



St Martin of Tours – Parish of Macleod

'A faith community where Christian service thrives and shared ministry is developed'

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St Martin of Tours is committed to the safety, well-being and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults.

ABN: 21 504 260 106

St Martin of Tours Parish Annual General Meeting – 2025

22nd February, 2026

Agenda

1. Opening Prayer – Fr Michael
2. Welcome and Apologies
3. St Martin of Tours Parish School Report – Angela Lacey
4. Stewardship Campaign Report – Robert Broadbent
5. Parish Finance Committee Report – Chris Lim
6. Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) Report – Marianne Love
7. Safeguarding Committee Report – Julie Lane
8. Altar Servers Ministry Report
9. Baptism Team Report
10. Communion to the Sick Team Report – Marianne Love
11. Legion of Mary Report
12. Men Alive Report – Francois Grobbelaar
13. St. Martin's Choir
14. St. Vincent de Paul Society Report – Luigi Dal Cin
15. Take the Way of the Gospel Report – Marian Power
16. Wise Women's Group Report – Leonie Morris
17. General Business
18. Closing Prayer – Fr Michael

*Lord, as we reflect with gratitude and look ahead with hope, strengthen our parish community to serve with faith,
generosity, and love.*

ST. MARTIN OF TOURS PRIMARY SCHOOL

2025 Principal's Report for the Parish AGM

Dear members of St Martin's Parish,

There were a number of achievements in 2025. Following the Review, and in line with the MACS 2030 Vision, the school continued to implement the explicit approach to teaching across curriculum areas, in alignment with the Vision for Instruction.

The priority in curriculum development was the work conducted in the Science of Learning area, with extensive work in the curriculum areas of Literacy and Maths. The staff continued their learning to consolidate practices, with all staff participating in a whole school approach to spelling and word study. The Teach Well Masterclass Program of professional learning was a focus in Years Five and Six.

In the areas of our School Improvement Cycle, I outline the successes and highlights of the year.

Catholic Identity

- The sacramental celebrations of Confirmation (Term Two), First Eucharist (Term Three) and Reconciliation (Term Four), were held, with family and parish involvement and support through the Commitment Masses, Preparation Masses and Information Nights
- Two School Masses were held each term to link with significant feast days in the Church calendar and for the students to experience Mass with the parish
- Weekday Class Masses with the parish have been held with good attendance at these by parents, who then visit the classroom to spend some time with their children
- Our commitment to social justice support continued for St Vincent de Paul, through the Winter and Christmas Appeals, and Caritas through Project Compassion

Learning and Teaching

- Staff Professional Learning in 2025 was provided in the areas of Restorative Practices, PHORMES (Spelling and Word Study), a day for staff faith development (Mary MacKillop focus) and a Planning Day for 2026
- Our participation in the AERO SOLAR Project in collaboration with Latrobe University continued and the P-2 teachers were able to draw on the coach to develop their instruction further
- It was fantastic to be able to hold a Performance this year with a Dance focus. The students enjoyed their lessons during Term Three and really 'Stepped into the Spotlight' on the night!
- The students were able to participate in activities which enhance their learning, including a variety of incursions and excursions, Camp, Book Week, Swimming, Interschool Sport, Cross Country, etc
- Participation in NAPLAN online and the use of new assessment tools including the EOI, MOI and Dibels, alongside our other tools and surveys of student learning, provided significant data about student achievement and growth

Student Wellbeing

- The staff continued to deepen their knowledge in Positive Behaviours for Learning (PBL), through staff PLMs and data analysis. The professional learning day focusing on Restorative Practices enriched our knowledge and the ways in which we manage disagreements
- A Student Representative Council (SRC) was introduced this year to encourage communication from the students in their classes to the Council and staff
- The MACS 'Vision for Engagement' was launched and we began the process of auditing what we do in the six component areas of the document
- Participation in Harmony Day, the National Day Against Bullying and Violence, Child Protection Week, and the Day for Daniel highlight the importance of student voice and the teaching of strategies for happy and healthy relationships and protection

School Community

- The School Advisory Council had a successful year, focusing on its goals and some key topics, including marketing and building community, in addition to learning more about the curriculum of the school, and the need for the introduction of tiered fees
- The Parents' and Friends Association planned a variety of social and fundraising activities for students, families and parents to connect and raise funds for the school, including a Colour Run, as well as a Disco and Zooper Doopers each week in Terms 1 and 4. Unfortunately, the Family Fun Day was cancelled due to the forecasted poor weather (which did arrive)
- Parents were invited to attend our Assemblies, excursions and visit classrooms twice a term to see what their children have learned
- We started to expand our community involvement to the kinders and childcare centres and have reconnected with the Rosanna Views Aged Care facility
- We updated the website and have a social media presence on Instagram; this needs to be a priority communication focus in 2026

Leadership and Management

- The SAC followed the topics for meetings as scheduled across the year
- The PFA raised approximately \$32,000 through its fundraising activities and events
- The 2025 Annual Action Plan was implemented with significant goals achieved in Literacy and Mathematics
- The school was not successful in its North East Link grant application, however we will continue to pursue specialised grants through North East link in 2026

Thank you for the wonderful support the school receives from parishioners. We enjoy the Masses with the parish and supporting the projects with Vinnies across the year. We work closely with Fr Michael and Sr Maria, and are blessed to have them leading our parish and guiding the faith development of the children and families in our school.

