
Our Lady of Dolours

Annual Financial Report

2020-2021



Fr David Ranson PP and the Parish Finance Committee

OUR PARISH PRIEST

A LETTER FROM FR DAVID



Dear Friends,

Along with our Chatswood Parish Finance Committee, I present to you an annual financial report of our parish community. We have sought to provide you with as helpful an amount of information as possible.

It has been a great privilege for me to join you at the beginning of 2021. Thankfully, the first half of this year provided me an opportunity to get to know the community before we then re-entered COVID lockdown on 26 June 2021 and in which we have remained until now. I once again pay tribute to my predecessor Fr Jim McKeon who made such an unmistakable contribution to the growth and well being of our parish since his appointment in 2018.

We are blessed with a wonderful parish community, the nature of which I sought to identify in my first Pastoral Letter to the Parish at Pentecost on 23 May. It is remarkable how many people are involved in such diverse ways to create a community with those qualities we see in Mary, the mother of Jesus, under whose patronage we are placed. Even in the face of the current difficulties of the pandemic we have been able to progress a number of significant matters, including improvements to our church celebrating the centenary of its opening in 2021, the renovation of our parish presbytery, new arrangements with Edmund Rice Education Australia for the conduct of Pius X College on parish owned land, and many pastoral milestones such as the 500th anniversary of Catholic Faith in the Philippines on 16 March 2021.

Individual communities in the Church, such as a Parish, are responsible for their own financial situation and responsibilities. It is your weekly or monthly contributions that enable us to have a Parish. As Pastor I am daily aware that without your continuing support we cannot undertake the array of activities that make our Parish a welcoming and developing community.

My special thanks to our Parish Finance Committee: Martin Teulan, Chrystal De Croos and Brendan Tertini and to former members Rick Doran, Peter Staciwa and Joe Jin.

I also record my gratitude, and that of the Committees to our Parish Finance and Facilities Manager, Michael Mercer and to our Bookkeeper, Amelia Lee who provide the Committee with such comprehensive assistance.

Fr David Ranson PP

OUR PEOPLE

THANK YOU



OUR COLLECTIONS

INFORMATION ON THE COLLECTIONS IN THE PARISH

The First Collection

The proceeds from the First Collection, as well as Stole fees from Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals, are for the support of the Priests and Bishops in our Diocese.

After covering the household expenses of the clergy in our Parish, the balance of the Collection is passed over to a pooled fund that provides stipends for all active Priests, supports our retired clergy, and pays clergy medical costs. A portion of the collection (15%) is allocated to a fund to support the Bishop (and retired Bishops) and his office.

Personal Mass offerings and gifts remain with individual Priests.

The Second Collection

The Second Collection and Planned Giving (envelopes or direct debit) are for the needs of the Parish.

These funds support our parish ministries, meet the administration costs including electricity and insurance and the maintenance of the parish buildings, as detailed on the following pages.



The Pastoral Works Fund (PWF)

The Pastoral Works Fund (formerly the Charitable Works Fund) is held three times a year and provides funding for five charities that directly support the people of our Diocese. These are:

1. Our Catechist and the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD)
2. CatholicCare Hospital Chaplaincy & Pastoral Care Practitioner Program.
3. Ephpheta Centre
4. St Lucy's School
5. St Edmund's College

Devotional Candle Stand

The monies donated at this stand are of great assistance to our parish to allay various operational costs.

Peter's Pence: conducted on the first weekend in July and sent to the Vatican as a response from the faithful to support the charitable activities of the Holy See.

Project Compassion: conducted during Lent each year for Caritas, the Catholic organization that provides humanitarian assistance to people in need.

Catholic Mission Appeal: taken annually to support the spreading of the Gospel in places around the world where Australian missionaries work.

St Vincent de Paul Appeals: held twice a year for the Winter Appeal and Christmas Appeal.

Holy Places: held on Good Friday to promote missionary work of the Church and support education, health, medical and social works for the people of the Holy Land.

