

AMICI



Friends of St Augustine // Issue 1 // Volume 21

Leader's Message

Welcome to the new look Amici. It took me longer than I expected to master the new software (actually still have a way to go!) and get a design I was happy with so apologies for the delay. I hope you enjoy it!

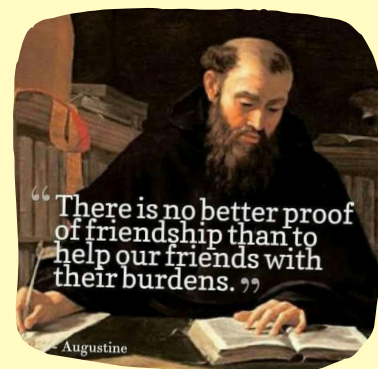
Welcome also to all our new Friends and I am very happy to report that we have two new groups in Cairns and the Gold Coast that have formed in the last 12 months. I would like to give a big thank you to Cathy Monterde, Sylvia Phillips and Fr Saldie from our Brisbane group for the enthusiasm and energy they contributed to forming these groups. Considering the many lockdowns we have all experienced to different degrees over the last 18 months, I feel very lucky that I was able to combine a visit in May to our groups in Brisbane and the Gold Coast with attending the Ordination of Tuan Anh Le osa to the Priesthood. Fr Paul and I are hopeful of one day making it to Cairns and Mareeba, we still have our airfare credit from our Covid cancelled May 2020 visit.

One of the many things I have discovered during these Covid times are the wonderful resources available online. I have included links to some on the back page. One I can highly recommend is the documentary on the life of Fr Bill Atkinson osa, his is a truly inspiring and remarkable story. The documentary forms part of the promotion of the Cause for the Beatification and Canonisation of Fr Bill. It was agreed at the annual leaders gathering in September 2017 that Friends would support and promote the Cause through prayer and the publication of information. If you come across any good resources, please email me the link so we can share. I acknowledge some of members are not able to access online content so be assured Amici and Fr Paul's Prayer Resource will always be available in a printed version. So if you are not receiving Amici in print by mail and would like to, please give me or your local leader a call (details on the back page) and we will update the mailing list.

I would like to briefly mention the upcoming publication of a history of Friends of St Augustine and thank Mary McCormick for her commitment to the project. More information and order forms will be provided in the coming weeks.

Augustine's devotion to his friends is well known and we have all, during these turbulent times, felt very deeply our need for the comfort of friendship. I hope this edition of Amici and Fr Paul's Prayer Resource brings you some comfort and a sense of belonging to the Augustinian family.

Love Jacky



Me, Fr Tuan Anh Le & Adriana Bowyer, President of Australian Formation Assoc.



Cairns Friends with Cathy Monterde from Brisbane



Gold Coast Friends

"We would teach and learn from each other, sadly missing any who were absent and blithely welcoming them when they returned. Such signs of friendship sprang from the hearts of friends who love and knew their love returned, signs to be read in smiles, words, glances and a thousand gracious gestures. So were sparks kindled and our minds were fused inseparably, out of many becoming one."

(Chapter IV, The Confessions)

NEWS FROM FRIENDS

ST CLAIR

At our first meeting on Friday, 29 January 2021 it was decided that we use the spiritual program material developed for 2020. We made some minor variations to this material for use in 2021 as we could not meet last year due to COVID restrictions. We acknowledge Maureen Atkins for the development of this material for the program.

Commenced with Opening Prayer: The Pope's January prayer intention:

Promotion of world peace

The group reflected on the words of Pope Francis on the Joy of the Gospel.

The Reading from Luke 12:22-34 was discussed in greater detail. We came to the conclusion that God wants us to place Him first in all we do, establishing a close relationship with Him, abiding in Him, being totally surrendered to His will at all times for He sees the heart and motives in all our decisions.

We reflected on Augustine's Homily 1 John 4:4-12 on loving one another just as the Lord has loved and forgiven each one of us in laying down His life for us which is the highest benchmark set for us to follow. "Greater love than this can no man have, that a man lays down his life for his friends (John 15:13).

The title tracks from Augustine "The Way" was played on video - Songs of love, loss and liberation by Tony MacPherson and Simon Hyland which inspired all members. We also listened to the Spirit and had a time of silence and shared reflections.

