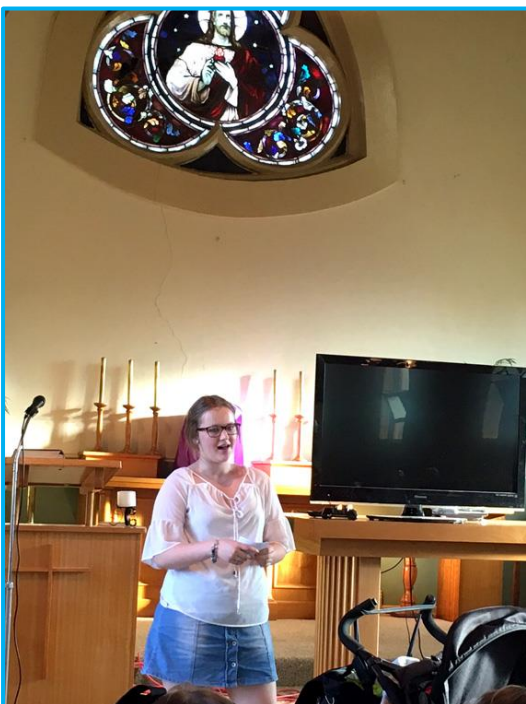


PARISH AND YOUTH GATHERING

A strong theme of the 2015 parish survey in Beaufort was the desire of parishioners to have more connection with the younger members of the parish. An opportunity arose when those who went to the Australian Catholic Youth Festival were asked to make a presentation to the parish. We decided to hold this on a Sunday evening at a time when the young families come in for the children's sacramental preparation. A special letter was sent to all families with school age members and a notice was placed in the parish newsletter. A personal invitation to speak on the Australian Catholic Youth Festival which was held in Adelaide or on a challenging experience, was given to our six Year 12 parishioners.

A large crowd gathered in the church at 6.00pm to hear the speakers, and were greatly impressed by the presentations and the confidence of these young people. We heard of the rich faith experience of the Australian Catholic Youth Festival, of the challenge of building a school in the Thai jungle, of the interest of visiting Loreto schools in other countries and of the broadening experiences of travel. The presentations were followed by a BBQ in the grounds. The younger children had a good time running around the lawns and garden, the teenagers caught up with each other and the adults of all ages enjoyed the evening. Sr Sheila Belleville rsm and Sr Marg Sculley ibvm came from Ballarat. It was a graced and happy evening.

*Sr Helen Murphy ibvm
Beaufort Parish*



First photo: Bianca Gerrard giving a presentation on the Australian Catholic Youth Festival in Adelaide.
Group photo: L-R Bianca Gerrard, Annabelle Troup, Grace Mulcahy, Ned Watkins