



September / October 2025 Parish Report

The months of September and October have been a rich and active time in our parish life, filled with prayer, service, community and the quiet, steady rhythms of pastoral care.

In early September, Fr John took some well-deserved time away for rest and renewal. Before his departure, he joined the Sacred Heart Mission team and our teachers from St Columba Primary School for some formation time. He also spoke at the Brigidine Asylum Seekers Project's monthly Discussion Forum, sharing his commitment as Parish priest and Episcopal Vicar to compassion and justice. During his month away, we were blessed to have the Passionist priests, alongside Fr Martin, ministering among us so faithfully and warmly. We are deeply grateful for their generous service and presence.

While Fr John was away, parish life continued with its usual depth and activity. A number of funerals were celebrated during this time, supported by visiting priests, our Pastoral Ministry Leader and the Sacred Heart Mission's Spiritual Care Worker. Upon Fr John's return, we gathered for a special Mass of Remembrance to honour the memories of Cynthia Joseph, Maria George, and Doreen Dempsey—three women whose faith, support of parish and friendship remain a lasting legacy. Cynthia's mother, Rose, once again joined us, as she does each year travelling from Malaysia, to remember her daughter's life among us, and her friends, Maria and Noreen. She was supported and cared for by a number of our parishioners with hospitality and friendship.

The Liturgy Committee was particularly busy in both September and October, preparing for a season full of special occasions: the Season of Creation, Father's Day and Safeguarding Sunday, all of which coincided on the same weekend in September. While this was challenging, their thoughtful planning ensured each celebration reflected the spirit of care for one another and for God's creation. October included the special observances of Migrant and Refugee Sunday, Grandparents and Elderly Sunday, Mental Health Sunday and Mission Sunday. On Mental Health Sunday, we were privileged to have a guest speaker at our 11.00 a.m. Mass, CEO Hang Vo from Sacred Heart Mission, who inspired us with stories of their work of hope and service.

A highlight of September was our much-loved Spring Festival, which once again brought the parish and local community together in joyful celebration. Attendance was higher than in previous years, and the afternoon was filled with music, art, poetry and good food. We were honoured to welcome Uncle Glenn, a First Nations elder, artist and author, who shared the meaning of the seasons in First Nations culture and displayed his stunning artworks.

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The festival continues to grow as a cherished annual event—an afternoon of friendship, learning, sharing and celebration that reflects the heart of our parish. A big thank you to our Social Committee for the tireless efforts in planning and bringing to fruition this great Spring event.

Sacramental life also continued and whether it's a group or single person we celebrate the sacraments with the same preparation, joy and welcome. One child made his First Eucharist and an adult received Confirmation - each a beautiful reminder of God's grace at work among us. In October, our sacramental preparation programs resumed with Baptism formation for older children and Reconciliation preparation of 10 children comprising those from St Columba Primary School and other schools in the Parish. Our RCIA group of adults continue to meet fortnightly, journeying together in faith as they explore the Catholic Church and its liturgy, community service and belonging; and scripture: all inviting them to live as disciples of Jesus. Please keep them in your prayers and offer them a warm welcome as they approach their next steps toward full initiation into the Church.

Throughout these months, pastoral care has continued quietly but faithfully. Visits to those who are sick, the bereaved and the isolated have been ongoing through the dedication of our pastoral team, the Legion of Mary and other parish volunteers. Their ministry of presence—bringing both the Eucharist and companionship—remains one of the most profound signs of Christ's love among us.

As we move forward into the final part of the year, may we continue to carry this same spirit of faith and gratitude in all we do. We give thanks to each person who contributes to the life of our parish—through prayer, service, creativity and love. Your presence and participation are what make our community strong and vibrant.