



ST PAUL'S

ST CLARE'S

*Bulletin Highlights*

*Twenty Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time ~ Year A*

*17th September 2017*

**EULOGIES ~REFLECTIONS FROM THE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL**

The matter of eulogies was raised for discussion at the meeting on 26 July, with a proposal to discontinue them in the parish from some date in the future. From eulogies at funerals in recent times, the following observations were shared:

That various funerals had eulogies that were:

- ♣ Very lengthy of at least 20 minutes, and often much longer;
- ♣ Many in number, sometimes three or more, totalling well over half an hour;
- ♣ Many in number because adult sons and daughters *all* felt the need to say something;
- ♣ Quite often poorly prepared and repetitive;
- ♣ Inclusive of content that was inappropriate to be shared from the Ambo (Lectern).
- ♣ Provided by family members and friends who at times would approach the Ambo – not with a page or two of notes – but with a folder or iPad.

Increasingly, eulogies were being endured by people in the congregation. A few months ago, there was a particular Requiem Mass in our own parish that went for over two hours. It was also acknowledged that more and more families were regarding the eulogy as an absolute right. It was noted that during pre-funeral interviews, families were agreeing to contain eulogies to a short period of time, only to *go on their own merry way* at considerable length once the opportunity arose.

In response, it was noted that other options could be available such as the delivery of eulogies at the wake, or the inclusion of eulogies in the booklet. The latter option, especially, could make the booklet quite a beautiful keepsake. Agreement was reached that the possibility of discontinuing eulogies could be presented to all parishioners in the Parish Community News (weekly bulletin), inviting feedback. The issue will be highly sensitive, requiring ample time and careful management.

A survey will be included in next week's PCN as a way of inviting parishioners to contribute to the evaluation process. The communication of thoughts and feelings from parishioners is very necessary and will be most appreciated.



*Parish Pastoral Council*

Further reminder of the next meeting on the 27<sup>th</sup> September at 7 PM. Always a good night with refreshments afterwards.

## *First Holy Communion Programme*

Registration for the programme began last weekend with the recording of names and the distribution of timelines. Parents are still able to register. For this weekend, enrolment forms will be available for collection. Please take home the enrolment form to complete, and return next week with \$20. The programme offers a wonderful opportunity for parents to have a most valuable part in preparing their children.



## *Bishop's Annual Appeal ~ Next Weekend*

Each year the Bishop has requested an appeal to support his work in the care & provision of sick & retired priests. Clergy in active ministry are comfortably accommodated by the parishes, especially from the offerings to the first collection. But those priests who have reached a venerable old age after many decades in active ministry become, primarily, the responsibility of the Diocese. The Bishop sincerely values this financial support.