A SNAPSHOT OF OUR PARISH

	2011	2016
Catholic Population	8,613	8,117
Catholic Families	3,125	2,947
Catholics born in Non-English Speaking Countries (%)	29.9	32.4
Not proficient in English (%)	4.0	3.7
Catholics with University Degree (%)	41.2	46.0
Catholic females in labour force (%)	57.8	59.7
Catholic males in labour force (%)	70.4	72.4

Sacraments	2021	2020	2019
May Diocesan Mass Count	1,000	COVID	1485
Baptisms (to 30 September 2021)	40	36	66
Received into the Church	1	0	0
Confirmations	COVID	COVID	
First Eucharist	COVID	COVID	
Weddings (to 30 September 2021)	2	5	5
Funerals (to 30 September 2021)	20	23	19
Students in Catholic Schools			
Our Lady of Dolours Primary School	320		
Mercy College	720		
St Pius X College (An EREA school)	1110		
Catholic Students in Gov't Schools			
Mowbray Public School	118	126	108
Roseville Public School	97	108	118
Castle Cove Public School	98	110	107
Artarmon Public School	194	193	201
Chatswood Public School	152	166	155
Catechists	48	49	48

OUR FINANCES

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

July to June 2020/21 FULL YEAR FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

Church Account

	2019-2020	2020/2021			2021/2022
	Full Year Actual	Full Year Actual	Full Year Budget	Variance To Budget	Budget
Revenue					
Planned Giving Credit Cards	99,511	123,398	105,000	18,398	128,544
Direct Deposits	37,960	51,660	34,992	16,668	61,656
2nd Collection - Envelopes	126,977	91,102	114,996	-23,894	90,000
2nd Collection - Loose	76,997	61,295	68,604	-7,309	64,692
Tap and Go	10,900	28,565	14,004	14,561	30,000
Website	4,238	4,607	0	4,607	0
Chaplaincies	4,382	4,663	4,392	293	4,600
Christmas Collection	0	3,923	0	3,923	3,922
Total Second Collection	360,967	369,212	341,988	27,224	383,414
CCI, Diocesan Rebates	604	0	600	-600	604
Donations and Bequests	25,001	22,454	24,744	-2,290	20,500
Sacramental Programs	4,066	481	4,104	-3,623	10,000
Piety Stall	1,683	2,336	2,004	332	5,000
Interest	3,084	864	2,052	-1,189	750
Rent	200	1,200	192	1,008	200
Total Operating Revenue	396,605	396,547	375,684	20,863	420,468

Expenses						
Altar and Church Requisites	9,352		32,399	10,452	-21,947	20,020
Insurance	36,802		38,105	40,716	2,611	39,624
MV and Travel	20,241		22,137	30,000	7,863	22,500
IT & Telecommunications	15,882		24,570	19,920	-4,650	17,910
Office and Administration	20,827		29,266	28,320	-946	32,804
Utilities	10,558		7,835	10,944	3,109	11,175
Maintenance	8,241		9,803	6,984	-2,819	6,200
Furniture and Fittings	0		0	0	0	4,500
R&M Capital Items	0		0	0	0	16,000
Salaries and Superannuation	313,226		329,640	322,130	-7,510	247,506
Pastoral Programs	24,432		13,576	28,512	14,936	34,420
Donations	0		5,735	0	-5,735	5,700
Total Operating Expenses	459,561		510,067	497,988	-12,079	458,359
Non Operating Revenue						
JobKeeper Subsidy	42,000		171,050	73,500	97,550	0
Covid Cash Boost	17,440		24,796	28,500	-3,704	0
Grants and Donations	34,500		1,250	0	1,250	0
SPSP Fund Reimbursements	125,907		62,300	97,320	-35,020	0
Total Non Operating Revenue	219,847		259,396	199,320	60,076	0
Non Operating Expense						
Furniture and Fittings	27,636		31,822	2,712	-29,110	0
R&M Non Recurring	87,855		48,582	31,716	-16,866	0
Site MasterPlanning	59,785		33,767	42,960	9,194	0
Community Dinner Set Up	20,576		0	0	0	0
Other	0		5,404	0	-5,404	0
Total Non Recurring Expense	195,852		119,575	77,388	-42,187	0
Net Profit/Loss			26,302	-372	26,674	-37,891

OUR FINANCES

COMMENTARY ON THE YEAR

Income

There was a significant shift in parishioners giving from cash to electronic. This is very fortunate for the parish as during the first half of the year we evidenced significant restrictions in numbers of people attending church.

