

Catholic Homes

OUT & ABOUT

CHRISTMAS 2024

Christmas Carols

This month some residents were blessed with Christmas carols.

Celebrating the New Year

New Year's Eve parties were held with delightful music, food and dancing.

Christmas crafts

Residents enjoyed making crafts, wreaths, decorations and baking.





Welcome to our Christmas edition

Welcome back to our December edition of Out and About, we had an exciting month filled with Christmas joy and festivities.

Everyone embraced the festive season in December with many Christmas craft, baking and decorating activities. We enjoyed Christmas concerts, carols, and family afternoon teas. We all delighted in Christmas lunch cooked and prepared by our amazing chefs who put in so much time and effort into each meal.

To celebrate 2024 and the new year ahead we held New Year's Eve parties for our residents and staff which gave everyone a moment to look back on the year shared together, revisit funny memories and wish everyone good health and fortune for 2025.

Happy New Year to everyone and see you next month for the first edition of 2025!



ARCHBISHOP GOODY

Staff Christmas party

To celebrate and recognise our incredible staff at Archbishop Goody, we held a special staff Christmas party.

We put on a Christmas feast with everyone's favourites including pizza, sushi, dumplings, stir fry, spring rolls and fresh fruit and berries. After the meal we played a series of fun games that had everyone laughing. Eat the apple with no hands proved much harder than everyone thought it would be.

It was a fantastic way for the staff to connect with their team and congratulate everyone on a great year of caring.

*After the meal
we played a series
of fun games that
had everyone laughing.*



SISTER MARY GLOWREY

Christmas carols, candle lighting, and Blessing

Sister Mary Glowrey was fortunate to host the St Anne's Church children's choir, who performed Christmas carols for our residents.

For those who couldn't attend in person, the performance was streamed live via the chapel cameras to rooms and TVs across the building. On the 20th we hosted delightful candle lighting ceremony and Christmas blessing, accompanied by beautiful music from Sarah Waddington, which was again streamed for residents unable to attend.

In place of the traditional Christmas parties, the Wellness Team organised a heart-warming Christmas carol singalong with some delicious Christmas treats like fruit mince pies, Christmas cake, shortbread and chocolates. The residents were treated to some lovely dancing and singing from our nurses, carers, and wellness staff.

Our wonderful Wellness Team Leader Dom and OT Victoria went from room to room on the second floor singing carols and handing out chocolates and treats to residents.

The residents were treated to some lovely dancing and singing from our nurses, carers, and wellness staff.



*December ended
with a lovely
New Year's Eve party.*



New Year's Eve party

December ended with a lovely New Year's Eve party on the 30th with delightful music, food and dancing to celebrate 2024 and get ready to welcome 2025.

Christmas decorations

The residents played a special role in adding the final touches to the Christmas decorations around Sister Mary Glowrey.

They enthusiastically helped with placing ornaments on the Christmas trees, adding twinkling lights, and arranging festive displays.

Their participation brought a personal touch to the holiday décor, making the environment feel even more vibrant and festive.



SISTER MARY GLOWREY

Secret Santa

Everyone was in anticipation for our Secret Santa event.

Our residents, having been on their best behaviour, received a special visit from Santa himself, accompanied by some very helpful elves who brought plenty of holiday cheer.

The residents came together on Level One to celebrate. Santa and his elves then visited rooms to deliver the rest of the gifts.





Cakes, rum balls and shortbread were lovingly wrapped by the Wellness Team.

Gifts for families

The residents participated in cooking groups where they made Christmas cakes, rum balls, and shortbread.

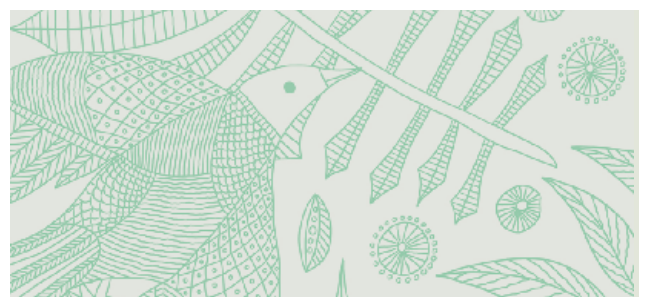
These were lovingly wrapped by the Wellness Team and given to the residents to present to their families. Additionally, some residents embraced their creative sides by crafting Christmas decorations using dried flowers they had picked during a floral exhibition earlier in the year. Others took to painting and adding glitter to Christmas decorations and door wreaths, with the help of Allied Health Assistance Students and Wellness Team.

Streaming groups

The Wellness Team worked hard to ensure that residents who couldn't attend in-person groups still had access to activities.