We look forward to a wonderful year ahead in 2026, with our Annual Action Plan focused on continuing to improve student learning and engagement. Working together, **'We shall not refuse the task.'**

Yours sincerely

Angela Lacey
PRINCIPAL

St Martin of Tours Parish, Rosanna/Macleod
2025 Annual General Meeting – 22 February 2026

Stewardship Campaign Report – AGM 2025

The Parish Stewardship program operates on a 3-year cycle. During October-November 2025 we undertook a *Parish Renewal Campaign*, assisted by Stephen Littleton of *Parish First*. The theme of the campaign was '*Faith, Engagement, Commitment*'.

With the Parish experiencing ongoing operational deficits and Stewardship contributions accounting for nearly 70% of regular Parish income, we had a clear financial focus for the Renewal program: to achieve a significant increase in pledged Stewardship income that is sustainable.

Our Parish is blessed by the level of engagement in community life. The Renewal Campaign also aimed to encourage even greater involvement in parish groups and ministries, and through regular Mass attendance.

Parish Renewal Program 2025 - Key Outcomes

1. Financial Results Achieved:

	Campaign Outcome	Pre-Campaign (as in 2025)	Result Achieved
Weekly pledged income	\$4,167	\$3,406	22.3% increase
Average pledged amount	\$15.21	\$13.52	12.5% increase
Number of Pledged Contributors	274	265	30 new contributors (11% of pledges)
Direct payments (Bpay/DirCredit)	74% of givers (= 80% of income)	71%	3% increase
Income projection over 3-year Program	\$585,047 (assumes 90% retention)	\$437,580 (assumes 85% retention)	Increase of \$147,467 (\$49,156 per year)

2. Age Data:

- 49% of pledged contributors are aged 70+
- Approx. 37% of contributors are of working age (under 65 yo)
- Only 15% of pledges are under 50 years, raising challenges about future sustainability as parishioners continue to age.

3. Income Generation:

- Contributors aged 70-89 (42% of pledges) generate 52% of income.
- Top 10% of givers contribute 38% of income.
- 30% of contributors (those above the average pledge) generate 63% of income.

Thank You

It is very pleasing to see the overall increase in average pledge and the number of new contributors. The challenge will be to maintain a strong commitment across the new stewardship program period to support the ongoing operation and viability of the Parish in continuing to offer its range of ministries, pastoral programs and community outreach, as well as the many groups and activities that support the community.

Thanks to the many parishioners who assisted with aspects of the Program – particularly the Launch Weekend speakers and those who aided with distribution of brochures and flyers.

And thank you to everyone who contributes to the Stewardship Program to achieve this outcome. Your continuing generosity supports and helps sustain the mission of our Parish as *‘a faith community where Christian service thrives and shared ministry is developed’*.

Robert Broadbent

(for the Stewardship Program Committee)

Parish Accountant Report

St Martin of Tours Financial Report For the Year Ended 31 December 2025

Summary

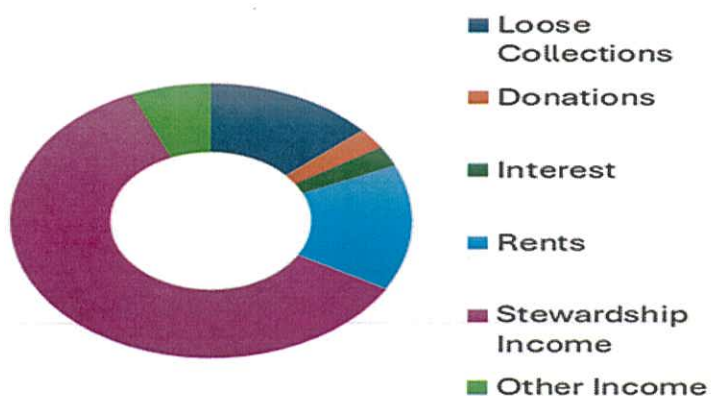
For the year, the Parish has generated an income of \$287,849 and incurred expenditures of \$351,179 resulting in an operating deficit of \$63,330.

However, after recognising a significant one-off bequest received during the year, the Parish recorded an overall surplus of \$129,918 for the year ended 31 December 2025.

Operating Income

	31 December 2025 Actual	31-Dec-24 Actual
Loose Collections	38,970	16,586
Donations	6,935	2,314
Interest	6,872	7,016
Rents	42,825	31,034
Stewardship Income	173,717	192,318
Other Income	18,530	14,319
Total Income	287,849	263,587
Bequests	193,248	-

Income 31 December 2025 Actual



Parish Accountant Report

Year to date operating income is \$287,849

- The majority of income was derived from Stewardship contributions, Loose Collections, and Rental Income.
- No significant donations were received in 2025.
- Operating income included a **one-off rental** from leasing the carpark to the North East Link project.

