



Holy Family Catholic Parish

Menai



*“Living and sharing the Christian life as a growing parish
family.”*

Parish Staff and Contact Information

Holy Family Catholic Church: 1D Anzac Road, Menai NSW 2234

Parish Priest: Fr. Mani Malana MSFS
pastor@holyfamilymenai.org.au

Assistant Priest: Fr. Daniel Russo
daniele.russo@sydneycatholic.org

Parish Secretary: Andrea Hunt

Phone: (02) 9543 2677

Fax: (02) 9543 8503

Email: menaihfp@bigpond.net.au

Parish Office Hours: 9:00am-3:30pm, Tuesday - Friday

Sacramental Programme Coordinator: Kathy Parsons

Phone: (02) 9532 0546 or (0411) 463 488

Email: sacraments@holyfamilymenai.org.au

Holy Family Catholic Primary School Principal: Karen Richards

Phone: (02) 9543 2614

Aquinas Catholic College Principal: James Clancy

Phone: (02) 9543 0188

Mass Times and Devotions

Normal Weekend Masses:	Saturday (vigil) 5.30 p.m. Sunday 8.30 a.m. Sunday 10 a.m.
Weekday Masses:	Tues 9.15 a.m. Wed 9.15 a.m. Thurs 9.15 a.m. Fri 9.15 a.m. Sat 9.15 a.m.
Mass at Nursing Homes:	Tues 10.30 a.m. (2nd, 3rd, and 4th Tuesdays)
Rosary:	Mon 7 p.m.
Meditation:	Wed 7.30 p.m.
Worship of the Eucharist:	Fri 9.45 a.m. -- 10.30 a.m.
Reconciliation:	Sat 4.30 p.m. -- 5.15 p.m. or by appointment
Children's Liturgy:	School and Pre-School 8.30 a.m. Sundays (not in school holidays or on 5th Sunday of the month)
Baptisms:	Infant baptisms are held on the 2nd Sunday at 11:15am and 4th Sunday during the 10am Mass each month. Except during Lent.
Baptism Preparation Program:	1st Saturday of each month from 11 a.m. to 12 noon in the parish meeting rooms

All this information – and much else besides – may be found on our parish website:

www.holyfamilymenai.org.au

A brief history of Holy Family...

For much of the 20th century, the Menai District was part of the Sutherland Parish and the closest Mass services were held at St Patrick's Church at Sutherland. After it became a parish in its own right, Masses were held in various venues including the Bangor Library and the Bangor Primary School Hall. By the 1970s the area was growing rapidly and the number of Catholics in the district determined that we needed our own infrastructure of a Church and schools. Father Denis Foley was appointed in 1986 as Parish Priest, with the task of developing the parish to cater for this tremendous growth.

The first building erected on the current complex was a multi-purpose hall, which allowed Mass to be celebrated in larger premises to cater for the growing number of Catholics in the area. But money was in very short supply. In those days, Fr Denis was living at the presbytery in Sutherland and was travelling to his duties at Menai. A presbytery was subsequently built at Menai, which allowed Fr Denis to become our first resident Parish Priest.

Two major challenges then faced the parish. Firstly, to develop a school infrastructure to cater for the growing number of Catholic children in what was becoming one of the fastest growing residential areas in Sydney, and secondly to build a Church. This was achieved with financial support from the Archdiocese, the Catholic Education Office and the Federal and State Governments. After much work, negotiating and lobbying, in due course the Holy Family Primary School was opened in August 1989. The Holy Family Parish Church was then built and was opened by Cardinal Clancy in May 1991, and later Aquinas College was opened in May 1993. The ongoing financial support for the Parish and Schools infrastructure comes from parishioner contributions and the Catholic Education Office.

Fr Denis Foley left Menai in January 1999 to become the Parish Priest at Belmore. He was replaced by Fr Phil Zadro, who left Menai in August 2016 to become the Parish Priest at Haberfield. He was replaced by Fr Mani Malana MSFS, who continues to support and direct the spiritual and physical growth of the parish. Fr Daniel Russo joined the parish as Assistant Priest in July 2017. Our parish now has all of the resources and direction to be very optimistic about the future.

Dear Parishioners,

We believe that every parish would like to build a community that is close and actively supporting the spiritual, religious, social and to some extent, personal needs of our fellow parishioners. In that regard the Holy Family parish has been blessed with a number of groups that have been around for many years. These groups have been quietly going about their work, learning more about our faith, helping the less fortunate, supporting folks in their various times of need, helping make our church services a lot more meaningful with music and song and sometimes just being there for others.

