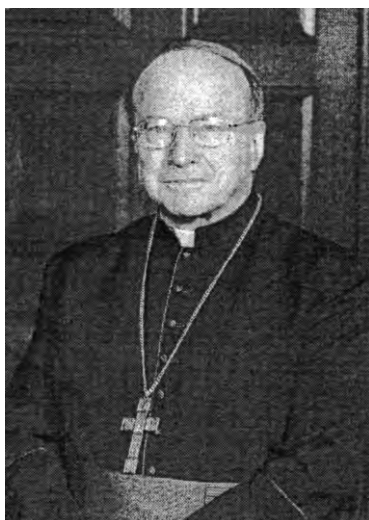


Acknowledgements

This history of our Parish could not have been written without the help and support of many people. To mark the Fiftieth Anniversary of the establishment of the Parish, we have combined some historical documentation with personal memories. Articles, which were written by Luke Reed and Sean Leader were invaluable in recalling the events of the past fifty years.

Over the years and even now, parishioners play a vital role in fulfilling a multitude of tasks and assume a degree of responsibility, which early pioneers could never have dreamt.

All care has been exercised to obtain, and accurately present the historical reflections of Our Lady, Queen of Apostles Parish. Please accept it in the spirit in which it is given.



Foreward by Archbishop John Bathersby Archbishop of Brisbane

Jubilees my dear people give us the opportunity to pause in order to look back with gratitude to God before we look forward to hope for the future. It is a time, when we first and foremost, praise God for all God's many blessings on the parish over its fifty golden years. It is a time also to remember all those people alive or dead who contributed to the life of the parish. Archbishop Duhig who bought the land in 1955 and established the parish in 1957, immediately spring to mind, as do also a succession of excellent priests beginning with Father Michael Carew, the founding pastor and ending with Father Kevin Carey your present energetic and popular pastor.

Education and pastoral care are the needs of every parish and the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth magnificently provided the parish with both, teachers from 1962 on who were followed by the present lay teachers, then pastoral workers from the mid 1990's until today. Together with excellent priests and religious there are of course the people of God who first and foremost provided shining witness to the presence of Christ in this area as they worshipped, worked to raise funds for churches and schools, while at the same time reaching out with care, concern and friendship to all people in need. These ordinary everyday people made up a multitude too numerous to mention. They all were and are quiet, humble, but enormously effective contributors to the work of the parish and the well-being of the church. God remembers every little deed they did and every little prayer they said alive or dead and will reward them according.

Today could I congratulate Fr. Kevin Carey, the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth, and you the people of our Lady, Queen of Apostles parish for what you have achieved. May God bless and reward you for your generosity and fill you with a deep sense of hope as you move confidently into the future.

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "John Bathersby". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a cross symbol at the beginning.

**Most Rev. John A Bathersby DD
ARCHBISHOP OF BRISBANE.**



Jubilee Letter from our present Parish Priest Father Kevin Carey

From time to time, I am asked why my photograph is not on the wall, with the previous Parish Priests, in the walkway outside the Sacristy in the Church. The reason why I have not been 'framed' with Fathers Marian Wierzchowski, Michael McKeaten, Clem Hodge, Michael Carew and Bishop John Gerry is becauseI am still here....and extremely happy to be so!

The celebration of a 50th Anniversary is always a milestone – a wonderful achievement – a time to pause and reflect. Since the establishment of this Parish back in 1957, the community has been abundantly blessed in a variety of ways. The ongoing loyalty and generous support of Parishioners – present and past – has certainly enhanced and enriched the quality of life and worship. The large number of Priests who have ministered here over the years, have endeavoured to do so with a responsible, spiritual and pastoral emphasis. Consequently their leadership, by way of collaboration, has greatly benefited those in their care, and forged a solid foundation on which to build for the present and the future.

The Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth have been, and continue to be appreciated and admired – an inspirational presence – because of their fidelity, compassion and commitment in their ministry to the families in our Parish and School.

I was extremely fortunate to be an Assistant Priest here in 1979. The Parish/School Community had a wonderful reputation then, of being welcoming, prayerful and friendly, since its inception. It still retains this image and these qualities to the present day.

It is now my special privilege to be Pastor in this Parish, on the memorable occasion of its Golden Jubilee. Such an event reminds us that we should be constantly grateful to God, for continually blessing us and the members of our families, on our pilgrimage through life.

May Our Lady, Queen of Apostles continue to intercede on our behalf, so that we may come closer to God and closer to one another.

In conclusion:

Father Kevin Carey

*"For all that has beenThanks
For all to come.....Yes"*



JUBILEE LETTER FROM BISHOP JOHN GERRY

For Our Lady, Queen of Apostles' Jubilee Record

The fifty years of Our Lady, Queen of Apostles Parish are just a fragment of Salvation History – but immeasurable as regards the presence of the Living God, the saving work of the Risen Christ and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in countless hearts and consciences. I was privileged and delighted to be part of it.

In 1961, Father Michael Carew, the founding Parish Priest was forced to take time out for health reasons. He had taken the Parish beyond the initial 'Tent' chapel into a Church and three classrooms but had been unable to attract Religious Sisters to staff a school.

Archbishop Duhig appointed me as Administrator for twelve months. It was the Archbishop also who secured the absolutely providential gift of the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth. What a blessing! We could open our school.

Even though Minimine Street was still unpaved and Chuter Street had not yet been cut out of the bush, the Parish was expanding rapidly. Father Carew, still in uncertain health, resigned and I inherited the role of Parish Priest. For another twelve years I enjoyed a most satisfying ministry in a Parish alive, expanding and flourishing.

The rapid growth of the Parish was most evident in the School. New buildings were required in 1962, 1963, 1964 and Chuter Street in 1969. In that time attendance grew from one hundred and seventy to seven hundred children. At one stage Queen of Apostles was the largest Catholic Primary School in Queensland.

The sixties were exciting years. The Second Vatican Council stirred up a New Pentecost across the Church. We saw ourselves fresh as the People of God. No one was more important, less important. Pope, Priest and laity had their specific vocations – but shared an equal dignity and one call to holiness and responsibility for the spread of the Kingdom of God.

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Enthusiasm was stirring; lay people felt empowered to accept active participation in parish leadership. Stafford was young, free from entrenched hierarchies, abounding in energetic families keen to create a welcoming Christian community for their personal and family well-being and Catholic formation. Here I was taught how to be a pastoral Parish Priest.

What an experience we had in the establishment of our Parish Council! The role of the lay person in the Church and in society was discussed across the parish; Fifty groups met and reported weekly; their comments formed the final document and proposals to a parish gathering; the Church was packed, the decision to form a Parish Pastoral Council was unanimous and enthusiastically approached. Has this happened anywhere else?

The Council had up to fifteen members – created twelve sub-committees overseeing practical aspects of parish life: liturgy, education (school and adult), finance, buildings and maintenance, youth, ecumenism, social justice etc. Each sub-committee saw itself as 'the church in action', membership gave one hundred and eight parishioners an active share in parish programmes.

These early years featured regular working bees (women and men and youth), bottle drives, youth dances, comedy revues, Parish Credit Union (Board Members laboured long and patiently; families galore were saved from penury)....

One aspect of parish openness that was not universally popular was my permission to the local (bicycle-chain) gang to have regular meetings on school grounds. Two rules applied – no grog, no interfering with girls. I admit I did feel anxious on a couple of occasions as I walked away with a confiscated carton of 'stubbies' on my shoulder. I saw their presence as insurance; in fact no damage was done to school property in their time.

I left part of my heart in Our Lady, Queen of Apostles Parish. It is always a delight to visit the Parish; it seems a home-coming; the Holy Family Sisters present and past and the pioneering friends of my early days are as family to me.

Rejoice in celebrating the Parish Golden Jubilee. Your history to date affords abundant reasons to hope for a fruitful future of blessings.

Mary, Queen of Apostles, has a passionate motherly care for her children; the good God who carried your families and community through these fifty years is forever faithful.

Bishop John Gerry



JUBILEE LETTER FROM FATHER CLEM HODGE

Dear Friends,

When Archbishop Sir James Duhig chose the invocation "Queen of Apostles" from the Litany of Our Lady to be the name of the new Parish of Stafford he entrusted to Father Michael Carew a great heritage. Now fifty years later we give thanks and pray God's blessing on the next fifty years.

It was my privilege to be part of the first fifty years for sixteen years. This Golden Jubilee is also a celebration of the lives of all the parishioners past and present. Cherished and still loved are so many that have gone to God.

The story of Stafford would not be complete without mention of the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth. To the Sisters, the assistant Priests, to all who have been part of Our Lady, Queen of Apostles I will be ever grateful.

With every best wish for a great Jubilee.

Yours sincerely,

Fr Clem Hodge.

Fr Clem Hodge



JUBILEE LETTER FROM FATHER MICHAEL McKEATEN

In May of 1991 I arrived at Stafford to take up my appointment as Parish Priest following in the footsteps of Father Clem Hodge. It was with some trepidation that I did so. However, very quickly I gained a sense of the pride parishioners had in their community and the warmth of their welcome.

In my first months as Parish Priest, the result of the leadership shown by my predecessors, Father Michael Carew, Bishop John Gerry, and Father Clem Hodge, was obvious. They had been able to mould a community that was faithful to the Church, friendly and gracious in their dealings with one another and ever-willing to reach out to others on either an ecumenical or social dimension.

I have many happy memories of the various liturgical celebrations held over the nearly eight years I lived and worked in Stafford. The various visits by Archbishops Francis Rush and John Bathersby were always well attended and all enjoyed the social gatherings afterwards. The 'homecoming' visits by Bishop John Gerry were an opportunity for old friends to reminisce and share a cuppa or maybe the odd ale or two.

Who could forget the joyous celebrations of the Easter Vigil and the midnight Mass at Christmas? The music and the settings in the sanctuary were the stage for many memorable liturgies. The use of colour and singing always added to the prayerfulness of these celebrations.

I still marvel as I recall the large number of children at the Christmas Vigil waving their 'Christmas' balloon and singing 'Super Duper Christmas'. Owing to my height impairment, being only 175cm (5'9") the sight of being lead to the Altar on such occasions by Servers over 182cm (6') always led to a touch of sublime humour within the solemnity of the occasion.

Three special events occurred during my appointment, that brought the community together to celebrate significant occasions for the parish. I still remember the success of these events for the individuals concerned and for the parishioners who attended. The silver sacerdotal jubilee for Father John Ponting and the ordination to the Priesthood of Father Joseph Hein Vo, as well as the fortieth anniversary of the Parish's creation, became occasions when we were able to celebrate faith, friendship and the special place that our Catholic faith holds in our lives.

During the years I was at Stafford the appointment of a Pastoral Associate became a much needed necessity. Sister Helen Tereba CSFN brought such enthusiasm to her role that it was hard to keep up with her. I shall always be grateful to her for her competence, her sense of Church and the needs of the Parish following the Second Vatican Council, her friendship, counsel and plain old common sense. I know that Sister Josita Paczkowska CSFN, who followed her, has continued to share her faith and insights as she leads others to discover their gifts for the good of the community. It would be remiss of me not to allude to the role the Holy Family Sisters have played in Stafford, since

1962, in both the Parish and the School. In these days of change it is a special gift that a community of women Religious are still able to live and work within the Parish. I might add that I always appreciated breakfast at the Convent following the Monday morning Eucharist in the Convent chapel.

