



TOGETHER

In the Diocese of

Wagga Wagga

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FREE

NOVEMBER 2020

Carmel in Ashmont becomes the Pro Patria Centre

When the Carmelite Sisters left Wagga Wagga last year, a number of expressions of interest for the use of the property were made.

The one which seemed to the nuns to be from God was a plan to create a not-for-profit centre where veterans from the armed forces and first responders could have issues such as PTSD, depression, anxiety and other Service related conditions dealt with in a holistic manner addressing physical, mental and spiritual dimensions.

Our Lady Queen of Peace Monastery was built as and is a War Memorial Shrine.

A lease has now been signed by Defence Shed Wagga Wagga which will enable commencement of operations at the former Carmelite Monastery very shortly. Defence Shed will work closely with other supporting agencies to develop the new Pro Patria Centre over the next 10 months.

There was a handover ceremony and Mass on Saturday the 7th November 10.00am to celebrate this momentous occasion. The service was live streamed on <https://www.thestreamingguys.com.au/production/mass-carmelite-monastery/>.

Luke Wighton led the smoking ceremony and Auntie Mary Atkinson

welcomed all to country. Sister Maria from Melbourne and Sr Bernadette from Canberra were joined by Bishop Edwards, Archbishop Carroll, Deacon Onuorah, Fr Styles, Joe McGirr and, due to COVID restrictions, a small and supportive congregation. Sr Colleen organised the choir.

After Mass, Sr Maria spoke about the journey to this point and then handed over to Jason Frost, representing the Defence Shed, the keys to the property.

A Business Connect Advisor funded by NSW Treasury has been appointed to ensure that the Pro Patria Centre is fully compliant with corporate governance standards, registrations and accreditations. He will also assist in drafting a business plan which will clearly articulate the goals of PPC and the financial requirements to fully fund the project.

The Pro Patria Centre encourages organisations wishing to utilise the space to contact them to inspect the facilities. It is aiming to have some services utilising the centre as soon as January 2021.

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Homily for the handing over of Our Lady Queen of Peace Monastery to the Pro Patria Centre

Thank you to Luke and Aunty Mary for their welcome and to Aeron, Abraham, John and Deacon Cyprian for the powerful way they have proclaimed the Word for us today.

This land has been country and our aboriginal brothers and sisters have lived hunted and celebrated ritual here for tens of thousands of years. It has also been farming property and a monastery where women have whole-heartedly devoted themselves to being disciples, praying, working, living in community and celebrating with ritual.

The nuns loved Jesus and wanted to want what he wanted. This did not finish when they moved out. They were asking of each of the proposals for the use of this land which were made to them, ‘Is this what our Lord wants?’ They put this before financial considerations in a way that was moving to me watching from a distance. This land was here for billions of years before any humans and is a gift to us.

God has worked here and God continues

to work here. The proposal to use this War Memorial Shrine of Our Lady of Peace for the Pro Patria Centre seemed very appropriate and they have explored this option over the last year with the Defence Shed.

The Pro Patria Centre will provide cutting edge, outstanding, compassionate, multidimensional care for veterans of the armed services and first responders in this town with bases and training facilities for the Army and the Air Force. In this way, God will continue to work on this mountain to take away tears, remove shame and comfort those who grieve. In this place, people will be made whole by God through the care of others.

We are a spiritual people. Daughters and sons of the Father, we hunger for wholeness which includes a spiritual journey. The physical and mental treatment must be complemented with a spiritual dimension. The dreaming, which is a search for God, continues.

Bishop Mark Edwards OMI



Sr Maria Hughes OCDM and Aunty Mary Atkinson.



Sr Maria formally handed "the key to the Kingdom of Heaven" to Jason Frost.

TOGETHER

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Prayer Intention for November - Pray with Pope Francis

Artificial Intelligence

We pray that the progress of robotics and artificial intelligence may always serve humankind.

Visit this link to hear the Pope deliver his monthly prayer:

<http://popesprayerusa.net/category/pope-video/>



Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network

APOSTOLSHIP OF PRAYER

<http://popesprayerusa.net/popos-intentions/>

The rapid growth of Artificial Intelligence (AI) offers many opportunities, but it also poses many dangers. There are so many ways in which we could use AI for social good, but over the last few years it has become apparent that there are potentially a lot of unintended consequences. As more social sector organizations recognize AI, we all can play a role in legislating AI outputs are ethical, responsible and fair for a better world.

AI is present in the way social media feeds are organised; the way predictive searches show up on Google; the way robots are replacing humans at workplace; how algorithms make automated trading in stock markets; how detection of diseases are being made in advance using AI; how robots are helping the elderly and sick; how automatic translation from one language to another is made; it is present in facial recognition technologies; it is present in modern warfare where drones and robots are fighting. Autonomous and intelligent technical systems are specifically

designed to reduce the necessity for human intervention in our day-to-day lives. These disruptive technologies can have adverse effects on individuals and societies such as violation of privacy, discrimination, adverse economic impacts, risks to security of critical infrastructure, algorithmic pricing, unemployment and possible negative long-term effects on societal well-being. Autonomous systems in warfare can make decisions which can be disastrous for all human beings. The full benefit of these technologies will be attained only if they are aligned with society's defined values and ethical principles.

Prioritizing ethical and responsible artificial intelligence is becoming a widespread goal for society. While this is an encouraging trend, a key question still facing technologists, manufacturers, and policymakers alike is how to assess, understand, measure, monitor, safeguard, and improve the well-being impacts of AI on humans.

Fr. Joseph Puliparambil, SJ

Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network

Expressions of Interest called for Membership to the Catholic Education Council Diocese of Wagga Wagga

The Bishop has established the Catholic Education Council Diocese of Wagga Wagga, to be known as the Catholic Education Council (CEC), to assist him to fulfil his role, responsibilities and mission regarding the ministry of Catholic Education.

The CEC has a delegated authority to make decisions for Catholic Education Diocese of Wagga Wagga (CEDWW) as set out in its Constitution. The Council will commence its full operation on 1 March 2021.

The Bishop is seeking members fulfilling the following profile and criteria:

- At least one CEC member is to be a priest of the diocese appointed by the Bishop (Episcopal Vicar for Education);
- A Primary and a Secondary Principal;
- Two parents of students in Diocesan Schools engaged with School Boards;
- A person with skills, qualifications and experience in Finance, Audit, Risk & Compliance (who will act as Chair of the CEC Finance, Audit, Risk CEC Committee);
- An educational leader with broad experience in school education, external to the Diocese (who will act as Chair of the CEC Education & Pastoral Wellbeing CEC Committee);
- A person, either lay or religious, with knowledge, expertise and experience in the areas of Mission, Theology and/or Religious Education (who will act as Chair of the Catholic Identity & Mission CEC Committee);
- A person with experience in Human Resources and

TERM	DATE	MEETING TIMES	FOCUS	VENUE
1	March 1	9 – 4pm	Induction Program	Wagga
	March 2	9 – 4pm	CEC Meeting	Wagga
2	June 8	9 – 4pm	CEC Meeting	TBC
3	August 30	9 – 4pm	CEC Planning Meeting	TBC
	August 31	9 – 4pm	CEC Meeting	
4	November 17	5pm	Mass followed by Dinner	Corowa Region
	November 18	9 – 4pm	CEC Meeting	

Time commitment required - 2021 meetings list

Workforce Planning who will Chair the People and Culture CEC Committee; and

- Legal Expertise (see Section 5.4 Constitution)

TIME COMMITMENT

The Catholic Education Council (CEC) will meet at least four (4) times per year coinciding with each school term. Members will be required to engage in Meeting Pre-Reading and may also be called upon to chair CEC Permanent Committees which will meet each Term for approximately 1.5 hours and with the facility for Zoom Meetings. Meetings will be convened during the day to enable greater participation and the opportunity to meet in schools across the Diocese. Expenses incurred in fulfilling membership of the CEC including travel costs at the ATO rate of 0.72c per kilometre for return travel between home and the meeting venue and any accommodation expenses. Meetings for 2021 are in the image above.

Interested persons are requested to complete an Expression of Interest Form available on the Diocese of Wagga Wagga webpage, along with the CEC Constitution, at the following link: <https://www.wagga.catholic.org.au/Events.aspx>

An Appointments Sub-Committee of the CEC, comprising the Establishment Group Chair, the Episcopal Vicar for Education (a Priest) and the Manager of Chancery Services, will consider the Expressions of Interest and make recommendations to the Bishop who makes the final decision and appointment. Applicants will be contacted about the progress of their Expression of Interest.

Announcement of Catholic Education Council Membership by Bishop Edwards OMI is expected in mid-December 2020.

Applications close on 19th November 2020.

Change to prayers during Mass due in November

Worshippers will from late November notice a slight change to the words the priest prays just before the Liturgy of the Word, with the amendment supporting a more faithful understanding of the Trinity.

The Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments earlier this year wrote to episcopal conferences that use the English translation of the *Roman Missal* (2010) regarding a change to the conclusion to the collects – or opening prayers – used in the Mass.

A typical conclusion to the collect read as follows: “Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.”

The letter indicated that the inclusion of the word “one” before God is

problematic in relation to the Latin text “*Deus, per omnia saecula saeculorum*”.

It explained that the inclusion of the word “one” before God “can serve to undermine the statement of the Son’s unique identity within the Trinity which the Latin formulas so strongly convey and, on the other hand, it can also be interpreted as saying that Jesus Christ is ‘one God’”.

The letter, signed by the Congregation’s prefect Cardinal Robert Sarah, said “either or both of these interpretations is injurious to the faith of the Church”.

“It is clear from the Latin texts that the doxology emphasises the divinity



of Our Lord, Jesus Christ, the Incarnate Son, who intercedes on our behalf, as the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity, to the Father and which prayer is made in the unity of the Holy Spirit,” the cardinal wrote.

“Thus the Son’s role of priestly mediation is made clear. To transfer the Trinitarian relational element *in unitate* as meaning *unus Deus* is incorrect.”

The final words of the collects will be changed to read “God, for ever and ever”. The people, as they currently do, will give their assent to the prayer by saying “Amen”.

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference has agreed to implement the change to the prayers from the First Sunday of Advent this year – November 29.

The gift of education, a “golden opportunity” to help break the cycle of poverty

Catholic Mission has launched its annual Christmas Appeal, focusing on the work of the Catholic Church in Ethiopia and supporting the education of children from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Partnering with The Lideta Catholic Cathedral School, in the country's capital, Addis Ababa, a scholarship program has been created to ensure that children who are orphaned or whose parents cannot afford to send them to school, are able to access quality education.

"For the students, this is a golden opportunity to access a scholarship to one of the best schools in the country," says Sr Carmen Sammut SJA, who manages the scholarship program at The Lideta Catholic Cathedral School.

"The ethical formation of the school impacts students positively and helps them to become good citizens, educated and give back to the community."

Many families are struggling in Ethiopia's

capital city, due to a high cost of living and limited job opportunities, and many parents are unable to cover basic costs such as school fees for their children.