From recent feedback it was found that many of parishioners were not aware of the groups that existed within our parish. Through this booklet we want to take the opportunity to highlight all the various groups in our parish in the hope that some of them might appeal to certain members of our parish. For any organisation to succeed it needs new members to keep joining it, helping it to continue doing the work it wants to do. This booklet explains in brief who they are, how often they meet and what each group does. Some parishioners may find they are interested in the activities that some of these groups are involved in. In that case please reach out and join them. Every group is always happy to welcome new members. The more members these groups have, the better the chances of them continuing to do God's work in our parish and beyond.





God does not come to us only at Holy Mass or during other religious services. He also comes to us through a friendly smile, a chat over a cup of coffee and many other very simple ways. We thank the groups for all the work they have been doing all these years. We pray that God will continue to guide them to do His work.

God bless,

Fr. Mani and Fr. Daniele

Groups included in this booklet

Acolyte Ministry

Altar Server Ministry

Adult Faith Education Team

Aged Care

Catechists

Junior Choir

Children's Liturgy

Choir

Christian Meditation

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

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Piety Stall

PowerPoint

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St. Vincent de Paul Conference Menai

Family Groups

Social Justice Group

Holy Family Youth Movement

Parish Care Group

Women's Wednesday Morning Bible Study

Acolyte Ministry

The ministry of acolyte is an instituted ministry of the Church and admission to the ministry is by invitation from the Parish Priest. The ministry at Holy Family Menai is currently open to men.

Candidates for the ministry usually have previous experience as an altar server/senior altar server and have displayed a strong visible commitment to their faith and service to the parish community.

Prior to joining the ministry candidates are required to undertake a training course set down by the Archdiocese and are instituted to the ministry by the Archbishop/Bishop. An acolyte is usually appointed to the ministry for life however the Archbishop reserves the right to withdraw the faculty of service at any time. The ministry is not an ordained ministry but is the highest of the lesser ministries. A current Working with Children clearance is required.

The role of acolyte is to assist the priest at Mass and to supervise the altar servers and special ministers of Communion in the smooth and dignified functioning of the Liturgy of the Eucharist and other Liturgies. The acolyte also performs the role of Special Minister of Communion to distribute Communion to the faithful during Mass.

At Holy Family Menai a number of the acolytes are also trained to preside over Communion services including the Liturgy of the Word when the priest is absent on leave etc., usually on weekdays.

Contact: Justin Coupland

Email: justin.coupland@sydneycatholic.edu.au

Ph: 02 9543 9532



Altar Server Ministry

The ministry of altar server is open to all young people who have made their First Reconciliation and First Communion. At Holy Family Menai we invite young people to join the ministry towards the end of the year in which they have received their First Holy Communion. The additional few months since the Sacrament gives the young people the chance to begin to know Jesus and develop a desire to serve on the



altar. The ministry is open to both boys and girls. It is important the server has a commitment to serve in a respectful and devoted manner.

The application form must be completed by the parents, in consultation with their child, and by signing the form parents agree to support their child in the ministry. Training for the ministry usually takes three forty-five-minute sessions on Friday before school commences. The training is provided by the priest and/or the acolyte team. Training is ongoing once the children join the ministry roster. Servers, and families, are asked to commit to

serving at least once per month at a particular Mass on a particular weekend. Depending on roster availability, opportunities to serve more than once per month may be available. Servers are also encouraged to make themselves available for special Masses such as Confirmation, Christmas, etc. Servers are encouraged to continue to serve well into their teens but can serve for as long as they desire.

Contact Parish office
Email: menaihfp@bigpond.net.au
Ph: 02-9543-2677

Adult Faith Education Team

Jesus' disciples said to him, "Rabbi eat!"

But he said to them, "I have food to eat of which you do not know." (John 4:31-32)

The Adult Faith Education Team developed in the wake of the Alpha Program at Holy Family Parish when the need for ongoing faith formation was identified. The Jesus Lifestyle program was the first series run by some members of the team, while other members have run various parenting programs. A series of inspiring and knowledgeable guest speakers and lecturers, such as Sr Marie Biddle RSJ, Mr Robert Haddad and Mr Laurie Woods, have given teaching days in the Parish meeting rooms on various gospels as a result of the team's work. Our aim is to draw from the great wealth of spirituality, scriptural understanding and transformative life experience present in the Catholic Church and to offer this spiritual nourishment in the local area to all those who would like to come. We would love other parish members to join the team in providing special times of inspiration and learning to cater to the needs of the parish.