As I reflect on my years at Stafford there are some people who I worked with who need to be mentioned as they are part of the story: Father John Ponting, who lived at Stafford for many of the years I was there and helped with weekday and weekend Eucharist; Doctors Adrian Farrelly and Chris Hanlon, both of whom held other positions in the Archdiocese, and assisted by regularly celebrating Eucharist on the weekend; Mesdames Trish McGrory, Rosemary Haydock and Fay Robertson who maintained order and decorum in the Parish Office; Messrs Denis Anthonisz and Mark Allen, who capably led the School community during their tenure as Principal; Mr John Walters, who kept an expert eye on the buildings and grounds. And Mesdames Faye Burge and Pet Cash who cared for the Presbytery and its inhabitants over many years. The members of the Parish Council and Finance Board assisted with their advice and practical assistance, for which I am most grateful. Of course there are numerous others that could and should be mentioned but the length of the list and the shortness of space prevents me from doing so.

And so the Parish comes to the celebration of another milestone – its Golden Anniversary: my heartiest congratulations to all. I am sure that the celebration will be a great one and once again faith, friendship and our Catholic belief will hold a place of honour as the Stafford Catholic Parish community gathers, under the patronage of Our Lady, Queen of Apostles, to remember, to reflect and celebrate.

Father Michael McKeaten
Parish Priest 1991-1998



JUBILEE LETTER FROM FATHER MARIAN WIERZCHOWSKI

For any parish a milestone such as a 50th Anniversary is important, both for celebrating the achievements of the past and taking notice of where the Parish is today. On this occasion, I want to extend sincere congratulations, best wishes and promise of prayerful remembrance.

It is also a fitting time to reflect on what the future may hold. Perhaps the one certainty for the future is that change will continue to be part of Our Lady, Queen of Apostles Parish, as the community tries to meet the needs of the Church and of all its people. Only God can count the miracles of grace that took place in the hearts of the parishioners throughout the years.

During my time as Pastor of Our Lady, Queen of Apostles it was evident that the Parish is not just a collection of buildings. First and foremost, it is the people who make this parish what it is today and what it will be in the future. The parishioners have laboured willingly and untiringly. They have served as a reminder of God's ever present Kingdom of Love. Both Father Tony and I, wish to extend gratitude for your generous support during our time spent in Stafford. We have many happy memories.

It would be remiss of me not to give special mention and thanks to the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth for their devoted service over so many years.

In spirit, I celebrate this anniversary with you. Through the intercession of Mary, Queen of Apostles, I ask God's blessings on all the future undertakings of the parish.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Father Marian Wierzchowski

PARISH PRIESTS, ASSISTANT PRIESTS AND DEACONS.

1957	Father Michael James Carew – Parish Priest
1960	Father John Gerry – Parish Priest
1963	Father Paul McLachlan – Assistant Priest
1966	Father Leo Wright – Assistant Priest
1967	Father James Hynes – Assistant Priest
1970	Father Phillip Grace – Assistant Priest
1971	Father Terrence Moynihan – Assistant Priest
1973	Father Joseph Duffy
1975	Father Clement Hodge
1976	Father William Finn – Assistant Priest
	Father Paul Molony - Resident Priest
	Reverend Denis Scanlan – Deacon
1977	Reverend Terry O'Shea – Deacon
1978	Father Greg Stenzel – Assistant Priest
1979	Father Kevin Carey – Assistant Priest
1982	Father John Manthey – Assistant Priest
1986	Father Kevin Smith – Assistant Priest
1988	Father Ellis Clifford – Assistant Priest
	Very Reverend Doctor Adrian Farrelly – Supply
	Reverend Doctor Christopher Hanlon - Supply
1989	Father Phillip Grace- Administrator
	Father Kevin Caldwell – Resident Priest
1990	Father Michael McKeaten – Parish Priest
1991	Father John Ponting – Resident Priest
1995	Reverend Joseph Hien Vo – Deacon
1998	Reverend Doctor Christopher Hanlon - Supply
1999	Father Marian Wierzchowski SAC (Pallottine) – Parish Priest
	Father Anthony Zemula SAC (Pallottine) – Assistant Priest
2004	Father Kevin Carey – Parish Priest



**SISTERS OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF NAZARETH
AT
OUR LADY, QUEEN OF APOSTLES PARISH
1962-2007**

Sister Adria
Sister Anita
Sister Alexandra (Helen Marie)
Sister Annuntia
Sister Antoinia
Sister Bernadette
Sister Bernice
Sister Bertha
Sister Charles
Sister Christine
Sister Donald
Sister Elizabeth Ann
Sister Flavia
Sister Francine
Sister Germaine
Sister Helen
Sister Henrietta
Sister Ignatus
Sister Irene (Monica Marie)
Sister Irenemaree
Sister Jane
Sister Jean
Sister Joanna

Sister Josepha
Sister Josita
Sister Jude
Sister Lauretta
Sister Lois Ann
Sister Loretta Ann
Sister Lucyna
Sister Marcelline
Sister Mary Louise
Sister Maureen Joseph
Sister Nicette
Sister Noel
Sister Olga
Sister Philomena
Sister Pius
Sister Rosemary
Sister Rita
Sister Rosanne Maree
Sister Theonilla
Sister Therese
Sister Timothy
Sister William (Elizabeth Jean)
Sister Winifred

*Our Lady, Queen of Apostles
Golden Jubilee Prayer 1957-2007*



Loving God we praise You and give You thanks for the many blessings bestowed on Our Lady, Queen of Apostles Parish, Stafford.

Your graciousness has kept this parish vibrant for Fifty Years through the fidelity of those who have prayed here, and the generosity of those who have served here.

May we take hope and courage in what we celebrate: The strong faith of our ancestors, the friendship of neighbours and relatives, the generous leadership of priests and religious, and the goodness of each one willing to reach out and be there in time of need.

We thank You, Gracious God, for this community and this place of worship, which has nourished our lives, and has been a source of faith and hope.

You sent Your Holy Spirit to Your Apostles, who were united in prayer with Mary, the Mother of Jesus. Grant that we may continue to serve You and proclaim Your Word in truth.

Through the intercession of Mary, Queen of Apostles, we ask for blessings on our present and future undertakings. We make this prayer through Our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Amen

Following a Dream

We are celebrating fifty years of faith and friendship in the Parish of Our Lady, Queen of Apostles. There have been so many happy occasions and of course some sad ones too. What a wonderful fifty years it has been. There have been hundreds of Baptisms, dedicating our children to the Lord, on their entry into the Catholic Community of Stafford. First Holy Communion and Confirmation days have been occasions for celebration and these children, many now adults; will remember their special event with joy. The Weddings celebrated in our Church have brought great happiness to the brides and grooms and their families. Each will have a tale to tell of their wedding day. We pray for the deceased parishioners and remember with great affection, those who have gone to their eternal rest.

The Parish of Stafford can thank the late Archbishop Sir James Duhig for his forethought in establishing this Parish. It is said that his dream was to build a Catholic Church on every hill in Brisbane, like a "Rosary of Buildings" to cater for the spiritual needs of the people. To this effect, in 1955 he purchased four acres and thirty-four perches on Appleby Road. The Stafford area was mainly a rural area with farming, dairying, a tannery, slaughter yards, knackery and a saddlery occupying the space. The early parishioners will attest to the tannery, opened in 1886 by William Gibson, because whenever there was a shower of rain, they did something called: "letting out the sluice" and the whole district was subjected to a noxious odour. Everyone was relieved when the tannery closed and the air was fresh again. If you looked to the north east from the church, the area, that is now Minimine Street and surrounding streets, was one huge paddock with a single tree situated in the middle, and more often than not, a lone horse was tethered. There were two vacant allotments on the corner of Appleby Road and Marambir Street, covered with gum tree saplings and in the early mornings it was not unusual to see a wallaby feeding on the grass under the eucalyptus trees.



Archbishop James Duhig approached Fr Michael James “Mick” Carew in 1956, to establish a Catholic Parish in Stafford. On Sunday 28th April 1957 at 6.30am, Father Michael Carew celebrated Mass in a striped marquee erected on the dusty five acre site surrounded by a rusty wire fence on the corner of Appleby Road and Marambir Street, Stafford. Two hundred and fifty five people attended. I wonder how many of those are still attending Our Lady, Queen of Apostles Catholic Church today. The story goes that while the tent was being erected a couple of local lads kept asking “Hey Mister, when is the circus coming?”

Prior to this the people who lived within the boundaries of this Parish had to travel to Kedron or Enoggera to attend Mass. Our Parish whose boundaries, are Webster Road to the East, Hayward Street to the South, Trouts Road to the West and Rode Road to the North, was sparsely populated at this time. The Queensland Housing Commission purchased estates in this area and affordable houses were quickly erected. Families with young children became occupants and it was not long before the area was affectionately known as “Nappy Valley”. Not many people owned cars and public transport for the area consisted of a privately owned bus that ran from Everton Park to Clayfield. ‘Staffordites’ would catch this bus to the tram terminus at the old shopping centre on the corner of Stafford Road and Buddina Street, known as ‘the termo’. They then changed to a Brisbane City Council tram that ran between Stafford and Bardon, past the Royal Brisbane Hospital, through Fortitude Valley and down Adelaide Street, along George Street and continuing on to Bardon. They did their shopping at Overells, McWhirters and T.C Beirne in the ‘Valley’ and Allan and Stark, Finney Isles, McDonnell and East, Briggs and Penny’s in the City.

Sunday and week-day Masses were celebrated in “The Tent”, Father Carew travelled daily from St John the Baptist Church Enoggera, where he was the guest of the Parish Priest, Father Pender. Archbishop Duhig blessed the foundation stone for the new church on the on 5th May 1957, dedicating it to Our Lady, Queen of Apostles. This stone remains on the premises to the left of the door leading to the Parish Office. On the 10th of November he opened and blessed the new church. I wonder if a church, albeit a small wooden one, on a brick foundation, could be built with such speed in this day of technology. On 14th November 1957 *The Catholic Leader* reported on the opening of the Church.



His Grace, the Archbishop, told the people that the securing of that property of several acres of land at Stafford was just an example of what has been done in many other centres during his episcopate. If the site had not been secured the Catholic people in that district would have been left in a difficult plight for settlement there had been very rapid. His Grace cited several examples of what had been done in this respect, always under a financial strain. He warmly commended the work of Father Carew and expressed the hope that in a comparatively brief time a move would be made for the introduction of a community of Sisters and the opening of a Catholic school there... it is hoped that within a comparatively brief time the Parish will be free of debt, enabling a commencement to be made with the other necessary work mentioned.

Parishioners were anxious to help establish the new Church building and many men worked tirelessly to make this happen. Those with carpentry skills worked under the supervision of the builders and others did labouring jobs, cleaning up each weekend so the 'newly built' church was spick and span for the Sunday Eucharist. Father Carew was probably the hardest working member of these 'working bees'. He dug all the trenches for the storm water drains, across what is now the school children's playground.

Great friendships were made in the early days. As well as the working bees, social activities such as concerts on the verandah of the Church building, "Silver Circles" and fetes were organised all to raise funds for the ongoing work of the Parish. Even with these fundraising efforts, the new parish was sorely in need of regular financial support. In October 1959 a Parish Pledging Campaign came into operation. The Catholic men of the parish canvassed all parishioners, calling at their homes in the evening after their working day and a generous contribution was promised - one thousand, five hundred pounds for a period of one hundred and fifty weeks was pledged.