The Catholic Mission Christmas Appeal will help disadvantaged children access education this coming school year.

"By supporting the Catholic Mission Christmas Appeal, we can reach out to those families in need and provide children with scholarships, so they do not miss out on vital education," says Catholic Mission National Director Fr Brian Lucas.

Currently studying in Grade 6, 11-year-old Kaleb has seen how the Lideta Catholic Cathedral School scholarships have helped his family, his older sister continuing her studies though to university. Kaleb hopes

to follow her footsteps to success. Kaleb's mother struggles to cover the school fees for her children, but the scholarships have helped to ease the burden.

"Education is vital for children from disadvantaged backgrounds to help them create bright futures and break out of the cycle of poverty," says Fr Brian.

"Kaleb is just one of many children at the Lideta Catholic Cathedral School who can access education through the support of the schools' scholarship program."

"The generous spirit of Catholic Mission donors towards sustaining this program, and many other similar programs, reach

out to children in need around the world. The gift of education is a gift for life."

Principal of Lideta Catholic Cathedral School, Father Tekle Mekonnen is passionate about the work of the school supporting the education of children in need in Ethiopia's capital, Addis Ababa.

"We promote integral human promotion and at the same time we strive for educational excellence, he says.

"We want to be a school with quality education and at the same time, integrate Christian values and principles. That is our main objective."



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Holy Trinity Primary School teachers move to Wagga with NETDS program

Two of Wagga's primary school teachers are being celebrated for their dedication to some of the city's youngest students.

by Catie McLeod - The Daily Advertiser

Tjannaya Abela and Ashley Price never thought they would move to Wagga from Sydney, but now say they wouldn't want to be anywhere else.

They both teach at Ashmont's Holy Trinity Primary School.

"Personally, I just love the kids and the teachers. It's such a great little community and they've all been so welcoming," Ms Price said.

"Seeing the kids, just love having me as a teacher, coming to school every day with a smile on my face. No matter what they've been through, no matter what postcode they're from, they always just give me their full selves.

"I just love being rewarded with their achievements and their love of learning, basically."

Former ACU students, the pair moved

to Wagga in August last year to complete a placement with National Exceptional Teaching for Disadvantaged Schools (NETDS), an invitation-only program for some of Australia's top education students.

They were both offered jobs after their placements at Holy Trinity, where they began as fully-fledged teachers earlier this year.

"It's been an amazing experience. I definitely have been very blessed with the way that my first year has gone and with the school that I'm at. So I'm very happy," Ms Abela said.

"I wouldn't have asked for a different school or a different place to do it in."

Ms Abela said she and Ms Price felt instantly welcomed by the Wagga community.

"We didn't feel out of place at all. We



Tjannaya Abela and Ashley Price have thanked the Wagga community for welcoming them and say they love teaching here. Picture: Emma Hillier

definitely felt like they wanted us there and it was just such a lovely feeling," she said.

"The school is beautiful. It upholds the Catholic values and it's a lovely community to be a part of. We're just very grateful that we've had this opportunity."

The NETDS program aims to recruit

the best pre-service teachers and prepare them to work in the schools that need them most: those located in regional or low socio-economic communities.

NETDS is supported by the Origin Energy Foundation, established by Origin Energy in 2010 to fund educational projects around Australia.



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Stretch forth your hand for World Day of the Poor

In the leadup to the World Day of the Poor, the Church in Australia is recognising volunteers who work to bring hope to those in need.

The fourth World Day of the Poor, to be observed on Sunday, November 15, will focus on the theme *“Stretch forth your hand to the poor”* (Sir 6:7).

**MESSAGE OF
HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS
FOURTH WORLD DAY OF THE POOR
33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
15 November 2020**

“Stretch forth your hand to the poor” (Sir 6:7). Age-old wisdom has proposed these words as a sacred rule to be followed in life. Today these words remain as timely as ever. They help us fix our gaze on what is essential and overcome the barriers of indifference. Poverty always appears in a variety of guises, and calls for attention to each particular situation. In all of these, we have an opportunity to encounter the Lord Jesus, who has revealed himself as present in the least of his brothers and sisters (cf. Mt 25:40).

1. Let us take up the Old Testament book of Sirach, in which we find the words of a sage who lived some two hundred years before Christ. He sought out the wisdom that makes men and women better and more capable of insight into the affairs of life. He did this at a time of severe testing for the people of Israel, a time of suffering, grief and poverty due to the domination of foreign powers. As a man of great faith, rooted in the traditions of his forebears, his first thought was to turn to God and to beg from him the gift of wisdom. The Lord did not refuse his help.

From the book’s first pages, its author presents his advice concerning many concrete situations in life, one of which is poverty. He insists that even amid hardship we must continue to trust in

God: “Do not be alarmed when disaster comes. Cling to him and do not leave him, so that you may be honoured at the end of your days. Whatever happens to you, accept it, and in the uncertainties of your humble state, be patient, since gold is tested in the fire, and chosen men in the furnace of humiliation. Trust him and he will uphold you, follow a straight path and hope in him. You who fear the Lord, wait for his mercy; do not turn aside in case you fall” (2:2-7).

2. In page after page, we discover a precious compendium of advice on how to act in the light of a close relationship with God, creator and lover of creation, just and provident towards all his children. This constant reference to God, however, does not detract from a concrete consideration of mankind. On the contrary, the two are closely connected.

This is clearly demonstrated by the passage from which the theme of this year’s Message is taken (cf. 7:29-36). Prayer to God and solidarity with the poor and suffering are inseparable. In order to perform an act of worship acceptable to the Lord, we have to recognize that each person, even the poorest and most contemptible, is made in the image of God. From this awareness comes the gift of God’s blessing, drawn by the generosity we show to the poor. Time devoted to prayer can never become an alibi for neglecting our neighbour in need. In fact the very opposite is true: the Lord’s blessing descends upon us and



prayer attains its goal when accompanied by service to the poor.

3. How timely too, for ourselves, is this ancient teaching! Indeed, the word of God transcends space and time, religions and cultures. Generosity that supports the weak, consoles the afflicted, relieves suffering and restores dignity to those stripped of it, is a condition for a fully human life. The decision to care for the poor, for their many different needs, cannot be conditioned by the time available or by private interests, or by impersonal pastoral or social projects. The power of God’s grace cannot be restrained by the selfish tendency to put ourselves always first.

Keeping our gaze fixed on the poor is difficult, but more necessary than ever if we are to give proper direction to our personal life and the life of society. It is not a matter of fine words but of a concrete commitment inspired by divine charity. Each year, on the World Day of the Poor, I reiterate this basic truth in the life of the Church, for the poor are and always will be with us to help us welcome Christ’s presence into our daily lives (cf. Jn 12:8).

4. Encountering the poor and those in need constantly challenges us and forces

us to think. How can we help to eliminate or at least alleviate their marginalization and suffering? How can we help them in their spiritual need? The Christian community is called to be involved in this kind of sharing and to recognize that it cannot be delegated to others. In order to help the poor, we ourselves need to live the experience of evangelical poverty. We cannot feel “alright” when any member of the human family is left behind and in the shadows. The silent cry of so many poor men, women and children should find the people of God at the forefront, always and everywhere, in efforts to give them a voice, to protect and support them in the face of hypocrisy and so many unfulfilled promises, and to invite them to share in the life of the community.

The Church certainly has no comprehensive solutions to propose, but by the grace of Christ she can offer her witness and her gestures of charity. She likewise feels compelled to speak out on behalf of those who lack life’s basic necessities. For the Christian people, to remind everyone of the great value of the common good is a vital commitment, expressed in the effort to ensure that no one whose human dignity is violated in its basic needs will be forgotten.

5. The ability to stretch forth our hand shows that we possess an innate capacity to act in ways that give meaning to life. How many outstretched hands do we see every day! Sadly, it is more and more the case that the frenetic pace of life sucks us into a whirlwind of indifference, to the point that we no longer know how to recognize the good silently being done each day and with great generosity all around us. Only when something happens that upsets the course of our lives do our eyes become capable of seeing the goodness of the saints “next door”, of “those who, living in our midst, reflect God’s presence” (*Gaudete et Exsultate*, 7), but without fanfare. Bad news fills the pages of newspapers, websites and television screens, to the point that evil seems to reign supreme. But that is not the

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case. To be sure, malice and violence, abuse and corruption abound, but life is interwoven too with acts of respect and generosity that not only compensate for evil, but inspire us to take an extra step and fill our hearts with hope.

6. A hand held out is a sign; a sign that immediately speaks of closeness, solidarity and love. In these months, when the whole world was prey to a virus that brought pain and death, despair and bewilderment, how many outstretched hands have we seen! The outstretched hands of physicians who cared about each patient and tried to find the right cure. The outstretched hands of nurses who worked overtime, for hours on end, to look after the sick. The outstretched hands of administrators who procured the means to save as many lives as possible. The outstretched hands of pharmacists who at personal risk responded to people's pressing needs. The outstretched hands of priests whose hearts broke as they offered a blessing. The outstretched hands of volunteers who helped people living on the streets and those with a home yet nothing to eat. The outstretched hands of men and women who worked to provide essential services and security. We could continue to speak of so many other outstretched hands, all of which make up a great litany of good works. Those hands defied contagion and fear in order to offer support and consolation.

7. This pandemic arrived suddenly and caught us unprepared, sparking a powerful sense of bewilderment and helplessness. Yet hands never stopped reaching out to the poor. This has made us all the more aware of the presence of the poor in our midst and their need for help. Structures of charity, works of mercy, cannot be improvised. Constant organization and training is needed, based on the realization of our own need for an outstretched hand.

The present experience has challenged many of our assumptions. We feel poorer and less self-sufficient because we have come to sense our limitations and the restriction of our freedom. The loss of employment, and of opportunities to be close to our loved ones and our regular

acquaintances, suddenly opened our eyes to horizons that we had long since taken for granted. Our spiritual and material resources were called into question and we found ourselves experiencing fear. In the silence of our homes, we rediscovered the importance of simplicity and of keeping our eyes fixed on the essentials. We came to realize how much we need a new sense of fraternity, for mutual help and esteem. Now is a good time to recover "the conviction that we need one another, that we have a shared responsibility for others and the world... We have had enough of immorality and the mockery of ethics, goodness, faith and honesty... When the foundations of social life are corroded, what ensues are battles over conflicting interests, new forms of violence and brutality, and obstacles to the growth of a genuine culture of care for the environment" (*Laudato Si'*, 229). In a word, until we revive our sense of responsibility for our neighbour and for every person, grave economic, financial and political crises will continue.

8. This year's theme – "Stretch forth your hand to the poor" – is thus a summons to responsibility and commitment as men and women who are part of our one human family. It encourages us to bear the burdens of the weakest, in accord with the words of Saint Paul: "Through love serve one another. For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself'... Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ" (*Gal* 5:13-14; 6:2). The Apostle teaches that the freedom bestowed through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ makes us individually responsible for serving others, especially the weakest. This is not an option, but rather a sign of the authenticity of the faith we profess.