To budget, cash contributions were down \$27.2k whilst Cards were up \$35k, Tap n Go up \$14.6 k and website up \$4.6. On Actuals versus last year Actuals, second collection was up \$8k.

The other key area of income was with JobKeeper and Government subsidies. The Government extended the scheme. We were able to claim JobKeeper for about 6 months longer than budgeted. This benefit allowed our Parish to spend on Capital items to allow significant and well overdue improvements to the church, office and presbytery.

Expenses

Expenses came in reasonably close to budget. Some key points are:

- Altar and church requisites were \$21.9k over due to the renovation of sacred vessels and use of eNews for bulletins and livestream and an increase in the spend on flowers and candles;
- Travel and Car Allowance was \$7.8k under budget as we had to maintain one less car allowance than budgeted to maintain;
- IT expenses \$7.5k over budget as we had to update 3 old computers for staff;
- Salaries and related costs in line;
- CCD Reimbursements reduced by \$12k due to JobKeeper;
- Spend on pastoral programs down by \$14.9k due to COVID restrictions.

Saint Peter and Saint Paul Fund Reimbursements

At the beginning of the year we budget for certain reimbursements from the Fund. The availability of these reimbursements relies totally on the income earned by the Fund over the year. The cash rated of the TD was very poor this year.

- Site masterplan costs down by \$11k for the year.
- Reimbursement for Restoration (RM) not taken due to the lack of surplus in the Fund, so down \$15k.
- Reimbursement for FFO down by \$8k due to JobKeeper.
- The SPSF still only had a \$72 surplus for the year despite these reductions above.

Non-recurring expenditure

Site Masterplan reimbursements down by \$9.1k for the year on budget

Capital item furniture and fittings up \$29k due to air-conditioning of the office and new items of furniture for the presbytery.

Capital items R&M up \$16.8k on budget, due mostly to repairs to church, including renovation of the Reconciliation Room, light repairs, projector repairs, window repairs, and skirting repairs . . .

Bank Balances 30 June 2020

Working Account: \$93,204

Renovation Account: \$0

Term Deposit: \$200,000

Bank Balance 30 June 2021

Working Account: \$123,001

Renovation Account: \$91,800

Term Deposit: \$100,695

Pastoral Works Fund Shortfall for 2020/2021: \$32,009.47. This figure is not represented on the operational budget and will be addressed drawing from the existing Parish Ancillary Fund.

BALANCE SHEET

	30 June 2020	30-June-2021
ASSETS		
Cash at Bank	\$93,204	\$123,002
Parish Term Deposit	\$200,000	\$100,695
Debtors	\$5,575	\$6,677
Renovation Account		\$91,800
Supplier/Misc Clearing Account		\$179
Total Assets	\$298,779	\$322,353
LIABILITIES		
CBA Mastercard	\$2,090	
Staff Entitlements and Provision		
Provision - Annual Leave	\$24,135	\$25,583
Provision - Annual Leave Loading	\$4,224	\$4,477
Provision - Long Service Leave	\$21,589	\$25,433
Provision - Baptism Font	\$20,000	
Provision - IT Hardware		\$6,000
Superannuation Payable	\$2,117	\$1,981
PAYG Tax Payable	\$3,678	\$2,502
Funds held for Ministries		
186 Boundary Street Rent Clearing	\$400	\$300
88 Deepwater Rd Rent Clearing	\$300	\$200
Alpha Income & Expenditure	\$100	\$100
Atrium Receipts & Payments	\$5,180	\$8,241
Social Justice	\$23,517	\$25,778
Teen Group	\$150	\$150
Streetwork		\$240
Fr Barry's Bequest		\$3,890
Total Liabilities	\$107,480	\$104,875
Net Assets	191,299	\$217,478
Equity	\$1,482,764	\$1,442,675
Current Year Earnings	-\$39,965	\$26,303
Total Equity	\$1,442,799	\$1,468,978

