

LENTEN SEASON

With the season of Lent, St Mary's Parish in Birchip decided to introduce a children's liturgy to the Sunday Mass. With the demise of the popular after school Religious Education (RE) program after around sixteen years, the RE leaders came together to begin a new phase in our parish community.

Kelli-Ann Sheahan led the group out after the gospel and spoke to the children about Shrove Tuesday, Ash Wednesday and Lent. After completing a worksheet together, the children processed back in the church at Communion to be greeted enthusiastically by Fr Eugene McKinnon and the congregation.

Following Mass, the adults were invited to the Belleville Room (named after our respected and much loved Parish Leader, 1999 – 2006 Sr Sheila Belleville rsm) for morning tea. While the adults were enjoying their catch up, Bernadette O'Donnell organised a morning tea of pancakes for all the children. Children of all ages enjoyed a very hearty cook up.

With the morning being so extremely successful, the Parish will continue celebrating the children's liturgies three to four times a year. We have also found that the introduction of a parish Facebook page has been a successful tool in which to invite and include many young families in our parish community.

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