The next big project for our Parish was to provide a school for the growing number of children in the area. In 1960 four classrooms of timber and brick were erected. The cost of this was eighteen thousand, five hundred pounds. Unfortunately the school could not be opened because teaching staff were not available in the Archdiocese. These classrooms remained empty for twelve months. The Nundah Bus Company provided transport for our children, taking them to St Carthage's School in Gordon Park for their first year of education. We were very blessed in July 1962, when three sisters from the Congregation of the Holy Family of Nazareth agreed to undertake ministry at Queen of Apostles Primary School. The sisters lived in their Convent at Kalinga until completion of their residence here in Stafford. Sisters Adria, Pius and Bernadette and our first lay teacher Mrs Eileen Cameron, commenced instructing our children. One little boy, who was assigned to Mrs. Cameron's class, was asked by his mother on the first day of school, how he liked school, to which he replied. "It was good, but I would have liked to have a teacher in a "sister suit". The three original classes opened their school day by singing "*God Bless Australia*" to the tune of Waltzing Matilda, in Calypso time.



The Congregation, of the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth, was founded in Rome, in 1875, by Mother Mary, of Jesus the Good Shepherd, (Frances Siedliska). Prayer for the Holy Father and the Church is essential to the spirit of the Congregation. They aim to fulfil the spiritual, emotional and social needs of the families they serve and in this way help to build up the Kingdom of God. The Congregation is modelled on the Holy Family. Their convents are homes of peace and charity, One week before her death Mother Mary said: *"Charity, charity, my Sisters, charity! Nazareth and lack of charity cannot go together."*

In 1962 His Grace, Archbishop Sir James Duhig officially opened the first four classrooms of the school, to the delight of Parishioners. Three hundred and fifty people, along with the then American Vice-Consul Mr M.L. Cantolla attended. In 1963 a new seven classroom block was opened. As parents we were proud of our new school and volunteered for all sorts of 'jobs'; tuckshop, library duties, playground duty and sorting newspapers and bottles to be sold. These were all labours of love.

Often it was difficult for parents to find the money for school fees, uniforms, and books, but our faith prevailed and our children received the best education possible. In 1964 a further block of classrooms with a large library, was constructed.

Father John Gerry (now Bishop), was appointed to replace Father Mick Carew for a period of twelve months. Working bees, usually led by Father John, with a shovel in his hand was a regular feature of our men's week-ends. Their time was freely given. They usually enjoyed a beer with Father John at the end of the day. Father John remained at Stafford for fourteen years and was the inspiration for much of the progress made in our community in those fledgling years. For the first six years the Parish Priest lived in a small flat attached to the northern end of the original wooden Church building. Father Paul McLachlan was appointed Assistant Priest in January 1963 and it was now urgent that a Presbytery be built. Once more the finance for this was arranged and Archbishop Duhig opened the building (which is still used today), in May that same year. Following Mass that morning, parishioners were invited to walk through and view the presbytery. Twelve pine trees were planted around the driveway encircling the presbytery. Each tree was to represent one of the apostles. Eleven of these trees are still flourishing.

Father John Gerry convened the inaugural meeting of the Conference of the Society of St Vincent de Paul on Monday 1st February 1962. Regular meetings have continued throughout the years. An important ministry of the Society is the visitation of the impoverished in their homes, and if necessary, to respond to their needs by supplying food vouchers, furniture and clothing. The Conference accepted the responsibility for the circulation and distribution of Catholic literature, including weekly sales of *The Catholic Leader*. They operated a Piety Stall in a room attached to the original church. At that time, with the help of many volunteers, they took on the task of filling the School book orders for the start of each school year. On week-days the stall opened each school day prior to the commencement of school hours to supply students with stationery and school books. This service was discontinued in 1993. In the early years of the parish The St Vincent de Paul members visited the patients at the Chermiside Chest Hospital, now The Prince Charles Hospital, and the Holy Spirit Home at Aspley. Some members carried out duties at the SVDP Hostel in the city and women from the Conference Ladies Auxiliary worked in the SVPD Stafford shop and others sorted and packed



church car park for the collection of used clothing for distribution to those in need. Unfortunately vandalism made it necessary to remove these bins in 2005. The constitution of Saint Vincent de Paul has been changed and women are now full members of the Confraternity and not auxiliary members.

A collection taken up on Christmas Day each year is the main source of income for the Conference. Our parishioners are very generous in this regard and thanks to their generosity the bulk of the Society's needs are met by these donations. In the early days gifts of toys and food placed under the Gifting Tree each Christmas were distributed to families in need. In later years, and continuing to this day, hampers of food contributed by parishioners and families from the school, are again placed under the Gifting Tree and then packed and delivered.

In the early sixties the Redemptorist Fathers conducted a Mission in our Parish. In consultation with the Parish Priest and parishioners they instigated the Confraternity of Our Lady of Perpetual Help. This was made up of eight guilds, spread over the parish area. These guilds were given one of Mary's titles e.g. Our Lady of the Rosary, Help of Christians etc. Each guild had its own banner and a prefect who organised the activities for the group. Members had their own special blue prayer book and wore a blue ribbon with a medal of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour. This was a great break through for the ladies of the Parish. It was a source of prayer, help and support as well as the opportunity for social activity. A monthly Mass was celebrated and members of each guild, wearing their medal, entered into church behind the prefect of



their guild, who carried the banner into church and placed it in a fixture at the end of the pew. The members of the guilds marched in the annual Corpus Christi Procession, along with all the other sodalities in the Archdiocese. These were happy days and the ladies looked forward to the meetings in the homes of members of their guild. If you were unsure where the meeting was being held you only had to look for the house with all the prams and strollers parked in the front yard and listen for the laughter of children and chatter of the ladies. The picture of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour which hangs in the church today was a gift to us from the Redemptorist Fathers.

This Parish has a reputation of being very ecumenical and this had its beginning in early 1964, when the men from the Holy Name Society had a meeting with the Church of England Men's Society. Three years later the Stafford-Kedron Inter-Church Council was formed. This is still a vibrant group and comprises St Therese and St Anthony's Church, Kedron, St Paul's Uniting Church, Stafford, Salvation Army Centre, Stafford, Chermshire/Kedron Uniting Community, St Clement's-on-the-Hill Anglican Church, Stafford and Our Lady, Queen of Apostles Church, Stafford. As well as regular ecumenical prayer meetings over the years, other activities have been sponsored by the Inter-Church Council, including carol singing and Christmas festivities. As an ecumenical venture members of Stafford-Kedron Churches Together meet to commemorate Palm Sunday. This began in 1991, with a service at St Paul's Uniting Church, followed by a march to St Clement's Anglican Church singing hymns along the way. After another service the march proceeded to Our Lady Queen of Apostles Church. The Prayer Service offered in each Church is led by a Pastor from one of the other Parishes.

By 1964, the school population was increasing and there was a concern that these children would have difficulty finding places in existing Catholic Secondary Schools in the area. A public meeting held in the church made the decision to raise funds and purchase suitable land and build a Secondary School for the girls who would eventually graduate from our Primary School. The Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth gave the undertaking that they would staff the school and would be prepared to back the venture financially. Out of this meeting came the Queen of Apostles Development Corporation. Board members were elected, including Father John Gerry and Sister Bernice, CSFN. Trustees were appointed and the corporation was formed under the Religious Education and Charitable Institutions Act. The following letter, which showed the support of Archbishop Duhig was received.

"Wynberg"
NEW FARM
2nd November 1964

Dear Father Gerry,

I am pleased to learn that you are approaching the serious problem of providing so many children with a full Catholic Education in a planned systematic way. Throughout the Archdiocese of Brisbane there are many urgent needs in the educational field, these needs are most acute in the rapidly expanding areas. I fully approve of your launching the Catholic Development Fund as a sane and safe plan to meet this situation. The success of similar funds in other areas has proved most beneficial to the Church and to the people generally.

You may inform the clergy and the people of the Archdiocese that this programme has my full approbation and patronage. It is my earnest wish that the promotion of the fund in all its forms receives their general support and co-operation.

Yours sincerely in Christ
+ James Duhig,
Archbishop of Brisbane.



On 10th April, 1964 Archbishop O'Donnell succeeded Archbishop Sir James Duhig. At this time the Development Fund underwent a major setback, when the corporation was told that it could no longer solicit deposits and subscriptions throughout the Archdiocese. This meant that all finances would have to be raised within the Parish. A final blow to the plan for a Catholic Girls High School in Stafford came when an extensive survey by Catholic Education in 1969, recommended to the Archbishop that the regional Catholic High School for Girls for the district should be located at St. Benedict's in Wilston. The major reason given was the proximity to existing public transport. The question as to what to do with the \$36,000 allotment of land had to be addressed. It was decided after much deliberation to rezone the land back to Residential A and to develop and subdivide. The land yielded fifty-four blocks. Two streets in this estate, Gerry Street and Adria Street, remain as a reminder of what might have been.

In the early 1960s many couples were struggling to meet their financial commitments. The Christian community was very anxious to help in this regard. There was a gathering of thirty-five interested parishioners, who were addressed by the President of The Queensland Credit Union League. They were informed that it would be possible for a group of people with a common bond to pool their savings, attract a reasonable rate of interest and make loans to others, also at an affordable rate. The Stafford Parish Credit Union, staffed by volunteers from the parish commenced business in June 1968. They provided a service in a temporary office in the school tuckshop, after Mass on each Sunday. Board members were of great assistance to people whose financial affairs had been in chaos. They advised and educated people to manage their own finances. They later relocated to a temporary building beside the Presbytery and employed a Credit Union Officer to conduct business during regular trading hours. Business was conducted in this location until the current Parish Office building was constructed. Eventually Queensland Country Credit Union incorporated the Parish Credit Union into their business and now conduct their business from the Rode Shopping Centre, on the corner of Appleby and Rode Roads.

The Parish tennis courts were constructed circa 1962. A general meeting was held and a Tennis Committee was formed. At the inaugural meeting it was determined that the two courts be made available for members of the parish to play social tennis on a casual basis for the first six months. After a period of three months it became evident that the courts were not being utilised to their full potential and a more structured basis was arranged. The courts could now be hired out to teams for day or night fixtures and for mid-week social games. Many working bees were held and again the hard working volunteers constructed the sheds and lay concrete between the courts. The courts were surfaced with ant bed and many thousands of hours went into the preparation of the courts, namely bagging, watering, rolling and marking. Most of these chores were carried out by committee members who prepared the courts, sometimes twice on the same day for many years. During fine weather the courts were the source of an income of about \$150 per week, which went into costs involved in the maintenance of the courts. Many enjoyable games have been played on our courts and many children received their first instruction in the game on these courts. A tennis coach instructed school children in classes held after school and on Saturday mornings. In more recent years the old ant bed has been replaced with a hard court surface that requires less maintenance.