In addition, the Parish received a one-off bequest of \$193,248 during the year.

Operating Expenditures

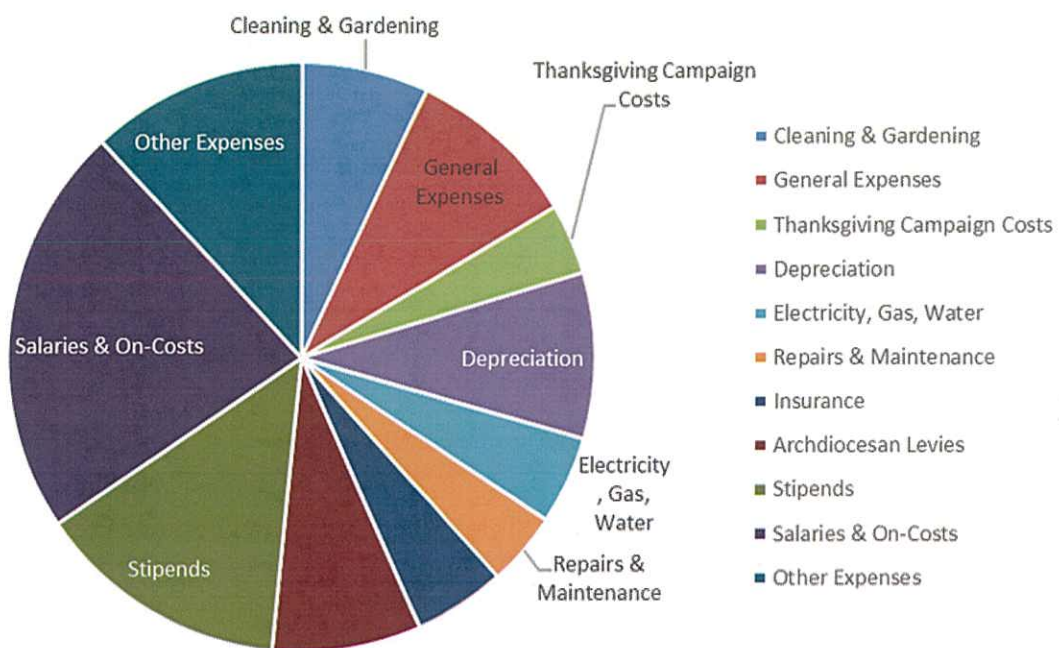
Year to date expenditures of \$351,179.

The major expenditures incurred by the Parish are in the following areas:

	31-Dec-25	31-Dec-24
	Actual	Actual
Cleaning & Gardening	24,459	29,982
General Expenses	33,501	21,377
Thanksgiving Campaign Costs	13,500	-
Depreciation	31,913	31,582
Electricity, Gas, Water	16,953	17,118
Repairs & Maintenance	14,136	13,143
Insurance	17,704	25,409
Archdiocesan Levies	28,924	29,644
Stipends	48,853	45,425
Salaries & On-Costs	79,316	91,373
Other Expenses	41,920	41,742
Total Expenditure	351,179	346,795

Parish Accountant Report

Expenditure 31 December 25 Actual



Parish Accountant Report

St Martin of Tours Financial Report For the Year Ended 31 December 2025

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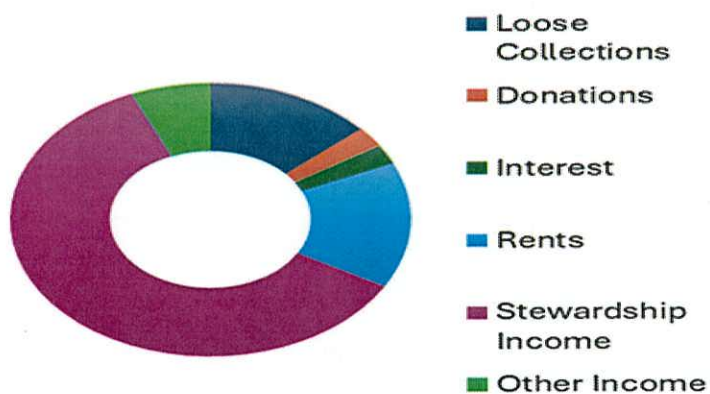
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Parish Accountant Report

The Parish expenditures for 2025 have been slightly higher than 2024. The increase was primarily due to:

- Higher general expenses arising from the repayment of O.S.H. Program funds to the school following a change in arrangement.
- One-off costs associated with the Thanksgiving campaign

These higher expenses were partially offset by decrease in cleaning and gardening expenses, utilities bills, insurance and salaries & on-costs.

Financial Position

As at 31 December 2025, the Parish has \$334,647 in cash, which is an increase of \$130,985 from 31 December 2024. Increase in cash is due to bequest received in 2025. During the year, new chairs were purchased for the community centre, along with the installation of security window screens at the Parish House.

The parish is in a good financial position.

