five people in the program make their way back into stable life with a job, housing, sobriety and peace.

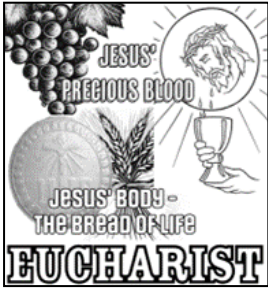


In Loving Memory of the Hanzic, D’Aeth and Poljakov Families



A Pathway To Inner Peace

By Paula Lancaster



Our Sacramental Team was privileged, once again, to journey with our Parish children and their families, as they undertook preparations to make the Sacrament of Confirmation, or First Eucharist. One of the reasons I am passionate about connecting our children with the Church – and thus the Sacraments – is because I believe society, in general, overlook the spiritual side of a child’s development.

Noisy and hectic. Running around and moving from one thing to the next. In our daily lives, where is the space for quiet and calm?



Receiving the Precious Blood for the first time.

The Sacramental program, aside from preparing candidates to make their sacraments, teaches and guides children about being quiet, about talking to God, about listening to God – thus nurturing inner quiet and their spiritual side. Many children’s days consist of school, after school activities, homework, time on their computers, watching TV... and then bed. The only time they tend to “really stop” is when they sleep. Whilst sleep is good, when do children learn to value doing nothing, being still and thus being able to connect to their spiritual selves? Society stresses the physical, mental and emotional development of our children. Whilst some may object to what I’m saying, I would like to propose that increased anxiety in our youth and the need to always be entertained is, in part, due to the limited value assigned to spiritual development.



Confirmation - a sacred time but also a joyous celebration.

Much of the joy associated with our Parish Sacramental Programs is working and journeying with children at a spiritual level. They invigorate us with



their curiosity for knowledge about their faith, enthusiastic engagement in spiritual growth and willingness to listen, question and do. In discussing the importance of preparing to make a sacrament, we used the analogy of training/rehearsing for a particular activity. We explained that given the importance of sacraments, you could not merely “show up”. To prepare, you have to “train”. Whilst the ‘training’ entails attending classes to gain knowledge, attending Mass to connect with the essence of our faith, the most powerful preparation is daily prayer.

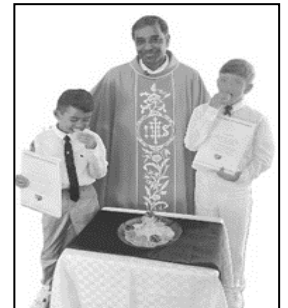


Laying on of hands — Ritual for Confirmation

The children were asked to create a sacred space to give them a special area separate from their busy lives. They were taught various prayers but were also taught that one of the most powerful prayers is to TALK to God – to TELL God how they feel – good or bad – to THANK God, to ask for help, to ask for guidance.

We also discussed how praying is not always easy and that there will be times when it seems useless. Connecting with the spiritual is obtained through persistence and practice. We encouraged the children to keep praying during difficult times as nurturing your spiritual self will have benefits as by attending to your physical, mental and emotional needs also have benefits.

Since the children have made their sacraments, we are urging and inviting them to stay connected to our Parish family as a support network for their faith journey – even if only for the monthly Family Masses. We pray that we can support the children and their families, so they may experience inner peace in their lives. Inner peace which strengthens their faith and supports them as they journey through life.



First Eucharist - a Celebration after a spiritual journey.

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St Augustine's Parish Primary School



Term 2 has been a very busy and exciting time at St Augustine's school. We had over 100 children take part in the ANZAC Day march with Currumbin RSL. This is a great opportunity for our students to acknowledge the sacrifices of the service men and women of both

past and present. We had a very moving ceremony at school the day before and were lucky to have permission to use the song 'Paint this Land' by Busby Marou to play as Tom Busby (singer/songwriter) is one of our parents.