With the chapel camera system streaming live to resident rooms and TVs, the team offered exercise groups, quizzes and brain games, Rosary and Mass services, as well as carols and candle lighting events. The flexibility of streaming allowed our residents to stay connected and engaged throughout the month.

A huge thank you goes to the Pastoral Care team for allowing the use of the chapel for this purpose. It may have been a disrupted December, but the holiday spirit was alive and well at Sister Mary Glowrey.



ST VINCENT'S

Christmas party and luncheon

Joy was in the air at St Vincent's for our Christmas party!

The dining area was finely decorated, and tables were set around the Christmas tree in the centre of the room. Residents enjoyed a delicious lunch filled with Aussie Christmas favourites including prawns, salad, ham, turkey, cauliflower cheese and roasted vegetables.

Staff and residents dressed up in their festive outfits and everyone enjoyed cracking their Christmas crackers.

After lunch we had a visit from jolly Santa who handed out gifts to residents and staff. It was a wonderful day to celebrate the festive season.

Staff and residents dressed up in their festive outfits.





Christmas Carols

This month residents were blessed with a lovely Christmas carol performance by Studio J.

The concert took place on a warm December evening in the courtyard outside and residents, their families and staff joined to sing along to their favourite Christmas songs.

It was a lovely evening, and everyone embraced the Christmas spirit.



ARCHBISHOP GOODY

Christmas concerts

Across the month of December Archbishop Goody held three Christmas concerts for our residents and staff to enjoy.

Thank you to Jake, Katie and Tunney for your excellent performances that embraced the Christmas spirit. Everyone loved the concerts and

participated by singing, playing instruments, dancing together and moving in our chairs.

*Thank you to Jake,
Katie and Tunney
for your excellent
performances.*





TRINITY

Wreath making

Some of our residents at Trinity created lovely Christmas wreaths.

They all looked fantastic, and the residents hung them outside their doors and embraced the Christmas season. It was a lovely activity assisted by Keisha and our volunteer Peyton.



Christmas lunch

To celebrate Christmas at Trinity we had a Christmas feast and a jolly visit from Santa.

Everyone had a fantastic day eating good food, sharing memories, and listening to Christmas carols.

*Merry Christmas
from Trinity.*

Farewell to Ian

We said goodbye to our beloved bus driver Ian this month.

Ian has been the bus driver at Trinity for eight years, it has been a sad moment to see him go. We reminisced on his time at Trinity with an afternoon tea with staff and residents. We wish Ian all the best for the future.



ARCHBISHOP GOODY



The tables were decorated with tinsel, fairy lights and Christmas crackers.



Archbishop Goody Christmas

For Christmas this year, we held a traditional Aussie Christmas lunch.

It was a hot summers day, everyone was wearing their best shirts, blouses, Santa hats and dresses. The tables were decorated with tinsel, fairy lights and Christmas crackers. For lunch we enjoyed an amazing Christmas ham roasted by the chefs, salad, and roasted veggies.

Merry Christmas everyone!



CASTLEDARE

New Year's Eve happy hour

We closed out the year with a delightful afternoon happy hour! Residents came together to toast the year gone by and welcome 2025 with laughter, conversation, and celebratory drinks.



Christmas lights bus trip

Our residents were awestruck on the Christmas lights bus trip, marvelling at the dazzling displays around the local neighbourhoods. The creativity, skill, and effort of the community's decorations brought holiday cheer and admiration from all.

Photos with Elf

Smiles and laughter filled the air as our residents posed for photos with the Christmas Elf!

Whether in their rooms or at our special photo spot, everyone loved this fun, festive moment. The vibrant energy of the Elf brightened spirits and made for some truly beautiful keepsakes.





Volunteers appreciation afternoon tea

We hosted a special afternoon tea to honour our wonderful volunteers, who have given their time and energy to Castledare Village throughout the year.

This gathering was an opportunity for them to connect with each other and our residents, reflecting on the impact they've made.

It was a heart-warming way to close out the year with gratitude and community spirit.

Gift giving with Santa

Santa (Ian) made a special stop at Castledare Village to deliver gifts to our residents, with presents thoughtfully prepared by our staff secret Santa's.

The community centre was filled with joy and gratitude, and a big thank you goes to our incredible staff for their effort in selecting, shopping, and wrapping these delightful gifts.

The community centre was filled with joy and gratitude



CASTLEDARE

Carols by Candlelight

Our Carols by Candlelight was a magical evening in the garden, with residents and their loved ones gathered at sunset amidst twinkling Christmas lights.

Erin's beautiful carol performances, paired with Jean's heartfelt narration of the Christmas story, reminded us all of the true reason for the season.

Guests enjoyed bar service, delicious tapas, and took home a festive Christmas pudding.



