

Some Facts about the Parish Library:

On 8th April 2011, on completion, the Library had 2042 books and booklets, mostly bought or donated from 1965 with the oldest book dating to 1916. Most were published in Britain, but there are about 5% published in the United States, Ireland, India, & the Philippines. Out of the 18 Subject Areas, the largest are **1.Catholic Faith** (306 books), **6.Lives** (290 books), **10.Prayer** (196 books), **14.Family & Parenting** (104 books), **3.The Bible** (150 books), with other areas having between 8 – 84 books, the smallest being **17.Mysticism** (8 books), and **12.Church Architecture** (9 books). The classification has been specially designed for our Parish Library by Norbert Bonnici, the Librarian. A recent donation of books from another parish has also been added. In the last 8 years before the organization of the Library, due to the lack of prominence given to the collection and its location, there were average borrowings of only 2 books a month. After the Library shortcomings have been addressed and a room designated as the Library, with more shelves fitted at the end of 2010 to house books that had to be stored in boxes, we hope that more parishioners will avail themselves of this free facility and donate their private purchases of religious books to the Library after finishing reading them. It is a legacy which we should be proud to leave to future parishioners, as those in the past have helped build up our present Library.

In addition to over 1619 books on shelves, there are three smaller separate collections in 6 crates, tucked under the last shelves, on the floor. The 5 plastic crates on the floor have their separate catalogue with books listed numerically (not following the shelf catalogue) and hold 285 books: 3 crates on the **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults**, a crate of books **Celebrating with Young Adults & Children**, and one useful for the **Consolation Group** – all with green 'Durer praying hands' labels. On the right of the entrance there is a cardboard crate of 138 **Practical Books** - used for advice on **adoption, marriage, readers, sponsors, servers, etc.** and mostly in plastic zip-up wallets, with a separate catalogue. The books which were in small boxes with their own catalogue but which follow the same classification as shelf books, are now integrated with the others on the shelves. It is obvious that in future building plans a bigger room is needed to accommodate the Library adequately, but for the moment the system created allows access to all the books, and the various catalogues allow the reader to focus on a particular subject area, e.g. **6.Lives** and to pinpoint a particular person, e.g. St Theresa, and find all the biographies of her in one place. Because of this integration of books that were in boxes, you will find duplicate numbers, e.g. a prayer book 10.1 and another 10.1(box, or, small box). Please write 'box' next to the book number when borrowing if the label includes 'box', so that the Librarian can identify which exact book has been taken out. For those books placed in crates on the floor, the same **book issue system** is used as for shelf books. For the cardboard **Practical Books Crate**, place the **Book Card** at the front in the plastic wallet from where you have removed the book. For the plastic crates books, wedge the **Book Card** between any 2 books, making sure one end sticks out so that the librarian can notice when the book it replaces is long overdue, and can trace the borrower and recall it. Not counted in total number of books in the Library (i.e. 2042) are the 9 boxes (labelled E-Books Box A to Box I) of about 90 copyright-free mostly out-of-print unbound books downloaded mainly from 2 sites on the internet. These unbound E-books span religious writings from the **Early Fathers of the Church to 2007**, and cover Britain, the USA, Europe and the Middle East, with many authors not covered by the other books on the shelves, and include religious works by other Christian denominations.

Norbert Bonnici, Librarian. 8th Apr 2011