Contact: Parish office

Email: menaihfp@bigpond.net.au

Ph: 02-9543-2677

Aged Care

Either Fr Mani or Fr Daniel celebrates Mass at 10.30 a.m. on the second Tuesday of each month at Sir Thomas Mitchell Residential Care Facility; on the third Tuesday of each month at Barden Lodge Aged Care Facility; and on the fourth Tuesday at the Warena Center.

Holy Communion is offered to all Catholics in residence at Sir Thomas Mitchell Aged Care Facility and Barden Lodge Aged Care Facility each Sunday morning of the month. Offering of Holy Communion to residents of each facility is co-ordinated by a two-month roster with one/two volunteers ministering to the Catholic residents who usually number around 35. New volunteers are sourced when vacancies occur and training is done on the job. A residents list is sourced and given to a volunteer each week. Currently there are 13 volunteers and more are always needed.

Contact: Parish office (re Sir Thomas Mitchell)

Email: menaihfp@bigpond.net.au

Ph: 02-9543-2677

Contact: Joy Ficarra (re Barden Lodge)

Ph: 0419-015-116

Contact: Marina D'Mello (re Warena Center)

Ph: 0468-410-398

Catechists

The Catechists take our faith to the Catholic children attending NSW government schools by teaching one 30-minute lesson per week. Classes are from Kindergarten to Year 6 and include all six primary schools: Alford's Point, Bangor, Illawong, Lucas Heights, Menai, and Tharawal. Catechists teach their lessons using a Teacher's Manual and all students have a workbook which minimises preparation time. Practical support and extensive training is provided to all beginning Catechists and on-going training is also available to the more experienced. The Holy Family Catechists meet formally 2 – 3 times a year, however there is ample opportunity to meet informally many times throughout the year.



Being a Catechist is a wonderful way to demonstrate faith in action. No special skills are required and there is no age limit! We have university students and grandparents on our Catechist team.

Contact: Terri Casey

Email: terrica@bigpond.com

Ph: 0409-390-829 or 02-9543-1106

Junior Choir

The Junior Choir came about when the members of the former Youth singers began to pull out of the group in 2013. Three youngsters from Year 3 started to sing with the Youth singers and continue to sing with the group today. From the initial size of three



members, the group is now sixteen strong and has grown through word of mouth; with the youngest member now in Year 2 and the oldest in Year 9. It was a desire to get children and younger members of the parish involved in singing at Mass that prompted this initiative. Through music and singing we want to enrich the Mass experience of not only the children who are part of the group, but also their peers and the congregation. We also hope that by having youngsters singing at Mass, it would encourage other children to attend Mass. The music we sing ranges from traditional to contemporary. The next phase is to teach the more musical members of the group to play some of the songs that we sing. It is encouraging to note that the youngsters are rising to the challenge.

Contact: Sue Low

Email: sj.low9542@gmail.com

Ph: 02-9541-2003

Children's Liturgy

Children's Liturgy occurs every Sunday (except for the 5th Sunday of the month and during school holidays) at 8.30am Mass. The children gather in the meeting room after Father has welcomed everyone to the Mass. The children listen to the readings, have a discussion about what the readings and the gospel are about, then complete an activity based on the Sunday readings. The group has been established for over 15 years and is run by six dedicated team members. Anyone who is interested in joining the group and taking on a role in Children's Liturgy is very welcome! In this instance, a current Working with Children clearance must be sent to the Parish Office.

Contact: Fran Bonanno

Email: fran.bonanno@syd.catholic.edu.au

Ph: 0418-418-188

Copyright Coordinator

The vast amount of music that is sung in the Parish, is required to be reported to Word of Life International (WOL) or Christian Copyright Licensing International (CCLI) so that royalties can be paid to the composers of the music. This then allows the words of the hymns to be printed or displayed on the overhead. *Original Music in the form of paper copies or CD's must be held for each hymn/mass part, played or sung in the Church*, and these licences allow one photocopied copy only per one original copy of music i.e. 20 people in a group need 10 originals and can have 10 photocopies as a result (*New Rules 2015*) . The number of people at Mass is tallied each week and that number accorded to the hymn e.g. 216 people at 8.30 am Mass 5th January sang "Amazing Grace" and so on. The full amount of hymns/mass parts played/sung and congregation numbers is reported yearly to Word of Life International by myself and on a weekly basis to Christian Copyright Licensing International by those musicians who use hymns covered by CCLI. This voluntary job has been a *legal requirement* in the Parish for 26 years and looked after by myself. I welcome any/all contributors to this work.

