

## SUNDAY SCHOOL REPORT 2007

There were 11 children on the Sunday School roll for the year 2007, although attendance was quite sporadic.

We again used the syllabus "Forward Teaching", which provides lessons parallel to the Gospel reading for the day, and follows the seasons/feasts of the Church's year. The syllabus provides materials to plan your weekly lesson – reproducible activity worksheets, lesson notes, suggestions for worship, etc. We began our weekly sessions with prayers, introduced and discussed the theme, read the appropriate Bible reading, and the children then completed the activity which had been prepared for the lesson. Our aim has been to rejoin the congregation in church in time for the Greeting of Peace.

When the Sunday School was rostered on for Morning Tea, the children had fun in the kitchen preparing yummy food to share with the congregation – something everyone enjoys!

As you all know, Miriam Nyrene is currently attached to our parish while undertaking her theological studies. Miriam is also the Chair of Angligreen – the Diocesan Environment Agency – and offered to conduct an environmental unit for the Sunday School children. With Fr Martyn's approval, this was implemented during Terms 3 and 4.

Miriam drew up a programme incorporating environmental issues and how we relate to these issues as Christians in today's world. We looked at the Creation story, and the story of Noah and the Covenant. We had an excursion to Perrin Creek in Seven Hills one Sunday morning (we had permission to skip church!), and Robyn Elliott arranged for Mrs Jolly, the leader of the local environmental group which has been working to enhance Perrin Creek and surrounds for many years now, to talk to the children about their work and how it has impacted on the creek. She took us on a nature walk along the creek bank, and the children had fun dip netting and trying to identify and categorise the various lifeforms living in the creek. We also discovered it was a haven for mosquitoes, but fortunately someone had thought to bring insect repellent!! We also managed to fill several plastic bags with noxious weeds we found growing along the banks of the creek, which gave the children a sense of pride that they had been able to do something positive to help the environment in our local area.

The children participated in the Earth Mass in October, where parishioners brought their pets along for a blessing. They wrote the Intercession prayers and delivered them – although next time we will need to organize a microphone! – and helped with the Offertory and collection.

We also had planning/brainstorming sessions with the children where we discussed the re-planting of the garden in front of the church. The children chose plants they would like to see in the garden, and Miriam and Robyn Elliott went off to the nursery with their list. We had a planting day just before the school holidays, and then organized a roster of families to come on a daily basis to water the new plants for the first few weeks.

We, the Sunday School teachers, are very grateful to Miriam for giving of her time and expertise to produce and lead this environmental unit, and we hope to be able to incorporate a similar unit in our activities for 2008.

At the end of the school year, Fr Martyn presented each child with a book in recognition of their Sunday School attendance throughout the year.

Robyn E, Robyn C, Elisabeth and Lesley.