

The Monica March 2017

St Monica's Parish Moonee Ponds

Presbytery: 22 Robinson Street, Moonee Ponds, 3039

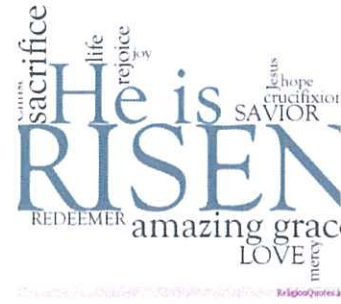
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EASTER

A Pastoral Letter



Greetings from the Editorial Team

In this edition we profile our new Parish Secretary, Sonya Bading, as well as the many and varied activities of the Charismatic Prayer Group.

We examine the history of St Patrick and take a trip down memory lane with a two page pictorial of years gone by. There's a reminder about the upcoming Youth Mass, an overview of Catholic Education Week festivities and a look at our Piety Stall.

It's almost time to celebrate the resurrection of Christ at Easter. If you managed to forego a simple pleasure during Lent - such as a square of Cadbury's with your cuppa or a favourite tippie, take comfort that these small sacrifices remind us of the one made by Our Lord Jesus in offering up his life so we in turn could be washed clean of our sins. Such a selfless act of love is enough to put a smile on anyone's dial – Happy Easter from the editorial team!

Thank you to those who have contributed to this Easter edition of the Monica - Fr Tony, Fr Minh, Jacqueline Le Grand-Condello, Joanne Barrett, Loan Tran, Andrea Medic, Adrian Commadeur, , Margaret Mogg, and Sonya Bading. We welcome new volunteers and contributions can be emailed to: themonicanewsletter@gmail.com

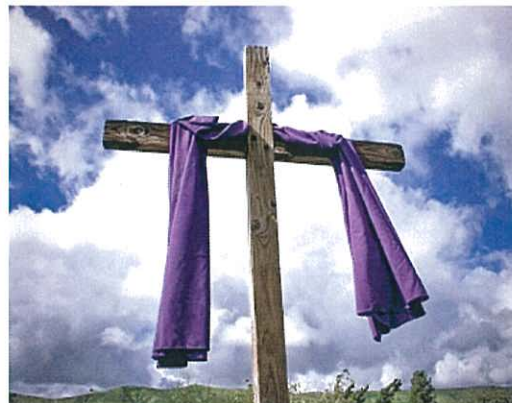
As I sit down to write these few words, I am coming to realize that Lent is a time of new beginning, of new life. The 40 days of Lent remind us of other stories; the 40 days it rained non-stop and the earth was flooded, with only Noah, his family and all the animals he collected, able to ride it out. The 40 days of Lent remind us also of the 40 years the people of Israel wandered the desert, coming to know and appreciate the God who led them out of their slavery in Egypt.

The 40 days of Lent also remind us of the 40 days Jesus spent in the desert before he commenced his public mystery of showing forth God's great and overwhelming love for his people (Does a mother forget the child at her breast, or fail to cherish the son of her womb? Yet even if these forget, I will never forget you.)

It is important that we be reminded of this deep and profound truth God has for us as we walk these Lenten days together and prepare ourselves for the great Paschal Feast wherein, over the course of three days, we remember and celebrate the power of God's love that helps us to overcome every obstacle, even death itself!

Lent truly is a time of new beginnings as we celebrate the love that God has for each one of us, a love so strong that nothing can come between it and that love made visible for us in Christ Jesus our Lord. In his death and resurrection, mercy and new life coincide, life is changed not ended; in Him we have a love that feeds our hope and nourishes our faith that no matter how bad things might at times seem to be, there is a love that transforms death in to life and that love is to be found in the Christ Jesus our Lord, whose death and resurrection we are celebrating at Easter.

- Fr. Tony Feeney



Mass Times: Monday 7:00am Scripture & Communion Service 9:15am Mass Tuesday – Friday 7:00am, 9:15am Saturday 8:00am, 6:30pm Vigil Mass Sunday 8:00am 9:15am (Italian) 10:30am 5:30pm

Parish Profile : Sonya Bading

AN INTERVIEW WITH ST MONICA'S PARISH SECRETARY

As you know, the role of Parish Secretary has recently changed and we warmly welcome Sonya Bading to the helm of our busy Parish office.

