

The Upper Room

*Bringing faith to life through
the power of the Holy Spirit*

Can the Church be
an antidote for
artificial love?

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50th
Anniversary
of the Parish

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A Whirlwind of Grace
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We acknowledge the Larrakia people, the traditional custodians of the land upon which our Parish sits. Our parish has a unique covenant relationship with our indigenous brothers and sisters of the St Martin de porres Community with whom we work together towards true reconciliation and healing through the love and grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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From the tomb to the upper room

Each year when we begin the Easter vigil, we gather outside around the Easter fire holding candles in the darkness.

After blessing the fire and lighting the pascal candle, we begin to light the candles and pass the flame around the crowd. This is one of my favourite moments during the Easter Triduum, because it symbolises what the church is called to do after we encounter the resurrection. When we receive the light of Christ, we are meant to turn to the next person and help them to receive the light that was given to us.

This simple action is meant to become a daily reality in our lives as we become missionary disciples who share that light of Christ with everyone we meet. If you have received that gift of God's love, you are called to share that gift with others.

Pope Francis explained this in a simple way by saying, "Every Christian is challenged, here and now, to be actively engaged in evangelization; indeed, anyone who has truly experienced God's saving love does not need much time or lengthy training to go out and proclaim that love. -

Every Christian is a missionary to the extent that he or she has encountered the love of God in Christ Jesus: we no longer say that we are "disciples" and "missionaries", but rather that we are always "missionary disciples".

This year, we have tried to respond to this call with a simple formation program called '50 days of encounter'. Each day between Easter and Pentecost, the parish was posting a one-minute video reflection looking at how we experience God's love, receive the anointing of the Holy Spirit and then are sent out as missionary disciples.

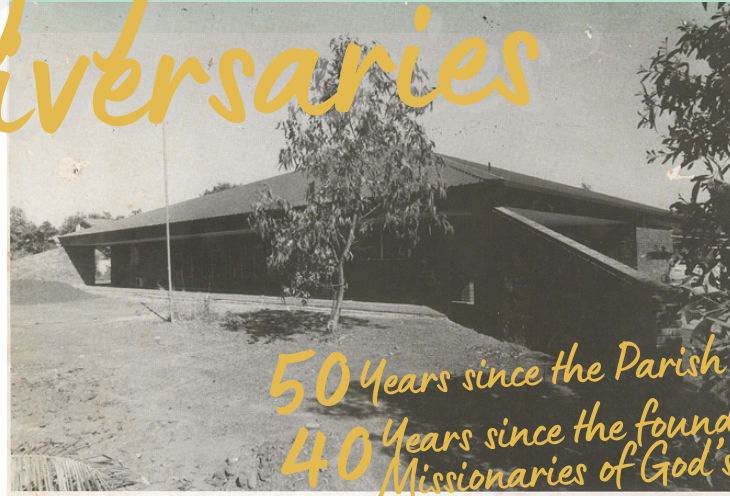
Our parish vision is that we want to "Bring faith to life through the power of the Holy Spirit". As we pray for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on this day of Pentecost, let us ask that our faith can come alive in a whole new way, and that we can have the courage to bring that gift of faith into our daily life.

If you haven't had a chance to follow the video series, you can watch the playlist by scanning this QR code.

Fr Dave



A big year of Anniversaries



50 Years since the Parish began

40 Years since the founding of the Missionaries of God's Love congregation

40th Anniversary since Pope John Paul II visited the Northern Territory

30 Years since the start of the MGL mission in Darwin

10 Years since the MGL's began working at Holy Spirit Parish

Each of these moments have shaped the identity of the Holy Spirit Parish in unique ways. This is a brief history of how these moments have influenced our identity as a parish

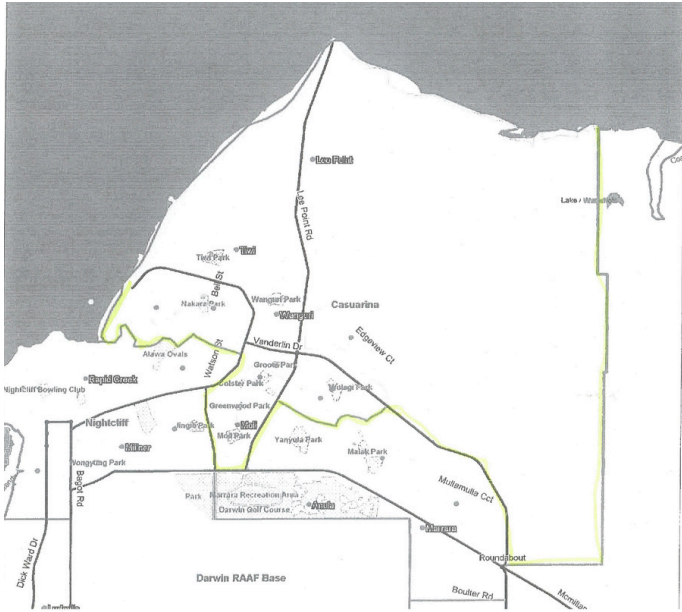
1974 Gone with the Wind

The exact starting point of the parish is a little bit vague. Officially the parish boundary was created in 1974.

