

2023

ANNUAL REPORT



**ST PETER CHANEL & ST JOSEPH
BERALA**

INTRODUCTION

Dear brothers and sisters,

Welcome to the first Annual Report of St Peter Chanel and St Joseph Parish, Berala.

The annual report is an opportunity for the pastor of the parish to give an account to you, the parishioners, of his stewardship of the parish's spiritual and material goods, as the archbishop has asked of him. None of this, of course, would be possible without the generous gifts of your time and goods that you have made: so already myself, the archbishop, and the Lord Jesus say to you: thankyou, and bless you for your generosity!

Being accountable includes consenting to be measured against certain standards. What kind of standards can we measure a parish against? Some minimums would include compliance with:

1. the Catechism of the Catholic Church.
2. canon, liturgical and diocesan law and regulations.
3. civil law.
4. who we are - a Catholic parish of the Roman rite. This means doing what we're good at as best as we can, thus offering what people can get nowhere else:- generous availability of the sacraments - especially of the Eucharist and Confession - and the evangelical, musical and prayerful traditions particular to our rite.

But what about our particular parish? We have recently adopted a mission statement which will be the standard against which the quality of any future parish works will be measured:

OUR MISSION

Our call

God asks us, as the parish of St Peter Chanel and St Joseph, Beralá, what Jesus asked of His apostles:-

1. to live in the love of God for each of us personally, and to love him back with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. (Lk 10:27)
2. to preach the Good News of Salvation with love, inviting all people into unity with God through His Holy Church;
3. and to serve all people with love and mercy by attending to their spiritual and corporal needs.

Our response

Valuing our social and cultural diversity, we seek to respond to what Jesus asks of us, in unity with our Archbishop and the Universal Church, in the following way:

1. Leitourgia (Worship)

Worshipping God, meditating on his Word and receiving his grace in the Sacraments of the Church, so that we be seized by the love of God for us and for all, transformed into saints, and become missionary members of God's priestly people, to the praise of his glory.

2. Kerygma-Martyria (Evangelisation and formation)

- Proclaiming the love of God - as revealed to us by Jesus Christ in his life, death and resurrection - to all by word and deed, so they can enter into a personal relationship with Jesus, become his disciple, and trust Him as Lord, Saviour and Friend.
- Forming Christians who seek to learn from Jesus in order that they might grow in faith and understanding and be formed humanly, spiritually, intellectually and pastorally.
- Motivating, serving and inspiring people to cooperate with the Holy Spirit, and drawing upon their gifts to share the Gospel and build up the Kingdom of God.

3. Diakonia (Service)

Fostering genuine spiritual communion with and service of each other, in our parish and in our wider community, marked by the virtue of charity - that is, of true love: "By this everyone shall know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:35).

This means we will account to you for our stewardship according to these standards.

LEITOURGIA

From Fr Thomas

I am pleasantly surprised to be invited by Fr Josh to write a report on the development works for the last 7 months of my time at Berala. Sitting at my desk in San Antonio, TX, I must rely on my memory to do so. Therefore, the chronology of the events need not be accurate, and no financial figure can be provided. There are four items I can think of: the church roof, Storm Water Drainage, the additional carpark, and the parish office.

Church Roof: the project of Church Roof repair was in making for 11 years. It started with a claim from Catholic church Insurance and a major repair work. Since then, corrections were attempted a few times. After a decade of observation, it was decided to replace the whole roof. Several Roof Experts were asked to quote on the job. Early this year a contract was signed with Westwood Roofers. They are currently working on the roof now.

Storm Water Drainage: The storm water drainage pipes under the church were broken. Left unattended, it would have affected the structural integrity of the church building. Therefore, it was repaired. Along with it, the steps on the northern side of the church were reconstructed. It was an important maintenance undertaking.

Carpark: The parish initially had two carparks, the present one and a second one besides SPC School. But over the years, the carpark adjacent to SPC School was fenced off to make school playground. Initially it was still available on the weekends for car parking. Eventually it became School property and soft synthetic surface was laid on it. This made it unsuitable for car parking. (Even now this area is called "The Park" in SPC School lingo). With lessened availability of street parking in recent years, there has been an increased need for off-street parking. Therefore, the green patch on loan to the school was reclaimed and opened as additional parking for the Church. Even then, the parking space is inadequate. I know for my Farewell Mass, people were parking a number of streets away. The Parish may need to investigate organising more parking space.

