

# The Monica September 2019



## St. Monica's Parish Moonee Ponds

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**From the  
Editorial Team**

It's Spring time! Hallelujah! Now you're packing away the Winter woollies and throwing open the windows and doors to let the sunshine in, give thanks to God for the simple blessings of life.

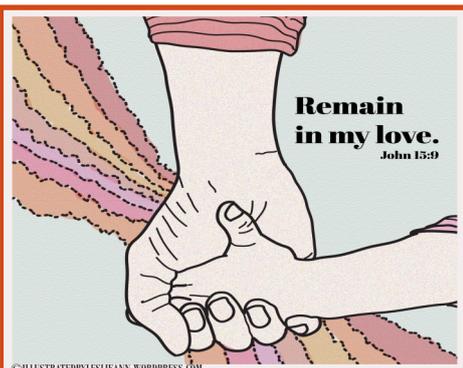
In this issue, we celebrate Father's Day and pay homage to our Holy Father Pope Francis. There's a wonderful community connection too! Also, after decades of services to the Charismatic Prayer Group, Adrian Commadeur is retiring. Before he hangs up his hat, we've asked him to reflect on the history of the group and its memorable moments.

At St Monica's school, we celebrated Grandparents day, with Lisa Mammola capturing beautiful images of families at mass and visiting classrooms. We acknowledge the feasts of our patron Saint, St Monica, and Australia's first Saint, St Mary MacKillop. Also, we meet a few new faces: our Co-editor Paula's beautiful new baby, Tahlia, our fascinating new Assistant Priest, Fr Trevor and Abygaile Cukavac, who tells us all about her role as Parish Pastoral Assistant.

Special thanks to our new Co-editor, Natalia D'cruz, who has produced this professional-looking magazine! As always, we appreciate the work of our parish volunteers. All who wish to contribute are most welcome.

We hope you enjoy this Spring Edition of the Monica.

Jo Barrett and Natalia D'cruz,  
The Monica Co-Editors

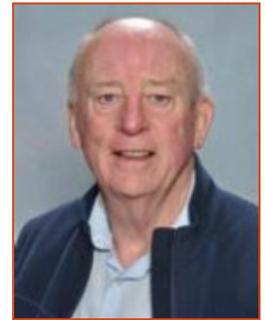


**A Pastoral Letter**

**A Message from Father Tony**

I sit down to write these few words on the first day of Spring, September 1, Father's Day, and I find myself humming of the words of an old 1955 song from the show Oklahoma;

Oh what a beautiful morning,  
Oh what a beautiful day,  
I've got a wonderful feeling,  
Everything's going my way.



The words themselves speak to me of Spring: the days are getting warmer, the daylight longer, lambs dancing and prancing in the fields as we start to put away our heavy jumpers and store away our doonas until next winter!

During the cold winter months, we moved the celebration of our weekday Masses from our St Monica's Church into the Symons Centre where it was warm and cosy!

Celebrating Mass in the Symons Centre reminded me of when my family came to Australia, back in 1958, how we used to attend Mass in one of the local family's homes (the Dunlevy's) because there was no parish church, which came many years later.

Moving from a large cold building that holds 700 to a smaller room that was warm and comfortably held 24 – our regular weekday Mass numbers – I experienced a profound sense of a faith community gathered to pray and celebrate the Eucharist as the Body of Christ; for me it was uplifting to celebrate Mass with a people gathered together rather than spread out.

Speaking of a people gathered together; the recent celebration of our Parish Feast Day was such an occasion as the Parish School Foundation families came together with the greater parish community to celebrate the Feast of St Monica. To see so many families at Mass, was uplifting for our older parishioners who draw great strength from knowing they are not alone in their living and celebrating the faith we all share through our common Baptism.

It was a joyous occasion that continued after Mass when we gathered in the Symons Centre to enjoy the refreshments our Foundation families and other parishioners provided for the occasion, along with Barista coffee for the 'oldies' and ice cream for the 'youngies'! May we have a bigger and better celebration of our Parish Feast Day next year!

Hopefully, now with the First Holy Communion season fast approaching, we will see more of our Parish families joining us for Sunday Mass.

Meanwhile, let us enjoy the gift of Spring as we thank God for the beautiful mornings, wonderful days and uplifting feelings that Spring brings to us all.

God's blessings to all of you,

Fr Tony Feeny

## St. Monica's Parish Profile: **Fr TREVOR TIBBERTSMA**

Written by: **Melanie Lambertini**

Fr Trevor Tibbertsma is our new Assistant Parish Priest. He is originally from Queensland but moved to Melbourne in 2007. Fr Trevor completed his studies for the Priesthood with the Pontifical North American College in Rome, and following his ordination to the Priesthood, completed postgraduate studies in Sacred Scripture with a focus on Ancient Languages.

Fr Trevor currently lectures part-time at Catholic Theological College in East Melbourne and speaks Italian fluently. He is very happy to be a part of St Monica's Parish Community, and we wish him a warm welcome.

***Here's what Fr Trevor had to say when we asked him about his own journey:***

"Though I love being a priest now, growing up I never really thought about it. During my early teens, I was pretty obsessed with skateboarding. I believed in God and our family went to Mass on Sunday evenings, but that's about all I can say.

My later teens revolved around sport, friends and girls. Basically, after experiencing how superficial and unsatisfying the party life can be, I was attracted to the enthusiasm of some young Catholics whom I had met, as well as their obvious joy from their relationship with Jesus Christ in his Church. I was inspired to learn more about our beautiful faith and my heroes started to change from being professional skateboarders or sportspeople to Saints and Popes.