There were a couple of masses celebrated in the Wagaman primary school, but this was cut short because of Cyclone Tracy. There was so much damage in the northern suburbs that the plans for the parish were put on hold for a couple of years. The dream of a new parish had been blown away with the cyclone and would take a couple of years before it would have a second chance at life.



The northern suburbs of Darwin were seriously damaged by Cyclone Tracy



When the Parish Boundary was created in 1974, most of the parish was bushland.

1977

The Original Church is built

In August 1976, the Bishop gave the parish a grant to build the original church. While the church was under construction, the parish hired a caravan so that Fr Brady could use that as the presbytery and parish office. In July 1977, the church was completed and officially opened by Bishop O'Loughlin.



The original parish church which is now used by the St Martins community

1976

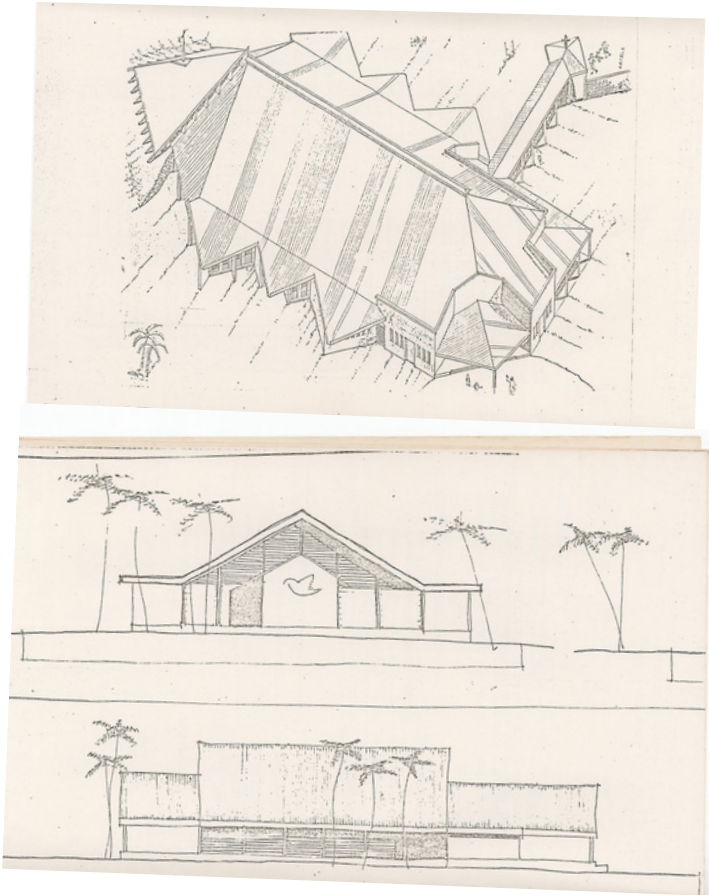
A second attempt at forming the parish

In 1976, there was a second attempt at starting the parish, with masses being held at the Wanguri Primary school. One of our long-term parishioners, Ray Allwright, shared the story of how it began.

“After cyclone Tracy all the Northern suburbs mob attended St Paul's. After a few years Bishop O'Loughlin MSC decided to appoint Father Brady to start a new parish for the growing number of people moving into the newly developed northern suburbs. Permission was obtained to have mass in the Wanguri Primary School while a new church was built. The first mass was arranged for a room at the school. From memory about a dozen people attended Mass.

When it was time for the first collection, Father Brady picked up a plastic bowl from one of the many toy boxes in the classroom and requested I pass it around. As I neared the end of the collection I heard laughter behind me and I was shocked to see my three year old daughter following me, holding a plastic water pistol at people as I passed the bowl around the room. I was very embarrassed by the situation and some 50 plus years on I am still embarrassed whenever I think of my daughter's action.”

The Upper Room



Two of the alternative designs for the Holy Spirit Church

1986

The new church opens

On Pentecost Sunday 1986, the new Holy Spirit church was officially opened. The community prepared for the opening with an all night prayer vigil at the old church before holding the opening ceremony on Pentecost Sunday



Pope John Paul II during his visit to Alice Springs

1984

Growing Pains

Over the next few years, the parish community had grown so much that the priests were needing to celebrate six masses each weekend to meet the needs of the community. There was a growing awareness that they needed to build a much larger church. One of the key reasons for the new church was that “so many masses can provide for a self-destructive element in our parish community by fragmenting or breaking down the interaction which is seen as an essential part of Catholic Community Life”.

A building committee was formed in November 1984 and three designs were proposed for the new church (the two alternative designs are included here). The first sod of soil for the construction was officially turned in September 1985.

1986

Pope John Paul II visits the Territory

A few months after the new church was opened, the pope visited Darwin and Alice Springs. In Alice Springs, the Pope gave a famous speech calling on the church to recognise the contribution of indigenous people in the life of the church. This speech would inspire some of the Aboriginal leaders in Darwin to dream of having their own place to worship.

1988

One Church becomes Two

Some of the local indigenous Catholics approached the Bishop to see if they could have a church of their own to celebrate mass as a community. At this point, the old Holy Spirit church was being used as a hall, so the Bishop proposed the idea that it could be used as a place where indigenous Catholics could worship as their own community. In 1988, the old church officially became the St Martin de Porres Community.



