

“ALL THINGS SOCIAL”

AUTUMN FRIENDSHIP CLUB 2008

Another year of companionship, support and activities for Seniors of the Parish and the Whitehorse Community has passed. We meet every Thursday of School Term and would welcome new members.

ACTIVITIES – Bingo, Ten Pin Bowling, Film Lunches, Picnics, Board Games, Dine Out, Blumes Fashions. Trish's Treasures, Soup and Chat with Liz Clark and helpers, Oaks Day Celebrations, Lunch and Entertainment at Parish House, Avon Lady.

GUEST SPEAKERS – Sr Joan Mack spoke on “Our Lady of Sion Project in the Phillipines”, Father Michael Court on “Spirituality through Magic”, Retired Fireman from MFB.

COACH TRIPS – Corio Bay, Toomuc Valley, ‘Francis Haven’ at Guildford, Woodlands.

FUNDRAISING – Research for Cancer Treatment.

SPIRITUAL – Noon Mass and Anointing each Term, Mass at St Francis Church, Melbourne.

From the Committee

MOSAIC LADIES AT ZANTE

Over the last couple of years ‘ladies’ from the Parishes have gathered for an informal chat over a coffee or glass of wine at ZANTE Restaurant in Whitehorse Rd. We get together on the 2nd Friday of the Month from 5pm to 6.30pm. Come along & catch up with some new friends & old friends.

We would love to see you there.

SINGLES GROUP

Several years ago a number of single women parishioners shared the view that it was difficult for them to find a suitable niche within the parish that would enable friendships and a sense of belonging to develop and grow – they were not school parents nor were they Autumn Friendship contenders, and work commitments usually precluded them from volunteering in many parish activities.

They began to meet occasionally to share a meal and social interaction, and the group has continued to grow as new “Singles” - both female and male – have been identified within the Parish. Many new friendships have been formed; a sense of connection and of being part of the parish has grown. All members look forward to the opportunity to catch up and enjoy social chatter with their friends over a casual dinner at a restaurant or hotel, every two to three months, usually on a Friday night. We also see each other around the parish and we look out for people new to the parish, welcoming them. If you would like to come along please contact the parish office.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Over the last 12 months the social committee was involved in several functions.

A very successful dinner night was held at Da Pino’s Restaurant and was attended by approx. 60 parishioners.

Fr. Bob’s Anniversary celebration was held in July with Mass followed by an informal supper /dinner in the Parish Hall. As expected the night was very successful and attended by many parishioners & family & friends of Bob.

A Parish Picnic – walk – bike ride was held in October and unfortunately was only attended by a couple of people.

The Annual Seniors' Christmas Luncheon was a great opportunity for the senior citizens of our community to gather with friends and parishioners, share a meal, sing a song or two, and enjoy the hospitality of the parishes.

We would like to extend an invitation to anyone wishing to join us, we only meet when necessary and the meetings are very social. Please contact the Parish Office if you would like to join the committee or have some ideas for some activities.

We wish to extend our gratitude to the many people who have assisted in any way to the activities and especially to parishioners who attended the functions; we have had a lot of fun arranging them for you. It is great getting the community together for some social interaction and we hope you will support our efforts.

WALKING GROUP

In September 2007 our young, fit and active Parish Priest, after consultation with several older, not-so-fit-and-active parishioners, established a Parish Walking Group. All parishioners were invited to participate, and a dedicated group -including our friars when commitments permit - has taken part every Saturday morning since September, with the exception of a three-week break over Christmas and New Year. We meet at 9.00am for Morning Prayer in the Parish House Meeting Room, then walk (or stroll) for an hour - approximately 5 kms - and return to the Parish House for coffee and a chat.

Not only do participants enjoy the physical and social aspects of this activity, but we have observed and marvelled at the wonders of God's creation in the beautiful bushland trail and the leafy streets of Blackburn and Laburnum: the sparkling morning sunshine, the colourful lorikeets and warbling magpies, the smooth-as-silk silver trunks and wonderful aroma of the lemon-scented gum trees, to say nothing of the magnificent red, orange and gold autumn colourings of the majestic oaks, elms, Liquid Ambers and ornamental grapevines in gardens and on nature strips along the way.

There is no limit to the numbers who can take part in this activity, so an invitation is extended to all parishioners. We would love to see you some Saturday morning