

Partnership Parishes of
Holy Spirit Thornbury East & St Anthony's Alphington,
St Joseph's Northcote, and St Mary's Thornbury

2025 Annual Report



Our vision: A joyful, inclusive community led by the Holy Spirit.

Our mission: To be the Good News of Jesus Christ by serving others and caring for all.



Northcote &
Thornbury
Catholic Parishes





Mass centres:

Holy Spirit Church
248 Raleigh Street, Thornbury Vic 3071

St Anthony's Church
45 Railway Place, Alphington Vic 3078

St Joseph's Church
140 Westbourne Grove, Northcote Vic 3070

St Mary's Church
1 Rossmoyne Street, Thornbury Vic 3071

Message from the Parish Priest

2025 marked a significant spiritual moment for the global Church: The Jubilee Year proclaimed by Pope Francis. It was a sacred time dedicated to spiritual renewal, reconciliation, pilgrimage, and deepening faith. The Jubilee Year, celebrated under the theme 'Pilgrims of Hope', ran from 24 December 2024 to 6 January 2026.

Responding to Pope Francis' call, our partnership parish communities embraced the spirit of the Jubilee and celebrated it locally. This time of grace brought renewed hope to our community. Together, we witnessed to that hope – rooted in Jesus Christ and in the future God promises – and we look forward to that future with 'an open spirit and a trusting heart'.

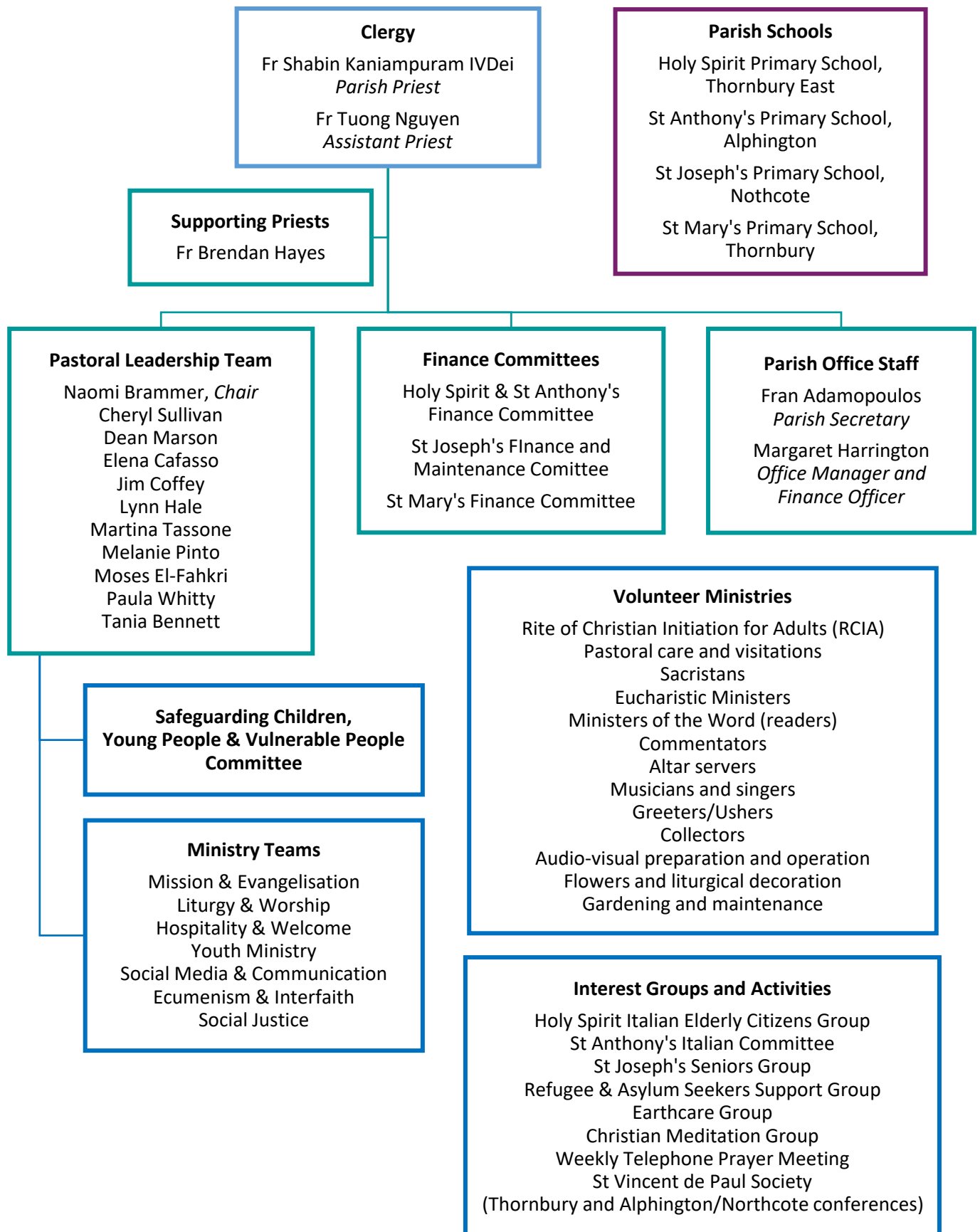
A parish community becomes vibrant, vital, and truly alive when its small groups, ministries, committees, and administration are active and engaged, and when every member participates in the life of the whole. We can all be proud of the ways we contribute to these groups and ministries which make our community flourish. Thank you for sharing your time, gifts, and talents in the many facets of parish life.

Drawing on the spirit and inspiration of the Jubilee Year, we continue our journey into the future with our 2026 parish theme: 'Year of Faith Community'. We know that Christian hope is deeply connected to faith, and that this hope springs from our belief in Jesus Christ.

As a parish community, this Year of Faith Community invites us to strengthen our belief, deepen our prayer, and renew our trust in God. It is a spiritual journey of conversion, growth, and renewal.

Thank you to all who are part of this ongoing journey – parishioners, volunteers, ministry groups, school families and staff, parish administration, and clergy. Let us continue to walk together in this mission.

Parish Leadership Structure, Ministries, Groups, and Schools



Pastoral Leadership Team

Our Partnership Parishes' Pastoral Leadership Team (PLT) consists of our clergy and representatives from our four communities. In 2025, these representative members were Angelo Pierobon (until mid-year), Cheryl Sullivan, Dean Marson, Elena Cafasso (since mid-year), Jim Coffey, Joseph Thein (until mid-year), Lynn Hale, Martina Tassone, Melanie Pinto, Moses El-Fahkri, Naomi Brammer, Paula Whitty, and Tania Bennett.

The role of the PLT is to serve our parish communities by ensuring that the views, needs, and concerns of our parishioners are understood and considered in decisions that impact on the life and faith development of our Partnership Parishes. We provide advice to Fr Shabin and feedback and support to our existing parish groups, while also seeking opportunities to bring our communities together in faith, service, and worship. To reflect our Partnership Parishes' commitment to safeguarding children, young people, and vulnerable people, each PLT meeting includes a discussion of safeguarding matters and any relevant information, training opportunities, or changes in legislation as a standing agenda item. We also receive regular updates from our ministry teams, finance committees, parish groups, and parish primary schools through their representatives on the PLT.

The Jubilee Year celebrations were a highlight of life in our parishes in 2025. Throughout the year, the PLT reflected on the Jubilee theme, Pilgrims of Hope, and what it means to be journeying together. In our discussions and decisions, we sought to bring our communities closer and share the hope of our faith by:

- establishing a Jubilee Committee for our Partnership Parishes, and supporting their events and activities
- asking our communities to join together for liturgical celebrations in Holy Week and at Christmas
- considering how we can better support those in our communities who are experiencing loneliness or grief, and how we can maintain connections with people who have celebrated sacraments throughout the year.

With the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we also took time during our meetings in 2025 to:

- consider questions, requests, and suggestions put forward by parishioners and respond accordingly
- provide feedback on proposals and initiatives presented by our ministry teams and parishioners
- review and endorse proposals to improve parish properties, including:
 - a proposal from St Joseph's primary school to renovate the tennis courts on Westbourne Grove
 - a proposal from Cabrini Health to establish a sensory garden in the grounds of St Joseph's church
- listen to reports and reflections from PLT members regarding external events they attended during the year, including safeguarding talks and workshops and the Archdiocese of Melbourne's Vibrant Parishes Formation Series sessions on 'Service and Outreach' and 'Bridging the Gap between Parish and School'.