From Fr Josh

- We upgraded the confessional with a screen that is fixed and conserves anonymity.
- Altar servers now vest in the counting room to better respect safeguarding requirements.
- The choirs met together and we expressed our gratitude for their service, and suggested that in order to simplify swapping, we share the same repertoire, the Catholic Worship Book II, as recommended by the Catholic bishops for worship in Australia.
- Inaugural Nine Lessons and Carols on 6 December, with SJW readers and SPC choir.
- Introduced Confession after the daily weekday mass from 715 to 745 am.
- Introduced Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 715 to 845am Tuesday to Friday.
- We started trialling replacing class masses of St Peter Chanel Primary with 10 minutes of led adoration, with great success.
- We started trialling new frontals for the main altar.

KERYGMA-MARTYRIA

- we trialled the Sycamore program for parents of children preparing for confirmation, and were generously assisted by the Dominican Sisters of St Cecilia in teaching the children.
- we ran the pre-Alpha course, in order to run Alpha for the public in 2024.
- Fr Josh is teaching a class and spending time in the playground each alternating week between St Peter Chanel and St Joseph the Worker primary schools, with confessions for each class once a term. At Trinity Junior Campus Fr Josh teaches a class every Friday, and hears confessions every Wednesday lunchtime: these are now packed out.
- we clarified parish-parish school cooperation in regard to the baptismal program, and are preparing, and Fr Josh has met with, the families of 15 students from SPC, and 1 student from SJW, to be baptised at the Easter Vigil in 2024, along with 5 adults.

DIAKONIA

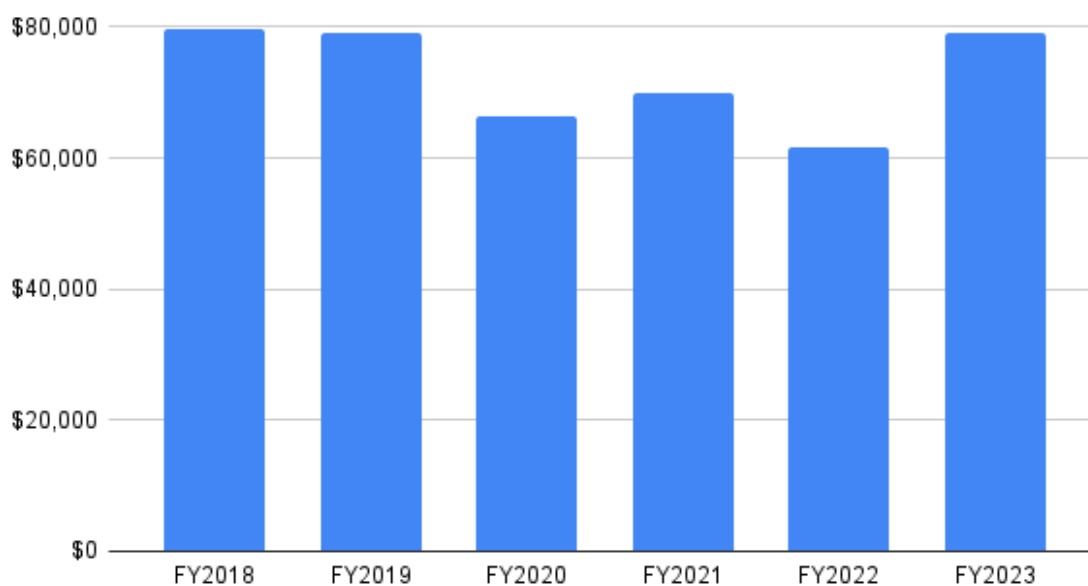
From Fr Thomas

- *Shifting of the Parish Office:* The Safeguarding policy of the Archdiocese demands separation of priest's residence and the parish offices. But we had to wait till the back-office room became available to do it. The new facility provides workspace for Parish Secretary and Sacramental Coordinator. The converted and refurbished part of the garage makes a convenient meeting space for RCIA, other meetings, and interviews. It also has a dedicated, fireproof archive space for the important paper documents.