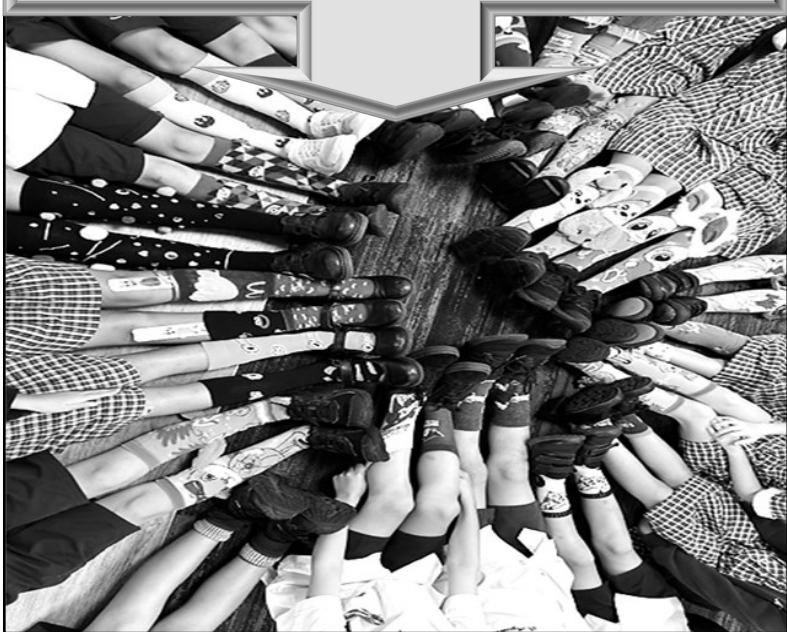
Our wonderful parent group for Sustainability led by Kate Hughes have made a huge impact on the gardens in the school and have had several harvests of herbs. There are plans to expand the program with the assistance of students and Mr Brenton Edwards, our APA.



Pictured here, Brenton Edwards APA, Kate Hughes, Diane Anderson APRE and John Cameron Principal wearing our sustainability shirts



We celebrated Silly Sock Day and raised much needed funds to support the needy in our community. Pictured are some of the clever sock combinations on the children.



As a school, we celebrated Reconciliation Week; the theme was 'Now More Than Ever'.

We 'grew' a reconciliation tree in the courtyard with children decorating paper hands to form the leaves, our message 'hands up, we support Reconciliation'. The tree had to have many branches added as the number of hands being made grew and grew.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - Your Parish Needs You

Prior to COVID, many of you gave generously of your time and effort in parish activities. Since that time, there has been a marked decline in people actively involved in parish functions.

To offer spiritual and physical support while maintaining our churches, we desperately require more of you to volunteer for parish activities. This is especially true with the impending centenary of both St Augustine's church and school.

Working bees at both churches were much appreciated but more regular community maintenance gatherings are needed. A challenge to the men and youth of our parish! Please, we need greater involvement from you as some activities require more physical strength.

Thank you to those already working hard. We look forward to meeting new friends as we strive together to remove the bushel hiding our shining light. Many activities no longer require various checks or online training and the Parish Office will be able to advise re these requirements.

Parish Activities

THE PARISH FINANCE COUNCIL (PFC)

Canon Law requires each parish to operate a PFC. The role of the PFC is "to assist the parish priest in the administration of the ecclesiastical goods (assets) of the parish." Members of the PFC are appointed for a three year term by the parish priest.

Father Noy is the leader and presides over the PFC.

St Augustine's/ St Monica's PFC members are: Michelle Bradley; Sharon Cabban (chair); Peter Ford; Vince Kearney; Paula Lancaster; Julie Pead; Therese Sharkey (secretary); Bob Stribling; Doug Tucker.

Already Michelle, Bob and Julie have collated a myriad of papers relating to fundraising for St Augustine's in the first decades of 2000's. Their investigation is unravelling much of the confusion with respect to the collection and distribution of these funds. Thanks for their excellent efforts.

While Father Noy is absent from the parish, the PFC is in hiatus. With the upcoming centenary and development of the parish budget, our activities will certainly increase on Father Noy's return.