Our Partnership Parishes are supported by more than 80 wonderful volunteers who generously share their time and talents for the benefit of our communities. In May 2025, to celebrate National Volunteer Week, we received a generous donation from Arcare Aged Care of 20 tickets to the 'Van Gogh Reimagined' exhibition at The Lume. These tickets were offered to volunteers across our parishes in recognition of their ongoing service.

On our journey, our parishes have also been blessed by the service of many priest and seminarians. Early in the year, we welcomed seminarians Joseph Meea and Greg Lewis, who joined us in 2025 for their placement year in our parishes. In the middle of the year, we bade a fond farewell to Monsignor Tom Doyle on his retirement. Then in December, we warmly farewelled Fr Peter Nguyen and wished him well for his new appointment in the Parishes of Belgrave and Ferntree Gully, and joyfully welcomed our new Assistant Priest, Fr Tuong Nguyen.

As you read through this Annual Report, you will see the breadth and depth of life in our Partnership Parishes. We invite you to journey with us as pilgrims of hope, and to share in our mission to 'be the Good News of Jesus Christ by serving others and caring for all'.

Naomi Brammer, Chairperson

Holy Spirit & St Anthony's Finance Committee

The Finance Committee for the Parish of Holy Spirit and St Anthony's has members from both communities. We are a small team and meet quarterly to discuss issues such as investment accounts, general finances, and repairs and maintenance that are required at both properties. We welcomed a new member this year from St Anthony's community, so our team now has five community members, along with Fr Shabin, Fr Tuong, and our accountant.

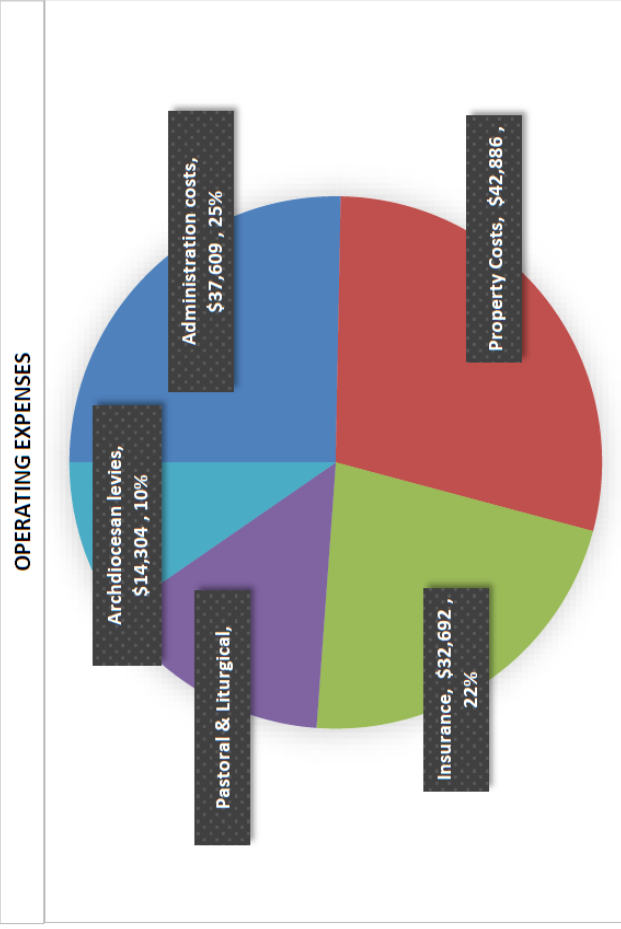
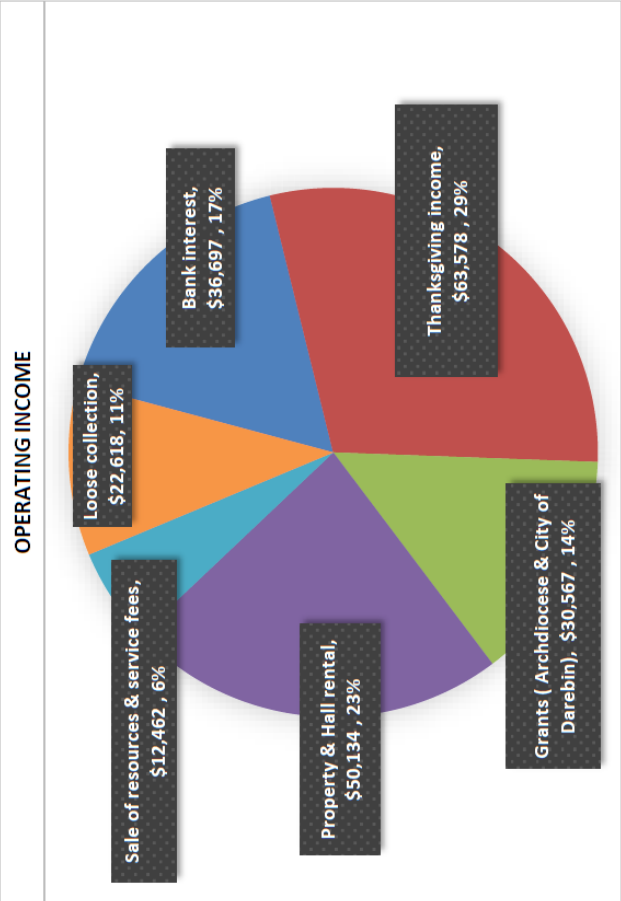
Our works over the last 12 months have included the final repairs to the electrical supply to the organ at St Anthony's. Dr Daryl Barclay's playing of the organ each Sunday over the past year has really added to the musical enjoyment of the Mass. However, singing in two languages at the combined 10.30 am bilingual Mass has been a learning curve for us all. With Fr Brendan Hayes residing at St Anthony's Presbytery, repairs and maintenance on this old building are being sustained. The parish grounds at Holy Spirit continue to improve under the guardianship of Caro Wright and her team of waterers. Repairs to the church and surrounds have occurred over the past 12 months.

We thank our Finance Committee for undertaking the role of providing advice to Fr Shabin in matters relating to finance.

Margaret Harrington, Chairperson

Holy Spirit & St Anthony's Parish Alphington January to December 2024

Income	2024	% of Total	Expenditure	2024	% of Total
Thanksgiving income	\$63,578	29.4%	Administration costs (Staff costs, stationery, telephone, office expenses)	\$37,609	25.3%
Property & Hall rental	\$50,134	23.2%	Property costs (Utilities, Rates & taxes, repairs, etc)	\$42,886	28.9%
Sale of resources & service fees	\$12,462	5.8%	Insurance	\$32,692	22.0%
Loose collection	\$22,618	10.5%	Pastoral & Liturgical costs (Church requisites, Liturgical expenses)	\$21,132	14.2%
Bank interest	\$36,697	17.0%	Archdiocesan levies	\$14,304	9.6%
Grants (Archdiocese & City of Darebin)	\$30,567	14.1%	Total Operating Expenses	\$148,623	100.0%
Total Operating Income	\$216,055	100.0%	Net Operating Surplus	\$67,432	
Donations for capital purposes	\$646		Loan repayments (interest is included above in Administration costs)	\$14,028	
Total income including Capital donations	\$216,701		TOTAL Net Cash Surplus for the Year	\$54,051	



2025 financial results are currently under review, and are expected to be available in mid-2026

St Joseph's Finance and Maintenance Committee

The St Joseph's Finance and Maintenance Committee in 2025 consisted of Fr Shabin, Fr Peter, Moses El Fahkri, Tony Bolzan, Elizabeth Baldo, Frank Doherty, Margaret Dimech, the primary school principal Mary Kearney, and the combined parish accountant Bernard Negline.

The committee's intention is for church maintenance and improvements to be sustained by income from parishioners' thanksgiving offerings. Fortunately, this income is supplemented by rental of the Presbytery to Cabrini Health and hiring of the Parish Hall and tennis courts.

Financially, St Joseph's has increased income from thanksgiving after the campaign in late 2024.