The signing of the covenant

2004

Two Communities become one

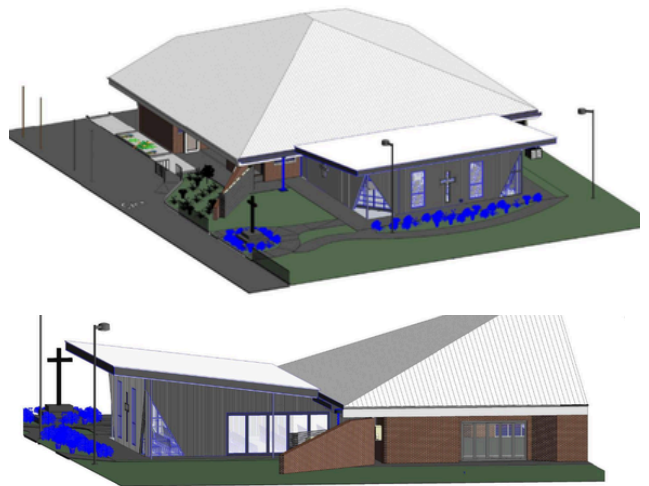
It was a very unusual situation to have two Catholic churches next to each other. Over the years, there were often tensions between the communities as they tried to share the same space. After trying to find various solutions to the problem, one of the parishioners proposed the idea of forming a covenant relationship between the two communities. Following the scriptural concept of 'covenant', the communities would enter into a partnership where they would work together while at the same time respecting each other's unique identity.

In 2004, a ceremony was held with Bishop Ted Collins to sign the covenant between the two communities

2026

A vision for the future

40 years after the building of the new church, our community is again facing the same situation. Our parish is continuing to grow and many of our masses are overflowing. Once again we are facing the challenge of our community potentially 'fragmenting' because of lack of space. Over the last couple of years we have been working on a design to extend the church. Our building committee has hit a number of road-blocks along the way and they have had to redesign the extension a couple of times to make it work with the existing structure. The new design (right) is being put out for tender after Pentecost and we hope to have some accurate quotes very soon. The new extension will provide seating for another 100 people at mass, while also being able to be closed off as a separate meeting space for retreats or groups in the church.



If you want to donate to the parish building fund, you can do that by direct bank transfer to the parish account. Please tag the donation as 'Building Fund'

**Account - Holy Spirit Parish
BSB: 085933
Acc:579618220**

Bringing the Fire of God's Love

By Fr Dave



Fr Steve Fletcher leading a procession in Wadeye

In **1986**, the Holy Spirit started doing a new thing in the life of the church. Three young men approached a diocesan priest in Canberra to say that they felt called to the priesthood, but they felt that God was calling them to something a bit different to the normal style of priesthood. Fr Ken Barker met with these young men for a year to discern where God was calling them and over time it became clear that God was calling them to start a new form of consecrated life.

Fr Ken received permission from the bishop to leave the cathedral and start a community which became known as the Missionaries of God's Love. The community was inspired by five patron -

saints who all lived lives of prayer and mission: St Francis of Assisi, St Francis de Sales, St Alphonsus Ligouri, St Ignatius Loyola and St Dominic. The witness of these saints helped to shape the life and spirituality of the brothers and priests in this new community. A short time later, a group of women took up the same calling to develop the MGL sisters.

The heart of the mission was to proclaim the message of God's love and empower lay people to share their faith through the power of the Holy Spirit. Over time, the congregation started to grow and spread around Australia and overseas. Forty years later, the MGL brothers have missions in Melbourne, Canberra, Sydney, Darwin, Indonesia and the Philippines.

The start of the Darwin mission

In 1995, Bishop Ted Collins invited the MGLs to consider coming to the Northern territory. The Jesuit priest, Fr Pat Mullins, was leaving Darwin after caring for the St Martin de Porres community for several years and they now needed a new chaplain. Bishop Ted asked the MGLs to take over this role so that they could bring this gift of the Holy Spirit to the indigenous ministry in the Top End. In early 1996, Fr Steve Fletcher drove from Canberra to Darwin with one of the MGL seminarians to begin the Darwin mission. That long drive was the beginning of 30 years of ministry among the indigenous communities in the Top End. Over the next thirty years, the MGLs cared for the St Martin de Porres community while also doing ministry at the Darwin prison, school chaplaincy at St John's College and youth ministry for the Darwin Diocese.



Fr Steve Fletcher was the first MGL priest at St Martins

Deepening the covenant relationship

In 2016, the MGLs priests were asked to care for the Holy Spirit Parish. Twelve years earlier, the Parish had formed a covenant relationship with the St Martin de Porres community as a way of helping the two communities to walk together. Bishop Eugene believed that this covenant relationship would be strengthened if the MGL priests were working across both communities. Over the last ten years, it has been a huge privilege for the MGLs to work with this parish. Our hope is that we will be able to continue working across both communities for many years to come. In early June, we will be holding a couple of small celebrations to mark these anniversaries. Keep an eye on the parish bulletin for details.