In moving to Melbourne, I was inspired by certain inspirational priests to consider this path for myself. Their joyful and untiring dedication to helping lead people to an authentic encounter with God, really attracted me. They helped me to see how, you, the people of God deserve to be loved by your priests in the same undivided celibate way that Christ Jesus loved you, by giving up his whole life that you might have life to the full".



## Feast of St Anne & St Joachim (Grandparents Day) : 26th July

Written by: Lisa Mammola

Every year, on or around July 26, St Monica's school welcomes into classrooms and celebrates at Mass all the grandparents and special people in our children's lives. This special day also happens to be the Feast of Saints Anne and Joachim, the grandparents of Jesus Christ. Although little is documented of their lives, we consider them to have been rather remarkable. They raised and nurtured Mary; they taught her and brought her up to be a worthy Mother of God. Devoting this day each year to our grandparents, a day to stop and recognise the special role that they play in shaping our lives, is therefore quite appropriate.

The annual Mass is a joyful affair as grandparents and other special people are warmly welcomed into church and then into our school for a glimpse of the daily rituals of their grandchild/grandchildren or friends. The classrooms are flooded with smiles, hugs, chatter and laughter. A wonderful sense of appreciation and belonging is obvious.

The morning concludes with our special visitors enjoying a beautiful morning tea in the Symons Centre. Many of the grandparents that I had the pleasure of speaking with there, spoke with such delight and appreciation at having been invited. Principal Peter Moore said, 'You are not alone in thinking that Grandparents and Special People Day is the best day of the school year!'



# Feast of St Anne & St Joachim (Grandparents Day) : 26th July



# Feast of St Anne & St Joachim (Grandparents Day) : 26th July





## Feast of St Mary MacKillop : 8th August

Written by: Joanne Barrett

### ST MARY MACKILLOP - AUSTRALIA'S FIRST SAINT



*"Let us try to keep God with us by charity of thought, word and act."*  
St Mary MacKillop, 15.09.1890

We recently celebrated the feast of St Mary MacKillop, Australia's first saint, on the 8th of August. Her feast day coincides with the date of her death in 1909. This is the story of her remarkable life.

Mary Helen MacKillop was born in Fitzroy, Victoria, on 15 January 1842. Her family were Scottish immigrants and Mary was the eldest of eight children. The MacKillops were a loving family but experienced a lifetime of poverty. Mary went to work as a clerk when she was 14 and later as a teacher in Portland. In 1860 she took a job as governess at Penola, South Australia where looked after the children and taught them. Already set on helping the poor whenever possible, Mary included the other farm children and local indigenous children. Here she met Father Woods, who in 1866 would invite Mary and her sisters Annie and Lexie to come to Penola and open a Catholic school. The school grew to include more than fifty children. At this time Mary declared her dedication to God and began wearing black.

In 1867, MacKillop became the first sister and mother superior of the newly formed order of the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart. In the same year, at age 25, she adopted the religious name Sister Mary of the Cross. In Adelaide, they founded a new school dedicated to the education of the children of the poor, it was the first religious order to be founded by an Australian. By the end of 1867, ten other nuns had joined the Josephites who had adopted a plain brown habit. The Josephite nuns became colloquially known as the Brown Joeys. Between 1867-1871 through sheer dedication and perseverance, the Josephites had 130 nuns were working in more than 40 schools and charitable institutions across South Australia and Queensland.

Bitter factionalism within the clergy over educational matters led to a campaign to discredit the Josephites. Further troubles arose when the Josephites accused a priest of sexual misconduct with a child, which ultimately led to Mary MacKillop being ex-communicated for 'insubordination'. Though the Josephites were not disbanded, most of their schools were closed. MacKillop lived with a Jewish family in exile and was sheltered by Jesuit priests. On 21 February 1872, Mary was absolved, and later an Episcopal Commission exonerated her.

MacKillop travelled to Rome in 1873 to seek papal approval for the religious congregation and was encouraged in her work by Pope Pius IX. While in Europe, MacKillop travelled widely to observe educational methods. During the 1880s, the Josephites expanded their operations into NSW, Victoria and New Zealand.

## Feast of St Mary MacKillop : 8th August

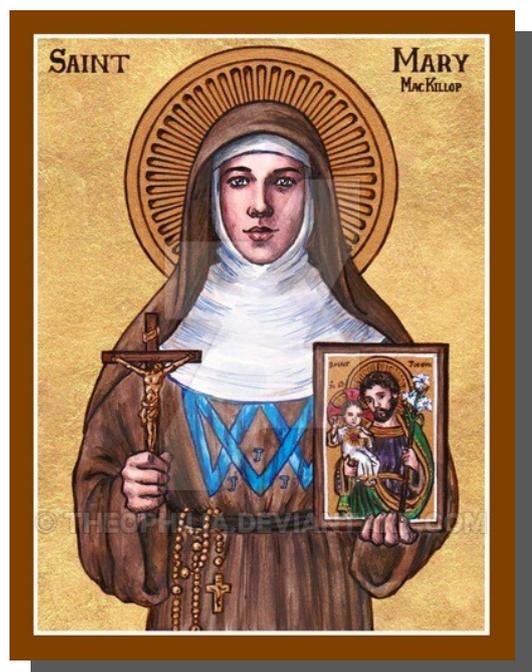
The Josephites are unique among Catholic Church ministries in two ways. Firstly, the nuns lived in the community rather than in convents. Secondly the order's constitution required administration by a Superior General rather than a diocese headed by the bishop, a structure that remains unique today. This caused them to be expelled from Bathurst and Queensland due to the respective bishops refusal to accept the administrative structure.

MacKillop's unwavering dedication to the education of the poor and care of the vulnerable in the community continued despite her own health issues and towards the end of her life, she suffered a stroke and was confined to a wheelchair. Her mind and speech were as sharp as ever and she continued as Mother Superior-General of the Josephites despite these significant challenges.