Bernard has reported a surplus of \$53,957 in 2025, higher than the budget of \$23,148.

Maintenance of our older buildings continues. In 2025, the following maintenance was undertaken:

- In the church:
 - leadlight was repaired
 - handrails were installed
 - gas heaters were serviced
 - book holders were cleaned and cobwebs were removed
 - electrical checks were carried out.
- In the Parish Hall
 - the internal walls were painted
 - an internal door, unsafe timbers in ramps, and the external corner were replaced
 - gutters were cleaned
 - new blinds were installed
 - archive pictures of the church were installed.

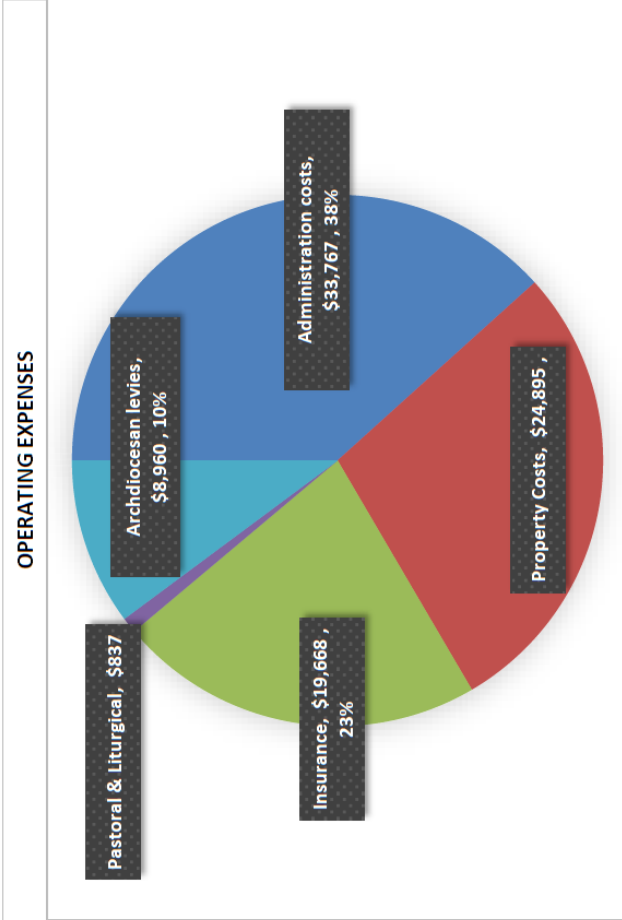
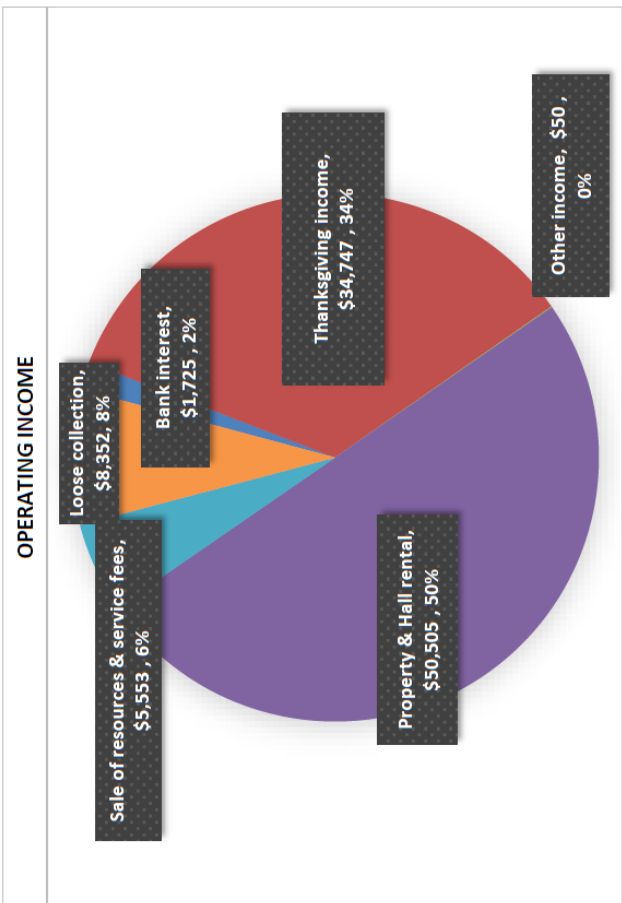
A maintenance audit has outlined tasks to be completed in the future.

The committee gives its time voluntarily, not just to meetings, but in practical tasks. Other parishioners are welcome to join us, particularly those with carpenter and plumbing skills.

Margaret Dimech, Chairperson

St Joseph's Parish Northcote January to December 2024

Income	2024	% of Total	Expenditure	2024	% of Total
Thanksgiving income	\$34,747	34.4%	Administration costs (Staff costs, stationery, telephone, office expenses)	\$33,767	38.3%
Property & Hall rental	\$50,505	50.0%	Property costs (Utilities, Rates & taxes, repairs, etc)	\$24,895	28.2%
Sale of resources & service fees	\$5,553	5.5%	Insurance	\$19,668	22.3%
Loose collection	\$8,352	8.3%	Pastoral & Liturgical costs (Church requisites, Liturgical expenses)	\$837	0.9%
Bank interest	\$1,725	1.7%	Archdiocesan levies	\$8,960	10.2%
Other income	\$50	0.0%	Total Operating Expenses	\$88,127	100.0%
Total Operating Income	\$100,933	100.0%	Net Operating Surplus	\$12,806	
Donations for capital purposes	\$446				
Total income including Capital donations	\$101,379		TOTAL Net Cash Surplus for the Year	\$13,252	



2025 financial results are currently under review, and are expected to be available in mid-2026

St Mary's Finance Committee

The St Mary's Finance Committee supports the parish in a number of ways. These are to:

- assist, advise, and guide Fr Shabin in the administration of the parish finances and assets
- monitor parish income and expenses
- oversee the maintenance and repairs of parish assets.

Amongst the main activities of the committee in 2025 were to select a property manager for 789 High Street and to attempt to lease this asset. The committee also arranged various repairs, including to the water tanks, air conditioning in the church, the church overhead projector, the church organ, and a water leak in church grounds.

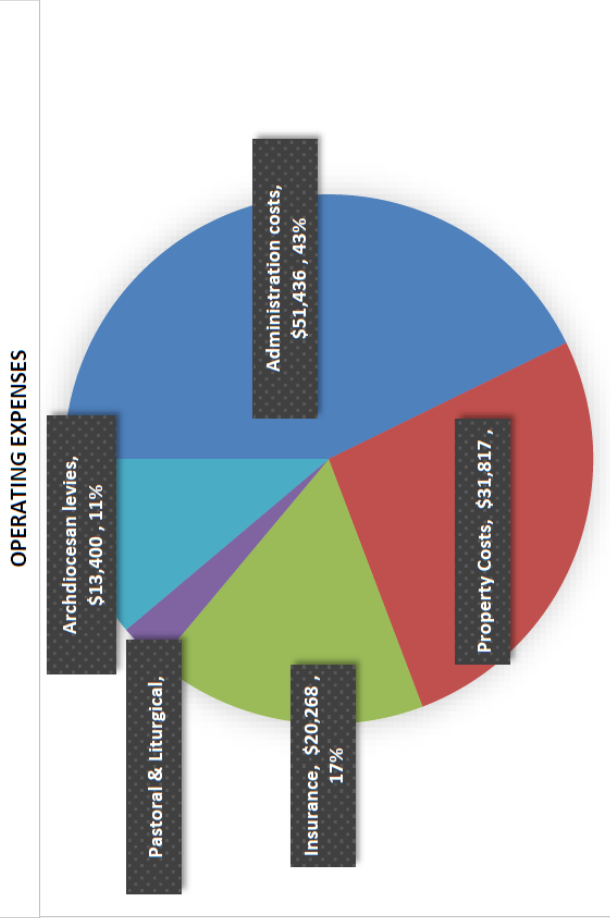
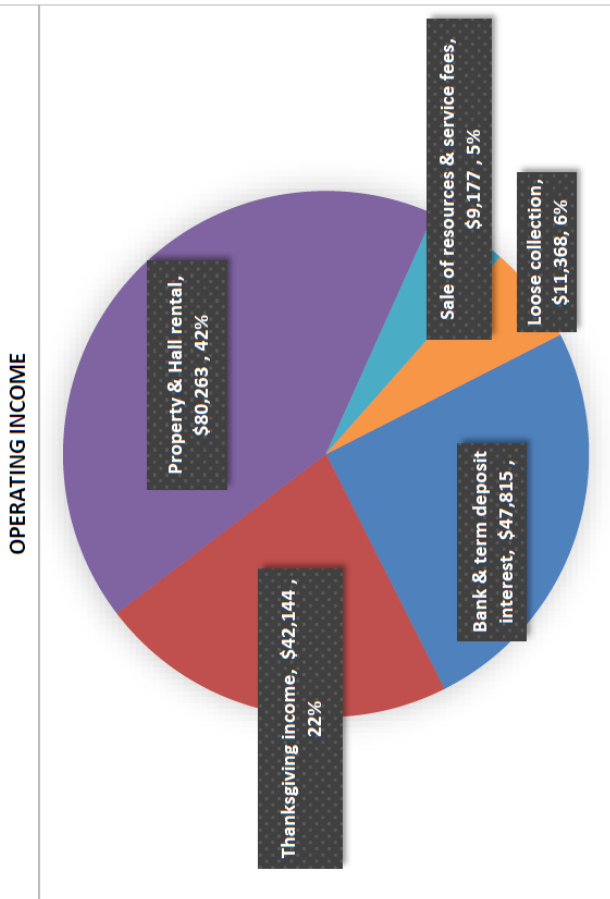
The parish is in a strong financial position due to the income received from the generosity of our parishioners and the leasing of the former convent in Mansfield Street. The financial position will improve further once we are able to enter into a lease for 789 High Street.

