

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish Henley Beach

On the Traditional Lands of the Kurna People

Christmas—Nativity of the Lord

25th December 2024

Parish Priest: Fr Manu Kumbidiyamackal MSFS

Pastoral Care: Sr Helen Armstrong OLSH

Child safe contact Person: Jane Sage 0435062071

Alpha Programs Director: Barb Conlon

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Office Hours: Mon & Tues: 9am–12pm; Wed & Thurs: 9am–2pm; Fri: 9am–3:30pm



Star of the Sea Primary School: Phone: 8115 7400 Email: info@star.catholic.edu.au

Web: <https://www.star.catholic.edu.au/news-events/enewsletters>

Mass Times: Monday 8 pm Candlelit Mass (Restarts from the first week of February)

Tues: 9:15am, Wed: 8:00am, Thurs & Fri: 9:15am, Reconciliation Saturday 8:45am – 9:10am

Sat 9:15am (qualifies as a Sunday Mass); Vigil Saturday 6:00pm; Sunday 9.30am; 5:30pm

COMING UP:

Christmas Mass Times

Tuesday 24th:

6 pm : Family mass

8.30 pm : Vigil Mass

12 : Midnight

Wednesday 25th

8 am , 9.30 am

New Year Mass Times

Wednesday

1st January 9.30am

Readings

Christmas

Is 9: 1 -7

Ps 95: 1 –3 , 11-13,

Tit 2:11 –14

Lk 2: 1-14

**The HOLY FAMILY of
Jesus, Mary and Joseph**

1 Sm 1:20-22. 24-28

Ps 127:1-5.

Col 3:12-21

Lk 2:41-52

Editorial Board

Fr Manu

Barb Conlon

Yvette Faria Pronk

Susanne Kennedy

**Fr Manu and the Parish office
wish You All a Very
Happy Christmas and a
Bright and Prosperous New Year.**

Christmas Masses

Christmas Eve

Tuesday 24th December

6.00pm Family Mass

8.30pm Vigil Mass

12.00 Midnight Mass

Christmas Day

Wednesday 25th December

8 am Morning Mass

9.30am Morning Mass

New Year's day Mass

January 1st Wednesday 9.30 am.

There will not be an evening mass on the 1st of January.

Office Closure

Please Note that the Parish Office remains closed from Friday 20th December and reopen Monday 20th January 2025



God Most High and God Most Nigh.....

Dear parishioners,

Once again Christmas is at hand. I take this time to wish you and your families a Happy and Holy Christmas. Christmas brings us the message that though God is the Almighty One, God is also Immanuel. If you want a balanced picture of God, you've got to put together those two names. God is God Most High and God Most Nigh. God exists outside time and space. God is also Immanuel, God with us. God entered space and time 2,000 years ago in a tiny village outside Jerusalem called Bethlehem. Jesus was subject to the same spiritual laws that govern all of us. He was also subject to the same physical laws that govern the universe. I have these weird thoughts sometimes. Here's one of them: For the better part of 30 years, Jesus worked as a carpenter. I wonder if Jesus ever missed the nail and hit his thumb. I wonder if he ever got a splinter. I think he did. I think Jesus got bumps and bruises and toothaches and stomachaches and headaches. He got tired and hungry. Philippians 2:6 says Jesus "made himself nothing." He "humbled himself and became obedient to death, even death on a cross!" He became touchable and approachable. Think about this: The Omnipresent One downsized to the confines of a human womb. The Omnipotent One became a helpless baby that had to be fed and nursed. He became nothing. Why? He became nothing so that we could become something.

At this great time of joy and thanksgiving, I would like to send my personal gratitude to each of you and your families for being a part of our faith-filled and dynamic community here at Henley Beach. May the beauty, peace and joy of this most blessed season envelop you all with the infinite love of God, and the wonder of the birth of His only Son, our Saviour, Jesus.

Christmas is an opportunity to thank all who give generously of their time and talents in making this Parish such an energetic, faith-filled community that it is at present. I have already mentioned all that in the bulletin that we published on the volunteers' weekend. There have been so many blessings that I thank God for this past year. Thank you very much for the prayers, support, financial contributions, genuine love and concern of so many of you faithful parishioners. Specially, may I mention the names of Sr Helen, Joanne, Susanne and Barb our excellent team in the parish office whose cheerful availability and hard work help us tremendously in being what we are. Christianity is never a "spectator sport" in which we simply sit back, watch and cheer. Rather, it involves active participation and a life commitment, which I have experienced in the way you get involved in the various activities of the parish. A word of thanks to all for the greetings, gifts, prayers and support that was so personal for me as I celebrate this second Christmas with you at Henley, away from home and my homeland.