Contact: Parish office

Email: menaihfp@bigpond.net.au

Ph: 02-9543-2677

Choir

Holy Family Choir was formed in 1995 under the directorship of Peter Olde at the personal request of Fr Denis Foley, Parish Priest. We began by calling for volunteers from the Parish and by extending invitations to known individuals. Shortly thereafter, we had an established 4-part choir of 10 people singing music at one Mass per month. This was soon extended to around 30 people singing twice a month, as well as at major feasts such as Easter and Christmas, and major parish liturgical events such as First Communion and Confirmation. We also sing on Anzac Day. The size and commitment of the choir to these events remains about the same today.



The Parish is extremely proud of the choir and the quality of the music it presents. There is little doubt that it is one of the best parish choirs in the Sydney diocese.

The aim of the choir is to present quality music to enhance liturgy. To that end we are seeking committed music lovers to join and participate in the choir activities. The choir also acts loosely as a Family or Support Group to its

members. We rehearse approximately once a week on average and we are looking for people who can sing or would like to learn. New participants are not expected to have a knowledge of any music but some skills are an advantage. Although we sing harmonies in parts, the sopranos generally always sing the tune. Choristers are expected to attend most rehearsals and liturgical events.



Musicians who can accompany the singing are also welcome, particularly in the instruments that combine with choral singing (piano/organ, violin, flute, cello). Drums and brass are not suited to our style.

Choir singing is suited to anyone who has a little time and joy in their heart. You may not know much when you join but every week you

will be singing a new song in the shower, or humming at work. Music is uplifting and spiritually refreshing to the individuals who participate and commit. The members of the choir are welcoming and tolerant of all.

It should be mentioned that Choir occasionally undertakes tours (Italy, France and New Zealand) and we have sung in other places (St Mary's Cathedral, War Memorial Hyde Park, various other parishes such as Revesby).

Contact: Peter Olde
Email: peter.olde@exemail.com.au
Ph: 02-9543-2242

Christian Meditation

The group commenced in 2004 and meets weekly on Wednesday at 7.30pm in the Church meeting room. Usually there are 5–8 attending.



In sharing the teaching of Christian Meditation, we explain the practice of *how and why* we meditate. We commence with a short reading from Fr. John Main OSB, followed by opening prayer, 20 minutes silent meditation and conclude with closing prayer. There is time for general discussion and explaining aspects of the practice.

The aim in Christian meditation is to allow God's mysterious and silent presence within us, to become *the* reality in our lives; to let it become that reality which gives meaning, shape and purpose to everything we do, to everything we are. Newcomers are always welcome.

Contact: Robyn Oliver
Email: robyn.s.oliver@gmail.com
Ph: 0404-280-281

Contact: Maria Sawszak
Email: mariasaws@hotmail.com
Ph: 0412-928-002

Craft Group

Our group commenced in August 2009, over the years we have conducted classes with Year 10 Aquinas students and also with residents of The Warena Gardens Aged Care Facility helping them to sew Christmas

decorations. We have also made and delivered Christmas decorations to two nursing homes.

Twice a year we host morning tea for members of The Holy Family Parish.
ALL ARE WELCOME.

We have had a stall at the school fete and also after some

Sunday Masses, raising money to purchase the priest's chair on the altar (sanctuary), adjustments were made to the old chair, cushions on the benches were replaced, and alterations were made to the overhead desk and chair.

Currently we are knitting and crocheting rugs for various projects in our parish. Donations of 8 ply acrylic wool would be appreciated; they can be left on the table in the church foyer.

Our meetings are held during the school term on Wednesday mornings from 10.15am-11.45am in the church meeting room.

We have approximately 12 members, not all can attend our meetings but kindly knit for us in their homes. We welcome new members.



Contact: Anne Northmore

Email: bnorthmo@bigpond.net.au

Ph: 0407-906-475 or 02-9543-3162

Family Groups

The Family Group Movement was established by Fr Peter McGrath who was based at St Anthony in the Fields Parish in Terrey Hills in the early 1970s. Family Groups have proved to be a popular concept with over 400 parishes involved including Anglican, Baptist and Uniting Churches in Australia, New Zealand, UK and USA.