Mary MacKillop died on 8 August 1909 in Sydney. The Archbishop of Sydney, Cardinal Moran, stated that: "I consider this day to have assisted at the deathbed of a Saint." She was laid to rest at Sydney's Gore Hill Cemetery. After her burial, people continually took earth from around her grave. As a result, on 27 January 1914, Mary was re-interred in a vault before the altar of the Virgin Mary in the memorial chapel in Mount Street, Sydney.

In 1925, the Mother Superior of the Sisters of St Joseph, Mother Laurence, began the process to have MacKillop declared a saint. After several years of hearings, close examination of MacKillop's writings and a 23 year delay, the initial phase of investigations was completed in 1973. MacKillop's "heroic virtue" was declared in 1992. That same year, the church endorsed the belief that Veronica Hopson, apparently dying of leukaemia in 1961, was cured by praying for MacKillop's intercession; MacKillop was beatified on 19 January 1995 by Pope John Paul II.

On 19 December 2009, the Congregation for the Causes of Saints issued a papal decree formally recognising a second miracle, the complete and permanent cure of Kathleen Evans of inoperable lung and secondary brain cancer in the 1990s. Her canonisation was announced on 19 February 2010 and subsequently took place on 17 October 2010. This made her the First Australian Saint.



## A Focus on Fathers : OUR HOLY FATHER, POPE FRANCIS

Written by: Carmen Richardson

In March 2013, Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio was elected the 266th Pope of the Roman Catholic Church. Pope Francis, as he is known, is the first Pope from the Americas. Named 'Person of the Year 2013' by Time Magazine and nominated for the 2014 Nobel Peace Prize, Pope Francis is admired and loved across the globe.

The Holy Father was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina on the 17 December 1936. He became pontiff at the age of 76. The son of Italian immigrants, Mario José Bergoglio and Regina Maria Sivori, Pope Francis is the eldest of five children. He enjoyed traditional Argentinian dancing and was a committed student in his younger years. Before his desire to become a priest started to blossom, Pope Francis worked briefly as a chemical food technician.

It wasn't until 1960 that Pope Francis became a Jesuit. In 1963, he graduated as a philosopher and became a teacher of literature and psychology at a college in Santa Fe. In 1971, he completed theological studies in Spain and in 1973 took his final vows in the Jesuit order. In 1986, he completed his doctoral thesis in theology in Germany.

Pope Francis served as an Archbishop for the city of Buenos Aires from 1998. Between 2001 and 2003, he served as the Cardinal of the Roman Catholic Church of Argentina and in 2005 became the President of the Bishop's Conference of Argentina.

Today Pope Francis is idealised by millions of people around the world for his humanitarianism, advocacy for the environment, devotion to the poor and involvement in political diplomacy.

### *Interesting Facts about Pope Francis :*

- ◆ It is said that initially Pope Francis' mother did not support his decision to enter priesthood even though she was a Catholic herself.
- ◆ In 2005, Pope Francis was received the second-highest number of votes in the Papal Conclave.
- ◆ Pope Francis, unlike many of his predecessors, chooses to live a modest lifestyle.
- ◆ Pope Francis is the first non-European pope in over 1,000 years.

### *Famous Quote by Pope Francis :*

"Leave behind the self-interest that hardens your heart, overcome the indifference that makes your heart insensitive towards others, conquer your deadly reasoning, and open yourself to dialogue and reconciliation."



## Our Parishioner, RITA GRIFFIN celebrates her 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday!

Written by: Fr Tony Feeney

Rita Griffin was born in Ireland and settled in Newport with her family when arriving in Australia. A long-standing parishioner of St Monica's, Rita celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> July; an incredible milestone, with a Mass at the Strand Retirement Village surrounded by close family and fellow residents.

A highlight of this already special occasion occurred when Rita received a greeting from Pope Francis congratulating her on her 100th birthday, extending a special Apostolic Blessing upon her and extending the Blessing to the members of her family, her dear ones, and all those participating in her spiritual joy on this special day.

Rita had another big celebration with an even larger group of family and friends at the Symons Centre the following Sunday. This dearly-loved lady is shining example of the incredible people who are part of our parish community and the love of life that faith can bring.

**St. Monica's Parish join with Rita Griffin's family to congratulate and celebrate Rita's 100 year Birthday which was on the first of July.**



## Meet Our Parishioners : **ABYGAILE CUKAVAC-PASTORAL ASSISTANT**

Written by: **Abygaile Cukavac**

### Introducing St Monica's Parish Pastoral Assistant - Abygaile Cukavac

In May 2019, I began my appointment to the position of Pastoral Assistant to St Monica's Parish. For the past two years, I was the part-time Parish Secretary.



It's difficult to sum up my role into just a few lines. I work alongside Fr Tony serving as an extra pair of ears on the ground, to be there for our parishioners and to give them a voice. I live in our parish, so this gives me a local insight which in turn enables me to work more effectively behind the scenes. As pastoral assistant, I am trying to establish better links between the many groups flourishing across our parish. It is my role to coordinate the bereavement group, counting teams, vacuuming teams, community outreach, playgroup and so on. I love being out in the real world talking to people, catching up and connecting them with ministries they might need or suggest ones where they can lend a hand. I often find that the person we need to fix the shelves in the Symons Centre is sitting in the pews on the weekend or maybe they're dropping their child off at school in the morning.

An unexpected highlight of my job has been distributing communion to those who can't get to mass. It's a real gift being admitted into people's homes to bring them Jesus and have a chat. For some of the older people, I'm a regular face they now know and we're genuinely happy to see each other. It's great when I can organise things for the wider community too because in a way, I think of them as my family. At our St Monica's Day celebration mass we organised ice cream and a coffee cart as a treat for everyone which was a hit despite the chilly weather.

