



Catholic Outreach

Spring Newsletter

September 2015



... from the Director's Desk

Spring is in the air and as we look forward to a return to balmy weather and sunny days, our Spring newsletter's focus will be on the launch of Peter Care, Bedford Parish, Catholic Outreach feature articles in the LifeLink newsletter and eRecord and the upcoming Spring Gathering for Co-Ordinators presenting Pope Francis' new encyclical on the environment *Laudato Si'* on Care for our Common Home.

The launch of Peter Care in the Bedford Parish took place in June when more than 50 enthusiastic parishioners volunteered their time and talent at the Commitment weekend. Congratulations to Fr Dat Vuong and Co-Ordinators Tina Baldwin, Karen Ridley and Sue Pinto who worked very conscientiously to bring this labour of love to fruition and we are delighted to welcome Peter Care to the Catholic Outreach family.

At the beginning of the year we were pleased to accept an invitation to join other Archdiocesan agencies under the LifeLink banner. LifeLink is the overarching organisation that provides ongoing funding support for Agencies that deliver professional services and caring support to thousands of people in need throughout Western Australia each year. Organisations include Identitywa, Centrecare, Catholic Ministry for People who are Deaf or Hearing Impaired, Daydawn, Emmaus Community, Emmanuel Centre, Centacare Employment & Training, Djooraminda, The Shopfront and Catholic Outreach.

On Thursday 8th October 2015 we have the pleasure of presenting our Co-Ordinators Spring Gathering based on the Encyclical Letter *Laudato Si'* of the Holy Father Francis on Care for our Common Home. The workshop (9.30am - 2.30pm) will be facilitated by Dr Michelle Jones, Director of the Centre for Faith Enrichment (formerly the Maranatha Centre for Adult Faith Formation) and Mr Francis Leong, Director of Catholic Mission.



Please save the date to engage with these inspiring facilitators who will give us an opportunity to contemplate, experience and celebrate with an open heart Pope Francis' significant message in the ordinariness of our daily lives. Further information will be emailed to you shortly.

Finally, you may not have seen our new DVD which has been developed in response to a suggestion by the St Emile de Vialar Canning Vale parish who are considering the benefits of starting a Care Program. The two minute DVD has been designed to be used during parish notices to assist in the recruitment of Co-Ordinators and complements the six minute Pastoral Care Program overview DVD which can be used for Volunteer recruitment. Both DVDs can be viewed on our website at <http://www.catholicoutreach.org.au>. Copies of the DVDs can be supplied on request.

Peter Mc Minn



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10,000 Acts of Kindness extract from LifeLinks Newsletter Issue 20

<http://lifelink.com.au/media-galleries/newsletter/>



Kathleen with Benedictcare
Coordinator, Elizabeth Few

"Elizabeth has been such a friend and will often call just to have a chat or check up on me." *Kathleen*



Coordinator with Benedictcare,
Margaret Handyside

"Benedictcare is all about showing compassion and empathy for anyone who needs our help". *Margaret Handyside*



John Paul Care Coordinator,
Beatriz Clark

"One of the real positives has been the relationships I have fostered with parishioners, which I may not necessarily have gotten to do if we didn't share this passion for helping through John Paul Care" *Beatriz Clark*



Eileen Ryder with John Paul Care's Transport
Volunteers, Glen and Marie Gomes

"John Paul Care and the parish volunteers have been wonderful. They arrange transport for me to attend Mass every Sunday". *Eileen Ryder*



Rev Fr Thai Vu

"This work is so important — we are helping people who are in difficulty, single mothers, those who are grieving the loss of a loved one, the aged and the isolated in our community. It is through our pastoral care work that we celebrate our faith and rejoice in God's love for us, by sharing our love with others.

We are truly blessed to have John Paul Care in our parish." *Fr Thai Vu*



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Lilian Kee with John Paul Care Coordinator
Betty Thompson



"All my life, I've been the one to try to help others when I could, and so I have been a volunteer at John Paul Care for many years. So it's been a very humbling experience to be on the receiving end of all this help and genuine care. I am so very thankful and I feel truly blessed to be a part of such a vibrant Church" *Lilian Kee*

Eileen Ryder with John Paul Care Volunteers
Marie and Glen Gomes



"Volunteering is such a joy for me. It's so rewarding and uplifting doing something for someone else who needs us, and we get to meet lovely people like Eileen who really become our valued friends." *Marie Gomes*



John Paul Care Coordinator-
Mary de Wever

"There is a great deal of personal satisfaction too from being able to give my time to help people out there in our local community and to see the result of what reaching out can do." *Mary de Wever*



Rev Fr Phillip Fleay with Benedictcare
Coordinators - Anne Kilroe, Margaret
Handyside, Elizabeth Few and Cora Keeley

"I'm so grateful that so many wonderful people from our parish so willingly give their time to help people in need" *Fr Phillip Fleay*



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Catholic Outreach Programs a Win-Win Situation for Volunteer and Receiver

This week, eRecord journalist Marco Ceccarelli spoke with Director of Catholic Outreach, Peter Mc Minn, and Outreach Officer, Betty Thompson, about the implementation and promotion of parish-based pastoral care programs throughout the Archdiocese of Perth.