If you want to find out more about the life and mission of the MGLs, go to www.mglpriestsandbrothers.org

A Whirlwind of Grace in Timor-Leste

By Fr. Suraj, MGL



Fr Suraj giving a teaching with the
help of a translator in Timor
Leste

From the 30th of April to the 4th of May, I was blessed beyond measure to be part of the HESED 2026 retreat. As I reflect back on the grace-filled experience of my recent mission trip to Timor-Leste with the Jesus Youth Australia missionaries, my heart is still echoing with the songs and prayers of 245 vibrant university students. Looking back, I can confidently say that we didn't just run a retreat; we stood on holy ground and watched the Holy Spirit take the lead.

A Divine mosaic

Our ministry team was a beautiful, "Divine Mosaic" brought together by the Lord's design. Alongside me were four members of the Jesus Youth National Mission and Outreach team from Australia, a talented musician from the JY Dubai community, and my fellow MGL brother, Br. Sam, currently on mission in Indonesia.



The team from Jesus Youth

The word *Hesed* refers to the steadfast, merciful love of God, and that is exactly what poured out over those five days. To see 245 university students, the future of their nation, set aside their phones and textbooks to seek the face of Jesus was transformative. Their desire for a personal encounter with Christ was palpable in every quiet, breathless moment of Adoration.

While the retreat was designed for the students, it was a "grace-filled re-encounter" for the team as well. You simply cannot stand in the middle of a profound move of the Spirit and remain unchanged. We truly witnessed how powerfully God works when His people pray. As I continue my journey, I carry the faces of those students with me, praising God for turning a university gathering into a sanctuary of mercy.

"Maromak nia domin rohan-laek hamutuk ho Ita"
(God's endless love be with you)

"Maromak nia domin rohan-laek hamutuk ho Ita"

However, the heartbeat of this mission was the local Jesus Youth core team in Timor-Leste. I was profoundly impressed by their dedication and tireless efforts. Furthermore, the support from the local diocese and religious orders was vital, turning the retreat into a blessed experience for the entire community.

A Vision for the Future

The day after the retreat concluded, our resource team and the local Jesus Youth Chaplain had the distinct honour of being invited to the residence of His Eminence, Cardinal Virgílio do Carmo da Silva, S.D.B. As the Metropolitan Archbishop of Dili and the first Cardinal from Timor-Leste, his support is a great gift.

During this meeting, we had the opportunity to debrief our experiences and discuss the possibility of more frequent mission trips and retreat opportunities. It was inspiring to see his heart for the youth and his openness to fostering a deeper culture of mission in Timor-Leste.



250 Students gathered for the retreat in Dili

How personal conversion will heal your marriage



There are two markedly different views about marriage: the traditional Judeo-Christian view of marriage, and the newer, now more prevalent "soul-mate model"? In the soul-mate model, the primary obligation of marriage is not to care for one's family well but to achieve self-fulfilment through an emotionally satisfying relationship with a partner.

In contrast, the Judeo-Christian understanding is that marriage is a sacred, lifelong union of husband and wife with the common aims of deepening their mutual love, raising children, and helping each other to attain eternal life in God. The spouses are not preoccupied with fulfilling themselves by having a satisfying relationship in modern psychological terms but focus on becoming other Christs to each other.

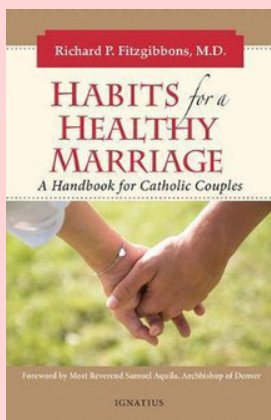
To achieve this, spouses must daily attempt to grow in their ability to love as God loves, which requires ongoing personal development. This personality growth involves acknowledging one's personality weaknesses, receiving and giving forgiveness, and cultivating virtue, that is, the habits of doing good. Although this view of marriage might seem overly demanding, it is the route to true self-fulfilment.

For Catholic husbands and wives married in the Church, strength to love as Christ loves is available to them through the Sacrament of Matrimony, which is sustained by the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist. For Catholics, marriage is not a purely human institution, but one established by God, who created men and women in his own image and likeness and calls married couples to reflect his unfailing love through their lifelong fidelity to each other. This is a tall order, but the good news is that the Lord who calls also provides the grace to fulfil the calling.

All couples need to do is receive that grace. To receive the grace they need, couples must first recognise the weaknesses in themselves that harm their ability to love. These are acquired primarily from two sources. The first source is whichever of each spouses' parents was the most hurtful and disappointing, usually the father. The subsequent sadness, anger, mistrust, and insecurity (often referred to as "baggage") are brought unconsciously into marriage. My clinical observation of this phenomenon is supported by research demonstrating that about 70 percent of adult psychological disorders are extensions of juvenile disorders. The second source of marital conflict is the hurts and the personality clashes that have occurred in the marriage. Both sources can contribute to the development of anger, selfishness, controlling behaviours, and emotional distance.

Growth in self-knowledge, in order to pinpoint marital conflicts and their causes, is a challenging process, because family-of-origin hurts are often denied or falsely thought to be caused by one's spouse. Also, people tend to put up strong walls around the pain caused by their parents. We need to go through a process of uncovering the sources of conflicts and then healing them through the development of good habits, or virtues, with the help of grace. The goal of this hard work is greater trust and love, which lead to the kind of marriage that brings deep peace and lasting joy.

