



“Crossing the threshold of faith means that we work out of a sense of dignity and see service as a vocation. It means we serve selflessly and are prepared to begin over time and time again without giving in to weariness — as if all that has been done so far were only a step on the journey toward the Kingdom, the fullness of life. It is the quiet time of waiting after the daily sowing and contemplation of the harvest that has been gathered. It is giving thanks to the Lord because he is good and asking him not to forsake the work of his hands (see Ps 138:8).”

— Pope Francis, *Only Love Can Save Us: Letters, Homilies, and Talks of Cardinal Jorge Bergoglio*

It was such a joy to end the year attending Sunday morning Mass together with some of our children who regularly attend Atrium, two of the children who have been attending Baptism preparation sessions this term, and their families. Thank you for taking time out to pray with our Parish community. It is a great witness for the wider Parish community to see the faces of those little ones! Lovely to see Miss Auceli and Miss Maree, too!

Upon reflecting on the past year, what has impressed upon me the most is that it is so very rewarding to experience the Atrium work through the eyes of your children. The children teach us so much! The simplicity of their actions: the lovely time spent deep in contemplation while collecting flowers from the garden, dusting, watering the plants, drawing, painting. The way they are drawn to place vases with flowers around the Atrium, and the surprise of finding three vases of flowers surrounding the tomb in the City of Jerusalem! The amazing way that they absorb new presentations.

Our Christmas Liturgy was very beautiful! When the children were asked to bring forward their favourite work in the Atrium as a gift to the Baby Jesus, there was such joy in their eyes. One child shared her most favourite work – The Precious Pearl! Another shared his favourite work – the dusting tray. And, another shared all the figures from the Annunciation, Visitation and Nativity! Each child took great care in selecting their gift to bring to the prayer table to set before the Baby Jesus in the manger.



There is a conversation happening at the moment regarding my providing some informal formation about the Atrium and sharing my working knowledge of CGS. The details are being discussed but it would be days spent with me in the Atrium and my sharing of some “theory” and practical presentations of the works for the first part of Level 1 – 3 to 6 years.

These days would be spread out to suit everyone (hopefully). The hope is that this would take place early next year. It would not be a certificate course but would provide information to help attendees to volunteer as helpers in the Atrium in the new year.

There are eleven children enrolled for the 3 to 6 year session next year! We will continue Friday mornings and it will be necessary to commence another morning session – which could potentially be on Mondays. More to come on this very soon.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank each of you for your prayerful support and encouragement throughout the year! I am so appreciative and feel a great sense of privilege to be entrusted with sharing our faith with your little ones! Wishing each of you and your families every blessing of Christmas!

Blessings,

Angela Williams

Atrium Co-ordinator

Atrium re-opens on Friday 3rd February, 2017.

Surfers Paradise Catholic Parish, 50 Fairway Drive, Clear Island Waters Q 4220 Ph: 07) 5572 5433