It is therefore appropriate that we shine a light on Sonya and discover a little bit about her important role.

My role in the Parish Office

I wear many "Hats" in the Parish Office- from "Door Greeter" to "Child Safety Officer", "Venue and Volunteer Coordinator", "Bulletin Editor", "Roster Planner", and "General Rouseabout" if need be. I see this role as a Ministry of hospitality: and strive "to hear without judgement, to listen, and to serve" the Priests and people that come to us. I endeavour to answer the phone with a smile and be welcoming and positive.

Fr Tony is like the "Captain" of the Office Ship- Navigating the Waters, Fr Minh the next in Command and I am like the "Able Bodied Seaman" keeping the ship running.

Currently we have Bernard Angel as Parish Accountant in the office on Tuesday and two wonderful volunteers- Danny Mascarenhas and Theresa Vu helping with Office Administration.

My Previous Work

I have worked previously mainly in Education (2 years) and Public Health Administration (for 13 years)

About me

I currently live with my husband and nearly grown-up children in Reservoir (only a 20-minute drive away!) My Parish Church is Sacred Heart in Preston. I grew up in Queensland but have lived in Melbourne most of my adult life. I love old buildings (and especially old churches) and dream of visiting relatives, churches and ruins in Europe one day. I particularly want to visit Rome.

Engaging with Parishioners

I am a people person and enjoy meeting parishioners and interacting. It is great to know the face of the person I am sending an email to or talking to on the phone. I am comfortable with whichever way people choose to make their presence known (but please do not all come to the door at once!). Sometimes, due to urgent demands, I may not be available to chat for long, however, I am happy to meet people and say hello and listen if needed.

The Parish Office in the 21st Century

Our previous Parish Secretary Lesley-Ann Wilson made huge progress in bringing the Office to the 21st Century. We now have a new website: www.stmonicasparish.com.au

It provides all information about the Sacraments. Baptism applications now occur via an online form. Wedding information and application forms are available to download and are going online sometime in the future.

We are constantly striving for improvement and our office has been trailing a new smart roster software for the Archdiocese and I am currently learning how to use this for the next reader and Eucharistic minister roster build. Due to changes in legislation and new child safety standards there is much ongoing work that needs to make our Parish a safer place for children. Information about this is also currently on our new website under Parish Life.

I am grateful of the opportunity to work for St. Monica's Parish and hope I can serve you well. I think, however, that God plans the agenda. I often start the day with one "to-do list" and before I know it the day is over and I have done a completely different list of things that have come up that were more important. As the saying goes, "If you want to make God laugh, tell him your plans!"



St Monica's Charismatic Prayer Group

The Charismatic Prayer Group meets every Thursday at 7.45pm in the Symons Centre. The Group gathers to give praise, thanks, honour and to bestow love upon Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour.

The Charismatic Prayer Group was founded in 1986 with Fr (later Bishop) Joe Grech and assistant priest to Fr Lanigan. We have an average attendance of about 25 to 30 people.

Men's Breakfast

We initiated a free Men's Breakfast in October 2016 which featured guest speaker Vic Camilleri of Vic's Flicks, who spoke about his passion for showing classic films to the older generation. Ginger Rogers & Fred Astaire featured in a film sequence. Our second breakfast on 25 February featured retired Chief Inspector of Police Lawrie Merrigan. Lawrie told how Providence led him into the police, and he shared experiences, such as his leadership initiative "police on bikes" in the city. A talented singer, Lawrie moved us with his rendition of songs "One Day at a Time" and "My Old Man".

The free Men's Breakfast's will continue in 2017 to inform, entertain and inspire men in their Christian vocation.

