

Semper Fidelis

1979

Always Faithful

2019



**Celebrating 40 years of
God's Faithful Love**

St Anthony's Church Alexandra Hills, QLD

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Editorial

We are the Church

Our Ruby Jubilee Souvenir Booklet of St Anthony's Church, Alexandra Hills is prepared with gratitude to God, on the blossoming of the Church from our early pioneering days to where we are now, forty years on. We commemorate this event to highlight and to reflect on our many achievements and failures and look at how God has guided us through these many years. We honour the faith, hope and love of many who have laid the strong foundations on which we have built our community of faith. We celebrate where we have come from, where we are now and our vision for the future.

Our focus in this souvenir is to give everyone an understanding of the past history so that we can appreciate the sacrifice of the pioneer members of the parish, be inspired in the present and embrace the future with great hope and passion. It is a means of drawing people together for a fuller active community. After forty years, it is an opportunity to gather stories, reflect, evaluate and celebrate. The key message of this souvenir is that we as a community are the Church and this binds us together as we work for the greater glory of our God and the good of His people. Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today, and creates a vision for tomorrow.

Our current Parish Priest, Fr Emmanuel Ayankudy, in September 2019, commissioned a group of parishioners to produce a souvenir booklet for our 40th Anniversary, Ruby Jubilee. Fr Emmanuel became parish priest in November 2018 and the logistics of producing a booklet on the precise date of 7th January 2019 was not tenable. So, an endeavour was made to celebrate on 1st February 2020.

Many were the hands behind the souvenir as data collectors, scrutinizers, writers, editors and advisors. It is with a deep sense of gratitude we thank them all for their goodwill, hard work and love for the Church. With great pride and joy we present to the People of God our souvenir booklet of St Anthony's Church, Alexandra Hills, **Semper Fidelis** – Always Faithful.

Editorial Team

Leslie Culpeper
Jenny Lewis
Jack Orendain
Fr Emmanuel Ayankudy CMI
Carmel Culpeper



Action speaks louder than words; let your words teach and your actions speak. — St Anthony of Padua



Message

The Most Reverend Mark Coleridge
Archbishop of Brisbane



THE PARISH OF ALEXANDRA HILLS & CAPALABA

In other parts of the world, forty years is not a long time; but in this part of the world it is quite a long time, especially when you think of all that has happened in those four decades. In the world and in the Church there have been changes unimaginable when the parish of Alexandra Hills was established.

Through all those changes the community of faith which is the parish has remained firm in looking to Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, who is the "the same yesterday, today and forever" (Hebrews 13:8). He is at the heart of the story which you celebrate as you look back across these forty years. He is the one in whom the journey began; he is the one who has accompanied you along the way; he is the one who calls you now into a new future.

But these forty years have also been a story of the blood, sweat and tears of those who have made the parish and those who are making it now. I think of Fr Paul Rooney and the Parish Priests who have followed him, but also of the many others less well known who have worked with the Lord and their pastors to build the community of "living stones" into "a spiritual temple, a holy priesthood." (1 Peter 2:5).

I join you in praising God for the Many graces of these forty years, and I pray that the future will honour the past, so that the light of Easter which shone forth so splendidly in the life and witness of your patron, St Anthony, will continue to shine forth in the parish of Alexandra Hills under his protection.

Archbishop of Brisbane



Recollections

Fr Paul Rooney

Fr Paul Rooney with his 100-year-old mother, Joan Rooney, outside St Stephen's Cathedral, Brisbane, after the Mass celebrating the his 50th Jubilee of Priestly Ordination. Photo: Emilie Ng (Catholic Leader)

Thank you, Fr Emmanuel, for the invitation to write some words on the parish's celebration of 40 years. It is 15 years since I spent 25 years as founding Parish Priest of St Anthony's parish. It was my dream to begin a parish, but little did I expect it would be from virgin bush. I was young then — 34, the youngest parish priest in the Brisbane Archdiocese. Fortunately, Alexandra Hills at that stage was really booming, hundreds of young families. The baptismal rate for several years was at least two a week, the record being 12 on one Sunday and that was in what is now the parish hall.

The school started in 1980, under the leadership of the Presentation Sisters and quickly became the largest Catholic primary school in Queensland and probably in Australia. We had a strong finance committee and we were able to purchase land from the uniting church and so the property grew to approximately 20 acres. Our first building on the property that is now the Parish Hall arrived on the 4th April 1979 at about 4am. I greeted it in

my pyjamas. The school buildings started gradually over many years. The now parish offices were the first administration building of the school. Other physical features grew from there — the ovals, tennis courts, school buildings, Padua Place and after my time of office Clare Haven.

A remarkable growth. It was amazing! But the spirit of the community – the Good News of Jesus – was and is what we are about. I called for help. The first and greatly important step was a helper in administering so many different aspects of parish life.

We were extremely fortunate to lure from the editorial staff of the Catholic Leader Mary Kent. Her experience in working with parish priests and youth groups as well as her own experience as a teacher at a business college, an organiser of Movement for a Better World (M.B.W) retreats was invaluable. In our early days school fees and planned giving records were done by hand and Mary coordinated both. As convenor and

“The spirit of the community — the Good News of Jesus— was and is what we are about.”

teacher in state schools where there were two high schools and seven primary schools with over 40 wonderful catechists and aids, the preparation of Sunday Masses, the music ministry, readers and special ministers of the Eucharist were very much under her guidance.

Many pastoral groups like the Care and Concern Group, the Casserole Club (meals for the bereaved, the sick and those in dire need), the Parish Ladies Group, the Bread Ministry Group were some of the practical ways God's love was experienced by God's people. The traditional work of the St Vincent de Paul Society (SVDP) was in strong liaison with the Parish Council and the parish team.

Children's liturgy was a booming ministry with so many dedicated leaders and large numbers of children celebrating every Sunday. The children's sacramental programmes were organised with a number of parent nights, the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA), the Lenten and family groups, the Antioch Youth Group with parent support were thriving and all of these were with the Sunday Mass as the centre point of all our

activity and community.

The principal of St Anthony's school for over 10 years Neville McDonald was instrumental in bringing together those communities from the parish and the school. We shared information that was vital to a unified approach emanating from our Sunday Eucharist. Behind all the activities was the support and advice of a committed parish council.

The world, the Church and families have changed since those grace filled times. We now need to come with open hearts. We have the leadership of Pope Francis who calls us to listen, to be slow to judge, to repent, to walk in others shoes, to care for the poor, to turn back to Jesus and the values of the Gospel.

Ever true to our parish motto ***Always Faithful*** and to the spirit of St Anthony, let us go forward with hope, may we become like Jesus who was not only with people but for the people.



Parishioners celebrate Fr Paul Rooney's Silver Jubilee of Priestly Ordination on 29 June 1993



Meeting the Needs of the Times

Peter McCarthy

In July 2004, then Archbishop of Brisbane John Bathersby phoned me and asked if I would take on the leadership of St Anthony's Catholic Parish, Alexandra Hills, whilst remaining Parish Priest of St Luke's, Capalaba. Without too much hesitation, I agreed to the call.

Throughout my five year, four month tenure at St Anthony's, I attempted to empower people – especially women (who make up at least 65% of any Catholic congregation, and do the bulk of the heavy lifting in any given Parish). The first decision I made was to appoint (the late) Noreen Owens as Pastoral Associate. The next four years – sharing the leadership of two parishes with Noreen – was a truly blessed time in my life and ministry.

With the professional assistance of Chris Ehler from the Archdiocese, we set up a Transition Steering Group (TSG) consisting of Pastoral Councillors from both Parishes to navigate a way forward. As far as the weekend Masses were concerned, I said to both Parishes, "I'm quite happy to celebrate four Masses each weekend. You tell me when you would like them". What we have today, is what parishioners decided back in September 2004.

The genesis of the Clare Haven project stems from the St Luke's Disability Support Group that had been active for a number of years prior to 2004. Building upon the success of Padua Place, the Clare Haven Task Group (circa 2005) spent years exploring the possibilities of establishing appropriate residential accommodation for younger adults with a disability.

The vision and foresight of founding Parish Priest Fr Paul Rooney (in collaboration with parishioners) in establishing Padua Place, was an inspiration for the Clare Haven project to also include affordable and social housing. The Clare Haven proposal was eventually given the green light, and the construction process commenced. A decade after, a group of

passionate parents/parishioners shared a dream for their disabled children, Clare Haven came to fruition, albeit in a different format.

For the month of May each year, we would shine a light on the area of domestic violence prevention. We would organise speakers from different perspectives in order to raise awareness, and be pro-active in regard to this growing scourge on society.