Christmas lunch party

The Christmas spirit was alive at our community centre during our festive lunch party!

Residents and guests enjoyed a three-course meal featuring salmon, turkey, prawn salad, and Christmas pudding. Timothy's lively entertainment got everyone dancing, adding joy to the celebration. Fleming Wing had their own cosy gathering, with Shevonne leading them in singing cherished Christmas hits and carols.

OCEAN STAR

Morning tea

We held a beautiful ceremony to remember Margaret and Sheila with a paint and sip morning tea.

We honoured both ladies with a Rose for Sheila and an apple with apple blossom for Margaret. Family and friends came to celebrate their lives and reminiscing of fond memories.



Family visits

Our residents enjoyed having their families come to visit.



Kevin's celebration of life

We gathered for a small morning tea with cupcakes to share memories and pay tribute to our friend Kevin.

We will miss Kevin dearly.



OCEAN STAR

Christmas baking

This month residents put their baking skills to work by helping bake festive desserts.

We made Christmas crackle and a Christmas sponge cake in the shape of a wreath. We decorated them with festive lollies and chocolate and enjoyed delighting in our creations.



Gingerbread house decorating

In December we celebrated the Christmas season by decorating gingerbread houses.

It was a great afternoon activity where we all joined in to decorate different sections of the houses. The hardest part was holding the houses in place for a minute to make sure they don't come crumbling down!

We were all impressed with our designs.

NYE 2024

To celebrate 2024 and bringing in the start of 2025 we held a NYE party during the day.

It was a fantastic day filled with champagne, music, food, and conversations about the year we had. Everyone wore their party hats and celebrated the end of the year in style.

Cheers to 2025!



Holy Communion by the sea

Holy Communion by the sea with Mary, Gus, and volunteer Brian.

As stated by Gus "God is great" and as he looked over the ocean said "Look at everything he has created. The wind on my face feels so good". Holy Communion by

the Sea has given residents another level of spirituality.

The conversation between residents has been great and we use music to assist the atmosphere. On the way also we had a lovely visit by a beautiful dog.

Christmas crafts

In December our residents participated in Christmas craft activities to embrace the festive season.

We created angels and wreaths and had residents participate who generally wouldn't, so it was lovely to see them get into the Christmas spirit.



OUR RESIDENTS

Meet John

John was born in East Fremantle, Western Australia to mum Barbara and dad Brenton. John has two children, son Brett and daughter Storme.

John is a grandfather to Tasmin, Tyra and Trique and has been a great grandfather for nine years now. John predominantly worked in the mining industry for 30 plus years, coupled with some construction stints. He also emerged as top 10 in his mining apprenticeship programme in WA.

Some fun facts:

- My favourite movie is Spartacus.
- If I could have dinner with anyone alive or passed, it would be any female that makes good conversation.
- My advice is ring your friends
- I love spending time driving.

- My favourite food is Spaghetti Bolognese.
- I love being at Catholic Homes because the staff are good.



Puzzle answers:

Dash: doing a little fishing in the aquarium. **Rudy:** taking a bubble bath in the tub full of marshmallows. **Tinsel:** hanging from a candy cane on the ceiling fan. **Blitz:** roasting marshmallows over the Christmas candle.



PUZZLE OF THE MONTH

Elf on the Shelf puzzle

Dash, Rudy, Tinsel and Blitz are some of the mischievous elves going around.

Can you figure out what each elf was doing and where they were doing it?

Helpful hints

1. Rudy was not in the aquarium but he was taking a bubble bath.
2. One elf was doing a little fishing in the aquarium.
3. Tinsel was found on the ceiling fan
4. Blitz was roasting marshmallows over the Christmas candle.

	Hanging from a candy cane	Doing a little fishing	Roasting marshmallows	Taking a bubble bath	In the aquarium	In the tub full of marshmallows	On the ceiling fan	Over the Christmas candle
Dash								
Rudy								
Tinsel								
Blitz								
In the aquarium								
In the tub full of marshmallows								
On the ceiling fan								
Over the Christmas candle								

See page 20 for answers.

	Doing what	Where
Dash		
Rudy		
Tinsel		
Blitz		

Follow us on Social Media

We all love a laugh and we're always on the lookout for fun stories and photos. You're invited to share yours too on socials.



Share your stories

It's great to share your news and bring people together!

If you have a story, ideas, photos, jokes or anything else that will brighten the day and put a smile on a face, you can do it through this newsletter.

Text should be concise with photos of a high quality and submitted by email. Please note submissions may be edited. Drop us a line at catholichomes@catholichomes.com



Next edition

January 2025

Keep an eye out for the next edition of "Out & About".

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