WHAT HAS HAPPENED THIS YEAR

Significant Material Improvements

Church

- New sanctuary furnishings
- Restoration of Sacred Vessels (\$10k)
- Establishment of St Joseph's chapel
- Receipt and Restoration of gifted 19th century Filipino Wood Panel of Our Lady della Leche
- Refurbishment of Reconciliation Room (to be completed)
- Repair of Church Bell commenced
- BB35 Banners in church courtyard
- Night lights around exterior of church - June 2021
- Testing for the provision of new sound speakers and improvements
- Installation of Self-Opening Glass Doors at church entrance to protect the foyer from the weather
- Holy Water font at foyer of church - June 2021
- Installation of holy water dispensers at entrances to church - September 2021
- WiFi extended to the church - October 2021
- Commissioning of Consultation Paper by architects Sarah and Carlos Veas on the proposed renovation of the church

Presbytery

- Thorough cleaning out of residence
- Cleaning of front garden
- New furnishings
 - Oven, dishwasher, dryer
 - New shelving and cupboard
 - Soft furnishings
 - Kitchenware
- Electrical repairs
- Publication of Community Paper on Presbytery Renovation 26 June 2021
- Commencement of Renovation (Glen Worne builder)
 - Removal of Asbestos
 - Removal of roof between house and garage
 - New Electrical supply
 - Roof reinforcement
 - Installation of air-conditioning
 - New guttering
- Commissioning of architect Melissa Treadgold for proposed new units at rear of Presbytery

Parish Office

- Establishment of office parlour for interviews
- Rearrangement of offices for Fr Joey Frez and Deacon Aldrin Valdehueza, Deacon Kevin Hale and Gail Gill
- Refurbishment of Parish Priest's office
- Installation of air-conditioning in Parish Priest office and pastoral associates office
- Cleaning out of photocopier room
- Rehanging of artwork
- Garbage bin containers for courtyard
- Upgraded computers for Parish Priest and three staff
- Re-fitting of verandah office for PA to the VG (September 2021)
- Establishment of desk for new role of Children's Ministry Assistant

Precinct

- Progression of Arrangements with EREA
- Appointment of Corrs Chambers Westgarth as the Parish's solicitors

Significant Pastoral Occasions

Reappointment of Parish Finance Committee - from 16 February 2021
Appointment of Interim Parish Pastoral and Missionary Council - from 5 May 2021 (Term 2)
Introduction of Our Sunday Celebration with Sunday Extra by Gail Gill in the inside
Continuation of Saturday morning Parish Baptism Preparation Sessions
Year of St Joseph
 Publication of Two Year of St Joseph Newsletters
Promotion of StreetWork during Lent
Reinstatement in Term 2 of 8am Monday morning Masses in Pius X and Mercy Colleges
Publication of Pentecost Parish Pastoral Letter - 23 May 2021
Introduction of Thursday evening Holy Hour with Adoration and Reconciliation
Introduction of Mercy College assemblies in church on an occasional Wednesday
Establishment of Parish Youth Group 7-9 Years, with continuation of 10-12 Years, and Young Adult
Return of Eucharistic Adoration to a Thursday morning
Introduction and subsequent withdrawal of singling at the Sunday 7.30am Mass
Reinstatement of Pius/Mercy College Sunday 5.30pm Masses - (2 May, 6 June 2021)
Re-introduction of Parish Directory, updated monthly
Review of our Parish Ministry in Aged Care Facilities
Membership of Our Lady of Dolours Primary School Advisory Council
Membership of Willoughby Christian Ministers Association

Re-introduction of Alpha Series 19 April 2021
Parish Survey of Parents of Our Lady of Dolours Primary School - May 2021
Introduction of "Exploring Faith" - 22 September 2021

Participation in Pilot Program by Office of the Children's Guardian 4 May 2021

Online Resources during COVID lockdown - 26 June to 11 October 2021
 Parish Staff Zoom training with Yvonne Corpuz -13 August 2021
 Weekly homilies
 Weekly Parish Messages
 Thrice weekly mailouts: Monday morning, Thursday morning and Saturdays
 Sunday 9am Family Liturgy of Word
 Sunday 5.30pm Lectio Divina
 Daily Parish Midday Prayer at 12.30pm
 Saturday 10am Novena to our Lady of Perpetual Help
 Saturday Seminars in Catechesis, recorded and uploaded onto YouTube
 Online Rosaries
 Reactivation of Parish YouTube channel
 Online Service of Prayer for Pandemic- 4 August 2021

Online seminars for Parish Lectors and Extraordinary Ministers of Communion through Brisbane Liturgy
Proposal of Volunteer Family Welcome Ministry
Appointment of Children's Ministry Assistant, Mona Saouma - 19 October 2021