Each week during November we would facilitate A Time To Remember – focussing on a particular loss each week: Loss of a Parent, a Spouse/Partner, a Child and a significant loss or grief. If the number of attendees each week was anything to go by, 'A Time to Remember' certainly went some way in journeying with those who had lost a loved one. Being aware of more than a few families across both parishes struggling with a loved one with dementia, Noreen established a support group – aptly named Forget Me Not. Noreen facilitated a safe environment in which people in the same boat could share their stories, frustrations and anxieties without fear of judgement.

The two parishes never missed opportunities to do things ecumenically. St Anthony's came in on the wonderful relationship St Luke's had with the Capalaba Uniting Church. Good Friday was always a highlight as we would join them for their 8.30am Service, followed by Stations of the Cross down Ney Rd and into Degen Rd, before joining us for our 3.00pm Passion Service. Prayer breakfasts and Q and A sessions with people from different denominations were regular occurrences in those years.

In my time at St Anthony's, I was truly blessed to be the spiritual leader and servant of people who had embraced the spirit of St Mary MacKillop's philosophy of "never seeing a need without doing something about it".

Thank you for being part of my life. Shalom!



Greetings from the Eternal City

Fr Emmanuel Aguiyi

Thanks to God that I had the privilege to exercise my priestly ministry for eight years among the people of two exceptionally wonderful communities of Alexandra Hills & Capalaba. Those years of my life were beautiful moments. I am not in a hurry to forget them and I doubt if I ever will. I would not forget the refined quality of your faith, your positive sense of community and your visible expressions of love which run beyond your local communities. These qualities among others have continued to impact on many people more than we can ever know. I candidly encourage you to keep on doing the good works which distinguishes you as children of God.

I particularly wish to congratulate the members of St Anthony's Church, Alexandra Hills, as they mark their 40th anniversary as a faith community. The Church is the Body of Christ and Christ is the Head of the Church, as Saint Paul taught us. You constitute a visible part of the body of Christ in Redland City.

For 40 years, you have been assiduously swimming against the strong tides of secularisation. You have evidently remained a light shining bright and bearing witness to the goodness of Christ in your neighbour, not just by words but in action too. You have, to the best of your abilities, lived up to the expectations of your holy patron, St Anthony, as vanguards of faith, social justice and community. Your Eucharistic celebrations every weekend and other liturgical gatherings point to your faith. Your school, the kindy, Padua Place and Clare Haven bear witness to your sense of social justice. Likewise, your social gatherings, especially the annual multicultural dinner, indicate your deep community spirit. Keep these flags of faith flying.

I am filled with a joyful nostalgia as I write to congratulate you from my humble little room in Rome; surrounded by piles of books and printed materials, which have become my favourite company these days. Be assured that I am keeping well and enjoying my studies. I have always and will continue to keep you in my prayers. Congratulations once again. God bless you.



O, Give Thanks to the Lord!

Fr Emmanuel Ayankudy CMI

Parish Priest

The psalmist says, "Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good. His love endures for ever" (Ps.136). As St Anthony's Church marks 40 years of its spiritual pilgrimage the entire parish community raises its heart and mind along with the psalmist thanking God for his goodness, providence and faithfulness that he has showered on this faith community all through the past four decades.

Forty years has a powerful symbolism in the Bible. In the story of Noah forty represents God ordained mediation, pivotal change, new beginning and rebirth into beauty and glory. In the story of Moses forty represents new insights through the Ten Commandments which changed the world forever. It also signifies fresh revelation, spiritual transformation and covenant. Forty years of Israel's journey under the shade of the clouds and the light of the fiery pillar at night represents completing a time of testing and finally reaching the divine destiny. The prophet Elijah journeyed forty days and nights by the power of the divine food and reached the mount of God.

Jesus spent forty days of fasting and prayer in the desert and finally came out filled with the Holy Spirit and forty represents victory over evil through the power of the Word of God. Forty also means filling oneself with the power of the Holy Spirit and a time to proclaim the Kingdom of God. Forty days after his resurrection Jesus sent the Holy Spirit and strengthened his apostles and disciples with the gifts and fruits of the Spirit to become a new Church. All the above biblical instances tell us that forty years is a powerful and a significant time with rich meaning and message.

On the occasion of the Ruby Jubilee of St Anthony's Church, I remember with gratitude the previous parish priests who pastored this parish and all the parishioners who put their heart and soul into the life of the parish. I also acknowledge the sincere support and wholehearted cooperation of the entire present parish community. While congratulating and wishing all the parishioners prayerful greetings for the occasion, I would like to dedicate the entire parish to the maternal care of Mary our mother and pray for the powerful intercession of St Anthony & St Luke that we may grow as one parish community bearing witness to the love and compassion of Jesus.

“*Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.
His love endures forever*” (Ps.136).

Our Roots

St Anthony's History

Jenny Lewis

Our Gospel Story

The Synoptic Gospels speak to us about the parable of the mustard seed. From the tiniest of seed, the huge mustard tree emerges. This image of growth bears an apt resemblance to our own story at St Anthony's. In 1979, Fr Paul Rooney planted the seed of our church. Other priests followed in his footsteps, they tendered and watered us with their unique gifts and their own brands of spirituality. Passionate parishioners energetically fertilised, tilled and created the humus for growth. Guided by the Holy Spirit and the gentle care of our Mother Mary we can take pride in our achievements. We have flourished, blossomed and borne much fruit and are now a welcoming, vibrant and vital Catholic Christian community in the Redlands.

Early History

St Anthony's Parish was formed in January 1979, when Archbishop Rush appointed Fr Paul Rooney as Parish Priest. Prior to 1979, parishioners in the Alexandra Hills area

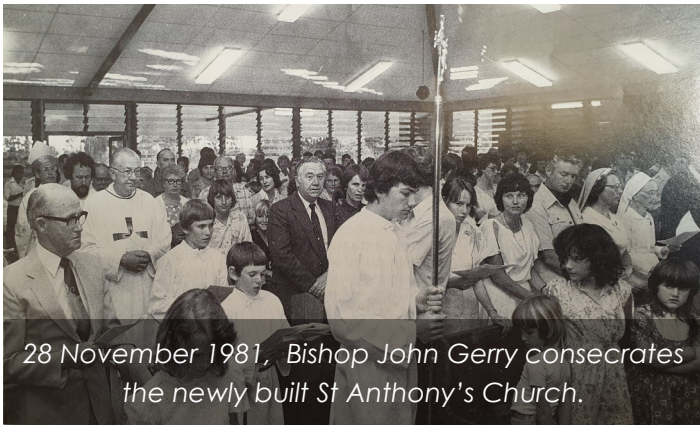
worshipped at the century-old Star of the Sea Parish Cleveland.

Parish life began enthusiastically when on Sunday, 7th January 1979, 9am Mass was celebrated at Alexandra Hills State School. Soon an additional 7am Mass was added, to cope with attendances, exceeding two hundred. Within weeks, the Presbytery had been acquired, doubling as the parish office and meeting rooms, at 142 Finucane Road, adjoining the proposed school site.

St Martina's Church from Norman Park Parish was relocated from Milsom Street Coorparoo on 4th April 1979 to St Anthony's grounds, where it is still located today functioning as our current Parish Hall. Eight days of intensive voluntary labour saw this small wooden "new St Anthony's Church" barely serviceable for an overflowing, joyous crowd at the Holy Thursday night ceremonies.

The brick foundations were completed the following week. It required a further





twenty consecutive weekends to complete the refurbishment project. Teams numbering upwards of twenty volunteers manned working bees, until a vestibule was added, as well as significant interior changes being made to facilitate ease of worship. Family involvement and the relative 'youthful' nature of the new parishioners (highlighted significantly by the proportion of two age groups - the twenty-five to thirty-five years old 'young marrieds' with their expanding families, aged under ten) set a benchmark for parish cohesion.

The benefits of this wonderfully cooperative and selfless generosity of our pioneers have shone through, with lifelong friendships formed then, endure to this day and are still part of a wonderful parish spirit.

The construction of our new church took priority throughout 1981. Blessed by Bishop John Gerry in November, its interior accommodated four hundred worshippers, with louvred verandas offering shelter, and optimum visual and audio engagement for any overflowing congregation. 1996/97 saw the worship configuration changed to "seating in the round", the sanctuary being highlighted and the installation of a large Baptismal font.

A 2005 Workplace Health and Safety condemning report mandated St Anthony's Hall unusable, it required yet another extensive process of remediation. The eventual upgrade once again highlighted 'people power'. By September 2006, \$50 000 had been accessed from community grants funding by the dogged persistence of two ladies over twelve months. Meeting the budget shortfall seemed insurmountable until a parishioner gifted his expertise, supplying all construction materials (through business contacts) and his company's labour, to match the grant. From January 2007, an intensive ten week building programme, involving prodigious volunteers, carried out the work.