Parish Accountant Report

St Martin of Tours		
Balance Sheet		
As at 31 December 2025		
	31-Dec-25	31-Dec-24
Current Assets		
Cash	334,647	203,661
GST Receivables	1,281	1,793
Sundry debtors	3,652	300
Prepayments	13,299	15,044
	<u>352,879</u>	<u>220,798</u>
Non Current Assets		
Land	1,182,036	1,182,036
Building	434,866	444,227
Office Equipment and Furniture and Fittings	7,768	-
Plant	76,429	88,886
	<u>1,701,099</u>	<u>1,715,149</u>
Total Assets	<u>2,053,977</u>	<u>1,935,947</u>
Current Liabilities		
Creditors	5,286	17,173
Catholic Mission	0	0
Special Collections	0	0
	<u>5,286</u>	<u>17,173</u>
Non Current Liabilities		
Provision for Long Service Leave	18,020	18,020
	<u>18,020</u>	<u>18,020</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>23,306</u>	<u>35,193</u>
Net Assets	<u>2,030,672</u>	<u>1,900,754</u>

2025 Report from the Parish Pastoral Council

During the year, we welcomed John Lunadi and James Thesiera, to our group. We also had the resignation of Lynette Almeida and I want to acknowledge all her contributions over the time she was a member of the Council.

The 2024 AGM was held on 23 February .It was well attended with about 35 attendees

Throughout the year we spent time in meetings reviewing the Parish Profile and in Spiritual conversations particularly focusing on the Art of Listening. We plan to involve the parish in these conversations next year.

On June 1st we celebrated the 40th Anniversary of Fr Michael's ordination. A large number of people assisted with the planning of this day both for the mass and the Morning tea and Lunch for his family which followed. A great team effort by all.

In August we held the Volunteer morning tea on the 31st after the 10am Mass .There were 70 parishioners who attended. It was considered a success and will be repeated next year. It is important to recognize the importance each group has in the parish. Each group of volunteers was thanked during the masses that weekend. It was also an opportunity to draw attention to all the different ministries and the need for more volunteers.

The Stewardship campaign was held in October over 3 weekends. The parish Income received a significant boost. The weekly income began with \$3300 per week but now there is a pledged income of \$4200 and 75% are making a direct method of contribution. More people have agreed to join in different groups and ministries in the parish.

The Parish Profile highlighted the many diverse cultures that exist in the parish. The mass on the 9th November to celebrate St Martins feast day celebrated this diversity in a number of ways as did the morning tea which followed. There were over 70 people who came to the morning tea to enjoy the food provided by many members of the community which were culturally significant.

There have been a number of meetings over the year to continue discussions on the Mission Hubs following the theme of Take the Way of the Gospel. Fr Michael and Fr Wayne (West Heidelberg) have continued to meet a number of times to discuss how the parishes can work together There have also meetings over the year which involved our parish representatives including Sr Maria and Gay Nicholls from the PPC some of which were facilitated by Catherine Garner. This year there were 2 book exchanges organized to encourage socialization between the two parishes. There have been a number of activities recognized by the members of St Martins and St Pius X which could be combined in future years.

St Martin's Parish Pastoral Council will continue working to support Fr Michael and Sr Maria in 2026.

St Martin of Tours Parish, Rosanna/Macleod
2025 Annual General Meeting – 22 February 2026

Safeguarding Committee Report

Background

The St Martin of Tours Parish Safeguarding Committee was established in 2017 by our Parish Priest, Fr Michael O’Connell. It provides advice to, and works with, the Parish Priest to promote the safety and well-being of children and young people, and vulnerable adults in our community. The Committee’s role involves developing and updating relevant policies, processes and practices to guide our parish in this regard and to respond to any concerns, disclosures or allegations of child abuse or misconduct in our parish environment (on-site, online and in other locations used by the parish). The Committee also ensures that compliance requirements of the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne (**CAM**) and the State Government are met.

CAM has created a support structure for parishes through the Safeguarding Unit (SU) and the appointment of four SU Regional Safeguarding Officers. The committee maintains regular contact with the Northern (now Eastern) region Safeguarding Officer.

Safeguarding Committee

The Committee meets on a monthly basis from February to November. Members of the Committee are: Fr Michael O’Connell, Robert Broadbent, Marie D’Souza, Elizabeth Jernejcic (Parish staff) and Julie Lane. We pay tribute and express deep gratitude to Sandra Ryan, who passed away in April 2025. Sandra was an inaugural member of the Committee, who participated actively until only a few months before her death, contributing enormously to the development of SMOT’s safeguarding processes and practices.

A New Safeguarding Framework

In mid-March 2024 CAM issued the *Safeguarding Children and Young People Framework*. This new framework comprises a suite of documents covering all areas of policy, codes of conduct, reporting of misconduct and/or child abuse, antidiscrimination and racism, and record keeping. It incorporates new child safety standards issued by the State Government and the updated National Catholic Safeguarding Standards.

The parish is required to implement the Framework in the parish context. The committee monitors parish safeguarding efforts via a self-assessment process completed annually and reported to CAM each November on our compliance with 48 indicators of implementation. Although this self-assessment is a major and time-consuming task, the process enables us to identify strengths and areas for improvement and helps us in building a child safe parish community. It was reassuring to receive feedback from the Safeguarding Unit on our 2025 report indicating that we are progressing well in managing safeguarding responsibilities.