As for why I do it, I have my three boys who live here in our parish and will grow up here and I want them to be part of a community that knows God. I want them to be around people who can teach them to reach out to others and help them understand how fortunate they are. I want them to know that they have much to give whether that's serving on the altar or laughing with friends on the footy ground. I do this job for them and for the place I call home.



# IT'S A GIRL



Our co-editor, Paula Theocharides, recently welcomed a beautiful baby girl, Tahlia Rose Theocharides - born on 22nd August 2019 at 12:59am, weighing 3.290 kg.

Mum and baby are both healthy and well (though mum is a little tired!) and Max, in Year 3 at St Monica's School, is absolutely smitten with his little sister and so proud to be a big brother.

The team at 'The Monica' wish Paula and family all the best for the coming months and God's blessings on the safe arrival of Tahlia Rose.



## Feast of St Monica : 27th August

Written by: Eakcawin & Yvonne Manopsakulpon

On Tuesday, 27th August 2019, the students St Monica's school, their teachers and members of our Parish Community gathered to celebrate the Feast Day of our patron saint, St Monica. We began with an opening prayer by the students, praying that St Monica will continue to bless us and the hymn *Gathering in Love* was sung.



Fr Tony welcomed everyone to celebrate the feast of our parish and school, he began his homily by retelling the story of St Monica and her son, St Augustine. The story of St Monica demonstrates the power of a mother's abiding love for her child. St Monica received the power of prayer and never stop praying for her son, even when he repeatedly made bad decisions. St Augustine took his mother's love for granted, but even then she never stopped loving him. St Monica never lost faith in God and didn't stop trying to bring her son back to God, even though St Augustine had strayed from his faith. Once St Monica told St Augustine about her dream of him coming back to her faith, but St Augustine rejected his mother and asked her to give up her own faith instead. Through St Monica's perseverance, faith, hope and love, St Augustine finally found God.

## Feast of St Monica : 27th August



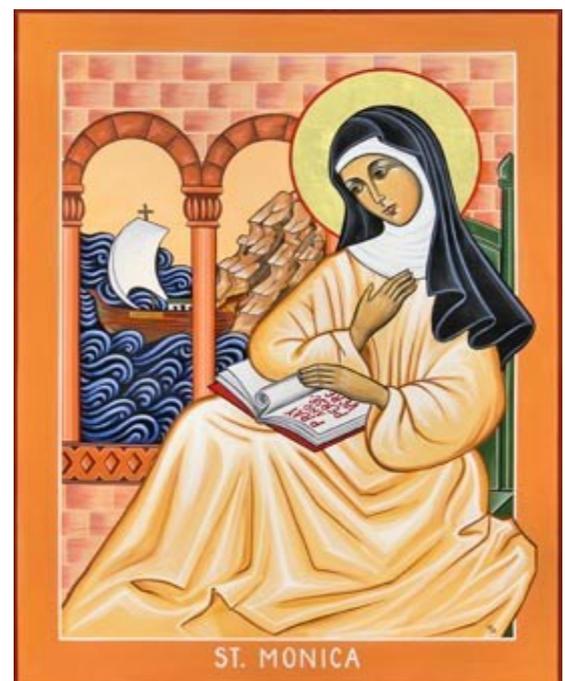
The story of St Monica and her son, St Augustine, inspires us to see, to recognise and to remember what our mothers have done for us, and how much our mothers love us.

Fr Tony encouraged us to see St Monica as an example of love and kindness and about the transformative power of prayer. While educators and parents should never give up on their children, Fr Tony encouraged us not to give up on one another, for God never gives up on us. He reminded the children to think of their parents' love and told all the children that when they go home to give their mum the biggest hug and say Thank You.

This mass also served as a farewell to Fr Thomas, who will be relocated to the Parish in Ferntree Gully later this month. This was the last school mass for Fr Thomas before his departure. Fr Tony and the children thanked Fr Thomas for his contribution in our Parish over the past 8 months and asked everyone to keep Fr Thomas in our prayers.

As the mass ended, Principal Mr Moore reminded the children to cherish the love they share with their families and friends.

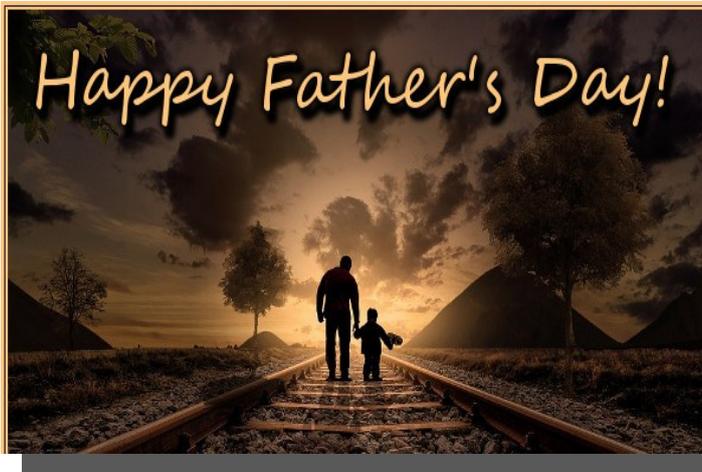
The Feast of St Monica was also celebrated on Sunday, 25th August 2019, together with the Family Mass for Foundation students. After Mass, the families gathered in the Symon's Centre to enjoy refreshments. As an extra special treat to honour our patron saint, all the children received an ice-cream. It was a fitting end to a celebration of a mother's love.