The refurbished hall was blessed by Bishop Emeritus Ray Benjamin in June 2007 (photo below) was yet another triumph for behind the scenes, dedicated supporters responding to a great challenge.... it has since proved a welcoming venue for celebratory refreshments following parish ceremonies, as well as hosting regular socially successful functions which attract visitors from outside our community to share our fellowship.





1980, Archbishop Rush, Fr Paul Rooney and guests at the official opening and blessing of St Anthony's School



St Anthony's first Parish Council formed in 1984

St Anthony's School

The provision of the Redlands Shire (now Redland City) for the first Catholic school was an Archdiocesan priority. An enrolment of one hundred and fifty students across five-year levels under the leadership of Sr Kieran McNamara, and the Presentation Sisters, welcomed the 1980 school year. In March, Archbishop Rush dedicated St Anthony's Primary School, in the midst of a far-sighted building programme to meet the needs of a rapidly growing young Parish.

Life of the Early Parish Community

Book of Acts tells us about the nature of the early Christian community as follows, ..." they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who

were being saved" (Acts 2:42-47).

Imbibing the spirit of the early Christian community preparations began in 1984 for the first parish council: its inaugural meeting in September 1985 marked a further step in parish growth. The parish council gave impetus for a number of vibrant spiritual programmes in the community.

Soon our first Lenten programme from source to summit was embarked upon. By early February, significant community outreach had begun with a small team of catechists led by Fr Paul and Sr Therese Geraghty visiting local primary schools. By February 1981, this expanded team of thirty parish volunteers (comprising catechists, aides and child carers) was under the enthusiastic leadership of Mary Kent, visiting schools twice weekly, with rostered fortnightly instruction to the catholic students. By 1987, across seven schools, over five hundred young Catholics were involved. Later, with increasing secularisation, the role of the modern catechist was significantly reduced in State schools, so an alternative model was adopted by St Anthony's. Weekly after school classes were run from the Parish Hall for state school students for many years.

The St Anthony's Charismatic Prayer Group began in early 1981 and continued effectively to support the parish sick and needy through weekly meetings. Opportunities such as Life in the Spirit Seminars (Bardon,) weekend retreats (Banyo Seminary) equipped our members with enough confidence to establish similar groups in Brisbane parishes (at the request of the Archdiocese).

In 1981, the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) yielded twelve candidates, who were partnered with a sponsor and prayer person. This programme continues in our parish today.

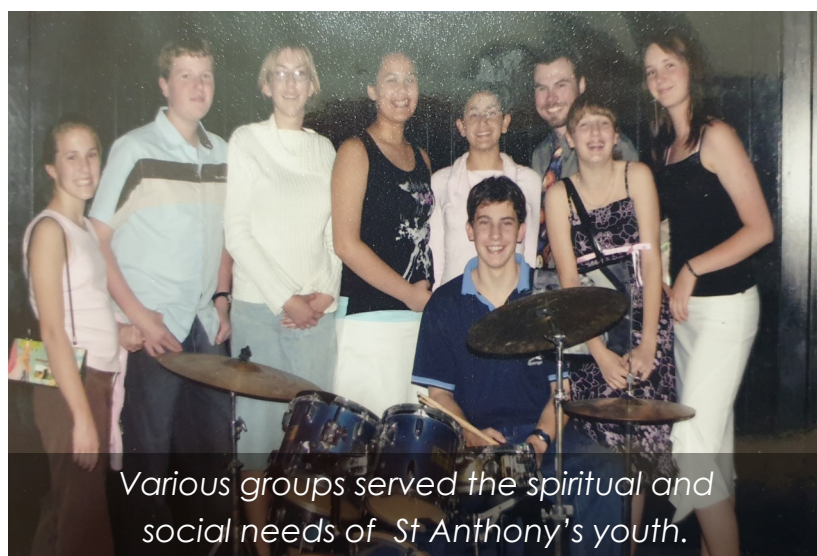
The growing need for active lay Ministries saw ongoing diocesan training involving many parishioners throughout 1980/81. Thirteen Extra Ordinary Ministers of the Eucharist were commissioned in March 1982, to assist Fr Paul in the administration of Communion, at both Masses, and to home bound parishioners. This ministry now also includes many weekly visits to a range of care facilities within the parish.

The Faith of the Nation Bicentennial Concert in November 1988 drew a large Parish group to Boondall, as did the Nathan QE II stadium Papal welcome for John Paul II in October 1986.

As the years passed, annual Lenten and Advent programs were augmented by varied parish sponsored opportunities to share and deepen faith commitment, often in small groups in private home settings. Fondly recalled from many, are home retreats led by the Cenacle Sisters, Marriage Encounter, Enneagrams, Myers Briggs courses. The Cursillo Movement and Parish Missions also deepened spirituality. Successful parish missions were conducted, again facilitated by the Passionist Fathers, in 2006 and 2007.

Outreach programmes

Padua Place administered as a Parish/ Qld. Dept. of Housing project had its genesis in late 1989 and in October 1993 construction commenced. In May/June 1994, the first tenants took up residence. The project was financed by a government grant with St Anthony's Parish contributing the land. Padua Place has as its' mission that "through gospel values Padua Place will enable disadvantaged local citizens to achieve a dignified, quality way of life." [Clare Haven](#), on St Anthony's Drive specifically assisting young adults with disabilities, opened in 2011.



Various groups served the spiritual and social needs of St Anthony's youth.

Children/Youth Ministries

Children's Liturgy, began in 1984, continues today at 9am Sunday Masses. Rostered leaders guide the children through age-appropriate activities (storytelling, take home art and craft) to understand the relevant Gospel message /readings. The children re-join their parents for the latter part of the Eucharistic celebration, followed by Community fellowship. An Archdiocesan-wide Assembly was attended in August 1989. As the younger parishioners received in due course the sacraments, attention was directed to providing opportunities to develop their faith traditions, also. Young altar servers

continue to serve (following their First Communion) at Masses.

Antioch began in 1985 under the mentorship of adult couples and offered successful Parish weekend event in January 1987 and September 1988. Secondary students were able to continue their involvement with the Young Christian Students (YCS) and later with the Young Christian Workers (YCW).

Various youth groups have come and gone through the years, each serving spiritual and social needs of our youth. It is pleasing to see the involvement in various worship roles through time, none more so currently than youth contributions to music ministry, altar serving and reading ministries. Celebratory worship (for example) Liturgies and Masses (beginning of school year) Yr 6 graduation and class Involvement Weekend Masses encourage our parish students' engagement in worship and parish life. Youth group, ConXions, for upper primary and secondary school students provided Friday night fellowship at both churches, monthly, in the period 2006/8. World Youth Day 2008, 14th July saw our parish families billet forty international Youth pilgrims who then were bussed to Sydney with our parish attendees for a week of faith-centred fellowship.

The Little Saints' Playgroup for pre-schoolers and parents/carers meet weekly in the Parish Hall. The Baptism Buddies program (a joint project dating from 2004) acts as a recruiting point for new Little Saints' families to share ongoing social interaction. From 2004, Baptism instruction is offered through a monthly introductory meeting. The Baptism Buddies team then partners families for training and personalising the Ceremony.

Women Empowerment Activities

An active Ladies Tennis Club through the eighties resulted in great 1988 Qld CLTA (Milton) success by the St Anthony's Tennis Club.

In July 1988 the St Anthony's ladies' group was established to provide vital social interaction for women in the Community and to build Community and support Parish life. Over thirty years later, this group of dedicated volunteers continues to work tirelessly in so many ways to pursue those aims, and support to a wide range of causes, locally and beyond. The beneficiaries of their efforts are many. The regularly held functions (soup luncheon, Biggest Morning Tea) are well known and the group beavers away constantly offering support on so many levels to a wide range of recipients, as it has done so well for three decades.

Now in recess, Old But Evergreens (OBEs) a hugely successful Friendship group, met the needs of our more Senior Parishioners through a wide range of monthly activities.

Providential Changes

Two new parishes were established in the area — St Luke's in Capalaba in 1986 and St Mary Mackillop in Birkdale in 1992. First parish priests were Frs Gerard Kalinowski in Capalaba and Joe McGeehan in Birkdale.

Fr Paul Rooney retired in July 2004 and subsequently so did Mary Kent, Pastoral Associate. Significant parish administration changes were effected from 1st September 2004.