Safeguarding Training

- It is a requirement of the Archdiocese that, in addition to clergy and employees, all volunteers involved in any parish ministry or organisation must undergo training in child safety. Initial training must be updated every three years to ensure currency.
- Volunteer training is now accessible as an online module *Safeguarding Essentials Training Package* on the CAM Safeguarding website. Volunteers were contacted on a number of occasions to encourage their completion of this training module. In addition, the Committee offered two in-person group sessions using the online module. This parish-supported

opportunity will continue to be offered to volunteers who are unable to access the online module.

- It is challenging for the committee and for volunteers to ensure they are compliant with these training requirements. This will continue to be an important focus of the committee's work. The Committee is planning new approaches in 2026 to ensure all volunteers who wish to continue in their role are encouraged and supported to complete the necessary training and compliance requirements.

Safeguarding Commitment and Code of Conduct Declaration.

- At the start of National Child Protection Week in September 2025, Fr Michael reaffirmed the parish *Statement of Commitment to the Safety of Children and Young People* and publicly signed the Statement during weekend Masses. It is displayed on the noticeboard in the church entry foyers.
- In conjunction with completing initial and 3-yearly training online, volunteer parishioners are required to sign an individual *Code of Conduct*. These individual declarations and training status are automatically added to the Parish database maintained by CAM, with supporting documents kept securely on file by the Parish office.
- While the Committee has prepared guidelines in relation to reporting and handling concerns, disclosures or allegations of child abuse or misconduct, it is a blessing that again over the past year there have been no instances where these have been needed.

Communication

- The new parish website <https://www.melbcatholic.org/s/articles/a19OI000000axuPIAQ/safeguarding> has a revamped Safeguarding page that has enabled inclusion of more information and assistance for parishioners. It includes relevant parish documents and links to CAM and other resources for easy access by all parishioners.
- A Safeguarding noticeboard in the main foyer of the church provides posters and details of safeguarding rights and expectations, including age-appropriate versions, as well as information on how to respond if a concern of abuse does arise.
- The weekly Newsletter is the main regular means of communication with the community with updates on the work of the Committee and links to valuable resources to assist families (such as with online safety).
- The Committee provides quarterly reports for the Parish Pastoral Council.

Appreciation

The Committee acknowledges and expresses its appreciation to the leaders and members of the many ministries and groups in our parish who have shown through their involvement in safeguarding requirements the commitment of our parish community to ensuring the safety and well-being of children and young people and vulnerable adults.

Robert Broadbent

(on behalf of the Safeguarding Committee)

2025 Report from Altar Server Ministry

Morning/Afternoon All,

I hope you had a good week. The altar server ministry for 2025 is as follows:

We had children participating in the altar server ministry from around 17 families with 2 new families joined in 2025. Parents are very dedicated and ensure that their children attend on the scheduled days. They are committed and only request exceptions in rare cases when children cannot participate due to illness. The altar server roster will be prepared for each school term and circulated among parents to gather the children's availability before finalizing it. There is a weekly reminder emails for the children's to participate that week. In addition to the school terms, children were actively involved in altar serving during the Easter and Christmas celebrations in 2025.

We held three training sessions in 2025 to onboard new altar servers and ensure that the existing altar servers are on track. After the training, we arranged a small gathering for families, including dinner.

We also hosted an end-of-year celebration with a BBQ dinner, inviting families to thank the altar servers who served throughout the year and to welcome new altar servers (grade 3 and above) who may wish to join the ministry.

Thank you!

BAPTISM TEAM REPORT FOR 2025

Prepared by Candice Cheung, Baptism Co-Ordinator

Baptism Team Members

The Baptism Team consists of five members, one casual experienced member, and myself as Co-Ordinator. We warmly welcome Reza, Jacqueline to our group. We also acknowledge the resignation of Gavin Rego and Rommel Suarez for 2026 and sincerely thank them for their valuable contributions during their time as a member of the Baptism Team.

Our Ministry

Our ministry focuses on preparing families for the Baptism of their children. As the Baptism Team has reduced in number, we are seeking to recruit more team leaders. I would like to thank each Baptism leader for their care, dedication, and ongoing support of families.

Becoming a Baptism Leader

Becoming a Baptism leader is a straightforward process. Training is provided by accompanying an experienced leader as they prepare families for their Presentations and Baptisms. Once confident, new leaders are partnered with an experienced team leader and rostered approximately 2–4 times a year. Anyone interested is encouraged to contact a member of the Baptism Team or myself through the Parish Office.

Booking a Baptism

Fr Michael and the team endeavour to accommodate the needs of families so that their children may be baptised and welcomed into the St Martin of Tours community.

To book a Baptism, families may:

- Contact the Parish Office by phone or email with their preferred dates
- Download, complete, and submit the Baptism Application Form from the parish website

Dates for Baptisms and Presentations are also available on the website.

Baptism Presentations

Each month, Baptism Presentations are conducted during the 10.00 am Sunday Mass. At times, to accommodate families, Presentations may also occur at the Saturday Vigil Mass at 5.30 pm.

