

## PASTORAL CARE REPORT FOR 2009

Each year the Ministry of Pastoral Care differs as we travel life's journey with the friends we have made in this important area of Church Life. Sadly, our numbers dropped dramatically during the year as we said farewell to eight people to whom we have had the privilege of ministering. Through their passing, we have been able to join in celebrations of their lives and to assist where possible in the hospitality that follows funerals. This has enabled us to meet family members who have been spoken about fondly during our visits.

The Pew Bulletin continues to be sent out each week with an inspirational message attached. It is pleasing for us when we visit, to see that these messages are so often attached to fridges or notice boards so they can be referred to. The Pew Bulletins ensure that the families of those we visit know how to contact Fr Martyn in times of need as well as keeping our friends in touch with their parish.

On All Souls' Day, we were able to pray for our friends and their families who have died. It is a comfort to these people when we tell them that their loved ones have been remembered by our congregation on the anniversaries of their deaths.

We also keep in touch by sending Get Well cards in times of illness or hospitalisation. Easter and Christmas cards are sent as well as birthday cards to acknowledge what is for our friends a special day as they continue to age. For some, a phone call eases the loneliness of being no longer able to attend our church regularly.

Towards the end of 2009, we embarked on two new ways of ministry. We began by having morning tea in the Coffee Lounge at Easts Leagues Club at Coorparoo for any parishioners who wished to come along. We realise that this is not a convenient venue for mothers with young children so with this in mind we will try to arrange future meetings in a more child friendly environment.

The other addition to our ministry is trying to enhance the lives of those confined to their home or bed by the purchasing two radios that receive the "Silver Memories" broadcast by 4MBS Classic FM at Coorparoo. This program is specially designed for people with dementia or low vision. We are currently awaiting their delivery and hope to lend them out as the need arises.

We rely on members of the congregation to inform us of the need for us to visit people who require our ministry. If you are going on holidays, please let us know so we can amend our records accordingly.

Vivienne Cowie

on behalf of the Pastoral Care Team, Rita Singleton, Rose Richter and Ellenor Neave.