Events

Parish Summer Retreat with Elizabeth Lee
Opening Mass for St Pius X College, Oxford Falls - 16 February 2021
"Women in the New Testament" Seminar with Sr Michelle Connolly RSJ - 6 March 2021
9th Anniversary of Indonesian Mass - 21 February 2021
Parish Filipino Choir Retreat, Canisius College, Pymble - 27 February 2021
Parish Team Retreat Day, Canisius College, Pymble—3 March 2021
Pius X College Years 5 and 6 Bible and Leadership Pledge - 9 March 2021
Visit of Cherrybrook High Studies of Religion Students to Our Lady of Dolours Church - 11 March 2021
Parish Working Bee - Saturday 13 March 2021
Pius College Year 11 Leadership Day, Oxford Falls - 15 March 2021
Celebration of Filipino 500th anniversary with Nuncio and Bishop Anthony - 16 March 2021
Mercy College Year 12 Retreat, Mulgoa - 31 March 2021

WHAT HAS HAPPENED

CONTINUED

Pius College Easter Liturgies in church - 1 April 2021

Two new events with Triduum:

Procession and Adoration to OLD school yard - 2 April

Seven last words of Jesus Service of Prayer on evening of Good Friday - 3 April

Nineteen people baptised at Easter Vigil - 4 April

Divine Mercy Sunday Devotions - 11 April 2021

Introduction of Spanish Mass 3rd Sundays of the month at 12 noon

Parish Participation in ANZAC Dawn Service - Sunday 25 April 2021

Mercy College Year 11 Retreat, Galston - 6 May 2021

Parish Retreat Days with Elizabeth Lee concluding Season of Easter - 15 and 22 May

Volunteers BBQ in OLD school yard - Pentecost Sunday -23 May 2021

Mass for 200 years of Catholic Education, live-streamed to 3 campuses—24 May 2021

Service of Prayer for the Pandemic -26 May 2021

Promotion of Legion of Mary- 5-6 June 2021

Jesuit Refugee Service Hamper Appeal end of May 2021 - 9 June 2021

Preparation Program for Sacrament of Confirmation - June 2021

Centenary of Opening of Church - 21 August 2021

Online Mass, Parish Rosary, Parish Message, online Service of Prayer

Vinnies Sleepout raising \$6,500 by Team Chatswood - Friday 27 August 2021

Parish Feast Day - 15 September 2021

Parish Message, Publication of Parish Prayer to Our Lady of Sorrows, Parish Rosary, online Mass , online Marian Pilgrimage

Tragedy of Thomas Van Dijk, Year 12 student at St Pius - 21 August 2021

Fortnightly online Morning Prayer for Our Lady of Dolours School Staff - commenced 12 August 2021

School Staff Spirituality Day, Our Lady of Dolours Primary School - 17 September 2021

Parish Novena for Plenary Council - 1-9 October 2021

Initiation of Community Outreach Projection following year long research into homelessness - 14 October 2021

Ordination of Aldrin Valdehueza-18 October 2021

Mass of Thanksgiving- 19 October 2021

Introduction of new Weekday Mass Schedule - 25 October 2021

9am Mass Tuesday to Saturday

12.30pm Mass Monday to Friday



OUR FUTURE

PARISH PLANS

Always there is work to be done!

Presbytery Renovation and Extension

It is envisaged that upon completion of the project of renovation of the existing presbytery, a separate project would be initiated: the demolition of the existing pool and rear garages to construct two “granny flats” as independent living spaces for Assistant Priests of the Parish. A consultant architect, Melissa Treadgold has been engaged to explore the feasibility of this potential development at the rear of the house. A Surveyors Report from C&A Surveyors has been commissioned and received. Initial discussions with Willoughby Council have indicated the feasibility of such a plan, though it will require its own processes and approvals. It is hoped that we may have a design for this stage of the project by the end of 2021 so that construction might possibly take place during 2022. The cost of Stage Two of the Project (demolition of the garages and swimming pool and the construction of two small independent living units) is estimated around \$600,000. However, it is proposed that this, too, will yet further increase the overall value of the property. Once we have a clear sense of the feasibility and design of this particular stage, then we will turn our attention also to the repainting of the external walls of the residence and landscaping for the entire property. In this way we can ensure, aesthetic coherence for the whole property.