In 1966 the first Parish Ball was held at Cloudland. It was a very gala affair. The name Cloudland will bring back many wonderful memories of great balls and dances held in this remarkable building 'on top of the hill' at Bowen Hills, when we danced to the great music of Billo Smith Jnr. It dominated the skyline of Brisbane for many years and was destroyed to make way for the residential housing units, causing great anguish to 'Brisbaneites'. These Parish Balls were a popular event to be anticipated annually, at various venues, for the next few years. This tradition was revived for the Fortieth Anniversary of the Parish, when we celebrated at Gaythorne Retired Servicemen's League Club. We look forward to another special Dinner Dance at the Kedron Wavell Club to mark our Golden Jubilee.

Our school community was growing and once again we needed to expand. In 1968, an allotment of land was purchased in Chuter Street a few blocks from the original campus. This complex was opened in 1969, to cater for children in Grades One to Four from that end of the Parish. Our younger children still attend Chuter Street for the early years of their education. This venue was used to celebrate 8.00am Sunday Mass, for a number of years.

A series of meetings took place in fifty-two homes throughout the Parish for information and discussions relating to spirituality and lay ministry. A special meeting of all parishioners was called on 21st November 1971 to discuss future directions and four hundred people attended. This resulted in the formation of a Parish Council. It was important that councillors should be prepared for this role and acquire the skills of Christian leadership. In March 1972, Archbishop O'Donnell inaugurated the Stafford Parish Pastoral Council.

The Council initiated pastoral ministry both within and outside the Parish community. It fostered community fellowship within the Parish by means of numerous social functions. Councillors remain in office for three years and elections are held to replace members on a rotating basis. Over the years the Parish Pastoral Council has been an integral support for the Parish Priest and has been instrumental in many decisions made, and activities run in the Parish.

It was about this time that our Parishioners 'adopted' the Parish of Aenath in India. This has been an on-going project with regular annual collections to finance many projects for the people of this parish. Homes and fresh water have been major projects, as well as providing sewing machines, animals and educational needs.



A club for Altar Servers was established. They would meet with the Assistant Pastor on a Saturday afternoon. Altar servers practice sessions were held first, before playing sport or helping with the bottle drives, and was often followed by a 'reward' swim at St Columbans, Nudgee Seminary or Marbourg Seminary. Other activities included Inter Club Sport for baseball and basketball. A week long camp at Camp Warrawee was held once a year. The children were rostered for all duties including washing dishes and peeling vegetables. Points were awarded to the hut members for cleanliness, sport and mandatory play. At this time Altar Servers were only boys but in later years girls and boys from Year Four were permitted to have the privilege of serving at Mass.

A Youth Group came about when the need for the school aged girls and boys of the Parish to have a meeting place, was recognised. Every weekend saw a great many young people congregate at the Church/School grounds. Saturdays were usually spent playing some kind of sport e.g. Basketball, Netball, French Cricket, Tennis or simply gathering for meaningful discussion with their peers. Sometimes a bus trip was organised to the Coast or picnic spots. At one time a room under the old Church building was set up to house a "coffee shop" where they could relax, play pool and generally catch up.

Inter-Parish dances were held on a Saturday night attended by Parishioners from Stafford, Kedron and Enoggera Parishes. At Stafford the dances were held in the ground level classrooms of the double story building near the quadrangle. All the folding doors were pushed back to allow for a large open dance floor. These dances were a highlight, much fun and well patronised, dancing the night away to live bands.

In the early seventies the Stafford Parish Young Adults Club had its beginnings in a series of meeting between adults and youth. From these meetings came the guidelines for another youth group. It was open to all parish youth between the ages of fifteen and twenty-five years, both boys and girls, operating independently for purposes of finance and functions catering specifically for this age group; but combining with the younger children for all major functions. A series of home group meetings were arranged and car trips organised.



There have been times when this type of youth participation has waned but it is pleasing to know that at this stage of the history of the Parish a new Youth Group, based on younger members of the parish, starting with Year 6 and embracing junior high school students is alive and well. They are an enthusiastic group comprised of three sections: Years 6 and 7, called the 'Smarties', Years 8 and 9, who call themselves 'We can do it!' and Years 10, 11 and 12, the 'SPY' (Stafford Parish Youth). The youth leaders and an adult team meet twice a month. The first meeting is to plan a function and the second to discuss the response to the function. The activities of the group include both spiritual and social dimensions. All activities are well publicised in the Parish and the School Newsletters.

'World Day of Prayer' is a worldwide movement of Christian women of many traditions who call the faithful together on the first Friday of March each year to observe a common day of prayer. In 1969, The World Union of Catholic Women's Organisation decided to forgo their Worldwide Day of Prayer to take part in the Women's World Day of Prayer as it was then known. Our Lady, Queen of Apostles began to take part in the 1970s and come together with the local Anglican, Uniting and Baptist churches to share in organising the celebration of a prayer service which is prepared by women from a different nation each year. Each Church takes turn at hosting the prayer service, which begins with a 'cuppa' and time to catch up with friends. The next time Our Lady Queen of Apostles will be hosts is in 2009, and the service will be prepared by the people of our nearest neighbours, New Guinea.

By 1975 there was a need for religious instruction in local State Primary Schools and a group of Parishioners devoted themselves to becoming Catechists. They attended lectures to enable them to bring the word of God to children. Some of these Catechists instructed the children in the schools four times a week. They visited the parents of these children to make them aware of these classes. Instructions were held at the Church on Wednesday afternoons for those children preparing for the Sacraments of Penance, First Eucharist and Confirmation. The children were picked up at their school and brought to the Church where they were given an afternoon snack and returned to their homes after the lessons. In some instances some of these children were also picked up and brought to Mass on Sunday. Our grateful thanks go to these people and to those who followed on and continue to provide this valuable Wednesday afternoon catechesis.

The need for a caring ministry was undertaken by some dedicated women, who formed the original Caring Committee, which we now know as 'Care and Concern'. These women undertook a community welfare training programme. and many parishioners have been grateful for the generosity of this band of willing workers. Sick parishioners were transported to doctor's appointments and to church on Sundays. Meals were cooked and delivered to the families of people in hospital and those unable to provide meals for their families because of sickness. Shopping and house cleaning were undertaken and lawns mowed and repairs carried out by volunteers. With the advent of Government aid in many of these areas the duties of this group has changed somewhat but is by no means lessened, and today they remain 'a blessing' to many families.

Throughout its history, Our Lady, Queen of Apostles Parish has always actively sought the advancement of the lay apostolate. It has truly been a 'People's Parish' and in many ways, followed the ideal set out by the Second Vatican Council.

"..... the laity are called in a special way to make the Church present and operative in those places and circumstances where only through them can she become the salt of the earth. Thus every layman, by virtue of the very gifts bestowed upon them is at the same time a witness and a living instrument of the mission of the Church herself...."

*Par. 33 Lumen Gentium
Dogmatic Constitution
On the Church.*

Two Stafford seminarians, Gary Russell (R.I.P) and Robert Birrer were installed as Acolytes on 10th December 1972 at the 7.00am Mass, where a Solemn Ceremony of Deputation took place. They were ordained as deacons on 6 August, 1973. That same year a group of parishioners accompanied Father John Gerry to the 40th International Eucharistic Congress in Melbourne.

The Parish staff typed, printed and collated Parish Hymn Books on a typewriter and roneo machine, using a manual stapler. This was much more work intensive than in this day with computers and sophisticated photocopiers, but a necessary service. Music has always been an integral part of Parish liturgies, with musicians, choirs and cantors volunteering their services generously, enabling parishioners to join in the singing at Mass.

On the 13th July 1974 Gary Russell (R.I.P.) and Robert Birrer were ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Bernard Wallace. The next day a Thanksgiving Mass was celebrated in the Skating Arena at the Stafford Terminus .

In the first two weeks of November 1974 a Parish Census was carried out. This was a huge undertaking with parishioners knocking on doors and requesting all people to fill in a census sheet if there was a Catholic person residing in that house. This allowed our parish records to be updated.

The same year, we were proud to hear Father John Gerry was appointed to the important position of Vicar for Social Welfare. Unfortunately for the parishioners of Stafford this pre-empted his leaving the Parish to concentrate on his responsibilities as Social Vicar, and in January 1975 we welcomed Father Clement Hodge as our Parish Priest



Our long association with Father Clem has endeared him to parishioners and he is remembered as another of our well loved pastors. The Parish Hall has been named in his honour as 'Hodge Hall'.

In February 1975 six priests: Parish Priest, Assistant Priest and four Redemptorist Priests combined to bring our parish a Mission. There were 'Rock' Masses, Home Visitations and Mission Home Gatherings. A Mass was celebrated at the Skating Arena at the close of the Mission.

As a follow up, a Mission was conducted jointly in the parishes of Stafford, West Chermside and Wilston. The Parish Pastoral Council selected a course called 'New Testament Way to Community' to further develop spirituality in the Parish. A group was formed to be a 'pilot group'. They commenced in mid 1976 with eight members meeting weekly. The group struggled but persisted and moved on to other spiritual based programmes which included a Lenten programme. After a number of years it was decided to devote one meeting a month to pray for their personal needs and the needs of the parish. Over the years membership has changed. Currently there are twelve in this group with only four of the original members remaining. As they are older they now meet only once a month for prayer in the daytime instead of the evenings. Through these meetings each has found a new and deeper relationship with our God. They are thankful for thirty wonderful years and would recommend this type of spiritual development to all.

We celebrated the Centenary of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth and the thirteen years they were with us in our parish in August, 1975.

The decision was made to include boys in the Parish Primary School grades Five to Seven, where previously these young boys had left to further their education at schools conducted by Religious Brothers and Priests for boys only.

Children's Liturgy of the Word was introduced at the then 8.15 a.m. Mass and children from Grades One to Four, were instructed in the Liturgy of the Day, and returned to Mass before the Consecration. This continues today at the 9.00am Mass thanks to the dedication of a group of parishioners, who are rostered to catechise these children each Sunday of the School year.

In 1977 we were fortunate to have deacons from Banyo working part time in our Parish. That year we also celebrated the Twentieth Anniversary of the first Parish Church Building and the Twenty-fifth Anniversary of the Sisters arrival in Australia.



Following the Second Vatican Council, general confession and absolution were introduced to the Archdiocese. In 1978 the confessional rooms were changed, in accordance with the directives of Vatican II.

In July/August, 1979 "Movement for a Better World" conducted a Retreat in the Parish. Some years later we adopted the "New Image of Parish Programme" initiated by this Movement.

A new Assistant Priest arrived on 29th July, Father Kevin Carey. This was our first introduction to the man who was to return as our Parish Priest in 2004 and be with us to celebrate our Jubilee in 2007 and hopefully many more years to come.

In December we were pleased to hear that the Brisbane City Council would erect traffic lights on the corner of Appleby Road and Minimine Street. As a safety issue for our school children this was important and it was promised that they would be working in time for the start of the school year in 1980. At this time we were unique in being only the second church in Brisbane with its own set of traffic lights leading in and out of the church car park.

On 10th February 1980, Parishioner, Luke Reed entered the Seminary.

This same year a group of parishioners commenced praying the rosary in their homes. Father Clem encouraged them to pray the rosary in the Church before the 7.00am Mass on First Saturday mornings and then on Wednesdays before the 9.00am Mass. The rosary is prayed every morning prior to the week day Mass and following 6.00 pm on Saturday evenings and also Sunday afternoons. The group prays for the Holy Father and all the Bishops and Priests throughout the whole world and for the sick, especially those who suffer from cancer.

The ABC did a live radio broadcast of Mass in our church on All Soul's Day in November 1980.