Fr Peter McCarthy, Parish Priest of St Luke's was appointed Administrator with a Joint Steering Committee to assist the difficult 'blending' phase. In July 2006, this became the Joint Pastoral Council with eight



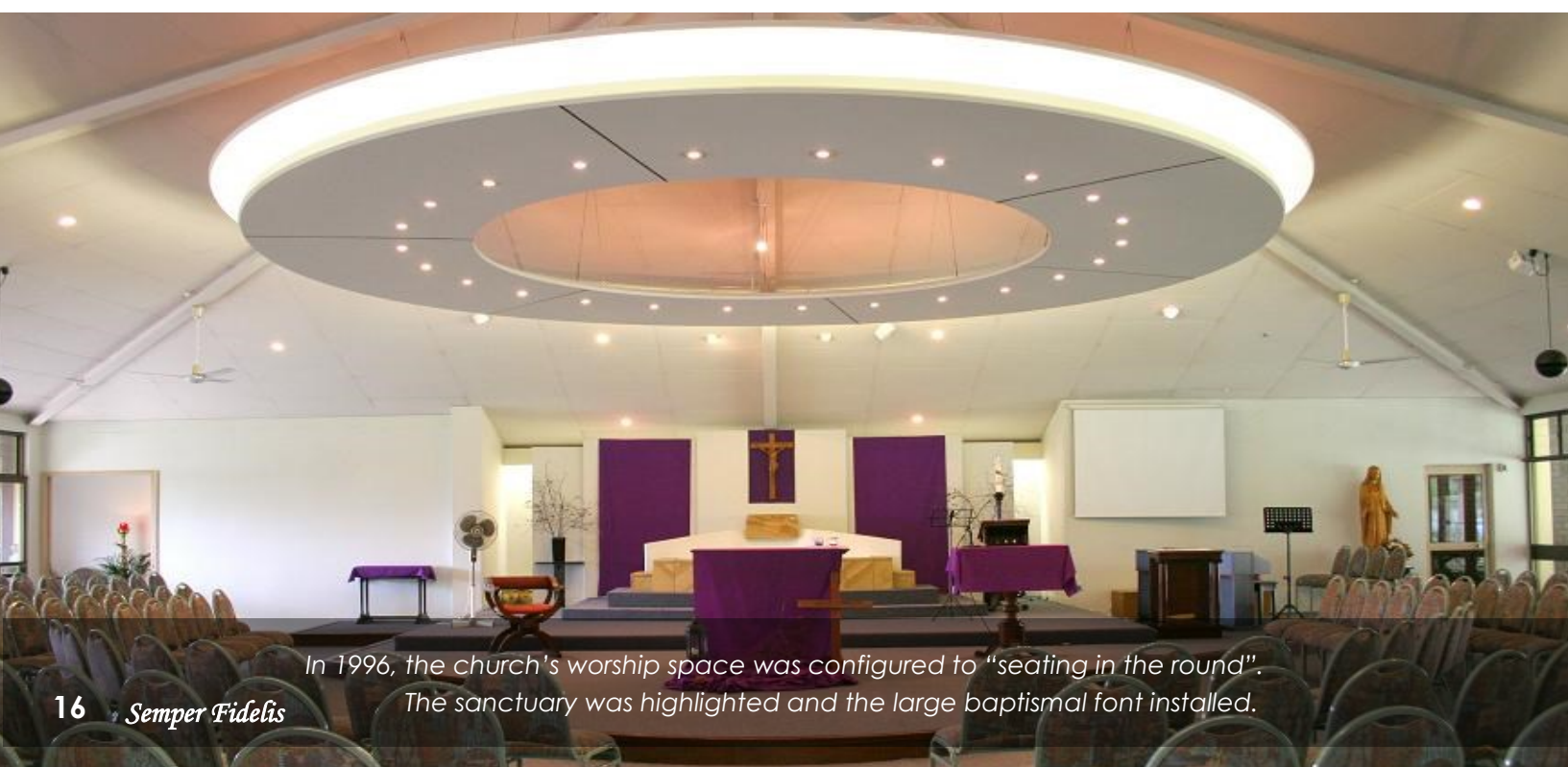
representatives.

Leading the East Brisbane Deanery since 2001, (with leadership responsibility for the pastors of the seven Bayside Parishes) Fr Peter brought a dynamism to his effectively doubled pastoral workload. Mrs Noreen Owens was appointed Pastoral Associate, with Russ Nelson, our inaugural Deacon for twelve months. The refurbished former St Anthony's Parish Office housed the new parish office, meeting room and auxiliary office and storage space. A challenging time lay ahead. Fr Peter McCarthy took leave from late 2009 and was replaced by Fr Mauro Conte, as Administrator of both parishes.

In July 2010 Fr Emmanuel Aguiyi from Nigeria followed also, as Administrator. In Nigeria, Fr Emmanuel served for years as Rector of the Seminary. With this

background he was invited to be on the selection panel for final year seminarians. His discernment and vast experience of seminary life as Rector made him a valuable asset for the Archdiocese of Brisbane. The commitment of Lay Ministries in the transition process became crucial. Finally, the approval of the amalgamation to form the new Parish of St Anthony & St Luke's from December 2012 saw Fr Emmanuel's corresponding appointment as Parish Priest, by Archbishop Coleridge. Deacon Mike Jones (from 2008-2012) and later, Deacon Ray Pardo (2014-2018) and Fr Kevin Njoku in 2018 continued to support our Pastor with his workload. He was passionate about the development of Clare Haven Stage 2. Fr Emmanuel completed his tenure as Pastor on 18th November 2018 and moved to Rome for higher studies.

We then welcomed Fr Emmanuel Ayankudy CMI on 25th November 2018 as our new Parish Priest. Fr Emmanuel celebrated his Installation Mass in early February 2019. This heralded the continuing involvement of St Anthony's Church for a fifth decade of service to the Catholic parishioners of the Redlands.



In 1996, the church's worship space was configured to "seating in the round". The sanctuary was highlighted and the large baptismal font installed.

St Anthony's History at a Glance

1970s	1980s	1990s	2000s
<p>Before the establishment of St Anthony's Parish, Cleveland Star of the Sea was the only parish in the Redlands.</p> <p>December 1978 Fr Paul Rooney accepts appointment from Archbishop Francis Rush as Parish Priest of St Anthony's Church.</p> <p>1 January 1979 Fr Paul Rooney, becomes the first Parish Priest of St Anthony's.</p> <p>7 January 1979 First Mass at Alexandra Hills State School is celebrated.</p> <p>4 April 1979 Wooden Church (formerly St Martina's Church in Milsom Street Coorparoo) arrives. It is now used as the Parish Hall.</p> <p>12 April 1979 Holy Thursday, the parish community celebrates its first mass in the wooden church.</p>	<p>9 March 1980 Archbishop Rush blessed and opened St Anthony's School.</p> <p>28 November 1981 The new Church at St Anthony's blessed and opened by Bishop John Gerry</p> <p>1985, The first parish council is formed.</p> <p>11 August 1985 Bishop James Cuskelly blesses the school library and buildings.</p> <p>1986 Fr Gerard Kalinowski is appointed Parish Priest of St Luke's Capalaba by Archbishop Rush.</p> <p>1988, The new St Luke's Parish Church at Capalaba is blessed and opened by Archbishop Rush.</p> <p>Late 1989 Padua Place has its genesis.</p>	<p>January 1992 Fr Joe McGeehan appointed by Archbishop Francis Rush as first Parish Priest of St Mary MacKillop's at Birkdale.</p> <p>8 March 1992 St Mary MacKillop Parish celebrate their first Mass at St Anthony's Church.</p> <p>15 March 1992 Birkdale Parish celebrate Mass at Wellington Point High School.</p> <p>October 1993 Padua Place construction commenced May/June 1994 first tenants.</p> <p>31 March 1995, Archbishop John Bathersby opens New Church at Birkdale.</p> <p>1996/97 St Anthony's worship space reconfigured to "seating in the round". The large Baptismal font is installed, and the sanctuary highlighted.</p>	<p>31 August 2004 Fr Paul Rooney retires</p> <p>1 September 2004 Administrative changes are effected.</p> <p>2004 to 2009 Fr Peter McCarthy becomes Administrator of St Anthony's.</p> <p>January to December 2007 Russ Nelson serves as Deacon</p> <p>June 2007 The refurbished Parish Hall is blessed by Bishop Emeritus Ray Benjamin.</p> <p>2008 to Oct 2012 Mike Jones of the Deanery serves as Deacon .</p> <p>Late 2009 to 2010 Fr Mauro Conte serves as Administrator for six months.</p> <p>July 2010 Fr Emmanuel Aguiyi takes up position as Administrator.</p> <p>2011/12 Clare Haven Stage 1 completed.</p> <p>7 November 2012 Clare Haven Stage 1 blessed and opened by Monsignor Peter Meneely, Clare Haven Stage 2 in progress.</p> <p>December 2012 Fr Emmanuel Aguiyi, inaugural Parish Priest of New St Anthony & St Luke's Parish appointed by Archbishop Mark Coleridge.</p> <p>April 2014 to August 2018 Ray Prado serves as Deacon.</p> <p>2018 Fr Kevin Njoku is assigned as Assistant Priest.</p> <p>18 November 2018 Fr Emmanuel Aguiyi's celebrates his last Mass at St Anthony's Parish.</p> <p>25 November 2018 Fr Emmanuel Ayankudy CMI Parish Priest, celebrates his first Mass at St Anthony's Parish.</p> <div>  <p>December 2019 St Anthony's Parish celebrates its 40th Anniversary, Ruby Jubilee</p> </div>

Resilience is Our Trademark

Peter McFerran

The primary challenge of St Anthony's Church was the establishment of a worship centre with the arrival of the old wooden church. The challenge was met with great enthusiasm by the parishioners as, prior to 1979, the only Catholic Church in Redland City was at Cleveland with Fr Frank McKinlay as Parish Priest.