Maybe the Christmas message this year should be a challenge for all of us to become more involved? It is not so much a question of giving more; it is a question of giving more of ourselves. After all, that's what God was doing when he got involved with us and our world at the first Christmas. The greatest gift God gives us is the present of God's presence. This is what we celebrate at Christmas.

As we enter into the new year 2025, I pray that the coming year brings with it the joy, hope, peace and prosperity that you hope for and may all your dreams for the coming year be fulfilled and may God walk with you all through 2025.

In closing, my prayer today is that you, your family and homes be filled with the Blessings of Peace, Joy and Love. At the same time, I thank you all sincerely for your thoughtful prayers, Christmas greetings and gifts. May all of you, my dear parishioners be overshadowed with the mighty and powerful blessings of the Baby Jesus. Once again I wish you all a Joyous and Blessed Christmas and a Bright and Prosperous New Year.



Social Justice Action Group

"Small Change for a Big Change"

All Funds raised contributing to clean and safe water, sanitation etc. for 4,959 people in 4 villages in Zimbabwe!

Water Bottles will be available at the back of church in the New Year for anyone wishing to take them now to collect their loose change over the next few weeks.

Please return these by the end of February.

Please Note Candlelit Mass



Monday Candlelit Mass 8pm. Monday December 23rd was the last Mass for the year.

Monday February 3rd 2025 is the first Mass for the new year.



Please Remember in Your Prayers this Week:

Recently Deceased:

Graham Bruce, Tania Cavuoto, Fr Terry Bowman MSC, Age Selita, David Marriott, Margaret Kennedy, Karl Chehade (Sr.), Sr Bridgid DeMello MSCJ, Fr Len Helm MSC, Nikoll Ducaj, Maurice Travers, Pat Berti, Leo Faulkner, Beth Alison, Josephine Mobley, Kate Tamits, Desmond Peters.

Anniversaries

Hendrika Middelberg, Sam Marafioti, Angelo Faria.

Sick Parishioners

Terence Byrne, John Boeyen, Peter Stevens, Sean Kennedy, Wendy Boeyen, Graham Bracket, Aduzinda Matthews, Annette Smith, Brian Fitzgerald, Margaret O'Connor, Peter Tierney, Sonia Bennie, Amelia D'Aloia, Terry Cashin, Rene Young, Brendan Taylor, Rose Oteng, Julie Green.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.



From the PPC

Dear Parishioners,
 Having spent some time overseas on replenishment leave, I had the opportunity to reflect on 2024 as a year of renewal, growth, and faith within our Catholic community. The universal Church has called us to deepen our understanding of synodality, walking together as a people united in Christ. While in Vietnam, I witnessed the love of God and the significance of being part of a Catholic community during Mass at a local church. These moments reinforced the shared bond we have as members of the universal Church. As a parish, we have been blessed with parish gatherings, prayer groups, the Alpha Youth Group, and community events. Through these, we have seen the Spirit at work among us, fostering a deeper sense of connection and shared purpose. Let us continue to embrace this journey with open hearts, actively listening to one another and responding to the Gospel in our daily lives.

Our parish has been richly blessed with opportunities to grow in faith and service. The Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) members have dedicated much time and effort to embedding our Heart Values, while our sacramental programs continue to flourish. Outreach initiatives supporting those in need through various Catholic charities have further demonstrated the vibrant expression of God's love in action. I am particularly proud of the generosity shown through our Christmas Vinnies Tree and our support of the Hutt Street Centre's Christmas Table, which exemplify our commitment to social justice. Whether supporting new families, providing pastoral care to the elderly, or mentoring young people, the dedication of our parishioners reflects the heart of Christ's mission. Thank you for your vital contributions.

As a parish, the connection and love we share for Father Manu cannot be overstated. He is a remarkable leader of our Church—supportive, caring, and deeply understanding. As Chairperson of the PPC, I feel truly blessed to work alongside a priest who engages so lovingly with every person who supports our parish. I also extend my gratitude to the PPC and PFC members, who have offered unwavering support throughout what has been a busy year. Additionally, I want to thank the many volunteers who keep our parish running—our office staff, maintenance team, gardeners, and all those who give their time to support so many worthy causes.

As we look to the remainder of the year, let us remain steadfast in our commitment to live as joyful witnesses to the Good News. Together, we can continue to build a parish community that is inclusive, prayerful, and outward-looking. May the Eucharist, the source and summit of our faith, guide our steps as we serve one another and the world around us.

