



INFANT JESUS PARISH

Parish Priest, Finance Committee and
Ministry Coordinators' Reports
For Annual Community Meeting
20 November 2023



PARISH PRIEST REPORT

One of the great sacraments of the Catholic Church is called “Thanks”. Admittedly we usually know it by its name in Greek: Eucharist, which means ‘Thanks’. We thank God for the great gifts he has given us in Christ through his birth and ministry, his death, resurrection and ascension. We thank God for life itself in all its colour and beauty and we thank God for walking with us through his Spirit throughout our lives in good times and bad. We give thanks that our parish is so lively and friendly. We thank God for our life together where we hear his word and are nourished by the Bread of Life and the Cup of Salvation as we celebrate the Eucharist- the Sacrament of Thanks.

The number of people coming to our parish continues to grow. It is good to see new, young families at mass. This year we received the first ever Certificate of Excellence for outstanding commitment and implementation of the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards. It is gratifying to have this recognition of our commitment to ensure Infant Jesus is a safe and joyful environment for all who come here, especially children and vulnerable adults.

We decided for reasons of health and safety to get new carpet, to make the sanctuary disabled accessible and to renew the Church building. An enthusiastic committee has held a number of community fundraising events. The amount of work done by the organising committee for the Christmas Fair has been astonishing. By the time you read this we will have raised the target of \$120,000. A benefit of their activities has been enjoyable times together and so, our community has been strengthened. The carpet and other church renovations will be completed in the New Year.

I would like to thank Fathers John and Adalbert for their support and ministry, our wonderful team in the Parish Office, our Parish Finance Council and all those who have ministered, worked and prayed in and for the parish.

—*Blessings, Greg*

INFANT JESUS PARISH FINANCE REPORT AS AT 30 JUNE 2023

Please find below the Income and Expenditure statement for the year ending 30th June 2023 with a comparison for the previous financial year.

The figures show that the Parish received total income of \$415,794 and incurred expenditure of \$287,729, to leave a surplus of \$128,064 (last year \$49,112)

The increase in revenue is largely due to an increase in fund raising, donations and events to cover the cost of:

- the LED monitors in the church installed in March 2023
- the replacement of the carpet in the church installed October 2023
- a chair lift for mobility access to the Altar. Installation expected in January 2024
-

Overall, the Parish is covering its expenses and is financially sound. Further fundraising is being carried out in the latter part of the 2023 financial year.

Further information is provided in the notes to the financial statement.

I would like to thank Darren Parnell and Carol Smith from the Parish Office and the members of the Finance Committee for managing the finances of the Parish.

—*Ivor Byrde, Chairperson*

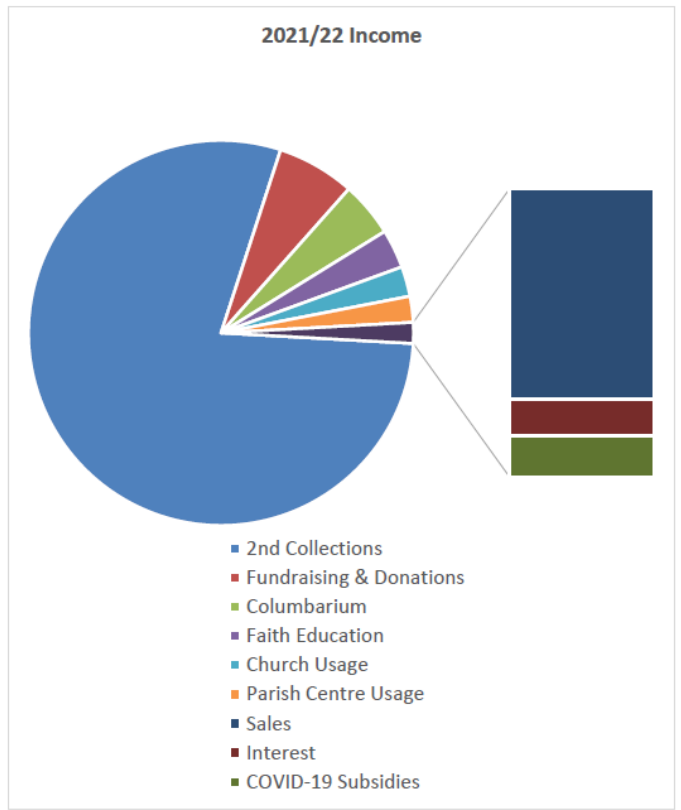
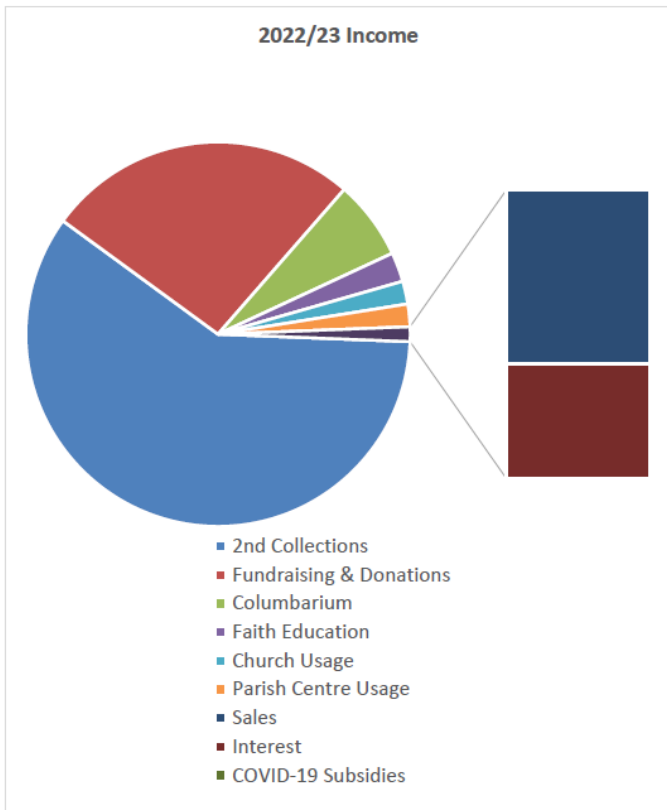
INFANT JESUS PARISH INCOME & EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