We had another reason to celebrate in 1981; it was the twentieth anniversary of Father Clem's ordination. A special Mass was offered and all were invited to join in a Parish Barbecue following the Mass.

The decision was made that the Mass at Chuter Street campus would be discontinued. It was important that no one was disadvantaged by this and arrangements were made for parishioners with transport, to assist people from that area to attend Mass at Appleby Road.

In November, with the transfer of Father Carey from our Parish, this was the first time for many years that we were to have only one priest, The Archbishop regretted that there was no one available to replace Father Carey at this time.

At the commencement of 1982, Baptismal preparation attendance became a requirement for parents and godparents, prior to the celebration of this Sacrament.

We began to prepare for the exciting event of our Silver Jubilee. Photographs of parish events were collected and a Recipe Book of favourite recipes of parishioners was prepared and printed. Special Silver Jubilee teaspoons were a keepsake from this event and were sold for \$2. On Wednesday evening 5th May, Archbishop Rush celebrated Mass, which was followed by supper. On the following Sunday there was a special Mass celebrated on the school oval. Our first Parish Priest, Father Mick Carew was the Principal Celebrant. This was followed by a picnic and fun novelty events. On 29th May, Bishop John Gerry celebrated a special Mass for deceased parishioners, followed by supper,



In the year 1981 we added a new word to our vocabulary "*Catechumenate*". In May a Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (R.C.I.A.) Planning Team attended a workshop at Banyo Seminary. Our team was one of twenty-three parishes involved in this workshop, and in August a Parish Awareness Night and Inquiry Nights for R.C.I.A. were held. In November there was a Rite of Welcome for candidates who were entering into the programme. On Easter Saturday evening, 1983, at the 6.00 pm Mass, the first candidates were welcomed into the parish. The R.C.I.A. is a process whereby adults become members of the Catholic Church. Its main feature is the restoration of the ancient catechumenate where a person is prepared for baptism and reception into the Church in a series of discussion groups, with other people from our community. This programme has been operating in our Parish since that time. We have celebrated with approximately eighty five people as they received the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist during the Easter Vigil. This is always a very solemn but joyous occasion and many happy times have been shared among us. We continue the celebrations with a festive supper in the Parish Hall.

The 4th August 1982 marked the first official gathering of the newly formed Social Club for senior parishioners. It was known that many elderly, housebound and lonely people lived in our parish and it was felt that they should be encouraged to meet their peers socially. From the beginning this was a very popular decision and the committee arranged a variety of activities to cater for their needs. Bus trips were arranged, guest speakers were invited to address the club, and they played bingo and had bring-and-buy days. The meetings were held in the 'Stage Room' of the school in the early days and transferred to the Parish Hall after it was built. Over many years when the school had annual fetes the Social Club made items to be sold at the fete, so they were kept busy sewing, knitting and crocheting at home during the year so they had items for sale on fete days. Many of these people are still living in the parish and are involved in the various ministries. The social Club today is as popular as it ever was. This Fiftieth Anniversary year coincides with the twenty-fifth Anniversary of the Social Club.

Five years later, an Indoor Bowls Club was formed. Many bowlers also belong to the Social Club. They meet in the Parish Hall fortnightly, on the week that the Social Club does not meet, making every Wednesday a day for friends, with similar interests to meet and enjoy each others company.

On the 6th November 1982 the first School Leavers Mass was held. This important rite of passage for our Year Twelve students has become an annual event. It continues to be a memorable occasion for past Queen of Apostles students and their families.

Our own seminarian, Luke Reed wrote a brief history of the parish "OUR LADY, QUEEN OF APOSTLES – STAFFORD. A PEOPLE'S PARISH" for the Silver Jubilee 1957-1982. In 1992 this was added to by another seminarian, Sean Leader. His final comment was "The whole story is not written in books, but in the hearts of people, many already gone to eternity, others now living elsewhere, and finally ourselves, the present Parishioners". Much information in this publication has been obtained from these documents.

The beginning of 1984 saw the introduction of regular times for Baptisms. They are now celebrated after 10.30am on the third Sunday of each month. Baptism Preparation is held in the church on the first Sunday of the month also at 10.30am.

In April 1984 parishioners attended two sessions acquainting them with the concept of the New Image of Parish Programme. We embraced the New Image of Parish programme in July when it was explained to us in detail. A Core Team was elected and the parish was divided into fourteen zones. Each Zone had a co-ordinator and approximately twenty messengers. These volunteer messengers each delivered a letter to three or four families in the parish on a regular basis. The basis of this communication was to keep in touch with all Catholics in the area, paying special attention to those who did not attend church for whatever reason. This was to let these people know that they have not been forgotten.

This letter eventually evolved into a three times a year publication called CONNECT. Twenty-three years later the CONNECT team still produce this prior to Christmas, Easter and in the spring. The number of messengers has diminished and it is not possible to hand deliver it to every Catholic household in the parish, but many of the original messengers have faithfully carried out this duty and some new people have taken up the challenge. Once again, looking through old issues of CONNECT has been a reminder of events that have occurred in our parish over the last fifty years.

In our second year of New Image of Parish, Father Clem, attended a retreat and three week course embracing this concept at Ave Maria Retreat House, Coorparoo. In subsequent years CONNECT is the only remaining factor of New Image of Parish. Each succeeding Parish Priest has congratulated the team for continuing this work and has been adamant that it continue.

November 1985 saw the commencement of the plans for the erection of our new church hall complex. The Brisbane City Council approved the plans and granted permission for the project to proceed.

After celebrating thirty years association with St Clements-on-the-hill, Anglican Community in Stafford in February, Cannon Jack Madden departed this life in August. As a friend of our parish and stalwart of Stafford Kedron Churches Together we offered our condolences and prayed for the repose of his soul.

Father Clem celebrated his Silver Jubilee in June of 1986 and Stafford celebrated with him at a Mass at 11.00am on the School Oval. On Wednesday of the next week many parishioners attended a Jubilee Mass at the Cathedral.

The Contract for our new Parish buildings was signed with T.B. McDonald Pty. Ltd. and we were assured building would commence in a few days. These were exciting times and at the top of our Newsletter a symbol of the façade of the 'New' church building appeared while at the bottom there was a graphic likeness of the 'Old' church building. The last Mass in the old Church Building was celebrated on Sunday 7th December 1986. A working bee followed this Mass to move the furniture from the church up to the Parish Hall, our temporary place of worship. Until the new building was completed all Masses were held in the Parish Hall. This is a lovely airy building with large windows facing east and it was not unusual to see a hot air balloon floating by at the early morning Masses.

On 15th March 1987 Bishop John Gerry laid the Foundation Stone of the new church following 10.00am Mass. This made us all feel the anticipation of great things to come and we looked forward eagerly to worshipping in our new church building in the foreseeable future. In the coming months we were given descriptions of Church Building: *Our Gathering Space, Symbol of Light, Living Water, and Temple of Prayer.*

In June, just six months after the last Mass in our old church building, Mass was celebrated in the new Our Lady, Queen of Apostles Catholic Church. This lovely building with its imposing cross facing Appleby Road will be a landmark in Stafford for many years to come. On the Friday evening 26th June a Dedication Mass was celebrated in the new church. It was not long before special events were celebrated in our new church, one of the first being a Mass of Thanksgiving for the Ordination of Reverend Luke Reed.

July 1987, we celebrated the Twenty-fifth Anniversary of our school. Bishop Gerry celebrated a Mass of Thanksgiving, and a Wine and Cheese Night was held in the school following the Mass. The Silver Jubilee was marked with a fete. The sale of a Cook Book which included recipes from Celebrity Cooks, including clergy, sports and television personnel.

Mr Denis Anthonisz, was appointed the first lay Principal of Queen of Apostles Primary School, at the commencement of the new school year



Over the years, Parishioners have been involved in a number of Renewal Movements, which have enriched their lives and the life of the Parish – Teams of Our Lady, Marriage Encounter, and Cursillo.

Early in 1988 Father Clem enjoyed a much earned overseas trip and we were fortunate to have Father Frank Lourigan and other Seminary Staff members celebrate Masses for us. I am sure everyone remembers the year World Expo '88 was held in Brisbane. We were very proud of our city and welcomed visitors from far and near for this special event.

May that year was one of the sad occasions for our parish. Our groundsman, Kevin Sing died suddenly. Kevin was a well loved member of the parish team. A memorial stone for him is situated at the entrance to the driveway from the carpark. June marked the First Anniversary of the dedication of the new Church.

On 16th November 1988, a special Parish Assembly was held in the school 'stage' room to consider items for discussion for the following year's Archdiocesan Assembly.

The Government passed a law making it illegal to feed pigs with left overs from restaurants and a variety of shops. These places had a dilemma of what to do with products that could not be sold. One of the local bakeries advised that they were willing to donate baked goods that were not sold, to be given to the church for distribution to those in need. A parish group and a St Vincent de Paul group undertook to collect these goods, twice a week, pack it and deliver it to families who were grateful for this help. This continues to this day and many families have benefited from it.

Archbishop Rush who was ordained in Rome on 18th March 1939 celebrated his Golden Jubilee.

We had another reason to celebrate more locally in April, 1989. This was the Beatification in Rome of Blessed Mary of Jesus the Good Shepherd. This was Frances Siedliska, the foundress of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth. We are so blessed to have these Sisters in our Parish and we prayerfully joined them on this very special occasion as did Archbishop Rush, who joined us in this celebration.

In November 1989 volunteers were called for and a roster was arranged for church cleaning. Many of these willing volunteers continue to keep our church a clean and fitting place for worship. Our Church has always been a beautiful place of worship, thanks to the dedicated efforts of Parishioners who selflessly arrange flowers, create banners and attend to the preparation for liturgical celebrations.

Following Christmas a Parish Drop-in Centre was opened and parishioners were welcome to 'drop-in' and have a chat and a 'cuppa' during office hours and browse through the small library that existed at that time. This library has been expanded and is now housed in the vestibule of the Parish Office. Parishioners have always been welcome to borrow books of a spiritual nature to enhance knowledge while deepening their spirituality.

Father Clem attended a course in Canberra and during this time an arson attack was carried out on the Parish Office and Credit Union Office. Because of the security in both offices, and the fact that all doors and windows were closed, no air entered and the fire smouldered for several hours until the groundsman arrived at 7.30am. There was a great deal of destruction to equipment but fortunately all important documents and records were kept in a fire-proof safe and these were not lost. The daily work of the office was transferred to a room in the Presbytery and the Credit Union worked in a demountable in the car park until the offices had been cleaned and refurbished.

In 1991 names of deceased Parishioners were recorded in a book to be displayed in the Church in November each year.

A group of mothers in the parish held a meeting in August 1990, and they decided to meet monthly to support one another, share experiences and make lasting friendships. The group, named the Magellan Club, has been a wonderful help to many 'mums' over the years.

In May of this year we farewelled Father Clem with a gathering in the Parish Hall. Our good friend Father Clem is remembered with love and always welcomed back enthusiastically when he visits our parish. Bishop John Gerry installed our new Parish Priest, Father Michael McKeaten. Father Michael came to us from the Gold Coast.

By October a new alarm system was in place to upgrade security for the school, church and parish buildings. In the first few months the Parish Priest, Sisters and neighbours in surrounding streets were able to attest to the working of this system when the loud siren would go off at night. Fortunately the security system was upgraded and the property is still secure without disturbing our sleep.