God Bless,

-Matt Williams
 Chairperson, Henley Beach Parish
 Pastoral Council



From Star of the Sea: Our Primary School



This year has been truly special for the Star of the Sea community, filled with joyful celebrations and meaningful moments. We have come together as a community to embrace a wide range of events that showcased the heart and spirit of our school.

A highlight was farewelling Damian Weeks, who retired after 37 years of dedicated service. Damian's passion and leadership have shaped our school in profound ways, leaving a lasting legacy of care, commitment, and growth.

From the vibrant costumes and creative displays at Book Week to the excitement of our new building's Open Day, where our talented Rock Bands and Choirs shone, we've celebrated creativity, talent, and inclusivity. Our Year 6 students had a memorable graduation dinner and end of year assembly with Matt Cowdry visiting our school and marking the end of their primary school journey with joy and pride. Mission Week brought our community together to raise funds and awareness for St Vinnies all while having fun and strengthening our bonds.

As part of the Season of Creation, our students enjoyed a beautiful Creation Walk to the beach, reminding us of our shared responsibility to care for the environment. We also celebrated the richness of our Catholic faith through our Sacramental Program, deepening our connection to one another and to God.

This has been a year of celebration, growth, and gratitude, one that has truly brought our community closer together. On behalf of our community, we wish everyone a Wonderful Christmas and start to 2025.

-The Leadership Team



Knit & Natter



We had another successful year with approximately 12 attending each fortnight on Thursdays from 10am to Midday. The Knit and Natter group provided rugs, beanies and scarves for abused families and those in need. The group also provide baby clothes and bassinets quilts to Birthline and knitted puppets to underprivileged schools and as a Christmas gift to the youngest members of our parish at Henley Parish Playgroup.

We would like to thank all the generous parishioners for their donations of wool. We are very grateful.

-Carmel Kay

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, alleluia! Good News and great joy to all the world: today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord. Alleluia!



The Henley Music Ministry

The Henley music ministry is a joyful group in our community. They generously give of their time & talent to make our liturgies alive with music that opens our hearts to prayer and to a relationship with Jesus. We are a mixed bag, reflective of our community, with young and older from many different backgrounds.



are committed to creating relevant and uplifting liturgies. We look forward to



Our children's choir, led beautifully by Nichola & Craig, is a joy for all our community. Their young voices lift our spirits and create such positive liturgies. Our young adults continue to offer us a contemporary flavour to their songs of praise & worship. Hearts in Harmony choir is a dynamic group that reflects our wider community and continues to grow in numbers. All are welcome. They are committed to creating relevant and uplifting liturgies. We look forward to having Tim Donovan back on board next year at the 5:30 mass.



The Voices of Faith, the latest addition to the music ministry is a group of talented musicians within our parish led by the Holy Spirit to use their talent for the glory of God. They started off their practice in May and began to sing at Masses from June. Starting off with once a month now they have stepped in for a second one to fill in the vacuum left because of the death of Pat Berti who was one of our long-time musicians.



Patrick Trimboli helps out with live music for Saturday 9.15 masses once month.

Behind the scenes it is Dan Donovan that keeps the ship steady. Each week he creates a PowerPoint for all to use, across all masses, which offers Lukas, Dan and Vania and David the opportunity to bring music to some masses for which we don't have singers available.



Certainly, it takes many hands & many creative spirits to bring our liturgies more alive through music and yet it is all done with joy & love.

If you would like to be part of this ministry, please contact Geraldine on geroreilly23@gmail.com or speak to any of us after mass. **New members are most welcome, singers and musicians.**

-Geraldine O'Reilly



Liturgy Committee

The Liturgy Group meets with Fr Manu to plan the special seasons of the Church's year. We discuss the readings and possible creative displays to enhance the celebration of the mass as a parish. This year we are blessed to have a beautiful, handcrafted Advent Candle display thanks to Craig Parham.

From all of us in the Liturgy Committee, we all wish you a very blessed and joy filled Christmas.

-Lucina Loro-Parham



Children's Liturgy of the Word ...

Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLOW) is organised by a group of Henley Beach Parish volunteers who have a passion for bringing the 'Good News' to young people. During CLOW sessions at the 9.30am Sunday Mass, children make meaning of the Sunday Gospel through listening, questioning, discussion, and prayer. The children often encounter the Gospel story in different ways e.g. through role plays, story telling and activities. Children are encouraged to reflect on their lives and consider how they can share the love of Jesus at home, at school/kindergarten, and in the wider world. Children's Liturgy of the Word is for all children who attend the 9.30am Sunday Mass and it runs most Sundays during school terms. A BIG thank you to all the volunteers who prepare and lead the CLOW sessions for the children of our parish. New members welcome!



-Marcia Burgess



Another great Advent Giving Tree event!

