

## May 2019 Newsletter

### *The gift of life*

When you hear the phrase “the gift of life” I am wondering what comes to mind.

Life is such a precious thing. All living things on the planet are born and die. The gift of life is something that we all hold in common. For some it is but a fleeting moment whilst others have a century or more.

As we approach this Mother’s Day we might take the opportunity to give thanks for the life we have - its ups and downs - and give thanks to those who gave us life, nurtured us and allowed us to grow to be the person we are today.

My own mother died just over 12 months ago. I know that I am not alone in experiencing the loss of my mother – this year as the 1<sup>st</sup> Mother’s Day without her will be particularly poignant.

How do you distil the intense, loving, maddening, crazy connection you have with your mum into a few sentences? For some of us Mother’s Day is usually sentimental, it doesn’t have to be. All relationships are complex – they can be loving, sweet, funny, hurtful and full of resentment – sometimes all at the same time!

Happy Mother’s Day!

*Damian*

### *New Website for The Shopfront*

The Shopfront website is undergoing a formatting update so that it is in line with the rest of the Perth Archdiocese agencies. The web address will remain the same, [www.shopfront.org.au](http://www.shopfront.org.au), and there are no significant changes to the information, it will just look a little different. It also includes a feature for the sight impaired; the ability to increase the size significantly to make it easier to see. The new look website is due to go live on Sunday 12th May.

## Volunteer Spotlight



John has been volunteering at The Shopfront on a Monday for around six years. Every week without fail, John arrives at seven in the morning to start getting things prepared for the toasted sandwiches. He's an expert in cheese & meat slicing and making sandwiches, and he knows his way around the toastie machine. He has a hearing impairment so prefers to stay on kitchen duties but enjoys the cross section of the community that visit The Shopfront. He also loves the camaraderie with the other regular Monday volunteers and says there's never a dull moment.

When John's wife passed away 7 years ago, he found himself at a loss and drinking more often, that is until his daughters told him, "that's enough Dad, time for you to go out volunteering". Now John spends four days a week volunteering; The Shopfront on Mondays, helping a physio at a nursing home on Tuesdays, and Thursdays & Fridays he's a volunteer driver for the City of Stirling taking people to doctors & hospital appointments. Wednesday is his "day off" which he usually spends enjoying a pub lunch with his partner – We think you deserve it John, thanks for all that you do for The Shopfront!

## Reflection Morning

At the beginning of the school term I had the opportunity to offer a workshop/reflection session for the Mazenod Year 12 students Retreat.

I am offering our volunteers the chance to spend an hour or so to share in this workshop.

The theme is "A Home for All" and is based upon the Australian Catholic Bishops Social Justice Statement for 2018/2019 and focuses upon the most recent research on homelessness.

**When:** Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> June.

**Where:** The Shopfront, 170 Whatley Crescent, Maylands.

*Arrival for Tea & Coffee available from 9.30am.*

**Reflection:** 10.00am to 11.00am.

*After sharing some morning tea we should be on our way by 11.30am.*

**RSVP:** Please let Damian know by Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> June.