Renovation of our Parish Office

Our parish office is now over 100 years old. Though it is structurally sound, it is in desperate need of interior attention: new bathrooms, new kitchen, painting, and recarpeting. With such attention, our parish office can become a more welcoming, inviting space.

Renovation Project of our Church for its Second Century

Our church has celebrated 100 years since its opening in 1921. Now, as we enter the second century it is time for us to consider how we might refresh our beautiful building with new sound, lighting, audio-visual equipment including live-streaming capacity, painting, carpet, art, and maintenance generally. To this end we have engaged two liturgical architects, Carlos and Sarah Veas of VS Design Studio to assist us in canvassing the scope of the work that can be done. This will result in a Community Consultation Paper by which we will invite as much community participation as possible before implementing a plan for the restoration of our church.

A Note on the Income of our First Collection which supports the clergy of the Parish and the Diocese and from which come our three clergy stipends and living expenses.

2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
\$115,483	\$149,834	\$189,825	172,006	\$180,292



OUR PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM

THANK YOU

Planned Giving

As we look ahead to support the ongoing life and mission, we would ask every parishioner to be a member of our **Planned Giving Program** so that we can most effectively plan for our annual endeavours? If you are already, one of our valued planned giving members, are you able to review your contribution and increase it? Even if only by a few dollars?

Planned giving is by

- A monthly credit card debit; or by obtaining a set of weekly envelopes that you contribute at weekend Mass collections; or
- pledging a quarterly or annual amount to the Parish.
- Or pledging a monthly, quarterly or annual amount to the Parish via EFT (internet banking) see below

Please know that if your personal or family circumstances change at any time you can always review and revise the pledge made to us.



Online Planned Giving link is <https://brokenbay.goodgiving.com.au>

At all times donations to the Parish are able to made either for specific projects or for general revenue via our bank EFT

Donation for	Description	BSB	Account Number
First collection	Chatswood Parish Pastoral Revenue A/C	062-784	100001606
(support for Clergy)			
Second collection,	Chatswood Parish Working A/C	062-784	100001609
Planned Giving by EFT & general donation to Parish			
(support for Parish operation)			

ST PETER AND ST PAUL FUND

FINANCIAL STRATEGIES FOR OUR FUTURE

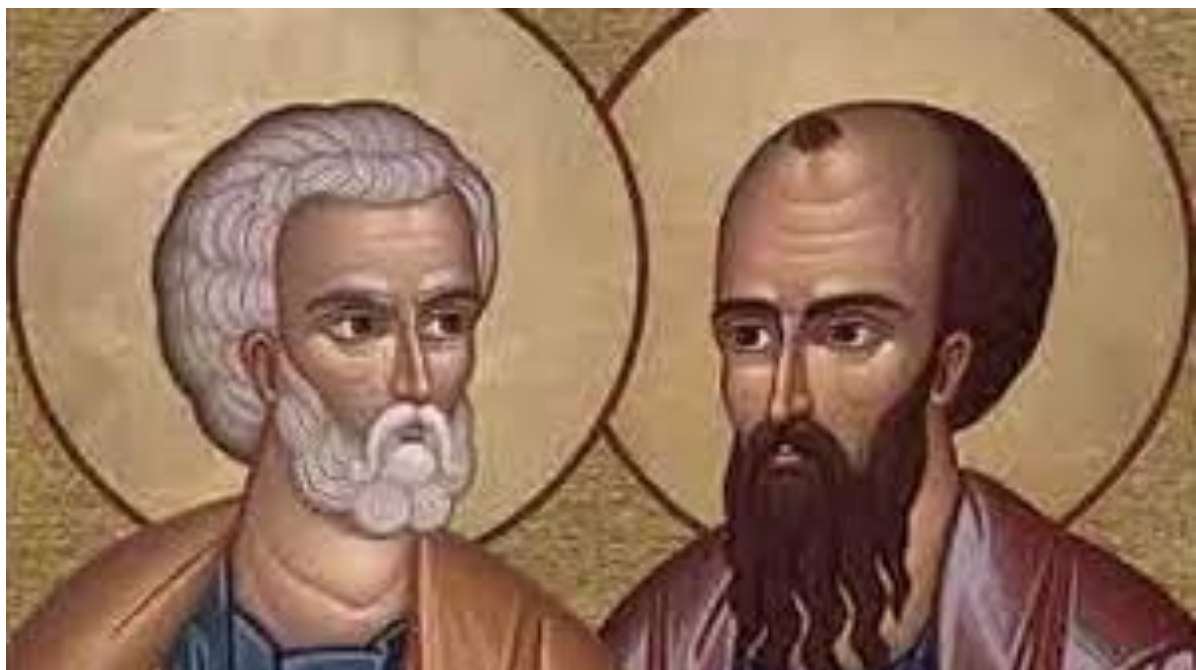
In the 1940s, land was purchased in the Parish and the churches of St Peter's West Chatswood (now North Lane Cove) and St Paul's Castle Cove were established. For 50 years these communities flourished as part of the Parish. It was hoped that one day they would become separate parishes, but in the new Diocese of Broken Bay there was enormous growth on the Central Coast where new parishes were being established and new churches being built. St Peter's and St Paul's did not ever become the separate parishes that they were intended to be. In 2007, the Parish received \$13.8 million for granting the Leases over the land in accordance with the terms of the North Lane Cove Lease and the Castle Cove Lease. The Parish used the proceeds to establish the St Peter & St Paul Fund which is governed by its own Constitution, and overseen by a Committee appointed by the Parish Priest. The Parish Finance Committee is actively involved in considerations related to the Fund.