In December it was announced that Archbishop John Bathurst would succeed Archbishop Francis Rush as the fifth Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Brisbane.

It has been a privilege for us to have the Very Reverend Father Dr Adrian Farrelly and Fr Dr Chris Hanlon when they assisted with the celebration of weekend Masses in our Parish.

In August 1993, Father Adrian Farrelly celebrated the twentieth Anniversary of his ordination. At the gathering that followed it was suggested that it would be a good idea to promote the Sacrament of Marriage in a similar way for those who were celebrating their twentieth anniversary that same year. This came to fruition and at a Wednesday evening Mass in September, celebrated by Father Michael McKeaten, ten couples renewed their Marriage Vows. A supper was enjoyed in the hall with wedding day photos on display. This Mass became a regular feature of our Parish calendar. Father Marian Wierzchowski was keen to continue the format but thought it better to hold the celebration at a week-end Mass so all could participate and annually in September many couples renewed their vows. Pope Paul II instigated World Marriage Day in 2003 and set aside the second Sunday in February for this observance. All married couples are invited to renew their vows each year now and the Archdiocese celebrates at St Bridget's Church Red Hill on this day. The original couples from the first celebration at Stafford still meet annually to keep in touch and share the next stages of their lives.

Father John Ponting was resident in the Parish after spending some time as Acting Administrator in the Mt Gravatt Parish. He resided in the Parish and helped with the celebration of Masses and worked in the Catholic Centre as I.T.Consultant.

Sister Helen Tereba csfn joined the Parish team as our first part-time Pastoral Minister. Her wonderful personality immediately made her a favourite with the Parishioners. She was readily available to families, visited the sick and assisted in the preparation of the liturgies.

We rejoiced to hear the news that our good friend Joseph Hein Vo was accepted into the priesthood. Joseph began his journey to priesthood in August 1961, in Vietnam, then the Philippines and Sydney in 1989 and finally in Stafford. He was ordained in Brisbane in 1995. His first Mass was celebrated at Our Lady Queen of Apostles with joy and gratitude.

The Tri-Care Nursing Home in our parish was in need of some spiritual guidance and Father Michael commenced saying Mass on a monthly basis in one of their common rooms. A group of Communion Ministers undertook to take Holy Communion to the residents weekly and both monthly Mass and visits from Parishioners continue today.

Following a visit from, Father Peter McGrath, from the Passionist Order of Priests and the recommendation from the Shaping and Staffing project of the Brisbane Archdiocese the parish adopted the concept of Family Groups. Eight Family Groups, consisting of one hundred and eighty adults plus children, were formed. The groups meet monthly and as a result there is a greater community spirit within the parish.

For three years prior to the year 2000 we began praying and preparing for the Jubilee Year. Many events were planned by the Archdiocese with the major celebration being on Trinity Sunday. Each Parish was asked to have only one Parish Mass on that day. In our Pastoral Area all five parishes came together for a special Jubilee Liturgy at St Gerard Majella Church, West Chermside. This was followed by a picnic on the lawn outside the church.

On the public holiday of Exhibition Wednesday in August we attended a Sunrise Ceremony on the beach at Shorncliffe. This necessitated rising very early and driving to Shorncliffe. We welcomed the sun coming up over the water with prayer and song and enjoyed a picnic breakfast before returning home to be in time for 8.30am Mass in the church. It was a very uplifting experience that was well worth sacrificing a 'sleep in' on a Public Holiday.

The glass doors to the right of the front entrance of the Church were decorated to emulate the 'Holy Door' of St Peter's Basilica in Rome that were opened by the Pope to mark the new Millennium. This will serve as a perpetual reminder to us that we have celebrated 2000 years since Christ came into our world. A decorated staff received from the Archdiocese was filled with logos and information about all groups in our Parish and is fixed to the eastern wall of the Church.



In the new year of 1999 we welcomed another new Parish Priest into the family. Father Michael McKeaten was transferred to the Holy Family Church at Indooroopilly, where he performed the dual roles of Parish Priest and Vicar for Vocations. Father Marian Wierzchowski from the Order of Pallotine Priests was our next spiritual leader. This man, well versed in Mission, and originally from Poland, had spent eight years in P.N.G. and was to be with us for the next five years. He was joined a few months later by a fellow Pallotine, Father Anthony Zemula, who had been residing in U.S.A. We had much fun teaching Father Marian our 'Aussie' ways and he soon learned to say "G'day, G'day". Both priests were devout spiritual leaders and we embraced their prayerful ways with zeal.

The 12th September 1999 marked seventy years since Sister Germaine Suk entered the convent and the Stafford Parishioners were privileged to celebrate this event with her. The 9.00am Mass was celebrated for her intention and all enjoyed refreshments and a 'cuppa' and cake for the special occasion.



It was a special project of Father Marian's that we bring some of our lovely statues out of storage and display them. The first was the statue of the Sacred Heart. The garden near the Sacristy door was cleared, and paving stones and new plants were installed to surround and highlight the statue which is housed in a glass case. This is now a quiet reflective area. The next garden to be remodelled was the one to the left of the door to the Parish Office. The Blessed Virgin Mary's statue was also placed in a protective glass case and a garden was planted. A stone water feature enhances this garden and it is the area that is also the home of the original foundation stone of the old Church.

During his time with us Father Tony celebrated his Twenty-fifth Jubilee. We were very happy to celebrate with him at a special 6.00pm Mass one Saturday evening followed by a supper in the hall. A special poem was written for Father Tony, by our resident poet, and a small gift was presented with every verse. No doubt he will treasure this memory long after his departure from Stafford.

2001 was declared the International Year of the Volunteer and along with volunteer workers from many other organisations a group of our parish volunteers were recognised by the Government and presented with an Award at a function at Kedron-Wavell Services Club.

The Parish Band was formed in 2002. This group adds another dimension to our sacred music celebrated at all Masses. The faithful group of organists, instrument players and cantors make our celebrations reverent and special. Their commitment, with regular practices, is greatly valued.

Our Divine Mercy Prayer Group commenced on August 19th 2003 with the blessing of Father Marian, whose parting gift to the Parish was his personal picture of the Divine Mercy Image, which now hangs above the Tabernacle. Prayers are said in the Church every second and fourth Tuesday of each month from 7.00pm to 8.00pm. During this hour hymns are sung, the Divine Mercy Chaplet is prayed and Holy Rosary said along with sections of the readings from the Diary of Blessed Faustina. In the year 2005 Father Kevin gave permission for Exposition of the Eucharist during the prayer gatherings.

A casual conversation about Palm Sunday and the blessing of palms led to a decision to make palm crosses. Contact was made with members of St Paul's Presbyterian Church at St Paul's Terrace in the city and they volunteered to teach us how to make these crosses. A couple of our parishioners went along one Saturday afternoon and learned the art of making palm crosses. This led to teaching a team of our parishioners how this is done and each year, leading up to Palm Sunday we make approximately a thousand of these crosses to be blessed and distributed on Palm Sunday.



We were sad to farewell Father Marian and Father Tony when their order recalled them to other duties. A 'truly Aussie' farewell function was held in Hodge Hall. We recalled the good times and celebrated with enthusiasm and thanksgiving. In the course of the evening they were presented with a number of Australian souvenirs to remind them of their friends 'down under'.

May 2004 was the time we welcomed our new Parish Priest, Father Kevin Carey. Many of us remembered Father Kevin from his stay during the time Father Clem was with us. Father Kevin came to us from the Gold Coast and brought with him some new ideas for a new beginning.

Our well loved Sister Germaine had two reasons to celebrate on the 12th September 2004. It was seventy five years since she entered religious life and it was her ninetieth birthday. Father Kevin celebrated a special Mass for her and we all offered our heartfelt congratulations. A special cake was served and morning tea was enjoyed by all, under the pergola outside the Church. Two years later we were sad to farewell Sister Germaine as she left Stafford to reside in the Sisters' convent in Marayong, Sydney. At Mass that day Father Kevin presented her with a gift from the Parish and told her how much we valued her. In her reply she told us that she was going to Sydney but her heart would always remain in Stafford.



Father Kevin decided that it would be more convenient for the older parishioners if the Anointing Mass, on the first Friday of each month commenced a little later than 8.30am. For this reason and to allow the school Masses to be incorporated in the normal week day Masses, Friday Masses are now scheduled for 9.00am. His invitation for all to participate in a morning tea following the Anointing Mass has been a great success and each month the get together for this is a looked forward to event. Adoration and Benediction now follow Mass on Wednesday morning, which is more convenient than Friday when there could be a School Mass or Anointing Mass.

Once a week we celebrate the Liturgy of the Word and receive Holy Communion, consecrated for us at a recent Mass. This is a new step for Stafford in lay led liturgy, as promulgated at the Archdiocesan Synod in 2003. Monthly Anointing Masses continue each first Friday with the addition of morning tea to follow the Mass. Adoration and Benediction is also celebrated once a week.

This account of the first 50 years of Our Lady, Queen of Apostles Parish came to fruition through the efforts of many people. More important than this brief record are the individuals and families who shared their lives, their faith and their dreams to make this Parish what it is today. To them we attribute sincere appreciation, for today we stand on the 'shoulders of giants', who built this Parish on "hopes and dreams and visions".

Throughout fifty years we have been asked to do what is within our power to build on those hopes, dreams and visions while we live our own. When we do so we lay claim to everything they achieved, plus we add our own small part and that small part is added to the good deeds of those who came before us.

There are numerous unsung heroes, both in our past and in our present. Many people who have, and still do devote a considerable amount of time and effort to make our Parish what it is today. The community spirit that exists here is what makes Stafford a welcoming and inclusive Parish.

There are so many insurmountable tasks that are accomplished, and so much done in a quiet and serene manner. They are performed by people who choose to work behind the scenes, as 'quiet achievers'.

Only God knows the intentions and generous hearts of these people and only God can repay them sufficiently for all their efforts.

We thank God for the many blessings He has bestowed on the Parish of Stafford and pray for his guidance in the years to come.

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LIST OF PARISH MINISTRIES

Adult Faith Education
Aenath Overseas Aid Committee
Altar Servers
Bread Delivery
Care and Concern
Catechist Team/Religious Education
Children's Liturgy
Church Cleaning
Collectors and Counters Team
Communion Ministers
Connect Team
Divine Mercy Prayer Group
Ecumenical Group SKCT
Family Groups
Finance Council
Hospitality/Welcoming Group
Indoor Bowls Club
Library Resource Centre
Liturgy Co-ordinators
Liturgy Group
Majellan Group
Ministry to Sick and Homebound
Musicians and Singers Group
Parish Pastoral Council
Parish Prayer Support Groups
Parish Social Committee
Prayer/Study Groups
QAASCARE (Outside School Hours Care)
Readers at Mass
RCIA
Rosary Group
Sacramental Programme Team
Social Club
Society of St Vincent de Paul
TriCare Ministry
Youth Group

*Anecdotes
From
Our
Parishioners*

EARLY MEMORIES OF THE PARISH

In the early days of the Parish, the Sixties, young wives didn't go to work as happens now. So we stayed at home, more often than not with no car or social life to speak of. Every two years or so there was another little mouth to feed, more washing to be done, sometimes without a washing machine and not much to look forward to. Father John picked up the vibes on his visits around the Parish and started the Ladies' Guilds.

