



## SPOTLIGHT: PARISH PASSKEEPERS

You are probably reading this week's focus article from a bulletin handed to you by one of the church passkeepers as you entered the church.

This small group of volunteers assist Fr Syriac and our parish community by welcoming, directing and assisting parishioners and visitors at each Mass, ensuring that services run smoothly. You will recognise the photographs of some familiar faces who are regular helpers at the 5.30pm, 9.30am and 11am parish services. There are many other volunteers who help out on occasion when the need arises.



Christina Tonner

### DUTIES

Passkeeper duties start before Mass in helping with any parking issues and trying to ensure that the area in front of the main doors is kept clear for emergency vehicles and as a safe piazza for parishioners to mingle and chat after services. The passkeepers welcome the congregation as they enter the building, distributing bulletins, hymn books and leaflets as required. They take special care of any elderly parishioners and those with special needs.

During Mass, passkeepers are responsible for organising the Offertory Procession and ensuring that any collections are undertaken with as little disruption to the service as possible. At Communion, they direct communicants to approach the altar ensuring a steady flow in the aisles. They also alert eucharistic ministers to anyone who cannot go forward.

At the end of Mass, passkeepers do a quick sweep of the church to ensure that it is left tidy and secure. The passkeepers have a representative from both Holy Name and St. Margaret's on the Parish Liturgy Committee to help to plan the annual Liturgical Calendar and to contribute to preparations and arrangements for special services. This includes Advent, Lent, Eastertide. St Margaret's etc. It is an important part of our service to the Lord to contribute to the celebration of Mass by helping as a passkeeper.

### WHO?

Anyone, male or female, of any age can be a passkeeper. That can be as someone to be called on when the need arises or, better still, to volunteer on a regular basis. If you are interested, please give your details to Fr Syriac or any of the regular faces!



LtoR: Ben Conway, Neil Walker, Iain Little & Peter Whyte

### A CANADIAN TOURIST'S FEEDBACK

*On Sun 4th Aug, my entire family joined Sunday Mass with all of you. My parents were celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary, and we all gathered in Scotland for the occasion.*

*When we arrived to Mass, your passkeepers were so welcoming and we couldn't believe how quickly you mobilized to make the Mass special for my parents. We went on a lot of amazing adventures while we were in Scotland, but my parents both agree that Mass was their favourite part of the trip.*

*That is in huge thanks to all of you at St. Margaret's that made them feel honoured and blessed. So I just wanted to take a minute and thank you for that.*



LtoR: John Breen, Tricia Doolan, Tom Canning Jr, Tom Smith, Tommy McGowan & Gerry Crielly



LtoR: John Hutcheon, Jean Connors & Andy Buchanan



***This article is dedicated to the memory of John "the Parish Painter" McCormack, recently deceased passkeeper at St. Margaret's.***