Most spouses do not deliberately set out to hurt the persons they have vowed to honour and love all the days of their lives. Instead, they unconsciously inflict painful wounds because of injuries suffered in the past. Sadly, if the conflicts are not uncovered and addressed, spouses can turn in on themselves and surrender to hopelessness. The good news is that marital conflicts can be correctly identified and, in many cases, resolved, especially if there is a faith component in the healing process.



This is an extract from the book "Habits of a healthy Marriage: A handbook for Catholic Couples" by Richard Fitzgibbons. To find out more about how to go through healing in your marriage, go to www.maritalhealing.org/couples-resources

A key part of our parish vision is to help build strong marriages and healthy families. In August, we will be running a special series for married couples so that you can strengthen your marriage and go through deeper healing in your relationship. Keep an eye on the parish bulletin for more details

Can the Church be an antidote for artificial love?

Technology is creating a strange new world where AI is promising to create to a cure for loneliness, while at the same time it is destroying our ability to build relationships and be human. This new reality presents the church with both a difficult challenge and an amazing opportunity.

If you have been paying attention to where the world is going, you will be familiar with the fact that artificial intelligence is gradually taking over every aspect of life. This technology has the potential to reshape not only the economy and the workplace, but also our whole experience of what it means to be human.

A recent study in America found that 72% of teens and 67% of adults under the age of 35 are using AI chatbots for companionship. If you are over the age of 50, you might have no idea of what that previous sentence means. What this means is that nearly three quarters of teenagers are choosing to talk to a computer instead of a human being when they need companionship. When they come home from a hard day at university or work, the first person they approach to get support is a computer program that is designed to build an emotional connection with the user.

These AI companions are programmed to be the most perfect friend, affirming whatever emotion the user is experiencing. This creates an artificial experience of intimacy but over time it makes it harder for people to build relationships with real humans. People are being taught to expect perfection in relationships, which obviously can't be found when dealing with real human beings.

At a recent conference in Scotland, Father Michael Baggot explained that "AI companions that look or even feel like real friendships will become even more absorbing. They will distract users from the often arduous task of building meaningful interpersonal bonds. They will also discourage others from investing time and energy into risky interactions with unpredictable and volatile human beings who might reject gestures of love. While human relationships are risky, AI intimacy seems safe."

Fr Michael warned that "Children are especially sensitive to social validation. Affirmation from social AI systems could easily create dangerous emotional attachments. In some cases, the deep bond with a system that appears to know and appreciate the user more fully than any human being can lead the user to social withdrawal."

Pope Leo has recently written an Encyclical about AI which will be released on May 25th. Here are some of his thoughts about AI

“Use AI in such a way that if it disappeared tomorrow, you would still know how to think”

“Renouncing creativity and surrendering our mental capacities and imagination to machines, would mean burying the talents we have been given to grow as individuals in relation to God and others.”

“Human beings are called to be co-workers in the work of creation, not merely passive consumers of content generated by artificial technology...Artificial intelligence has certainly opened up new horizons for creativity, but it also raises serious concerns about its possible repercussions on humanity’s openness to truth and beauty, and capacity for wonder and contemplation”

People are turning to artificial relationships because they find real human relationships too complicated. We need to reaffirm that fact that human relationships are beautiful because they are messy. We only grow as human beings when we engage with the complicated nature of communication.

