

PARISH SERVICE GROUPS

ADMINISTRATION

PARISH SECRETARY

The Parish Secretary provides secretarial support to the Parish Priest, prepares the newsletter, compiles rosters, Parish rolls and registers, and carries out Parish administrative tasks. The Parish Secretary also supports the Finance Committee through bookkeeping, banking and weekly Church collections. The Parish Secretary is at the Parish Office from Monday to Friday 8am to 12pm and is available for parishioners' enquiries at these times.

GOVERNANCE

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

The Parish Pastoral Council is a group of parishioners chosen by the parish community that come together with their Parish Priest to share the responsibility for the development of our Community of Faith and the Mission of the Church in our area. The Council meets on the first Thursday of the month from 7:00pm to 8.30pm, February through to November. Parishioners are able to contact Council members at any time with their concerns or issues, and raise matters for deliberation by the Council.

THE PARISH FINANCE/WORKS COMMITTEE

The Parish Finance/ Works Committee recommends procedures to carry out the financial affairs of the Parish and assists the Parish Priest in the administration of the Parish finances. The Committee provides advice to the Priest on the Parish budget, reviews the budget throughout the year, and prepares the Parish financial report at the end of the fiscal year. The committee also carries out reviews of collections, security, and distribution of money, and negotiates contracts and insurance policies. The committee is also responsible for the Parish's Property and assists the Parish Priest in meeting his financial and administrative responsibilities. The members of the Committee are appointed by the Parish Priest. The Committee usually meets the last Thursday of the month at 5pm, for an hour and a half.

PLANNED GIVING

The Parish relies heavily on regular contributions from members of the OLSH community to pay for the monthly expenses and upkeep associated with the Church and Presbytery. By committing to giving an amount regularly each week, by using the planned giving envelopes, parishioners can provide invaluable support to OLSH. If you would like to consider joining planned giving programme, contact the Parish Office to be provided with a box of envelopes.,

COLLECTION COUNTERS

Each week donations collected during the weekend masses have to be counted and

recorded. This important ministry is carried out each Sunday after the 5.30pm mass. If you are interested in participating in this Ministry, **please contact the Parish Office.**

ABORIGINAL CATHOLIC MINISTRY

Fosters the spiritual, cultural and social development of indigenous Australians especially the eastern and central Arrernte Catholics in Central Australia.

The Aboriginal Catholic Ministry strives to:

- assist the Aboriginal community to share their faith and to care for one another
- create an awareness, understanding and respect of Aboriginal perspectives within the OLSH Catholic community
- create an awareness among indigenous and non-indigenous Australians that Aboriginal people are a significant part of the body of Christ in this land
- encourage indigenous Australians to participate actively in decision-making in the Catholic community.

The Aboriginal Catholic Ministry provides sacramental and pastoral initiatives to 16 camps and remote communities in Central Australia and helps support Ngkarte Mikwekenhne Incorporated at 40 South Terrace, the present worship space for Aboriginal Catholics. If you want to get involved please do not hesitate to make yourself known.

ALTAR SERVERS

Altar Servers assist the Priest during the Mass. Children from Year 3 upwards, who have made their First Communion may volunteer to be trained and be included in the roster. Any interested child can contact a Priest, or the Parish Office. Altar server practices are held on certain Saturdays at the church from 9-10 AM. Please e-mail Karen Marquardt at ksmarquardt@yahoo.com for exact dates of altar server practices.

AFRICAN COMMUNITY

The African Community meets every first Sunday of the month after the 9.30am mass. An African Mass is held every first Friday at 7pm. Every new African to this Catholic Community is welcome to join the group.

OLSH MALAYALAM (INDIAN) FELLOWSHIP

Meets every Sunday at 7pm in different homes. All welcome. Contact the Parish Office for details.