On behalf of the Henley Beach Vinnies Conference, I would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all parishioners for your incredible and generous support.

Caring for the most disadvantaged and vulnerable people in our community was once again exemplified by your generosity and goodwill displayed by your support of our program.



Gifts: distributed to 192 adults & 160 children

Hampers: 33

Gift Cards: 80

Vinnies Henley Beach Conference also provided:

40 x \$50 Drakes Supermarket and Baa Moo Oink butcher (Findon) vouchers

15 x \$25 gift cards

Another \$3,000 was kindly donated by 32 of our parishioners.

Recipients this year included the Seafarers / Elderly parishioners at home / Vinnies Refugee & Asylum Seeker Services / Vinnies Men's Crisis Centre / Vinnies Women's DV Crisis Centre / Circle of Friends / clients assisted by the Henley Beach Conference.

Your continuing support for the marginalized, homeless and most vulnerable brothers and sisters in Christ allows us to continue the good works of our founder, Blessed Frederic Ozanam: ***“Christianity is not about ideas but about deeds inspired by love”***.

The message of Christ's birth is love, hope and peace . . . a legacy for all of us to cherish this Christmas and throughout the entire year.

-The 2024 Advent Giving Tree Team

Henley Beach Parish Playgroup ...

The Henley Beach Parish Playgroup is like one big family. Every Tuesday we come together for a morning of learning through play, exploration, song and dance. We have a wonderful connection to our parish community. Our sessions are held in the hall of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church. We are supported by 3 amazing parishioners who, each week, assist in building and maintaining our amazing community.



At our playgroup we have a different focus each week, including literacy, maths, culture and music. For story time we alternate between a group book, which we link with the craft for that week, and read to self, which is very important with parent-child bonding. It promotes healthy brain development and sparking a child's imagination and curiosity which helps lay the foundations for learning to read.

At playgroup we begin each group time with prayer and together we celebrate many of the events from our church calendar, like Christmas, Easter, Lent, Palm Sunday, Advent, and join in with the parish dignity drive, mission week and some feast days.



We would love to see you next year.

Tuesdays 9:30 – 11am in the hall during school terms.

-Kylie Casey



Volunteers' Day 2024



This year we celebrated the Parish Volunteers' Weekend on 23rd of November. We celebrated the masses on weekend for the intentions of our dear volunteers who help the parish in our day to day running. There was a volunteer's luncheon on 23rd November which was well attended by many of our Volunteers.

-Elisabeth Sydow



Baptism Preparation Team for 2024



Four teams, together with Sr Helen, volunteer for this ministry. This year we had 89 babies and young people baptised in the Parish. For all involved in the team, it is such a blessing to assist families in the preparation of their children to start their journey into becoming Christians. For some of

the families it is their second or third child we are supporting. It shows they feel welcome and happy to return to our Parish.

I have heard families say, that we at the Parish are so welcoming and they feel so at ease from the initial application in the Parish Office, to the actual day their child is Baptised.

I am sure I speak on behalf of the other Baptismal team members, we could not do such a great job without all that Sister Helen does. For me she is such a spiritual and loving person. I learn something new every time we have a preparation evening.

-Tonina Dipilato



Alpha @ Henley ...



Another huge year for the Alpha team and guests. February saw the launch of the first Alpha for 2024 with 34 attendees coming along to gather with others who had questions about faith. Thirty percent of those who came along didn't identify with being Catholic and were hungry to learn about our faith, Jesus, why he died and basic Christian beliefs. The group consisted of many young parents who had big questions and hadn't found a safe place to unpack these before.



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In August our second Adult Alpha for the year saw 43 guests enrol to connect with others and explore faith. The conversations were rich and the feedback after the completion was incredible. People had grown in their faith, their prayer life, connection with others and reading the bible. Many of those who came to Alpha are starting to come to mass and reconnect with their faith and our church because, they feel a stronger sense of belonging, have new friends and are more comfortable sharing their faith with others.

Why not encourage your family and friends who you see at Christmas to "TRY ALPHA" at our 'Come and See' Tuesday 4th February at 7 pm. There's a seat at the table for YOU!

-Barb Conlon



"A Heart for Prayer"

When we pray for others, God listens to us and blesses them, and sometimes, when we feel safe and happy, remember that someone has been praying for you.

This Advent, parishioners were invited to write a prayer intention or a name on a heart shaped post-it note for someone else to pray for their intention with them. This ministry was received well with so many people participating in praying for others within our community.

The concept is simply to write a prayer and place it on the "a heart for prayer" wall at the back of our Church and then, take one off the wall and pray with that person through Advent and beyond.

Give a heart, take a heart.