As things settled down and we began to get comfortable in our surroundings the challenge of building a permanent church loomed and, in due course, the building began. The new church took shape with the assistance of many parishioners working with the contractor, performing tasks like clearing the site, labouring work and finally painting and decorating the new structure.

In 1986, there were two more parishes established from St Anthony's Parish – St Luke's Capalaba and Mary Mackillop Birkdale. As a result, many parishioners were left to grieve the loss of their friendships. Those leaving had to face the next challenge of starting all over again.

For about the next twenty years, there were calm waters to sail until the retirement on of Fr Paul Rooney in 2004. What's next? Fr Peter McCarthy (Parish Priest at St Luke's, Capalaba) was appointed administrator of St Anthony's. The arrival of Fr Peter McCarthy gave the Parish a new lease of life and enabled the parishioners to review and reassess

the Parish direction and priorities. The establishment of joint councils and committees was a priority and, as with all new things, the teething problems were discussed, debated and finally agreed.

Following Fr Peter McCarthy's departure in 2010, Fr Mauro Conte acted as administrator for both parishes for a period of six months. Then a new priest was appointed, Fr Emmanuel Aguiyi. Fr Emmanuel, after having the required meetings, with an aim to determine future operation and priority, presented a proposal to Archbishop to formally amalgamate the Parishes of St Anthony's and St Luke's. This proposal was ratified, and Fr Emmanuel Aguiyi was appointed Parish Priest of the new St Anthony & St Luke's Parish.

Our wealth of knowledge and experience gained, when we were faced with our initial challenges and changes will hold us in good stead. We are now stronger and more resilient. Future challenges and changes are inevitable, but they will be faced with an energised rigour that is now our indelible Parish trademark.

What of today and the future? We must be extremely grateful for the pastoral leadership of Fr Emmanuel Ayankudy and use this as a launching platform for our future that starts today.

“Future challenges and changes are inevitable, but they will be faced with an energised rigour that is now our indelible parish trademark.”

Nourished and Enriched

Our Parish Sacramental Program

Margaret McFerran

I am privileged to be involved in our Parish, as Pastoral Ministries person and Sacramental person, on a two days per week basis. The bulk of this time goes on the Parish/School relationship regarding sacraments for the children at our Parish Schools. Children can be Confirmed from grade 3, receive their 1st Eucharist from Grade 4 and Reconciliation in Grade 5. We have a baptism programme for older children timed to the beginning of every year. This timing enables children coming to our Catholic schools who have not been baptised, to prepare and receive that sacrament in time to join their classmates in the Sacrament of their age group. Our children are also nurtured on a weekly basis with Children's Liturgy – a fun filled way to learn about Jesus's life on earth and what He does for us all.

We offer the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) yearly and we have continued to offer those parishioners who have been attending Mass for years, but not actually received sacraments themselves, the opportunity to learn and develop their faith in small group setting, and these people are given personal and

ongoing support through to sacraments. We advertise and support the Lenten Program yearly, and those people who have faithfully been part of this, report that they love it and look forward to it each year.

This year also we had a pilot group who met over a number of weeks to learn about and to experience the Alpha program – an opportunity to develop and explore a personal relationship with Jesus. This was an overwhelming success and we look forward to offering this program in 2020, with a view to annual and ongoing opportunities. We offered an "Advent Meditation" in 2019 which was led by Fr Emmanuel as a wonderful way to prepare spiritually for the birth of Christ.

There are many opportunities to develop our faith and enrich our prayer life within the Parish: Mothers Prayers, The Rosary Group, at Lenten time, the Stations of the Cross – to name but a few. We especially look forward to our Parish Mission in February 2020, facilitated by Fr Ray Sanchez. This is something not to be missed!





Unity in Diversity

Carmel Culpeper

Over the first 40 years, our parish has become a diverse community with an increasing number of migrants settling into the Redlands. These people have come from countries where they think differently from our Anglo-Western culture. They bring with them life experiences that are sometimes unimaginable for people born in Australia.

We as a community have gained an awareness and appreciation of our new parishioners and have a new sense of respect for their cultural backgrounds. This cultural sensitivity we have gained gives true meaning to the representation of a universal church. It has become very apparent to us that they have a very strong and fervent appreciation of their Catholic faith. This is demonstrated by their regular attendance at mass each weekend.

Annually we celebrate our diverse cultures by holding a Multicultural Dinner. This celebration is centred around, food, costumes and talent. There are about 26 different nationalities that attend the dinner. They come dressed in their national

costumes bringing their national dishes and serving them with pride.

An International soccer match was held last year at Saint Anthony's School playgrounds. The contest was between the Filipinos and the Rest of the World. The turnout of spectators was modest but there was no shortage of players. All enjoyed the 'rivalry'. It was thrilling to see the over 50s turn up in jerseys and boots that they wore, when they were soccer stars.

Our multicultural activities have brought the parishioners closer together as they gave us opportunity to learn more about each other's cultures and a great opportunity to experience their delicious food.

Our multicultural vision for the future is to build a community by integrating all with love. We want to encourage dialogue which dissipates divisiveness, ensuring that each new parishioner has a sense of belonging. We hope that they feel comfortable to volunteer their talents and gifts to enrich our liturgies and community.

We have to understand our uniqueness and differences and see them as assets. From our very own experience at St Anthony's, we can truly say there is unity and strength in diversity.

Activating Children and the Youth

Nick Tyler

As I reflect on youth groups throughout the course of my history with St Anthony's, I would say that I have witnessed a number of iterations within the Parish in the post-Antioch and YCS/YCW era. Some of my most cherished memories of the youth group, in what I would consider my "prime", include Saturday 6pm youth-led Masses singing the recessional hymn "Everyday" by Hillsong, which was followed up by games, activities and movie nights in the Parish Hall. On some occasions, there were day trips to Movie World and O'Reilly's; even weekends spent camping. There was something more than simply individuals gathering because they had to, or because they had been coerced by their parents. There was an authentic experience of belonging that came out of and was nourished by involvement in Parish life. The youth group gave me a sense of purpose and inclusivity.

In the recent past the parish has genuinely made many efforts and initiatives to activate children and youth. Mainly it was through the support of both schools in the parish by way of regular schools visits, school involved prayer service with Holy week message and music, School involved Christmas Mass etc.. With the cooperation of the schools and deanery youth co-ordinators the parish looks forward to a more organised children and youth programmes in the coming years.

As Pope Francis alludes to in his recent exhortation, *Christus Vivit*, many people took up the call out of their own passion and enthusiasm to be witnesses to the young people of the Parish. Thanks to the encouragement and support of those dedicated individuals and families that have led me to take up a vocation in ministry and education today, and for the musical gift that I continue to share with the community of St Anthony & St Luke's.



“*Dear Young People,
Do not bury your talents, the gifts God has given you.
Do not be afraid to dream of great things!”*

— Pope Francis



Growing in Faith

**Our Parish
Children's Liturgy
and Ministry**

Niyme Mello

The aim of the Children's Liturgy Program in the parish is to make the children's experience of church meaningful and to help them to grow in their Christian faith. Through this ministry, we endeavor to help them grow and develop into active members of our parish community.

The program is actually the Liturgy of the Word for children. It is open to children as young as three as this is the age when children start to develop the capability to understanding the teachings of the gospel. The Gospel of the day is read and explained at a level that they can grasp and enjoy. Group discussion, prayers, songs and simple activities are some ways that enhance the message of the Gospel.

We also try to raise the children's awareness of God's love, the life and teachings of Jesus, the seasons of the church, the understanding of symbols in the Mass and the context of the Bible.

A dedicated team of volunteers support me at running and facilitating the Children's Liturgy Program. We all share the common purpose that is the faith development of the children in the parish.

Here are some benefits of having the Children's Liturgy of the Word:

- Helps to celebrate the presence of God in his Word.
- Facilitates sharing the message of the gospel with children at their level.
- Helps children experience the Church as community.
- Encourages children to form a loving and generous response to the Word of God.
- Encourages parents to bring the children to Mass and to come as a family.
- Encourages parents to attend Mass regularly.
- Helps children to learn about their faith in a positive and enjoyable manner.
- Helps the community to embrace and acknowledge the children in the parish family.

