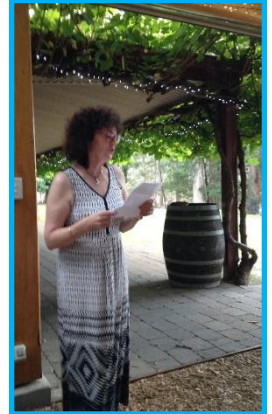




GATHERING AT CAVE HILL CREEK FOR MASS AND PARISH PICNIC

Recently, the Parish of St John the Baptist Beaufort gathered for Mass, a Parish Picnic and a parish council meeting. Bernadette Franc, chairperson of the council offered the following council report:

Firstly, a big thank you to Ange and Tim Chandler and family for the generosity of your beautiful place and space for our Mass and Parish Picnic. Welcome to Ian and Julie, Tim's parents, whose 'brainchild' this concept was a number of years ago. I would also like to thank and welcome Fr Justin, and each and every one of you for your attendance today. We have apologies from Colleen and Gerard Briody, Sandy Watkins and Family, Angela Gerrard, Bill Franc, Bill Mulcahy, Tom Franc, Teresa Tiley and Family, Roger Collins, Julian Collins and Family, Camille Broadbent and Family, Ena Frichot, Rita Treacey, Haywood Family.



I believe as a little community we are doing exceptionally well. We have many jobs that are shared between us all and now is not the time to single people out. However, we find ourselves every Sunday with a clean church which is beautifully decorated with flowers, the altar set up and music ready to go. Our yard is well kept and the entire property maintained. We have a weekly newsletter, readers, Special Ministers, Lay Led Assembly leaders. We all know whose turn it is to do what because we have a well-planned roster, the paper is notified of Mass times and the Prayers of the Faithful and the Readings are in the post! We have great access to our Parish Centre for a variety of activities.

Whenever we need to have the church available for special occasions such as funerals and other celebrations, we rally and have flowers at the ready and a clean church and the toilet doors opened!

On a monthly basis, we provide prayer sessions for the residents of the Nursing Home and the Hostel. A lot of preparation goes into these sessions and the residents and patients benefit greatly.

Our Sacramental Program is well run and ably supported by a number of our community. Our finances are looked after and kept in check weekly and on a monthly basis. Our Parish Council meets on a monthly basis (for most of the year!) We are a small but effective team. I thank all members for their contribution.

Some of the highlights from activities we undertook as a parish are as follows:-

October 2015 – Parish Secondary School Aged Youth Dinner with Fr James

November 2015 – Celebration of Confirmation

December 2015 – Collection for the Christmas Box (family from our community)

February 2016 – Anointing Mass

March 6, 2016 – Parish BBQ. Youth Gathering. Presentation in the church from our Year 12 parishioners

March, 2016 – Reconciliation



March 22, 2016 – Open day in the Church

April 15, 2016 – Invitation to all Beaufort Ladies with a connection to the Church to afternoon tea and a cooking presentation.

May 2016 – Celebration of Mother's Day

November, 2106 – First Communion

December 2016 – Collection for the Christmas Box (local family)

December 2016 – First Communion children return to light candles on Advent Wreath.

March 5, 2017 – Parish Picnic and Mass to end Jubilee Year of Mercy

Something that is evident from the above list of activities is that the youth and young families have been a major focus. This is an area that we, as a parish, identified when we looked at our Looking Forward Goals. This also is an area of our community that Sr Helen has shown a particular interest in, and her work with the young is much appreciated. A special thank you to Sr Helen who has made a big trip from her home, Balranald, just to be here today. A huge effort! Welcome also to Sr Shelia – you are always welcome and thank you for coming.

We are working on other facets of parish life such as the appointment of Sandy Watkins as OH&S/Safeguarding officer with a review of our OH&S policies to make them more relevant for our community – a work in progress. Support of the Secondary School Chaplaincy Program continues. We have Fr Richard Leonard SJ Mission in conjunction with the Linton parish in October, commencing the first weekend after Term 4 begins with funding from the Ballarat Diocesan Foundation. We plan to celebrate the Feast of St John the Baptist on June 24, proposing a joint gathering with Beaufort Anglican community who share the same patron as we do!



Please accept thanks from all members of Parish Council for the manner in which you all contribute. We are currently looking for some new members, so if you, or anyone you know, would like to join us, by all means encourage them to contact either Gail, Helen, Gabrielle or myself.

Again, thank you to everyone for coming along.

Bernadette Franc

Photos:

1. Bernadette Franc
2. Tim Chandler
3. Great outlook over dinner
4. The community at Mass