Here again, the book of Sirach can help us. It suggests concrete ways to support the most vulnerable and it uses striking images. First, it asks us to sympathize with those who are sorrowing: "Do not fail those who weep" (7:34). The time of pandemic forced us into strict isolation, making it impossible even to see and console friends and acquaintances grieving the loss of their loved ones. The sacred author also says: "Do not shrink

from visiting the sick" (7:35). We have been unable to be close to those who suffer, and at the same time we have become more aware of the fragility of our own lives. The word of God allows for no complacency; it constantly impels us to acts of love.

9. At the same time, the command: "Stretch forth your hand to the poor" challenges the attitude of those who prefer to keep their hands in their pockets and to remain unmoved by situations of poverty in which they are often complicit. Indifference and cynicism are their daily food. What a difference from the generous hands we have described! If they stretch out their hands, it is to touch computer keys to transfer sums of money from one part of the world to another, ensuring the wealth of an elite few and the dire poverty of millions and the ruin of entire nations. Some hands are outstretched to accumulate money by the sale of weapons that others, including those of children, use to sow death and poverty. Other hands are outstretched to deal doses of death in dark alleys in order to grow rich and live in luxury and excess, or to quietly pass a bribe for the sake of quick and corrupt gain. Others still, parading a sham respectability, lay down laws which they themselves do not observe.

Amid all these scenarios, "the excluded are still waiting. To sustain a lifestyle which excludes others, or to sustain enthusiasm for that selfish ideal, a globalization of indifference has developed. Almost without being aware of it, we end up being incapable of feeling compassion at the outcry of the poor, weeping for other people's pain, and feeling a need to help them, as though all this were someone else's responsibility and not our own" (*Evangeli Gaudium*, 54). We cannot be happy until these hands that sow death are transformed into instruments of justice and peace for the whole world.

10. "In everything you do, remember your end" (*Sir* 7:36). These are the final words of this chapter of the book of Sirach. They can be understood in two ways. First, our lives will sooner or later come to an end. Remembering our common destiny can help lead to a life of concern for those poorer than ourselves or

lacking the opportunities that were ours. But second, there is also an end or goal towards which each of us is tending. And this means that our lives are a project and a process. The "end" of all our actions can only be love. This is the ultimate goal of our journey, and nothing should distract us from it. This love is one of sharing, dedication and service, born of the realization that we were first loved and awakened to love. We see this in the way children greet their mother's smile and feel loved simply by virtue of being alive. Even a smile that we can share with the poor is a source of love and a way of spreading love. An outstretched hand, then, can always be enriched by the smile of those who quietly and unassumingly offer to help, inspired only by the joy of living as one of Christ's disciples.

In this journey of daily encounter with the poor, the Mother of God is ever at our side. More than any other, she is the Mother of the Poor. The Virgin Mary knows well the difficulties and sufferings of the marginalized, for she herself gave birth to the Son of God in a stable. Due to the threat of Herod, she fled to another country with Joseph her spouse and the child Jesus. For several years, the Holy Family lived as refugees. May our prayer to Mary, Mother of the Poor, unite these, her beloved children, with all those who serve them in Christ's name. And may that prayer enable outstretched hands to become an embrace of shared and rediscovered fraternity.



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Parish Living Rosary 2020

Sacred Heart Parish in Griffith had their annual Parish Living Rosary on 31 October. A wonderful day was had by all in the community and by the children who participated in preparing the giant Rosary beads.



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150th anniversary of the dedication of St Joseph as the Patron of the Universal Church

Bishop Mark Edwards OMI writes:
On December 8th this year, it will be 150 years since Pope Pius IX declared St Joseph the Patron of the Universal Church. Perhaps this is an opportunity for, and invitation to, us.

St Joseph is a great saint but, in many ways, hidden. He is a saint for everyone, no matter what our state of life. With so many challenges and difficulties in the Church and the world, the upcoming anniversary may be an opportune time to look to St Joseph, our patron, a model of holiness and a powerful intercessor for us.

St Joseph is connected to us by timing as the first COVID lockdown commenced on March 19, his feast day. As a poor carpenter, we have a model for workers and those struggling to provide for their families during this difficult time.

As husband of Mary and foster-father of Jesus, we can turn to him for difficulties in our own families and in others which

we know and love. As one who knew Jesus intimately and loved him intensely and contemplated the mystery of Jesus in his home, we have a model for the spiritual life.

St Joseph is the saint that St Mary of the Cross MacKillop prayed to and St Eugene de Mazenod placed the Oblates of Mary Immaculate under his patronage.

I will be making a special effort to involve St Joseph in my life.

I invite you to prepare for this anniversary by having a Novena, perhaps saying a short litany to St Joseph. And then, during this year, to turn intentionally and regularly to St Joseph our patron and friend.

Bishop Mark Edwards OMI



"Holy Family statue" by a snapshot of our lives is licensed under CC BY-NC-ND 2.0

Novena to St Joseph in preparation for the 150th Anniversary of the Dedication of the Universal Church to his Patronage on 8th December 1870

God the Father of Heaven,	have mercy on us
God the Son, Redeemer of the world,	have mercy on us
God the Holy Spirit,	have mercy on us
Holy Mary	pray for us
St Joseph	pray for us
Spouse of the mother of God	pray for us
Chaste guardian of the Virgin	pray for us
Foster-father of the Son of God	pray for us
Model of all who labour	pray for us
Reliable friend of St Mary of the Cross	pray for us
Hope of the sick	pray for us
Patron of the dying	pray for us
Protector of the Holy Church	pray for us

V. He has made him master of his house;
R. And ruler of all his possessions.

Let us pray:

O Lord,
in your loving providence, you chose St Joseph to be the spouse of your most holy Mother; grant that we may be worthy to have him for our intercessor in Heaven, whom we venerate as our protector on earth.
Amen.



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Sisters of Saint Joseph
of the Sacred Heart

Closing of St Terence's Church, Urangeline

St Terence's, unused for almost three years, had been beautifully cleaned and was decorated with information and stories of the life of this community.

The parish community, many of whom could not fit into the Church, gathered to join in the marking of the closing of St Terence's and to celebrate all the good that had happened here. Fr Henry Ibe, our parish priest, Fr Terence Mahedy and Bishop Mark Edwards led us in this last Mass during which, with full hearts, we gave thanks for the gifts of God and the graces of this place.

At the end of the Mass, there was a ritual for the closing of this Church. Through it we gave thanks for all the blessings that have been received here. We recalled those who entered the life of grace through Baptism here, the times when we have been forgiven, comforted and consoled in Reconciliation, the generations of prayer and devotion that the sacred images of the Cross, the Sacred Heart, Mary and Joseph have inspired, the power of the Word preached from the lectern, the times we have partaken of the Body and Blood of the Lord in this place, and the Sundays on which we worshiped faithfully, the first communion celebrations, the feast days of saints and martyrs, the weddings witnessed here, the funerals held here in hope.

Poignantly, when we left the Church, the tabernacle was empty and its doors remained opened.

Just as a human can offer life to others by organ donation when they die, we pondered what communities might be enriched by the transfer of artifacts from this Church to others. The bishop invited a member of the Clancy family to come forward and entrusted to him the 1890 Chalice which had been donated by his forebears to St Terence's. He took it to Fr Mahedy and gave it to him to take to the Catholic community of Henty which has strong connections with Urangeline.

God is greater than any temple, church, or cathedral that can be built by human hands, yet in this place we had met his divine majesty. This church building has been a place of blessing for us. We prayed to be protected on our way and that we would find new friends in another faith community.

**Homily for the closing
of St Terence's Urangeline,
1 November 2020**

There have been Catholics in the Urangeline area for as long as Europeans have lived in the area. The baptismal register in Albury records the baptism of a girl from the Kirby family from Urangeline in 1876. The first Church was opened in 1890 and was described as a substantial building that could seat



St Terence's Church, Urangeline

150 people. This seems to have been an exaggeration in both claims. It probably only seated half that number and had a huge lean ever since it was almost blown over in a storm. At a later date, a windstorm blew up during Mass and Pat Gleeson ran out of the Church. When reproached about this, he replied 'Well someone had to survive to tell the tale.' The current Church replaced that and was opened and blessed in 1937.

Today we celebrate the solemnity of All Saints which honours all those who are with God, the innumerable people who chose to love and be faithful to Christ and to live the beatitudes. There is evidence of a feast of all the confessors being celebrated in the Eastern part of

the Roman empire in the 300s and the Pantheon, previously a pagan temple, was dedicated to Mary and (all) the Martyrs in 609AD. In 835AD, this feast was extended to the entire Church and it celebrates all those whose names are written in the book of life, including those not canonised.

There are a number of candidates for St Terence of this Church but a likely candidate for this Church is bishop Terence Albert O'Brien, an Irishman martyred in 1651.

We come for the final Mass in this Church of St Terence. With the larger farms and increasing mechanization and smaller families, there are no longer enough people living in this area to sustain a separate worshipping community. And with cars and improved roads, we are more able to travel to Churches.

And we gather on All Saints Day for this last Mass. The solemnity is a wonderful reminder of the women and men who have worshipped in this building and its predecessor, many of whom have been heroic in their virtue. And it helps us to recall how what happened in this place nurtured and strengthened the goodness in these people. And along with those who have been heroic in virtue, the saints, we remember others who have worked away at having a relationship with Jesus, their Lord.

The beatitudes we read today are not a command; they are an invitation to be true to the Spirit we were baptized into, the family we ultimately come from.

Fr Rolheiser OMI suggests that one way to think of our internal division, our struggle to be saints is to picture ourselves as having two souls, two hearts, and two minds. Inside of each of us there's a soul, heart, and mind that's petty, that's been



Bishop Mark Edwards OMI celebrates the closing Mass at St Terence's.



Fr Mahedy distributes communion.

continued on page 11...

continued from page 10...

hurt, that wants vengeance, that wants to protect itself, that's frightened of what's different, that's prone to gossip, that's racist, that perennially feels cheated.

But there's also a big-hearted person inside each of us, someone who wants to warmly embrace the whole world, beyond personal hurt, selfishness, race, creed, and politics.

We are always both, grand and petty. On this story, the world isn't divided up between big-hearted and small-minded people. Rather our days are divided up between those moments when we are big-hearted, generous, warm, hospitable, unafraid, merciful, peacemaking, standing up for what is right, standing up for Jesus, wanting to embrace everyone and those moments when we are petty, selfish, over-aware of the unfairness of life, frightened, and seeking only to protect ourselves and our own safety and interests.

We are complex but that points to our richness and suggests that all of

our different parts are important in the spiritual journey.

The beatitudes invite us to be like the best of those who have worshipped before us in this place, to live what's best inside us, a life with Christ.

Today, we celebrate the bigheartedness of the women and men who went before us and in particular those who worshipped in this place becoming, in the process, more noble and valiant, loving, merciful and generous and thus making this Church holy and special. They arouse in us the desire to be like them and to be with them and to be close to Jesus. I am going to pause and during this time I invite you to pray to the saints you have chosen, canonised or otherwise, to help you all the days of your life.