Open Hearts, Open Doors

Parish low-cost housing program

Gary Hindle

Padua Place

This complex of 15 residential units of various configurations from one to three bedrooms is situated at 57 Babiana Street Alexandra Hills.

The project had its genesis in late 1989 and in October 1993 construction commenced. In May/June 1994, the first tenants took up residence. The project was financed by a government grant with St Anthony's Parish contributing the land.

Padua Place is administered by a committee of representatives (photo below) responsible to St Anthony's Catholic Parish Alexandra Hills, The Trustees of the Corporation of The Archdiocese of Brisbane and The Queensland Department of Housing as co-funders.

The committee of directors are all volunteers and all surpluses from the operation of Padua Place are applied for either maintenance of structures and provision of amenities or a sinking fund.

As a community housing provider, Padua Place residents have rental conditions similar to those in state run community housing. No bond is required with yard maintenance services being provided plus the ability to be able to contact a designated maintenance coordinator and committee members as required.

Padua Place has as its' mission ***"That through gospel values Padua Place will enable disadvantaged local citizens to achieve a dignified, quality way of life."***



"I was a stranger and you welcomed me." - Mt 25:35

The Heart of Caring

Jackie Hardy

The Care and Concern Group was established in St Anthony's Parish, under the umbrella of St Vincent de Paul Conference and co-ordinated by the Pastoral Associate almost forty years ago. The mandate of the group included welcoming new parishioners, visiting families of newly baptised children, visiting sick, aged, lonely and bereaved parishioners. A Casserole Club was formed to provide meals for folk in times of sickness, hardship or bereavement. This is no longer as active due to unavailability of volunteers. A later off shoot was the Bread Ministry taking donated products from a local bakery to needy families.

After the resignation of the Parish Priest and Pastoral Associate in 2004, the co-ordination and responsibility of the group was relegated to lay parishioners. The parish dynamics, to which the group has adapted, have changed considerably in

the fifteen ensuing years. Visiting sick in hospitals and their homes, sending birthday cards to seniors and Sympathy Cards, Funeral Catering, and supporting Ladies Group activities are present activities.

Taking Communion to Catholic residents at Wellington Park Care facility each week has been maintained for fourteen years.

The OBE Club (Old but Evergreen) which provided social activities for the senior parishioners was established some fourteen years ago and was a source of enjoyment, entertainment, friendship and spiritual enrichment. Sadly, aging, physical impairment and death have taken their toll on the continuation of this group.

Eight to ten people attend monthly meetings which begin with welcome and hospitality, prayer and scriptural reflection. The safe and supporting environment is appreciated.





Beyond Friendship

Margaret Kostowski

The Ladies' Group was formed in 1988 to "Support all aspects of Parish Life and Build Community". Today the group continues to meet regularly, and the aims remain unchanged.

A real sense of community is felt as the group looks beyond the Parish and embraces some social and financial needs of the wider community through craft activities, guest speakers, demonstrations and sharing of meals. The group hosts an Australia's Biggest Morning Tea, a soup luncheon, a reflection morning, a parish luncheon and Melbourne Cup luncheon. A Parish "Thank You Morning Tea" concludes the year's activities.

Each year hundreds of gifts are created for the annual Mother's Day stall at St Anthony's Parish School. Recycled stationery, computers, school desks and uniforms and home-made clothes have been sent to islands in the South Pacific. Knitted and crocheted rugs have provided comfort and warmth to thousands of African women and residents in nursing

homes and hospitals within Australia. Seafarers are always grateful for the supply of hand knitted beanies, toiletries and drawstring bags, decorated by our primary school students. Sick and preterm babies' care is enhanced by lovingly knitted mittens and tiny beanies.

Without a doubt, the major benefit of Ladies Group activities lies in the friendships formed and forged, the stories shared, the tears shed, the celebrations, the laughter, the emotional support and the chatter which happens around the tables. The ripple effect which flows from the group's activities is wide reaching.

The Ladies Group is truly blessed to have always had the support of the parish priest and the parish and school communities. It is also blessed with many very talented and extremely generous people who support the group faithfully and passionately, and while the Spirit drives and energises its members, The Ladies Group will continue to strive to support parish life and build community.

Play it Forward

The Little Saints Play Group

Trish Purcell



From the early years of St Anthony's, groups of mums from the parish have gathered regularly with their children in private homes for play, friendship and support. Many of the friendships formed in the initial parish play groups still exist.

The refurbishment of the Parish Hall in 2006 provided an ideal permanent meeting place for a playgroup. At that time, St Anthony's and St Luke's were two separate parishes sharing one priest so it seemed the ideal opportunity to set up a playgroup that would incorporate young families from both churches. Families attending baptism preparation were encouraged to attend and Little Saints playgroup became an integral social connection for families from both parish communities.

Little Saints Playgroup meets in the Parish Hall each Monday morning during school

term, between 8.45am -11am and offers a social support network for parents and grandparents of children 0 - 5 years old.

Attendance is not restricted to parishioners rather; it is inclusive to all those equally seeking a safe and welcoming environment for children and care givers. New families are always welcome.

Little Saints is loosely structured with gatherings focused on friendship (for adults as well as children) social interaction, active play, shared morning tea, creative craft, story time and sing-a-long. Parents and grandparents are encouraged to take an active role in all the activities and the term concludes with a park visit and BBQ.

The end of year is celebrated with a Christmas Party culminating with a visit from Santa. It is the perfect finish to a busy year.

*“Let the little children come to me . . .
for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.” - Mt 19:14*

Benefits to the Fringes

St Vincent de Paul Society's Outreach Ministry

Sylvia Casperson

The St Vincent de Paul Society was founded in France in 1883 by a group of young men who wanted to respond in practical ways to the poverty and hardship they saw in the lives of people around them. This same ethos is carried today. Our parish SVDP members have been visiting people in their homes since September 1979, and Ray Norton was the founding President of St Anthony's Conference with 15 members. Currently we are 13 members. Sylvia Casperson is our president, Kathryn McAnelly is our secretary for over ten years and Christine Thomas is our treasurer.

In the beginning SVDP was supported by the Parish but the bulk of the money came from the South Eastern Suburb Regional Council. In difficult financial times, we used to ask the Regional Council to tide us over the hump. However, in the past five years, St Anthony's and St Luke's Conference has been financially independent. This is due to the generous support of our parish community, the parish money of \$1,000 a year, the parish schools, Carmel College, St Anthony's Mother's Group, the Piety Store and the Annual Winter Appeal.

The people we visit are financially challenged, often with no food, isolated through illness and mental health issues, going through relationship issues and often are poor in spirit. It is challenging but rewarding.

The bulk of our work though is shopping for food for hampers, assembling and managing the hampers so we don't run out. If visiting is not your cup of tea, then maybe helping with the food hampers is something you would like to do. We are an integral part of St Anthony's & St Luke's Parish and would always welcome more people.



Grateful Voices

Former Parishoners

As they said of Jesus "Zeal for your house will devour you". This zeal is well expressed in the voices of former parishoners of St Anthony's. Their gems of memories, experiences and insights make for good reading. We savour, value and thank them for this priceless treasure trove.

Unexpected Miracles

In mid-1991, our eldest daughter Amanda was extremely ill. We had heard that 100 hours of prayer would "work miracles", but in fact we learned that the miracle one requires is not always the miracle you receive. We didn't get what we wanted but experienced, beyond belief, compassion and empathy from our Parish.

Father Paul Rooney had agreed to a prayer afternoon for Amanda and we prepared a booklet of hymns and prayers. How many people would attend, would anyone attend? We knew our immediate family would be there, and the Antioch Group but who else? Fr Paul announced the prayer afternoon on the preceding Sunday and on the day of the afternoon.

To our amazement, hundreds of people arrived, people we had nodded at, people we didn't know, past teachers and students from the school, the church was filled to overflowing and I believe that this was is one moment the Parish of St Anthony's should be extremely proud of. Overwhelming and awesome support indeed for one parishioner's family. Although we didn't receive our miracle, I think it forever cemented the bonds of friendship and left an indelible mark on the minds and hearts of our wonderful and caring community.

I say, congratulations to all our dear friends at St Anthony's and may this burning flame of care and empathy long continue.

— Margaret Milligan

The Road Ahead

*My Lord God,
I have no idea where I am going.
I do not see the road ahead of me.*

*I cannot know for certain where it will end.
Nor do I really know myself,
and the fact that I think
That I am following your will
does not mean that I am actually doing so.*

*But I believe that the desire to please you
does in fact please you.
And I hope that I have that desire
In all that I am doing.*

*I hope that I will never do anything
apart from that desire.
And I know that if I do this,
You will lead me by the right road
though I may know nothing about it.*

*Therefore, will I trust you always
Though I may seem to be lost
And in the shadow of death.
I will not fear, for you are ever with me,
And will never leave me to face my perils alone.*

A prayer from Amanda's Prayer Day booklet

Forever grateful

I feel so fortunate to have been a parishioner of St Anthony's, Alexandra Hills. These very words conjure up so many memories of my time as a member of St Anthony's community.