Have a Happy Christmas and a wonderful New Year!

-Sharina Rabusic



BAPS Committee Wish You all A Happy Christmas and New Year

"The BAPS Group looks after the Building and Property Services of the Parish.

The group is currently assessing Quotes for some much needed maintenance works to the Presbytery, Covered Way, Hall, Fr Manu's Garage, Car Port and Car Parking area.

We hope to be starting some of this work very early in the 2025 new year, subject to the necessary Archdiocesan Approvals."

If you have a building or trade background and would like to utilise your skills to assist the Parish as a member of the BAPS Committee / Team, please contact Fr Manu at the Parish Office.

-Angelo Piovesan

Advent Evening Program 2024

This Advent program was about the Lord's Prayer. 15 people attended and enjoyed it very much. Over 4 weeks we delved into each segment of this special prayer that Jesus gave us.

We have come to realize the richness and depth of God's love and wisdom in this prayer.

It is indeed the perfect prayer which we need to pray every day.

-Cheryle Douglas



Gardeners – OLSH Church



We are finishing another year looking after all the gardens at the church presbytery, car park and memorial garden. Greg Cutt, Dennis Cowling, Laurie Sammut and Don Newman make up a very dedicated team who come every Monday morning except for holidays to look after, water, replace, prune where necessary and tidy around the area.

I would like to say a big thank you to these great Catholic men who give their time and energy. I would like to thank Sr Helen for providing coffee etc and Fr Manu for his presence at our coffee break. I must mention Laurie providing his talents at cooking with cakes etc and he is looking forward to getting a 10 out of 10 for his efforts especially from

Dennis and Greg.

We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a fruitful New Year.

-Don Newham



Henley Praise and Worship



The Henley Parish held two wonderful Praise and Worship nights in May and October this year. These events provided varied opportunities to spend time with God through music and prayer and featured a guest speaker following the theme of prayer, and a testimony from a parishioner. They were well attended with almost 100 people from

various parishes in Adelaide coming along to each event .

Experiences offered, included silent prayer, journaling, reading the bible, singing and receiving prayer personally from our prayer teams. (Something for everyone)

The evenings also started and finished with Henley hospitality in the hall. If you get the opportunity to attend in 2025 we highly recommend!

-Eileen Giles



Our Rosary Prayer Group

The Rosary is prayed every Tuesday at 2pm. in the church. This Rosary Group began over 30 years ago and has answered the prayers of many in need. We present to Our Blessed Mother Mary, the concerns of individuals, community, and the world, in prayer through the Rosary.

Once a year in October, the Rosary group with other Rosary groups around Australia, celebrate the Feast Day of Our Lady of Fatima, by praying the Rosary in a public place. The caring and friendly members of the rosary group welcome and encourage all, to join and experience the power of prayer through the rosary. We hope to see some of you join us in 2025.



- Anna Papillo

Morning Tea / Hospitality Team ...

At Henley Beach Parish many love to gather in the Hall following Masses for a shared morning tea. It is a great way to build community and for people to come together and share stories over a cuppa and some delicious treats. The volunteers who support the morning teas, are part of the welcoming team and provide another layer of WELCOME to all who gather. A huge thank you for all the hard work from our volunteers this year.

If you would like to be part of this wonderful team, please contact Tania via the church office. Merry Christmas to all of our wonderful parishioners.

-Tania Trabucco



Henley Parish's Team of Troopers our unsung HEROs

Counting Team, Gardeners, Altar Society and Church Cleaning, Set-up, Pack-up Teams for Masses and Events, ...

We are so blessed as a parish community to have so many wonderful people who work tirelessly in the background, setting up our church, cleaning, washing, doing what needs to be done ... without being asked, often without being thanked. Please know that we are grateful for what you do to make our church a beautiful, welcoming space where we can all come to worship and receive the Eucharist together.

-Barb Conlon



Youth and Young Adults

This year, our parish had the privilege of offering a variety of ministries designed to help young people deepen their faith. In June, we hosted the Parish Crawl for the second time, beginning with our regular 9:30 Mass and culminating in a vibrant Praise and Worship session in the hall. We were also excited to formally partner with Matchat, bringing a series of enriching sessions throughout the year to engage young women from across Adelaide.

-Sharina Rabusic



Alpha Youth

In August, we launched Alpha Youth, a program for high school students in our community, gathering every Sunday night for food, fellowship, and fun. The feedback from the students and their families has been incredible and we have seen an increase in participation from our High School Students running the 5:30pm Youth Mass once a month.



Next year we will begin with a LAUNCH party on Sunday 9th February following a Youth Mass and interstate guests from the Alpha Youth Series will visit Henley Parish for the launch. If you have family members in high school, please encourage them to join us. We extend our warmest wishes for a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year to all!