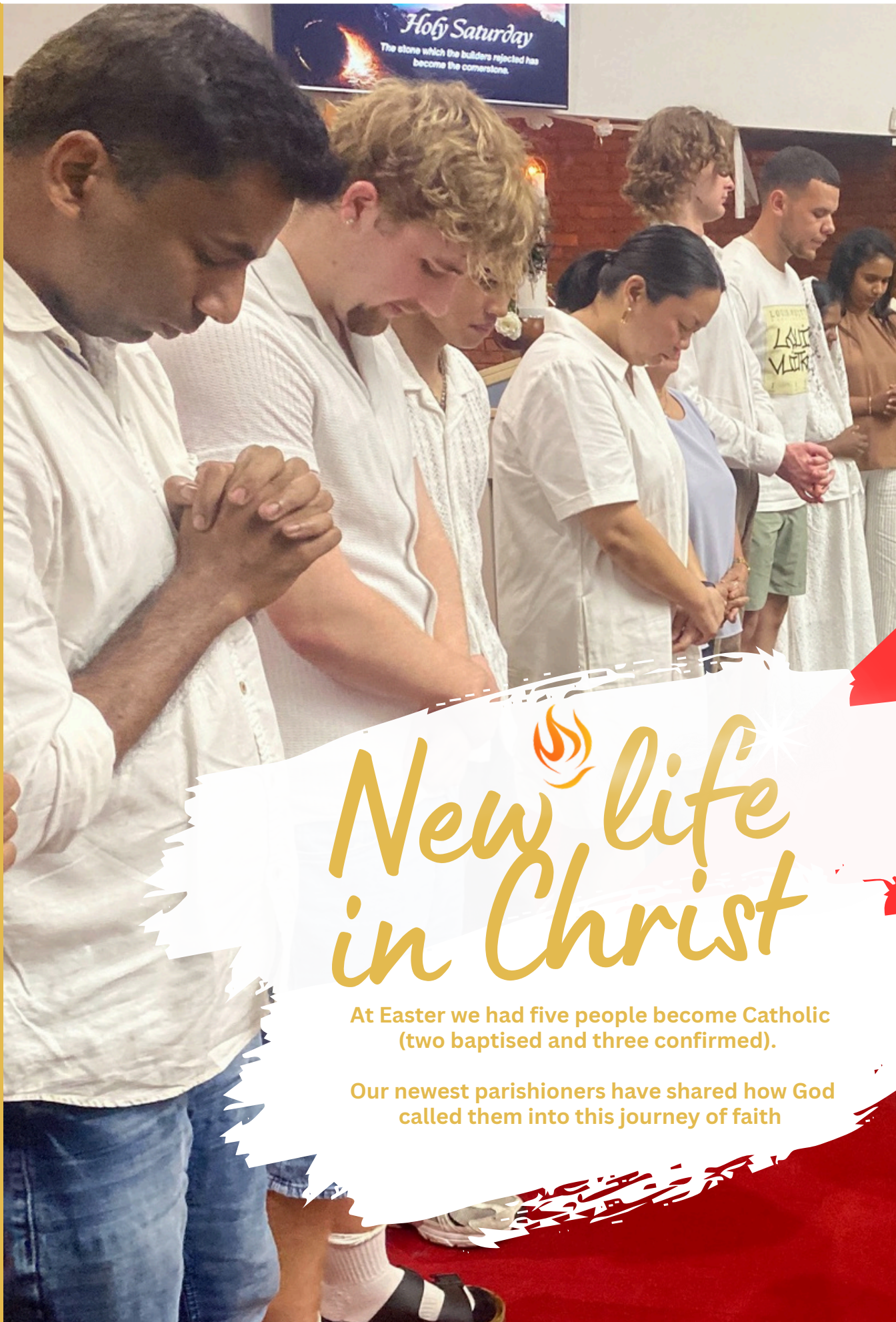
While young people are the early adopters of this new technology, there is also a growing number of elderly people who are turning to these artificial relationships as a way of dealing with their loneliness.

In previous generations, the parish held social events as a way of building community. Today, we are running these events as a way of trying to rebuild humanity. Every time you gather for a cup of tea after mass or attend a parish event, you are not just trying to build a parish, you are helping to rebuild a civilisation of love.

The church is in a unique place to be the antidote to this ‘artificial love’. However, we need to become much more intentional in how we relate with each other and welcome the visitors in our midst. We need to realise that even the smallest moment where we step outside our comfort zone and talk to another parishioner might be a life changing encounter for them.

How to fight back against ‘artificial love’

- 1) Encourage your teenagers to join the parish youth groups so that they build real relationships with other youth**
- 2) Get involved in a parish small group so that you can share your life and faith with others**
- 3) Get involved with volunteering in one of the parish ministries so that you can build relationship while serving with others**
- 4) Get involved in the senior’s morning tea.**



New life in Christ

At Easter we had five people become Catholic (two baptised and three confirmed).

Our newest parishioners have shared how God called them into this journey of faith

“I decided to fully embrace my Catholic faith because I truly want to grow closer to God. For a long time, I was someone who only went to church when 'dragged along' for special occasions like Christmas and Easter. However, my son expressed a wish for us to attend more frequently, so we did. With every Mass, the homilies have become more meaningful to me. It made me realise there is a depth to Catholicism that is so much richer than what I chose to believe in the past. This experience has opened my eyes to a side of Catholicism I hadn't known before, shifting the perspective I held for so many years - that's why I've converted.”

– **Farrah Kendrick**

I opened my heart to Christ after researching/experiencing the level of evil in this world. I started with one prayer in bed and felt an overwhelming feeling of love and peace come over me that I've never felt before. In that moment I knew God is real, a personal experience to go with the genuine historical evidence I had been looking into.

I began my journey at Glory City Protestant church but never felt truly home. An unexplainable feeling of something missing on a spiritual level.

So I began research on the early church and started learning about the Eucharist. I was blown away as all my preconceived ideas of the Catholic Church were being destroyed with my own research and not taking others word for it.

This lead to the conclusion that the Holy Catholic Church is the true body of Christ and I feel so at home being baptised/confirmed at Easter

– **Will Merritt**

“I grew up Christian as a child in a family of luke-warm Christians and eventually we had stopped attending church and fell out of belief. My parents chose to take different paths and so did I. I'd always rejected the idea of being religious, yet I always had this belief inside of me. In my teenage years I became curious and starting doing my own research on my faith and attended a Christian church but still felt like something was missing. Through my experiences in Youth for Christ (YFC) I turned my focus to learning about Catholicism. I continued to discern and really give myself time to process it all and ultimately it led me here to becoming a Catechumen and now being baptised within the Catholic Church where I feel purpose and I feel a overwhelming love that is out of this world.