## Father's Day: 1st September

Written by: Joanne Barrett

### A FATHER'S DAY REFLECTION



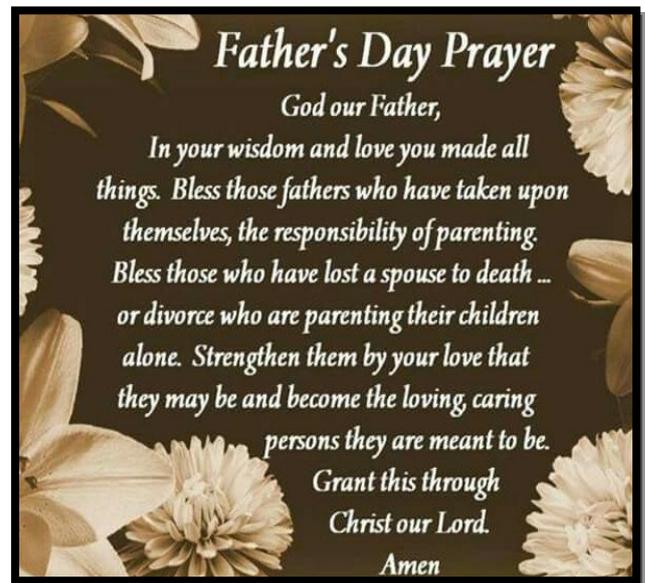
On the first Sunday in September, fathers and grandfathers all over Australia woke to kisses and hugs and gifts of socks, jocks and chocs! Adult children visited their dads or made a phone call to those living far away.

You may ponder how this special day came about? Indeed, what are the origins of Father's Day? and how can we, as people of faith, draw inspiration from our biblical fathers?

Father's Day is a longstanding celebration of fathers (or father-figures), paternal bonds and the influence of fathers in society. It dates all the way back to the Middle Ages in Europe where in many countries it is celebrated on March 19; coinciding with the feast of St Joseph, the father of Jesus.

There are many stories of virtuous and holy fathers in the bible. The American Bible Society highlights a few such men of virtue to honour on Father's Day.

Abraham is counted as the father of faith and he is revered in Judaism, Islam and Christianity. The word "faith" is an important component to remember because it means trust in God-being able to rely on that which is dependable. Abraham trusted God's assurance that his children would become a great nation. The promise came at a point when he and his wife, Sarah, were elderly and childless. And yet Abraham believed that God could do what was foretold to him. He went forward in confidence that God could accomplish, through him, a benefit for all the world.



Joseph of Galilee is an exemplary father in the Bible. He married Mary, despite the unusual circumstances of her pregnancy. He dared to be unconventional because he trusted that God was working through her and him. He was a righteous man who dared to take on the roles of husband and foster father. And as refugees from danger, after the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem, he protected his family by going beyond what was familiar to find safe haven. We can learn much about fatherhood from Joseph.

## Father's Day: 1st September

### What Makes A Dad?

God took the strength of a mountain,  
The majesty of a tree,

The warmth of a summer sun,

The calm of a quiet sea,

The generous soul of nature,

The comforting arm of night,

The wisdom of the ages,

The power of the eagle's flight,

The joy of a morning in spring,

The faith of a mustard seed,

The patience of eternity,

The depth of a family need.

Then God combined these qualities.

When there was nothing more to  
add,

He knew His masterpiece was  
complete,

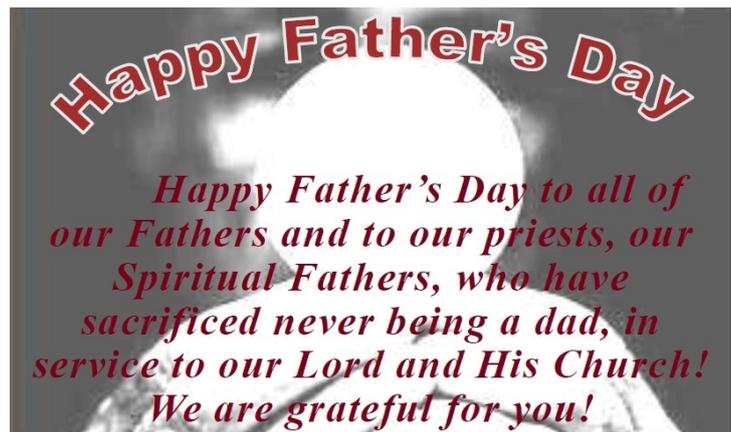
And so, He called it ... "DAD!"

Another father that captures the imagination is a man called Jairus. We read about him in the Gospels of Mark, Matthew and Luke. He was a man of importance whose daughter was dying. He came to Jesus, fell at his feet and begged Jesus to help his child. The actions of Jairus revealed his character. He trusted that God could help him and in that this faith transcended his wealth and prestige, rendering it meaningless. He humbled himself for the sake of his daughter.

A final father from the Bible that is impressive is the one who had two sons, one of whom went astray. This is, of course, the famous story told by Jesus of the prodigal son. The father in the parable teaches his two sons powerful lessons of love: the one who went astray who discovered that his father's care came to him even when he had run away from it and the other who struggled to understand such extravagant love in the face of his brother's failures and his own fidelity. The father in the story, like God, never gave up on either of his children.

On Father's Day let us remember that we have been given a heritage of dedication and faithfulness from the fathers we encounter in the Bible and from those fathers who exemplify the best qualities of parenting.

Happy Father's Day to all our wonderful fathers to whom we owe so much.