The Preserved Capital of the Fund may only be used to assist in the pastoral mission of the Parish as approved from time to time by the Parish Priest, having received advice from the Committee, the Parish Finance Committee, and the Parish Pastoral Council and subject to the approval of the Bishop with consent of the College of Consultors obtained in accordance with the requirements of an act of extraordinary administration in canon law.

Thus, the Fund future-proofs our Parish into the future.

The interest from the Fund assists in limited ways to address some of the costs of the Parish's operation and also to assist in the planning required for our consideration of how best to develop our entire parish precinct. It is also available to assist parishes in the Diocese of Broken Bay for particular projects. For example, the Fund was able to assist substantively for the construction of Holy Spirit church in the Parish of Kincumber. Given the current status of very low interest rates, the capacity of the Fund is severely limited.

The St Peter and St Paul Fund Committee and the Parish Finance Committee are to explore a new investment strategy for the Fund in order for it to be more effective in supporting the Parish.



BEQUESTS

THANK YOU

A gift to the Parish in your Will, no matter how small, would help us enormously

After you have provided for your family, you may like to leave part of your estate to your family of faith. This may be through a percentage of your estate or a specific sum of money.

The following clause may be taken to your solicitor and discussed with your family.

"I give to the Trustees of the Roman Catholic Church for the Diocese of Broken Bay, (ABN 79 031 652 544) as trustee for the Catholic Parish of Chatswood in the State of New South Wales for its general purposes, ____percent of my estate or the sum of \$_____ or the property at_____(or other specific items), free of all duties, taxes and other deductions of whatever kind.

I declare that the receipt for the same signed by the Bishop of the Diocese, or other designated officer, shall be sufficient discharge to my Executors and Trustees."



Prayer to Our Lady of Sorrows

(Fr David Ranson PP)

Mary, Mother of the Lord, you experienced overwhelming grief and powerlessness in the face of the pain endured by your Son, Jesus. You bore his suffering in your soul. From the Cross he gives you as our Mother, too. Now you see in us the image of your suffering Son. You long to aid us, as you do your Son. You are with us in what we suffer, and with what we struggle to bear.

By your maternal care, help us not to lose heart in the midst of whatever difficulties we have. In your companionship with us, may we find the courage to continue to make decisions for faith and for love. May we hear the murmur of hope.

Awaken in our own hearts awareness of the suffering of others, especially to those nearest us. As we allow ourselves to be touched by the pain of others, stir within us our desire to be a companion to others in their needs. Inspire us to act always with creative and courageous compassion so that, leaving selfish ways behind and through our attention to the suffering of others, our world may be transformed by the pattern of love we see in your Son. Enable us to become a community of care for others in which people of every background find welcome and their wounds healed.

May your presence in our midst be our constant guide. Amen