We recognize them and we acknowledge this place. Our worshipping is transferred to St Mary's in Lockhart and growth, holiness and nobility will be nurtured there.



Left to right - Aaron McDonnell (baptised at St Terence's and a former reader and altar server), Brian Gleeson (descendant of first parishioners), John McDonnell (former altar server and reader), Larry Smith (Lockhart Parish Council President), Judy Hamson and Robyn McDonnell (both church cleaners and readers).

St Francis de Sales Regional College, Leeton welcomes Bishop Mark Edwards OMI

The College invited Bishop Mark to the campus for the first time on 9 November.

Bishop particularly enjoyed taking control of the Senior Advanced Mathematics class. He visited a number of other classes where he conversed with students about their learning and their time at the College.

Bishop was escorted by our College Captains Aaron Sandral (Oaklands) and Bella Smith (Griffith), along with Principal Mr Sebastian Spina. As well as visiting

specialist classrooms in action including Visual Arts, Italian and Drama, there were visits to the College chapel and hall and the new Labyrinth, inspired by Mrs Ann Charles and the Year 12 class of 2018.

Bishop was able to connect with many names on the College honour boards, including Fr Anthony Schipp (dux of the College in 1962).



Left: Parish Priest Fr Anthony Dunne, College Captain Aaron Sandral (Oaklands), Isabella Smith college Captain (Griffith), Bishop Mark Edwards and Assistant Priest Fr Tony Oboshi.

Right: Fr Anthony Dunne PP Bishop Mark Edwards Fr Tony Oboshi and St Francis College Principal Seb Spina.

Below: Bishop Edwards and the Yr 12 Advanced Mathematics class at St Francis College Leeton with teacher Mr Steve Baulch.

Below right: Bishop Mark Edwards takes control of the Year 12 Advanced Mathematics class.



Come Join The Dance

David Enever was meant to be performing in front of hundreds of students across the region but 2020 had other plans.

Instead, the singer/songwriter from Wagga Wagga has been performing 'couch concerts' from his living room for the better part of the year, growing a global following on his Facebook and Instagram platforms.

With his primary school concerts postponed, Mr Enever had to come up with a plan B. "Performing on the couch has allowed me to connect with an audience, and practice my dad jokes for when the school concerts are back up." He has gained fans worldwide with "over 2000 followers (on Instagram) Aussies, Kiwis, Canadians, Americans, the UK and even Jamaicans."

He has also managed to produce more music, with co-producer Grant Luhrs at Flying Fox Studios, Wagga Wagga. A new single 'Come Join The Dance' will be released on major streaming platforms on Friday, November 20, and three more songs will be released in the upcoming months.

'Come Join The Dance' is based on Mark 12:30-31. Mr Enever said "the song's message is a metaphor to follow in Christ, with a country-rock sound. The vocals have been layered in production, building up more with each chorus, all joining in the dance, so to speak."

David is also very excited to announce that DEMusic has teamed up with Jess Takats and her dance squad from Triple Threat Riverina, to produce a dance and lyrics video for 'Come Join the Dance'. This will hopefully be out on YouTube and his website: davidenever.com before the end of the school year for students to dance to, seeing as they're not supposed to communally sing due to COVID restrictions.

Taking the setbacks of this year as a blessing, he has also been taking his time to focus on the production values, and developing his sound in the studio. "Grant and I have taken our time with these new songs. We have focused a lot on the production values, with the four



David Enever performs a 'couch concert'.

new songs we have taken as long as my whole previous album."

He has also found the opportunity to produce merchandise, with an apparel range currently available to purchase through his website. "There are three

different designs, with t-shirts, hoodies and canvas carry bags available," Mr Enever said.

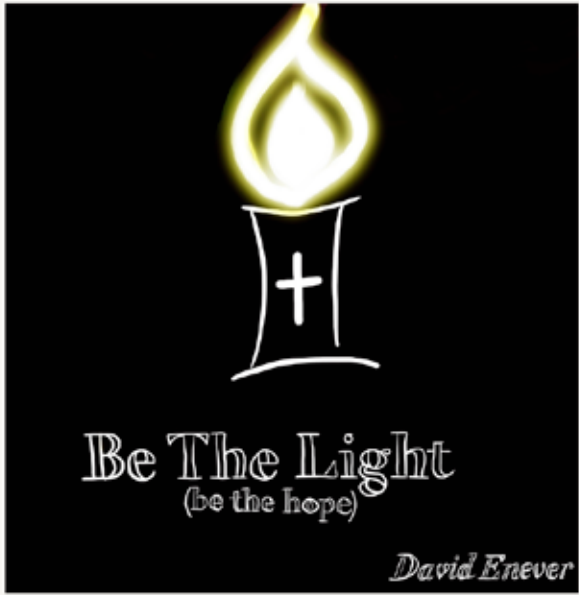
Will you 'Come Join The Dance' on November 20?

'Come Join The Dance'
November 20
on
major streaming platforms



'Be The Light'
available from
www.davidenever.com

***T-shirts, hoodies & bags also available**



First Holy Communion



Fr Henry Ibe with Skye Moloney, Ryan Sheridan, Georgia Fealy and Harrison Nixon at their First Holy Communion in Oaklands.

Update on the Uda family

Many of you have been helping the impoverished Uda family in the Solomon Islands. Phil and Donalee have provided an update on their situation.

Dear Friends,
Many of you have been helping our impoverished family in the Solomon Islands. In promising to support them when they faced a difficult pregnancy as refugees in Australia you have helped us fund the building of a very tiny house on their own land for the family of five. In desperation at being turned out of their previous accommodation they quickly constructed a dwelling smaller than most of our garages, only far less well-equipped. Imagine no electricity, no water (which needed to be collected from a well 5km away), no toilet, no cooking facilities, no insect screens... In fact, it is just a shelter, but one for which they are eternally thankful to their benefactors-especially since the rains have come again. They send their heartfelt thanks to all who have helped them.

At last they are in their own place after 18 months of sharing in overcrowded, unhappy situations. Slowly they are adding basic necessities like a rain water tank and are digging a pit toilet.

Coronavirus has just arrived although they have already spent months in isolation on a remote island after the government drove as many people as possible out of Honiara. Now they are facing further restrictions, curfews and food shortages. They are begging for help to stock up on basics like rice which sadly is often eaten without accompaniment. That's not the best diet for children and for someone like Salome whose pregnancy and eyesight were threatened by diabetes when she was here. A vast number of the malnourished population suffer from this condition and amputees are everywhere. The family do grow as

much fruit, vegetables and cassava on their land as they can, but that is finished for the year and they have now replanted. If you are able to help this family occasionally or on a perhaps on a more regular basis please consider doing so. We forward 100% of donations progressively to help meet the family's needs.

The details are as follows:
ACC NAME: Spiritus Sancti Ball Committee
BSB: 062 645
ACC NO: 1032 8283

God Bless
Phil and Donalee Murphy

Two recent messages from Salome:
Am terribly frustrated because I can't get any job in here Solomon islands because of covid 19. I hope next year I will get some job. I want to do things for money but it's hard - no money. Things here in Solomon islands very expensive and value of the money is very small, everyday things going up and up, if go to check for the price of the things today and we go tomorrow we go to buy that thing and price goes up again, most of time gave you not the exact estimate price. Am so sorry that we always bothering you many times. It's not easy for you and your family doing this to help my family. I hope and pray that you and your families, God's heavenly fortune upon your work and families. Thank you and God bless.

Wow Donalee. With tears in my eyes I personally say thank you. I feel like an angel of God is really looking after



Salome and Raymond Uda with Jackson, Peter and Raymond Jr.

my family. You always gives me words of hope and that brings strength and courage to stand for what you believe in my family and God's expectations of what a family should we become. I want to always pray for your family

always because you never gave up on us and every family that are helping us. You are, always will be, family in our hearts and meet in heaven . We love your family very much. God bless, Salome



New plantings for next year with the new house in the background.



The house being blessed by the priest.



The house interior - the flooring appears to be like contact adhesive.



The freshly dug toilet pit, awaiting funds for timber and cement to install toilet.

Red Wednesday 2020



On November 25, Red Wednesday is a day to gather to draw attention to the plight of those who are persecuted and oppressed for their religious beliefs.

Cathedrals, churches and public buildings around the world will light up in red to show solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Red Wednesday is a day to gather and draw attention to the plight of those who are persecuted and oppressed for their religious beliefs. Cathedrals, churches and public buildings around the world will light up in red to show solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Christ. Red Wednesday is an initiative of Aid to the Church in Need (ACN), a Catholic charity dedicated to the support of suffering and persecuted Christians. In Australia, Red Wednesday will take place on the 25 November however some places will host Red Wednesday events throughout the week.

It is clear that the persecution of Christians is worse today than at any time in history. In terms of the number of people involved, the gravity of the acts committed, and their impact, not only are Christians more persecuted than any other faith group, but ever-increasing numbers are experiencing the worst forms of persecution.

The purpose of Red Wednesday is to join together and raise a strong voice in support of the persecuted who are unable to speak freely, and who look to us - their brothers and sisters in Christ - to speak on their behalf.

How can I get involved with Red Wednesday?

Events: A number of churches and cathedrals in Australia will be lighting up in red and holding an event to commemorate Red Wednesday.

Dress: Wear something red, or a red ribbon, on Wednesday 25 November to raise awareness of those persecuted for their faith. Take a photo of yourself wearing red and share it on social media with the hashtag #RedWednesday

Pray: Prayer is the bond that unites us in love and solidarity with our brothers and sisters who suffer and are persecuted for their love of Jesus. Join us in praying throughout November for persecuted Christians. You may also want to offer a Mass for suffering Christians 100% of Mass offerings are sent to poor priests who will celebrate Mass for your prayer intentions.

Awareness: The persecution of Christians is too often ignored. You can change this by knowing the stories

of those who suffer and making those stories known. Join our mailing list to receive our regular newsletter (via post or email), follow us on social media and share our content. #RedWednesday.

Donate: By making a donation to Aid to the Church in Need you are helping us to fund projects that support Christians that are being persecuted, oppressed or are suffering. Each year we receive 7500 requests from around the world but we can only help with about 5000 requests due to a lack of funds. If you would prefer to make a donation over the phone you can call: 1800 101 201 during business hours.

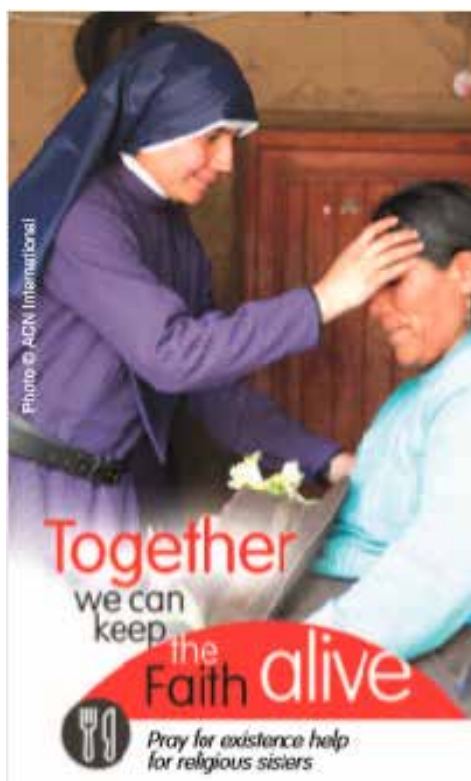
Fundraise: From morning teas to marathons to garage sales to movie nights to raffles to bake sales. There is no shortage of creative ways one can raise support and raise funds for Christians in need. What can you come up with?