2022/23 vs 2021/22

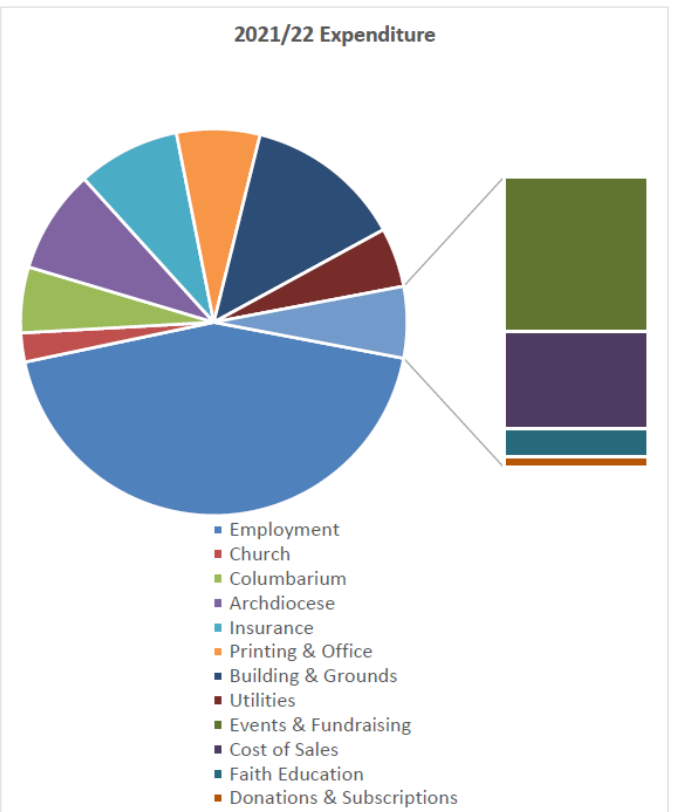
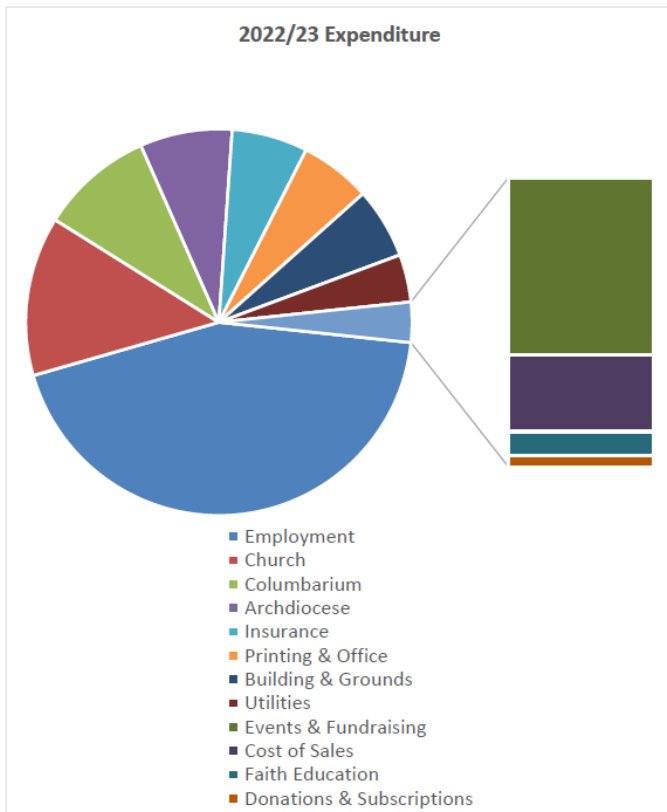
VARIANCE