Although I moved from the Redland's area to live in Brisbane, at the dawn of the new Millennium, a large part of my heart remains with St Anthony's. My most enduring memory is being part of such a strong and vibrant community. The spirit of community was truly alive as we went about our daily lives – Care and Concern, Casserole Club, Family Groups, Parish Council as well as the Masses we attended, the wonderful celebrations and liturgies that marked events and occasions within our Parish life.

It is a fact that a Church is a building constructed from various materials and I believe what brings that building to life each and every day is the spirit, faith and presence of the people who inhabit the building. And so, it was with St Anthony's. The friendships forged and the memories made have remained with me always. Father Paul and Mary Kent were at the helm of our parish life. Their vision, support and sheer hard work ensured the continued existence of a faithful community.

—Pam Greatorix



Building a Parish Family

Precious memories of the wonderful time I was blest with as a pastoral worker at St Anthony's. I experienced the love, the enthusiasm, and the kindness, cooperation and friendship of so many of God's people. I will always be grateful for the opportunity I was given to be a part of such a wonderful and beautiful parish family.

St Anthony's was one year old when I was invited by Father Paul to serve as a pastoral associate in the parish. His enthusiasm and optimism about building a "parish family" encouraged me to be part of what he hoped to build.

I was inspired by the generosity of the people, their acceptance of me and the friendship, care and loyalty they gave me. Young families all prepared to more than pull their weight in liturgy, pastoral activities and needless to say in plenty of physical work and all times we were conscious of building the kingdom.

We shared joys and sorrows, good times and bad and so many fun times. Some of my dearest friendships were made and are still very much part of my life.

I will always be grateful for so many of God's gifts that I received. I am sure the parish family of St Anthony will continue to grow in so many wonderful way— after all, with God on our side, who can be against us!

My warmest wishes and prayers go to you all.

— Mary Kent

Doubly Blessed

I have an identical twin sister, Maureen Bloomfield. In the early 1980s my sister her husband and family settled in Capalaba. Maureen was known at St Anthony's well before I arrived. My husband, self and family built a house at Alexandra Hills. We attended mass at St Anthony's and our children went to the school there. It was only months later that Mary Kent told me that she was concerned about a woman who went to 6pm Mass on Saturday night, and then was present for the 9am Sunday Mass. She said the woman seemed normal when she spoke with her after mass. It was months before she realized that there were identical twins going to the different Masses. I'm sure she was relieved to know we hadn't lost our marbles!!

At the same time we were both on the church cleaning roster. She said to Fr Paul, "I don't know who this Helen Strandly is." Fr Paul said, "What do you mean, you speak with her all the time after Mass," Of course, the terrible two had caused confusion again.

Another memory was the school fetes. Maureen and I started up the face painting and coloured hair spraying of children. It was hard to concentrate at the 6pm Mass after the fete, when you'd see little faces painted as Batman, Spiderman, Tigers, Fairies or Butterflies with hair sprayed all colours of the rainbow. They were fun times for our families at St Anthony's. — **Helen Strandly.**

Enriched by Ministries

Our first encounter with the community of St Anthony's Parish was at the inaugural mass held in the Alexandra Hills State School classrooms. With eagerness and anticipation, we involved ourselves in the setting up of this new Parish. Our anticipation included working bees, for the preparation of our church building being transported from Norman Park, St Vincent de Paul conference, Care and Concern, Counters, Readers, Liturgy, Music and Family Groups. We made many life-long friendships through these groups.

Our faith and spiritual growth were developed by home retreats, missions, Enneagram, Myer Briggs, Advent and Lenten programs and the many parishioners who shared their faith stories during these occasions.

The home retreats lead by the Cenacle Sisters enabled us to meet Sister Pat Clouston (RIP) who was very significant person in our lives and in the lives of many of St Anthony's parishioners. When the Cenacle Sisters introduced having lay companions, we joined them and are still meeting with them in New

Zealand every two years. We were also encouraged by our Fr Paul Rooney to attend a Cursillo weekend which was a very spiritual enriching experience.

Our four children Katrina, Paul, Helen and Christopher all attended St Anthony's school, and all received the sacraments of reconciliation, first communion and confirmation. In their teenage years they were involved in Antioch, Young Christian Students (YCS) and Young Christian Workers (YCW). Paul and Christopher were Altar Servers and Paul was also involved in the music ministry and the first president of the YCW. Christopher and Helen were involved in setting up YCS. Katrina was a special minister and involved in YCW and other groups in the parish.

These days, when we attend mass at St Anthony's, we still feel at home, as we recall our rich past and bask in the glory of a treasured, bygone and golden era.

—**Ray and Carol Norton**

Family Groups

Father Ray Sanchez introduced the concept of the Family Groups in the Parish at the request of Father Paul Rooney. The essence of the Family Groups was for small units of families to interact for regular social activities. These units of families were matched by Mary Kent and we were invited to join these groups. In 1993/94, our family joined the Moroney Family Group.

The children of these groups knew each other because they attended St Anthony's School. This was the catalyst for the adults to mingle and cultivate lasting friendships. Family Groups are not fostered by the Parish any longer, but here we are twenty years on, meeting at least twice a year.

We have shared the joy of births, grieved at deaths and supported and encouraged each other in times of illnesses. Picnics, weekends away, murder mystery nights and themed nights especially St Patrick's nights have been full of fun and growth of our friendships. Now, dinners and wines, more than I can remember – are our favourite "get-togethers". I hope we can continue to meet for many years into the future.

A very special memory for me is Father Paul's 25th Jubilee celebration. Following Mass, we all gathered in the school quadrangle and continued to celebrate this happy parish occasion. The overwhelming success of this celebration clearly demonstrated our spirit unity and joy. —**Margaret Milligan**

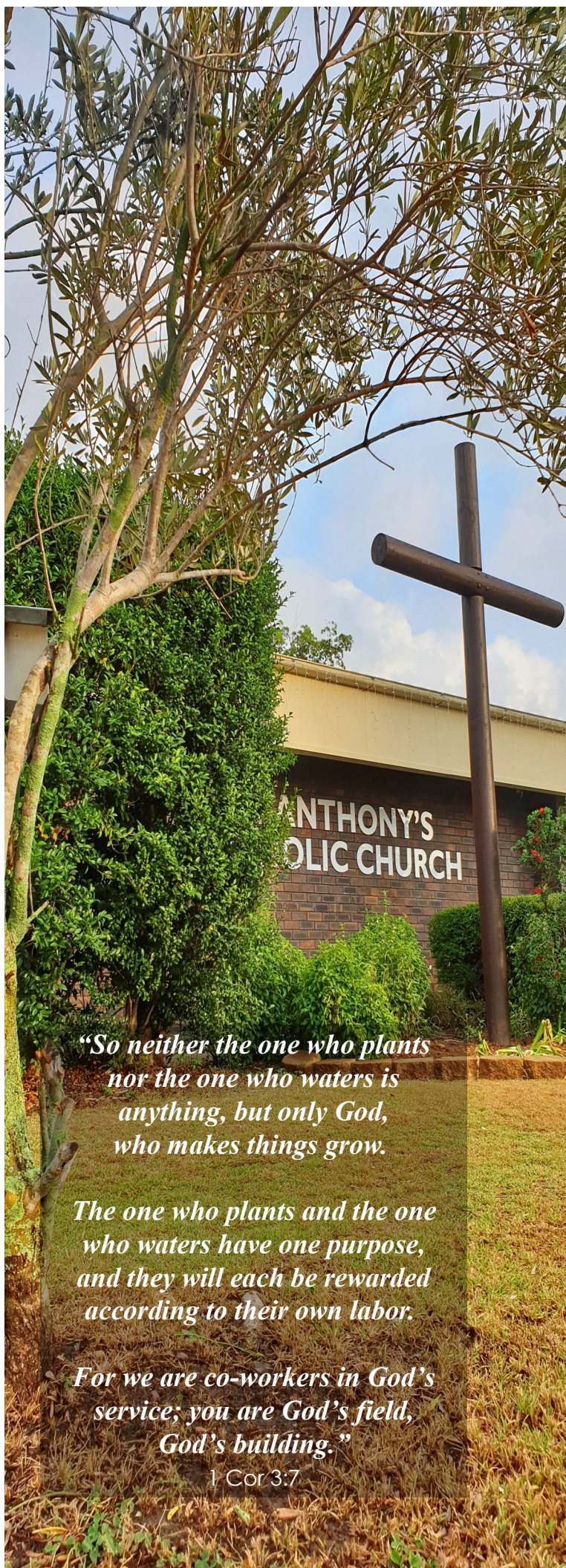
Gifts of Hope and Resilience

When I arrived at St Anthony's School in 1983, Sr Kieran and Sr Suzanne Walpole had well established its place within the community and for the next five years we tried our best to continue and to develop its Presentation traditions.