-Alpha Youth Team



The Counting Team

The counting team comes together once a week to get everything ready for banking purposes. It is a job week after week. Thankyou to the great team.

Wish you a Happy Christmas and a Blessed New Year.

Advent Reflection Morning Group



A small group of dedicated parish ladies have maintained their interest in Advent as a preparation for Christmas by attending a morning session on Fridays for the four weeks of Advent. Yvette Faria-Pronk extended an invitation in Bulletins prior to Advent to encourage parishioners to commit to an hour of

reflection on the Gospel readings during Advent as well as including the prayer intentions of attendees and others. Praying together in an intimate group like this has brought us closer together while strengthening our faith and being comfortable to share life experiences in the context of Advent.

-Yvette Faria Pronk



The Southern Cross

The December Southern Cross is available at the back of the Church. Please take one



Father Manu's 50th

This year at Henley we celebrated Fr Manu turning 50 years young with a beautiful morning tea at all the Masses over the weekend. Thanks for

everyone who participated to make this a joyous and well-remembered celebration.

-Barb Conlon



Weekly Bulletin

If anyone would like the weekly bulletin emailed to them please contact the office at:

welcome@henleybeachparish.com.au



Marian Procession

Sunday 19th May saw 71 people from Henley Beach Parish community attend the annual Marian Procession in the city. The event began with a delicious lunch in the church hall and was followed by a bus ride into town where we met with parishes from around the Archdiocese of Adelaide. A few parishioners volunteered to transport the overflow of participants, and it was a positive experience for everyone in the parish.

Next year we will celebrate on Sunday 18th May 2025. Make sure you save the date, it is a great event.

-Peter Speranza



Monday Candlelit Mass ...



Monday nights at 8pm each week we celebrate a beautiful Mass by Candlelight, allowing people to draw closer to God in quiet contemplation and prayer.

November we again held the annual memorial mass for all those we love who passed away during the year.

Our first Mass in 2025 will be held on 3rd February and we welcome you to join us.

-Jeanne and Ron Palmer



The Parish Sacramental Support Team

The Parish Sacramental Support Team supports the candidates and their families in an effort to develop and nourish their faith.

This year 80 students were welcomed and completed their full initiation (through the reception of Confirmation and First Eucharist) into the Church. Candidates came from St Michael's School, Star of the Sea School and all the Primary State Schools within the parish boundary. Every effort was made to involve the parents in this process through information nights, family catechetical workshops and home assignments. The actual celebrations of Confirmation and Eucharist were well attended and were very joyous occasions. We pray that all candidates will continue to be supported in their journey of faith and develop a strong and loving relationship with the Lord whose love is unbounded.

-Sr Helen Armstrong



St Michael's College – Parish Connection

Recently, our College Leaders Elect, House Captains, and Music, Drama, and Dance Captains gathered at the Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, Henley Beach Parish. This was a full day built upon leadership development for 42 Year 11 students. The program focused on building skills in key areas such as communication, teamwork, innovation, faith, and service. Through engaging activities and collaborative discussions, these emerging leaders explored ways to inspire and lead with purpose in their respective roles, fostering a sense of community and commitment to serving others. This enriching experience equips them to confidently contribute to the vibrant life of our school and beyond.

We are looking forward to 2025 and having a range of students play a role in Masses on the weekends. It is also lovely to see a number of students involved in the Alpha Youth Group coming from St. Michael's College and being led by our youth minister Sharina Rabusic. As a college across two campuses, we are now more than 2000 students. We have prayer every morning as a part of our pastoral prayer program and all students go to mass at least 2-3 times a term. Throughout the year we also have whole school masses and celebrations, and we are very thankful to our local priests who are able to find the time to preside over them.

-Matthew Williams

Chairperson PPC & Head of Secondary College



The Blokes Lunch ...



In 2024, the Blokes Lunch was held every three months beginning in February and ending in November on the third Friday of the month. Howard Pronk, the organiser, undertook to put out an invitation to the men of the parish and each time has booked the Henley Hotel by popular demand for about 20 people. The local MSC

priests as well as Fr Manu have endeavoured to attend and the camaraderie that this activity has engendered has promoted a familiarity within the people of the parish.

The Blokes' group wish you all a blessed Christmas and a Happy New year.

-Howard Pronk

Baptisms in our Parish



We welcome into our Parish Community Ava Larosa, Evie Mac Neil & Lucas Hargreaves being baptised this weekend. Please keep them and their families in your prayers.

Congratulations



Congratulations to Luan Chau for his 21st birthday on the 23rd December.