At Sunday Presentations, there may be up to ten or more children presented, depending on the number of Baptisms scheduled for the following month. Parents and children are presented to the community, who are invited to support them in their journey of faith.

Families are presented with a Baptism Candle, which will be lit at the Baptism, and receive a blessing at the conclusion of the ceremony.

Baptism Preparation Sessions

Baptism Preparation sessions are where the team leader explains the procedures for both the Baptism Presentation and the Baptism ceremony. Team leaders contact families prior to the session.

Preparation sessions are usually held at the Community Centre, mainly on weekday evenings, or via Zoom.

During these sessions, leaders discuss:

- Gospel readings
- Prayers of the Faithful
- Information about Godparents
- Symbols of Baptism for the decoration of the stole and candle

The leader also confirms that the details on the Baptism Application Form are correct, enabling the Parish Office to prepare the Baptism Certificate to be presented on the day of the Baptism.

The cost of Baptism is \$100 per child, which covers administration costs and includes the stole and candle.

Baptism Celebrations

Baptisms are generally conducted on Sundays at 11.15 am, however this may vary according to the needs of families and parish liturgical events, such as First Eucharist celebrations.

Normally, a maximum of four children are baptised on the scheduled Sundays. This year, we celebrated a total of 29 Baptisms.

Parish Involvement

The Baptism Team is very committed to preparing parents and their children for Baptism and ensuring that all their needs are met. Leaders remind parents that by baptising their children in our parish, they become part of our Catholic parish community.

Families are encouraged to become involved in parish life through Time and Talent and to support the Stewardship Program, as their involvement will benefit their children in the long term.

St Martin of Tours Annual General Meeting 2025

Held on February 22, 2026

Communion to the Sick Team: Report

Our Ministry is to visit those who are no longer able to attend Mass at St Martin's because they are unwell. We pray with them and give them Communion. They could be in nursing homes or housebound and usually we visit approximately 50 people each week. Currently there are three nursing homes, two of which we visit fortnightly.

In total there are fourteen members on the team.

Each alternate week one of the teams of six is rostered to make visits on a Friday morning. There are a couple of emergency support members who are called upon if a team member is on holidays or unwell. We would warmly welcome more volunteers to our team.

All members of the Communion to the Sick team are required to have a current Working With Children Check (WWCC) and a regular Police Check. .

Training is provided and new volunteers visit many of the venues accompanied by an experienced team member before they are inducted. At the end of the training period the new members are commissioned and blessed by Fr Michael at the Friday morning Mass. They also receive resources to assist them with their Ministry.

Another aspect of our Ministry is the Masses that are celebrated in the nursing homes that we visit. Team members usually accompany Father and assist with the Anointing of the Sick and Communion. In 2025 a total of two such Mass took place at Calvary Rosanna Views.

Father Michael sometimes accompanies the ministers on their rounds so that he can anoint the elderly in their homes or in the other nursing homes.

Our Ministry is one where we receive much more than we give. The response to our visits is one of gratitude, those we visit really appreciate being able to stay connected with their faith. It is a great comfort to them.

Sadly a number of people we visit have passed away throughout the year and we extend our sympathies to their families. We also lost a valuable member of our team, Sandra Ryan who passed away this year. She co-ordinated the team for a number of years in recent times and is greatly missed.

If you are aware of other people who would like us to visit please contact the parish office. We look forward to continuing our Ministry in 2026.

Enquiries about volunteering to join the team would be very welcome. Please call the parish office.

Marianne Love

Coordinator of the Communion to the Sick Team

ST MARTIN'S LEGION OF MARY GROUP

We have four members, and our meeting is held every Wednesday morning at 10:30 in the Community Centre.

Our works consist of:

1. Promotion of recitation of the Rosary. Each Friday morning Rosary is led in the Church after 9:15 a.m. Mass. During Lent, Stations of the Cross are led instead of the Rosary. Each Monday, Zoom Rosary is conducted with two members and residents of two retirement homes. Rosary has also been led by members prior to Funeral Mass, as requested by family.
2. One member belongs to the Baptismal Ministry and assists Fr Michael in preparation and presentation of the Baptismal candidates and their parents. Baptismal packs, consisting of Rosary beads, Miraculous Medal and various leaflets are distributed to newly Baptised children and to First Eucharist children who attend Catechist class.
3. Assisting with the Piety Stall, Children's Liturgy and Parish Welcoming Group and assisting with morning tea after Sunday Mass.
4. Transport is provided to members if unable to attend Mass or meetings.

Membership is open to all Parishioners, and they would be made most welcome.

We are very grateful for the support of Fr Michael and our Spiritual Director, Sr Maria.

We pray our Mother Mary will continue to bless and guide us in our endeavours.

Catherine Starmans
President

Philomena Lewis
Secretary



menALIVE St Martin of Tours Parish, Rosanna

“God is glorified when men are fully alive”

St Irenaeus

menALIVE was founded in 2003 by a small group of Catholic lay men: married, some with families, some single. They shared a common desire to respond to the question concerning the composition of current Catholic congregations, "Where are all the men?" They considered themselves to be “ordinary” men who had experienced something powerful through the Church. They were convinced that there is something greater than themselves to live for. The group wanted other men to encounter what they had experienced.