The spirit of the place has always been present to me through the wooden vase (photo below) I was given on leaving. It was part of a tree that had grown and fallen on the bushy section of the grounds that were then up behind the sports oval. The branch was taken, cut and polished and turned into a vase leaving some of the original bark in place on the edges. It was marked on the base with the name of the parish and the thanks of the community. It stands today on my sideboard.

Just like its predecessor the tree, it remains a symbol of hope, strength and resilience yet also a sign of vulnerability, change and renewed life. Those too were the gifts of the community to me - I am very grateful and thankful. —**Patricia Carlin**





*"So neither the one who plants
nor the one who waters is
anything, but only God,
who makes things grow.*

*The one who plants and the one
who waters have one purpose,
and they will each be rewarded
according to their own labor.*

*For we are co-workers in God's
service; you are God's field,
God's building."*

1 Cor 3:7

Looking Back 40 Years

When our young family arrived in Brisbane from London in 1972, we spent the first two years renting houses in Camp Hill. At that stage, both our children were of pre-school age, so we were not able to form bonds with a larger community. This changed when we bought our first property in the Valentine Estate at Birkdale (part of Alexandra Hills Parish). The estate was newly hewn from the bush, but a significant number of gum trees were left standing to give it a rural atmosphere. Our house in Alpinia Street was one of the first completed but more soon followed. Like us, our neighbours were keen to get to know each other, and community links soon developed: a major advantage of everyone moving into a new area together. Then, the Catholic Church established a new parish of St Anthony's also adjoining our estate. The first mass in the parish was celebrated on Sunday, 7th January 1979 at Alexandra Hills State School.

By the time our son, Trevor, was school age, we were able to enrol him there. Karen and Trevor were both confirmed into the church at St Anthony's, and when the first Catechumenate program was launched, I was so impressed by the sense of community at St Anthony's, that I was inspired to join too.

At St Anthony's school, Sister Kieran McNamara of the Presentation Order was appointed the first Principal with Sister Suzanne Walpole as APRE. Sister Kieran was a most energetic person and she and my wife, Phyliss, with both sharing a common Irish background, quickly became friends.

Our family moved away from Alexandra Hills in the late 1980s because all our daily interests were centred in Brisbane. Sadly, in our new environment, we were never able to recapture the feeling of belonging that Father Paul and his congregation had shown us at St Anthony's. — **Peter Ludlow**



A Eucharistic Community

The Eucharist, another name for the Mass means "Thanksgiving." This is the primary reason why we gather as a community of faith. Whatever life situation we find ourselves in at any time in our lives, we can always find a reason to be thankful.

Throughout these 40 years, the Eucharist has been the source of our unity and strength.

We have come from diverse cultures but it is the same Spirit that inspires us to join hands at Mass and call God, "Our Father."





Note of Thanks

Fr Emmanuel Ayankudy CMI

St John the evangelist says, "This is the disciple who testifies to these things and who has written them down. And we know that his testimony is true.



**There are many more things that Jesus did.
If all of them were written down, I suppose
that not even the world itself would have
space for the books that would be written."**

Jn 21:25

This souvenir is not an exhaustive detailed history, nor is it a scholarly presentation of the forty years of St Anthony's Church. That is beyond its scope. This is but a glance into the past. We have, however, tried our best to do justice to our history in a more poised way and to stay within the guarded parameters of a souvenir.

St Peter says,



**You also, like living stones, are being built
into a spiritual house to be a holy
priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices
acceptable to God through Jesus Christ."**

1 Pt.2:5.

The history of St Anthony's Church is the history of every 'living stone' from the day of her inception. This souvenir wants to place on record the contribution of every person with great appreciation and an equal sense of gratitude to those who have been part of this great journey.

History is who we are and why we are the way we are. History, despite its wrenching pain, cannot be unlived, but if faced with courage, need not be lived again. Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.

Let **Semper Fidelis** – a memento of the Ruby Jubilee – inspire our readers to be grateful of the past, love the present and embrace the future with hope and faith.

Always Faithful

Food for Thought – Spiritual Sayings of St Anthony

Charity is the soul of faith, makes it alive; without love, faith dies.”

“The life of the body is the soul; the life of the soul is God.”

“The spirit of humility is sweeter than honey, and those who nourish themselves with this honey produce sweet fruit.”

“Christians must lean on the Cross of Christ just as travellers lean on a staff when they begin a long journey.”

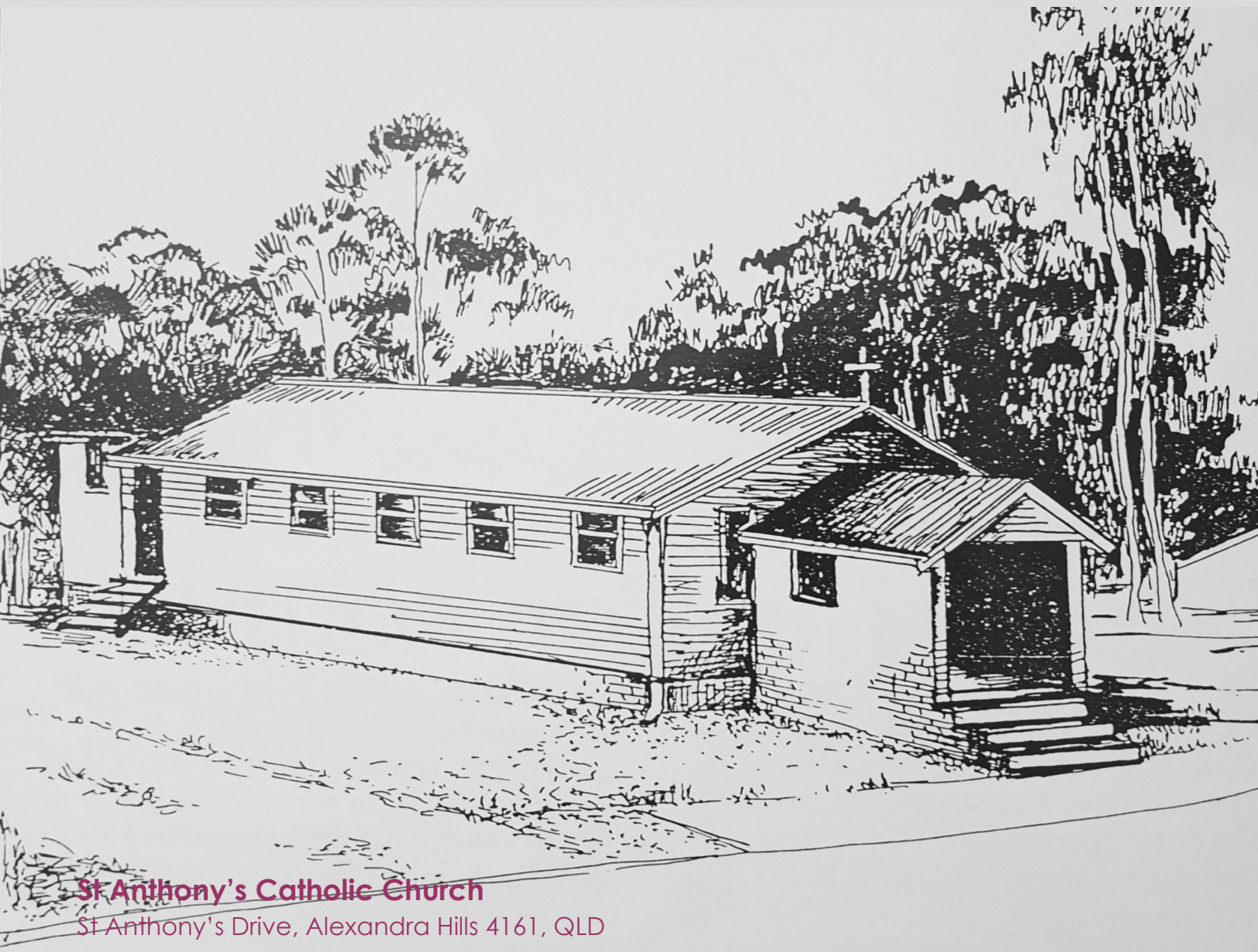
“Attribute to God every good that you have received. If you take credit for something that does not belong to you, you will be



St Anthony's Parish has grown — from the pioneering group huddled for the first Mass in the old church on the 4th of April 1979 to today's vibrant and diverse community of faith.

Our profound gratitude to those who, through the years, have zealously planted and watered the seeds of faith. But above all, we praise God, who has made us grow in abundance.

Truly, God is **“Always Faithful!”**



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