Charismatic Renewal Jubilee Cross

St Monica's Prayer Group, as part of the worldwide Charismatic Renewal, is celebrating its 50 Year Jubilee. The beginnings of the renewal stem from a retreat of professors and students in Pittsburgh, USA. In preparation for this retreat they prayed for a special outpouring of the Holy Spirit, and studied the beginnings of the early Church in the Acts of the Apostles. They experienced the Holy Spirit in a way similar to the Pentecost experience of the Apostles together with Mary in the upper room. To celebrate this significant anniversary the Melbourne Renewal has made a large cross which will come to St Monica's Church on Saturday 1 April, 2017. Special prayers and devotions will take place in St Monica's Church and surrounding parishes in the week following. Watch this space.

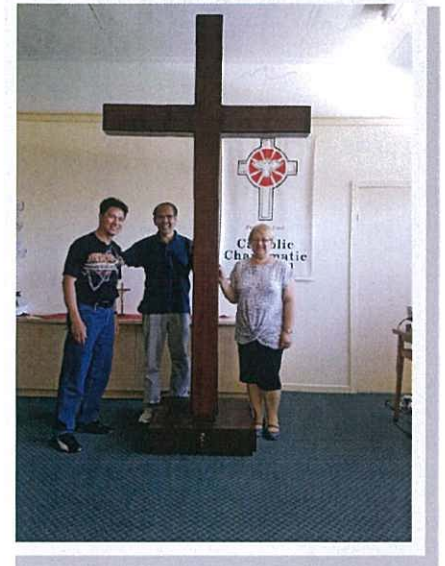
DVD Presentations

The prayer group will host a series of DVD talks on the theme "Knowing God Better.". The series will be screened in the Symons Centre on seven evenings from 7.30 pm, commencing on Thursday 4 May, 2017. The sessions will include songs of praise, DVD talk, group discussion and prayer. Themes include: Knowing God's Love, Forgiveness, Help, Word, Spirit and Hope. We would love to see parishioners take advantage of this series of encouraging sessions.

Monthly Family Healing Prayer

Every first Sunday of the month after 10.30 am Mass, prayer group members are available to pray for spiritual, family and physical healing. We have experienced instances of God blessing us with answers to our prayers, such as John the truck driver who was healed of his back problems. All are welcome to take advantage of these prayers for healing.

For further information on the Charismatic Prayer Group contact: Adrian 9337 2051 or Russell: 9382 0840.



Child Safety Code of Conduct

St. Monica's Parish Moonee Ponds

Safeguarding Children and Young People

28/9/2016

Central to the mission of St. Monica's Parish Moonee Ponds is an unequivocal commitment to fostering the dignity, self-esteem and integrity of children and young people and providing them with a safe, supportive and enriching environment to develop spiritually, physically, intellectually, emotionally and socially.

Purpose

This Code of Conduct has a specific focus on safeguarding children and young people at St. Monica's Moonee Ponds against sexual, physical, psychological and emotional abuse or neglect. It is intended to complement child protection legislation and the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne's "Code of Conduct for Caring for Children, May our children flourish".

All staff, volunteers, contractors, clergy and parish council members at St. Monica's are expected to actively contribute to a parish culture that respects the dignity of its members and affirms the Gospel values of love, care for others, compassion and justice. They are required to observe child-safe principles and expectations for appropriate behaviour towards and in the company of children, as noted below.

Acceptable behaviours

All staff, volunteers, contractors, clergy and parish council members are responsible for supporting the safety of children by:

- ◆ adhering to the parish Child Safe Policy and upholding the parish's Statement of Commitment to child safety at all times
- ◆ taking all reasonable steps to protect children from abuse and harm
- ◆ treating everyone in the parish community with respect (modelling positive and respectful relationships and acting in a manner that sustains a safe pastoral environment)
- ◆ listening and responding to the views and concerns of children, particularly if they are telling you that they or another child have been abused or that they are worried about their safety/the safety of another child
- ◆ promoting the cultural safety, participation and empowerment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children (for example, by never questioning an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child's self-identification)
- ◆ promoting the cultural safety, participation and empowerment of children with culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds (for example, by having a zero tolerance policy towards discrimination)
- ◆ promoting the safety, participation and empowerment of children with a disability (for example, by ensuring reasonable care is taken to cater for any additional needs being faced)
- ◆ ensuring as far as practicable that an adult is not alone with a child
- ◆ reporting any allegations of child abuse to the police
- ◆ understanding and complying with all reporting obligations as they relate to mandatory reporting and reporting under the Crimes Act 1958 (Vic.)
- ◆ reporting any child safety concerns to the parish priest or the Vicar General if the concern relates to the parish priest (or Parish child safety officer Sonya Bading)