As a committee we believe that our responsibility is to ensure that the parish is financially able to support any initiative that the Pastoral Leadership Team proposes, such as the activities for the 2025 Jubilee Year.

Ross Italiano, Chairperson

St Mary's Parish Thornbury January to December 2024

Income	2024	% of Total	Expenditure	2024	% of Total
Thanksgiving income	\$42,144	22.1%	Administration costs (Staff costs, stationery, telephone, office expenses)	\$51,436	42.8%
Property & Hall rental	\$80,263	42.1%	Property costs (Utilities, Rates & taxes, repairs, etc)	\$31,817	26.5%
Sale of resources & service fees	\$9,177	4.8%	Insurance	\$20,268	16.9%
Loose collection	\$11,368	6.0%	Pastoral & Liturgical costs (Church requisites, Liturgical expenses)	\$3,339	2.8%
Bank & term deposit interest	\$47,815	25.1%	Archdiocesan levies	\$13,400	11.1%
Total Operating Income	\$190,767	100.0%	Total Operating Expenses	\$120,260	100.0%
Donations for capital purposes	\$26,956				
Total income including Capital donations	\$217,723		TOTAL Net Cash Surplus for the Year	\$97,463	



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Parish Office

Over the past year we have had further changes in our Parish Office staff and clergy.

When Liza Powell left our Partnership Parishes to pursue her career goals, Fran Adamopoulos stepped into her role, taking responsibility for the front office and most of the secretarial work. She is now the first point of contact for parishioners and visitors seeking information about baptisms, weddings, funerals, and our sacramental programs. She prepares certificates, ensures items are placed in the church baskets for weekend Masses, and compiles the weekly bulletin, making sure anniversaries, deaths, and parish events are presented appropriately. She also prepares the Prayers of the Faithful each week.

Margaret Harrington has worked in the Parish of Holy Spirit and St Anthony's for many years, and as Office Manager oversees the staff and the procedures and protocols of the office. Margaret's other role is the finances. As only Holy Spirit and St Anthony's are amalgamated, it means that three sets of books must be kept. St Mary's and St Joseph's are still stand-alone even though we are working together to have an inclusive office.

During the Jubilee Year of Hope in 2025, Fr Peter played a key role in helping the Parish Office deliver the various activities planned for the year. He also organised the monthly Youth Masses and coordinated and accompanied our young people to the 2025 Australian Catholic Youth Festival.

At the end of 2025, we farewelled Fr Peter as he took up his new appointment in the Parishes of Belgrave and Ferntree Gully, and we welcomed Fr Tuong, a newly ordained priest.

Both Fr Shabin and Fr Tuong spend significant time in the Parish Office, supporting staff and attending to their own pastoral and administrative responsibilities.

Fr Shabin, as Parish Priest, has meetings with a variety of people including those preparing for funerals, Archdiocesan staff, and community leaders. One of Fr Shabin's main roles is working with our parish schools; he does this by meeting regularly with Principals and Religious Education Leaders to support them and also to plan the faith content of the schools in our parishes.

Fr Tuong has taken up the role of Sacramental Program Coordinator, continuing the work previously carried out by Fr Peter. He has formed a Sacramental Team to assist him, and together they have begun preparing children for the sacrament of Reconciliation, which has recently commenced. Fr Tuong also meets personally with all baptism families as they begin the faith journey for their children.

We live out our parishes' mission to 'be the Good News of Jesus Christ by serving others and caring for all', by being accepting of everyone who approaches the office for advice and support. We also try to create a caring atmosphere in the office. Our focus has been to continue streamlining the Parish Office and we have done this by having one office, a Google calendar, one web site, one phone number, and two email addresses that reach all the employees. We talk and plan like we are one, and we hope this makes parishioners feel included and listened to and part of the wider parish. Part of our mission is to also care for our priests, and ensure they aren't overloaded with calls and diary events. As we work as a unified parish, we continue to pray that our priests feel our support in caring for four churches each with their own culture, history, and community members.

Margaret Harrington, Office Manager and Finance Officer

Safeguarding Children, Young People, and Vulnerable People Committee

The Safeguarding Children, Young People, and Vulnerable People Committee met on numerous occasions during 2025. The meetings were attended by staff from Australian Catholic Safeguarding Limited (ACSL). The focus of the meetings was to ensure our Partnership Parishes were anchored in the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards (NCSS) – a structured set of 10 standards developed to prevent, detect, and respond to harm to children and adults at risk in our ministry and community contexts. A focal point of the meetings was to have our parishes prepared and compliant for the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne Safeguarding audit. The audit evaluates governance, policies, procedures and practical safeguards at leadership, operational and community levels. A synopsis of the meetings was presented to the Pastoral Leadership Team at their meetings.

Our Safeguarding Committee is committed to:

- zero tolerance of abuse
- working collaboratively with leadership
- screening and background checks for all staff and volunteers
- regular self-assessments
- strengthening practices over time
- continuous improvement beyond compliance to proactive prevention and support
- championing transparency in leadership commitment to safeguarding and accountability.

Members of the Safeguarding Committee attended regular symposiums, talks and presentations hosted by ACSL. The speakers articulated safeguarding as a core moral and organisational priority, urging healing, empowerment of survivors, and systematic transformation within Catholic communities.

Mission & Evangelisation Ministry Team

We are all part of the Mission and Evangelisation team.

It may seem unusual to have a dedicated Mission & Evangelisation Team in our parishes, since the Church itself exists for mission. Jesus gave this mission to all of us when he said, 'Go out to all the world and tell the Good News' (Mark 16:15). Every Christian is called to lead others to faith in Jesus Christ. Each of our parishioners, in their own way – within their families, workplaces, neighbourhoods, communities, and social circles – tries to invite others into a relationship with Jesus through both word and example. For this reason, it is impossible to fully summarise the work of mission and evangelisation in our parishes. It happens every day in small, often unnoticed ways. I invite you to reflect on the past year and consider the moments when you have gently led someone to Jesus. Give thanks to God for the grace he has given you to do this.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

This has been a wonderful year for our RCIA ministry.

Aaron Fletcher, who was our only RCIA candidate in 2024-2025, was baptised during the Easter Vigil Mass at St Joseph's.

This year (2025-2026), five people will have completed the RCIA program. Four young adults – three men and one woman, aged between 19 and 36 – have been preparing for Baptism. One 15-year-old young woman, who was baptised as a baby, has been preparing to receive the remaining Sacraments of Initiation (First Eucharist and Confirmation).