| | 2022/23 | 2021/22 | \$ | % | NOTES |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------|-------|
| INCOME | | | | | |
| PLANNED GIVING & WEEKLY SECOND COLLECTION INCOME | \$247,069.73 | \$241,518.03 | \$5,551.70 | 2.30% | |
| COVID-19 GOVERNMENT SUBSIDIES | \$0.00 | \$763.98 | -\$763.98 | -100.00% | 1 |
| CHURCH USAGE - WEDDINGS & FUNERALS | \$7,984.08 | \$7,659.08 | \$325.00 | 4.24% | |
| PARISH CENTRE USAGE | \$7,895.76 | \$6,651.43 | \$1,244.33 | 18.71% | 2 |
| GENERAL DONATIONS | \$28,483.51 | \$12,298.21 | \$16,185.30 | 131.61% | 3 |
| INSURANCE | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | | |
| SALES - PIETY & FAITH EDUCATION BOOKS | \$3,114.17 | \$3,899.65 | -\$785.48 | -20.14% | 4 |
| FUNDRAISING, EVENTS & OTHER INCOME | \$81,193.60 | \$7,687.63 | \$73,505.97 | 956.16% | 5 |
| | \$375,740.85 | \$280,478.01 | \$95,262.84 | 33.96% | |
| Other Income | | | | | |
| COLUMBARIUM - NICHES, WALLS, GDN PLAQUES & RUNNING | \$27,704.95 | \$14,068.43 | \$13,636.52 | 96.93% | 6 |
| FAITH EDUCATION - SACRAMENTAL, PREP & RCIA | \$10,304.61 | \$9,953.65 | \$350.96 | 3.53% | |
| | \$38,009.56 | \$24,022.08 | \$13,987.48 | 58.23% | |
| INTEREST INCOME | \$2,044.02 | \$687.27 | \$1,356.75 | 197.41% | 7 |
| TOTAL INCOME | \$415,794.43 | \$305,187.36 | \$110,607.07 | 36.24% | |
| EXPENSES | | | | | |
| EMPLOYMENT EXPS INCL SUPER, LSL & WORKERS' COMP | \$126,233.30 | \$111,922.96 | \$14,310.34 | 12.79% | 8 |
| General Parish and Church Running Expenses | | | | | |
| ARCHDIOCESAN REQUIREMENTS | \$22,209.65 | \$22,223.66 | -\$14.01 | -0.06% | |
| PRINTING, COMMUNICATION, COMPUTING & OFFICE COSTS | \$17,086.32 | \$17,847.73 | -\$761.41 | -4.27% | |
| MASS & CHURCH REQUIREMENTS | \$38,401.48 | \$6,224.09 | \$32,177.39 | 516.98% | 9 |
| COST OF PIETY & FAITH EDUCATION BOOKS SALES | \$2,562.41 | \$5,131.86 | -\$2,569.45 | -50.07% | 10 |
| PARISH, MINISTRIES & EVENT EXPENSES | \$5,917.27 | \$8,131.24 | -\$2,213.97 | -27.23% | 11 |
| UTILITIES - WATER, SHIRE RATES & ELECTRICITY | \$11,470.46 | \$12,707.36 | -\$1,236.90 | -9.73% | 12 |
| INSURANCE | \$18,300.03 | \$21,996.56 | -\$3,696.53 | -16.81% | 13 |
| REPAIRS, COMPLIANCE, GROUNDS & MAINTENANCE | \$17,062.24 | \$33,793.96 | -\$16,731.72 | -49.51% | 14 |
| DONATIONS & SUBSCRIPTIONS | \$390.91 | \$564.66 | -\$173.75 | -30.77% | 15 |
| | \$133,400.77 | \$128,621.12 | \$4,779.65 | 3.72% | |
| Other Expenses | | | | | |
| COLUMBARIUM - NICHES, WALLS, GDN PLAQUES & RUNNING | \$27,295.86 | \$14,068.43 | \$13,227.43 | 94.02% | 16 |
| FAITH EDUCATION - SACRAMENTAL, PREP & RCIA | \$799.83 | \$1,462.27 | -\$662.44 | -45.30% | 17 |
| | \$28,095.69 | \$15,530.70 | \$12,564.99 | 80.90% | |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | 287,729.76 | 256,074.78 | \$31,654.98 | 12.36% | |
| Surplus/-Deficit | \$128,064.67 | \$49,112.58 | \$78,952.09 | S | |
| SPECIAL COLLECTIONS AND APPEALS | | | | | |
| Project Compassion | \$11,834.95 | \$10,904.70 | \$930.25 | | |
| Holy Places (Good Friday) | \$4,941.65 | \$5,210.10 | -\$268.45 | | |
| Catholic Mission | \$4,626.20 | \$5,462.35 | -\$836.15 | | |
| NET CASH AVAILABLE AS AT JUNE 30 | \$90,995 | \$164,250 | -\$73,255 | -44.60% | |
| SINKING FUND AS AT JUNE 30 | \$134,023 | \$132,703 | \$1,320 | 0.99% | |
| SINKING FUND 2 AS AT JUNE 30 | \$200,000 | \$0 | \$200,000 | | |
| | \$425,018 | \$296,953 | \$128,065 | 43.13% | |

INCOME CHART 2023



EXPENDITURE CHART 2023



PARISH OFFICE REPORT 2023

What a year! I can't believe the time has flown so quickly. At our parish office, a lot has been happening for sure. With our parish life returning to pre COVID-19 levels, all ministries and groups have now resumed their activities without missing a beat. We welcome the return of Nametag Sunday, the Healing Mass, our Bible Study group, Sunday Children's Liturgy, our youth group, and the Taichi group.

This has been an incredible year in the parish office, and with your help we have managed to accomplish many wonderful things. These are some of the year's highlights:

- Celebrating Fr Adalbert's Ordination in Sydney with livestreaming and dinner in the parish centre on 14th December.
- Thanksgiving Mass for parish volunteers on Friday 27th January. Serving about 250 burgers, 200 sausages, salads, and cakes to about 250 parish volunteers and their families.
- Our parish hosted the ecumenical World Day of Prayer in March with a prayer service in the church followed by morning tea in the parish centre. It was very well received with thanks to our coordinator, Tracey Hardman.
- Our Parish Busy Bee for Easter. Held on 1st April, this was a well-supported event. There were many helping hands, big and small, to spruce-up our church, parish centre and grounds for the Triduum celebration.
- We launched a big fundraising appeal for the Church's new carpet and accessible lift to the Sanctuary, with the theme 'Roll out the Red Carpet' and a target of \$120,000.00.

This appeal has kept our parish staff, volunteers, and parish community on its toes for the past six months. There have been many fundraising events organised and successfully held, from the 'Mother's Day Gift Stall' in May, to the Winter Wonderland Dinner and Dance and Winter Warmer Stall in July, and the 'Go Red' Quiz Night in September!

In October, while the parish centre was leased-out to the Australian Electoral Commission for 20 days pre-polling for the Voice Referendum, we seized the opportunity to fundraise by holding a very successful sausage sizzle and 'Plants, Cupcakes and Marmalade' stalls.

Our staff and wonderful volunteers have also been kept busy at weekend Masses with a fresh produce stall every fortnight. The fresh-from-the-farm produce have been generously donated by our Vietnamese market gardeners through the kind coordination of Sr. Maddie.

We also managed to pull off two successful raffle draws for the appeal with prizes kindly donated by our generous parishioners.

There is one last event planned for this year, that being the ‘Christmas Fair’ on Saturday 18th November, and we hope to reach our fundraising target and conclude the appeal. We are so very grateful for the support and generosity of our parishioners, their families and friends who have made our fundraising efforts so successful.