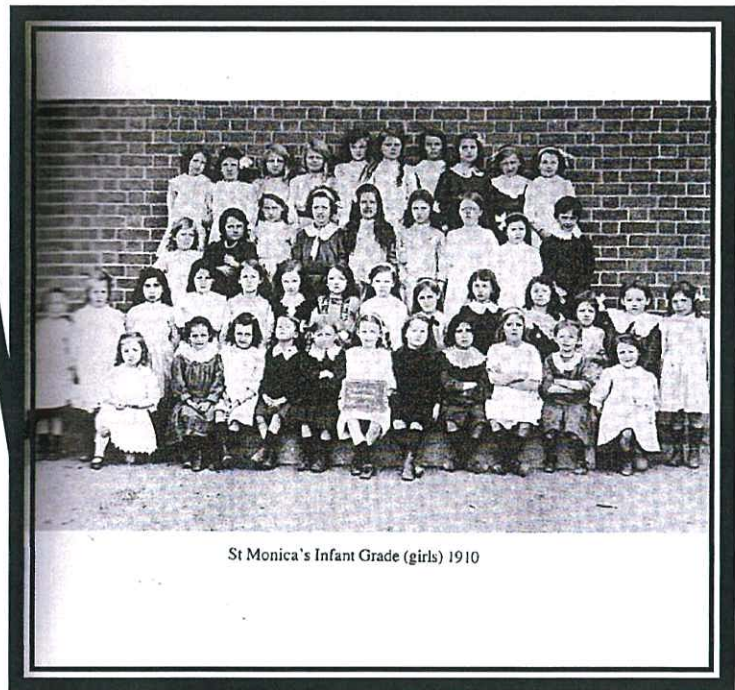


Unacceptable behaviours

Staff, volunteers, contractors, clergy and parish council members must not:

- ◆ ignore or disregard any suspected or disclosed child abuse
- ◆ develop any 'special' relationships with children that could be seen as favouritism (for example, the offering of gifts or special treatment for specific children)
- ◆ exhibit behaviours with children which may be construed as unnecessarily physical (for example, inappropriate sitting on laps)
- ◆ put children at risk of abuse (for example, by locking doors or being alone with a child with no good cause)
- ◆ initiate unnecessary physical contact with children or do things of a personal nature that a child can do for themselves, such as toileting or changing clothes
- ◆ manage disruptive or unsafe behaviour by degrading or isolating a child; corporal punishment is never acceptable. Physical restraint should only be used as a last resort or in an emergency
- ◆ engage in open discussions of a mature or adult nature in the presence of children (for example, personal details or social activities)
- ◆ use inappropriate language in the presence of children
- ◆ express personal views on cultures, race or sexuality in the presence of children
- ◆ discriminate against any child because of age, gender, race, culture, vulnerability, sexuality, ethnicity or disability
- ◆ have contact with a child or their family who is/are not socially related outside of the pastoral duties reasonably associated with the role description of the person's position in the parish without the parish priest's or child safety officer's (if the parish has appointed someone to this role) knowledge and/or consent (other than accidental contact, such as seeing people in the street)
- ◆ have any online contact (including by social media, email, instant messaging etc.) with a child or their family who is/are not family or socially related (unless necessary e.g. by providing families with e-newsletters)
- ◆ use any personal communication channels/device such as a personal email account to conduct parish communications
- ◆ exchange personal contact details such as phone number, social networking sites or email addresses with a child or their family who is/are not family or socially related
- ◆ photograph or video a child without the consent of the parent or guardians
- ◆ work with children while under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs
- ◆ consume drugs on parish premises or at parish events.