When, in 1998, he was asked whether he had ever thought of taking on the job as Executive Officer at Catholic Outreach, Peter Mc Minn simply answered: "You must be joking, I am an accountant, not a social worker!" Seventeen years later, Mr Mc Minn is still at the helm of an agency that runs quality pastoral care programs across 25 parishes in the Archdiocese of Perth.

As a newly designated addition to the LifeLink community, Catholic Outreach has never been in a better position to inform the community about the services it offers and the benefits that come with setting up pastoral care programs in parishes.

Mr Mc Minn's statements on the importance of volunteer work explain why Catholic Outreach is needed as much in society today as it was 25 years ago.

"Although the demographics and economy have significantly changed in Perth since the program was first set up in the early 1990s, not everyone is affluent and doing well. There are a lot of people still in need and we have many of the agencies within the Archdiocese reporting more people needing help.

People will often want to reach out to those in need within their community. What we offer is a structure in which people can do this. Catholic Outreach allows volunteers to feel secure because they're part of a well-run agency. If you have a well-structured program, people will want to come back," Mr Mc Minn said.

Set up in 1990 to assist parishioners in carrying out charitable endeavours, Catholic Outreach Care Programs offer short-term emergency care and are restricted to non-professional tasks such as visiting, transport, emergency meals, home help and more.

With 120 local co-ordinators and hundreds of volunteers in service, each parish running a Catholic Outreach Program benefits from approximately half a dozen co-ordinators who, in turn, assess the jobs required and instruct the volunteers.

Volunteers have the flexibility of offering their services according to their schedules and capabilities, with the option of giving more or less at any time they choose to do so.

"Once parishioners are invited to volunteer to do tasks that they're comfortable with, they can recommit every one to two years. We recognise that people's circumstances change, meaning they may be able to do more or less. Whatever their circumstances, co-ordinators usually find that volunteers get so much out of what they do that, when a recommitment comes along, they say yes, they want to be more involved," Mr Mc Minn said.



Catholic Outreach Director, Peter Mc Minn and Catholic Outreach Officer, Betty Thompson are pictured outside their office in the Catholic Pastoral Centre, Highgate. PHOTO: Marco Ceccarelli



Catholic Outreach

Care Concern Service

Continued....

Catholic Outreach also facilitates interaction with other professional services provided by the Archdiocese and, if needed, will correspond with government or other services to ensure that people receive the appropriate care they need.

The agency's services are offered to anybody, Catholic or not, who is loosely within the boundaries of a parish with a Care Program. Among those who seek Catholic Outreach's help are groups and individuals who, in Ms Thompson's words, "fall through the cracks" of government programs.

"There are certain segments of society that, occasionally, our social services system does not handle. The elderly are usually well cared for, yet if there is a person who is not 65 and needs to go to hospital regularly for chemotherapy, Catholic Outreach can help.

Migrants may be another case. If they don't qualify for many services, all that is left is to go to the local church. There is a gap between what the need is and what is available – we try to fill it," Ms Thompson said.

Among those who benefit from Catholic Outreach is retired nurse and medical consultant, Kathleen. Since the death of her husband, Kathleen has enjoyed the services of Benedictcare, the pastoral care program in her Applecross parish.

"In the past years, I've had several surgeries. Complications from my last surgery in December ended in me having to spend two months in hospital, requiring rehabilitation from my cardiac arrest... with the support I received from Benedictcare, I am able to continue living independently and in my own home, something which means a great deal to me."

Remarkably, numerous co-ordinators and volunteers are among those whose quality of life is significantly enhanced by their service within Catholic Outreach.

Glen Gomes, of the John Paul Care Program in the Willetton parish, recently expressed what he received from his volunteering.

"As a shift worker, I am available during the day to help drive people where they need to go, which is when they need it most. I have to say that my life has been enriched doing something for others," Mr Gomes said.

"Catholic Outreach's vision for the future is to see parishes understand what pastoral programs are as well as inform people about the services that Catholic Outreach can offer.

Once they have that knowledge, people may decide to run things differently, through another program perhaps; that's fine, as long as they can recognise the importance of having a program that facilitates the charitable work of parishioners," Mr Mc Minn concluded.

eRecord 24 July 2015 Marco Ceccarelli *The Record Catholic Newspaper*

<http://www.therecord.com.au/news/in-depth/catholic-outreach-programs-a-win-win-situation-for-volunteer-and-receiver/>

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