The Parish was divided into sections, and the ladies in the sections contacted other mothers and decided to meet in a different house each month for a 'cuppa', discussion and general get together. These days were hilarious with the mothers easily outnumbered by the number of babies and children (no day care, kindy, pre-school in those days unless one was very lucky or, dare I say, well off).

Believe you me, there were some VERY lively discussions conducted on those days with the Parish Priest often in attendance. We often thought we educated him rather well. The good those guild days did over a period of time can never be measured here on earth but I am sure it is recorded in Heaven.

A concert every November resulted from these gatherings and it was amazing to see the talent blossoming. When time came for Father Gerry to move on, a concert organised by Glyn Liddy, turned out to be one of the funniest ever seen. We had 'the good guys', namely the men of the working bees who sang about their efforts to the tune of "*Nothing Could Be Finer Than To Be In Carolina*" and some mothers dressed for washing day with dolls for children hanging off washing baskets and brooms and belts. Their song was "*back in those early days we always looked this way*" O yes those were the days.

From all this activity came "*The Entertainers*" a concert group organised by Yvonne Graham, and a very talented group they were. Nothing was sacred as they danced and sang their way along, entertaining at retirement homes, hospitals and at the Social Club in the Parish.

Another group, which was formed in the mid seventies, was a card group. The plans, for this activity was first mooted in a driveway, during a bottle drive, (there were many of these) during a discussion between John Quirk now deceased and Kevin Watts. There have been some changes to the original group but we still soldier on approximately once a month. Years ago we wouldn't miss a night despite babies and children, they all went too, but now grandchildren have rather inhibited attendances. It's nearly always somebody's birthday. The game played is pontoon; we haven't progressed any further than that because having to concentrate stops us from talking. The men are just as guilty, sometimes more so. Women can talk and play at the same time.

Name Withheld

EARLY DAYS IN THE PARISH – KEVIN WATTS

Being a young Parish, there wasn't a lot of money to spare for the many repairs etc. A lot of electrical work, done for the School, Presbytery and Convent, was done voluntarily by electricians in the Parish, namely Vince Carney, Neil Lowry, both deceased and Bob Devine. The old church was very hot in summer and the above mentioned installed fans which had been donated by various parishioners.

Weekends saw many of the fathers in the Parish on working bees. Painting the school was a major task and in this, they were ably assisted, by the Parish Priest, Father John Gerry. (The volunteers only went for the beer afterwards).

The Holy Name Society members were very loyal to their monthly Sunday Mass and always followed the Priest down the aisle of the Church, the banner flying high. One wet Sunday all the members were outside the Church waiting the arrival of the Celebrant, Father Terry Moynihan, to lead them in. However, not wanting to get wet, he shot on to the altar and began Mass. The bedraggled men limped into their seats causing a good deal of amusement.

THE HOW AND THE WHY – MARY WATTS

The Queen of Apostles church and school were envisaged in the far-seeing mind of Archbishop James Duhig, who purchased the land in Appleby Road Stafford in 1955,

The Queensland Housing Commission established several estates in the Stafford area, which caused a boom in the number of young families, many of whom were Catholics. It was 1957 when Father Michael Carew arrived in Stafford and made contact with the Catholic community. He took over from the Franciscan Friars at Kedron, visiting of the sick, and from these people he learnt of other Catholics in the area. He then started a door-knocking campaign to call the Catholic community together and to establish the parish of Our Lady, Queen of Apostles.

The fact that there were no buildings on the block did not deter the community and on Sunday 28th April 1957, the first Mass was celebrated in a candy striped tent. Two hundred and fifty people attended. After some months a Church was built and then attention was turned to building a school, which was sorely needed.

The above information was written on the occasion of the Twenty-fifth anniversary of the school in 1983.

OUR LADY, QUEEN OF APOSTLES, 50 YEARS – A.P.P.

Some of the activities and goings on by the men in the Parish in the last twenty years or so.

It all started in the days of the Holy Name Society. No doubt there were many wonderful activities carried out over the many years by a great band of men without recognition; however we would like to mention just a couple that come to mind that were greatly enjoyed by many. These events brought out the humour, character and the wonderful mateship within the Parish.

The Holy Name Society of Our Lady, Queen of Apostles was an ongoing men's organisation to foster relationships and to be ready to help out those in need. It also made one aware that if you opened your big mouth then you were earmarked for the next President.

I have opened my big mouth once too often and as a result I became the next President. The next thing was to select or form a committee with a sense of humour and a willingness to work for a common goal. We were blessed! Many years ago, maybe before this committee was formed, the Parish Priest decided to try and invite the men along to a function so a Sportsman' Dinner was organised. We had Peter Gallagher, the International footballer from Brothers Football Club as the draw card speaker. It was a very successful night with about sixty men all dressed up in their suits (dark ones at that). So that was the beginning of things to follow. The old Corbett Park Club House became a little more popular and the men's organisation of the Parish went on from there. That was a long time ago!

Working Bees were a common activity. I can recall our Parish Priest dropped the hint that one of the school buildings was starting to look a little worse for wear. There were insufficient funds to professionally paint the building, so why not try a working bee? It was organised, paint supplied, bring our own brushes, trestles, planks and some drop sheets and away we went...Joke telling, paint spilling, no falls were recorded! You could always tell the workers who participated, they had in some cases more paint on their hands and in their hair (most of us had hair in those days) than on the walls. Job was completed, eventually. Could not say it was the most successful, however, plenty of fun was had by all.

Retaining wall to the school grounds. The Parish Priest dropped the hint once again. This time the playground at the back of the school sloped away to one corner. All or most of the children's balls would end up in the next street. Could anything be done about it? He obviously did not see what went on at the painting bee or decided to give us one more chance to redeem ourselves. Not to be outdone the challenge was taken up.

In the Parish at the time we had many skilled people (no doubt we still do). One of our engineering friends was called upon to design a retaining wall to enable the playground to be levelled to prevent the balls running down the

street. Within a couple of weeks plans were drawn up (detailing reinforcing) and submitted along with an approximate estimate of costs. The Parish Priest was a pretty smart man and he decided on the spot to go ahead with the job. All along we were feeling the opposite – that is **not to go ahead**.

Steel ordered, backhoe checked out, levels taken, everything organised with a willing band of workers and away we went. No project is complete however without a subcommittee and the Chairman of the subcommittee had decided if we were going to achieve our goal we would be pretty hot and dry at the end of the day. The Parish Priest got the message with a little prompting of course. He supplied the goodies to the Chairman of the Subcommittee and his job was to allocate duties to others. He selected a worker to put the goodies in the refrigerator in the school building to make sure the refrigerator was turned on. This duty was carried out by a worker.

We were probably more fortunate than most organisations as we had our own bank manager, medico, engineer along with many workers. We also had a public relations officer to settle any misunderstandings or differences as well. Of course in those days no organisation would be complete without the S.P. Bookmaker. Yes we had one of those too.

The set out was complete and the backhoe arrived. Zoom zoom, backhoe away and reinforcing gang organised into action. The manager, as mentioned previously, was bloody useless at this caper so his task was to ensure the radio was on the racing station, the water was cold and the jokes were good. He excelled!

Everything was going like a train with the Reo underway and the excavation under control. Once the excavation was complete, Reo placed in position and checked out by the engineer, the concrete arrived and vibrator man appointed. We won't mention the comments re the vibrator. Concrete was now in position, we finished off the wall and all gear was washed up. Cleaning up complete, what a wonderful days work! Once the work was complete the Subcommittee Chairman asked his assistant to retrieve the goodies from the refrigerator. He didn't have to ask twice; in fact I don't think he was even asked at all!

The Chairman returned to the work area. I have been around for a long time and seen many faces but I have never seen such a sad, sad face as the one I saw that day. One of the workmen asked what was the trouble, splutter, splutter, 'the bloody beer is hot, the refrigerator was turned off!!!!' The workman who was allocated the task of turning it on went for his life, he eventually left town. To the rescue at this very moment, the ever smiling Parish Priest arrived on the scene admiring the work carried out. He got the message too. Ex-chairman made a hurried trip to the local and back in record time. That was a beer enjoyed by all. What a wonderful way to enjoy each others company and also achieve something for the parish and the school.

A Parish B.B.Q. Our Parish Priest didn't let up. The next venture tested our catering skills more than our concreting skills, according to my wife! This time he decided to have a parish B.B.Q. challenge. The challenge accepted, however there was no Subcommittee this time. The occasion was yet another rousing success. The date was set with numbers at about sixty people. As a men's organisation we were not foolish enough to think we could handle this one on our own. What do you do in moments like this? You call the good wives. The preparation went very well. A couple of additional barbies were arranged and the occasion was advertised. Starting was 6.00pm. You would not want to know but on the night there were people waiting outside, waiting for the clock to turn to six. I always maintain that every person finds their niche in life and for the likes of the manager on previous working bees he was hopeless at cooking yet a very good doorman and treasurer. We unearthed a few potential chefs that night and the wives were stressed to the limit with catering. The format for the night was a barbecue followed by a few games of Kelly's Pool. Who should be elected to run the game? None, other than the manager. He was so successful it was obvious he had a miss-spent youth knocking around the billiard saloons in his younger days. There were also a couple of potential candidates for gamblers anonymous, but we overcame that situation quite well.

Another successful achievement – Rain, rain, and more rain. The 1974 floods. One Saturday afternoon a certain gentleman had organised a few gentlemen to have a discussion about the weather as races were off and all sporting activities were washed out. It seemed to be a good enough reason he thought. It would be better to meet at a certain house at a certain time. The meeting took place still with the rain tumbling down. There wasn't a lot of point discussing the weather. It also just so happened that there was a pool table at this residence. What a wonderful opportunity to have a game of pool (not water pool). The manager happened to be invited as well, useless at most things but he excelled at running the game. Five o'clock, and the rain got heavier, too heavy in fact to go home. Six o'clock came and went; six thirty came and eventually eats were offered by the lady of the house. When the rain ceased a number of phone calls were made. Rain continued and the games went on. At about eight thirty pm the lady of the house provided some more eats and as you can imagine it was most welcome. An odd drink was taken as we listened to the report on the radio and heard the warnings. Warnings were asking people to stay indoor and definitely not to go out on the roads as the weather had turned worse. A good Catholic man's decision was made to conform with the weather man's request. Nine thirty it was still raining, Ten o'clock still raining but now heavier. About one thirty am it was decided to call the game off and all go home. An enjoyable evening was had by all. It didn't end that night however. Wives were to be fronted the next day.

One of the players had spoken of an incident that had taken place in his street. The manager, being very considerate to his wife, decided not to disturb her so he quietly snuck into his bed. Crash, bang! Light on and the neighbour decided to wait a short time. No ambulance sirens, no police sirens, light still on but no further noise so back to bed he went. The manager

was questioned the next day about the commotion. Explanation: doing the right thing and not disturbing his wife, getting into bed quietly, the bloody bed collapsed. He suggested to his wife that they sleep on the floor, 'darling'. "Don't darling me, you fix it right now", was her reply, while sitting on a chair in the corner.