Family Groups have been in Holy Family parish for 30+ years with the original groups still going strong.

So what is a Family Group? A Family Group is a collection of families who meet socially on a regular basis. Meetings can be picnic, barbecues or weekends away. The nature of the meetings is generally determined by the age of kids or the interests of the group. When my group first formed, we would often meet at a local park for the kids to play, but as the kids have grown older, this has changed to bush walking or the parents having a night out.

Within Holy Family, Family Groups have shown to be a good way to meet other parishioners that can develop into long term friendships.

Family Groups are open to all.

Contact: John and Susanne Rickert

Email: rickertfamily@bigpond.com

Ph: 02-9543-9148

Parish Family Mass Group

The Parish Family Mass Group was established in February 2016, in response to a desire to see increased attendance by young families at Mass and also provide a vehicle for greater involvement by our ‘young’ parishioners.

The Family Mass is one where young families (from all schools in the Parish) are invited to celebrate the Sunday morning Mass. The welcome, music, and message (homily) target our primary aged children.



The songs are children’s hymns led by a children’s choir and children are part of all the Mass ministries (reading, procession, offertory, instruments, singing, welcoming).

Parish Family Masses are followed by a BBQ, sweet morning tea, jumping castle, games on the netball courts and face painting for the kids, giving our young and older parishioners an opportunity to gather, meet new people and reconnect with others in our Parish community.

The Family Mass Group meet to plan the Family Mass and the gathering **once per term**. We currently have 13 people in the group, each participating in some part of the Mass and/or gathering including catering, advertising, entertainment, music, face painting, morning tea, BBQ, planning with Fr Mani (themes and message). We welcome anyone who is interested in building our young Parish community through the Family Mass.

Contact: Louise Perrau
Email: louise.perrau@syd.catholic.edu.au
Ph: 0402-043-262



Italian Rosary Group

The Italian Rosary Group meets once a month in each other's homes for Rosary, morning tea and a chat. During Lent we meet once a week for the Lenten programme in Italian. Also during Lent we run the Stations Of The Cross in Italian every Friday at 7.30pm in the Church.

We welcome new members.



Contact: Tina Pellegrino

Ph: 02-9543-3891

Contact: Emma Gioiello

Email: cosimog@optusnet.com.au

Liturgy Group

The Liturgy Group liaises with Fr Mani and Fr Daniel to ensure that the presentation of the weekly masses and all the decorations in the church are in line with the church's seasons and celebrations timetable. It has been meeting since the parish started. Meetings are held about every two months but extra meetings and working bees around Christmas and Easter especially are required to meet the workload.

Special events, especially Easter and Christmas, require extra effort. Also, extra volunteers need to be found for roles in these celebrations. Confirmation and Holy Communion are also big events that requires liaison with the Sacramental Programs coordinator Kathy Parsons and the schools. Connecting with other parish groups at these times in particular readers /musicians/ and Acolytes and Altar servers are roles that link to the Liturgy group as well.

Currently, Fr Mani and Fr Daniel organise weekly rosters for readers and Special Ministers of Holy Communion; Justin Coupland organises rosters for acolytes and altar servers; Sue Low organises rosters for the Musicians; and Mini Ortiz looks after the banners and church decorations with the help of other volunteers from this committee and outside it.

Contact: Parish office

Email: menaihfp@bigpond.net.au

Ph: 02-9543-2677

Money Counting

The members of the small Holy Family Money Counting teams are rostered once every 8 weeks to count the collections taken up at Sunday Masses and to prepare this income for banking. They also count or assist in counting the various special collections that are taken up during the year such as Charitable Works Fund, Project Compassion and the Holy Father's Appeal.



Contact: John Van Vliet

Email: johnvanvliet@ozemail.com.au

Ph: 0418-228-722 or 02-9543-0519

Music Ministry

The Music Ministry utilises a diverse range of musical styles and talents that enhance the Liturgy. Through participation in music, Ministers assist the congregation to give praise and glory to God. Most weekend Masses are regularly covered with musicians ranging from the 4-part vocal Parish Choir to small groups and

individuals, singing and playing various instruments

including keyboard and guitar. A

significant commitment

is required from music ministers, whether it

be preparing programs for Masses

and other liturgical celebrations, or

practising, either individually or in

groups. The Parish Choir has a regular

rehearsal

commitment on

Thursday evening in

the Church from 7.30 - 9.00pm; other groups rehearse at different times and venues.