Catholic Students at Sydney University hosted a bake sale raising \$810 for Aid to the Church in Need's projects.

From Scotland to the Philippines, from the U.S.A. to Iraq #Redwednesday events took place last year to draw attention to the persecution of Christians and other faith groups because of their religious beliefs.

You can also remember persecuted Christians right across the month by being a part of Red November.

To find out more, visit aidtochurch.org/Red-Wednesday



PRAYER FOR Persecuted Christians

Lord Jesus Christ, as the Good Shepherd, You gave Your life for all people. You have personally called each one of us to serve suffering and persecuted Christians. In them, You continue Your passion for the redemption of the world. It is a grace to carry the cross with them. Grant us love, courage and a readiness to sacrifice so that we can aid and console our brothers and sisters in faith. Fill us with Your merciful love for one another, that we may also bless our enemies and forgive them. Thus, we want to joyfully testify to Your presence in the world and find fullness of life in You. Amen.

Aid to the Church in Need is the only international Catholic charity dedicated to the support of suffering and persecuted Christians.



1800 101 201 • www.aidtochurch.org

#RedWednesday

Stand up for Faith and Freedom
Pray for those persecuted for their faith.

25 November 2020

COVID-19 Diocesan Protocols

**Effective
Friday 24 July 2020**

1. Covid-Safe Business

All Parishes must comply with the NSW Government requirement to complete a Covid-Safe Plan and register as a Covid-Safe Business.

2. Maximum Attendance

Places of worship are limited to 100 people, subject to the one person per four square metre rule (excluding clergy and liturgical ministers).

3. Hygiene practices

- Sanitisation of hands before entering the church, hall, prayer room, etc.
- Wiping down of pews and common areas at conclusion of Mass or gathering.
- Priest and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to purify hands with sanitiser before and after offering Holy Communion.
- Limit the use of communal books. Ensure they are cleansed between use.

4. Register of people upon entering the church, hall, prayer room, etc.

- Name, phone number and/or email to be recorded
- To be kept in a safe place (respecting privacy laws) for at least 28 days.
- Funeral directors to keep attendance register for funerals.

5. Eucharist

- Holy Communion in the hand only.

- Sacred Host to be offered only, not the Precious Blood.
- No touching at the sign of peace.
- No offertory procession.
- No congregational singing.
- No collection plates are to be used, but money/envelopes placed at collection points.

6. Communion to Sick and Elderly Persons

Normal pastoral practice continues including Communion to sick persons in hospitals, aged care homes and private homes.

7. Anointing of the Sick

- Normal Pastoral Practice continues.
- Anointing of the sick in hospitals, aged care homes and private homes if permitted to enter.
 - If the person has COVID-19, please consult the Bishop's Office.

8. First Penance & First Holy Communion

Normal Pastoral Practice continues, respecting liturgical and pastoral protocols.

9. Confirmation

The sacrament of Confirmation in the Diocese of Wagga Wagga is to be delayed until term 4. If all is clear at that time, Parish Priests will have delegated authority for Confirmations for this year.

Most Rev Mark Edwards OMI
Bishop of Wagga Wagga



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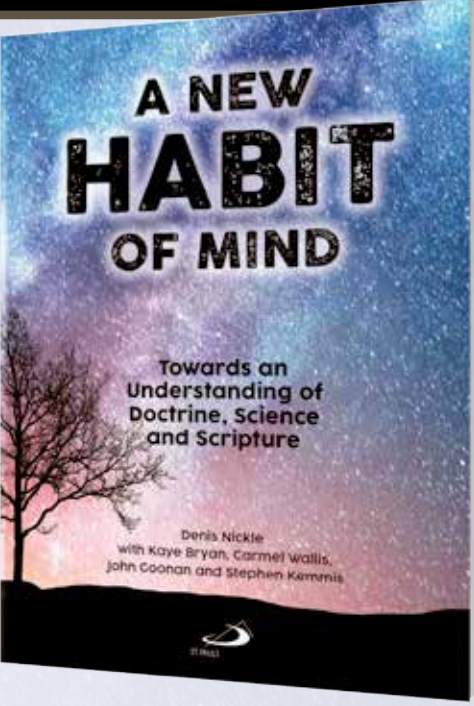


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- » Build your capacity to self manage and reach set personal goals
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SUPPORT WITH YOUR RELATIONSHIP, OR A SEPARATION?

We offer individual, couples or family counselling sessions to help support you to strengthen and improve your relationships. We also offer family group conferencing which helps provide best outcomes for children based on their current needs. Have you separated? We offer mediation services for parents who have separated and want to work out a plan on how to co-parent. We can also support you with navigating the Family Law systems through counselling and advocacy.

SCHOOL WELLBEING PROGRAM

For our children to think right, they must first feel right. Our School Wellbeing Practitioners work with students, families and school staff within Catholic Diocese to help children feel right and maximise their learning. Referral through school required.

HAVE YOU RECENTLY SETTLED IN AUSTRALIA?

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SUPPORT PROGRAMS FOR PARENTS, GRANDPARENTS AND CARERS?

We offer a wide range of parenting education groups that focus on building skills and knowledge so you can tackle those tricky parenting moments and enjoy a positive relationship with your children.

In whichever way you support your family - by being a parent, grandparent, carer or support person, one of our great groups could help you improve your relationships.

Fr Thomas Casanova cycles 1500km for cancer-stricken congregant

A pedal-pushing priest has cycled nearly 1500 kilometres in one month for the sake of one of his young congregants, who has been diagnosed with leukemia.

by Kenji Sato

West Wagga Parish priest Thomas Casanova took on the Great Cycling Challenge with the goal of raising \$1000 for cancer research, but has already smashed his target by \$12,000.

Fr Casanova said it had been a challenging experience, what with the frequent magpie attacks and Wagga's uphill slopes, but also a time for quiet reflection.

"It's been a time for prayer; as I push the pedals I pray, and sometimes I come up with ideas for sermons while I'm cycling," Fr Casanova said.

"I've been praying for the kids while cycling, but if I can also use it to raise some money for research then that's great."

Fr Casanova said he was inspired take on the challenge by one of his flock, 8-year-old Levi Blacka, who has been battling leukemia since he was five years old.

Fr Casanova baptised Levi after he was born and he married their two parents,

Gloria and Leigh, and he said he felt like it was duty to help them in their time of need.

"You're a part of the family, in sense," Fr Casanova said.

"Priests don't have their own family in one sense, but we do have a shared family life with everyone in our parish and beyond."

Levi's mother Gloria Blacka said the community outpouring for Levi had meant a great deal to the family, who were now doing their best to live a "new normal" life.

Both parents had to put their full-time jobs on hold while Levi attended chemotherapy, and Mrs Blacka said charities like Country Hope were a financial lifeline during that time.

Levi is still currently in remission, but Mrs Blacka said he was back to being the smiley, high-spirited boy he always was.

"He's that type of child who is resilient; whatever change happens for him, he goes with the flow and accepts it, which



Above: Fr Thomas Casanova and his priest-powered bicycle.
Picture: Emma Hillier

Right: Levi Blacka with his parents, Leigh and Gloria with Fr Thomas.



is a pretty amazing for such a small child," Mrs Blacka said.

"He's very positive, very determined, and still very cheeky."

To donate visit:
<https://greatcyclechallenge.com.au/Riders/FrThomasCasanova>



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- Junee Shop** 85 Broadway St Junee
- Lavington Shop** 321 Urana Rd Lavington
- Leeton Shop** 42 Kurrajong Ave Leeton
- Mulwala Shop** 47 Melbourne St Mulwala
- Narrandera Shop** 181 East St Narrandera
- Tumbarumba Shop** 16 The Parade Tumbarumba
- Turvey Park Shop** Turvey Tops Shopping Centre, Fernleigh Rd Wagga Wagga
- Wagga Wagga Shop** 15 Peter St Wagga Wagga

VOLUNTEER TODAY



We are urgently in need of volunteers to work in our Vinnies shops across the Riverina.

If you have some spare time in your week we would love to hear from you.

Please phone **13 18 12** to find out more.

All Souls Day - a time to remember

The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed is celebrated on November 2. From this day the Church extends the month of November as a month of remembering and praying for the dead.

by Sharon Boyd - ACU Centre for Liturgy

We pray for all who have died; for those who are in heaven and for those who are still in need of purification in readiness for the glory of heaven.

Our Christian tradition of praying for the dead, has its origins in the Jewish faith. One of the options for the First Reading for the Feast of All Souls comes from 2 Maccabees 12:43-45

Judas, the leader of the Jews, took a collection from the people individually, amounting to nearly two thousand drachmae, and sent it to Jerusalem to have

a sacrifice for sin offered, an altogether fine and noble action, in which he took full account of the resurrection. For if he had not expected the fallen to rise again, it would have been superfluous and foolish to pray for the dead, whereas if he had in view the splendid recompense reserved for those who make a pious end, the thought was holy and devout. This was why he had this atonement sacrifice offered for the dead, so that they might be released from their sin.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.



Pope Francis leads a Mass on the occasion of All Souls' Day at the Prima Porta Cemetery in Rome, Italy

In this Old Testament account, Judas Maccabeus, the leader of the Jewish resistance movement against the Greek conquest of Israel, exemplifies how the Jews had a firm faith in redemption and in the resurrection of the dead; praying for the dead is part of their faith. This is important as 2 Maccabees has an emphasis on religious martyrdom.

From the days of the early Christian martyrs it was common for the faithful to gather in cemeteries and even to have a picnic amongst their deceased. By the Middle Ages (with high mortality rates) visiting graves on All Souls Day was a well-established custom where people would leave flowers, light candles and sprinkle holy water on gravesites as they prayed for the dead. In some countries around the world such as in Mexico, it is still common for people to picnic around their family graves. In the Middle Ages it was also common for monasteries of the various Orders to pray for the dead according to their local customs. The Church eventually established November 2 as the official date for the remembrance

of All Souls.

In a homily on All Souls' Day in 2018, Pope Francis said, "Today is a day of memory that takes us back to our roots. It is also a day of hope. It reminds us of what we can expect: the hope of encountering the love of the Father." The choice of Gospel readings for this feast bears this out. Readings of the account of the Resurrection; If a grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies, it yields a rich harvest; there are many rooms in my Father's house – these are only a few of the vast array of Gospel options for this Feast Day all selected to offer hope and assurance of eternal life.