- This year we also celebrated our church’s 31st anniversary of its dedication on Sunday 27th August at all Masses followed by shared meals in the parish centre.
- Our parish was presented with the first ever Excellence Award in October by the Archdiocese Safeguarding Office for the exceptional collective efforts of our priests and safeguarding officers in the safeguarding of our parish community.

The office had a role in supporting the many Archdiocesan fundraising appeals this year. We helped to coordinate appeals for the war-affected Ukrainian people, Project Compassion, the Holy Land (through the Good Friday Collection,) Catholic Mission and LifeLink. We also supported St Vincent de Paul Christmas and Winter Appeals, and Archdiocesan safeguarding workshops. In addition, the parish office provided regular administrative support to parish coordinators in their important roles.

These achievements would not have been possible without the assistance of the parish office staff and volunteers. I am grateful to be supported by Fathers Greg, John, and Adalbert, the parish office staff and volunteers - Theresa, Carol, Andrew, Sue, Darren, Angela Youens, Pearl Chin, Sue Baile, Lyn Anderson, Josee Gaudet and Lila Montaut. This year, we also welcomed Mrs Marisol Aristizabel Bedoya to our team. Marisol has the responsibility of keeping our parish centre clean and tidy. She has indeed proved herself to be a valuable addition. Together with the team, I look forward to continuing to serve this beautiful, warm, and vibrant parish community.

—*Billie Dewitt, Parish Secretary*

BAPTISM PREPARATION FOR PARENTS REPORT

Baptisms are held every 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month in our parish. To date, we celebrated 59 baptisms for children below 7 years of age.

This year, we had Sue Baile, Cheryl Davini and Chris Andrews facilitating the meetings for the parents which are held once a month. Our heartfelt thanks to Paul Hille who has stepped down this year due to his many commitments. The parish extends a big thank you for their time, commitment and faith sharing!

—*Theresa Choo, Parish Office*

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM REPORT

It has been a wonderful year of celebration for our PREP children and Infant Jesus children with them receiving the Sacraments in their primary years.

Enrolment is implemented online via the Microsoft form link sent out to parents and booking of the masses is via Eventbrite. Feedback has been very positive, and we will continue with this system down the road. There is no more filling of physical forms thereby reducing cost, time and storage space.

The table below shows the number of children who received the sacraments this year: -

| | Infant Jesus School children | PREP children | Total |
|---|------------------------------|---------------|-------|
| Sacrament of Reconciliation (November) | 57 | 10 * | 67 |
| Sacrament of First Eucharist (September) | 51 | 15 | 66 |
| Sacrament of Confirmation (June) | 56 | 11 | 67 |

**a non-PREP child joined us in receiving the sacraments.*

The Sacramental Masses for First Communion and Confirmation this year were held separately from the weekend masses to reduce overcrowding. The families involved have responded well to the situation. Overall, the celebrations are felt to be more intimate and involved. We had 2 masses each for Confirmation and First Communion as most families prefer the weekend masses. The masses were at full capacity as families and friends came together to celebrate the children's special day. Archbishop Timothy Costelloe was scheduled to celebrate the Confirmation Masses. Unfortunately, he came down with Covid at the most inopportune time. Fr Greg came to the rescue to celebrate the masses instead.

Collections from the 4 Sacramental Masses (First Communion and Confirmation) amounted to \$2162.

The parish has been charging \$30 a child irrespective of another sibling receiving the sacrament in the same year to cover a bit more of the costs involved in organising the sacramental programs. There has not been any negative feedback so that's good news. Please bear in mind the \$30 fee only covers a small portion of the cost in running the programs.

The 24.7 Youth Ministry has been running the Sacramental Retreats for the children for some years now and have been doing a wonderful job at it. This year we engaged Faith Retreats to run the Confirmation Retreat as 24.7 was fully booked then. Faith Retreats is led by Karl Brown who has been involved in school-based faith development for 20 years and is part of the academic staff at the University of Notre Dame Australia. Infant Jesus Primary School has generously absorbed the cost of the retreats for each of the Sacraments (Reconciliation, First Eucharist and Confirmation) for 2023 amounting to around \$2500. The parish is very grateful for their support.

Acknowledgements are forthcoming for the following ministries without which the sacramental program cannot be implemented: -

Acolyte & Altar Servers Ministry

Hospitality Ministry

Music Ministry (Special thanks to Ralph Thexeira and Lenny Ong)

Flower Ministry

Environment Ministry

Proclaimers Ministry

The parish staff (Billie, Andrew, Darren, Carol, Sue) has been invaluable and such a great help in making the programs a success for all the children and their families. Volunteers in the office; Lyn, Lila and Josie are a godsend. Special mention to Angela Youens and Sue Goodwin for their advice. The facilitators who stepped up for the workshops (some for all three sacramental workshops!); Marion Wayne, Tung, Julia Chiam, Darren Parnell, Tanya Davis, Sandra Jones, Nevellene Lindquist, Travis Leggett, Sue Baile, Lucy Ryan, Jocelyn Versaci, Sylvia Brough and Glenn Adshead. This is truly a communal Sacramental Team!

The Infant Jesus School staff and teachers especially Ms Mel Allen, Ms Clare Moffat and Mr Frank Colangelo, have been very helpful and supportive throughout. Last but not least, my special thanks to our parish priests Fr Greg, Fr John and Fr Adalbert for their guidance and advice.

—*Theresa Choo, Sacramental Coordinator*

CHURCH CLEANING MINISTRY REPORT

There are 4 teams cleaning our church on a weekly basis and the parish wishes to express our gratitude to the dedicated teams in keeping the house of God spick and span. A big shout out for Magdalene Lazaroo, Wally Laffrey, Ann Brooker and Pat Robinson who are stepping down from this ministry. We welcome new members to the ministry; Olive Wright and Josie & Carl Pizzolante. Many of our kind volunteers have been committed to this for years and we hope for younger and committed ones to step up one day soon to this very important ministry especially with our spanking new carpet in place.