Pastoral Care



We are grateful to have so many parishioners willing to participate in our outreach to the sick, frail and housebound. These ministers of Holy Communion are dedicated and willingly spend time sharing the gift of their presence with those they visit. They bring comfort and cheer and a listening ear (as well as spiritual nourishment) to forty parishioners each week.

Baptisms in the parish are plentiful. So far this year we have celebrated 89 baptisms. Already we are fully booked until May. We have four effective teams which are rostered to assist with preparation of families and attend the actual baptism. Because of the high demand, we have had to celebrate some baptisms at the weekend masses.

Weekly visits to the residential aged-care facilities in the parish continues. Mass is celebrated monthly in 3 of these centres. The residents so look forward to our visits and are always so appreciative. To experience the love of Jesus in the hearts of those I visit is the first step for missionary discipleship. Pope Francis reminds us that as the heart of Jesus reaches out to those in need, so we are called to open our hearts and listen to the concerns of those we visit.

This year we farewelled (to heaven) some 22 parishioners. A number of these recently deceased chose to have their remains interred in our Memorial Garden. Families and friends gathered for a short Memorial Service and a blessing of the memorial plaque. Our Memorial Garden space will receive some much needed "cosmetic surgery" with the laying of new artificial grass before Christmas.

The number of women who attend to laundering the altar linen has increased from 2 to 4. We are grateful to them for their dedicated and hidden service in helping us to provide the best care for all that pertains to the worship of God. As well, we acknowledge those who are rostered on weekly to dust, wash vases etc, and clean the church.

Thank you to all who have personally supported me in my ministry this year and to all who have supported our pastoral outreach to those in need in our parish community. I pray God's richest and abundant blessings for you and your families at this special time of Christmas. **LOVE changes everything!**

-Sr Helen Armstrong

The Living Waters Prayer Group

The Living Waters Prayer Group wish Fr Manu, Staff, and all Parishioners a Blessed Christmas and New Year. We thank you for your support throughout the year with the Healing Mass, Retreats, Discerning Gods Will in your life, Healing Weekend, Spiritual Growth and Discipleship Weekends, and Prayer Meetings.

We look forward to 2025 with Healing Mass each month, Retreats, Healing Weekend, Prayer Meetings Thursday nights each week.

We are always available for prayer requests, if you need prayer just message your request to 0435899572 and our prayer team of intercessors will pray for your request.

The prayer Group is now on Christmas break and we will resume on the 20th February Thank you, God bless.

-Pauline Cotton

Coordinator Living Waters Prayer Group 0403002240

Birth Line Pregnancy Support

Birthline offers counseling and a number of other support services for expectant mothers, new parents and those who encounter domestic violence. Birthline also offers practical support for the first year of babies life and operates fully on donations. We are grateful for the continued support from parishioners sharing their pre-loved items and offering gifts to support these families. **We wish you a very happy and Holy Christmas**

-Anne Smith



The Women of the West



Our lovely group of Women from the West meet each month for lunch at a local venue. There are about 35 who gather regularly,

and we are always happy to welcome newcomers. Some of the members of this group provide refreshments after parish funerals, and many are welcomers at the weekend Eucharist celebrations. We also visit the sick and take Holy Communion to those who are unable to attend Mass.

Seniors' Mass



This year, we were privileged to have 2 specially prepared Masses for our Seniors, thanks to Fr Manu. These masses are well

attended with on average over 30 people coming along and celebrating these beautiful Masses followed by a lovely lunch. Thanks to Marg Pedder and her ladies for their willingness to organise these occasions.



This group of women are women of HOPE, who ACT justly, LOVE tenderly and walk humbly with our God.

-Judy Sage



From the Parish Finance Council

The Parish Finance Council would like to wish all parishioners and their family members a joyous and holy Christmas.

The Parish Finance Council thanks all parishioners for their generous and continued support and participation in the life of our Parish throughout the calendar year, despite ever challenging financial conditions. Your financial support assists in the upkeep, administration and pastoral works of the Parish.

The Parish has recorded a modest surplus despite increased costs and Planned Giving receipts not keeping pace with inflation. Further details of the results for the calendar year will be provided in the new year after the financial statements have been finalised.

Planned Giving is the major source of income for the Parish. During 2024, the Planned Giving Renewal was undertaken. This commenced late January and was completed by late June. A special thanks to all volunteers who assisted in making this successful as the process is quite labour intensive. Particular thanks to Joe Abdilla, the Renewal Director.

The Parish once again thanks those who have pledged generously in the past and looks forward to their continued support. We invite those who have not previously joined the Parish Planned Giving to consider joining and share more fully in the mission of the Parish.

