

GARDENS AROUND ST MONICA'S CHURCH RICHMOND



Just one month ago Parishioners were invited to join a working bee to develop the gardens around St Monica's. Today that transformation has happened and continues to develop.

Sincere thanks to the twenty-four people who worked hard on September 12th.

A decent dent was made in the jobs that needed to be done. The front gardens were the main beneficiaries, but good work was done all around and a four cubic metre skip bin was not enough to hold the weeds and plants that were removed! Over the past two weeks parishioners have continued to work in the gardens, planting new trees, shrubs, flowers and turf.



An incredibly grateful thanks to the many people who have generously donated plants, turf, manure, new soil, mulch, sugar cane for the gardens and a most delicious morning-tea for the workers on September 12. While we lost five *Camelia* trees due to drought, we were able to salvage and transplant five. At the front we now have *Polygala* and we have a colourful array of *Geraniums* on the western side of the Church and scattered throughout various gardens. *Hebes* line one section along the wall of the Old Church and soon there will be a *Frangipani* garden at the entrance to the car park.

Visitors entering the Parish Centre will see a colourful array of *Dianthus* lining the pathway on one side and *Salvia* and a *David Austin* rose opposite. People driving past St Monica's will see **newly laid turf** at the front and there will be a new small, turfed area inside near the car park. While many of the gardens have once again come to life several other gardens need close attention and restoration. **That will happen with the on-going generosity of parishioners!**



The **Adopt a Garden** project introduced during the drought is **an ongoing necessity**. This project helped to save many plants. **We now need parishioners who will commit to just one garden to water it as required and to maintain the beautiful gardens we have.** Over the years many parishioners have put in hours of work to beautify our sacred place of worship. **Let us work together on this project.**

Please see the attached map. If you are interested in adopting a garden to nurture, please contact Mary McGuinness, the Parish Office or add your name to the *Adopt a Garden* map found at **the entrance of the Church and in the foyer.** Let us keep in mind: **many hands make light work** and Together Everyone Achieves More.

We trust all are coping well during Covid. Let us continue to pray for one another as we journey forward. God bless. Go gently.

Mary McGuinness & Martin Crew
Coordinator of Parish Ministries