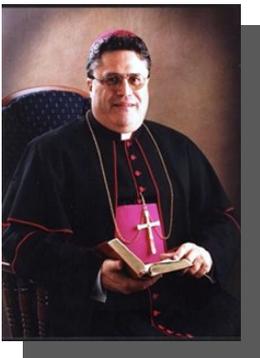


## A Reflection on St. Monica's Prayer Group of the Sacred Heart: 1989-2019

Written by: Adrian Commadeur

Founding member and elder of St Monica's Prayer Group Adrian Commadeur is retiring from leadership duties, a position he has held for over 30 years. We have asked him to reflect on his time at the helm and to highlight some of the group's memorable occasions. Our parish is eternally grateful for Adrian's commitment to the prayer group and his mission of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal and we wish him well as he enjoys a well-deserved retirement.

### **St Monica's Prayer Group of the Sacred Heart : 1989-2019**



**Bishop Joe Grech**

On 6 March, 1986, at the request of several prayerful women parishioners, Fr Joe Grech, founded the English-speaking Catholic Charismatic prayer meeting at St Monica's. Fr John Lanigan was Parish Priest, and supportive of the prayer group. Soon there were 60 participants, which filled the room behind the old hall. Fr Joe was transferred to Our Lady Help of Christians in East Brunswick as Parish Priest in January 1989. The core group comprising three or four people, including Moya McLennan and Karen Anticevic, invited me to assist them after Fr Joe left in 1989. I accepted the invitation and committed myself to St Monica's Prayer Group which had been named after the Sacred Heart. Not long after I joined the core group, several of its members resigned, and I was required to form a new core group.

### **New Beginning**

On 18 April 1990, I wrote a letter of invitation including the following remarks:

*I would like to inform you that the prayer meeting at Saint Monica's at Moonee Ponds has re-formed... We will continue to meet on Thursdays at 8 pm, preceded with the Rosary at 7.30 pm.... Our vision is to build up the people and the group so as to become a support to parish-based groups around the Western Suburbs.... A Life in the Spirit Seminar will commence on Thursday 17 May 1990. ....*

*We would like to express our appreciation to the former leaders and core group members who have served the Lord unselfishly in the past at St Monica's.*

### **Activities**

Over the years we organised Missions, Outreaches, annual *Life in the Spirit* seminars including one held in May-June 1992, at St Monica's. We also conducted Missions in St Vincent's, Strathmore; Holy Rosary, Kensington and St Teresa's, Essendon, with success. At one of these Missions in Moonee Ponds, Russell and Margaret Mogg were much touched, joined the prayer group and eventually became part of the core group around 1993. Core group meetings were held fortnightly, at their home. Many others have contributed their talents as members of the core group, including Peter and Maria Amad, Bobby and Donna Quiason, Paul Duffy, Mary Crawford, Sam and Pam Esposito, Jim, Elsie and Jeff Kelly, Edyth and Basil D'Menzie, Joe Manicolo and more recently Gerald Mullen.

## A Reflection on St. Monica's Prayer Group of the Sacred Heart: 1989-2019

### Events at St Monica's

A number of outstanding events have taken place during the last 30 years. Of the most memorable were the Healing Services in April 1996 with Fr Peter Mary Rookey OSM from the US, and Dr John Bonnici from Malta from 1993. Each of these services filled St Monica's Church to capacity. Fr Rookey's ministry was so powerful that people's souls were touched, their bodies resting on the floor under the powerful anointing of the Holy Spirit. Dr Bonnici's ministry featured the amazing capacity to identify a person's healing taking place in the middle of his oration. It may be the case that we have hosted a saint at St Monica's as I believe Fr Rookey's cause for beatification has been promoted since his death in September 2014. We have also held breakfasts for men and lunches for all-comers, the latest featuring comedian John Canavan in 2018.

### Role in St Monica's Prayer Group

From 1992, the core group met at Russell and Margaret Mogg's home for bi-monthly meetings. As an 'elder' in Catholic Charismatic Renewal (CCR) it was my role to present ideas, suggestion, recommendations for discussion and action. The core group has always been most supportive of my leadership for which I am most grateful. I began using my home computer to prepare the program agreed to by the core group. For about twelve years I have printed copies for all participants for the next two or three months. This included the leader, the speaker and the topic and the person sharing the gospel of the coming Sunday, with a commentary. Our prayer meetings were praised for their smooth running and for being well conducted by many guest speakers. The prayer group has been blessed with good music ministry, including Jim (guitar) and Elsie (keyboard) Kelly, and more recently Sean Jacob on keyboard. Generally, we have had a wonderful and harmonious relationship amongst ourselves. It has been a most satisfying way of serving the Lord locally. In 1994, Fr Joe Grech, later Bishop of Bendigo, invited me to join the teaching team of the Catholic School of Evangelisation, which opened doors for me to present a range of Bible-based courses in all the states of Australia and in countries such as the Philippines, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and Singapore.



*Members of St Monica's Prayer Group in 2013*

## A Reflection on St. Monica's Prayer Group of the Sacred Heart: 1989-2019

### Parish Priests' Support



The CCR Jubilee Cross

On occasion, we have had the parish priest, Msgr Peter Kenny, or Fr Tony Feeney or the assistant priest to celebrate mass for the group. Bishop Joe O'Connell was invited in early years, when still active. Bishop Terry Curtin has also been our guest celebrant. At times we invited the seminarian or deacon who was assigned to the parish of St Monica's to speak to us. We tried to bring variety for the group, and at the same time made efforts to evangelise the parish region. For some five years we conducted a 'Prayer Tent' at the Moonee Valley Festival, in Queen's Park, Moonee Ponds. The prayer group also supports the Shalom Orphanage in Kathmandu through monthly support donations. In 2017, celebrating 50 Years of Catholic Charismatic Renewal, we hosted a 12km ecumenical *Way of the Cross* from East Keilor to Moonee Ponds with the Jubilee Cross. Each station took place in front of a Catholic, Orthodox, Baptist, Anglican, Salvation or Uniting Church, along or near Buckley street, with local participation.