You may be familiar with the prayer *Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.* This prayer (without the closing few words), comes from one of the options for the entrance antiphon for All Souls. It has its origins in 4 Esdr 2:34-35, "the eternal light will shine upon you for evermore". It is an ancient prayer to lead us to eternity.



A woman lights a candle on the grave of her relative before praying at a cemetery during the observance of All Souls Day

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2020 NAIDOC Week celebrations

NAIDOC Week celebrations are being held across Australia from the 8-15 of November to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

NAIDOC is celebrated not only in Indigenous communities but by Australians from all walks of life.

This year's theme is *Always Was, Always Will Be* in recognition of the fact that First Nations people have occupied and cared for this continent for over 65,000 years and that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people were Australia's first explorers, navigators, engineers, farmers, botanists, scientists, diplomats, astronomers, artist and oral storytellers.

Australia has the world's oldest oral stories. The First Peoples engraved the world's first maps, made the earliest paintings of ceremony and invented unique technologies. We built and engineered structures - structures on Earth - predating well-known sites such as the Egyptian Pyramids and Stonehenge.

Our adaptation and intimate knowledge of Country enabled us to endure climate change, catastrophic droughts and rising sea levels.

Always Was, Always Will Be acknowledges that hundreds of Nations and our cultures covered this continent. All were managing the land - the biggest estate on earth - to sustainably provide for their future.

Through ingenious land management systems like fire stick farming we

transformed the harshest habitable continent into a land of bounty.

NAIDOC Week 2020 acknowledges and celebrates that our nation's story didn't begin with documented European contact whether in 1770 or 1606 - with the arrival of the Dutch on the western coast of the Cape York Peninsula.

The very first footprints on this continent were those belonging to First Nations peoples.

Our coastal Nations watched and interacted with at least 36 contacts made by Europeans prior to 1770. Many of them resulting in the charting of the northern, western and southern coastlines – of our lands and our waters.


For us, this nation's story began at the dawn of time.

NAIDOC 2020 invites all Australians to embrace the true history of this country – a history which dates back thousands of generations.

It's about seeing, hearing and learning the First Nations' 65,000+ year history of this country - which is Australian history. We want all Australians to celebrate that we have the oldest continuing cultures on the planet and to recognise that our sovereignty was never ceded.

Always Was, Always Will Be.





naidoc.org.au

NAIDOC WEEK

8-15 NOV 2020

#NAIDOC2020
#AlwaysWasAlwaysWillBe

Artwork: Shape of Land by Tyronn Wagana

The Rainbow Serpent came out of the Dreamtime to create the land. It is represented by the snake and it forms the shape of Australia, which symbolises how it created our lands. The colour from the Rainbow Serpent is reflected on the figure to display our connection to the Rainbow Serpent, thus our connection to country. The overlapping colours on the outside of the Dreamtime. The figure inside the shape of Australia is a representation of Indigenous Australians showing that this country - since the dawn of time - always was, and always will be Aboriginal land.

facebook.com/NAIDOC
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St Michael's Primary, Coolamon



St Michael's Primary had a great afternoon for their mission day on 6 November. Thank you to Stage 3 for your organisation and for everyone's generosity.



Mater Dei Primary, Wagga



Mater Dei was a sea of blue on 28 October to celebrate Plunkett Day. They had a special prayer for Father Plunkett in the morning, remembering his generosity and kind spirit to our community.



St Joseph's Primary, Wagga



Congratulations to all the Year 6 students who made the sacrament of Confirmation. We pray that the Holy Spirit continues to shine in your hearts.



St Joseph's Primary School, Jerilderie

Congratulations to the Year 5/6 students on their Confirmation. Thank you to the parents on helping them celebrate in a covid safe way. The ceremony was wonderful and you all presented yourselves beautifully!



Sacred Heart Primary, Wagga Wagga

Sacred Heart Primary has been lucky enough to have a brand new "SUBPOD" Composting System donated by the SUBPOD people to their Kitchen/Garden! The worms are thrilled!



St Joseph's Primary School, Leeton

Stage 2 Science students recently learned about static electricity.



Holy Spirit School, Lavington

Science and Fun go hand in hand in Years 3 and 6. Year 3 created Rube Goldberg Machines while Year 6 created circuits to enable objects to light up or move.



Holy Trinity Primary, West Wagga

A huge thank you to all of those who once again contributed to the fundraising for Catholic Mission in Cambodia. Staff and students placed coins in a map of Cambodia, which amounted to a fantastic total of \$284.80.

Thanks to Mrs Beard for her fantastic drawing the map of Cambodia and its surrounds.



St Joseph's Primary, Finley

Thank you St. Joseph's families for another great Book Parade! As always your efforts are greatly appreciated.



KIDS corner

SAINTS FUN FACTS

by John Sheppard

A Roman virgin who beseeched the angels and saints to protect her virginity. She believed an angel watched over her and once baptised, her husband believed also. With his brother, they buried the martyrs slain by Turcius Almachius.

Her preaching had converted 400 people. She was arrested and sentenced to death.

She was buried by Pope Urban and his deacons.

Saint Cecilia

Recipe...



Christmas Biscuits

Ingredients:

125g butter, at room temperature

1/2 cup (115g) caster sugar

1/4 cup (60ml) milk

1 teaspoon vanilla extract

1 1/2 cups (225g) self-raising flour

1/2 cup (70g) custard powder

Icing sugar

Cachous to decorate

Method:

- Preheat oven to 180°C. Line two baking trays with non-stick baking paper.
- Use an electric beater to beat the butter and sugar until pale and creamy. Beat in milk and vanilla extract. Fold in the flour and custard powder.
- Press the dough into a ball and wrap in plastic wrap. Refrigerate for 30 minutes to rest.
- Divide the dough into manageable portions. Roll out one portion on a sheet of non-stick baking paper to about 1cm thick. Use Christmas cookie cutters to cut shapes and place on the trays. Decorate as pictured.
- Bake for 10 minutes or until light golden. Cool for 5 minutes on the trays before transferring to a wire rack to cool completely. Repeat with remaining dough.



ALL SAINTS DAY



Send your coloured picture, word search or joke ideas with your name, age and school to:

Together Editor

PO Box 473

Wagga Wagga NSW 2650

We'd love to hear from you!



NOVEMBER SAINTS & FEAST DAYS

Word Search

Find all of the words or phrases in the puzzle that are in **BOLD** in the word bank below:



All Saints
All Souls

St. Martin de **Porres**

St. Charles **Borromeo**

St. **Leo** the Great

St. **Martin** of Tours

St. Frances Xavier **Cabrini**

St. **Margaret** of Scotland

St. **Elizabeth** of Hungary

Presentation of **Mary**

St. **Andrew**

St. **Albert** the Great

St. Andrew **Dung-Lac**

St. **Cecilia**

St. **Clement** I of Rome

St. **Columban**

Christ the King

The Ode of Remembrance

At 11:00 am on 11 November each year, people from many countries around the world pause to commemorate Remembrance Day, the anniversary of the day that the fighting ended in the First World War.

Towards the conclusion of the ceremonies, after wreaths have been laid and before the sounding of the Last Post and the minute's silence, The Ode of Remembrance is read.

The Ode of Remembrance may be the most well-known part of Remembrance Day ceremonies. It is the fourth stanza of the poem For the Fallen by Laurence Binyon, who before the war had been an assistant keeper of prints and drawings at the British Museum. The stanza which forms the Ode of Remembrance reads:

*They shall grow not old,
as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them,
nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the
sun and in the morning
We will remember them.*

The Ode of Remembrance was selected in 1919 to accompany the unveiling of the London Cenotaph and soon passed into common use across the British Commonwealth. In Australia it is recited on Anzac Day and Remembrance Day.

Written just a few weeks after the war began, For the Fallen anticipated much about the war on the Western Front – not least the vast numbers of dead and the symbolism that came to be associated with the red poppies which



grew in profusion in northern France and Flanders.

For soldiers who fought on the Western Front, the Ode of Remembrance also called to mind two of the most important moments of the

day in the trenches – dawn and dusk, the time of the ‘standto’. This was the favoured time of attack by armies on both sides and all eyes at sunrise and sunset were focused on the enemy line.

Though it was written more than a

century ago, in its remembrance of the dead and its sorrowful evocation of the future they were denied, the Ode of Remembrance remains relevant to the present day.



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Mass times across our Diocese

Wagga Wagga - Cathedral

St Michael’s Cathedral
Church Street, Wagga Wagga
Monday - Friday 7:00am, 12:45pm
Weekend Masses
Saturday - 12:15pm
Saturday Vigil - 6:00pm
Sunday - 8:00am, 10:00am and 5:30pm
Confessions
Monday - Thursday 12:30pm - 12:40pm
Friday 12:00-12:40pm & 6:30pm-6:45pm
Saturday 11:00am-12:00noon & 4:30pm-5:30pm
Rosary times
Monday to Thursday 12:25pm and Saturday 11:55am (before Mass)
St Mary’s Chapel
Vianney College, 17 Durack Circuit
Sunday - 9:00am
Mt Erin Chapel
Kildare Catholic College
Edmondson Street, Wagga Wagga
Sunday - 10:00am (Extraordinary Form)

Wagga Wagga - Koorungal

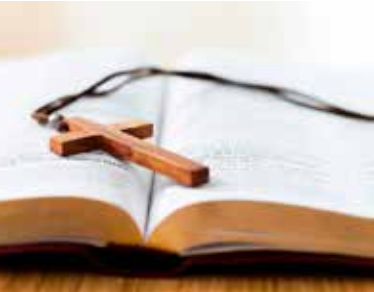
Sacred Heart
Lake Albert Road, Koorungal
Weekend Masses
Saturday Vigil - 5:30pm
Sunday - 9:00am and 5:30pm
Children’s Liturgy during 9:00am Mass
Weekday Masses
Monday, Wednesday, Friday - 7:00am
Tuesday and Thursday - 5:45pm
Saturday - 9:30am
Confessions
Saturday - 10:00am - 10:30am

Wagga Wagga - South Wagga

Our Lady of Fatima
Bourke Street, Wagga Wagga
Weekend Masses
Saturday Vigil - 5:00pm
Sunday - 8:30am, 10:30am & 5:30pm (Syro-Malabar Rite)
St Patrick’s Uranquinty
Sunday - 8:30am
Weekday Masses - Our Lady of Fatima
Wednesday - 10:00am
Thursday - 11:00am (Ethel Forrest Centre)
Friday - 5:45pm
Anointing Mass
Marian Foyer, Henschke Hall
4th Tuesday of the month - 10:30am
Weekday Masses - Calvary Hospital
Monday-Friday - 8:00am (except public holidays)
Aged Care Facility Masses
Forrest Centre
Every Thursday - 11:00am
Nan Roberts Nursing Home
- The Haven
3rd Tuesday of the month - 10:30am
RSL Remembrance Village
2nd Tuesday of the month - 10:30am
Confessions
Saturday - 10:30-11:30am