– **Elijah Saunders**

We have another group of seven people preparing to become Catholic in early July and a couple of others who about about to begin their journey in the Becoming Catholic Course. If you know anyone who is curious about the catholic faith and wants to learn more, get in contact with us at the parish office

The Upper Room



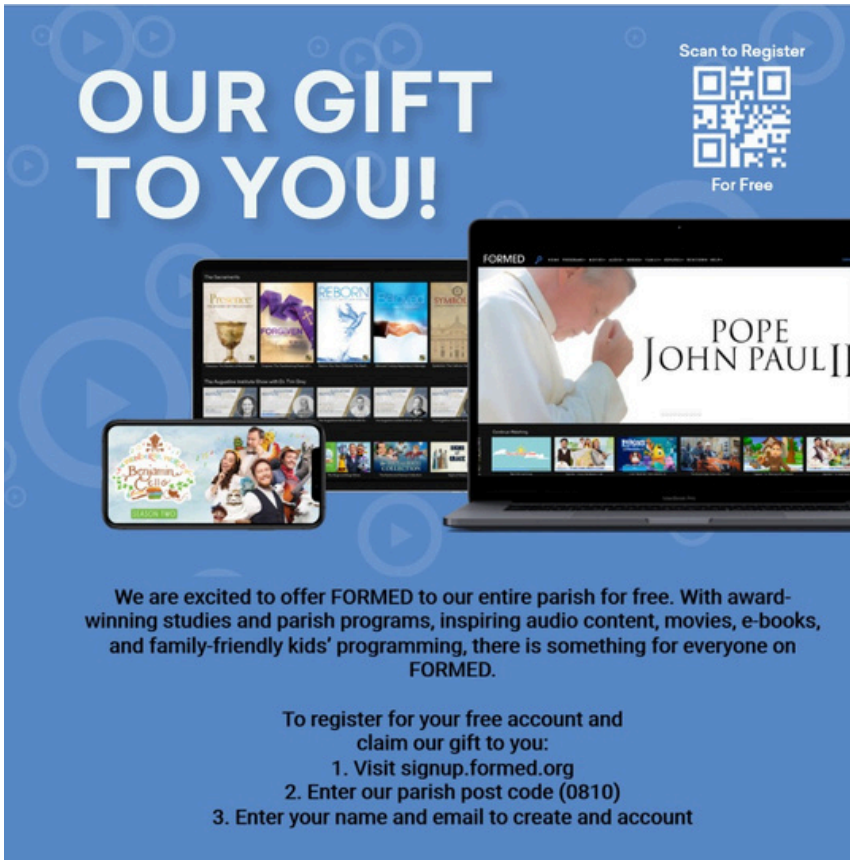
Taking the Gospel to the nations

Jesus called us to make disciples of all nations. One of the beautiful aspects of our parish is that all of the nations have come to us. We are a very multicultural community, with many cultural groups celebrating mass in their own language each month. We currently have monthly masses for the Chinese, Vietnamese, Spanish and Sri Lankan communities (and mass twice a year for the Ukrainian catholic community). We also have the African community singing for the 9:30am mass once a month.

One of the key elements of our parish vision is that we want to support these communities to celebrate mass in their own language, but at the same time, we want them to join us in our mission to bring the gospel to the wider community.

Over the coming years, we want to work with these communities to help them to run outreach programs in their own languages. We have been hearing many stories of people who have moved to Darwin and have struggled to engage with their faith because of language barriers. Our community has a unique opportunity to reach out to these families and connect with them through a shared culture and language.

The Holy Spirit Parish is a parish on mission, so we want to be always looking for creative ways to share the gospel with those who have not heard it. In recent months, Fr Shehan has started running the Alpha course in Sinhala for the Sri Lankan community. The Spanish community has been trying to respond by finding similar programs to evangelise people in Spanish.




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3. Enter your name and email to create and account



We want to encourage every cultural group in the parish to start looking outward and asking how they can share the gospel in their own language. The Alpha course has currently been translated into over 60 languages. The popular film series about the life of Jesus, 'The Chosen', has been translated into 125 languages. The 'Formed' website that the parish has a subscription to also has faith formation resources in Spanish and Portuguese.

If you want to start sharing your faith with your own cultural community, we can help you get started. Come and chat to one of the priests and we will give you resources, training and help you every step of the journey.



What is Alpha?

The Alpha Course is a chance to explore the meaning of life and the essence of Christianity. The course is always held in the context of a meal where people can share openly and engage with the big questions of life and faith.

We want to encourage each cultural group to run the Alpha course in their own language as a way of reaching out to their own community.



Forming Missionary Disciples

By Fr Dave

Our parish vision is “To bring faith to life through the power of the Holy Spirit”. This is a response to the call of Pope Francis for us to not only be believers in Jesus or disciples who live their lives in a personal way. We are all called to be sharing our faith as missionary disciples.

Between Easter and Pentecost, we ran a special formation session for the key volunteers and leaders in the parish to help form them as missionary disciples.

Fr Shehan explained the purpose of this training by saying, “The leaders sometimes feel like they are always ministering to other people, so there is a need for them to receive. Pope Francis says that we always begin with an encounter with Christ and then that leads to a joyful witness of faith in everyday life. Every baptised person is called to be a missionary disciple.”

Over six weeks, the group heard talks on the topics of ‘Loved, anointed and sent’. These talks challenged the group to go deeper in their understanding of God’s love and the call that he places on our lives.