Contact: Sue Low

Email: sj.low9542@gmail.com

Ph: 02-9541-2003



Parish Finance Committee

The Parish Finance Committee is required to be active under church law, as Canon 537 of the 1983 Code of Canon Law mandates the establishment of a Parish Finance Committee. At Holy Family parish, the functions of the committee are as follows:



Recurrent

- Review of annual parish finance report prior to submission to Chancery
- Periodic review of Parish finances (Income & Expenditure) comparing items to budget & PY
- Assist Parish Priest with preparation of an annual financial plan (budget)
- Guidance as necessary to parish office staff with preparation of annual & periodic financial reports
- Review of all insurances & other associated risk analysis
- Develop process for & controls over acquisition of goods & services, and develop list of approved providers/suppliers to the parish

Long Term

- Development of long term strategic plan
- Review of Church assets as to appropriate usage & to plan for capital expenditures and retirements
- Review of any existing lease arrangements & review appropriateness of any proposed new leasing arrangements
- Review of parish loans, maturity dates, servicing obligations etc

Contact: John Burt

Email: johnburt2010@hotmail.com

Ph: 02-9543-5024

Parish Pastoral Council

The Pastoral Council's role is to advise the Parish Priest; to act as a sounding board for his ideas and to reflect community views, in keeping with the Spirit and the vision of Holy Family Parish, namely, Living and Sharing the Christian Life. Membership is by invitation from the Parish Priest, drawn from existing parish groups or from the general parish community.

The aim is to nurture growth within the parish of Menai in following Gospel values and to support the parish family – both schools and general laity, especially volunteers in the various parish groups.

The Pastoral Council meets once a month (usually on the third Tuesday) where ideas are crystallised and future events planned.

Members provide hands-on assistance, or work with other sub-committees that in turn recruit more volunteers to help. Recent successful events organised have included, for example, a Multicultural Food Festival held every few years; the Alpha program run over several weeks; expert half-day talks on the Gospels of Mark and Luke on a Saturday.

The current ongoing thrust is to encourage participation through Family Masses and engage the youth; also to support the vision of the Archdiocese towards Parish 2020.

Contact: Collin Rozario
Email: collin.rozario@vanguardlogistics.com
Ph: 0419-774-978

PowerPoint

This group, which began in early 2007, is responsible for PowerPoint presentations for all Masses. The group has archived some 600 Hymns, as well as all Masses. Archives include all “Special Masses Special Celebrations” dating back to 2007 (although, because of the changes to format and prayers which occurred in 2011, the older, normal-time Masses have been deleted from the archives). This group liaises between musicians and preparers to ensure that the PowerPoint presentations are accurate for each Mass.

Contact: Elisabeth Ward
Email: elisabethw@bigpond.com
Ph: 02-9543-4002

Piety Stall

The Piety Stall provides a convenient and well-stocked retail outlet for parishioners to purchase bibles, crucifixes and many other items, either for personal use or as gifts for special occasions such as first communions, baptisms and the like. It operates after each Mass, and proceeds of the stall are directed into the parish finances.

Contact: Roslyn Burt

Email: roslynburt@gmail.com

Ph: 02-9543-5024



Parish Safeguarding Team

The role of this group is to raise awareness regarding our collective responsibility to protect the safety, well-being and dignity of children, young people and vulnerable adults in the parish. We look into the emotional, physical and spiritual safety and well-being of all people who come to worship and pray in our parish church, trying to create a safe and nurturing environment for them.

Contact: Kathy Parsons

Email: sacraments@holyfamilymenai.org.au

Ph: 0411-463-488

Church Cleaning Group

The church employs professional cleaners to attend to the vacuuming of the interior areas of the church, the bathrooms, chapel & the office areas. A small group of volunteers however attends to the foyer area on a weekly basis. The tasks include sweeping & mopping of the interior floor of the foyer, cleaning the foyer windows inside & out, & sweeping the leaves at the church entrance. The work takes two people just 30 minutes on a six week roster system.