—*Theresa Choo, Parish Office*

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL MINISTRY REPORT

The custom of offering such prayers is embedded in the scripture from 1 Timothy 2:1-6:

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all men, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life, godly and respectful in every way. This is good, and it is acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

At Baptism each person receives a share in the priesthood of Christ. This common priesthood gives them the ability and the responsibility to participate in the liturgy, the sacramental life of the Church. One aspect of this responsibility is to pray for others.

The Prayers of the Faithful, also called the Universal Prayers, are a sign of the ties that bind us together with all members of Christ's Body throughout the world.

Through the Intentions, we pray for the universal church; the needs of the world and leaders of governments; the local community; the sick and the deceased. Our prayers conclude with the Priest praying that, through the Holy Spirit, our petitions be granted in the name of Jesus, in whose name all Christian prayer is made.

Using the resources provided by 'Liturgy Help' and 'Pastoral Liturgy', a small team comprised of Suchita, David, Michael and Sue offer their suggestions for the Universal Prayers each week and on special feast days. Fr Greg is actively involved in ensuring that each prayer is appropriate for the needs of our community of faith.

—*Sue Baile, Coordinator*

PARISH INCLUSION REPORT

In line with the Infant Jesus Parish Strategic Plan (2020-2023) we “encourage a loving, non-judgmental and welcoming behaviour towards all” and it is our intention to welcome each and every person to our Christian community. This is evidenced in a number of different ways:

- Our Hospitality Ministry is the 'frontline' of our welcome and inclusion effort. Their members are present at all weekend and special occasion Masses and are able to respond to specific enquiries from new parishioners. This year, as a result of our Parish Volunteer Recruitment drive, a number of our Friends from Personal Advocacy, together with their Advocates, have also joined this ministry.
- Once a month we have our 'Name Tag Sunday' Mass. The Hospitality team invites parishioners to attach a name tag and, just before Mass begins, everyone is encouraged to greet one other individual in a more personal way. Our goal is to provide an opportunity for all our parishioners to be welcoming and inclusive, especially to those who may be new to our parish.
- Together with the team from the Personal Advocacy Service in Morley, our parish hosts an 'adapted liturgy' once a month which encourages our friends with intellectual disability and their Advocates to take a more active role in our Sunday liturgy.

At these special Masses, our friends with intellectual disability participate in welcoming others as part of the Hospitality ministry; they are part of the entrance procession; part of the Offertory procession and they lead the Responsorial Psalm with simple gestures that reflect the Psalm of the day. When the 'Word of God' is proclaimed, the congregation is invited to be seated to listen and to witness a simple 'enactment' of the Readings of the day.

After this 9.30am Adapted Liturgy, we offer Morning Tea in the parish centre which everyone is welcome to attend. This social interaction is intended to help our friends with intellectual disability to relax and enjoy the company of others.

Sincere thanks to the Roma from Personal Advocacy and the small number of dedicated parish volunteers who help to set up; serve and clean-up after this social interaction.

—*Sue Baile, Coordinator*

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP REPORT

Every month we invite the families of those who have recently passed away to our special Bereavement Mass which is followed by Morning Tea. The opportunity to pray together and then celebrate together afterwards is enriching for our Bereavement Support Group members and, hopefully, for the family members who can share stories about their loved ones or just enjoy our hospitality.

Some of the long-serving members of our small group have 'retired' this year and we thank them sincerely for their dedication to this ministry over many, many years. We are very pleased that a number of new volunteers have joined our group.

Each year, we look forward to celebrating our November gathering when, at our special 'All Souls Day' Mass, we pray together for deceased family members and friends. Banners with the names of all family members who have passed away during the year are situated on the Sanctuary and everyone in attendance is invited to place a candle in front of the Altar in memory of their deceased loved ones. This year, post-COVID, there was a substantial increase in the number of people attending.

—*Sue Baile, Coordinator*

HOSPITALITY MINISTRY REPORT

First and foremost, I want to extend a huge thank you to the Hospitality Ministers for their unwavering dedication and service. Their efforts have been instrumental in creating a welcoming and loving atmosphere in our church community. As the Bible beautifully states, "Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it" (Hebrews 13:2). This verse encapsulates the spirit with which they have all served, offering kindness and a warm welcome to all who enter our church doors.

Recruitment and Membership

This year, we embarked on a recruitment drive which was a resounding success. We welcomed 17 new members into our ministry, a testament to the inviting and inclusive nature of our church community. Although 4 members have since stepped down, the enthusiasm and fresh perspectives brought by the new recruits have been invaluable.

Key Events and Services

Our ministry played a crucial role in several major church events, including Christmas, Easter, First Communion, and Confirmation services. The team's efforts ensured that these important occasions were celebrated with grace and hospitality, making them memorable for our church community.

Reintroduction of Name Tag Sunday

Name Tag Sunday was reintroduced this year. This initiative has fostered a greater sense of community and connection among our congregation, making it easier for members to get to know each other and build stronger bonds.

Looking Forward

As we look to the future, I am filled with hope and excitement for what we can achieve together. The ministry is not just about the tasks we perform; it is about the love and welcome we extend to each person who comes to our church. The team's dedication and service are a vital part of our church's mission to be a place of welcome, warmth, and worship. Thank you and God Bless.

—*Josephine McManus, Coordinator*

COMMUNION TO THE SICK MINISTRY REPORT

Currently we have 10 Communion to the sick ministers, and Fr John taking communion to homes and nursing homes. There are also four parishioners who are taking communion to their family members only. I would like to thank Fr John, Anna Colonico, Joan Reincastle, Patrick Mooney, Magdalene Lazaroo, Daryl Miranda, Monique Morfitt, Sr Maddie, Annette Nathanielz, Errol Wittensleger, Chris Andrews and Vienna Pizzino for their commitment and continuous support at this important outreach ministry.

