

## PASTORAL CARE MINISTRY REPORT FOR 2007

This ministry was set up to bring Holy Communion to those who are unable to attend church through illness, frailty or lack of transport. It aims to keep former parishioners in touch with their parish and their friends. We provide regular contact between friends by giving updates on health status and new addresses and telephone numbers as our friends change their places of residence. We keep them in touch with their old networks around local bowls and bridge clubs. To enable this to happen, we have taken friends to visit the homes of those whom they have not seen for many years.

This ministry began informally with the first Home Communion being administered in December 2006. Since then, Holy Communion has been given seventy-five times. As well as clients from our own area, we visit parishioners in Woolloongabba, East Brisbane, Coorparoo, Wishart, Morningside, Carina Heights and Carindale.

Wednesday is our usual visiting day but this is a flexible arrangement fitted around doctor's appointments, home help, respite care and hospitalisation. We aim to visit each person once a month. We have fifteen regulars on our books.

The future of our ministry will include visits to hostels, nursing homes and hospital as we journey with our friends into their advanced age. As our congregation ages, there will be more and more calls on our ministry.

Each Sunday, Pew Bulletins together with a message are posted out. This is much appreciated and it enables our friends to stay in touch with what's happening in their parish. The "Focus" and Bible Study notes are taken and distributed on visits. Birthday and get well cards are sent when appropriate.

Another important role of the team is to be mindful of those attending church each Sunday and to contact people who have been absent for a length of time in case they are ill. It is much appreciated when people notify the team if they will be away on holidays.

We are regularly informed about Care and Concern functions and bus trips so that our people may attend. We took two ladies to the Christmas morning tea held at St Thomas' early in December.

We have rekindled old friendships and started new ones. The pastoral care is truly reciprocal as our friends show us love and concern and pray for us and for each other.

We are grateful to Fr Martyn, Fr John and Winifred for their support and practical advice as we embark on this ministry.

Rose Richter, Rita Singleton and Viv Cowie,  
Pastoral Care Team.