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From the Editors

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Editorial PL Vol 47, 1

Dr Angela McCarthy

The common cry among family, friends and colleagues is that this year has gone by too quickly. It certainly feels that way when we have been preparing Advent and Christmas materials and about to move on to Lent.

As things move on seemingly too quickly, we have been prompted to consider changes to *Pastoral Liturgy*. In this digital age we are planning to make this wonderful resource available online and according to University policy this would therefore be free. However, we are aware that there are Catholic parish communities who would still like to receive hard copy that they can have available in the church at all times. Therefore, the plan is to provide for both in the future. We would be delighted to hear what you think on this issue so please email us on pastoral.liturgy@nd.edu.au or phone on 08 9433 0138.

Our founding editor, Fr Russell Hardiman, recently celebrated his 50th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood. We have honoured that special event in this issue.

This issue has an emphasis on the arts in liturgy. New music for Christmas by Malcolm Farr is reviewed and sampled. There is an article about the opening of the Monsignor Hawes Heritage Centre next to the Geraldton Cathedral. Restoration of the exterior of the cathedral has been completed with a beautiful labyrinth installed in front of the cathedral and a piazza, café and museum on a lower level. The involvement of the arts in our Christian heritage has been crucial to our culture and it is imperative that we honour and preserve the unique value gifted to our community by Monsignor Hawes.

The Mandorla Art Award was once again held in Perth in 2016. A review of the winners and their involvement in Christian art is interesting in the different perspectives that it offers. Winners were from Sydney, Melbourne and Perth.

In this Advent issue, Fr Vincent has reviewed the Advent wreath ceremony for Year A following the work of Fr Russell. The Advent Wreath Responsory can replace the Penitential Act and then lead into the Opening Prayer. This change of focus and emphasis on the readings of Advent can re-enliven our attention to the coming of Jesus as the baby of Bethlehem but also as the Christ who comes again at the end of time. Also for Advent, Gerard Moore has prepared the reflections but has added a further reflection on the Collects for Advent. This will of course help with our understanding of the new translation of the texts.

Once again, we are grateful for our contributors to this issue and for the richness that they contribute to our liturgical life.