

Parish Social Justice Group: 2018 Report to Parish:

Parish Outreach

***Lenten Groups:** using resources prepared by St Columbans Mission Society. Theme: Year C: “The Grace of the Rainforests”. Six Reflection Session held. Average attendance 20.

Supported and participated in the following initiatives

***Clean-up Australia Day – Sunday 4th March.** Encouraged parishioners thru Bulletin notices.

***Domestic Abuse Information session.** Follow up from our parish survey conducted in 2017. Assisted Parish Office in organising. Held at OLMC. Guest speakers. Attendance 38.

***First nations recognition Sunday.** NAIDOC Week. July.

***Refugees and Migration Sunday.** August. Summarised Church’s main points in Parish Bulletin.

***Social Justice Sunday.** September. Theme of Bishops statement, “A Place to Call Home”. Summarised main points in Parish Bulletin

***Campaign to “Get Kids of Nauru”.** Displayed posters in church foyer and attended rally in Cronulla Mall.



***Sydney Alliance: Attended 3 sessions drawing attention to the State Government and Opposition policies on Homelessness and lack of Affordable housing. In most cases these sessions were attended by hundreds of interested citizens. Archbishop Fisher with Grand Mufti of Australia. St Aloysius’s representatives below.**



***Justice and Peace Office: Sydney Archdioceses’:**

#Solar Plan initiative. Formal request made to Parish Council and Finance Committees to consider installation of Solar panels when restoring roof on our church.

#Attended and participated in 3 gatherings organised by J&P Office to keep parishes informed of the Church’s social justice initiatives.

#Attended and assisted, Archbishop's "Sydney Street Feast" to recognise Pope Francis's call for, "World Day of the Poor".

*2020 Plenary Council. Representatives from SJG attended parish discussion session in preparation for the 2020 Plenary.

*Weekly food collection by SJG members to collect from restaurants in Cronulla to support the Cronulla Uniting Church's (Gosport Street) Community Café held each Wednesday in their hall.

*Regular copy was supplied for weekly Parish Bulletins. Meetings with Fr Tom and parish staff throughout the year.

External Outreach Program: Timor Leste, HatoUdo



***Vocational Education Scholarships** for young people from the above village. This program has been running for 3 years following a visit to the above village by members of the SJG in 2014. In 2018 we provided scholarships for 5 young people.

Funds were raised by donations from parishioners and sales of "FairTrade" Chocolates at masses on the third weekend of each month. We are truly appreciative of the generous support from parishioners. This program is coordinated by our local contact, Martinho (who visited this parish in 2017) and the Sr Aurora and her congregation of very dedicated Canossian Sisters working with the local students and people in HatoUdo.



***Special Project:** Purchase of equipment in Australia to establish a modest bakery in the village to benefit the local community and provide some employment for young villagers who have been recipients of our scholarships. We were assisted in this project by a generous donation from an Australian Charity (Australian Antigonish Co-Operative Development Ltd.). A decision was sought from the HatoUdo community as to what their priority would be to use the funds. They requested the funds be spent in helping to establish a bakery to produce bread for consumption and sales. In consultation the equipment requested has been purchased and is presently on a ship to Dili, Timor Leste, with assistance from Rotary. Construction has started on the bakery.

Active Parish Social Justice members include: Barry Jacobs, John Bainbridge, Mary Fennell, Pat Hickey, Phil Elwin, John Fitzgerald, Fran D'Ambra, Ross Driscoll, Joan Tangney and Frank O'Driscoll. We also thank the parish team for their support. 03/2019