

February 2007

## **St Christopher's – Part of the Waverley Deanery**

Fr Pat Jackson has spent five years as Dean of Waverley, but tendered his resignation at the last meeting of 2006. Fr Pat Jackson became secretary of the triennial Pallottine Assembly at Millgrove in January 2007. He has accepted responsibility for organising activities related to World Youth Day 2008 for the order and our parish in particular.

The Annual Waverley way of the Cross is an ecumenical event in which our parish participates on Good Friday. It is held at 11AM on the oval at the corner of Springvale and Waverley Roads.

The Easter Event was designed to present the story of Easter to more than 1500 school children. The event was held in Holy Family Church. In the forthcoming year, it will be held in the Glen Waverley Uniting Church.

On the 31<sup>st</sup> May, the forum on end of life issues was held in Holy Redeemer Parish with Fr Norman Ford as keynote speaker. It was very well attended. He dealt largely with palliative care and the provisions in hospitals to deal with those nearing the end of their lives. In July, the forum on wills and enduring power of Attorney was held at St Christopher's. We thank staff members and volunteer helpers for catering to our needs on both occasions.

Vin Faulkner proposed that a grass-roots approach to setting up an ethics committee to address governmental and community-based initiatives was needed to cope with the wider variety of matters now surfacing. A proposal was formulated on behalf of the Deanery by Ray Lamerand, concluding with a recommendation that individually and as a group we become members of Social Policies Connections Inc. (SPC) founded by Fr Bruce Duncan, CSsR, at the Yarra Theological Union. Recently, Fr Peter Nordern, S.J., invited SPC and like-minded organisations to take up residence in a vacant Primary School behind St Ignatius' Richmond. The initial meeting was a forum reviewing the G20 meeting in Melbourne, given initiatives to counter world poverty.

Pentecost ecumenical celebrations involved nineteen churches in the City of Monash on Ascension Day. This has been organised for several years by Joe Persico (St. Justin's). Through his initiative as chair of the Glen Waverley Inter-Church Council, all hotels and motels had flyers detailing all church services available during the Commonwealth Games and after.

The Deanery Resource Coordinator, Lucy Rogers, whose office is in our old parish house, coordinates the various subcommittees of the Deanery: social justice, faith and life matters and parish nursing. This has involved a number of

initiatives to further reconciliation with Australia's indigenous communities and various food drives for refugees and asylum seekers in cooperation notably with SVDP and the Ashburton Asylum Centre.

Fr Pat Jackson SAC, parish priest has special concern for our younger generation. He has held workshops and retreats for youth leaders and has worked long and hard to encourage musicians among them to record and market a Christmas CD. The enthusiasm this has inspired among parishioners is remarkable and their regular involvement in masses has been greatly appreciated.

Fr Jackson and Ray Lamerand put forward a submission to the Electronic Gambling taskforce. This was done in parallel with the Uniting Church through Robert McInnes. The Bracks government voted substantial funding to combat problem gambling just prior to the recent elections. Fr Jackson has also shown special concern for those in hostels and nursing homes. We want to make sure that we understand the needs of all segments of our community and do our utmost to cater for them. To all who have helped, our grateful thanks.

Raymond Lamerand

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## Deanery Events During 2006

Feb 16	Deanery Mass held at St Christopher's Parish
Feb	Laminated brochure with all Christian Services in the area during the Commonwealth Games were distributed throughout the Deanery
Feb-Mar	Letter writing campaign opposing the RU486 drug to politicians
Mar 15	Blood pressure clinic at St Justin's parish
Apr	Postcards addressed to the Immigration Minister opposing the treatment of asylum seekers when they reach our shores – were distributed throughout the Deanery
May 21	Blood pressure clinic at Good Shepherd parish
May 28	Ecumenical Celebration – 19 parishes in our Deanery
May 31	Forum – Catholic teaching on ethics and end of life decisions – held at Christ Our Holy Redeemer parish participated
Jun	Fr Paul's retirement Fr John Magri was appointed as administrator of both the Christ Our Holy Redeemer and Sacred Heart parishes
Jun 18-22	YADYM Leadership Camp

- Jul 8 Forum – Wills and Enduring Power of Attorney – held at St Christopher’s parish
- Aug Ray Lamerand and Fr Pat Jackson lodged a submission to the Gambling Licenses Review Project Team, on behalf of the Deanery
- Aug 18 Deanery Youth Mass held at St Justin’s parish
- Aug 30 Lucy Rogers and Ray Lamerand represented the Deanery at the Public Consultation Process, held in Exhibition Street, Melbourne
- Aug-Sep Rosaries were encouraged throughout the Deanery, to pray for the abolishment of the abortion on demand Bill
- Sep Petitions to the Victorian Government of Electronic Gambling Machines, concerning the proposed licensing
- Sep 25-28 YADYM Youth Camp

Ben Worsteling  
Deanery Representative