Each of them has been participating with great enthusiasm and a deep sense that God is calling them to follow Jesus in the Catholic Church. All five will be received into the Church at the 2026 Easter Vigil Masses at St Mary's and St Joseph's. Let us give thanks to God for the gifts of Caitlin, Lucy, Kyle, Max, Jake, and Aaron to our community. Please keep them – and next year's candidates – in your prayers.

Although our RCIA team consists of just two people – Cheryl Sullivan and Jim Coffey – we have been wonderfully supported by Fr Shabin, Fr Tuong, Lynn Hale, Martina Tassone, Naomi Brammer, and Fran and Margaret in the Parish Office. We are grateful to you all.

The growing number of people seeking Baptism in our parishes reflects a wider movement across Australia and around the world. This past year, large numbers of young people have joined the Church in Europe, America, and here in Australia. On 22 February 2026, 550 people were welcomed by Archbishop Comensoli at St Patrick's Cathedral, with similar numbers received in Sydney.

The Holy Spirit seems to be moving powerfully in the hearts of young people at this time. Now is the moment to speak with courage about what Christians believe and to share the joy and peace that come from faith in Jesus. You may be surprised who is simply waiting for an invitation to learn more.

May the Holy Spirit continue to bless the Church with new members.

Jim Coffey, on behalf of the Mission & Evangelisation Ministry Team

Liturgy & Worship Ministry Team

From the quiet reflection of ordinary Sundays to the joy of our great feast days, our liturgies shape the rhythm of parish life. Behind the scenes, the Liturgy & Worship Team thoughtfully prepares each celebration to help our community gather in ways that are prayerful, inclusive, and always grounded in a spirit of warmth and welcome.

With members from each of our four churches, the team brings together the voices of our Partnership Parishes while honouring the unique character and traditions of each community. Throughout 2025, the team met quarterly to plan and review the Church's key seasons and to support the many special celebrations shared across our churches.

Key highlights and events

- Transitioned to a single 10.30 am bilingual mass at St Anthony's, uniting the 9.30 am Italian and 11.00 am English Masses in response to reduced clergy and strengthening parish unity
- Integrated the Jubilee Year theme into parish worship through reflections, digital displays, and the lighting of the Jubilee Candle at Feast Days and special Masses, highlighting our call to be pilgrims of hope
- Facilitated the Lenten discussion series *Metanoia*, fostering prayerful reflection and faith formation
- Participated in the Ecumenical Way of the Cross at All Nations Park, building connections with neighbouring Christian communities
- Hosted an Advent Reflection led by newly-ordained Fr John Vespa to deepen spiritual preparation for Christmas
- Led two Advent reflection groups during the Advent season using the *In Holy Stillness* program
- Reviewed Triduum and Christmas Mass times to better meet parish needs and encourage participation
- Coordinated Christmas Eve Masses with children's participation in the Nativity
- Supported a combined Christmas Carol Service
- Strengthened collaboration across our churches through shared liturgical planning and resources
- Introduced the display of an Acknowledgement of Country on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday
- Encouraged deeper reflection within the liturgy by introducing intentional silence between readings and discerning seasonal use of the Nicene and Apostles' Creeds.

Gratitude and acknowledgments

We sincerely thank Fr Shabin, Fr Peter, and Fr Brendan for their faithful leadership and spiritual care throughout the year.

Our heartfelt thanks also go to the many volunteers who generously shared their time and gifts – our lectors, Eucharistic ministers, altar servers, choir members, sacristans, and those who prepared the altar, decorated our churches, and supported our liturgies in countless ways behind the scenes. Your commitment and generosity bring reverence, beauty, and meaning to our worship week after week.

To our parishioners, thank you for your ongoing presence and participation. Your engagement is what makes our liturgy prayerful, welcoming, and alive. If you would like to get more involved, we would love to hear from you – please get in touch with the Parish Office.

Paula Whitty, on behalf of the Liturgy & Worship Ministry team

Hospitality & Welcome Ministry Team – Celebrating the 2025 Jubilee Year

In 2025, the Hospitality & Welcome Ministry Team was expanded to become the 2025 Jubilee Committee.

As we strive to be 'a joyful and inclusive community led by the Holy Spirit', we celebrated 2025 with the Year of the Jubilee. The Jubilee theme, Pilgrims of Hope, invited us into a sacred time of restoration, healing, and renewed hope. Rooted in Jesus' mission to bring Good News to the poor, proclaim liberty to captives, restore sight to the spiritually blind, and set the oppressed free, we embraced this call with fresh commitment. The Jubilee Year reminded us that our mission extends far beyond our weekly Mass: we are commissioned to live Christ's love in action. Throughout 2025, our parishes brought this mission to life through a series of meaningful and spirit-filled events.

- 1. Jubilee launch – February 2025:** We began our celebrations by decorating Holy Doors at each church, marking this sacred year of renewal. Jubilee banners and posters were placed prominently, creating a sense of unity and anticipation across all our worship sites.
- 2. Praying the Jubilee Prayer – weekly:** Throughout the year, we replaced our Parish Prayer with the official Jubilee Prayer, praying it together at every Mass. This simple yet profound practice helped align our hearts with the global Church as we journeyed together as pilgrims of hope.
- 3. Parish Pilgrimage Walk – April 2025:** Despite Melbourne's unpredictable weather, 60 pilgrims walked between our churches, pausing for prayer, reflection, and psalm-filled song. It was a beautiful act of communal faith, perseverance, and companionship.
- 4. Guest speaker Michael McGirr – July 2025:** We welcomed author and educator Michael McGirr, who led a captivating and deeply thoughtful conversation on our Jubilee theme, Pilgrims of Hope. His insight, humour, and warmth made the evening enriching and memorable.
- 5. Parish BBQ/Picnic – October 2025:** Our Parish Picnic was a joyful celebration shared by all four church communities. Around 125 people gathered to enjoy food, lucky draw prizes, conversation, and laughter. We are especially grateful for the generosity and hard work of Moses and his family, Tania, Martina, Fr Peter, and all those who contributed to making the day truly special.

A big thank you to JuJu's Deli (750 High St Thornbury) who donated a huge fragrant Lebanese chicken and rice dish for everyone to share, and to our generous sponsors who donated prizes to our lucky draw: Isme Restaurant (752 High St Thornbury) - \$200 voucher, Grandview Hotel (429 Heidelberg Rd Fairfield) - \$150 voucher, and Bakers Delight Fairfield (88B Station St) - \$50 x 4 vouchers. Thank you for your community spirit and for adding to our celebration.

- 6. Closing pilgrimage and Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral:** We concluded our Jubilee Year with a pilgrimage to St Patrick's Cathedral, where Mass was celebrated by our own Fr Shabin. The liturgy, enriched by seminarians, parish readers, and musicians, offered a grace-filled opportunity for a plenary indulgence. Following Mass, many parishioners visited the Mary MacKillop Centre, deepening their understanding of our beloved Australian saint.

A heartfelt thank you

We extend our deepest gratitude to every person who participated, assisted, donated, supported, or helped bring our Jubilee events to life. These celebrations strengthen our bonds of community and deepen our sense of belonging. As we look ahead, may we continue to carry God's mission into the world – walking together as true pilgrims of hope.

Melanie Pinto, on behalf of the 2025 Jubilee Committee

Youth Ministry – Australian Catholic Youth Festival

In 2025, I had the privilege of accompanying five young people from our parishes to the Australian Catholic Youth Festival (ACYF). Walking with them has further convinced me that ACYF is not simply a large Catholic gathering, it is a powerful moment of grace that reflects a broader, national shift in how Gen Z is finding God.

What I witnessed during the festival was a journey of encounter, reflection and transformation: a pilgrimage that ignited connections, deepened faith, and reminded us that God is present in the laughter, the song, the silence, and the shared joy of young hearts open to the Spirit. These were not superficial emotions but genuine moments of grace. A particularly memorable moment was the surprise video message from His Holiness, Pope Leo XIV, encouraging young Australians to embrace their identity in Christ and to live courageously as disciples. That message resonated strongly with them.