—*Sabrina Wright, Coordinator*

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION MINISTRY REPORT

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking Andrew and Cheryl Davini for looking after this important Ministry in our Parish for such a long time.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Bryan Yeo who until recently coordinated the distribution of Holy Communion to sick of our Parish who could not attend Mass.

The recent recruitment drive has added a further 13 people to our Ministry, bringing the total number of people involved in the Ministry to 44. There are also other Extraordinary Ministers who participate in the Italian Mass and the weekday masses. I would like to thank them all on behalf of the Parish for their dedication to this important Ministry in our Parish.

We could however do with more people particularly those who attend the Sunday evening 6pm Mass to volunteer to join this Ministry.

Besides the weekend masses we have another team of people under the guidance of Sabina Wright who regularly take Holy Communion to the sick in our Parish and to those in hospitals. Thanks to all those who assist in this work.

As of weekend of 2/3 December 2023 (the First Sunday of Advent), the Parish will again be introducing Holy Communion under both forms that is the Blessed Host and Precious Blood. After discussing the matter with Fr Greg, it has been decided that initially this will involve two additional Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion at each Mass. The Precious Blood will be given by the Extraordinary Ministers by intinction only.

A Meeting was recently held to which all the Extraordinary Ministers were invited to introduce the changes and to sort out the details ready for the introduction on the First Sunday of Advent.

—*Mike Foley, Coordinator*

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY REPORT

Our Morley/Dianella Conference of the St Vincent de Paul Society (Vinnies) is part of a worldwide organisation. It is made up of voluntary members who are mainly Infant Jesus (IJ) Church parishioners. We are located in, and operate out of the IJ parish building, providing emergency responses to callers who are in urgent need of assistance.

We follow the central gospel teachings of Jesus which calls for the showing of compassion for our neighbours by sharing our gifts and resources, in a dignified and loving manner.

This year, we have seen significant rises in the cost of living, leading more people to turn to Vinnies for help. Often, these people, who are of all ages, in varying circumstances, with differing health problems, including children and the elderly, are in need of help because after spending limited money on increased rent and utility bills, do not have enough money left over to buy enough food.

On average this year, our members have conducted about 7 visitations per week, providing emergency assistance to people in the form of giving food, providing grocery and fuel vouchers, making some contributions for payment of utility bills and the supply of some basic household furniture items.

In order to provide the resources to help the needy, Vinnies conducts an annual Winter Appeal and a Christmas Appeal. The 2023 Christmas Appeal for donations is now being organised in our parish. The appeal is to ask for donations so that emergency assistance can be provided to the needy people within the Morley/Dianella area. In the past, the parishioners of the Infant Jesus Parish have been very generous with their donations. It is hoped that their generosity will again continue, so that we can keep helping those who are less fortunate and in need of the basics.

We can help needy individuals and families to have a better Christmas by putting some extra food on the table and showing them that there are many caring people in our communities.

Further enquiries about how our Vinnies group works are welcomed, particularly those who may be retired, or close to retirement, and who may wish to join a team of like-minded people of faith, interested in living out the Gospel message by offering a compassionate “hand up” to people in need, within the Morley/Dianella area, please contact. This can be a life changing experience for both volunteers and those people who we help. All activities are shared, supported by the Society and completely voluntary. Breaks from any activity may be taken at any time and of any duration.

—*Gus Formato, President, Vinnies Morley/Dianella Conference*

COLUMBARIUM COMMITTEE REPORT

Firstly, thank you to all our Volunteers that help keep the Columbarium such a peaceful and welcoming area, especially Neil D’Cruz, Jenny Thomas and Lil and David Vaughn, and many others that anonymously help when needed.

Lil and David also look after the Parish and Priory roses, and this year with their love and constant attention we appear to be free of the Chilli thrip infestation that has destroyed so many gardens.

During the year we have had 25 new applications, and 10 Parishioners were interred into the Columbarium.

In 2023 we also increased the size of the Columbarium by building 4 new niche walls, adding another 140 places. These new walls have been named:

RESURRECTION

ASCENSION

TRANSFIGURATION

HOLY TRINITY

We now have a total of 560 places (from the original 280 when the Columbarium was opened in 2018). 423 places have already been reserved; the remaining 137 places are still available.

The need for future expansion will be addressed in the next 3 to 4 years.

We also thank Frs. Greg, John and Adalbert for their support, guidance, and officiating at the various services. Our committee desperately needs more members, please consider joining us in a most rewarding and spiritually enriching experience.

—*Angela Youens and Andrew Davini, Columbarium Committee*

MAINTENANCE REPORT

2023 has been a typical year for a 60-year-old Parish Centre and 30-year-old Church, with general repairs and replacements of items ranging from the hot water units in the Parish Centre kitchen and the Church, taps in the gents toilets, to installing cooling fans in the Church Audio Visual Cupboard.

However, a major focus has been on larger items like the TV screens in the Church, and replacing the Church Carpet, thank you all for your contributions to our continuing Roll Out the Red-Carpet campaign!

Other items still waiting include an Electric Wheelchair Lift in the Church, which will be installed in early 2024, a new Accessible Toilet to be built near the current Ladies Toilet, upgrading the Parish Centre kitchen, and continuing the renovation of the Parish Centre exterior.

The day-to-day maintenance of a large Parish like Infant Jesus would not be possible without the constant assistance of a large team of volunteers:

John Cogdon, David and Lil Vaughn, Peter Bevilacqua, John Strijk, Ivor Byrde, Mike Foley, Eric Mok, Jenny Thomas, Leon Dique, John Boog, Guy Gaudet, Carmel Cotter, John Tomczak, and all those that I have missed, and have helped this year, from the annual rose pruning, to spreading truckloads of mulch, to setting up and clearing away for each event, to the daily repairs to sprinklers, weeding and rubbish pick up, my grateful thanks.