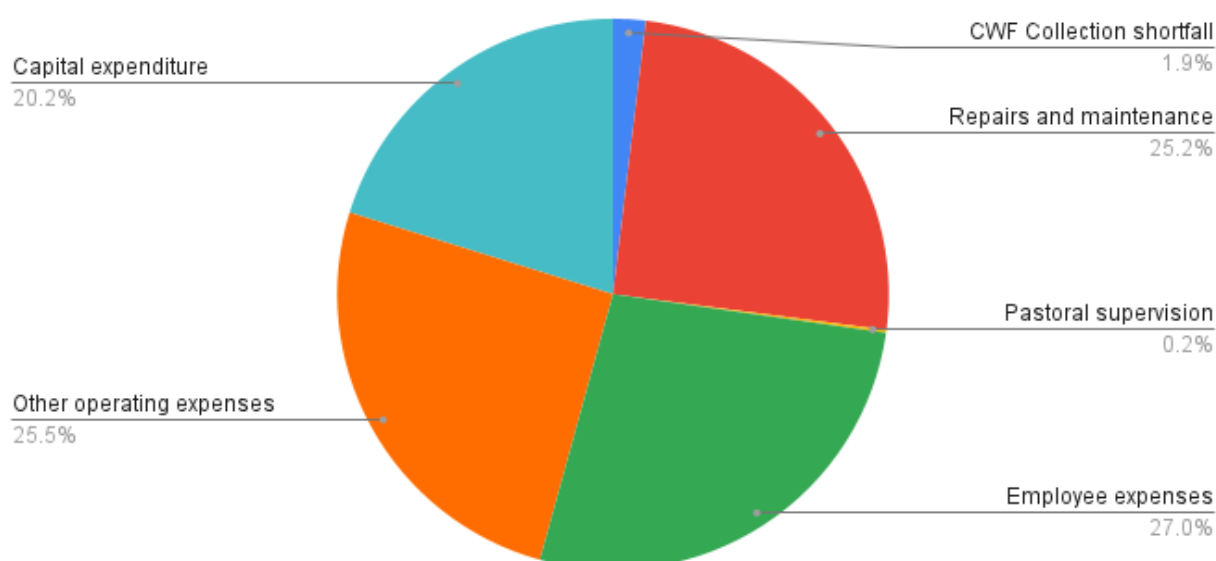
From Fr Josh

- Starting to help each parishioner find their service in the parish, like flowers and gardening.
- We put on again the Christmas luncheon for those who would like to be with others.
- Very generous gifts (thankyou!) to those who need it with the wishing tree.
- We signed a new 10-year lease of the convent to the Dominican sisters.
- As did Fr Thomas, Fr Josh is continuing on call as chaplain to Auburn Hospital, as well as to the nursing homes in our parish.
- The parish, St Peter Chanel Primary, and Trinity have partnered with Village OSHC to provide after-school and holiday care in the Trinity hall from 2024.
- we have commissioned a masterplan for the future of the parish grounds.

Annual envelopes and loose collections



How your donations were spent in FY 2022-2023



- *Capital expenditure* - Fr Thomas explains these in his report.
- *CWF collection shortfall* - The Charitable Works Fund assess how much each particular parish should be donating to the fund each particular year: the shortfall is how much the parish contributes out of her funds to make up for what is not received in donations for the CWF that year.
- *Repairs and maintenance* - Fr Thomas explains these in his report.
- *Pastoral supervision* - Every priest in Sydney is obliged to be accompanied by a pastoral supervisor, who helps him live his work and his rest better.
- *Employee expenses* - Salaries, wages, superannuation and employee entitlements.
- *Other operating expenses* - These include church requisites, computer expenses, utilities, insurance (a significant component), car expenses, and postage, printing and stationery.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion: thankyou again to all of you for the support you have been to Fr Thomas and myself, as well as to each other, the last twelve months. A parish is nothing if there is no love.

Thankyou especially to those who so generously and quietly serve us - no one can replace you.

St Peter Chanel, pray for us!

St Joseph the Worker - pray for us!

Your brother in Our Lord,

Josh+

21 December 2023.