We concluded the meeting with the Plenary Council Prayer, a short closing prayer followed by fellowship.

Lorensz & Sylvia Heft

BRISBANE

The beautiful month of May which we dedicate to our Mother Mary gave us the blessing to gather together with Fr. Paul Maloney and Jacky Worthington, for both our Friends of St. Augustine Brisbane and Gold Coast.

They prepared a presentation for us to reflect and be inspired by St. Augustine's search and love for God. We began by watching part of a video "Saint Augustine and the Mystery of Time" - Timothy George (link provided on the Resources page). We then went on to discuss:

- The Church and insights from Kieran O'Mahony OSA from his talk at our 2019 Congress
- St. Paul, St. Augustine and the times in which they lived
- St. Paul's Letter to the Philippians 1:12-30
- St. Paul's Personal Journey of Transformation - Philippians 3:12-16
- Mother of our Good Counsel

Friends of St. Augustine - Brisbane



Gold Coast gathering May 2021



Members present from left to right: Br Huyao, Lorensz & Sylvia Herft, Hazel & Dudley Littlewood, Jeannie Appleton, Peter Moriaty, Lourdes De Guia, Aaron Smith & Esther Rose



Fr Paul presenting to Brisbane Friends

NEWS FROM FRIENDS

MAREEBA

This year we have enjoyed the fewer restrictions due to Covid and have had two gatherings so far. Our first event was a delicious breakfast at the home of Teresa and Gennaro Marinelli, which has become a tradition we all look forward to. Teresa and Gennaro prepared many delightful breakfast dishes which we all enjoyed while chatting and catching up. It was, as always, a wonderful way to begin the year as the breakfast stretched leisurely into morning tea.

We were very fortunate to have Fr Peter Jones join our next gathering which was a Spiritual Evening and shared meal with badges presented to new members. It was a lovely evening with most of the Friends able to attend. We enjoyed a delicious meal followed by a presentation by Fr Peter on St Augustine. It was a very thought provoking talk which shed light on the life of St Augustine. Fr Peter also presented the badges to our new members.

Our next event at the end of the month will be our annual Cooktown trip. We were unable to go last year so we may have some work ahead of us in maintaining the graves of the early Augustinians. We are all looking forward to this trip as it is always a lovely time of the year.

*Yours in St Augustine,
Teresa and Anni*



Gathering of Friends from Mareeba, Cairns & Brisbane



St Thomas' of Villanova
Mareeba



Mareeba Friends



I would like to acknowledge the passing, earlier this year, of Pat Guinan. Pat was a long time member of Kyabram Friends of St Augustine and kindly wrote an article for the March 2017 edition of Amici. Pat gave a beautiful account of her long association with the Parish, her childhood memories of the Church of St Augustine, the Augustinian Order and then of her involvement with Friends in her later years.

This is an excerpt from her article:

"Being in touch and often present with the local 'Friends of St Augustine,' has deepened my understanding of the Spirit of their lives. I shall always be grateful for the care and friendship granted to me in this stage of my elderly years.

All the activities of the Order over the years- missionary extensions, parish life and the Conferences I've been able to attend over the years, as well as our local Friends' meetings- have ensured that I have heard and continued to learn aspects of interest in the life and Spirit of St. Augustine and the Augustinian Order."

We remember and give thanks for Pat and all those members of Friend's that are no longer with us. May they rest in the peace of the Risen Lord.



Pat Guinan



St Augustine's Church
Kyabram, Vic

RESOURCES

Below are a variety of resources we have come across recently that may be of interest.

If you are viewing this newsletter online clicking on the links will take you directly to the resource. For those reading the printed newsletter if you type in the subject heading into an internet browser you should be able to access the material.



St Augustine and the Mystery of Time

Lecture by Timothy George

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NA6K1Ku6PFI>

An Introduction to the Confessions of Saint Augustine

Join Fr. Arthur Purcaro, O.S.A. through a video meditation on each of the 13 books of St Augustine's master work: The Confessions.

<https://www.augustinian.org/confessions-of-saint-augustine-video-series>

Augustinians of the Province of Australasia

This website is full of resource material on St Augustine and the Order

<https://www.osa.org.au/>

ExtraOrdinary: The Fr. Bill Atkinson, O.S.A. Story

<https://youtu.be/1jgFz3mkEdY>



Friends of St Augustine Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/FOSAAu>

Subscriptions Now Due

A membership renewal form is attached.

