

ANNUAL REPORT TO PARISH AGM FROM THE ST. JOHN'S PRAYER GROUP 2019

St John's Prayer Group continues to flourish with new members coming along from time to time, often when we run an outreach programme to the Parish.

The first of these was 'THE GIFT' DVD programme over 8 weeks, last year, featuring a Life in the Spirit Seminar. About 60 people from the parish attended.

The second programme, Healing of the Family Tree Seminar ran during the 5 Wednesdays of May this year. Again, about 40 parishioners attended. Fr Rory Morrissey (who has had wide experience in these Seminars) celebrated the final Mass for us in the hall where individual family tree diagrams were offered up during the Mass.

On Friday 1st March, the Prayer Group on behalf of the Parish, hosted the World Day of Prayer in St John's Church attracting approx 300 people from various Christian churches in the neighbourhood. The annual event was this year prepared by the women of Slovenia, in a booklet. A power point presentation of photos from that country featured on our overhead. Songs composed for the occasion by the Slovenians were ably lead by Eileen Barrington, our Parish choir director, and included a few singers from other churches.

Other churches were delighted to contribute to the Service, taking various parts/readings from the booklet provided. The service was hailed as a great opportunity to reach out to all local Christian churches, who appeared to really enjoy the occasion, and of course, the superb morning tea provided by our generous Catering Team in the Parish. A team from Stella Maris School also participated in the service taking part in various readings. The offering collected \$800 for Slovenia and various NZ charities.

Two Rosary Crusades were also hosted by the Prayer Group in our Church during the past year.

At this point, the prayer group plans to run a further programme, and are considering running The Gift DVD's again.

Leaders are: Brian & Barbara Hines, Helen Kehoe, Margret Conroy, Joanne Wilson and Iutita Rusk. We take turns in running the meetings which include songs of praise and worship, sharing various Catholic teachings, Bible readings and exploring the Sunday Gospel; and intercessory prayers. A great variety, inspired by the Holy Spirit, and all are welcome to come along Wednesday evenings from 7.15 pm to be part of a vital, praying community in our Parish.