Contact:	Parish Office
Email:	menaihfp@bigpond.net.au
Ph:	02-9543-2677

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) Group

The RCIA Group is responsible for the process by which individuals who are interested in the Catholic faith learn about what is involved in becoming a Catholic. The program also allows existing Catholics to learn more about and strengthen their faith. The process is conducted through a faith journey called the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA). Participants are assisted by a sponsor who represents the Parish faith community in providing support, information, and by being their partner at group meetings.

The program starts each year around August with several enquiry nights when you can sit in, hear some people talk about what being Catholic means to them. People who are considering the RCIA process are invited at these enquiry nights to ask questions and decide whether or not to take part in the program. The program then takes place one evening a week from September to Easter with several breaks, including during the Christmas school holidays.



Contact: Angela Benson

Email: angandrick@tpg.com.au

Ph: 02-8502-9260

Contact: Keith Corbett

Ph: 02-9543-0065

Rosary Group

The rosary group has a small but dedicated number of active participants. It began in the early 1990s, as a prayerful response to a severe head injury which a local child suffered as a result of a car accident. The group prayed for his recovery. Today, the group maintains a rosary list which includes many others who are sick and in need of prayers.

The group meets on Monday nights at 7pm in the chapel. Rosary takes about 30 minutes.

The group does not meet in school holidays and the Christmas holiday period. Sometimes the group doesn't hold rosary if numbers are too low or if people can't attend for a particular reason.



The rosary group is a friendly bunch, and welcomes any and all who are interested.

Contact: Anne Newman

Email: anne.newman59@hotmail.com

Ph: 0400-007-179

Gardening Maintenance Group

The gardening maintenance group comprises a small group of volunteers, who periodically attend to routine tidying up around the church grounds. Although the church does conduct an annual working bee, the purpose of which is to attend to annual pruning of shrubs, cleaning of the car park gutters, picking up rubbish & lawn mowing, the garden maintenance group meets more regularly to keep the lawns tidy & to attend to minor grounds maintenance.

Both men & women are most welcome to volunteer just an hour of their time on a monthly basis to assist.

It's an enjoyable task & is a good way to get some moderate exercise in the outdoors, in the company of other parishioners.

Contact: John Burt

Email: johnburt2010@hotmail.com

Ph: 02-9543-5024 or 0418-168-317

Parish Care Group

The Parish Care Group's primary function is to support parishioners, particularly families, who find themselves in distressed circumstances. The support primarily involves the provision of emergency meals which are offered on a voluntary basis by other parishioners.

The support is always channelled through a central distribution point, so that the anonymity of recipients is maintained.

Any parishioner who is in need of such support may contact the parish office at any time or the parish priest, and be confident of complete discretion and confidentiality.

The group welcomes expressions of interest from parishioners who are willing to periodically provide support by way of meals on a confidential basis.

Contact: Anne McLachlan

Email: mclachlan_anne@hotmail.com

Ph: 02-9543-1317

St Vincent de Paul Conference, Menai

Marriage breakdowns, job losses, domestic violence, alcohol, drug and gambling addictions can have sudden and devastating effects on people's circumstances. St Vincent de Paul offers a hand up rather than a hand out so that people can return to a normal and happy existence. The organisation provides non-denominational assistance to families and individuals throughout the world.

In the greater Menai area, assistance has been provided in the form of food vouchers, utility bills, job training, homelessness, school needs and referrals for finance or health counselling.

The conference has been active in the Menai District for over 40 years and currently distributes over \$20,000 each year. New members are always needed and welcomed to carry out this rewarding ministry. Membership involves attending two meetings a month and assisting other members with home visits when available, an activity which is always done in pairs.

Contact: Robert Van Den Nouwelant

Ph: 0417-283-819

Schoenstatt Movement of Mary

This movement has been in the parish since Father Denis began Schoenstatt Mothers, a Men's, and a Family Group in the parish. Several people in the parish still have an affiliation with each other due to their involvement in the groups or the Pilgrim Mother Apostolate. Any information concerning these type of groups, programs, masses at the Mulgoa Shrine, the Sydney home of the Movement, or the Pilgrim Mother Apostolate can be obtained from Angela Benson, Co-ordinator of the Mothers Groups, presently in a state of reformation here in Menai.