Natalie Lim helped to present the course, giving simple examples of how people can step into the anointing of the Holy Spirit. She summarised the course by saying, “If we want to embrace the fullness of life in Christ then we need to focus on two things: Being Loved, where we know who we are in relationship to God and understand what He says about us and Being Anointed, where we identify the gifts God wants to give us.”

“Discipleship happens in the ordinary moments of life.”

— Natalie Lim



After delving into the mystery of God's love and the anointing of the Spirit, the talks focused on how Jesus sends us out to witness to this grace in the world.

The participants were given some practical activities to identify the charisms that the Holy Spirit was giving them. The training then looked at how these charisms could be used to bring witness to the love of God in simple ways.

Natalie explained to the group that “you do not need a church pulpit to live out your mission. Discipleship happens in the ordinary moments of life.”

We sometimes think that being ‘sent’ on mission means going on mission to a remote place in another country. The reality is that Jesus sends us to witness to people in our own city. The unique element of lay evangelisation is that it happens in the daily moments of life as you walk alongside people in your family and workplace.

The parish leaders were encouraged to see their mission as a ministry of accompaniment. Natalie explained that “accompaniment is walking with people on their faith journeys, just as Jesus did on the road to Emmaus. We already use our spiritual gifts (charisms) to meet people exactly where they are in everyday life.”

The primary goal of this training was to give something back to those who are always serving in our parish community. But the long-term hope is they will feel empowered to pass on this new understanding with the ministry teams that they lead in the parish.

**Want to get involved in the parish?
Scan this QR code to sign up for one of our ministry teams or get updates about parish events**



The Eucharistic Journey to 2028

“Dear young people, the happiness you are seeking, the happiness you have a right to enjoy has a name and a face: it is Jesus of Nazareth, hidden in the Eucharist.” - Pope Benedict XVI

If you haven't already heard the news, the Pope is coming to Australia in 2028 to speak at the Eucharistic congress in Sydney. The Eucharistic congress is a global gathering that unites people in faith, worship, and reflection to deepen their understanding of the Eucharist.

The Congress offers a rich spiritual and cultural program designed to inspire, uplift, and unite. Pilgrims will have the opportunity to enter into moving Eucharistic celebrations and moments of communal prayer, inspiring catechesis and keynote sessions, and exhibitions and opportunities for encounter. There will be youth and family activities, as well as cultural performances and artistic expressions of faith, ensuring the event is a moving pilgrimage experience for all who join this journey.

The congress is not simply a one-week event. Over the next couple of years, our journey to the congress will be a chance to go deeper into our understanding of the Eucharist through retreats and formation.

How to get involved

As a parish our journey begins with the Eucharistic procession on the feast of Corpus Christi on June 7th. We want to invite all parishioners to join the mass at the Cathedral and then walk together in worship of Jesus in the procession through the streets of Darwin.

In July, our parish will be hosting a relic of Saint Carlo Acutis. St Carlo was canonised last year for his work in promoting awareness of Eucharistic miracles. This will be a chance for us to enter deeper into the mystery of the Eucharist through the witness of this young saint.

Over the next year, we will also be holding some formation sessions to help you go deeper in an understanding of the theology and spirituality of the mass. Keep an eye on the parish bulletin for details.

To find out more about the Eucharistic congress, go to www.eucharist28.org/



ARE YOU READY TO BE A PART OF THE **BIGGEST** CATHOLIC GATHERING IN NT?

This is your chance to be renewed and encounter God!



ARE YOU LOOKING FOR AN OPPORTUNITY TO STEP AWAY FROM THE NOISE AND BUSYNESS OF EVERYDAY LIFE?

ARE YOU LONGING TO RECONNECT WITH GOD IN A DEEPER AND MORE PERSONAL WAY?

This is your invitation. Come to **IGNITE Darwin** this winter!

Ignite Conference is a powerful Catholic gathering where thousands come together to encounter God and deepen their faith.

Over **THREE** transformational days, the conference features **Live worship, Powerful speakers, Engaging workshops, The Sacraments** and **Food** provided throughout the conference.

It is a dedicated space for spiritual renewal, designed to make faith real again. Testimonies from past conferences in Brisbane and Sydney consistently show that people leave changed, with their personal encounter with Jesus flowing directly into their everyday lives. We'd love for Darwin to experience this powerful impact!



SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!

Ignite truly offers something for every member of the community. From primary school children and high school students to young adults, families, and parish communities — everyone has a place at Ignite.

Whether you come on your own, with friends, or as a family, Ignite Conference is for **YOU!** The invitation is simple: come along, bring your family, and bring a friend!



**SCAN TO REGISTER AND
LEARN MORE or VISIT**
<https://igniteconference.com.au>

The Upper Room

Why did we release a parish magazine?

There are so many good things happening around this parish that we wanted to create a place for everyone to celebrate the amazing things that God is doing.

How often will this magazine be produced?

Our current plan is to do this twice a year, at Pentecost and Christmas.

Why is it called 'The Upper Room'?

The Bible says that on the day of Pentecost, the Apostles gathered in 'The Upper Room' to pray for the gift of the Holy Spirit. We want our parish to be the place where we pray for this grace of the Spirit and celebrate the wonders of God in our midst

Do you need any help with the next edition?

We were able to produce this really quickly with the help of a few parishioners. If you have any skills in photography, writing, editing or proof-reading, we would love to get some help.