If you would like anything raised with the PFC, feel free to approach members or address your enquiry through the Parish Office.

We anticipate your support and feedback to ensure the vigorous growth of our parish community.

Sharon Cabban

PARISH COUNCIL

**Greetings and Blessings
from the
Parish Pastoral Council.**

With Fr Noy away, we have to give a big thankyou to all our visiting Priests who have been kind enough to say Mass for us. But a special thankyou must go to our Seminarian, Sean, who has taken a lot of the reins whilst Fr Noy is away. Thanks also to Julie and Paula whose workloads must have increased.

In both of our Churches, there is quite an amount of maintenance taking place, or being quoted on. Everything from gutters at St Monica's to the retaining wall at St Augustine's. On top of all this, we are approaching the 100th anniversary of St Augustine's. There will be special events happening so please keep checking the parish newsletter.

There is a working group gathering memorabilia and organizing the event.



Did you know - Advice corner

TUGUN SATELLITE HOSPITAL (BANYAHMABAH)

There is a Queensland public hospital at Tugun at 57 Boyd Street, the road to John Flynn Private Hospital. This facility supports the emergency departments of Gold Coast University Hospital (GCUH) and Robina Hospital. Here you can access urgent walk-in health care through a Minor Injury and Illness Clinic seven days a week.

Injuries and illnesses to be accessed there are expected to be non-life-threatening, including issues such as simple fractures, simple infections, toothache, minor burns and eye concerns. It operates from 8am to 10pm seven days a week. **Children must strictly be at least twenty-four months of age to receive treatment.**

A Kidney Dialysis Clinic is also available and is accessed via GP referral to Gold Coast Health's Outpatient Booking and Referral Centre. It is open Monday to Saturday 7am to 3pm.

Pharmacy Services are present, providing dispensing services to Tugun's patients and patients managed by GCUH and Robina. This service is open Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm.

Also available is a Women, Newborn and Children's Clinic which is accessed through GPs. It is open Monday to Friday 8am to 4pm.

Free parking is available on site and buses pass the hospital. Feedback from people who have used this health service has been positive for both medical service and timeliness.

Remember if your emergency may be life-threatening, you should always dial TRIPLE ZERO 000, or attend the nearest emergency department of a major hospital.



{Cont'd Parish Council}

if you think you can help either physically, or financially, please contact the Parish Office.

Sunday the 17th of November, Mass will be celebrated at St Augustine's at 9.00am. Past and present parishioners will be invited. There will be **no Sunday Mass at St Monica's** on that weekend, only Saturday 6.00pm Vigil. Blessings, Tony Maguire

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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.




Fr Noy and Julie
 Ronald Palmada – 50yrs
 Mali Jones - 70 yrs



We welcome the following who have recently become members of our Faith family through Baptism

Oakley Cove	Charlie Parkinson
Islo Cove	Frank Parkinson
Simone Mecak	Oliver Gegg
Federico Cox-Allende	Madison Gegg
Huxley Terrell-Keys	Indigo Wale
Ivy Davey	Noah Monaghan
Denvah Murphy	Matilda Fusco
Noah Sneesby	Daisy Cecil
Sonny Godwin	Layla Commens
Jack Godwin	Bodhi Odgers-Jewell
Theodore Fletcher	Zali Prates



Blessings on all those who are contemplating Marriage

Blessing

May the God of Kindness be with you, gazing upon you with understanding eyes. May you see in those eyes unconditional acceptance of who you are and how you are in any given moment of your life. And may you know God's gentle call to grow in kindness toward those who people your life. May the God of Kindness bless you.

--Maxine Shonk, OP



This candle burns in loving memory, of those who are forever in our hearts.