Please contact Jacky or your local leader if you are experiencing financial difficulties and your subscription will be renewed gratis.

Thank you!



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**Interested in learning more about Friends of St Augustine?
Please contact your local group**

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Prayer Resource

From our Chaplain Fr Paul Maloney osa

The Purpose of the Prayer Resource Guide

Each of us is on a journey to God like our patron Augustine.

The Friends prayer resource is offered to you as a support in your day to day prayer.

It is centered on the Gospel readings and quotes from Augustine. Formation material is offered from different sources including a prayer orientated letter from our Chaplain.

This selection on the martyrdom of Sts. Peter and Paul is taken from a homily by St. Augustine, Bishop of Hippo, (354-430AD), theologian, Bible scholar and Doctor of the Church. It is used in the Roman Office of Readings for the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul on 29 June.

St. Augustine's homily illustrates that as early as the fourth century AD, Christians were celebrating an established Feast Day in honour of these two great Apostles - one chosen as the leader of the Twelve, and the other who was called after Christ's Resurrection. Both men became martyrs on the same day circa 67AD in the first great wave of Roman persecution during the reign of the Emperor Nero. St. Paul was beheaded and St. Peter, at his request, was crucified upside-down, not considering himself worthy enough to be crucified in the same position as his Lord. Both courageous men witnessed their faith in the shedding of their blood and by giving their lives for Christ and His Church.

"This day has been consecrated for us by the martyrdom of the blessed apostles Peter and Paul. It is not some obscure martyrs we are talking about. *Their sound has gone out into all the earth, and their words to the ends of the world (Psalm 19:3-4 LXX)*. These martyrs had seen what they proclaimed; they pursued justice by confessing the truth, by dying for the truth.

The blessed Peter, the first of the Apostles, the ardent lover of Christ, who was found worthy to hear, *"And I say to you, that you are Peter" (Mat 16:13-20)*. He himself, you see, had just said, *"You are the Christ, the Son of the living God"*. Christ said to him, *"And I say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church"*. Upon this rock I will build the faith you have just confessed. Upon your words, *"You are the Christ, the Son of the living God,"* I will build my Church; because you are Peter. Peter comes from petra, meaning a rock. Peter, "Rocky", from "rock"; not "rock" from "Rocky". Peter comes from the word for a rock in exactly the same way as the name Christian comes from Christ.

Before his passion the Lord Jesus, as you know, chose those disciples of his whom he called apostles. Among these it was only Peter who almost everywhere was given the privilege of representing the whole Church. It was in the person of the whole Church, which he alone represented, that he was privileged to hear, *To you will I give the keys of the kingdom of heaven*. After all, it is not just one man that received these keys, but the Church in its unity. So this is the reason for Peter's acknowledged pre-eminence, that he stood for the Church's universality and unity, when he was told, *To you I am entrusting*, what has in fact been entrusted to all. To show you that it is the Church which has received the keys of the kingdom of heaven, listen to what the Lord says in another place to all his apostles: *"Receive the Holy Spirit; and immediately afterwards, Whose sins you forgive, they will be forgiven them; whose sins you retain, they will be retained (John 20:22-23)*.

Quite rightly, too, did the Lord after his resurrection entrust his sheep to Peter to be fed (John 21: 15-19). It is not, you see, that he alone among the disciples was fit to feed the Lord's sheep; but when Christ speaks to one man, unity is being commended to us. And he first speaks to Peter, because Peter is the first among the apostles. Do not be sad, Apostle. Answer once, answer again, answer a third time. Let confession conquer three times with love, because self-assurance was conquered three times by fear. What you had bound three times must be loosed three times. Loose through love what you had bound through fear. And for all that, the Lord once, and again, and a third time, entrusted his sheep to Peter.

There is one day for the passion of two apostles. But these two also were as one; although they suffered on different days, they were as one. Peter went first, Paul followed. We are celebrating a feast day, consecrated for us by the blood of the apostles. Let us love their faith, their lives, their labors, their sufferings, their confession of faith, their preaching."

Sermon 295, 1-2, 4, 7-8; PL 38, 1348-1352)



Statue of St Peter
St Peter's Basilica
Vatican City



Statue of St Paul,
Vatican City



Stone carving depicting St Peter's crucifixion,
St Peter's Basilica