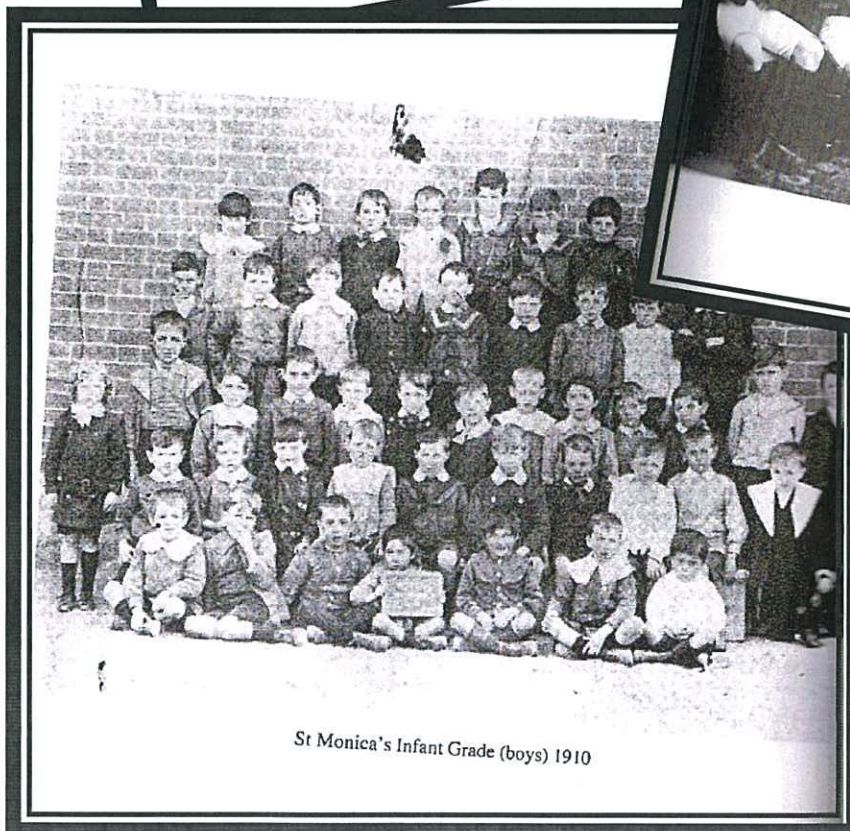
Remember when.....