Patricia Foley	Thelma Copeland
Catherine Kelly	June Mye
Peter Robertson	Josephine Thomas
John Kearney	Barry Shatkin
Neil Devlin	Maureen Griffiths
Masimo Bellasi	Graham Whittaker
Carolyn Mathews	Estelle Ozorio
Noela Ogilvie	June Mye
Ron Spencer	Arthur Gawlik
David Aim	Marie McConnell
Maureen Cahill	Helen Chin How
Judith Smyth	Brian Hudson
Sr Pam Teys (RSJ)	(Vona's Dad)
Jim Smith	Peter Cossins
James Power	



Congratulations to all celebrating a Wedding Anniversary.

Mary and Kevin O'Flaherty -60yrs
 Mary and Charlie Tanti - 60yrs
 Ken and Merle Hayman - 40yrs
 Keith and Margaret Preston - 60yrs

Vale Peter



Peter was a man of strong faith who loved St Augustine's. He believed that we should place our lives in God's hands and that we should live God's way. Peter also had a strong devotion to Our Lady and the Rosary and it was he who started up the practice of saying the Rosary before Sunday mass.

Peter was always willing to be there for others and would lend his support where needed. Although full of life, Peter was a gentle soul, and was always ready for an embrace. His special loves were Mandy, his family and Tim Tams.

He was the Editor of this magazine in recent times. May you rest in Peace now, Peter.

You have left us with many happy memories. Vale!



From the Editor's Desk by Peter Cossins

Blossoming

What exactly is blossoming? It can refer to the constant tending to a plant to have it show fruit. It can also refer to our faith which we tend to when we go to church on Sunday and when we care about all whom we deal with on a daily basis. With human interaction come pitfalls. Do we become angry and impatient? We can overcome these defects when we think about all the sacrifices that Jesus made for us so that we might have eternal life. When we do this, and follow His way of life, our spirit blossoms.

There are so many traps along the way unfortunately. For example, turning on the news and hearing about all the terrible things going on in the world can create fear. Fear is the devil's instrument because it stunts our personal growth and can prevent us from developing into the person that we could be. We start planning our own future, forgetting that God has already planned it and takes care of us, always.

Let's think about the early Church. Mary, the mother of God, is like a gardener, tending to a plant, waiting for it to bloom. In this case, her example and constant caring of the Apostles helped them to lay the foundations of the early Church. We need to remember how, after Pentecost, they went out to

spread the good news to Jew and gentile alike. They had been strengthened by the Holy Spirit and their faith had truly blossomed.

Another thought to ponder. It was through the life, death and Crucifixion of Jesus that the Church was able to grow and flourish. There was now a hope for the future and a purpose for living.

This will be my last editorial because of my cancer diagnosis and so I say "farewell". One thing I've learned through my love of Jesus, is that we shouldn't be afraid, or concerned, about the future, as I know that we are all part of His plan for us to have eternal life. Trusting God gives us purpose and gives us Hope.

I feel neither depressed nor unhappy at the moment because my faith is deep and I know it will bear fruit.

I would like to thank all those wonderful people with whom I've been involved over the years, particularly my beloved wife, Mandy, as well as those people who were with me on the Parish Council and on a past cleaning roster at St Augustine's. We made a great team!

I could not end this editorial without mentioning our coffee gatherings after mass. These have been a special feature of my life.

Blessings, and thank you for having always supported me.
Peter.

While considering articles for the next edition at Christmas, please consider being a sponsor for the 'AM'. Contact Church Office for information!

With thanks from the **AM Committee**: Nicola Hanzic, Peter Cossins, Brenda Hindmarsh, Sharon Cabban, Chris Mason, Pauline Goh-Stribling, Paula Lancaster.

COOLANGATTA - TUGUN CATHOLIC PARISH

COOLANGATTA-TUGUN CATHOLIC PARISH

We recognise the traditional owners of this land, The Yugambah people. Coolangatta means 'place of Splendid Lookout' Tugun means, 'Breaking waves.'



*Our mission is
to live our faith by...
demonstrating communion
with all,
being missionary people
who bring the joy
of our Christian faith
to our society,
proclaiming God's Reign
of Justice, Peace and Love.*



Parish Details

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St Augustine & St Monica,
Coolangatta & Tugun.

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