### Hope for the Future

We continue to have the hope of bringing Renewal to the Church through the promotion of the charisms, the proclamation of Jesus as Lord and Saviour in the power of the Holy Spirit, and the spirituality of Charismatic Renewal.



Recently, under the guidance of Joe Manicolo, we have opened '**Hope Café**' on the first Thursday of the month. Having been in CCR since August 1971, and leader of St Monica's Prayer Group for 30 years since 1989, I will pass the mantle of responsibility to Gerald Mullen on Thursday 22 August 2019. As I have, so will Gerald be supported by an enthusiastic and dedicated team of leaders. May the Holy Spirit empower them for the renewal of the Church, through the New and charism filled Evangelisation called for by Pope Francis. We give thanks and praise to God for the many blessings received through the St Monica's Charismatic Prayer Group.



Adrian Commadeur



# ST MONICA'S PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL 2019



**Joe Cerittelli**



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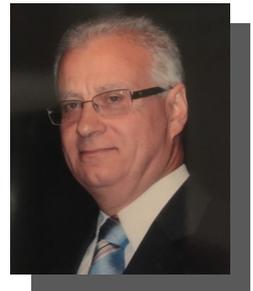
**Pastoral Assistant  
Abygaile Cukavac**



**Tanya D'Cruze-Fernandes**



**School Principal  
Peter Moore**



**Ross Legudi**

If you wish to contact any of the Pastoral Council Members, give feedback or if you have any questions, please email us on [Abygaile.Cukavac@cam.org.au](mailto:Abygaile.Cukavac@cam.org.au). Alternatively, contact the Parish Office on 9370 5035.

Children's Activity Page: **WORDSEARCH-Fathers of the Bible**

### FATHERS OF THE BIBLE

Who am I? Trace the lines to discover who these Bible fathers are!

"I had a son, Isaac, when I was 100 years old."

"I obeyed God, built an ark and saved my family"

"I was the first human father - I had sons including Cain and Abel."

"I saved gold and jewels to help my son, Solomon, build the temple."



KING DAVID



ADAM



ABRAHAM



NOAH

Can you find the names of the Bible fathers in this puzzle?

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| a | a | r | o | n | a | i | i | c | a | j |
| o | a | n | o | a | h | z | s | d | n | a |
| d | a | v | i | d | j | m | a | a | i | c |
| z | a | c | h | a | r | i | a | s | a | o |
| s | o | l | o | m | o | n | c | j | o | b |
| b | c | a | h | a | b | r | a | h | a | m |

- ADAM
- ABRAHAM
- DAVID
- JACOB
- NOAH
- ISAAC
- JOB
- SOLOMON
- ZACHARIAS
- AARON



Children's Activity Page: **CROSSWORD-Fathers of the Bible**

# FATHERS OF THE BIBLE

Use the clues below to finish the crossword puzzle.