Personally, I listened to many young adults at the festival over the three days, and in the deep conversations with them I found that many of them are drawn to:

- **Authentic community:** In an age of digital isolation, young people crave relationships that are not mediated by a smartphone screen. For them, the Church is becoming a 'digital detox'. They are looking for an authentic community that is unmediated and real. At ACYF, we saw that when the screens go down, their spirits go up. They are craving a seat at a table where they are truly seen and heard.
- **Social justice:** For our young people, faith is not a private hobby; it is a call to action. In a time of economic precarity and climate anxiety, they see the Gospel's 'Good News for the Poor' as a practical roadmap for a better world. Their participation in the Church is driven by a desire to see the mercy of Christ reflected in how we treat the marginalized and the planet.

However, the fruits of ACYF do not end when the festival concludes. In fact, they begin to unfold more fully when our young people return home. One of the greatest gifts ACYF offers is the opportunity to strengthen the relationship between generations within our faith community. When young people return inspired, they bring stories, language, songs, and insights that can become conversation points across generations. Their experience creates common ground. When older parishioners listen to their reflections, ask questions, and show interest, bonds are formed. These shared moments foster trust and understanding.

ACYF also highlights the importance of mentorship. Our young people need guidance as they continue their faith journey, and our older parishioners hold wisdom born of years of lived faith. At the same time, the enthusiasm and fresh perspective of youth can renew and energise the wider community. Faith is not passed on automatically; it is handed on through relationships. When young and old pray together, serve together, and participate together, the Church becomes visibly alive.

This is what I witnessed in our parishes, and I am especially grateful to our generous parishioners whose prayers and financial support made it possible for our young pilgrims to attend. Their sponsorship was not only practical assistance; it was a sign of trust and belief in the next generation.

As our young pilgrims return to their families, schools, and parish life, they come back with renewed courage and purpose. The question for us now is how we respond. I invite our parishes to welcome their enthusiasm, to provide meaningful opportunities for participation and leadership, and to walk alongside them as they continue to grow.

If we embrace the grace of ACYF together, it will not remain simply a memory of a festival. It will become a shared chapter in our parish story, one that strengthens relationships between generations and renews our commitment to journey as one faith community, united in Christ.

Fr Peter Nguyen, former Assistant Priest

Youth Ministry – Sacramental Preparation

In 2025 our parishes continued to run a combined sacramental preparation program for children from non-parish schools within our parish boundaries. This ensures that all baptised children in our community, regardless of where they attend school, are given the opportunity to prepare for and receive the sacraments within their parish family.

We are greatly blessed by our dedicated volunteer catechists who faithfully and generously serve in this ministry. Their experience, professionalism, and pastoral care create a welcoming environment where children can learn, ask questions, pray together, and grow in their understanding of God's love. I am sincerely grateful to the catechists I worked closely with – John, Anne, Ezekiel, Sarah, and Marisa – for their generous commitment and quiet dedication, which bears fruit in the confidence and joy of the children.

Sacramental preparation is not simply a program to complete but a journey of faith. It offers an important opportunity to strengthen connections between families and the parish, inviting them into the life of the Church.

Moving forward, I hope our parishes will continue to support and strengthen this ministry, which provides not only formation but also a living witness of faith. Continued collaboration and parish involvement will ensure this program remains vibrant and sustainable for the years ahead.

Fr Peter Nguyen, former Assistant Priest

Social Media & Communication Ministry Team

I believe effective communication remains essential in the life of our parish community. Our social media platforms and communication channels continue to be useful tools for sharing updates from our parishes and local communities. As such, they help parishioners remain informed and connected.

In today's digital age, many people first encounter parish life online. For this reason, maintaining an active and engaging online presence is part of our evangelising mission. Sharing photos of parish events, sacramental celebrations, youth activities, and important Church announcements strengthens our sense of community and visibility.

I would recommend continuing to support a parish communications team composed of parishioners with professional or practical experience in writing, editing, design, photography, and digital media. Together, the team could oversee regular updates and perhaps produce a monthly or quarterly parish newsletter or small parish magazine. Such a publication could include reflections, ministry updates, youth contributions, sacramental news, stories, and community highlights.

This collaborative approach would ensure higher quality communication and encourage wider parish involvement. Most importantly, it would allow our parish story, our faith lived and shared, to be communicated clearly, creatively, and consistently.

Fr Peter Nguyen, former Assistant Priest

Ecumenism & Interfaith Ministry Team

Last year, 2025, marked sixty years since *Nostra Aetate* ('In our time') which revolutionized the Catholic Church's relationship with non-Christian religions. It was promulgated by Pope Paul VI and it condemned antisemitism and fostered dialogue with Muslims, Hindus, and Buddhists. Unfortunately last year this issue was sorely tested, and the Bondi massacre polarised many groups. We need to keep the intentions of *Nostra Aetate* alive in our community.

On Good Friday 2025 we celebrated the Stations of the Cross at All Nations Park. It is our main ecumenical outreach and was well attended. Afterwards delicious soup was provided by St Mary's parishioners. Thank you for the music and to the Parish Office for providing scripts. We will continue to reach out to our neighbouring Christian Churches.

Lynn Hale, on behalf of the Ecumenism & Interfaith Ministry team

Pastoral Care and Visitations

Visitation in 2025, the Jubilee Year, in our parishes was led by our Parish Priest, Fr Shabin, with assistance from Fr Peter (until early December) and Fr Tuong, and was very ably co-ordinated by:

- Rosemary Bolzan – St Joseph's
- Maria Zaccardi – St Mary's
- Pauline Egan – Holy Spirit and St Anthony's.

In all our parishes we have parishioners who can no longer attend Mass, either in the short term or long term, due to illness keeping them home, or them now living in a nursing home or being in hospital.

These parishioners are still very much included in our parish community with visits from a wonderful, dedicated group of volunteers who truly know and show what it means to serve others and care for all. The visits range from weekly to monthly, according to what suits and fits in with the person being visited. Our two parish priests visit nursing homes within the parish weekly.

Our volunteers spend time chatting, sharing news of the parish and, most importantly, conducting a communion service and praying together. When required, a visit from either priest is organised, either at the person's home or in hospital. The volunteers also visit parishioners in hospital or at their nursing homes.

Gratitude and thanks are extended to our priests and the wonderful, caring, pastoral volunteers who visit and show love and care to our parishioners in our four combined communities.

Visitation is a worthwhile and rewarding role to undertake in our parish. Anyone who feels this is something they could and would like to do is warmly invited to contact the Parish Office and someone will be in contact to talk to them about it.

Pauline Egan, Pastoral Minister Holy Spirit & St Anthony's

Holy Spirit Italian Elderly Citizens Group

Following our Christmas and New Year break, the Italian Elderly Citizens Group at Holy Spirit opened for our 37th year on 23 January 2025 with some 40 members present, whilst others were still on holidays or not well enough to attend.

Our group meets every Thursday morning at 10.00 am and the purpose is to encourage our members to socialise and spend a couple of hours chatting and playing bingo (called in Italian) or cards. Thursday morning is also a time of reflection for our members, as they attend Mass at Holy Spirit church at 9.15 am with Rosary and Litany to Our Lady prior to mass commencing; however, during Lent the Stations of the Cross were recited instead of the Rosary.

Other activities for the year included celebrating Easter on 17 April, with the traditional Colomba and sparkling at the conclusion of the morning activity. On 14 May we subsidised a lunch at a venue for Mother's Day.

On 10 July we held our Annual General Meeting in the hall, starting with a minute of silence for our departed, followed by the reports. A free lunch was offered at the conclusion served by our committee. Our committee consists of Grace Rigoni (President), Vincenza Barbanera (Treasurer), Katia Bacchin (Secretary) and Domenica Barbanera, Rosa Devuono, Joan Famularo, Rosa Lamberti, and Bernie Bianco (Councillors). Sadly our Vice President, Anne Dalle Molle, passed away later in the year.

On 10 September we once again subsidised a lunch at a venue, to celebrate Father's Day.

On 23 October and 11 December we held a free lunch in the hall, again served by our committee.

To complete the year, our last meeting was on 18 December and we celebrated with the traditional panettone and a glass of sparkling.

We have great conversations and friendships while we have lunch in the Holy Spirit Hall, with the parish priests also being invited. We are very grateful to have this meeting place and also the support of the City of Darebin.