A further update on the Planned Giving Renewal will be provided in the New Year.

-Michael Smith
Chair Person Parish Finance Council

Henley Beach Parish Social Justice Action Group

This year Our Social Justice Action Group has worked hard to help those in need, both in our local community and also overseas.

We have continued our fundraising for a clean water project in Zimbabwe, with items such as:

- ◆ The Christmas Table
- ◆ Small Change for a Big Change Water Bottles
- ◆ Raffles
- ◆ Gingerbread House building
- ◆ Parish Cookbook



Raising a total of over \$6000 to September 2024.

Locally, we have collected items through the Winter Dignity Drive for Catherine House and Hutt Street Centre working in partnership with St Michael's College and Star of The Sea Primary School for these great charities.

We have also helped restock the "Vinnies" Bunker to assist them in goods to distribute to those in need.

With your help and our wonderful team, we have been showing love and compassion wherever we can and helping in a practical sense.



Wishing Joy and Christmas Blessings to you all.

-Cheryl Wedding



RCIA

At our Easter Vigil this year, we welcomed three candidates into full communion with the church. It was a beautiful ceremony, thank you to all those who prepared them on the journey,

especially Sr Nithya for supporting their faith development.

-Barb Conlon

I will be on holidays from the 15th of January to 21st of February 2025. Please keep me in your prayers that I have a safe and happy travel and a relaxing time during these holidays.

-Fr Manu



We wish Fr Manu a restful holiday



World Wide Marriage Encounter

Couples from Henley Beach Parish joined in the Christmas picnic celebration hosted by Central unit Marriage Encounter community (SA & NT) on Saturday 7th December. Our Vision is to change the world, couple by couple, sacrament by sacrament, by supporting marriage and families through our ME weekends designed to empower couples to be the best they can be. Our next weekend is on 2-4 May 2025 at Lyndoch Estate.



Visit: wwme.org.au
-Irene & Greg



Mark Your Calendar



- 1 Jan Wed :New Years Day 9.15 am Mass
- 26 Jan Sun :Australia day (Normal Sunday Masses)
- 3 Feb Mon :Candlelit Mass Commences
- 4 Feb Tue :Alpha Come and see
- 9 Feb Sun :Alpha Youth Launch Party
- 20 Feb Thu :Prayer group commences
- 22 Feb Sat :High Tea Gathering
- 27 Feb Thu :Healing Mass Commences
- 5 Mar Wed :Ash Wednesday
- 19 Mar Wed :Evening Lenten Group
- 27 Mar Tue :First Reconciliation, Sacramental Program
- 29 Mar Sat : Alpha Holy Spirit Day
- 5 Apr Sat : Parish Retreat
- 13 Apr Sun : Palm Sunday
- 17 Apr Thu : Holy Thursday
- 18 Apr Fri : Good Friday
- 20 Apr Sun : Easter
- 22 Apr Sat : Living Waters prayer group Lenten retreat
- 25 Apr Fri : Anzac Day
- 4 May Sun : Alpha Youth Games day
- 18 May Sun : Marian Procession
- 31 May Sat : Parish Feast
- 1 Jun Sun : Our Connecting Stories Brunch
- 8 Jun Sun : Pentecost Sunday
- 4 Jul Fri : Pub Meal (Social)
- 29 Jul Tue : Come and See Alpha
- 1 Aug Fri : Quiz Night
- 8 Aug Fri : Feast of St Mary of the Cross
- 15 Aug Fri : Feast of the Assumption
- 2 Sep Tue : Confirmation & First Holy Communion
- 4 Sep Thu : Confirmation & First Holy Communion
- 11 Sep Thu : Confirmation & First Holy Communion
- 27 Sep Sat : Annual Vinnies Mass
- 18 Oct Sat : Alpha retreat
- 15 Nov Sat : Volunteers' Christmas
- 21 Nov Fri : Praise and Worship Night
- 24 Nov Mon : Annual Memorial Mass
- 12 Dec Fri : Parish Carols Night



Roberto's BARBER & HAIRDRESSER



Wishing all at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish and Community a very Happy and Blessed Christmas.

Roberto's Barber & Hairdresser

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SCAN ME

Police Checks Updating

Please contact Ivy Hill: 0413 081 421 if your Working with Children Police Check needs updating.

Giving App

Download the Adelaide Archdiocese's Find a Mass App on your mobile phone and set up direct giving to the first and second collections, as well as special appeals.

Or go to adelaide.goodgiving.com.au to set up direct giving from your computer.

Please note: 1st, 2nd and Special Collections are available on the app.

The QR code will automatically select the Henley Beach parish.

