

Pastoral Care Report for 2008

On behalf of the pastoral care team, I am pleased to present this report.

Our ministry of pastoral care supports Fr Martyn's work in visiting the elderly in hospitals and in their homes. He performs services that only priests can do such as anointing and giving the Viaticum.

We began our year with 18 people on our visiting list. During the year our ministry changed very quickly as eight of our friends moved from their homes to aged care facilities or to live with family, most far from Camp Hill. This makes visiting them impractical. We were able to obtain their forwarding addresses and keep in touch by phone.

We attended two funerals and were able to have input into Gladys Bell's funeral service as her family were unaware of her devotion to this church for much of her life. She was the first person to receive Holy Communion from our team in December, 2006.

We were fortunate that during the year Miriam Nyrene joined our team. She was studying for her Clinical Pastoral Education qualification and was based at the Princess Alexandra Hospital. She visited our friends who were in that hospital as well as going to the Mater and Mt Olivet to visit parishioners. This was a great help to us as we were dealing with many people at the time. She also accompanied Rose on her Tuesday visits. Rita and I visited on Wednesdays and the occasional Fridays. We were grateful for Ellenor's help, filling in for Rita who was undergoing medical treatment and not always available.

Our Ministry, apart from visiting and giving Holy Communion also includes a phone ministry where we are able to talk with those who are facing a change in their life style and want a friendly ear to listen to their fears and concerns. The pew bulletin together with an inspirational message is posted each week to keep people connected with what is happening in the parish. At Easter, each person received a card and a Palm Cross. We post birthday cards and twice during the year we were able to take morning tea to two ladies, Amelia and Molly celebrating special birthdays. Phyllis, Amelia's friend of long standing was taken to her house for that occasion.

On the Feast of Transfiguration, Merle, a past parishioner for over fifty years at Norman Park, was taken to the service. She enjoyed catching up with her friends whom she hadn't seen for a long time.

We rely on members of the congregation to let us know if people are in hospital, moving to rehabilitation or to an aged care facility.

It has been a pleasure to serve the parish and its people during the year. A wonderful spirit of care and support for each other has emerged in our close-knit team.

Rita Singleton, Rose Richter, Ellenor Neave and Vivienne Cowie.