St Monica's Infant Grade (girls) 1910



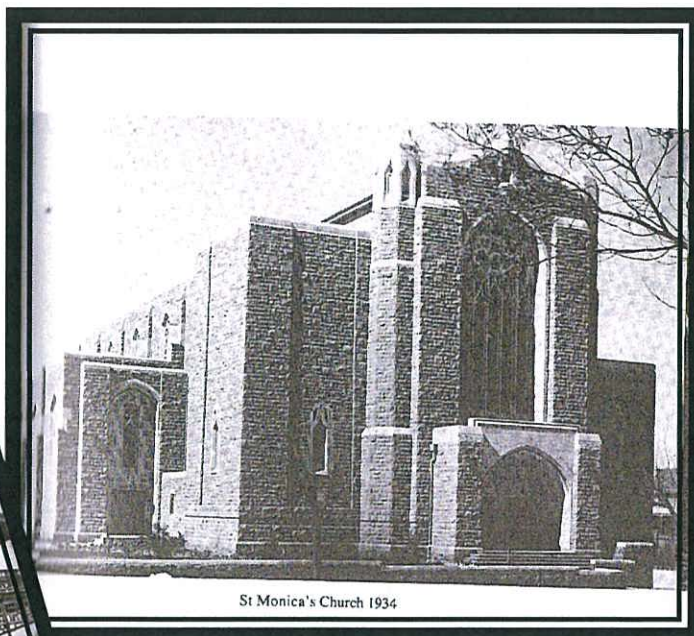
St Monica's Essendon 1913



St Monica's Infant Grade (boys) 1910



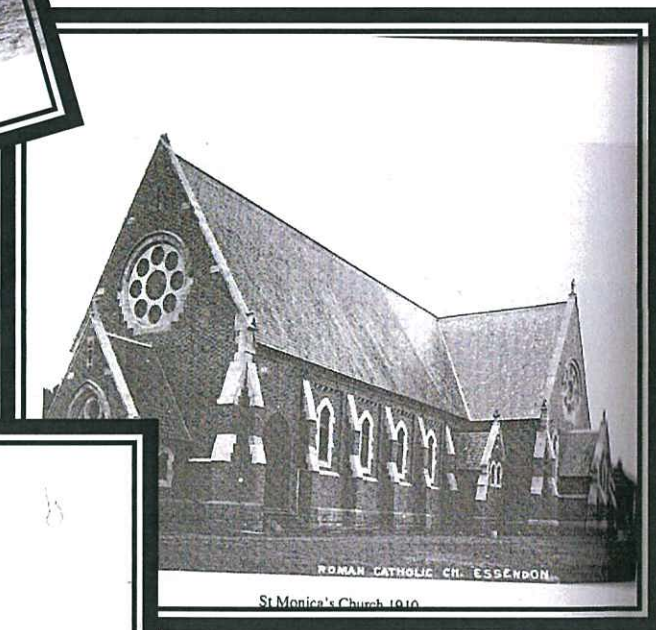
Photographs from "On Their Shoulders We Stand" by Rev. John Lanigan B. Meech. E., B.A., Dip R.Ed., E.V.



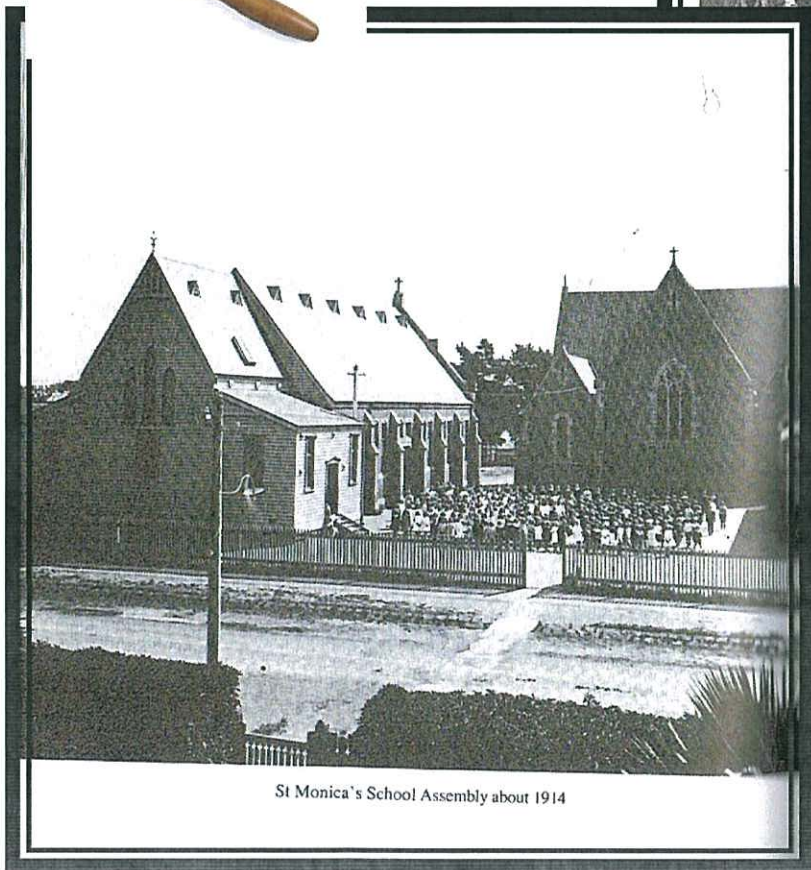
St Monica's Church 1934



The Presbytery 1901



ROMAN CATHOLIC CH. ESSENDON
St Monica's Church 1910



St Monica's School Assembly about 1914



Catholic Education Week 2017

This year's Catholic Education Week took place between 12–19 March as Catholic schools celebrated more than 150 years of service to the Victorian community.

Catholic Education Week Moved by the love of Christ



The theme - "Moved by the love of Christ," was drawn from a phrase in St Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians where he spoke of the love of Christ that urges, compels and moves us to share in Christ's ministry of reconciliation (2 Cor 5: 14).

