



Louise Degeling
Diocese of Broken Bay

Louise Degeling has provided leadership and skills support as a volunteer in her local parish community. Since retiring in 2004, Louise has been actively engaged in many areas of her parish community of St John the Baptist, Woy Woy on the Central Coast in NSW. Louise has been a member of the Parish Pastoral Council, as the secretary, for four years. She volunteered at Mary Mac's Place (MMP), firstly as the minutes secretary and sole bookkeeper for three years; and over the past 12 months she has worked with the Parish Coordinator to keep the books for Mary Mac's, preparing the financial statements and budgets, and participating as a member of the steering committee which oversees the organisation and running of Mary Mac's.

Mary Macs Place Project, Woy Woy takes its name from Mother Mary MacKillop who lived and worked in the area. Mary Macs provides social, community and friendship opportunities for men, women, families, young people, elderly, homeless, transient, socio/economically disadvantaged people and those with an alcohol or other drug addiction, physical disability or mental illness. An army of 60 volunteers provides over 8,000 meals a year, a mammoth task.

Mary Macs Place Project is situated within the Parish of St John the Baptist Woy Woy and is strongly supported by Father John Hill and the parish community. They have just completed purpose built premises in the parish's new community centre for Mary Macs to reside permanently; such is the commitment of the Parish to this project.

In her "spare time" Louise participates as a facilitator in the parish based Sacramental Program; she provides training for the set up, operation and general use of the data projector during liturgies at St John the Baptist, prepares weekly Mass slides for projection and is a Reader in the Liturgy of the Word.

Louise is a member of the Parish Family Ministry team, which assists in the coordination of all the parish ministries and primarily gives support and guidance to those from other ministries. She has provided 'on the job' training for many volunteer lay ministers and office personnel in computing skills on an ad hoc basis.