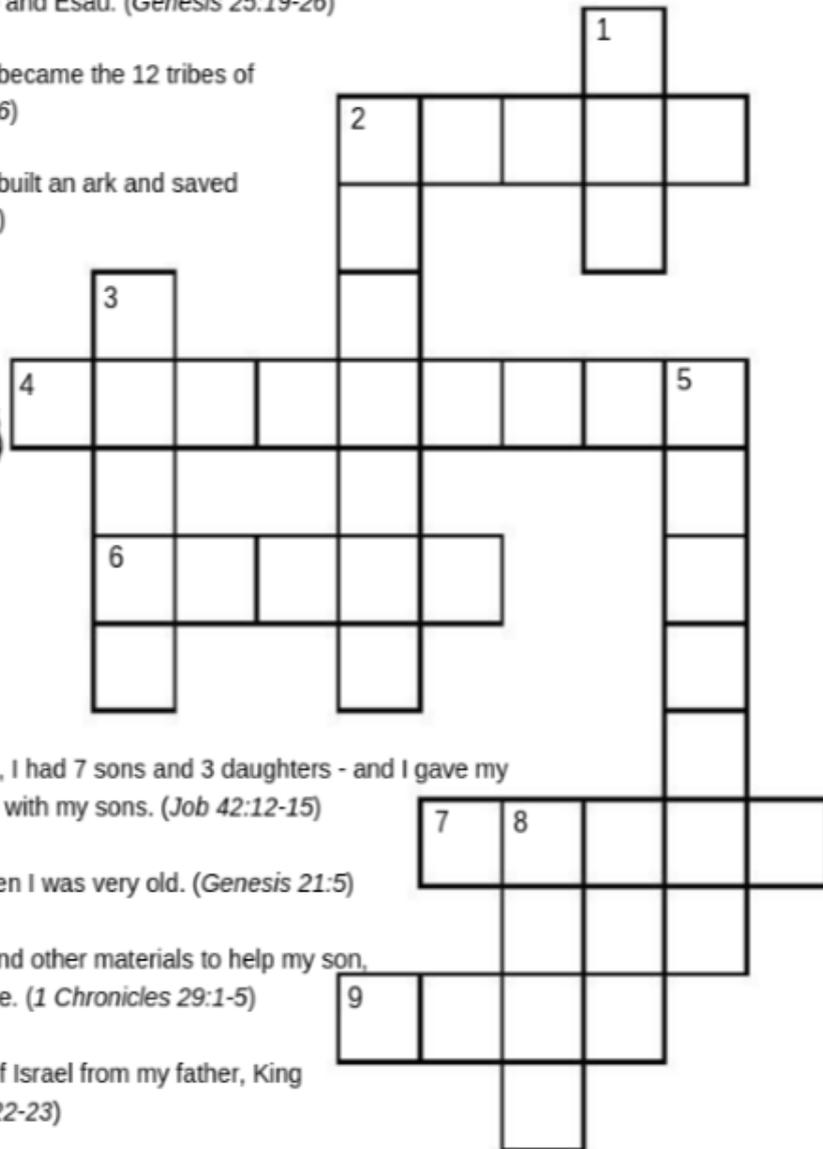
**ACROSS:**

- 2. I was the first high priest, and father of the priests of Israel. (*Exodus 28:1*)
- 4. An angel told me I would have a son, but because I didn't believe, I couldn't speak until after he was born. (*Luke 1:12-13*)
- 6. I had twin sons - Jacob and Esau. (*Genesis 25:19-26*)
- 7. I had twelve sons who became the 12 tribes of Israel. (*Genesis 35:22b-26*)
- 9. In obedience to God, I built an ark and saved my family. (*Hebrews 11:7*)

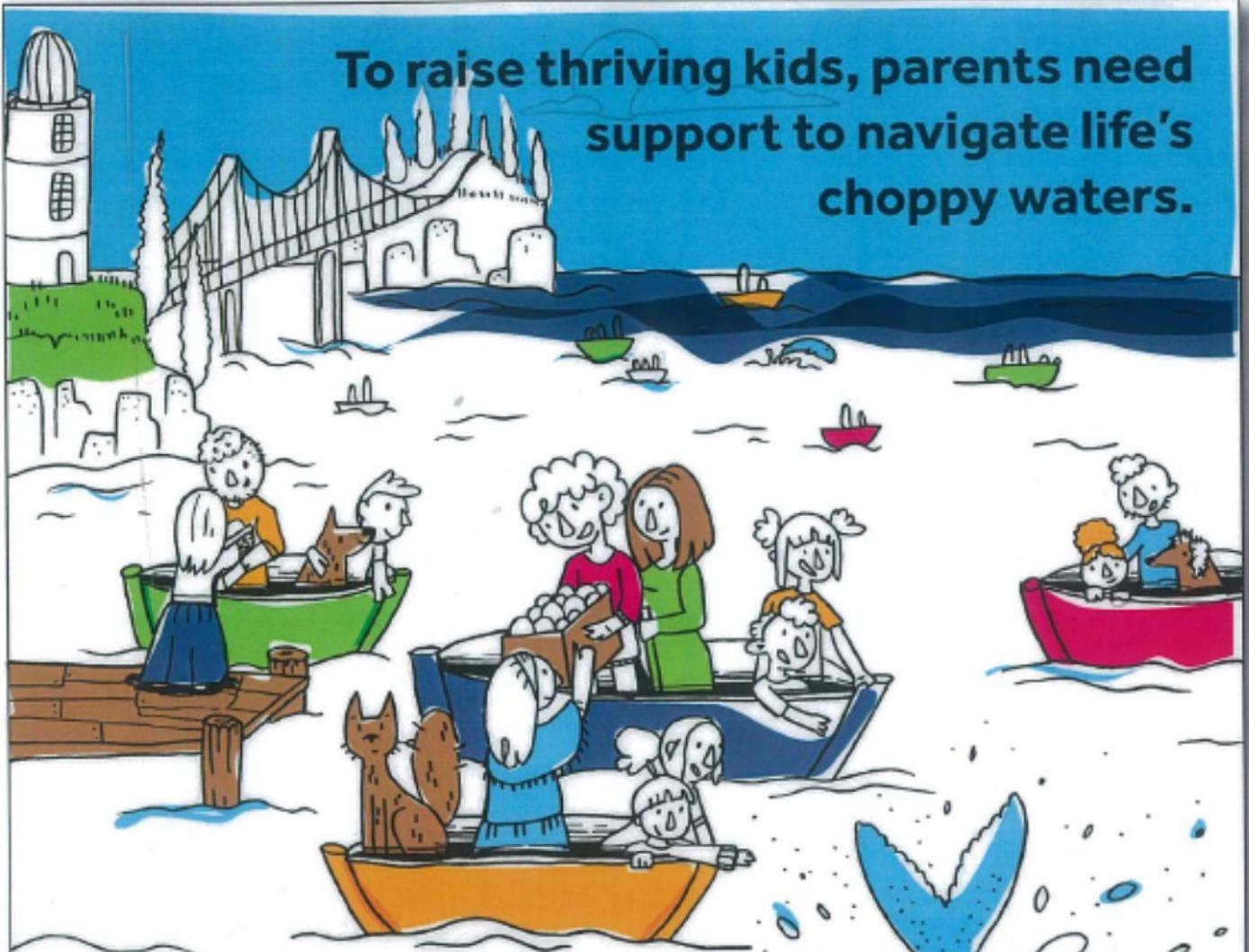


**DOWN:**

- 1. After losing everything, I had 7 sons and 3 daughters - and I gave my daughters an inheritance with my sons. (*Job 42:12-15*)
- 2. I had a son, Isaac, when I was very old. (*Genesis 21:5*)
- 3. I saved gold, jewels, and other materials to help my son, Solomon, build the temple. (*1 Chronicles 29:1-5*)
- 5. I received the throne of Israel from my father, King David. (*1 Chronicles 29:22-23*)
- 8. God was my Father, and I had sons of my own, including Cain, Abel, and Seth. (*Genesis 5:3-4*)



**To raise thriving kids, parents need support to navigate life's choppy waters.**



Drawing by: Anamika, age 14, Queensland

**How can you help build safe harbours for families?**



SUPPORTED BY: DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

**NATIONAL CHILD PROTECTION WEEK**  
1st-7th September 2019

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