

We, the Church of St Anthony's, are called to a greater realization of the Kingdom of God and to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ.

October UPDATE

St Anthony's Parish Toongabbie Parish Pastoral Council

This is a summary of key matters at the Parish Pastoral Council meeting, 21st October 2009.

Preparing for Parish AGM. Sunday 29th November. In the past few weeks there have been notices in the Bulletin about the role of the PPC. The Parish Council is primarily concerned with Pastoral issues. Parishioners are invited to nominate themselves, or to invite others to nominate, to serve on the Council for the coming year. This is an important work within the Parish.

In preparation for the formation of the new Parish Pastoral Council, parishioners are invited to attend two meetings:

Sunday 8th November, from 2.00 – 3.00pm

Sunday 15th November, from 11.15am -1.30pm.

The purpose of these meetings is to reflect prayerfully on the service each of us can offer to the parish community and discern if we should put our names forward to be considered for the Council in the coming year.

The Annual General Meeting of the parish and elections will take place, Sunday 29th November, 11.30am

There will be a Commissioning of new PPC, 7th February 2010.

Please consider if this is the year you contribute your skills to the parish through the Parish Pastoral Council.

Preparing for Christmas

A reflective program, or *Lectio*, will be offered in the parish during Advent to assist in our preparation for Christmas.

The Parish will prepare details about all parish Christmas activities and distribute them in the community.

Update on Parish Priorities

The Parish Pastoral Council would like to explore ways to deepen and extend our sense of hospitality and welcome to everyone in the parish.

The Plan can be viewed on the parish website. The PCC has reorganised its meetings so as to give a priority to discussing these priorities.

Reports

The *School* is commencing a period of some upheaval while extensive building works take place as a result of the Government's Building the Education Revolution. Families are requested to be patient with the changes that will need to occur. A number of teachers participated in the annual Ann D Clark lecture in Penrith given by New Zealander, Prof John Hattie on what makes effective teaching and learning.

St Vincent de Paul Society in the parish continues to support a number of families each month who are in need. Parishioners' contributions of food and other donations make a big difference to those who have difficulty as living cost (eg, electricity) continue to rise.

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The Hospitality Group is planning another Carols night for the parish on 20th December, as well as a Christmas cake stall leading up to Christmas. Family, friends and neighbours are most welcome.

The PCC requests that any reports or correspondence with the Pastoral Council be sent in writing at least one week before the next meeting so that paperwork can be emailed/sent to PCC members before the meeting.

People of the Parish

Sr Joan has written to the parish to thank everyone for celebrating her *diamond* jubilee of profession as a religious with her on 11th October.

Kay's 34 years of service to the community of St Anthony's will be celebrated on 25th October at 10.00am. Donations for a gift can be left in an envelope marked "Kay".

Parish Finance.

The Planned Giving promotion has concluded with some additional donors adding their names to the list. This is pleasing as we plan for future parish services.

Other Parish Events

The new Sacramental program commences on 24th October. Emilia Cullen is the new coordinator.

Annual Mass for Deceased Relatives. This will take place on **Friday 30th October.** Parishioners who have relatives who have died during the past year are invited to leave their names with the Parish Office and to attend Mass on that day. A special Mass for All Souls will be celebrated on **2nd November at 9.30am.**

All parishioners are invited to attend a **Bereavement Seminar**, to be run by Sr Eileen Quade in the parish, on 24th November.

Multicultural Mass and Dinner on 31st October to anticipate the Feast of All Saints. This celebration acknowledges and expresses the wonderful abundance of cultures within our parish. It is hoped that parishioners will share their language, dress, food and music in celebrating Eucharist and a community meal afterwards.

On Sunday 25th October, at 5.30pm there is a screening of "**Balibo**" at **Glenbrook Theatre.** 50 cents of every ticket will be going to a water project in a village (Beraca) part of Becora Parish which our parish is supporting. If a group would like to join with us, it is a pleasant way to raise money and also see the political background to Australia's nearest neighbor and get an understanding of the challenges still facing that small island nation. If you cannot attend this Sunday, screenings of the film will continue until 4th November.

Next Parish Pastoral Council meeting: Parish Annual General Meeting, 29th November, 11.30am

Please visit St Anthony's on: <http://www.stanthonychurch.org.au/>