—*Andrew Davini, Maintenance Manager*

MUSIC MINISTRY REPORT

Dear Parish Community,

I was asked, to coordinate the Music Ministry at Infant Jesus Parish about four months ago under the guidance of Father Adalbert. As such, I am only able to provide a report for this period. I am currently finding my way and building relationships with the different music groups.

The Music Ministry plays a crucial role in enhancing our worship experiences and fostering spiritual growth through music.

The Ministry Drive conducted a few months ago has seen new beginnings, resulting in three new music groups joining the Music Ministry.

We are grateful for the talented musicians in our ministry, who have dedicated their time and share their God given talents with our parish Community, enriching our worship experiences.

The following outlines the music groups that are committed for the weekend Masses:

1. Saturday 6pm – We have three different groups that covers the four Sundays of the month. Tracey Hardman and Aini Loo leads on the 1st Sunday of the month, Nicola Richardson leads on the 2nd Sunday of the month and Jumil Ignacio leads on the 3rd and 4th Sundays of the month. We endeavor to have music if there is a 5th Sunday.
2. Sunday 7.30am Mass – Currently there is no music provided for this Mass, with the exception of special Feast Days or celebrations. Raphael Thexeria has very kindly offered to play for these special Masses. In the future we will explore the possibility of having music for this Mass.
3. Sunday 9.30am – Linda D’Cruz leads the music for the 1st, 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month and the Priscilla Smith and Roma Mascharenhas leads the music for the 3rd Sunday, being the Personal Advocacy Mass. We endeavor to have music if there is a 5th Sunday.
4. Sunday 11.30am Italian Mass – Vienna Pizzino leads the music for this Mass.
5. Sunday 6pm – There is no music for the 1st Sunday of the month, John Taylor leads the music on the 2nd Sunday of the month, Jorge and Rita leads the music on the 3rd Sunday of the month and Tessie Baluyot leads the youth choir on the 4th Sunday of the month. We endeavor to have music if there is a 5th Sunday.

Looking Forward

1. We will explore opportunities of inviting more members to the Music Ministry, particularly those with diverse musical talents.
2. We plan to liaise with the Centre of Liturgy in conducting training and workshops to enhance our musical abilities and deepen our understanding of liturgical music.
3. Strengthen our commitment to providing music that enriches our worship experiences and deepens our connection with God.

Appreciation and Gratitude

I would like to express my deep appreciation to the parishioners for their continuous support and encouragement. Special thanks go to Father Greg, Father John and Father Adalbert, together with volunteers who operate the computer, and our talented musicians for their dedication and commitment.

In conclusion, the Music Ministry remains dedicated to serving the parish through the power of music, uplifting our spirits and bringing us closer to God. We look forward to another year of harmonious worship and spiritual growth. Thank you for your continued support and faith in our Ministry.

—*Judy David, Coordinator*

PROCLAIMERS of the WORD MINISTRY REPORT

..Let me breathe in your Spirit so that I may embody your Word and read with passion'

Excerpt from a prayer for proclaimers

Our Team

At Infant Jesus we are truly fortunate to have about 44 proclaimers who proclaim at our Sunday, weekday & special celebration Masses. We had 5 new proclaimers join the team as a result of the parish recruitment drive. A wonderful result.

I would especially like to acknowledge our 2 new junior (school aged) proclaimers. As with all junior proclaimers their commitment to preparation and attendance at practice sessions for each rostered occasion is to be commended. My sincere thanks to their parents for their support.

Once again, my thanks to the weekday roster coordinators; John Orzanski (7:00am Mass) and Sylvia Brough (9:00am/8:30am Mass) for their contribution in facilitating proclaimers at these Masses.

Our thanks go to those who have left for a variety of reasons. Their contribution has been appreciated and valued and we wish them the best that life has to offer.

Youth Mass

I am happy to say that we now have ample junior proclaimers to proclaim at the monthly youth Mass.

Welcome

We warmly welcomed Nathan Adshead (Sun 6pm), Claire Luces (Sun 6pm), Beblin Arvis (Sun 9:30am), Sr Chitra (Sun 9:30am), Meghan Roberts (Sat 6pm), Navellene Linquist (Sun 7:30am). Thank you for committing to this group!

Gatherings

Social .. A Morning Tea gathering for a catchup and welcome of new proclaimers. Everyone enjoyed the time spent together and there was plenty of food to share.

Training: a training workshop run by the Archdiocese Liturgy Centre for Liturgy has been organised for Mon 27 Nov at the IJ parish centre. Training of all new proclaimers is essential. Anyone interested is welcome to attend.

Mentoring & support for growth

A big thank you to the proclaimers who have been involved in the mentoring and support of the young and not so young new proclaimers. Their warmth, knowledge and encouragement have helped to put the new proclaimers at ease and build their confidence.

My sincere thank you to all proclaimers for their service to our Infant Jesus Church.

—*Marina MacLean, Coordinator*

ALTAR MINISTRIES REPORT

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of the ministries that I coordinate, Acolytes, Senior Altar Ministers and Altar Servers for their continued support and participation in making being part of this ministry vibrant and rewarding.

On the rosters, we currently have 55 altar servers, and we have 7 acolytes and 7 senior altar ministers with 2 more senior altar ministers that have begun training. Our ministries are truly blessed with this great number of women, men and children who freely offer their time to serve our community. The ministry drive held earlier in the year has helped to bring in new faces to our ministry.

This year we saw the retirement of two of our long serving Acolytes. Paul Wachtel has served our parish for well over 30 years and we are very thankful for all the time and energy he has put into participating in his ministry. Even though he has stepped back from serving at Sunday masses, he continues to serve at our weekday masses. We also saw the retirement of Remo Vicentini who along with his wife Maria, had decided to return to their hometown in Italy to enjoy retirement together. Sadly, not long after they returned to Italy, Remo passed away. Remo was a wonderful man who gave a great deal to our parish, especially to the Italian community whom he served faithfully.