Out of this desire was founded menALIVE: A National Catholic Ministry, based at Parish level, for men. It is built on the belief that a man is not alone and that he can see where God is at work in his life and in the life of the world around him. A man does not have to 'battle' through life on his own. God meets each man at whatever stage or circumstance he is at.

menALIVE was established in St Martin’s Parish Rosanna in November 2024, after a Parish Men’s Weekend was offered.

Since then, a group of the men who attended the Parish Weekend have re-CONNECTED about fortnightly over a coffee to pray together, to study the up-and-coming scriptures for the week, and, to share socially on issues that are important to them and their hearts.

In these sessions and others, we practise Scripture, Observation, Application and Prayer – SOAP. God speaks to our hearts and through each other – His Word alive in us and those we touch.

On a wider basis, the Parish men have a common bond and sharing goes on more freely amongst those with whom we all have contact. Whilst the ‘reCONNECT’ session attendance is small, sharing is more intimate. The wider brotherhood that we are, remains very much alive – authentic.

There is strong evidence of us being tied to each other in prayer support and general support. This is evident by discussions between us before and after Masses. It is further evidenced by stories shared between us. Prayer is being answered – sometimes powerfully. God is working in our lives and the joy of His brotherhood with us is strong.

The MenALIVE Victoria team, through our strong Parish connections with Loyola College, ran a Raising Fathers session around Father's Day in 2025. We are hoping to repeat this in 2026.

MenALIVE is being seeded across local parishes in contact and in reaching out to neighbouring parishes and establishing stronger ties with the various men there and with the local priests. We have a Parish Weekend scheduled to occur at the Greensborough Parish towards the end of May. Men from St Martin's Parish will be welcome to join this event.

The National reFUEL sessions, held every Tuesday evening for an hour at 7.30 pm are attended by some of our men. It allows us to share with the wider MenALIVE Parishes operating across Australia.

MenALIVE ran its National Conference (MAX) at Amberley in Lower Plenty and 7 people attended from the Parish. It was a wonderful, uplifting experience for those who attended. In 2026, the MAX event will be in the Gold Coast, Queensland.

A couple of us continue involvement in wider outreach – across Victoria with the Victorian leadership team. The Gospel is about mission. Mission within the Parish and mission outside of the Parish. Many of us outreach more widely to our families and through our Parish groups involvement outside of MenALIVE. The Gospel message is spreading.

From 9-11 February, the Victorian leaders in collaboration with the Brisbane-based National team collaborated to present the menALIVE Summer School Program at Corpus Christi College Seminary. This is part of our program to support seminarians and newly-ordained priests. Important support as a wider team of men working for God's kingdom.

Socially, recently we caught up together at the Eaglemont Cellars and Bar recently with some wives in attendance. It was a fun catch up for those able to make it.

I encourage all to spread amongst those you talk with in and beyond the Parish about our mission and His Mission in you. God is working in us for His purpose – to become more intimate with us and in us through Jesus' abundant love.

Many Blessings to you all in your work for the Kingdom of God.

Further information about joining this group can be obtained by contacting:

John O'Connell 0429 596 948 Justin Lachal 0432 758 410

Mike Stacey 0498 193 538 Francois Grobbelaar 0426 606 874

David Grasso 0402 486 958 Mirko Blatancic 0423 057 123

Gerard Mullins 0409 854 431

ST MARTIN'S CHOIR – REFORMED IN 2025-26 AS AN OPEN AGE GROUP

Just to inform everyone that essentially during CoVID the St Martin's choir was not able to come together to rehearse. The choir had been running under the leadership of Helen Tombolato for at least 20 years+. Towards the end of last year (2025) an attempt was made to re-group. It is lovely to be able to gather again - usually on the second Monday night of each month!

Currently, Helen has opted to take leave. Therefore, Marg O'Leary has assumed the management of church music in the parish with one of the responsibilities being to try to resurrect the choir so that there will be lead singers for both the 5.30pm and 10.00am Masses.

Since November 2025, the St Martin's Choir has been meeting on the second Monday of each month from 7.30 to 8.30pm. The numbers have increased to about 10 people all up.

During each rehearsal, music for the month ahead is the focus - appropriate to the Liturgical season. Singing in parts and taking turns to lead on the microphone are encouraged.

Please be aware there is still a recruitment drive for Choir underway. The choir is open to people from Grade 3 upwards and it is wonderful when experienced singers help to mentor the young ones, which is regularly happening within the group.

INVITATION TO JOIN US:

Please feel most welcome to come along and rehearse each month and the idea is to sit with other choir members at your chosen Mass time and together help to lead the singing.

For March, there will be two rehearsals given we are in preparation for both Lent and for Holy Week. NOTE: There will be no rehearsal for April.

Because of Labour Day being on Monday 9th – we are opting to have rehearsals on:
#Monday 2nd March at 7.30pm to 8.30 pm in the Church – during which there will be some new songs taught.