As mentioned previously how useless he was, he struggled with no help from the Mrs... Two or three hours later the bed was ready for a try. The Mrs would not attempt to try out the bed. He had to jump up and down a few times to come to the conclusion that it was O.K. The next thing she decided, however was that it was time to go to early Mass. The neighbour had to check out the bed and make a few minor adjustments and everything was declared O.K. It is amazing how much trouble one can get into when trying to do the 'right thing'.

There was a work side to '74 floods as well. As a team, we responded to victims of the flood and spent many hours cleaning houses and helping those in need.

The Golf Days (This is definitely the last). With such a wonderful band of men and with the Holy Name Society to be disbanded, it was decided to have some sporting activities that did not include Kelly's Pool. So a golf day was decided as a way to get the men together. The first day we had all driven our own cars to Woodford and a wonderful day was had by all. From then it was decided to make it an annual event, so a bus was the way to go. This was on for many years and it was a very popular day out. The plan was, the bus was to leave a certain residence at a certain time. You have never seen so many antique squeaky and dilapidated clubs and buggies, but of course the would-be pros had the good gear.

The residents of a certain street would hear the noise of all the squeaky buggies and declare that the golf day was on again! One of the many things that happened were from the ***These things don't happen to you*** list. The person in question has a great sense of humour. It was he who told the story.

As the bus departed the organization took place. When you got to the club you knew who you were playing with. We hit off, played nine holes, had lunch with the odd drink, and then played the second nine. After that it was back to the club house, a couple of drinks, presentations and a few more drinks. We all poured into the bus and had a hearty singsong on the way home. We arrived home with the squeaky buggies making their way along the street. A particular gentleman was somewhat over due and he underestimated the departure time of the bus, this didn't go over well at all. He went home at last. He had a little trouble getting the buggy up the stairs, next he could not find the key to the door. He rang the doorbell once then twice. The wife came to the door; the door opens "Hello, Darling" he croons. "Don't darling me!" comes the reply. (I've heard that before). Where have you been?" "The bus was late, etc." Didn't work well as he was a very quiet natured man. He decided to slip down the hallway and crashed on the bed. The next morning he awoke with the birds. He rolled over to try to reconcile the situation from

last night. He put his arms out to give his wife a hug but a strange thing happened. He hurt his arm, tried again and the same thing happened. His eyes a little more opened this time and surprise, surprise there were his golf clubs in his bed along with a note. It wasn't a 'Dear John' letter as his name wasn't John. However the message read: "*You love your golf clubs so much you can sleep with them.*" It wasn't signed with love and kisses and his handicap didn't improve after that day!

THOUGHTS FROM JOSIE LYLE

In the early days of the tent church, when it rained we used to have planks put down to walk across to get into the church. My mother, Mrs McNeil and I used to launder for the Parish Priest, Father Carew, who was the first priest. He also helped clear the land, often cutting down trees, and he was happy to join our family for meals.

When the first church was built it had a room included as living quarters for the clergy.

There was quite a group of ladies, with myself, Eunice Hayes, Marie Long, Doreen Donaldson, Marie Judge to name a few who started the first Tuckshop, also my mother took on the weekly event of looking after and laundering the altar cloths.

To help raise funds for the Church and school, fetes were held and were always a great success.

A TRIBUTE TO KEVIN SING THE WEEK-END AFTER HIS DEATH

I have been carrying a set of keys with me, all week. There seems to be as many keys as there are gates and rooms in the School and Parish buildings. I sometimes saw them on the Parish Staff room table, or in the owner's weathered hands, but I heard these keys more often than I saw them. The key-ring carries a simple "K", since this bunch of keys belonged to Kevin Sing. Kevin was a parishioner, friend and devoted worker/groundsman at Our Lady Queen of Apostles. He died last weekend and we celebrated his Requiem on Thursday.

Kev's key-ring did not carry his most precious key that is the key to each person's heart. His generous and most joyful manner, his unquestioning loyalty and the friendly way he went about all that he did. Most of Kev's acts of kindness we will never hear about, but all of them were sincere, brought him into the hearts and lives of so many and will be remembered as he now enjoys everlasting life in the Risen Lord.

Near the main door of the Church, this weekend is a collection of photographs of Kev that contain some of the memories we are happy to cherish.

At the suggestion of many, the Parish Council has decided to make the area near the entrance to the oval, where Kev was working, only days before he died, a garden and permanent reminder of Kev's love for this Parish – a love we will continue to have for him.

Begorra! It's O'Sing, The Chinese Leprechaun.

By Brian Johnston

At the risk of upsettin' the little people, it must be said that a deal of Irish has got mixed up with St. Patrick's Day.

For a start, we have some confusion over just when the good saint should be celebrated. and then there's a Chinese leprechaun leapin' about to stir up the fight in the footballin' Irish. There's also an English leprechaun dancin' round a Scottish pub. Faith and begorrah, it's enough to turn your praties green. But Ron Royes, the publican out at the Edinburgh Castle, and his English leprechaun at least have the date right. They'll be pourin' out the green beer, servin' up the praties and dancin' to the pipers all day tomorrow. As Ron says "St Pat's Day has always been March 17th as far as I know." But a lot of other watering holes around the city have decided the drinkin' and carousin' will be today. And while some may feel there's a slight mercenary touch to the decision, the host of The Melbourne and Bonepartes (even the French are in the act), Gary Balkin, says simply: "It wouldn't be Irish to hold it on the right day. The Queensland Irish Association, bein' the real thing, is havin' a little each way. For starters, the annual dinner is on tonight with more than five hundred guests including the Governor, Sir James Ramsey, and the Federal Treasurer, Mr Keating, Then tomorrow it will be singin' and dancin'. Now it must be said that Brothers Rugby League lads are Irish through and through and they too will begin the jiggin' tonight. There's a grand game of football and the leprechaun is needed to gee up the boys to beat Redcliffe. And he'll be there amid the shamrocks and green beer on Saturday, but the Brethren do have a minor problem. The only man they could find to fit in the Leprechaun regalia was Chinese. So for two days he's to be goin' by the name of Kevin O'Sing. It's all enough to make you want to just get merry for a couple of days and forget the whole confusion.

(Published with permission of The Brisbane's Courier Mail)

Noela and Des Slattery were married, by Father Michael Carew, at St Joseph's Church, Corinda, on 5th November 1955. They were in attendance at the first Mass in the tent at Our Lady, Queen of Apostles and are still active members of the parish.

Their children were baptised in the original church and received their primary education at the parish school.

Their son, Bryan, is now a doctor practicing in Warwick, daughter, Catherine, is a teacher at Ithica Creek Primary School and youngest son, Peter, is a bio-engineer at The Royal Brisbane Hospital.

Des was a carpenter, involved in many working bees, including building the Presbytery at weekends.

Noela and Des moved into their house in Minimine Street the week before the first Mass and still reside there.

Catherine's wedding was the first Saturday wedding in the new church.

Des and Noela on their wedding day.



Alf and Mary Gow
20 Karloff Drove
Stafford Heights.

Early memories of Stafford Parish

We moved into our newly built home on Stafford Road at the end of June 1956. Our first born, Robert, was nine days old when we moved in.

Before the Stafford Parish commenced we had a special bus service provided by the Kedron Parish taking parishioners in this area to Sunday Mass at The Little Flower Church at Kedron.

A marquee was erected on the Appleby Road property to start the new parish of Stafford the following year. Our family was not at the opening Sunday Mass as we were visiting relations at Laidley, however, we attended Mass there from then on.

Our second son, Stephen, was baptised in the 'tent' at the end of June 1957.

The first parish priest was Father Carew, a really great man, one year in the weeks leading up to Christmas we remember him stating that if certain persons played up at Midnight Mass the way they had done the previous year he would have then thrown out and he wouldn't be calling on the men of the parish to do it, he was quite capable of doing it himself.

We have lived in the parish at this address and brought up seven children, all attended Queen of Apostles School. We have a granddaughter now in Grade II at the Chuter Street School.

Stafford Parish has been a wonderful and friendly environment in which to bring up a family. This parish has had a wonderful succession of priests and nuns, who would be great example and influence for anyone.

**BOB AND PATSY DEVINE'S MEMORIES
OF
THE EARLY YEARS AT OUR LADY, QUEEN OF APOSTLES CHURCH,
STAFFORD.**

In January 1956 we were married at St Carthages, Gordon Park. During May 1956 we moved into our just completed home on Sparkes Hill. At that time the now Stafford Parish was part of Kedron Parish. At one time a bus belonging to Kedron Parish used to travel along Stafford Road collecting parishioners for Sunday Masses.

Early in 1957 there was much excitement on hearing that Fr Carew (the newly appointed Parish Priest) was visiting Catholic families in the Stafford area. At last the promise of a new parish looked like becoming a reality.

On my way home from work one day I called in at the large paddock in Appleby Road, which was rumoured to be the site of the new church. A workman was digging a foundation trench and as I approached he stopped work to have yarn... that was my first meeting with Fr Carew. He told me that he was anxious to get things moving and within a couple of weeks a huge marquee was erected in the corner of the property opposite Minimine Street. On 28th April, together with many happy new parishioners, we attended the first Mass in Stafford Parish. There was a tremendous atmosphere and excitement during the time of the 'tent'. So many of the parishioner were like us at the beginning of so many new events...newly married, new home, new family (no new cars) and new homes going up everywhere in new streets and now a new parish.

Everyone was keen to be involved and a lot of plans and ideas were discussed on the site of the tent. Formation was completed before the new church was blessed and officially opened. Large numbers joined the Sodalities. One Sunday a month the Ladies Guilds entered the church behind their banners. The following Sunday the men of the Holy Name Society would have their turn. From the beginning there was an organ to lead the signing of the keen and enthusiastic group of parishioners. Fund raising fetes were organised and held on Saturdays (no Vigil Masses in those days) and continued onto 8.00pm sometimes. No TV or football broadcasts in those days either, but everyone enjoyed themselves immensely. We mustn't forget the children...they were everywhere – families usually meant four to eleven children.

At times during the year the many men used to 'volunteer' door knocking house to house throughout the whole district collecting for charitable works, like the Mater Hospital Appeal. Many humorous stories still remain – not only being chased by dogs but one fellow having had paperwork chewed by an angry goat.

Within a short time the first Planned Giving Programme was launched and it was an opportunity for a large number of men to be involved in canvassing every Catholic in the parish. Many friendships were formed.

**MEMORIES OF OUR TIME AT OUR LADY, QUEEN OF APOSTLES
GARY AND MARGARET McLEAN AND FAMILY**

During our past twenty odd years at Our Lady, Queen of Apostles Parish we have experienced great times and sad times with the loss of some close Parishioners and friends. The Parish School brought us to Stafford, which provided our children, and many others, an excellent grounding in their education. There were many opportunities to be a part of this great community and over the years we have seen a small School and Parish grow to its larger potential. During these years we have had the pleasure to be a part of many social, administrative and other working parties with many good friends and good times.

If I thought of one great memory it would have to be the many School Fetes and the one that was nearly rained out showed the true spirit of this great community. It rained all week but come 3.00am Sunday morning it stopped and we started at 5.00am and banked nearly \$20,000.00 after a great day and a few hard earned drinks. That was Queen of Apostles spirit.

We have been blessed with great Clergy and Sisters who have served Our Lady, Queen of Apostles Parish excellently, by being part of the greater community in all Parish life.

We hope this Jubilee will continue to foster the great spirit of love, outreach and community in our great Parish of Our Lady, Queen of Apostles.

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