We have an Acolyte and Senior Altar Ministry formation day coming up in a few weeks that will give our ministry the chance to gather together for fellowship and reflection. I am also planning another day out for our junior ministers as last year was a great success.

I look forward to our time of Advent as we prepare for the wondrous feast of Christmas. A time that we can gather together and give thanks for all the gifts that God has given us as a community and as people of God.

—*Chris Lambert, Coordinator*

SAFEGUARDING OFFICERS REPORT

This year saw our SGO team continue their efforts to ensure our Infant Jesus community is a safe place to be. The highlight of our year would be Safeguarding Sunday in September. We created a fantastic display of resources on the church porch as well as having specific prayers through the mass. We had enlisted our PREP children and our young people from the monthly youth gathering to decorate kites using this year's theme 'Where we start matters'. They were fabulous! Some of the youngsters flew them down the aisle at the 9.30 am mass and afterwards, we encouraged the children to fly the kites high in the sky - it was a great sight to behold!

We attended a new course earlier in the year highlighting the code of ethical conduct, sat in on new altar server's training and the youth gatherings, went to the Child Protection Week morning tea (more kite flying!) and completed this year's SAAT for the Perth Catholic Archdiocese Safeguarding Office. We were very humbled to be presented last month with the SAAT 2022 Excellence Award in recognition of our team's dedication, exceptional effort and outstanding completion of the 2022 SAAT and Standards Action Plan!

I wish to thank my fellow SGO for a very productive year. Our team is dedicated to ensuring everyone is aware of our responsibility to keep our children, young people and vulnerable adults safe at Infant Jesus Parish.

—*Julie Lambert, Coordinator*

YOUTH INITIATIVE MINISTRY REPORT

In order to engage the young people of the community, I was appointed by the parish priest, Fr Greg, to start a youth initiative ministry.

Objective:

The primary objective of the youth initiative was to provide a space for young people of the parish to get to know each other and be able to explore their faith in Christ within the broader context of their lived experience.

Launching of the Youth Initiative:

Upon weeks of consultation with young people, parents, and other members of the community, the youth initiative was launched on Sunday April 23, 2023, which included a youth-focussed Mass and fellowship afterwards.

Youth-Focussed Mass:

The 6pm Sunday Mass of every fourth Sunday of the month was set aside for the initiative. Young people were specifically tasked with the various liturgical ministries including of proclaiming, altar serving, and leading the music ministry. Chau Tran, who led the youth choir early in the year, had to relinquish the role, paving the way for the current leaders, Tessie and Orlando Baluyot, to lead the choir. Verbal reports from young choir members and their parents reveal a good level of engagement with this element of the youth initiative.

Youth-Focus Group:

Catering was largely facilitated by various parents, especially Roopa Tharakan and Marisol Aristizabal, and this proved a great way to involve the young participants. The young people were divided into two groups based on age: 1) primary-school-aged children lead by David Ward, 2) high-school (and above) aged participants lead by myself and Eloise Lambert. Various activities were employed, including a question-and-answer session, which led to some interesting conversation among the young people. A handful of university-aged participants, however, found the group too young for their needs and stopped attending the events.

Progression and Development:

From April to October the youth initiative Mass and fellowship were held, with the last one for 2023 being the one in October. During the fellowship, it became obvious that engaging the parents of the participants would be beneficial for these parents and for the success of the initiative. As such a facilitator, Joe Lee, has held some sessions for the parents.

Going Forward:

The young people will be hosting a fundraising event at the Annual Christmas Fair, with proceeds going towards paying for some external activity early in the following year. Also, the plan is to hold a meeting inviting parents and supporters to discuss how best to take this initiative to the next phase of engagement. This meeting is planned to take place sometime in February 2024. There is also a need to engage the young adults of the parish as a separate initiative/event, and this will also be raised in the said meeting.

Overall, I and the team involved in the initiative have learnt much about the joys, struggles, and challenges of this particular ministry. It is our hope that we will continually learn and be guided by the Holy Spirit in this most important ministry of the parish.

— *Fr Adalbert Imperial, OCD, Assistant Priest*

PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAMME (PREP) REPORT

PREP at Infant Jesus, Morley is running smoothly with the generous support of our parish priests, catechists, the parish office and all the families involved. It's always busy and there are never enough hours to get the job done thoroughly but we managed.

Classes are held in the parish centre each week from 4.15 - 5.20pm on Wednesdays during the school terms. PREP is open to any family who wishes their child/ren to receive religious education and/or to be prepared for the Sacraments. Children start at various stages of their religious journey but the best time to start is when the child is in Year 1.

On the last week of Terms 2, 3 and 4 we organise a Mass for the all the classes, their families and friends together in the church which is then followed by a little afternoon tea party under the parish centre patio. The children generally seem very happy to come along and catch up with their PREP friends each week and learn about the love of God. The spiritual journey of our children is progressing well considering the limited time we have with them.

This year we have had 58 children enrolled for PREP of which the following have or will receive Sacraments –

Confirmation – 12 children in June

First Communion – 15 children in September

Reconciliation – 9 children in October this year.

Our RCIC program (Rite of Christian Initial for Older Children) is also going along very well under the guidance of Linda Doyle. This group allows for children who come along to PREP at an older age but still need to receive their Sacraments. This year we had 4 children/teenagers in this program.

Our team of catechists and relief catechists are all working well together and are a great asset to the parish. They are all very caring and dedicated to the job of sharing their faith with children. I would like to thank all these wonderful people who give so generously of their love of our God and their time.

Thank you also to our parish priests Fr Greg, Fr John and Fr Adalbert for their support and involvement during the year and with our Masses.

As PREP co-ordinator it is my pleasure to work with everyone involved.

—Sue Goodwin, PREP Coordinator