OLSH ASSOCIATES

OLSH Associates belong to a world-wide family of religious and laity, sharing in the spirituality and mission of the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, founded by Jules Chevalier. Their mission is to reflect and spread the love and compassion of the Heart of Jesus in our own situation, particularly in our families, parish and daily contacts-to love and serve Him as Mary did. Meetings throughout the year provide opportunities for continuing spiritual growth and mutual support, in a warm, friendly environment. New members are very welcome. For further information contact OLSH Convent 89521082

LITURGY GROUP

A committee oversees and promotes faith education in the Parish. At the Parish level

there are special Lenten discussion groups, occasional speakers and special activities throughout the year. The OLSH Liturgy Group is involved in the preparation of liturgies for Easter, Christmas and other special liturgical events. They meet every third Wednesday of the month at 5.30pm in the Presbytery. If you are interested in participating, please **contact the Parish Office**.

BAPTISMAL PREPARATION

The preparation is led by a Priest after the Family has spoken to the Parish Secretary. They attend a Baptism preparation meeting held on the first Monday of each month. Information Booklets are also available at the back of the Church. Please direct all **enquiries to the Parish Office**.

BIBLE SHARING GROUP

Meets every Tuesday from 6pm to 7pm. If you wish to participate in this group **please contact the Parish Office**.

OFFERING OF HOLY MASS

Mass is offered for the deceased, the sick, and any other intention. Names are not published in the parish bulletin without the permission of the people or family concerned.

CATHOLIC CARE NT

CatholicCare NT is a social services agency of the Catholic Diocese of Darwin and a member of Catholic Social Services Australia. Working with families is the heart of the work they do as an agency of the Catholic Church. All of their services strive to strengthen individuals, families and communities in ways that respect their dignity and value the diversity of people. In Alice Springs they offer a range of services for individuals and families and assist with employment of people. CatholicCare NT also has a number of services operating on an outreach basis from Alice Springs.

CATHOLIC YOUTH ALICE SPRINGS (CYAS)

Our Youth Group aims to gather together and support the young people of our community. Various activities are organized throughout the year. Taize meditation is held on the first Sunday of every month at 6.45pm, followed by a social. A Youth mass is held at 5.30pm every third Sunday of the month. A Core Team meeting is held on the Second Saturday of the month from 9am to 10am. Year 12 and young adults may contact **the Parish Office** for further information.

CHURCH CLEANERS

Volunteer parishioners in groups of 3 or 4 are rostered to clean the church and parish centre each weekend. This task consists of vacuuming, cleaning of windows, and dusting. There are 8 groups at present. New members are always welcome to join the roster. **Please contact the Parish Office** for details.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

This Liturgy, for primary school-aged children is celebrated every Sunday during the school term at the 9:30am Mass, except for Sundays when the different multi-cultural masses & events are scheduled. Children leave the Church after the Entrance song.

They pray, listen to Gospel readings for the Sunday, and may use a worksheet relating to the reading. They return to the Church for the Offertory Procession and rejoin their families.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Eucharistic Ministers share in the visible expression of the full Church, by assisting the Celebrant with the distribution of Communion to the community during Mass. Training sessions are available: to help people appreciate the Sacraments, to learn the routine of the service that they provide, to nourish and deepen the Ministers' appreciation of this Sacrament, and to enable them to carry out this special Ministry with devotion. If you would like to be a Eucharistic Minister, **please contact the Parish Office.**

HOSPITALITY GROUP

The group meets on the last Thursday of the month from 7:00pm to 8:15 pm in the Presbytery. New members are welcome. Please contact the Parish Office.

HOME COMMUNION

Eucharistic Ministers visit the sick and aged in their homes. They unite these people with the faith community by sharing with them the Word of God and by giving them the body and blood of Christ in Holy Communion. Please contact the Saint Vincent De Paul Society, the Parish Priest or the Parish Office if you would like to receive Communion at home.

MUSIC LITURGY GROUP

An informal group of people who love music and want to be involved in playing an instrument or singing in a group, at Masses. Musicians nominate the Mass/Service time which best suits them. The Music Liturgy Group meets on the fourth Thursday of each month to plan hymns for the following month. **Please contact the Parish Office if you wish to join one of the music groups.**

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA)

The Parish welcomes, prepares, and initiates new adult members into the life and faith of the Catholic Church through a Rite of Christian Initiation. After an introduction to the beliefs and practices of the community, should the inquirer wish to enter into full communion with the Catholic Church, then that person is accepted for the Sacraments of Initiation and commences a journey of discovery and growth within the community. The process is facilitated by a small team of parishioners. This team ensures that the candidate is supported by a sponsor, given a good introduction to the Church's faith and practices, and has opportunities to participate in the Worship, Mission and Life of the Community. Please contact **the Parish Office** if you would like to know more about the RCIA.