#Monday 23rd March at 7.30pm to 8.30 pm in the Church – there will be a special HOLY WEEK rehearsal, covering music as far as possible for Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Saturday/Sunday.

Thanking the loyal band of singers and amazing supporters who have got behind the Choir so far!

St Vincent de Paul Society – Macleod Conference

2025 Annual Report

Supporting Our Community for Over 45 Years

The Macleod Conference of St Vincent de Paul (SVDP) has been supporting vulnerable community members—whom we respectfully refer to as companions—for more than 45 years. Our conference is made up of nine dedicated registered volunteers who work in pairs and go out daily to provide practical assistance, emotional support, and genuine companionship to those in need.

We assist companions across Heidelberg Heights, Rosanna, Macleod, and Viewbank. When individuals reach out to the SVDP call centre seeking help, our volunteers respond promptly, offering a compassionate presence and a helping hand during difficult times.

Understanding the Challenges Faced by Our Companions

The underlying challenges faced by our companions continue to centre on the rising cost of living, increasing loneliness, and the daily difficulty of managing life's pressures. Many rely on Parenting, JobSeeker, or Disability payments, while some have no income at all. This makes it extremely difficult to secure stable employment — and even harder to maintain consistency when work is found.

To support these individuals, we provide practical assistance tailored to their immediate needs. This includes food vouchers, furniture, help with utility bills, rent relief, and assistance with school-related costs. Through this support, we aim to offer stability, dignity, and hope to those experiencing hardship.

2025 Assistance and Impact

Our support for companions throughout 2025 is clearly reflected in the year's activity and assistance statistics.

- We conducted **345 home visits**, providing direct support to **148 separate households** and **349 individuals**.
- We observed that many companions were prioritising essential expenses such as rent and utilities, ensuring these remained up to date. As a result, overall financial assistance decreased slightly compared with last year. However, this came at the expense of food security, with **food voucher distribution increasing by 5% to \$36,754**
- The generosity of the SMOT School and Parish through the annual **Winter Appeal** and **Christmas Appeal** made a significant difference.
 - During the Winter Appeal, we distributed food and warm clothing — including blankets — to **41 households**.
 - Through the Christmas Appeal, we provided **\$4,810 in vouchers**, along with a hamper, supporting **40 families** during the festive season.

Acknowledgements and Invitation

Many thanks to the school community for their generous support of both the Winter Appeal and the Christmas hampers. Their ongoing commitment continues to make a meaningful difference in the lives of our companions.

We also extend our sincere gratitude to the St Martin's parishioners, whose continued support of our appeals is deeply appreciated

For anyone interested in learning more about our work — or who may be considering joining us — we warmly welcome new members. Your time, compassion, and presence can make a real and lasting impact.

Luigi Dal Cin
SVDP Macleod President
0405 113 451

TWG (Take the Way of the Gospel) – REPORT 2026

TWG is asking us to expand our horizons on what the church means: the people of God are not always bound by parish boundaries, something that has served us well for many years, but which now needs to change and refocus to be a more fluid, geographical entity.

What does this mean for your everyday St Martin of Tours parishioner?

It means we can be members of a larger community which we can support and who can also support us.

Many parishes across the Melbourne Archdiocese have, through necessity, entered into partnerships, with two or more parishes sharing a parish priest.

Neighbouring parishes with separate parish priests are being asked to collaborate, with a view to partnering at some time in the future.

A joint committee made up of representatives from St Martin's and St Pius' has been meeting over the past 2 years. Options for a COLLABORATION have been explored, so that together we can be a ministry of presence in both our communities.

The process which has been undertaken is one which has not been undertaken lightly, as it is breaking new ground for both parishes who for a long time have existed as separate entities. Hence the reason why our joint committee is 'hastening slowly'. There is a need for further discernment which will also reflect important consultation with our communities. We are all invited to participate in this journey, a journey of hope as a way forward unfolds.

During 2025, Fr Michael and Fr Wayne, parish priest of St Pius X reviewed a list of potential collaborative activities under the following headings:

- Worship
- Formation
- Fellowship
- Evangelisation
- Service

On March 31, a joint committee of lay reps met to identify other ways in which to collaborate, focussing on social interaction, bringing together parishioners from St Martin's and St Pius X.

Our first combined social gathering took place on July 8, 2025.

A 'Cuppa, Chat and Book Swap' was held at St Pius and was attended by 25 parishioners from St Martin's and St Pius'. Those who attended brought along a book to swap and enjoyed a cuppa and chat.

A second 'Cuppa, Chat and Book Swap' was held at St Martin's on September 23. Both events provided opportunities for social interaction, and it is hoped these initial connections can be built upon in 2026.

WISE WOMEN'S GROUP REPORT FOR AGM 2026.

The Wise Women's Group has a social get together on the second Thursday of each month except January at 10.30 in the Community Room.

It is a morning for Ladies who like to enjoy morning tea in the company of friends. It is a very friendly group and each month has a theme appropriate to that month.

New Ladies are always welcome to join. No commitments are required.

Leonie Morris
for The Wise Women's Group