Wagga Wagga - West Wagga

Holy Trinity Church
Bardia Street Ashmont
Monday - Saturday - 7:00am
Friday - 10:15am
Sunday - 9:00am, 10:30am and 5:30pm
Our Lady of the Blessed Eucharist Church
Benedict Avenue San Isidore
Monday, Wednesday & Thursday - 6:00pm
Saturday Vigil - 6:00pm



Albury

St Patrick’s
515 Smollett St, Albury
Weekend Mass Times
Saturday - 9:30am
Vigil (Saturday) - 5:00pm
Sunday - 8.00am, 10.00am, and 5:30pm
Latin Mass - Sunday 12 noon
Weekday Mass Times
Monday to Friday - 7:00am
Tuesday & Thursday - 9:30am
Latin Mass Mondays - 7pm in the Adoration Chapel
First Friday - 5:30pm
Rosary before Mass
Saturday - 9.10am and 4.30pm
Sunday - 7.40am and 9.40am

Albury - North Albury

Sacred Heart Mate Street, North Albury
Saturday Vigil - 6.00 pm
Sunday - 9.30 am
Weekday Masses
Tuesday to Friday 9.30am or as printed in weekly newsletter
First Tuesday of month – Mercy Place 11.00am – Includes sacrament of anointing
Confessions
Saturday - 5.15 - 5.45 pm

Albury - Lavington

Holy Spirit
Saturday Vigil - 6.00pm
Sunday - 8.00am, 10.00am
St Mary’s Jindera - 9.00am
Weekday Masses
Monday - Friday - 7.00am
Saturday - 9.15am
Confessions
Saturday - 8.15am, 5.00pm
St Mary’s Jindera - Sunday 8.30am

Albury - Thurgoona

Immaculate Heart of Mary
Weekend Masses
Saturday Vigil - 6.00pm
Sunday - 9.30am, 5.30pm
Weekday Masses
Monday - 8.00am
Tuesday - 10.00am
Wednesday - 8.00am
Thursday - 7.00pm (Mass Novena and Benediction)
Friday - 10.00am
Confessions
Prior to Masses
Saturday - 5.30pm-5.55pm
Sunday - 9.00am-9:25am & 5.00pm-5.25pm
Thursday - 7.00pm following Novena
Mass of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

Berrigan

St Columba’s
4 Corcoran Street, Berrigan
1st, 3rd, 5th Sunday - 6:00pm
Saturday Vigil
2nd, 4th Sunday - 10:30am
Savernake
1st Sunday - 5:00pm
Weekday Masses are announced in the Sunday bulletin
Confessions before Saturday Vigil Masses

Coolamon

St Michael’s
Sunday - 7.30am and 9.00am
Confessions
Saturday - 4.45 - 5.15pm
Masses
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday - 7.30am
Thursday - 10.15am
Saturday - 9.00am
Marrar
Saturday Vigil - 6.00pm
Confessions
1st Saturday - 5.30pm
Allawah Village
First Thursday of each month.
Mass at 9.15am

Corowa

St Mary’s Star of the Sea
Saturday Vigil - 6:00pm
Sunday - 9:00am
Weekday Masses
Refer to Parish Bulletin available in the Church or on the parish website
Confessions/ Reconciliation
Saturday - 11:00am-12:00, 5:30-6:00pm
St Pius X, Coreen,
1st, 3rd Sunday - 10:45am Mass

Culcairn

St Patrick’s Culcairn
1st, 4th Sunday - 8:00am
2nd, 3rd Sunday - 10:00am
5th Sunday - Vigil Mass 6:30pm (Saturday)
Henty
2nd, 4th Saturday Vigil - 6:30pm
1st Sunday - 10:00am
3rd, 5th Sunday - 8:00am
Walla Walla
1st & 4th Sunday - 6:00pm (Sunday)
Weekday Masses
Vary according to needs and are announced in the Sunday bulletin
Confessions
Before each weekend Mass

Darlington Point

Oliver Plunkett
Hay Road, Darlington Point
1st, 3rd, 5th Sunday - 8.30am
2nd, 4th Sunday - 6:00pm (Saturday Vigil)
Weekday Masses
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday - 8.30am - Darlington Point
St Peter’s
Cnr of Currawong Crescent and Kingfisher Avenue, Coleambally
1st, 3rd, 5th Sunday - 10.30am
2nd, 4th Sunday - 8.00am
Weekday Masses
Thursday - 8.00am Coleambally
Holy Hour - Friday 5.00pm - 6.00pm at Darlington Point
Confessions
15 minutes before 10.00 am Mass on Sunday or by request

Finley

St Mary’s
1 Denison Street Finley
Sunday - 10.15am
Weekday Masses
Are announced in the Sunday bulletin
Confessions
Saturday - 10.30 - 11.00am

Ganmain

St. Brendan’s Ganmain
Sunday Mass
9:00am
Weekday Masses
Monday to Friday:
December-February 7:30am (Tues., Thurs.) & 5:30pm (Mon., Wed., Fri.)
March-November 5:30pm
Saturday: 8:00am (usually in the convent except 1st Sat. in the church).
Confessions
8.00-8.55am Sunday and 30 minutes before all Masses.
St. Patrick’s Matong
6:00pm Saturday
Confessions 30 min before Mass

Griffith

Sacred Heart
Warrambool Street, Griffith
Saturday Vigil - 6.00pm
Saturday - 8.00am
Sunday - 7.30am, 9.00am, (Italian), 10.30am, 6.00pm
Weekday Masses
Monday - Friday - 7.00am, 5.30pm
Confessions
Friday - 4.30pm to 5.30pm
Saturday - 11.30am to 12.30pm
Marian Catholic College Chapel
185 Wakaden Street Griffith
Sunday - 9.00am

Holbrook

Our Lady of Sorrows
125 Albury Street, Holbrook
1st & 3rd Sunday - Saturday Vigil 6.30pm
2nd Sunday - 8.00 am
4th & 5th Sunday - 10.00am
Weekday Masses
Phone parish for details
Confessions
Before Mass on weekends
St Francis De Sales Church of the Pioneers
Hume Highway, Bowna
2nd Sunday - 11:30am

Howlong

St Brigid’s
Hovell St, Howlong
Church of the Good Shepherd
Queen Street, Walbundrie
Weekend Mass Times
Howlong
Saturday Vigil - 6:00pm
Walbundrie
Sunday - 9:00am
Masses
Howlong
1st & 3rd Tuesdays - Oolong Nursing Home 10:00 am
Saturday 9.00 am - Howlong
For other Masses during the week, see the parish website.
Reconciliation
Howlong
Saturdays 9:30am (after 9:00am Mass) 5:30pm - 5:55pm
Walbundrie
Sundays 8:30am - 8:55am

Jerilderie

St Joseph’s
Coreen Street, Jerilderie
1st, 3rd, 5th Saturday Vigil - 6:00pm
2nd, 4th Sunday - 10:30am
Weekday Masses
Are announced in the Sunday bulletin

Junee

St Joseph’s
21 Kitchener Street, Junee
Saturday Vigil - 6:00pm
Sunday - 9:30am
Weekday Masses
Monday - 9:00am
Tuesday - 7:00am
Wednesday - 9:00am
Thursday - 7:00am
Friday - 9:00am
Confessions
Saturday - 10:30-11:00am;
6:00-6:15pm or by appointment
Illabo and Junee Reefs
Alternate Sundays - 8:00am

Khancoban

Church of St Joseph the Worker
Sunday - 9.00 am
Weekday Masses
9.00 am
Confessions
Prior to Sunday Mass

Leeton

St Joseph’s Leeton
Wade Avenue, Leeton
Saturday Vigil - 6:00pm
Sunday - 10:00am (First Sunday of the month is Italian)
St Patrick’s Yanco
Sunday - 8:00am
Tuesday - 9:00am
Weekday Masses in Leeton
Monday - 9:00am
Tuesday (Yanco) - 9:00am
Wednesday - 9:00am
Thursday - 9:30am (Assumption Villa)
Friday - 9:15am and 5:30pm
Sacrament of Penance
Friday - 4:45-5:15pm
Saturday - 5:30-5:50pm
Eucharistic Adoration
St Joseph’s Church Leeton
Friday - 4:30pm



Lockhart

St Mary’s Church
55 Ferrier St, Lockhart
Weekend Masses
1st, 3rd & 5th Saturday (Vigil) - 6:00pm
2nd & 4th Sunday - 8:00am
Weekday Masses
Tuesday - 9:00am & Friday - 10:00am
Confessions Up to 5 mins before Mass.
Urangeline St Terence’s Church
Currently no Masses.

Mulwala

St Brigid’s
Havelock Street, Mulwala
Weekend Masses
1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday - 8:00am
2nd, 4th Sunday - 6:00pm
Saturday Vigil
Weekday Masses
Refer to parish notices
St Joseph’s
Barooga
Weekend Masses
1st, 3rd, 5th Sunday - 10:00am
2nd, 4th Sunday - 8:30am
Weekday Masses Refer to parish notices
Confessions Before weekend Masses

Narrandera

Narrandera
St Mel’s Church, Audley Street
Saturday Vigil - 6.00pm
Sunday - 9:30am
Weekday Masses
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday - 7:30am
Friday - 5:30pm
(subject to changes announced in the Sunday bulletin)
Confessions
Friday - 4:30-5:20pm;
Saturday - 9.30-10:00am and 5:00-5:45 pm
Grong Grong
1st, 3rd, 5th Sunday - 8.00am
Galore
St Kevin’s Church
2nd & 4th Sunday - 8:00am

Tarcutta

St Francis Xavier
Sydney Street, Tarcutta
Sunday - 8:30am
Ladysmith
Saturday Vigil - 6:00pm
Confessions
Before all Masses

The Rock

St Mary’s
102 Urana Street The Rock
Weekend Masses
Sunday - 8:00am (Extraordinary Form)
Sunday - 10:00am
Weekday Masses
Monday - 7:00am
Tuesday - 6:00pm
Wednesday - 7:00am (Extraordinary Form)
Thursday - 7:00am
Confessions
Up to 5 minutes before Mass.

Tocumwal

St Peter’s
Charlotte Street, Tocumwal
Saturday Vigil - 5.30pm
Sunday - 8.30am
Weekday Masses
Thursday - 9.30am
Confessions
Half an hour before weekend Masses

continued on page 25...

Tumbarumba

Urana

1. CATHOLIC

Yenda - Yoogali - Hanwood

Please note that Mass times

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1 November 1914	Fr John J Gaffey
2 November 1960	Fr Cyril Joseph Cochrane
9 November 1977	Fr Ronald Corbett
10 November 1998	Fr Leo Francis Wright
13 November 1891	Fr Andrew Walsh
19 November 1965	Fr John Joseph Byrne
19 November 2002	Fr Dennis Allen
23 November 1957	Fr Francis Hubert Gallagher
26 November 1910	Fr Joseph Dowling
26 November 1923	Fr John Gallagher
27 November 1997	Fr Frederick Harry Myhill-Taylor
30 November 1990	Fr Nicholas Simonazzi OFM Cap.

