

## St Peregrine Prayer Shawl Ministry at Our Lady of Dolours Church, Chatswood.

St Peregrine's story ~

The Order of Servants of Mary (Servites) began in the thirteenth century under the inspiration of Our Blessed Mother who appeared separately to seven young men of Florence, Italy, urging them to dedicate themselves to prayer and service.

Peregrine Laziosi joined the group and labored for years as a brother in the Order. At the age of 60, he was diagnosed with cancer of the leg brought on by many years of disciplined prayer while standing, resulting in varicose veins which deteriorated into an open, running sore on his leg. It was cancer. On the night before the scheduled amputation of his leg, Peregrine prayed before an image of the crucified Christ in the priory chapter room. When he awoke he discovered the cancerous wound had healed and the leg was saved. St Peregrine lived twenty more years, being canonized on 27<sup>th</sup> December 1726 and named the Patron Saint of those who suffer from cancer.

The lesson of Peregrine's life is not that God worked a miracle, but that a faithful, trustful servant placed himself, unconditionally, in the hands of our Lord. Peregrine's trust in God can be a model for us in dealing with the pain, sickness and crosses of our lives.

Now about our ministry at Chatswood ~

The ministry started with the inaugural blessing on 1 December 2008. The aim of the group was to provide comfort and support for those with cancer by knitting and crocheting shawls for them while praying to the patron saint of cancer sufferers, St Peregrine.

The group gets together on the 2nd Monday of the month, prays over the shawls that have been completed and prays for those who will become recipients of those shawls. The regular attendees spend 1 to 2 hours together, praying and enjoying each others company with most session including a short lesson showing a more advanced skill. The ladies then continue their knitting and praying whilst at home and return the following month with completed shawls.

Names of recipients are either given to the Parish Priest or Danka, the seniors' minister. We ask that you keep the following Prayer shawl recipients before God:



<i>Hazel</i>	<i>Jean</i>	<i>Gwen</i>	<i>Peter</i>
<i>Julie</i>	<i>Maxine</i>	<i>Jack</i>	<i>Hazel</i>
<i>Tony</i>	<i>Michele</i>	<i>Kerry</i>	<i>Steve</i>
<i>Louis</i>	<i>Rita</i>	<i>Fr. John</i>	<i>Virginia</i>
<i>Betty</i>	<i>Lisa</i>	<i>Jim</i>	<i>Phil</i>
<i>Anna</i>	<i>Madeleine</i>	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Sue</i>
<i>Rebecca</i>	<i>Liz</i>		

The prayer shawls are very much appreciated by those who receive them because it shows them that in their journey they are not alone and that others are remembering them in their prayers. Some show their appreciation with a note of thanks, others by donating wool so that another shawl can be knitted for someone else and so the prayers and blessings continue.

Here is a knitting prayer, made up by Pam, specifically for our group:

*"Blessed St. Peregrine, patron saint of cancer sufferers, cured by the touch of the hand of Jesus, we wish to serve those suffering from cancer by knitting or crocheting shawls for them while praying to you (for comfort, strength and healing). May we knit and crochet our prayer shawls with a loving touch, so that those who receive and wear them will know how Jesus touched you. Amen."*