COMMENTATORS

Commentators help weekend church participants to understand the liturgy better by introducing them to the theme of the mass and by providing them with brief explanations about the scriptural passages. Regular opportunities for training are available to help the

commentators in this important role. Please contact **the Parish Office** if you would like to assist in this way.

READERS

Readers proclaim the Scriptures, the Word of God, to those assembled at Mass. If you would like to be a Reader, please contact the Parish Office. Regular opportunities for in-service are available to deepen the Readers' grasp of the Word of God and further their skills in proclaiming this Word.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IN STATE SCHOOLS

Each week a team of volunteers teaches religious education to the Catholic children attending the state primary schools in our parish. If you want to assist in this ministry, volunteers are always welcome and needed. Maybe you can be a catechist for one year, or longer. You may like to be a helper first, to gain confidence. Men and women, young, old, or in-between – everyone is welcome! At Saint Francis Centre every Tuesday and Thursday at 3.30pm a Sacramental Program operates for interested children from all schools. **Please contact the Franciscan Sisters (89524151) for details.**

ROSARY GROUP

This group meets in the Church to pray the Rosary each day (Monday to Friday), at 4:45pm, and also prior to the Saturday morning mass. There is always a warm welcome for anyone who would like to join the Rosary Group.

SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER

Secular Franciscans are members of the Third Order founded by St Francis of Assisi. Their mission is to link *the Gospel to Life and Life to the Gospel*. They take the teachings of Jesus and apply them to everyday situations. The Secular Franciscan Order meets at the Franciscan Convent on the last Sunday of the month at 4pm. **Please contact FMM at 89524151 if you are interested in joining this group.**

ST VINCENT de PAUL CONFERENCE

The Mission of the members of the Society of St Vincent de Paul in Australia is to deepen their own Catholic Faith, and to reach out to others in the community. Vincentians are not professionally trained social workers, but they form an organization of Catholic people of all ages, who want to serve people in their time of need.

In Alice Springs, the members' main work involves home visitation and the serving of an evening meal from a food van. They visit people at home (during the day), and administer Holy Communion to the housebound. By their acts of kindness and goodwill, they aim to show the love of Jesus Christ in a practical way, especially to the poor.

Members meet fortnightly, Monday at 7:30 pm, for one and a half hours in the Presbytery to review the visits and activities undertaken, and for personal spiritual development. Anyone who is willing to lend a hand is most welcome to join the OLSH Conference. Further information may be obtained through the Parish Office or by phoning **0447414992**

SOCIAL JUSTICE GROUP

The aim of the Social Justice Group is to educate people about social justice issues and to draw the attention of our parishioners to issues prevalent in our society in the local, national and international context. **Please contact the Parish Office should you wish to become involved.**

WELCOMING GROUP

This group endeavors to contact new members of our parish, to welcome them to our Church and community. An Information Booklet is available to new parishioners so that they have details regarding organizations, groups and activities within the parish. Eucharistic Ministers and Readers hand out the information Booklet at each Sunday Mass. If you would like to become a part of this group, **please contact the Parish Office.**

PRISON VISITATION

Prison visits occur every Tuesday from 5:45pm -7.30pm at the Alice Springs Correctional Centre. The Ministers' Fraternal is interested in seeking the services of volunteers for Prison Fellowship and Bus Drivers to convey Prisoner Families to the Correction Centre, usually on a Saturday and Sunday. Prison Fellowship is an international and interdenominational organization that assists those in prison and the friends and families of prisoners. **Please contact the Parish Office or Enid Harland on 89525406 if you are able to support or help.**

HOW YOU CAN HELP? - VOLUNTEERING

If you would like to volunteer your services to help the Parish in some way but are unsure how to best contribute, please contact the Parish Office and we will be able to talk you about possible options and what best suits your talents and time.

Parish Secretary: Phone 0889521049 / Email olsh_parity_esp@bigpond.com