Our group now consists of 65 members, a far cry from the peak years ago of nearly 160. We have sadly lost so many because of illness and some who moved out of our area. We would dearly love to have new members join our group so as to keep it alive for years to come.

Katia (Kathy) Bacchin, Secretary

St Anthony's Italian Committee

For more than 25 years, Lina, Leader of the Italian Committee of St Anthony's, together with committee members, has organised annual functions for various parish events, including Mother's Day, Father's Day, St Anthony's Feast Day, and Christmas celebrations. Since COVID, and continuing into 2025, these functions have been reduced to one major event each year: the St Anthony's Feast Day celebration.

The Italian Committee's functions involve coordinating and preparing a delicious, beautifully prepared, high-quality, three-course homemade meal, served in a welcoming reception-style setting, arranging music, and providing attractive raffle hampers generously donated by the Italian Committee.

In addition, the St Anthony's luncheon provides a wonderful opportunity for parishioners, families, and friends to come together. It is a moment on our shared journey as pilgrims of hope, where we pause, gather, and strengthen one another through community, conversation, and tradition. As we share stories, reconnect with friends, and reminisce through traditional Italian songs, we embody the spirit of hopeful pilgrimage – walking together, supporting one another, and nurturing the bonds that sustain our parish family. The luncheon also offers an important opportunity for our elderly Italian parishioners to connect and socialise beyond their regular attendance at Mass.

For the last two years, the Italian Committee has also organised the donation of beautiful Christmas hamper baskets, valued at \$100 each, with all funds raised donated to the Church.

All proceeds from the functions – particularly the St Anthony's Feast Day Luncheon – have been donated directly to the parish, with last year's event alone raising approximately \$2,000.

In 2025, the Italian Committee also made a significant contribution toward the replacement of the floor in St Anthony's Meeting Room. This is the second time the Italian Committee has helped fund the replacement of the meeting room flooring.

Lina is open to returning to the full calendar of pre-COVID functions; however, she would love to see more volunteers join the committee and assist with the tasks involved in organising and delivering St Anthony's family luncheon functions and other activities. Lina is grateful to all who support her in her work and in the ongoing efforts to strengthen our community. If you are interested in joining, please contact Lina via the Parish Office.

St Joseph's Seniors Group

The St Joseph's Seniors Group enjoys gathering for our Anointing Mass and morning tea on the last Friday of each month at 10.30 am. We celebrate the Eucharist in the side chapel and then move to the back of the church where the tables are filled with delicious treats, and where we enjoy chatting with our friends – new and old.

In 2025, we farewelled our beautiful Silvia Simioni to her eternal reward. Silvia, who came each month with a delicious cake or scrumptious traditional Italian biscuits, is remembered with love. We also welcomed to the group newcomers from our four communities. It is a lovely way of sharing our life stories in a relaxed atmosphere.

Once again, our December Anointing Mass and Christmas lunch in the Parish Centre was a celebration of faith, hope, joy, and laughter. We welcomed Fr Tuong as our celebrant. It was a joy to have him there in the first days of his appointment to our combined communities. The December Mass is always special, the food extra delicious, the singing by our primary school children a joy, and the visit by our red-suited Santa, hilarious. As usual, any profit, after expenses, is donated to the parish.

We welcome any parishioner who is looking for a way to meet others in a very relaxed atmosphere. Please turn up at 10.30 am and you will be warmly welcomed.

Maria Ang, Joan Reid, Maree Carboon, and Carmel Jakowenko, Seniors Group Volunteers

Refugee & Asylum Seekers Support Group

2025 was another very successful year for the Refugee & Asylum Seekers Support Group.

The primary activity of the group is gathering of the weekly donations from the churches and delivering them once a month to the Brigidine Asylum Seeker Project (BASP) in Albert Park. We liaise regularly with BASP to ensure that we are providing necessary and requested items. Over the past year we have delivered many carloads of cooking oil, rice, sweet biscuits, and washing detergent – their four most needed items.

At Christmas, through some great work in obtaining donations by a member of our group, and the generosity of the children at St Anthony's giving their time to pack bags, we were able to deliver Christmas bags of essentials for men. The staff at BASP expressed to us that the men are often forgotten which is why we have done this specific gifting for the last couple of years. We provide razors and shaving foam, deodorant, shampoo, etc. In reaching out to this specific group of marginalised people we are offering hope for their future in Australia.

Last year we were also able to donate gift cards. This enables the staff at BASP to give their clients the dignity of choice and the ability to buy fresh food when they need it as they only supply non-perishables. We also made a cash donation to help with the rents they pay in order to house asylum seekers.

We have provided updates through the newsletter to the parishioners and early last year some people spoke at Masses outlining our work.

We have also been able to help a family who are part of the Government's Community Refugee Integration and Settlement Pilot (CRISP) project whereby the community takes responsibility for supporting a family who has arrived through the official channels. We helped with driving lessons and driving practice in order that a mother can get her licence and drive her children to school. Not only is this practical assistance but the family feel really supported by the wider community. This is a really tangible way to provide hope for these families.

Late in 2025 we began planning for our 2026 Indian Dinner fundraiser, which will be our only fundraiser for the coming year. The dinner will be held in the hall at Holy Spirit on 21 March 2026, and everyone is welcome! We asked for volunteers to help with the planning and running of the dinner, however the response was a little disappointing. We understand that not everyone can help with the event or attend, so we've also welcomed donations in the form of auction prizes or cash donations.

Earthcare Working Group

In 2015, the late Pope Francis issued the encyclical *Laudato Si'*, calling the Church and all people to respond to urgent social and ecological challenges and to care for our common home. This call was reaffirmed in the Australian Bishops' Social Justice Statement, *Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor* (2021-2022), which urged parishes and schools to act on the goals of *Laudato Si'* and the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia, Decree 8: Integral Ecology and Conversion for the Sake of Our Common Home.

To support this mission, the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference has endorsed Caritas Australia to assist parishes and schools through its long-standing Earthcare program.

Earthcare in our Partnership Parishes

In 2025, the Parish Leadership Team supported the establishment of an Earthcare Working Group across our Partnership Parishes. An information night held on 11 September attracted more than 12 parishioners and was facilitated by members of the Earthcare group from the neighbouring parish of Mother of God, Ivanhoe and endorsed by Caritas Earthcare's National Coordinator.

As a result of this gathering and subsequent invitations, 13 parishioners committed to the group for 12 months on Saturday 4 October, the Feast of St Francis of Assisi. Two meetings were held in 2025, during which the group:

- appointed office bearers, including a chairperson, rotating secretary, rotating prayer leader, and publicity officer
- committed to reflect, at each meeting, on a page from the *Laudato Si'* summary sent to all Bishops
- selected four projects (from 15 proposed at the information night) to progress during 2026 in response to the goals of *Laudato Si'*:
 - inviting parishioners, especially young people, to participate in Clean Up Australia Day on 1 March 2026
 - educating parishioners on waste reuse and donation options, including Rotary Inner Melbourne Emergency Relief Network (RIMERN) and St Vincent de Paul shops
 - investigating the possibility of establishing community gardens at parish churches
 - organising a reflection morning during *Laudato Si'* Week (16-23 May) at Darebin Parklands
- committed to ongoing engagement with the Caritas Earthcare Parish/Diocese Coordinator and participation in national online Earthcare meetings
- committed to completing the Catholic Earthcare Parish Self Assessment Tool over the next three years
- selected eight events from the 2026 Ecological Justice Calendar to promote parish participation
- nominated members to collaborate with parish primary schools to invite families to participate in events and projects through school bulletins.

In the Jubilee Year we continued our journey as pilgrims of hope, inspired by *Laudato Si'* (LS 244): 'Let us sing as we go. May our struggles and our concern for this planet never take away the joy of our hope.'

As the Earthcare Working Group takes shape, we are guided by the conviction that solutions to environmental challenges are always possible (LS 61). We are encouraged that small, local actions within our Partnership Parishes can contribute meaningfully to the care of our common home.

The group is currently seeking at least one additional member from St Anthony's and one from St Mary's, though all interested parishioners are warmly invited to join. Meetings are held monthly for 90 minutes on a Thursday evening. Enquiries can be made through the Parish Office.