Contact: Angela Benson (mothers' groups and Pilgrim Mother Apostolate)

Email: angandrick@tpg.com.au

Ph: 02-8502-9260

Contact: Keith Corbett (men's group)

Ph: 02-9543-0065

Social Justice Group

The Holy Family Social Justice Group aims to raise awareness of social justice issues relevant to our world today and to promote actions that in some way make a difference and /or join in solidarity with larger networks working in these areas. An example of this from 2015 was joining with the Sydney Alliance and organising a new conversation with Asylum Seekers. This involved two young asylum seekers sharing their stories at a weekend Masses, followed by a workshop led by an expert from the Sydney Alliance. Meeting the Asylum Seekers has been a rewarding experience for us all.



In 2016 the Group invited a guest speaker from Australian Catholic Earthcare to run a workshop on Pope Francis encyclical *Laudato Si* (caring for our common home) . Each year we collect basic items for the Asylum Seekers Centre before Christmas. Aquinas College also has an appeal and their students and our group also provide lunch for the clients at the Centre.

The Group has been operating for over 10 years and is always keen to welcome new members, *especially youth* who may be interested in joining in with even one activity. The Group meets about four times a year. Each time it meets for a specific purpose so this is not a time-consuming activity.

Contact: Bronwyn Van den Nouwelant

Email: bvanden@bigpond.com

Ph: 0409-145-136

Contact: Jenny Lynch

Email: j.lynch2210@bigpond.com

Ph: 0413 425331

Women's Wednesday Morning Bible Study

This group has been in existence since July 2008 as a result of a Parish Council initiative to grow more groups based on parishioner needs in the Parish. Originally there were two groups however the mixed group with men in it and which met at night did not further itself. The daytime group



consistently has had seven women and consequently settled into a 'women's only' group. The Craft Group grew out of this group as new people arrived with an additional or different need. One could say they compare as Action/Reflection groups. Predominantly study has been guided by the 'Lifestyle' series of books which deal with individual books/sections of the Bible and much discussion, laughter and tears are features of a session, (necessitating a tenet of 'what goes on in the room stays in the room') . These sessions are held each Wednesday morning from 9.15am to 10.15am, school terms only. The group has an 'Open Door' policy so anyone (perhaps I should say woman) who wishes to join is welcome.

Contact: Angela Benson

Email: angandrick@tpg.com.au

Ph: 02-8502-9260

Holy Family Youth Movement

The Holy Family Youth Movement (HFYM) is an initiative born out of a desire to reinvigorate the faith of our parish youth. The movement offers our young people between the ages of 12 and 16 a fortnightly opportunity to share a free meal, enjoy a range of fun games, catechesis to grow in faith, and spiritual formation. It also hopes to provide a variety of opportunities to volunteer in our community as well as an avenue to fundraise for certain mission and faith-oriented projects. Collectively, these goals aim at helping our young people rediscover, or discover for the first time, the beauty of life in Christ.

Pope Francis has recently invited the world's youth to Panama (January, 2019) for the 16th World Youth Day. Holy Family parish would love to help as many of our young people as possible respond to the Holy Father's call. To this end, the Holy Family Youth Movement will begin fundraising to give young members of our parish the opportunity to attend this extraordinary event.

The HFYM welcomes anyone between the ages of 12 and 16. It meets between 6 and 8 p.m. every second Sunday in the parish meeting room.

Make sure to follow our Instagram page too! [hfpmyouth](#)

Contact: Peter Mauch
Phone: 02-9541-1782
Email: peter.mauch75@gmail.com

Holy Family Youth Band

The Holy Family Youth Band has recently reformed and currently consists of the high school members of the Junior Choir. Members are encouraged to take turns to lead the singing at Mass and those who can play musical instruments or percussion are also encouraged to actively participate. The band currently sings on the 5th weekend of the month every 3 months.

Any high school student who is keen on singing or playing with the group and is willing to commit to being part of the band are always welcome.

Contact: Sue Low
Email: sj.low9542@gmail.com
Ph: 02-9541-2003

The New Parishioners Welcome Team

Over the years we have had new parishioner join us at mass and we would like to welcome them to the community. This team, just revived, is looking to contact new parishioners and make them feel welcomed. We ask that if you are new to the parish, please enter your names & contact details in the book on the table in the foyer. One of the team members will contact you and try to meet you at mass to introduce you to more parishioners. We are a family at Holy Family Parish.

We will organise a morning tea & an information night every year to formally introduce the new parishioners to the community and inform them of the groups & activities that are present in the parish.

Please contact: Carmelann Netto: 0403 494 784

The Welcome Team at Holy Family



Teresa Oliver
Anita Morton
Catherine Page
Brigid Coutts