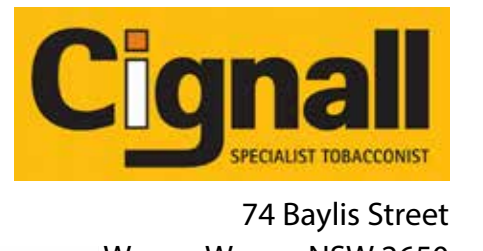
1. **Introduction**
 2. **Background**
 3. **Methodology**
 4. **Results**
 5. **Conclusion**
 6. **References**



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Family reflections for: *November*

Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A

In the daily activities of family life, we can easily find excuses for not attending to our spiritual lives. If not given top priority, prayer and reading Scripture risk becoming occasional activities rather than daily practices. In today's Gospel, Jesus reminds us that if we fail to give our spiritual life priority, we will find ourselves unprepared to receive Jesus. Daily prayer and spiritual practice keeps us ready to receive Jesus.

Gather together as a family and talk about some of the things our faith calls us to do every day and every week to keep God first in our lives. Talk about what might happen if we don't do these things regularly. Explain to your family that Jesus taught us that it is important to keep ourselves ready to receive him when he comes again. Tell them to listen as you read the parable that Jesus tells in today's Gospel. Read aloud Matthew 25:1-13. Talk with your family about why Jesus says that it is so important to remain ready to receive the Kingdom of Heaven. Pray together that your family will always keep God first in your lives so that you will all be prepared to receive Jesus when he comes. Pray together the Act of Hope.

Wisdom 6:12-16 Psalm 63:2,3-4,5-6,7-8
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 Matthew 25:1-13

Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A

In today's Gospel, Jesus talks about the correlation between faithfulness and responsibilities. Family life provides many opportunities to illustrate this connection for children. As children prove themselves trustworthy, they can be trusted to take on greater responsibilities. Jesus teaches us in this parable that when we show ourselves to be trustworthy in small matters, we can be trusted to participate in greater matters of responsibility.

As you gather as a family, take some time to recall how each

child in the family has matured and can now be trusted with greater responsibilities.

Say: In today's Gospel, Jesus talked about how our trustworthiness in small matters shows that we can also be trusted to share in the work of serving the Kingdom of Heaven. Read Matthew 15:14-30. Say: We share in the work of serving the Kingdom of Heaven when we use our talents to help and serve others.

As a family, choose one thing to do this week to serve others. Conclude in prayer together, asking God's help so that your family may serve others more faithfully. Pray together the Prayer to the Holy Spirit.

Proverbs 31:10-13,19-20,30-31 Psalm 128:1-2,3,4-5
1 Thessalonians 5:1-6 Matthew 25:14-30

The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ the King (Thirty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time), Cycle A

In today's Gospel, Jesus teaches us that we will be judged on only one thing: the acts of mercy we have shown to the least among us. Jesus identifies with the least ones; thus we serve Jesus whenever we serve one of the least ones. The Church calls the actions that Jesus described in today's Gospel the Corporal Works of Mercy. These works are to feed the hungry, to clothe the naked, to bury the dead, to shelter the homeless, to visit the sick and imprisoned, and to give alms to the poor. In these actions we show God's compassion and mercy to those in need.

As you gather as a family, recall the list of the Corporal Works of Mercy. Talk about some concrete examples of how your family might do these actions in your community and then discuss why it is important that we do these things. Read Matthew 25:31-46. Ask: Why does Jesus say we ought to do these works of mercy? (Because whenever we show mercy to another person, we show mercy to Jesus himself.) Choose one Corporal Work of Mercy that your family will act upon this week. Pray together that your

family will see and serve Jesus in the least ones among us. Pray the Lord's Prayer or an Act of Love.

*Ezekiel 34:11-12,15-17 Psalm 23:1-2,2-3,5-6 Corinthians
15:20-26,28 Matthew 25:31-46*

29th November - First Sunday of Advent, Cycle B

In family life, we try to prepare ourselves for many future things: our next vacation, our children's education, our retirement. We are careful not to allow ourselves to be caught by surprise so that we can handle any challenges our family may face. Today's Gospel reminds us that we are called to be just as attentive and alert to the coming of the Son of Man so that it will not catch us unprepared. This means attending to our family's spiritual life as carefully as we attend to other important family matters.

As you gather as a family, talk about a time when you received surprise visitors at your house, perhaps a neighbor who stopped by or a relative who arrived unannounced. Was your household prepared to receive this unannounced guest? What might your family have done differently if you knew ahead of time that this visitor was going to arrive? Jesus told his disciples that no one knows when the Son of Man will return, except the Father. Read with your family what Jesus told his disciples in today's Gospel, Mark 13:33-37.

During Advent, we not only prepare ourselves to celebrate the birth of Jesus, we also check to see if we are doing all the things that will keep us ready to receive Jesus when he comes again. Talk about how your family can recommit to daily prayer, reading Scripture, and staying faithful to God's commandments. Pray together that through this Advent season your family will be more prepared to receive Jesus when he comes again. Read as a concluding prayer Paul's words to the Corinthians found in today's second reading, 1 Corinthians 1:3-9, or pray the Lord's Prayer.

Isaiah 63:16b-17,19b;64:2-7 Psalm 80:2-3,15-16,18-19
1 Corinthians 1:3-9 Mark 13:33-37

Annual Galong Clergy Retreat

17 priests from across the Diocese gathered for the retreat along with Fr Michael Gilbert.

The participants were grateful for Fr Gilbert's balanced and thoughtful talks which were both encouraging and challenging. Bishop Mark commented: "Thank you to those priests from the diocese who came on this retreat. It is important that we gather and that we pray together." Next year's Clergy Retreat will be held at Galong on October 18-22, 2021.



Clergy of the Diocese of Wagga came together for their annual Retreat.
Front Row: Fr Jomer Calma, Fr Paul Lu, Fr Michael Gilbert CSsR (Retreat Leader), Fr John Baptist, Fr Paddy Sykes,
Middle Row: Fr Thomas Casanova, Fr Dom Carrigan CSsR, Bishop Mark Edwards,
Fr John Speekman, Fr Blaise Kurek, Fr Paul Hart, Fr Sinisa Mikulek
Back Row: Fr John Fowles, Fr Damian Jellett, Fr Martin Cruickshank, Fr John McGrath, Fr Peter Stojanovic, Fr Henry Ibe.



Fr Jomer Calma and Fr Paul Lu relaxing at St Clements Retreat Centre, Galong.



Above left: Frs Paddy Sykes, Sinisa (Michael) Mikulek, and John McGrath.

Above Right: Bishop Mark enjoying the fields of canola.



Left: Frs Henry Ibe, Thomas Casanova and Jomer Calma.

Pope Francis names new cardinals

Pope Francis has named 13 new Roman Catholic cardinals, including nine under the age of 80 who are eligible to enter a conclave to elect his successor after his death or resignation.

They will be elevated to the high rank at a ceremony known as a consistory at the Vatican next month.
The nine electors come from around the world and increase the possibility that the next pope will be a person who will continue Francis's policies. Those aged under 80 include Archbishop Wilton Gregory of

Washington, DC, the first black US prelate to earn the coveted red cap. The four non-electors who are over 80 are being elevated to the high rank because of their long service to the Church. The pontiff made the surprise announcement on October 25 while addressing pilgrims from his window overlooking St Peter's Square.



Pope Francis announced new cardinals during his address in St Peter's Square.

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Varroville NSW



Bookings online at www.wwme.org.au or contact Christine & Terry Mahony on 0490 774 419 or nswbookings@wwme.org.au

If you would like Worldwide Marriage Encounter brochures please see WWME website at www.wwme.org.au

Thank you for your support of the Worldwide Marriage Encounter Movement.

In the love of Our Lord, our sincere thanks,
Fr Mick Court,
Tracey and Richard Kaldausan
- Unit Coordinators and Ecclesial team
Worldwide Marriage Encounter: Australia, Eastern Unit
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NEHEMIAH 8:10

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St Vincent de Paul Society *good works*

A long, cold winter for people impacted by COVID-19

When the COVID-19 outbreak came to Australia, it changed Ray's life in an instant. He went from being a happily employed personal trainer working across five different gyms, to being completely out of work as those gyms shut their doors.

It wasn't just Ray's prospects that took a dive, but also those of his family. His wife, Catherine, had just finished studying and was due to start a new job after many years as a stay-at-home mum and carer for her sister, who lives with Down syndrome. COVID-19 put those plans on hold for the indefinite future.

"The difference a day makes is incredible. It was like a domino effect," Catherine said.

Suddenly she and Ray were in a situation they never imagined: worrying about how they would meet their rent payments, keep their lights on, and most importantly, take care of their five-year-old son, Ben.

"It's an emotional rollercoaster, day by day. I force

myself to get out of bed every morning, just to stop thinking dark thoughts," Catherine said. "I just need some hope."

As they came to terms with their new normal, the family were forced to live on Catherine's meagre carers' pension of \$360 a week. It proved impossible for a family of three.

"We've tried to put all of our outstanding bills on hold as much as possible, and that's helped a bit. But when this six-month period ends, a huge debt will have just accrued," explained Catherine.

The financial stress took its toll on the family's mental wellbeing, with Ray feeling an enormous burden as the family's sole breadwinner. He set right into the work of applying for jobs, but with one million Australians out of work due to COVID-19, it was a crowded field.

Like so many of the people coming to Vinnies in recent months, Catherine and Ray had never sought

help before from a charity or government. They struggled with asking for support, and when they finally called us, their one humble request was for some winter clothes for Ben.

"I came to Vinnies with so much shame about my situation, but [they] treated me with such dignity," Catherine said.

The Vinnies team were able to help the family to pay their electricity bill, access warm clothes, and purchase food to fill the pantry and fridge.

"I'm eternally grateful for the hope we now have, and the sense that we're going to be okay," Catherine said.

"Vinnies has made the difference between whether my family will eat or not."

Our members, volunteers and staff have done incredible work during the coronavirus crisis, tirelessly ensuring that all people continue to have shelter, food, clothes, and the comfort of knowing that someone cares. Even those members who have had to self-isolate to protect their own health have continued to contribute wherever they can, often calling the people we assist over the phone.

Thanks to you, the vast majority of Vinnies Conferences and services across NSW have remained up and running throughout this crisis, at a time when they are so sorely needed.

The COVID-19 Winter Appeal, raised funds to ensure we can continue to make a difference for people like Catherine, Ray and Ben.

As restrictions are gradually lifted, we know it will take time for life to return to normal for the millions of Australians impacted by COVID-19. **Vinnies can play a vital role in helping families back on their feet, ensuring the fallout from this pandemic is not felt so acutely.**



Please consider making a donation to the St Vincent de Paul Society

To donate visit:
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or call **13 18 12**
or visit any local Vinnies Shop

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365,164 BED NIGHTS



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SUPPORT THOSE IMPACTED BY COVID-19

\$48

Can help feed a family for a day if they are unable to access adequate food due to the crisis

\$116

Can help keep the power on when a family cannot afford their bill because of job loss

\$340

Can support someone who has been adversely impacted by the current crisis

\$857

Can keep a roof over a family's head during times of crisis