John Samanna, Chairperson

Holy Spirit Primary School, Thornbury East

The 2025 year was very enlightening for Holy Spirit Primary School. The school participated in a cyclical review conducted by Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS) where our strengths in our Catholic identity were highlighted. Celebrating the Jubilee Year and its theme, Pilgrims of Hope, allowed us to further enhance our Catholic identity throughout our community via our classroom programs, sacraments, and connections with our parish.

Sacraments celebrated by our students

Our sacraments were celebrated with reverence and they were very meaningful for both the students and families. These important milestones in the students' sacramental life were also celebrated with great joy and reverence within our parish community. This year we celebrated Reconciliation (Year 3), Eucharist (Year 4), and Confirmation (Year 6), hence supporting our students as they continue to grow in their faith journey.

Confirmation was celebrated at St Patrick's Cathedral with the three other Catholic schools in our parishes, allowing us to come together and actively participate as one parish community. Celebrating in the Cathedral was a powerful and reflective experience and added to the significance of this important sacramental celebration for our students and their families.

Engagement with the parish community

Our faith formation nights with the schools in our parishes began to develop a connectedness and a sense of unity between all schools. This was supported by the Religious Education Leaders from each school meeting regularly with our parish priests. Parishioners joined us as we celebrated the significant events of our liturgical calendar such as Holy Spirit Day, The Feast of the Sacred Heart, and Easter and Christmas. Parishioners praying for our sacramental candidates assisted us to build relationships with older parishioners.

Fostering Catholic identity

Enhancing our Catholic identity continues to be of importance at Holy Spirit. This was shown by:

- ensuring prayer played a significant role in the life and culture of the school
- encouraging and enhancing student participation in liturgical celebrations
- the Student Social Justice Team continuing to promote initiatives amongst their peers
- ensuring the physical environment (prayer tables in teaching spaces, iconography) contributed to the Catholic identity of the school
- strengthening the Religious Education program through deepening the students understanding of scripture and Church history and traditions
- encouraging family attendance at Masses and other liturgies to strengthen the relationship between the school and parish communities.

Pilgrims of Hope – Jubilee Year

The theme of Pilgrims of Hope guided our reflections and actions. A Staff Spirituality Day was enhanced by focussing on the history of our Church in Melbourne and how this continues to impact on our culture and spiritual journey.

Other activities and highlights

The celebration of our Holy Spirit Day reinforces our connection to the Holy Spirit and the gifts and fruits that guide us all to be witnesses to the Gospel values. The acceptance of religious art works into the Catholic Week Art Exhibition was a highlight for our school community.

Noelene Hussey and Loretta Phelan, Principal and Deputy Principal/Religious Education Leader

St Anthony's Primary School, Alphington

Each year forms part of our story and ongoing history and 2025 provided many moments for our school and its community to add to our collective journey. We have so much to celebrate! Our various programs and activities always seek to provide enriching learning opportunities, whether it be within a classroom context or in other ways through so many experiential interactions. Describing all of this mosaic of teaching and learning activity would take much time, however there have been numerous standouts for me – my top ten, in no particular order: Twilight Fair, Colour Run, Mini Vinnies Conference, Gratitude Mass, Christmas Play and Carols, our School Advisory Council, Specialist Showcase Evening, Confirmation at the Cathedral, Explicit Teaching and Instruction Professional Development, and the Blocks and Sandpit Play I witnessed while on my many duties.

Professionally I was blessed to attend the Australian Catholic Education Conference with the Principal Network in Cairns and then the Melbourne Archdiocese of Catholic Schools (MACS) Flourishing Learners Conference here in Melbourne. Both provided opportunities for new learning and reflection with many takeaways for my own leadership and our school's direction.

This year was the second substantial year of our Community Engagement and Growth Strategy. This considered strategy continues to shape positively. We welcomed new students across the year levels and our 2026 prep enrolment has more than doubled. We created kinder-to-school transition programs and strengthened our links with all local kindergartens and childcare centres. At the end of the year we farewelled 18 current families. However, we welcomed 7 families over the year with 15 joining in the new school year. I thank each of the leaving families for their time and contributions with us and wish them all the best.

We implemented the MACS Vision for Instruction and Vision for Engagement. Strategic planning for 2026 began as our School Improvement Plan finishes (2023-2026) and we enter the Review Stage. This stage will involve all stakeholders as we continue to plan and implement for growth and development in all spheres: Student Wellbeing, Learning and Teaching, Religious Dimension, School Community, Leadership and Management.

I applaud our whole staff, teaching and non-teaching, who have again worked with commitment, dedication, and a true desire for improvement. As a Professional Learning community they model lifelong learning, through their knowledge development and practice. Among the academic and educational focus, they work at maintaining a pastoral and nurturing environment for students, recognising that everyone learns best when they feel secure, valued, and connected.

Our students rise to each and every occasion, activity, and situation wholeheartedly. I cannot help but think that the power of our Seven School Attributes contribute towards them being the best version of themselves – brilliant young human beings!

To our parents, grandparents, and caregivers, I once again give thanks for your faith, trust, support, and partnership in this journey, which we value greatly. Together we meet the challenge of educating your children with the best outcomes in mind, as we grapple with the 21st century and all it entails.

I thank the Parents & Friends Committee led by Catherine Bell, whose work is instrumental not only in fundraising but also importantly in building community spirit. I extend my appreciation to the current School Advisory Council who have operated effectively, supporting me and representing the community, and look forward to working with them and the new members next year with renewed focus.

I thank the Parish Staff, in particular Fr Shabin, Fr Peter, and Margaret for their support and work they do in our Partnership Parishes to create a bridge between school and parish.

Tania Bennett, Acting Principal

St Joseph's Primary School, Northcote and St Mary's Primary School, Thornbury

The 2025 school year has been a rich and grace-filled journey for our school community. Inspired by the Jubilee Year theme, Pilgrims of Hope, we have walked together in faith, strengthening our Catholic identity through sacramental life, parish engagement, and meaningful collaboration across our wider community.

Sacraments celebrated by our students

This year, our students were blessed to celebrate the sacraments with reverence and joy.

- St Mary's and St Joseph's parishes joyfully celebrated the three Sacraments of Initiation – Reconciliation, Eucharist, and Confirmation – supporting our students and their families at these important milestones in their spiritual lives.
- Confirmation was celebrated at St Patrick's Cathedral, providing a grand and memorable occasion for our candidates and their families. The Cathedral offered a beautiful and prayerful setting, and it was a great celebration of faith. This gathering was another wonderful opportunity for our four parish schools to come together as one faith community.

Each celebration reflected the deep partnership between school and parish, nurturing our students as active participants in the sacramental life of the Church.

Engagement with the parish community

A highlight of 2025 was the first Joint Faith Nights across our four parish schools. These evenings were a powerful sign of collaboration, collegiality, and connection. Families, clergy, and staff gathered in shared prayer and formation, strengthening relationships and reinforcing our common mission.

The joint celebrations – particularly Confirmation at the Cathedral – fostered a strong sense of unity among our parish communities. Coming together in such a significant and sacred space reminded us that we are part of something greater, united in faith and hope.

Throughout the year, students also participated in parish Masses, liturgical celebrations, and service initiatives, deepening their understanding of belonging to both the school and parish communities.

Fostering Catholic identity

Our Catholic identity continues to be at the heart of all we do. In 2025 we have: integrated prayer and liturgy meaningfully into school life; encouraged student leadership in liturgical celebrations and social justice initiatives; strengthened classroom Religious Education through connections to scripture, tradition, and lived faith; built stronger partnerships between families, staff, clergy, and parish communities.

These efforts ensure that faith is not simply taught, but lived daily within our school.

Pilgrims of Hope – Jubilee Year 2025

The Jubilee Year theme, Pilgrims of Hope, has guided our reflections and actions. As a community, we have embraced opportunities to journey together – across parishes, within our school, and as part of the wider Church.

Other activities and highlights

As we reflect on 2025, we give thanks for the many blessings received. This year has been marked by unity, celebration, and renewed commitment to our mission. Together, as pilgrims of hope, we look forward with confidence to the continued growth of our faith community.

Partnership Parishes of
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St Joseph's Northcote, and St Mary's Thornbury

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Northcote &
Thornbury
Catholic Parishes