St Monica's Primary School took part in the special Mass for schools at St Patrick's Cathedral on March 17 celebrated by Archbishop Hart. The school was well-represented by Principal Peter Moore, Vice Principal Michael Di Nuzzo, school captains, vice captains and social justice captains.

St Patrick's was filled with thousands of Catholic students, teachers and dignitaries including the Premier of Victoria Daniel Andrews and the Ambassador of Ireland Mr Breandán Ó Caollaí. The uplifting music was provided by choirs and musicians from De La Salle College, Malvern; St Mary's School, Williamstown; Xavier College, Kew; and Our Lady of Sion College, Box Hill.

After Mass, around 2,000 primary school students gathered in Treasury Gardens for the Concert in the Park to enjoy the best school bands, including performers from Padua College, Mornington; and Mercy College, Coburg.

Other highlights of the week included the Visual Arts Display at the Catholic Leadership Centre, East Melbourne, a long-established highlight of the arts education calendar, and the Young Speakers Colloquium, an opportunity for secondary students to hear about the diverse and unique life journeys former Catholic students have embarked on.

St Monica's Piety Stall

Are you in need of a birthday card or a present for a religious celebration? If so, you may like to consider St Monica's piety store. The store sells various religious artefacts, cards, rosaries, medals and "The Melbourne Catholic" magazine. If you can't find what you're after, one of the lovely volunteers will be more than happy to help with a special order.

The piety store is run by St Vincent de Paul Society and all profits go towards helping those underprivileged in our parish, irrespective of religious beliefs. In fact, around 70% of the Society's work benefits non-Catholics residing in our local area.

The piety store is one of the many ways in which the St Vincent de Paul Society raises funds for charity. The Society also helps the underprivileged through other initiatives and are always in need of help, such as helpers for the soup van. If you would like to help and can spare some time, please feel free to contact Les Butler through the parish office.

Now where is this wonderful piety store you ask? It is located at the front foyer of St Monica's church and is open for approximately 15 minutes after each mass (except for the Italian mass at 9.15am Sundays). Please pop over to check out the store the next time you need a gift and help a worthy cause at the same time, or even just to say hello to Les or other volunteers.



Vía crucis

En el vía crucis seguimos los pasos de Jesús durante su pasión y muerte en la cruz.

Stations of the Cross

In the stations we follow in the footsteps of Jesus during his passion and Death on the cross.



1 Jesús es condenado a muerte.
Jesus is condemned to die.



2 Jesús carga con la cruz.
Jesus takes up his cross.



3 Jesús cae por primera vez.
Jesus falls the first time.



4 Jesús encuentra a su madre.
Jesus meets his mother.



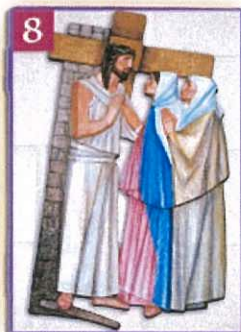
5 Simón ayuda a Jesús a cargar la cruz.
Simon helps Jesus carry his cross.



6 Verónica enjuga el rostro de Jesús.
Veronica wipes the face of Jesus.



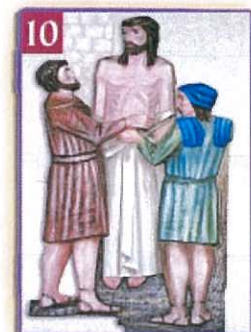
7 Jesús cae por segunda vez.
Jesus falls the second time.



8 Jesús encuentra a las mujeres de Jerusalén.
Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem.



9 Jesús cae por tercera vez.
Jesus falls the third time.



10 Jesús es despojado de sus vestiduras.
Jesus is stripped of his garments.



11 Jesús es clavado en la cruz.
Jesus is nailed to the cross.



12 Jesús muere en la cruz.
Jesus dies on the cross.



13 Jesús es bajado de la cruz.
Jesus is taken down from the cross.



14 Jesús es dejado en un sepulcro.
Jesus is laid in the tomb.

